

WEST BENGAL NTSE STG - 1, 2017-18

LANGUAGE TEST-ENGLISH

Q. 1-5. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:

Nestling between the Greater Himalayas and the Zaskar Range, the Zaskar Valley is Ladakh's remotest and loveliest valley. The Zaskar Valley is a part of Ladakh region in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Spread over an area of about 5000 square kilometres and at an elevation of 4010 metres, it is situated in Kargil district. Zaskar's western arm (fed by the Stod river) is studded with small settlements and agricultural expanses, as opposed to its eastern flank (watered by the Lungnak), which is an isolated, forbidding gorge. Prone to heavy snowfall, the Zaskar Valley is sealed off by snow-locked passes for almost eight months of the year. The passes open only around June and close by mid-October, beckoning intrepid trekkers and rafters to its challenging mountain trails and treacherous waters, for here nature gives no quarter but will reward those who dare. Padum, the biggest village and headquarters of Zaskar, along with Lamayuru, is the base for adventure activities here. It comes as no surprise that the journey, by jeep, raft or even on foot, both to and through this dramatic terrain, ends up being the destination. High passes, fraught with danger and a terrible beauty, are the gateways to this fabulous hidden valley.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

1. The Zaskar Valley is
 - (a) part of lesser Himalayas
 - (b) very remote
 - (c) popular tourist destination
 - (d) devoid of any settlement

2. 'Prone to snowfall' means
 - (a) the valley always experiences heavy snowfall.
 - (b) the valley never experiences heavy snowfall.
 - (c) the valley always experiences moderate snowfall.
 - (d) the valley experiences heavy rainfall.

3. The Zaskar Valley remains cut off for eight months because
 - (a) adventure sports are held during this time.
 - (b) the roads are repaired during this time.
 - (c) the mountain passes are blocked by snow.
 - (d) the rivers become dry during this time.

4. The western arm of Zanskar Valley is habitable as
- (a) it is well connected by roads with the eastern side.
 - (b) it is in the plain land and so very fertile.
 - (c) the capital is located here.
 - (d) it has agricultural land fed by Stod river.
5. Which of the following statements is true?
- (a) The Zanskar Valley is a lush green valley.
 - (b) The Zanskar Valley has a hot dry weather.
 - (c) The Zanskar Valley is visited by foreigners only.
 - (d) The Zanskar Valley has rugged and wild beauty.

Q. 6-10. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:

From the shores of their Scandinavian homeland, between the Baltic and North Seas, Viking fortune seekers took to the world stage in the mid-eighth century, exploring much of Europe over the next three hundred years. With sleek sailing ships and expert knowledge of rivers and seas, they journeyed to 37 countries, from Afghanistan to Canada. En route they chanced upon more than 50 cultures and traded avidly for luxuries. They donned Eurasian caftans, dressed in silk from China and pocketed heaps of Islamic silver coins. They built thriving cities at Yort and Kiev, colonized large swaths of Great Britain, Iceland, and France, and established outposts in Greenland and North America. No other European seafarers of the day ventured so fearlessly and so far from their homeland as the Vikings. Earlier Scandinavia was wracked by turmoil. Along with three dozen petty kingdoms vying for power and territory, a vast cloud of dust, formed by comets or meteorites smashing into Earth and the eruption of one large volcano, darkened the sun lowering summer temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere. The extended cold and darkness brought death and ruin to Scandinavia setting the stage for the Vikings to set much of Europe on fire with their brand of violence.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

6. The Vikings started exploring Europe in the middle of
- (a) ninth century
 - (b) eighteenth century
 - (c) eighth century
 - (d) nineteenth century
7. The Vikings could journey to 37 countries by dint of their
- (a) sleek ships and expert knowledge of rivers and seas.
 - (b) brave heart and knowledge of rivers and seas.
 - (c) knowledge and expertise regarding rivers and seas.
 - (d) sleek ships and bravery during turmoil.

8. The Vikings established outpost at North America and

- (a) Afghanistan
- (b) Canada
- (c) Greenland
- (d) France

9. The turmoil in Scandinavian was caused by

- (a) political strife among kingdoms.
- (b) foreigners invading the kingdoms.
- (c) sudden volcanic eruptions.
- (d) political strife and natural calamities.

10. The Vikings established flourishing cities at

- (a) Great Britain and France
- (b) York and Kiev
- (c) Iceland and Kiev
- (d) Canada and China

Q. 11-15. Read the passage and answer the questions given below:

Conservation of plant biodiversity for sustainable growth and development has been the major concern of all the countries after the Convention of Biological Diversity held in 1992, which provided sovereign rights of the states over their national resources. Being the major staple crop for more than half of the world population, conservation and protection of vast generic of rice has got the top priority in India and also other rice growing countries. Majority of these generic resources were conserved by the local communities throughout the length and breadth of the country and the Government of India rightly recognised them as custodians of these generic resources. The issue of protecting of plant varieties came into focus after the birth of World Trade Organisation (WTO) in 1995. Accordingly, the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Act was enacted in 2001 by the Government of India, while recognising the services rendered by Indian farmers and exhaustive privileges and provisions were included in the Act as Farmer's Rights which no other country in the world recognised. Rice with its rich generic repositories and wide adaptability is the only crop that can offer solutions to the daunting goal of curbing hunger. Any threat to the biodiversity in rice is a direct threat to the survival of mankind.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

11. The Convention of Biological Diversity recognized.

- (a) the absolute claim of the countries on their national resources.
- (b) the nominal rights of the states over their national resources.
- (c) the reservation of rights of more than one country on their national resources.
- (d) the sharing of national resources of participating countries.

12. India was the first country to acknowledge
- (a) the importance of the Convention of Biological Diversity.
 - (b) the need for growing more rice for the masses.
 - (c) the contributions made by the farmers and their rights.
 - (d) the inhuman treatment meted out to rice growing nations.
13. Conservation and protection of different varieties of rice is essential as
- (a) the scientific laboratories find new areas of research which it can give.
 - (b) it is the only means of keeping hunger of mass at bay and survival of mankind.
 - (c) it can generate more employment of people all over the world.
 - (d) a resolution to this effect has been adopted by the World Trade Organisation.
14. The word similar in meaning to 'exhaustive' will be
- (a) exorbitant
 - (b) comprehensive
 - (c) amazing
 - (d) jubilant
15. 'Sustainable growth' is associated with
- (a) production of more national resources
 - (b) production of more farmland
 - (c) production of more parameters
 - (d) production of more staple crop

Q 16-17. The following five sentences come from a paragraph. The first and the last sentences are given. Choose the order in which the three sentences (P,Q,R) should appear to complete the paragraph:

16. S1. The loss of helium on earth would affect society greatly.
- S2 _____
- S3 _____
- S4 _____
- S5 There it is blended with nitrogen to mitigate the dangers of inhaling ordinary air under high pressure.

P - The element actually has many vital applications in society.

Q - Probably the most well-known commercial usage is in airships and blimps.

R - But helium is also instrumental in deep-sea diving.

Choose from the options given below.

- (a) PQR
- (b) QPR
- (c) RQP
- (d) PRQ

17. S1. The word 'megacity' means a city with a population of more than ten million people.

S2 _____

S3 _____

S4 _____

S5 Its population has risen to over twenty-four million.

P - Tokyo, Japan, is now world's largest megacity.

Q - In 1950, New York was the world's only megacity.

R - Now there are about thirty megacities, and the number will continue to grow.

Choose from the options given below:

- (a) PQR
- (b) RQP
- (c) QPR
- (d) QRP

Q. 18-19. These questions have the second sentence missing. Choose the appropriate sentence from the options given below:

18. **P** - Humans eat, sleep and play, but also speak, plot, rationalise and debate finer points of morality.

Q - _____

R - The power of neocortex comes from its ability to think beyond the present, concrete moment.

- (a) These same sensations also cause mammals to develop various types of social relations and kinship networks.
- (b) Our unique abilities are the result of an expansive third brain-the neocortex-which engages with logic, reason and ideas.
- (c) The neocortex is also responsible for the process by which we decide on and commit to particular courses of action.
- (d) The ability to sacrifice our drive for immediate satisfaction in order to benefit later is a product of the neocortex.

19. **P** - It seems, art (that is, graphic art-pictures- and spatial art-sculpture) is divided into two broad categories.

Q - _____

R - The second is 'modern' art, also known as abstract or non-representational.

- (a) Entirely new forms of art have emerged during the twentieth century.
- (b) The two broad categories of art are fine art and the rest.
- (c) This category includes those artworks that are created primarily for aesthetic reasons.
- (d) The first is 'classic' art, by which is meant representational painting, drawing and sculpture.

Q 20-29. Choose the word that best fills the blank from the options given:

20. Leather is very much in fashion this season as is the _____ denim.

- (a) auspicious
- (b) ubiquitous
- (c) conspicuous
- (d) enormous

21. _____ studies show that some forms of alternative medicines are extremely effective.

- (a) imperial
- (b) enthusiastic
- (c) incidental
- (d) experimental

22. The _____ use of chlorofluorocarbons has depleted the ozone layer to a great extent.

- (a) extended
- (b) exclusive
- (c) exorbitant
- (d) extensive

23. The furniture in the old house is to be _____ on the following week.

- (a) audited
- (b) absorbed
- (c) auctioned
- (d) altered

24. The little girl _____ her pretty umbrella to flaunt it to her friends.

- (a) undulated
- (b) undermined
- (c) undetected
- (d) unfurled

25. Petroleum and natural gas are taken out from deep within the crust through wells by _____.
- (a) digging
 - (b) drawing
 - (c) dredging
 - (d) drilling
26. A few dried neem leaves _____ down as a gentle wind began to blow.
- (a) fluttered
 - (b) fluctuated
 - (c) frustrated
 - (d) flouted
27. One should not spend an _____ amount of time on one's appearance.
- (a) overwhelming
 - (b) innocuous
 - (c) inordinate
 - (d) importune
28. Armed with this terrible weapon he was all but _____ for a time.
- (a) invincible
 - (b) intolerable
 - (c) indefectible
 - (d) incorrigible
29. As a nation our _____ of junk food is horrifying.
- (a) acceptance
 - (b) consumption
 - (c) amount
 - (d) food value

Q. 30-35. Select the meaning of the given phrases/ idioms:

30. Call it a day
- (a) name a particular day
 - (b) stop working on something
 - (c) slow down pace
 - (d) starting over

31. Uphill task
(a) enjoyable task
(b) childish task
(c) difficult task
(d) tedious task
32. Red tapism
(a) official delay
(b) gross mistake
(c) daring deed
(d) stop work
33. Null and void
(a) ineffective
(b) insecure
(c) inaudible
(d) intentional
34. On queer street
(a) in light mood
(b) in a strange place
(c) in a wrong place
(d) in difficult situation
35. Once in a blue moon
(a) happened long ago
(b) irregular happening
(c) frequent happening
(d) very rare happening

Q 36-40. In the following passage there are some numbered blanks. Fill in the blanks by selecting the most appropriate word from the options given below:

_____36 _____ satellites are man-made objects that orbit the earth. In order to _____ 37 _____ satellites into space we need to _____ 38 _____ Earth's gravity. This is _____ 39 _____ by sending satellites with powerful rockets. There are different types of satellites, each designed for a _____ 40 _____ purpose.

36. (a) Electronic
(b) Oriental
(c) Astronomical
(d) Artificial

37. (a) land
(b) rotate
(c) launch
(d) revolve

38. (a) attack
(b) overcome
(c) chase
(d) recall

39. (a) achieved
(b) adjusted
(c) administered
(d) admitted

40. (a) general
(b) broad
(c) specific
(d) commercial

Q 41-43. Out of the given alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words:

41. Incapable of being approached
(a) illegible
(b) inaudible
(c) invincible
(d) inaccessible

42. A person who hates women
(a) misogynist
(b) misogamist
(c) mythologist
(d) philanthropist

43. Misappropriation of money
- (a) robbery
 - (b) embezzlement
 - (c) miscalculation
 - (d) forgery

Q 44-45. Select the word which means the opposite of the given word:

44. Compliment
- (a) insult
 - (b) fulfil
 - (c) supplement
 - (d) praise

45. Humble
- (a) queer
 - (b) kind
 - (c) proud
 - (d) simple

Q 46-47. Select the word which is nearest in meaning to the given word:

46. Ameliorate
- (a) obviate
 - (b) alleviate
 - (c) improve
 - (d) inculcate

47. Obnoxious
- (a) repugnant
 - (b) invigorating
 - (c) amiable
 - (d) fastidious

Q 48-50. Choose the appropriate phrasal verbs to complete the sentence:

48. You can _____ me to keep your secret.
- (a) count down
 - (b) count out
 - (c) count in
 - (d) count on

49. The project _____ for want of funds.
- (a) came round
 - (b) fell through
 - (c) brought about
 - (d) turned down
50. Don't _____ me _____, I'm trying to concentrate
- (a) put _____ off
 - (b) put _____ down
 - (c) put _____ aside
 - (d) put _____ over