

## SAMPLE GENERAL COMPREHENSION PASSAGE AND QUESTIONS

### NLAT UG 2020

*Each set of questions in this examination is based on a single passage. Please answer each question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the corresponding passage, and in the question itself. In some instances, more than one option may be the answer to the question; in such a case, please choose the option that most accurately and comprehensively answers the question.*

1. The central concern for Indian decision makers was the continuing influx of Hindu refugees from East Pakistan. Up to the end of July 1971, 7.23 million had taken shelter in India. By 15 December, an additional 2.67 million had poured in. From New Delhi's standpoint, the continuing flow of refugees gave the lie to the claims about impending normality in Pakistan. Then there was the growing economic burden of maintaining the refugees. The budget presented in May 1971 had provided 600 million rupees for the relief of refugees, but this sum was submerged by the scale of the deluge. In August, the government was forced to present a supplementary demand of 2,000 million rupees. By the third week of September, it was assessed that maintaining 8 million refugees in camps for six months at the rate of just 3 rupees per person per day would amount to 4,320 million rupees—about US \$576 million. The galloping costs of sheltering the refugees made a mockery of the government's original estimate for the fiscal deficit.

[1] A prolonged crisis would push the problem to unmanageable proportions.[1] Although a war would entail significant costs, they would be more bearable than the burden posed by the refugees. In July 1971, an assessment prepared by P.N. Dhar, economist and secretary to the prime minister, underlined the potential consequences of embarking on war. The most significant of these would be the position of foreign exchange reserves, which had already worsened in the previous fiscal year. The level of the reserves depended, in the first place, on foreign trade. There was the possibility that India's trade partners would create difficulties in accepting its exports, so depriving it of foreign exchange earnings. This would "amount to a complete economic blockade." The second component of the reserves came from foreign aid. Dhar envisaged two scenarios in which the donor countries might seek to coerce India. They might, as with Pakistan, continue committed aid but suspend fresh commitments. Or they might cut all aid, both committed and prospective. In the first situation, India was "not vulnerable on account of foreign exchange" until March 1972. In the second, the amount of aid withheld would almost equal the amount owed by India to its donors in the current fiscal year by way of debt repayment and repatriation of profits. In this situation, India could reasonably threaten to impose a moratorium on debt. "Thus while as an aid-recipient country we are vulnerable to the adverse reactions of the aid-givers," wrote Dhar, "the size of our debts makes our creditors vulnerable to our reactions. Keynes once said that if I owe you 100 pounds, I should worry but if I owe you a million pounds, you should worry. We owe many millions to our creditors!"

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from *1971: A Global History of the Creation of Bangladesh*, by Srinath Raghavan, Harvard University Press, 2013.]

- 1.1. Assuming that an equal number of refugees came to India each day in the period August 1, 1971 to 15 December 1971, what would be the per day cost (at the rate of 3 rupees per person per day) of maintaining all the refugees that the government would have to incur as of the end of day on November 13, 1971 in USD terms? (Assume the exchange rate for Indian Rupees and US dollars was constant in the period mentioned).
- US \$ .91million
  - US \$ 1.2 million
  - US \$ .82 million
  - US \$ .76 million

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) – US \$ .82 million.

Total number of refugees from August 1 to December 15 = 2.67

Number of days between August 1 and December 15 = 31 + 30 + 31 + 30 + 15 = 137

Therefore, refugees per day =  $2.67 / 137 = .0195$

Number of days between August 1 and November 13 = 31 + 30 + 31 + 13 = 105

Cost to the government per day = Rs. 3 per refugee

Therefore, total cost of 105 days =  $Rs. 105 * 3 * .0195$

Converting to US \$ =  $576/4320 * (105 * 3 * .0195) = .819$  USD

- 1.2. The *United Nations Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees* (the “UN Refugee Convention”) provides that “the term “refugee” shall apply to any person who owing to wellfounded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country”. Mujib, a Muslim citizen formerly residing in East Pakistan, joins a group of refugees who crossed over to India from East Pakistan in September 1971. Mujib was a member of the Awami League, a party that had campaigned vigorously for the separation of Bangladesh from Pakistan, and had therefore decided to flee to India. Keeping in mind the political circumstances that prevailed at the time described in the passage above, could Mujib claim the status of a refugee in India under the UN Refugee Convention?
- Yes, since he was unable to claim the protection of Pakistan because of his political opinions.
  - No, since he was not a Hindu.
  - Yes, since East Pakistan faced an impending economic crisis.
  - No, since Mujib should have changed his political opinions and continued to reside in East Pakistan.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – yes, since he was unable to claim the protection of Pakistan because of his political opinions. Since Mujib was a member of the Awami League, which had campaigned vigorously

for the separation of Bangladesh from Pakistan, it is legitimate to say that he would have a “wellfounded fear of being persecuted for reasons of... membership of a particular social group or political opinion”. While option (b) may be right, it does not take into account Mujib’s political opinions and his being a member of the Awami League; therefore, it cannot be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage to support option (c), and so, it cannot be the correct answer. There is nothing in the passage, or in the extract from the UN Refugee Convention provided in the question to support option (d), and so, it cannot be the correct answer either.

- 1.3. The UN Refugee Convention also states: “This Convention shall cease to apply to any person falling under the meaning of the term 'refugee' if: (1) He has voluntarily re-availed himself of the protection of the country of his nationality; or (2) Having lost his nationality, he has voluntarily re-acquired it.” After the war between India and Pakistan in December 1971, Bangladesh emerged as an independent country, separate from Pakistan. In January 1972, many refugees decided to return to Bangladesh from India, but Mujib continued to reside in India. Based on the information provided, could Mujib continue to claim to be a ‘refugee’ in India?
- No, since he could easily have acquired the nationality of Bangladesh if he so chose.
  - No, since he could have gone back to Bangladesh after the war.
  - No, since he had supported the separation of Bangladesh from Pakistan.
  - Yes, since he had not voluntarily re-acquired his former nationality nor had he re-availed the protection of the country of his nationality.

(Answer: (d))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (d) - yes, since he had not voluntarily re-acquired his former nationality nor had he re-availed the protection of the country of his nationality. This is the only option that responds to the two limbs of the extract from the UN Refugee Convention provided in the question. Since none of the other options relate to the principal provided in the form of that extract, none of them can be the correct answer.

- 1.4. Assume that in 1971, the US provided India foreign aid of USD 500 million, the UK provided India foreign aid of USD 300 million, and Japan provided India foreign aid of USD 10 million. If the Indian government had spent USD 400 million out of all foreign aid received in 1971 on defence expenditure, and if it did not utilise any foreign reserves from foreign aid to maintain refugees until December 15, for how many days would the government be able to maintain the total number of refugees in India as on December 16 utilising only reserves from foreign aid received from the US, UK, and Japan in 1971? (Assume that no more refugees came to India after December 15, 1971).
- More than 3 months but less than 3.5 months.
  - More than 4 months.
  - Less than 4 months but more than 3.5 months.
  - Less than 3 months.

(Answer: (a))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (a) – More than 3 months but less than 3.5 months.

Number of refugees up to the end of July = 7.23 million

Number of refugees from August 1 to December 15 = 2.67

Total number of refugees = 7.23 + 2.67 = 9.9 million

Total aid received = 500 + 300 + 10 = US \$810

Defence expenditure = US \$400

Remaining amount = 810 – 400 = US \$410

US \$576 million required to maintain 8 million refugees in camps for six months'

Therefore, US \$410 for 9.9 million refugees will last for =  $(410 * 8 * 6) / (576 * 9.9) = 3.45$  months.

1.5. Based on his statement, as quoted by P.N. Dhar in the passage above, which of the following would Keynes be most likely to agree with?

- a. Being a debtor is better than being a lender.
- b. Lenders put themselves in a vulnerable position if they lend too much money to a debtor.
- c. Donor countries should always lend money to nations that are in need.
- d. Donor countries should never lend money to poor countries.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – lenders put themselves in a vulnerable position if they lend too much money to a debtor. The quote in question states: "...if I owe you 100 pounds, I should worry but if I owe you a million pounds, you should worry." This implies that when a lender lends a large amount to a debtor, then the lender would be fearful of the consequences of the debtor's default. Option (b) captures this idea accurately. While it may be true that Keynes thought a lender who gave too much money to a debtor would be in a vulnerable position, there is nothing in the quote to suggest that Keynes thought being a debtor was better than being a lender in all circumstances; therefore, option (a) cannot be the correct answer. Similarly, there is nothing in the quote to support either option (c) or option (d), and so, neither can be the correct answer.

1.6. Which of the following is a strip of land leased by India to Bangladesh, so as to permit access to Bangladesh's Dahagram-Angarpota enclaves, situated within Indian territory?

- a. Dasiar Chhara
- b. Tetulia Corridor
- c. Tin Bigha Corridor
- d. Dahagram

(Answer: (c))

1.7. Which of the following led New Delhi to believe that Pakistan's claims of impending normality in that country were not true?

- a. The economic analysis conducted by P.N. Dhar.
- b. The unabated arrival of refugees from Pakistan to India.

- c. The diminishing foreign reserves of Pakistan.
- d. The statement made by Keynes, which P.N. Dhar quoted.

(Answer: (b))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (b) – the unabated arrival of refugees from Pakistan to India. The author states that “From New Delhi’s standpoint, the continuing flow of refugees gave the lie to the claims about impending normality in Pakistan”; only option (b) captures the meaning of this statement. None of the other options are relevant to the question, and so, none of them can be the correct answer.

- 1.8. Which of the following, if true, would render Dhar’s assessment of the potential consequences of embarking on a war, most inaccurate?
- a. Donor countries would not stop foreign aid to India in the event of a war, since they supported India’s cause.
  - b. Donor countries would stop all foreign aid – both committed and prospective – if India embarked on a war with Pakistan.
  - c. Donor countries would not stop foreign aid to India in the event of a war, since they supported India’s cause, and India’s trade partners would not stop accepting its exports for the same reason.
  - d. Donor countries would stop foreign aid to India in the event of a war, and India’s trade partners would stop accepting its exports.

(Answer: (c))

**Rationale:**

The correct answer is (c) - donor countries would not stop foreign aid to India in the event of a war, since they supported India’s cause, and India’s trade partners would not stop accepting its exports for the same reason. While option (a) is partly right, it does not address the issue relating to India’s trade partners; only option (c) addresses both, the issue relating to trade partners as well as foreign donors, and so, only option (c) can be the correct answer. Both, option (b) and option (d) would strengthen Dhar’s assessment, and so, neither can be the correct answer.

- 1.9. The sentence enclosed within ‘[1]’ in the passage may have a grammatical error. Which of the following would be required to remove the error, if any?
- a. Replace ‘push’ with ‘pushing’
  - b. Replace ‘the’ with ‘a’
  - c. Replace ‘proportions’ with ‘proportionality’
  - d. No change required

(Answer: (d))

1.10. The Grameen Bank is a microfinance and community development organisation that originated in Bangladesh, and is famous around the world. What collateral does the Grameen Bank take against loans?

- a. None.
- b. A farm animal, such as a goat or a cow.
- c. A small item of machinery, such as a sewing machine.
- d. Household items, such as utensils.

(Answer: (a))