

## Section 4

### English Language

**Directions (Q. 151–165)** Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words / phrases have been printed in **bold** to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

#### Passage-I

Despite the economic crunch worldwide that saw **pulverization** of some of the largest banking and finance giants, Indian banking houses have managed to show positive growth this quarter. Some of India's leading national banks have posted a net profit rise of more than 40% over the last quarter amid global **turmoil**. This would

come as a big **shot in the arm** for the investors and consumers of these banks even though apprehension is mounting on other banking and broking firms worldwide. One of the main reasons behind the success of these banks this quarter, would be their direct backing by the Government of India. People take solace in their investments in public sector watching the bailout packages being cashed out by governments all over the world to save big business houses.

Other private banks in India have also reported a substantial net profit over the last quarter. Given the international and domestic scenario one cannot put this down as a **mundane** achievement. While others are on a cost cutting spree and firing employees, Indian Companies are actually working on boosting staffing in banking and broking sectors. This can be seen as a big boon in the days to come when the current recession eases and the economy gradually comes back on to the fast track. The finance minister has assured Indian public about the sound health of all Indian banks. This could also be evident from the fact that there have been no mergers and takeovers in Indian Banking sector in a contrast to world scenario where finance houses are looking for mergers to cut costs on operations. We definitely are not looking to **thrive**; rather we are looking for growth. It is just that the pace of growth is a little slow now as compared to a year or two before. These are hard times to test the hard. The weak in business and career will be weeded out and it is sometimes very beneficial for business on the long run.

151. What according to the author, is the reason for the success of Indian National banks in this quarter ?
- (1) Indian National banks do not have any commitments in troubled foreign markets
  - (2) These banks can never face financial crisis because of their sheer size
  - (3) These banks are ready to give loans at a very low rate of interest
  - (4) The public is ready to invest in these banks because of the knowledge that these banks get strong support from the Government
  - (5) None of the above
152. Which of the following statements is definitely true in the context of the passage ?
- (A) India has not been affected by the economic slowdown.
  - (B) Indian Banks are showing growth in this quarter despite the recession.
  - (C) While banking industry in the West was severely affected by recession in the past, it is now gradually recovering and showing a positive growth.
- (1) Only A
  - (2) Only B
  - (3) Only C
  - (4) Only A and B
  - (5) Only B and C
153. What, according to the author, will be a big boon in the days to come ?
- (1) The economy coming back on the fast track
  - (2) The slowing down of the economy
  - (3) Increased hiring in Indian financial sector in times of economic slowdown
  - (4) The cost cutting carried out by all the companies
  - (5) None of the above
154. Which of the following strengthens the finance minister's statement about the sound health of Indian Banks with respect to the passage ?
- (A) There have been no acquisitions and mergers of Indian Banks.
  - (B) The Indian Banks are recording a positive growth.

- (C) Layoffs have been observed worldwide.
- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only A and C
- (3) Only A
- (4) Only B
- (5) All A, B and C

155. How according to the author, is the current recession beneficial ?
- (1) Worldwide, companies have realized that India is a strong power to reckon with
  - (2) India is surging ahead of the other companies throughout the world
  - (3) After the recession is over international companies will turn to India for investment
  - (4) Recession is bringing down the prices of essential commodities
  - (5) None of the above
156. What does the phrase 'shot in the arm' as used in the passage mean ?
- (1) Shock
  - (2) Fear
  - (3) Encouragement
  - (4) Anxiety
  - (5) None of the above

**Directions (Q. 157–158)** Choose the word/group of words which is most similar in meaning to the word/group of words printed in **bold** as used in the passage.

157. **PULVERIZATION**

- (1) polarisation
- (2) mashing
- (3) debasement
- (4) fall
- (5) crushing

158. **PERMOL**

- (1) danger
- (2) shock
- (3) sadness
- (4) fear
- (5) chaos

**Directions (Q. 159–160)** Choose the word/group of words which is most opposite in meaning to the word/group of words printed in **bold** as used in the passage.

159. **MUNDANE**

- (1) extraordinary
- (2) regular
- (3) severe
- (4) visionary
- (5) routine

160. **THRIVE**

- (1) succeed
- (2) deteriorate
- (3) worry
- (4) tremble
- (5) strive

**Passage-II**

Modern bio-technology, especially the creation of genetically modified crops, is often presented as a magic solution or universal panacea for the problems of poverty, inadequate nutrition and even environmental degradation across the world. Conversely, there are people who present the picture of tech generated monsters and major human health hazards being created by science. Many of the technological changes currently in the process of being utilised in agriculture can have unforeseen consequences, and their safety and future viability are far from secure.

The reality, as always, is far more complex than either of these two extremes. Even today the total food production in the world is adequate to feed the hungry of the world;

the problem is rather one of unequal distribution, which deprives a large part of the population of even their minimal nutritional requirements. Similarly, farmers, especially in developing countries, face many problems such as lack of infrastructure, poor or unstable market access, **volatile** input and output prices etc. that bio-technology does not address, much less solve.

It is true that transgenic plants can offer a range of benefits which are above and beyond those which emerged from more traditional innovations in cultivation. It is suggested that such new technology offers more effective pest resistance of seeds and crops through genetic control mechanisms, which also reduces the need for pesticide use and leads to improved yield. A basic question, of course, is whether the new GM technology is safe, and whether this is absolutely crucial since the effects may only be known much later. The jury is still very much out on this matter, and the controversy does not appear to be resolved quickly.

The trouble is that most governments in developing countries have relatively low food and beverage regulatory standards, and public systems for monitoring and surveillance of such items are poor or non-existent. This leaves them **open** for entry and even dumping of a range of agricultural products of the new technology, which may not pass regulatory standards in the more developed countries.

161. Which of the following is true in context of the passage ?

- (1) Genetically modified crops have been universally recognized as a solution to hunger and environmental degradation
- (2) The only way to improve the deficit in food requirement and food production in the world is by adapting genetically modified crops
- (3) Genetically modified crops produce more yield as compared to yield from the traditional methods
- (4) Taking advantage of absence of regulatory standards, scientists have been dumping new products in the markets without appropriate approval
- (5) None is true

162. Why according to the author, is genetic modification of crops not an answer to the problem of hunger in the world ?

- (A) People being highly doubtful of the long term effects of genetically modified crops, do not buy the products grown by such methods.
- (B) The problem of hunger in the world is not due to inadequate production of food but due to unequal distribution of it.
- (C) Many developing countries have banned genetically modified products as developed countries have been using these countries as dumping grounds for new genetically modified products.

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Both B and C
- (4) Both A and C
- (5) None of the above

163. The author of the given passage seems to be definitely
- (1) suggesting the use of traditional methods of agriculture as against bio-technology by developing countries owing to their poor regulatory standards
  - (2) in favour of utilizing bio-technology as a tool for alleviation of poverty from the world
  - (3) urging the policy makers to improve infrastructural facilities so that farmers can maximize the benefits of genetically modified crops
  - (4) unconvinced of the long term effects and rationale for immediate requirement of genetically modified products
  - (5) None of the above

164. Choose the word/group of words which is **most opposite** in meaning to **VOLATILE** printed in bold as used in the passage.

- (1) Never-ending
- (2) Meagre
- (3) Valuable
- (4) Irreversible
- (5) Stable

165. Choose the word/group of words which is **most similar** in meaning to **OPEN** printed in bold as used in the passage.

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| (1) Vulnerable | (2) Capable   |
| (3) Threatened | (4) Uncertain |
| (5) Weak       |               |

**Directions (Q. 166–170)** Each question below has two blanks, one of which indicates that something has been omitted. Choose the set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

166. The National Knowledge Commission has said that India will have to bring ..... in education if it has to emerge as the most ..... workforce of the world.

- (1) changes, biggest
- (2) reforms, talented
- (3) alleviation, skilful
- (4) quality, brighter
- (5) outcomes, demanded

167. Norway has stolen a march over other developed countries by ..... that it would reduce 40% of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and ..... carbon neutral by 2030.

- (1) allowing, turn
- (2) posing, grew
- (3) estimating, exist
- (4) perceiving, arising
- (5) declaring, become

168. A controversial plan to build an immense dam in Brazil's rainforest was stalled when it ..... a formidable bloc of ..... in ecologists and indigenous tribes alike.

- (1) resulted, hostilities
- (2) gained, supporters
- (3) attracted, opponents
- (4) lead, protesters
- (5) drew, proponents

169. According to a recent survey, sales figures of high end cars have seen an ..... growth in the past year, which shows that Indian consumers have ..... the impact of recession.
- (1) unprecedented, negated
  - (2) unbelievable, suffered
  - (3) unusual, worsened
  - (4) insignificant, endured
  - (5) adequate, proven
170. According to the language experts, children should begin talking in their mother tongue rather than a foreign language which can ..... affect their comprehension abilities leading to serious language based ..... later in their lives.
- (1) significantly, abilities
  - (2) appropriately, achievements
  - (3) severely, advantages
  - (4) adversely, problems
  - (5) positively, issues

**Directions (Q. 171–175)** In each of the following questions four words are given of which two words are most nearly the same or opposite in meaning. Find the two words which are most nearly the same or opposite in meaning and indicate the number of the correct letter combination, by darkening the appropriate oval in your answer sheet.

171. (A) appalling (B) sinister  
(C) perturbed (D) threatening  
(1) A-B (2) B-D  
(3) A-C (4) A-D  
(5) D-C
172. (A) imprison (B) torture  
(C) excruciate (D) extract  
(1) B-D (2) B-C  
(3) A-B (4) C-D  
(5) A-C
173. (A) superficial (B) superfluous  
(C) enlightened (D) surplus  
(1) A-C (2) A-B  
(3) B-C (4) B-D  
(5) A-D
174. (A) pertinent (B) impolite  
(C) irrelevant (D) insecure  
(1) A-C (2) B-D  
(3) C-D (4) A-D  
(5) B-C
175. (A) instigate (B) enquire  
(C) construe (D) interpret  
(1) A-C (2) A-B  
(3) C-D (4) B-D  
(5) A-D

**Directions (Q. 176–180)** Rearrange the following sentences (A), (B), (C), (D), (E) and (F) to make a meaningful paragraph and then answer the questions which follow :

- (A) According to it, organized retail stores are not wolves at the doors of friendly neighbourhood grocery stores as there is room for expansion of both.

- (B) Many have been crying foul over the entry of organized retail stores expressing concern over their impact on small store owners.
- (C) The final winner in the competition, however, is the common man who gets to choose between the most suitable options and in turn fights with the runaway inflation in prices of essential commodities.
- (D) In spite of this potential for expansion, it is doubtless that the small store owners face a decline in profit in initial years if organized retailers set up stores in the vicinity.
- (E) But a study conducted over a period of two years goes a long way towards allaying these fears.
- (F) This impact, however, wears off once they learn to take on the competition which in turn enhances efficiency all around.

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

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

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

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

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

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

179. Which of the following sentence should be the **FIFTH** after rearrangement ?

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

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

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

**Directions (Q. 181–190)** 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/phrases are suggested, one of which best fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word/phrase in each case.

Economic growth figures for the first quarter of this financial year seem to support the claim that the worst may be over for the Indian economy. The gradual revival is also an indication that the government's economic stimulus package is (181). What could, however, upset the positive outlook is the drought which (182) large parts of the country and its impact on overall growth. Even though the monsoon had picked up (183), the rains received were

grossly (184). There are clear (185) that farm output, particularly cereals, will fall drastically. Insufficient rain is bound to shoot up the (186) of agricultural commodities and that would impact the economy as a whole. The drought would also (187) a drastic reduction in rural employment and consumption besides inflation in the prices of food articles.

Food prices have been (188) since the past few months, and lower agricultural production is likely to (189) the situation. The government has said that food grain from the buffer stocks will be used to keep prices (190). Subsidised food grain is necessary in these times, but its effectiveness will depend a lot on the distribution system.

181. (1) failing (2) working  
 (3) weakening (4) impractical  
 (5) ambiguous
182. (1) exposed (2) reverted  
 (3) altered (4) strike  
 (5) affected
183. (1) presently (2) meagerly  
 (3) later (4) unseasonably  
 (5) unfavourably
184. (1) missing (2) ample  
 (3) atrocious (4) inadequate  
 (5) enough
185. (1) reasons (2) results  
 (3) indications (4) contradictions  
 (5) advices
186. (1) prices (2) yield  
 (3) labour (4) production  
 (5) requirement
187. (1) result (2) contribute  
 (3) dampen (4) trigger  
 (5) lead
188. (1) stable  
 (2) increasing  
 (3) decreasing  
 (4) improving  
 (5) balanced
189. (1) smoothen (2) improve  
 (3) challenge (4) aggravate  
 (5) amend
190. (1) maximum (2) growing  
 (3) down (4) unprofitable  
 (5) futile

**Directions (Q. 191–195)** Which of the phrases (1), (2), (3) and (4) given below each statement should be placed in the blank space provided so as to make a meaningful and grammatically correct sentence? If none of the sentences is appropriate, mark (5) as the answer.

191. ...., the soil today is nowhere as rich in native minerals as it used to be some centuries ago.  
 (1) As there is a growing consent among farmers regarding limiting the use of chemical fertilizers

- (2) As the chemical inputs in agriculture improved the yield many folds  
 (3) Owing to the uninhibited use of chemical inputs in agriculture  
 (4) Awareness among farmers regarding the side effects of chemical farming grew when  
 (5) None of the above

192. Although information technology has entered the homes, offices and hearts of many citizens of India, .....

- (1) India provides the highest number of IT experts to the world every year  
 (2) Many people in rural areas still remain ignorant of its immense benefits  
 (3) government has done its best by funding research in this field appropriately  
 (4) the face of communication in the years to come would change completely from the bygone years  
 (5) None of the above

193. While the environment friendly-Nuclear energy could make a large addition to the energy resources, .....

- (1) experts have a lot of expectations from this cleaner method of producing energy  
 (2) the government is determined to extract maximum out of this technology in the near future  
 (3) international lobby has been pressurizing the developing nations to shift their energy production from coal to nuclear power  
 (4) the problem of locating adequate numbers of Uranium reserves to run the reactors is yet to be sorted out  
 (5) None of the above

194. ...., experts proposed the idea of a common school system.

- (1) Overlooking the fundamental right of quality education of every child in India  
 (2) Since the curricular requirements of a rural child is different from an urban child  
 (3) Based on the fact that difference in the quality of schools acts as a ground for discrimination  
 (4) Since a large percentage of Indian children are getting free education  
 (5) None of the above

195. As allegations of crores of rupees changing hands to permit illegal mining began to fly thick and fast, .....

- (1) government ordered an enquiry which exposed a nexus between mine operators and bureaucrats  
 (2) it caused great damage to the surrounding ecosystem and the environment in general  
 (3) the officials have been irresponsible in failing to bring it to the notice of the court in time  
 (4) the powerful mining lobby had bribed the officials to obtain permit for mining on ecologically sensitive land  
 (5) None of the above

**Directions (Q. 196–200)** In each of the given sentences select the sentence which would either follow or precede the given sentence in grammatically and conceptually appropriate manner. The instruction is given at the end of every statement.

**196.** Unfortunately, however, these slum dwellers are looked upon by the society as an appendix causing ills in the urban society.

Which of the following sentences would immediately precede the above sentence ?

- (1) Health officials have been warning the government against the transmission of contagious diseases from the slum areas to other parts of the city
- (2) Slum dwellers not only play a significant role in urban economy but also provide cheap labour for everyday work of the cities
- (3) A recent report suggested that 34 percent of government land is illegally occupied by the slum dwellers
- (4) The slum dwellers live in sub human, unhygienic conditions in their tiny shanties and are very often hubs for criminal activities
- (5) None of the above

**197.** However, since the beginning of the nineties, free market forces have been allowed to play for ensuring all round development in Indian Markets as well.

Which of the following sentences would immediately precede the above sentence ?

- (1) Entry of various market forces increased the competition faced by the indigenous organizations manifold
- (2) The severe shortage of newest technology and products in the late 1980s ended with the entry of foreign players in the Indian market
- (3) A major roadblock faced by the foreign investors was the poor infrastructural facilities which was however overtaken by the prospects seen in the huge market
- (4) India had been following a very selective and conservative economic policy during the late 1980s
- (5) None of the above

**198.** The foreign embassy has put forward a demand to the government that prosecution may be carried out on a foreign land and not in the country to which the terrorists belong.

Which of the following sentences would immediately follow the above sentence ?

- (1) Army arrested the terrorists responsible for kidnapping four foreign tourists after a daylong operation

- (2) The foreign ministry has offered all possible help to the government for hunting down the terrorists involved in it.
- (3) Government has politely declined the request to handover the arrested terrorists for prosecution outside the country
- (4) The arrested terrorists were sentenced to life imprisonment after being prosecuted by a panel of international judges
- (5) None of the above

**199.** This is because most of the institutes for higher learning lack the basic infrastructure, trained staff and equipment necessary for the physically challenged.

Which of the following sentences would immediately precede the above sentence ?

- (1) Many physically challenged people have been performing as well as other students perform in their studies
- (2) The percent of illiterate, physically challenged people in rural areas is considerably more than that in the urban areas
- (3) According to a recent survey, only two out of nearly 200 universities in India have adequate number of books in Braille
- (4) Although government has been making many provisions to improve higher education in India, no attention has been paid to the education of the physically challenged students
- (5) None of the above

**200.** That was mainly because only two percent of the total farmers could actually comprehend the lengthy procedures to obtain the loan and be benefited from it.

Which of the following sentences would immediately precede the above sentence ?

- (1) Many moneylenders have been making the most out of this situation and providing loans to the rest of the farmers at inflated prices
- (2) There is thus an urgent need to make the schemes and policy as simple and farmer friendly as possible
- (3) A new loan scheme started by the government a couple of months ago proved to be a huge failure and utterly unpopular among the farmers
- (4) This situation can be improved by providing mediators to carry out and follow-up of the lengthy official procedure for the farmers
- (5) None of the above