**SBI CLERK EXAMINATION**

Previous Year Question Paper - 2014

**English Language:**

**Directions (1-5): These sentences have two blanks, each black indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the set of words for the blanks which best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.**

1. After carefully…………….. the situation, the farmer sympathized……………… the mule.

 (a) scrutinizing, on (b) assessing, with (c) observing, through (d)fighting, by

 (e) ignoring, for

2. Once there lived a cunning fox who always ……………to……………… others with his awful acts.

 (a) wished, cheating (b) desired, betrayed (c) thought, fooling (d) tried, deceive

 (e) longed, beaten.

3. I …………………. a friend named Raj who …………………… a horse ranch the city.

 (a) has, buys (b) need, holds (c) posses, runs (d) have, owns

 (e) got, sells

4. As night ………………. in the heights of the mountains. Ramesh could not ……………… anything.

 (a) fell, see (b)darkened, view (c)rose, advice (d) dive, perceive

 (e) became, get

5. Survival of mankind………………… is in danger due to ……………….of atomic weapons.

 (a) himself, perpetuation (b) self, invention (c) only, provocation (d) itself, proliferation

 (e) themselves, regularization.

**Directions (6-10): Read the following passage carefully and answer the given questions. Certain words are given in bold to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.**

 Akbar was the son of humble parents. His father was a school master. There was never very much money in the house so he didn’t enjoy a luxuries. All he wanted was to learn more and more. Books were not easily available then as they were handwritten and very expensive. Akbar read all the books he could lay his hands on. In due course, he mastered Arabic, Persian, Philosophy and Astronomy and dreamt of getting a position at court. But for this one had to really excel in some field. Also one needed a patron close enough to the Emperor to recommend a newcomer. It was a few months before he could find a patron and a few more months before he could find a suitable opportunity to recommend him to the Emperor who asked what he had learnt and what work he could do. On hearing the same, he said, “We are pleased to give the young man a chance. Let him take charge of the royal poultry house!” when he heard the news Akbar was heartbroken. He a scholar, capable of debating with the most learned men asked to look after chicking hens! All the same he got down to work with great determination. His only concern was hens. He saw to it that they were well fed and had clean water, that their living quarters were clean and if a fowl took ill that it was separated from the others and given proper treatment. Meanwhile, the Emperor had forgotten about the scholar he had packed off to mind the hands. But one day while his Finance Minister was reading out the palace accounts to tell the Emperor how much money had been spent can the royal house hold, he mentioned such a low figure that the Emperor sat up.

 ”Have most of the hens died?” he asked ‘No your Majesty’, was the reply- “The hens are not alive but are plump and fit”. Send for the scholar! the Emperor demanded.

 When Akbar came to the place the Emperor demanded “Aren’t you feeding the hens property?” “ I am sire, only the food is different! I’m feeding them what cannot be used in the royal kitchen, vegetable peels and dough used to seal the vessels while cooking for your Majesty. The hens not only enjoy it, but it is also very good for them. “Good work, we hereby promote you to the rank of royal librarian. “Akbar was bitterly disappointed. He had spent the first thirty years of his life gaining knowledge. How he wished to gain that knowledge and help people. Instead as head of the royal library he would be seeing only nooks and no people. But he buckled down to organizing the library

 A year later the Emperor came to visit the library. He was surprised to find each book covered with a packet of silk, velvet or brocade. There were hundreds of book=s and not one without a cover. “You have used expensive material to cover the books but have not charged us. Surely you are not spending your own money?” Akbar bowed low, “Your” Majesty these covers did not cost anything. Everyday dozens of people come to the court with humble grievances on sheet of paper which are folded and placed inside a bag of the most expensive material that they can afford.

6. Which of the following can be said about Akbar’s family?

 A. They were poor and uneducated.

 B. They discouraged him from becoming courtier.

 C. He was ashamed of them and did not introduce them at court.

 (a) Only C (b) All of these (c) Only A (d) B and c (e)None

7. Which of the following is TRUE in the context of the passage?

 A. Akbar was aged when he was finally made a courtier.

 B. Akbar excelled at whatever job the Emperor assigned him

 C. The Emperor did not value a person’s education but it his family background

 (a) Only B (b) All of these  (c) Only A (d) B and A (e)B and C

8. How many years of Akbar life were spent gaining knowledge?

 (a) 50 (b) 20 (c) None of these (d) 30 (e)10

9. Choose the word which is opposite in meaning to the word BITTERLY given in bold as used in the passage.

 (a) Sweetly (b) Angrily (c) Gladly (d) Freezing (e)sourly

10. How did Akbar handle his appointmently as royal librarian?

 (a) He was angry and was waiting for an opportunity to tell the King so.

 (b) He was thrilled since he loved books.

 (c) He was disappointed but put his best efforts into the job.

 (d) He considered it a good opportunity to learn more

 (e) He was very happy since he preferred reading to interacting with people.

**Directions (11-14): Rearrange the given six sentence A, B, C, D, E and F in a proper sequence so as to form a meaningful paragraph and then answer the given questions.**

 A. He did whatever work was assigned to him and soon the lion became so fond of him that he

 promised to give him a cart full of almonds as pension when he (the squirrel) retried.

 B. Once a squirrel joined the Service of the king of the forest the Lion.

 C. The squirrel had waited so long for this day but when he saw the almonds, he was seized with

 sadness as he realized that they were of no use to him now when he had lost all his teeth.

 D. However, he envied other squirrels in the forest because of their carefree life which he could not

 enjoy as he had to be by the King’s side all the time.

 E. He consoled himself with the thought that t the end of his career, he would receive a cart full of

 his almonds, a food that only a few squirrels got to taste in their lifetime.

 F. Finally, the day came when it was time for him to retire and as promised the King gave a grand

 banquet in his honor and presented him with a cart full of almonds.