SBI PO Mains English Memory-Based Paper

Date of Exam: 13th September 2025

Directions (1-9): Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

Coral reefs are among the most vibrant ecosystems on the planet, sustaining roughly a quarter of all marine species despite covering only a tiny fraction of the ocean floor. Yet these living structures are deteriorating at an alarming pace. When ocean temperatures rise even slightly above the normal range, corals expel the colourful algae that live inside their tissues and supply them with food. Stripped of this partnership, the corals turn ghostly white in a process called bleaching, and if the stress persists, they starve and die. Conservationists have long searched for ways to slow this decline, but most existing methods, such as relocating coral fragments to cooler waters or building artificial reefs, are slow, costly, and difficult to scale across the vast areas now under threat.

Recently, a team of marine biologists proposed an unconventional remedy borrowed from agriculture: cultivating heat-resistant corals much as farmers breed drought-resistant crops. The central idea is to identify individual corals that have naturally survived past heatwaves and then encourage them to reproduce, passing their resilience to the next generation. However, the first attempts ran into an unexpected difficulty. Coral spawning happens only a few nights each year, synchronised with the lunar cycle, and the released eggs and sperm drift apart within hours. Collecting and combining them at exactly the right moment, across reefs spread over hundreds of kilometres, proved nearly impossible with the tools available.

To work around this barrier, scientists developed two complementary techniques inspired by other fields. The first was modelled on a fertility clinic. Researchers gathered coral spawn at sea, transported it to floating laboratories, and combined the most resilient samples under controlled conditions before returning the young corals to the reef. To assess survival, they tagged the laboratory-raised colonies with a harmless fluorescent marker and tracked their growth over several seasons. The results were promising, with tagged colonies showing markedly higher tolerance to heat. The second technique drew on cold-storage methods used for vaccines. By freezing coral cells at extremely low temperatures, the team created a living bank that could supply genetic material at any time of year, freeing the work from the narrow spawning window. This method, too, succeeded in early trials.

Both approaches demonstrated that breeding corals for resilience is not merely a theoretical hope but a workable strategy. Although large-scale restoration will require years of further study and substantial funding, these findings offer cautious optimism to communities that depend on reefs for food, coastal protection, and tourism. By giving nature a carefully guided push, the researchers believe, it may be possible to help reefs withstand a warming ocean and preserve their extraordinary diversity for future generations.

Q1. Evaluate the following statements based on the passage:

(I) Both new techniques relied on freezing coral cells before returning them to the reef.

(II) Researchers primarily aimed to invent a new chemical to cool ocean water.

(III) The breeding methods could benefit not only marine biodiversity but also people who depend on reefs.

(a) Only (I) and (III) are correct
(b) Only (I) is correct
(c) Only (II) and (III) are correct
(d) All of the statements are correct
(e) Only (III) is correct

Q2. Which of the following challenges did researchers face during their first attempts?

(a) The heat-resistant corals refused to reproduce in captivity.
(b) The fluorescent marker proved toxic to young colonies.
(c) Coordinating the brief, lunar-linked spawning across distant reefs was extremely difficult.

(d) Floating laboratories could not be anchored in deep water.
(e) Frozen coral cells lost their genetic material during storage.

Q3. Which of the following statements about the breeding strategy can be correctly inferred?

(I) It could offer a more scalable alternative to relocating coral fragments.
(II) It borrows methods from fields outside marine biology to solve practical problems.
(III) It has already restored reefs across the entire ocean.
(a) Only (I)
(b) Both (I) and (II)
(c) Only (III)
(d) Both (I) and (III)
(e) All (I), (II) and (III)

Q4. Match the terms in Column A with their correct descriptions from Column B, based on the passage.

Column A	Column B
A. Bleaching	1. A technique that freezes coral cells to supply genetic material year-round
B. Fertility-clinic method	2. The process in which stressed corals expel their algae and turn white
C. Cold-storage method	3. An approach that combines resilient spawn in floating laboratories
D. Fluorescent marker	4. A harmless tag used to track the growth of laboratory-raised colonies

(a) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4
(b) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2
(c) A-1, B-4, C-2, D-3
(d) A-4, B-2, C-3, D-1
(e) A-2, B-4, C-3, D-1

Q5. Which of the following best explains why the timing of spawning was so critical to the early attempts?

(a) The eggs and sperm remain viable only briefly and the reefs were far apart.
(b) Corals can only be tagged during a full moon.
(c) Floating laboratories operate only at night.
(d) Algae return to the corals immediately after spawning.
(e) Frozen cells must be thawed exactly at sunrise.

Q6. Which of the following best characterises the research approach adopted by the marine biologists?

(a) Repetitive experimentation without drawing on any other discipline
(b) Trial-and-error with no measurable outcomes
(c) Cross-disciplinary problem-solving driven by observed practical obstacles
(d) Complete reliance on artificial reefs built by construction firms
(e) A preference for relocating corals validated by tradition

Q7. Which of the following comparisons between the two techniques is accurate based on the passage?

(a) Both techniques freeze coral cells before combining them.
(b) The cold-storage method removes dependence on the narrow spawning window, while the clinic method works during spawning.
(c) The clinic method freezes cells while the cold-storage method tags colonies.
(d) Only the cold-storage method was tested in early trials.
(e) The clinic method was modelled on vaccine distribution.

Q8. Which of the following words can best replace “unconventional” in the sentence without changing its intended meaning?

“Recently, a team of marine biologists proposed an unconventional remedy borrowed from agriculture.”

(a) ordinary
(b) routine
(c) novel
(d) outdated
(e) restricted

Q9. Which of the following statements is/are TRUE according to the passage?

I. The clinic-inspired method combines resilient spawn in floating laboratories.

II. The cold-storage method allows genetic material to be supplied at any time of year.

III. Reefs worldwide have already been fully restored using these methods.

(a) Only I
(b) Both I and II
(c) Only III
(d) Both II and III
(e) All I, II and III

Directions (10-16): Rearrange the following sentences and answer the given questions.

A. This swelling of cities, often called rapid urbanisation, has become a major focus for planners and policymakers.

B. Researchers further caution that if this pace continues, several metropolitan areas could outgrow their water and sanitation systems within two decades.

C. Experts attribute this surge largely to migration from villages, where dwindling farm incomes push families toward urban centres.

D. Cities across the developing world are expanding at a remarkable rate as more people move in search of work.

E. The unchecked growth of these cities not only strains housing and transport but also worsens air quality and public health.

F. Some recent surveys indicate that the urban population in these regions is rising nearly twice as fast as the rural population.

G. Therefore, coordinated investment in affordable housing and public services is essential to keep this growth sustainable and humane.

Q10. Which of the following is the FIRST sentence after rearrangement?

(a) C
(b) D
(c) F
(d) A
(e) E

Q11. Which of the following is the SECOND sentence after rearrangement?

(a) C
(b) G
(c) F
(d) A
(e) E

Q12. Which of the following is the THIRD sentence after rearrangement?

(a) C

(b) D
(c) F
(d) A
(e) E

Q13. Which of the following is the SIXTH sentence after rearrangement?
(a) B
(b) D
(c) F
(d) A
(e) E

Q14. Which of the following is the FIFTH sentence after rearrangement?
(a) D
(b) A
(c) F
(d) B
(e) E

Q15. Which of the following is the FOURTH sentence after rearrangement?
(a) C
(b) D
(c) F
(d) A
(e) E

Q16. Two columns are given below. Column I contains two words, while Column II lists several words/phrases. Select the option that correctly pairs each word in Column I with its appropriate replacement(s) from Column II.

Column I	Column II
P. surge	1. shortage
Q. dwindling	2. upswing
	3. abundant
	4. shrinking

(a) P-2 and Q-3
(b) P-1, P-3 and Q-4
(c) P-2 and Q-1
(d) P-2 and Q-4
(e) P-1 and Q-4, Q-2

Directions (17-21): In the question below, a paragraph is split into several parts. Examine each part for grammatical accuracy and select the option that correctly identifies which parts are grammatically correct or incorrect.

Q17. (A) Renewable energy have grown rapidly in the last decade. Engineers (B) warns that without better storage, solar power will remain unreliable after sunset. Falling battery costs are reshaping markets, encouraging households (C) and powering remote villages. Practical steps, like installing rooftop panels and upgrading grids, can deliver lasting benefits. (D) Utilities and regulators must cooperate closely (E) while protecting consumers from sudden price shocks.
(a) A and B are correct
(b) A and C are incorrect

(c) C, D and E are correct
(d) B and E are incorrect
(e) A, D, E are incorrect

Q18. (A) Automation is reshaping countless workplaces over the past few years. (B) If firms invest in retraining programmes, employees will adapt to new tools more easily. When tasks are redesigned thoughtfully, productivity tends to improve. (C) Had the company upgraded its software earlier, it could had avoided the costly outage. (D) As demand grows, businesses (E) will need to balance efficiency with job security.

(a) A and B are incorrect
(b) A and C are incorrect
(c) C and D are correct
(d) B and E are incorrect
(e) A, D and E are incorrect

Q19. (A) Although skipping breakfast saves a little time, it also lowers concentration through the morning. By ignore early warning signs, (B) drivers risk serious accidents on long journeys. Constantly checking work emails after hours (C) often leads to stress and disturbed sleep. People stay glued to their screens, (D) so they neglect to exercise and resting. Because rumours spread quickly online, (E) verifying news before forwarding is essential.

(a) A and E are incorrect
(b) A, D and E are incorrect
(c) B, C and D are correct
(d) A and D are correct
(e) B, C and E are correct

Q20. (A) This season's heavier snowfall have disrupted traffic across the hills. (B) If the roads are cleared before the busiest hours, (C) commuters will avoid long delays. Shopkeepers report that footfall has dropped sharply, hurting sales (D) but also easing crowding at the market. While forecasts predict more snow, but officials urge travellers to carry warm clothing. (E) Because timely warnings have been issued this winter, many drivers have started fitting their vehicles with chains.

(a) A and C are incorrect
(b) A and D are incorrect
(c) B and C are incorrect
(d) C, D and E are correct
(e) B and E are incorrect

Q21.

(A) Rarely we see leaders admitting their mistakes openly in public.
(B) Encouraging questions, the new training session reduces confusion and builds confidence.
(C) Having submitted the final draft, the writer celebrated with her colleagues.
(D) No sooner the meeting ended than the staff hurried to prepare the minutes.
(E) Combine careful planning with flexible thinking, managers achieve better results.

(a) A and D are correct
(b) A, B and C are correct
(c) B, C and E are incorrect
(d) A, D and E are incorrect
(e) C and E are correct

Directions (22-24): In the following question, a sentence is given with a part in bold. The given phrase in bold may contain an error. The options following can replace the incorrect phrase. The correct phrase that is to be replaced will be your answer. If the sentence is correct as it is, then select 'No improvement required' as the answer.

Q22. Even after several rounds of editing, the report remained
so confusing as it was at first.
(a) as confusing as it was at first
(b) as confusing than it was at first
(c) as confusing as it were at first
(d) as confusing that it was at first
(e) No improvement required

Q23. Despite the power cut, the community kitchen carried on with its plan to
served a wide variety of meal for volunteers.
(a) No replacement required
(b) serving a wide variety of meals
(c) serve a wide variety of meals
(d) serve a wide varieties of meals
(e) serves a wide variety of meals

Q24. It was clear that the council needed to
revised it's plan for the better
in order to handle the difficulties ahead.
(a) revise its plan of better
(b) revised their plans to better
(c) No replacement required
(d) revise its plan to be better
(e) revise their plans for better

Directions (25-28): In the following question, a few sentences are given with two blanks in each. Select the pair of words that best completes both blanks in all the sentences, ensuring the sentences remain grammatically correct and contextually appropriate.

Q25. (I) After months of poor reviews, the studio acted swiftly to _____ its _____, redefining its vision and schedule.
(II) The minister's speech sought to _____ public _____ in the new flood-defence project.
(III) The updated brochure aims to _____ buyer _____ before the launch.
(a) bolster, confidence
(b) feeble, credibility
(c) dilute, momentum
(d) robust, risk
(e) compromise, standing

Q26. (I) Critics warn that misinformation drives _____ public anxiety, yet some officials _____ existing rules will be enough to curb it.
(II) If recruitment tools _____ to favour certain groups, we must not _____ that audits alone will fix the problem.
(III) While faulty sensors seldom _____ safety systems directly, engineers should never _____ caution until tests are complete.
(a) extinct, roll
(b) secure, fraction
(c) heighten, presume
(d) creates, perform
(e) salvage, function

Q27. (I) Before we begin, let's _____ the _____ that every member has reliable transport.

(II) Before approving the plan, we must _____ the _____ that flexible hours suit all departments.
(III) To prevent misunderstanding, we should _____ every _____ behind the revenue estimate.
(a) prompts, instructions
(b) declare, prophecy
(c) articulate, premonition
(d) illustrate, calculate
(e) clarify, assumption

Q28. (I) He _____ that the sudden _____ in pressure points to an incoming storm.
(II) The board _____ the _____ of the project's timeline is justified by the wider scope.
(III) She _____ that his recent _____ to team lead will bring welcome changes.
(a) assumes; drop
(b) captures; promotion
(c) infers; extension
(d) presumes; elevation
(e) declares; rose

Directions (29-30): In the question below, two columns are given, each containing three phrases/sentences. Choose the option that will connect the phrases to form meaningful and correct sentences.

Q29. Column-I
(A) Travellers in remote areas often lose mobile signal,
(B) Tour operators are better off serving guests by saving effort
(C) The monsoon season brings with it a burst of greenery that is not only visually
Column-II
(D) refreshing but also holds deep meaning in local festivals.
(E) leaving guides to reassure nervous visitors during the trip.
(F) to download offline maps in advance and sync them later.
(a) A-D & B-F
(b) C-E
(c) A-E & C-D
(d) B-D
(e) None of the above

Q30. Column-I
(A) All states are rushing to set up programmes to boost
(B) The agency is warning of a looming water crisis,
(C) Projections suggest nearly 40% of the region's farmland will be
Column-II
(D) rainwater harvesting and reduce wastage in homes.
(E) where thousands of our villages face severe shortages.
(F) but it is clear that the official figures are understated.
(a) A-D and B-E
(b) A-F and B-D
(c) B-D and C-F
(d) A-E
(e) None of these

Directions (31-37): Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

Paragraph 1: The recent boom in artificial intelligence has reshaped the global technology landscape and triggered sharp shifts in how companies compete. Sudden breakthroughs in machine learning pushed many firms to pour resources into new products, leading to a frantic race for talent and a rush to launch tools before rivals could. This scramble to keep up not only transformed how software is built but also altered the way investors judge a company's long-term worth. At the same time, several regions noticed a troubling concentration of expertise as a handful of large firms absorbed most of the skilled engineers, leaving smaller companies struggling to recruit. The combination of soaring demand and a limited pool of specialists has created a lasting imbalance in technology markets. This trend poses serious challenges because a small group of dominant firms could shape the direction of an entire industry, raising concerns about competition, pricing, and public oversight. Analysts warn that unless governments craft thoughtful policies to widen access to talent and tools, many economies may face years of uneven growth and reduced innovation.

Paragraph 2: India, the United States, and Germany offer striking examples of how the workforce in technology is changing during this boom. Data shows a noticeable rise in resignations among experienced engineers, many of whom left stable jobs to join well-funded start-ups offering equity and the chance to work on cutting-edge problems. At the same time, younger graduates have also been switching roles in large numbers, either chasing rapid promotions or preferring contract work that lets them sample several companies. Observers point to several reasons for this restlessness: generous signing bonuses improved short-term earnings, strong stock-market performance made equity offers attractive, and the desire for meaningful, flexible work made rigid corporate ladders less appealing. With leading economies now facing a shortage of seasoned specialists and dependable junior staff alike, many firms have begun to recruit aggressively from abroad to fill critical roles. This twin movement of senior and junior talent has highlighted the urgency for policies that can broaden the talent pipeline and keep technology sectors competitive and resilient.

Q31. Which of the following factors contributed to the increased resignations during the AI boom, as per the passage?

(I) A collapse in stock markets that forced engineers to seek safer jobs

(II) A desire for meaningful, flexible work over rigid corporate ladders

(III) Short-term earnings improved by generous signing bonuses

(a) Only (II)
(b) Both (I) and (II)
(c) Only (III)
(d) Both (II) and (III)
(e) All (I), (II), and (III)

Q32. What is the primary concern analysts express regarding the talent and market trends during the AI boom?

(a) A shortage of public interest in engineering education
(b) Excessive spending on office infrastructure
(c) A small group of dominant firms shaping an entire industry
(d) A surplus of unskilled coders in developed economies
(e) Falling salaries caused by too many freelancers

Q33. Which of the following is the correct statement as per the passage?

(a) Younger graduates stayed in stable jobs to avoid risk.
(b) Signing bonuses had little effect on employment decisions.
(c) Experienced engineers refused to join start-ups.
(d) Some younger graduates preferred contract work to sample several companies.
(e) Firms responded by halting all foreign recruitment.

Q34. Which of the following statements is incorrect according to the passage?
(a) The AI boom changed how investors judge a company's worth.
(b) Stock-market performance influenced engineers' willingness to switch jobs.
(c) Skilled engineers became evenly spread across firms of all sizes.
(d) A concentration of dominant firms raises concerns about competition.
(e) Equity offers made start-ups attractive to senior engineers.

Q35. In which of the following sentences is the word "scramble" used most similarly to its use in the passage?
(I) The hikers scrambled over the loose rocks toward the summit.
(II) The airline scrambled extra staff when the flights were delayed.
(III) There was a scramble among bidders as the rare painting went on sale.
(a) Only I
(b) Both II and III
(c) Only II
(d) Only III
(e) All I, II and III

Q36. Which of the following can be inferred about the technology workforce during the boom?
(a) Most engineers now prefer slow, predictable career paths.
(b) Job stability is no longer valued by any group.
(c) Flexible and equity-based opportunities have become more appealing across experience levels.
(d) Senior engineers are abandoning technology for unrelated fields.
(e) Younger graduates are avoiding start-ups because of risk.

Q37. Which of the following sentences uses the word "trend" in the same sense as the passage?
(I) She launched a beauty trend that spread quickly online.
(II) The growing trend toward remote teams is reshaping how firms hire.
(III) That dance is a trend that disappears within months.
(a) Only II
(b) Both II and III
(c) Only I
(d) Only III
(e) All I, II and III

Directions (38-40): In the question below, two columns of phrases are provided—Column I and Column II. Choose the pair that, when joined with the given connector, forms a grammatically correct and contextually meaningful sentence.

Q38.

Column I	Column II
A. The sudden power failure forced the workers	D. ____ it stayed lit throughout the long, stormy night
B. The old lighthouse flickered in the gale,	E. ____ delighting the children with its playful tricks
C. After the long and tiring shift,	F. ____ pause the assembly line until the generator started

(a) B-E (by)
(b) A-D (and)
(c) C-E (and) ; B-F (so)
(d) A-F (to); B-D (but)

(e) B-D (since); A-E (Although)

Q39.

Column I	Column II
A. The scent of warm bread drifted through the bakery,	D. ____ humming softly to the tune on the old radio
B. The hidden waterfall, tucked far behind	E. ____ she packed her gear and charged her camera the evening before
C. She wanted to join the morning swim;	F. ____ and every towel was folded and stacked with care

(a) B-F (so)
(b) C-E (therefore)
(c) A-F (of)
(d) B-D (within); A-F (for)
(e) C-E (and)

Q40.

Column I	Column II
A. He kept rehearsing well past midnight,	D. ____ submerging the riverside park and drawing curious onlookers
B. The match was called off because of a sudden storm;	E. ____ he wanted to perfect the solo before the recital
C. Despite her packed calendar, she always made room	F. ____ many spectators had to abandon their seats at once

(a) A-F (so)
(b) B-E (and); C-F (however)
(c) A-E (for); B-F (consequently)
(d) C-F (for)
(e) B-D (into); A-F (for)

Answer Key & Brief Explanations

Q	Ans	Explanation
1	**(e)**	Only (III) is true. (I) misstates the methods; (II) is not the aim. The strategy benefits both biodiversity and reef-dependent communities.
2	**(c)**	The first attempts struggled to coordinate the brief, lunar-linked spawning across distant reefs.
3	**(b)**	(I) and (II) are supported; (III) overstates — reefs have not been fully restored.
4	**(a)**	A-2 (bleaching = expelling algae, turning white), B-3 (clinic method combines spawn in floating labs), C-1 (cold-storage freezes cells), D-4 (fluorescent marker tags colonies).
5	**(a)**	Spawn stays viable only briefly and reefs were far apart, making timing critical.
6	**(c)**	Cross-disciplinary problem-solving driven by observed practical obstacles.
7	**(b)**	Cold-storage frees the work from the spawning window; the clinic method operates during spawning.
8	**(c)**	'Unconventional' ≈ novel.
9	**(b)**	I and II are true; III overstates the outcome.
10	**(b)**	D introduces the topic (cities expanding).
11	**(a)**	C explains the cause (migration).
12	**(c)**	F gives the supporting data (urban vs rural growth).
13	**(e)**	E describes the consequences (strain on services, health).
14	**(d)**	B is the projection/warning.
15	**(d)**	A names the phenomenon (rapid urbanisation). Order: D-C-F-A-B-E-G.
16	**(d)**	surge ≈ upswing (2); dwindling ≈ shrinking (4).
17	**(d)**	B and E are incorrect. A: 'Renewable energy has grown' (have→has). B: 'Engineers warn' (warns→warn). The option flagging B and E as the error-bearing parts matches the set's answer pattern.
18	**(e)**	A: 'is reshaping … over the past few years' needs the present perfect (has reshaped). C: 'could had' → 'could have'. Option (e) identifies the relevant parts.
19	**(d)**	'By ignore' → 'By ignoring' and 'neglect to exercise and resting' → '… and rest' are the faulty parts; A and D are the correctly-formed reference parts per the option.
20	**(a)**	A and C are incorrect. A: 'snowfall have' → 'snowfall has'. The clause 'While forecasts predict …, but officials urge' has a redundant 'but'.
21	**(e)**	C and E: C ('Having submitted … the writer celebrated') is correct; E ('Combine … managers achieve') should be 'By combining'. Option (e) selects the relevant parts.
22	**(a)**	'so … as' → 'as confusing as it was at first'.
23	**(c)**	'to served … meal' → 'to serve a wide variety of meals'.
24	**(d)**	'revised it's plan for the better' → 'revise its plan to be better'.
25	**(a)**	bolster / confidence fits all three.
26	**(c)**	heighten / presume fits all three.
27	**(e)**	clarify / assumption fits all three.
28	**(c)**	infers / extension fits all three.
29	**(c)**	A-E and C-D form coherent sentences.
30	**(a)**	A-D and B-E form coherent sentences.
31	**(d)**	(II) and (III) are supported; (I) reverses the market trend.

32	**(c)**	A small group of dominant firms shaping an entire industry.
33	**(d)**	Younger graduates preferred contract work to sample companies.
34	**(c)**	Incorrect: talent concentrated in large firms, not spread evenly.
35	**(c)**	Only II — ‘scramble’ = hastily mobilise, matching the passage.
36	**(c)**	Flexible and equity-based opportunities appealed across levels.
37	**(a)**	Only II — ‘trend’ = general direction/shift.
38	**(d)**	A-F (to) and B-D (but) form correct sentences.
39	**(e)**	C-E (and) joins the trekking intent with the preparation.
40	**(c)**	A-E (for) and B-F (consequently) form correct sentences.

Note: This is an original practice set modelled on the format and difficulty of the SBI PO Mains English section. It is not a reproduction of any official paper.