

SSC Tier 2 Sunday English Mega Quiz

Directions (1-5) : Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.

Business news does not repeat itself but it sometimes rhymes. In 2007 Walmart, America's biggest grocer, crowed that it would crack the coveted Indian market by being the first global retailer to set up shop there, pipping envious rivals in the process. On May 9th it announced much the same thing: its time in India has come, this time by virtue of paying \$16bn for a majority stake in Flipkart, India's largest ecommerce outfit, which had also been coveted by its vast online rival, Amazon. The sense of déjà vu owes to the fact that its original foray proved a disappointment. Walmart's hopes of somehow circumventing rules to protect local shopkeepers, which have long prevented most foreign retailers from opening stores, have been repeatedly dashed. A decade on it has a meagre 21 wholesale stores in India, generating just 0.1% of its \$500bn in global revenues and a small loss to boot. Somehow that has not dissuaded the beast of Bentonville from undertaking the biggest foreign acquisition in Indian history.

The Indian e-commerce market is as different from America's brick-and-mortar retail landscape as Walmart's Arkansas home is from Bangalore. Walmart probably has too many stores in its mature home market. Flipkart operates online and in quasi-virgin commercial territory: 95% of Americans shop at Walmart at least once a year, but only 5-10% of Indians have ever bought anything online. The deal is a departure in other ways, too. Walmart has already swooped on companies it thinks will help it grow its ecommerce presence. In 2016 it paid out \$3bn for Jet.com, a putative rival to Amazon in America; it has also bagged Bonobos, a purveyor of tailored trousers. But Flipkart, which was founded in 2007 by two former Amazon employees, is in a different league in terms of price tag.

Walmart will own around 77% of the company, which is valued at over \$20bn in total. Even for Walmart, that is a lot of money: \$20bn is roughly the cash it generates every year net of capital expenditure, say, or 8% of its market capitalisation. Connoisseurs of the Indian tech scene have raised eyebrows at the price tag, given that Flipkart raised money at a valuation of under \$12bn just a year ago. SoftBank, a Japanese telecoms and internet giant which became its biggest shareholder after investing \$2.5bn just nine months ago, stands to walk away with \$4bn. Walmart's new acquisition will not produce quick returns. Analysts reckon Flipkart loses money on each shipment. Margins are unlikely to improve soon given Amazon's incursion into the market (having committed \$5bn to India, it probably ranks a close second to Flipkart, which is thought to account for just under half of India's online sales). Paytm Mall, a newish rival backed by Alibaba of China, is also ambitious.

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Q1. How would Walmart's business in America be different from its Indian venture?

- I. The business in America is mostly brick and mortar while it is online in nature in India.
- II. Walmart owns about 88% of the market share in America but hardly any in the Indian market.
- III. The market is vastly under penetrated in India.

- (a) Only II
- (b) Only I and II
- (c) Only II and III
- (d) Only I and III

Q2. Which of the following is/are true about Walmart's performance in India before it bought stake in Flipkart?

- I. Its revenues from India form a very minuscule proportion of its total revenues.
- II. It has been successful in establishing a small number of retail and wholesale stores.
- III. Its brick and mortar business model was running in losses from the past 3 years in India.

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only I and II
- (c) Only II and III
- (d) Only II

Q3. What does the line- 'Business news does not repeat itself but it sometimes rhymes' refer to?

- (a) It refers to Walmart beating rivals in the e-commerce space.
- (b) It refers to Walmart entering India via e-commerce to avoid getting caught up in the huge number of regulations India has imposed on retailers.
- (c) It refers to Walmart's entry in India via a majority stake buyout in Flipkart in 2018 after being unsuccessful in 2007.
- (d) It refers to Walmart being the first global retailer to set up shop in India.

Q4. Which of the following is/are true as per the passage?

- I. Softbank is the largest shareholder of Flipkart.
- II. India's e-commerce market as a whole is worth about \$15bn only.
- III. Indian regulations dictate that e-commerce sites must sell stuff mainly from third-parties rather than from their own inventory.

- (a) Only II
- (b) Only I
- (c) Only I and III
- (d) Only II and III

Q5. As per your understanding of the passage, which of the following shows that the decision by Walmart to enter Indian e-commerce may not be as lucrative as it appears to be?

- I. Analysts reckon Flipkart loses money on each shipment and at one point it was thought to guzzle \$2m a day subsidising shipping and using discounts to lure buyers.
- II. Venture capitalists in India complain about the lack of exits from dozens of investments in the Indian e-commerce industry.
- III. The entire sector was flat in 2016 and grew at perhaps only 10% last year.

- (a) Only II
- (b) Only I and II
- (c) Only I and III
- (d) All of the above

Directions (6-10) : Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

The long-awaited deal between the United States and the Taliban was finally signed in Doha last Saturday by U.S. Special Envoy Ambassador ZalmayKhalilzad and former Taliban deputy leader Mullah Abdul GhaniBaradar. On the same day, U.S. Defence Secretary Mark Esper visited Kabul to conclude the Joint Declaration for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan between the two governments. Gaps and inconsistencies between the two only add to the confusion. But two facts are clear. The U.S. is on its way out and second, this does not ensure peace for the Afghan people. As former U.S. Defence Secretary General Mattis put it, “The U.S. doesn’t lose wars, it loses interest.” But since a major power cannot be seen to be losing a war, certainly not in an election year, a re-labelling of the withdrawal becomes necessary.

Nearly a half century ago, U.S. President Richard Nixon had faced a similar dilemma. With more than half-a-million U.S. soldiers deployed in Vietnam, it was clear that a military solution was out of question. Seeking an exit, his National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger, during his secret visit to Beijing in July 1971, assured Premier Zhou Enlai that the U.S. was prepared to withdraw completely from Vietnam in return for release of U.S. prisoners of war and a ceasefire lasting “a decent interval”. Kissinger and Nixon knew that the deal would leave their ally, the South Vietnamese government led by President Thieu, vulnerable. In declassified 1972 White House tapes, Nixon and Kissinger acknowledge that “South Vietnam is not going to survive and the idea is to find a formula that can hold things together for a year or two”. The ploy worked.

Nixon was re-elected with a record margin in November 1972 on the platform that peace was at hand. In January 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were signed, and by end March, the U.S. had completed its withdrawal ending direct military involvement. U.S. prisoners of war were released but by end-1973, the ceasefire was in tatters. Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese forces on April 30, 1975. Approximately 20,000 U.S. soldiers died during 1972-73 (Nixon cemented the understanding during his visit to China in February 1972) and 80,000 South Vietnamese soldiers died after the collapse of the ceasefire, following the decent interval. To win his re-election, Nixon had promised an honourable peace and delivered a delayed defeat, but by then the world had moved on. Dr. Kissinger won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973 (joint winner) . The secret assurances of 1971-72 only surfaced after four decades.

Q6. Why did the U.S. Defence Secretary visit Kabul?

- (a) to sign the long-awaited deal between the U.S. and the Taliban
- (b) to sign a deal for the withdrawal of its army from Vietnam
- (c) to conclude the Joint Declaration for bringing peace to Afghanistan
- (d) to accept the defeat

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Q7. What does the author think about former U.S. Defence Secretary's comment that "The U.S. doesn't lose wars, it loses interest"?

- (a) resources available in Afghanistan are of no use to the U.S.
- (b) the U.S. has actually lost its interest in Afghanistan
- (c) the U.S. wants to promote peace and harmony in the region and put an end to the war
- (d) the U.S. is re-labelling the withdrawal as a major power cannot be seen to be losing a war

Q8. Whose National Security Adviser was Henry Kissinger?

- (a) Richard Nixon
- (b) Mark Esper
- (c) General Mattis
- (d) Zhou Enlai

Q9. While assuring Zhou Enlai that the U.S. was prepared to withdraw completely from Vietnam, what did Henry Kissinger ask for in return?

- (a) release of U.S. reporters imprisoned in China
- (b) end of the trade war
- (c) release of U.S. prisoners of war
- (d) China's support to wage war against Soviet Union

Q10. Which of the following statements is not true?

- (a) Dr. Kissinger won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1973.
- (b) North Vietnamese fell to the Saigon forces on April 30, 1975.
- (c) Approximately 20,000 U.S. soldiers died during 1972-73.
- (d) In January 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were signed, and by end March, the U.S. had completed its withdrawal ending direct military involvement.

Directions (11-20) : In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.

Q11. You are not looking at the Mohan.

- (a) Mohan is **not** being looked at by you.
- (b) Mohan is being not looked at by you.
- (c) Mohan is not being looked by you.
- (d) Mohan is being not looked by you.

Q12. No one can change fate.

- (a) Fate cannot be changed.
- (b) Someone is not supposed to change the fate.
- (c) Fate is not required to be changed.
- (d) Fate cannot be change.

Q13. This is the third time I have caught you bunking college.

- (a) This is the third time you are being caught bunking college.
- (b) This is the third time you were caught bunking college by me.
- (c) You have been caught bunking college by me for third time.
- (d) You are caught bunking college by me for third time.

Q14. I will not allow you to ride the horse.

- (a) You will not be allowed by me to ride the horse.
- (b) Riding of the horse will not be allowed by me.
- (c) You are not supposed to ride the horse by me.
- (d) None of these

Q15. What makes you happy?

- (a) What are you made happy?
- (b) By what are you made happy?
- (c) By what are you made happy by?
- (d) What made you happy?

Q16. They have attracted the attention of strategic analysts.

- (a) The attention of strategic analysts has been attracted by them.
- (b) The strategic analysts have been attracted by the attention.
- (c) The attention of strategic analysts has being attracted by them.
- (d) Their attention has been attracted by strategic analysts.

Q17. Javed was to write a poem.

- (a) A poem was to be written by Javed.
- (b) A poem is to be written by Javed.
- (c) A poem was being to be written by Javed.
- (d) A poem was needed to be written by Javed.

Q18. They would still launch their surviving nuclear missiles.

- (a) They would be still launching their surviving nuclear missiles.
- (b) Their surviving nuclear missiles would be launched by them.
- (c) Their surviving nuclear missiles would still be launched by them.
- (d) None of these

Q19. Devesh and Shivam were playing PUBG.

- (a) PUBG was being played by Devesh and Shivam.
- (b) PUBG are being played by Devesh and Shivam.
- (c) PUBG is to be played by Devesh and Shivam.
- (d) Devesh and Shivam were being playing PUBG.

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Q20. Reena is a naughty child.

- (a) Reena is being a naughty child.
- (b) A naughty child is Reena.
- (c) It is said that Reena is a naughty child.
- (d) Passive form is not possible.

Directions (21-30) : The questions below consist of a set of labelled sentences. Out of the four options given select the most logical order of the sentences to form a coherent paragraph.

Q21. P. Have begun reducing the terrible death toll due to accidents on India's roads.

Q. In Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, proof of the law's beneficial impact.

R. Union Transport Minister NitinGadkari has expressed optimism that the significant amendments made to the Motor Vehicles Act.

S. As the prime mover of these changes, he finds the reported reduction in crashes, notably.

- (a) SPRQ
- (b) RSQP
- (c) QPRS
- (d) RPSQ

Q22. P. Even the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court came in for a share of blame, albeit for not intervening effectively to contain the violence. One former Justice of the Supreme Court argued that had the judiciary been more proactive,

Q. The statement of Supreme Court judge, K.M. Joseph, that timely action by the Delhi police could have saved lives, set-off a flurry of accusations by others against other organs of the state as well.

R. Opined that courts were not 'equipped' to handle palpable 'pressure' being created to somehow step in and prevent violence.

S. Lives lost in the recent violence could have been saved. The Chief Justice of India, SharadBobde,

- (a) QPSR
- (b) QRSP
- (c) RSQP
- (d) RSPQ

Q23. P. Many of them who had visited the riot-affected areas said that.

Q. Who had not shifted to relief camps, in north-east Delhi on a daily basis from February 26 to March 7.

R. It would take generations to heal the trauma that the violence had left behind.

S. Volunteers of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee had delivered food to around 15,000 riot victims,

- (a) SRQP
- (b) PQRS
- (c) SQPR
- (d) RQPS

Q24. P. Of the communal violence in north-east Delhi. This included medicolegal case (MLC) records.
Q. Jan SwasthyaAbhiyan (JSA) , an umbrella group of NGOs, on Thursday said that.
R. There were several gaps in measures taken by the Delhi government in the aftermath.
S. Not being provided to victims and absence of people at help desks in hospitals among others.
(a) QRPS
(b) RQPS
(c) SQRP
(d) PQRS

Q25. P. The Cafe by Foodhall in Gurugram is doing a special Middle Eastern menu,
Q. Vegan Moroccan Quinoa Salad, and Grilled Mediterranean Sandwich.
R. Called Middle Eastern Table. It offers a variety of traditional dishes from the region,
S. Such as Israeli Shakshuka, Lebanese Platter, Shawarma, Shakshuka,
(a) PRSQ
(b) PRQS
(c) SQRP
(d) SQPR

Q26. P. To the district and police authorities in Lucknow to “forthwith” remove.
Q. The anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) protests in December 2019.
R. Roadside banners displaying the personal details of persons accused of “vandalism” during.
S. A Vacation Bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday did not stay an Allahabad High Court order.
(a) RPQS
(b) SPQR
(c) RPSQ
(d) SPRQ

Q27. P. On January 1, 2020 and five-time NBA champion Bryant,
Q. The retired Los Angeles Lakers legend who was killed on January 26 at age 41.
R. The shutdown follows the deaths of former NBA commissioner David Stern.
S. In a helicopter crash along with his daughter Gianna and seven others.
(a) RPQS
(b) SQRP
(c) RQSP
(d) SRPQ

Q28. P. After playing a badass martial artist in VasanBala’sMardKoDardNahiHota.
Q. And one half of the warring Rajasthani sisters in Vishal Bhardwaj’sPataakha,
R. The 24-year-old Madan will be portraying a 17-year-old TarikaBansal,
S. The daughter of an Udaipurimithaiwala (Irrfan Khan) who wants to study in London.
(a) PQSR
(b) PQRS
(c) PRSQ
(d) RSPQ

Q29. P. Titled Everyday Extraordinary, they are her responses.

Q. Nature Morte has organised a solo exhibition of artist SuhasiniKejriwal's works.

R. The collection is a mix of paintings, drawings, photography, and sculptures.

S. To spending time in the Chitpurneighbourhood of north Kolkata and Chor Bazaar in central Mumbai.

- (a) PQSR
- (b) QPSR
- (c) PRQS
- (d) QPRS

Q30. P. In the absence of good hospitals and cashless free treatment, no significant improvement is possible in the quest to save life and limb.

Q. In investigation, would protect rule-abiding motorists and aid enforcement.

R. To save lives on highways, quality trauma care at the district level holds the key.

S. Making dashboard cameras mandatory, with the video evidence accepted.

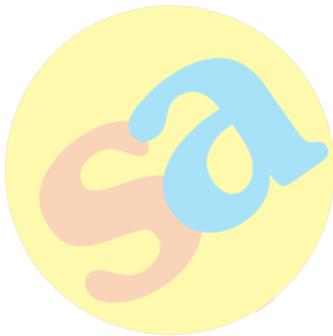
- (a) PQSR
- (b) SPQR
- (c) SQRP
- (d) RSQP

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