

BOOKS



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Directions (1-5): Read the following passage and answer the questions as directed.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is all the rage these days. A recent article noted that ‘robots’ — shorthand for AI in the tabloids — will be able to write a fiction bestseller within 50 years. I suppose that would be shocking to me as a novelist if most fiction bestsellers were not already being written by ‘robots’. Or so one feels, keeping publishing and other vogues in mind: a bit of this, a bit of that, a dash of something else, and voila you have a bestseller! In that sense, perhaps the rise of AI will make us reconsider what we mean by human intelligence. This discussion has been neglected for far too long. Take my field: literature. The Chinese company, Cheers Publishing, lately offered a collection of poems written by a computer program. So, are poets, generally considered to be suicidal in any case, jumping off the cliffs in droves as a consequence? Well, this is a selection from one of the AI poems I found online: “The rain is blowing through the sea / A bird in the sky / A night of light and calm / Sunlight / Now in the sky / Cool heart / The savage north wind / When I found a new world.”

Yes, there are aspiring poets — and sometimes established ones — who write like this, connecting words centripetally or centrifugally to create an effect. I think they should have been pushed off literary cliffs a long time ago. Because this is not poetry; this is just the technique of assembling words like poetry. There is a difference between the intelligence required to write poetry and the skills required to write it. That poetic intelligence is lost without the required poetic skills, but the skills on their own do not **(A)suffice** either. The fact that lines like this, written by AI, can be considered poetry does not reflect on the intelligence of AI. It reflects on the intelligence of those readers, writers, critics, editors, publishers and academics who have not yet distinguished between gimmickry and mimicry on the one side and the actual freshness of a chiselled line on the other. But this is a small example. Surely, AI might also make **(B)**, including that of considering something like IQ to be a sufficient index of human mental capacity! Because if we think that AI can replace human intelligence, then we are simply not thinking hard enough.

(C) One of the major **(1) activity** here is that of considering **(2) intelligence** to be something **(3) different** from and raised above the **(4) failures** of living. This leads to the misconception that intelligence can be **(D)**..... to something else — say, a robot — without becoming something else. Human intelligence cannot be passed on to something else: What is “passed on” is always a different kind of ‘intelligence’. Even the arguments that AI — or, as in the past, robots — can enable human beings to lead a gloriously workless existence is based on a similar misconception. Because human intelligence is embedded in human existence, ‘work’ as human activity in the world is not something human beings can do without.

Q1. Which of the following words can replace the word given in bold in (A) without changing the meaning of the sentence?

- (a) disperse
- (b) squander
- (c) dissipate
- (d) serve
- (e) spread



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Q2. Out of the following options which option does support the statement “**There is a difference between the intelligence required to write poetry and the skills required to write it,**” made by the author in the paragraph?

- (a) There are aspiring poets who write like this, connecting words centripetally or centrifugally to create an effect, this is not poetry; this is just the technique of assembling words like poetry.
- (b) that would be shocking to me as a novelist if most fiction bestsellers were not already being written by ‘robots.’
- (c) The lines written by AI considered as poetry does not reflect on the intelligence of AI.
- (d) Both (b) and (c)
- (e) None of the above

Q3. Which of the following phrases should fill the blank given in (B) to make it grammatically and contextually correct and meaningful?

- (a) has always been a mistake to expect him to ‘solve’ problems without human effort
- (b) us discover our basic lack of intelligence in other areas
- (c) often atheistic fans of AI who believe that it is ‘The solution’ are making the same mistake
- (d) has had a crucial role in shaping cognitive capacity and brain evolution
- (e) None of the Above

Q4. The sentence given in (C) has four words given in bold. Amongst given bolded words, which of the followings must replace each other to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful.

- (a) 2-4
- (b) 2-3
- (c) 1-4
- (d) 3-4
- (e) 1-3

Q5. Which of the following words given in the options should come at the place marked as ‘D’ in the above paragraph to make it grammatically and contextually meaningful and correct? Also, the word should fill the two sentences given below to make them contextually correct and meaningful?

- (i) They aim to prevent women from being to a secondary role.
- (ii) United were to division two.
- (a) forecasted
- (b) relegated
- (c) researched
- (d) published
- (e) vanished

Directions (6-10): Read the following passage and answer the questions as directed.

We expect individuals **(I)** to take charge of their lives, to assume responsibility for their decisions. But when individuals group together, a problem arises. Groups can't take charge of themselves, nor can every member simultaneously take charge of the entire group. Someone from the group is invariably asked to show the way, to become the primary agent, to lead. Yet, not everyone who occupies high office is a leader. A person who merely **(II)** or has management skills is not a leader. Moreover, not everyone who assumes the role of a leader is able to play it well. What qualities then make for a leader? Which **(A) virtues** are required to provide ethical leadership? I suppose there is little new **(III)**. But let me still give it a shot in the hope that it serves as a good reminder. And in the election year, why not focus on qualities necessary for political leadership?

If a person is chosen to lead the group, it is her responsibility to take care of the interest of each person of the entire group. This often **(B)**..... putting collective interest before her own interest or that of her preferred group. For this to happen, she must first be able to identify the common good, to have a grasp of what is acceptable to all, to have an inclusive vision. This requires an infinite capacity to listen to others, to learn from them, to have the intellectual ability to critically examine and evaluate what everyone wants and needs, and then put them all together. *Since this intellectual formulation can only be the first step, an estimate of the real quality of a decision is not known until it is implemented;***(C)** *This requires him to keep his ear to the ground, listen patiently to criticism to judge if his policies are working.* He must not be defensive when criticised, or evade uncomfortable questions, but face criticism head on and be able to sift the wheat from the chaff. It also necessitates that a leader show flexibility and an ability for course correction by admitting mistakes. He should know that one's stature is not diminished by accepting fallibility. A leader must be a good communicator, and that is greatly helped if he has a way with words. But all the rhetorical flourish is of no avail if the speech lacks sincerity and conviction. Finally, a good leader knows that nothing can be achieved without the collective expertise and wisdom of a support team.

It is equally tempting to pick those one has taken a fancy to, who are personally loyal. But such people often lack spine. **(D)** *Fearful people with poor ability can never offer good advice to their leader and could allow bad decisions to prevail that push the country down a ruinous path.* Besides, they are often among the first to backstab the leader once out of power. Thus, personal likes and dislikes too must be set aside.

Q6. Which of the following words can replace the word given in bold in (A) without changing the meaning of the sentence?

- (a) gentry
- (b) Fortes
- (c) rage
- (d) tantrum
- (e) rampage

Q7. In the Question below three phrases are given which must be filled in the positions given in I, II and III in the passage. From the options given below, choose the correct order of phrases that should be filled in the positions given.

- A. one can say on this matter
- B. to be their own leaders
- C. coordinates the actions of others

- (a) ABC
- (b) CAB
- (c) BCA
- (d) BAC
- (e) ACB

Q8. Which of the following words should fill in the blank in (B) to make a contextually correct and meaningful sentence?

- (a) arouse
- (b) entails
- (c) sheers
- (d) garners
- (e) evokes

Q9. Two sentences are given in italics on both sides of C. Which of the following statements can come in between the two sentences in place of C so as to maintain the continuity of the paragraph?

- (a) this means that our leaders must owe supreme loyalty to nothing
- (b) understand the purpose of the job, can speak their mind, and are able, without fear
- (c) such persons can be identified only by one who possesses these qualities
- (d) Its deficiencies begin to show up only when put into practice.
- (e) None of the above

Q10. In the passage given, a sentence D is given in Italics. There may or may not be an error in one part of the sentence. Choose the part which has an error in it as your answer.

- (a) Fearful people with poor ability can
- (b) never offer good advice to their leader
- (c) and could allow bad decisions to prevail
- (d) that push the country down a ruinous path.
- (e) no error




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Directions (11-15): Read the following passage and answer the questions as directed.

Start-ups troubled by the so-called angel tax may soon receive some **(A)**..... from the government. On Monday, the Centre set up a five-member working committee to look into revising the **(B) norms** of the angel tax imposed on start-ups. The tax, which was first introduced in 2012 to curb money-laundering through the **(i)** at bloated prices, has caused a lot of anguish among start-up investors in the country. Start-up owners have complained that income tax officials have asked many start-ups to cough up money when they try to attract capital into their entities by issuing new shares. For its part, the IT department fears that start-ups may be used as convenient tools to launder illegally acquired money, so a tax on investments beyond a certain threshold is **(ii)**. **(C)** But while the **(1) unintended** of such an angel tax may be **(2) benefits**, the arbitrary nature of it means the cost of **(3) intent** consequences could be larger than the supposed **(4) justifiable**. In trying to curb money-laundering, Section 56(2)(viib) of the Indian Income Tax Act, 1961 gives income tax officials a free hand to harass even genuine start-ups looking to raise investments for their growth. Under the Act, the IT department is free to arbitrarily decide the fair value of a company's share and tax start-ups if the price at which their new shares are sold to investors is higher than the fair value of these shares. The broad-brush tax on all investments means an unnecessary cost is **(iii)**community simply because of the lack of better means at the government's disposal to tackle black money.

The committee set up by the government will, among other things, consider raising the threshold beyond which new investments into start-ups will be taxed. It is expected that start-ups with aggregate paid-up share capital and share premium of less than ₹25 crore, against the previous threshold of only ₹10 crore, will not be taxed while attracting new investment. This would definitely make life easier to a certain extent for angel investors and start-ups. But it will not address the real problem with the angel tax, which has to do with the unbridled power that it vests in the hands of the income tax authorities. Investors, foreign or domestic, may become wary of investing in new ideas when they are taxed while risking money on untested ventures. So the government should look to withdraw the angel tax and focus instead on building the capability to better identify and rein in illegal wealth. Otherwise it risks killing the nascent start-up ecosystem in the country.

Q11. Which of the following words should fill in the blank in (A) to make a contextually correct and meaningful sentence?

- (a) collusion
- (b) commotion
- (c) concession
- (d) digression
- (e) fluctuation

Q12. Which of the following words can replace the word given in bold in (B) without changing the meaning of the sentence?

- (a) Measures
- (b) Deviations
- (c) Regulations
- (d) Standards
- (e) Abbreviations

Q13. In the question below three phrases are given which must be filled in the positions given in i, ii and iii in the passage. From the options given below, choose the correct order of phrases that should be filled in the positions given.

- A. necessary to deter such shady operations
- B. sale of shares of private unlisted companies
- C. imposed on the wider start-up
- (a) ABC
- (b) CAB
- (c) BCA
- (d) BAC
- (e) ACB

Q14. The sentence given in C has four words given in bold. Amongst given bolded words, which of the followings must replace each other to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful.

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

Q15. As per the information given in the passage, out of the following options which option does best explain the term “angel investor”?

- (a) Angel investors are those who don't look for the low risk investment that might yield a more reliable return, because those startups fail too.
- (b) Angel investors are those who own shares in the business, not revenue, and not profits.
- (c) An angel investor is an affluent individual who provides capital for a business start-up.
- (d) Angel investors are often retired entrepreneurs or executives, who may be interested in angel investing for reasons that go beyond pure monetary return.
- (e) None of the above

Directions (16-20): In each of the following questions a grammatically correct and meaningful sentence is given with four words given in bold in each. Which of the following words should replace each other to form a meaningful and grammatically correct sentence. The meaning can be different from the one in question.

Q16. The Central government is unable to provide the funds while Kerala has been stopped in its (A) **tracks from seeking resources from (B) **abroad**, either from the Kerala (C) **diaspora** or from friendly (D) **overseas** governments.**

- (a) C-B
- (b) A-D
- (c) B-D
- (d) A-B
- (e) No Interchange Possible

Q17. Immediately the sympathies of the (A) **police** and (B) **magistrates**, some sections of the media and (C) **public** opinion swing towards the (D) **perpetrator**, not the victim.

- (a) A-C
- (b) A-B
- (c) B-D
- (d) B-A
- (e) No Interchange Possible

Q18. It is (A) **imperative** that there be course corrections; otherwise the (B) **exercise** runs the risk of fueling a (C) **parallel** movement against the state by those being (D) **victimised** now.

- (a) A-D
- (b) A-C
- (c) A-B
- (d) B-D
- (e) No interchange is possible

Q19. The tsunami of 2004 and the (A) **threat** of piracy in the Indian Ocean provided India an (B) **opportunity** to test its new posture. Everybody was (C) **grateful**, but it made no difference to India's claim to (D) **permanent** membership.

- (a) No interchange possible
- (b) A-B
- (c) B-C
- (d) B-D
- (e) A-D

Q20. The government has (A) **tampered** with institutions by appointing its own people to positions of (B) **authority**, and by using the (C) **Enforcement Directorate**, Income Tax authorities, the Central Bureau of Investigation and the (D) **police** as bulldozers to flatten out any site of opposition.

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

Directions (21-25): In each of the following questions a sentence is given with a word given in **BOLD**. Corresponding to each question three sentences are given with the use of the same word. From the options choose the sentences which give a **DIFFERENT MEANING** for the word used in the sentence above. The meaning used in the sentence(s) should be different from the one used in the main sentence.

Q21. The leaders of our ruling **dispensation** seem to have no respect for the rule of law, nor for the rules that regulate speech in public spaces.

(I) Because the soldier had saved his entire unit, the president gave him **dispensation** for his wartime crimes.

(II) Scholarship is conveyed to a wider audience than under the old **dispensation**.

(III) At the close of the Jubilee this **dispensation** was extended to all who had expired on the way to Rome.

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- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Only III
- (d) Both I and II
- (e) Both I and III

Q22. This is the latest instalment in the rather **sordid** story of institutional decay in India, overseen by the leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

(I) He remained, however, uncertain how to do so without immersing himself further in Lydia Larkin's **sordid** activities.

(II) The overcrowded housing conditions were **sordid** and degrading.

(III) Everyone knows of the bank's manager **sordid** plan to steal the money.

- (a) Only III
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Only I
- (e) Both II and III

Q23. Competitive federalism, in the context of interaction with foreign countries, **promoted** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has proved to be a double-edged sword.

(I) In 1761 he was **promoted** to be member of council, under the presidency of Mr Vansittart, who had been introduced by Clive

(II) The industry was actively **promoted** by a Frenchman named Jumel, in the service of Mehemet Ali, from 1820 onwards with great success.

(III) He actively **promoted** the incorporation of the left bank of the Rhine with France.

- (a) Only III
- (b) Both I and II
- (c) Only I
- (d) Both II and III
- (e) All of the above

Q24. When India's aspiration for permanent membership of the UN Security Council met with strong **resistance**, New Delhi hit upon the idea of forcing a vote in the General Assembly.

(I) The president's healthcare plan drew a lot of **resistance** from his political rivals.

(II) The employees' showed their **resistance** to the salary cuts by picketing outside the factory.

(III) He also investigated electrical endosmosis and the electrical **resistance** of electrolytes.

- (a) Only II
- (b) Both I and II
- (c) Only II
- (d) Only III
- (e) None of the above

Q25. The constitutional framework does not provide thick or **substantive** conceptions of how we shall think, and in what we shall believe.

(I) Why should I take the herb when there is no **substantive** proof it will ease my pain

(II) Not only do we hear of these varieties of practice, but also of the laying on of hands; together with prayer as a **substantive** rite unconnected with baptism.

(III) They said no **substantive** objections to the agreement have been raised

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both II and III
- (d) All of the above
- (e) None of the above

Directions (26-30): In the questions given below a sentence is given with two blanks in each. Corresponding to each question two columns are given with three words in each column. Which combination of words from the two columns will perfectly fit into the blanks to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful.

Q26. Mutual political suspicion and a lack of of the complexities of the international situation have brought about a confrontation. The Chief Minister may have even made and tactical misjudgments.

Column I

- A. Appreciation
- B. Acknowledgement
- C. Plethora

- (a) C-E
- (b) A-F
- (c) B-F and A-E
- (d) B-D
- (e) C-D

Column II

- D. Acceptable
- E. Diplomatic
- F. Strategic

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Q27. The investigation also that another pilot flying as Staff On Duty entered the cockpit after pressing the cockpit buzzer several times. The pilot in command that he allowed the SOD inside the cockpit because the buzzer was distracting.

Column I

- A. Divulged
- B. Rejected
- C. Communicated

- (a) C-D
- (b) B-E
- (c) A-E
- (d) A-F
- (e) B-E

Column II

- D. Advanced
- E. Submitted
- F. Recommended

Q28. A committee, chaired by Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan, has wildlife clearance to the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed train corridor that upon a flamingo sanctuary and the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, home to leopards, in Mumbai.

Column I

- A. Alienated
- B. Estranged
- C. Accorded
- (a) A-F
- (b) B-D and A-E
- (c) C-F
- (d) C-D
- (e) B-E

Column II

- D. Encroaches
- E. Repelled
- F. Admonish

Q29. The CBI says there was no proper response to the earlier it sent to the Police Commissioner, and alleges that he could have destroyed evidence that was initially gathered by the Special Investigation Team that he had in the initial stage of the probe.

Column I

- A. Declaration
- B. Summonses
- C. Command
- (a) A-D
- (b) C-E
- (c) B-E
- (d) B-F and C-E
- (e) B-F and B-D

Column II

- D. Supervised
- E. Govern
- F. Administered

Q30. Following Taylor, we can rightly wonder why political power should be exercised, implemented and without rules. Assertions of political power affect our interests and our projects.

Column I

- A. fickle
- B. executed
- C. finished
- (a) A-E
- (b) C-D
- (c) A-C and B-E
- (d) B-E
- (e) C-F

Column II

- D. sabotage
- E. adversely
- F. negatively

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Directions (31-35): In the following questions, a grammatically correct and meaningful sentence is given which is divided into five parts, (A),(B),(C),(D) and (E). Part (E) is fixed and highlighted in BOLD. You have to arrange the other four parts to make a contextually and grammatically meaningful sentence (the meaning can be different from the one given in the question). If no such rearrangement is possible mark (e) as your answer i.e. 'No rearrangement is possible'.

Q31. of formal and informal rules, assure (A)/according to some norms that enable as well as (B) / institutions, as the embodiment (C) / citizens that the government exercises power (D) /**regulate state capacity (E).**

- (a) ACBDE
- (b) CADBE
- (c) DABCE
- (d) BACDE
- (e) BDCAE

Q32. British rule, secularism was an article of faith across(A)/ the ideological spectrum, though only in a limited definition as (B) / the community-based template of political competition introduced under (C) / in the aftermath of Partition, seen as the outcome of (D)/**a seamless sense of national identity. (E)**

- (a) BADA E
- (b) CBDA E
- (c) ACBDE
- (d) DCABE
- (e) CABDE

Q33. the exclusion was not based on gender or sex, but on religious (A) / by veteran lawyer K. Parasaran, sought a (B) / the Nair Service Society, represented (C)/ review of the verdict on the ground that (D) /**faith in and character of the deity. (E)**

- (a) DACBE
- (b) ABDCE
- (c) CBDAE
- (d) BCDAE
- (e) CBADE

Q34. represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, (A) / while Mr. Venugopal said he did not (B) /on Mr. Bhushan, the government, (C)/ want the court to impose any punishment (D) /**was of the opposite opinion. (E)**

- (a) DABCE
- (b) BDCAE
- (c) CDABE
- (d) ABCDE
- (e) CDBAE

Q35. deposit-taking activities altogether, by making them an offence (A) /the principle is that the Bill would ban unregulated (B) / framework that only comes into effect (C) / ex-ante rather than the existing legislative-cum-regulatory (D) /**ex-post with considerable time lags. (E)**

- (a) ADCBE
- (b) BACDE
- (c) CDBAE
- (d) DABCE
- (e) BADCE

Directions (36-40): In the questions given below five words are given in which four of them have a similar meaning and one word is the antonym for the other four words. Choose the word, opposite in meaning to the other four, as your answer.

Q36. (a) incommensurate

- (b) inordinate
- (c) unsymmetrical
- (d) proportionate
- (e) lopsided

Q37. (a) Dissipate

- (b) Lavish
- (c) Splurge
- (d) Squander
- (e) Retrieve

Q38. (a) fractious

- (b) affable
- (c) grouchy
- (d) bad-tempered
- (e) shrewish

Q39. (a) conciseness

- (b) eloquence
- (c) rhetoric
- (d) magniloquence
- (e) blarney

Q40. (a) eradicate

- (b) exterminate
- (c) abolish
- (d) ratify
- (e) quash





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