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Comprehension Test Questions for SBI Clerk Pre, IBPS Clerk Pre, LIC Assistant Pre and IBPS RRB Asst. Pre Exams.

Passage No. 154

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

The world population is living, working, vacationing, increasingly conglomerating along the coasts, and standing on the front row of the greatest, most unprecedented, plastic waste tide ever faced.

Washed out on our coasts in obvious and clearly visible form, the plastic pollution spectacle blatantly unveiling on our beaches is only the **prelude** of the greater story that unfolded further away in the world's oceans, yet mostly originating from where we stand: the land.

For more than 50 years, global production and consumption of plastics have continued to rise. An estimated 299 million tons of plastics were produced in 2013, representing a 4 percent increase over 2012, and confirming an upward trend over the past years. In 2008, our global plastic consumption worldwide has been estimated at 260 million tons, and, according to a 2012 report by Global Industry Analysts, plastic consumption is to reach 297.5 million tons by the end of 2015.

Plastic is versatile, lightweight, flexible, moisture resistant, strong, and relatively inexpensive. Those are the attractive qualities that lead us, around the world, to such a voracious appetite and over-consumption of plastic goods. However, durable and very slow to degrade, plastic materials that are used in the production of so many products all, ultimately, become waste with staying power. Our tremendous attraction to plastic, coupled with an undeniable behavioural **propensity** of increasingly over-consuming, discarding, littering and thus polluting, has become a combination of lethal nature.

A simple walk on any beach, anywhere, and the plastic waste spectacle is present. All over the world, the statistics are ever growing, staggeringly. Tons of plastic debris (which by definition are waste that can vary in size from large containers, fishing nets to microscopic plastic pellets or even particles) is discarded every year, everywhere, polluting lands, rivers, coasts, beaches, and oceans.

Published in the journal Science in February 2015, a study conducted by a scientific working group at UC Santa Barbara's National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), quantified the input of plastic waste from land into the ocean. The results: every year, 8 million metric tons of plastic end up in our oceans. It's equivalent to five grocery bags filled with plastic for every foot of coastline in the world. In 2025, the annual input is estimated to be about twice greater, or 10 bags full of plastic per foot of coastline. So the cumulative input for 2025 would be nearly 20 times the 8 million metric tons estimate – 100 bags of plastic per foot of coastline in the world!

Questions :

1. As per the passage, which of the following statements are true?

1. Most of the plastic present in the ocean today has originated from the land.
2. In recent years, the production of plastics has declined.
3. Plastic pollution is present on almost every beach.

A. Only 1 B. Only 2 C. Only 1 and 3 D. All 1, 2 and 3 E. None of 1, 2 and 3

2. Which of the following is not the quality of plastic?

A. Cheap B. Moisture Resistant C. Brittle D. Lightweight E. Flexible.

3. Which of the following statements are false according to the passage?

1. There is a 4 percent increase in the production of plastics in 2013, over 2012.
2. The production of plastics in 2012 is approximately 299 million tons.
3. According to the Global Industry Experts, plastic consumption is to reach 297.5 million tons by the end of 2015.

A. Only 1 B. Only 2 C. Only 2 and 3 D. Only 1 and 2 E. Only 3

4. Which organisation has quantified the input of plastic waste from land into the ocean? As mentioned in the passage.

- A. UC Santa Barbara's National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis
B. Global Industry Analysts
C. Kano State Environmental Planning and Protection Agency
D. Foundation for Environmental Education
E. None of the above given options

5. According to the author, What can be the reason behind the plastic pollution.

1. Plastic is cheaply available and that lead to the overconsumption.
2. Plastic does not degrade easily thus it ended up being a pollutant.
3. There is no policy to curb plastic pollution.

A. Only 1 B. Only 2 C. Only 3 D. Only 1 and 2 E. All 1, 2 and 3

6. Which of the following word is the synonym of the given word?

Propensity

A. Tendency B. Dislike C. Inadequate D. Antipathy E. None of the above.

7. Which of the following word is the antonym of the given word?

Prelude

- A. Preface B. Prologue C. Conclusion D. Preamble E. None of the above

Correct Answers :

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C	C	C	A	D	A	C



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Explanations:

1. **Statement 1:** Most of the plastic present in the ocean today has originated from the land.

Refer to:

the plastic pollution spectacle blatantly unveiling on our beaches is only the prelude of the greater story that unfolded further away in the world's oceans, **yet mostly originating from where we stand: the land.**

The highlighted part above makes it clear that most of the plastic that ended up being in the ocean, originates from the land. This makes the statement 1 true.

Statement 2: In recent years, the production of plastic has declined.

Refer to:

For more than 50 years, **global production and consumption of plastics have continued to rise.** An estimated 299 million tons of plastics were produced in 2013, representing a 4 percent increase over 2012, and confirming an upward trend over the past years.

According to the highlighted part above the production and consumption of plastics is on the rise which is opposite of what stated in statement 2. This makes the statement 2 invalid.

Statement 3: Plastic pollution is present on almost every beach.

Refer to:

A simple **walk on any beach, anywhere, and the plastic waste spectacle is present.** All over the world, the statistics are ever growing, staggeringly.

In the above highlighted part, the author uses the words '**any beach, anywhere**' to emphasise that plastic pollution is present on almost every beach.

Evidently, option C is the correct answer.

2. **Refer to :**

Plastic is versatile, lightweight, flexible, moisture resistant, strong, and relatively inexpensive. Those are the attractive qualities that lead us, around the world, to such a voracious appetite and over-consumption of plastic goods

All the qualities other than **Brittle** have been mentioned in the passage.

Thus the option C is the correct answer.

3. **Statement 1:** There is a 4 percent increase in the production of plastic in 2013, over 2012.

Refer to:

For more than 50 years, global production and consumption of plastics have continued to rise. An estimated 299 million tons of **plastics were produced in 2013, representing a 4 percent increase over 2012**, and confirming an upward trend over the past years.

According to the author, the production of the plastics was increased by 4 percent in 2013 over 2012. Thus the statement 1 is true.

Statement: The production of plastics in 2012 is approximately 299 million tons.

Refer to :

For more than 50 years, global production and consumption of plastics have continued to rise. **An estimated 299 million tons of plastics were produced in 2013**, representing a 4 percent increase over 2012, and confirming an upward trend over the past years.

From the above highlighted part, it is clear that the production of plastics was 299 million tons in 2013 and not in 2012. There has been no mention of the quantity of plastics produced in 2012 in the passage. This makes the statement 2 false.

Statement 3: According to the Global Industry Experts, plastic consumption is to reach 297.5 million tons by the end of 2015.

Refer to:

In 2008, our global plastic consumption worldwide has been estimated at 260 million tons, and, **according to a 2012 report by Global Industry Analysts, plastic consumption is to reach 297.5 million tons by the end of 2015.**

As mentioned in the highlighted part the report is published by the “Global Industry Analyst” and not by the ‘Global Industry Experts’. This makes the statement 3 invalid.

Hence, The answer will be option C i.e. Both statement 2 and 3 are false.

4. **Refer to:**

Although both option 1 and 2 have been mentioned in the passage, it is option 1 i.e. **UC Santa Barbara’s National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis** organisation which has quantified the input of plastic waste from land into the ocean.

There is no mention of the other organisation in the passage.

Hence, option A is correct.

5. **Statement 1:** Plastic is cheaply available and that lead to the overconsumption.

Refer to :

Plastic is versatile, lightweight, flexible, moisture resistant, strong, and relatively inexpensive. Those are the attractive qualities that lead us, around the world, to such a voracious appetite and over-consumption of plastic goods.

It can be observed from the above highlighted part that Plastic is comparatively cheaper. This quality of plastic has lead to over-consumption of plastic goods. This, in turn, has lead to more plastic goods being discarded. Thus eventually increasing the plastic pollution. Thus the statement 1 is true.

Statement 2: Plastic does not degrade easily thus it ended up being a pollutant.

Refer to:

However, durable and very slow to degrade, plastic materials that are used in the production of so many products all, ultimately, become waste with staying power

From the above highlighted part, it can be inferred that plastic does not degrade easily, thus plastic can be present in the environment for a very long period of time. Ultimately it ended up being a pollutant. This makes the statement 2 valid.

Statement 3: There is no policy to curb plastic pollution.

Refer to:

There has been no mention in the passage about the statement 3. This makes the statement 3 invalid.

Evidently, option D is the correct answer.

6. **Refer to:**

Propensity means an inclination or natural tendency to behave in a particular way which is the same as **Tendency** and that makes them synonyms. **Antipathy** means a strong feeling of dislike while **Inadequate** means not appropriate.

Clearly, option A is the correct answer.

7. **Refer to:**

Prelude means to serve as a Introduction to something more important or an event. **Preface, Prologue** and **Preamble** all have the same meaning while **Conclusion** means the end or the finish of an event. Thus **Conclusion** is the antonym of **Prelude**.

So, option C is the correct answer.



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