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The Question Bank

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

Passage No. 162

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

As NASA works toward its long-term goal of establishing a human settlement on Mars, SpaceX is fleshing out its plans to help NASA make that dream a reality.

The private spaceflight company, which regularly launches cargo to the International Space Station with the Falcon 9 rocket and will soon launch astronauts up there, is currently building an interplanetary spacecraft for Mars. Known as Starship, the rocket-spacecraft combo will be able to launch 100 passengers and large amounts of cargo to and from the Red Planet.

Before Starship can launch to Mars, it will start off launching commercial satellites as early as 2021, followed by a manned flight around the moon in 2023. Although SpaceX has not given a timeline for its first missions to Mars, SpaceX founder Elon Musk has said that the first Mars base could be up and running in 2028. And while Musk shared some eye-catching artist illustrations depicting what he called "Mars Base Alpha" as an intricate network of buildings and infrastructure, SpaceX's plans for the Red Planet are not quite that extensive.

"SpaceX very much is a transportation company," Paul Wooster, the principal Mars development engineer at SpaceX, said during a speech at the Humans to Mars Summit in Washington in May. He explained that SpaceX plans to build whatever infrastructure is necessary to support the company's Starship flights to and from Mars; that could include landing pads and refueling stations for the reusable rockets.

For its very first Mars missions, SpaceX will land at least two unmanned cargo ships on the Red Planet before sending any humans there, Wooster said. Those cargo missions would bring supplies, such as life-support systems and power generators that the first astronauts on Mars will need when they set up camp.

The first unmanned Mars missions will also be tasked with confirming the presence of natural resources that can provide fuel for future two-way missions to the Red Planet, Wooster said. SpaceX wants to use water ice from the planet's surface and carbon dioxide from the Martian atmosphere to refuel Starships on Mars, enabling the rockets to return to Earth.

After those first two cargo missions, SpaceX will launch two manned missions alongside two additional cargo-only flights to begin setting up a propellant production plant. At that plant,

water and carbon dioxide will be converted into liquid methane and liquid oxygen, which fuel the rocket's engines.

So, while SpaceX intends to set up a transportation system for humans and cargo traveling to the Red Planet, the company won't be building an entire Mars base on its own. Musk has laid out his vision to create a million-person colony on Mars, but to establish that colony SpaceX will have to work together with NASA and the agency's international partners and other commercial space companies. Several companies have already begun designing concepts for Mars habitats and have proposed orbital outposts similar to NASA's Lunar Gateway, which could serve as a waypoint for Starship and reduce the amount of fuel needed for return trips to Earth.

Questions :

1. What is the name of the spacecraft that SpaceX is building that will carry passenger Falcon 9 and cargo to Mars?

- A. Falcon 9 B. Starship C. Mars Base Alpha D. Lunar Gateway
E. None of the above

2. As per the passage, what fuel will be used to power the Starship rocket while returning from Mars?

- A. Liquid hydrogen B. Liquid oxygen C. Liquid methane D. Both A and B
E. Both B and C

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

- A. In the first Mars mission, SpaceX will land one unmanned cargo ship on the Red Planet.
B. A propellant production plant will be set up on Mars in the first unmanned mission with the help of robots and A.I.
C. SpaceX is expected to conduct a manned flight around moon in 2023.
D. SpaceX is collaborating with Jaxa and ISRO for its Mars missions.
E. All the statements are true.

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

- A. Starship is expected to start off launching commercial satellites by 2021.
B. Only SpaceX and NASA are designing concepts for Mars habitats.
C. In spite of primarily being a transportation company, SpaceX has quite extensive plans for Mars.
D. Both B and C are not true
E. All the statements are true.

5. As per the passage, which rocket is used by SpaceX to send cargo to the International Space Station?

- I. Falcon 9
- II. Falcon Heavy
- III. Starship

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

6. According to Elon Musk, when could the first Mars base be operational?

- A. By 2021 B. By 2023 C. By 2028 D. By 2030
- E. Not mentioned in the passage

7. What is the vision of Elon Musk, as mentioned in the passage?

- A. Elon Musk wants to see the human race as an interstellar species.
- B. Elon Musk wants to build a lunar base so that launch costs can be dramatically reduced.
- C. Elon Musk wants to harness the power of the sun to meet the energy needs of the human species.
- D. Elon Musk wants to establish SpaceX as a transportation company.
- E. Elon Musk wants to build a colony of 10 lakh people on Mars.

8. What is the name of the proposed Mars base as put forward by SpaceX?

- A. Mars Base Alpha B. Mars Base Beta C. Martian Gateway D. Starship E. None of the above

9. Which of the following statements is/are correct as per the passage?

- I. SpaceX is currently building an interstellar spacecraft.
- II. SpaceX wants to use water ice from the Martian surface and carbon dioxide from the Martian atmosphere to power the Starship rockets.
- III. NASA has a long term goal of establishing human settlement on Mars.

A. Only I and III B. Only II and III C. Only III D. Only I E. All are correct

10. Which of the following is/are not inferred by the term “Red Planet”?

- A. Venus B. Mars C. Jupiter D. Both I and II E. Both I and III

Correct Answers :

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	E	C	D	A	C	E	A	B	E

Explanations:

1. Refer to:

The private spaceflight company, which regularly launches cargo to the International Space Station with the Falcon 9 rocket and will soon launch astronauts up there, is currently building an interplanetary spacecraft for Mars. **Known as Starship, the rocket-spacecraft combo** will be able to launch 100 passengers and large amounts of cargo to and from the Red Planet.

From the highlighted part, it is clear that SpaceX is building a spacecraft named 'Starship' to carry passenger and cargo to mars.

Clearly, option B is the correct answer.

2. Refer to:

After those first two cargo missions, SpaceX will launch two manned missions alongside two additional cargo-only flights to begin setting up a propellant production plant. At that plant, water and carbon dioxide will be converted into **liquid methane and liquid oxygen**, which fuel the rocket's engines.

From the highlighted part, it is obvious that both liquid methane and liquid oxygen will be used to power the Starship rocket while returning from Mars. Liquid hydrogen is nowhere mentioned in the passage.

Clearly, Option E is the correct answer.

3. Refer to:

For its very first Mars missions, SpaceX will land at least two unmanned cargo ships on the Red Planet before sending any humans there, Wooster said.

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

Refer to:

After those first two cargo missions, SpaceX will launch two manned missions alongside two additional cargo-only flights to begin setting up a propellant production plant.

Robots and A.I. were not mentioned in the passage. Besides, the highlighted part confirms that the statement given in option B is false.

Refer to:

As NASA works toward its long-term goal of establishing a human settlement on Mars, **SpaceX is fleshing out its plans to help NASA** make that dream a reality.

Jaxa and ISRO are nowhere mentioned in the passage, and the highlighted part confirms that SpaceX tied up with NASA.

So, the statement given in option D is clearly false.

Refer to:

Before Starship can launch to Mars, it will start off launching commercial satellites as early as 2021, **followed by a manned flight around the moon in 2023.**

Starship is being developed by SpaceX and the highlighted part confirms that the statement given in option C is true.

4. Refer to:

Before Starship can launch to Mars, **it will start off launching commercial satellites as early as 2021**, followed by a manned flight around the moon in 2023.

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

Refer to:

Several companies have already begun designing concepts for Mars habitats and have proposed orbital outposts similar to NASA's Lunar Gateway, which could serve as a waypoint for Starship and reduce the amount of fuel needed for return trips to Earth.

The highlighted part confirms that the statement given in option B is not true.

Refer to:

And while Musk shared some eye-catching artist illustrations depicting what he called "Mars Base Alpha" as an intricate network of buildings and infrastructure, **SpaceX's plans for the Red Planet are not quite that extensive.**

The highlighted part confirms that SpaceX's plans for Mars are not quite extensive. It clearly proves that the statement given in option C is not true.

Both the statements given in options B and C are not true.

Hence, Option D is correct.

5. Refer to:

The private spaceflight company, which regularly launches cargo to the International Space Station with the Falcon 9 rocket and will soon launch astronauts up there, is currently building an interplanetary spacecraft for Mars. **Known as Starship, the rocket-spacecraft combo will be able to launch 100 passengers and large amounts of cargo to and from the Red Planet.**

The second highlight part confirms that Starship is being designed to send passenger and cargo to the Mars, not the International Space Station. There is no mention of Falcon Heavy in the passage.

The first highlighted part confirms that option A is correct.

6. Refer to:

Although SpaceX has not given a timeline for its first missions to Mars, **SpaceX founder Elon Musk has said that the first Mars base could be up and running in 2028.**

The highlighted part validates that option C is correct.

7. Refer to:

"SpaceX very much is a transportation company," Paul Wooster, the principal Mars development engineer at SpaceX, said during a speech at the Humans to Mars Summit in Washington in May.

The highlighted part clearly states that SpaceX is already a transportation company. Establishing SpaceX as a transportation company has not been mentioned anywhere in the passage as the vision of Elon Musk.

So, option D is false.

Nothing related to harnessing the power of the sun, creating a lunar base or 'human race as an interstellar species' is anywhere mentioned in the passage. So, option A, option B and Option C are false.

Refer to:

Musk has laid out his vision to create a million-person colony on Mars, but to establish that colony SpaceX will have to work together with NASA and the agency's international partners and other commercial space companies.

The highlighted part confirms that option E is correct. [1 million=10 lakh]

8. Refer to:

And **while Musk shared some eye-catching artist illustrations depicting what he called "Mars Base Alpha"** as an intricate network of buildings and infrastructure, SpaceX's plans for the Red Planet are not quite that extensive.

The highlighted part confirms that option A is correct.



9. **Statement I:** SpaceX is currently building an interstellar spacecraft.

Refer to:

The private spaceflight company, which regularly launches cargo to the International Space Station with the Falcon 9 rocket and will soon launch astronauts up there, **is currently building an interplanetary spacecraft for Mars.**

The highlighted part clearly shows that statement I is incorrect.

Statement II: SpaceX wants to use water ice from the Martian surface and carbon dioxide from the Martian atmosphere to power Starship rockets.

Refer to:

SpaceX wants to use water ice from the planet's surface and carbon dioxide from the Martian atmosphere to refuel Starships on Mars, enabling the rockets to return to Earth.

The highlighted part confirms that statement II is correct.

Statement III: NASA has a long term goal of establishing human settlement on Mars.

Refer to:

As NASA works toward its long-term goal of establishing a human settlement on Mars, SpaceX is fleshing out its plans to help NASA make that dream a reality.

The highlighted part clearly shows that statement III is correct.

Hence, Option B is correct.

10. **Refer to:**

For its very first Mars missions, SpaceX will land at least two unmanned cargo ships on the Red Planet before sending any humans there, Wooster said.

The entire passage talks about Mars and journey to Mars. Nowhere is Venus or Jupiter mentioned. "Red Planet", in this passage refers to Mars only. The highlighted sentence above also corroborates this fact.

So, Option E is correct.





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