

***Oriental Bank of Commerce Clerk Exam., 2009  
(Held on 18-1-2009)  
English Language : Solved Paper***

Directions—(Q. 1 to 15) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Certain words have been printed in bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

The Emperor's brother-in-law was also his Prime Minister and his favourite courtier. He was not liked by the other courtiers as a result. Jealous of the Emperor's brother-in-law the courtiers once said, "Your Majesty, why don't you appoint one of us as Prime Minister ? Subject us to a test to see who is truly the right person to be Prime Minister." At the time the Prime Minister was out hunting with another courtier. In pursuit of their prey they mistakenly rode into the neighbouring kingdom. As they were strangers and had weapons they were arrested as spies by the soldiers there and were certain to be sentenced to death by the ruler, King Amir.

The courtier was petrified and bowed his head in prayer. The Prime Minister pretending to be praying whispered something in his ear. The two of them then began arguing. "I should be the one to die first !" each of them said. Those present were astonished to hear their argument. The soldiers brought the two before King Amir. He was astonished to hear of their strange behaviour. "Tell me why you are so eager to die ?" Pretending to be reluctant to reveal the reason the Prime Minister bowed respectfully and said, "Sir, our Emperor has a secret wish of annexing your kingdom. If you kill us the Emperor can attack your kingdom on the pretext of avenging our deaths. The Emperor has also promised us a great reward for our sacrifice. We felt that in case you changed your mind and set one of us free to return home he would not get the reward." King Amir was worried when he heard this. Concerned that the lives of his subjects would be lost in war, King Amir refused to kill either of the two and sent them home. When they heard about the incident the Emperor's courtiers bowed their heads. They were ashamed. They realised the Emperor had made a wise choice in selecting his Prime Minister.

1. Why were the courtiers not on good terms with the Emperor's brother-in-law ?
  - (A) The Emperor used to only heed his brother-in-law's advice
  - (B) He was cleverer than they were and he would remind them of it
  - (C) He was empowered to take decisions on behalf of the Emperor
  - (D) He had more power and prestige and earned more than they did
  - (E) None of these
2. Why did the Emperor's two courtiers enter the neighbouring kingdom ?
  - (A) The Emperor had asked them to deliver a message to its king
  - (B) They wanted to spy on the neighbouring kingdom
  - (C) They had accidentally wandered into neighbouring territory
  - (D) The other courtiers had set a trap for them
  - (E) Their curiosity about the kingdom led them to enter it
3. Why was the Emperor's brother-in-law not afraid when faced with death ?
  1. He felt that if he told King Amir the truth his life would be spared.
  2. He was confident that he would be rescued.
  3. He had prayed fervently asking God to save them.
  - (A) None
  - (B) Only 1
  - (C) Only 2
  - (D) Both 2 and 3
  - (E) Only 3
4. Which of the following can be said about the Emperor ?
  - (A) He reserved important posts for his family members
  - (B) He had chosen a worthy Prime Minister
  - (C) He was ruthless and wanted to conquer the neighbouring kingdom
  - (D) He treated all his courtiers shabbily except his brother-in-law
  - (E) He deliberately endangered the lives of his courtiers in order to test them
5. Why did the two courtiers begin to argue with each other ?
  - (A) They wanted to distract the soldiers so they could escape
  - (B) It was a delaying tactics till they were rescued
  - (C) They blamed each other for the predicament they were in
  - (D) The Prime Minister wanted to stop the other courtier from divulging the Emperor's plan to the enemy
  - (E) None of these
6. What surprised King Amir about the courtiers' behaviour ?
  1. They were very respectful to him although he had condemned them to death.
  2. Each was volunteering to be killed first.
  3. They had managed to convince the soldiers to set them free.
  - (A) Only 1
  - (B) Both 1 and 2
  - (C) Only 3
  - (D) Only 2
  - (E) None of these
7. Why did King Amir set the two courtiers free ?
  - (A) He believed their story that the Emperor was planning to attack

- (B) He had great respect for their courage
- (C) He had ascertained they were not spies so he set them free
- (D) He was impressed by the wisdom of the Emperor's courtiers
- (E) None of these

8. Which of the following does not describe the Emperor's reaction to the courtiers' request to appoint one of them as Prime Minister ?

1. He thought about asking his brother-in-law to resign.
2. He tested his brother-in-law to prove he was best suited for the post of Prime Minister.
3. He disregarded it completely and punished the courtiers.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 3
- (C) Both 1 and 3
- (D) All 1, 2 and 3
- (E) None of these

9. Which of the following is NOT true in the context of the passage ?

- (A) King Amir was concerned about the welfare of his people
- (B) The Emperor's brother-in-law had enemies at court
- (C) King Amir set the Emperor's brother-in-law free on account of his bravery
- (D) The Emperor's brother-in-law was deserving of the post of Prime Minister
- (E) The Prime Minister was a quick thinker

10. What was the courtiers' reaction when they heard about the Prime Minister's safe return ?

- (A) They were disappointed because their plan had failed
- (B) They were ashamed of their plot to kill him
- (C) They were upset to hear about his bad experience
- (D) They bowed in respect and praised his wisdom
- (E) None of these

Directions—(Q. 11 to 13) Choose the word which is most similar in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

11. subject
  - (A) topic
  - (B) undergo
  - (C) expose
  - (D) citizen
  - (E) accountable
12. pretext
  - (A) excuse
  - (B) guess
  - (C) crime
  - (D) example
  - (E) fraud
13. petrified
  - (A) panic

- (B) scared
- (C) feared
- (D) alarming
- (E) terror

Directions—(Q. 14 and 15) Choose the word which is most opposite in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.

14. right
- (A) immoral
  - (B) unsuitable
  - (C) inaccurate
  - (D) inconvenient
  - (E) error

15. reveal
- (A) secret
  - (B) darken
  - (C) disclose
  - (D) hide
  - (E) invisible

Directions—(Q. 16 to 20) Which of the phrases (A), (B), (C) and (D) given below should replace the phrase given in bold in the following sentences to make the sentence grammatically meaningful and correct. If the sentence is correct as it is and 'No correction is required', mark (E) as the answer.

16. In these circumstances, they will not be able to meet the assign target to them.

- (A) targeted assignment
- (B) assigned target
- (C) assigning of target
- (D) target assigned
- (E) No correction required

17. Banks must be ensured that 18 per cent of their loans is given to the agricultural sector.

- (A) are ensured
- (B) have to ensure
- (C) being ensured
- (D) should be ensured
- (E) No correction required

18. The government has announced several initiatives benefiting to factory workers.

- (A) beneficial
- (B) for benefiting to
- (C) which will benefit
- (D) benefited to
- (E) No correction required

19. A date for the committee meeting to discuss the details of the proposal has yet to be decided.

- (A) will be yet decided
- (B) is been decided yet
- (C) have not been still decided
- (D) is not yet been decided
- (E) No correction required

20. With the raining heavily the multi-storey office building was badly damaged and collapsed.

- (A) Owing to the heavy rains
- (B) Because of raining heavily
- (C) Since heavily it rained
- (D) In raining heavily
- (E) No correction required

Directions—(Q. 21 to 25) In each question below a sentence with four words printed in bold type is given. These are lettered as (A), (B), (C) and (D). One of these four words printed in bold may be either wrongly spelt or inappropriate in the context of the sentence. Find out the word which is wrongly spelt or inappropriate if any. The letter of that word is your answer. If all the words printed in bold are correctly spelt and also appropriate in the context of the sentence, mark (E) i.e. 'All correct' as your answer.

21. Since petroleum products are taxed (A) heavily they are a major (B) source (C) of revenue (D) for the government. All correct (E)

22. Even though the proposal appears (A) practical (B) the committee should discuss (C) it at length. (D) All correct (E)

23. The Indian stock market has been one of the well (A) performing (B) markets globally (C) during the current (D) year. All correct (E)

24. Had the scheme been allowed (A) to continue (B) it would have generated (C) attracted (D) returns. All correct (E)

25. People should constantly (A) upgrade their skills (B) in order to be effective (C) and efficient. (D) All correct (E)

Directions—(Q. 26 to 30) Rearrange the following six sentences (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph; then answer the questions given below them.

1. With all this experimentation he incurred an expenditure of over a million dollars before success

smiled on him.

2. Edison invented the long lasting electric light bulb.
3. To find a fibre to burn inside a bulb he experimented with over two thousand items.
4. We thus owe the miracle of light as much to his perseverance as to his genius.
5. However he did not invent it overnight.
6. His friends too travelled all over the world from South America to India in search of a suitable fibre.

26. Which of the following should be the FIRST sentence after rearrangement ?

- (A) 1
- (B) 2
- (C) 3
- (D) 4
- (E) 5

27. Which of the following should be the SECOND sentence after rearrangement ?

- (A) 2
- (B) 3
- (C) 4
- (D) 5
- (E) 6

28. Which of the following should be the THIRD sentence after rearrangement ?

- (A) 1
- (B) 2
- (C) 3
- (D) 4
- (E) 5



29. Which of the following should be the FOURTH sentence after rearrangement ?

- (A) 2
- (B) 3
- (C) 4
- (D) 5
- (E) 6

30. Which of the following should be the SIXTH (LAST) sentence after rearrangement ?

- (A) 2
- (B) 3
- (C) 4
- (D) 5
- (E) 6

Directions—(Q. 31 to 40) Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error or idiomatic error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The letter of that part is the

answer. If there is no error, the answer is (E). (Ignore errors of punctuation, if any.)

31. Senior citizens prefer (A) / banks which (B) / branches are located (C) / near their homes. (D) No error (E)

32. In the latest statistics (A) / China supplies more than (B) / ninety per cent of the (C) / steel imported by India. (D) No error (E)

33. We shall be calling a meeting (A) / next week to assess (B) / the causes of frequently (C) / delays in infrastructure projects. (D) No error (E)

34. Although it has received (A) / clearance from RBI the bank (B) / has decided not to open (C) / their office in Hongkong. (D) No error (E)

35. Most of the tribals (A) / in the region (B) / are depended on the forest (C) / to earn their livelihoods. (D) No error (E)

36. After graduating from college (A) / having an engineering degree (B) / he received a job offer (C) / from a reputed American firm. (D) No error (E)

37. In order for (A) / the scheme to be (B) / successful we require as (C) / much as twenty investors. (D) No error (E)

38. The insurance company has plans (A) / to hire 30,000 agents (B) / at a time when (C) / most companies are cutting jobs. (D) No error (E)

39. One of the important lesson (A) / he taught me was to save (B) / at least thirty per cent (C) / of my gross income. (D) No error (E)

40. Due to the financial crisis (A) / the price of foodgrains (B) / has risen sharply (C) / over the past few months. (D) No error (E)

Directions—(Q. 41 to 50) In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered.

These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five words are suggested, one of which

fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

One day an expert in time management was ...(41)... to a group of business management students and

to drive home a point he used and ...(42)... they will never forget. As he stood in front of a group of

brilliant students he said, "Okay it's ...(43)... for a quiz." He then pulled out a one gallon jar and set it

on the table in front of him. He also ...(44)... a dozen fist sized rocks and carefully placed them one at



a time into the jar. When the jar was filled to the top and ...(45)... more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is the jar full?" Everyone in the class ...(46)... said 'Yes!' The professor said nothing. He then ...(47)... under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. He dumped some gravel into the jar and shook it ...(48)... pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the spaces between the big rocks. He asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?" 'Probably not.' some answered. 'Good!' he said and began ...(49)... sand to the contents in the jar. The sand fitted into the spaces between the rocks and gravel. He also poured water into the jar. "What was the point of this exercise?" he asked. "The point is that no matter how busy your schedule is you can always manage to fit something in." replied one student. 'No' said the professor, "The truth is if you don't fit in the rocks which symbolize the ...(50)... things in your life like your family and your dreams first, you'll never have time for them."

41. (A) addressing  
(B) conveying  
(C) speaking  
(D) discussing  
(E) expressing

42. (A) imagination  
(B) impression  
(C) expression  
(D) emblem  
(E) illustration

43. (A) ready  
(B) usual  
(C) opportunity  
(D) time  
(E) scheduled
44. (A) made  
(B) produced  
(C) dug  
(D) constructed  
(E) ploughed
45. (A) any  
(B) no  
(C) few  
(D) some  
(E) much
46. (A) definite





- (B) forcibly
- (C) convince
- (D) positive
- (E) emphatically
- 47. (A) reached
- (B) hid
- (C) gone
- (D) searching
- (E) found
- 48. (A) making
- (B) until
- (C) causing
- (D) while
- (E) resulting
- 49. (A) filling
- (B) pushing
- (C) substituting
- (D) adding
- (E) stuffing
- 50. (A) important
- (B) necessarily
- (C) vitally
- (D) ideal
- (E) expensive

Answers :

1. (E) 2. (C) 3. (A) 4. (B) 5. (E) 6. (B) 7. (A) 8. (E) 9. (C) 10. (D)  
11. (B) 12. (A) 13. (B) 14. (B) 15. (D) 16. (B) 17. (B) 18. (A) 19. (E) 20. (A)  
21. (B) 22. (A) 23. (E) 24. (D) 25. (E) 26. (B) 27. (D) 28. (C) 29. (E) 30. (C)  
31. (B) 32. (A) 33. (C) 34. (D) 35. (C) 36. (B) 37. (D) 38. (D) 39. (A) 40. (A)  
41. (C) 42. (E) 43. (D) 44. (B) 45. (B) 46. (E) 47. (A) 48. (C) 49. (D) 50. (A)

