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Comprehension Test Questions for SBI Clerk Mains, IBPS Clerk Mains, SBI PO Pre and IBPS PO Pre Exams.

Passage No143

Direction: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

By winning the unanimous endorsement of the 55-nation Asia-Pacific Group at the United Nations Security Council, India has cleared an important hurdle in its quest for a non-permanent seat for 2021-22. The decision of the grouping this week was taken as India was the sole candidate for the post. In the next step, all 193 members of the UN General Assembly will vote for five non-permanent seats in June 2020, when India will need to show the support of at least 129 countries to go through to the UNSC. It will then occupy the seat at the UNSC for a two-year period, as it has previously on seven occasions since 1950-51. There are several reasons why India decided to pursue its candidature for 2021-22. The government at the time had felt it was necessary to have India's voice at the high table as many times as possible, and therefore began the process for another seat shortly after it had ended its previous tenure in 2011-2012. By rotation, that seat would have reached India only in the 2030s, and India had to reach out to Afghanistan, which had put in its bid already for the 2021-22 slots, to request it to withdraw. Afghanistan did so because of the special relationship between the two countries. India has a unique role to play at the UNSC, given the near-complete polarization among the permanent members (P-5 nations), with the U.S., the U.K. and France on one side, and Russia and China on the other. India's ability to work with both sides is well known. **The year 2022 also has a sentimental value attached to it, as it marks the 75th year of India's Independence, and a place at the UNSC would no doubt add to the planned celebrations that year.** Since 2013, when it first announced the bid, the government has run a quiet but consistent campaign towards this goal.

It is significant that despite the poor state of bilateral relations with Pakistan, and the many challenges India has faced from China at the UN, both the countries graciously agreed to the nomination. From this point on, it is necessary for the government to think beyond the campaign for the UNSC, and work out a comprehensive strategy for what it plans to do with the seat. In the past, India has earned a reputation for 'fence-sitting' by abstaining on votes when it was required to take a considered stand on principle, and the seat will be a chance to undo that image. Given the twin challenges of a rising China, and the U.S. receding from its UN responsibilities, India must consider how it will strengthen the multilateral world order amid frequent unilateral moves by both the world powers. An even bigger challenge will be to nudge all five permanent members on the one issue they have unitedly resisted: towards the reform and expansion of the UNSC, which would include India's claim to a permanent seat at the high table.



1. Which among the following is the correct equation between the P-5 Nations at the United Nations Security Council?

- A. The nations always support one another in any endeavour by the global body on its agenda.
- B. The nations are divided among one another since they do not find any common solution to all the problems.
- C. The nations are divided into two camps and they are at odds with each other on various issues.
- D. The UNSC members are mainly concerned about the broad security issues of the world since they are tasked with that.
- E. None of the above

2. Which among the following can be said regarding the role that India played in its last stint at the UNSC?

- A. India was very active in its dealing with various issues concerning the global order of that period.
- B. India was not at all interested in the security matters of the world but it was mainly about protecting its interests.
- C. India wanted to do everything for the developing nations but it could not do so because of the absence of managerial positions.
- D. India could not understand its role in the UNSC at all during its previous stint with the organization.
- E. India avoided taking important decisions on various warring matters between the global community members.

3. Which among the following should be the ultimate goal of the Indian government when it gets the non-permanent membership of UNSC?

- A. The government should try to get a seat in the permanent council of the UNSC along with the other existing countries.
- B. The government should make its stand clear on all the issues concerning the global order at present.
- C. The government should not make others' job easier by taking stand according to their choices.
- D. The government should make sure that other allies also get seats in the United Nations Security Council.
- E. None of the above

4. How did India get the right to contest for the non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council for 2021-22?

- A. India could not convince all the other permanent members of the UNSC though it knew it was going to happen.
- B. India could not make it a point that UNSC should be disbanded due to its failure to do anything and that is why it applied.
- C. India could apply for the non-permanent membership due to the fact that Afghanistan backed out after being convinced by India.
- D. India was slated to become a non-permanent member of the UNSC in this year itself though some other countries did not agree at first.
- E. None of the above

5. Which among the following is correct regarding the equation India shares with the UNSC permanent members?

- A. India does not have any diplomatic relation with other countries in the UNSC but it will now have to stitch new ties.
- B. India wants to ensure that there is no equation with the developing countries of the world and only developed countries are invited.
- C. India has good relation with all the member countries and it is not part of any group of such countries.
- D. India has to understand its relation with other countries as it has never been entrusted with such responsibility.
- E. None of the above

6. Which among the following is correct regarding the procedure to get elected for the non-permanent membership in the UNSC?

- A. A country should understand that it requires permission from all the other countries of the UNSC.
- B. A country should first get elected by the regional council followed by majority votes in the United Nations General Assembly.
- C. A country should be elected by the UNSC members in the permanent council so that it gets the upper hand.
- D. A country must be based on the fact that there is no election without conventional support from the neighbouring countries.
- E. None of the above

7. A sentence from the passage is given below, divided in four parts. The sentence may or may not contain an error. The error, if any, will be in any one part of the given sentence. Choose the option that contains the error as your answer. If there is no error, choose "E" as your correct answer.

- A. The year 2022 also has a sentimental value attached to it,
- B. as it marks the 75th year of India's Independence,
- C. and a place at the UNSC would no doubt
- D. add to the planned celebrations that year
- E. No correction required

Correct Answers :

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



Explanations:

1. Refer to, **“India has a unique role to play at the UNSC, given the near-complete polarization among the permanent members (P-5 nations), with the U.S., the U.K. and France on one side, and Russia and China on the other.”**

It is very much clear from the above lines that the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are divided in their opinions and there are basically two groups in this council. The US, UK and France are on one side whereas Russia and China are on the other side.

Among the given options, we can see that Option C gives us the correct situation of the UNSC and the group based politics in the council whereas other options can be eliminated from consideration.

This makes Option C the correct choice among the given options.

2. Refer to, **“In the past, India has earned a reputation for ‘fence-sitting’ by abstaining on votes when it was required to take a considered stand on principle, and the seat will be a chance to undo that image.”**

It is clear from the above lines that India did not take important decisions regarding various matters and actually the government refrained from taking decisions when it was required that such decisions were taken without any delay.

Among the given options, we can see that Option E is our pick since it correctly explains the role of India in the previous stint with the UNSC and also in most of the other cases in the past. All the other options can be eliminated from consideration due to the fact that they do not follow from the given passage.

This makes Option E the correct choice among the given options.

3. Refer to, **“An even bigger challenge will be to nudge all five permanent members on the one issue they have unitedly resisted: towards the reform and expansion of the UNSC, which would include India’s claim to a permanent seat at the high table.”**

It is clear from the above lines that the author wants the government to take up the challenge to get India a seat in the United Nations Security Council. It should get permanent membership of that council after getting into the non-permanent membership of the organization.

Among the given options, we can see that Option A is our pick since it provides us the correct opinion of the author regarding the ultimate goal of India after getting the UNSC non-permanent membership group. Others can be ruled out due to the fact that they do not follow from the given passage.

This makes Option A the correct choice among the given options.

4. Refer to, **“By rotation, that seat would have reached India only in the 2030s, and India had to reach out to Afghanistan, which had put in its bid already for the 2021-22 slots, to request it to withdraw. Afghanistan did so because of the special relationship between the two countries.”**

It is clear from the above lines that India had to convince Afghanistan to back out from contesting in the election to the non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council. That’s how India could contest the membership.

Among the given options, we have to choose Option C since it gives us the correct answer whereas others can be eliminated because they are not correct as per the information given in the passage.

This makes Option C the correct choice among the given options.

5. Refer to, **“India has a unique role to play at the UNSC, given the near-complete polarization among the permanent members (P-5 nations), with the U.S., the U.K. and France on one side, and Russia and China on the other. India’s ability to work with both sides is well known.”**

It is clear from the above lines that India has balanced relationship with both the camps in the UNSC Security Council and that is why India can work with both the sides.

Among the given options, Option C is the correct pick due to the fact that it gives us the correct equation of Indian government with the other countries. Other options can be eliminated since they do not follow from the information given in the passage.

This makes Option C the correct choice among the given options.

6. If we understand from the passage we can see that India had to convince the members in the Asia-Pacific Regional Council to get into the non-permanent council of the UNSC whereas it will be followed by votes from the UNGA members. It should secure at least 129 votes out of 193 in the general assembly.

Among the given options, we should choose Option B since it says that the country should first get the regional council support followed by votes from the United Nations General Assembly members so that it can get elected to the UNSC non-permanent club. Other options can be eliminated from consideration since they do not follow from the above passage.

This makes Option B the correct choice among the given options.

7. There is no error in any part of the given sentence and therefore no correction is required in the sentence.

This makes Option E the correct choice among the given options.



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