

READING COMPREHENSION BASED GENERAL ENGLISH PRACTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PDF WITH EXPLANATION

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DIRECTIONS:

Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions given below them. Certain words are given in bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

PASSAGE

In a disarmingly frank talk at the Indian Merchants Chamber in Mumbai, the Japanese Ambassador in India dwelt at length on issues that exercise the minds of Japanese investors when they consider investment proposals in India.

Raising the question "What comparative advantages does India offer as an investment market?", he said though labour in India is inexpensive, wage levels are offset by productivity level to a large extent.

Acknowledging that the vastness of the Indian market is a great **inducement** for investment in manufacturing industry, he wondered if it was **justifiable** to provide that overseas remittance of profit in foreign exchange be fully covered by exchange earnings as had been done. Significantly, on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to Japan, the government delinked profits repatriation from exports, meeting this demand.

The Ambassador said foreign investors needed to be assured of the continuity and consistency of the liberalisation policy and the fact that new measures had been put into force by means of administrative notifications without amending government laws acted as a damper.

The Ambassador pleaded for speedy formulation of the exit policy and pointed to the highly restrictive control by the government on disinvestment by foreign partners in joint ventures in India.

While it is all too easy to dismiss critical comment on conditions in India **contemptuously**, there can be little doubt that if foreign investment is to be wooed **assiduously**, we will have to meet exacting international standards and cater at least partially to what we may consider the **idiosyncrasies** of our foreign collaborators. The Japanese too have passed through a stage in the fifties when their products were derided as sub-standard and **shoddy**. That they have come out of that ordeal of fire to emerge as an economic superpower speaks as much of their doggedness to pursue goals against all odds as of their ability to improvise and adapt to internationally acceptable standards.

There is no gainsaying that the past record of Japanese investment is a poor benchmark for future expectations.

Q1. The author has appreciated the Japanese for their

- a) perseverance in raising quality of products.
 - b) future expectations.
 - c) passing through an ordeal.
 - d) quality of products manufactured in the fifties.
 - e) None of these
-

Q2. According to the Japanese Ambassador, which of the following motivates the foreign investors to invest in Indian manufacturing industry?

- a) assurance of continuity of the liberalisation policy
 - b) high productivity levels
 - c) overseas remittance of profit in foreign exchange
 - d) very large scope of Indian market
 - e) None of these
-

Q3. The purpose of the author in writing this passage seems to be to

- a) paint a rosy picture of India's trade and commerce.
 - b) criticize government's liberalization policy.
 - c) critically examine Indian investment environment.
 - d) discourage foreign investment in India.
 - e) raise the expectations of foreign investors.
-

Q4. Which of the following suggestions were expected by the Japanese Ambassador?

- A. speedy formulation of the exit policy
- B. imposing restrictions of disinvestment by foreign partners in joint ventures in India
- C. continuity and consistency of the liberalisation policy

- a) B and C only
- b) A and C only

- c) A and B only
- d) All the three
- e) None of these

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Q5. According to the Japanese Ambassador, India offers a comparative advantage to foreign investors in terms of

- a) higher productivity
- b) skilled workforce
- c) abysmally low wage levels
- d) inexpensive labour
- e) None of these

Q6. For seeking more and more foreign investment, the author suggests that we should

- a) link profit repatriations to exports.
- b) raise the quality of product to match international standards.
- c) dismiss all critical comments on Indian conditions.
- d) satisfy fully the whims of our foreign collaborators.
- e) None of these

Q7. From the passage it can be inferred that the author is

- a) a Japanese investor.
- b) an Indian investor.
- c) a secretary of the Japanese Ambassador.

d) a political commentator.

e) None of these

Q8. The author attributes Japan's emergence as an economic superpower to

- A. its ability to overcome any ordeal.
- B. their tenacity and perseverance despite unfavourable circumstances.
- C. their ability to improvise and adapt to globally acceptable quality levels.

a) A and C only

b) All the three

c) B and C only

d) A and B only

e) None of these

Q9. Which of the following statement(s) is/are **true** about the critical comments on investment conditions in India?

- A. These comments are difficult to be countered.
- B. These comments are received from various international quarters.
- C. These comments are based more on biases than on facts.

a) Only A

b) A and B only

c) Only B

d) Only C

e) A and C only

Q10. Choose the word which is most nearly the **SAME** in meaning to the word printed in capital as used in the passage.

ASSIDUOUSLY

a) feebly

b) deliberately

- c) hastily
 - d) persistently
 - e) innocently
-

Q11. Choose the word which is most nearly the **SAME** in meaning to the word printed in capital as used in the passage.

IDIOSYNCRASIES

- a) deviations
 - b) ideologies
 - c) needs
 - d) demands
 - e) identity
-

Q12. Choose the word which is most nearly the **SAME** in meaning to the word printed in capital as used in the passage.

SHODDY

- a) cheap
- b) disadvantageous
- c) shabby
- d) extraordinary
- e) unprofitable

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Q13. Choose the word which is most **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the word printed in capital as used in the passage.

INDUCEMENT

- a) breach
 - b) temptation
 - c) motive
 - d) incentive
 - e) impediment
-

Q14. Choose the word which is most **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the word printed in capital as used in the passage.

JUSTIFIABLE

- a) irrevocable
 - b) unscrupulous
 - c) formidable
 - d) unreasonable
 - e) inevitable
-

Q15. Choose the word which is most **OPPOSITE** in meaning of the word printed in capital as used in the passage.

CONTEMPTUOUSLY

- a) respectfully
 - b) methodically
 - c) reasonably
 - d) amicably
 - e) indecisively
-

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Answers to the above questions :

Q1. Answer: (a)

The meaning is implied in the last sentence.

Q2. Answer: (d)

The Japanese ambassador acknowledges that the vastness of the Indian market is a great inducement for investment in the manufacturing industry.

Q3. Answer: (c)

The author describes the Indian investment scenario in toto. He presents a comparative analysis regarding foreign investment in India.

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Q4. Answer: (d)

Q5. Answer: (e)

Comparatively though labour is inexpensive in India, but at the same time productivity is not high. Therefore, it cannot be cited as an advantage here.

Q6. Answer: (b)

If foreign investment is to be wooed assiduously, we will have to meet exacting international standards.

Q7. Answer: (d)

The author is a political commentator because he talks about the government policy and makes various proposals regarding foreign investment in India.

Q8. Answer: (b)

Q9. Answer: (c)

The passage reflects the views of the Japanese ambassador who also talks about the problems faced by foreign investors in India.

Q10. Answer: (b)

The meaning of the word 'assiduous' is 'working hard and the showing careful attention to detail'. Meaning of the word 'persistent' is 'refusing to give up'. Hence the words 'assiduously' and 'persistently' are synonymous.

Q11. Answer: (b)

The meaning of the word 'idiosyncrasy' is 'a person's particular way of thinking, behaving etc that is clearly different from that of others'. Hence the words 'idiosyncrasies' and 'ideologies' are synonymous.

Q12. Answer: (a)

The meaning of the word 'shoddy' as mentioned in the passage is 'of poor quantity'; 'done or made badly'. Out of the given words, 'shabby' means 'in poor condition through much use of being badly cared for'. Hence the words 'shoddy' and 'shabby' are synonymous.

Q13. Answer: (e)

The meaning of the word 'inducement' as mentioned in the passage is 'a thing that persuades somebody to do something'; 'an incentive'. Out of the given words, 'impediment' means 'a person or thing that delays or stops the progress or movement of something'. Hence the words 'inducement' and 'impediment' are antonymous.

Q14. Answer: (b)

The words 'justifiable' and 'unreasonable' are antonymous. The meaning of the word 'unscrupulous' is 'without moral principles'; 'not honest or fair'.

Q15. Answer: (a)

The root word of 'contemptuously' is 'contempt'. Meaning of 'contempt' is 'the feeling that somebody/something is completely worthless and cannot be respected'. Hence the words 'contemptuously' and 'respectfully' are antonymous. The meaning of the word 'amicable' is 'based on or achieved through polite discussion and without quarreling'.

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