

# IBPS Clerk Prelims Memory Based Paper Held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2023 (English Language)



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**Directions (1-9): Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

In the idyllic French countryside, two enterprising friends, Luc and Pierre, embarked on a mission to reinvigorate their village's age-old salt production tradition. Their ingenious startup aimed to manufacture premium salt and distribute it nationwide.

Nestled amidst rolling hills and lush landscapes, their village was renowned for its tranquil beauty and storied legacy of salt harvesting. Fuelled by a

desire to infuse innovation into this time-honoured practice, Luc and Pierre envisioned a venture that would not only uphold their village's heritage but also make meaningful contributions to the local economy.

Through meticulous planning and unwavering determination, they established a cutting-edge salt manufacturing facility. Drawing upon advanced techniques, they sought to elevate the purity and **quality** of their salt output. Employing

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eco-conscious methodologies, they ensured their enterprise harmonized with sustainable principles.

The dynamic duo's aspirations extended beyond the village's boundaries; they aspired to broaden their reach and establish a distinctive identity within the larger market. Driven by a vision to offer top-tier French salt to gastronomic enthusiasts nationwide, they invested considerable effort into crafting a brand synonymous with authenticity and excellence.

Their journey was not without challenges. Scaling up production, penetrating diverse markets, and facing competition were among the hurdles.

However, Luc and Pierre embraced adversity as a catalyst for innovation. Through strategic networking, collaborations with local culinary experts, and capitalizing on the village's innate charm, they gradually **gained** prominence.

Today, their startup stands as a testament to their determination. The village, once celebrated primarily for its tranquility, now boasts a burgeoning salt manufacturing nucleus. Luc and Pierre's enterprise has not only generated employment opportunities but also reinvigorated the local economy. Their endeavor underscores the potent blend of tradition, innovation, and

unwavering pursuit of excellence that propels startup success.

**1) What was the aim of Luc and Pierre behind following eco-conscious methodologies?**

- A. To scale-up their production
- B. To stick with the traditions of their village
- C. To establish a distinctive identity in the larger markets
- D. To make sure their business followed sustainable practices
- E. To avoid the environmental challenges

**Answer: (D)**

**Explanation:**

The above question finds a mention in the following lines from the third paragraph given below:

*Employing **eco-conscious methodologies**, they ensured their enterprise harmonized with sustainable principles.*

The first option talks about increasing their production which is incorrect as it is not related to what is being asked. The second option is correct, but it does not answer the question being asked. The third option is incorrect as well. The

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fifth option is vague, but the fourth option precisely explains the correct reason.

This makes option (D) the most logical answer choice.

### 2) What was Luc's and Pierre's vision behind expanding to larger markets?

- A. They wanted to create their unique identity
- B. To focus on large-scale production
- C. They wanted to avoid the local competition
- D. They did not want to leave their roots
- E. To show how determination can lead to success

**Answer: (A)**

#### **Explanation:**

The third-last paragraph talks about their broader ambition and it has been mentioned that they wanted to create a distinctive identity of their own by reaching out to larger markets.

The other given options do not explain the main aim behind their reaching out and hence, option (A) should be the correct answer.

### 3) Which of the following can be said about their village at present?

- A. The village is celebrated for its tranquillity

B. The village is home to the best quality of salt

C. The village possesses a growing salt manufacturing core

D. The rolling hills and the lush green landscapes

E. Hard working people who strive for innovation

**Answer: (C)**

#### **Explanation:**

The question clearly asks how the village is currently known. The points mentioned in the first, second and fourth options describe the scenic beauty of the village that it was known for earlier as well so we can eliminate these options. The fifth option is a generalised one and does not answer the question asked.

The only option that answers the given question is the third one as it can also be inferred from the contents of the first few lines of the last paragraph.

This makes option (C) the most logical answer choice.

### 4) How did Luc and Pierre respond to the challenges?

- A. They tried hard to multiply the production
- B. They shifted to other markets where there was no competition

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- C. They invested in innovative techniques
- D. They used networking and collaboration with the locals
- E. They ignored on the natural charm of their village

**Answer: (D)**

**Explanation:**

The last-second paragraph discusses the same in the last lines. It has been given that the two friends used their challenges as a catalyst and leveraged the networking and local collaborations along with the innate charm of their village. The options except the fourth one can all be eliminated and (D) can be marked as the answer.

**5) What impact did their start-up have on the village?**

- A. Their initiative harmed the charm of the quaint village
- B. They have helped generate employment and revive their economy
- C. It has given rise to unhealthy competition and practices
- D. The people have developed political differences

- E. The people are being exploited and not being paid their wages

**Answer: (B)**

**Explanation:**

The most logical answer choice is the second one as the first one is irrelevant. It has nowhere been given that the charm of the place was put at risk.

The second option has correctly been discussed in the last paragraph. The third option is not given anywhere. The fourth and fifth options are mere assumptions and not discussed anywhere.

This makes option (B) the most logical answer choice.

**6) What difficulties did Luc and Pierre encounter on their startup journey?**

- A. Lack of interest from local communities
- B. Inability to adapt to market trends
- C. Low demand for their product
- D. Challenges in scaling up production
- E. None of the above

**Answer: (D)**

**Explanation:**

Scaling up production has been the challenge that they have faced. The first option is not correct. The market trends have not been

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mentioned so this can be left out as well. The third option is the opposite of what is correct.

So, (D) should be marked the answer.

**7) What did Luc and Pierre intend to achieve through their startup?**

- A. Contribute to national art
- B. Enhance local tourism
- C. Preserve their village's heritage
- D. Promote international trade
- E. Modernize village architecture

**Answer: (C)**

**Explanation:**

The first paragraph clearly discusses the ambition of the two friends behind this start-up. They wanted to invigorate the tradition of their village and preserve their heritage.

So, after eliminating all the given options, we can mark option (C) as the correct answer.

**8) Which of the given options is the correct synonym of the word 'QUALITY' as used above?**

- A. feature
- B. aspect
- C. worth
- D. standard

E. mark

**Answer: (D)**

**Explanation:**

The sentence which uses the word talks about the **standard** of the salt being produced. So, we need a word that explains **quality** in this sense.

The word standard has been given in the options so we can mark the same as the answer.

The words in the other options might be similar but they do not fit the context.

**9) Choose the synonym to 'GAINED' as used above.**

- A. achieved
- B. found
- C. raised
- D. arrived
- E. All of these

**Answer: (A)**

**Explanation:**

The word has been used as **gained prominence** which tells us that the word has been used as **achieving** or **earning** or **getting** something. Of these, we can find the word **achieved** in the options making it the correct synonym for the given word.

The best would be to mark the same as the answer.

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**Directions (10-14): The following sentences have been taken from a paragraph but they are not in their proper order. You must rearrange the same in their proper sequence and answer the questions that follow.**

- A. for instance Thomas Edison may be the most often quoted, with his claim that “genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration”,
- B. success comes from a combination of talent and grit. But if you listen to most famous figures describe their life journeys, you’ll soon hear them waxing lyrical about their hard graft, while strangely downplaying the role of their innate abilities.
- C. These studies suggest people have greater respect for those with an innate gift than for those who have had to strive for their success.
- D. Cristiano Ronaldo also emphasises the blood, sweat and tears that went into his training. “Talent without work is nothing,” he said, when asked about the secrets of his success on the pitch.
- E. But recent psychological research shows overemphasising the importance of hard work could backfire in many professional situations –

thanks to a phenomenon known as the “naturalness bias”.

**10) Which of the given sentences would best start the paragraph after rearrangement?**

- A. E  
B. D  
C. C  
D. A  
E. B

**Answer: (E)**

**Explanation:**

We can find that famous people have been quoted in the given sentences but sentence B mentions **most famous figures** which means that it is introducing the idea about which the famous figures have shared their opinions.

This tells us that the first sentence should be B.

This makes option (E) the most logical answer choice.

**11) Choose the sentence that comes second after rearrangement.**

- A. B  
B. D  
C. E  
D. C

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E. A

**Answer: (E)**

**Explanation:**

We can find that famous people have been quoted in the given sentences but sentence B mentions **most famous figures** which means that it is introducing the idea about which the famous figures have shared their opinions. Then A should follow as it starts with **for instance** which means an example pertaining to the famous figures is being given ahead. This sentence mentions the first famous person that is Edison.

So, A should be the second sentence.

**12) Which of the given sentences would come third in the sequence?**

A. A

B. D

C. E

D. C

E. B

**Answer: (B)**

**Explanation:**

We can find that famous people have been quoted in the given sentences but sentence B mentions **most famous figures** which means that it is introducing the idea about which the famous

figures have shared their opinions. Then A should follow as it starts with **for instance** which means an example pertaining to the famous figures is being given ahead. This sentence mentions the first famous person that is Edison. Following this, the second famous person Ronaldo is mentioned in D. This makes it the third in the sequence.

The correct answer is option (B).

**13) Which of the given sequences is the correct rearrangement of the sentences given above.**

A. AEDBC

B. BADEC

C. CEDBA

D. EBDCA

E. ABDCE

**Answer: (B)**

**Explanation:**

We can find that famous people have been quoted in the given sentences but sentence B mentions **most famous figures** which means that it is introducing the idea about which the famous figures have shared their opinions. Then A should follow as it starts with **for instance** which means an example pertaining to the famous figures is being given ahead. This sentence mentions the first famous person that is Edison. Following this,

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the second famous person Ronaldo is mentioned in D. This makes it the third in the sequence. The fourth sentence should be E as C mentions **these studies** which have been mentioned first in E.

So, the correct sequence of the given sentences is BADEC.

This makes option (B) the most logical answer choice.

**14) Which of the given sentences would best conclude the given paragraph?**

- A. A
- B. D
- C. C
- D. E
- E. B

**Answer: (C)**

**Explanation:**

We can find that famous people have been quoted in the given sentences, but sentence B mentions the **most famous figures** which, means that it is introducing the idea about which the famous figures have shared their opinions. Then A should follow, as it starts with **for instance** which means an example pertaining to the famous figures is being given ahead. This sentence mentions the first famous person that is

Edison. Following this, the second famous person Ronaldo is mentioned in D. This makes it the third in the sequence. The fourth sentence should be E as C mentions **these studies** which have been mentioned first in E.

So, the correct sequence of the given sentences is BADEC. This makes option (C) the correct answer for the above question.

**Directions (15-19): In the sentences given below, five words have been highlighted. These might not be in their correct positions and need to be swapped for the sentence to make sense. You must choose the correct option as your answer.**

**15)** Struggle and **(A) honourable** to meet a **(B) life** goal is an **(C) important** and **(D) challenge** part of **(E) higher**.

- A. B-E, A-C
- B. A-D, B-E
- C. C-F, B-D
- D. A-B, C-E
- E. No swapping needed

**Answer: (B)**

**Explanation:**

The words in the second option should be interchanged as the phrase **part of life** gives us a



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hint that B-E need to be swapped. Also, **challenge** should come near **struggle** to make it correct.

Thus, (B) should be correct.

16) If you can't **(A) admit** to yourself that you **(B) suck** at something, **(C) back** are it will hold you **(D) chances** from future **(E) improvements**.

A. A-E

B. C-D

C. B-E

D. D-E

E. A-C

**Answer: (B)**

**Explanation:**

The phrase **hold you back** should be a hint that the word in C should come in place of D.

This makes option (B) the most logical answer choice.

17) I've always **(A) found** that if you want to know how long **(B) something** will take, ask **(C) someone** who has already done it. Sounds **(D) obvious**, but few **(E) people** do it.

A. A-D, B-E

B. C-E, A-D

C. B-C, A-D

D. A-B, C-E

E. No swapping needed

**Answer: (E)**

**Explanation:**

All the words in the sentence have been placed correctly and no swapping is needed.

This makes option (E) the most logical answer choice.

18) When you **(A) determination** in hard work in work and **(B) relationships**, life will **(C) prosper**. If we get the **(D) put** and focus, we can all work hard for a better **(E) future**.

A. A-D

B. C-E

C. B-C

D. D-E

E. No swapping needed

**Answer: (A)**

**Explanation:**

The phrase **put in** hard work should make sense in the given context, which tells us that the words in option A should be swapped between themselves.

19) Hard work can **(A) personal** skills and **(B) specific** in a **(C) expertise** area, leading to **(D) enhance** growth and **(E) satisfaction**.

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- A. B-E, C-D
- B. A-E, B-C
- C. B-D, C-E
- D. A-D, B-C
- E. No swapping needed

**Answer: (D)**

**Explanation:**

The word **enhance** should come in A as the word makes better sense there. This tells us that the words in A and D need to be swapped.

We have only one such option ie; (D) that can be marked as the answer.

**Directions** The given sentence has been divided into parts which are not in their proper order.

**Choose an option that provides a proper sequence for the given parts as your answer.**

**20)** time you have the chance **(A)**/ working the hardest every **(B)**/ you should prove it by **(C)**/ your achievements, then **(D)**/ When you are serious about **(E)**.

- A. EDCBA
- B. ABEDC
- C. CDEBA
- D. BEDAC
- E. No rearrangement needed

**Answer: (A)**

**Explanation:**

**The correct sentence after rearrangement is:**

When you are serious about your achievements, then you should prove it by working the hardest every time you have the chance.

This makes option (A) the most logical answer choice.

**Directions (21-25):** The sentences given below have been broken into five parts. One of these might be erroneous and need to be corrected.

**You must read the same and choose the respective part as your answer.**

- 21)     A. Although my cousin is facing  
          B. hardships in her job  
          C. rather she never deviates  
          D. from the path of truthfulness  
          E. No Error

**Answer: (C)**

**Explanation:**

The sentence carries a pair of correlative conjunctions and uses **rather** in the same incorrectly.

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With conjunctions **although/though**, **yet** should be used and not rather.

This makes option (C) the most logical answer.

22) A. Indian health expert

B. was demonstrated

C. in the budget

D. as a pilot project.

E. No Error

**Answer: (A)**

**Explanation:**

In the first part, the word **expert** should be changed to **expertise** after which the correct part becomes '**Indian health expertise**' and therefore, the correct answer is option (A).

23) A. There are allocations

B. at all the verticals

C. of education – i.e.,

D. primary, secondary,

E. and higher education.

**Answer: (B)**

**Explanation:**

There is an error of prepositions in the second part of the sentence as, '**at**' has wrongly been

used before all the verticals. The correct usage should be '**across all the verticals**'

Therefore, the best would be to mark option (B) as the answer.

24) A. The threat of defamation

B. against the Hindenburg

C. Report were met by a

D. counter-challenge to

E. sue them in the US.

**Answer: (C)**

**Explanation:**

The subject of the given sentence is '**threat**' which is singular and it has been followed by the verb '**were**' which is a clear mismatch between the subject and the verb.

**Were** should be changed to **was** for the sentence to be correct.

Therefore, the correct answer is option (C).

25) A. Science states that

B. one sneezes to get rid

C. of the allergic substances

D. trying to enter one's body.

E. No Error

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\\\\\\\\\\Answer: (E)

### Explanation:

The given sentence is free from errors and needs no improvement.

This makes option (E) the most logical answer.

**Directions (26-30): Each sentence below carries a blank in which words from the options can be filled to complete the sentences meaningfully.**

**You must read the same carefully and choose the appropriate options as your answer.**

26) The decision to \_\_\_\_\_ was quashed.

- A. write off
- B. called back
- C. bring up
- D. get over
- E. pick up

**Answer: (A)**

### Explanation:

The phrases given in the options can be understood as:

**Write off** → to eliminate (an asset) from the books: enter as a loss or expense.

**Called back** → a phone call made to return one that someone has received.

**Bring up** → raise a matter for discussion or consideration.

**Get over** → recover from an ailment or an upsetting or startling experience.

**Pick up** → to become better; to improve  
The second option would be grammatically incorrect so it can be left out. The only option that fits both grammatically and contextually is the first one. So (A) is the correct answer.

27) For disruption to happen, a company must target an \_\_\_\_\_ customer base.

- A. Left out
- B. Neglected
- C. Involved
- D. Entangled
- E. Overlooked

**Answer: (E)**

### Explanation:

Only the words in (C), (D) and (E) should be correct grammatically, as the blank is preceded by the article **an**.

The company needs to bring a change (disruption), so it would need to bring customers who were previously ignored or not a part of the loop into the mainstream.

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This tells us that the blank should take the word **overlooked**.

The best would hence be to mark option (E) as the answer.

28) **It will be good for \_\_\_\_\_ students to study in premier institutes of the world without leaving their homeland.**

- A. Eager
- B. Elite
- C. Aspiring
- D. New
- E. Foreign

**Answer: (C)**

**Explanation:**

It is about the students who are willing to study, i.e., those who **aspire** to study at the premier institutions.

The word **eager** means curious or willing to do something. This could be one consideration, but we have a better word for **aspiring** so (A) can be ruled out.

It is not about the **elite** (rich) or the **foreign** or Indian categorisation. It is simply about the **aspiring students**.

So, the most logical choice is option (C).

29) **Infrastructure is required as per needs but sudden increase in expenditure may \_\_\_\_\_ financial and economic problems.**

- A. Happen
- B. lead to
- C. ameliorate
- D. enable with
- E. None of these

**Answer: (B)**

**Explanation:**

The phrase '**lead to**' means to cause something to happen. The sentence states that an increased expenditure in infrastructure might **lead to** further issues. So, the phrase in the second option fits well.

The word **happen** does not fit in the sentence, so it can be eliminated. **Ameliorate** means to make better, which is not contextually correct. **Enable with** is incorrect in the sentence.

So, the best would be to go with option (B) as the answer.

30) **These factors have \_\_\_\_\_ businesses to become more agile and find new ways of improving efficiency.**

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- A. pushed
- B. enable
- C. induced
- D. compelling
- E. Both (a) and (c)

**Answer: (E)**

**Explanation:**

The given sentence can correctly take the words from both the first and third options.

Both **pushed** and **induced** can be understood as; to make or persuade somebody to do something.

The factors in the sentence have made the businesses more agile and so on...

**Enable** and **compelling** are grammatically misfit.

This makes the words in option (E) the most appropriate choice for the answer.



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