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**SBI Clerk Written Exam 2012: Solved
Question Paper on General English**

TEST II**GENERAL ENGLISH**

- Q.41-55.** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words / phrases have been printed in **bold** to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Sheela and Jairam were a **poor** old couple. Their only **possession** was one cow. Once, Jairam fell very sick. Soon all their money was used up in buying medicines and they realised that they would have to sell their cow in order to bear the rest of the expenses. Sheela decided to go to the market and sell the cow. She set off, leading the cow by a rope. On the way, she met four young men. They were the local bullies who enjoyed teasing and tormenting old people. When they saw old Sheela with her cow, they decided to play a trick. One of them sneaked up behind her, untied the cow and tied a goat in its place. Sheela had been walking immersed in thought, worried about Jairam. Suddenly she heard a goat bleat behind her. She turned around and was surprised to see that her cow had **vanished**. She was leading a goat to the market. The four bullies came up to her and said, "There is magic in the air these days. See, it turned your cow into a goat." Poor Sheela walked on with the goat. After a little while, the boys untied the goat and tied a rooster in its place. The rooster crowed and Sheela was surprised again. The goat had turned into a rooster! The four bullies shouted, "Magic in the air, Grandma." She resumed walking with the rooster in tow. After a few minutes the boys crept up again, untied the rooster and tied a log of wood in its place. A few moments later Sheela realised that she was dragging a log of wood with a rope. Again, the bullies shouted, "Magic in the air, Grandma." After a few minutes, the boys untied the log of wood too and ran away with it. When Sheela finally reached the market, she found that she had nothing but a rope in her hand. She came back home **dejected** as she had lost the cow. She told Jairam the whole story. He immediately understood what had happened. "Make chapatti, vegetable and kheer for lunch tomorrow," he said. "Cook for atleast four people. I will come home with some guests. As soon as they come you must say, 'I cooked what the rabbit told me. Come, eat your lunch.' Leave everything else to me," Jairam reassured her. The next morning Jairam went and borrowed two identical rabbits from a friend. He left one at home, tied the other one with a string and started walking towards the market with it. On the way he too met the four bullies. 'Hey Grandfather!' they yelled, "Your wife's cow vanished yesterday. Where are you taking this rabbit now?" Jairam sighed sadly and said, "This rabbit is like my son. It obeys everything I say. But now I am sick and we need money, so I am going to sell it in the market." The four bullies were surprised when they heard this. "Does it really understand what you say, Grandfather?" they asked. Jairam replied, "Of course it does. Here, watch me." Jairam turned towards the rabbit and said, 'Hop home and tell Sheela to make chapattis, vegetable and kheer for four people.' Then he untied the string and let the rabbit hop away. He turned towards the four boys and said, "Come home and have lunch with me." When they reached his house his wife welcomed them and said, "I cooked what the rabbit asked me to cook. Come, eat your lunch." She served the chapattis, vegetable and kheer to all of them. The four bullies were stunned when they saw the rabbit sitting in the corner. They told Jairam, "We will buy your rabbit." Jairam pretended to think and said, "It is very precious to me." The four bullies immediately offered him a higher price. Jairam showed some reluctance. The moment he **agreed** to sell the rabbit they paid him the money and left with the rabbit immediately. The four bullies decided to test the rabbit's abilities. They had been blackmailing a landlord for money. So they told the rabbit, "Go and tell the landlord to bring us the money within ten minutes." The rabbit hopped off. They waited for an hour but the landlord did not come with the money. They marched to his house and yelled, "Give us the money and our rabbit." The landlord had been waiting for a chance to teach these bullies a lesson. He ordered his strongest bodyguard to give them a good **thrashing**. Bleeding and bruised they went back to Jairam's house and said, "You fooled us. Return our money at once." Jairam simply smiled and said, "The money has disappeared! There is magic in the air."

- Q.41.** Why did Sheela and Jairam decide to sell the cow ?
- (1) They had spent all their money on Jairam's sickness and needed more money
 - (2) Sheela wanted to buy a rooster and they needed money for that
 - (3) They were fed up of the four bullies and wanted to teach them a lesson
 - (4) They wanted to invite the four bullies for lunch and needed money for buying the ingredients
 - (5) They owed money to the landlord

- Q.42.** Why was Jairam reluctant to sell the rabbit ?
(1) He only pretended to be reluctant in order to fool the bullies
(2) He was fond of the little rabbit and did not want to sell it to the bullies
(3) He wanted to gift the rabbits to the landlord
(4) He knew that the bullies would not take good care of the rabbit
(5) He wanted to sell the rabbit in the market and get a better price for it
- Q.43.** Which of the following maybe an appropriate title to the passage ?
(1) Magic in the air (2) Never steal a cow (3) The strongest bodyguard
(4) The smart bullies (5) The obedient rabbit
- Q.44.** What did Sheela do after reaching the market empty handed ?
(1) Determined to earn money, she managed to sell the rope that she was left with
(2) She returned home dejected and narrated the whole incident to her husband
(3) She bought two rabbits and devised a plan to get back at the bullies
(4) She went to the landlord and complained about the bullies
(5) She went home and cooked lunch for her husband and herself
- Q.45.** What did the four bullies tie to Sheela's rope immediately after untying the cow ?
(1) A log of wood (2) A rooster (3) A rabbit
(4) A goat (5) Not mentioned in the passage
- Q.46.** Why were the four bullies surprised when they were talking to Jairam ?
(1) They knew that Jairam was sick and had not expected to see him
(2) They had not expected Jairam to invite them for lunch
(3) They could not believe that the rabbit could understand and obey Jairam
(4) They knew that Jairam did not own a rabbit and were surprised to see him with one
(5) They could not believe that Jairam knew the rabbit's language
- Q.47.** What did the four bullies see when they reached Jairam's house ?
(1) They saw that two rabbits were sitting in the corner
(2) They saw that Sheela had not prepared any lunch
(3) They saw the cow they had stolen from Sheela on the previous day
(4) They saw the log of wood they had tied to Sheela's rope
(5) They saw that the same rabbit was sitting in the corner
- Q.48.** Arrange the following incidents in a chronological order as they occurred in the passage.
(A) Jairam and Sheela needed money
(B) The four bullies sent the rabbit to the landlord
(C) Sheela cooked chapattis, vegetable and kheer
(D) The four bullies tied a log of wood to the rope
(1) ADBC (2) ACDB (3) ADCB (4) DABC (5) DACB
- Q.49.** Which of the following is true according to the passage ?
(1) The four boys liked to help old people
(2) Jairam asked Sheela to cook lunch for atleast four people
(3) The rabbit could understand Jairam
(4) Jairam could not trick the four boys
(5) None is true
- Q.50.** What did the landlord do when the four bullies went to his house and yelled ?
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Q.51-53. Choose the word / group of words which is **most similar** in the meaning to the word / group of words printed in **bold** as used in the passage.

Q.51. Thrashing : (1) Garbage (2) Beating (3) Shouting (4) Warning (5) Rejection

Q.52. Possession : (1) Control (2) Power (3) Custody (4) Keeping (5) Belonging

Q.53. Vanished : (1) Gone missing (2) Was found (3) Was killed
(4) Was left behind (5) Had exchanged

Q.54-55. Choose the word which is **most opposite** in meaning to the word printed in **bold** as used in the passage.

Q.54. Agreed : (1) Decided (2) Arranged (3) Accepted (4) Declined (5) Fixed

Q.55. Dejected : (1) Happy (2) Hurried (3) Crestfallen (4) Slowly (5) Angrily

Q.56-60. Each sentence below has two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the set of words for each blank which best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

Q.56. The students _____ not reach on time _____ of the transport strike.
(1) can - as (2) could - because (3) may - account
(4) will - despite (5) should - for

Q.57. They were _____ to vacate that house as _____ as possible.
(1) asked - soon (2) ordered - easy (3) shown - early (4) told - later (5) found - fast

Q.58. The teacher _____ the concept by _____ practical examples.
(1) showed - telling (2) gave - speaking (3) liked - citing
(4) found - looking (5) explained - quoting

Q.59. The manager told us _____ Ramesh was very anxious _____ the meeting.
(1) about - in (2) that - before (3) like - during (4) the - for (5) said - after

Q.60. She did not tell _____ that she _____ attended the party.
(1) someone - have (2) no one - has (3) him - not (4) her - can (5) anyone - had

Q.61-65. Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error or idiomatic error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The number of that part is the answer. If there is "No Error" the answer is '5'. (Ignore errors of punctuation if any.)

Q.61. The shepherd counted / his sheep and found / that one of / them is missing. No Error
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Q.62. The teacher were / impressed by her performance / and asked her to / participate in the competition. No Error
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Q.63. She asked her / son for help her / find a place to bury / the gold ornaments. No Error
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Q.64. The painter was / ask to paint a / picture of the king, / sitting on his throne. No Error
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

Q.65. The story was / about how an / intelligent man had saving / himself from being robbed. No Error
(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)

- Q.66-70.** Which of the phrases (1), (2), (3) and (4) given below should replace the phrase given in **bold** in the following sentence to make the sentence grammatically meaningful and correct? If the sentence is correct as it is and 'No correction is required', mark (5) as the answer.
- Q.66.** They are **yet to decided** about buying the new furniture.
 (1) still decide (2) yet to decision (3) yet to decide
 (4) still decided (5) No correction required
- Q.67.** Rohan's mother was **feed up of** his laziness.
 (1) fed up in (2) fed off (3) feeds up of
 (4) fed up of (5) No correction required
- Q.68.** She was just looking outside the window when a beautiful bird **caught the eye**.
 (1) catch the eye (2) eye catching (3) caught her eye
 (4) catch her eyes (5) No correction required
- Q.69.** They **sent out** the invitations last evening.
 (1) send out (2) sending out (3) sent at
 (4) sending in (5) No correction required
- Q.70.** He had to **bear the brunt** of his father's mistakes.
 (1) bear the burnt (2) bear the burns (3) bear a brunt
 (4) bear and burn (5) No correction required
- Q.71-80.** In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage, against each, five words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

Emperor Akbar was fond of (71) tricky questions to Birbal. One day he asked Birbal what he would (72) if he were given a choice between justice and a gold coin. "The gold coin," said Birbal. Akbar was (73) aback. He had known Birbal for many years and he knew that Birbal was a just person. Then how could he choose the gold coin. "You would prefer a gold coin to justice?" he asked, incredulously. "Yes," said Birbal. The other courtiers were amazed by Birbal's (74) of idiocy. For years they had been trying to discredit Birbal in the emperor's eyes but without success and now the man had gone and (75) it himself! They could not believe their good fortune. "I would have been dismayed if even the lowliest of my servants had said this," continued the emperor. "But coming from you it's shocking - and sad. I did not (76) you were so debased! I never expected this from you. How could you be so shallow?"

One (77) for what one does not have, Your Majesty!" said Birbal, quietly. "You have (78) to it that in our country justice is available to everybody. So as justice is already available to me and as I'm always (79) of money I said I would choose the gold coin." The emperor laughed. He thought to himself, 'I should have known that Birbal would come up with a witty reply as always.' He was so pleased with Birbal's reply that he gave him (80) one but a thousand gold coins.

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|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Q.71. | (1) showing | (2) asking | (3) naming | (4) finding | (5) telling |
| Q.72. | (1) look | (2) said | (3) think | (4) choose | (5) find |
| Q.73. | (1) pushed | (2) fallen | (3) pulled | (4) sent | (5) taken |
| Q.74. | (1) idea | (2) display | (3) reply | (4) place | (5) showing |
| Q.75. | (1) speak | (2) thought | (3) done | (4) create | (5) told |
| Q.76. | (1) felt | (2) said | (3) know | (4) accept | (5) saw |
| Q.77. | (1) asks | (2) chooses | (3) look | (4) find | (5) wish |
| Q.78. | (1) sure | (2) put | (3) shown | (4) seen | (5) made |
| Q.79. | (1) no | (2) rich | (3) short | (4) poor | (5) plenty |
| Q.80. | (1) but | (2) not | (3) and | (4) so | (5) only |

Answer:

41	1
42	1
43	1
44	2
45	4
46	4
47	1
48	1
49	2
50	4
51	2
52	4
53	1
54	4
55	3
56	2
57	1
58	5
59	2
60	5

61	5
62	1
63	2
64	2
65	3
66	3
67	4
68	5
69	5
70	2
71	2
72	4
73	3
74	3
75	5
76	3
77	2
78	1
79	3
80	2