

Quiz Date: 1st August 2020

Directions (1-10): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Paragraph 1: In approving the National Education Policy 2020 on July 29, the Union Cabinet has taken an important step forward in India's transition from deprivation to development. It marks the fourth major policy initiative in education since Independence. The last one was undertaken a good 34 years ago and modified in 1992. Given our current demographic profile, the stage of development we are in, and the aspirations of our youth, the new policy has not come a day too soon. Based on two committee reports and extensive nationwide consultations, NEP 2020 is sweeping in its vision and seeks to address the entire gamut of education from preschool to doctoral studies, and from professional degrees to vocational training. It acknowledges the 21st century need for mobility, flexibility, alternate pathways to learning, and self-actualisation.

Paragraph 2: India has faced unprecedented challenges in providing quality education to children and the youth. Lack of resources and capacity, dozens of mother tongues, a link language that despite being the global language of choice is alien to most, and a persistent mismatch between the knowledge and skills imparted and the jobs available have been some of the challenges that have **bedeviled** our efforts since Independence. The 2020 policy attempts to break free from the **shackles** of the past. In adopting a 5+3+3+4 model for school education starting at age 3, it recognises the primacy of the formative years from ages 3 to 8 in shaping the child's future. It also recognises the importance of learning in the child's mother tongue till at least Class 5. Here, we are up against the strong desire of parents today, born of pragmatism, to give a head start to their children by exposing them to English from day one. Maybe we should recognize that between ages 3 and 8, picking up languages is child's play, and blend the mother tongue and English in the first five years of school. *Multilingual **felicity** could become the USP of the educated Indian.*

Paragraph 3: Another key aspect of school education in the new policy is the breaking of the straitjackets of arts, commerce and science streams in high school, and the laudable goal of introducing vocational courses with internship. How exactly this will be realised is to be worked out, given the penchant of overzealous parents to "stream" their children into professions at the earliest. The '**blue-collarisation**' of vocations in our society is also a hurdle to be overcome, but this need not deter us from recognising the merits of the proposed policy. Needless to say, the policy envisages 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030.

Paragraph 4: In keeping with the philosophy of flexibility in enabling our students to deviate from the straight and narrow, NEP 2020 proposes a multi-disciplinary higher education framework with portable credits, and multiple exits with certificates, diplomas and degrees. An ambitious GER of 50% is envisaged by 2035. At the apex will be Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities, where research will be supported by a new National Research Foundation. The role of our colleges in attaining the ambitious GER target is recognized by empowering them as autonomous degree-granting institutions, and phasing out the affiliated college, a unique Indian beast that is(A). The huge potential of online pedagogy and learning methodologies for attaining the GER target is recognised and sought to be tapped extensively.

Q1. How NEP addresses the entire gamut of education in the country?

- (i) It primarily acknowledges 21st century education requirements
- (ii) It aims at the needs of mobility and flexibility.
- (iii) It focuses on alternatives for learning and self-actualization

- (a) Only (i)
- (b) Both (i) and (ii)
- (c) Only (iii)
- (d) all (i), (ii), and (iii)
- (e) None of the above

Q2. What are the challenges faced by the country while providing quality education?

- (i) There isn't a single mother tongue
- (ii) Lack of skilled and trained teachers
- (iii) Deficit in adequacy of resources and capacity of education system
- (iv) There isn't sufficient political will to bring about changes in education system
- (v) Constant mismatch between the imparted skill and available jobs

- (a) (i), (ii), and, (iii)
- (b) (i), (iv), (v)
- (c) (i), (iii), (v)
- (d) (i), (iii), (v) and (iv)
- (e) All of the above

Q3. How the 5+3+3+4 model is significant in breaking the previous restraints?

- (a) It recognizes age 3 to 8 years of a child as formative years for building child's future
- (b) The model also prioritizes importance of learning in mother tongue of the child for at least 5th class.
- (c) The adoption of this model will address poor learning outcomes in schools
- (d) both (a) and (c)
- (e) Both (a) and (b)

L1 Difficulty 3

Q Tags Reading Comprehension

Q4. What the italicized statement, '*Multilingual felicity could become the USP of the educated Indian.*' means as given in the passage?

- (i) The NEP 2020 identifies significance of learning in child's mother tongue for at least 5th standard.
- (ii) Along with learning in mother tongue, exposing children to English from age 3 to 8 would develop multilingual skills.
- (iii) The multilingual learning would promote more educated people in the country.

- (a) Only (iii)
- (b) Both (i) and (iii)
- (c) Both (ii) and (ii)
- (d) Only (ii)
- (e) None of the above

Q5. Which of the following describes the phrase "**blue collarisation of vocations**" as mentioned in the passage?

- (a) The vocational courses are stereotypically looked down upon as such works involve hard manual labour.
- (b) People getting vocational training do not get much respect in society.
- (c) Blue collar Vs. White collar is kind of training people acquire in life
- (d) The tasks involved in vocational courses are physically exhausting
- (e) None of these

Q6. How NEP is trying to keep with its philosophy of flexibility in education system?

- (a) It proposes multi-disciplinary higher education framework
- (b) It aims at providing portable credits, multiple exits with degrees, diplomas and certificates
- (c) The colleges will be empowered to grant degree autonomously removing affiliation
- (d) All of the above
- (e) none of these

Q7. Which of the following can fill in the blank (A) to make the sentence contextually correct and meaningful?

- (a) at the mercy of
- (b) at daggers drawn
- (c) a double-edged sword
- (d) neither fish nor fowl
- (e) a new lease of life



Q8. Which of the following is most similar in meaning with **BEDEVIL** as highlighted in the passage?

- (a) Incongruity
- (b) Scourge
- (c) Stupor
- (d) Casuistry
- (e) Fulmination

Q9. Which of the following is opposite in meaning with **SHACKLE** as highlighted in the passage?

- (a) Vitriol
- (b) Dulcet
- (c) Jarring
- (d) Unfetter
- (e) Covert

Q10. Which of the following pair of words indicates one similar and one opposite in meaning with **FELICITY** as highlighted in the passage?

- (a) Bidding, Expedite
- (b) Dithering, Entreaty
- (c) Adherent, Impartial
- (d) Calibrated, Dissimilate
- (e) Eloquent, Inarticulate

Directions (11-15): In each of the following questions a short passage is given with one of the lines in the passage missing and represented by a blank. Select the best out of the four answer choices given, to make the passage complete and coherent (coherent means logically complete and sound). If none of the options could fit in the blank, Mark your answer (e); "None of these".

Q11. Pakistan has had a history of banning books and social media platforms like YouTube and Facebook. A new wave of banning has started in the country, once again. Recently, the Punjab Curriculum and Textbook Board banned one hundred school books in a single day for containing content deemed 'anti-national' and 'blasphemous'. PCTB's managing director, RaiManzoorHussainNasir, told Geo TV that they are currently _____. All of this is taking place under the Punjab Curriculum and Textbook Board Act, 2015, which was passed by the previous Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government.

- (a) sitting around in one place and playing around for long hours
- (b) banning online apps that make no sense but revoke moral policing
- (c) examining over 10,000 books being taught in private schools
- (d) firing some academics from their job due to their activism
- (e) None of these

Q12. Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) on Thursday beat Street estimates to record a 31 per cent rise in consolidated net profit for the first quarter ended June 30, riding on the performance of the telecom business along with a one-time gain from a stake sale. The oil-to-telecom conglomerate posted a net profit of Rs 13,233 crore in a quarter that saw the Covid-19 pandemic _____. The gross refining margin (GRM) of the company proved to be a disappointment. Reliance earned \$6.3 per barrel as GRM against \$8.1 a year ago and \$8.9 per barrel in the preceding quarter.

- (a) was the reason for the profit surge
- (b) affecting its core refining business and organised retail
- (c) falling in top-lines in all the other major businesses
- (d) impacted our hydrocarbons business but the flexibility remained unaltered
- (e) None of these

Q13. Your phone alarm goes off at 6am. You check some news sites and Facebook. It's bad news after bad news. Coronavirus cases keep climbing, and so do deaths. Children can't go back to school. Your favourite restaurant and barbershop are still closed. People are losing their jobs. Everything is awful. You haven't climbed out of your pit of despair to even shower. You repeat this masochistic exercise during your lunch break — and again while getting ready for bed. _____ while bingeing on doom-and-gloom news is so common that there's now Internet lingo for it: "doomscrolling".

- (a) This experience of sinking into emotional quicksand
- (b) By some measure our screen time has jumped at least 50%
- (c) To resist information bingeing, we can create a plan to control
- (d) Creating a schedule in an effective approach
- (e) None of these

Q14. Milk is the first food that infants ingest for sustenance. It contains a sugar called lactose which cannot be absorbed by the body as it is. Lactose is broken down in the intestines by the enzyme lactase into glucose and galactose, which is then absorbed. _____. Its production is determined by a gene which is switched on at birth. The lactase gradually decreases as the child gets older. After the age

of one, 400ml of milk is all that is required in a day.

- (a) The production of lactase is genetically determined
- (b) They can tolerate large volumes of milk and dairy products
- (c) At birth, the intestines contain plenty of lactase
- (d) In Europe, the gene is slightly different
- (e) None of these

Q15. ArcelorMittal has completed the acquisition of Odisha Slurry Pipeline Infrastructure Ltd (OSPIL) for a net consideration of Rs 1,860 crore, filling a much needed gap in its supply chain logistics to procure iron ore for Essar Steel. ArcelorMittal had acquired Essar Steel for Rs 42,000 crore in partnership with Nippon Steel of Japan. _____ from the mine heads inside Odisha to the Paradip port without depending on road or rail network. The ore is then converted to pellets, loaded in ships and taken to Hazira in Gujarat where the Essar plant is located.

- (a) It had challenged the NCLT order at the appellate tribunal
- (b) Hearing on the matter was delayed because of the lockdowns
- (c) Crude steel production also fell to 1.2 million tones (mt)
- (d) The pipeline is a key infrastructure to ferry ore
- (e) None of these



Solutions

S1. Ans. (d)

Sol. refer to the lines of paragraph 1, the hint can be drawn from the lines, ***NEP 2020 is sweeping in its vision and seeks to address the entire gamut of education from preschool to doctoral studies, and from professional degrees to vocational training. It acknowledges the 21st century need for mobility, flexibility, alternate pathways to learning, and self-actualisation.***

Hence, **option (d)** is the right answer choice.

S2. Ans. (c)

Sol. Refer to the paragraph 2, the hint can be drawn from the lines, ***India has faced unprecedented challenges in providing quality education to children and the youth. Lack of resources and capacity, dozens of mother tongues, a link language that despite being the global language of choice is alien to most, and a persistent mismatch between the knowledge and skills imparted and the jobs available have been some of the challenges that have bedeviled our efforts since Independence.***

Hence, **option (c)** is the right answer choice.

S3. Ans. (e)

Sol. refer to the lines of paragraph 2, the hint can be drawn from the lines, *The 2020 policy attempts to break free from the shackles of the past. In adopting a 5+3+3+4 model for school education starting at age 3, it recognises the primacy of the formative years from ages 3 to 8 in shaping the child's future. It also recognises the importance of learning in the child's mother tongue till at least Class 5.*

Hence, **option (e)** is the right answer choice.

S4. Ans. (d)

Sol. Refer to the paragraph 2, the hint can be drawn from the lines, *Here, we are up against the strong desire of parents today, born of pragmatism, to give a head start to their children by exposing them to English from day one. Maybe we should recognize that between ages 3 and 8, picking up languages is child's play, and blend the mother tongue and English in the first five years of school. Multilingual felicity could become the USP of the educated Indian.*

Hence, **option (d)** is the right answer choice.

S5. Ans. (a)

Sol. "*Blue collar*" and "*white collar*" are two terms in the English language that evoke very different pictures. *The blue-collar worker is perceived to make less than the white-collar worker. The white-collar worker might work behind a desk in the service industry, while the blue-collar worker gets his hands dirty doing manual labor or working in a division of manufacturing. Perhaps the white-collar worker has a more well-rounded education than the blue collar worker.*

As per the above lines, **option (a)** defines the "blue collarisation of vocations" and is the most viable answer choice.

S6. Ans. (d)

Sol. Refer to the paragraph 4, the hint can be drawn from the lines, *NEP 2020 proposes a multi-disciplinary higher education framework with portable credits, and multiple exits with certificates, diplomas and degrees. An ambitious GER of 50% is envisaged by 2035. At the apex will be Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities, where research will be supported by a new National Research Foundation. The role of our colleges in attaining the ambitious GER target is recognized by empowering them as autonomous degree-granting institutions, and phasing out the affiliated college.*

Hence, **option (d)** is the right answer choice.

S7. Ans. (d)

Sol. **Neither fish nor fowl:** Neither one thing nor another; not belonging to any suitable class or description; not recognizable or characteristic of any one particular thing.

At the mercy of: in the power of, in the control of, unprotected against

At daggers drawn: if two people are at daggers drawn, they angrily oppose each other, disagree, contradict, differ

A double-edged sword: something which is having both good and bad outcomes

A new lease of life: An improved and energetic life after making something better than before.

Hence, **option (d)** is the right answer choice.

S8. Ans. (b)

Sol. **Bedevil:** (of something bad) cause great and continual trouble to.

Scourge: a person or thing that causes great trouble or suffering.

Incongruity: the state of being incongruous; incompatibility.

Stupor: a state of near-unconsciousness or insensibility.

Casualty: the use of clever but unsound reasoning, especially in relation to moral questions; sophistry.

Fulmination: an expression of vehement protest.

Hence, **option (b)** is the right answer choice.

S9. Ans. (d)

Sol. **Shackle**: a situation or factor that restrains or restricts someone or something.

Unfetter: release from restraint or inhibition.

Vitriol: bitter criticism or malice.

Dulcet: (especially of sound) sweet and soothing (often used ironically).

Jarring: incongruous in a striking or shocking way; clashing.

Covert: not openly acknowledged or displayed.

Hence, **option (d)** is the right answer choice.

S10. Ans. (e)

Sol. **Felicity**: the ability to find appropriate expression for one's thoughts.

Eloquent: clearly expressing or indicating something.

Inarticulate: unable to express one's ideas or feelings clearly or easily.

S11. Ans. (c)

Sol. "**examining over 10,000 books being taught in private schools**" makes the passage complete and coherent. Hence, **option (c)** is the right answer choice.

S12. Ans. (b)

Sol. "**affecting its core refining business and organised retail**" makes the passage complete and coherent. Hence, **option (b)** is the right answer choice.

S13. Ans. (a)

Sol. "**This experience of sinking into emotional quicksand**" makes the passage complete and coherent. Hence, **option (a)** is the right answer choice.

S14. Ans. (c)

Sol. "**At birth, the intestines contain plenty of lactase.**" makes the passage complete and coherent.

Hence, **option (c)** is the right answer choice.

S15. Ans. (d)

Sol. "**The pipeline is a key infrastructure to ferry ore**" makes the passage complete and coherent.

Hence, **option (d)** is the right answer choice.

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