

English Beginners Level for SSC 24th November (Questions)

Direction (1-5): Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.

"Nobody knows my name" is the title of one of James Baldwin's celebrated books. Who knows the name of the old man sitting amidst ruins pondering over his hubble-bubble? We do not. It does not matter. He is there like the North Pole, the Everest and the Alps but with one difference. The North Pole, the Everest and Alps will be there when he is not there anymore. Can we really say this? "Dust thou art to dust returned" was not spoken of the soul. We do not know whether the old man's soul will go marching on like John Brown's. While his body lies moldering in the grave or becomes ash driven by the wind or is immersed in water, such speculation is hazardous. A soul's trip can take one to the treacherous shoals of metaphysics where there is no "yes" or "no". "Who am I?" asked Tagore of the rising sun in the first dawn of his life, he received no answer. "Who am I?" he asked the setting sun in the last twilight of his life. He received no answer.

We are no more on solid ground with dust which we can feel in our hands, scatter to the wind and wet with water to turn it into mud. For this much is sure, that in the end, when life's ceaseless labour grinds to a halt and man meets death, the brother of sleep, his body buried or burnt, becomes dust. In the form of dust he lives, inanimate yet in contact with the animate. He settles on files in endless government almiraahs, on manuscripts written and not published on all shelves, on faces and hands. He becomes ubiquitous all pervasive, sometimes sneaking even into hermetically sealed chambers.

Q1. What is the difference between the old man and the North Pole, the Everest and the Alps?

- (a) He ponders over his hubble—bubble while they don't.
- (b) They are known to all while he is known to none.
- (c) They remain while he will soon become dust.
- (d) They are not as old as he.

Q2. What, according to the passage, happens to a person's soul after death?

- (a) The soul also dies with the body.
- (b) The soul continues to live after the body is dead.
- (c) The soul certainly becomes dust after death.
- (d) It is dangerous to guess.

Q3. Which of the following statement is true?

- (a) The rising sun told Tagore who he was.
- (b) The rising sun did not tell Tagore who he was.
- (c) The rising sun advised Tagore to ask no questions.
- (d) The rising sun told Tagore that he would become dust.

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Q4. What happens to man after he becomes dust?

- (a) He disappears from the world for ever.
- (b) He appears in the form of man again.
- (c) He meets death again.
- (d) He becomes ubiquitous all pervasive.

Q5. What figure of speech is used in the expression "the brother of sleep"?

- (a) Simile
- (b) Metaphor
- (c) Oxymoron
- (d) Irony

Direction (6-10): Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.

Once Alexander was camping near a town that was inhabited by only helpless women and some children. The menfolk had already been killed in the battle. Feeling hungry, he stopped before a house and knocked at the door. After he had knocked about a dozen times, an old woman supported by a stick came out and enquired what he wanted. In a stern voice Alexander commanded her to get him food. The old woman who recognized Alexander from his Greek dress went inside and presently came out with a covered plate, and presented it to him. When Alexander removed the cover, he found that it contained gold and jewellery. He became very angry.

"You stupid woman," he said angrily, "What have you brought? Can I eat jewellery? I need only food." The old woman coolly said, "You are Alexander the Great, aren't you? I thought that you ate only gold and jewellery. That is why you wander from place to place and mercilessly kill innocent people for it. If ordinary loaves could satisfy your hunger, surely you have enough in your own country." Alexander was taken aback by the words of the old woman. He realized his foolishness and felt ashamed of himself. The old woman then served him good food with great affection. Alexander learnt his lesson from the old woman.

Q6. The town had only helpless women and some children because the menfolk

- (a) went out to find jobs.
- (b) had to go away from the county.
- (c) had been killed in the battle.
- (d) had to help Alexander.

Q7. Alexander knocked at the old lady's door because

- (a) He was hungry and wanted something to eat.
- (b) He was angry with the lady in the house.
- (c) He wanted to check if she walked with a stick.
- (d) The old lady had asked him to come home.

Q8. The old lady recognized Alexander from his

- (a) Commanding voice.
- (b) Greek dress.
- (c) Stern appearance.
- (d) Hungry looks.

Q9. The old lady was

- (a) Old and shy
- (b) Brave and wise
- (c) Greedy and bold
- (d) Timid and weak

Q10. Which of the following is not the meaning of 'stern'?

- (a) Harsh
- (b) Severe
- (c) Demanding
- (d) Adjusting

Direction (11-15): Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives.

An old shepherd was playing on a flute on the marshlands outside Rome. He played so sweetly that a lovely fairy came and listened to him.

“Will you marry me, and play with me in my castle?” she said.

“Yes, yes, lovely lady!” said the shepherd.

The fairy put a ring on his finger. At once he became a handsome young man dressed in princely robes.

“But I must first go to Rome and bid farewell to my friends”, he said.

The fairy gave him a golden coach with twelve white horses. As he rode in State to Rome, he met the young Queen of Italy, who invited him to her place. The shepherd saw that he had won the Queen’s heart. He resolved to marry her and become the King of Italy and let the fairy go. So when he and the Queen were alone together he knelt down and took her hand, saying:

“Marry me, dearest and I will help you to govern Italy.”

But at soon as he spoke he turned into an old and rugged shepherd.

“What is this horrible beggar doing here?” cried the Queen. “Whip him out of the palace.”

Q11. The fairy wanted to marry the shepherd because

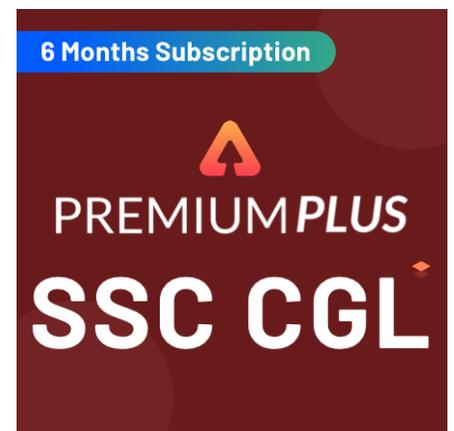
- (a) He was very handsome.
- (b) He had saved her life.
- (c) He could play sweetly on his flute.
- (d) The shepherd loved her.

Q12. When the fairy put a ring on his finger, the shepherd

- (a) Disappeared.
- (b) Changed into a handsome youth.
- (c) Married her.
- (d) Turned into a statue.

Q13. The shepherd went to Rome in a

- (a) Palanquin
- (b) Boat
- (c) Cart
- (d) Coach



Q14. When the shepherd reached Rome, he

- (a) Planned to marry to the Queen of Italy.
- (b) Met his friends there.
- (c) Sought his parents' permission to marry the fairy.
- (d) Planned a meeting with Italy's poor people.

Q15. The Queen ordered the shepherd to be whipped out of the palace because he

- (a) Refused to marry her.
- (b) Turned old and ugly.
- (c) Tried to steal her jewels.
- (d) Revealed his plan to marry the fairy.

Direction (16-30): Out of the four alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

Q16. CONSTERNATION

- (a) trepidation
- (b) recognition
- (c) gaiety
- (d) equanimity

Q17. NECROPOLIS

- (a) nefarious
- (b) disagreement
- (c) cemetery
- (d) churchyard

Q18. KNACK

- (a) stamina
- (b) flair
- (c) cruelty
- (d) shortcoming

Q19. SLEUTH

- (a) investigator
- (b) traveller
- (c) convict
- (d) jury

Q20. KIBITZ

- (a) besiege
- (b) meddle
- (c) avoidance
- (d) shrewd

Q21. COMPUNCTION

- (a) equipment
- (b) excitement
- (c) repentance
- (d) confusion

Q22. WRY

- (a) jubilant
- (b) vexed
- (c) resolved
- (d) wolfish

Q23. ESCULENT

- (a) legal
- (b) edible
- (c) malcontent
- (d) disguised

Q24. ACCOST

- (a) hesitate
- (b) injurious
- (c) address
- (d) selective

Q25. SLAKE

- (a) sharpen
- (b) sate
- (c) stain
- (d) premature

Q26. TROTH

- (a) glorify
- (b) faithful
- (c) persuade
- (d) ego

Q27. PERSUASION

- (a) qualification
- (b) taste
- (c) certitude
- (d) trait

Q28. BEWAIL

- (a) careless
- (b) envy
- (c) rue
- (d) rogue

Q29. EXORCISE

- (a) expel
- (b) entertain
- (c) explain
- (d) enigmatic

Q30. OBSTREPEROUS

- (a) squawking
- (b) sullen
- (c) subdued
- (d) hushed

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