

**Memory Based  
Paper of  
NIACL AO Prelims  
2018**

**English**

# 10 POINTER

## Your Study Companion

### Memory Based English Paper for NIACL AO Prelims 2018

#### Reading comprehension (1-4)

The insurance business like most industries is cyclical. The more surplus a company has, the more premiums they can write. This means lower premiums, relaxed underwriting and expanded coverage. This is referred to as a soft market.

Historically the industry can only endure a soft market for so long. Surplus suffers and prices start to go up, underwriting tightens and coverage is restricted. This is known as a hard market. So where in the cycle are we now? The answer is not clear. What we do know is that after 7 years of rate reductions, prices have stopped declining and on average have started increasing. After 5 solid years of returns (2003-2007), the industry's results have deteriorated significantly.

Unfortunately, interest rates are at historic lows and investment returns have never been **thinner**. What makes the current cycle different from previous cycles, however, is that this cycle is predominantly driven by the income statement and not the balance sheet. Historically, "hard markets" suffered from both poor returns and depleted surplus. While surplus **took a modest dip** in 2011, it is still near an all-time high.

The insurance business has always been supply driven (demand stays relatively constant). When supply is up, prices tend to go down. So while individual insurers want and need rate increases, there is still substantial competition due to the large surplus.

1. Which of the following words is similar in meaning to 'endure' as used in the passage?

- (a) suffer
- (b) enjoy
- (c) evolve
- (d) depraved
- (e) None of these

2. Which of the following words is opposite in meaning to 'thinner' as used in the passage?

- (a) five
- (b) narrow

- (c) slim
- (d) broad
- (e) None of these

3. Which of the following options best describe the meaning of the phrase 'took a modest dip'?

- (a) slight decline
- (b) gradually increase
- (c) sharp rise
- (d) get wasted
- (e) None of these

4. What is the central theme of the passage?

5. For the following word given in bold, a contextual usage is provided. Select the sentence from the following in which the given word has been used appropriately and then mark your answer accordingly.

#### Broker

- (I) The mortgage broker was able to negotiate a favourable loan for the potential buyers.
  - (II) He has already brokered a peace treaty that will come into force on Friday.
  - (III) The company's main activity is insurance broker.
- (a) Only I
  - (b) Only II
  - (c) Both I and II
  - (d) All I, II and III
  - (e) None of these

6. For the following word given in bold, a contextual usage is provided. Select the sentence from the following in which the given word has been used appropriately and then mark your answer accordingly.

#### Premium

- (I) Senior management enjoy certain premium, such as company cars and health insurance.

- (II) The modified cars are available at a premium of five percent over the original price.
- (III) The novel deals with grand themes but is never heavy or premium.
- (a) Only I
- (b) Both I and II
- (c) Only III
- (d) Both II and III
- (e) None of these

7. For the following word given in bold, a contextual usage is provided. Select the sentence from the following in which the given word has been used appropriately and then mark your answer accordingly.

**Proposal**

- (I) There has been an angry reaction to the government's proposal to reduce unemployment benefit.
- (II) The members agreed that the proposal should be rejected.
- (III) The president's proposal was to tax a percentage of Social Security benefits for high-income people.
- (a) Both I and III
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) All I, II and III
- (e) None of these

**Direction (8-12):** Rearrange the following six sentences (A., (B., (C., (D., (E. and (F) in a proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph, then answer the questions that follow.

- (A) In regard to trial run, next month, the firm will begin eliminating all plastic straws from its reach to drink product in international market.
- (B) Eventually they will expand to Brazil as their 2nd pilot market.
- (C) Their first step to achieve this was to roll out plastic free packaging across several product along with pledging to phase out plastic tube of their top selling candy called Candice.
- (D) The first pilot market for this straw free ready to drink will be Dominican Republic where it will carry out testing of paper straws for its drink.
- (E) A food and drink multinational company has stepped up its efforts to reduce its use of plastic.
- (F) Apart from this candy, the company plans to further the process of eliminating plastic by running trials on new material such as paper based and biodegradable/compostable substitutes.

8. Which of the following will be the fourth statement after rearrangement?

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

9. Which of the following will be the sixth statement after rearrangement?

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

10. Which of the following will be the first statement after rearrangement?

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

11. Which of the following will be the second statement after rearrangement?

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) F
- (e) D

12. Which of the following will be the third statement after rearrangement?

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) D
- (d) E
- (e) F

**Direction (13-17):** Read the passage given below and answer the question that follow.

Dr. Jacques Benveniste discovered certain scientific properties of water which he asserted, may defy explanation by the tenets of mainstream physics. His science, which he calls Digital Biology, is based upon two observations that he claims to prove in experiments: First, if a substance is diluted in water, the water can carry the memory of that substance even after it has been so diluted that none of the molecules of the original substance remain. And second, the molecules of any given substance have a spectrum of frequencies that can be digitally recorded with a computer, then played back into untreated water (using an electronic transducer),

and when this is done, the new water will act as if the actual substance were physically present. When asked what made Dr. Jacques curious enough to start his research he said, "There was a technician in my lab who accidentally diluted more than she thought, and realized that for the amount of molecules that were left there shouldn't be any indication of the original substance. But there was. We kept diluting, and the action kept coming back. So we knew we had a new phenomenon."

The research may have a major impact on the credibility of homeopathy, because it is a form of alternative medicine that relies on remedies made by diluting the key curative ingredient over and over again until that ingredient has disappeared. Benveniste started a spin-off company called DigiBio. However, the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency tested DigiBio's claim and came to the following conclusion: "Our team found no replicable effects from digital signals."

Advancements in scientific techniques have enabled researchers to critically examine and scrutinize nonconventional therapies to either validate or reject them for routine clinical practice. Homeopaths usually claim to achieve curative effects by using homeopathic substances ranging in concentration from mother tinctures in crude forms to infinitesimal dilutions with a probability of almost zero active ingredients in them. Because homeopaths use a double-distilled water, it is highly purified, enabling the medicinal substance to solely infiltrate the water. Dr. Hering, founder of American Homeopathy, devised the decimal dilution method, which, like the earlier dilution methods, lacked any fundamental metric such as Avogadro's number.

A literature search revealed that the drug dilution and standardization issues were never settled in homeopathy. The issues of miracle cures with different dilutions become questionable when such claims are examined in the absence of any placebo or control studies. This issue becomes more important in the light of new emerging nanotechnology. Homeopaths use extremely small doses of medicinal substances that are highly individualized to a person's physical and psychological syndrome of disease, not simply an assumed localized pathology. However, homeopathic drug standardization based on scientific metrics is needed for research and reproducibility for routine clinical practice.

**13. Which of the following option is most OPPOSITE of the word "CRUDE" as used in the passage?**

- (a) Refined
- (b) Rude
- (c) Coarse
- (d) Earthy
- (e) Filthy

**14. Which of the following option is most SIMILAR of the word "nonconventional" as used in the passage?**

- (a) Dogmatic
- (b) Bigot
- (c) Contemporary
- (d) Customary
- (e) Primordial

**15. Which of the following options expresses the conclusion given by the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency after testing DigiBio's claim?**

- (a) Homeopathic drug standardization based on scientific metrics is needed for research and reproducibility for routine clinical practice of DigiBio.
- (b) DigiBio has no replicable effects from digital signals.
- (c) Digital signals recorded on a computer disc produce specific biological effects.
- (d) Advancements in scientific techniques have enabled DigiBio to critically examine and scrutinize
- (e) None of these

**16. Which of the following, according to the passage best describes Dr. Jacques' discovery of Digital Biology ?**

- (a) A treasure-trove of tall-tales
- (b) A Desultory thought
- (c) A Serendipity
- (d) A Fluke
- (e) A research and reproducibility

**17. A suitable title to the passage would be:**

- (a) Could water really have a memory?
- (b) Digital Biology and the Memory Effect of Water.
- (c) Homeopathy: The Alternative medicine awaits its Attestation.
- (d) Homeopathic Drug Standardization.
- (e) Advancements in scientific techniques

**Directions (18-22): In the following question, one part of the sentence may have an error. Find out which part of the sentence has an error and choose that option as your answer. If the sentence is free from error, choose 'No error'.**

**18. The report submits by (A)/ committee included detailed (B)/ financial information for (C)/ the past 5 years. (D)**

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) No error

19. A study found out that if (A)/ all fossil fuel options is replaced (B)/ by better alternatives we can (C)/ limit global warming. (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) No error

20. Our company is working (A)/ on a software which (B)/ will help us to archive (C)/ emails more efficiently. (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) No error

21. The company excelled (A)/ at producing new and (B)/ innovative designs for the (C)/ already availability in products. (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) No error

22. There is increasing pressure (A)/ on exporters in raise (B)/ prices of leather goods (C)/ in foreign markets. (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D
- (e) No error

**Directions (23-27) In the following passage, there are blanks each of which has been numbered. Against each question, five words have been suggested, one of which fills the blanks appropriately. There is increasing agreement among senior scientists that several problems \_\_\_(A)\_\_\_ our planet have now taken the form of existential issues which \_\_\_(B)\_\_\_ the survival of many forms of life including humankind. The special life-nurturing features of our \_\_\_(C)\_\_\_ and beautiful planet which led to the \_\_\_(D)\_\_\_**

**of millions of life-forms are threatened by man-made (certainly much more man-made than woman-made) factors. The survival problems range from climate change to nuclear weapons, ocean acidification to robot weapons. About a dozen such problems can be identified easily. Another critical aspect on which there is increasing agreement of scientists and policy analysts is that the response to resolving these existential problems so far has been extremely \_\_\_(E)\_\_\_.**

23. Which of the following options fill in the blank labelled (A)?

- (a) Satisfied
- (b) Pledged
- (c) Confronting
- (d) Appraised
- (e) All can fit

24. Which of the following options fill in the blank labelled (B)?

- (a) Threaten
- (b) Fears
- (c) Pressurizing
- (d) Induced
- (e) All can fit

25. Which of the following options fill in the blank labelled (C)?

- (a) Grudging
- (b) Abundance
- (c) Bountiful
- (d) Beautiful
- (e) All can fit

26. Which of the following options fill in the blank labelled (D)?

- (a) Fulfilling
- (b) Flourishing
- (c) Nurtured
- (d) Concerned
- (e) All can fit

27. Which of the following options fill in the blank labelled (E)?

- (a) Inadequate
- (b) Substandard
- (c) Low grade
- (d) Limited
- (e) All can fit

**Directions (28-30)** In the given questions, parts of the sentences are separated as A, B, C and D. Of these, the positions of two of these parts may be incorrect and need to be exchanged to make the sentence correct. Find the two parts which need to be exchanged. In each case the given sentence is correct, your answer should be 'No exchange required.'

**28. The double-digit growth/A. of the insurance industry/B. was aided by enhanced/C. digitalisation/D. of the insurance consumer support.**

- (a) A-C
- (b) C-D & B-C
- (c) C-E
- (d) A-B & C-E
- (e) No exchange required

**29. After witnessing/A. many atrocities/B. during/C. the battle, the soldiers came up with several ideas/D. for how the wounded/E. Should get help.**

- (a) B – D
- (b) C – D
- (c) A- B & D – E
- (d) No exchange required
- (e) A – E & B – C

**30. After losing/A. his job, he realised/B. he could not afford/C. the buying/D. that came along with liability/E. a new house.**

- (a) A – D & B – E
- (b) A – D
- (c) B – C
- (d) No exchange required
- (e) D – E

\*\*\*\*\*