

NATIONAL SCHOOL OF BANKING

1. TELLING TALES

The art of story-telling is not dead, and it will not be allowed to die. The invention of printing, literacy and the average man's increasing enslavement to the visual media in recent decades threaten to stamp out the art altogether. It faces a threat now even in Indian homes, at least in urban areas, where it has been kept alive for centuries by indulgent grandmothers using the tales of princes, princesses and flying horses for lullaby.

- 1A. "art" as used in the paragraph refers to _____.
- (1) a habit of grandmothers (2) telling stories
(3) stories from epics (4) artificial way of story-telling
(5) None of these
- 1B. "tales" in this paragraph relate to _____.
- (1) stories of competitions held in schools
(2) bedtime stories
(3) stories of princes, princesses and flying horses for lullabies
(4) tragic stories
(5) None of these
- 1C. According to the passage, this threat to story-telling is the result of _____.
- (1) invention of printing, literacy and man's enslavement to visual media
(2) invention of new methods of entertainment
(3) lack of interest in telling stories and listening to stories
(4) unwillingness of urban people to tell stories
(5) disinterest in the art and misuse of it
- 1D. Which/who of the following have kept this art alive for centuries ?
- (1) Invention of printing and progress of literacy.
(2) Changes in man's likes and dislikes.
(3) Indulgent grandmothers.
(4) Urban people in India.
(5) None of these.
- 1E. Why is it necessary to keep the art alive ?
- (1) There should be a heavy demand for it.
(2) It should deal with stories of princes, princesses and flying horses.
(3) Children should love to listen to stories.
(4) All grandmothers should love to tell stories.
(5) None of these.

2. BUSES FOR MASSES

Reckless driving, blatant flouting of road rules, pitiful maintenance of buses, rude staff, overcrowding (with attendant problems such as eve-teasing and pickpocketing) are but a few of the ills that characterise the capital's private bus system. Many who would prefer to utilise public transport are today compelled to shift to more expensive modes of transport on account of the appalling conditions of private buses. All efforts to tame the system's excesses have been mostly in vain. Clearly, it must go.

A good and fast-expanding public transport system is important not just to provide affordable

commuting options, but discourage the use of private vehicles which are invariably the chief contributors to urban pollution and rising fuel consumption.

- 2A. "ills" in this passage refers to _____.
- (1) poor maintenance of roads
 - (2) negligence by authorities
 - (3) reckless driving, poor maintenance of buses, arrogant staff and the likes
 - (4) citizens not being able to utilize public transport
 - (5) None of these
- 2B. "efforts" in this passage are to _____.
- (1) improve the condition of the private bus system
 - (2) shift to alternative modes of transport
 - (3) contain the system's excesses
 - (4) reduce overcrowding of buses
 - (5) None of these
- 2C. According to the passage, many would prefer to utilise public transport because _____.
- (1) it is convenient
 - (2) it is easily available
 - (3) its ills are no longer new
 - (4) it is affordable and will discourage use of private vehicles, hence reducing pollution
 - (5) None of these
- 2D. 'Blatant flouting of road rules' in this passage means _____.
- (1) noisy scenes on roads
 - (2) not obeying traffic rules
 - (3) following road safety rules
 - (4) apathy on the part of the government to enforce the rules
 - (5) None of these
- 2E. Many are forced to shift to more expensive modes of transport because _____.
- (1) they are punctual
 - (2) they are easily available
 - (3) they do not contribute to urban pollution
 - (4) they save on fuel consumption
 - (5) None of these

3. **HUMBLY YOURS**

Introduced in India in 1879, just nine years after England issued it, the postcard has remained substantially unchanged, including in price, though it has shrunk a wee bit from its original size, perhaps mirroring the squeeze contemporary India has had to go through in recent times. Of course, the original inscription "East India post card" and the diademed head of Queen Victoria that went with it have long since disappeared from the head of the card's obverse side, and the card has occasionally changed colour, becoming pale blue to suit the fancy of the powers that be.

- 3A. This paragraph best supports the statement that in India, the post card _____.
- (1) was introduced in 1879 i.e. before England issued it.
 - (2) has undergone considerable change in size, shape and price in recent times.
 - (3) still bears the diademed head of Queen Victoria.

- (4) has changed its appearance to suit the wishes of the central government.
- (5) has become outdated at present.

4. **PASSPORT OF RELIEF**

The streamlining was not only eminently necessary, considering the huge backlog of applications in various regional passport offices and the harassment passport-seekers routinely undergo. It was also inevitable now that a larger number of Indians than ever in the past are trying to tap opportunities abroad and the Indian dispersion is widening.

To avoid their repeated renewal, the government is to issue passports containing 60 to 100 pages. These documents will obviously remain valid as long as they have space enough for stamping visas, and should ordinarily last the holders more than a decade. Why these simple changes never occurred to anyone in the past must, of course, remain one of the mysteries of bureaucracy.

- 4A. 'Streamlining' in the passage refers to _____.
- (1) backlog of applications
 - (2) systematic issue of passports
 - (3) stoppage of harassment of passport-seekers
 - (4) cumbersome rules for issue of passports
 - (5) None of these
- 4B. The word 'documents' in 'These documents' in the passage refers to _____.
- (1) old passports
 - (2) new passports containing 60 to 100 pages
 - (3) backlog of applications
 - (4) passports and visas stamped on them
 - (5) None of these
- 4C. According to the paragraph, the new passports will remain valid until _____.
- (1) the owner applies for a new one
 - (2) they have sufficient number of pages to stamp visas
 - (3) the owner loses his old passport
 - (4) a decade after issuance
 - (5) None of these
- 4D. Streamlining of issuing of passports was necessary, owing to _____.
- (1) number of people seeking greener pastures is decreasing
 - (2) the need to teach a lesson or two to the bureaucrats
 - (3) necessity to avoid their repeated renewal
 - (4) the need that a passport should remain valid for next twenty years
 - (5) lesser number of people are applying for passports
- 4E. According to the passage, one of the mysteries is that _____.
- (1) no one in the bureaucracy thought of making changes like this before
 - (2) everyone had this idea in his mind
 - (3) people refused to accept passports of 60-100 pages
 - (4) bureaucrats themselves opposed the idea of small-size passports
 - (5) None of these

5. **JUSTICE TO WOMEN**

Little wonder, then, that women's rights organisations are looking for solutions outside the framework of the formal justice system and at innovative alternatives like Women's Lok Adalats.

Justice provided by these Lok Adalats is, after all, more than merely speedy and effective. It is also more personal and involved. The emphasis is invariably on saving marriages and family relationships - a goal which is often realised. Moreover, the presence of community elders on the panel ensures that men who flout orders face something much more than legal action - the scorn and censure of society.

- 5A. This paragraph best supports the statement that 'Lok Adalats' _____.
- (1) are not popular amongst women in India
 - (2) not only provide rapid and remarkable justice but also lay stress on saving marriages
 - (3) do not have community elders on the panel
 - (4) increase the popularity of men who do not obey
 - (5) hand down impersonal judgements

6. **MATHS WIZARD**

The selection of problems for the recently-concluded international mathematical Olympiad in Mumbai marks a welcome return to rigour. Unlike in the past, this year there was just one perfect scorer - 17-year-old Cipran Manolescu of Romania, the country which topped the list of 75 contending nations - apparently because the option of easier problems was eschewed. Indeed, an inequality problem in geometry proved so tough that only six of the 424 students could crack it. In a few years from now, the country which gave to the world one of the greatest notions known to man, that of the zero and the decimal system, can hope to greet a fresh batch of pure and applied mathematicians drawn from its Olympian talent pool.

- 6A. 'rigour' as used in the para means _____.
- (1) the freedom to participate
 - (2) the tenacity and stamina of participants
 - (3) the repetitive performance
 - (4) the strictness, toughness and high difficulty level of problems
 - (5) None of these
- 6B. 'country' in the last sentence of the passage refers to _____.
- (1) Romania (2) Russia (3) India (4) Great Britain (5) U.S.A
- 6C. According to the paragraph, there was only one perfect scorer because _____.
- (1) very few countries participated
 - (2) Romanian students are superlatively intelligent
 - (3) Indians lack motivation
 - (4) the option of easier problems was omitted
 - (5) majority of candidates conceded easily
- 6D. According to the paragraph, the tough inequality problem was from _____.
- (1) Algebra (2) Trigonometry (3) Geometry
(4) Co-ordinate geometry (5) None of these
- 6E. Which of the following is the greatest contribution of the country to mathematics ?
- (1) Zero and decimal system (2) Number system
 - (3) Invention of perfect numbers (4) Vedic maths
 - (5) None of these

7. **VISUAL SQUALOR**

Hoardings have of late aroused passions of a kind not often associated with such mundane objects. Ranged against them are urban arts commissions and citizens who regard hoardings as

garish and ugly, destroying city skylines and obstructing the view of eminently viewable objects. House-owners eager to make some fast buck have offered their rooftops and terraces for this purpose, not realising that the huge metal structures - often as high as the buildings themselves - possibly endanger the houses and even neighbouring inhabitants.

- 7A. The author feels that hoardings as high as buildings _____.
- (1) enhance the beauty of the building
 - (2) prove beneficial to the dwellers by providing shadow and shade
 - (3) are proving risky to the buildings
 - (4) please neighbouring inhabitants
 - (5) are a delight to the commercial advertiser
- 7B. Which of the following is the most opposite of the word 'garish' ?
- (1) bright (2) dull (3) showy (4) attractive (5) beautiful
- 7C. The intention of the author seems to be _____.
- (1) to point out to the disadvantages of putting advertisements on buildings
 - (2) to argue in favour of changing the metal structure of the hoardings
 - (3) to bring about changes in the law relating to buildings
 - (4) to point out the apathy of municipal authorities
 - (5) to save lives of people and residents
- 7D. Which of the following is most nearly the same in meaning as the word "squalour" ?
- (1) trouble (2) provocation (3) irritant (4) dirt (5) beauty
- 7E. Which of the following is most nearly the same in meaning as the word 'mundane' ?
- (1) beautiful (2) dull and routine (3) glittering
(4) obscure (5) unimportant
- 7F. The author of the paragraph accepts the fact that _____.
- (1) hoardings serve no purpose
 - (2) urban arts commissions and citizens are in favour of putting hoardings
 - (3) hoardings are put up by house-owners to make easy money
 - (4) city-skylines should be next in importance to marketing
 - (5) None of these

8. **QUEEN'S ANGREZI**

English, we learn, has emerged on top in the contest for the numero uno position among languages, but the competition has not ended. A worldwide battle is raging between English and American English. In Japan and Latin America, the American style dominates because of the U.S. global supremacy. The British have launched a global programme, or program, called English-2000 to popularise their own style of the language. Canada has its "own distinct, sometimes confused style" says a report from Toronto, mixing up honour with honor and favourite with favorite.

- 8A. Decide which one/two or three (or none) of the statement(s) is/are true in the context of the paragraph.
- (A) English is not understood by a majority of people.
(B) Japanese is the number one language in the world.
(C) English has topped the list of all languages.
- (1) Only A is true (2) Only B is true (3) Only C is true
(4) Only A and B are true (5) All three are false