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# Comprehension Test Question IBPS PO Pre, IBPS Clerk, SBI PO Pre and SBI Clerk

## Comprehension Test Quiz 71

**Directions: Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below.**

During the 2014 national and State elections, for the first time women's safety and empowerment were topics of debate, marking a significant shift in how gender concerns are viewed by the political class as well as by voters in India. In the two years since, policy focus and public scrutiny on persistent gender inequality has grown exponentially. In 2015, 194 member states, including India, adopted the Sustainable Development Goals. Gender equality is one of the 17 goals to "transform our world". This year, India ratified the Paris Agreement. The direct link between empowering women and alleviating poverty, increasing productivity, and combating climate change is well-recognised. However, the lack of targeted resources is often stated to be the biggest reason behind the sluggish progress in furthering the gender agenda. Therefore, it is important that India's budget priorities reflect its commitment to invest in women and girls.

Last year, the World Economic Forum's annual Global Gender Gap Report ranked India 87 in terms of gender equality in economy, education, health, and political representation. Women's declining labour participation, under-representation in Parliament, skewed child sex ratio, and prevalent gender-based violence are recognised challenges. To bridge these gaps, India formally adopted Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in 2005. The rationale behind GRB is that policy outcomes are not as gender-neutral as commonly believed, and can reinforce or **exacerbate** existing hierarchies. Hence, gender budgeting initiatives aim to integrate critical gender concerns into fiscal policies and administration to address disparities.

Every annual budget since 2005 has included a statement that lists out two parts. There is Part A, which reflects 'Women Specific Schemes', namely, those which have 100 per cent allocation for women, and Part B, which reflects 'Pro Women Schemes', namely, where at least 30 per cent of the allocation is for women. Over the years, India has stood out for its implementation of gender budgeting, and with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) playing the central role, it has managed to successfully institutionalise the concept at both the national and State levels (16 States have embraced the exercise). Studies substantiate the positive link between GRB and improved indicators for women. For instance, a recent International Monetary Fund study found that States that employ GRB also show better female to male school enrolment ratios. Further, it was observed that GRB also has a positive impact on infrastructure spending.

Despite the successes, better implementation and planning are needed to ensure that these policies **percolate** right down to the last woman in the most remote parts of the country. In recent years, allocations have either remained stagnant or have been on the decline. For instance, Budget 2016-17 was widely considered to be a mixed bag for women. While the Ministry of Women and Child Development and National Commission for Women saw nominal increases, the scheme meant for implementing the Domestic Violence Act did not receive any allocation. Further, there was a decline in the number of ministries and departments that fall under GRB. The budget also initiated the decentralisation of funding in GRB, thus shifting the **onus** for budgeting and implementation from the Central Ministry to State counterparts. While this did empower the States to come up with women-specific policies as per their respective challenges, the obvious downside was the risk that States could choose to not prioritise gender in their budgeting. In this way, the intent of universalising the process, so that it equally benefits women in all States, was lost in the pragmatism of the move and for it to be truly effective, GRB must be viewed as an essential tool to tackle societal inequality that hinders progress instead of a symbolic exercise for pleasing the emerging women constituency.

**1. Which one of these words is similar to the word 'percolate' highlighted in the given passage?**

- A. consider                      B. target                      C. spread gradually  
D. assimilate                      E. congregate

**2. Which one of these words is opposite to the word 'exacerbate' highlighted in the given passage?**

- A. Illustrate                      B. Aggravate                      C. Justify  
D. Topple                      E. Ameliorate

**3. Which one of these words is similar to the word 'onus' highlighted in the given passage?**

- A. sufferings                      B. position                      C. responsibilities  
D. directions                      E. roles

**4. Which of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?**

- A. Gender is a key dimension for analysis of the impact of climate change.  
B. Requirement of funds in the Ministry of Women and Child Development has always been met.  
C. No concrete action has been taken towards women empowerment before 2005.  
D. India's current rank in the World Economic Forum's annual Global Gender Gap report is satisfactory to some extent.  
E. None of these

**5. According to the author, India's marking a significant shift in the outlook of the political class and that of the voters towards gender concerns is best illustrated by the fact that:**

- A. India's political class and the mass have become aware that a comprehensive growth can't be achieved without bringing gender equality to the system.
- B. The issues regarding women's safety and empowerment have been discussed during the 2014 national and State elections for the first time.
- C. The government has recently taken a lot of sincere steps to curb corruption that exists in the women empowerment policy making body.
- D. Indian government has recently built and strengthened its targeted resources in furthering the gender agenda.
- E. None of these

**6. What idea, according to the passage, does the author clearly want to convey?**

- A. Indian government must work towards bringing more number of women welfare policies and development programmes the floor.
- B. Gender responsive budgeting must be seen as an essential tool to tackle societal inequality instead of a symbolic change.
- C. India must shift its focus from Digitalization to core problem areas like 'Women empowerment' and 'Gender inequality'.
- D. Both A and B
- E. None of these

**7. Which of the following argument/arguments supports the author's mentioning the term 'Gender-neutral' with reference to adoption of GRB?**

- A. The benefits of a policy are not reaching every single woman of the country.
- B. The gender discrimination existed is not letting one gender bear the equal benefits of a policy over the other and hence creates disparity.
- C. A few policies that have been formalized with a view to benefit both the genders equally have actually created a neutral effect so far on either of the genders.
- D. Both A and B
- E. None of these

**8. Which of the following steps with reference to the passage was not supported by the author completely?**

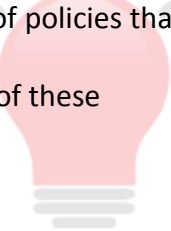
- A. Ratification of Paris Agreement by India
- B. Integration of critical gender concerns into financial policies through GRB.
- C. Institutionalisation of GRB at both the national and State levels.
- D. Decentralisation of funding in GRB
- E. None of these

**9. Which of the following statements is/are not true in the context of the passage? If all the statements are false, mark option E as your answer.**

- A. In the List B under GRB at least 30% of the fund allocation is for women working in unorganised sector.
- B. In Budget 2016-17 there was an increase in ministries and departments that fall under GRB.
- C. The planning commission has been playing the Central role as far as implementation of GRB is concerned.
- D. Implementation of GRB had a positive impact only on one area – Infrastructure spending.
- E. All are false

**10. What does the statement “Budget 2016-17 was widely considered a mixed bag for women.” express?**

- A. The decisions taken for women in the Budget 2016-17 were both positive and not so positive in nature.
- B. The government has announced various policies targeting women of India.
- C. Though the fund allocation has been raised yet a number of ministries were taken out.
- D. A lot of policies that government has brought forward in the Budget seem to be giving mixed results.
- E. None of these



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## Correct Answers:

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

## Explanations:

1.

Percolate (Verb):

When something percolates, it spreads gradually.

Ex. If the news of your success in SBI PO 2017 exam spreads slowly through your entire colony, you could sit back and enjoy watching it percolate.

Synonyms: spread, be disseminated, filter, pass, penetrate, permeate, pervade, infiltrate, etc.

In the passage, the writer would like to see the government policies of women empowerment spread gradually to benefit every single Indian woman in the country, the most appropriate word as synonym to 'percolate' is therefore 'spread gradually'.

Option C is hence the correct answer.

2.

Exacerbate (Verb):

To make (a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling) worse.

Ex. A drought exacerbates a country's food shortage.

Synonyms: aggravate, exasperate, worsen, etc.

As it is clear, the word "exacerbate" means 'to make worse', the word "ameliorate" which means 'to make (something bad or unsatisfactory) better' must be its opposite.

Option E is hence the correct answer.

**3.**

Onus (Noun):

Onus, as a formal word is used for responsibility or obligation.

Ex. If your teacher assigns onus as a vocabulary word, it puts the onus on you to find out what it means.

Synonyms: burden, responsibility, liability, obligation, duty, weight, etc.

Out of the given choices, “responsibilities” is clearly synonymous to the word “onus”.

Option C is hence the correct answer.

**4.**

Reference

1st paragraph, 3rd sentence

... The direct link between empowering women and alleviating poverty, increasing productivity, and combating climate change is well-recognised. ...

Statement A quotes ‘gender’ as a key dimension to analyse ‘climate change’ while the statement taken as reference here confirms ‘a direct link’ between these two.

Option A is hence the correct answer.

**5.**

Reference

1st paragraph, 1st sentence

During the 2014 national and State elections, for the first time women’s safety and empowerment were topics of debate, marking a significant shift in how gender concerns are viewed by the political class as well as by voters in India. ...

The author clearly states that the discussion or debate that has been held during 2014 national and state elections for the first time has actually marked the shift regarding gender concerns as discussed in the passage.

Option B is hence the correct answer.

**6.**

Reference

Last sentence, last paragraph

... In this way, the intent of universalising the process, so that it equally benefits women in all States, was lost in the pragmatism of the move and for it to be truly effective, GRB must be viewed as an essential tool to tackle societal inequality that hinders progress instead of a symbolic exercise for pleasing the emerging women constituency.

The later part of the last sentence of the last paragraph clearly supports the idea stated in statement B. However, the ideas mentioned in statement A and C can't be inferred from the passage.

Option B is hence the correct answer.

**7.**

Reference

2nd paragraph, 4th sentence

... The rationale behind GRB is that policy outcomes are not as gender-neutral as commonly believed, and can reinforce or exacerbate existing hierarchies. ...

It can be inferred from the underlined part in reference given above that the GRB has been formulated on the rationale of the gender discrimination which exists in the system and which hampers the delivery of benefits of a policy to both the genders equally.

Statement A, however true, is not stated with reference to the term 'Gender-neutral'.

Option B is hence the correct answer.

**8.**

References

Last paragraph, 5th and 6th sentences

The budget also initiated the decentralisation of funding in GRB, thus shifting the onus for budgeting and implementation from the Central Ministry to State counterparts. While this did empower the States to come up with women-specific policies as per their respective challenges, the obvious downside was the risk that States could choose to not prioritise gender in their budgeting.



The author does not evidently support the idea of decentralisation of funding in GRB by presenting a disadvantageous aspect of the move.

Option D is hence the correct answer.

**9.**

Reference

3rd paragraph, 2nd statement

... and Part B, which reflects 'Pro Women Schemes', namely, where at least 30 per cent of the allocation is for women. ...

Statement A would have been true, had the phrase 'for women working in unorganised sector' not been there.

Reference

Last paragraph, 5th sentence

... Further, there was a decline in the number of ministries and departments that fall under GRB. ...

Statement B clearly states the opposite of what is inferred from the sentence taken as reference. Statement B is hence false with reference to the passage.

Reference

3rd paragraph, 3rd sentence

... Over the years, India has stood out for its implementation of gender budgeting, and with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) playing the central role, it has managed to successfully institutionalise the concept at both the national and State levels (16 States have embraced the exercise). ...

Statement 3 is false as well as it quotes a different organisation playing the central role of GRB implementation.

Reference

3rd paragraph, last few sentences

... Studies substantiate the positive link between GRB and improved indicators for women. For instance, a recent International Monetary Fund study found that States that employ GRB also show better female to male school enrolment ratios. Further, it was observed that GRB also has a positive impact on infrastructure spending.

The underlined part in the reference taken clearly shows that GRB had positive impact on more than one area. Statement D is false too.

Now, when all the statements are false, option E must be the correct answer.

**10.**

'Mixed bag of' is an idiomatic expression that refers to something that has both positive and negative qualities or aspects.

Ex. The session after lunch was a mixed bag of some good and bad performances.

Out of the choices, the statement given in option A confirms the usage of the expression 'Mixed bag of' rightfully in the context.

Option A is hence the correct answer.



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