**MULTIPLE-CHOICE CHOOSE MULTIPLE ANSWER**

PTE READING

03

 **PAST PAPERS**

**01. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

What is demonetization of currency? It means discontinuity of specified currency from circulation and replacing it with the new currency. Recently, India banned 500 and 1000 currency notes on 8th November 2016. This is not the first time, demonetization already happened 2 times (1947 and 1978) in India. Demonetization is an attempt to make country corruption free because it helps to curb black money. Citizens of India who have unaccounted cash are now required to show income and submit PAN for all financial transactions. It controls escalating price rise, make people accountable for every rupee they possess and pay income tax return. The government of India collects revenue through transactions on which tax has not been paid. Those people who are hiding their income are now forced to come forward because they have to declare their income along with its source. Demonetization move will stop funding to the unlawful activities like terrorism. Demonetization is also an attempt to make a cashless society and create a Digital India.

Ques – Which among the following statements are correct?

[A]. Demonetization scheme has been introduced to counter anti-national & illegal activities.

[B]. Demonetization of currency notes is devaluing the currency with respect to international currencies.

[C]. The demonetization policy will not force people to pay income tax returns.

[D]. Demonetization of currency notes is declaring the currency notes as NOT legal tender.

[E]. All of the above.

**02. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

Prevention is always better than cure. Accidents are due to many causes and may occur under different circumstances. One of the simplest and dangerous ways of people slipping down on the road is because of an orange or a banana peel. So individual always throws away the orange peel or banana skin on the sidewalk. But what happens if a person walking or running on the road side, this will slip down ending in fracture of bones and sometimes even more dangerous than that. So it is a responsibility of all to deposit the peelings in a dustbin. In some countries, several penalties were charged. Another cause of the accident is due to careless crossing in busy roads. While crossing one must look to the right and left for moving vehicles and then cross.

Road safety is a matter of education in which educational institutes play a significant role. Children of all age groups can be taught about the importance of observing the traffic rules. It is also teachers duty to regulate the traffic near the school. Education sector provides professional learning to teachers to equip them with the knowledge and skills to teach quality road safety education. School authority can also cooperate with police in this respect.

From my point of view, an individual is responsible for road accidents. Safety starts with us. If one follows basic road safety rules, then we need not wait for the government to implement some rules to maintain road safety.

Ques. After reading above passage, which of the following is true in respect of road accidents.

[A]. Behind road accidents, the government is alone responsible because of corruption.

[B]. Steps taken by government and societies are of no use because people are not serious about this issue and believe more in faith and destiny than in their actions.

[C]. Just looking at the above, it’s clear to see that some simple actions can be taken to reduce the risk of having an accident.

[D]. A person arrested in case of accident always gets bail, even if his negligence caused the accident.

[E]. Educational institutions now organize road safety education for improving student road safety which contains educational activities that help them to gain more knowledge about road safety.

**03. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

The Economist’s primary focus is world events, politics and business, but it also runs regular sections on science and technology as well as books and the arts. Approximately every two weeks, the publication indudes an in-depth special report (previously called surveys) on a given topic. The five main categories are Countries and Regions, Business, Finance and Economics, Science and Technology, and Other. Every three months, it publishes a technology report called Technology Quarterly or TQ, a special section focusing on recent trends and developments in science and technology.

Since July 2007, there has also been a complete audio edition of the news-magazine available 9pm London time on Thursdays. The audio version of The Economist is produced by the production company Talking Issues. The company records the full text of the news-magazine in mp3 format, including the extra pages in the UK edition. The weekly 130 MB download is free for subscribers and available for a fee for non-subscribers.

The publication’s writers adopt a tight style that seeks to include the maximum amount of information in a limited space. Atlantic Monthly publisher David G. Bradley described the formula as “a consistent world view expressed, consistently, in tight and engaging prose”.

There is a section of economic statistics. Tables such as employment statistics are published each week and there are special statistical features too. It is unique among British weeklies in providing authoritative coverage of official statistics and its rankings of international statistics have been decisive. In addition, The Economist is known for its Big Mac Index, which it first published in 1986, which uses the price of the hamburger in different countries as an informal measure of the purchasing power of currencies.

Question – Based upon the text which of the following are correct?

1. The Economist focuses mainly on world events and politics

2. The Economist provides an audio edition to the subscribers only

3. The Economist tries to maximize information provided in an article

4. The Economist has a special focus on statistics

5. The Big Mac Index was invented by McDonald’s

**04. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

Indian conservationists are facing the problem of shrinking habitat for tigers. India has one of the world’s largest programs to protect the tiger. It is also not an easy task to save tigers and humans together. Persons who are living near tiger reserves faces more problems. Wildlife officials visit a village and saw a tiger was plowing near the village. Wildlife experts spent many hours persuading the villagers not to disturb the tigress because they think that frightened villagers would target the tigress. Actually, the female tiger was on a search for a mate. Field director of reserve formed teams to keep an eye on that tigress and ordered them to intervene immediately if she tried to attack someone. After spending four days, a male tiger answered her mating call and she returned back to the deep jungle. Later, she gave birth to two cubs, who are the newest additions to the 13 tigers in Sariska. This made the officials very happy. Conservationists say time have changed, even for human life in the forest, but neither the villagers nor wildlife gain from being close together. The government always wants to guarantee tribe for whom the forests have been always been home.

Ques – Which among the following statements are correct with respect to upper given passage?

[A]. India is home to half the world’s tigers and the government is trying to save Tigers.

[B]. Major reason behind the decline in the tiger population is

[C]. What is the significance of tigers in India?

[D]. The struggle to balance the interest of wildlife and villagers is not likely to end anytime.

[E]. Tigers are in danger of extinction due to over-hunting by poachers.

[F]. The reducing number has triggered the government authorities to awaken and take observe.

**05. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

Consistent with the theory of the second-best, results of a policy shall be improved if the cost of carbon is only partially internalised by firms. This idea was an outcome of dynamic allocation updating organisation which clarifies to refund a portion of compliance cost to the firms. The investigation was done on trade-offs policy from an optimal taxation perspective. Considering all variants, an optimal level solution of carbon prizes came out along with the associated level of welfare profits. They also found that market-based policies can also deliver welfare gains if the compliance costs by firms fall substantially below the true social cost of emissions. For instance, the social cost of carbon is $45 per ton, then the optimal carbon tax should be only $5 per ton for trade-exposed coastal markets. Two distortions namely market power and incomplete regulation are affected by lower taxes.

Increasing the permit auctioning regime with the border tax adjustment would internalise the emissions externality associated with foreign production, but on the other hand, leaves with the distortions associated with the exercise of market power unaddressed. In coastal areas, it increases the optimal carbon price from $5 per ton to $25 per ton. At inland markets, it is higher than the optimal price because here market tends to be relatively more competitive.

Ques – Which among the following statements are correct with respect to upper given passage?

[A]. Losses are particularly acute under the permit auctioning regime in which firms bear the full cost of compliance.

[B]. What are the constrained-optimal policies for market power in the product market and emissions leakages?

[C]. A border tax adjustment is the most cost-effective way to reduce emissions, especially when considering the negative effects of emissions leakage.

[D]. The optimal regulatory policy in such industries may be to rebate compliance costs partially on the basis of output or to impose border tax adjustments.

[E]. Which of the regimes performs best from a welfare point of view?

**06. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

The Turks and Caicos Islands are a multi-island archipelago at the southern tip of the Bahamas chain, approximately 550 miles south-east of Florida. The islands are an overseas territory of the United Kingdom although they exercise a high degree of local political autonomy. The economy of the islands rests mainly on tourism, with some contribution from offshore banking and fishing.

Primary schooling is divided into eight grades, with most pupils entering at the age of four years and leaving at twelve. After two kindergarten years, Grades 1-6 are covered by a graded curriculum in maths, language and science that increases in difficulty as pupils get older. There is little repetition and pupils are expected to progress through primary school in their age cohorts. At the end of primary schooling, pupils sit an examination that serves to stream them in the secondary school setting. Primary and secondary school enrolment is virtually universal.

There is a total of ten government primary schools on the islands. Of these, seven are large enough to organise pupils into single-grade classrooms. Pupils in these schools are generally grouped by age into mixed ability classes. The remaining three schools, because of their small pupil numbers, operate with multigrade groupings. They serve communities with small populations whose children cannot travel to a neighbouring larger primary school. Pupils in these classes span up to three grade and age groups.

As far as classroom organisation is concerned, the multigrade and monograde classrooms are similar in terms of the number of pupils and the general seating arrangements, with pupils in rows facing the blackboard. There is no evidence that the multigrade teachers operate in a particularly resource-poor environment in the Turks and Caicos Islands. This is in contrast to studies conducted in other developing country contexts.

Ques – According to the text, which of the following statements can be concluded about primary classes in the Turks and Caicos Islands?

[A]. Multigrade classes are in very bad conditions.

[B]. Monograde and Multigrade classrooms are different in terms of the number of pupils.

[C]. Multigrade classes are mainly found in smaller schools.

[D]. Most primary pupils are in mixed ability classes.

[E]. Organisation in both multigrade and monograde classroom is the same.

**07. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

Effects of taxes have shifted the mindset of people for migration. The government is forced to consider ways to raise more revenues because of increasing the budget deficit. Inventors would not give respond much to tax rates. Highly skilled individuals are very much important for receiving good economy of the country. Their decisions are hard to understand but high skilled immigrants are disproportionally contributing to innovation. For instance, Alexander G. Bell (the inventor of the telephone) and Charles Simonyi (developer at Microsoft), as both of them are immigrants. This is a surprising factor that migration rates increase in skill and inventors are paid high for skill distribution. But all of inventors are not same, in fact, they are very much different from their quality and innovativeness which could be easily measurable through the economic value of an inventor’s patents. When more a patent is cited, the presumed value of it would also be higher.

Which of the following are correct with respect to the passage?

[A]. Restrict inventors, who are company employees so that their migration decision is simply an individual relocation.

[B]. Sometimes innovation level increases with migration.

[C]. To address the behaviour of inventors, compare economic factors except changing the rate of taxes.

[D]. A Strong correlation between top tax rates and high inventor migration.

[E]. This seems to suggest that career concerns can outweigh tax considerations.

**08. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

Most of us don’t know that May 9 is Europe day. In high school or Latin class, you might remember April 21. On May 9, 1950, French foreign minister – Robert Schuman proposed combining French and West German coal and steel industries. This is same like our Declaration of Independence. Europe day doesn’t draw many crowds. Europeans prefer to celebrate it on May 5, because it was the day when the Council of Europe was established in 1949. While there are some others who celebrate it on September 26 because of European Day of Languages. Confusion increases more due to May 1, a holiday in much of Europe as both a traditional spring festival and the European equivalent of Labor Day.

Which of the following are wrong with respect to the passage?

[A]. Bewilderment in the minds of people regarding Roman Independence Day.

[B]. The Council of Europe’s day reflects its own establishment in 1949.

[C]. Rome gained dominance over the Western Mediterranean, displacing Carthage as the dominant regional power.

[D]. The Schuman Declaration was presented by French foreign minister Robert Schuman on 9 May 1950.

[E]. The origin of the city’s name is thought to be that of the reputed founder and first ruler, the legendary Romulus.

**09. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

A tax haven is a state, country or territory where certain taxes are levied at a low rate or not at all, which are used by businesses for tax avoidance and tax evasion. Individuals and/or corporate entities can find it attractive to establish shell subsidiaries or move themselves to areas with reduced or nil taxation levels. This creates a situation of tax competition among governments. Different jurisdictions tend to be havens for different types of taxes and for different categories of people and companies. The central feature of a tax haven is that its laws and other measures can be used to evade or avoid the tax laws or regulations of other jurisdictions. A 2012 report from the Tax Justice Network estimated that between USD $21 trillion and $32 trillion is sheltered from taxes in unreported tax havens worldwide.

Tax havens have been criticized because they often result in the accumulation of idle cash that is expensive and inefficient for companies to repatriate. The tax shelter benefits result in a tax incidence disadvantaging the poor. Many tax havens are thought to have connections to fraud, money laundering and terrorism. While investigations of illegal tax haven abuse have been ongoing, especially in light of the 2015 HSBC files revelations, there have been few convictions.

Question – According to the text which of the following is true about a tax haven?

Options –

1. Tax haven is often a state or territory within a country

2. Tax havens have a high rate of taxes

3. A tax haven does not necessarily apply to all types of taxes

4. Tax havens are praised for accumulation of cash

5. Some tax havens have nil taxation levels

**10. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

During the Ming Dynasty, what is now the city of Shanghai was a part of Jiangsu Province (with a small partin zhejiang Province). While Shanghai had become a county seat in the Yuan Dynasty, it remained relatively a small town.

Its location at the mouth of the Yangtze led to its development as coastal trade developed during the reign of the Qianlong emperor in the Qing Dynasty. Gradually, the port of Shanghai surpassed the port of Ningbo and the port of Guangzhou to became the largest port of China at the time.

In 1842, Shanghai became a treaty port, thus developing into an international commercial city. By the early 20th century, it was the largest city in the Far East, and the largest port in the Far East.

In 1949, with the Communist takeover in Shanghai, overseas trade was cut dramatically. The economic policy of the People’s Republic had a crippling effect on Shanghai’s infrastructure and capital development.

In 1991, the central government allowed Shanghai to initiate economic reform. Since then, the port of Shanghai has developed at an increasing pace. By 2005, the Yangshan deep water port was built on the Yangshan islands, a group of islands in Hangzhou Bay, linked to Shanghai by the Donghai Bridge. This development allowed the port to overcome shallow water conditions in its current location, and to rival another deep-water port, the nearby Ningbo-Zhoushan port.

Question – Which of the following are described in this passage?

Options –

1. Factors leading to the development of the port of Shanghai

2. A chronological history of China

3. Historical events in Shanghai

4. The communist movement in China

**11. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

The Bates method is an alternative therapy aimed at improving eyesight. Eye-care physician William Horatio Bates, M.D. (1860–1931) attributed nearly all sight problems to habitual strain of the eyes, and felt that glasses were harmful and never necessary. Bates self-published a book, Perfect Sight Without Glasses, as well as a magazine, Better Eyesight Magazine, (and earlier collaborated with Bernarr MacFadden on a correspondence course) detailing his approach to helping people relax such “strain”, and thus, he claimed, improve their sight. His techniques centered on visualization and movement. He placed particular emphasis on imagining black letters and marks, and the movement of such. He also felt that exposing the eyes to sunlight would help alleviate the “strain”.

Despite continued anecdotal reports of successful results, including well-publicised support by Aldous Huxley, Bates’ techniques have not been objectively shown to improve eyesight. His main physiological proposition—that the eyeball changes shape to maintain focus—has consistently been contradicted by observation. In 1952, optometry professor Elwin Marg wrote of Bates, “Most of his claims and almost all of his theories have been considered false by practically all visual scientists.” Marg concluded that the Bates method owed its popularity largely to “flashes of clear vision” experienced by many who followed it.

Question – Based on the paragraph, which of the following would Bates recommended to someone suffering from poor eyesight?

Options –

1. Imagining black letters

2. Wearing glasses

3. Exposing the eyes to sunlight

4. Visualizing perfect eye sight

5. Change the shape of the eyeball to remove eye strain

**12. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

One of the first land offensives in Oceania was the Occupation of German Samoa in August 1914 by New Zealand forces. The campaign to take Samoa ended without bloodshed after over 1,000 New Zealanders landed on the German colony. Australian forces attacked German New Guinea in September 1914. A company of Australians and a British warship besieged the Germans and their colonial subjects, ending with a German surrender.

The attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters, was a surprise military strike conducted by the Imperial Japanese Navy against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on the morning of 7 December 1941. The attack led to the United States’ entry into World War II. The Japanese subsequently invaded New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and other Pacific islands. The Japanese were turned back at the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Kokoda Track campaign before they were finally defeated in 1945. Some of the most prominent Oceanic battlegrounds were the Battle of Bita Paka, Solomon Islands campaign, the Air raids on Darwin, the Kokada Track, and the Borneo campaign.

Australia and New Zealand became dominions in the 20th century, adopting the Statute of Westminster Act in 1942 and 1947 respectively. In 1946, Polynesians were granted French citizenship and the islands’ status was changed to an overseas territory; the islands’ name was changed in 1957 to Polynésie Française (French Polynesia). Hawaii became a U.S. state in 1959. Fiji and Tonga became independent in 1970. On 1 May 1979, in recognition of the evolving political status of the Marshall Islands, the United States recognized the constitution of the Marshall Islands and the establishment of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Question – According to the text, which of the following statements are true about the history of Oceania?

Options –

1. The Japanese captured significant parts of Oceania and were never defeated.

2. Oceania has witnessed military intervention from several countries over the last 100 years.

3. New Zealand and Australia worked closely to defeat Germans in Oceania.

4. Darwin was one of the centres that witnessed aerial conflict.

5. Occupation of German Samoa by New Zealand triggered a long series of conflicts in Oceania.

**13. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

Although there are significant differences among the Nordic countries, they all share some common traits. These include support for a “universalist” welfare state (relative to other developed countries) which is aimed specifically at enhancing individual autonomy, promoting social mobility and ensuring the universal provision of basic human rights, as well as for stabilizing the economy, alongside a commitment to free trade. The Nordic model is distinguished from other types of welfare states by its emphasis on maximizing labour force participation, promoting gender equality, egalitarian and extensive benefit levels, the large magnitude of income redistribution, and liberal use of the expansionary fiscal policy.

The Nordic model is described as a system of competitive capitalism combined with a large public sector (roughly 30% of the workforce). In 2013, The Economist described its countries as “stout free-traders who resist the temptation to intervene even to protect iconic companies” while also looking for ways to temper capitalism’s harsher effects, and declared that the Nordic countries “are probably the best-governed in the world.” The Nordic combination of extensive public provision of welfare and a culture of individualism has been described by Lars Tragardh, of Ersta Skondal University College, as “statist individualism.” Some economists have referred to the Nordic economic model as a form of “cuddly” capitalism, with low levels of inequality, generous welfare states and reduced concentration of top incomes, and contrast it with the more “cut-throat” capitalism of the United States, which has high levels of inequality and a larger concentration of top incomes.

The Nordic model, however, is not a single identical set of policies and rules in every country; each of the Nordic countries has its own economic and social models, sometimes with large differences from its neighbours. While Sweden’s neoliberal reforms have reduced the role of the public sector over the last decades and saw the fastest growth in inequality of any OECD economy, Sweden’s income inequality still remains lower than most other countries’.

**Question –**According to the text, which of the following statements can be concluded about the Nordic model?

1. Nordic model is a type of welfare state
2. Nordic countries do not have anything in common
3. Nordic model applies to all the Nordic countries in same way
4. Nordic model encourages gender equality
5. According to the Economist, Nordic countries have good governments

**14. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

English has developed over the course of more than 1,400 years. The earliest forms of English, a set of Anglo-Frisian dialects brought to Great Britain by Anglo-Saxon settlers in the fifth century, are called Old English. Middle English began in the late 11th century with the Norman conquest of England and was a period in which the language was influenced by French. Early Modern English began in the late 15th century with the introduction of the printing press to London and the King James Bible, and the start of the Great Vowel Shift. Through the worldwide influence of the British Empire, modern English spread around the world from the 17th to mid-20th centuries. Through all types of printed and electronic media, as well as the emergence of the United States as a global superpower, English has become the leading language of international discourse and the lingua franca in many regions and in professional contexts such as science, navigation, and law.

English is the third most widespread native language in the world, after Standard Chinese and Spanish. It is the most widely learned second language and is either the official language or one of the official languages in almost 60 sovereign states. There are more people who have learned it as a second language than there are native speakers. English is the most commonly spoken language in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, Ireland and New Zealand, and it is widely spoken in some areas of the Caribbean, Africa and South Asia. It is co-official language of the United Nations, of the European Union and of many other world and regional international organisations. It is the most widely spoken language, accounting for at least 70% of speakers of this Indo-European branch.

**Question –** According to the text, which of the following statements can be concluded about the English language?

**Options –**

1. The number of people who learn English as their second language is greater than those who learn it as their first language.
2. Emergence of United States as a global super power can be attributed to widespread use of the English Language.
3. English is the leading language for the study of several professional subjects.
4. English is the official language used by United Nations and many other international organisations.
5. English is the most widely spoken language in Germany.

**15. Read the passage and answer the following question.**

A short story is a piece of prose fiction that can be read in one sitting. Emerging from earlier oral storytelling traditions in the 17th century, the short story has grown to encompass a body of work so diverse as to defy easy characterization. At its most prototypical the short story features a small cast of named characters, and focuses on a self-contained incident with the intent of evoking a “single effect” or mood. In doing so, short stories make use of plot, resonance, and other dynamic components to a far greater degree than is typical of an anecdote, yet to a far lesser degree than a novel. While the short story is largely distinct from the novel, authors of both generally draw from a common pool of literary techniques.

Short stories have no set length. In terms of word count there is no official demarcation between an anecdote, a short story, and a novel. Rather, the form’s parameters are given by the rhetorical and practical context in which a given story is produced and considered, so that what constitutes a short story may differ between genres, countries, eras, and commentators. Like the novel, the short story’s predominant shape reflects the demands of the available markets for publication, and the evolution of the form seems closely tied to the evolution of the publishing industry and the submission guidelines of its constituent houses.

The short story has been considered both an apprenticeship form preceding more lengthy works, and a crafted form in its own right, collected together in books of similar length, price, and distribution to novels. Short story writers may define their works as part of the artistic and personal expression of the form.

**Question – Based on the paragraph, which of the following is a true statement about short story writing?**

**Options –**

1. It usually focuses on a self-contained incident.
2. It is another type of anecdote
3. It is an apprenticeship that authors must take before writing longer works
4. It is often published alongside a novel
5. Its length and other parameters can vary between countries and generous

**ANSWERS**

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| --- | --- |
| 01 | A and D |
| 02 | C and E  |
| 03 | 3. The Economist tries to maximize information provided in an article4. The Economist has a special focus on statistics |
| 04 | D and F |
| 05 | B and D |
| 06 | C, D and E  |
| 07 | B and D |
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| 10 | 1. Factors leading to the development of the port of Shanghai3. Historical events in Shanghai |
| 11 | 1. Imagining black letters3. Exposing the eyes to sunlight  |
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