



IBPS PO Pre 2021 English Question Paper with Solution (DOWNLOAD PDF)

Direction: Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow. Certain words are printed in bold to help you locate them while answering some of these.

Boredom indicates a mind at peace with itself; a blank canvas that can **spark** creativity and contemplation. It is likely to lead to considered action or engaging activity that the subject finds meaningful (as opposed to the meaningless activity used to “fill” empty time).

Conversely, the intense restlessness mistaken for boredom in the social media age indicates a deficiency of mental wellness. It is linked to a higher incidence of depression and anxiety, as well as behaviours that we might consider maladaptive, says Dr. X, a professor at the University of Canada, and who has co-authored a book on the psychology of boredom.

“The boredom-prone demonstrate higher levels of aggression and sensation-seeking, which can lead to unwanted outcomes,” he says. If we can recognise and try to avoid succumbing to the agitation and restlessness that so often accompanies feelings of boredom today, then we give ourselves a chance to choose more positive reactions to the experience.

The response to boredom has changed over time. It used to be: let me find something fun to do. Now it’s a desperate grab for empty mental calories. “Today, when we

feel bored we also feel threatened in some sense. Boredom suggests to us that we are not being particularly effective at that moment,” he says. Instead of a panic response, boredom needs to be turned back into something constructive.

In his book, he writes of the difference between free time and “freed time” — the former being time that we fill unthinkingly with something mindless; the latter being the time that we claim and spend doing something we choose. “It’s difficult to defend our freed time but it’s crucial to learn how to do it,” he says.

Proof that social media isn’t the answer **lies** in the ennui that often sets in while scrolling, like the regret of eating the last of a large bag of chips. He states, “It’s irrelevant how many stimuli we have. The core of the issue is _____ we are conscious of how we use our time.”

1. Which of the following is true as per the passage?

- I. As per the passage, it is very difficult to defend free time.
 - II. There is no difference between the free time and ‘freed time’.
 - III. Instead of panicking, we must turn boredom into something constructive
- A. Only I B. Both I and III
C. Only III D. Both I and II
E. All I and II



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2. Which of the following is not true as per the passage?

- I. Boredom now means the attempt to grab empty mental calories.
 - II. In the era of social media, the intense restlessness means boredom.
 - III. Boredom can never lead to creative pursuits.
- A. Only I
 - B. Only II and III
 - C. Only III
 - D. Both I and III
 - E. All I, II and III

3. What does the author mean by 'freed time' as per the passage?

- A. The time we spend doing something meaningless and aimless.
- B. The time we spend doing something we want to do.
- C. The time we spend disturbing others by meaningless objects.
- D. The time we spend scrolling different types of social media.
- E. The time we feel guilty after having a bag of chips.

4. Which of the following word has the same meaning as the word highlighted in the passage?

- Spark
- A. Participate
 - B. Figure
 - C. Stimulate
 - D. Aim
 - E. Prepare

5. Which of this word has a similar meaning with the word highlighted in the passage?

- Lies
- A. Allows
 - B. Exists
 - C. Surprises
 - D. Tackles
 - E. Defeats

6. Which of the following words will fill in the blank in the passage?

- A. how little
- B. many
- C. only to
- D. in respective of
- E. according to

7. According to the passage, boredom leads to _____?

- A. Higher level of aggression leading to unwanted activity
- B. Extreme level of calmness and meditative actions
- C. Increase in activities which are creatively engaging
- D. Less amount of depression and unhappiness
- E. People spend lesser time on social media.

8. Which of the following way people counters boredom nowadays?

- I. To do productive things and engage in creative pursuits.
- II. To engage in physical activities for being healthy.
- III. To scroll through social media in order to consume empty calories.



- A. Only I
- B. Both I and III
- C. Only III
- D. Only II
- E. All I, II and III

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".

9. Battles over public budgets are usually fought line by line, **after closed doors** as well as in public.

- A. In front of closed doors
- B. Behind closed doors
- C. Over closed doors
- D. Out of closed doors
- E. No correction required

10. The sun was **hidden in** Spyglass Hill, which came down to the sea in dangerous cliffs on the left side of the island.

- A. Hidden from
- B. Hidden before
- C. Hidden behind
- D. Hidden inside
- E. No correction required

Direction: In the given question, a part of the sentence is printed in bold. Below the sentence alternatives to the bold part are given at (A), (B), (C) and (D) which can be replaced in the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case the given sentence is correct, your answer is, (E) i.e., 'No change required'.

11. They have to **work out** deal among themselves to solve the matter.

- A. Made it
- B. Arrange a
- C. Dismissed against
- D. Cut off
- E. No change required.

12. **First and foremost**, we must deal with the issue of child labour and trafficking.

- A. Away from
- B. Roam about
- C. From Below
- D. Most importantly
- E. No change required.

13. Security during the prime minister's visit must be maintained **at all costs**.

- A. Put aside
- B. Blow up
- C. Break off
- D. Come what may
- E. No change required.

Direction: In the given question four statements are given in the options. One word is used in all of the statements; pick up the statement in which the word has been used correctly. If the usage is correct in all the statements, then choose option E i.e., 'All are correct' as your answer.

14. **Wind**

- A. If you aren't careful lifting weights, you could **wind up** hurting yourself.
- B. The **wind** in the upper atmosphere has extraordinary amounts of energy.
- C. He seemed to falter halfway through the race before finding his second **wind**.
- D. They continued up a **winding** path toward the top of the lowest of the mountains.
- E. All are correct

15. **Fellow**

- A. He motioned to the others to **fellow** and they all went down the path to the building.
- B. The story order is constructed to hold and build the **fellowship** rather than place events in context or explain issues in depth.
- C. He became a **fellow** of Queens' College, Cambridge, in 1530, and in 1533 was appointed a public reader or professor.
- D. She is a pious **fellow** of the faith, never missing her prayers.
- E. All are correct

16. **Ascent**

- A. The climbers made their **ascent** of the mountain without oxygen.
- B. There were murmurs of both **ascent** and dissent from the crowd.
- C. She adopted an upper-class **ascent** to give herself a veneer of sophistication.
- D. Small town banks have to **ascent** the relative riskiness of their loans.
- E. All are correct.

Direction: A sentence with one blank is given, indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the word that best fits the blank appropriately.

17. Resilience can help us stay _____ on important things in life and keep calm during a crisis.
- A. Aligned
 - B. Calm
 - C. Focused
 - D. Stagnant
 - E. Composed

18. One must focus on a task with utmost concentration so that worries and time _____ by unnoticed.
- A. Flow
 - B. Get away
 - C. Gone
 - D. Pass
 - E. Vanish



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Direction: A sentence with one blank is given, indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the word that best fits the blank appropriately.

19. We should not _____ with drugs because it is detrimental to our health.

- A. Mess
- B. Phase
- C. Choose
- D. Shrug
- E. Nod

Direction: In the given statement some words have been highlighted. These words may not be at the correct place making the sentence grammatically and contextually incorrect. Choose the option which represents the correct sequence of words, which will make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct. If the sentence is correct as it is, choose E i.e. 'No rearrangement required' as your answer.

20. The **sparked (A)** of steel **invention (B)** the second industrial revolution, catalyzing an economic **renewal. (C)**

- A. CAB
- B. BAC
- C. CBA
- D. ACB
- E. No rearrangement required

21. We often **places (A)** new **discover (B)** when we take **excursions (C)** around the world.

- A. BAC
- B. ACB
- C. CAB
- D. BCA
- E. No exchange required.

22. Politicians are like **biochemical (A)** because they **play (B)** with the emotional and **musicians (C)** reactions of the general public.

- A. ACB
- B. BCA
- C. CAB
- D. CBA
- E. No exchange required.

23. One of the most **pressing (A)** gender **opportunity (B)** of today is equal **issues (C)** at work.

- A. ACB
- B. BCA
- C. CAB
- D. CBA
- E. No exchange required.

24. The workplace has **declared (A)** new hours in their **updated (B)** work from home **policy (C)**.

- A. BCA
- B. ACB
- C. BAC
- D. CAB
- E. No exchange required.

Direction: In the following passage, there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately.

As pandemic restrictions and lockdowns start to end, many retailers are finding themselves at a **(###Q1###)** between welcoming customers back inside and keeping their frontline employees safe. Plexiglass shields around registers and signs **(###Q2###)** physical distancing are all meant to keep employees safe, but they also reduce interactions with customers. And while some employees feel comfortable returning to work, some retail employees are experiencing anxiety over customer **(###Q3###)** due to the lifting of mask mandates when less than one third of the U.S. population has been fully vaccinated. Addressing these challenges is critical in order for in-person retail to bounce back from the pandemic. Research from before the Covid-19 crisis found that 90 percent of customers would rather leave a store empty handed than ask for assistance. Now, with so many necessary **(###Q4###)** to interaction, how can retailers subtly signal to shoppers which employees are more comfortable closely assisting them? It may

(###Q5###) to employee dress codes.

Our pre-pandemic research on employee apparel and shopper approach intentions shows that the formality of employee clothing signifies expertise and encourages shopper interaction. Participants in our studies were almost twice **(###Q6###)** interact with a formally dressed employee as one who was informally dressed.

25. Find the appropriate word in each case.

- A. Crossover
- B. Crossroads
- C. Margin
- D. Fix
- E. Loss

26. Find the appropriate word in each case.

- A. demonstrate B. indicate
- C. advising D. proposing
- E. suggest

27. Find the appropriate word in each case.

- A. Dependency
- B. Loyalty
- C. Behaviour
- D. Interactions
- E. Communications

28. Find the appropriate word in each case.

- A. Restriction B. Obstacle
- C. Barriers D. Chains
- E. Ban



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29. Find the appropriate word in each case.

- A. Come back
- B. Come to
- C. Come off
- D. Come out
- E. Come down

30. Find the appropriate word in each case.

- A. As likeable to
- B. As likely to
- C. As prone to
- D. Willingness to
- E. Wishing to





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ANSWERS

1. Ans. C.

The passage states "Instead of a panic response, boredom needs to be turned back into something constructive". This makes statement III true.

The passage states: "He writes of the difference between free time and "freed time" — the former being time that we fill unthinkingly with something mindless; the latter being time that we claim and spend doing something we choose. "It's difficult to defend our freed time but it's crucial to learn how to do it," he says." This makes statement I and II false.

Option C is the correct answer.

2. Ans. B.

The passage states "The response to boredom has changed over time. It used to be: let me find something fun to do. Now it's a desperate grab for empty mental calories." This makes statement I true.

However, the passage states "the intense restlessness mistaken for boredom in the social media age indicates a deficiency of mental wellness." This makes statement II false.

Similarly, the passage argues "Boredom indicates a mind at peace with itself; a blank canvas that can spark creativity", making statement III false. Thus, option B is the correct answer.

3. Ans. B.

The passage states "He writes of the difference between free time and "freed time" — the former being time that we fill unthinkingly with something mindless; the latter being the time that we claim and spend doing something we choose." Thus, option B is the correct answer.

4. Ans. C.

The first statement states that creativity can be inspired by boredom. It can stimulate (meaning: encourage or arouse interest or enthusiasm in). Thus, spark (meaning: ignite or arouse) is the most similar word. Thus, option C is the correct answer.

5. Ans. B.

Meaning of ennui: a feeling of listlessness and dissatisfaction arising from a lack of occupation or excitement.

Now, the statement talks about the fact that the answer to the ennui does not exist or cannot be found in social media. Thus, as per the passage, option B is the correct choice.

6. Ans. A.

The statement talks about how we are least concerned about how we use our time. Thus, Option A is the correct answer.



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"It's irrelevant how many stimuli we have. The core of the issue is **how little** we are conscious of how we use our time."

7. Ans. A.

The passage states "'The boredom-prone demonstrate higher levels of aggression and sensation-seeking, which can lead to unwanted outcomes,'" he says."

Thus, option A is the correct answer.

8. Ans. C.

The passage states "The response to boredom has changed over time. It used to be: let me find something fun to do. Now it's a desperate grab for empty mental calories." Thus it can be inferred that statement III is the correct choice.

Option C is the correct answer.

9. Ans. B.

The correct answer is 'behind closed doors'. Thus, option B is the correct answer.

10. Ans. C.

The correct answer is option C. The correct preposition would be 'behind'.

11. Ans. B.

The subjects of the sentence have to solve the matter by finding the deal to some problem.

Work out means 'find the answer to something.'

Arrange means to reach an agreement about an action. Thus, it can replace work out.

Option B is the correct answer.

12. Ans. E.

First and foremost means most importantly; more than anything else.

Thus, option E is the correct answer.

13. Ans. D.

At all costs means regardless of the price to be paid or the effort needed. Something that must be done by any means.

'Come what may' means to do something by ignoring all the circumstances in order to get something done, by any means.

Option D is the correct answer.

14. Ans. E.

Second wind means "a person's ability to breathe freely during exercise, after having been out of breath."

15. Ans. C.

B is incorrect as the correct word would be 'viewership'.

D demands 'follower' as we are talking about prayers and faith.

A demands a verb that is follow and not a noun 'fellow'.

16. Ans. A.

In B: the correct word would be 'assent'

A is correct

In C: the correct word would be 'accent'

In D: the correct word would be 'assess'

17. Ans. C.

The correct fit would be 'stay focused'.



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Focused means 'directing a great deal of attention, interest, or activity towards a particular aim.' Given the context, option C is the correct choice.

18. Ans. D.

The sentence is talking about a situation where one must concentrate on the task so much that worries and less time won't affect the said person.

Thus 'pass' is the most correct choice.

Pass by means "happen without being noticed or fully experienced by someone"

The correct answer is D.

19. Ans. A.

In this sentence, we are talking about a situation where one must not deal with drugs.

The phrase "mess with" means to deal with (someone or something) in a way that may have a negative effect. Option A is the correct answer.

20. Ans. B.

We need a noun in the first place to make the sentence correct. The only noun highlighted in the sentence is 'invention' which needs to be in the first place. The only option with word B in the first place is option B. Thus, the correct answer is option B.

The rearranged sentence is:

The **invention** of steel **sparked** the second industrial revolution, catalyzing an economic **renewal**.

21. Ans. A.

We need a verb for the subject 'we' at position A to make the sentence grammatically correct.

Thus, B must be placed at A. Word C is at the correct place and requires no change.

The rearranged sentence is: We often **discover** new **places** when we take **excursions** around the world.

Option A is the correct answer.

22. Ans. D.

In the above sentence, 'politicians' is a plural noun that is compared with another noun. We need another plural noun to maintain parallelism. Thus, C should be in the place of A. The word B is in the correct place.

The rearranged sentence is: Politicians are like **musicians** because they **play** with the emotional and **biochemical** reactions of the general public.

Option D is the correct answer.

23. Ans. A.

The sentence is trying to convey the gender issue which affects the workplaces of today.

The correct phrase contextually is thus "equal opportunity". Thus, C needs to be in place of B.

Moreover, 'one of the' phrases is followed by a plural noun. The only plural noun highlighted here is 'issues'.



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The rearranged sentence is thus:
One of the most **pressing** gender **issues** of today is equal **opportunity** at work.

Option A is the correct answer.

24. Ans. E.

The words in the above sentence are correctly placed and require no change.

Thus Option E is the correct answer.

25. Ans. B.

Note that the correct idiom is 'at a crossroads' which means at a point of decision or a critical juncture. So, the correct answer is B.

26. Ans. C.

The correct answer is option C. We need a gerund here. Grammatically advising and proposing seems plausible. Of these, we can rule out proposing on contextual grounds. Thus, C would be the correct choice.

27. Ans. D.

Given the context, we are talking about the anxiety over contact with customers. Thus, the most suitable choice is 'interaction' which means communication or direct involvement with someone or something.

Thus, the correct answer is option D.

28. Ans. C.

Contextually, the sentence is talking about various problems which hinder communication.

Also, we are talking about more than one issue. Thus, the correct answer is option C, which is contextually and grammatically correct.

29. Ans. E.

Context: In the case of communication in post-pandemic world, employees dress code will be decisive.

We need a phrase that means 'decisive'. Thus, 'come down' is correct as it means to reach a decision or recommendation.

The correct answer is option E.

30. Ans. B.

We are talking about what is definitely going to happen when it comes to communication with employees.

We use **likely** to indicate that something is probably the case or will probably happen. Thus, it is the correct choice.

The correct answer is option B.



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