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SBI PO Exam

Prelims (English) Previous Paper

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Que. 1

Read the passage and answer the questions. Some words may be highlighted. Read carefully.

Technology. Whether you find that you embrace every new update, or struggle to keep up with the changes, its effect on our day-to-day lives is unmistakable. Recent technological developments are vastly changing the way we live, and in particular, the way we work. With the job market a competitive and ever-evolving arena, determining your career path is more than just following your passions and skills, it's about being **adaptive** in this digital age and understanding what skills and jobs are in high demand, and which are facing potential extinction. It's important to try not to feel disorientated or uncomfortable with these rapid changes, but instead, change your mindset and embrace the opportunities technology brings and focus on the right skills to increase your employability and succeed in the new tech-savvy work scene. Although technological innovation offers many new and exciting opportunities and career paths, there is also the downside of careers becoming obsolete, leaving people without a job. This is not a recent issue either, we've experienced years of machines replacing muscle power as the routine, autonomous tasks are taken over by technology. With the internet serving a **plethora** of information, jobs like the traditional travel agent have been almost wiped out entirely in favour of online websites that allow us to find the cheapest deals for flights and accommodation with just a click of a button. We are seeing an increase in 'self-service' with grocery store check-outs and airport check-ins opting for automation over employees. It's these entry-level and part-time jobs where we are seeing technological systems making the greatest impact. We've also witnessed other societal issues emerging, such as businesses going bust with technology replacing products. Remember going down to the local video store to rent a few DVDs? Or when libraries were a place people actually went to rent a book? In order to keep up to date with the latest trends in IT, businesses are beginning to embrace technology in recruitment, operations, marketing and production. With new IT commodities like Netflix, iTunes and eBooks, products are moving from the tangible to the digital at an alarming rate, causing numerous stores to go out of business. Newspapers and magazines are struggling to sell copies, with many people preferring to use their iPhone or tablet to get the latest headlines and gossip. The music industry has also taken a hit, with the amount of illegal piracy that goes on, resulting in a dramatic decrease in compact disc sales.

However, there are conflicting opinions on this. Study of census results in England and Wales since 1871 finds the rise of machines has been a job creator rather than making working humans obsolete. In the 1800s it was the Luddites smashing weaving machines. These days retail staff worry about automatic checkouts. Sooner or later taxi drivers will be **fretting over** self-driving cars. The battle between man and machines goes back centuries. Are they taking our jobs? Or are they merely easing our workload? A study by economists at the consultancy Deloitte seeks to shed new light on the relationship between jobs and the rise of technology by **trawling** through census data for England and Wales going back to 1871. Their conclusion is unremittingly cheerful: rather than destroying jobs, technology has been a "great job-creating machine". Findings by Deloitte such as a fourfold rise in bar staff since the 1950s or a surge in the number of hairdressers this century suggest to the authors that technology has increased spending power, therefore creating new demand and new jobs. "Machines will take on more repetitive and laborious tasks, but seem no closer to eliminating the need for human labour than at any time in the last 150 years." - analysts at Deloitte conclude.

How can we increase our chances of employability and succeed in this new age?

1. By changing our mindset and embracing new opportunities
 2. By changing the way we live
 3. By focusing on the right skills
 4. Both 1 and 3
 5. Both 1 and 2
-

Que. 2

Which brand/company/organization has not been mentioned in the passage?

1. Netflix
 2. eBooks
 3. Deloitte
 4. iPhone
 5. None of these
-

Que. 3

Determine a suitable title for the passage.

1. Technology and its Effects
 2. Man and his Relationship to Technology
 3. Technological Innovations in the 21st Century
 4. Technology- Boon or Bane?
 5. The Dark Side of Technology
-

Que. 4

What is the synonym of 'plethora'?

1. Dearth
 2. Growth
 3. Myriad
 4. Destruction
 5. Fruition
-

Que. 5

What is the antonym of the word 'adaptive'?

1. Elementary
2. Egregious
3. Flexible
4. Adoptive
5. Stubborn

Que. 6

What is the meaning of the emboldened phrase given below?

Sooner or later taxi drivers will be **fretting over** self-driving cars.

1. Selling the cars off
 2. Feel anxious or concerned regarding someone on something
 3. Brood over
 4. Both 2 and 3
 5. None of these
-

Que. 7

Which of the following meanings properly explains the word 'trawling'?

1. Trawl: to pull a large, cone-shaped net through the sea at a deep level behind a special boat in order to catch fish
 2. Trawl: move a lawnmower across a green lawn
 3. Trawl: to search among a large number or many different places in order to find people or information you want
 4. Both 2 and 3
 5. Both 1 and 3
-

Que. 8

What is the overall tone of the passage?

1. Optimistic
 2. Analytical
 3. Acerbic
 4. Lampooning
 5. Descriptive
-

Que. 9

Identify the segment of the sentence which contains the grammatical error. If there is no error mark 'No error' as your answer.

When you press (A) the end call button (B) on the phone, (C) the call will disconnect automatically. (D) No Error (E)

1. A
 2. B
 3. C
 4. D
 5. No error
-

Que. 10

In the following question, find out which part of the sentence has an error. If the sentence is grammatically correct, mark your answer as 'No Error'.

My favourite teacher has (A)/ taught me very well how to write and speak English (B)/ and French in a very short (C) span of time (D) No Error (E)

1. A
 2. B
 3. C
 4. D
 5. E
-

Que. 11

Find out which part of the sentence has an error and select the appropriate option. If a sentence is free from error, select 'No Error'.

You, I and Ram (A) went to the market (B) the day before yesterday (C) where we bought this pillow (D)/ No error (E)/

1. A
 2. B
 3. C
 4. D
 5. E
-

Que. 12

In the following sentence, some parts have error and some are correct. Find out which part has an error and mark it as your answer. If there is no error, mark 'No error' as your answer.

After a long wait (A) of almost 68 years, (B) the jury gave their verdict (C) on the Ayodhya feud. (D) No Error. (E)

1. A
 2. B
 3. C
 4. D
 5. No error
-

Que. 13

Identify the segment of the sentence which contains the grammatical error. If there is no error mark 'No error' as your answer.

Even if he loses this match, (A) he will still be getting (B) one more chance (C) to enter the finale. (D)

1. A
2. B
3. C

- 4. D
- 5. No error

Que. 14

In the following question, out of the five alternatives, select the alternative which will improve the underlined part of the sentence. In case no improvement is needed, select the "No improvement" option.

When the crowd collected round him he seemed confused, but at the demand of the tall lad who had pushed his way up to him, he began in a fairly too tremulous voice to read the sheet from the beginning.

- 1. begins in a fairly too tremulous voice
- 2. began in a fair too tremulous voice
- 3. began in a rather too tremulous voice
- 4. begins in a rather too tremulous voice
- 5. No Improvement

Que. 15

In the following question, out of the four alternatives, select the alternative which will improve the underlined part of the sentence. In case no improvement is needed, select "No improvement".

Aeroplanes were seldom if never, allowed to fly at late night during the winters of December and January due to security reasons and also safety issues at the time of landing.

- 1. Seldom or ever
- 2. Seldom if ever
- 3. Seldom if none

x

duplicate options found. English Question 1 options 1,2

- 4. seldom but never
- 5. No improvement

Que. 16

In the following question, out of the four alternatives, select the alternative which will improve the underlined part of the sentence. In case no improvement is needed, select "No improvement".

He's ten years old, but he still solves puzzles and calculates fuzzy logics with neurologists observing that he has lots of brain activities going on in his mind and all his vitals are extremely fascinating.

- 1. yet he still solves puzzles
- 2. but he still solves puzzles
- 3. but still solves puzzles
- 4. he still but solves puzzles

5. No improvement

Que. 17

Pick out the most effective word from the given options to fill in the blanks of the following question.

Reshma has a very annoying habit of _____ in idle gossip.

Tonight I am _____ myself with a bottle of Champagne.

1. Attracting
 2. Interacting
 3. Participating
 4. Indulging
 5. Treating
-

Que. 18

Pick out the most effective word from the given options to fill in the blanks of the following sentences.

Her face had a _____ pallor which he noticed immediately on reaching her.

He got a _____ shock on opening the parcel.

1. trivial
 2. charming
 3. unpleasant
 4. ill
 5. ghastly
-

Que. 19

Pick out the most effective word from the given options to fill in the blanks of the following sentences.

He made his camp in the thicket when he was sure that there were sure signs of gorilla _____ in the surrounding valley.

Humans have always built their _____ close to rivers as it provides easy access to water.

1. habitation
 2. houses
 3. tenure
 4. lodging
 5. seat
-

Que. 20

Pick out the most effective word from the given options to fill in the blanks of the following sentences.

The wood of the nail when dry has a _____ resembling that of sandalwood and is used for torches in fishing.

The new perfume had an unique _____ that smelled like the first day of spring.

1. Stench
2. Fragrance
3. Perfume
4. Odour
5. Nose

Que. 21

Pick out the most effective word from the given options to fill in the blanks of the following sentences.

a) Her speeches always had the capacity to _____ the flames of patriotism in the minds of the youth.

b) Plastic can _____ easily when exposed to fire.

1. arouse
2. ignite
3. instigate
4. excite
5. burn

Que. 22

Rearrange the following five sentences/group of sentences (A), (B), (C), (D), and (E) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph; then answer the questions given below them.

- A. Multi Commodity Exchange of India provides live feeds for all traded commodities and these are published on various websites.
- B. MCX offers options trading in gold and futures trading in non-ferrous metals, bullion, energy, and a number of agricultural commodities.
- C. From 28 September 2015, MCX is being regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- D. Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX) is an independent commodity exchange based in India.
- E. MCX was among the top global commodity exchanges in terms of the number of futures contracts trade.

Which of the following should be the SECOND sentence after rearrangement?

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. A

5. E

Que. 23

Which of the following should be the FIRST sentence after rearrangement?

1. A
 2. B
 3. C
 4. D
 5. E
-

Que. 24

Which of the following should be the FOURTH sentence after rearrangement?

1. A
 2. B
 3. D
 4. E
 5. C
-

Que. 25

Which of the following should be the LAST sentence after rearrangement?

1. A
 2. B
 3. C
 4. D
 5. E
-

Que. 26

Which of the following should be the THIRD sentence after rearrangement?

1. B
 2. C
 3. D
 4. A
 5. E
-

Que. 27

In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C) and (D). These words may or may not be placed in their correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these words have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.

The **decreased (A)** were **desperate (B)** for any kind of fish as the **quantity (C)** of good fish had **fishermen (D)** in recent years.

1. D-B
2. C-A
3. C-B
4. A-D
5. No Rearrangement

Que. 28

In each of the questions given below, four words are given in bold. These four words may or may not be in their correct position. The sentence is then followed by options with the correct combination of words that should replace each other in order to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct. Find the correct combination of words that replace each other. If the sentence is correct as it is, select '5' as your option.

Countries (A) based on the **colour (B)** of one's skin is a major **problem (C)** in India and a lot of other **discrimination. (D)**

1. A-B
2. B-C
3. C-D
4. D-A
5. No Rearrangement

Que. 29

Directions- In each of the following questions, one phrase has been given and it has been followed by four sentences. You have to find out in which of these sentences phrase has been used properly according to its meaning and mark your answer from the options denoted by 1,2,3,4. Mark 5. As your answer if you find that phrase has been applied properly in all the sentences.

An apple of discord

- I. My sister and I had fought over a piece of land causing an apple of discord a few years ago and we haven't spoken in since.
- II. The "best employee" award has been an apple of discord among the co-workers for quite some time.
- III. If I had known that an apple of discord would occur among villagers, I would not have told them about my new business venture.
- IV. Sharing credit for their breakthrough work became an apple of discord between the two research students.

1. II, IV
2. All except III
3. IV, I
4. II, III
5. All are correct

Que. 30

Directions- In each of the following questions, one phrase has been given and it has been followed by four sentences. You have to find out in which of these sentences phrase has been used properly according to its meaning and mark your answer from the options denoted by 1,2,3,4. Mark 5. As your answer if you find that phrase has been applied properly in all the sentences.

Bolt from the blue

- I. The news of her husband's death in the air crash came to her like a bolt from blue.
- II. I do not think hostilities have ever been begun except by something rather approaching a bolt from the blue.
- III. Developing weapons of mass destruction by North Korea came as a bolt from the blue for the world.
- IV. The blue skies were filled with dark clouds, bolts of lightning were seen all over the city.

1. III,II
2. I,II
3. All except IV
4. I,IV
5. All are correct.

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