

Reading Comprehension

Passage I

The supply-demand problem of education has many interesting aspects to it. The numbers of youth wanting higher education has shot up but the supply suffers on various counts. First, government sources are quoted in the news that there is a shortage of 30-40% faculty in colleges and universities at all levels. I have not found data in support of this claim. Second, almost anyone who is thinking of education says that the syllabi are outdated. Third, industry and business complain that the outcome of education - quality of job applicants is extremely bad but we have no measure of how good or bad it is. Graduation certificates, like school certificates, have lost credibility and meaning. Further, considering that about 90% of the Indian workforce is in the unorganized sector where hiring is quite informal, certificates and diplomas count less than a reference trusted by the employer. And yet, parents want their children to go to colleges and complete graduation. There is a certain helpless faith in our educational institutions that they will somehow deliver at least for “my” child. At the same time, we do not rely totally on these institutions. At appropriate times we also send children to private tutors. ASER 2017 shows that nearly 40% of students attending government schools go for tuitions. ASER has been pointing out that in the Eastern states around Bihar, massive proportions of school children go to private tutors.

-- Madhav Chavan, “Giving the emperor new clothes”, *Beyond Basics: ASER Report 2017*,
<http://img.asercentre.org/docs/Publications/ASER%20Reports/ASER%202017/aser2017fullreportfinal.pdf>

Question 1

According to the author, the demand for higher education

Answer Option (a) Has decreased

Answer Option (b) Has remained the same

Answer Option (c) Has increased

Answer Option (d) There is no data on this.

Correct Answer (c) Has increased

Question 2

What exactly needs to be done to the syllabus?

Answer Option (a) It needs to be changed.

Answer Option (b) It is fine as it is.

Answer Option (c) There should be more discussion about it.

Answer Option (d) It needs to be revised.

Correct Answer (d) It needs to be revised.

Question 3

Which of the following claims does the passage make?

Answer Option (a) Employers trust diplomas and certificates.

Answer Option (b) Education system faces multiple challenges.

Answer Option (c) Unorganized sector trusts the education system.

Answer Option (d) Private schools are better than government schools.

Correct Answer (b) Education system faces multiple challenges.

Question 4

In the passage, “credibility” means:

Answer Option (a) Lack of belief

Answer Option (b) Believability

Answer Option (c) Accuracy

Answer Option (d) Monetary value

Correct Answer (b) Believability

Question 5

Read the following statements.

Statement A: There is a shortage of 30-40% faculty in colleges and universities.

Statement B: The pupil-teacher ratio in colleges and universities is high.

Which of the following options is correct?

Answer Option (a) Statement B is an appropriate implication of statement A

Answer Option (b) Statement A is an appropriate implication of statement B.

Answer Option (c) Statement A is false but statement B is true.

Answer Option (d) Statement B is false but statement A is true.

Correct Answer (b) Statement B is an appropriate implication of statement A

Passage II

Up to the age of 12 all the knowledge I gained was through Gujarati, my mother tongue. I knew then something of Arithmetic, History and Geography. Then I entered a High school. For the first three years the mother tongue was still the medium. But the school-master's business was to drive English into the pupil's head. Therefore more than half of our time was given to learning English and mastering its arbitrary spelling and pronunciation. It was a painful discovery to have to learn a language that was not pronounced as it was written. It was a strange experience to have to learn the spelling by heart.... However, for the first three years, it was comparatively plain sailing.

The pillory began with the fourth year. Everything had to be learnt through English – Geometry, Algebra, Chemistry, Astronomy, History, and Geography. The tyranny of English was so great that even Sanskrit or Persian had to be learnt through English, not through the mother tongue. If any boy spoke in the class in Gujarati which he understood, he was punished. It did not matter to the teacher if a boy spoke bad English which he could neither pronounce correctly nor understand fully. Why should the teacher worry? His own English was by no means without blemish. It could not be otherwise. English was as much a foreign language to him as to his pupils. The result was chaos. We the boys had to learn many things by heart, though we could not understand them fully and often not at all.... I know now that what I took four years to learn of Arithmetic, Geometry, Algebra, Chemistry and Astronomy, I should have learnt easily in one year, if I had not to learn them through English but Gujarati. My grasp of the subjects would have been easier and clearer. My Gujarati vocabulary would have been richer. I would have made use of such knowledge in my own home. This English medium created an impassable barrier between me and the members of my family, who had not gone through English schools.... I was fast becoming a stranger in my own home. I certainly became a superior person. Even my dress began to undergo imperceptible changes. What happened to me was not an uncommon experience. It was common to the majority.... High schools were schools for cultural conquest by the English. The knowledge gained by the three hundred boys of my high school became a circumscribed possession. It was not for transmission to the masses.

-- Gandhi, M. K. 1999. "The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi (Electronic Book), New Delhi, Publications Division Government of India, 98 volumes", Vol. 73, <http://www.gandhiserve.org/e/cwmg/cwmg.htm>

Question 1

Why was everything plain sailing during the first three years?

Answer Option (a) The school-master was well trained.

Answer Option (b) The medium of teaching was the mother tongue.

Answer Option (c) The syllabus was easy.

Answer Option (d) There were only a few subjects.

Correct Answer (a) The medium of teaching was the mother tongue.

Question 2

“His own English was by no means without blemish.” This means:

Answer Option (a) The teacher made mistakes in English.

Answer Option (b) The students made mistakes in English.

Answer Option (c) The teacher’s English was excellent.

Answer Option (d) The students understood what the teacher was saying.

Correct Answer (a) The teacher made mistakes in English.

Question 3

The author says that if the medium of education was Gujarati instead of English, many things would happen. Which of following claims is the author **not** making:

Answer Option (a) He would have learnt faster.

Answer Option (b) His Gujarati vocabulary would have been richer.

Answer Option (c) His English would have improved.

Answer Option (d) His dress would not have changed.

Correct Answer (c) His English would have improved.

Question 4

Which of the following statements are true?

Statement A: The teachers were functioning as instruments for (the English people??)

Statement B: English was connecting the author with the masses.

Statement C: The author always wanted to study in the English medium.

Answer Option (a) Statement C is incorrect, but statement A and B are correct.

Answer Option (b) Statement A is correct, but statement B and C are incorrect.

Answer Option (c) Statement B is correct, but statement A and C are incorrect.

Answer Option (d) Statement A is incorrect, but statement B and C are correct.

Correct Answer (b) Statement A is correct, but statement B and C are incorrect.

Question 5

What do “imperceptible changes” mean?

Answer Option (a) Visible changes

Answer Option (b) Almost invisible changes

Answer Option (c) Sudden changes

Answer Option (d) Recent changes

Correct Answer Almost invisible changes

Passage III

Deliberative Democracy and Education

Democracy presupposes inclusion of all and absence of discrimination. Therefore, one pointer to such criteria could be the common good (sarva jan hitaya). It is at least theoretically possible to refer all decisions to the greater common good, if we are in possession of such a commodity. However, it is no mean task to manufacture a notion of common good in a multicultural society where the moral and social values of different groups and communities may be at variance with each other, where economic interests of different groups and communities may be in conflict with each other. That is where rational public discourse comes into picture. Understanding each other's positions, articulating what one's cherished way of life is, accommodating the view of others and arguing for space for one's own life style; demands a conversation tempered with concern for the other and guided by reason.

The common good need not necessarily be conceived as a golden principle discovered, formulated and fixed for all times to come. It could be conceived as a set of values evolving through rational public discourse among all the citizens. An evolving consensus among all the citizens through public deliberations where everyone takes part on equal footing and where reason is the only arbiter. This discourse has to be truly public in the sense of widest possible participation to be effective and of any value. This discourse cannot be limited to choice of voting at the election time. Every political decision and every policy has to be constantly and critically evaluated.

-- Extracts from "Deliberative Democracy and Education" by Rohit Dhankar

Question 1

Which of the following are the key elements for democracy to flourish?

- A. Reason
- B. Dialogue
- C. Pluralism
- D. Care

Answer Option (a) A, B and D.

Answer Option (b) A, B, and C

Answer Option (c) All of these

Answer Option (d) None of these

Correct Answer (c) All of these.

Question 2

Statement 1: Assertion (A): Rational public discourse is essential for democracy.

Statement 2: Reason (R): Public deliberations help in conceptualising common good.

Select the correct alternatives from the options given below.

Answer Option (a) A is true but R is not the reason for A.

Answer Option (b) A is true and R is the reason for A

Answer Option (c) Both A and R are true, but they are unrelated.

Answer Option (d) Both A and R are false.

Correct Answer (b) A is true and R is the reason for A.

Question 3

Why has the author used the word “deliberative” in the title?

Answer Option (a) Because he thinks that the notion of common good can be manufactured easily.

Answer Option (b) Because he thinks that rationality is not enough.

Answer Option (c) Because he thinks that values are not static.

Answer Option (d) Because he thinks that voting provides equal footing to everyone.

Correct Answer (c) Because he thinks that values are not static.

Question 4

Which of the following approaches towards democracy that the author is arguing for?

Answer Option (a) Considerate and passive

Answer Option (b) Arbitrary and rational

Answer Option (c) Majoritarian and common-sensical

Answer Option (d) Critical and dialogical

Correct Answer (d) Critical and dialogical

Question 5

What is the implication of the main ideas given in this passage?

Answer Option (a) Public participation is desirable but not mandatory for democracy.

Answer Option (b) Public participation is crucial in assessing policies in democratic societies.

Answer Option (c) Public participation depends upon the background of the people.

Answer Option (d) Public participation is essential in implementing government policies.

Correct Answer (b) Public participation is crucial in assessing policies in democratic societies.

Sample Questions:

1. What is the conclusion of this argument?

"Onion prices next year are going to rise as yields this year have been very poor."

Options:

1. Onion prices are going to rise next year.
2. Onion yields this year have been poor.
3. Onion prices increase every year.
4. Onion prices and poverty are related.

Answer: 1

2. Assuming that the premise is true and the conclusion drawn, which of the following is correct.

Premise: Teachers from Private schools are fluent in English.

Conclusion: Private schools are good.

Options:

1. Teachers speaking fluent English make good schools.
2. Teachers speaking fluent English must be good teachers.
3. Teachers not speaking good English are not good teachers.
4. Good schools and teaching speaking fluent English are related.

Answer: 1

3. Here are three premises and a conclusion.

Premise 1: Rajender gives entertaining speeches.

Premise 2: Rajender has many followers.

Premise 3: Rajender is rich.

Conclusion: Rajender is a good politician

4. Which of the following statements is correct?

1. The premises are not relevant to the conclusion.
2. Any one premise is sufficient to arrive at the conclusion.
3. Every premise is relevant to the conclusion.
4. Few premises are relevant to the conclusion.

Answer: 1

5. Seema was not part of the farmer protest in Bangalore, as she was not in town on the day of the protest. She was attending class in her college.

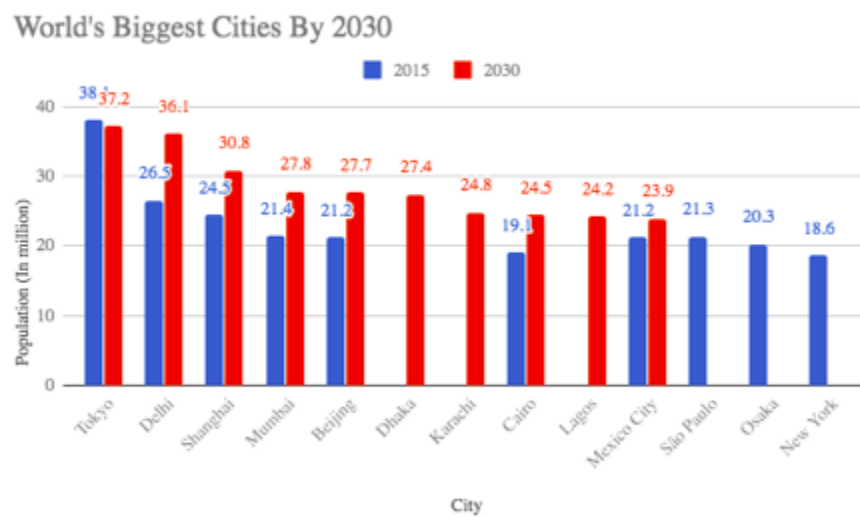
In this argument, the statement “Seema was attending class in her college” is

1. conclusion we can arrive at.
2. statement not connected to the context
3. evidence to the conclusion.
4. redundant information

Answer: 3

General and Quantitative Reasoning Ability

The following graph shows a comparison between the population of a few important cities in 2015 and 2030. Answer the following questions based on the graph.



Source: ***In 2030, 39% of India's Population Will Be Urban***, SHREYA SHAH NOVEMBER 23, 2017, Indiaspend.com

1. Which city had the least urban population in the year 2015?
- a. Mexico City
 - b. Cairo
 - c. Sao Paulo
 - d. New York

2. Which of the cities show the largest increase in urban population from 2015 to 2030?

- a. Cairo
- b. Mumbai
- c. Delhi
- d. Shanghai

3. Which of the following statement is true?

- a. Mumbai will have a greater increase in the urban population by 2030 than Delhi.
- b. Mumbai's urban population is comparable to that of Beijing.
- c. Mumbai exceeds Shanghai in terms of urbanization.
- d. Delhi will have the largest urban population.

A. The table below gives the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of a selected few Rabi and Kharif crops.

Answer the following questions based on the table.

Table: Minimum Support Prices - Fixed by Government (Rs per quintal)

Commodity	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
KHARIF CROPS							
PADDY	1360	1410	1470	1550	1750	1815	1868
JOWAR	1530	1570	1625	1700	2430	2550	2620
BAJRA	1250	1275	1330	1425	1950	2000	2150
MAIZE	1310	1325	1365	1425	1700	1760	1850
RAGI	1550	1650	1725	1900	2897	3150	3295
Tur (Arhar)	4350	4625	5050	5450	5675	5800	6000
MOONG	4600	4850	5225	5575	6975	7050	7196
URAD	4350	4625	5000	5400	5600	5700	6000

COTTON	3750	3800	3860	4020	5150	5255	5515
RABICROPS							
WHEAT	1450	1525	1625	1735	1840	1925	1975
BARLEY	1150	1225	1325	1410	1440	1525	1600
GRAM	3175	3500	4000	4400	4620	4875	5100
MASUR (LENTIL)	3075	3400	3950	4250	4475	4800	5100
JUTE	2400	2700	3200	3500	3700	3950	4225

Source: Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India.

1. On an average the MSP for which of the following is the highest?

- (a) Maize
- (b) Paddy
- (c) Jowar
- (d) Bajra

Answer: Jawar

2. Between Cotton and Jute, which has a higher increase in the MSP from 2014-15 to 2020-21?

- (a) Cotton
- (b) Jute
- (c) Both are same
- (d) Cannot say

Answer: Jute

3. Given the MSPs of the five pulses – Moong, Urad, Tur, Masur, and Gram, which one will have the highest market price?

- (a) Moong
- (b) Tur
- (c) Urad

(d) Cannot be determined from given data

Answer: Cannot be determined from given data

A. Read the paragraph and answer the following questions.

As per the 2011 Census, Karnataka has a total population of 61,130,704; it was 52,850,562 in the 2001 Census. In the total population of Karnataka, male population is 31,057,742 and the female population is 30,072,962. The area of Karnataka is 191,791 sq. km with a density of 319 person per sq km. The Sex Ratio in Karnataka is 968 for each 1000 male and has increased since the last census of 2001 in which it was 964 per 1000 males. The child sex ratio is 943 per 1000 males and has decreased from 973 in the 2001 census. Literate population in 2011 is 41,029,323 out of which 22,808,468 are males and 18,220,855 are females.

(Source: <https://www.census2011.co.in/census/state/karnataka.html>)

1. What is the sex ratio in Karnataka in the year 2011?

- (a) 943 per 1000 males
- (b) 964 per 1000 males
- (c) 968 per 1000 males
- (d) 973 per 1000 males

Answer: 968 per 1000 males

2. What is the population growth of Karnataka (in percentage) from the last census?

- (a) 50%
- (b) 30%
- (c) 25%
- (d) 15%

Answer: 15%

3. Based on the narrative, which of the following statements is true?

- (a) Karnataka has a higher literacy rate for females as compared to males.
- (b) While the sex-ratio has increased in 2011 as compared to 2001, child sex-ratio has decreased.
- (c) Karnataka is the largest State in India, in terms of population density.
- (d) Literacy rates in Karnataka are one of the highest in India.

Answer: While the sex-ratio has increased in 2011 as compared to 2001, child sex-ratio has decreased.

Social Awareness

Multiple choice questions:

1. Which of these groups benefitted the most from the Green Revolution?
 - a. Subsistence farmers
 - b. Small farmers
 - c. Large farmers
 - d. Medium farmers

2. Which of these are challenges with regard to fulfilling the goals of the Paris climate agreement for India:
 - a. Reducing dependence on coal because of the large numbers of people employed in the sector
 - b. the trajectory of India's economic
 - c. the high cost of technology transfer for alternative energies
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above

3. Article 15 of the Indian Constitution secures the citizens from discrimination by the State on the grounds of: race, caste, sex or place of birth or any of them
 - a. Religion
 - b. Caste & Race
 - c. Sex
 - d. Place of Birth
 - e. All of the above

4. Some of the exclusionary practices within the caste system is practised by members of the following religious communities in India:
 - a. Hindus

- b. Christians
- c. Muslims
- d. Sikhs
- e. All of the above

5. The criminalisation of certain tribal groups began in which of the following periods:

- a. Pre-colonial
- b. Colonial period
- c. Post-colonial
- d. Does not happen in India

6. Avijit Banerjee, Esther Dufflo and Michael Kremer won the Nobel prize in Economics in 2019 for which of the following contributions

- a. Antipoverty research
- b. Climate Change
- c. Behavioural Finance
- d. Common-pool resources

7. Who is the author of 'The Discovery of India'?

- a. Mahatma Gandhi
- b. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- c. Jawaharlal Nehru
- d. Vallabhbhai Patel

8. In a Parliamentary democracy such as in India, which of the following organs of the government holds supremacy?

- a. Legislature
- b. Executive

- c. Judiciary
- d. Bureaucracy

9. Which of the options is **not** the feature of the NEP (New Education Policy)?

- a. Children be taught in their mother tongue, local language or regional language when possible
- b. Mandatory instruction in the official language of the state through the primary years irrespective of a child's mother tongue
- c. Mandatory schooling between 3-18 years
- d. A unified body for higher education excluding medical and legal education

Writing Ability (Descriptive questions)

Instructions:

- A. You can choose to respond to any **one of the three** questions below.
- B. In descriptive questions we consider your overall ability to respond to a given issue of importance in the domains of education, development and public policy.
- C. Your response will be assessed for the following aspects; (a) your ability to take an informed position, (b) application of critical thinking, (c) inclusion of diverse perspectives, and (d) coherent writing.
- D. Each answer should be not more than 400 words in length. Avoid writing in bullet point forms.

- 1. Do you agree that Indian society is gender-biased? If you agree, what remedies do you suggest for it?
- 2. Right to education is an effective measure to curb child labour in India. Comment.
- 3. The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the need for strengthening local governments in India. Discuss.

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