

## **PARA COMPLETION -2**

1. When economists from the World Bank visit poor countries to dispense cash and advice, they routinely tell governments to reject cronyism and fill each important job with the best candidate available. It is good advice. The World Bank should take it.
  - a) In appointing the next president, the bank's board should weigh the nomination from its most influential share holder, America, against that of Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.
  - b) May the best women win.
  - c) The World Bank is the world's premier development institution.
  - d) The World Bank's boss needs experience in government, in economics, and in finance (it is a bank, after all) and should have a broad record in development too.
  
2. The worse the government fares, the more the main opposition should celebrate. It is the only other party with anything close to a national appeal, now that the rest are all but defunct. State-level political figures are getting stronger, but none has a nation wide following. The ruling party is being dragged down by a poor showing in recent state polls, by slower economic growth and an endless stream of scandals.
  - a) Its tally of seats shrank in the larger states; its support slumped in the smaller ones; it even drew a blank in one state.
  - b) But the opposition looks divided nationally, with its leaders jockeying for position as potential prime minister.
  - c) The opposition needs some policy coherence —or less incoherence.
  - d) The opposition ought to be able to offer a viable alternative when the need arises.
  
3. 'Everyone feels abandoned at a psychic level,' I am told. But for children whose biological parents have died or left them with distant family members or institutions, being dumped and passed on have one reluctant relative to the other is a stark reality. It is one that permeates their being in ways that cannot even be imagined. For girls, it would seem, being unwanted is the default setting. But for adopted girls, ironically, loss and rejection from one side and being warmly embraced from the other go almost hand in hand.
  - a) despite the insecurity of the first few years of life, they are open and trusting for the most part.
  - b) with the knowledge of having been cast off by their biological families, they are enveloped, soon after by the deep desire of adoptive parents to nurture.
  - c) adoptive parents have furnish all manner of proof that they are worthy parents.
  - d) indeed, adoptive parents live with their yearning for children for many years before it can become a reality.
  
4. This week, Tom Donilon, the US national security advisor, laid out a detailed Asia plan for Obama's second administration. The speech, much awaited in Aisa, turned out to be short on specifics and long on strategic vision. For every country east of India, parsing through that speech, we were no wiser about how deep Obama's "pivoted" footprint in Asia is going to be. We learnt all that was usual. In the past year, the US has nuanced its Asia pivot from being the robust variety espoused by Hillary Clinton to a more cautious one by John Kerry.
  - a) Donilon took time to set out the contours of relationships including India.
  - b) This comes a couple of years after Barack Obama's chastening experience with a US-China 'G-2'.
  - c) Obama brings a new flavor to this new strategy.
  - d) Donilon, who really speaks for the president, stayed towards the cautious, continuing the thread of Obama's light footprint, moderate foreign policy.
  
5. Certainly a good deal of men's tyranny over women can be observed through data, experiments and research. Many things can be known in this way. But it does not show that it unnecessary or changeable, except speculatively, because what is not there is not considered real. Women's situation cannot be truly known for what it is, in the feminist sense, without knowing that it can be other than it is. By operating as legitimating ideology, the scientific standard for verifying reality can reinforce a growing indignation, but it cannot create feminism that was not already there.
  - a) Social institutions are constituted, at least in part by sets of shared beliefs and conventions.
  - b) Knowing objective facts does not do what consciousness does.
  - c) This means that we can speak here not only of error but of illusion.
  - d) We are not simply cogs in structures and practices of subordination, we enact them.
  
6. In the face of mounting evidence that college is an inherently broadening experience, it seems almost impossible to complete those four years without growing a little. Twenty two year olds have been known to emerge from their chosen institution of higher learning dogged by greater perspective and even fulfillment despite their best efforts to the contrary. This is no cause for panic, however since there exist a well-tested countermeasures that can be easily employed. The following ten steps, if pursued diligently can actually help the entering student avoid getting virtually anything from his or her undergraduate years.
  - a) but one false move in this direction and the whole carefully designed structure could collapse.
  - b) students should busily set about learning which of the courses require the latest work.
  - c) it is crucial that academic interests not to be influenced by real life experience particularly if you hope to remain in academia and be hired to teach.
  - d) advance reports even suggest that some regression is possible for those who religiously put into practice all of the recommendations.

7. One is sometimes asked about the 'obstacles' that confront young writers who are trying to do good work. I should say the greatest obstacles that writers today have to get over, are the dazzling journalistic successes of twenty years ago, stories that surprised and delighted by their sharp photographic detail and that were really nothing more than lively pieces of reporting. The whole aim of that school of writing was novelty never a very important thing in art. They gave us, altogether, poor standards-taught us to multiply our ideas instead of to condense them. They tried to make a story out of every theme that occurred to them and to get returns on every situation that suggested itself. They got returns, of a kind. But their work, when one looks back on it, now that the novelty upon which they counted so much is gone, is journalistic and thin. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) a best seller was a book which somehow sold well simply because it was selling well.
  - b) the especially merit of a good reportorial story is that it shall be intensely interesting and pertinent today and shall have lost its point by tomorrow.
  - c) today, each new day demands new ideas and the writer can never be sure whether he is going to come up with them or not.
  - d) but surprisingly the works they left behind are timeless.
8. Beauty is not a goal of competitive sports, but high level sports are a prime venue for the expression of human beauty. The relation is roughly that if courage to act. The human beauty we're talking about here is beauty of a particular type; it might be called kinetic beauty. Its power and appeal are universal. It has nothing to do with sex or cultural norms. What it seems to have to do with, really is human being's reconciliation with the fact of having a body. Of course in men's sport no one ever talks about beauty or grace or the body. Men may profess their love of sports, but that love must always be cast and enacted in the symbology of war: elimination vs. advance, hierarchy of rank and standing, obsessive statistics, technical analysis, tribal and/or nationalist fervor, uniforms, mass noise, banners, chest thumping, face painting etc. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) regardless, the truth is that TV sports is to live sports pretty much as Mills and Boons is to the felt reality of human love.
  - b) for reasons that are not well understood, war's codes are safer for most of us than love's.
  - c) the real discussion is more about a spectator's experience of sports and its context.
  - d) the more combative a sport is, the more we fall in love with it.
9. Commodity markets are never for the faint hearted. But each year, between June and September, farm futures can be more hair-raising fun than a casino. \_\_\_\_\_ in the last four weeks globally wheat is up 25%, corn 15% soya bean 9% and palm oil climbing fast, while cotton has hit a brick wall. But it could all change with a week's rain.
  - a) crops are most vulnerable when they are standing in the fields because outside a certain range of moisture and temperature they wilt and die.
  - b) while technology can now better predict weather, we can't choose or change it.
  - c) the jackpot will go to the guys who correctly match weather with market psychology.
  - d) all due to the vagaries of the weather.
10. Mike, CEO of Motorola, likes to compare his company's recent performance to the Dickens classic "A Tale of Two Cities". Motorola was once renowned for ultra chic mobile phones, but since 2006, that business has been in a free fall and the company's overall revenue has dropped by half. The recession did not help. Keeping the 22 billion firm afloat were its less glamorous but profitable units that sell two way police radios, bar code scanners and net-working equipment for telecom carriers. Mike says, that previous year marks the best ever for their home and enterprise mobility segments. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) Motorola's dire straits required a drastic reinvention.
  - b) there were really two stories behind one Motorola.
  - c) so, over the course of 2008, it slashed costs and replaced nearly 70% of its senior executives.
  - d) Motorola split the two segments while retaining the same brand name.
11. The US house of Representatives has passed a bill to hike US visa fee for skilled workers steeply to raise 500 million in emergency funding to help secure the US Mexico Border \_\_\_\_\_ but since the House version passed in a voice vote is slightly different, it will go back to the Senate for final Congressional approval before being signed into law by President Bush.
  - a) this is one rare issue both Democrats and Republicans have agreed on.
  - b) US companies use these visas in larger numbers but would escape the hike as it targets only companies with more than 50% of employees on H1B or L1 visas.
  - c) the additional fees from the popular H1B and L1 visa programmes would be used to build operating bases and deploy unmanned surveillance drones.
  - d) senators passed a similar plan last week.
12. One has a sense that the sea, whatever else it may be, however grey or immense or distempered or powerful, is a permanent presence in the world, whether it is rumbling or calm, storming or drowning. We think of it as an immutable living being, ceaselessly occupied in its unfinishable business of washing and waiting. Yet strictly speaking, this is hardly true at all. Oceans have their beginnings and their endings, too. Not in the human imagination, perhaps, but in a physical sense, most certainly. Oceans are born, and oceans die. And the Atlantic Ocean, the once much feared Great Outer Sea of ancient Mediterranean sailors, the most carefully studied and considered sea of them all, was not always there. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) And nor will it remain either where it is or what it is.
  - b) But for humans, the sea will, quite simply, always keep going on
  - c) To the ancient Greeks, it was known as the Great Outer Sea, a thing hugely to be feared.
  - d) The Atlantic is the classic ocean of our imaginings, and an entity that seems to be somehow interminable

13. How many words are there in the English language? There is no single sensible answer to this question. It's impossible to count the number of words in a language, because it's so hard to decide what actually counts as a word. Is dog one word, or two (a noun meaning 'a kind of animal', and a verb meaning 'to follow persistently')? If we count it as two, then do we count inflections separately too (e.g. dogs = plural noun, dogs = present tense of the verb)? Is dog-tired a word, or just two other words joined together? \_\_\_\_\_
- And that's not even counting all the different breeds of dogs!
  - Is hot dog really two words, since it might also be written as hot-dog or even hotdog?
  - Most dictionaries count the verb and noun form of dog as separate words, so at least there's some clarity there.
  - Once we start tallying up all the variations on a word, the numbers begin increasing exponentially.
14. Ancient Egypt seems to have been a civilization obsessed with death. From pyramids to mummies, most of the hallmarks of Egyptian culture are connected with funerary customs. Yet, if we look more closely, it was not death itself that lay at the heart of the Egyptians' preoccupations, but rather the means of overcoming it. Pyramids were designed as resurrection machines for Egyptian kings. Mummies were created to provide permanent homes for the undying spirits of the dead. \_\_\_\_\_
- Proper preparation for the next world was deemed an essential task in ancient Egyptian culture so that death did not bring about utter annihilation.
  - The mute records of tombs and grave goods of the ancient Egyptians suggest an overwhelmingly materialistic view of life after death, with the deceased provided with all the material needs of life beyond the grave.
  - If mortuary beliefs and grave goods dominate modern views of a death-obsessed ancient Egypt, it is only, perhaps, because cemeteries located on the desert edge have survived through the millennia so well
  - The hope of an afterlife, and the necessary preparations for it, can be traced back to Egypt's earliest prehistoric cultures
15. Odours elicit impulses in our brains that can have a profound impact on the way we perceive our world. A whiff might lead us to recall the schoolrooms of our childhood or the musty cosiness of our grandparents' attic, each occasion bringing long-buried feelings to the surface. More essentially, smells can help us to survive. The smell of tasty food gets us hungry; the smell of sewage makes us feel ill. We are hardwired to avoid rotten eggs. Want to sell your home? It would be far better to have bread baking in the oven than cabbage boiling on the stove top when prospective buyers come by. We collectively invest vast sums in our sense of smell, in the form of perfume. \_\_\_\_\_
- Without our sense of smell, our world would be a different place.
  - All of this attests to how deeply embedded our sense of smell is inside of us.
  - Our sense of smell thus has repercussions that last a long time
  - In short, our sense of smell drives our every decision in subtle, subconscious ways.
16. Why do captive birds mimic human speech, and how do they decide what to say? According to one theory, birds that are raised in captivity might mimic their human owners as a way of gaining acceptance as a member of the family. If they hear 'pretty bird' a lot, they'll interpret that as a call distinct to their flock, and try making it themselves. A parrot will likely get no response from her human family if she squawks, but she will get lots of attention or treats when she makes humanlike noises. \_\_\_\_\_
- So she has an extra incentive to practise forming words and phrases.
  - But whether the parrot can actually understand what she is saying is a matter of debate
  - Parrots are among the few kinds of birds who can form new sounds based on experience.
  - These parrots are trying to fit in with the flock, and so they'll say whatever it takes.
17. Rhetoric is a treasured art for the French, in much the same way that theatre is for the British, singing is for the Italians, and violin is for the Germans. Rhetoric is not the mere science of persuasion and oratory. It is the art of eloquence, whether in writing or in speech. The French learn to value and practise eloquence from a young age. Almost from day one, students are taught to produce plans for their compositions, and are graded on them. The structures change with fashions. Youngsters were once taught to express a progression of ideas. Now they follow a dialectic model of thesis-antithesis-synthesis. If you listen carefully to the French arguing about any topic, they all follow this model closely. \_\_\_\_\_
- This analytical mode of reasoning is integrated into the entire French school corpus.
  - They present an idea, explain possible objections to it, and then sum up their conclusions
  - French students who pursue social sciences in university are subjected to rigorous rhetorical drills
  - The art of rhetoric may be alien to North American culture, but it forms a vital part of French culture.

### Answer Key:

1. A	2.D	3.B	4.D	5.	6.	7. B	8.B	9.D	10.B
11.D	12.A	13.B	14.A	15.B	16.A	17.B			