

Corporation Bank, P.O. Examination

held on dated 09.07.2006

English Language

Directions (1-15) : 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.

For more than three years, Anna Feng didn't tell her husband that she had sunk nearly half of their savings into the Shanghai stock market. While he thought all their money was safely sitting in a bank, the value of the stocks plunged by almost 75%. But over the past couple of months, the Shanghai market has shown signs of life, and Feng, a 56-year-old retiree, has recouped half her losses. She's quietly hopeful that may be she'll make it all back. "Everyone seems to be so optimistic about the market now," she says.

Around the world, stocks have been on a tear. In Asia, for example, the Tokyo TOPIX stock index hit a 14-year high last week as a bull run in once-dormant Japan gathered momentum; Mumbai's main equity index hit an all-time high in trading early Friday amid India's continuing economic boom; and Hong Kong shares reached a five-year high while indices in Singapore, Jakarta and Sydney set new records. And though stocks in Asia, in particular, are on fire, they are not alone. From Germany to Venezuela to South Africa, equity markets in both mature and emerging markets have moved up sharply this year – and show little sign on slowing.

The underpinning for stocks' strong performance, global bulls say, is straightforward. Economic growth continues to be strong in places where it has been buoyant for several years (the U.S., China and India) and is finally picking up in places where it had been notably absent—Japan and parts of "old" Europe. Moreover, earnings and corporate balance sheets around the world are as healthy as they have been in years. In Japan, corporate profits have climbed for four straight years and consumer spending is rising briskly on the back of declining unemployment. Economists say that Japan is now in a golden cycle. So, for now, is most of the world. "It comes down to very simple macroeconomics," says Subir Gokam, an economist at CRISIL, India's largest credit-rating firm. "The global economy is growing without much inflationary pressure."

Is anything wrong with this picture? One very big thing, warn the skeptics. Interest rates are rising nearly everywhere, and if there is one simple adage that many investment advisers live by, it's this: "When rates are high, stocks will die." Indeed, one of the most impressive-or scariest-aspects of the current global bull run is that it has come in the teeth of central-bank tightening, most importantly by the U.S. Federal Reserve, which could slow growth in the world's key economic locomotive. The Fed has increased a key short-term interest rate the so-called Fed funds rate-15 times dating back to June 2004, and it widely expected to raise it once or twice more over the next few months. A brief recession and the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001 spurred a prolonged period of very low interest rates. The boosted U.S. consumption-in particular the rate-sensitive housing market-kept the global economy humming. But long-term rates are now beginning to tick upward; last week the U.S. 30-year treasury bond reached 5.04%, its highest level since late 2004, and the housing market is cooling off-potentially triggering an economic slowdown as homeowners cut their spending.

1. According to the passage, what makes people hopeful about the markets?
 - (a) The descent in the value of stocks.
 - (b) The trend of substantial increase in value of stocks.
 - (c) Safety provided by banks to their deposits.
 - (d) Optimism of the stock market players.
 - (e) The interest rates are going up.
2. Which of the following is TRUE about the comparison between market indices of Mumbai and Hon Kong on the one hand and Singapore, Jakarta and Sydney on the other?
 - (a) The indices in the former case are increasing while those in the latter are decreasing.
 - (b) There is no remarkable trend visible between the two sets of indices.
 - (c) Indices in both the groups of exercises are stable over a period of last five years.
 - (d) The markets in both the groups of countries have shown upwards trend.
 - (e) None of these.
3. How do the stock values in Asian countries compare with that in the other countries of the globe?
 - (a) It cannot be inferred on the basis of the content of the passage.
 - (b) There is a general decline in the market indices all over the globe.
 - (c) Markets show a general rise in the indices all over the globe.
 - (d) Markets only in Asian countries have shown upward trend.
 - (e) None of these.
4. Which of the following is/are the reason(s) for the statement that ‘Japan is now in a golden cycle’?
 - (A) It is an economic growth without much inflationary pressure.
 - (B) Japan witnessed a substantial increase in corporate profits for the last four years.
 - (C) There are more employment avenues open and consumer’s spending has increased significant.
 - (a) All three – (A), (B) and (C).
 - (b) (A) & (B) only
 - (c) Either (B) or (C) only
 - (d) (A) & (C) only
 - (e) Either (A) or (C) only
5. According to the content of the passage, the spurt in stock markets appears to be
 - (a) a healthy sign of growing world peace
 - (b) an indication of eradication of global poverty
 - (c) a proof of a negligible number of people below poverty line
 - (d) a transition from under-development to enrichment

- (e) None of these
6. How are the interest rates associated with the stocks?
- (a) In direct proportion
 - (b) In inverse proportion
 - (c) No relation
 - (d) Dependent upon the investors
 - (e) None of these
7. In what way did the terrorist attack in the US influence the markets?
- (a) It led to a brief recession.
 - (b) It increased long term need for housing.
 - (c) It helped increase the interest rates on housing.
 - (d) It prolonged the low interest rate regime
 - (e) None of these
8. What is the impact of increasing long term interest rates?
- (1) Demand in housing market is gradually diminishing.
 - (2) Retardation in economic growth.
 - (3) Restrictions imposed by central bank.
- (a) (1) only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) (3) only
 - (d) (1) and (2) only
 - (e) None of these
9. Which of the following statements is/are FALSE in the context of the passage?
- (1) Economic growth in US, China, India, Japan and old European countries started to show a downward trend.
 - (2) Higher interest rates help boost stock value.
 - (3) Skeptics firmly believe that economic growth is a boon from all the angles.
- (a) All the three
 - (b) (1) and (2) only
 - (c) (2) and (3) only
 - (d) (1) and (3) only

Directions: (10-12) Which of the following is most OPPOSITE in meaning of the word given in bold as used in the passage?

10. plunged
- (a) fell
 - (b) increased
 - (c) dropped
 - (d) more
 - (e) appeared
11. briskly
- (a) vigorously
 - (b) efficiently
 - (c) hurriedly
 - (d) insignificantly
 - (e) slowly

12. boosted

OBJECTIVE ENGLISH – Web Support Material

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| (a) aggravated | (b) elevated |
| (c) deflated | (d) damaged |
| (e) stopped | |

Directions : (13-15) Which of the following is most nearly the SAME in meaning as the word given in bold as used in the passage?

13. buoyant

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| (a) drawing | (b) haphazard |
| (c) upbeat | (d) extravagant |
| (e) sailing | |

14. spurred

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (a) shortened | (b) widened |
| (c) thronged | (d) stimulated |
| (e) escalated | |

15. skeptic

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) disbeliever | (b) orthodox |
| (c) theist | (d) philosopher |
| (e) analyst | |

Directions: (16-20) In each of the following sentences there are two blank spaces. Below each sentence there are five pairs of words denoted by numbers (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5). Find out which pair of words can be filled up in the blanks in the sentence in the same sequence to make the sentence grammatically correct and meaningfully complete.

16. More is _____ of conditions of the tribals in Maharashtra than _____ conalitions of those in the other parts of the country.

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) certain _____ the | (b) known _____ of |
| (c) aware _____ of | (d) favourable _____ those |
| (e) uncertain _____ all | |

17. Although _____ is not a very desirable feeling, we need a certain amoung of it to _____ well.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) anxiety _____ exist | (b) grief _____ enjoy |
| (c) impatience _____ preach | (d) anger _____ define |
| (e) jealousy _____ bad | |

18. Although he is a _____ person, he occasionally loses his _____

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) quiet _____ power | (b) cheerful _____ frief |
| (c) balanced _____ temper | (d) thoughtful _____ anxiety |
| (e) generous _____ wealth | |

19. In a _____ tone, the leader made a powerful _____ to the mob.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) realistic _____ zeal | (b) lower _____ conviction |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|

OBJECTIVE ENGLISH – Web Support Material

- (c) loud_____argument (d) soft_____appeal
(e) pitch_____statement
20. The tunnel was so_____and congested, that we became_____.
(a) long_____enthusiastic (b) deep_____cautious
(c) dark_____frightened (d) crowded_____isolated
(e) sharp_____worried

Directions: (21-35) Which of the phrases (a), (b), (c) and (d) 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 corrections is required, mark (e) as the answer.

21. Because of his efficiency, the Director wanted him to work as his assistant.
(a) wanted to him (b) wants him to be
(c) wanted he to (d) wanted of him
(e) No correction required
22. Highly intelligent people seldom tolerate any ambiguity.
(a) tolerate hardly any ambiguity
(b) hardly tolerate ambiguous
(c) tolerate any clarity whatsoever
(d) hardly tolerate any lacuna
(e) No correction required
23. Being toiled for two hours, he sat down to take some rest.
(a) Have toiled for (b) Had toiled for
(c) Having to be toiled at (d) Having toiled for
(e) No correction required
24. He must have behaved impolite and suffer because of that.
(a) impolitely and suffer (b) impolitely and suffered
(c) impolite and suffered (d) impolitely and have suffer
(e) No correction required
25. The Neo Club has been extended financial and technical help to poor and deserving women.
(a) has been extending (b) have been extending
(c) is being extended (d) have been extended
(e) No correction required
26. Even less intelligent students can be succeeded through hard work and perseverance.
(a) get succession (b) be success
(c) get success (d) be getting succeeded
(e) No correction required

27. Some people experienced life only if they are totally at the mercy of their feelings.
- (a) experience life as if they are
 - (b) experienced life as if they are
 - (c) experiencing if only when they are
 - (d) experience life when they were
 - (e) No correction required
28. Leaders enable a group by imagining and create a future which will fulfill the group purpose.
- (a) by imagining to create
 - (b) to imagine and by create
 - (c) to imagine and create
 - (d) to imagining creativity
 - (e) No correction required
29. Some people by naturally talk more than others.
- (a) by natural talk
 - (b) naturally talk
 - (c) nature by talking
 - (d) Naturally by talking
 - (e) No correction required
30. Being a man of principle, he refused to follow the illegitimate instructions.
- (a) following the illegitimate
 - (b) to follow the illegitimately
 - (c) to follow the illegitimately
 - (d) not to follow illegitimately
 - (e) No correction required
31. One of the basic choices we make in life is whether following the path of smart selfishness or try to avoid all problems.
- (a) while following
 - (b) is whether or not to follow
 - (c) is whether or not to follow
 - (d) has been whether follow
 - (e) No correction required
32. Good-natured people have been suffered because of their politicking companions.
- (a) have suffering with
 - (b) are suffered because of
 - (c) are being suffered because of
 - (d) may suffer because of
 - (e) No correction required
33. Making a donation to charity helps some people feel good.
- (a) helped some people felt
 - (b) helps some people felt
 - (c) helping some people to feel
 - (d) helps some of people feeling
 - (e) No correction required
34. Why does he worry over petty matters is not known.
- (a) he worries
 - (b) he did worry
 - (c) he does worry
 - (d) should he be worry

- (e) No correction required
35. The active learning of adulthood is not only possible but infinitely and desirable.
- (a) possible but only infinite
 - (b) only possibly infinite and
 - (c) possible only if infinite
 - (d) only possible but infinitely
 - (e) No correction required

Directions: (36-40) Rearrange the following six sentences (A),(B),(C),(D),(E) and (F) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph; then answer the questions given below them.

- (A) To propose the idea of becoming perfected is not the same as saying that we human beings can be perfect.
- (B) It only means that we are capable of learning, changing and growing throughout the span of our till death.
- (C) Learning is a process that begins at birth and lasts till death.
- (D) This development through understanding new things, transforming and developing throughout may be considered as the perfection of soul.
- (E) Given that we are here to continually learn on the journey of life, it seems that the ultimate goal of learning is the perfection of our souls.
- (F) Nor that we should be perfect in everything.

36. Which of the following should be the SECOND statement after rearrangement?
- (a) (A)
 - (b) (B)
 - (c) (C)
 - (d) (D)
 - (e) (E)

37. Which of the following should be the FIRST statement after rearrangement?
- (a) (A)
 - (b) (B)
 - (c) (C)
 - (d) (D)
 - (e) (E)

38. Which of the following should be the THIRD statement after rearrangement?
- (a) (A)
 - (b) (B)
 - (c) (C)
 - (d) (D)
 - (e) (E)

39. Which of the following should be the FIFTH statement after rearrangement?
- (a) (A)
 - (b) (B)
 - (c) (C)
 - (d) (D)
 - (e) (E)

40. Which of the following should be the SIXTH (LAST) statement after rearrangement?
- (a) (A)
 - (b) (B)

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (c) | (D) | (d) | (D) |
| (e) | (E) | | |

Directions :(41-50) In the following passage, there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

Most of us are (41) of open conflict and avoid it if we can. And there is a (42) to expressing and working through conflict. If the working through involves harsh word and name-calling, people can feel deeply hurt and relationships can be (243), sometimes permanently. Some group members may be afraid that if they really (44) their anger, they may go out of control and become violent, or that others may do this. These fears can be very (245) and based on experience. So why take the risk) Why not avoid conflict at all costs? Conflict is rather like disease (246) is best. That means attending to areas where (247) may occur before they become an issue. If you have not (48) a conflict happening, that it goes away over time, fine. If it (49) then you will still have to handle (treat) it, and it is likely to be more (250).

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|------------------|
| 41. | (a) aware | (b) worried |
| | (c) scared | (d) careful |
| | (e) reckless | |
| 42. | (a) chance | (b) risk |
| | (c) challenge | (d) measure |
| | (e) principle | |
| 43. | (a) rebuilt | (b) involved |
| | (c) established | (d) maligned |
| | (e) damaged | |
| 44. | (a) regulate | (b) control |
| | (c) sublimate | (d) express |
| | (e) minimize | |
| 45. | (a) real | (b) national |
| | (c) baseless | (d) imaginary |
| | (e) exaggerative | |
| 46. | (a) prevention | (b) medicine |
| | (c) cure | (d) diagnosis |
| | (e) prescription | |
| 47. | (a) consensus | (b) stalemate |
| | (c) harmony | (d) discomfiture |
| | (e) disagreement | |

OBJECTIVE ENGLISH – Web Support Material

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------|
| 48. | (a) seen | (b) prevented |
| | (c) expressed | (d) ignored |
| | (e) induced | |
| 49. | (a) not | (b) hasn't |
| | (c) doesn't | (d) won't |
| | (e) don't | |
| 50. | (a) urgent | (b) skilled |
| | (c) credible | (d) serious |
| | (e) fraudulent | |

Answer Keys

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