

**READING COMPREHENSION**

**Directions for questions 1 to 5:** Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.

A dog is very sensitive to atmosphere. He knows when you have lost your temper almost before you do- and if you want to do anything with a dog never lose your temper! Whatever you do with him, do calmly and under full control, especially when you correct him. Talking of this awareness of atmosphere his utter loyalty can lead to great jealousy. When I married, my little dog- Paragon was his name- nearly wrecked the home with his jealousy. The bottom had fallen out of his life when an intruder came into the management of the house, and he would sit about with his back to us, his back a speaking picture of misery, looking blindly into space. It was years before he would condescend to recognize my wife's existence. More dangerous is the jealousy a dog can develop towards a new baby in the family. Another thing to remember is that a dog is fond of company, specially the company of his own kind. In a wild state they habitually go about in groups, either small family groups or in packs; and you can see the same instinct at work in civilization. Dogs loose in streets or in parks will nearly always gravitate into gangs, following each other around looking for mischief or adventure like so many urchins. So it is a good thing to let your dog have plenty of friends. The lonely dog will often become a fighter.

- 'That your dog knows when you are about to lose your temper' is an example for the dog's?  
(a) Intelligence (b) Loyalty  
(c) Sensitivity to atmosphere (d) Love of the master
- A dog is fond of the company of \_\_\_\_  
(a) Babies (b) Human beings (c) Other dogs (d) Urchins
- When the writer's wife came to live with him, his dog, Paragon, took years to recognize her existence. This shows the dog's?  
(a) Anger (b) Jealousy  
(c) Loyalty (d) Lack of intelligence
- The writer compares loose dogs to urchins because they?  
(a) Form gangs.  
(b) Follow each other around.  
(c) Move in streets or parks.  
(d) Form gangs and look for mischief or adventure.
- The word "gravitate" (paragraph 2) in the context means:  
(a) Get (b) Form (c) Fight (d) Be happy

**Directions for questions 6 to 11:** Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.

Great books do not spring from something accidental in the great men who write them. They are the effluence of their very core, the expression of the life itself of the authors. And literature cannot be said to have served its true purpose until it has been translated into the actual life of him who reads. It is the vast reservoir of true ideas and emotions. In a world deprived of literature, the broad, the noble, the generous would tend to disappear and life would be correspondingly degraded, because the wrong idea and the petty emotion would never feel the upward pull of the ideas and emotions of genius. Only by conceiving a society without literature can it be clearly realized that the function of literature is to raise the plain towards the top level of the peaks. Literature exists so that where a man has lived finely, ten thousands may afterwards live finely. It is a means of life, it concerns the living essence.

- How have great books been written?  
(a) By an accidental means  
(b) By great men who write them  
(c) By men who think too much  
(d) By men who imagine sometimes

7. If a world is deprived of literature, what would happen to the broad, the noble and the generous?
  - (a) They would be living a free life without care
  - (b) They would worry themselves into petty issues
  - (c) They would tend to disappear and life would be correspondingly degraded
  - (d) They would celebrate life
  
8. What is the function of literature?
  - (a) To raise the plain above sea level
  - (b) To raise everything so that it does not sink to the sea level
  - (c) To raise the peaks towards the highest mountain
  - (d) To raise the plain towards the top level of the Peaks
  
9. If a world is deprived of literature, what would happen to the broad, the noble and the generous?
  - (a) They would be living a free life without care
  - (b) They would worry themselves into petty issues
  - (c) They would tend to disappear and life would be correspondingly degraded
  - (d) They would celebrate life
  
10. What does the words "effluence of their very core" mean?
  - (a) Expression which is the outflow from the heart of the author
  - (b) Expression which is the influence from people's talk
  - (c) Expression of things that the author may have thought of
  - (d) Expression that the author wrote accidentally
  
11. Literature cannot be said to have served its true purpose until it has been \_\_\_\_ into the actual life of the person who reads.
  - (a) Transfigured
  - (b) Transgressed
  - (c) Translated
  - (d) Transmuted

**Directions for questions 12 to 19:** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions based on the passage. Some of the words have been highlighted which will be required to answer some of the questions.

There is a fairly universal sentiment that the use of nuclear weapons is clearly contrary to morality and that its production probably so, does not go far enough. These activities are not only opposed to morality but also to law if the legal objection can be added to the moral, the argument against the use and the manufacture of these weapons will considerably be reinforced. Now the time is ripe to evaluate the responsibility of scientists who knowingly use their expertise for the construction of such weapons, which has deleterious effect on mankind.

To this must be added the fact that more than 50 percent of the skilled scientific manpower in the world is now engaged in the armaments industry. How appropriate it is that all this valuable skill should be devoted to the manufacture of weapons of death in a world of poverty is a question that must touch the scientific conscience.

A meeting of biologists on the Long-Term Worldwide Biological consequences of nuclear war added frightening dimension to those forecasts. Its report suggested that the long biological effects resulting from climatic changes may at least be as serious as the immediate ones.

Sub-freezing temperatures, low light levels, and high doses of ionizing and ultraviolet radiation extending for many months after a large-scale nuclear war could destroy the biological support system of civilization, at least in the Northern Hemisphere. Productivity in natural and agricultural ecosystems could be severely restricted for a year or more. Post war survivors would face starvation as well as freezing conditions in the dark and be exposed to near lethal doses of radiation. If, as now seems possible, the Southern Hemisphere were affected also, global disruption of the biosphere could ensue. In any event, there would be severe consequences, even in the areas not affected directly, because of the interdependence of the world economy. In either case the extinction of a large fraction of the earth's animals, plants and microorganism seems possible. The population size of Homo sapiens conceivably could be reduced to prehistoric levels or below, and extinction of the human species itself cannot be excluded.

12. The scientists possessing expertise in manufacturing destructive weapons are
- Very few in number
  - Irresponsible and incompetent
  - More than half of the total number
  - Engaged in the armaments industry against their desire
13. The biological consequences of nuclear war as given in the passage include all the following, except
- Fall in temperature below zero degree Celsius.
  - Ultraviolet radiation
  - High does of ionizing
  - None of these
14. Which of the following is one of the consequences of nuclear war?
- Fertility of land will last for a year or more.
  - Lights would be cooler and more comfortable.
  - Southern Hemisphere would remain quite safe in the post-war period.
  - None of these
15. Choose the word from the given alternatives which is most similar in the meaning of the given word in bold. "DEVOTED"
- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| (a) apathetic | (b) habituated |
| (c) committed | (d) toughen    |
16. The author's most important objective of writing the above passage seems to
- Highlight the use of nuclear weapons as an effective population control measures.
  - Illustrate the devastating effects of use of nuclear weapons on mankind.
  - Duly highlight the supremacy of the nations which possess nuclear weapons.
  - Summarise the long biological effects of use of nuclear weapons.
17. The author of the passage seems to be of the view that
- Utilization of scientific skills in manufacture of weapons is appropriate.
  - Manufacture of weapons of death would help eradication of poverty.
  - Spending money on manufacture of weapons may be justifiable subject to the availability of funds.
  - Utilization of valuable knowledge for manufacture of lethal weapons is inhuman.
18. According to the passage, the argument against use and manufacture of nuclear weapons
- Does not stand the test of legality
  - Possesses legal strength although it does not have moral standing
  - Is acceptable only on moral grounds
  - Becomes stronger if legal and moral considerations are combined
19. Choose the word from the given alternatives which is most similar in the meaning of the given word in bold. "DIMENSION"
- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| (a) empirical    | (b) cognizance   |
| (c) idiosyncrasy | (d) embezzlement |

**Directions for questions 20 to 26:** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below them. Certain words/phrases have been printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Agriculture forms the problematic nucleus of the macroeconomic knot which ties us up. It called out for attention even before the pressing necessity of having to cope with a 10-day farmers' agitation starting 1 June. Agriculture (along with agricultural taxation) is on the state list of the Constitution. Strictly speaking, there should never have been a Union ministry of agriculture at the Centre. After the **egregious** neglect of agriculture by the Nehruvian focus on big industry, which was transmitted to the states, we hit the wall of foodgrain insufficiency in the 1960s. It was the Centre's trespassing on to agricultural territory that solved the cereal sufficiency problem, even if the problem itself

was largely a result of priorities set at the Centre. Cereal anxiety led the Centre to offer minimum support prices (MSPs) for the major cereals, which distorted cropping patterns into the "cerealization" of agriculture, as it is called. Fast forward to the present time. The cost of food is an ever present threat to the acceptable inflation limits (4% with a 2% band on either side) adopted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and even without that, runs up against the low inflation tolerance of the Indian consuming public. We continue to follow the long-standing policy of trying to keep down the price of foodstuffs by subsidizing agricultural inputs. Zero pricing of power for agriculture has indeed led to enhanced land productivity, but at the expense of over-mining ground water and seriously threatening our survival in the not too distant future. The burden of zero-priced power for farmers was meanwhile borne by the state power sector utilities, leading to a build-up of power sector debt and default to the banking sector. The problem was finally sought to be resolved by shifting the debt build-up to state governments under the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) scheme formulated by the Centre in 2015. State governments which have opted for it are mandated to absorb a stated percentage of annual losses of power utilities, to **incentivize** them into right pricing of power for farmers. The evidence so far suggests that states prefer to shoulder the fiscal costs rather than charge farmers a non-zero price for power.

In the Union Budget 2018, for the first time, there was a national commitment to MSPs across the board for all crops. Disregarding the debate over how cultivation costs will be configured, this was for the first time a national policy of crop neutrality in agriculture, although the responsibility for actually delivering on the MSP promise is split in a confusing way between Centre and states, depending on the crop. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACPC) posts MSPs on its website for foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane and some non-food commercial crops (23 in all, not counting variants). State governments can optionally announce a further enhancement to the MSP for their farmers for these crops. The whole picture is muddled by the fact that the open-ended commitment to absorb all produce at the announced price, implicit in an MSP, is most usually not honoured, on account of either fiscal or warehousing limits. There is the further problem that the MSP is payable to owners and not to tenants actually cultivating the land. When the price of onions in Madhya Pradesh crashed at the time of the rabi harvest in 2017 to 50 paise per kg, there were farmer riots, which were **quelled** by police firing. The state government re-constituted price support into a Bhavantar (price differential) scheme – the Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana – with a commitment to top up the farm gate price in case it fell below a threshold level. This year, the farm gate price of the onion harvest is reported to have fallen further, to a low of 30 paise per kg. The announced threshold price for onions was Rs 8 per kg.

With that kind of a market price crash, Bhavantar has basically **morphed** into a full-fledged MSP, the only difference being that there is no government procurement, and therefore no need for public warehousing. Before onions this year, there was the garlic price crash. Both onions and garlic are storable crops which have been bought by traders at throwaway prices for slow release later.

20. According to the passage, what had led to the terrible state of farmers?
- Negligence in agriculture sector by the government.
  - Insufficient food grains
  - Excessive fall in prices of food grains
  - All of the above
21. Which of the following alternatives among the five provides the most similar meaning(s) of the word given in BOLD as used in the passage? "Quell"
- rile
  - thwart
  - quench
  - annihilate
- Only (I) and (II)
  - Only (II) and (III)
  - Only (I), (II) and (IV)
  - Only (II), (III) and (IV)
22. The appropriate title of the passage is
- The cereal sufficiency problem
  - Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices
  - The Union Budget announcement 2018
  - Agricultural core of macroeconomic problem

