

New Type of Question for IBPS/SBI Exams

1. Reading Comprehension

Directions (Qs. 1-5): Read the following passages and answer the questions as directed. [IBPS PO/MT Main, 2018]

Air pollution is choking several cities in the northern States once again, as changes in temperature and slowing winds trap soot, dust and fine particulate matter. The National Capital Region is badly hit, as the burning of agricultural residue in Punjab and Haryana is releasing large volumes of smoke containing, among other pollutants, highly damaging fine particulates, or PM2.5. The problem is **(A)** by the burning of urban waste, diesel soot, vehicular exhaust, road and construction dust, and power generation. Although India has nine of the 10 most polluted cities in the world, it has not taken consistent action on pollution. **(B)** *Tens of millions live with ambient air quality that is well short of even the relaxed parameters the country has set for fine particulates, compared with that of the World Health Organisation.* India should at least now give high importance to the WHO warning about air pollution being the new tobacco. **(C)** This year's **prevailing (1)** air quality rating for Delhi and **poor (2)** conditions **severe (3)** in other cities in the Indo-Gangetic Plain should compel a **decisive (4)** shift in policy. The Centre and the State governments need to get into crisis mode to dramatically reduce emissions. **(D)** _____, which is a direct source, and emissions with oxides of nitrogen and sulphur from vehicles that turn into fine particulates through atmospheric reactions. Failure to take sustainable and urgent measures will **(E)** long-term harm on public health, affecting children even more by putting them at higher risk for diseases. The UN Environment Programme's recent report titled 'Air Pollution in Asia and the Pacific: Science-Based Solutions' has sounded a warning, pointing out that only 8% of the population in the countries of the region get to breathe air of acceptable quality. One study of degradation of Delhi's air over a 10-year period beginning 2000 **(F)** **exhibited** premature mortality to have risen by as much as 60%. *With the steady growth in the population of the capital and other cities, the trauma is set to worsen.* **(G)** *An innovative approach could be to use climate change funds to turn farm residues into a resource, using technological options such as converting them into biofuels and fertilizers.* **(H)** From an urban **mobility (1)** perspective, large cities should reorient their **investments (2)** to prioritise public transport, **favouring (3)** electric **development (4)**. **(I)** *The World Bank has said it is keen to enhance its lending portfolio to tackle air pollution, opening a new avenue for this.* Governments should make the use of personal vehicles in cities less attractive through strict road pricing mechanisms. Sharply escalated, **(J)** _____ parking fees can be implemented. If governments delay action on the critical issue of pollution control, public pressure must force them to act.

- Which of the following words given in the option should come at the place marked as **(A)** in the above paragraph to make it grammatically correct and meaningful. Also, the word should correctly fill the blanks in the two sentences given below to make them contextually correct and meaningful.
 - Undue claims on the part of the tax collectors were _____ by the extortion of the public officials.
 - Poverty has been the real cause of all these disturbances, which were often _____ by the existence of factions profoundly indicative of barbarism.
 - relieved
 - mollified
 - alleviated
 - aggravated
 - tranquilized
- In the passage given, a sentence **(B)** is given in italics. There may be an error in one part of the sentence. Choose the part which has an error in it as your answer. If there is no error then choose option (e) as your answer.
 - Tens of millions live with ambient air quality
 - that is well short of even the relaxed parameters
 - the country has set for fine particulates,
 - compared with that of the World Health Organisation.
 - No error
- The sentence given in **(C)** has four words printed in bold. Amongst the given bold words, which of the following must replace each other to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful?
 - 2-3
 - 1-4
 - 1-3
 - 4-3
 - 2-4
- Which of the following phrases should fill in the blank in **(D)** to make it contextually correct and meaningful?
 - Both the governments should ban the use of old vehicles
 - People should reduce the use of vehicles to the minimal level
 - The smoke emitted by the vehicles
 - People should also actively participate in reducing pollution by ceasing the use of private transport
 - They must address the burning of carbon
- Which of the following words given in the option should come at the place marked as **(E)** in the above paragraph to make it grammatically correct and meaningful. Also, the word should fill in the two sentences given below to make them contextually correct and meaningful.

- (i) They can't destroy it completely, but they can _____ significant damage.
- (ii) When attacked by dogs, the cats use their sharp canine teeth to _____ deep and even dangerous wounds.
- (a) inflict (b) deter
(c) withhold (d) impose
(e) levy
6. A word is given in bold in **(F)**. Choose the word which should replace the word given in bold to make the sentence correct and meaningful. If no change is required, choose option (e) as your answer.
- (a) supposed (b) estimated
(c) inculcated (d) displayed
(e) No error
7. Two sentences are given in italics on both sides of **(G)**. Which of the following statements can come in between the two sentences in place of (G) and maintain the continuity of the paragraph?
- (a) Every year, more than 10, 000 people migrate to the capital in search of job or to study.
(b) Air pollution leaves behind smoke, soot and sulphur oxides which are very hazardous for health.
(c) Farm stubble burning is a major contributor to the problem, and its footprint may be growing because of wider use of mechanical harvesters that is producing more waste.
- (d) Most of the pollution is contributed by cities, especially, metro and mega cities.
(e) The government should take serious measures to stop the rising level of pollution else, time is not very far when we would be breathing in a gas chamber.
8. The sentence given in **(H)** has four words printed in bold. Amongst the given bold words, which of the following must replace each other to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful?
- (a) 1-3 (b) 1-4
(c) 2-1 (d) 3-2
(e) 3-4
9. In the passage given, a sentence **(I)** is given in italics. There may be an error in one part of the sentence. Choose the part which has an error in it as your answer. If there is no error, then option (e) is your answer.
- (a) The World Bank has said
(b) it is keen to enhance
(c) its lending portfolio to tackle air pollution,
(d) opening a new avenue for this.
(e) No error
10. Which of the following words should fill the blank given in **(J)** to make it contextually correct and meaningful?
- (a) innovative (b) high
(c) purposeful (d) invoking
(e) deterrent

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. (d) 'Aggravated', which means made (a problem, injury, or offence) worse or more serious, is the most appropriate word to fill the blanks correctly. Each of the other words are its antonyms thus, irrelevant in the context of the given sentences.
2. (d) Replace 'that' with its plural form 'those' to make the sentence grammatically correct.
3. (c) 'prevailing' and 'severe' should replace each other to make the sentence meaningful.
4. (e) 'They must address the burning of carbon' is the correct phrase here as it follows the preceding sentence which talks about what the central and state governments should do in order to reduce emission; and goes on to mention other emissions.
5. (a) 'inflict' which means cause (something unpleasant or painful) to be suffered by someone or something is the most appropriate word to fill the blanks correctly. Each of the other words is irrelevant in the context of the given sentences.
6. (b) 'estimated' is the most appropriate word in the context of the sentence. Thus, it should replace 'exhibited'.
7. (c) The sentence after (G) talks about farm residues, etc. Therefore, the preceding sentence should either lead to it, or talk about the same. Among the given options, only option (c) fits the bill. All the other options talk about different topics which stray from the flow of the italicised sentences.
8. (b) 'mobility' and 'development' should replace each other to make the sentence meaningful.
9. (e) The sentence is grammatically correct.
10. (e) 'deterrent' which means 'something that discourages or is intended to discourage someone from doing something' is the most suitable word to make the sentence contextually correct.

2. Spotting Error Type I

Directions (Qs.1-5): In these questions, two columns containing three sentences/phrases each are given—sentences/phrases A, B and C in the first column, and D, E and F, in the second—followed by five options suggesting combinations that make grammatically and contextually correct sentences. If none of the options gives correct combination(s) mark (e), i.e., ‘None of these’ as your answer.

1.

Column 1	Column 2
A. Two years later, in November 1985,	D. he has agreed to pay the taxes.
B. Due to the drought,	E. people were forced to leave the city.
C. Adhering to the court’s order,	F. she was sent to judicial custody.

- (a) C-F (b) B-E
 (c) A-D (d) Both (a) & (b)
 (e) None of these

2.

Column 1	Column 2
A. I am going to	D. meet my friends.
B. I don’t want to	E. play the game in the coming season.
C. He feels he could	F. feed the dog in the evening.

- (a) B-D (b) A-F
 (c) C-E (d) All the above
 (e) None of these

3.

Column 1	Column 2
A. Social networking	D. is very harmful for youngsters.
B. The cyber world	E. enables two way communication.
C. New fashion	F. is ultimately ungovernable.

- (a) B-F (b) A-D
 (c) C-E (d) C-F
 (e) None of these

4.

Column 1	Column 2
A. Online shopping has	D. growing with a rapid pace.
B. Mobile technology is	E. become a trend in the youth these days.
C. Information and Technology is	F. transforming the global banking and payment industry.

[SBI PO Main, 2018]

- (a) A-D (b) B-E
 (c) C-E (d) Both (a) & (b)
 (e) None of these

5.

Column 1	Column 2
A. We are about to	D. work hard to imply new technology in its manufacturing unit.
B. The company should	E. take the responsibility of the pollution.
C. A large number of vehicles must	F. take legal actions against our neighbours.

[SBI PO Main, 2018]

- (a) B-E (b) C-D
 (c) A-F (d) Both (a) & (c)
 (e) None of these

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. (d) Both C-F and B-E make a meaningful sentence.
 2. (d) All the combination are correct and make meaningful sentences.
 3. (a) Only B-F makes a meaningful sentence. A-D would have been correct if ‘for’ in D were replaced with ‘to’.
 4. (e) None of the combinations makes a meaningful or grammatically correct sentence.
 5. (c) Only A-F makes a logically correct sentence.

3. Spotting Error Type II

Directions (Qs. 1-5): The following question consists of a sentence which is divided into three parts which contain grammatical errors in one or more than one part of the sentence. If there is an error in any part of the sentence, find the correct alternatives to replace those parts from the three options given below each question to make the sentence grammatically correct. If there is an error in any part of the sentence and none of the alternatives is correct to replace that part, then choose (d) i.e. None of the (I), (II) and (III) as your answer. If the given sentence is grammatically correct or does not require any correction, choose (e) i.e. No correction required as your answer.

[SBI PO Main, 2017]

1. The announcement by the Saudi-led coalition to sever (I)/ diplomatic ties with Qatar marks the culmination of a year-long (II)/ dispute over few Gulf Arab states and Qatar. (III)
 - (I) The announcement by the Saudi-led coalition severing
 - (II) diplomatic tie with Qatar marked a year-long culmination
 - (III) dispute between some Gulf Arab states and Qatar
 - (a) Only (I)
 - (b) Only (III)
 - (c) Both (I) and (III)
 - (d) None of the (I), (II) and (III)
 - (e) No correction required
2. Italian officials have been arguing that (I)/volatility caused by Britain's vote to leave the European Union (II)/means it could have given greater flexibility to prop up struggling banks. (III)
 - (I) Italians officials had argued that
 - (II) volatility that caused Britain's vote to leave the European Union
 - (III) meant it should be given greater flexibility to prop up struggling banks
 - (a) Only (II)
 - (b) Both (I) and (III)
 - (c) All (I), (II) and (III)
 - (d) None of the (I), (II) and (III)
 - (e) No correction required
3. Many environmentalists think that too much interference with (I)/ nature for development projects is gradually destroying that balance and natural (II)/ calamities are happening to forewarn us about a possible doomsday in future. (III)
 - (I) Many of the environmentalists believe that too much interference in
 - (II) nature for developing new projects has destroyed the balance and natural
 - (III) calamities which may happen to forewarn us about doomsday possibly in future
 - (a) Only (II)
 - (b) Both (I) and (II)
 - (c) Both (II) and (III)
 - (d) None of the (I), (II) and (III)
 - (e) No correction required
4. Career diplomats in the State Department are wringing (I)/ the hands of diplomats in despair after seeing their president (II)/ uncorking US policies which had taken decades at maturing. (III)
 - (I) Diplomacy in Career in the State Department has wringed
 - (II) their hands in despair at seeing their president
 - (III) uncorking US policies that have taken decades to mature
 - (a) Both (II) and (III)
 - (b) Both (I) and (III)
 - (c) All (I), (II) and (III)
 - (d) None of the (I), (II) and (III)
 - (e) No correction required
5. Around 1960s it was widely assumed about politics which had been (I)/ divided from religions and after societies started becoming more industrialized, religious (II)/ belief and practice were restricted to private thought and action. (III)
 - (I) Politics was assumed widely till about 1960s that it is
 - (II) divided out of religion and as societies were becoming more industrialized, religious
 - (III) beliefs and practices should have restricted to private thoughts and actions.
 - (a) Only (I)
 - (b) Both (II) and (III)
 - (c) Both (I) and (II)
 - (d) None of the (I), (II) and (III)
 - (e) No correction required

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. (b) The use of 'few' is incorrect in the third part of the sentence; it should be 'some'. Also "dispute between some..." is the correct grammatical usage.
2. (b) In the first part of the sentence, 'have been' should be replaced by 'had' as the sentence is in Past Tense. In part (III), "meant it should be given" is the correct phrase to make the sentence grammatically correct.
3. (e) The given sentence is grammatically correct.
4. (c) Only option (c) among the given options forms a meaningful and grammatically correct sentence. Other options are either grammatically incorrect or contextually different. Hence (c) is the correct choice.
5. (a) The correct phrase in part (II) should be "at seeing" in place of "after seeing". In part (III), replace "which had taken decades at maturing" by "that have taken decades to mature" as the sentence is in Present Tense. Part (I) does not require any correction as it is grammatically correct.

4. Sentence Formation using Connectors Type 1

Directions (Qs.1-5): In these questions, a **CONNECTOR** followed by a set of grammatically correct and meaningful sentences is given. Choose the best possible combination that the connector makes to form a correct, coherent sentence without changing the intended meaning.

1. **HOWEVER**

- (I) We have also submitted the concerned report in the Supreme Court
 (II) If you'd told me about it earlier, I could've been free
 (III) The Delhi police has filed the chargesheet on medico legal and psychology analysis
 (IV) Tomorrow I have plans to go back

[SBI PO Main, 2017]

- (a) (II)-(IV) (b) (IV)-(III)
 (c) (I)-(II) (d) (II)-(III)
 (e) (I)-(III)

2. **HENCE**

- (I) As per the agreement, the consultancy will have the responsibility of planning, designing, and management of each project
 (II) Any portion of the underground rhizome when broken off is capable of producing a new plant
 (III) The difficulty of eradicating them when once established
 (IV) The contract period is for the next three years

[SBI PO Main, 2017]

- (a) (I)-(IV)
 (b) Both (II)-(III) & (I)-(IV)
 (c) (II)-(IV)
 (d) (III)-(IV)
 (e) (II)-(III)

3. **NEVERTHELESS**

- (I) The school uniform was an unattractive green
 (II) I must tell you that we are alive
 (III) The headmaster refused to consider changing it to another colour.
 (IV) That we reached home safely, and that we speak of you daily, and enjoy your interesting letters very much

[SBI PO Main, 2017]

- (a) (IV)-(II) (b) Both (I)-(III) & (II)-(IV)
 (c) (III)-(I) (d) (I)-(II)
 (e) (III)-(IV)

4. **ALTHOUGH**

- (I) I try very hard not to force issues
 (II) I find it very difficult to avoid them
 (III) It was strange being in Quinn's room
 (IV) The only remnants of him were his machines

[SBI PO Main, 2017]

- (a) (I)-(III)
 (b) Both (I)-(III) & (II)-(IV)
 (c) Both (I)-(II) & (III)-(IV)
 (d) (IV)-(II)
 (e) (II)-(III)

5. **STILL**

- (I) Alex had presented the issue as responsibility
 (II) Field inspection will be conducted and status reports will be prepared
 (III) The consultants will deploy their staff in the city within a month
 (IV) Not money

- (a) (III)-(II) (b) (I)-(III)
 (c) (IV)-(II) (d) (I)-(IV)
 (e) None of these

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. (a) (IV) states the reason why 'I' in (II) can't be free. So, (II)-(IV) are linked. The context in (I) and (III) does not match these; so, options (b), (c) and (d) get eliminated. 'However' shows contrast or contradiction; so, (I) and (III) can't be linked as (I) contains the supportive word 'also'.

The sentence will be: Tomorrow I have plans to go back, **however**, if you'd told me about it earlier, I could've been free.

2. (a) (I) is the consequence of (IV); so, they are linked. (II) and (III) are not linked as they talk of two different things. Also, they don't link with either (I) or (IV); so, options (b), (c), (d) and (e) are eliminated.

The correct sentence will be: The contract period is for the next three years; **hence**, as per the agreement, the consultancy will have the responsibility of planning, designing, and management of each project.

3. (b) (I) and (III) are linked as they talk of the same topic i.e., colour of the uniform. (II) and (IV) are linked as they talk in the same context.

The sentences will be:

- The school uniform was an unattractive green, **nevertheless**, the headmaster refused to consider changing it to another colour.
- **Nevertheless**, I must tell you that we are alive, that we reached home safely, and that we speak of you daily, and enjoy your interesting letters very much.

4. (c) 'Them' in (II) has been used for 'issues' mentioned in (I) in the same context; so, (I) and (II) are linked. 'Him' in (IV) has been used for 'Quinn' mentioned in (III) in the same context; so, (III) and (IV) are linked.

The sentences will be:

- **Although** I try very hard not to force issues, I find it very difficult to avoid them.
- It was strange being in Quinn's room **although** the only remnants of him were his machines.

5. (e) None of the combinations given above makes any sense as all four sentences talk about four different contexts.

5. Sentence Formation using Connectors Type 2

Directions (Qs.1-5): In these questions, two statements are given which are grammatically correct and meaningful. Choose the word that connects the statements in the best possible way to form a correct, coherent sentence without changing the intended meaning.

1. (I) The country requires a minimum wage.
(II) Workers paid below the poverty line have an added cost on society. *[IBPS PO/MT Main, 2018]*
(a) still (b) but
(c) because (d) though
(e) although
2. (I) The sky had grown darker again.
(II) The wind made queer sobbing sounds as it swept over the valley. *[IBPS PO/MT Main, 2018]*
(a) but (b) though
(c) until (d) and
(e) instead
3. (I) If it were stigmatized, and public opinion dramatically
(II) And pervasively changed, that would force policy change *[IBPS PO/MT Main, 2018]*
(a) moreover (b) however
(c) still (d) but
(e) and
4. (I) He was respectful of her concerns.
(II) They didn't see eye-to-eye on any of those – except the fact that they both wanted another child.
(a) and (b) nevertheless
(c) however (d) though
(e) but
5. (I) Texting while driving is dangerous.
(II) It's illegal in some states.
(a) moreover (b) however
(c) still (d) but
(e) instead

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. (a) (IV) states the reason why 'I' in (II) can't be free. So, (II)-(IV) are linked. The context in (I) and (III) does not match these; so, options (b), (c) and (d) get eliminated. 'However' shows contrast or contradiction; so, (I) and (III) can't be linked as (I) contains the supportive word 'also'.
The sentence will be: Tomorrow I have plans to go back, **however**, if you'd told me about it earlier, I could've been free.
2. (a) (I) is the consequence of (IV); so, they are linked. (II) and (III) are not linked as they talk of two different things. Also, they don't link with either (I) or (IV); so, options (b), (c), (d) and (e) are eliminated.
The correct sentence will be: The contract period is for the next three years; **hence**, as per the agreement, the consultancy will have the responsibility of planning, designing, and management of each project.
3. (b) (I) and (III) are linked as they talk of the same topic i.e., colour of the uniform. (II) and (IV) are linked as they talk in the same context.
The sentences will be:
 - The school uniform was an unattractive green, **nevertheless**, the headmaster refused to consider changing it to another colour.
 - **Nevertheless**, I must tell you that we are alive, that we reached home safely, and that we speak of you daily, and enjoy your interesting letters very much.
4. (c) 'Them' in (II) has been used for 'issues' mentioned in (I) in the same context; so, (I) and (II) are linked. 'Him' in (IV) has been used for 'Quinn' mentioned in (III) in the same context; so, (III) and (IV) are linked.
The sentences will be:
 - **Although** I try very hard not to force issues, I find it very difficult to avoid them.
 - It was strange being in Quinn's room **although** the only remnants of him were his machines.
5. (e) None of the combinations given above makes any sense as all four sentences talk about four different contexts.

6. Sentence Formation using Connectors Type 3

Directions (Qs.1-5): In these questions, a **CONNECTOR** is given, followed by a set of sentences which are grammatically correct and meaningful. Choose from the options, the connector(s) that join(s) the sentences in the best possible way without changing the intended meaning.

1. A. They saw the uselessness of violence.
B. They changed their policy.
(i) Seeing the uselessness...
(ii) Changing their policy...
(iii) See the uselessness... [IBPS Clerk Main, 2017]
(a) Only (i) (b) Only (ii)
(c) Only (iii) (d) Both (i) & (ii)
(e) None of these
2. A. He lost a large sum of money.
B. He gave up speculation.
(i) Giving up speculation...
(ii) Large sum of...
(iii) Losing a large... [IBPS Clerk Main, 2017]
(a) Only (i) (b) Only (ii)
(c) Only (iii) (d) Both (i) & (iii)
(e) None of these
3. A. The hunter took up his gun.
B. He went out to shoot the lion.
(i) Taking up his...
(ii) Took his gun...
(iii) Shooting the lion... [IBPS Clerk Main, 2017]
(a) Only (i) (b) Only (ii)
(c) Only (iii) (d) Both (i) & (iii)
(e) None of these
4. A. A crow stole a piece of cheese.
B. She flew to her nest to enjoy the tasty meal.
(i) Flying to the nest...
(ii) Stealing a piece...
(iii) Enjoying the tasty...
(a) Only (i) (b) Only (ii)
(c) Only (iii) (d) Both (i) & (iii)
(e) None of these
5. A. My sister was charmed with silk.
B. She bought ten yards.
(i) Buying ten yards...
(ii) After charming...
(iii) Charmed with the...
(a) Only (i) (b) Only (ii)
(c) Only (iii) (d) All of the above
(e) None of these

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. (a) It is clear that B follows from A. Therefore, the correct sentence will be - Seeing the uselessness of violence, they changed their policy.
2. (c) It is clear that B is the effect of A. So, the correct sentence will be - Losing a large sum of money, he gave up speculation.
3. (a) Taking up his gun, the hunter (subject) went out to shoot the lion.
(subject?) Took his gun.....is incorrect because the subject of the verb 'took' is missing.
Shooting the lion... is incorrect because action of 'shooting' can't precede 'taking of gun'.
4. (b) Flying to the nest.....is incorrect because this action follows 'stealing...' and cannot precede the latter.
Stealing a piece of cheese, the crow flew to her nest to enjoy the tasty meal.
Enjoying the tasty..... is incorrect because action of 'enjoying the cheese' can't precede 'stealing a piece of cheese'.
5. (c) 'Buying ten yards.....' is incorrect because the action of 'buying' can't precede the action of 'getting charmed with silk'.
'After charming' is incorrect because of structural error.
'Charmed with the silk, my sister bought ten yards' is the correct sentence.

7. Fillers Type I

Directions (Qs. 1-5): In the following questions, a paragraph with three blanks is given, and six optional words have been suggested to fill each blank. You have to choose the most suitable combination of words among the four alternative options that will fill all the blanks coherently, forming a grammatically correct and contextually meaningful paragraph. If none of the given combinations is appropriate to fill the blanks, mark option (e) i.e. 'None of these' as your answer choice.

1. Our current approach to solving global warming will not work. It is _____ economically, because carbon taxes will cost a _____ and do little, and it is flawed politically because negotiations to reduce carbon-dioxide emissions will become even more _____ and divisive.
[IBPS PO Main, 2018]
- (i) lot (ii) fraught
(iii) erroneous (iv) worse
(v) fortune (vi) flawed
(a) iii, i, iv (b) iv, v, iv
(c) iii, i, ii (d) vi, v, ii
(e) None of these
2. It may be _____ a while before climatologists are able to predict rainfall in the American Midwest by measuring snow-fall in the Himalayas. But there is one _____ which they can confidently make now, and is that the earth's ice cover-from the polar ice caps to the Himalayas-is _____ at an alarming rate.
[IBPS PO Main, 2018]
- (i) long (ii) quite
(iii) thawing (iv) coagulating
(v) prediction (vi) thing
(a) i, vi, iv (b) ii, v, iii
(c) i, v, iv (d) v, i, ii
(e) None of these
3. With leaders of the Gujjar agitation for reservations calling off their _____, the Rajasthan government has averted what could have been a _____ crisis. There is a sense of déjà vu amid all this. Gujjar leaders have held various rounds of _____ over the last decade and a half, demanding reservations in educational institutions and employment in a separate backward category.
[IBPS PO Main, 2018]
- (i) assault (ii) stir
(iii) abrupt (iv) prolonged
(v) protests (vi) talks
(a) i, ii, iv (b) ii, iv, v
(c) ii, iv, vi (d) ii, iii, vi
(e) None of these
4. A _____ financial mechanism must be _____ to remove pollutants in existing and upcoming power plants, without losing sight of the need to stop further _____ investments in a dirty fuel such as coal that contributes to carbon emissions.
- (i) abysmal (ii) grown
(iii) viable (iv) evolved
(v) permanent (vi) long-term
(a) iii, iv, vi (b) ii, iv, v
(c) ii, iv, vi (d) ii, iii, vi
(e) None of these
5. The snap poll called for April 28 by Spain's minority Socialist Party government could deepen the _____ in the fragmented polity. The new anti-immigrant Vox party, which made _____ in December in Andalusia, Spain's most populous region, is the latest addition to the smaller formations that can hold the _____ in a future coalition.
- (i) closures (ii) fissures
(iii) inroads (iv) harmony
(v) balance (vi) assaults
(a) ii, iii, iv (b) iii, v, vi
(c) ii, iv, vi (d) ii, iii, v
(e) None of these

ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. (d) The words 'flawed', 'fortunate' and 'fraught' which mean 'having or characterized by a fundamental weakness or imperfection', 'favoured by or involving good luck' and '(of a situation or course of action) filled with or likely to result in (something undesirable)' respectively, correctly fit in the given blanks in the same order. Therefore, the correct option is option (d).
2. (b) The words 'quite', 'prediction' and 'thawing' correctly fit in the given blanks in the same order. Therefore, the correct option is option (b). Other options are irrelevant in the context of the sentences.
3. (c) 'Stir' denotes emotional agitation and excitement which suits here in the context of Gujjar agitation. 'Prolonged'
- means relatively long in duration. 'Protests' refer to the acts of making strong public expression of disagreements and disapprovals.
4. (a) 'Viable' means capable of being done with means at hand and circumstances as they are; 'evolved' means undergo development or evolution and 'long-term' means relating to or extending over a relatively long time. Other options do not fit in the context.
5. (d) 'Fissures' denotes cracks; 'inroads' means encroachments or intrusions; 'balance' means a state of equilibrium. Other options do not fit.

8. Fillers Type II

Directions (Qs. 1-5) : In each of the following sentence, there are three blank spaces. Below each sentence, there are five options and each option consists of three words which can be filled up in the blanks in the sentence to make the sentence grammatically correct.

1. Indian Cricket has seen many _____ captains. But Dhoni was certainly a/an _____ one in many ways. As skipper, he mainly focused on cultivating team spirit and creating _____ for young players. *[IBPS Clerk Main, 2016]*
 - (a) exceptional, diminutive, chances.
 - (b) sturdy, serendipitous, chances
 - (c) stout, robust, opportunity
 - (d) Stalwart, extraordinary, opportunities.
 - (e) common, exceptional, prospects.
2. Pakistani's Defense Minister Khwaja Muhammad Asif, for all practical purposes, recently _____ Israel with a _____ nuclear attack, in response to a fake news report that the Israelis had said they would use nuclear _____ against Pakistan if it sent ground troops to Syria. *[IBPS Clerk Main, 2016]*
 - (a) threatened, retaliatory, weapons
 - (b) Jeopardized, reciprocating, armor
 - (c) admonished, riposte, weapon
 - (d) rebuked, counter, armament
 - (e) rebuffed, retorted, weapons
3. The line seems to be direct _____ to the establishment of a caliphate. But those who know the context of Faiz the poet, the man and his work correctly interpret it as a communist vision of life, with the _____ of the _____ prevailing.
 - (a) Commendation, democracy, precariat
 - (b) Invocation, dictatorship, proletariat
 - (c) Intercession, autonomy, rabble
 - (d) Citation, anarchism, bourgeoisie
 - (e) Intervention, despot, common people
4. News and social media companies have a moral _____ to ensure that they do not, directly or otherwise, deliberately _____ the facts to their audiences and pass them off for news. If it is a post-truth world we _____, this becomes especially important.
 - (a) obligation, distort, desire
 - (b) commitment, tarnish, denounce
 - (c) responsibility, misrepresent, inhabit
 - (d) purport, besmirch, stigmatize
 - (e) implication, enhance, reside
5. Activists in the country have long protested its _____ society that essentially _____ women from travelling, marrying or attending college without permission from a male relative, who is called their _____.
 - (a) benevolent, forbid, steward
 - (b) Pre- Adamite, prevent, custodian
 - (c) pre-eminent, restrict, protector
 - (d) venerable, condemns, manacle.
 - (e) patriarchal, prohibits, guardian.

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1. (d) "Stalwart, extra ordinary, opportunities" is the correct choice.
Stalwart means loyal, reliable, and hard-working.
2. (a) "Threatened, retaliatory, weapons" is the correct choice.
"Retaliatory means the action of returning a military attack; counter-attack."
3. (b) Invocation means the action of invoking someone or something.
Proletariat means working-class people regarded collectively (often used with reference to Marxism).
4. (c) "Responsibility, misrepresent, inhabit" fits the blanks most appropriately.
5. (e) Patriarchal means relating to or denoting a system of society or government controlled by men.
Prohibits means formally forbid (something) by law, rule, or other authority.

9. Cloze Test

Directions (Qs. 1-10): Read the following passage and answer the questions as directed.

Joining “Hamilton”, a Broadway show, and concerts by Adele, a British soul diva, on the list of tickets-to-kill-for in New York is a screening in an ugly new office building that recently **_21_(vacillant)** in the East Village, a place best known for **_22_(ramble)** culture. There is a ten-week-long queue to see simulations by Watson, IBM’s **_23_(clash)** artificial-intelligence platform. Initially known for stunts such as beating human contestants on “Jeopardy!”, a quiz show, Watson has been seeking a wider audience. It has found a vast potential one in the world of financial regulation. Rules have become so **_24_(desultory)** and mysterious that even regulators have begun asking for a map. In response, a market is springing up: for “regtech”, fintech’s nerdy new offspring. On September 29th, IBM announced the purchase of Promontory, a 600-strong consultancy whose senior staff include former officials from the Federal Reserve, the World Bank, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulators. The hope is that person and machine will combine into a vast business. Promontory was founded in 2001 by Eugene Ludwig, who had headed one of America’s primary bank-supervisory agencies. It grew first because of the **_25_(fuzzy)** of new rules during the previous, Bush administration and then prospered, says Mr Ludwig, as this process expanded under Barack Obama. Promontory has recently dabbled in software, but is best known for its employees’ background and their capacity to provide expertise (its contention), contacts (its critics’) or both. Either way, it is a profoundly human business. Watson, for all its charms, is not. Automation of financial institutions **_26_(coherent)** a core business for IBM. It played a central role in the development of the ATM; its systems keep many banks and insurance companies around the world humming along. Aware that annual expenditure on regulation and compliance is vast—it reckons in excess of \$270 billion, of which \$20 billion is spent simply on understanding the requirements—it began work on adding this business to Watson in early 2015. Chief compliance officers and lawyers were interviewed to break down their tasks and needs. The first area of focus was trading, which has the virtue of being both discrete and wildly complex. A pilot programme with half a dozen banks and three exchanges began in July, providing surveillance. A library of possible illicit schemes is fed into Watson, which can then evaluate trading patterns and communications ranging from overt messages to social media

(voice analysis will be added in November). Scrutiny can extend to the network of people on the other end of trades in order to untangle complex relationships. The next area is to provide clarity about rules. They are sorted by jurisdictions, institutional divisions, products and so forth, and then further broken down between rules and guidance. Watson is getting better at categorizing the various regulations and matching them with the appropriate enforcement mechanisms. Its conclusions are vetted, giving it an education that should improve its effectiveness in the future. Promontory’s experts are expected to help Watson learn. A dozen rules are now being **_27_(spotty)** weekly. Thousands are still to go but it is hoped the process will speed up as the system evolves. Ultimately, IBM hopes speeches by influential figures, court verdicts and other such sources will be automatically uploaded into Watson’s cloud-based brain. They can play a role in determining what regulations matter, and how they will be enforced. Global financial institutions provide an **_28_(odds)** market for these services, but so too do small, local ones that lack the scale to justify the cost of a team of legal experts. A third group is the regulators themselves, who often privately **_29_(liminal)** about being bewildered by their own remit and distrust other regulators with overlapping briefs. To some extent Watson’s success depends on whether the rules are **_30_(stringent)**, make sense and are fairly applied. At the very least, it will be able to highlight anomalies. If successful, Watson could shift legal authority from individuals to laws. That, of course, may be its greatest virtue. *[SBI PO Main, 2018]*

1. (a) bloopered (b) booked-up
(c) popped-up (d) drop-down
(e) No Change Required
2. (a) wild (b) offbeat
(c) quaint (d) usual
(e) No Change Required
3. (a) judicious (b) deductive
(c) cognitive (d) likely
(e) No Change Required
4. (a) rambling (b) spreading
(c) growling (d) sprawling
(e) No Change Required
5. (a) scattering (b) slathering
(c) dissipating (d) dabbing
(e) No Change Required
6. (a) has been long (b) has long been
(c) had been long (d) had long been
(e) No Change Required

7. (a) assimilated (b) adopted 9. (a) adoration (b) grouse
(c) separated (d) rejected (c) approval (d) award
(e) No Change Required (e) No Change Required
8. (a) conspicuous (b) mysterious 10. (a) steady (b) stiff
(c) steep (d) obvious (c) consistent (d) contradictory
(e) No Change Required (e) No Change Required

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1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (d) 5. (b)
6. (b) 7. (a) 8. (d) 9. (b) 10. (c)

10. Phrase Replacement

Directions (Qs. 1-6): Which of the following phrases (I), (II), and (III) given below each sentence should replace the phrase printed in bold letters to make the sentence grammatically correct? Choose the best option among the five given alternatives that reflect the correct use of phrase in the context of the grammatically correct sentence. If the sentence is correct as it is, mark (e) i.e., "No correction required" as the answer.

1. Every Open House we held since 2013 reaffirmed our belief that there is a need for human intervention **to retain its trust and credibility over the age of** anonymous communication.
 - (I) to retain trust and credibility in this age of
 - (II) to retaining trust and credibility ageing
 - (III) for retention of trust and credible age of
 - (a) Only (I) is correct
 - (b) Only (III) is correct
 - (c) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 - (d) Both (II) and (III) are correct
 - (e) No correction required
2. **How it is possible for** a multi-edition newspaper to produce completely different newspapers for various cities?
 - (I) Is it possible for
 - (II) Does it possible to
 - (III) How is it possible for
 - (a) Only (I) is correct
 - (b) Only (II) is correct
 - (c) Only (III) is correct
 - (d) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 - (e) No correction required
3. It is a process where continuity and change **are in consonance with each other**, where the introduction of a new segment does not subsume the importance of the existing segments.
 - (I) is in consonance with one another
 - (II) are in consonant to one another
 - (III) is in consonance at each other
 - (a) Only (I) is correct
 - (b) Only (II) is correct
 - (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 - (d) Both (II) and (III) are correct
 - (e) No correction required
4. **With cyberspace giving** an opportunity to many to express themselves, the question that remains unanswered is whether their voices are heard? *[IBPS PO Pre, 2017]*
 - (I) As cyberspace might be giving
 - (II) While cyberspace may have given
 - (III) Although cyberspace has given
 - (a) Only (I) is correct
 - (b) Only (II) is correct
 - (c) Both (I) and (III) are correct
 - (d) Both (II) and (III) are correct
 - (e) No correction required
5. The "Hermit Kingdom" is increasingly isolating **itself because of its** nuclear ambition that threatens its neighbourhood and the world at large.
 - (I) isolated because of *[IBPS PO Pre, 2017]*
 - (II) isolating themselves because of
 - (III) isolated themselves because of their
 - (a) Only (I) is correct
 - (b) Only (II) is correct
 - (c) Only (III) is correct
 - (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 - (e) No correction required
6. Pointing out the benefit of the GST within a month of its implementation, Modi said that goods are being transported much faster, highways have become clutter-free and pollution levels **had gone down and increased**
 - (I) are being lowered with the decreased
 - (II) have come down with the increased
 - (III) have been lowered because of decreasing
 - (a) Only (I) is correct *[IBPS PO Pre, 2017]*
 - (b) Only (II) is correct
 - (c) Only (III) is correct
 - (d) Both (I) and (II) are correct
 - (e) No correction required

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1. (a) “to retain trust and credibility in this age of” is the correct phrase to make the sentence grammatically correct. If we go by the options considering their grammar syntax, only option (I) fits into the sentence perfectly adding the required meaning to the sentence. Moreover, “in this age of anonymous communication” is the correct phrase usage which means “in this distinct period of anonymous communication”. Hence, (a) is the correct option.
2. (d) “Is it possible for” is the correct phrase to make the sentence grammatically correct. In the given sentence, the phrase “How it is” is incorrect as the sentence is Interrogative. Thus, the correct phrase should be “How is it possible for.” It is to be noticed that the sentence is in Simple Present Tense. Thus, both (I) and (III) are the correct phrases that may replace the phrase given in bold to make the sentence grammatically correct. Hence, (d) is the correct option.
3. (e) The given sentence is grammatically correct as the plural verb “are” is used in accordance to its plural subjects “continuity and change”. Moreover, the phrase “with each other” is used to frame a relation with the two. Hence, the sentence doesn’t require any correction. The three given phrases in the options make no relevant substitution to the phrase given in bold in the sentence as they do not follow the correct grammar syntax required for the sentence. Hence, (e) is the correct option.
4. (d) “While cyberspace may have given” is the correct phrase to make the sentence grammatically correct. First of all, it is to be noted that the sentence is conditional as the second part of the sentence is dependent on the first part. When we consider options provided, option (I) can be easily eliminated as the use of “As” or “Since” is incorrect in this case (“As/Since” is generally used to express the cause of its dependent clause). Moreover, “while” is the correct usage as it means “in spite of the fact that; although”. Thus both the phrases (II) and (III) provide the grammatically correct and meaningful sentences. Hence (d) is the correct option.
5. (e) The given sentence is grammatically correct as the sentence is not in Passive form. It clearly follows the syntax of Present Continuous Tense and the use of reflexive pronoun “itself” is correct as it is used for the subject “The Hermit Kingdom”. Moreover, the three phrases given in options do not follow the correct structure required for the sentence to make it grammatically correct. Hence, (e) is the correct option.
6. (b) “Have come down with the increased” is the correct phrase to make the sentence grammatically correct as the sentence is in Present Tense. It is to be noticed that the speed of trucks can’t be decreased as it is clearly mentioned that the highways have become clutter-free. Thus, the options (I) and (III) can be easily eliminated. Also, the phrasal verb “come down” means collapse or be demolished. Hence (b) is the correct option.