

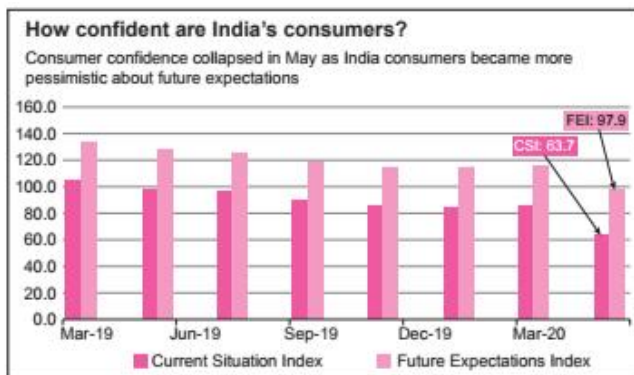
Time allowed: 45 minutes

Maximum Marks: 200

General Instructions: Same as Practice Paper-1.

I. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow by choosing the correct option.

- The coronavirus outbreak has badly hurt the Indian economy. And the latest survey by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows that the pandemic has arrested consumers' hopes in the economy as well, at least for a year.
- Data from the Reserve Bank of India showed consumer confidence collapsed last month. The current situation index and the future expectations index were below 100, indicating that consumers were pessimistic. A reading above 100 represents optimism.



Main Variables	Summary based on Net Responses					
	Current Perception compared with one-year ago			one year ahead Expectations compared with current situation		
	Mar-20	May-20	Change	Mar-20	May-20	Change
Economic Situation	-23.9	-60.0	↓	+15.1	+11.7	↓
Employment	-30.5	-48.2	↓	+14.7	-5.9	↓
Price Level	-84.6	-75.8	↑	+70.4	-66.4	↑
Income	-2.2	-40.8	↓	42.2	18.1	↓
Spending	69.2	43.2	↓	72.3	55.6	↓
Consumer Confidence Index	85.6	63.7	↓	115.2	97.9	↓
↑ Positive Sentiments with sign of improvement compared to last round			↑	↑ Negative Sentiments with sign of improvement compared to last round		
↓ Positive Sentiments with sign of deterioration compared to last round			↓	↓ Negative Sentiments with sign of deterioration compared to last round		

- The Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) is a survey that is conducted every two months to measure how optimistic or pessimistic the consumers are regarding their financial situation. The current index measures the change in consumer perception of the financial situation in the last year. The future expectations index (FEI) measures what the consumer thinks about his financial situation in the coming one year. The main variables of the survey are economic situation, employment, price level, income and spending.
- This is the second time in the decade that FEI has been in the pessimism zone. In the September 2013 round, when the country was facing a currency crisis, FEI had fallen to 90.5 - the lowest India has ever recorded. In October last year, consumer confidence had dropped to a six-year low.
- "Consumer perception on the general economic situation, employment scenario and household income plunged deeper into contraction zone," the RBI said in its release. "While expectation on general economic situation and employment scenario for the year ahead were also pessimistic."
- Overall consumer spending remained afloat, mostly due to relative inelasticity in essential spending; consumers reported sharp cuts in discretionary spending and did not expect much improvement in the coming year.
- Keeping in view the COVID-19 pandemic, the Reserve Bank of India conducted a survey through the telephonic interviews between May 5–May 7, 2020. The survey was conducted in thirteen major cities—Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Patna, and Thiruvananthapuram.
- The survey was conducted across 5,300 households on the general economic situation, employment scenario, overall price situation, and income and spending.

1. Coronavirus outbreak has:

- (a) badly hurt the Indian economy (b) affected Reserve Bank of India
(c) arrested consumer's hope in the economy (d) both (a) and (c)

2. What did the Reserve Bank of India's data show?

- (a) That consumer confidence collapsed last month (b) That FEI has been in the optimism zone
(c) That CCI has been in the optimism zone (d) That GDP has fallen

3. What are the main variables of the survey?

- (a) Economic situation and price level (b) Employment
(c) Income and spending (d) All of these

4. What sign does one year ahead expectation of income show as compared with the current situation?

- (a) It shows positive sentiments with a sign of deterioration compared to the last round.
(b) It shows negative sentiments with a sign of improvement compared to the last round.
(c) It shows negative sentiments with a sign of deterioration compared to the last round.
(d) It shows positive sentiments with a sign of improvement compared to the last round.

5. What does the reading above 100 represent?

- (a) Pessimism zone (b) Poor financial performance
(c) Optimism zone (d) Good financial performance

6. Earlier FEI was in the pessimism zone:

- (a) in the September 2013 round (b) when the country was facing a currency crisis
(c) in October last year (d) both (a) and (b)

7. How did this survey got conducted?

- (a) Through face to face interviews (b) Through telephonic interviews
(c) Through online (d) Both (b) and (c)

8. What sign does the current perception of employment show when compared to last month's figure?

- (a) It shows the sign of optimism. (b) It shows the positive sign.
(c) It shows the sign of improvement. (d) It shows the sign of deterioration.

9. 'The current situation index and the future expectations index were below 100, indicating that consumers were pessimistic'. Substitute the underlined word with the most appropriate option given below.

- (a) Despondent (b) Hopeful (c) Aghast (d) Apprehensive

10. Pick the option from the following which means the same as 'out of debt' as used in the passage?

- (a) Inelasticity (b) Afloat (c) Discretionary (d) Contraction

II. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow by choosing the correct option.

- (1) Child marriages are rampant in North India. They continue to blight the lives of people. Children bound by marriage are victims of blind customs and superstitions prevalent in rural areas and certain urban concentrations among the weaker socio-economic groups. Nothing seems to stop this anti-social practice despite the Child Marriage Act passed as early as in 1929, which makes child marriage a grave offence.
- (2) Why do child marriages take place and what can be done to prevent them from happening? The evil thrives because of illiteracy and other related causes – the most important of which is the anxiety of parents to marry off their daughters at the earliest. In many high-illiteracy states, like Rajasthan, the practice of child marriage is in vogue. Akhha Teej is D-day for the parents of minor girls, since, on that day, the parents seek salvation from the anxiety of girls growing up in their midst.
- (3) A child marriage is less likely to take place if the parents are literate or at least the father is. He is, then, aware of the legal minimum age for marriage and the health hazards his daughter will face by an early marriage. If the mother, otherwise literate, has been exposed to the importance of family planning, she is also less likely to solemnise her daughter's wedding before the legal minimum age.
- (4) Among the other reasons that parents give away young daughters in marriage is the need, felt especially by families with more than one daughter, to keep wedding expenses down. By marrying two daughters simultaneously, parents save on expenses. Parental anxiety about grown-up (14 years and above) daughters going astray, forces the less educated to give away their female children in marriage.

- (5) The Child Marriage Restraint Act in 1978, raised the minimum age of marriage for girls from 15 to 18 years and for boys from 18 to 21 years. The committee, on the status of women, in its report in 1974, has recommended that all offences under the Child Marriage Restraint Act should be made cognizable and special officers be appointed to enforce the law.
- (6) The crux of the problem is that the role of a girl-child in traditional rural areas is circumscribed around marriage and motherhood.

11. In the passage, the primary concern of the author is regarding:

- (a) illiteracy, blind customs and traditions (b) role of girl child in rural families
(c) marriage and legal marriage age (d) an ineffective Child Marriage Act

12. Child marriages are a:

- (a) method of getting social recognition (b) method of seeking salvation
(c) method of overcoming superstitions (d) method of economic security

13. What is Akhha Teej?

- (a) The day when the family planning is exposed.
(b) The day when parents seek salvation from the anxiety of girls growing up in their midst.
(c) The day when the daughter faced health hazards.
(d) The day when two daughters marry simultaneously.

14. Why do parents marry two daughters simultaneously?

- (a) To support the daughter (b) To avoid health hazards
(c) To save on expenses (d) To enforce the law

15. In what circumstances will a child marriage be less likely to take place?

- (a) If the children are victims of blind customs (b) If the parents are literate
(c) If the parents seek salvation (d) If the parents keep wedding expenses down

16. Select the option that makes the correct use of 'grave', as used in the passage, to fill in the blank space.

- (a) Life is a battle from cradle to _____.
(b) In the _____, the rich and the poor lie equal.
(c) We realised very quickly that we had made a _____ mistake.
(d) She knelt beside her father's _____ to place flowers.

17. 'They continue to blight the lives of people'. Substitute the underlined word with the most appropriate option from the following.

- (a) Curse (b) Ruin (c) Bloom (d) Brighten

18. Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the incorrect statement from the following.

- (a) A child marriage is less likely to take place if the parents are literate or at least the father is.
(b) By marrying two daughters simultaneously, parents save on expenses.
(c) Child marriages are rampant in South India.
(d) Children bound by marriage are victims of blind customs and superstitions.

19. Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of 'salvation', as used in the passage.

- A. Converting to Christianity** **B. Being saved from danger or ruin**
C. Harming others **D. Preservation from harm**
E. Adopting priesthood

- (a) A. and E. (b) C. and D. (c) B. and D. (d) A. and D.

20. What is the minimum age of marriage for boys?

- (a) 15 to 18 years (b) 18 to 21 years (c) 16 to 18 years (d) 15 to 20 years

III. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow by choosing the correct option.

- (1) Like bad news and common cold, allergies can pop up when least expected. I suddenly developed an allergy to crocin (paracetamol) some years ago after having it all my life to treat everything, from headache to fever to toothache.
- (2) A stuffed or drippy nose, frequent sneezing, an itchy throat, rashes, sinus, ear pain, difficulty in breathing, stomach cramps, itchiness, red or watery eyes are some of the common symptoms of an allergic reaction.

Pollen, dust, polluted outdoor air, and indoor pollutants, such as dust mites, animal dander, cigarette smoke and mould are among the common environmental pollutants, while other triggers include medicines, paint, and chemicals in cleaners and cosmetics, such as hair colour and skin creams. Among food, eight allergens account for almost 90% of food allergies: milk, soy, wheat, egg, peanut, tree nuts, fish and shellfish.

- (3) Most of us wrongly believe that people with allergies are either born with them or develop them in early childhood. An allergy can develop at any time in your life and its prevalence among adults is rising. While most people who develop allergies as adults have experienced some allergic reaction – either to the same or an unrelated triggers before – a few have no history of sensitivity.
- (4) In an acute immune reaction, the allergy trigger may be one, but the symptom is usually caused by a combination of factors. Stress, a sterile environment that prevents the body from developing immunity and lifestyle-induced changes in the body's hormonal balance are thought to be some triggers. This has been borne out by clinical evidence that women are more likely to develop allergies at puberty, after pregnancy, and at menopause, all pointing to hormonal causes.
- (5) Avoiding the allergy trigger and taking anti-allergy medication as soon as you can, after exposure to an allergen is the best possible protection. Since pollen levels generally peak in the morning, people with airway sensitivity and asthma should postpone outdoor exercises to later in the day or stick to exercising indoors, as deeper and more rapid breathing induced by aerobic exercise causes more pollen and dust being inhaled, which can wreck your airways and lungs. Since air pollutants tend to cling to clothes and hair, changing your clothes when you come home or washing your hair before going to bed, lowers exposure.

21. In para 3, the author is adopting a tone of being:

- (a) sarcastic (b) critical (c) informative (d) satirical

22. Most of us wrongly believe that:

- (a) allergies can pop up when least expected
 (b) people develop allergies as adults
 (c) allergies among adults are rising
 (d) allergies are either born with them or develop them in early childhood

23. What is the best possible protection?

- (a) Avoiding the allergy trigger and taking anti-allergy medication.
 (b) Rapid breathing induced by aerobic exercise.
 (c) Washing your hair before going to bed.
 (d) Preventing hormonal causes.

24. Based on your reading of the passage, choose the incorrect statement from the following.

- (a) An allergy can develop at any time in your life.
 (b) The allergy trigger is usually caused by a combination of factors.
 (c) Among foods, eight allergens account for almost 90% of food allergies.
 (d) Taking anti-allergy medication as soon as you can, after exposure to an allergen is the best possible protection.

25. Which of the following best explains the phrase 'account for', as used in the passage?

- (a) Pass off (b) Make up (c) Write up (d) Look up

26. The author suddenly developed an allergy to:

- (a) a particular medication (b) a favourite chocolate (c) a particular food item (d) a particular drink

27. What are the common environmental pollutants?

- (a) Dust mites (b) Animal dander (c) Both of these (d) None of these

28. Pick out the nouns from the following words:

A. Allergens B. Common C. Prevalence

D. Cramps E. Itchy

- (a) A, C, D (b) A, B, E (c) A, D, E (d) B, C, D

29. 'Air pollutants tend to cling to clothes and hair'. Substitute the underlined word with the most appropriate option from the following.

- (a) Remove (b) Stick (c) Fade (d) Loosen

30. Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of 'postpone', as used in the passage.
- | | |
|--|---|
| A. To arrange an event or plan at a later time | B. To delay an event or plan |
| C. To cancel an event or plan | D. To arrange an event or plan at an earlier time |
| E. To schedule an event or plan | |
- (a) C. and E. (b) B. and C. (c) A. and B. (d) D. and E.

IV. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow by choosing the correct option.

- (1) The choices we make on a daily basis – wearing a seatbelt, lifting heavy objects correctly or purposely staying out of any dangerous situation – can either ensure our safety or bring about potentially harmful circumstances.
- (2) You and I need to make a decision that we are going to get our lives in order. Exercising self-control, self-discipline and establishing boundaries and borders in our lives are some of the most important things we can do. A life without discipline is one that's filled with carelessness.
- (3) We can think it's kind of exciting to live life on the edge. We like the image of "Yeah! That's me! Living on the edge! Woo-hoo!" It's become a popular way to look at life. But if you see, even highways have line, which provide margins for our safety while we're driving. If we go over one side, we'll get into the ditch. If we cross over the line in the middle, we could get killed. And we like those lines because they help to keep us safe. Sometimes we don't even realise how lines help to keep us safe.
- (4) I'm not proud of this, but for the first 20 years of my life at work, I ignored my limits. I felt horrible, physically, most of the time. I used to tell myself "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it." I ran to doctors, trying to make myself feel better through pills, vitamins, natural stuff and anything I could get my hands on. Some of the doctors would tell me, "It's just stress." That just made me mad. I thought stress meant you don't like what you do or can't handle life, and I love what I do. But I kept pushing myself, traveling doing speaking engagements and so on – simply exhausting myself.
- (5) Finally, I understood I was living an unsustainable life and needed to make some changes in my outlook and lifestyle.
- (6) You and I don't have to be like everyone else or keep up with anyone else. Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologize for it. We're not all alike and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of making ourselves sick with an overload of stress and pressure.
31. The reason why living on the edge has become popular, is because of the:
- (a) constant need for something different
(b) population being much younger
(c) exhausting effort to make changes
(d) strong tendency to stay within our limits
32. Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes.
- (a) It's all about quality of life and finding a happy balance between work and friends. - Philip Green
(b) To go beyond is as wrong as to fall short. - Confucius
(c) Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving. - Albert Einstein
(d) Balance is not something you find, it's something you create. - Jana Kingsford
33. Which of the characteristics are apt about the writer in the following context: "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it."?
- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| A. Negligent | B. Indecisive | C. Spontaneous |
| D. Reckless | E. Purposeless | F. Patient |
- (a) B. and E. (b) C. and F. (c) A. and D. (d) B. and C.
34. Which of the following option is not an adjective?
- (a) Exercising (b) Exciting (c) Popular (d) Dangerous
35. The phrase "potentially harmful circumstances" refers to circumstances that can:
- (a) certainly be dangerous (b) be fairly dangerous
(c) be possibly dangerous (d) seldom be dangerous

- 36. Select the option that makes the correct use of 'unsustainable', as used in the passage, to fill in the blank space.**
- (a) In the long run, the _____ officials followed emergency procedures.
 (b) Emergency procedures were _____ by the officials.
 (c) Officials reported an _____ set of events during the pregnancy.
 (d) Officials admit that the emergency system is _____ in the longer run.
- 37. The author attempts to _____ the readers through this write-up.**
- (a) rebuke (b) question (c) offer aid to (d) offer advice to
- 38. The author uses colloquial words such as "yeah" and "Woo-hoo!". Which of the following is NOT a colloquial word?**
- (a) Hooked (b) Guy (c) Stuff (d) Stress
- 39. Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of 'outlook', as used in the passage.**
- A. A person's evaluation in life** **B. A person's experiences in life**
C. A person's point of view towards life **D. A person's regrets in life**
E. A person's general attitude to life
- (a) A. and D. (b) B. and C. (c) C. and E. (d) D. and E.
- 40. The author explains the importance of discipline and boundaries in our lives using the example of:**
- (a) road accidents (b) traffic rules
 (c) lines on the highway (d) safe driving

V. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow by choosing the correct option.

- (1) Nature is our mother, our first teacher. The greatest lesson that she teaches us is to maintain an equilibrium in life. We learn to maintain composure through our joys, sorrows and fears. In fact, there are a thousand lessons that nature can teach us, provided we look for them.
- (2) With time, a sapling grows into a full-grown tree; something so tiny and delicate develops into a strong tree capable of supporting others. No matter how tall it grows, how much it may flourish, or how many animals and birds it may support, its roots are firmly buried from where it once rose. That's a lesson – to keep ourselves grounded, respect and embrace our roots and give something back to those humble beginnings that nurtured us into where we are.
- (3) Then there is the message of peaceful co-existence. 'I am because we are.' Nature provides every creature a chance to exist. However, the existence of one creature or being depends on the existence of the other. The tiger eats the antelope; without the antelope, the tiger wouldn't survive. Likewise, without tigers, the over-abundance of antelopes would cause them to starve to death.
- (4) I wonder if you have noticed that when birds or squirrels see a predator, they give out an alarm call to have their fellow creatures, of the lurking danger. They put themselves in danger to save the lives of others. Many animals, like the salmon, usually die after they spawn, but this doesn't stop them. One life extinguished for the betterment of others is a small price to pay.
- (5) The snow melts in the warmth of spring to give birth to fresh green leaves. In autumn these leaves age into shades of gold only to be buried in the cold grave of winter. Change is inevitable; the sooner we embrace this, the better it is for us. We must also understand that even in pain there is growth. If you cut a hole in the tree, it will grow around it. No matter what may come in its way, a river will continue to flow. Similarly, no matter what grief may break your heart, nature teaches us that life goes on.
- (6) Keep in mind life isn't about making lists and trying to be one step ahead of others. Life is to live. Take a break and stop being a workaholic, and smell the roses, do whatever makes you feel happy and most of all spend some time with nature to pick up invaluable lessons.
- 41. According to the author, what is the greatest lesson being taught by nature?**
- (a) Balanced in our emotions (b) Partial to joys in life
 (c) Afraid of unhappiness (d) Indifferent to fears

42. Select the option that suitably completes the dialogue with reference to paragraph (2).
Jai : I've done well for myself in this school. I'm the best they have. I can get admission anywhere. This is my moment!
Sid : Congratulations! Just remember, we should _____.
 (a) become strong despite our weaknesses. (b) be kind and supportive towards everyone.
 (c) respect the origins from where we have grown. (d) nurture ourselves well from the beginning.
43. Choose the option that best conveys the message in 'I am because we are.'
 (a) Tigers are dependent on antelope. (b) Antelopes are dependent on tigers
 (c) Humans are dependent on animals (d) Everyone is dependent on each other
44. What qualities do the birds and squirrels display when they warn others of possible danger? Choose one option from the following:
 (a) Observation skills and alertness (b) Tendency to get easily frightened
 (c) Selfless assistance to help others (d) Determination to protect themselves
45. Select the option with the underlined words that can suitably replace 'lurking' (paragraph 4).
 (a) The policeman pulled up the person who was wandering aimlessly through the city.
 (b) The thief knew that remaining hidden was the best strategy to avoid being caught.
 (c) The policeman was caught on camera while pouncing with force, to grab the fleeing culprit.
 (d) The thief was walking boldly into the house thinking it was devoid of residents.
46. A Portmanteau words like smog (smoke+fog), is a blend of words in which parts of multiple words are combined into a new word.
 From the options given below, select a Portmanteau word that appears in the para 6.
 (a) coexistence (b) workaholic (c) full-grown (d) flourish
47. Select the qualities from paragraph 3, that the author wants us to imbibe. Being:
 A. acceptive B. passionate C. emotional
 D. resilient E. perceptive
 (a) B., D. and E. (b) A., C. and D. (c) A., D. and E. (d) C., D. and E.
48. Which of the following is shown by the changing of seasons?
 (a) The beauty of nature. (b) Nature's creativity.
 (c) All seasons are equal. (d) Nothing lasts forever.
49. What does the writer advise, in paragraph 6?
 (a) Indulging in competition with others. (b) Making priority lists.
 (c) Taking life seriously. (d) Having free time for ourselves.
50. Choose the option that lists the quote best expressing the central idea of the passage.
 (a) Nature: She pardons no mistakes. Her yea is yea, and her nay, nay. - Ralph Waldo Emerson
 (b) Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. - A. Einstein
 (c) Nature never deceives us; it is we who deceive ourselves. - Jean Jacques Rousseau
 (d) All the ugliness of the world can best be forgotten in the beauty of nature! - Mehmet Murat



PRACTICE PAPER—09

- | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d) | 2. (a) | 3. (d) | 4. (a) | 5. (c) | 6. (d) | 7. (b) |
| 8. (d) | 9. (a) | 10. (b) | 11. (b) | 12. (b) | 13. (b) | 14. (c) |
| 15. (b) | 16. (c) | 17. (b) | 18. (c) | 19. (c) | 20. (b) | 21. (c) |
| 22. (d) | 23. (a) | 24. (b) | 25. (b) | 26. (a) | 27. (c) | 28. (a) |
| 29. (b) | 30. (c) | 31. (a) | 32. (d) | 33. (c) | 34. (a) | 35. (c) |
| 36. (d) | 37. (d) | 38. (d) | 39. (c) | 40. (c) | 41. (a) | 42. (c) |
| 43. (d) | 44. (c) | 45. (b) | 46. (b) | 47. (c) | 48. (d) | 49. (d) |
| 50. (b) | | | | | | |