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Comprehension Test Question IBPS Clerk

Passage No. 48

Directions: Read the following passage to answer the given questions based on it. Some words or phrases are printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

This world of ours is made up of different people leading different kinds of lives. Some are healthy, wealthy and wise. Many are rich, poor and foolish. Some suffer throughout their lives. Some lead their lives without ever tasting sorrow or pain. Some people are great achievers and rise high in society, while others **pine away** without achieving any success. For some, life is a tragedy, while for others it is a comedy. How can we explain these differences?

According to some thinkers, these differences can be explained by the fate of each one. Fate is an irresistible power or force controlling the **destiny** of man. Man, according to them, is a helpless creature. What is fated must be **endured**. According to this theory, the powers above control every action of man. He is only a puppet with no true will of his own. He has to accept whatever happens as the will of God. He can neither resist nor challenge his fate.

Man is said to be a rational animal. He has the power to think unlike the other animals. With the rationally and intelligence with which he has been created, it is not possible for him to accept this explanation.

This philosophy leads to a situation which will make man inactive or passive. If it is accepted, man will question the need to work hard, to be **virtuous** and to be creative. Like Macbeth, he will say, "If I am to be king, I shall become one without my stir." If my fate is not to become an engineer, a doctor, a nurse, an officer or a leader, no amount of efforts on my part will be fruitful. It leads to a very sad and disappointing situation.

Man is the king of God's creation. It is foolish to think that God has made him a puppet. If that was His intention, He would not have endowed him with rationality and intelligence. No father on this earth wishes to treat his children like puppets. We

are God's children. He is much kinder than any earthly father. Certainly man is not a victim of fate.

Man has a free will. He has the freedom of choice. Only many accept this of that. One may choose one thing or another. One may study or not study. One can choose the good or the evil. The final choice is that of the individual. One can be responsible for one's actions only if one has the choice. If there is no choice, there is no responsibility, for one is forced to do a particular act. We are responsible for our actions because we deliberately choose to act like that with our free will.

Man has rationality and freedom. He is not forced or compelled to act this way or that way. In this way he makes his fate. I chart the way I want to go. I decide what I should eat or what I should do. Thus man is not a victim but the master of his fate.

It is foolishness to take shelter behind 'fate'. Fate does not rule man. Man rules fate. A student who fails in an examination cannot blame fate for his failure. He must blame himself. If one does not succeed in one thing or the other, the fault often lies with him and not with fate. It is the excuse of the cowards, the lazy and the weak. When we don't work hard or strive towards our goal we fail and then we blame our fate. Success can be achieved by anyone who wants it. Greatness can be reached by all those who struggle towards it. Fate will neither bring it nor take it away.

Questions:

1. What will happen if the philosophy that 'fate controls the destiny of man' is accepted?

I. The acceptance of this philosophy will make man passive.

II. The acceptance of this philosophy will lead to a very sad and disappointing situation.

III. The acceptance of this philosophy will encourage people to lead a happy life.

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

**2. Which of the following is responsible for one's failure in life ?
Answer in the context of the passage.**

- A. Strong belief in fate B. Lack of confidence C. Lack of hard labour
D. Lack of opportunity E. None of the above

3. What is the meaning of the phrase 'pine away' as used in the passage ?

- A. enjoy B. laugh C. lament D. detest E. rejoice

4. Why is it said that man makes his fate ?

- A. Because he does not believe in the existence of God
B. Because he has rationality and freedom
C. Because he can achieve all things he wants
D. Because he can change the rules of nature
E. Other than those given as options

5. Why, according to some thinkers, is man a helpless creature ?

- A. Because everything happening in man's life is predecided
B. Because a man cannot change his fate
C. Because man is a puppet with no true will of his own
D. Because man has to accept whatever happens as the will of God
E. All the above

6. Find the incorrect statement on the basis of the given passage.

- A. Only a fool can think that God has made him puppet.
B. Some thinkers are of the view that man can neither resist nor challenge his fate.

C. Macbeth was an agnostic.

D. One can be responsible for one's action only if one has the choice.

E. None of the above

7. Choose the word which is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Destiny

A. choice B. free will C. volition D. fate E. intention

8. Choose the word which is MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Endured

A. checked B. disallowed C. stopped D. condoned E. faced

9. Choose the word which is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Resist

A. comply B. continue C. forbear D. forgo E. combat

10. Choose the word which is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

Virtuous

A. unethical B. faithful C. chaste D. upright E. efficient

Correct Answers:

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

Explanations:

1.

Kindly refer to the first and the last sentences of the 4th paragraph.

2.

It's clearly mentioned in the last paragraph of the passage that when we don't work hard or strive towards our goal we fail and ...

Hence, we can pick Option C as the correct answer.

3.

Pine away (Idiom): to waste away in melancholy and longing for someone or something.

Ex. A year later, he was still pining away with a false hope of joining Indian Cricket team.

Option 'C' hence is the correct answer.

4.

Kindly refer to the 3rd paragraph of the passage.

5.

Kindly refer to the 2nd paragraph of the passage.

6.

As per the given description in the 4th paragraph of the passage, Macbeth was a fatalist and not Agnostic.

Fatalist: Anyone who submits to the belief that they are powerless to change their destiny.

Agnostic: An agnostic is one who believes it impossible to know anything about God or about the creation of the universe and refrains from commitment to any religious doctrine. An atheist is one who denies the existence of a deity or of divine beings.

7.

Clearly Option D is the correct answer.

8.

Endure (verb): suffer (something painful or difficult) patiently.

Ex. it seemed impossible that anyone could endure such pain.

Synonyms: Undergo, , face, go through, live through, experience, meet, encounter, etc.

Option E hence is the correct answer.

9.

Resist: Withstand the action or effect of.

Ex. Antibodies help us to resist infection.

Synonyms: withstand, be proof against, hold out against, combat, counter, etc

Comply (verb): Act in accordance with a wish or command.

Ex. Wwe are unable to comply with your request.

Synonyms: abide by, act in accordance with, observe, obey, adhere to, etc.

Option A hence is the correct answer.

10.

Virtuous (adjective): Having or showing high moral standards.

Ex. She considered herself very virtuous because she neither drank nor smoked.

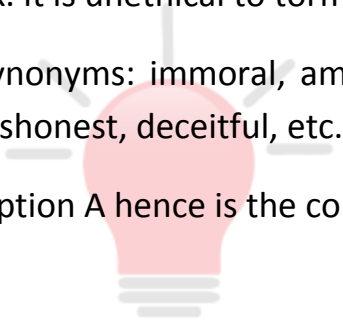
Synonyms: righteous, good, moral, morally correct, ethical, upright, upstanding, high-minded, right-minded, right-thinking

Unethical (adjective): not morally correct.

Ex. it is unethical to torment any creature for entertainment.

Synonyms: immoral, amoral, unprincipled, unscrupulous, dishonourable, wrong, dishonest, deceitful, etc.

Option A hence is the correct answer.



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