

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Directions (71-80): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions. Certain words/ phrases have been given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Over the past few days alone, the China's central bank has pumped extra cash into the financial system and cut interest rates. The aim is to **free** more cash for banks to lend and provide a boost for banks seeking to improve the return on their assets. The official data, though, suggested that bad loans make up only 1.4 % of their balance sheets. How to explain the discrepancy? One possible answer is that bad loans are a **tagging** indicator, i.e. it is only after the economy has struggled for a while that borrowers began to suffer. Looked at this way, China is trying to anticipate problems, keeping its banks in good health by sustaining growth of nearly 7% year on year. Another more worrying possibility is that bad loans are worse than official data indicate. This does not look to be a cause for concern for China's biggest banks, which are managed conservatively and largely focus on the country's biggest-value and quality borrowers. But there is **mounting** evidence **that** when it comes to smaller banks, especially those yet to list on the stock market, bad loans are piling up. That is important because unlisted lenders account for just over a third of the Chinese banking sector, making them as big as Japan's entire banking industry.

Although non-performing loans have edged up slowly, the increase in special-mention loans (a category that includes those overdue but not yet classified as impaired loans.) has been much bigger. Special-mention loans are about 2% at most of China's big listed banks, suggesting that such loans must be much higher at their smaller, unlisted peers. Many of these loans are simple bad debts which banks have not yet admitted to. Another troubling fact is that fifteen years ago, the government created asset-management companies (often referred to as bad banks) to take on the non-performing loans of the lenders. After the initial transfer these companies had little to pay. But, last year, Cinda, the biggest of the bad banks, bought nearly 150 billion Yuan (\$24 billion) of distressed assets last year, two-thirds more than in 2013. These assets would have raised the bank(s) bad-loans ratio by a few tenths of a percentage point. Although such numbers do not seem very alarming, experts who reviewed last year's results for 158 banks, of which only 20 are listed, found that "shadow loans" — loans recorded as investments which may be a disguise for bad loans have — grown to as much as 5.7 billion Yuan, or 5% of the industry's assets.

These are heavily concentrated on the balance sheets of smaller unlisted banks, and at the very least, all this **points** to a need for recapitalisation of small banks.

71. Choose the word which is most nearly the **SAME** in meaning as the word '**TAGGING**' given in bold as used in the passage.

- (1) delayed (2) breaking (3) stopping
(4) protecting (5) tying

72. Choose the word which is **OPPOSITE** in meaning to the word **FREE** given in bold as used in the passage.

- (1) expensive (2) secret
(3) complimentary (4) restrict (5) charged

73. According to the passage, which of the following can be said about China's large banks?

- (A) These are cautiously run.
(B) Their clients are mainly high-value.
(C) 2 per cent of their loans have been classified as overdue but not impaired.

- (1) Only (B) (2) Only (A)
(3) All (A), (B) & (C)
(4) Only (A) & (C) (5) Only (B) & (C)

74. Which of the following is the central idea of the passage?

- (1) Small banks should be permitted to become listed on the stock exchange.
(2) The government should do away with asset management companies.
(3) China's financial crisis is not as serious as it is being made out to be.
(4) China's central bank has failed to predict and stop the decline of its banks.
(5) There is trouble brewing in China's small unlisted banks.

75. Choose the word which is most nearly the **SAME** in meaning as the word '**POINTS**' given in bold as used in the passage.

- (1) peaks (2) moments (3) arguments
(4) indicates (5) plugs

76. Which of the following is **TRUE** in the context of the passage?

- (1) China has not implemented any resources to help its banking sector in recent times.
(2) Approximately 32% of China's banking sector is unlisted.
(3) China's stock market has plummeted in recent times.
(4) Japan's banking industry is experiencing a boom unlike that of China.

(5) None of the given options is true in the context of the passage.

77. What does the example of Cinda convey?

- (1) Many of the loans given by China's banks are in trouble.
- (2) Many such large Chinese asset management companies are failing.
- (3) China's economy is overly dependent on large banks.
- (4) China is the ideal destination for small banks to flourish.
- (5) Such companies have become obsolete.

78. Choose the word which is **OPPOSITE** in meaning to the word **MOUNTING** given in bold as used in the passage,

- (1) melting (2) accumulating
- (3) removing
- (4) submerging (5) decreasing

79. Which of the following best describes experts' findings regarding shadow loans?

- (1) Shadow loans have been steadily falling and are negligible at present.
- (2) These are growing substantially and indicate the need for reform of small banks.
- (3) Shadow loans are unfairly being passed on to asset management companies.
- (4) These loans are inconsequential for the health of banks.
- (5) The findings are faulty as these include only a few listed banks.

80. What is the author's view regarding small banks?

- (1) These have a better loan portfolio than large banks.
- (2) These are in good health helping to sustain economic growth of 7 per cent.
- (3) These should be merged with large banks to bail them out of trouble.
- (4) Regulations governing these banks should be relaxed.
- (5) Other than those given as options

Directions (81-85): Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. Mark the part with the error as your answer. If there is no error, mark 'No error' as your answer. Ignore the errors of punctuation, if any.

81. Many citizens are gravitating / towards the nation's / second-largest State because it offer / ample job opportunities.

- (1) Many citizens are gravitating
- (2) towards the nation's
- (3) second-largest State because it offer
- (4) ample job opportunities.
- (5) No error

82. Most African nations were largely / shielded from the 2008 financial crisis / by China's insatiable demand / for natural resources.

- (1) Most African nations were largely
- (2) shielded from the 2008 financial crisis
- (3) by China's insatiable demand
- (4) for natural resources.
- (5) No error

83. Skeptics worries that the devaluation / of the country's currency is / a desperate move to / bail out struggling exporters.

- (1) Skeptics worries that the devaluation
- (2) of the country's currency is
- (3) a desperate move to
- (4) bail out struggling exporters.
- (5) No error

84. Consumers are constantly been / encouraged to take / advantage of the / lowered interest rates.

- (1) Consumers are constantly been
- (2) encouraged to take
- (3) advantage of the
- (4) lowered interest rates.
- (5) No error

85. Emerging economies are / dominating the news / but for / all the wrong reasons.

- (1) Emerging economies are
- (2) dominating the news (3) but for
- (4) all the wrong reasons. (5) No error

Directions (86-90): Each question below has two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

86. Falling prices of solar power equipment have _____ greater interest and demand among individuals and small organisations for _____ the sun.

- (1) created, utilizing (2) produced, observing
- (3) left, capturing
- (4) formed, harnessing (5) generated, tapping

87. While India's Internet _____ is still only twenty four per cent, the country already has the second largest number of Internet users after China with 300 million people _____ the Net.

- (1) expansion, watching (2) performance, leaving
- (3) speed, reaching
- (4) penetration, accessing (5) function, using

88. Telecom companies and DOT have lately been on a _____ course ever since the new government made call _____ a priority and even suggested penalties for telcos that can't remedy the situation.

- (1) collision, drops (2) previous, failure
- (3) perception, rate
- (4) development, speed (5) revision, connection

89. Indian markets may _____ a high degree of _____ due to weakness in the global financial markets.

- (1) feel, torture (2) subtend, fluctuation
- (3) experience, volatility
- (4) observe, punishment (5) make, disturbance

90. Indications of a _____ in China rattled investors _____ the globe.

- 1) growth, of 2) slowdown, across

- 3) change, above 4) failure, for
5) progress, beyond

Directions (91-95): Rearrange the following five sentences (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph and then answer the questions given below.

- (A) The plantation crops occupy only 1% of the total cropped area of the country but generate approximately 10% of the total agricultural exports earnings.
- (B) The Plantation Division includes the commodity boards namely Tea Board of India, Rubber Board and Spices Board of India.
- (C) Tea, Coffee, Spices and Rubber are amongst the most labour-intensive sectors and account for the livelihood of over seventeen lakh plantation workers directly.
- (D) Each of these boards is mandated to promote exports of the commodity and other than spice board the production and development of the commodity as well.
- (E) More importantly, the plantation crops are amongst the most well identified symbols of 'Brand India', particularly, Indian Spices and Darjeeling tea.

91. Which of the following would be the **FIRST** sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C (4) D (5) E

92. Which of the following would be the **LAST (FIFTH)** sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C (4) D (5) E

93. Which of the following would be the **SECOND** sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C (4) D (5) E

94. Which of the following would be the **THIRD** sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C (4) D (5) E

95. Which of the following would be the **FOURTH** sentence after rearrangement?

- (1) A (2) B (3) C (4) D (5) E

Directions (96-100): In the following passage, there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. Against each, five words have been suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

Primary school enrolment in India has been a success story (96) due to various programmes and drives to increase enrolment even in remote areas. With enrolment reaching at least 96 per cent since 2009, and girls (97) up 56 per cent of new students between 2007 and 2013, it is clear that many (98) of access to schooling have been (99). Improvement in infrastructure has been the (100) behind achieving this and now in India 98 per cent habitations have a primary school within one kilometre and 92 percent have an upper primary school within a three-kilometre walking distance.

96. (1) most (2) properly (3) totally
(4) optionally (5) largely

97. (1) coming
(4) making

- (2) reaching (3) counting
(5) touching

98. (1) issue
(3) problems

- (2) opportunities
(4) efforts (5) exertions

99. (1) accustomed
(4) forwarded

- (2) addressed (3) met
(5) dissolved

100. (1) main
(4) compulsion

- (2) force (3) focus
(5) awareness