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ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE PO  
SOLVED GENERAL AWARENESS EXAM  
PAPER 2008

The Oriental Bank of Commerce conducted an exam in 2008 to shortlist prospective candidates for the position of Probationary Officers. This is the question paper was for the General Awareness and was given in 2008. You can download this solved question paper here.

### **General Awareness: Solved Paper**

**1. Which of the following crops cannot be called a Plantation Crop ?**

- (A) Wheat
- (B) Oil Palm
- (C) Rubber
- (D) Coffee
- (E) Coconut

**2. Which of the following is the name of the spacecraft launched by India as a part of Mission to Moon ?**

- (A) Moon-1
- (B) Chandrayaan-1
- (C) Kalpana
- (D) RADOM
- (E) None of these

**3. As per the reports published by the World Bank what percentage of Indian population lives below the new International Poverty Line ?**

- (A) 30%
- (B) 62%
- (C) 52%
- (D) 42%
- (E) 68%

**4. Which of the following is not a 'Social Sector Programme' run by the Govt. of India ?**

- (A) National Rural Health Mission
- (B) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- (C) Mid-Day Meal Scheme
- (D) Integrated Child Development Services
- (E) Bharat Nirman

**5. In order to augment Credit flow to small and poor borrowers, commercial banks are required to provide how much percentage of their priority sector advances to weaker sections of the society ?**

- (A) 15%
- (B) 20%
- (C) 30%
- (D) 25%
- (E) 35%

**6. As reported in some newspapers/magazines a large number of children/infants are falling sick because of the use of melamine contaminated dairy products in the world. Due to this many countries like Africa, Japan, Singapore, etc. have stopped import of these products. Which of the following countries was the main exporter of such products ?**

- (A) China
- (B) Bangladesh
- (C) Pakistan
- (D) Iran
- (E) None of these

**7. Which of the following is the abbreviated name of the programme launched in India for the economic empowerment of persons with severe to profound disabilities ?**

- (A) ARUNIM
- (B) NREGA
- (C) GCMMF
- (D) UNCTAD
- (E) SCOPE

**8. As per the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission, what will be the share of the State Govts. in total shareable proceeds of Central taxes ?**

- (A) 15%
- (B) 20.5%
- (C) 22%
- (D) 30.5%
- (E) 35.5%

**9. Which of the following is/are objective(s) of the 'Rural Drinking water supply Programme' launched by the Govt. of India ?**

1. Supply safe drinking water to all villages.
2. Assisting local communities to maintain sources of safe drinking water in good condition.
3. Giving special attention for water supply to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 1, 2 and 3
- (E) None of these

**10. Which of the following is not a Source of Tax Revenue collected by the Govt. of India ?**

- (A) Custom Duty
- (B) Excise Duty
- (C) Income Tax
- (D) Service Tax
- (E) Dividends and Profits

**11. Asif Ali Zardari who has taken over as the new President of Pakistan is from which of the following political Parties ?**

- (A) Pakistan Muslim League
- (B) Awami League
- (C) Pakistan People's Party
- (D) Pakistan National Congress
- (E) None of these

**12. India is now out of the nuclear sanction imposed on it about 16 years back. This sanction was imposed by which of the following organisations ?**

- (A) Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)
- (B) Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- (C) INTERPOL
- (D) UN Security Council
- (E) None of these

**13. Very often we read in newspapers about the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Through Automatic Route. What is meant by Automatic Route ?**

1. It is a process which allows foreign investors to trade shares of any Indian Company on day-to-day basis openly in stock markets.
2. It is a process by which Indian Companies are allowed to issue shares to any foreign investor as a part of their paid up Capital in the project in which they have made an investment.
3. It is a process in which all foreign investors are asked to make all their investments in Indian projects in rupee currency only and that too in cash only. Technical knowhow or any other type of participation is not allowed as a part of investment.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) Both 1 and 2
- (E) All 1, 2 and 3

**14. The Govt. of India is planning to introduce a 'National Security Exception Act' in the Parliament, which will work on the lines of Exxon-Florio provision prevalent in the USA. What is the purpose of the proposed Act ?**

1. The Act is a part of Indo-US Nuclear Pact as this only will allow India to start building nuclear facilities in the country.
2. The Act will empower the Govt. of India to stall any foreign Company from acquiring any local asset (FDI) if it is found to be compromising with national security.
3. The Act will empower the Govt. of India to control terrorism in a better way as all e-services

will be  
under thorough scrutiny by security agencies.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) Both 1 and 3
- (E) All 1, 2 and 3

**15. Which of the following is not included in the list of UN Millennium Goals ?**

- (A) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- (B) Develop a global partnership for development
- (C) Promote Gender equality
- (D) Reduce Child Mortality
- (E) Make World Nuclear free

**16. Which of the following agencies/bodies has asked all foreign funds to come forward and register itself as Foreign Institutional Investments (FIIs) prior to any investment in India ?**

- (A) RBI
- (B) SEBI
- (C) IBA
- (D) Registrar of Companies
- (E) None of these

**17. Who amongst the following Indian players could not win any medal in Beijing Olympic 2008 ?**

- (A) Sushil Kumar
- (B) Abhinav Bindra
- (C) Anjali Bhagwat
- (D) Jitendra Kumar
- (E) Saina Nehwal

**18. India recently signed an agreement in the field of hydrocarbon with which of the following countries for which Hernan Martinez Torres, Minister of Energy of that country was in India ?**

- (A) Zambia
- (B) Ukraine
- (C) Colombia
- (D) Turkey
- (E) None of these

**19. Which of the following countries has asked India to scrap Kosi River Pact, the river which created a havoc in Bihar recently?**

- (A) Bangladesh
- (B) Pakistan
- (C) China

- (D) Nepal
- (E) Bhutan

**20. Which of the following is the amount of the relief package announced by the Prime Minister of India for Flood-hit Bihar ?**

- (A) Rs. 1000 crore
- (B) Rs. 1010 crore
- (C) Rs. 1050 crore
- (D) Rs. 1100 crore
- (E) Rs. 1120 crore

**21. As reported in the newspapers some people are of the opinion that India may not be able to achieve its export targets set for the year 2008-09. Which of the following is/are the reason(s) of their worry ?**

1. There was a major flood in some parts of Bihar, Orissa, Gujarat and some other States recently, owing to which fruit/horticultural crop has not reached export markets in sufficient quantity.
  2. Rupee is frequently getting depreciated against US dollar.
  3. Some major economies of the world are passing through the phase of economic recession.
- Hence many export orders are cancelled.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) Both 1 and 3 only
- (E) None of these

**22. While talking to the Press/Media/Group of experts in Singapore the former Governor of RBI, Dr. Y. V. Reddy, said that the impact of global financial turmoil will be less on Asia. What in opinion of the people**

like Dr. Reddy are the strengths of Asian Financial System which will help it to sustain the turmoil ?

(Pickup correct statement(s) as your answer.)

1. Banks in Asia are better capitalized and are not much exposed to sophisticated derivatives.
2. Asian economies were in a high growth mode and hence they have better ability to withstand the crisis.
3. Most of the Asian countries used to enjoy a strong fiscal position and current account surpluses in the past. This has given them an ability to bail out a failing financial institution in case it appeared.

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 1, 2 and 3
- (E) None of these

**23. Subsequent to the RBI's move of reducing the CRR, the industry Chambers in India are demanding for softened interest rates. How will this demand of softened interest rates help the industry?**

1. It will give a push-up to new investments and augment the demand of new proposals for more credits.
  2. The move will help in creation of many new employment opportunities.
  3. It will strengthen the position of the Stock Markets in India.
- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Both 1 and 2  
(D) All 1, 2 and 3  
(E) None of these

**24. The recent decision of the RBI to cut Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 150 basis points (October 2008) will be able to infuse how much liquidity into the market ?**

- (A) Rs. 10,000 crore  
(B) Rs. 30,000 crore  
(C) Rs. 40,000 crore  
(D) Rs. 50,000 crore  
(E) None of these

**25. As per the reports published in the newspapers recently Indian Rupee was on depreciation and there was a time when the depreciation was about 17% in six months. Which of the following was/were the main cause(s) of this continuous fall ?**

1. Foreign fund flow was very low.
  2. There was heavy demand for the US dollar in the local forex market.
  3. RBI all of a sudden decided to lower the CRR.
- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Both 1 and 2 only  
(D) Only 3  
(E) All 1, 2 and 3

**26. The issues related to the Land Acquisition for setting-up 'Special Economic Zones (SEZs)' is frequently seen in the newspapers these days. As per existing laws maximum how much area is allowed to be acquired for a SEZ ?**

- (A) 1000 hectares  
(B) 2000 hectares  
(C) 3000 hectares  
(D) 5000 hectares  
(E) None of these

**27. Shibu Soren took over as the new Chief Minister of —**

- (A) Bihar  
(B) Chhattisgarh

- (C) Jharkhand
- (D) Uttarakhand
- (E) None of these

**28. Which of the following was one of the major point of disagreement between various countries over which the talks at World Trade Organisation (WTO) got collapsed recently ?**

- (A) Subsidy to farmers
- (B) Providing special status to India
- (C) Drafting a new constitution for WTO
- (D) Drafting a common Trade Policy for next 5 years
- (E) None of these

**29. Who amongst the following is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 54th National Film Award Ceremony ?**

- (A) Dilip Kumar
- (B) Shashi Kapoor
- (C) Rekha
- (D) Hema Malini
- (E) Mrinal Sen

**30. The support price of which of the following commodities was raised by 33%-40% recently to make it Rs. 2,500 per quintal ?**

- (A) Cotton
- (B) Sugarcane
- (C) Wheat
- (D) Palm Oil
- (E) None of these

**31. Who amongst the following cricketers made a World Record of 12 Sixes in a One Day International Match recently ?**

- (A) Sachin Tendulkar
- (B) Xavier Marshall
- (C) Muttiah Muralitharan
- (D) Mike Hussey
- (E) None of these

**32. Which of the following cities became the first 100% e-literate city of India ?**

- (A) Pune
- (B) Hyderabad
- (C) Kozhikode
- (D) Jaipur
- (E) Bangalore



**33. As we all know India will continue to be a net importer of steel as the demand of the same is likely to increase by about 11% in days to come. What is the percentage growth in inland production of steel ?**

- (A) 3%
- (B) 5%
- (C) 7%
- (D) 8%
- (E) 10%

**34. International Literacy Day is observed on which of the following days ?**

- (A) September 18
- (B) September 8
- (C) October 18
- (D) October 8
- (E) None of these

**35. Which of the following teams won the Durand Cup Football played in New Delhi in September 2008 ?**

- (A) Tata Motors
- (B) Indian Railways
- (C) Churchill Brothers
- (D) Mahindra United
- (E) None of these

**36. Which of the following is/are part of New National Biofuel Policy 2008 launched by the Govt. of India ?**

1. Minimum Support Price with a provision of periodic revision.
  2. No duties or taxes would be levied on Biodiesel.
  3. Biodiesel production to be taken up from non-edible oil seeds in waste/marginal lands.
- (A) Only 1
  - (B) Only 2
  - (C) Only 3
  - (D) All 1, 2 and 3
  - (E) None of these

**37. Who amongst the following was given the Mahatma Gandhi Award for Reconciliation and Peace 2008?**

- (A) Akio Ishii
- (B) Bill Gates
- (C) Nelson Mandela
- (D) Prince Charles
- (E) None of these

**38. Which of the following is/are some of the recommendations of the Raghurajan Committee on financial sector reforms ?**

1. Target inflation control rather than controlling money supply.
2. Open Corporate and Govt. Bond markets.
3. Provide liberal regulations for mergers and acquisitions.

- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Only 3  
(D) All 1, 2 and 3  
(E) None of these

**39. Which of the following countries is passing through a crisis called as 'Darfur Humanitarian Crisis' ?**

- (A) `Uganda  
(B) Somalia  
(C) Sudan  
(D) Sierra Leone  
(E) None of these

**40. Who amongst the following is the author of the book 'Inside Third World' ?**

- (A) Amit Choudhury  
(B) William Goldings  
(C) V. Harrison  
(D) Nana Palkiwala  
(E) None of these

**41. The '18th Safety Olympics' was organised in—**

- (A) Seoul  
(B) Berlin  
(C) London  
(D) Moscow  
(E) New York

**42. Mahendra Kapoor who died recently was a famous—**

- (A) Politician  
(B) Social Worker  
(C) Journalist  
(D) Sportsman  
(E) Playback Singer

**43. The Prime Minister of India recently released the Economic Outlook for 2008-09. According to the document Indian economy will grow at what rate during the period of the review ?**

- (A) 7.7%  
(B) 8%

- (C) 8.33%
- (D) 9.7%
- (E) None of these

**44. The 48th National Open Athletics Championship was held at—**

- (A) Kochi
- (B) Delhi
- (C) Jaipur
- (D) Lucknow
- (E) Panaji

**45. Which of the following countries refused to ratify the 'Lisbon Treaty', a very crucial agreement for reforms in the constitution of the European Union ?**

- (A) Russia
- (B) Poland
- (C) Germany
- (D) France
- (E) Italy

**46. Which of the following is not an Employment Generating Programme of the Govt. of India ?**

- (A) NREGA
- (B) SGRY
- (C) SGSY
- (D) TRYSEM
- (E) CAMELS

**47. Who amongst the following is the author of the book 'The Other Side of Midnight' ?**

- (A) Salman Rushdie
- (B) Katherine Mayo
- (C) Ernest Hemingway
- (D) H. G. Wells
- (E) Sydney Sheldon

**48. China recently resolved its border dispute with which of the following countries ?**

(As per agreement Yinlong island will be handed over to China.)

- (A) Mongolia
- (B) Japan
- (C) India
- (D) Taiwan
- (E) Russia

**49. Agha Khan Trophy is associated with the game of—**

- (A) Cricket
- (B) Football

- (C) Badminton
- (D) Golf
- (E) Hockey

**50. Two new countries recently signed the protocols to become the member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).**

These countries are—

- (A) Ukraine–Croatia
- (B) Croatia–Albania
- (C) Georgia–Russia
- (D) Georgia–Croatia
- (E) None of these

**Answers:**

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