

8. COMPREHENSION-II (Brief Passages)

This section comprises of questions based upon a brief passage usually consisting of one or two paragraphs. The candidate is required to analyse the contents of the passage and then answer the questions that follow.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES

Example 1 : Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Many poor farmers had been compelled to take up indigo cultivation when the British settlers were given the right to purchase and cultivate land in India. Many whites, therefore, either acquired land or advanced loans to poor farmers and pressured them to forsake the farming of foodgrains and other cash crops for indigo cultivation. Indigo export to Europe was lucrative for the British settlers who held a monopoly of this business. Within a few years, most of the fertile lands had undergone forcible indigo cultivation, resulting in a famine situation in Bengal. When the farmers declined to cultivate indigo, they were tortured, jailed and even killed. (N.D.A. 1996)

1. The poor farmers in Bengal took up indigo cultivation because
 - (a) the government gave them subsidies for this purpose.
 - (b) it was a money earning crop.
 - (c) they were forced to do so.
 - (d) this was the only crop that would grow in this region.
2. British settlers bought land in Bengal in order to
 - (a) cultivate indigo
 - (b) grow crops for the poor farmers
 - (c) own agricultural property
 - (d) settle down in India
3. Indigo export was profitable for the British settlers because
 - (a) labour was cheap.
 - (b) they had no competitors.
 - (c) the land was fertile.
 - (d) they could oppress the farmers.

Solution :

1. (c) : The statement that 'Many poor farmers had been compelled to take up indigo cultivation' gives the answer.
2. (a) : Clearly, the fact is evident from the statement 'Many whites cultivation.'
3. (b) : It is mentioned in the passage that the British held a monopoly of indigo business and this indicates that they had no competitors.

Example 2 : Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions based on it.

The Rajputs occupy an honoured place in the history of India. They were a war-like, people, proud and patriotic. They were jealous of their honour, and would lay down their lives to uphold it. They loved their homes and fought bravely to defend the honour of their women-folk. Nothing would tame their spirits. Perils only called forth their courage and poverty only increased their power of resistance. None could fight like them. Their motto was 'Better death than dishonour.'

1. Which of the following represents the central theme of the passage?
 - (a) The pride of the Rajputs
 - (b) Rajputs and their sacrifices
 - (c) The rise and fall of the Rajputs
 - (d) Rajputs - the spirited heroes of Indian history

Comprehension-II

2. Which of the following is opposite in meaning to the word 'proud' in the passage ?
 - (a) humble
 - (b) kind
 - (c) courteous
 - (d) cowardly
3. The expression 'tame their spirits' in the passage means
 - (a) suppress their ambitions
 - (b) arouse their enthusiasm
 - (c) develop their courage
 - (d) curb their enthusiasm
4. Which of the following statements is not true in the context of the passage ?
 - (a) The Rajputs achieved eminence in history due to their great bravery.
 - (b) They were homely people and would fight for upholding women's honour.
 - (c) In moments of danger they would exhibit great courage.
 - (d) They could not, however, face the challenge of poverty.
5. According to the writer, the Rajputs occupy an honoured place in history, because
 - (a) they were fond of wars.
 - (b) they were proud of their war.
 - (c) they were jealous of people's honour.
 - (d) they lived and died upholding their self respect.

Solution :

1. (d) : The passage talks about the qualities of the Rajputs which gave them an honourable place in history.
2. (a) : The opposite of 'proud' is 'humble'.
3. (d) : 'tame' means 'domesticate' or 'curb' and 'spirits' stands for 'enthusiasm'.
4. (d) : The first sentence of the passage verifies (a).
The sentence 'They loved folk' in the passage proves (b) to be correct.
The sentence 'Perils courage' in the passage verifies the truth of (c).
The sentence '..... and poverty resistance' in the passage indicates that Rajputs were not afraid of poverty. Hence, (d) is not true.
5. (d) : The statement (d) is clearly implied from the passage.

Example 3 : Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : (N.D.A. 1996)

In the past thirty years, drugs have been discovered that prevent and cure physical disease and reverse the disturbances that occur in some mental illness. Excitement over what drugs can do has led people to believe that any ailment, infective or psychic, can be relieved by taking a pill. At the first sign of nervousness, they try pep pills. Medical journals now advertise tranquillizers, and other mood-altering drugs; doctors prescribe them; and the public expects miracles from them. In such an atmosphere, it is not surprising that drug abuse has spread.

1. According to the author, in recent years there has been
 - (a) a misplaced trust in drugs
 - (b) a distrust of drugs
 - (c) recognition of the ill-effects of medicine
 - (d) None of the above
2. According to the passage, the medicines that have been discovered in recent times
 - (a) can cure mental illnesses
 - (b) can help treat some symptoms of mental illnesses
 - (c) can reduce mental illnesses
 - (d) cannot cure mental illnesses
3. People often believe that
 - (a) medicines cannot cure all the diseases.

- (b) doctors can cure all the diseases.
 (c) medicines can cure all the diseases.
 (d) doctors cannot cure all the diseases.

Solution :

- (a) : The author talks of the immense trust of people in drugs followed by the statement '..... drug abuse has spread'. This indicates a misplaced trust in drugs.
- (b) : The statement 'drugs reverse the disturbances that occur in some mental illness' give the answer.
- (c) : The sentence 'Excitement pill' gives us the answer.

Example 4 : Read the following two letters carefully and answer the questions given below them.

Dear Shri Chhatre,

The umbrella, which you have forgotten during your visit to our departmental store day before yesterday, is still here. It gives a very obnoxious look, besides emitting some foul smell. Will you please take the trouble to collect it as early as possible? Tomorrow it being our weekly off, our store is closed. You may collect your 'precious' umbrella day after tomorrow i.e. on Sunday.

Yours sincerely,
 C.F. Francis

Dear Shri Francis,

Thank you for your letter. The time that I must spend to visit your store is much more important than my precious umbrella. Also, you have now known the worth of my umbrella. I, therefore, would like to donate it generously to a friend like you. You may keep it on display in your big store as a historical monument. Thanking you once again for your kindness to remind me of my lost property.

Yours sincerely,
 Akash Chhatre

- Mr. Francis wrote to Chhatre because
 (a) Chhatre was his close friend.
 (b) Chhatre was a very busy man.
 (c) the umbrella was really very precious.
 (d) he was concerned about Chhatre's love for the umbrella.
 (e) Chhatre's umbrella was a nuisance to his store.
- Shri Chhatre had visited the departmental store on which of the following days?
 (a) Monday (b) Wednesday (c) Thursday
 (d) Friday (e) None of these
- Which of the following is true about the umbrella, as mentioned by Mr. Francis?
 (a) The umbrella was a problem to the customers' eyes only.
 (b) The umbrella was a problem to the customers' noses only.
 (c) The umbrella was a problem to the customers' nose and eyes.
 (d) The umbrella was a very expensive item.
 (e) The umbrella was like a historical monument.
- Chhatre's act of donating the umbrella to Francis reveals that
 (a) Chhatre is a very generous person.
 (b) Francis needed the umbrella very much.

- (c) he had a lot of sympathy for Francis' store.
 (d) he could not afford to spend money to collect it.
 (e) None of these
- On the basis of these two letters, which of the following can be inferred to be definitely true?
 (a) Francis and Chhatre do not have good relations with each other.
 (b) Chhatre's umbrella was very expensive.
 (c) The departmental store is closed on Saturday.
 (d) Francis' store would benefit by preserving the umbrella.
 (e) None of these

Solution :

- (e) : The sentence 'It gives foul smell' in Francis' letter gives the answer.
- (b) : According to Francis, day after 'tomorrow' is Sunday i.e. he writes the letter on Friday. Chhatre visited the store day before 'yesterday' i.e. Wednesday.
- (c) : The expressions 'obnoxious look' and 'foul smell' indicate that the umbrella was a problem to the customers' noses and eyes.
- (e) : Chhatre donated the umbrella because it was totally worn out and of no use to him.
- (c) : Francis says that day after 'tomorrow' is Sunday and tomorrow the store is closed. Thus the store remains closed on Saturday.

PRACTICE SET 1

Passage 1

(S.S.C.1995)

Primitive man was probably more concerned with fire as a source of warmth and as a means of cooking food than as a source of light. Before he discovered less laborious ways of making fire, he had to preserve it, and whenever he went on a journey he carried a firebrand with him. His discovery that the firebrand, from which the torch may very well have developed, could be used for illumination was probably incidental to the primary purpose of preserving a flame.

Lamps, too, probably developed by accident. Early man may have had his first conception of a lamp while watching a twig or fibre burning in the molten fat dropped from a roasting carcass. All he had to do was to fashion a vessel to contain fat and float a lighted reed in it. Such lamps, which were made of hollowed stones or sea shells, have persisted in identical form up to quite recent times.

- Primitive man's most important use for fire was
 (a) to provide warmth (b) to cook food
 (c) to provide light (d) Both (a) and (b)
- The firebrand was used to
 (a) prevent accidents (b) provide light

(c) scare animals (d) save labour

- By 'primary' the author means
 (a) primitive (b) fundamental
 (c) elemental (d) essential
- Lamps probably developed through mere
 (a) hazard (b) fate
 (c) chance (d) planning
- Early lamps were made by
 (a) using a reed as a wick in the fat
 (b) letting a reed soak the fat
 (c) putting the fat in a shell and lighting it
 (d) floating a reed in the sea-shell

Passage 2

The crowd surged forward through the narrow streets of Paris. There was a clatter of shutters being closed hastily by trembling hands—the citizens of Paris knew that once the fury of the people was excited there was no telling what they might do. They came to an old house which had a workshop on the ground floor. A head popped out of the door to see what it was all about. 'Get him! Get Thimonier! Smash his devilish machines!', yelled the crowd.

They found the workshop without its owner. M.Thimonier had escaped by the

back door. Now the fury of the demonstrators turned against the machines that were standing in the shop, ready to be delivered to buyers. They were systematically broken up and destroyed - dozens of them. Only when the last wheel and spindle had been trampled under foot did the infuriated crowd recover their senses.

'That is the end of M^r sieur Thimonier and his sewing machines', they said to one another, and went home satisfied. Perhaps now they would find work, for they were all unemployed tailors and seamstresses who believed that their livelihood was threatened by that new invention.

6. The passage throws light on
 - (a) why inventions should be avoided altogether.
 - (b) how a well-meant invention can be misunderstood.
 - (c) what mischief an inventor can do to ordinary people.
 - (d) how dangerous an invention can prove to be.
7. The crowd was protesting against
 - (a) the closing of workshops
 - (b) the misdoings of Thimonier
 - (c) the newly invented sewing machine
 - (d) Thimonier keeping the invention a secret
8. The aim of the crowd was to
 - (a) kill Thimonier
 - (b) drive Thimonier away
 - (c) bring discredit to Thimonier
 - (d) destroy the sewing machines
9. The people thought that
 - (a) their lives were in danger.
 - (b) Thimonier was mad.
 - (c) the sewing machine was dangerous.
 - (d) Thimonier was depriving them of their livelihood.
10. Shutters were being closed hastily because the shopkeepers
 - (a) wanted to attack the crowd
 - (b) wanted to protect Thimonier
 - (c) feared their shops would be invaded
 - (d) wanted to show their solidarity with the crowd

Passage 3

(I.E.S. 1993)

The last half of my life has been lived in one of those painful epochs of human history during which the world is getting worse, and past victories which had seemed to be definitive have turned out to be only temporary. When I was young,

Victorian optimism was taken for granted. It was thought that freedom and prosperity would speed gradually throughout the world by an orderly process, and it was hoped that cruelty, tyranny, and injustice would continually diminish. Hardly anyone was haunted by the fear of great wars. Hardly anyone thought of the nineteenth century as a brief interlude between past and future barbarism.

11. The author feels sad about the later part of his life because
 - (a) the world had not become prosperous.
 - (b) he was nostalgic about his childhood.
 - (c) the world was painfully disturbed during that period of time.
 - (d) the author had not won any further victories.
12. The victories of the past
 - (a) filled men with a sense of pessimism
 - (b) proved to be temporary events
 - (c) ended cruelty, tyranny, and injustice
 - (d) brought permanent peace and security
13. The world 'definitive' as used in the passage means
 - (a) incomplete
 - (b) defined
 - (c) temporary
 - (d) final
14. During the Victorian age people believed that
 - (a) there would be unlimited freedom.
 - (b) strife would increase.
 - (c) peace would prevail and happiness would engulf the whole world.
 - (d) wars would be fought on a bigger scale.
15. 'A brief interlude between past and future barbarism' can be interpreted as
 - (a) a dramatic performance during wars
 - (b) an interval between cruel wars
 - (c) a short space of time between two great events
 - (d) a short period of time between past and future acts of savagery

Passage 4

Patience is better than wisdom : An ounce of patience is worth a pound of brains. All men praise patience, but few can practise it. It is medicine which is good for all diseases, but it is not every garden that grows the herbs to make it with. Many people are born crying, live complaining and die disappointed. They think every other person's burden to be light and their own feathers to be heavy as lead, and yet if the truth were known, it is their

fancy rather than their fate that makes things go so hard with them. Many would be well off they could but think so.

16. Which of the following is the most suitable explanation to the author's remark that 'an ounce of patience is worth a pound of brains'?
 - (a) Intelligence and wisdom can be attained only by practising patience.
 - (b) Patience comes first, intelligence next.
 - (c) Patience is essential for every achievement in life.
 - (d) Without patience intelligence cannot be used properly.
17. Which one is the most likely explanation, among the following, of the author's metaphorical statement that 'it is not every garden that grows the herbs to make it with'?
 - (a) Patience is a must for solving all our problems in life.
 - (b) Patience is a rare herb that cures all diseases.
 - (c) Patience is quite difficult to practise.
 - (d) It is only a small number of people that are found observing patience in life.
18. The writer's remark "They think every person's burden to be light and their own feathers to be heavy as lead" is very significant. It means
 - (a) they are always worried and dejected.
 - (b) they consider their own problem to be difficult to solve as compared with problems of other people.
 - (c) they feel that they alone face serious problems while others have a nice time.
 - (d) they remain very much worried about their own problem.
19. The writer's remark "It is their fancy rather than their fate" means
 - (a) they are unhappy because they think that way and not because it is their destiny.
 - (b) they are fatalists rather than imaginative.
 - (c) they have a wrong approach to life.
 - (d) they are very much absorbed in their own problems.

Passage 5

(U.D.C. 1995)

It is difficult to reconcile the ideas of different schools of thought on the question of education. Some people maintain that pupils at school should concentrate on a

narrow range of subjects which will benefit them directly in their subsequent careers. Others contend that they should study a wide range of subjects so that they have not only the specialised knowledge necessary for their chosen careers but also sound general knowledge about the world they will have to work and live in. Supporters of the first theory state that the greatest contributions to civilisation are made by those who are most expert in their trade or profession. Those on the other side say that, unless they have a broad general education, the experts will be too narrow in their outlook to have sympathy with their fellows or a proper sense of responsibility towards humanity as a whole.

20. 'Schools of thought' can be explained as
 - (a) groups of people whose job is to think
 - (b) groups of people who are schooled to think
 - (c) groups of people who study in a particular school thoughtfully
 - (d) groups of people having the same ideas but with different perception on a particular subject
21. Broad general knowledge is necessary because
 - (a) specialisation is incomplete without it.
 - (b) without it no one would get a job.
 - (c) it teaches us about different things.
 - (d) it broadens one's outlook.
22. The idea of the first school of thought in the passage is that
 - (a) students should concentrate on studies.
 - (b) students should not undertake any specialised work.
 - (c) students should study all the subjects they want to.
 - (d) students should study a few subjects that will help them in their profession.
23. Supporters of the first theory say that
 - (a) experts have contributed most to progress in the modern world.
 - (b) people with general knowledge have contributed to civilisation.
 - (c) experts have done nothing to help mankind.
 - (d) people with general knowledge are more useful than experts.
24. According to the second school of thought, education will not be very effective if pupils

- (a) have inadequate knowledge of their own work
(b) do not have a wide general education

- (c) ignore the study of fine arts
(d) have nothing but general knowledge

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (c) 5. (a) 6. (b) 7. (c) 8. (a) 9. (d) 10. (c)
11. (c) 12. (b) 13. (d) 14. (c) 15. (d) 16. (b) 17. (d) 18. (c) 19. (a) 20. (d)
21. (d) 22. (d) 23. (a) 24. (b)

PRACTICE SET 2

Passage 1

(C.D.S.1995)

Culture is the cultivation of a plant or garden, not the eradication of its roots, it is an understanding of the roots and seeds, their patient care and instructed nourishment. Culture is not knowledge, nor is it art, still less is its acquaintance with literature and art. By culture I mean first of all what the anthropologists mean; the way of life of a particular people living together in one place. That culture is made visible in their arts, in their social system, in their habits and customs, in their religion. It is an aggregate of customs, institutions, manners, standards, tastes, morals and beliefs. Now these are transmitted rather by the family than by the school, hence when family life fails to play its part, we must expect our culture to deteriorate. It is a delusion to think that the maladies of the modern world can be put right by a system of instruction. On the contrary, universal education, by lowering standards, morals and tastes to a common denominator, and by sharpening the wits rather than disciplining character, tends to break down existing checks and balances. Education should be the drawing forth of potential values, it should not be the destruction of the safeguards that tradition places around young egos naturally inclined to wilful and precarious flights.

1. The writer uses the term 'culture' to refer to
(a) the cultivation of a plant or garden by a community
(b) one's acquaintance with literature and art
(c) one's acquisition of knowledge
(d) the way of life of a particular people living together in one place

2. The passage suggests that universal education

- (a) is, in fact, aggravating the existing problems of the modern world
(b) is the solution to the problems in the modern world
(c) would prevent us from transmitting culture to the future generation
(d) would help retain the cultural values

3. The culture of a community is said to deteriorate when

- (a) there is a fall in its educational standards.
(b) the family life fails to play its part.
(c) there is universal education.
(d) it adopts the modern system of instruction.

4. The culture of a community is transmitted

- (a) more by school than the family
(b) more by the family than school
(c) equally by both
(d) by the peer group

5. According to the passage, education is

- (a) the sharpening of wits
(b) tapping and encouraging the inherent values in man
(c) the substitution of old traditions with new ones
(d) the development of moral standards

Passage 2

There are some men who seem to be always on the lookout for trouble and, to tell the truth, they are seldom disappointed. Listening to such men one would think that this world is one of the stormiest and most disagreeable places. Yet, after all it is not such a bad place and the difficulty is often in the man who is too thin-skinned. On the other hand, the man who goes out expecting people to be like himself; kind and brotherly, will be

surprised at the kindness he meets even in the most unlike quarters. A smile is apt to be met with a responsive smile while the sneer is just as apt to provoke a snarl. Men living in the same neighbourhood may live vastly different lives. But it is not the neighbourhood which is quarrelsome, but the man within us. And we have it in our power to change our neighbourhood into a pleasant one by simply changing our own ways.

6. The passage is about

- (a) our disagreeable and hostile world
(b) a kindly and pleasant world
(c) our indifferent and unresponsive world
(d) the world and what one makes of it

7. "..... they are seldom disappointed". The statement denotes that such men

- (a) welcome difficulties as a morale booster
(b) do not have to face any trouble
(c) manage to keep unruffled in the face of discomforts
(d) generally do not fail to come across troubles

8. The author's own view of the world is that it is

- (a) one of the loveliest and quietest places
(b) an unpleasant and turbulent place
(c) one's own excessive sensitivity that makes it a bad place
(d) a sordid place for those who suffer in life

9. Which of the following is opposite in meaning to the expression 'thin-skinned' as used in the passage?

- (a) Insensitive (b) Intelligent
(c) Awkward (d) Obstinate

10. "On the other hand unlikely quarters". The statement shows that people's reaction to our attitude is

- (a) generally indifferent
(b) surprisingly responsive
(c) often adverse
(d) mainly favourable.

Passage 3

(N.D.A. 1996)

Among the earliest memories of my childhood are the stories from these epics told to me by my mother or the older ladies of the house, just as a child in Europe or America might listen to fairy tales or stories of adventure. There was for me both the adventure and the fairy tale element in them. And then I used to be taken every year to the popular open-air

performances where the Ramayana story was enacted.

11. The author of this passage is in

- (a) a reflective mood
(b) a reminiscent mood
(c) a critical mood
(d) an introspective mood

12. 'Epics' are

- (a) long historical stories
(b) poetic works of excellence
(c) long narrative poems of the adventures of mythical heroes
(d) popular versions of national histories

13. The second sentence shows that the writer

- (a) tolerated the old stories and open-air performances
(b) analysed old stories for their value
(c) enjoyed them
(d) dismissed them as untrue and silly

Passage 4

Newspapers sell because of news and editorial coverage but it gets more revenue from advertisements. News costs money, while advertisements fetch money. The economics of modern newspapers is such that it cannot run by just selling news; it has to depend on advertisements. The economics of newspaper publishing requires both subscribers who can afford to buy newspapers and businessmen who can afford to advertise in it. The growth of the press depends on both. Therefore, in newspaper management neither aspect can be neglected.

Co-ordination among the various departments - editorial, circulation, advertising and production - is very essential for effective and better management. The head of various departments must be part of the management of a newspaper. They must be aware of the goals set, policies and future plans of the management. They cannot afford to remain cut off from the mainstream of management function. In addition, each department should keep the other department managers informed of those of its activities that will be useful to them. This is a vital aspect of newspaper management.

14. The growth of a newspaper depends on

- (a) the editorial and news coverage
(b) large scale subscribers
(c) advertisers
(d) subscribers and advertisers

15. The main idea of the first paragraph of the passage is
 (a) The growth of the press
 (b) News and editorial coverage
 (c) The economics of newspaper publishing
 (d) The importance of advertisements.
16. The main idea of the second paragraph of the passage is —
 (a) The future of newspapers
 (b) How to sell newspapers
 (c) Effective newspaper management
 (d) The role of the heads of departments
17. The word 'goal' in the passage means
 (a) aim (b) conclusion
 (c) result (d) benefit
18. The word 'vital' as used in the context means
 (a) primary (b) important
 (c) healthy (d) lively

Passage 5 (Hotel Management, 1996)

The strength of the electronics industry in Japan is the Japanese ability to organise production and marketing rather than their achievements in original research. The British are generally recognised as a far more inventive collection of individuals, but never seem able to exploit what they invent. There are many examples, from the TSR Z hovercraft, high speed train and Sinclair scooter to the Triumph, BSA and Norton motorcycle which all prove this sad rule. The Japanese were able to exploit their strengths in marketing and development many years ago, and their success was at first either not understood in the West or was dismissed as something which could have been produced only at their low price. They were sold because they were cheap copies of other peoples' ideas churned out of a workshop which was dedicated to hard grind above all else.

19. The main theme of this passage is
 (a) electronics industry in Japan
 (b) industrial comparison between Japan and Britain
 (c) the importance of original research in industry
 (d) the role of marketing efficiency in industrial prosperity
20. The TSR Z hovercraft, high speed train, Sinclair Scooter, etc are the symbols of
 (a) Japanese failure
 (b) Japanese success
 (c) British failure
 (d) British success.

21. The sad rule mentioned in this passage refers to
 (a) the lack of variety in Japanese inventions
 (b) the inability of the Japanese to be inventive like the British
 (c) the poorer marketing ability of the British
 (d) the inability of the British to be industrious like the Japanese
22. According to the passage, prosperity in industry depends upon
 (a) marketing ability
 (b) productivity
 (c) official patronage
 (d) inventiveness
23. It is evident from this passage that the strength of a country's industry depends upon
 (a) electronic development
 (b) dedicated work force
 (c) original research
 (d) international cooperation

Directions : Read the following letter carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words in the letter have been printed in italics to help you locate them easily for answering some of the questions. (B.S.R.B. 1996)

Dear Mrs. Kapdawalla,

We certainly agree with you that it is inconvenient to run a home without a washing machine. For that reason, we have lost no time in investigating the *source* of the trouble in your machine.

The report from our repair department indicates that your washing machine has a burned-out bearing which was caused by the fact that it has not been oiled. Although we guarantee our washing machines for three years against all defects in workmanship or materials, we cannot assume responsibility for repairs *necessitated* by improper care. We, therefore, cannot *grant* your request to repair your machine without charges.

We shall, however, be glad to put your washing machine in brand new condition at the actual cost of the parts i.e. Rs. 325/-. When your machine is returned to you, it will be completely oiled and ready to operate. Then, if you follow the directions for oiling, which are given on page 3 of your instruction book, you will get years of trouble-free service from your washing machine.

Comprehension-II

Just mail the enclosed postcard today, authorising us to proceed with the repairs. We return your machine on Saturday.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. M.N. Laundrywalla

24. This letter seems to be a reply to
 (a) a customer's letter requesting the dealer to pay compensation for defective machine
 (b) a letter for replacement of an old washing machine with a brand new one
 (c) a request to a dealer to send his mechanic for repairing a washing machine
 (d) a letter requesting the dealer for free repair of a washing machine
 (e) an inquiry about the probable defects in a washing machine
25. The washing machine needed repair due to
 (a) faulty material (b) overloading
 (c) improper care (d) over use
 (e) defective workmanship
26. From the letter, it can be inferred that Mrs. Kapdawalla
 (a) had been very careful in maintaining the washing machine
 (b) had been running her home without a washing machine for the past three years
 (c) had purchased the washing machine during the past three years
 (d) was put to a lot of inconvenience due to the dealer's fault
 (e) had paid Rs. 325/- to the dealer for the repairs done by him
27. "Your request" (2nd para, last sentence) refers to
 (a) Mr. Laundrywalla's request for return of the authorisation card
 (b) Mrs. Kapdawalla's request for a brand new washing machine
 (c) a customer's request to a trader for free repair of a washing machine
 (d) Mrs. Kapdawalla's request for increasing the guarantee period

- (e) None of these
28. Mr. Laundrywalla rejected Mrs. Kapdawalla's request because
 (a) she had not purchased the washing machine from his shop.
 (b) the guarantee period of the washing machine was over.
 (c) the defect in the washing machine was due to faulty material provided.
 (d) the defect occurred due to careless maintenance by his repair department.
 (e) the machine had gone out of order due to improper care.
29. It appears that when the above letter was written, the washing machine was
 (a) at Mrs. Kapdawalla's residence
 (b) at Mr. Laundrywalla's repairs shop
 (c) yet to be examined to find out the defect
 (d) already repaired by Mr. Laundrywalla's mechanics
 (e) sent back to Mrs. Kapdawalla's residence

Directions : Choose the word which is most nearly the same in meaning as the given word as used in the passage.

30. SOURCE
 (a) Gravity (b) Origin (c) Effect
 (d) Remedy (e) Maintenance
31. NECESSITATED
 (a) Permitted (b) Imposed
 (c) Demanded (d) Enforced
 (e) Warranted

Directions : Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning of the word given in capitals as used in the passage.

32. INCONVENIENT
 (a) Possible (b) Easily
 (c) Desirable (d) Troublesome
 (e) Comfortable
33. GRANT
 (a) Reject (b) Stop (c) Send
 (d) Accept (e) Suppose

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (a) 6. (d) 7. (d) 8. (c) 9. (a) 10. (b)
 11. (b) 12. (c) 13. (c) 14. (d) 15. (c) 16. (d) 17. (a) 18. (b) 19. (d) 20. (c)
 21. (c) 22. (a) 23. (b) 24. (d) 25. (c) 26. (c) 27. (c) 28. (e) 29. (b) 30. (b)
 31. (d) 32. (e) 33. (a)

PRACTICE SET 3

Passage 1 (I. Tax & Central Excise, 1993)

It will be a mistake to think that he was given only 'bouquets', he also received many 'brickbats'. The Christian missionaries took alarm at his popularity. They used to raise funds by preaching that India was a land of heathens waiting to be saved by Christianity. The American press now began to say that it was a shame that any body should try to teach India religion, rather the world should sit at her feet to learn it. Vivekananda also said that India did not need religion but material support. The missionaries found that the subscriptions they had so long been receiving from the people were steadily declining. They blamed it on Swamiji. They now started denigrating him in all manner of ways. They even began to spread scandals against his personal character. Strangely enough, even some of his own countrymen joined them in this for reasons of their own. But 'Truth alone prevails', as Swamiji always preached. He did not try to defend himself, but others stood up for him and vehemently protested. Finally, all such mean attempts failed and his reputation only rose higher and higher.

- The passage teaches us
 - not to believe in religions other than our own
 - not to get involved in scandals
 - not to visit foreign lands
 - not to deviate from the path of truth
- Vivekananda was criticised by missionaries in America because
 - he was a bad student of Western theology.
 - he opposed the tenets of Christianity.
 - Americans had become very fond of him.
 - he did not allow them to raise funds in India.
- Swami Vivekananda told the American people that India
 - did not approve of the Catholic Church
 - would teach religion to those who sit at her feet
 - required religious and material help
 - was self-sufficient in religion though poor
- Vivekananda's rapport with the American people
 - helped India get substantial aid

- made his friends desert him
 - annoyed the American Government
 - caused a drop in Church's collections
5. Vivekananda did not defend himself because
- he believed in the ultimate triumph of truth.
 - he was in a foreign land.
 - some of his countrymen were opposing him.
 - he had brought many friends along to fight for him.

Passage 2

A book is written, not to multiply the voice merely, not to carry it merely but to perpetuate it. The author has something to say which he perceives to be true and useful or helpfully beautiful. So far he knows no one has said it, so far as he knows no one else can say it. He is bound to say it clearly and melodiously if he may; clearly at all events. In the sum of his life, he finds this to be the thing or group of things, manifest him; this, the piece of true knowledge, or sight, which his share of sunshine and earth has permitted him to seize. That is a book.

- The opening sentence of the passage implies that the aim of writing a book is to
 - repeat the message it contains
 - enable the author to express his ideas in writing
 - preserve from extinction the message it contains
 - propagate the ideology of the author
- Which of the following would be the most suitable title for the passage?
 - Contribution of an author
 - Aim of writing a book
 - Book - the source of true knowledge
 - Writers and their books
- According to the writer, a person is impelled to write a book, because
 - he wishes to satisfy his ego.
 - he has something nice and pleasing to say.
 - he is capable of expressing whatever he wants to say.
 - he has discovered something unique, true and good which he must convey distinctly and musically.
- Which of the following is not implied in the passage?

- A writer is motivated to write a book if he discerns a great truth.
 - An author of a book generally gathers some common truths and gives them a popular and pleasing expression.
 - A great writer is convinced that whatever he says is not an echo or imitation of what others have said.
 - An eminent writer's message is conveyed through plain unambiguous language.
10. Which of the following is opposite in meaning to the word 'manifest' given in the passage?
- unclear
 - dark
 - pure
 - hard

Passage 3

(C.B.I.1995)

When we are suddenly confronted with any terrible danger, the change of nature we undergo is equally great. In some cases fear paralyses us. Like animals, we stand still, powerless to move a step in fright or to lift a hand in defence of our lives, and sometimes we are seized with panic, and again, act more like the inferior animals than rational beings. On the other hand, frequently in cases of sudden extreme peril, which cannot be escaped by flight, and must be instantly faced, even the most timid men at once as if by miracle, become possessed of the necessary courage, sharp quick apprehension, and swift decision. This is a miracle very common in nature. Man and the inferior animals alike, when confronted with almost certain death 'gather resolution from despair' but there can really be no trace of so debilitating a feeling in the person fighting, or prepared to fight for dear life. At such times the mind is clearer than it has ever been; the nerves are steel, there is nothing felt but a wonderful strength and daring. Looking back at certain perilous moments in my own life, I remember them with a kind of joy, not that there was any joyful excitement then; but because they brought me a new experience - a new nature, as it were - and lifted me for a time above myself.

- An appropriate title for the above passage would be
 - The Will to Fight
 - The Miracle of Confronting Danger
 - The Change of Nature
 - Courage and Panic

- The author names three different ways in which a man may react to sudden danger. What are they?
 - He may flee in panic, or fight back or stand still.
 - He may be paralysed with fear, seized with panic or act like an inferior animal.
 - He may be paralysed with fear, or seized with panic, or as if by miracle, become possessed of the necessary courage, and face the danger.
 - He may be paralysed with fear, run away or fight.
- The distinction between 'inferior animals' and 'rational beings' is that
 - the former are incapable of fighting.
 - the latter are clever.
 - the latter are stronger.
 - the latter are capable of reasoning things out whereas the former cannot do so.
- Explain the phrase 'gather resolution from danger'.
 - Find hope and courage
 - A state of utter hopelessness steels one to fight out the danger
 - Not to lose hope, but fight
 - Find courage to face the danger
- The author feels happy in the recollection of dangers faced and overcome because
 - they brought him a new experience.
 - they brought him a new experience, and lifted him above himself for a time.
 - he survived his ordeal.
 - he was lucky to be alive.

Passage 4

(C.D.S.1994)

The artificial ways of inducing sleep are legion, and are only alike in their ineffectuality. In *Lavengro* there is an impossible character, a victim of insomnia, who finds that a volume of Wordsworth's poems is the only sure soporific, but that was Borrow's Malice. The famous old plan of counting sheep jumping over a stile has never served a turn. I have herded imaginary sheep until they insisted on turning themselves into white bears or blue pigs, and I defy any reasonable man to fall asleep while mustering a herd of stupid swine.

- The author points out that
 - sleep can easily be induced.
 - the artificial means of inducing sleep are not good.

- (c) artificial ways of inducing sleep are ineffective.
 (d) artificial ways of inducing sleep are expensive.
17. According to the author the character in *Lavengro*
 (a) resorts to external aids to get some sleep
 (b) is an admirer of Wordsworth
 (c) spends sleepless nights reading Wordsworth
 (d) is an avid reader of poetry
18. The author uses "impossible" for the character of *Lavengro* in the sense of
 (a) funny (b) unrealistic
 (c) queer (d) imaginary
19. Borrow's malice is most probably directed at
 (a) sleeplessness
 (b) the artificial ways of inducing sleep
 (c) Wordsworth's poetry
 (d) poetry in general
20. In order to cure his insomnia, the writer
 (a) does a lot of reading
 (b) vainly tries to concentrate on imaginary situations
 (c) keeps a flock of sheep
 (d) counts sheep jumping over a stile

Passage 5

Experiments with the Sulphonamides have made clear a fact about germs which is gaining increasing importance in fighting them. Germs, it seems, have the same ability as all the other living things gradually to change themselves to suit new conditions. But, as the generation of germs lasts only twenty, twenty five or thirty minutes, before all the germs divide to form new ones, changes that would take many years in animals can be achieved by germs in a few hours. Perhaps, then, you give the attacking germ a dose of Sulphonamides which upsets them somewhat but is not strong enough to

prevent them from multiplying; if so, they very rapidly develop new powers which enable them to resist the effects of the drug. After this has happened, even the strongest dose will fail to disturb them.

21. Experiments with Sulphonamides have led to the important discovery that
 (a) germs are living things, and can change themselves to suit new conditions.
 (b) one generation of germs lasts only twenty, twenty five or thirty minutes.
 (c) germs can adjust themselves to live and multiply in new conditions.
 (d) germs are not disturbed even by the strongest possible dose of Sulphonamides.
22. Like all other living things, germs can change themselves to suit new conditions. This adjustment is possible because the germs have
 (a) the power of fluctuation
 (b) the power of compliance
 (c) the power of adaptability
 (d) the power of adaptability
23. Since germs can change themselves to suit new conditions, the task of fighting them has become
 (a) absolutely impossible
 (b) much easier
 (c) much more difficult
 (d) increasingly important
24. Germs which are not disturbed even by the strongest possible dose of the Sulphonamides are said to have become
 (a) immortal (b) immune
 (c) improvised (d) immobile
25. One generation of germs expires, bringing into existence the next generation
 (a) in twenty minutes
 (b) in twenty five minutes
 (c) in not more than half an hour
 (d) in a few hours

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (d) 5. (a) 6. (d) 7. (c) 8. (d) 9. (b) 10. (a)
 11. (b) 12. (c) 13. (d) 14. (b) 15. (b) 16. (c) 17. (d) 18. (b) 19. (c) 20. (b)
 21. (a) 22. (d) 23. (c) 24. (b) 25. (c)

PRACTICE SET 4

Passage 1

(I.E.S.1994)

Passage 2

Religion is the greatest instrument for so raising us. It is amazing that a person not intellectually bright, perhaps not even educated, is capable of grasping and living by something so advanced as the principles of Christianity. Yet, there is a common phenomenon. It is not, however, in my province to talk about religion, but rather to stress the power which great literature and the great personalities whom we meet in it and in history have to open and enlarge our minds, and to show us what is first rate in human personality and human character by showing us goodness and greatness.

- In the passage, the author's ultimate intention is to talk about
 (a) religion (b) history
 (c) education (d) character
- The phrase "so raising us" means
 (a) giving us a sense of spiritual superiority
 (b) making us feel that we are more important than we really are
 (c) improving our mental abilities
 (d) making us realise that we all are children of God
- What surprises the author is that
 (a) even uneducated people are attracted towards Christianity.
 (b) Christianity is practised by a large number of people.
 (c) despite being difficult and complex, the principles of Christianity are practised by so many people.
 (d) even very intelligent people cannot understand the principles of Christianity.
- The author hesitates to talk about religion because
 (a) he does not feel himself competent to talk about it.
 (b) nobody around him likes to talk about it.
 (c) he does not believe in any religion.
 (d) he does not fully understand its importance.
- According to the author, we come across examples of greatness and nobility in
 (a) great works of literature
 (b) literary and historical works
 (c) historical records
 (d) books on Christianity

It is strange that, according to his position in life, an extravagant man is admired or despised. A successful business man does nothing to increase his popularity by being careful with his money. He is expected to display his success, to have a smart car, an expensive life, and to be lavish with his hospitality. If he is not so, he is considered mean, and his reputation in business may even suffer in consequence. The paradox remains that if he had not been careful with his money in the first place, he would never have achieved his present wealth.

Among the low income group, a different set of values exists. The young clerk, who makes his wife a present of a new dress when he hasn't paid his house rent, is condemned as extravagant. Carefulness with money to the point of meanness is applauded as a virtue. Nothing in his life is considered more worthy than paying his bills. The ideal wife for such a man separates her housekeeping money into joyless little piles—so much for rent, for food, for the children's shoes; she is able to face the milkman with equanimity every month, satisfied with her economising ways, and never knows the guilt of buying something she can't really afford.

As for myself, I fall into neither of these categories. If I have money to spare, I can be extravagant, but when, as is usually the case, I am hard up, then I am the meanest man imaginable.

- Which of the following would be the most suitable title for the passage?
 (a) Extravagance is always condemnable
 (b) Extravagance leads to poverty
 (c) Extravagance in the life of the rich and the poor
 (d) Miserly habits of the poor
- In the opinion of the writer, a successful businessman
 (a) should not bother about popularity
 (b) is expected to have expensive tastes
 (c) is more popular if he appears to be doing nothing
 (d) must be extravagant before achieving success

8. The phrase 'lavish with his hospitality' in the third sentence of the first paragraph, signifies
 (a) considerateness in spending on guests and strangers
 (b) indifference in treating his friends and relatives
 (c) miserliness in dealing with his friends
 (d) extravagance in entertaining guests
9. The word 'paradox' in the last sentence of the first paragraph means
 (a) statement based on the popular opinion
 (b) that which is contrary to received opinion
 (c) statement based on facts
 (d) that which brings out the inner meaning
10. It seems that low paid people should
 (a) feel guilty if they overspend
 (b) borrow money to meet their essential needs
 (c) not keep their creditors waiting
 (d) not pay their bills promptly
11. How does the housewife, described by the writer, feel when she saves money? She
 (a) wishes she could sometimes be extravagant
 (b) is still troubled by a sense of guilt
 (c) wishes life were less burdensome
 (d) is content to be so thrifty
12. The statement "she is able to face the milkman with equanimity" implies that
 (a) she is not upset as she has been paying the milkman his dues regularly.
 (b) she loses her nerve at the sight of the milkman who always demands his dues.
 (c) she manages to keep cool as she has to pay the milkman only a month's dues.
 (d) she remains composed and confident as she knows that she can handle the milkman tactfully.
13. Which of the following is opposite in meaning to the word 'applauded' in the passage?
 (a) suppressed (b) cherished
 (c) decried (d) humiliated
14. We understand from the passage that
 (a) thrift may lead to success.
 (b) wealthy people are invariably successful.
 (c) all mean people are wealthy.
 (d) carefulness generally leads to failure.

15. As far as money is concerned, we get the impression that the writer
 (a) doesn't often have any money to save
 (b) would like to be considered extravagant
 (c) is never inclined to be extravagant
 (d) is incapable of saving anything.

Passage 3

(Bank P.O.1995)

The recent rapid growth of industry has, in some cases, been so excessive that too much manufacturing capacity has been developed in some fields of production, which forces companies to sell their surplus products in world markets at prices lower than normal. This will make it almost impossible to develop local industries producing the same items because consumers will prefer to buy the cheaper imported product.

16. Why is it necessary for companies to sell products at cheaper prices?
 (a) The cost of production has been considerably low.
 (b) The local industries also manufacture the same product.
 (c) There is a heavy demand for these products.
 (d) The demand has been lowered significantly.
 (e) None of these
17. According to the passage, the situation resulting from the rapid industrial growth is
 (a) favourable to the manufacturers
 (b) disastrous to the exporters
 (c) conducive to the growth of local industries
 (d) unfavourable to the consumers
 (e) None of these

18. 'This will make '— in this sentence, 'This' refers most closely and directly to
 (a) development of local industries
 (b) the recent rapid growth of industry
 (c) selling products of excessively higher prices
 (d) companies manufacturing surplus products
 (e) companies selling their production at cheaper prices

19. Which of the following is/are most likely to hamper the development of local industries?
 A. Availability of imported product at cheaper rates
 B. Consumer's tendency to refrain from using imported products

C. Excessive production capacity and low production cost

- (a) Only A (b) Only B
 (c) Only C (d) A and B
 (e) A and C

20. 'Imported product' as used in the last product refers to
 (a) product manufactured locally but of export quality
 (b) product sold to such other country which can't locally manufacture it
 (c) product of a foreign country available at a below normal price
 (d) surplus product manufactured by foreign country and sold at a normal price

Passage 4

Gandhiji had to travel by train from Durban to Pretoria in connection with his job. Once while travelling by train, he was asked by the white passengers to leave the first class compartment and shift to the van compartment. He refused to do so. Thereafter he was pushed forcibly out of the compartment and his luggage was thrown on the platform. It was winter and he kept shivering all night. He did not go to the waiting room because the white men sleeping there might insult him further. This event was a turning point in the life of Gandhiji and he decided to stay back in South Africa and fight against this blatant injustice.

21. The White people asked Gandhiji to abandon the first class compartment because
 (a) they wanted to annoy him.

- (b) they wanted to avenge themselves on Gandhiji.
 (c) they treated Indians as inferior to them.
 (d) they were looking for a chance to talk to him.

22. Why was he thrown out of the compartment? Because.....
 (a) he misbehaved with the Whites.
 (b) they wanted him to spend the night in the waiting room.
 (c) they wanted to insult him.
 (d) he refused to shift to the van compartment.

23. Why did he not go to the waiting room to spend the night?
 (a) The room was unclean.
 (b) He wanted to sleep in the open.
 (c) He was badly hurt and so couldn't move to the room.
 (d) He feared that the White men there might insult him further.

24. 'This event was a turning point in the life of Gandhiji'. The event being talked about here is
 (a) Gandhiji's being ill treated by the Whites

- (b) Gandhiji's spending night on the platform
 (c) Gandhiji's travel by a train
 (d) Gandhiji's staying back in Africa

25. Gandhiji stayed back in South Africa
 (a) to avenge himself on the Whites who had insulted him
 (b) because his work was still not complete
 (c) to fight against racial discrimination in Africa
 (d) to build up an army and fight against the White people

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (c) 4. (a) 5. (b) 6. (c) 7. (b) 8. (d) 9. (b) 10. (a)
 11. (d) 12. (a) 13. (c) 14. (b) 15. (a) 16. (e) 17. (e) 18. (b) 19. (e) 20. (c)
 21. (c) 22. (d) 23. (d) 24. (a) 25. (c)

PRACTICE SET 5

Passage 1

(Assistant Grade, 1995)

Nationalism, of course, is a curious phenomenon which at a certain stage in a country's history gives life, growth and unity but, at the same time, it has a tendency to limit one, because one thinks

of one's country as something different from the rest of the world. One's perspective changes and one is continuously thinking of one's own struggles and virtues and failing to the exclusion of other thoughts. The result is that the same nationalism which is the symbol of growth

for a people becomes a symbol of the cessation of that growth in the mind. Nationalism, when it becomes successful, sometimes goes on spreading in an aggressive way and becomes a danger internationally. Whatever line of thought you follow, you arrive at the conclusion that some kind of balance must be found. Otherwise something that was good can turn into evil. Culture, which is essentially good becomes not only static but aggressive and something that breeds conflict and hatred when looked at from a wrong point of view. How are you to find a balance, I don't know. Apart from the political and economic problems of the age, perhaps that is the greatest problem today because behind it there is a tremendous search for something which it cannot find. We turn to economic theories because they have an undoubted importance. It is folly to talk of culture or even of God when human beings starve and die. Before one can talk about anything else one must provide the normal essentials of life to human beings. That is where economics comes in. Human beings today are not in the mood to tolerate this suffering and starvation and inequality when they see that the burden is not equally shared. Others profit while they only bear the burden.

1. The most suitable title for the above passage would be
 - (a) Nationalism- a road to world unity
 - (b) Nationalism breeds unity
 - (c) Nationalism and national problems
 - (d) Nationalism is not enough
2. Aggressive nationalism
 - (a) isolates a country
 - (b) endangers national unity
 - (c) leads to stunted growth
 - (d) breeds threat to international relations
3. Negative national feeling can make a nation
 - (a) dangerous
 - (b) indifferent
 - (c) self-centred
 - (d) selfish
4. 'The greatest problem' in the middle of the passage refers to the question
 - (a) how to curb international hatred
 - (b) how to share the economic burden equally
 - (c) how to contain the dangers of aggressive nationalism
 - (d) how to mitigate hardship to human beings
5. 'Others' in the last sentence refers to
 - (a) other neighbours
 - (b) other nations

(c) other communities (d) other people

Passage 2

Culture is not merely learning. It is discrimination, understanding of life. Liberal education aims at producing moral gifts as well as intellectual, sweetness of temper as much as sanity of outlook. Into the art of living, the cultured man carries a certain grace, a certain refinement, a certain distinction which redeems him from the sterile futility of aimless struggle. Culture is not a pose of intellect or a code of convention, but an attitude of life which finds nothing human, alien, common or unclean. An education that brings up a young man in entire indifference to the misery and poverty surrounding him, to the general stringency of life, to the dumb pangs of tortured bodies and the lives submerged in the shadows, is essentially a failure. If we do not realise the solidarity of the human community, nor have human relations with those whom the world passes by as the lowly and the lost, we are not cultured.

6. Which of the following statements best expresses the theme of the passage?
 - (a) Culture lends grace and sanity to man.
 - (b) Culture and education are complementary to each other.
 - (c) Liberal education makes man cultured.
 - (d) Education brings man closer to life.
7. According to the writer, the function of liberal education is to
 - (a) change the outlook of a person
 - (b) increase intellectual powers
 - (c) improve a person morally
 - (d) develop sensitivity to human dignity
8. Consider the following:
 1. Brotherhood of man
 2. Understanding of pain and suffering
 3. Better human relations
 4. Sweetness of temper
 Which of the above expressions describes proper education?
 - (a) 1 and 3
 - (b) 2 and 4
 - (c) 2, 3 and 4
 - (d) All the four
9. Culture redeems a person from the sterile futility of aimless struggle because
 - (a) it makes man learned.
 - (b) it makes man more intelligent.
 - (c) it brings about a better understanding of life.
 - (d) it prepares man for struggle.

Comprehension-II

181

10. Education is sometimes a failure. Which one of the following is the most likely reason for this?
 - (a) It improves the intellect only.
 - (b) It does not prepare man for struggle.
 - (c) It does not make man refined.
 - (d) It carries a man away from life around him.

Passage 3

(U.D.C.1993)

The supervisor would have to change his attitude towards people first. The staff under him must be perceived as human beings with feelings and needs. They are not automations within a complex work machinery. One of the greatest needs of today's worker is to have a feeling that he is in control of his work place and not vice versa. The best way is to satisfy this need as far as possible. He must feel firstly, that his work is meaningful. To do this the supervisor must delegate responsibility and limited authority for the man to execute his job well. The subordinate must be properly trained to assume responsibility and authority. Once he is ready to assume these he can be made accountable for his job. Very often supervisors assume all responsibility and accountability for fear of losing control of the workplace. This makes workers under him pawns in a vast chessboard. Delegating accountability gives the worker a purpose in life and the need to do a job well. Most important is to sit with each worker and chalk out common objectives and agreed norms to achieve them. This gives workers a security as to what is expected of them. When he has met his objectives he certainly has a feeling of achievement. This feeling of achievement is the greatest motivator.

11. A humane attitude on the part of the supervisor towards his staff is necessary to
 - (a) get them to work
 - (b) keep them happy
 - (c) have a congenial atmosphere at workplace.
 - (d) get the best out of them
12. Responsibility and accountability make a worker
 - (a) shirk his duties
 - (b) do his job properly
 - (c) tense and frightened
 - (d) vulnerable before his supervisors

13. Supervisors do not delegate responsibility and authority to their subordinates because.
 - (a) subordinates are not capable enough.
 - (b) they can't trust their subordinates.
 - (c) they are apprehensive of losing their hold on the place of work.
 - (d) final responsibility is theirs.
14. Orientation of subordinates of common objectives and how to achieve them is
 - (a) not very important
 - (b) a must
 - (c) not at all necessary
 - (d) optional
15. The greatest motivator is
 - (a) a good supervisor
 - (b) a good environment
 - (c) a sense of security
 - (d) fulfilment of purpose

Passage 4

The greatest enemy of mankind, as people have discovered is not science, but war. Science merely reflects the social forces by which it is surrounded. It is found that when there is peace, science is constructive, when there is war, science is perverted to destructive ends. The weapons which science gives us do not necessarily create war, these make war increasingly more terrible. Until now, it has brought us to the doorstep of doom. Our main problem, therefore, is not to curb science, but to stop war- to substitute law for force, and international government for anarchy in the relations of one nation with another. That is a job in which everybody must participate, including the scientists. But the bomb of Hiroshima suddenly woke us up to the fact that we have very little time. The hour is late and our work has scarcely begun. Now we are face to face with this urgent question: "Can education and tolerance, understanding and creative intelligence run fast enough to keep us abreast with our own mounting capacity to destroy?" That is the question which we shall have to answer one way or the other in this generation. Science must help us in the answer, but the main decision lies within ourselves.

16. An appropriate title for the passage would be
 - (a) Science and the new generation
 - (b) Science and social forces
 - (c) Science and the horrors of war
 - (d) Science and world peace

17. According to the author, the real enemy of mankind is not science but war, because
 (a) science during wars is so destructive.
 (b) science merely invents the weapons with which war is fought.
 (c) the weapons that science invents necessarily lead to war.
 (d) the weapons invented by science do not cause war, though these make it more destructive.
18. War can be stopped, if
 (a) weapons invented by science are not used to launch a war.
 (b) science is restricted to be utilised only during war time.
 (c) science is not allowed to lead us to utter destruction.
 (d) we replace force and lawlessness by law and international government.
19. According to the writer, the main problem we are faced with, is to
 (a) prevent scientists from participating in destructive activities
 (b) abolish war
 (c) stop scientific activities everywhere
 (d) stop science from reflecting social forces
20. Our mounting capacity to destroy can be kept under control by
 (a) encouraging social forces
 (b) education and broadmindedness
 (c) insight and constructive thinking
 (d) Both (b) and (c) together
21. The expression 'bring to the doorstep of doom' means
 (a) lead to the threshold of a new destiny
 (b) introduce to an unpredictable destiny
 (c) carry close to death and destruction
 (d) induct in a ruinous activity
22. Which of the following is opposite in meaning to the word 'anarchy' as used in the passage?
 (a) Law and order
 (b) Economic prosperity
 (c) Political dominance
 (d) Communal harmony
23. The phrase 'our work has scarcely begun' implies that our work
 (a) has not yet begun
 (b) has begun but not yet completed
 (c) has only just begun
 (d) has been half through
24. The expression 'keep us abreast' in the passage means
 (a) prevent from escaping
 (b) hold out a challenge
 (c) keep at a side
 (d) keep side by side
25. Which of the following statements is not implied in the passage?
 (a) Science is misused for destructive purposes.
 (b) Neither science nor the weapons it invents add to the horrors of war.
 (c) People needlessly blame science for war.
 (d) The role of science in ensuring world peace is subsidiary to that of man.

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (a) 3. (c) 4. (c) 5. (d) 6. (a) 7. (d) 8. (d) 9. (c) 10. (d)
 11. (d) 12. (b) 13. (c) 14. (b) 15. (d) 16. (c) 17. (d) 18. (d) 19. (b) 20. (d)
 21. (c) 22. (a) 23. (c) 24. (d) 25. (b)

PRACTICE SET 6

Passage 1

(I.E.S. 1994)

Some prophets of doom assert that we shall soon exhaust the Earth's resources or pollute ourselves to death. Optimists assert that Earth's systems are robust and that improved technologies will ease all the pressures on the planet. Others see the main concerns as political, with environmental issues carrying the seeds of inequality and war.

Scientific understanding is too limited to say where the truth lies. If the care of the planet is a management task, our species is in the position of a child who has to fly a jet plane without knowing what all the switches and levers do.

1. The blame for the environmental crisis facing the Earth lies with
 (a) pressures of over population
 (b) rapid technological growth

- (c) inadequate management of Earth's resources
 (d) man's greed and selfishness
2. Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?
 (a) People will feel exhausted owing to the green house effect.
 (b) Sometimes political motives influence people's concern for the planet.
 (c) Men should feel responsible towards society.
 (d) Wars will cause greater pollution on Earth.
3. According to the passage, nobody knows the truth because
 (a) objective analyses are not thorough or exhaustive.
 (b) there are very few scientists capable of research in this area.
 (c) scientists often are used by politicians.
 (d) people do not think of what the future holds for them.
4. What does the comparison in the last sentence of the passage convey?
 (a) We are as ignorant as infants.
 (b) Our efforts to save the planet are childish.
 (c) Most of the people do not know how to fly an aeroplane.
 (d) We, on Earth, are inexperienced in managing Earth's resources.

Passage 2

It is a commonly held belief that quality and productivity are a function of technology or a set of new equipment. No doubt these are essential, but they alone are not sufficient for bringing about improvements in productivity or quality. It is the men and women behind the machines and the people who manage the technology who are critical in bringing about these improvements. It has been a strange paradox of India's economic development that even though people are our most abundant resource, they have so far either been neglected or treated as liabilities rather than as assets. Part of the reason for this has been outdated labour laws which have been a deterrent for industrialists and employers, leading them to establish capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive operations. The other reason has been a confrontationist attitude, both on the part of labour as well as managements. A change must come about in both these factors, outside represen-

tation and leadership of unions etc need to change. At the same time the attitude of confrontation must change to one of cooperation and active collaboration.

5. Which of the following arguments has been emphasized in the paragraph?
 (a) Only technology or a new set of equipment can improve quality and productivity.
 (b) Only management behind any type of machines can improve quality and productivity.
 (c) By managing the new technology, labour can bring about improvements in quality and productivity.
 (d) Indian labour and management is neither quality nor productivity conscious.
6. The word 'critical' in the passage means
 (a) crucial (b) judicial
 (c) analytical (d) judicious
7. India's strange contradiction of development is
 (a) people are resourceful but new equipment is not given to them.
 (b) people are resourceful but they are neglected.
 (c) labour is not earnest and therefore it is no longer a liability.
 (d) labour is inefficient but still it is pampered.
8. Capital-intensive operations can lead to
 (a) strict labour laws
 (b) new labour laws
 (c) too many labour laws
 (d) irrelevant labour laws
9. The opposite of 'deterrent' as used in the passage is
 (a) help (b) non-interference
 (c) influence (d) patronage
10. Labour-intensive operations can lead to
 (a) better relations between labour and management
 (b) fear of unemployment
 (c) industrial process needing to employ many people
 (d) None of these
11. Which of the following statements on confrontation between labour and management is false?
 (a) Too much governmental interference between labour and management
 (b) Conflicting attitude of labour and management
 (c) Establishment of capital-intensive industries
 (d) Neglect of labour-intensive operations

Passage 3 (C.D.S. 1995)

It is generally acknowledged that children learn a lot from their parents. It is not so commonly admitted that parents learn a great deal from their children. As adults, it is easy to assume that we are always right, but the laugh was on me one beautiful day.

My daughter Kashmira knew how much I loved flowers. One day when she was of nine years, she picked some branches from our neighbour's blossoming fruit tree. Realising she intended to please me, I didn't scold her, but chose a different approach.

"These are lovely, dear, but do you realise that if you had left them on the tree, each of these blossoms would have become a cherry?"

"No, they wouldn't have", she said firmly.

"Oh, yes, they would have. Each of these blossoms would have grown into a cherry."

"Well okay, mother, if you insist", she finally conceded, "but they were plums last year".

12. What is not commonly acknowledged is that
- children learn a lot from their parents.
 - parents teach their children a great deal.
 - parents learn a great deal from their children.
 - children learn a great deal in spite of their parents.
13. "The laugh was on me" means that
- the mother was caught in the wrong.
 - the daughter was wrong.
 - people laughed at the mother.
 - the mother laughed at herself.
14. What the daughter picked from the neighbour's garden were
- some branches
 - some flowers
 - some branches with blossoms
 - some branches with fruit
15. The mother did not scold the daughter because
- she loved flowers.
 - she liked cherry blossoms.
 - she did not understand why her daughter had done so.
 - she decided to indirectly make her daughter realise her mistake.
16. The mother was caught in the wrong because the daughter

- proved that she had not picked the branch with the blossom
- reminded her that she loved flowers.
- reminded her that the branch with blossoms was from a plum tree.
- proved that those blossoms would not yield any fruit.

Passage 4

S.N. Bose's experimental skill was not confined to physics alone. His energy had been channelised in several directions. One direction in which his energy flowed more consistently than in any other was the popularisation of science. In a newly independent country like India, determined to develop her industries as quickly as possible, there was every danger of leadership in scientific research falling into the hands of those whom C.P. Snow has called 'slide-rule' scientists. As a safeguard against this, even before independence, Bose found a scientific journal in Bengali, *Bijnan Parichaya*, to spread scientific knowledge among the common people.

17. Bose could allow his energy to flow successfully in several directions. Bose was, thus,
- a vivacious man
 - an energetic man
 - a versatile man
 - a virulent man
18. S.N. Bose made a major contribution to the spread of scientific knowledge among common people
- by channelising his energies in several directions
 - by consistently working for the popularisation of science
 - by becoming a 'slide-rule' scientist
 - by founding a scientific journal in Bengali
19. It is learnt from the passage that India, immediately after becoming independent, sought to progress
- by means of industrialisation
 - by means of popularisation of science
 - by encouraging scientists like S.N. Bose
 - by offering the leadership of scientific research to slide-rule scientists
20. A 'slide-rule' scientist is likely to be interested in
- spreading scientific knowledge among common people
 - diverting his energy in several channels

- depriving common people of scientific knowledge
 - carrying on scientific research on stereotyped ideas
21. S.N. Bose's scientific journal *Bijnan Parichaya* must have come out
- before 1947
 - after 1947
 - between 1947 and 1957
 - after 1957

Passage 5

(N.D.A. 1993)

The avowed purpose of the exact sciences is to establish complete intellectual control over experience in terms of precise rules which can be formally set out and empirically tested. Could that ideal be fully achieved, all truth and all error could henceforth be ascribed to an exact theory of the universe, while we who accept this theory would be relieved of any occasion for exercising our personal judgement. We should only have to follow the rules faithfully. Classical mechanics approaches this ideal so closely that is often thought to have achieved it. But this leaves out of account the element of personal judgement involved in applying the formulae of mechanics to the facts of experience.

22. In exact sciences,
- one does not find answers to all questions and problems.
 - one interprets the universe according to one's wish.
 - personal judgements are set aside in favour of a mechanical theory.
 - one reposes faith in actual experience.
23. The purpose of the exact sciences is to
- formulate principles which will help us to exercise our personal judgement
 - make formal and testable rules which can help verify experience
 - form opinions about our experience
 - assert our intellectual superiority
24. An exact theory of the universe is
- not desirable
 - improbable
 - yet to be made
 - possible
25. Classical mechanics
- has gained intellectual control over the world
 - just falls short of achieving intellectual control over experience
 - has formulated precise rules
 - has formulated an exact theory of the universe

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (a) 4. (d) 5. (c) 6. (a) 7. (b) 8. (d) 9. (a) 10. (c)
 11. (a) 12. (c) 13. (a) 14. (c) 15. (d) 16. (c) 17. (c) 18. (b) 19. (a) 20. (d)
 21. (a) 22. (c) 23. (b) 24. (b) 25. (b)

PRACTICE SET 7**Passage 1**

Teaching, more even than most other professions, has been transformed during the last hundred years from a small, highly skilled profession concerned with a minority of the population, to a large and important branch of the public service. The profession has a great and honourable tradition, extending from the dawn of history until recent times, but any teacher in the modern world who allows himself to be inspired by the ideals of his predecessors is likely to be made sharply aware that it is not his function to teach what he thinks, but to instil such beliefs and prejudices as are thought useful by his employers.

1. In ancient times the teaching profession was
- reserved for the upper class
 - reserved for a privileged few
 - open to all
 - limited to a highly skilled minority
2. What has transformed teaching into an important branch of public service is
- teaching skills
 - technical developments
 - utilitarian philosophy
 - the demand of the employing industry
3. According to this passage, in modern times a successful teacher is primarily supposed to
- impart knowledge
 - impart new and the latest skills

- (c) toe the lines preferred by those in authority
 (d) instil values he cherishes the most
4. The modern teacher is not able to follow the ideals of his predecessors because
 (a) of tremendous advancements in professional skills
 (b) of social and financial constraints
 (c) the students are not serious about studies.
 (d) the modern teacher has more interest in politics than in academic activity.
5. The author seems to
 (a) be against the current trend in the teaching profession
 (b) approve the recent developments in the mode of teaching
 (c) be a traditionalist in his views
 (d) consider education as a part of public service

Passage 2

How long I remained in the room with the cobra I cannot say. My servant said later that it was only half an hour, and no sound has ever been more welcome to me than the sounds I heard as my servant laid the table for dinner. I called him to the bathroom door, and told him of my predicament and instructed him to fetch a lantern and a ladder. After another long wait, I heard the babel of voices, followed by the scraping of the ladder against the outer wall of the house. When the lantern had been lifted to the window, ten feet above the ground, it did not illuminate the room, so I told the man who was holding it to break a pane of glass and pass the lantern through the opening. The opening was too small for the lantern to be passed in upright. However, after it had been relit three times, it was finally inserted into the room and, feeling that the cobra was behind me, I turned my head and saw it lying at the bottom of the bedroom door two feet away. Leaning forward very slowly, I picked up the heavy bath-mat, raised it high and let it fall as the cobra was sliding over the floor towards me. Fortunately I judged my aim accurately and the bath-mat crashed down on the cobra's neck six inches from its head. As it bit at the wood and lashed about with its tail, I took a hasty stride to the verandah door and in a moment was outside among a crowd of men, armed with

sticks and carrying lanterns, for word had got round to the railway quarters that I was having a life-and-death struggle with a big snake in a locked room.

6. The incident narrated in the passage is
 (a) humorous (b) tragic
 (c) dramatic (d) thrilling
7. The room in which the writer is locked in with the cobra is his
 (a) drawing room (b) bath-room
 (c) toilet (d) bed-room
8. "It did not illuminate the room". Here 'illuminate' can be replaced by
 (a) light up brightly (b) make colourful
 (c) throw faint light (d) enlighten
9. A large crowd had gathered outside the writer's room, presumably to
 (a) catch the snake
 (b) kill the snake if it came out
 (c) watch the writer's struggle with the cobra
 (d) break open the door of the room

Passage 3

(N.D.A. 1993)

It is not luck but labour that makes men. Luck, says an American writer, is ever waiting for something to turn up; labour with keen eyes and strong will always turns up something. Luck lies in bed and wishes the postman would bring him news of a legacy; labour turns out at six and with busy pen and ringing hammer lays the foundation of competence. Luck whines, labour watches. Luck relies on chance, labour on character. Luck slips downwards to self-indulgence; labour strides upwards and aspires to independence. The conviction, therefore, is extending that diligence is the mother of good luck; in other words, that a man's success in life will be proportionate to his efforts, to his industry, to his attention to small things.

10. Which of the following statements sums up the meaning of the passage?
 (a) Luck often ends in defeat but labour produces luck.
 (b) Luck is self-indulgent but labour is selfless.
 (c) Luck waits and complains without working while labour achieves success although it complains.
 (d) Luck waits without exertion but labour exerts without waiting.
11. ".....labour turns out at six and with busy pen and ringing hammer lays the foundation of competence". This statement means

- (a) the labourer lays the foundation of the building.
 (b) there is no worker who works so hard as the labourer who begins his day at six in the morning.
 (c) hard work of all kinds makes people efficient.
 (d) the writer and the labourer are the true eyes of the society.
12. Which of the following words in the passage indicate that the writer does not ultimately reject the element of luck?
 (a) "luck is ever waiting"
 (b) "luck the postman would bring him news"
 (c) "luck whines"
 (d) "diligence is the mother of good luck"
13. Which of the following statements is true about the passage?
 (a) Success depends only on hard work.
 (b) Success is exactly proportionate to hard work.
 (c) Luck is necessary for success.
 (d) Expectation of good luck always meets with disappointment.

Passage 4

With the coming of the television, the radio no longer holds the same attraction for people as it did once. Yet somehow I have not quite reconciled myself to the idea of sitting in front of the TV, viewing it. I prefer the radio set, the good old box by your bedside. And here, again, the older and the larger the radio set the better for me. I do not like these new-fangled transistors. May be, I am old-fashioned.

14. ".....I have not quite reconciled myself to " implies that the person has not fully
 (a) applied (b) admitted
 (c) accepted (d) understood
15. The word 'new-fangled' suggests
 (a) very complex
 (b) recently assembled
 (c) colourfully decorated
 (d) newly come into fashion
16. The passage implies that the author
 (a) has a liking for television
 (b) dislikes radio sets
 (c) prefers transistors to radio sets
 (d) prefers radio sets to transistors and the television

Passage 5

(Bank P.O. 1995)

Although a smiling face often disguises the mind and heart of villain, an

indiscriminate generalisation of this phenomenon will do injustice to the innocent children whose faces bloom like flowers.

17. Which of the following is most nearly the same in meaning as the word 'disguises' as used in the sentence?
 (a) proves (b) hides (c) reflects
 (d) conceals (e) reveals
18. The intention of the author seems to be
 (a) to create a favourable opinion about people with smiling faces
 (b) to forcefully defend the kind acts of villains
 (c) to point out to an exception to the general rule
 (d) to give justice to the generous actions of everyone
 (e) to argue in favour of children who are sometimes guilty
19. The author of the sentence accepts the fact that
 (a) the faces of the villains are never smiling.
 (b) the faces of innocent children are as pleasing as the flowers in bloom.
 (c) the faces of innocent children disguise ill acts.
 (d) all the things that appear most beautiful are the ugliest within.
 (e) an indiscriminate generalisation is justifiable in this case.
20. Which of the following is most opposite of the word 'indiscriminate' as used in the sentence?
 (a) selective (b) broad
 (c) conspicuous (d) promiscuous
 (e) undistinguished
21. The author feels that an indiscriminate generalisation of the phenomenon
 (a) should be done in all cases except children and flower
 (b) would prevent villains from committing ill acts
 (c) may lead good people to involve in ill actions
 (d) would do justice to the children who are guilty
 (e) would brand all people with smiling faces as villain

Passage 6

Do not study too long at once. So long as the mind works with ease, it may be allowed to continue working but if we find it moves slowly and extra trouble is needed to keep the attention fixed, it is far better to break off and take a walk or have

some other recreation, than to go on plodding until one feels wholly exhausted. To continue to force the mind to work is likely to lead to injurious result and may end in a nervous breakdown from which recovery is slow and troublesome.

22. While making the observation "Do not study too long", the author suggests that
- excess of everything is bad.
 - reading continuously for long hours is tiring.
 - mind is delicate and it should not be taxed too much.
 - doing mental work beyond a certain limit may cause serious injury to the man.
23. The underlying tone of the passage is that
- man should work within limits.
 -

man is delicate and should be handled carefully.

- an injury to the mind is more difficult to cure than an injury to any other part of the body.
 - mind controls the entire physical system and should be kept in a perfect state.
24. A man feels that he is exhausted when
- he finds his mind working slowly
 - he has a headache
 - his thought process is clouded
 - he finds it difficult to concentrate
25. The writer suggests that the main cause of nervous breakdown is
- a life of anxiety and worry
 - too much work and little diversion
 - excessive mental work leading to exhaustion
 - a strenuous life

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (a) 5. (a) 6. (c) 7. (b) 8. (a) 9. (b) 10. (a)
11. (c) 12. (d) 13. (b) 14. (c) 15. (d) 16. (d) 17. (d) 18. (e) 19. (b) 20. (a)
21. (a) 22. (d) 23. (c) 24. (d) 25. (c)

PRACTICE SET 8

Passage 1

(C.D.S. 1993)

Mahatma Gandhi believed that industrialisation was no answer to the problems that plague the mass of India's poor and that villagers should be taught to be self-sufficient in food, weave their own cloth from cotton and eschew the glittering prizes that the twentieth century so temptingly offers. Such an idyllic and rural paradise did not appear to those who inherited the reins of political power.

1. Mahatma Gandhi's views opposed industrialisation of villages because
- it would take away the skill of the villagers.
 - it would undermine self-sufficiency and destroy the beauty of life of the villager.
 - it would help the poor and not the rich.
 - it would affect the culture of the Indians.
2. The meaning of 'the glittering prizes that the twentieth century so temptingly offers' is

- replacement of rural by urban interests
 - absence of violence and corruption.
 - pursuit of a commercialized material culture
 - complete removal of poverty
3. The basis of 'an idyllic and rural paradise' is
- self-sufficiency in food and clothes and simplicity of life style
 - supporting those holding powerful political positions
 - rapid industrialisation of villages
 - bringing to the villages the glittering prizes of the twentieth century
4. Which of the following best illustrates the relationship between the phrases:
- 'eschew the glittering prizes'; and
 - 'idyllic and rural paradise'?
- the meaning of (i) is directly opposite to (ii).
 - (i) and (ii) are identical in meaning.
 - first of all you must have (ii) in order to do (i).
 - unless you do (i), you cannot have (ii).

Passage 2

We are tempted to assume that technological progress is real progress and that material success is the criterion of civilisation. If the Eastern people become fascinated by machines and techniques and use them, as western nations do, to build huge industrial organisations and large military establishments, they will get involved in power politics and drift into the danger of death. Scientific and technological civilisation brings great opportunities and great rewards but also great risks and temptations. Science and technology are neither good nor bad. They are not to be tabooed but tamed and assigned their proper place. They become dangerous only if they become idols.

5. Science and technology will bring benefits to
- nobody
 - only Western nations
 - only Eastern countries
 - all, if tamed properly
6. From the passage, one gathers that the Eastern people must
- build huge industrial organisations
 - avoid being controlled by machines and techniques
 - be fascinated by machines
 - appreciate scientific achievements
7. According to the author, science and technology should be
- tabooed and eliminated from life
 - used in a controlled and careful manner
 - encouraged and liberally used
 - extensively exploited for industrial production
8. According to the author, people think that real progress lies in
- working on the same lines as the Western nations
 - taking risks and facing temptations
 - material success and technological growth
 - having large industries and political power

Passage 3 (Translators' Exam, 1994)

In this work of incessant and feverish activity, men have little time to think, much less to consider ideals and objectives. Yet how are we to act, even in the present, unless we know which way we are going and what our objectives are? It is only in the peaceful atmosphere of a

university that these basic problems can be adequately considered. It is only when the young men and women, who are in the university today and on whom the burden of life's problems will fall tomorrow, learn to have clear objectives and standards of values that there is hope for the next generation. The past generation produced some great men but as a generation it led the world repeatedly to disaster. Two world wars are the price that has been paid for the lack of wisdom on man's part in this generation.

I think that there is always a close and intimate relationship between the end we aim at and the means adopted to attain it. Even if the end is right but the means are wrong, it will vitiate the end or divert us in a wrong direction. Means and ends are thus intimately and inextricably connected and cannot be separated. That, indeed, has been the lesson of old taught us by many great men in the past, but unfortunately it seldom remembered.

9. People have little time to consider ideals and objectives because
- they consider these ideals meaningless.
 - they do not want to burden themselves with such ideas.
 - they have no inclination for such things.
 - they are excessively engaged in their routine activities.
10. 'The burden of life's problems' in the fourth sentence refers to
- the incessant and feverish activities
 - the burden of family responsibilities
 - the onerous duties of life
 - the sorrows and sufferings
11. The two world wars are the price that man paid due to
- the absence of wisdom and sagacity
 - his not caring to consider the life's problems
 - his ignoring the ideals and objectives of life
 - his excessive involvement in feverish activities
12. According to the writer the adoption of wrong means even for the right end would
- not let us attain our goal
 - bring us dishonour
 - impede our progress
 - deflect us from the right path
13. The word 'vitate' used in the second paragraph means

- (a) negate (b) debase
(c) tarnish (d) destroy

Passage 4

If non-Hindi speaking people fought for one of their own languages to be declared as the official language, it should not have been so great matter of surprise, as it is when one finds these brave patriotic people fighting tooth and nail to retain English as the lingua franca which is as best as foreign language. Mahatma Gandhi never gave the problem of the necessity of a national language any lesser degree of importance than the problem of a national independence. He was strongly opposed to those blind protagonists of English who failed to realise the worth of a national language. He held it a crime against the children to educate them through the medium of foreign language.

14. Which of the following is the first step towards the progress of a nation?
(a) Promotion of national language
(b) Achievement of independence
(c) Educating the children through the medium of national language
(d) Having a foreign language as the official language
15. 'To fight tooth and nail' means
(a) to oppose
(b) to do a work with all possible ideas
(c) to fight with every possible effort
(d) to retain English as the official language
16. Which of the following represents Gandhiji's views on the education of children through foreign language?
(a) Nothing could be done as there was no national language.
(b) It was necessary for the moral development of the nation.
(c) It was a necessary step to develop relations with other countries.
(d) It was not the right act.
17. Which of the following is true in context of the given passage?
(a) English should be made the national language.
(b) Non-Hindi speaking people should fight for one of their own languages to be declared as the official language.
(c) Gandhiji laid more stress on having a national language than on achieving independence.

- (d) Gandhiji was of the opinion that children should be educated through the medium of national language.

Passage 5

(N.D.A. 1995)

But I did not want to shoot the elephant. I watched him beating his bunch of grass against his knees, with that preoccupied grandmotherly air that elephants have. It seemed to me that it would be murder to shoot him. I had never shot an elephant and never wanted to. (Somehow it always seems worse to kill a large animal). Besides, there was the beast's owner to be considered. But I had got to act quickly. I turned to some experienced looking Burmans who had been there when we arrived, and asked them how the elephant had been behaving. They all said the same thing: he took no notice of you if you left him alone, but he might charge if you went close to him.

18. From the passage it appears that the author was
(a) a worried man
(b) possessed with fear
(c) kind and considerate
(d) an inexperienced hunter
19. The phrase 'preoccupied grandmotherly air' signifies
(a) calm, dignified and affectionate disposition
(b) a very superior attitude
(c) pretending to be very busy
(d) being totally unconcerned
20. The author did not want to shoot the elephant because he
(a) did not find the elephant to be ferocious
(b) was afraid of it
(c) did not wish to kill an animal which was not doing anybody any harm
(d) did not have the experience of shooting big animals

Passage 6

(C.D.S. 1995)

After submitting his resignation, Albert came out and took the long narrow road leading to the railway station which was one of the busiest roads in the city. Sad and depressed and worried about looking for a new job, Albert looked around for a cigarette shop. He walked up to the end of the road but found no tobacconist. It was odd that such a busy thoroughfare with thousands of people passing through did not even have a single cigarette shop. He suddenly felt that it was no longer

necessary for him to hunt for a job. He decided to open a tobacco shop himself. It was bound to be profitable, he felt.

21. After submitting his resignation, Albert came out worried about
(a) a shelter (b) cigarettes
(c) a job (d) the next available train
22. Albert was sad and depressed because
(a) he had no money for the train journey.
(b) he had had to walk on a long road.
(c) he was not able to buy cigarettes.
(d) he was worried about finding a job.
23. There was no cigarette shop on that road because
(a) smoking is banned in that area.
(b) just by chance nobody had opened one on that road.
(c) it was a very narrow road.
(d) cigarette-shop owners do not make any profit.

24. Albert decided not to look for a new job because
(a) the thought of having to look for a job greatly distressed him.
(b) he did not want to work at all.
(c) there was no hope of finding a job.
(d) he saw the possibility of self-employment.
25. A cigarette shop on a busy road was bound to be profitable because
(a) cigarette shops are known to make a great deal of profit.
(b) any shop on a busy street would attract a large number of customers.
(c) cigarettes are inexpensive items and people buy them willingly.
(d) a cigarette shop on a busy road would attract a large number of customers.

ANSWERS

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (d) 5. (d) 6. (b) 7. (b) 8. (c) 9. (d) 10. (c)
11. (a) 12. (d) 13. (b) 14. (b) 15. (c) 16. (d) 17. (d) 18. (c) 19. (a) 20. (d)
21. (c) 22. (d) 23. (b) 24. (d) 25. (d)

PRACTICE SET 9

Passage 1

(N.D.A. 1994)

Most employees decide their own working hours, set production quotas, improving product and processes, are responsible for their own quality and for approval of leadership appointments. Every one votes on major corporate decisions and on how to split the profits.

As confidence in its novel approach has grown, Semco has happily abolished a lot more of the conventions by which businesses are usually run. No secretaries, receptionists or personal assistants. Reserved parking spaces and dining rooms, dress codes and almost all rules have gone, including those for travel and expenses.

1. From the passage it is clear that the novel approach referred to is
(a) Aristocratic (b) Autocratic
(c) Democratic (d) Bureaucratic
2. The employees referred to are
(a) Employees of a public sector undertaking
(b) Employees of a private company
(c) Employees of essential services

(d) Government Employees

3. In the given passage, 'Semco' is the name of
(a) A business establishment.
(b) A brand of the product
(c) A novel approach to things and affairs
(d) The leader of secretaries, receptionists and personal assistants
4. The term 'leadership appointments' has been used in this passage to signify
(a) appointing officers-in-charge of various units/sections
(b) selecting political leaders
(c) selecting Company Directors
(d) choosing trade union leaders

Passage 2

It was clear that to climb Annapurna the right men had to be sufficiently high up on the mountain to make their attempt on the peak while still fresh and strong. To ensure that, a chain of high camps must be established and the greater part of the work done by the Sherpas, so that the mountaineers would

not tire themselves before they were in a position to attack the peak. Like all other expeditions to the Himalayas, the Frenchmen were to realise the value of the hardy mountain people, without whom they would soon find themselves too helpless to achieve their goal.

5. Annapurna must be the name of
 - (a) a mountain scape
 - (b) a mountain chain
 - (c) a mountain summit
 - (d) a mountain pass
6. To make the final attempt to climb Annapurna, the work that was to be done first was
 - (a) to have a station built on a high position of the mountain
 - (b) to have the greater part of the work done by the Sherpas
 - (c) to realise the nature of the hardy mountain people
 - (d) to remain fresh and strong
7. The work of establishing a chain of high camps had to be mainly done by the Sherpas because
 - (a) the Sherpas were particularly skilled.
 - (b) the Sherpas were particularly hardy.
 - (c) the mountaineers had to preserve their energy.
 - (d) the mountaineers had to maintain their superior status.
8. In the given context the expression 'to attack the peak' means
 - (a) to begin to climb the peak desperately
 - (b) to begin the final phase of climbing the peak with all vigours
 - (c) to rush upon the peak
 - (d) to use all force to climb the peak
9. The author is of the opinion that the French expedition would fail
 - (a) if the mountaineers did not establish a chain of high camps
 - (b) if the mountaineers failed to realise the nature of the Sherpas
 - (c) if the mountaineers did not remain fresh and strong
 - (d) if the mountaineers were deserted by the Sherpas

Passage 3 (Bank P.O. 1994)

The goals of our present system of primary and secondary schooling is to prepare students for the examination system which will take them to the best technical institutions in the country. While the teaching of science and mathematics has over the years been upgraded, the teaching of the humanities and social

sciences continues to be straightjacketed in grotesque ways. Those areas of the Indian reality which ought to form the proper subject like caste, poverty and environmental degradation, if we are to create a responsible and aware body of citizens, form no part of the syllabus.

The capacity to think independently and critically about problems that plague modern Indian society, which ought really to be a prominent part of a humanities curriculum, is perceived to be intractable from the point of view of the examiner. Lest the evaluation become subjective, every effort is made to reduce both history and economics to a series of facts; a one-to-one correlation between facts ensures proper systems of grading.

10. What seems to be the purpose of the author in writing this passage?
 - (a) To appreciate the present educational system
 - (b) To reduce importance of science and mathematics in our system of education.
 - (c) To critically look into the methods of teaching of science and mathematics
 - (d) To point out the deficiencies in the curriculum and examination system
 - (e) To put up a case for proper objective system of grading
11. According to the author, the present educational system ultimately helps the students in which of the following?
 1. Understanding the real problems of the people
 2. Acquiring various techniques to face the challenges of the future
 3. Getting admission to renowned technical institutions
 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) Only 2
 - (c) Only 3
 - (d) Only 1 and 2
 - (e) 1, 2 and 3
12. According to the author which of the following is the main reason leading to upgradation of teaching of science and mathematics?
 - (a) It inculcates proper values for becoming an ideal citizen.
 - (b) The syllabus of science and mathematics have been modified from time to time.
 - (c) Science and mathematics can solve our problems.
 - (d) The evaluation of these subjects is objective and critical.
 - (e) Not mentioned in the passage
13. According to the author, the teaching of science and mathematics develops

capacity of the students in which of the following?

1. Considering pros and cons of each decision
 2. Examining the problem minutely with proper analysis
- (a) Only 1
 - (b) Only 2
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Either 1 or 2
 - (e) Not mentioned in the passage
14. The author seems to believe in which of the following?
 1. Proper education can help a person to become a responsible and responsive citizen.
 2. Objective evaluation is necessary for social sciences.
 3. The capacity to think can be developed by a properly designed curriculum of humanities and social sciences.
 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) Only 2
 - (c) Only 3
 - (d) Both 1 and 3
 - (e) 1, 2 and 3
 15. What problems does the author see in the improvement of the teaching of humanities and social sciences?
 1. The present system of evaluation
 2. The present syllabus of these subjects
 3. The difficulties of the examiners
 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) Only 2
 - (c) Only 3
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
 - (e) Not mentioned in the passage

Passage 4

Journalism combines writing with news gathering and interpretation. While the journalist's work obviously varies from newspaper to newspaper and from magazine to magazine, all journalists are as much research workers, as they are writers. They cannot write their news or feature stories, unless they locate it and research them first. They must be able to read the in-between lines of the main source-news and interpret that. A great many stories hunt the journalist, who rejects most of them. He carefully sorts and sifts those, taking only a relatively very small proportion of news, may be, coming from an unexpected source. A successful journalist may gather news to the tune of 100 percent but he can use them for his profession only 3-5 percent. He must be able to see or forecast to himself, the news of tomorrow or the day after, from the news of today; because newspapers want advance news or advance warning to give a good, exclusive and

exhaustive coverage to anything of interest. But a real 'scoop' is a very rare event. And bogus scoops also bring disrepute to the newspaper.

16. According to the passage, a journalist's work includes
 - (a) writing
 - (b) news gathering
 - (c) sorting out the news
 - (d) all of the above
17. What, according to the passage, is the common characteristic of all journalists?
 - (a) They all write for the newspapers.
 - (b) They all have to first probe into the news they gather.
 - (c) They all make an adventure to find a worthy news.
 - (d) They all can forecast future news.
18. What is most important for a journalist?
 - (a) He must be able to interpret the news correctly.
 - (b) He must know how to sort out the news.
 - (c) He must be able to write effectively.
 - (d) He must know how to gather the right news.
19. What does the passage say about successful journalists?
 - (a) They reject a major portion of the gathered news.
 - (b) They can use a relatively small portion of the news.
 - (c) Their news come from unexpected sources.
 - (d) They present advance news.
20. What is the basic requisite for exclusive and exhaustive coverage of newspapers?
 - (a) Forecast of tomorrow's news from today's news
 - (b) Collecting the news of a 'real scoop'
 - (c) Selection of a small portion of the gathered news
 - (d) Effective style of writing

Passage 5

He had never thought much about the origin of wealth nor about the inequity of human conditions. He firmly believed that if this world was evil, the next could not but be good, and this faith upheld him. He was not like the clever fellows who sell their souls to the devil; he never took the name of God in vain; he lived the life of an honest man, and though he had no wife of his own, he did not covet his neighbour's, for woman is the enemy of strong men, as he learnt by the story of Samson which is written in the scriptures.

21. The passage indicates that the person the writer is talking about was
(a) not well-educated
(b) a deeply religious person
(c) an eccentric
(d) a scholar of the scriptures
22. The person described in the passage believed that
(a) one must remain a bachelor if one wanted to be happy.
(b) one must lead an honest life.
(c) if this world is not good, the next would certainly bring him happiness.
(d) repeating the name of God would give him peace of mind.
23. In this passage, the expression "he did not covet his neighbour's" means
(a) he never showed any anxiety to possess his neighbour's wealth.
(b) as he had no wife of his own he eagerly desired to have a woman in his life.
- (c) though he had no wife of his own he never showed any interest in the wife of his neighbour.
(d) he did not find his neighbour's wife attractive.
24. The person mentioned in the passage presumed that woman was the enemy of a strong man because
(a) he firmly believed that woman was evil.
(b) he had read the story of Samson.
(c) surrendering to woman meant for him selling his soul to the devil.
(d) woman might spoil his chances in the next world.
25. "To sell one's soul to the devil" means to.
(a) sell oneself to make both ends meet
(b) suppress the voice of one's conscience and take to an immoral life
(c) sell one's honesty for the sake of monetary benefits
(d) buy evil by mortgaging goodness

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (d) 5. (c) 6. (d) 7. (c) 8. (b) 9. (b) 10. (d)
11. (c) 12. (d) 13. (e) 14. (d) 15. (d) 16. (d) 17. (b) 18. (a) 19. (b) 20. (a)
21. (c) 22. (b) 23. (c) 24. (b) 25. (c)

PRACTICE SET 10

Passage 1 (Stenographer's Exam, 1995)

Mountaineering is now looked upon as the king of sports. But men have lived amongst the mountains since pre-historic times and in some parts of the world, as in the Andes and Himalayas, difficult mountain journeys have inevitably been part of their everyday life. However, some of the peaks were easily accessible from most of the cities of Europe. It is quite interesting that while modern mountaineers prefer difficult routes for the greater enjoyment of sport, the early climbers looked for the easiest ones, for the summit was the prize they all set their eyes on. Popular interest in mountaineering increased considerably after the ascent of the Alpine peak of Matterhorn in 1865 and Edward Whymper's dramatic account of the climb and fatal accident which occurred during the descent.

In the risky sport of mountaineering the element of competition between either

individuals or teams is totally absent. Rather one can say that the competition is between the team and the peaks themselves. The individuals making up a party must climb together as a team, for they depend upon one another for their safety. Mountaineering can be dangerous unless reasonable precautions are taken. However, the majority of fatal accidents happen to parties which are inexperienced or not properly equipped. Since many accidents are caused by bad weather, the safe climber is the man who knows when it is time to turn back, however tempting it may be to press on and try to reach the summit.

1. Mountaineering is different from other sports because
(a) it can be fatal.
(b) it is risky and dangerous.
(c) there is no competition between individuals.
(d) it is most thrilling and exciting.

2. People living in the Andes and the Himalayas made mountain journeys because
(a) they lived in pre-historic times.
(b) of the challenge offered by the difficult journey
(c) it was a kind of sport.
(d) they had to undertake them in their day-to-day life.
3. Mountaineers climb as a team because
(a) there is no competition among them.
(b) the competition is between the team and the peak.
(c) the height is too much for one individual.
(d) they have to rely on each other for safety.
4. "..... the summit was the prize they all set their eyes on". In the context of the passage this means
(a) they kept their eyes steadily on reaching the peak.
(b) reaching the top was their exclusive concern.
(c) they chose a route from which they could see the summit clearly.
(d) they cared for nothing but the prize of reaching the summit.
5. "to press on" in the last sentence means
(a) to force upon others
(b) to struggle in a forceful manner
(c) to continue in a determined manner
(d) to work fearlessly

Passage 2

India has always been an utmost inspiration for the world at large for her fabulous wealth, both material and economic prosperity as well as her spiritual excellence. It brought here both traders and invaders along with preachers and seekers in search of truth and salvation. All of them came through land routes by undertaking long and hazardous journeys which put a lot of stress and strain on their physique and nerves. Thus, the troops of Alexander mutinied and refused to march beyond Beas because of their weariness and fatigue in fighting and homesickness. They had, therefore, to be perforce despatched back. Many invading tribes like Kushans, Huns and Sakas in the ancient era and the Turks and Mughals during the medieval age, however, chose to make this land their own home and absorbed themselves in the stream of her life. They attempted their best to bring more and more lustre to her glory and

enriched her culture, heritage and tradition.

6. The passage speaks volubly of
(a) India's past glory
(b) invaders who attacked India
(c) India's fabulous wealth
(d) India as a home for foreigners
7. What in India attracted traders, invaders and preachers?
(a) Its material and economic prosperity
(b) Its material and spiritual wealth
(c) The knowledge of truth and salvation
(d) Its fabulous wealth and glory
8. What exerted the foreigners who came to India?
(a) India's immense riches
(b) India's land routes
(c) Tiresome and risky journeys to India
(d) Fighting with natives
9. What forced Alexander to move back to his country?
(a) The resistance of the natives
(b) The revolt of his army men
(c) Sickness in his troops
(d) Lack of fighting spirit in his people
10. What good did Mughals bring to this country?
(a) They absorbed themselves into the stream of her life.
(b) They made India their homeland.
(c) They enriched its glory.
(d) They increased its wealth.

Passage 3

(C.D.S. 1993)

In most Western countries, it is required that every young man, when his education is complete, shall give three, four or five years to military service. He goes into barracks, is regimented and drilled, makes a unit in the standing army and passes out usually when his term is ended, an efficient soldier, to remain for the rest of his life ready at any moment to join in the armed defence of his country.

11. In the passage, the author opines that
(a) military training is more important than general education.
(b) military training should precede college education since it builds up one's mental and physical abilities.
(c) military training is as important as general training.
(d) military training must be included in the curricula of schools and colleges
12. Military training is as important as mental training because
(a) otherwise young men are useless.

- (b) it is good that every scholar should also be an efficient soldier and be available for the country's defence.
(c) one gets a chance to live in barracks.
(d) war has become a daily affair.
13. Every young man has to undergo military training because he can
(a) get a job after such training.
(b) supplement his general education according to his wish
(c) join the army whenever his country needs to be defended in war
(d) learn and practise discipline
14. In Eastern countries like India, military training of students should be made compulsory
(a) to fight the anti-social elements in every village or town
(b) to make youth serve the nation during times of war and peace
(c) as it can solve the unemployment problem by providing more jobs
(d) to repress communal riots
15. The author, writing in the early part of twentieth century, does not seem to talk about the need of military training for women because
(a) women's education was a new thing then.
(b) she thinks women are not physically strong enough to undergo military training.
(c) women taking part in military service is only a recent phenomenon.
(d) according to her, women should remain indoors.

Passage 4

The greatest thing this age can be proud of is the birth of Man in the consciousness of men. In his drunken orgies of power and national pride man may flout and jeer at it. When organised national selfishness, racial antipathy and commercial self-seeking begin to display their ugly deformities in all their nakedness, then comes the time for man to know that his salvation is not in political organisations and extended trade relations, not in any mechanical re-arrangement of social system but in a deeper transformation of life, in the liberation of consciousness in love, in the realisation of God in man.

16. In the phrase 'the birth of Man in the consciousness of men', Man stands for
(a) noble human qualities
(b) power and arrogance

- (c) an idealistic notion of the human self
(d) egocentricity
17. People jeer at the 'birth of Man' in the human consciousness when they
(a) restructure the social system
(b) become power hungry
(c) begin to think of themselves as God
(d) become mentally deranged
18. In this passage, the phrase 'God in man' implies
(a) God having assumed the shape of man
(b) neither fully godly nor fully human
(c) man being transformed into God
(d) the divine qualities in man
19. According to the author, 'salvation' of human beings lies in the
(a) orgy of national pride
(b) extended trade relations
(c) spiritual transformation of life
(d) whole-hearted participation in political organisations
20. The author uses the expression 'ugly deformities' to show his indignation at
(a) the liberation of human consciousness
(b) selfishness and materialism of the people
(c) the drunken orgies of power
(d) political organisations

Passage 5 (S.S.C. 1995)

The ancient Aztecs, Chinese, Greeks and Romans played games in which a ball was kicked. A game called 'futballe' was so popular in merry old England that King Henry II (1154-1189) became alarmed because he feared his soldiers would neglect practising archery. He, therefore, threatened to imprison any player and any one on whose land the game was played. The game was against the law in England for 400 years. It was made legal during the sixteenth century. By that time archery wasn't needed because firearms were used in warfare. King James I gave the sport his blessing, praising it as a clean, honourable and manly sport.

In 1863, many British football clubs formed an association and agreed to call the game association football. It is also called soccer, a word that comes from the *soc* in association. In most parts of the world the game is called football. At least ten different forms of football are played in the world today.

21. The writer implies that
(a) English kings were interested in sports.
(b) football became popular in 19th century England.
(c) modern football originated in England.
(d) football is an ancient game.
22. 'Futballe' was banned in England in the 12th century because
(a) players were using other people's land.
(b) King Henry was scared of sports.
(c) very few people wanted to join the army.
(d) soldiers were neglecting archery practice.
23. King Henry's law said that
(a) people playing the game would be imprisoned.
(b) spectators would be imprisoned.
(c) owners of football fields would be imprisoned.
(d) Both (a) and (c)
24. King James allowed people to play football because
(a) he was kinder than Henry II.
(b) he did not force people to practice archery for warfare.
(c) he liked the game very much.
(d) firearms were used in war instead of bows & arrows.
25. Football is a popular sport because
(a) it is an ancient sport.
(b) it is played in England.
(c) it is played all over the world.
(d) there are ten different forms of the sport.

ANSWERS

1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (c) 6. (a) 7. (b) 8. (c) 9. (b) 10. (c)
11. (d) 12. (b) 13. (c) 14. (b) 15. (c) 16. (c) 17. (b) 18. (d) 19. (c) 20. (b)
21. (d) 22. (d) 23. (d) 24. (d) 25. (c)

PRACTICE SET 11

Passage 1 (Hotel Management, 1993)

The village has customarily been very conservative in his attitude and approach. He is reluctant to change his traditional way of thinking and doing things. His attitude, in many respects, is : 'home-made is best'. For instance, most cattle-farmers in the villages, prefer to feed their cows and buffaloes with a home-mix comprising of local oil-cakes like mustard or cottonseed, pulses, jaggery, salt etc. It takes numerous visits, hard-convincing, daily trials and experiments to convince the rural cattle farmer that compound feeds, scientifically formulated, improve the yields of milk, without any incremental costs.

The age-old values and attitudes towards caste, creed, women, time and money take time to change. The villager has traditionally been a believer in the philosophy of 'Karma' or fate. He has found it more convenient to blame his economic destitution, poor living conditions, and straitened social status on 'bhagya', 'Karma' or 'fate'. The security that the villagers

find in the 'status quo', acts as a discentive to change and experiment, in the short run. Many of these antiquated attitudes, value-system and outlooks are changing, due to improved levels of awareness and education. However, the rate of change is sluggish. Attitudes that have fossilised over the centuries, do take time to change.

1. When will you call a person conservative in his attitude and approach?
(a) When he would like to try out every new idea before accepting it
(b) When he sticks to old ways of thinking and doing
(c) When he solves his problems through tried out methods
(d) When he imputes motives to change-agents
2. What does the phrase "home-made is best" imply?
(a) Whatever is being practised is better than what is new.
(b) The best should not be discarded.
(c) Change for the sake of change is not good.
(d) People should go in for Swadeshi because it is home-made.

3. What is the best method to convince the average Indian villager about the superiority of a new cattle-feed?
 - (a) Home-visits (b) Field demonstration
 - (c) Discussion (d) Distribution of related literature
4. Which of the following is not the usual reason offered by an average Indian villager for his poverty?
 - (a) It is his destiny.
 - (b) It is because of his resistance to new ideas.
 - (c) It is God's will.
 - (d) It is a result of some of his bad deeds committed in this or the previous birth.
5. Why does a villager feel secure in maintaining 'status quo'?
 - (a) Because change is seldom for the better
 - (b) Because of the imagined risk involved in trying a new approach
 - (c) Because whatever is known should be the best
 - (d) Because too many people go without advising him

Passage 2

Something is radically wrong with the entire structure of human relationships that makes man delight in killing man, whether it be in the name of civilisation or religion or anything else. Two wrongs do not make a right, hatred must beget hatred. It is this fundamental truth that women have got to bring home to the people in their respective countries. No peace treaties can avail that have revenge as their basis and self righteous arrogance and hypocrisy in the so called victors. But women are the natural preservers of life.

6. Which of the following expresses most accurately the idea contained in the opening sentence of the passage?
 - (a) Man destroying another man is a painful practice.
 - (b) A social structure that permits people to kill each other for religion is inherently rotten.
 - (c) It is strange that one religion encourages its followers to kill the followers of another religion.
 - (d) It is wrong on man's part to derive pleasure out of killing others for any motive whatsoever.
7. The expression 'Two wrongs do not make a right' means that
 - (a) a wrong action in retaliation does not mend matters.
 - (b) hatred destroys the person who perpetrates it.
 - (c) a tit for tat policy aggravates hatred.
 - (d) even repeated assertions of a wrong statement do not make it right.
8. Which of the following statements is not implied in the passage?
 - (a) It is human tendency to kill others professing different religion.
 - (b) It is the duty of women to foster peace and harmony amongst their countrymen.
 - (c) Peace treaties among nations tend to establish peace in the world.
 - (d) If you hate someone, he is bound to respond with the same feeling.
9. Which word is opposite in meaning to 'preserver' as used in the passage?
 - (a) enemy (b) destroyer
 - (c) rival (d) belligerent
10. Which of the following would sum up most suitably the central idea of the passage?
 - (a) The role of women in the world of hatred and violence
 - (b) Man's instinct of destroying others
 - (c) Hatred leads to further hatred
 - (d) The significance of peace treaties

Passage 3

(S.S.C. 1992)

Bansilal's train was late and it reached Bombay a little after midnight. It was his first visit to the city, and he didn't know where to go. He thought he would go to a choultry where he would not have to pay rent, but he did not know how to find one at that hour. He asked a porter to get him a cheap room. The porter said that if Bansilal gave him three rupees, he would take him to one. But Bansilal waved him away and walked out of the station. He wandered through the streets and asked a number of people, but could not find a room cheap enough for him. He sat down on a park bench to think what he should do next. He was very tired and fell asleep on the bench. He woke up the next morning stiff in every limb but he smiled when he realised that it was the cheapest night's lodging that he had ever had.

11. In the passage, the word 'choultry' should mean
 - (a) a highway motel
 - (b) an expensive hotel
 - (c) a free resting place
 - (d) a roadside eating shop

12. The porter refused to help Bansilal because
 - (a) he refused to pay the porter any tips.
 - (b) he spoke a language which the porter could not understand.
 - (c) he had no previous acquaintance with the porter.
 - (d) he was rude to the porter.
13. Bansilal could not get any accommodation for the night because
 - (a) he wanted to spend the night in the open.
 - (b) all the hotels in the city were closed.
 - (c) all the hotel rooms were booked.
 - (d) the hotels were too expensive for him to afford.
14. The night long in the open
 - (a) did not affect him at all
 - (b) made his limbs stronger
 - (c) gave him aches all over his body
 - (d) refreshed Bansilal
15. From the passage, Bansilal emerges as
 - (a) a fun-loving person
 - (b) an adventure-seeking person
 - (c) an extravagant spender
 - (d) a thrifty person

Passage 4

If the census tells us that India has two or three hundred languages, it also tells us, I believe, that Germany has about fifty or sixty languages. I do not remember anyone pointing out this fact in proof of the disunity or disparity of Germany. As a matter of fact, a census mentions all manner of petty languages, sometimes spoken by a few thousand persons only; and often dialects are classed for scientific purposes as different languages. India seems to me to have surprisingly few languages, considering its area. Compared to the same area in Europe, it is far more closely allied in regard to language, but because of widespread illiteracy, common standards have not developed and dialects have formed. The principal languages of India are Hindustani (of the two varieties, Hindi and Urdu), Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. If Assamese, Oriya, Sindhi, Kashmiri, Pushtu and Punjabi are added, the whole country is covered except for some hill and forest tribes. Of these, the Indo-Aryan languages, which cover the whole north, centre and west of India, are closely allied; and the southern Dravidian languages, though different, have been

greatly influenced by Sanskrit, and are full of Sanskrit words.

16. In the passage the author
 - (a) compares India with Germany
 - (b) defends the multilingual situation of India
 - (c) criticises the illiteracy in India
 - (d) classifies the Indian languages
17. One of the reasons why there are many dialects in India is
 - (a) vast area (b) population
 - (c) more communities (d) illiteracy
18. The Dravidian languages have been greatly influenced by Sanskrit. This
 - (a) makes them inferior to the Indo-Aryan languages
 - (b) makes them superior to the Indo-Aryan languages
 - (c) brings them close to the Indo-Aryan languages
 - (d) makes them very different from the other Indian languages
19. Which of the following statements is true according to the given passage?
 - (a) India has far too many languages.
 - (b) India is a vast country with not too many languages.
 - (c) India has as many languages as Europe does.
 - (d) Indian languages are not as well developed as those of Europe.

Passage 5

(C.D.S. 1995)

At this stage of the civilisation, when many nations are brought into close and vital contact for good and evil, it is essential, as never before, that their gross ignorance of one another should be diminished, that they should begin to understand a little of one another's historical experience and resulting mentality. It is a fault of the English to expect the people of other countries to react as they do, to political and international situations. Our genuine goodwill and good intentions are often brought to nothing, because we expect other people to be like us. This would be corrected if we knew the history, not necessarily in detail but in broad outlines, of the social and political conditions which have given to each nation its present character.

20. The need for a greater understanding between nations
 - (a) will always be there
 - (b) is more today than ever before
 - (c) was always there

- (d) is no longer there
21. According to the author the 'mentality' of a nation is mainly a product of its
(a) present character (b) politics
(c) international position (d) history
22. Englishmen like others to react to political situations like
(a) each other (b) others
(c) themselves (d) us
23. According to the author his countrymen should
(a) have vital contacts with other nations
(b) not react to other nations
(c) have a better understanding of other nations
(d) read the history of other nations
24. The character of a nation is the result of its
(a) socio-political conditions
(b) gross ignorance
(c) cultural heritage (d) mentality

ANSWERS

1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (c) 6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (b) 10. (a)
11. (c) 12. (a) 13. (d) 14. (c) 15. (d) 16. (b) 17. (d) 18. (c) 19. (b) 20. (b)
21. (d) 22. (c) 23. (c) 24. (a)

PRACTICE SET 12

Passage 1 (S.S.C. 1994)

Education, as Mahatma Gandhi described it, "is the tool for the development of consciousness and reconstitution of society". Since Independence, India has stressed reforming and restructuring the educational system as part of state intervention. The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, which is hailed as a landmark in the Indian educational system, provided a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in the country. The NPE and its Programme of Action was again updated in 1992 through similar consensual process involving all the State governments, resource organisations and educationists.

What has been worrying the critics and educationists alike is the non-fulfilment of one of the NPE objectives: education of girl. It has been stated in the NPE that the 'Education For All' meet should have a strong gender focus as Education For All by definition is gender inclusive.

1. According to Mahatma Gandhi, education is
(a) a medium through which people are taught to become sensitive to the realities around them
(b) a tool to develop their conscience and constitution
(c) a tool to develop their understanding of the constitution of society
(d) an instrument to develop their society consciously
2. The National Policy on Education provided
(a) guidelines for the comprehension of education in the country
(b) guidance material to develop education in the country
(c) a comprehensive plan for the development of education in the country
(d) comprehensive development of education in the country
3. According to the passage, critics and educationists are worried that
(a) the education of girls is one of the objectives of NPE.
(b) the objectives of NPE have not been fulfilled.
(c) non-fulfilment of NPE leads to the education of girls.
(d) one of the objectives of NPE has not been fulfilled.
4. According to the passage, 'a strong gender focus' means
(a) a focus on the strength of gender
(b) a focus on strong gender
(c) a strong focus on gender bias
(d) a focus on male-female ratio
5. In the passage, the author makes a plea for
(a) free education
(b) universal education
(c) the education of men
(d) the education of women

Passage 2

(C.D.S. 1993)

Modern economics does not differentiate between renewable and non-renewable materials, as its method is to measure everything by means of a money price. Thus, taking various alternative fuels, like coal, oil, wood or water power: the only difference between them recognised by modern economics is relative cost per equivalent unit. The cheapest is automatically the one to be preferred, as to do otherwise would be irrational and 'uneconomic.' From a Buddhist point of view, of course, this will not do, the essential difference between non-renewable fuels like coal and oil on the one hand and renewable fuels like wood and water-power on the other cannot be simply overlooked. Non-renewable goods must be used only if they are indispensable, and then only with the greatest care and the highest concern for conservation. To use them carelessly or extravagantly is an act of violence, and while complete non-violence may not be possible on this earth, it is none the less the duty of man to aim at the ideal of non-violence in all he does.

6. In this passage, the author is trying to
(a) differentiate between two economic philosophies
(b) underline the need for conserving natural resources
(c) show that the modern economist is concerned only with costs
(d) differentiate between renewable and non-renewable materials
7. According to the passage, Buddhist economists are not in favour of
(a) using non-renewable sources
(b) measuring everything in terms of money
(c) applying non-violence to every sphere of life
(d) economic development
8. The Buddhist economist's attitude implies that fuels like coal and oil must be used only if
(a) there is no alternative fuel available.
(b) the relative cost of each is lower than that of wood and water.
(c) wood and water power can be dispensed with.
(d) there is a plentiful supply.
9. Which of the following statements may be assumed to be false from information in the passage?

1. The writer finds the attitude of modern economists towards natural resources to be uneconomic.
2. Buddhist economists are indifferent to the cost of fuels.
3. To use oil on non-essentials is contrary to the Buddhist economic philosophy.
4. To fell a tree is an act of violence not permitted by Buddhist economists.

Of the above statements, the correct ones are

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 1, 2 and 4
(c) 3 and 4 (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

10. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate pair of phrases:

The passage suggests that while a modern economist considers it uneconomic to use form of fuel, a Buddhist economist considers it uneconomic to use form of fuel.

- (a) a rational - an unessential
(b) an expensive - an unrenewable
(c) an irrational - an essential
(d) a cheap - a renewable

Passage 3 (C.D.S. 1993)

Over all the countryside, wherever one goes, indications of technique are visible to the seeing eye. By technique is meant an exercise of skill acquired by practice and directed to a well-foreseen end. It is the name for the action of any of our powers after they have been so improved by training as to perform that action with certainty and success.

11. The italicised phrase in the sentence "Over all the countryside, wherever one goes, indications of technique are visible to the seeing eye" implies
(a) seeing the particular characteristics of things
(b) seeing with a clear eyesight
(c) perception caused by understanding
(d) application of some special device for the analysis of the things seen
12. The most important aspect of 'technique', as defined in the passage, is the use of skill
(a) for handling tools and machines
(b) for an understanding of the functions of tools and machinery
(c) for observation and analysis
(d) for a definite purpose
13. 'Skill' in this passage means
(a) 'any of our powers'
(b) the ability to do things well by hand,

- (c) the ability to master techniques
(d) the ability that has been tested by experience which makes success sure
14. The definition of the word 'technique' as given in the passage, does not overemphasize
(a) scientific methods (b) results
(c) theoretical knowledge
(d) practice and performance
15. The implied intention of the writer is to
(a) widen the scope of the term 'technique'
(b) mock at the modern craze for gadgets
(c) reject the popular meaning of the term 'technique'
(d) uphold the superiority of traditional techniques

Passage 4

We stand poised precariously and challengingly on the razor's edge of destiny. We are now at the mercy of atom bombs and the like which would destroy us completely if we fail to control them wisely. And wisdom in this crisis means sensitiveness to the basic values of life; it means a vivid realisation that we are literally living in one world where we must either swim together or sink together. We cannot afford to tamper with man's single minded loyalty to peace and international understanding. Anyone who does it is a traitor not only to man's past and present, but also to his future, because he is mortgaging the destiny of unborn generations.

16. From the tone and style of the passage it appears that the writer is
(a) a prose writer with a fascination for images and metaphors
(b) a humanist with a clear foresight
(c) a traitor who wishes to mortgage the destiny of future generations
(d) unaware of the global power situation
17. The best way to escape complete annihilation in an atomic war is to
(a) work for international understanding and harmony
(b) invent more powerful weapons
(c) turn to religion
(d) ban nuclear weapons
18. The phrase 'razor's edge of destiny' means a/an

- (a) enigma that cuts through the pattern of life like the edge of a razor
(b) a critical situation that foreordains the future
(c) a sharp line of division that marks the alternative courses of action in the future
(d) destiny having sharp edges
19. According to the writer, 'wisdom' in the present crisis means
(a) awareness that we stand poised precariously on the razor's edge of destiny
(b) determination to ban nuclear weapons
(c) responsibility to the 'unborn generations'
(d) awareness of the basic values of life
20. The author is so concerned about the threat of nuclear weapons because he feels that
(a) a nuclear war will destroy human civilisation.
(b) all countries are interlinked and one cannot escape the consequences of what happens to another country.
(c) the world is on the brink of disaster.
(d) his country is threatened by a nuclear war.

Passage 5

(I.E.S. 1993)

Until very recently, it was universally believed that men are congenitally more intelligent than women; even so enlightened a man as Spinoza decided against votes for women on this ground. Among white men, it is held that white men are by nature superior to men of other colours, and especially to black men; in Japan, on the contrary, it is thought that yellow is the best colour. In Haiti, when they make statues of Christ and Satan, they make Christ black and Satan white. Aristotle and Plato considered Greeks so innately superior to barbarians that slavery was justified so long as the master was Greek and the slave barbarian.

21. 'Congenitally' means
(a) falsely (b) fantastically
(c) innately (d) certainly
22. Spinoza decided against votes for women because according to him
(a) they did not deserve to have votes.
(b) they were less educated than men.
(c) they were generally unintelligent.

Comprehension-11

- (d) they were naturally less gifted with intelligence.
23. In Haiti, Christ's statue is black and Satan's white because the people there believe that
(a) black was good
(b) all white men are evil
(c) Christ was evil (d) Satan was good
24. Aristotle and Plato supported slavery because they thought
(a) slaves to be inferior
(b) that the barbarians belonged to Greece

- (c) the Greeks to be superior to barbarians
(d) the barbarians to be superior to Greeks
25. The author believes that
(a) colours vary from country to country.
(b) some colours are superior to other colours.
(c) some colours are inferior to other colours
(d) colours have no relevance to superiority

ANSWERS

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (c) 5. (d) 6. (c) 7. (b) 8. (a) 9. (c) 10. (b)
11. (c) 12. (d) 13. (d) 14. (a) 15. (a) 16. (b) 17. (a) 18. (c) 19. (d) 20. (a)
21. (c) 22. (d) 23. (b) 24. (c) 25. (d)

PRACTICE SET 13

Passage 1

(N.D.A. 1993)

Passage 2

Books are, by far, the most lasting product of human effort. Temples crumble into ruin, pictures and statues decay, but books survive. Time does not destroy the great thoughts which are as fresh today as when they first passed through their author's mind. These thoughts speak to us through the printed page. The only effect of time has been to throw out of currency the bad products. Nothing in literature which is not good can live for long. Good books have always helped man in various spheres of life. No wonder that the world keeps its books with great care.

1. Of the products of human effort, books are the most
(a) enjoyable (b) useful
(c) permanent (d) important
2. Time does not destroy books because they contain
(a) high ideals (b) great ideas
(c) useful material
(d) subject-matter for education
3. "To throw out of currency" means
(a) extinguish (b) forget
(c) destroy (d) put out of use
4. The world keeps its books with care because
(a) they make us successful.
(b) they help us in various spheres of life.
(c) they bring great ideas to us.
(d) they educate us.

Democracy, so long as it is what it is, imperfectly educated, throws a great responsibility on the leaders. The average voter even in educated England has no opinion of his own on many questions. He chooses his party by tradition or by his agreement with its central aims in those matters on which he has strong views. On other questions he takes his opinions from the leaders. His conscience is clear when the party is chosen and for the rest the leaders decide and the voters obey. In a complex social machine, it is difficult for the units to exercise thought. It is more easy to be obedient automata. It does not even pay to think. Perhaps thought may prove costly. If the leaders want to create public opinion, the machinery of the press and the wireless makes it most easy. Modern conditions afford propagandists vastly increased opportunities of promoting collective excitement and setting the world in a conflagration. A few clever and adventurous leaders can excite people's passions and suppress intellectual freedom. In these circumstances, truth does not win as there is no attempt to find out truth.

5. The most suitable title for the given passage would be
(a) Democracy and public opinion
(b) Democracy and intellectual freedom
(c) The role of leaders in a democracy
(d) The role of voters in a democracy

6. The opening sentence of the passage implies that
- the responsibility of educating a democracy lies with its leaders.
 - leaders in democracy with imperfectly educated voters have to shoulder great responsibility.
 - a well educated democracy is based on responsible leadership.
 - in a democracy with uneducated masses the leaders are highly duty conscious.
7. From the third sentence "He chooses his party by tradition", we gather that
- an English voter selects a party which strongly stands for traditional and popular beliefs.
 - the average voter in England votes for a party because of tradition irrespective of his agreement or disagreement with its basic policies.
 - in England an average voter supports a party either as a practice or because of his agreement with its broad policies.
 - in a democracy one votes for a party with whose objectives and policies he agrees on all matters.
8. "In a complex social machine" — the statement implies that
- it is difficult for an individual to challenge a complicated social machinery.
 - in a society which works like a machine an individual cannot be permitted to have his own political ambitions.
 - in a mechanical age a person cannot have individual aspirations.
 - an individual finds it hard to formulate his own opinion in a complicated social structure.
9. The statement: "it does not even pay to think" means that
- thinking is actually discouraged.
 - thoughtful persons are condemned.
 - thinking brings no advantage.
 - thinking is not allowed.
10. According to the author, it is most convenient for a leader to "create public opinion" because
- he has been chosen by the public whom he represents.
 - the modern means of mass communication are readily available to him.
 - even an educated voter takes his opinion from the leader.
 - the average voter has no opinion of his own.
11. The word 'conflagration' in the passage signifies
- confusion
 - widespread fire
 - conflict
 - unforeseen calamity
12. Which of the following has the opposite meaning to the word 'suppress' as used in the passage?
- encourage
 - tolerate
 - dominate
 - describe
13. Which of the following statements expresses most accurately the idea contained in the last sentence of the paragraph?
- Some adventurous leaders encourage people's free thinking in an effort to get down to the true state of things.
 - An overambitious leader infuriates the mob and thus spreads falsehoods to serve his own ends.
 - At a time when clever leaders fan public feelings, nobody wants to know the truth which thus gets lost.
 - When public fury is aroused by cunning leaders some people are fed on lies.
14. Which one of the following statements is not implied in the passage?
- In democracy an average voter is generally led by the leader.
 - An individual in a democracy finds it easier to obey his leader than to do his own thinking.
 - A propagandist leader in a democracy can excite mob hysteria so as to cloud the truth.
 - A clever leader in a democracy arouses strong public frenzy in an effort to find out the truth.

Passage 3

(I.E.S. 1994)

The low unit of gas is a real temptation to anyone choosing between gas and electrical processes. But gas-fired processes are often less efficient, require more floor space, take longer and produce more variable product quality. The drawbacks negate the savings many businesses believe they make.

By contrast, electricity harnesses a unique range of technologies unavailable with gas. And many electric processes are well over 90 percent efficient, so far less energy is wasted with benefits in terms of products quality and overall cleanliness, it

can so often be the better and cheaper choice. Isn't that tempting?

15. The passage can be described as
- an account of the growth of technology
 - an appeal not to use gas
 - an advertisement for electricity and its efficiency
 - an extract from a science journal
16. What does the writer mean by 'variable quality'?
- The kind of products vary from time to time.
 - The quality of the products is not uniform.
 - The quality of the products cannot be assessed.
 - Products from gas-fired processes are inefficient.
17. "Electricity harnesses a unique range of technologies"— What does the writer mean?
- Electricity depends on new kinds of technology
 - makes use of several technologies
 - has developed new technologies
 - ensures power for electricity and its efficiency

Passage 4

There are certain people, however, with whom one has a right to be bored—people who are so self-centred that they cannot listen to anyone else talking, people who engage in long conversations with their cats when visitors are present, people who engage in endless reminiscences of their old school when in the company of a man who was at a different school. Such people are boring because they make one feel for the time being an outsider.

18. Boring persons are generally
- talkative
 - quiet
 - indifferent
 - tedious
19. The most pleasing type of company is where people
- chit-chat with you in a patronising mood
 - listen to you with awe and respect
 - make you feel that they appreciate your conversation
 - shower on you a lot of flattering remarks
20. The expression 'endless reminiscences' stands for

- a boring and lengthy talk
 - a very long conversation
 - a long chain of events
 - an unending recollection of past experiences
21. A person feels an outsider in a company when
- everybody wants to know the details about him.
 - he finds that people are talking of things which do not concern him.
 - he does not know anybody.
 - he finds that everyone present there is more intelligent than he is.

Passage 5

(Railways, 1993)

Gandhiji recognised that while all men should have equal opportunity, all did not have the same capacity. Some had the ability to earn more than others. But he believed that those who had talent would be performing the work of society if they used their talent wisely and well. Gandhiji said that he would allow a man of intellect to earn more and not suppress his talent. But it was his view that the bulk of his larger earnings should go to the common fund. Those with talent and opportunity would find their fulfillment as trustees. Gandhiji extended this concept of trusteeship to cover all fields of life.

22. The title of the passage should be
- Gandhiji's philosophy
 - Gandhiji's services
 - Gandhiji's views
 - Gandhiji's character
23. According to Gandhiji, one can serve the society
- if he worked honestly
 - if he earned well
 - if he is talented
 - if he used his talent wisely
24. Gandhiji never believed in
- political equality
 - social equality
 - equality of opportunities
 - complete equality in all respects
25. The meaning of 'Trustee' is
- person having confidence
 - person who has charge of property in trust
 - a number of trusts
 - state official who executes wills and trusts

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (c) 6. (b) 7. (c) 8. (d) 9. (c) 10. (b)
 11. (a) 12. (a) 13. (c) 14. (d) 15. (d) 16. (b) 17. (b) 18. (a) 19. (c) 20. (a)
 21. (b) 22. (c) 23. (d) 24. (d) 25. (b)

PRACTICE SET 14

Passage 1-

(C.B.I. 1995)

There was a marked difference of quality between the personages who haunted the near bridge of brick and the personages who haunted the far one of stone. Those of lowest character preferred the former, adjoining the town; they did not mind the glare of the public eye. They had been of no account during their successes; and though they might feel dispirited, they had no sense of shame in their ruin. Instead of sigling at their adversaries they spat, and instead of saying the iron had entered into their souls they said they were down on their luck. The miseries who would pause on the remoter bridge were of a politer stamp—persons who did not know how to get rid of the weary time. The eyes of this species were mostly directed over the parapet upon the running water below. While one on the townward bridge did not mind who saw him so, and kept his back to the parapet to survey the passer-by, one on this never faced the road, never turned his head at coming foot-steps, but, sensitive to his own condition, watched the current whenever a stranger approached, as if some strange fish interested him, though every finned thing had been poached out of the river years before.

- The two bridges were known
 - for being haunted places
 - for their similar design
 - for attracting dejected people to them
 - for being equi-distant from town
- People belonging to the lower strata, in their moments of distress
 - visited the brick-made bridge
 - remembered their days of glory
 - felt ashamed of their failures
 - dressed shabbily to earn sympathy
- The bridge of stone was frequented by
 - those fond of fishing
 - the sophisticated but luckless
 - all the sections of society

(d) None of the above

- The attitude of the lowly and genteel towards strangers was
 - entirely different
 - virtually the same
 - virulently hostile
 - completely indifferent
- In this passage, the author is trying to
 - explain the difference between the construction of two bridges
 - describe the way different sections of people like to dress
 - explain the variety of ways in which strangers can be treated
 - describe how people of different classes behaved when unhappy

Passage 2

(N.D.A. 1995)

The last twenty years have witnessed an explosion of growth opportunities for women in industry, especially at the decision-making level. Today more and more young women have a chance to walk the competitive edge and prove that their abilities are at par with, if not better than, those of their male colleagues.

However, as they are beginning to storm the traditionally male bastions of management they are finding out that the roads to success are paved with difficulties. They discover very early in their career that the battle for supremacy in corporate organisations calls into play not only the forces of power, control and dominance, but issues of gender, attitude and acceptance of women.

- The first sentence of the passage implies that job opportunities
 - in industry have increased
 - for women have increased
 - in the corporate sector have increased
 - for women at the managerial level have increased

- According to the passage, women in high positions also have
 - no problems at all
 - some problems
 - problems related to roles of women in society
 - problems related to power and control
- Which of the following phrases best reflects the meaning of 'male bastions'?
 - Management areas dominated by males
 - Management abilities of males
 - Management styles of males
 - Careers for males

Passage 3

(N.D.A. 1994)

As far as industrial pollution is concerned, while a commendable job has been done by the department of environment in making environmental impact assessment studies and ensuring that new big industries have built-in systems for pollution abatement and control, the problem of controlling pollution caused by small new units and existing plants has so far eluded solution.

The 1986 Act has undoubtedly given greater legal powers to State Pollution Boards and other concerned authorities to penalise offenders. However, it must be recognised that punitive action alone will not suffice. If we are really serious about controlling industrial pollution, the carrot must be used along with the stick.

- The problem of controlling industrial pollution remains unsolved because
 - offenders are not punished.
 - State Pollution Boards and other concerned authorities haven't got sufficient legal powers to deal with the offenders.
 - the problem has not been dealt with in a comprehensive manner.
 - the industrialists are not cooperating with the government.
- In order to control industrial pollution
 - existing plants without pollution abatement and control systems should be closed down.
 - no new small units should be allowed to come up.
 - no new big industries should be allowed to come up.
 - only such new big industries should be allowed to come up that have built-in-systems for pollution control.
- Industrial pollution can be controlled only when
 - State Pollution Boards and other concerned authorities are given more legal powers to deal with the offenders.
 - the policy of reward and punishment is introduced.
 - no small units are allowed to come.
 - existing plants without pollution abatements and control systems are closed down.

12. The author feels that the 1986 Act

- is of immense help in controlling industrial pollution
- deters offenders
- is not of much help in controlling industrial pollution
- gives more legal powers to State Pollution Boards and other concerned authorities.

Passage 4

Even an ordinary everyday activity may lead to an insight into human nature.

A picnic had been arranged by the department. Everyone was supposed to join it. I, being older than a good many, was ill at ease at the thought of joining a bunch of callow youngsters dreaming of some soft and sweet company on the way to the hill resort.

But the morning of the adventure found the boy in me climbing the first ascent rather steep and hard, to the applause of all Adams and Eves in the troop.

Half way through we started finding snow all around us, but, the boy in me by then was once again lost into oblivion. I found myself lagging behind and often falling down on the soft snow due to soft foam rubber soles of my shoes.

A laughing stock I was. But, soon I found strong healthy arms supporting me. I pleaded, "Let me go, I'll not be able to make it", but they would not let me.

They were the arms of two hill folks who as people, had been described as withdrawn, selfish and aloof by my friends from the plains.

13. The narrator in this passage felt ill at ease at the thought of joining the picnic party because there was an age gap between him and the rest of the party. Which one of the following do you think is right?

- He would feel insulted because of the youngsters treating him as their equal.

- (b) He felt he would not be able to stand to the nonsense of the youth.
 (c) He would be embarrassed at lagging behind the youngsters while climbing the mountain.
 (d) He would suffer psychologically in the company of the youth indulging in romantic approaches and conversations.
14. The writer climbed the first ascent rather fast because
 (a) the sight of so many youngsters infused a spirit in him which made him feel like a young man.
 (b) he suddenly felt that he was still young.
 (c) he became competitive in the company of young boys and girls.
 (d) the sight of so many youngsters reminded him of his younger days.
15. The writer got tired soon because
 (a) his age prevented him from exerting himself for a long time in spite of his best spirit.
 (b) climbing a steep and hard rock was strenuous.
 (c) he had difficulty in walking on the snow.
 (d) falling behind the young climbers dampened his spirit and depressed him.
16. The hill folk did not let him go because
 (a) they had seen that others did not help him.
 (b) they had seen others laughing at him and wanted to add to their joy by supporting him in this way.
 (c) they realised the difficulty of a man from the plains in climbing up the hills which they could do very easily.
 (d) they had seen that he was a weakling and needed support.

Passage 5 (C.D.S. 1995)

Speech is a great blessing but it can also be a great curse, for while it helps us to make our intentions and desires known to our fellows, it can also, if we use it carelessly, make our attitude completely misunderstood. A slip of the tongue, the use of an unusual word, or of an ambiguous word, and so on, may create an enemy where we had hoped to win a friend. Again, different classes of people use different vocabularies, and the ordinary speech of an educated man may strike an uneducated listener as pompous. Unwittingly, we may use a word which

bears a different meaning to our listener from what it does to men of our own class. Thus speech is not a gift to use lightly without thought, but one which demands careful handling. Only a fool will express himself alike to all kinds and conditions of men.

17. Speech can be a curse, because it can
 (a) reveal our intentions
 (b) lead to carelessness
 (c) hurt others
 (d) create misunderstanding
18. A 'slip of the tongue' means something said
 (a) unintentionally
 (b) wrongly by chance
 (c) without giving proper thought
 (d) to hurt another person
19. The best way to win a friend is to avoid in speech.
 (a) ambiguity (b) verbosity
 (c) promposity (d) irony
20. While talking to an uneducated person, we should use
 (a) polite language (b) ordinary speech
 (c) his vocabulary (d) simple words
21. If one used the same style of language with everyone, one would sound
 (a) democratic (b) foolish
 (c) boring (d) flat

Passage 6 (N.D.A. 1994)

The Nobel Committee, in fact, a notoriously conservative body which among other things had a marked antipathy to pure sciences, especially to Mathematical Physics. Restrained by a clause in Alfred Nobel's will that the prize should go to the person whose 'discovery or invention' shall have conferred the greatest benefit to mankind, the committee initially ignored the great theoretical advances in Physics. Wracked, no doubt, by guilt that he had become a merchant of death through his invention of dynamite and smokeless powder and plagued by sadistic fantasies of destruction, the Swedish chemist, engineer and aspiring poet, Alfred Nobel, who has been described as Europe's richest vagabond, left his colossal fortune to the cause of progress in human knowledge. Five prizes were installed, one each for literature ('to the person who shall have produced in the field of literature, the most outstanding work of an idealistic tendency'), Physics, Chemistry, medicine and peace ('to the person who shall have done the most

- or the best work for fraternity among nations for abolition or reduction of armies, and for holding or promotion of peace').
22. The Nobel Committee has been called a conservative body because
 (a) it is conservative in choice of subjects.
 (b) its members believe in a conservative ideology.
 (c) its members are old fashioned.
 (d) it awards prizes only to those people who adopt a conservative approach.
23. In the beginning, the Nobel Committee ignored the great advances in theoretical physics because
 (a) they were different from other branches of physics.
 (b) they were concerned with theory and did not suggest its application.
 (c) the Committee felt that the discovery and invention in the field

- did not contribute to the benefit of mankind.
 (d) they proved to be merchants of death and hence dangerous to mankind.
24. Noble prize would not be given to
 (a) a diplomat who negotiated a peace settlement
 (b) a doctor who discovered a vaccine
 (c) a composer who composed a symphony
 (d) an author who wrote a novel
25. Alfred Nobel left his colossal fortune to the cause of progress in human knowledge because he
 (a) was 'Europe's richest vagabond'
 (b) was a chemist, engineer and an aspiring poet
 (c) felt guilty for having invented highly destructive things
 (d) felt guilty for having earned so much money

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (d) 4. (a) 5. (d) 6. (d) 7. (c) 8. (a) 9. (c) 10. (d)
 11. (b) 12. (d) 13. (d) 14. (b) 15. (c) 16. (c) 17. (d) 18. (c) 19. (a) 20. (c)
 21. (b) 22. (a) 23. (c) 24. (c) 25. (c)

PRACTICE SET 15

Passage 1

Ernest Rutherford was the son of a Scot emigrant to New Zealand. His parents had 12 children, of whom Ernest was the fourth. His education was in a state primary school from which children at the age of 13 could get grants of scholarships to secondary schools and to the universities. Rutherford had no intention of following an academic career. He was no book-worm. He was good in any rough-and-tumble and a keen football player. But he was good at Latin and he had a passion for music and a mechanical bent of mind. At Nelson College, a state boarding school, he was an outstanding pupil, he sat for a scholarship to Canterbury College and this was because his masters expected it of him, and he won it. There, Rutherford as a student was fascinated by Hertz's work on radio waves and he began to conduct his own experiments in the clock room of the college, where the students, hung their gowns.

1. Rutherford was his parent's child.
 (a) last (b) only
 (c) fourth (d) second
2. Nelson College was a
 (a) state boarding school in New Zealand
 (b) college in England
 (c) school in Scotland
 (d) school in the United States
3. Rutherford sat for a scholarship test because
 (a) he was an outstanding student.
 (b) he was a bookworm.
 (c) he thought of following an academic career.
 (d) his masters wanted him to do that.
4. Rutherford carried out his own private experiments in
 (a) some corner of the cloakroom of Nelson College
 (b) some corner of the cloakroom of Canterbury College
 (c) a corner of the room allotted to him in the boarding house
 (d) in the laboratory of Nelson College

5. The phrase 'mechanical bent' suggests that Rutherford
 (a) was quite mechanical
 (b) was devoid of human warmth, emotion, feeling, intelligence etc.
 (c) did things and lived as thoughtlessly as a machine
 (d) had an aptitude for the science of machinery

Passage 2 (Hotel Management, 1995)

It is to progress in the human sciences that we must look to undo the evils which have resulted from a knowledge of the physical world hastily and superficially acquired by populations unconscious of the changes in themselves that the new knowledge has made imperative. The road to a happier world than any known in the past lies open before us if atavistic destructive passions can be kept in leash while the necessary adaptations are made. Fears are inevitable in our time, but hopes are equally rational and far more likely to bear good fruit. We must learn to think rather less of the dangers to be avoided than of the good that will lie within our grasp if we can believe in it and let it dominate our thoughts. Science, whatever unpleasant consequences it may have by the way, is in its very nature a liberator, a liberator of bondage to physical nature and in to come, a liberator from the weight of destructive passions. We are on the threshold of utter disaster or unprecedentedly glorious achievement. No previous age has been fraught with problems so momentous; and it is to science that we must look to for a happy future.

6. What does science liberate us from?
 It liberates us from
 (a) bondage to physical nature
 (b) fears and destructive passions
 (c) idealistic hopes of a glorious future
 (d) slavery to physical nature and from passions
7. To carve out a bright future a man should
 (a) try to avoid dangers
 (b) overcome fears and dangers
 (c) cultivate a positive outlook
 (d) analyse dangers that lie ahead
8. If man's bestial yearning is controlled
 (a) the present will be brighter than the future.
 (b) the present will become tolerant.

- (c) the future will be brighter than the present.
 (d) the future will be tolerant.
9. Fears and hopes, according to the author
 (a) can yield good results
 (b) can bear fruit
 (c) are irrational
 (d) are closely linked with the life of modern man
10. Should human sciences be developed because they will
 (a) eliminate the destruction caused by a superficial knowledge of the physical world
 (b) make us conscious of the changes in ourselves
 (c) make us conscious of the changing world
 (d) provide more knowledge of the physical world

Passage 3 (Translator's Exam, 1994)

That artificial intelligence quotient should seek to replace the time-tested I.Q. as a measure of mental ability is perfectly in consonance with the present day standards in a plastic society. However, the battle over grey cells whether in human or mechanical minds, whose latest round has found Uncle Sam shedding crocodile tears over Japan's failure to deliver on its promise to produce a fifth generation computer, may find the Asian Tiger Cubs—The under-35 Japanese researchers—having the last laugh. For, though all the boastful Tokyo talk a decade ago to build 1,000 processor computers to process knowledge—and not merely numbers which is all the Silicon Valley Chips supposedly do—has remained just talk, the 180 young scientists in the 10-year venture have nevertheless made the big brains at Silicon Valley look rather silly with their product which has a yen for logical programming. The jubilation in the Valley may turn to depression when the inexorable logic of this development pulls down Washington from its pedestal of supercomputer supremacy.

11. Asian Tiger Cubs are
 (a) young Japanese researchers
 (b) mechanical minds
 (c) the big brains at Silicon Valley
 (d) fifth generation computers
12. Uncle Sam reacts to their failure with
 (a) sorrow
 (b) depression
 (c) jubilation
 (d) insincere sorrow

13. What have the cubs failed to produce?
 (a) Number 3 processing computer
 (b) Grey cells
 (c) The fifth generation computer
 (d) A plastic society
14. What have they succeeded in producing?
 (a) Grey cells
 (b) A fifth generation computer
 (c) A knowledge processing computer
 (d) A product which has a yen for logical programming.
15. How is their success likely to affect Washington's supremacy?
 (a) It is likely to make it look silly.
 (b) It is likely to dislodge it.
 (c) It is likely to have the last laugh.
 (d) It is likely to produce jubilation in the Valley.

Passage 4 (C.D.S. 1994)

Corduroy is fast establishing itself as this year's fabric. While the ribbed cotton itself provides utilitarian tenacity, texture and warmth, it is the fabric's long-held associations that may provide a hint to its current revival as a fabric for all seasons.

It is Corduroy's link with good breeding and country living that made it an essential ingredient in the gentleman's wardrobe along with Wellington boots and a decent woolly. It combines the comfortable no-nonsense appeal of cotton with the perfectly correct luxury finish of velvet. Corduroy has the ability to appear either supremely sophisticated or rough and ready.

16. According to the author, the special quality of Corduroy is that
 (a) it combines the virtues of both cotton and velvet.
 (b) both the rich and the not-so-rich can afford to buy it.
 (c) it contains the correct mixture of cotton and velvet.
 (d) it needs no ironing.
17. Corduroy is essential in a gentleman's wardrobe because
 (a) it goes with Wellington boots.
 (b) it can be an idea alternative to woollen clothes.
 (c) its current revival gives a taste of the latest fashion.
 (d) it has its associations with good upbringing and a conservative life style.
18. Corduroy is a fabric for all seasons because

- (a) of its peculiar texture and warmth
 (b) it is made popular by catchy advertisements.
 (c) it can be worn not only in winter but also in summer.
 (d) gentlemen can wear it on both formal and informal occasions.
19. When the writer refers to Corduroy's 'utilitarian tenacity' he means that
 (a) it does not need frequent washing.
 (b) though expensive, it is economic in the long run.
 (c) it has remained fashionable over several years.
 (d) it is useful because it is durable.
20. Which one of the following best describes the passage?
 (a) It tells us about the usefulness of Corduroy.
 (b) It talks about the virtues of Corduroy.
 (c) It persuades us to buy Corduroy.
 (d) It makes us understand the everlasting appeal of Corduroy to the young.

Passage 5

Man is not destined to vanish. He can be killed, but he cannot be destroyed, because his soul is deathless and his spirit is irrepressible. Therefore, though the situation seems dark in the context of the confrontation between the super powers, the silver lining is provided by the amazing phenomenon that the very nations which have spent incalculable resources and energy for the production of deadly weapons are desperately trying to find out how they might never be used. They threaten each other, intimidate each other and go to the brink, but before the fatal hour arrives they withdraw from the brink.

21. Which of the following correctly expresses the author's view?
 (a) Huge stockpiles of destructive weapons have so far saved mankind from a catastrophe.
 (b) Mankind is heading towards complete destruction.
 (c) Nations in possession of huge stockpiles of lethal weapons are trying hard to avoid actual conflict.
 (d) Super powers have at least realised the need for abandoning the production of lethal weapons.
22. 'Irrepressible' in the second sentence means
 (a) unrestrainable
 (b) oppressive
 (c) strong
 (d) incompatible

23. The phrase 'go to the brink' in the passage means
 (a) declare war on each other
 (b) negotiate for peace
 (c) retreating from extreme danger
 (d) advancing to the stage of war but not engaging in it
24. The author's main point is that
 (a) man's destiny is not fully clear or visible.
 (b) man's safety is assured by the delicate balance of power in terms of nuclear weapons.
 (c) human society will survive despite the serious threat of total annihilation.
 (d) man's soul and spirit cannot be destroyed even by the super powers.
25. Which of the following best expresses the theme of the above passage?
 (a) Mounting cost of modern weapons
 (b) Man's desire to survive inhibits use of deadly weapons.
 (c) Threats and intimidation between super powers.
 (d) Destruction of mankind is inevitable.

Directions : Read the following two letters and answer the questions given below them : (B.S.R.B. 1996)

Dear Shri Phutke,

Our earlier letter received no response from you.

What will your neighbours think if we have to send our truck out to your house to repossess that furniture on which you have so far not paid your last as many as six instalments out of the ten?

Sincerely yours,
 Feroz Lakdawala

Dear Shri Lakdawala,

I have discussed the matter you wrote about with all my neighbours and every one of them thinks it would be a mean act by a big and prestigious firm like yours.

Yours truly,
 M.T. Phutke

26. It appears that Shri Lakdawala's main purpose of writing the letter is to
 (a) inform Shri Phutke's neighbours about the kind of furniture he sells
 (b) recover the unpaid balance amount from Shri Phutke
 (c) refund the amount of furniture sold by him
 (d) pay the last six unpaid instalments immediately
 (e) send his truck to Shri Phutke to shift his luggage
27. Which of the following made Lakdawala write a letter to Shri Phutke?
 (a) Discussions with Phutke's neighbours
 (b) Delay in recovery of the furniture
 (c) Prompt payment of six instalments
 (d) Purchase of furniture
 (e) None of these
28. How many instalments had Shri Lakdawala received from Shri Phutke?
 (a) Four (b) Six (c) Ten
 (d) Cannot be determined
 (e) None of these
29. Shri Phutke responded to Shri Lakdawala's letter by
 (a) paying the unpaid dues
 (b) returning the furniture
 (c) asking the neighbours for help
 (d) writing a humorous reply
 (e) permitting Lakdawala to take away his furniture
30. Which of the following can be definitely inferred from the above correspondence?
 (a) Lakdawala has so far refrained from writing any letter to Phutke.
 (b) Phutke's neighbours purchase furniture items from Lakdawala.
 (c) Phutke would not like Lakdawala to repossess the furniture.
 (d) Shri Phutke is no longer in need of the furniture he bought from Lakdawala.
 (e) Shri Phutke doesn't intend to withhold the payment any further.

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (d) 4. (b) 5. (d) 6. (d) 7. (c) 8. (c) 9. (d) 10. (a)
 11. (a) 12. (d) 13. (c) 14. (d) 15. (b) 16. (b) 17. (d) 18. (c) 19. (d) 20. (b)
 21. (c) 22. (a) 23. (d) 24. (c) 25. (b) 26. (b) 27. (e) 28. (a) 29. (d) 30. (c)

9. THEME DETECTION

In this type of questions, a paragraph is given followed by certain statements which may or may not be inferred from the passage. The candidate is required to choose that statement which contains the gist or the theme of the passage i.e. the idea that it conveys.
Example : Through advertising, manufacturing exercises a high degree of control over consumer's desires. However, the manufacturer assumes enormous risks in attempting to predict what consumers will want and in producing goods in quantity and distributing them in advance of final selection by the consumers.

The paragraph best supports the statement that manufacturers— (S.B.L.P.O. 1995)

- (a) distribute goods directly to the consumers
 (b) can eliminate the risk of overproduction by advertising
 (c) always take moderate and calculated risk
 (d) can predict with great accuracy the success of any product they put on the market
 (e) must depend upon the final consumers for the success of their undertakings

Solution : According to the passage, it is very difficult for the manufacturer to predict the consumers' response to his products. But by advertising, he can stimulate the consumers to buy his product. So, the theme of the paragraph is best mentioned in (b). Hence (b) is the answer.

- (a) is incorrect because it is mentioned in the paragraph that manufacturers distribute goods in advance of their demands and not directly to the consumers.
 (c) is wrong because according to the passage, manufacturers take 'enormous' and not 'moderate' risks.
 (d) is wrong because it is mentioned in the passage that manufacturers take great risk in predicting what the consumers want.
 (e) is a true statement but it does not depict the complete theme of the passage.

PRACTICE SET

Directions : Each of the following questions contains a small paragraph followed by a question on it. Read each paragraph carefully and answer the question given below it :

1. The virtue of art does not allow the work to be interfered with or immediately ruled by anything other than itself. It insists that it alone shall touch the work in order to bring it into being. Art requires that nothing shall attain the work except through art itself.

(Bank P.O. 1996)

This passage best supports the statement that

- (a) art is governed by external rules and conditions.
 (b) art is for the sake of art and life.
 (c) art is for the sake of art alone.
 (d) artist realizes his dreams through his artistic creation.
 (e) artist should use his art for the sake of society.

2. Though the waste of time or the expenditure on fashions is very large, yet fashions have come to stay. They will not go, come what may. However, what is now required is that strong efforts should be made to displace the excessive

craze for fashion from the minds of these youngsters.

The passage best supports the statement that :

- (a) fashion is the need of the day.
 (b) the excessive craze for fashion is detrimental to one's personality.
 (c) the hoard for fashion should be done away with so as not to let down the constructive development.
 (d) work and other activities should be valued more than the outward appearance.

3. Due to enormous profits involved in smuggling, hundreds of persons have been attracted towards this anti-national activity. Some of them became millionaires overnight. India has a vast coast line both on the Eastern and Western Coast. It has been a heaven for smugglers who have been carrying on their activities with great impunity. There is no doubt, that from time to time certain seizures were made by the