

## SBI Clerk Mains 2020 English Language Practice PDF - Questions

**Directions (1-7):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Over the years, as governance models have **evolved**, so have perceptions about a board's accountability towards good governance. Many factors, which include changes in corporate ownership, growth of family-owned businesses, corruption, obliteration of shareholder wealth and stakeholder value, and operating in volatile and complex environments, have amplified the scrutiny on the board's role and responsibilities. Regulators have, therefore, stepped in to enhance governance norms. The Kotak Committee's recommendations provided a fine template for improving the functioning of boards. While these changes seem promising, will they hit the nail on the head?

Boards have their work cut out, specifically in getting board **composition** (appointment of independent directors) and succession planning right, thereby making the nominating and governance committee the centre of action for many boards. Korn Ferry has been tracking board performance across the globe and believes that these two aspects serve as the cornerstone for larger issues of effectiveness, with the first one dealing with having the right team/board and the second focusing on getting the right CEO to run the company, which is the board's most important agenda.

Few events carry greater risk to shareholder value than a change in leadership. While Indian boards are starting to ensure a comprehensive and **rigorous** selection process for the CEO's role, many boards still lack a structured framework that makes CEO succession a standing agenda item, even from the start of a new CEO's tenure. When CEO succession is not viewed as a progressive and planned move, the focus of the board tends to be on replacing the current CEO rather than fostering a long-term vision and developing a multi-generational leadership bench that can take on the mantle in the future. Keeping CEO succession continually on the table provides a critical thrust to CEO, chief human resources officer, and the board to develop an internal and external slate of candidates, selected after an intensive assessment and evaluation process.

Critical to the success of the CEO and the organization is a board with competencies and intellectual capital to address the toughest strategic and operational challenges. There is no more powerful combination—or one more fundamental to the success of any enterprise—than the successful partnership between a CEO and a strong independent board that can provide oversight and serve as both adviser and strategic arsenal. Therefore, identifying and recruiting independent directors, who bring along strong expertise and are joining the board for the right reasons, become critical.

To gain insights into which boards deliver on these aspects, Korn Ferry has partnered with the National Stock Exchange (NSE) for an extensive industry outreach. The first leg was conducted through an online survey filled by board members of over 100 NSE-listed firms, representing a multi-sectoral focus, and constituting large-, mid- and small-cap spectrum of the market. The second leg, currently underway, involves a detailed analysis of these responses by Korn Ferry global board practice experts. The results of the study will provide a window into "Boards that Lead" with some of the finest practices and will be used to strengthen the governance framework.

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**Q1. Which of the following factors did not lead regulators to enhance the government norms?**

- (a) ensuring a more effective process while selecting a CEO
- (b) growth in family-owned businesses
- (c) changes in corporate ownership
- (d) operating in a continuously changing environmental conditions
- (e) liquidation of shareholder wealth and stakeholder value

**Q2. What should be the denouement of the partnership between Korn Ferry and National Stock Exchange?**

- (I)** To conduct an online survey over 100 NSE-listed firms for their board policy
  - (II)** To obtain information of the practices of leading boards so as to strengthen governance framework.
  - (III)** To analyze the responses obtained in the survey by board practices experts.
- (a) Only (I)
  - (b) Only (II)
  - (c) Both (I) and (III)
  - (d) Both (I) and (II)
  - (e) All (I) (II) and (III)

**Q3. According to Korn Ferry, what are the facets that are foundations of effectiveness in an organization?**

- (a) Acquiring a competent team or board.
- (b) Following profoundly the government norms.
- (c) Obtaining an efficient and effective CEO to run the organization.
- (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (e) None of these

**Q4. Why is it necessary to have independent directors with strong expertise on board?**

- (I)** To obtain services of an adviser as well as strategic arsenal in crucial matters.
  - (II)** To define a selection framework structure for the CEO succession
  - (III)** To conquer the toughest strategic and operational challenges.
- (a) Only (I)
  - (b) Only (II)
  - (c) Both (I) and (III)
  - (d) Both (I) and (II)
  - (e) All (I) (II) and (III)

**Q5. Choose the word that expresses the most similar meaning to the word “COMPOSITION” given in bold in the passage.**

- (a) Variation
- (b) Disparity
- (c) Transformation
- (d) Configuration
- (e) Harmony

**Q6.** Choose the word that expresses the most similar meaning to the word “**EVOLVED**” given in bold in the passage.

- (a) Deprecated
- (b) Adverted
- (c) Abstained
- (d) Absorbed
- (e) Emerged

**Q7.** Choose the word that is opposite of the word “**RIGOROUS**” given in bold in the passage.

- (a) Diligent
- (b) Meticulous
- (c) Sloppy
- (d) Stringent
- (e) Scrupulous

**Directions (8-15):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words are given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

In Telangana, women and child development occupied the fore of our policy priorities and we adopted a multi-pronged approach to healthcare development which can be right termed as “empathetic policymaking”. On the one hand it involved “demand side interventions” to encourage more and more women to opt for institutional deliveries and on the other hand it aimed at “supply side interventions” of making healthcare more accessible and affordable. Coupled with these were human resource and infrastructural development initiatives that formed our multi-pronged healthcare model.

In Telangana, we were quick to appreciate the findings of the research that 83% of all maternal deaths, stillbirths and newborn deaths could be averted with the full package of midwifery care. Inspired by such findings, the Telangana Government, in partnership with UNICEF and the Fernandez Hospital Foundation, inaugurated a pioneering program in midwifery, enrolling the Indian Nursing Council’s Post-Basic Diploma in Midwifery for BSc/GNM (Nursing) graduates. This program is to provide a pool of trained midwives who shall be posted all across the state to provide maternal and newborn care services in high need communities. In order to recognize their achievements and encourage additional nurses to join in, those who complete the course will receive career incentives, mentorship and continuing education opportunities. This first of its kind investment in education and practice landscaping for midwives is supported by state-of-the-art educational exposure from around the world. It is further **bolstered** by end-to-end connectivity with the ANMOL app developed by UNICEF which aids in connecting professional midwives as well as the people living in rural areas to various state and central government schemes and the data.

At the heart of our value of “empathetic policy making” is the idea of taking **perspective** of the grassroots level development worker and seeing how their lives can be made easier so that they are able to provide better services to the society they work so tirelessly for. The Telangana government continues to provide support towards the provision of two-wheeler scootys to ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives) at subsidized prices throughout the State to enhance their capacity and efficiency. Similarly, while the central government was slashing the funds allocated to ICDS to half, the Telangana state government increased

salaries of Anganwadi workers to Rs. 10,500 from Rs. 7,000 per month and made up for the shortfall in finances for the Integrated Child Development Services. The Telangana ANM workers are now one of the highest paid in the country. It certainly doesn't take much to appreciate the idea that if the healthcare workers are cared for, and if their status is **elevated** while they feel a sense of dignity as well as respect in their work, only then will they be able to deliver quality services to the people.

Developing and caring for our healthcare workers is only a part of the healthcare ecosystem that is being developed in Telangana in the pursuit of making the supply of quality healthcare readily available. To provide greater access to institutional health infrastructure, the government has set up hundred-bedded separate hospitals in every district of the state for the mother and child. Further, in Telangana, the ICUs and the labor rooms in hospitals were separated – something that the central government also adopted taking their cue.

The introduction of the 'AmmuOdi scheme' providing free transport facility (a government ambulance) to pregnant women for arriving in the hospital and reaching back home with their child is a giant step in this direction. Such services, owing to their penetration even in the rural areas contribute towards even greater access to healthcare, right up to the last mile.

This is systematically complimented by the 'KCR Kits for pregnant women' forming a holistic multipronged approach to improve the standards of healthcare to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates. The kit contains 6 items such as of clothes, baby soaps, oil, powder, mosquito net, toys, napkins, diapers etc. that ensure health, safety and cleanliness for the mother and child.

A careful observer of public policy design would notice that such initiatives effectively address and resolve "demand side" issues as well as the "supply side" issues to realize the policy outcome of improving healthcare standards.

**Q8. What are the ingredients of a multi-pronged healthcare model for "empathetic policymaking"?**

**(I)** To encourage women to opt for the facilities like hospitals, trained health care professionals etc. for giving birth to child.

**(II)** To improve the infrastructure of the state so to as make the healthcare facilities more obtainable

**(III)** To make the lives of the poor easier so that they can cater better to the society.

(a) Only (I)

(b) Both (II) and (III)

(c) Both (I) and (II)

(d) Only (II)

(e) All (I) (II) and (III)

**Q9. Which of the following provision is not done by Telangana Government to support Auxiliary Nurse Midwives?**

(a) The state has achieved to overcome the inadequacies of the finances of Integrated Child Development Services.

(b) Facility of personal transport vehicles is provided at a subsidized rate to aid Auxiliary Nurse Midwives.

(c) The state has increased the salaries of Anganwadi workers.

(d) The state has acknowledged the midwives for their services by presenting a token of Rs.7500 to them.

(e) None of these

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**Q10. What are the objectives that led to the partnership of Telangana Government with UNICEF and Fernandez Hospital foundation?**

- (a) To avoid all the adversities of child birth up to 83% with the services of midwifery care.
- (b) To introduce an Indian Nursing Council's Post-Basic Diploma in Midwifery
- (c) To strengthen the connectivity of professional midwives with rural areas using the ANMOL app.
- (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (e) All of (a) (b) and (c)

**Q11. What are the measures taken by the Telangana government to resolve the "supply side" issues?**

- (I)** Inaugurated a pioneering program of Indian Nursing Council's Post-Basic Diploma in Midwifery.
  - (II)** Introduced 'AmmaOdi scheme' which is a free transport facility.
  - (III)** Provides KCR kits for pregnant women to improve the standards of healthcare.
  - (IV)** Government has set up hundred-bedded separate hospitals in every district.
- (a) Only (I)
  - (b) Only (II)
  - (c) Both (II) and (IV)
  - (d) Only (I) (III) and (IV)
  - (e) All (I) (II) (III) and (IV)

**Q12. According to the passage, which one among the given sentences stands INCORRECT?**

- (a) The findings of the research states that 83% of all maternal deaths, stillbirths and newborn deaths could be averted with the full package of midwifery care.
- (b) To strengthen the connectivity of professional midwives with rural areas ANMOL app is used.
- (c) The AmmaOdi Scheme is a facility of government ambulance which provides transport at cheaper rates.
- (d) KCR kits contain items such as clothes, baby soaps, oil, powder, mosquito net, toys, napkins, diapers etc.
- (e) None of these

**Q13. Choose the word which is most similar to the meaning of the given word "BOLSTERED" in bold in the passage.**

- (a) Strengthen
- (b) Undermined
- (c) Depreciated
- (d) Scrutinized
- (e) Clenched

**Q14. Choose the word which is most similar to the meaning of the given word "PERSPECTIVE" in bold in the passage.**

- (a) Impassivity
- (b) Detachment
- (c) Contingency
- (d) Anticipation
- (e) Panorama

**Q15.** Choose the word which is opposite of the word “**ELEVATED**” given in bold in the passage.

- (a) Dominant
- (b) Insignificant
- (c) Dignified
- (d) Virtuous
- (e) Exalted

**Directions (16-20):** Answer the following questions after rearranging the following sentences into a coherent paragraph and identify the sentence that doesn't fit into the context of the paragraph.

**(A)** In the case of rice and wheat, large oligopolistic wholesale traders are able to buy the produce at rock-bottom post-harvest prices from small producers then sell them to FCI at much higher MSPs.

**(B)** There are more recent success stories in the Kudumbashree programme in Kerala, the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty in Andhra, and embryonic cases in other states of such cooperation led by women's self-help groups, initially for mobilizing credit and later for other activities.

**(C)** However, distressed farmers need not depend on the government to recover their viability.

**(D)** Reform of agricultural marketing systems to squeeze if not altogether eliminate the 300% traders' markup could provide far more remunerative prices for distressed farmers.

**(E)** The Amul Dairy Cooperative is an outstanding example of how farmers empowered themselves through cooperation.

**(F)** This would free them from the clutches of money lenders, while at the same time making farm produce available to consumers at affordable prices.

**(G)** These examples point to the power of aggregation and collective action in activities ranging from marketing and purchasing of inputs and machinery to land pooling, water management, organic agriculture, dairy, fishery and even some non-farm activities.

**Q16.** Considering statement (C) “However, distressed farmers need not depend on the government to recover their viability.” as the third sentence of the rearranged paragraph, then which among the followings fails to become a part of the coherent paragraph?

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) G
- (d) D
- (e) E

**Q17.** Among the following pairs which one of them is formed with two consecutive statements after the rearrangement (excluding the incoherent sentence)?

- (a) D - G
- (b) E - B
- (c) A - E
- (d) C - B
- (e) A - G



**Q18. Considering the statement (C) “However, distressed farmers need not depend on the government to recover their viability.” as the third sentence of the rearranged paragraph, identify the correct sequence of the sentences to form a coherent paragraph (excluding the incoherent one).**

- (a) DACFGE
- (b) ADCFBE
- (c) DFCEBG
- (d) DFCGBE
- (e) AFCDGB

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**Q19. Considering statement (C) “However, distressed farmers need not depend on the government to recover their viability.” as the third sentence of the rearranged paragraph, which of the following statement should be the FOURTH sentence after the rearrangement? (Excluding the incoherent sentence)**

- (a) B
- (b) H
- (c) E
- (d) G
- (e) F

**Q20. Considering statement (C) “However, distressed farmers need not depend on the government to recover their viability.” as the third sentence of the rearranged paragraph, which of the following statements should be the SECOND sentence after the rearrangement? (Excluding the incoherent sentence)**

- (a) B
- (b) H
- (c) E
- (d) C
- (e) F

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