



Date : 6th Dec 2023

English Language - Cloze test

English

Direction 1 - 6 : In the passage, some of the words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each blank.

Locusts (1) _____ feared and revered throughout history. Related to grasshoppers, these _____ insects form (2) _____ swarms that spread across regions, (3) _____ crops, and leaving serious agricultural damage in their wake. Locusts look like ordinary grasshoppers most notably, they both have big hind legs that help them hop or jump. These insects are usually (4) _____, but under certain circumstances become more abundant and change their behavior and habits, becoming gregarious. Locust swarms are (5) _____ in motion and can cover vast distances- some species may travel 81 miles or more a day. Locust monitoring stations collect data on weather, ecological condition, and locust numbers, making (6) _____ of the timing and location of breeding helps in preventing the swarm.

Q:1 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 1

1. are
2. has been
3. had been
4. have been
5. were

Q:2 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 2

1. scaled-down
2. trifling
3. minuscule
4. insignificant
5. enormous

Q:3 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 3

1. devouring
2. spewing

3. belching
4. advancing
5. relocating

Q:4 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 4

1. gregarious
2. solitary
3. congenial
4. interactive
5. concerted

Q:5 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 5

1. typically
2. unusually
3. quirky
4. oddly
5. None of these

Q:6 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 6

1. broadcasts
2. circulates
3. forecasts
4. promulgates
5. None of these

Direction 7 - 10 : In the following passage, some of the words have been left out, each of which is indicated by a number. Find out the suitable word from the options given against each number and fill in the blanks with appropriate words to make the paragraph meaningful.

The global economy appears headed for uncharted, troubled territory thanks to the second wave of the coronavirus that has now spread to countries as far apart as Nigeria and New Zealand. The virus has crippled global supply chains, hit air travel and _____1_____ markets as it appears all set to adversely impact the U.S. economy, the global economic engine. This, when the Chinese economy is already in deep trouble due to the impact of the virus. A slowdown or worse, recession, in the two global economic engines is bad news for the world economy, which may well



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tilt into recession. Markets reflected these concerns last week as indices _____2_____ and investors stampeded for the exit, dumping stocks. Big money moved to the relative safety of government bonds, pushing prices up and yields down. The U.S. markets experienced their worst week since the 2008 global financial crisis as the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500 fell by over 12%. Interestingly, investors seemed to boycott even that ultimate refuge during troubled times, gold, whose prices also fell during the week. They seemed to place greater faith in the sovereign guarantee of the U.S. government reflected in its Treasury bills. But there is trouble ahead for the U.S. economy as companies ranging from Apple and Nvidia to Procter & Gamble and Adidas are in difficulty because of their large exposures to the Chinese market or their reliance on suppliers from China. This is a crisis unlike any other. It is not a financial crisis that can be sorted out with time-tested measures such as rate cuts and _____3_____. The challenge of the virus attack is that it is immune to financial solutions.

For India, the troubles could not have surfaced at a worse moment just when there are some tentative signs of a return to growth. Policymakers are _____4_____ about the impact on the domestic economy and how they can manage the situation by resorting to airlifting of materials if the supply chain is disrupted. But the problem extends beyond supply chain disruptions, which, by the way is serious for industries such as pharmaceuticals, electronics and automobiles. In a situation of a global recession, exports, which are not growing even now, could take a hit, further slowing down one of the economic engines. And risk averse foreign investors could hold back fresh investments in India. What _____5_____ well though is that Indian companies are not major participants in the global supply chains originating in China. And second, crude oil prices are slipping which is good news for the macro economy and inflation. The government needs to watch the developing situation and, for now, do all it can to support industries that are reliant on Chinese inputs.

Q:7 Which of the following should come in blank no. 1?

1. Burgeoned
2. Thrived

3. Recommended
4. Established
5. Convulsed

Q:8 Which of the following should come in blank no. 2?

1. Surged
2. Desiccated
3. Plunged
4. Scoured
5. Abstained

Q:9 Which of the following should come in blank no. 3?

1. Deference
2. Bail-outs
3. Alimony
4. Amulet
5. Apology

Q:10 Which of the following should come in blank no. 4?

1. Cynic
2. Obstinate
3. Reluctant
4. Sanguine
5. Abusive

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Answer Key

1. (4)	2. (5)	3. (1)	4. (2)	5. (1)
6. (3)	7. (5)	8. (3)	9. (2)	10. (4)

Answers and Solutions

Q:1 The correct answer is option 4 i.e., have been.

The noun is plural so "have been" should be used and moreover, the sentence should be in present perfect tense as it indicates that a certain action that began at some time in the past and is still in progress. The locusts are still feared by the people.

Q:2 The correct answer is option 5 i.e., enormous.

Out of all the options given "enormous" rightfully fits the blank as it means very large in size. A swarm is a group of flying insects which has to be large in size. All other options are synonyms of "tiny" which means small.

Q:3 The correct answer is option 1 i.e., devouring.

Devouring- eat hungrily or quickly

Spewing- vomit

Belching- send out large amounts of smoke or flames

Advancing- move forward in a purposeful way

Relocating- move to a new place and establish one's home or business there.

The blank is about the fact that the locusts spread across regions and devastate the agricultural lands by eating the crops. Hence, the chosen option is correct.

Q:4 The correct answer is option 2 i.e., solitary.

Gregarious- living in flocks

Solitary- done or existing alone

Congenial- a person who is pleasing or liked on account of having qualities or interests that are similar to one's own.

Interactive- influencing each other

Concerted- coordinated

The sentence is about the fact that under certain circumstances these insects change their behavior and become gregarious, but before that, they lead a solitary lifestyle. Hence, the chosen option is correct.

Q:5 The correct answer is option 1 i.e., typically.

Typically- having distinctive qualities of a particular type.

Unusually- not commonly occurring or done

Quirky- having characterized by peculiar or unexpected traits

Oddly- in a way that is different from what is usual

The sentence is about the fact that the locusts swarm is in motion and can travel 81 miles a day which is exceptional and typical of them. Hence, the chosen option is correct.

Q:6 The correct answer is option 3 i.e., forecasts.

Broadcasts- transmit some information by radio or television

Circulates- pass from place to place or person to person

Forecasts- predict or estimate

Promulgates- promote or make widely known an idea or cause

The sentence is about the fact that the locust monitoring station collects data and predicts the timing of the timing and location of breeding that would help in preventing the swarm. Hence, the chosen answer is correct.

Q:7 The correct answer is Option 5 i.e. Convulsed.

The query is about filling the blank with an appropriate word from the given options.

The sentences discuss the adverse effect of the pandemic on the economy. Since there is a crisis, the passage demands a negative word. Options 1, 2 and 4 provide positive connotations and hence are inappropriate. Option 3 does not make a coherent statement. So, the word 'Convulse' which means



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'to (cause to) shake violently with sudden uncontrolled movements' best fits here.

Hence, the correct answer is **Option 5** i.e. **Convulsed**.

Q:8 The correct answer is **Option 3** i.e. **Plunged**.

The query is about filling the blank with an appropriate word from the given options.

The sentences talk that in the wake of the pandemic, the economy has been affected badly. As a result, the share market has dropped to a great extent.

'**Plunge**' means '*jump or dive quickly and energetically*'. So, it gives the sense of coming down.

Hence, the correct answer is **Option 3** i.e. **Plunged**.

Q:9 The correct answer is **Option 2** i.e. **Bail-outs**.

The query is about filling the blank with an appropriate word from the given options.

The sentence talks that it is not a financial crisis that can be controlled by rate cuts and financial assistance.

'**Bail-outs**' means '*an act of giving financial assistance to a falling business or economy to save it from collapse*'.

Hence, the correct answer is **Option 2** i.e. **Bail-outs**.

Q:10 The correct answer is **Option 4** i.e. **Sanguine**.

The query is about filling the blank with an appropriate word from the given options.

In these sentences, the scenario of India is depicted. Here the situation is somewhat relieving. The sentences display an optimistic mood and hence a positive word should be filled in the blank.

From the given words, '**Sanguine**' means '*optimistic; hopeful*' etc.

Hence, the correct answer is **Option 4** i.e. **Sanguine**.