

BSTC General English Questions and Answer

Direction (Q1 to Q9): Read the passage given below and answer the questions by selecting the correct /most appropriate options.

(1) Ruskin Bond, the famous Anglo-Indian writer worked for a while in a photo studio in England while trying to find a publisher for his works. Once he started earning money from his writing, he moved back to India and settled in Dehradun.

(2) He spent the next few years earning his living as a freelance writer, penning short stories and poems for newspapers and magazines. In 1963, he went to live in Mussoorie where he furthered his writing career.

(3) By this time he was a popular writer and his essays and articles were published in numerous magazines and newspapers, such as 'The Pioneer', 'The Leader', 'TheTribune', and 'The Telegraph'. He also edited a magazine for four years.

(4) In 1980, one of his most popular novels, 'The Blue Umbrella' was published. His increasing fame as a writer caught the attention of Penguin Books. The publishers approached Bond in the 1980s and asked him to write a few books. Two of his previous novels, 'The Room on the Roof' and its sequel 'Vagrants in the Valley' were published in one volume by Penguin India in 1993.

(5) Over the ensuing years several of his works including a collection of his non-fiction writings, 'The Best of Ruskin Bond', and collections of short stories 'The Night Train at Deoli', 'Time Stops At Shamli', 'Our Trees Still Grow In Dehra' were published. Some of his popular titles in the supernatural genre are 'Ghost Stories from the Raj', 'A Season of Ghosts', and 'A Face in the Dark and Other Hauntings'.

(6) Ruskin Bond has experimented with different genres including fiction, essays, autobiographical, non fiction, romance, and books for children. He has authored over 500 short stories, essays and novels, more than 50 books for children, and two volumes of autobiography, 'Scenes from a Writer's Life' and 'The Lamp is Lit'.

Q1. The paragraph expresses the fact that
(a) moving to UK was a profitable decision for Bond.
(b) returning to India from the UK was a profitable decision for Bond.
(c) spending money in UK was not difficult for Bond.
(d) moving to Dehradun turned out to be disastrous for Bond.

Q2. In the phrase 'freelance writer', the underlined word is a/an
(a) Adverb
(b) Noun
(c) Adjective
(d) Preposition

Q3. The phrase 'caught the attention of in this context, means
(a) the publishers were impressed by Ruskin's popularity as a writer and his writing style.
(b) the publishers were happy with the popularity that Ruskin enjoyed.
(c) the publishers were disinterested in meeting Ruskin.
(d) the publishers were looking forward to reading his next publication.

Q4. The fact that Ruskin Bond has been a versatile writer is evident from the
(a) number of publishers who were interested in publishing his books.
(b) variety of themes on which he has written his books.
(c) variety of places described in his books.
(d) richness of the language he has used in his books.

Q5. Apart from writing, Ruskin spent four years as a/an
(a) shopkeeper in the UK.
(b) writer in Dehradun.
(c) painter in Mussoorie.
(d) editor of a magazine.

Q6. 'Autobiographical' means
(a) writing about someone else's life.
(b) writing about someone famous.
(c) writing about one's own life.
(d) writing about one's family.

Q7. Ruskin became famous after the publication of his book

- (a) The Blue Umbrella
- (b) The Room on the Roof
- (c) The Night Train at Deoli
- (d) A Season of Ghosts

Q8. The word 'sequel' means

- (a) the second part of a book.
- (b) the third part of a book.
- (c) the first part of a book.
- (d) a book that has many parts.

Q9. A word in the passage that means 'following' as used in this passage is

- (a) increasing
- (b) ensuing
- (c) including
- (d) haunting

Direction (Q10 to Q15): Read the poem given below and answer the questions by selecting the correct / most appropriate options.

Rise, brothers, rise; the wakening skies pray to the morning light,

The wind lies asleep in the arms of the dawn like a child that has cried all night.

Come, let us gather our nets from the shore and set our catamarans free,

To capture the leaping wealth of the tide, for we are the kings of the seal _____ 4

No longer delay, let us hasten away in the track of the sea gull's call,

The sea is our mother, the cloud is our brother, the waves are our comrades all.

What though we toss at the fall of the sun where the hand of the sea-god drives?

He who holds the storm by the hair, will hide in his breast our lives _____ 8

Sweet is the shade of the cocoon glade, and the scent of the mango grove,

And sweet are the sands at the full o' the moon with the sound of the voices we love;

But sweeter, O brothers, the kiss of the spray and the dance of the wild foam's glee;

Row, brothers, row to the edge of the verge, where the low sky mates with the sea. _____ 12

Q10. 'The wind lies asleep in the arms of the dawn' suggests that

- (a) it is a sunny morning.
- (b) it is a windy morning.
- (c) it is a calm morning.
- (d) it is a stormy morning.

Q11. The 'leaping wealth of the tide' refers to

- (a) the sea plants.
- (b) the sea animals.
- (c) the pearl in the oyster.
- (d) the fishes.

Q12. 'The sea is our mother, the cloud is our brother, the waves are our comrades', refers to

- (a) the close connect between all the elements of nature.
- (b) the close connect between the fishermen and the forces of nature.
- (c) the close connect between the fishermen and the sea.
- (d) the close connect between the fishermen and the fishes.

Q13. 'He who holds the storm by hair' is an example of

- (a) Simile
- (b) Personification
- (c) Metaphor
- (d) Hyperbole

Q14. The last stanza (lines 9- 12) is a description of the seaside at

- (a) dawn.
- (b) afternoon.
- (c) dusk.
- (d) night.

Q15. 'Edge of the verge where the low sky mates with the sea', suggests

- (a) the horizon.
- (b) the golden beach.
- (c) the deep ocean.
- (d) the trackless sky.

Q16. In Sudha's classroom she uses her students' first or main language to explain the grammar and vocabulary of the text and then she helps them translate it. Sudha is relying on method to help her students learn English.

- (a) Structural Method
- (b) Communicative Language Teaching
- (c) Grammar Translation
- (d) Direct

Q17. According to Cummins, social language is also known as the language of

- (a) The playground
- (b) The classroom
- (c) The language laboratory
- (d) The newsroom

Q18. Phonemic awareness is the understanding that

- (a) language has phonemes.
- (b) sounds of a language can be identified, isolated and manipulated.
- (c) sounds of a language need to be memorised.
- (d) sounds of a language cannot be identified and manipulated.

Q19. Rekha is getting her students to isolate beginning, middle and ending sounds. By doing so she is strengthening their

- (a) phonological awareness
- (b) morphological awareness
- (c) graphological awareness
- (d) grammar awareness

Q20. Samina uses a lot of visualization while reading with her students. How does visualization help students while reading?

- (a) It helps them draw an idea that they are thinking about.
- (b) It helps them create a picture of what they are reading so as to understand the text better.
- (c) It helps them understand the movie about the text better.
- (d) It helps them plan their reading homework well.

Q21. Guided reading helps students develop greater control over the reading process through the development of reading strategies which assist in

- (a) decoding and construct meaning
- (b) decoding and encoding
- (c) decoding and visualization
- (d) decoding and reading

Q22. After telling her students a story, Rosy gives them flashcards. She wants them to arrange the flashcards in the sequence of the story. What skill is she testing ?

- (a) Reading
- (b) Listening
- (c) Speaking
- (d) Visualization

Q23. Sadhna is calculating the difficulty level of the test questions. In one of her questions she notices the difficulty level has a value of 90. What should Sadhna do to the item ?

- (a) The item should be kept in the test
- (b) The item should be discarded from the test.
- (c) The item is moderately difficult for the test
- (d) The item is a good question for the test.

Q24. The concept of BICS — Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills was given by

- (a) Stephen Krashen
- (b) Lev Vygotsky
- (c) B.F. Skinner
- (d) Jim Cummins

Q25. Gurjeet wants to teach her students social skills and social language. Which strategy would best suit her ?

- (a) Drama
- (b) Plays
- (c) Role play
- (d) Debates

Q26. Silent period is critical in language learning. This statement is

- (a) True
- (b) Partially true
- (c) False
- (d) Factually incorrect

Q27. Which of the following is true for BICS (Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills) and CALP (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency)?

- (a) CALP is another word for BICS
- (b) CALP is different from BICS
- (c) CALP is not related to BICS
- (d) CALP is an extension of BICS

Q28. Language students who favour _____ learning can recall what they hear, prefer oral instruction and learn by listening and speaking.

- (a) Visual
- (b) Auditory
- (c) Kinesthetic
- (d) Spatial

Q29. Which among these are the process of word formation?

- A. Coinage
- B. Borrowing
- C. Compoundng
- D. Blending

- (a) A, B and C
- (b) B, D and C
- (c) A, C and D
- (d) A, B, C and D

Q30. Which of these is based on the premise that teacher should be silent as much as possible and learners should be encouraged to produce language as much a possible?

- (a) Suggestopedia
- (b) Total Physical Response
- (c) The Silent Way
- (d) The Whole Language

Solutions

S1. Ans.(b)

Sol. The paragraph expresses the fact that returning to India from the UK was a profitable decision for Bond.

S2. Ans.(c)

Sol. In the phrase 'freelance writer' , the underlined word is an Adjective.

S3. Ans.(a)

Sol. The phrase 'caught the attention of in this context, means the publishers were impressed by Ruskin'popularity as a writer and his writing style.

S4. Ans.(b)

Sol. The fact that Ruskin Bond has been a versatile writer is evident from the variety of themes on which he has written his books.

S5. Ans.(d)

Sol. Apart from writing, Ruskin spent four years as an editor of a magazine.

S6. Ans.(c)

Sol. 'Autobiographical' means writing about one's own life.

S7. Ans.(a)

Sol. Ruskin became famous after the publication of his book 'The Blue Umbrella'.

S8. Ans.(a)

Sol. The word 'sequel' means the second part of a book.

S9. Ans.(b)

Sol. A word in the passage that means 'following' as used in this passage is ensuing.

S10. Ans.(c)

Sol. According to the poet, "The wind lies asleep in the arms of the dawn' suggests that it is a calm morning.

S11. Ans.(d)

Sol. According to the given paragraph , the 'leaping wealth of the tide' refers to the fishes.

S12. Ans.(b)

Sol. "The sea is our mother , the cold is our brother, the waves are our comrades', refers to the close contact between the fishermen and the forces of nature.

S13. Ans.(b)

Sol. 'He who holds the storm by hair' is an example of Personification.

S14. Ans.(d)

Sol. The last stanza (lines 9-12) is a description of the seaside at night .

S15. Ans.(a)

Sol. 'Edge of the verge where the low sky mates with the sea', suggests the horizon.

S16. Ans.(c)

Sol. In Sudha's classroom she, uses her students' first or main language to explain the grammar and vocabulary of the text and then she helps them translate it. Sudha relies on the Grammar Translation method to help her students learn English .

S17. Ans.(a)

Sol. According to Cummins , social language is also known as the language of the Playground.

S18. Ans.(b)

Sol. Phonemic awareness is the understanding that sounds of a language can be identified, isolated and manipulated .

S19. Ans.(a)

Sol. Rekha is getting her students to isolate beginning, middle and ending sounds. By doing so she is strengthening their phonological awareness.

S20. Ans.(b)

Sol. Samina uses a lot of visualization while reading with her students. Visualization helps the students to create a picture of what they are reading so as to understand the text better.

S21. Ans.(a)

Sol. Guided reading helps students develop greater control over the reading process through the development of reading strategies which assist in decoding and constructing meaning.

S22. Ans.(b)

Sol. After telling her students a story, Rosy gives them flashcards in the sequence of the story, She is testing the listening skills of students.

S23. Ans.(b)

Sol. Sadhna is calculating the difficulty level of the test questions, in one of her questions she notices the difficulty level has a value of 90, Sadhna should discard the item from the test.

S24. Ans.(d)

Sol. The concept of BICS- Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills was given by Jim Cummins.

S25. Ans.(c)

Sol. Gurjeet wants to teach her students social skills and social language, Role Play strategy would best suit her.

S26. Ans.(a)

Sol. The statement is true that the silent period is critical in language learning.

S27. Ans.(b)

Sol. The correct statement about BICS (Basic language Interpersonal Communication Skills) and CALP (Cognitive Academic Language) is that CALP (Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency) is different from BICS.

S28. Ans.(b)

Sol. Language students who favour auditory learning can recall what they hear, prefer oral instruction and learn by listening and speaking.

S29. Ans.(d)

Sol. Coinage, Borrowing, Compounding and Blending are the process of word formation.

S30. Ans.(c)

Sol. The Silent Way is based on the premise that teachers should be silent as much as possible and learners should be encouraged to produce language as much as a possible.