



Date : 9th Dec 2023

Special Question – English Language

English

Direction 1 – 5 : Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words have been printed in bold to help you locate them, while answering some of the questions.

Trade wars are usually considered a side effect of protectionism because protectionism is a policy aimed at protecting domestic industries by implementing tariffs and other trade barriers to limit imports and increase exports. When countries implement these protectionist policies, it can lead to retaliation from other countries, which can then lead to a series of escalating tariffs and other trade barriers. Protectionism can be implemented in different ways, such as tariffs, quotas, subsidies, and non-tariff barriers. Tariffs are taxes on imported goods, which make them more expensive for consumers. Quotas limit the amount of a good that can be imported. Subsidies are financial assistance given to domestic industries to help them compete with foreign industries. Non-tariff barriers include regulations and standards that make it more difficult for foreign products to enter the domestic market.

All these protectionist measures are used to protect the domestic industries from the foreign competition, but when other countries feel the impact of these measures on their own economy, they tend to respond in kind, implementing their own tariffs and trade barriers. This leads to a spiral of reciprocal protectionism, which can lead to a trade war. Trade wars can lead to negative consequences such as rising consumer prices, supply chain disruptions, harm relationships between countries, job losses, and reduced economic growth. This is why protectionism is generally considered to be a negative policy, and why _____ A _____.

Trade wars can also have a significant impact on the economy, both for the countries

involved and for the global economy as a whole. One of the main impacts is on the trade balance, where the increased tariffs and trade barriers can lead to a decline in exports and an increase in imports, widening the trade **deficit**. This can lead to a decline in economic growth and an increase in unemployment as businesses are forced to lay off workers or reduce production. Another is on inflation, where the increased costs of goods and services as a result of tariffs can lead to inflation, putting a strain on households and businesses. They can cause **disruptions** in global supply chains, leading to shortages of certain goods and reducing efficiency. They can also lead to a decline in foreign investment, as investors become uncertain about the economic stability of a country. This can lead to a decline in economic growth and a decrease in job opportunities. Moreover, trade wars can cause harm to relationships between countries and potentially lead to a decline in global economic growth. As countries engage in a series of escalating tariffs and other trade barriers, tensions can rise and trust can be eroded. This can make it more difficult to negotiate future trade agreements and can lead to a decline in overall economic activity. Overall, trade wars can have significant negative consequences for the economy, leading to a decline in economic growth, an increase in inflation, and disruptions in global supply chains, foreign investment and **putting a damper on** job opportunities.

Q:1 Which of the following are true according to the context of the passage?

They can also lead to a decline in foreign investment.

Trade wars can have significant negative consequences for the economy, leading to a decline in economic growth.

Tariffs make imported goods more expensive for consumers.

1. Only 2
2. Only 3
3. Both 2 and 3
4. Both 1 and 2
5. All 1, 2 and 3

Q:2 What is the meaning of the phrase “**putting a damper on**” as per the passage?

1. Have a subduing or inhibiting effect on



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2. Reverse the proper order or procedure of something
3. Suddenly or unexpectedly
4. Behave in a pretentious or ostentatious way
5. To behave in a way intended to make people admire or support you

Q:3 Which of the following can be the impact of the disruptions in global supply chains, leading to shortages of certain goods and reducing efficiency, due to trade wars?

1. They can harm relationships between countries and potentially lead to a decline in global economic growth.
2. This can increase costs for businesses and lead to higher prices for consumers.
3. These actions can lead to retaliation from other countries.
4. An escalating cycle of tariffs and counter-tariffs.
5. Countries imposing tariffs and countries subject to tariffs would experience losses in economic welfare, while countries on the sidelines would experience collateral damage.

Q:4 Choose the word which is most nearly the **OPPOSITE** in meaning as the word '**deficit**' printed in bold as used in the passage.

1. Surplus
2. Overplus
3. Arrears
4. All of the above
5. Only 1 and 2

Q:5 Choose the word which is most nearly the **SIMILAR** in meaning as the word '**disruptions**' printed in bold as used in the passage.

1. Concord
2. Consistency
3. Turmoil
4. Respite
5. Tranquillity

Answer Key

1. (5) 2. (1) 3. (2) 4. (5) 5. (3)

Answers and Solutions

Q:1 The correct answer is **option 5 i.e. All 1, 2 and 3.**

All of the above options can be directly observed from the passage. All the given three statements shows the negative side of trade wars.

Q:2 The correct answer is **option 2 i.e. Have a subduing or inhibiting effect on.**

Putting a damper on something means to lessen the enthusiasm, excitement, or progress of something. It can also mean to inhibit or obstruct something from happening or continuing.

This phrase is often used to convey the idea of something having a negative effect on something else, typically used in the context of dampening one's mood, enthusiasm or progress.

This phrase is mostly used to indicate a negative effect on something, but it does not necessarily mean it's entirely stopping the progress, just slowing it down or making it less likely to happen.

Q:3 The correct answer is **option 2 i.e. This can increase costs for businesses and lead to higher prices for consumers.**

The given answer is correct because disruptions in global supply chains can have a direct impact on the cost of goods and services. When supply chains are disrupted, it can lead to shortages of certain goods and reducing efficiency. This means that businesses may have to spend more time and resources to find alternative sources of goods, which can increase their costs.

Additionally, when supply chains are disrupted, it can lead to a decrease in competition among suppliers, which can lead to an increase in prices for the goods and services they provide.

Consumers will then have to pay more for these goods and services, leading to a rise in inflation.

Q:4 The correct answer is **option 2 i.e. Only 1 and 2.**

Deficit refers to a state of shortage, insufficiency or a lack of something, which is why the antonym to it is having more than enough of something, which is the state of abundance, excess or overabundance.

Arrears means money that somebody owes that he/she should have paid earlier, which is the synonym of deficit.

Surplus is an amount that is extra or more than you need.

Overplus is not commonly used terms, but it convey the idea of having an excessive or abundant amount of something, which is the opposite of a deficit.

Q:5 The correct answer is **option 3 i.e. Turmoil.**

Turmoil is a synonym of **disruptions**.

Concord: Agreement and harmony.

Consistency: Agreement in kind or character.

Turmoil: A state of great confusion and disorder.

Respite: A temporary break or relief from something unpleasant.

Tranquillity: A state of peace and quiet

Both terms refer to a state of confusion, disturbance, and disorder. **Disruptions** refer to the act of interrupting the normal flow of activities or the usual state of things, causing inconvenience and confusion. **Turmoil** refers to a state of great confusion, disturbance, and uncertainty, often characterized by a lot of noise, commotion, and agitation.