



Bipin Nambiar
(SBI PO 2018)



Shiraz Khan
(SBI Clerk 2018)



Kuldeep Yadav
(SBI PO 2018)



Rajat Saxena
(IBPS Clerk 2018)



Anupam Tyagi
(IBPS PO 2018)

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Comprehension Test Exercise for IBPS PO Pre, IBPS SO Pre, IBPS Clerk, SBI PO Pre and SBI Clerk

Passage number 122

Directions: Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below.

A golden age for Western schools in China may be coming to an end **in the face of** a new government clampdown.

China has been a happy hunting ground for Western schools in recent years, as a burgeoning middle class looks to equip their children with the qualifications to get into a Western university, as well as the skills to join a global workforce.

The last five years has seen a 64% increase in the number of students enrolled in international schools in China, which now account for 372,000 children in 857 schools.

But from next year, schools will have to select their students via a lottery, rather than being able to pick and choose from among the applicants.

The crackdown has been prompted by fears that foreign-owned schools are poaching the brightest children, according to Richard Gaskell, director of international education analysts ISC Research.

The move follows changes introduced last year requiring international schools to teach the Chinese curriculum alongside other national programs.

‘There is a backlash against the rapid increase in private schools in China, particularly from the big public schools where it’s perceived that they have been simply creaming off the best kids,’ Mr Gaskell said.

Foreign-owned schools should also expect greater scrutiny and bureaucracy, he added.

International schools should put expansion plans on hold until the full effect of the changes becomes apparent next spring, he told the Headmasters’ and Headmistresses’ Conference of leading fee-paying schools in the U.K.

The Chinese government was also concerned at the number of students heading abroad to study, both at K-12 level and for higher education, he added.

The international schools market has exploded in China in recent years, after the authorities relaxed regulations so that Chinese children could attend foreign-owned schools.

Until then, international schools almost entirely served the children of foreign nationals, but opening them up to Chinese children revealed a massive and previously untapped demand.

For the growing Chinese middle class, the schools provided a more reliable route than Chinese national schools for getting into highly-regarded universities in the West, particularly those in the U.S. and U.K.

These students, in turn, represent a lucrative source of income, for both the schools themselves and for Western universities. The annual fee for a leading international school is around 280,000 yuan, or \$39,000.

China is the largest source of international students at U.K. universities, accounting for more than one in five at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Some of the most prestigious private schools have sought to capitalise on their brand by opening branches in China in recent years. Wellington College has five schools in China - two each in Shanghai and Hangzhou and one in Tianjin - while Dulwich College has four - two in Shanghai and one each in Beijing and Suzhou.

A record 14 British international schools have opened or are due to open in China this year, including outposts of the King's School, Canterbury, and Shrewsbury School, which counts Charles Darwin among its alumni.

But despite the increased scrutiny, Mr. Gaskell said there are still opportunities for international schools to open in China, given the "massive demand" among Chinese families.

"There is a deep desire amongst the wealthy, middle class and young Chinese parents for a Western style of education," he said.

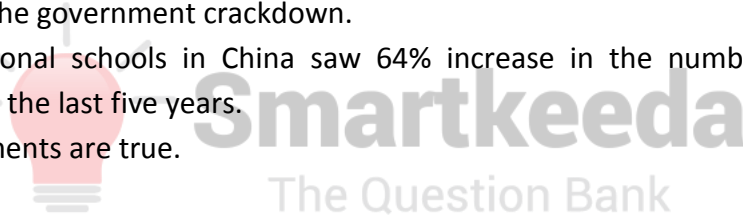
Parents want an international education but also want their children to retain their culture and identity, he added, as well as excellent exam results and "places at the top universities."

1. Which of the following statements is/are true with respect to the passage?

- A. Now-a-days, Chinese parents do not like Chinese tradition and culture.
- B. The Chinese government appreciated the mushrooming of private and international schools in China.
- C. Charles Darwin was the alumnus of an Irish school.
- D. The annual fee for a leading international school is around \$280,000.
- E. None of the above

2. Which of the following statements is/are not true with respect to the passage?

- A. Western and international schools are expected to face stricter bureaucratic scrutiny in China.
- B. Chinese parents want their wards to get admitted to international academic institutes.
- C. According to Mr. Gaskell, international schools are likely to shut shop in China very soon due to the government crackdown.
- D. The international schools in China saw 64% increase in the number of student enrollment in the last five years.
- E. All the statements are true.



3. Identify the words that are similar in meaning to the word/idiom given below. If none of the options conveys the correct meaning, mark (E) as your answer. The options do not necessarily need to be grammatically correct.

In the face of

- A. The facade of something B. At first glance C. Look down upon
- D. When confronted with E. None of the above

4. Identify the words that are opposite in meaning to the word/idiom given below. If none of the options conveys the correct meaning, mark (E) as your answer. The options do not necessarily need to be grammatically correct.

Lucrative

- A. Booming B. Burgeoning C. Profitable
- D. Unproductive E. None of the above

5. As per the passage, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- I. In the U.S. universities, most of the foreign students are Chinese.
- II. In the U.K. more than one in five students at undergraduate and postgraduate level are Chinese.
- III. Dulwich College opened one school in Beijing and one school in Shanghai.

- A. Only I
- B. Only II
- C. Only III
- D. Both I and III
- E. Both II and III

6. When did the new regulation requiring international schools to introduce Chinese curriculum in their schools come into force?

- A. This year
- B. Last year
- C. Since the very beginning
- D. Since the 2000s
- E. Not implemented yet, but the Chinese govt. has decided to implement this new regulation

7. As per the passage, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- I. Schools will have to select their students via a lottery system from this year.
- II. The private schools in China received backlash from Chinese public schools.
- III. Universities of Canada are held in high regard in China.

- A. Only I
- B. Only II
- C. Only III
- D. Only I and II
- E. None of the above

8. Which of the following statements is/are not true with respect to the passage?

- I. Mr. Gaskell attended the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference of leading fee-paying schools in the U.K.
- II. Richard Gaskell is the director of International Education Analysts ISC Research.
- III. Lower class Chinese nationals too want their children to have Western education.

- A. Only I and II
- B. Only II and III
- C. Only I and III
- D. Only II
- E. Only I

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Correct answers:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
E	C	D	D	E	B	B	A

Explanations:

1. Refer to:

Parents want an international education but also **want their children to retain their culture and identity**, he added, as well as excellent exam results and "places at the top universities."

The highlighted part confirms that the statement given in option A is incorrect.

Refer to:

A golden age for Western schools in China may be coming to an end in the face **of a new government clampdown**.

The highlighted part confirms that the statement given in option B is incorrect.

Refer to:

A record 14 British international schools have opened or are due to open in China this year, including outposts of the King's School, Canterbury, and Shrewsbury School, which counts **Charles Darwin among its alumni**.

The highlighted parts confirm that the statement given in option C is also incorrect.

Refer to:

The annual fee for a leading international school is around **280,000 yuan, or \$39,000**.

The highlighted part validates that the statement given in option D is also not true.

Hence, option E (None of the above) is the correct answer.

2. **Refer to:**

Foreign-owned schools should also **expect greater scrutiny and bureaucracy**, he added.

The highlighted part confirms that the statement given in option A is true.

Refer to

China has been a happy hunting ground for Western schools in recent years, as **a burgeoning middle class looks to equip their children with the qualifications to get into a Western university**, as well as the skills to join a global workforce.

The highlighted part confirms that the statement given in option B is true.

Refer to:

But despite the increased scrutiny, Mr. Gaskell said **there are still opportunities for international schools to open in China**, given the "massive demand" among Chinese families.

The highlighted part validates that the statement given in option C is not true.

Refer to:

The last five years has seen a 64% increase in the number of students enrolled in international schools in China, which now account for 372,000 children in 857 schools.

The highlighted part corroborates that the statement given in option D is true.

Hence, option C is the correct answer.

3. The idiom/expression 'in the face of' means=> **'when confronted with (some sort of challenge)'**

In the given passage, this expression has been used in this same sense.

Refer to:

A golden age for Western schools in China may be coming to an end **in the face of** a new government clampdown.

“Façade” means=> the principal front of a building that faces on to a street or open space

“A first glance” means=> when seen or considered briefly and for the first time

“Look down upon” means=> consider someone or something lesser or inferior in some way

Hence, option D is the correct answer.

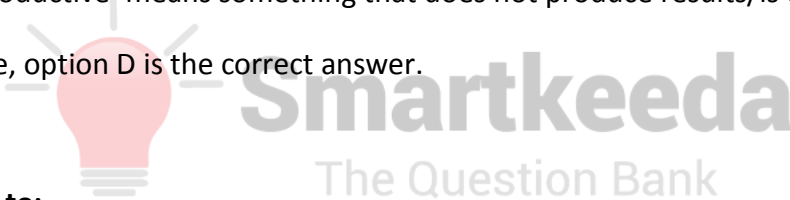
4. The word ‘lucrative’ means=> producing a great deal of profit/profitable/gainful

The words ‘booming, ‘burgeoning’ and ‘profitable’ are all similar in meaning to the word ‘lucrative’.

Only the word ‘unproductive’ is dissimilar to the word ‘lucrative’.

“Unproductive’ means something that does not produce results/is unprofitable.

Hence, option D is the correct answer.



5. **Refer to:**

China is the largest source of **international students at U.K. universities**, accounting for **more than one in five at undergraduate and postgraduate level**.

The first highlighted part above confirms that statement I is incorrect. Also, no such information regarding U.S. universities is anywhere mentioned in the passage.

The second highlighted part confirms that statement II is correct.

Refer to:

Some of the most prestigious private schools have sought to capitalise on their brand by opening branches in China in recent years. Wellington College has five schools in China - two each in Shanghai and Hangzhou and one in Tianjin - while **Dulwich College has four - two in Shanghai and one each in Beijing and Suzhou**.

The highlighted part confirms that statement III is correct.

Hence, option E is the correct answer.

6. **Refer to:**

The move follows changes introduced last year requiring international schools to teach the Chinese curriculum alongside other national programs.

The highlighted part confirms that the new regulation came into force **'last year'**.

Hence, option B is the correct answer.

7. **Refer to:**

But **from next year**, schools will have to select their students via a lottery, rather than being able to pick and choose from among the applicants.

The highlighted part confirms that the statement I is not true.

Refer to:

'There is **a backlash** against the rapid increase in private schools in China, particularly **from the big public schools** where it's perceived that they have been simply creaming off the best kids,' Mr Gaskell said.

The highlighted parts confirm that statement II is true.

Universities of Canada are nowhere mentioned in the passage. So, statement III is not true.

Hence, option B is the correct answer.

8. **Refer to:**

'There is a backlash against the rapid increase in private schools in China, particularly from the big public schools where it's perceived that they have been simply creaming off the best kids,' Mr Gaskell said...

International schools should put expansion plans on hold until the full effect of the changes becomes apparent next spring, **he told the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference of leading fee-paying schools in the U.K.**

The highlighted part confirms that statement I is correct.

Refer to:

The crackdown has been prompted by fears that foreign-owned schools are poaching the brightest children, according to **Richard Gaskell, director of international education analysts ISC Research.**

The highlighted part confirms that statement II is correct.

Refer to:

"There is a deep desire amongst **the wealthy, middle class and young Chinese parents** for a Western style of education," he said.

The highlighted part confirms that statement III is incorrect. Also, the lower class Chinese nationals are nowhere mentioned in the passage.

Hence, option A is the correct answer.



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