

# Reading Comprehension Questions For SBI PO 2020



**Direction (1 – 4) :** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Rising levels of education among Indian women have not empowered them to seek spouses who are equally educated, a study has concluded. Comparing marriages between the 1970s and 2000s, the study found that highly educated women married men who were less educated but from more privileged families. According to the study, the rise in such marriages reflects deep-rooted gender scripts in India. The study attributes these marriages to multiple social and economic factors such as caste constraints, lower female participation in the labour market, lower income for women's work, especially for those with an Arts degree, and limited freedom for women to choose a spouse.

Marriage is almost universal in India, with the proportion of single women going from 0.9% in 1971 to 3.7% in 2011, the study said. While Chinese women may choose to remain single rather than marry a less educated mate, this is not an option easily open to Indian women. Also, due to the custom of arranged marriage, women don't have the power to choose their spouses. Fewer than 5% of Indians chose their own partners, the study found. In most arranged marriages, the man and the woman belonged to the same caste, further restricting a woman's options. Another reason for the small marriageable pool is consanguineous marriage, in which blood relatives marry. The proportion of working-age women who were either employed or looking for work has reduced from 33% in 1993-'94 to 18.2% in 2017-'18, show the latest data available from the Periodic Labour Force Survey. As many as 25 million women have left the Indian labour force over 10 years to 2015, as we reported in April 2016. This is very peculiar to India, that with growth fewer women are participating in the workforce. In South Korea, Japan and China, other countries with patriarchal societies, women's participation in the labour force increased with economic growth. One reason for

this India-specific situation is that women here tend to be constrained to the house. In India, being educated does not necessarily mean that the person will have a job and one reason for this is the poor quality of education that affects employability. Moreover, with little institutional support for childcare, it is less likely that women will work. A woman who has to manage the home and children along with a job also has fewer employment options in terms of work hours and commute. There is also wage discrimination between men and women which further reduces the returns to women's education. All these factors mean that even educated women would have to seek partners with better economic status. The most important quality for women in the marriage market is good appearance while the corresponding quality for men is their ability to earn a living, the study said. For the younger cohort, the study found that economic potential, trustworthiness and intelligence of the prospective partner are increasingly more valued than other traits and this is true for both men and women.

Source:

<https://scroll.in/article/956452/indian-women-tend-to-be-more-educated-than-their-spouses-why-are-they-settling-for-less>

1. Which of the following correctly identifies the main motive of the study?
  - A. Understanding the role of caste constraints in restricting Indian women's choices.
  - B. Identifying the variations in education-marriage patterns in various countries.
  - C. Examining the relationship between education and marriage in India.
  - D. Establishing the differences between educated and uneducated women in terms of traits desired by them in their spouses.
  - E. None of the above
2. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?
  - I. If women get to choose their own spouse, even without institutional

support, many things will change for them in terms of housework and childcare.

II. Patriarchal societies are better than matriarchal societies as they gave due to support to participation of women in the labour force.

III. Global trends on links between marriage and education for women are different in different countries.

- A. Both I & II
- B. Both II & III
- C. Both I & III
- D. All I, II & III
- E. None of the above

3. "Marriages between men and women at the same educational level were most common in rural areas between those who were illiterate and in urban areas among those who were highly educated". If considered true, the given statement is inconsistent with which of the following statements?

- I. Only increasing women's education does not shift gender inequality.
  - II. There is an increase in the level of education in the country and the reduced gap in education levels between men and women.
  - III. Marriages that were more equal in terms of education levels and in sync with the woman's choice of her spouse lasted longer.
- A. Both I & III
  - B. Both II & III
  - C. All I, II & III
  - D. Both I & II
  - E. None of the above

4. With which of the following statements the author is likely to agree with?

- A. As women's education grew, more women married men with similar education levels and the proportion of men marrying women at a lower education level fell.
- B. Power in marriage selection and socio-economic independence does not automatically come from education.
- C. Women do marry men with lesser education in countries where women are more highly educated than men.

- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

**Direction:** In the given question, a part of the sentence is printed in bold. Below the sentence, alternatives to the emboldened part are given as (A), (B), (C) and (D), which may help improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative out of the given five options. In case the given sentence is correct, your answer will be option (E), i.e., "No correction required".

5. Woodfull was not a flamboyant player but was known for **his calm, unruffled style and his reliable** in difficult situations.

- A. his calm, unruffled style and his reliability
- B. his calming, unruffled style and his reliable
- C. his calm, unripple style and his reliability
- D. his calm, unripple style and his reliable
- E. No correction required

**Direction (6 – 10) :** Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Certain words are printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Maglev (derived from magnetic levitation) is a system of train transportation that uses two sets of magnets, one set to repel and push the train up off the track as in levitation (hence Maglev, Magnetic-levitation), then another set to move the 'floating train' ahead at great speed taking advantage of the lack of friction. Along certain "medium range" routes (usually 200–400 miles) Maglev can compete favorably with high speed rail and airplanes.

With Maglev technology, there are no moving parts. The train travels along a guideway of magnets which control the train's stability and speed. Maglev trains are therefore quieter and smoother than conventional trains, and have the potential for much higher speeds.

Maglev vehicles have set several speed records and Maglev trains can accelerate and decelerate much faster than

**conventional** trains; the only practical limitation is the safety and comfort of the passengers.

The power needed for levitation is typically not a large percentage of the overall energy consumption of a high speed maglev system. Overcoming drag, which makes all land transport more energy intensive at higher speeds, takes up the most energy. Vactrain technology has been proposed as a means to overcome this limitation.

Maglev systems have been much more expensive to construct than conventional train systems, although the simpler construction of maglev vehicles makes them cheaper to manufacture and maintain. Despite over a century of research and development, maglev transport systems are in operation in just three countries (Japan, South Korea and China). The **incremental** benefits of maglev technology have often been hard to justify against cost and risk, especially where there is an existing or proposed conventional high speed train line with spare passenger carrying capacity, as in continental Europe, the UK and Japan.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org>

6. Which of the following statements can be correctly inferred from the passage?

- A. Maglev trains run on tracks which are levitated from the ground.
- B. The construction of Maglev train systems has been cheaper than the conventional high speed train systems.
- C. Maglev trains have a very aerodynamic body so the electricity needed to push the train forward isn't much.
- D. Maglev trains are smoother and quieter than conventional trains as there are no moving parts in them.
- E. None of the above

7. What is the main reason for the Maglev train system not being implemented in most countries?

- A. Maglev trains increase the travel time by 30% as compared to that of conventional trains.
- B. Maglev trains are very loud which isn't suitable for urban areas.

C. Maglev train systems are very expensive as compared to conventional train systems.

D. Maglev is the latest technology and no country apart from Japan, China and South Korea is capable of building one.

E. None of the above

8. Which of the following words is the MOST OPPOSITE in meaning to the given words?

- Conventional
- A. Aphrodisiac
- B. Radical
- C. Linguistic
- D. Conditional
- E. Stimulant

9. Which of the following words is the MOST SIMILAR in meaning to the given words?

- Incremental
- A. Marginal
- B. Linchpin
- C. Commiseration
- D. Aggravation
- E. Inebriate

10. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title of the passage?

- A. Maglev and its success in developing countries
- B. Slow speed is the Maglev's biggest problem
- C. Maglev: High speed trains of the future?
- D. Maglev and its rise in India
- E. Maglev: A cheaper alternative to conventional trains

**Direction (11 – 15) :** Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

That the doctrines connected with the name of Mr Darwin are altering our principles has become a sort of commonplace thing to say. And moral principles are said to share in this general transformation. Now, to pass by other subjects, I do not see why Darwinism need change our ultimate moral ideas. It was not to modify our conception of the end, either for the community, or the



individual, unless we have been holding views, which long before Darwin were out of date. As to the principles of ethics I perceive, in short, no sign of revolution. Darwinism has indeed helped many to truer conception of the end, but I cannot admit that it has either originated or modified that conception.

And yet in ethics Darwinism after all perhaps be revolutionary, it may lead not to another view about the end, but to a different way of regarding the relatively importance of the means. For in the ordinary moral creed those means seem estimated on no rational principle. Our creed appears rather to be an irrational mixture of jarring elements. We have the moral code of Christianity, accepted in part; rejected practically by all save a few fanatics. But we do not realise how in its very principle the Christian ideals is false. And when we reject this code for another and in part a sounder morality, we are in the same condition of blindness and of practical confusion. It is here that Darwinism, with all the tendencies we may group under that name, seems destined to intervene. It will make itself felt, I believe, more and more effectually. It may force on us in some points a correction of our moral views, and a return to a non-Christian and perhaps a Hellenic ideal. I propose to illustrate here these general statements by some remarks on Punishment.

Darwinism, I have said, has not even modified our ideas of the Chief Good. We may take that as — the welfare of the community realised in its members. There is, of course, a question as to meaning to be given to welfare. We may identify that with mere pleasure, or gain with mere system, or may rather view both as inseparable aspects of perfection and individuality. And the extent and nature of the community would once more be a subject for some discussion. But we are forced to enter on these controversies here. We may leave welfare undefined, and for present purpose need not distinguish the community from the state. The welfare of this whole exists, of course, nowhere outside the individuals,

and the individuals again have rights and duties only as members in the whole. This is the revived Hellenism — or we may call it in the organic view of things — urged by German Idealism early in the present century.

11. What is most probably the author's opinion of the existing moral principles of the people?

- A. He thinks they have to be revamped in the light of Darwinism.
- B. He thinks that they are okay as they are and do not need any major change.
- C. He thinks that it may be a good idea to have a modicum of the immortal Darwinism in us.
- D. He thinks they have to be impoverished in the light of Darwinism.
- E. Cannot be determined from the passage.

12. According to the author, the doctrines of Mr Darwin \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. have changed our physical and moral principles.
- B. have to be re-evaluated to correct the faults endemic in them.
- C. do not have to change our moral ideas.
- D. are actually new versions of old moral rules.
- E. None of these

13. What, according to the passage, is the Chief Good?

- A. Being good and kind to all fellow human beings.
- B. The greatest good of the greatest number.
- C. The welfare of the community realised in its members.
- D. The fulfilment of self-interest vested in an individual.
- E. Cannot be determined from the passage.

14. It is implied in the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a Hellenic ideal is not a proper substitute of the Christian ideal.
- B. what mankind needs is a Hellenic ideal rather than a Christian one.

- C. Darwinism is more Christian than Hellenic.
- D. fanatics do not understand what Darwinism really is.
- E. activists do not try to comprehend the meaning of Darwinism.

15. According to the author, the moral code of Christianity \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. is not followed by most people.
  - B. is in danger due to opposition of Darwinism.
  - C. is followed by a vast majority of people.
  - D. is totally ignored by all true Christians.
  - E. is followed wholeheartedly by most of the people.

**Direction (16 – 20) :** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

I decided I was a feminist and this seemed uncomplicated to me. But my recent research has shown me that feminism has become an unpopular word. Apparently, I am among the ranks of women whose expressions are seen as too strong, too aggressive, isolating, anti-men and, unattractive. Why is the word such an uncomfortable one?

I am from Britain and think it is right that as a woman I am paid the same as my male counterparts. I think it is right that I should be able to make decisions about my own body. I think it is right that women be involved on my behalf in the policies and decision-making of my country. I think it is right that socially I am afforded the same respect as men. But sadly, I can say that there is no one country in the world where all women can expect to receive these rights.

No country in the world can yet say they have achieved gender equality.

These rights I consider to be human rights but I am one of the lucky ones. My life is a sheer privilege because my parents didn't love me less because I was born a daughter. My school did not limit me because I was a girl. My mentors didn't assume I would go less far because I might give birth to a child one day. These influencers were the gender

equality ambassadors that made me who I am today. They may not know it, but they are the inadvertent feminists who are changing the world today. And we need more of those.

And if you still hate the word—it is not the word that is important but the idea and the ambition behind it. Because not all women have been afforded the same rights that I have. In fact, statistically, very few have been.

In 1995, Hilary Clinton made a famous speech in Beijing about women's rights. Sadly, many of the things she wanted to change are still a reality today.

But what stood out for me the most was that only 30 per cent of her audience were male. How can we affect change in the world when only half of it is invited or feel welcome to participate in the conversation?

Men—I would like to take this opportunity to extend your formal invitation. Gender equality is your issue too.

- See more at:  
<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2014/9/emma-watson-gender-equality-is-your-issue-too#sthash.sUcJYxPg.dpuf>

16. Why can't all women afford the same rights of feminism today?
- A. Because of the patriarchal society
  - B. Because feminism is involved with anti-men notion
  - C. Because not everyone advocates for women's rights
  - D. Because feminism is complicated
  - E. Because feminism is an overrated topic

17. What is the difference between Gender Equality and Feminism?
- A. Feminism puts women at the top of the hierarchy since they give birth to the next generation.
  - B. Feminism and Gender Equality are inter-related
  - C. Feminism is an anti-men movement
  - D. Both B and C
  - E. None of the above

18. Why is Feminism an issue for men too?

- A. Because men think they are incapable of leading the world
- B. Because men think women are more capable of leading the world
- C. Because every individual should have equal rights
- D. Because feminism directly involves men
- E. None of the above

19. Why can't any country in the world yet say they have achieved gender equality?

- A. Because women are still restricted
- B. Because women are better in household works

- C. Because world leaders are misogynist
- D. Because the reports show it clearly
- E. All of the mentioned

20. "Only 30 per cent of her audience were male". Why?

- A. Feminism is an anti-men movement
- B. Feminism is preached wrong
- C. Most men are misogynist
- D. Most men see through the problem
- E. All of the above

###ANSWERS###

1. Ans. C.

The first paragraph of the passage itself mentions "Rising levels of education among Indian women have not empowered them to seek spouses who are equally educated". In the whole passage, the discussion and statistics revolve around the relationship between education and marriage. The author compares the difference in trend between India and China and later on even provides examples on how India is different from South Korea, Japan and China. So, the correct option is C.

Other options cover parts of the passage but do not capture the main motive.

2. Ans. A.

It is mentioned in the passage that "In India, being educated does not necessarily mean that the person will have a job and one reason for this is the poor quality of education that affects employability. Moreover, with little institutional support for childcare, it is less likely that women will work". It is nowhere mentioned that freedom to choose their spouse will bring about a change in the present condition of the women.

It is also mentioned in the passage that "In South Korea, Japan and China, other countries with patriarchal societies, women's participation in the labour force increased with economic growth". No comparison has been provided between Patriarchal and matriarchal societies. So, statements I and II cannot be inferred. So, the correct option is A.

3. Ans. C.

In the passage, it is mentioned that "According to the study, rise in such marriages reflects deep-rooted gender scripts in India. The study attribute these marriages to multiple social and economic factors such as caste constraints, lower female participation in the labour market, lower income for women's work, especially for those with an Arts degree, and limited freedom for women to choose a spouse". The given statement only relates marriage with level of education.

It is inconsistent with statement I which mentions relation between increase in women's education and gender inequality.

"Reduced gap in education levels between men and women" as mentioned in statement II is also inconsistent with the given statement which deals with differences in marriage patterns based on demographic variations.

Statement III is totally incoherent as it deals with how duration of relationships depend upon freedom of choice of a woman.

So, the correct option is C.

4. Ans. B.

The whole passage revolves around the relationship between women's education and marriage. The author clearly mentions "Comparing marriages between the 1970s and 2000s, the study found that highly educated women married men who were less educated but from more privileged families" which indicates that the author will agree with the statement given in option B.

It is mentioned in the passage that "While Chinese women may choose to remain single rather than marry a less educated mate, this is not an option easily open to Indian women" which makes option C, not in agreement with the author's opinion.

Also, no information about the changes accompanying the growth in education of women has been provided which makes option A an inappropriate choice.

So, the correct option is B.

5. Ans. A.

The structure is not parallel. All the elements in the series should be grammatically similar. So, we need to replace 'reliable' (adjective) with 'reliability' (noun). So, the correct answer is option A.

6. Ans. D.

In the second paragraph it is clearly stated that Maglev trains are much smoother and quieter when compared to the conventional trains because there are



no moving parts. Thus, the correct answer is option D.

7. Ans. C.

Although the Maglev systems is easier to maintain and construct, the technology and components required to make the lines and the whole system is way costlier than the conventional lines. The initial investment is too much for a small country to handle. This is the main reason why most developing and under developed countries avoid Maglev systems. Hence, the correct answer is option C.

8. Ans. B.

'Conventional' means something which is based on or in accordance with what is generally done or believed.

'Radical' is characterized by departure from traditional way. This is the most opposite in meaning to 'Conventional'. Hence the correct answer is option B.

'Aphrodisiac' means a food, drink, or other thing that stimulates sexual desire.

'Linguistic' means relating to language

'Stimulant' means a substance that raises levels of physiological or nervous activity in the body.

Hence, option B is the correct response.

9. Ans. A.

'Incremental' is something relating to or denoting an increase or addition, especially one of a series on a fixed scale.

'Marginal' is a series of successive changes which makes it the most similar in meaning to incremental. Here the passage describes that small benefits of Maglev trains are difficult to justify. The correct answer is option A.

'Linchpin' is a person or thing vital to an enterprise or organization.

'Commiseration' is sympathy and sorrow for the misfortunes of others; compassion.

'Aggravation' is the state of becoming worse or more serious; exacerbation.

'Inebriate' is to make (someone) drunk; intoxicate.

Hence option A is the correct response.

10. Ans. C.

Maglev hasn't been a success in most developing countries as its being used in just 3 countries hence option A can be

eliminated. Maglev trains are faster than conventional trains hence option B can be eliminated as well. India hasn't adopted Maglev technology for trains hence option D should be eliminated as well. Maglev trains aren't cheaper than conventional trains by any means, hence option E must be eliminated. Only option C looks appropriate as it asks a question, whether Maglev is an appropriate option for the trains in the future. The author has explained the benefits of the train but has also showed us that the cost and risk associated with it is makes it less viable. Hence, the correct answer is option C.

11. Ans. B.

He perceives no sign of a revolution in ethical matters. It can be inferred from the following statement in the first paragraph of the passage, 'As to the principles of ethics I perceive, in short, no sign of revolution.'

12. Ans. C.

The author finds no reason why the doctrines of Darwin should change our moral ideas. It can be inferred from the first few lines of the passage.

The lines to refer is, 'Now, to pass by other subjects, I do not see why Darwinism need change our ultimate moral ideas. It was not to modify our conception of the end, either for the community, or the individual, unless we have been holding views, which long before Darwin were out of date.'

13. Ans. C.

It is stated in the following statement of the passage, 'Darwinism, I have said, has not even modified our ideas of the Chief Good. We may take that as — the welfare of the community realised in its members.'

14. Ans. B.

It can be inferred from the following statement of the passage, 'It may force on us in some points a correction of our moral views, and a return to a non-Christian and perhaps a Hellenic ideal.'

15. Ans. A.

It can be inferred from the following statement of the passage, 'We have the moral code of Christianity, accepted in

part; rejected practically by all save a few fanatics.'

16. Ans. C.

As mentioned in the passage, our narrator was never considered fragile, weaker than boys by her parents or her other mentors. But not everyone in the society is blessed with such mentality, that's why our narrator considers herself privileged than most other women in the world. There is a section of population who put restrictions on women's education, outfits, prerogatives. Some men even consider women as mere slaves/ sex slaves. Thus, not all women can afford the same rights of feminism today. But it needs to change.

17. Ans. B.

Feminism, as what it reads doesn't mean putting the women on top of the hierarchy. Neither it is an anti-men movement. The sole idea of feminism is that men and women are equal and they have equal rights in every strata of life. Feminism discourages the idea of differentiation based on the differences of genders. Thus Feminism and Gender quality are inter related.

18. Ans. C.

Feminism is preached wrong. Feminism is not an anti-men movement. It deals with gender equality and discourages the idea of differentiation based on gender differences. Every single human deserves to have equal rights and as the most evolved race it is our responsibility to take care of each other, respect each other and make the world a better place.

19. Ans. A.

Some people still believe in patriarchy and put restrictions on women's education, outfits, prerogatives. So, women instead of being adroit in their respective forte are sometimes neglected. Thankfully, some women are breaking barriers and inspiring others to do so.

20. Ans. B.

Feminism is not an anti-men movement. Sometimes women preach feminism wrong by attacking and mud-slinging men considering feminism a shield of protection. Some people think Feminism is about putting women on the top of the hierarchy. Instead it actually supports gender equality.

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