

1 LAKH + SELECTED ASPIRANTS
✓ CHOOSE **SMARTKEEDA**

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

2025 ACHIEVERS



BEST OF SMARTKEEDA



Mock Tests



CA Mockdrill



Speed Drills



Topic Tests



Sectionals



Smart Video Course

USE CODE **FEST25** for 10% OFF

 **Smartkeeda**
presents



SPEED DRILLS

India's first tool to improve

SPEED & ACCURACY

in Bank Exams

Practice **40,000+** Ques in
(English | Reasoning | Quant)

Features:

- ◆ Improve Speed and Accuracy
- ◆ Unlimited no. of drills/quizzes
- ◆ Detailed Explanation
- ◆ AI Driven Analysis
- ◆ Topic Wise Questions

Useful For

RRB Clerk | RRB PO | IBPS Clerk |
IBPS PO | SBI Clerk | SBI PO

Warning: Smartkeeda possesses all copyrights on its content. This doesn't allow anyone to use its content for commercial purposes. If any infringement is found, legal action will be taken against the individual or entity. If you want to use the content for commercial purposes, kindly write to us at admin@smartkeeda.com

Comprehension Questions for RBI Asst. Pre Exam

Passage No. 180

Directions: Kindly read the passage carefully and answer the questions given beside.

A recent analysis tries to explain how superstitious beliefs can become established practices in a society's and become a part of its social norms. Ancient Roman leaders once made decisions about important events, such as when to hold elections or where to build new cities, based on the presence or flight patterns of birds. Builders often omit the thirteenth floor from their floor plans, and many pedestrians go well out of their way to avoid walking under a ladder. While it's widely recognized that superstitions like these are not rational, many persist, guiding the behavior of large groups of people even today.

Be it the developed 'west' or the developing 'east', a belief in superstitions and their practice is a common thread that binds the two together. Superstitions can be defined as a kind of a blind faith or irrational belief usually founded on ignorance or fear and characterized by obsessive reverence for omens, charms, etc. Moreover, in the context of the present 'post-truth' world, superstitions garbed under the rubric of tradition and customs are gaining greater legitimacy and acceptance.

Speaking of business, not only do airlines and airports routinely skip a 13th aisle or the 13th gate, but more than 80% of high-rise buildings all over the world lack a 13th floor. Also, some hotels and hospitals often choose not to have a room with the number 13. Billions of people in the United States and across the world are superstitious. A quarter of adults in the U.S. consider themselves to be so, and recent trends reveal that younger people are more superstitious than older adults. In fact, 70% of U.S. students rely on good luck charms for better academic performance. Millions of people in China think the color red or the number 8 will bring them wealth and happiness, while a study of consumers in Taiwan showed that shoppers tend to pay more money for fewer items in a package as long as the number of items in the package represents a "luckier" number. Most of us know that these beliefs are irrational, but we still abide by them. Why do we do it? Do superstitions fulfill an important psychological

role, and if so, what is it? What are some of the mechanisms that explain these irrational beliefs, and how do superstitions affect our mental well-being?

In September last year, Karnataka Assembly approved the Anti-superstition Bill that seeks to eliminate black magic, witchcraft, inhuman evil practices and other superstitious beliefs. In the same month two peaceful protest marches were also organized by scientific community in India against growing obscurantism and anti-science thinking in India. Unfortunately, this represents only one side of the coin as on the other hand India has also been witness to irrational commentaries, such as Union Minister Satyapal Singh stating Darwin's theory of evolution being "scientifically wrong". Similarly, many politicians and ideologues in the recent past have consistently been arguing that the ancient Indian scriptures contained scientific knowledge like that about the construction of airplanes (Pushpaka Vimana in Ramayana) or the concept of plastic surgery in Vedas.

There are broadly two factors that promote superstitious beliefs in a society – psychological and sociological factors. Psychological factors include certain beliefs like a sense of insecurity or fear, the feeling of powerlessness, etc., which motivate people to adopt superstitious beliefs. For instance, when a person's loved ones are in any kind of danger in which that person cannot do anything to save them, then in such situations it is generally observed that even those who proclaim to be atheists start praying for the survival of their loved ones. This is faith. But if the same person now engages in certain rituals like animal sacrifices, then it becomes a superstition. The line between faith and blind faith is a very narrow one. Superstitious responses seem natural as human beings long for overcoming their limitations. Sociological factors on the other hand include factors such as lack of scientific education, ignorance, effect of environment that promotes certain kinds of ritualism – for instance, entertainment shows promoting superstitious elements leaving an impression on the psyche of viewers. An uncertain environment is also a sociological factor, as many a time uncertain external conditions also trigger superstitious responses. For instance, when a sportsperson believes that carrying a specific cloth boosts his performance.

Fortunately, there are ways to tackle superstitions. At the individual level, it is fairly obvious that superstitions can be avoided by getting somewhat rational about the day-to-day activities. But more importantly, the government has a role to play here by enforcing laws and administrative procedures. While a law cannot eliminate superstitions, it is highly desirable because it shows the resolve of those occupying the offices of authority that they do not promote obscurantist ideas. Laws are a necessity where superstitions openly violate human

rights or the dignity of human beings as is the case with practices like parading women naked in the name of worship or sexual exploitation in the devadasi system. However, in other subtle practices like discrimination against menstruating women (such as preventing their entry in temples) laws may not always produce the desired result. This is because the root cause of such practices is not some ignorance or fear but it is very deeply ingrained patriarchal mindset. To tackle the menace of such superstitious beliefs, it is important that from an early age scientific outlook and a spirit of inquiry is inculcated in children by parents. Construction of scientific temper might be a difficult task, but it is the only long term solution for the eradication of obscurantism. It is indeed more essential than what a government or legislation can do to the communities.

While its many and varied impacts may be daunting, we know how to reduce air pollution and significantly improve air quality. The benefits of reducing air pollution often far outweigh the costs, and air can improve much faster than most people realize if we put our minds and resources into it. These under recognized but well documented costs only add to the tally of reasons we should act quickly and decisively to clean up the air.

1. As per the passage, what the superstitions which are followed related to number 13?

I. Some educational institutions choose not to have a room with number 13.

II. Most of the building tend to lack floor no. 13.

III. Some airports tend to skip the 13th gate.

A. Only II

B. Only I and III

C. Only II and III

D. All I, II and III

E. None of I, II and III

2. According to the passage, Anti superstition Bill by Karnataka Assembly eliminated which of the following superstitious beliefs?

I. Witchcraft

II. Black Magic

III. Sati Pratha

A. Only I and II

B. Only III

C. Only II and III

D. All of I, II and III

E. Not mentioned in the passage

3. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

I. The usual foundation of superstitions is fear or ignorance.

II. There exists a vast difference between faith and blind faith.

III. At a personal level being rational about things will combat superstitions.

A. Only II

B. Only I

C. Only I and II

D. Only I and III

E. All I, II and III

4. A sportsperson believing that carrying a specific cloth will enhance his performance is an example of which of the following factors of superstitions?

A. Psychological

B. Sociological

C. Ecological

D. Both options A and B

E. All of the above

5. Which of the following represents beliefs related to psychological factors promoting superstitious belief?

A. Sense of fear

B. Feeling of powerlessness

C. Effect of environment

D. Both A and B

E. All of the above

6. Which of the following statements is false with respect to the passage?

A. Entertainment shows promoting superstitious elements can be termed as a sociological factor.

B. To tackle superstitions, rationality and scientific temperament is more essential than laws by the government.

C. Both 'east' and 'west' worlds are surrounded by superstitions.

D. Older people are more superstitious than the younger ones.

E. All of the above statements are false.

7. Which of the following represents the superstition against which law proved to be futile?

- A. Parading women naked in the name of worship.
- B. Sexual exploitation in the devdasi system.
- C. Engaging in practices like animal sacrifice.
- D. Not letting menstruating women enter temples.
- E. All of the above

8. Which of the following are the general superstitions mentioned in the passage?

- I. Black cat crossing your path is bad luck.
- II. Sitting at the corner of the table is bad luck.
- III. Red color brings wealth.

A. Only I

B. I and II

C. Only I and II

D. All I, II and III

E. Only III



SmartKeeda
Govt Exam Prep App



[Join us](#)

www.smartkeeda.com | testzone.smartkeeda.com

SBI | RBI | IBPS | RRB | SSC | NIACL | EPFO | UGC NET | LIC | Railways | CLAT | RJS



[Join us](#)

Correct Answers:

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

TOPIC TEST

Features:

- * 900+ Tests
- * Unlimited Retakes
- * Detailed Analysis
- * 9000+ Questions



Use Code: **Fest25**

Start your basic to advance journey now

Smartkeeda.com



[Join us](#)

www.smartkeeda.com | testzone.smartkeeda.com

SBI | RBI | IBPS | RRB | SSC | NIACL | EPFO | UGC NET | LIC | Railways | CLAT | RJS



[Join us](#)

Explanation:

1. Speaking of business, **not only do airlines and airports routinely skip a 13th aisle or the 13th gate, but more than 80% of high-rise buildings all over the world lack a 13th floor. Also, some hotels and hospitals often choose not to have a room with the number 13.**

The highlighted part above validates what's been stated in statement II and III.

Nothing has been mentioned regarding educational institutions.

Clearly, option C is the correct answer.

2. **In September last year, Karnataka Assembly approved the Anti-superstition Bill that seeks to eliminate black magic, witchcraft, inhuman evil practices and other superstitious beliefs**

It can be easily inferred from the above segment that options I and II are mentioned in the passage, whereas 'Sati Pratha' in option III is not mentioned anywhere.

Evidently, option A is the correct answer.

3. **Statement I.** The usual foundation of superstitions is fear or ignorance.

Refer to:

Superstitions can be defined as a kind of a blind faith or irrational belief usually founded on ignorance or fear and characterized by obsessive reverence for omens, charms, etc

Thus, statement I can be inferred.

Statement II. There exists a vast difference between faith and blind faith.

Refer to:

For instance, when a person's loved ones are in any kind of danger in which that person cannot do anything to save them, then in such situations it is generally observed that even those who proclaim to be atheists start praying for the survival of their loved ones. This is faith. But if the same person now engages in certain rituals

like animal sacrifices, then it becomes a superstition. **The line between faith and blind faith is a very narrow one.**

The highlighted part above implies that statement II cannot be inferred.

Statement III. At a personal level being rational about things will combat superstitions.

Refer to:

At the individual level, it is fairly obvious that superstitions can be avoided by getting somewhat rational about the day-to-day activities.

Thus, this statement can be inferred.

Evidently, option D is the correct answer.

4. Refer to:

Sociological factors on the other hand include factors such as lack of scientific education, ignorance, effect of environment that promotes certain kinds of ritualism – for instance, entertainment shows promoting superstitious elements leaving an impression on the psyche of viewers. An uncertain environment is also a sociological factor, as many a time uncertain external conditions also trigger superstitious responses. **For instance, when a sportsperson believes that carrying a specific cloth boosts his performance.**

More than Clearly, option B is the correct answer.

5. Refer to:

Psychological factors include certain beliefs like **a sense of insecurity or fear, the feeling of powerlessness**, etc., which motivate people to adopt superstitious beliefs.

Going with the highlighted part, we can observe that only A and B are mentioned in the fragment.

Option D is hence the correct answer.

6. Refer to:

Sociological factors on the other hand include factors such as lack of scientific education, ignorance, effect of environment that promotes certain kinds of ritualism **for instance, entertainment shows promoting superstitious elements leaving an impression on the psyche of viewers.**

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

Refer to:

Construction of scientific temper might be a difficult task, but it is the only long term solution for the eradication of obscurantism. **It is indeed more essential than what a government or legislation can do to the communities.**

This confirms that the statement given in option B is also true.

Refer to:

Be it the developed 'west' or the developing 'east', a belief in superstitions and their practice is a common thread that binds the two together

The above sentence confirms that option C is true.

Refer to:

A quarter of adults in the U.S. consider themselves to be so, and recent trends reveal that younger people are more superstitious than older adults.

This makes the sentence given in option D a false statement.

Option D is hence the correct answer.

- 7.** Laws are a necessity where superstitions openly violate human rights or the dignity of human beings as is the case with practices like parading women naked in the name of worship or sexual exploitation in the devadasi system. However, in other subtle practices **like discrimination against menstruating women (such as preventing their entry in temples) laws may not always produce the desired result.** This is because

the root cause of such practices is not some ignorance or fear but it is very deeply ingrained patriarchal mindset.

Going with the highlighted part, we can observe that only D is the law where the law was worthless.

Option D is hence the correct answer.

8. Refer to:

Millions of people in China think the color red or the number 8 will bring them wealth and happiness, while a study of consumers in Taiwan showed that shoppers tend to pay more money for fewer items in a package as long as the number of items in the package represents a “luckier” number. Most of us know that these beliefs are irrational, but we still abide by them. Why do we do it? Do superstitions fulfill an important psychological role, and if so, what is it? What are some of the mechanisms that explain these irrational beliefs, and how do superstitions affect our mental well-being?

The highlighted part above validates that only III is mentioned in the passage.

Option E is hence the correct answer



[Join us](#)

www.smartkeeda.com | testzone.smartkeeda.com

SBI | RBI | IBPS | RRB | SSC | NIACL | EPFO | UGC NET | LIC | Railways | CLAT | RJS



[Join us](#)

CA MOCKDRILL PRO

भूलना मना है!

Pro Features

- NEWS IN THE FORM OF FLASHCARDS
- CHAPTER-WISE SEGREGATION OF NEWS ON A MONTHLY BASIS
- SMART 350 NEWS ON A MONTHLY BASIS
- QUESTIONS BASED ON EACH & EVERY CRUCIAL INFO GIVEN IN NEWS
- DIGITAL, FINANCIAL AWARENESS & RBI CIRCULARS
- INCORRECT ANSWERS REAPPEAR UNTIL YOU GET THEM RIGHT
- AI-POWERED WEEKLY & MONTHLY REVISIONS
- BILINGUAL (ENG + HINDI)



**POWER-UP
YOUR CA**



Smartkeeda

Govt Exam Prep App

Presents

Testzone

India's Leading Test Series Platform

All Banks Exams

2025-26

12 Months Plan

@Just

Rs. **539**

To get 10% Off use code **FEST25**

- ✓ Brilliant Test Analysis
- ✓ Excellent Content
- ✓ Unmatched Explanation

Buy Now

