

Section III. Language Skills

Question I

Topic- Excessive Inventory

Scope- The various ways in which overstocks can be disposed

Passage Map

P 1- The causes that lead to accumulation of extra stocks

P 2- Two ways of disposing extra stocks- through liquidator or dumping

P 3- An alternative approach to deal with this repeated occurrence

1. (A) The passage is not pointing out a problem. It is analyzing a phenomenon and the different approaches to deal with it.
(B) The tone of the author is not negative or critical at all.
(C) Correct. The author has highlighted a problem and then discussed the various ways in which it can be dealt with.
(D) This is the main idea of the first paragraph, not the entire passage.
(E) The passage goes beyond mere evaluation of two approaches. It also presents a third, more viable alternative and discusses its merits.

The correct answer is C.

2. (A) This information is not available in the passage.
(B) This information is not available in the passage.
(C) This goes beyond the scope of the argument.
(D) Even if this were true, the organizations would stand to make some money on merchandise that is otherwise an absolute waste for them. Also, the passage merely states that the 'liquidators may pay less'. This does not mean that they often do so.
(E) Correct. It is stated in the passage that organizations get a straight tax write-off for dumping their products. This clearly implies that dumping entails a financial benefit for the organizations. Since both the options (using liquidators and dumping) provide some tangible advantage to the organization, the reason manufacturers will most likely avoid using a liquidator is that using liquidators provide no tax write-offs.

The correct answer is E.

3. (A) Correct. Refer to the following lines from the first paragraph- "*Certain styles and colors prove unpopular..... Occasionally the competition introduces a better product.....But in many cases the public's buying tastes simply change.....*". All these statements indicate that excess inventory is largely a product of insufficient market analysis.
(B) The concluding lines of the second paragraph are merely presenting the various public relations' scenarios that might result from dumping products. Hence, this option is incorrect.
(C) This is a tricky option. Though it appears correct, please note that the option talks about 'changes' in the federal tax laws whereas the third paragraph only talks about new provisions in the law.

- (D) This statement conflicts with the information provided in the passage.
(E) This is beyond the information provided in the passage.

The correct answer is A.

4. (A) Correct. Since the government is incentivizing the organizations to contribute their products to charity; the only reason manufactures will find this option less viable is when the costs exceed the benefits being provided.
(B) This information is contradicted by the information provided in the passage. Refer the lines, “*The drawback is the remote possibility of getting caught by the news media.*”
(C) This information is contradicted by the information provided in the passage. Refer the lines, “*The corporation takes a straight cost write-off on its taxes and hauls the merchandise to a landfill....*”
(D) Even if this were true, the new tax allows the corporations to deduct the cost of the product donated plus half the difference between cost and fair market selling price, with the proviso that deductions cannot exceed **twice cost**. Therefore, the organizations stand to gain more by contributing their product to charity.
(E) This option is not relevant to the argument being presented.

The correct answer is A.

Question 2

Sentences B and A form a mandatory pair as A gives an example of the opinion expressed in B. The order of C and D can be decided by applying chronology. While D states that the tradition still exists; statement C talks about how it is manifested today. This makes BADC the correct sequence.

The correct answer is C.

Question 3

The aim is to find the phrase which is making the given statement grammatically incorrect. The clue word in the given sentence is ‘separated’. This indicates that the subjects are distinct. Keeping this in mind one may analyze the given sentence.

- (A) ‘Though’ is correct.
(B) ‘almost’ is correctly used.
(C) Correct. Since they are not together anymore, Salim’s and Javed’s stories are also separate. Thus, both the nouns will take an apostrophe (’s).
(D) ‘were published’ is a grammatically correct expression.
(E) There is an error in C.

The correct answer is C.

Question 4

Option D is the right answer as ‘deb’ is the correct sequence of prepositions to be used in the given set of sentences.

As we can see:

1. After the burglary, the office bought a sophisticated security system as an insurance *against* any such losses. We use *against* to refer to negative, hostile or opposing actions to an event.
2. She put *up* a brave front at the end of the meeting. *Put up* refers to exhibiting determination or strength in a difficult situation.
3. Sunil decided to avail himself *of* the opportunity to go to Australia for training. To *avail oneself of something* is to take advantage of it.

The correct answer is D.

Question 5

This is an analogy based question. The idea here is to find the option which draws a similar relationship to that of the given pair. Start by making a bridge between the words given in the question stem— ‘allusion’ and ‘reference’ are synonyms that refer to ‘the action of mentioning or remarking about something’. The relationship shared is that of synonyms.

Now, plug the bridge into the answer choices:

(A) ‘Bombast’ refers to pompous language, intended to impress people. ‘Broadcast’ means to transmit a program through radio or television. The words are unrelated to each other. Incorrect.

(B) ‘Dearth’ indicates a lack or scarcity of something while ‘affection’ indicates a feeling of fondness or liking. Incorrect.

(C) While ‘opulence’ indicates great wealth or luxury; ‘grandiloquence’ is a synonym of ‘bombast’. It refers to loud, pompous talk that contains no real substance. These words are unrelated. Incorrect.

(D) ‘Ostentation’ refers to the pretentious show of wealth. ‘Swagger’ refers to arrogant behavior or conduct. Incorrect.

(E) ‘Paucity’ and ‘scarcity’ are synonyms that refer to the dearth or shortage of something. Correct.

The correct answer is E.