

**UPSC EPFO 2025
APFC & EO/AO
GENERAL ENGLISH
QUESTIONS**

General English

Directions (For the next five items): Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with the most appropriate options given below:

Q1. The evening looked _____ against the stretched-out sky.

- A. red, beautiful and soul-quenching
- B. beautiful, red and soul-quenching
- C. soul-quenching, beautiful and red
- D. beautiful, soul-quenching and red

Q2. Summers _____ be really hot at times, so make sure you stay hydrated.

- A. can
- B. could
- C. might
- D. may

Q3. I was wondering which festival _____ we celebrate together this year?

- A. will
- B. might
- C. shall
- D. do

Q4. I was _____ exhausted by the end of the week spent in the library doing research work.

- A. exceedingly
- B. inordinately
- C. very
- D. completely

Q5. They _____ be very far away. I saw them a little while ago.

- A. shall not
- B. cannot
- C. should not
- D. ought not

Directions (For the next five items): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow, keeping in mind the contents of the passage alone:

Passage

Africa is on the move. At least 20 million (i) _____ live outside the continent, a three-fold increase since 1990. Europe accounts for about half of African (ii) _____ outside Africa, but its share has steadily declined since 1990. America, China, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have all seen surges in their African-born populations. It may seem otherworldly to predict that this will continue, given the fierce backlash against (iii) _____ across the West. Notwithstanding pushback, African (iv) _____ is an unstoppable force that will long outlast today's populists and help define the 21st century. Demography is one cause. It is well-known that in the developed world the number of people of working age will decline, exacerbating labour shortages. What is less widely appreciated is that emerging countries that are associated with exporting people, such as Mexico and the Philippines, are also getting older and richer — meaning smaller shares of their populations will, in future, wish to emigrate in search of work. In Africa, by contrast, the working-age population is forecast to increase by around 700 million people by 2050. Another cause is economics. Many African countries are entering a phase in their development in which people are still poor enough to wish to leave but, for the first time, rich enough to be able to travel long distances. African countries create only around a fifth of the number of formal jobs required to absorb their expanding workforce.

Q6. In the above passage there are four blanks numbered (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). Select the option from those given below in which the most appropriate term has been used for each of the blanks respectively:

- A. (i) immigrants; (ii) migration; (iii) emigrants; (iv) immigration
- B. (i) emigrants; (ii) migrants; (iii) immigration; (iv) migration
- C. (i) immigrants; (ii) emigrants; (iii) immigration; (iv) migrants
- D. (i) emigrants; (ii) migrants; (iii) migration; (iv) emigration

Q7. Which of the following sentences with respect to the passage is/are correct?

- 1. All rich western nations have been seeing an increase in emigration from Africa over the past few decades.
- 2. Over the past thirty-five odd years, the number of African origin people living outside Africa has gone up by a factor of three.
- 3. The fierce resistance to labour incursion into the West will temper emigration from Africa in the 21st century.

Select the answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 1 and 3
- C. 2 and 3
- D. 2 only

Q8. With reference to the passage, which of the following are factors that can be seen to be determining the movement of Africans to other countries to seek work?

- 1. Younger populations in developing countries like the Philippines and Mexico
- 2. Only about 20 per cent of the required jobs being available within African nations
- 3. Fierce backlash from Western countries given the increasing immigration load

Select the answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 2 only

Q9. Which one of the following options most appropriately describes the phrase "exacerbating labour shortages"?

- A. Increasing labour shortages
- B. Worsening the problem of labour shortages
- C. Mitigating the issue of labour shortages
- D. Intractably unburdening labour shortages

Q10. Which one of the following is the figure of speech in the expression "Africa is on the move"?

- A. Personification
- B. Irony
- C. Anthropomorphism
- D. Antithesis

Directions (For the next five items): In the following sentences prepositions or phrasal verbs have been used, which have been underlined in each instance respectively. Select the sentence(s) wherein the use of the proposition or phrasal verb is/are correct:



Q11.

1. The delivery reached its destination just about time.
2. The evidence presented by Shyam states something different than what is being presented by Ram.
3. That is the difference of somebody doing his duty and not doing his duty.

Select the answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 1 and 3
- C. 1 only
- D. None of the above

Q12.

1. Amidst the scuffle and the resultant confusion, the thief managed to slip away.
2. There was not a single person amongst those assembled who was willing to become the leader.
3. Among the members of the community the local doctor was the one who was most respected.

Select the answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q13.

1. Raj's apartment was three floors underneath the Subramanian residence.
2. There was little space below the tin roof and the scaffolding for the squirrel to hide in.
3. Inside the box was the secret he had been searching for all his life.

Select the answer using the codes given below:

- A. 3 only
- B. 1 and 2
- C. 2 and 3
- D. None of the above

Q14.

1. The ship put in at the first available port to repair its damaged hull.
2. The advertisement was put out for wide circulation.
3. The matter had become so urgent that it could not be put off for another day.

Select the answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Q15.

1. It is widely acknowledged that he takes after his aunt.
2. He was reluctant to take in any more responsibility.
3. He assured the client that he would take out the matter at the first given opportunity.

Select the answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 1 and 3
- C. 1 only
- D. None of the above

Directions (For the next five items): In the following items a phrase has been given with a word that is underlined, followed by four words or group of words. Select the option that is closest in meaning to the given word:

Q16. The fact that the deliberations were carried out in a cordial manner pleased the old guard very much.

- A. joust
- B. convivial
- C. jocular
- D. zestful

Q17. His views on the matter have been impugned by those evaluating his role in the community as its erstwhile ruler.

- A. challenged
- B. belittled
- C. enhanced
- D. endured

Q18. His ad hominem comments on his colleague were considered egregious by those present.

- A. extensively elaborate
- B. flagrant and shocking
- C. out of context
- D. impromptu and unintended

Q19. Once he began to savour the taste of true wealth, he abandoned all his erstwhile ideas regarding social welfare and was subsequently labelled an apostate.

- A. an arrogant and haughty person
- B. a self-important person
- C. a renouncer of held beliefs
- D. an affluent person

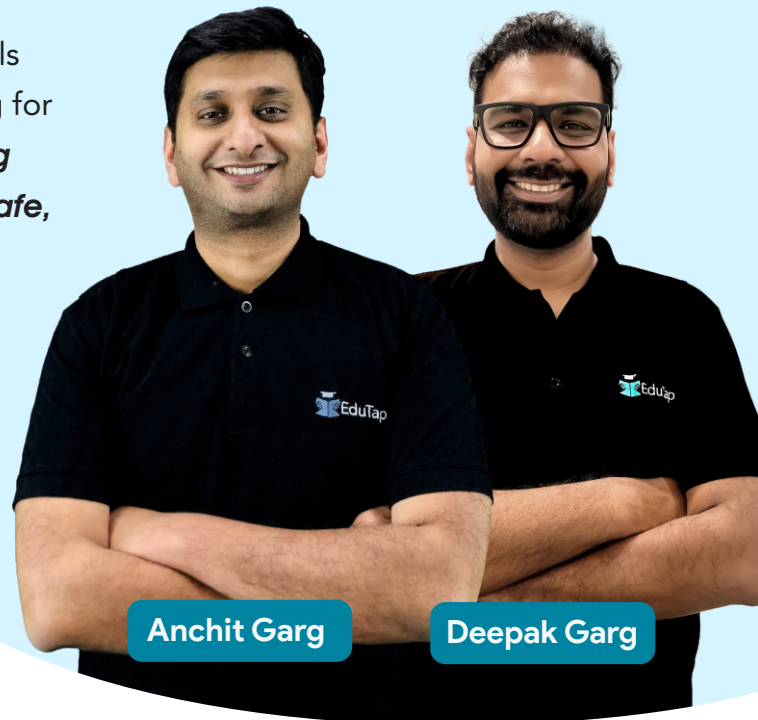
Q20. The debate around the corporeity of the soul presents a compelling paradox.

- A. the quality of physical existence
- B. collective consciousness
- C. embodied in divinity
- D. corpuscular existence



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