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Passage No. 7

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

The University Grant Commission's directive to college and University lecturers to spend a minimum of 22 hours a week in direct teaching is the product of budgetary cutbacks rather than pedagogik wisdom. It may seem odd, at first blush, that teachers should protest about teaching a mere 22 hours. However, if one considers the amount of time academics require to prepare to lectures of good quality as well as the time they need to spend doing research, it is clear that most conscientious teachers work more than 40 hours a week. In University system around the world lecturers rarely spend more than 12 to 15 hours in directing teaching activities a week. The average college lecturer in India does not have any office space. If computers are available, internet connectivity is unlikely. Libraries are poorly stocked. Now the UGC says universities must implement a complete **freeze** on all permanent recruitment, abolish all posts which have been vacant for more than a year, and cut staff strength by 10 per cent. And it is an order to ensure that these cutbacks do not affect the quantum of teaching that existing lecturers are being asked to work longer. Obviously, the quality of teaching and academic work in general will decline. While it is true that in some college teachers do not take their classes regularly, the UGC and the institution concerned must find a proper way to hold them accountable. An absentee teacher will continue to play truant even if the number of hours he is required to teach goes up.

All of us are well aware of the unsound state that the Indian higher education system is in today. Thanks to years of **sustained** financial neglect, most Indian universities and colleges do

no research worth the name. Even as the number of students entering colleges has increased dramatically, public investment in higher education has actually declined in relative terms. Between 1985 and 1997, when public expenditure on higher education as percentage of outlays on all levels of education grew by more than 60 per cent in Malaysia and 20 per cent in Thailand, India showed a decline of more than 10 percent. Throughout the world, the number of teachers in higher education per million populations grew by more than 10 per cent in the same period; in India it fell by one per cent. Instead of transferring the burden of government apathy on to the backs of the teachers, the UGC should insist that the need of the country's university system be adequately catered to.

Question

1. Why does the UGC want to increase the directing teaching hours of university teachers?

- A. UGC feels that the duration of contact between the teacher and the taught should be more.
- B. UGC wants teachers to spend more time in their departments
- C. UGC does not have money to appoint additional teachers
- D. All of above E. None of these

2. Which of the following is the reason for the sorry state of affairs of the Indian Universities as mentioned in the passage?

- A. The poor quality of teachers
- B. Politics within and outside the departments
- C. Heavy burden of teaching hours on the teachers
- D. Not getting enough financial assistance
- E. None of these

3. Which of the following statements is/are TRUE in the context of the passage?

- I. Most colleges do not carry out research worth the name.
- II. UGC wants lecturers to spend minimum 22 hours a week in direct teaching

III. Indian higher education system is in unsound state

- A. Only I and II B. Only II C. Only I and III D. All I, II and III E. None of these

4. Besides direct teaching, University teachers spend considerable time in / on

- A. Administrative activities such as admission
B. Supervising examination and correction of answer papers
C. Carrying out research in the area of their interest
D. None of these

5. Which of the following statement is NOT TRUE in the context of the passage?

- A. UGC wants teachers to spend minimum 40 hours in a week in teaching
B. Some college teachers do not conduct their classes regularly
C. None
D. All are true
E. None of these

6. Between 1985 and 1997, the number of teachers in higher education per million population, in India has

- A. Increased by 60% B. Increased by 20% C. Decreased by 22%
D. Decreased by 1% E. None of these

7. Which of the following statement is NOT TRUE in the context of the passage?

- A. Public investment in higher education has increased in India
B. Indian universities are financially neglected
C. Indian Universities are being asked to reduce staff strength by 10%
D. None of these
E. All of the above

8. Choose the word which is SIMILAR in meaning as the word 'freeze' as used in the passage

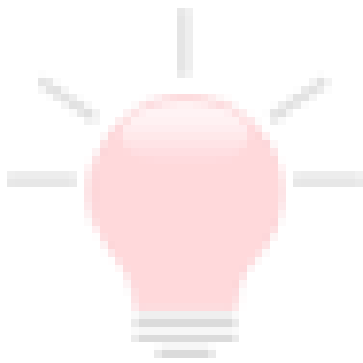
- A. Cold B. Halt C. Decay D. Control E. Power

9. What of the following is a UGC directive to the universities?

- A. Improve the quality of teaching
- B. Spend time on research activities
- C. Not to appoint any permanent teacher
- D. Provide computer and internet facilities
- E. All of the above

10. Choose the word which is SIMILAR in meaning to the word 'Sustained' as used in the passage:

- A. Continuous
- B. Frequent
- C. Careless
- D. Sporadic
- E. Regularly



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Correct Answers:

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

Explanations:

1.

In the given context, the most similar word to 'Sustained' is 'Continuous'.

Kindly refer to the 1st sentence of the 1st paragraph.

2

The answer to this question can also be inferred from the 1st sentence of the 1st paragraph.

3.

In the given context of the passage, all the statements are true. Kindly refer to the 1st and 2nd sentences of the 1st paragraph and first few sentences of the 2nd paragraph.

4.

The answer can be inferred from the 3rd sentence of the 1st paragraph.

5.

In the given context of the passage, option A is not true.

6

Kindly refer to the 2nd last sentence of the last paragraph.

7.

The answer can be inferred from the 3rd sentence of the 2nd paragraph.

8.

In the given context of the passage, the most similar word to 'Freeze' is 'Halt' or 'Stop'.

9

Kindly refer to the 8th sentence of the 1st paragraph..

10.

In the given context, the most similar word to 'Sustained' is 'Continuous'.



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