

# English: Complete Banking

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# Cloze Test and Fill in the Blanks

## CLOZE TEST

**What is a Cloze test?** As the name suggests, cloze means a test of reading comprehension that involves having the person being tested supply words which have been systematically deleted from a text.

So, we can say that the **Cloze test is just the next level of Reading comprehension**. And the only way one can master reading comprehension is by reading articles, novels, journals, newspapers, editorials, etc. The main intention behind asking the cloze test in competitive exams is to assess the examinee's understanding of contexts and their common sense. Isn't it strange that we have always been overestimating this topic and it is just asking for our understanding? Let us start now,

**The basic grammar topics that are needed to solve cloze tests are:**

1. Conjunctions
2. Prepositions
3. Articles

**\*Note: A basic knowledge of Tenses is mandatory for any English topic.**

Let us recapitulate:

- **Conjunctions:** Conjunctions are words that link other words, phrases, or clauses together give us the liberty of clubbing multiple sentences together to make them elegant.

Conjunction	Function	Common words
Coordinating Conjunction	To join words, phrases, and clauses of equal grammatical level in a sentence.	for, and, nor, but, or, yet, etc.
Correlative Conjunction	These are the pair of conjunctions, used to join equal sentence elements together.	either/or, neither/nor, not only/but also, both/and, etc.

Subordinating Conjunction	To join independent and dependent clauses. It can signal a cause-and-effect relationship, a contrast, or some other kind of relationship between the clauses.	because, since, as, although, though, while, whereas, provided, so, in that, once, supposing, etc.
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- **Prepositions:** It is a medium through which we define the relationship between other words in a sentence. Precisely, prepositions tell us where something is or when something happened.

#### Types of preposition:

Direction	Turn left towards the road after crossing the supermarket.
Time	He has slept for more than 10 hours.
Location	We are going to Manali.
Space	The dog hid under the table.

#### Examples of preposition:

1. We are cooking for 10 people tonight.
2. Shyam left his phone in the bus
3. Did you send that mail to your boss?

- **Articles:** The articles are the words "a," "an," and "the". They define whether something is specific or unspecific about a noun.

#### Types of Article:

1. **Definite Articles:** "The" comes under the definite article as it defines the noun as something specific. E.g. I fell over the chair again.
2. **Indefinite Articles:** 'A' and "An" come under indefinite articles as they are unspecific. E.g. I love an apple pie after dinner.

Now, let us proceed towards some of the tricks and steps to solve Cloze tests:

- Read the entire passage once. By this, you will get the idea and motive behind the passage so as to understand the context and tone (positive or negative). You will also get to know the domain of the topic (History, Polity, GK, Environment, etc.).
- Read the first sentence that contains the blank. Precisely, read the former and latter part of the blank.

E.g. Ram is an honest \_\_\_\_\_ loyal boy.

Here, “honest” is the former part and “loyal” is the latter part.

- Read the options and eliminate those that do not match the tone and context of the passage.
- Choose the correct option that is contextual, matches with the tone and suits best in the blank provided.

**These four simple steps** will help you to approach and look at the questions differently. One thing that you must keep in mind that continuous and rigorous practice is needed to master cloze tests. So, try inculcating a good reading habit, be it a novel, newspaper, editorial, whatsoever.

**Let us now proceed to solve some questions that have been asked in Bank exams.**

**Question:** In the following question, a paragraph is given with three blanks, followed by six words. You have to choose the most suitable combination of words respectively from the five options forming a grammatically correct and contextually meaningful paragraph. If none of the combinations appropriately fill the blank, mark option E, 'None of these' as the answer. (SBI PO MAINS 2020)

*In the \_\_\_\_\_ of underdevelopment and accelerated progress, of dispersed market expansion and communist regimentation an entirely new urban reality is \_\_\_\_\_. A new China is emerging defined by the dynamics of a number of powerful \_\_\_\_\_ at the root of its society.*

i. Cross-fire ii. Clash iii. Created iv. Destroyed v. Transitions vi. Translations

A. i, ii, iii

B. ii, iii, iv

C. i, iii, v

D. ii, iv, vi

E. None of these

Let us follow the steps that we have learned above to solve this question:

**Step 1:** On reading the entire passage, we can say that it is talking about the Chinese market and the tone is certainly positive.

**Step 2:** The former and latter part of the first blank is “the’ and ‘of”. As we can see, the former part is an article and the latter part is a preposition.

**Step 3:** Elimination:

- The words “Underdevelopment’ and “accelerated progress” in the first sentence talk about opposing factors and when opposing factors are there then a ‘clash’ or ‘crossfire’ occurs. Thus, both i and ii can be used to fill the first blank.
- Let us now look at the second blank: ‘new urban reality’ means something new has been formed i.e. we don’t destroy new. So, created suits best there.
- ‘Transitions’ mean a period of change and ‘Translations’ mean the process of changing text from one language to another. Hence, keeping in context to the sentence, transition suits best as the alternative for blank iii. So, the correct choices are: crossfire, created, transition.

**Hence, the correct answer is option C i.e. i, iii, v.**

This is the approach you should follow while solving cloze tests. I am giving you one more question to solve with the answer but don’t look at the answer part now rather see it after trying it by yourself.

**Question: (Same as above)**

*The compact-city paradigm has received \_\_\_\_\_ attention worldwide for its ability to achieve sustainable development. However, the claim that the compact-city paradigm \_\_\_\_\_ to sustainability has not been sufficiently \_\_\_\_\_.*

i. Decreased ii. Contributes iii. Corroborated iv. Dwindled v. Verified vi. Increased

A. vi, ii, v

B. vi, iii, iv

C. i, iii, v

D. ii, iv, vi

E. None of these

Try solving this on your own first as this question is much easier than the previous one.

The answer is option A.

Demands of the topic

**Understanding capability-** Identifying the tone of the passage is very important. It can be critical, suggestive, educational, informative and so on. In bank exams, generally, economy-based passages are asked. So, we would suggest you to focus on this section primarily. For this, start reading newspapers. This will cover your vocabulary and grammar section as well. Moreover, it covers your General Awareness and current affairs section also. So, reading newspapers is a must. We have seen that some questions are based on logic only. For eg;

He is a good boy so he kills other people. (incorrect)

He is a good boy so he helps other people. (correct)

- **Knowledge of grammar-** Sometimes we get questions based on grammar only. For eg;

He is a good person so he \_\_\_\_\_ other people.

1) was helped 2) helping 3) help 4) helps 5) are helping

So, by applying grammar, we can identify that it should be option 4 ie 'helps'.

- **Vocabulary-** It plays a major role because if we do not the meaning of the words given in the options, we will have to leave the question unattempted despite identifying the tone of the passage. For eg;

He is a good person so he \_\_\_\_\_ other people.

1) impels 2) desiccates 3) impedes 4) altercates 5) succours

So, this aspect should also be taken care of. However, the answer will be option 5 i.e. 'succours' which means 'helps'.

- **Phrasal verb**- It is the combination of a verb and a preposition. The meaning of a phrasal verb is different from that of the verb out of which it is formed. For instance,

PHRASAL VERB	MEANING
Call off	Cancel
Call on	Visit
Call for	Demand
Call in	Ask someone to do a job

**Eg.** Owing to lockdown, IPL has been called \_\_\_\_\_.

1) off 2) on 3) in 4) for 5) to

The sentence says that the match has been cancelled. So, it should be option 1 i.e. 'off'.

However, while solving a cloze test, we need to apply all these aspects to make the passage grammatically and contextually appropriate. Let us understand this by solving a cloze test.

**Question:** In the given passage, there are blanks each of which has been denoted by (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F). Against every five words have been given. Read the passage carefully and decide which of the given words will come in place of the blank in each case. (ESIC SSO PT 03/11/18)

Whether you are an (A) public speaker or just flirting with the idea of sharing your message with the world, you probably know that giving a great presentation involves much more than just (B) from cue cards. The good news? Learning about the

essential qualities of other great presenters is an easy way to become one yourself. To be an effective speaker, you must first understand who you are as a speaker and as a person. What are your strongest interpersonal qualities? How do you best (C) with others? What qualities do you need to work on? The most effective speakers are constantly working to capitalise on their strengths - whether that's great storytelling or a talent for getting the audience to participate – and also to improve upon their weaknesses. (D) into your most powerful interpersonal qualities is an excellent way to make yourself accessible, engaging and unique. To start, make a list of your best traits and the areas in which you excel. Then, think about how each of these traits is (E) when speaking or presenting in front of others. For example, if you're great at explaining complex concepts in simpler terms or if you have a dynamic, engaging personality, make sure you're incorporating and (F) these qualities throughout your presentation.

1. What will replace (A) in the passage?

1) experienced 2) stranger 3) invite 4) advantage 5) knowing

2. What will replace (B) in the passage?

1) making 2) bouncing 3) source 4) reading 5) open

3. What will replace (C) in the passage?

1) known 2) said 3) pay 4) connect 5) presents

4. What will replace (D) in the passage?

1) Booking 2) Tapping 3) Living 4) Existing 5) Following

5. What will replace (E) in the passage?

1) monitor 2) creatively 3) longed 4) spreads 5) expressed

6. What will replace (F) in the passage?

1) preventing 2) lacking 3) pointing 4) highlighting 5) hiding

### **Solution 1:**

Step 1: Apply grammar- Here, we need to apply the basics of an article. It's a well-known fact that the word that comes after 'an', must have a vowel sound.

Step 2: Shortlist - Options 2 and 5 automatically get eliminated since they start with a consonant sound.



Step 3: Apply grammar- Here 'speaker' is a noun that needs an adjective before it.

Step 4: Choose -'Invite' is both a noun and a verb but not an adjective. 'Advantage' is a noun. 'Experienced' is an adjective since  $V_3$  is used in the form of an adjective. Hence, we are left with only one option.

**Answer:** Since we require an adjective starting with a vowel sound, the answer is option 1 i.e. 'experienced'.

So, this question does not require reading.

### **Solution 2:**

Step 1: Read-Read the lines from the beginning to the completion of the sentence where the blank lies.

Step 2: Apply grammar- There is a verb 'giving' which has to be compared with another verb. So, the other verb should also be in '-ing' form.

Step 3: Shortlist-Options 3 and 5 get eliminated as they are not in '-ing' form.

Step 4: Apply logic- 'Cue cards' are used for reading.

**Answer:** The answer is option 4 'reading'.

### **Solution 3:**

Step 1: Apply grammar- The sentence wherein the blank lies contains the word 'do'. 'Do' indicates a simple present tense and takes  $V_1$  only after it.

Step 2: Shortlist- Among the given options only options 2 and 3 are in  $V_1$  form. So the rest is eliminated.

Step 3: Read-Read the sentence from the second blank to the third one.

Step 4: Apply logic- The paragraph is about the qualities of a public speaker. The lines say that the audience will listen to the speaker only when there is a connection between them. Also, 'pay' does not make the sentence coherent.

**Answer:** Between the remaining two options, option 4 'connect' best represents the meaning of the paragraph.

**Solution 4:**

Step 1: Read- Read the passage from the previous blank to the next blank.

Step 2: Apply logic- The paragraph says that connecting the interpersonal qualities is an excellent way to drag out the best in a speaker.

Step 3: Apply phrasal verb- 'Tap into' means 'to establish a connection'

**Answer:** Among the given options, option 2 i.e. 'tapping' provides the best answer.

**Solution 5:**

Step 1: Read- Read the line wherein the blank lies.

Step 2: Apply grammar- 'Is' is followed by either  $V_3$  or  $V_4$ . If the sentence is in the active voice,  $V_4$  is used while if it is in the passive,  $V_3$  will be used. Since none of the words is in '-ing' form, it must be in passive. So, the required word must be in  $V_3$ .

Step 3: Shortlist- Among the given options, only options 3 and 5 are in the third form of the verb. So, the rest is automatically eliminated.

Step 4: Apply vocab- Between 'longed' and 'expressed', 'expressed' provides a meaningful sentence. 'Long' means 'wish' which does not provide a logical answer.

**Answer:** The correct answer is option 5.

**Solution 6:**

Step 1: Read- Read the passage from the previous blank to the end.

Step 2: Apply logic- The lines say that a public speaker should make use of his abilities or any good trait he possesses.

Step 3: Shortlist- Options 1, 2 and 5 i.e. 'preventing', 'lacking' and 'hiding' will not provide this meaning so these must be ignored.

Step 4: Apply vocab- Good features are highlighted not pointed.

**Answer:** The answer is option 4 'highlighting'.

So, this is how we solve a cloze test.

## FILL IN THE BLANKS

### What are fillers?

You will be given a sentence with **One**, **Two** or **Three** blanks with 4-5 options. In single fillers, there will be one word in each option. For double fillers, there will be two words while in triple fillers, three words will be provided in each option. In double and triple fillers, the options will be in sequence i.e. the first word for first blank and second word for second blank and so on.

### Usage

- Elimination
- Grammar
- Comprehension

### Strategy

Every question demands different strategies still, the fundamentals are same i.e. eliminate the options using grammar and comprehension.

**Direction:** A sentence with one blank is given, indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the word that best fits the blank appropriately. **(IBPS Clerk Pre 2018)**

1. Usually, when the local festival is a week away, the number of customers in the shop \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Will have increased
- B. Has increasing
- C. Will be increased
- D. Increases
- E. Increased

**Answer:** D.

**Solution:**

- The use of the **Adverb**, 'usually' indicates the requirement of **Simple Present Tense**.
- The given sentence is in simple present tense and states a general fact, hence the latter half of the sentence with the blank will also be in the simple present tense.
- Since the subject in the latter part of the sentence is **Singular**, i.e., 'the number', the verb 'increases' will follow accordingly.
- Hence, option D is the correct answer.

**Note:** The expression 'the number' is followed by a singular verb while the expression a number is followed by a plural verb.

2. You will have to undergo a \_\_\_\_\_ of tests before the interview.

- A. large
- B. series
- C. design
- D. booklet
- E. delegation

**Answer:** B.

**Solution:**

- This needs to be attempted carefully.
- There is 'a' before the blank and plural 'tests' after the blank so the word in the blank should express a collective to make the sentence grammatically correct.
- Among the given options, the only series fits in grammatically as well as contextually.
- 'A large of tests' doesn't make any sense.
- One doesn't undergo a design of tests or a booklet of tests or a delegation of tests.
- Hence, these are incorrect as well.

3. One has to be very \_\_\_\_\_ during the monsoons as the roads become slippery.

- A. Smart
- B. Cautious

C. Presentable

D. Prepare

E. Healthy

**Answer:** B.

**Solution:**

- 'Cautious' can be used to make the sentence meaningful which means alert or be careful.
- The context of the statement is that the monsoon is a bit troublesome due to slippery roads and needs to be navigated with care.
- 'Prepare' uses the incorrect form of grammar.
- 'Smart' may appear to be correct, but we need to choose the most suitable response which in this case is 'cautious'.
- Hence, option B is the correct answer.

4. The judge used his \_\_\_\_\_ in settling the matter.

A. Know

B. Tactics

C. Discretion

D. Brains

E. Bias

**Answer:** C.

**Solution:**

- To settle a dispute, one needs to have a sound decision-making ability to be able to judge both sides.
- Also, a judge is a free body to decide upon any issue.
- 'Know' is a verb which means to be aware of through observation, inquiry, or information.
- 'Tactics' refer to an action or strategy carefully planned to achieve a specific end.
- A judge doesn't need tactics to make a judgment.
- 'Discretion' means the freedom to decide what should be done in a particular situation.

- 'Brains' refer to intellectual capacity.
- 'Bias' means inclination or prejudice for or against one person or group, especially in a way considered to be unfair.
- Hence option C is the correct response.

5. The Board members could not arrive at a unanimous \_\_\_\_\_ on the issue.

A. Judgement

B. Progress

C. Policy

D. Dissent

E. Action

**Answer:** A.

**Solution:**

- Judgement means the ability to make considered decisions or come to sensible conclusions.
- Progress means advancement. Policy means a strategy or an approach.
- Dissent means lack of approval.
- Action means activity.
- The Board members are usually involved in making decisions/ judgements.
- "Unanimous" is an adjective which means (of two or more people) fully in the agreement.
- It can appropriately modify the noun 'judgement'.
- No other word except 'judgement' makes sense in the given context.
- Hence, 'judgement' is the correct answer.

**Direction:** The following question carries one statement with one blank. Choose the most appropriate word from the options to fill the blank. **(SBI Clerk Pre 2019)**

1. The local goons tried to \_\_\_\_\_ him into retracting his complaint.

A. Scare

B. Stalls

C. Rendered

D. Forcing

E. Destroyed

**Answer:** A.

**Solution:**

- To retract means to withdraw a statement or accusation.
- The word "goon" is used to refer to a violent criminal who is paid to hurt or threaten people and in this context, the concerned person will be forced to withdraw the complaint because of fear.
- Thus, "scare" is the appropriate word for the blank. **The Infinitive "to"** should be followed by the base form of the verb. Hence, options D and E can be eliminated.
- "Goons" is a plural subject, thus, a singular verb "stalls" cannot be used.
- "Render" is incorrect in the given context.
- Thus, option A is the correct answer.

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of success depends completely on the amount of effort we put in.

A. Ranges

B. Drop

C. Want

D. Possibly

E. Likelihood

**Answer:** E.

**Solution:**

- "Likelihood" means the state or fact of something's being likely; probability.
- None of the other words except 'likelihood' will fit in the blank.
- This is because the statement uses the words 'depends' which indicates that something is determined by something else.
- This provides the base for a possibility.
- Thus, option E is the correct answer.

3. She lied blatantly, thus, driving the \_\_\_\_\_ of the police officers.

- A. Visiting
- B. Attention
- C. Duty
- D. Suspicion
- E. Supplies

**Answer:** D.

**Solution:**

- "Blatantly" means in an open and unashamed manner.
- If someone lies outrightly, it will definitely make the police suspicious.
- So, option D is the correct answer.

4. When the elephants saw so much water in the lake, they \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Happy
- B. Rejoiced
- C. Declined
- D. Sentenced
- E. Awaited

**Answer:** B.

**Solution:**

- Since the sentence talks about an incident that occurred in the past, the word in the blank must be in the past tense.
- This eliminates option A.
- Among the other options, "rejoiced" (feel or show great joy or delight) is the best fit.

5. All the members had assembled \_\_\_\_\_ the chairman of the committee.

- A. Although
- B. Except



C. Because

D. So

E. Notwithstanding

**Answer:** B.

**Solution:**

- None of the conjunctions but "except" fit in the passage.
- The sentence now means that the chairman of the committee was not present.

So, this is how we solve questions on fillers.

**New Type: We will solve a new type in the Bank PO practice questions.**

Since the pattern in Banking Exams is changed so frequently hence please try this type cloze test as well.

**Bank PO Level:**

**Direction:** In the following passage, there are blanks, each followed by a word given in bold. Every blank has four alternative words given in options (A), (B), (C) and (D). Find the word which best suits the place. If the given word suits the blank, mark 'no correction/change required' as the answer.

"Between the year 1946 and the year 1955, I did not file any income tax returns." With that (1) **[Striking]** statement, Ramesh embarked on an account of his encounter with the Income Tax Department. "I originally owed Rs 20,000 in unpaid taxes. With (2) **[Investment]** and fines, the 20,000 became 60,000. The Income Tax Department then went into action and I learned firsthand just how much power the Tax Department wields. Royalties and trust funds can be (3) **[Sanctioned]**; automobiles may be (4) **[Reprocessed]** and auctioned off. Nothing belongs to the (5) **[Innocent]** until the case is settled."

1. Find the appropriate word for blank (1).

A Devious

- B Blunt
- C Tactful
- D Pretentious
- E No change required

2. Find the appropriate word in blank (2).

- A Interest
- B Taxes
- C Principal
- D Returns
- E No change required

3. Find the appropriate word in blank (3).

- A Closed
- B Detached
- C Attached
- D Open
- E No change required

4. Find the appropriate word in blank (4).

- A Smashed
- B Seized
- C Dismantled
- D Frozen
- E No change required

5. Find the appropriate word in blank (5).

- A Purchaser
- B Victim
- C Investor
- D Offender
- E No change required

Solution:

1. (B)

The statement before the blank is an honest and to the point statement which shows us its nature. Hence the word 'blunt' is apt. Option A and D are out of context.

'Devious' means showing a skilful use of underhand tactics to achieve goals.

'Tactful' means having or showing skill and sensitivity in dealing with others or with difficult issues.

'Pretentious' means attempting to impress by affecting greater importance or merit than is actually possessed.

2. (A)

The statement is talking about fines and unpaid amounts. With an unpaid amount **interest** is a compulsion. It is the only option that completes the meaning of the sentence.

3. (C)

The author is talking about his discovery of the power of the income tax department and in doing so he states the various things the IT office can do. Trust funds are usually ATTACHED. ATTACH refers to confiscation. Hence it is apt over here.

4. (B)

Smashed in choice (a) and 'dismantled' in choice (c) are far from being logical. 'Frozen' is a wrong choice. 'Frozen' is used in the context of making bank accounts inoperable etc. Automobiles are seized.

5. (D)

The previous statement is making it obvious that the author is talking about a guilty party. The guilty is often called an offender. Hence option D is correct.

### **Bank Clerk Level**

**In the following passage, there are blanks each of which has been numbered. These numbers correspond to the question numbers; against each question, five words have been suggested, one of which fills the blanks appropriately.**

Banks have a long history and have (1) economies and politics for centuries. The development of central banks, responsible for the monetary policy of their country and with supervisory powers over banks, (2) that financial institutions do not behave

recklessly or fraudulently. In most countries, the central bank is state-owned and has a minimal degree of (3) to allow for the possibility of government intervention in monetary policy. While commercial banks serve individuals and businesses, (4) the flow of money and thus supporting economic transactions, the central bank's function is to maintain economic (5) by storing and regulating the flow of money, much as various organs in the human body regulate the production and flow of blood, including the production and flow of red and white blood cells, to support the health of the body as a whole.

1. Find the appropriate word for blank (1).

- A. reflected
- B. influenced
- C. amended
- D. untouched
- E. revolutionise

2. Find the appropriate word in blank (2).

- A. concludes
- B. addresses
- C. ensures
- D. alters
- E. traces

3. Find the appropriate word in blank (3).

- A. coercion
- B. compulsory
- C. emancipation
- D. liberationist
- E. autonomy

4. Find the appropriate word in blank (4).

- A. facilitating
- B. urging
- C. transporting
- D. declining
- E. pertaining

5. Find the appropriate word in blank (5).

- A. versatility
- B. reactivity
- C. stability
- D. mobility
- E. feasibility

Solution:

1. (B)

Reflect(ed) means think deeply or carefully about.

Influence(ed) means the action or process of producing effects on the actions, behavior, opinions, etc.

Amend(ed) means to alter, modify, rephrase, or add to or subtract from a motion, bill, constitution, etc. by formal procedure.

Untouch(ed) means not affected, changed, or damaged in any way.

Revolutionise means change something radically or fundamentally.

The sentence is written in present perfect tense and the word "revolutionise " is in simple present tense so it cannot be the answer. Banks have affected the economic functioning and political aspects for centuries so **influenced** is the correct answer.

2. (C)

Concludes means bring or come to an end.

Addresses means a formal speech delivered to an audience.

Ensures means to make certain that something will occur or be the case.

Alters means to cause the characteristics of something to change.

Traces means find or discover by investigation.

It is the duty of Central Banks to ensure and make it certain that financial institutions do not behave recklessly. Therefore, '**ensures**' is the correct answer.

3. (E)

Coercion means the action or practice of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats.

Compulsory means required by law or a rule.

Emancipation means the fact or process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions.

Liberationist means the seeking of equal status or just treatment for or on behalf of any group believed to be discriminated against.

Autonomy means freedom from external control or influence.

The Central Banks are mostly state owned so they would not be having freedom to work independently without external influence so **autonomy** is the correct answer.

4. (A)

Facilitating means to make something possible or easier.

Urging means to drive with incitement to speed or effort.

Transporting means to take or carry people or goods from one place to another by means of a vehicle, aircraft, or ship.

Declining means decrease.

Pertaining means be appropriate, related, or applicable to.

The commercial banks make the flow of money easier thus making the transactions easier therefore **facilitating** is the correct answer.

5. (C)

Versatility means ability to adapt or be adapted to many different functions or activities.

Reactivity means the quality or condition of being reactive. Stability means resistance to change, especially sudden change or deterioration.

Mobility means the ability to move or be moved freely and easily. Feasibility means possible and practical to do easily or conveniently.

The main function is to provide protection against resistance to financial change so **stability** is the correct answer.

**Bank SO Level:**

**Read the passage given below. In the following passage, some words/ phrases/ idioms have been highlighted in bold. Choose the correct combination of words/ phrases/ idioms that can fit in the passage to make grammatical and contextual sense.**

A decision on Bt brinjal has been **(A) hanging fire/advancing / suspending** for nearly a decade. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee cleared Bt brinjal in October 2009, but the Ministry of Environment held back its clearance, citing a lack of scientific **(B) accord/dissension/consensus**. In the meantime, Bt brinjal grown in Bangladesh, in particular, has found its way into the Indian market. Such uncertainty has encouraged farmers to take the law into their own hands. Activists and academics in the anti-GM camp have alleged that ‘quasi-official’ leaks of GM varieties are **(C) engineered/doctored/planned** to ensure that approval becomes a fait accompli. The Centre should adopt an open, consultative process so that producers and consumers’ interests are well served. The climate of suspicion needs to be **(D) cancelled/expelled/dispelled**. The issue of conserving traditional varieties as well as monitoring carcinogenic effects, if any, should be entrusted to public agencies. There can be no dismissing the concerns worldwide over the health effects of glyphosate. However, in trying to **(E) abbreviate/expand / curtail** its use, farmers’ issues of rising pest attacks, in a context of drought and climate change, too need to be addressed.

**1. Which of the following words should be used at (A) as per the context of the passage from the given options?**

- I. Hanging fire
- II. Advancing
- III. Suspending
- a) Both II and III
- b) Only I
- c) Both I and III
- d) Both I and II
- e) All I, II and III

**2. Which of the following words should be used at (B) as per the context of the passage from the given options?**

- I. Accord
- II. Dissension
- III. Consensus
- a) Both II and III
- b) Only I
- c) Both I and III
- d) Both I and II
- e) All I, II and III

**3. Which of the following words should be used at (C) as per the context of the passage from the given options?**

- I. Engineered
- II. Doctored
- III. Planned
- a) Both II and III
- b) Only II
- c) Both I and III
- d) Both I and II
- e) All I, II and III

**4. Which of the following words should be used at (D) as per the context of the passage from the given options?**

- I. Cancelled
- II. Expelled
- III. Dispelled
- a) Both II and III



- b) Only III
- c) Both I and III
- d) Both I and II
- e) All I, II and III

**5. Which of the following words should be used at (E) as per the context of the passage from the given options?**

- I. Abbreviate
  - II. Expand
  - III. Curtail
- a) Both II and III
  - b) Only III
  - c) Both I and III
  - d) Both I and II
  - e) All I, II and III

**Solutions:**

**1. (b)**

**The correct answer is option b i.e. Only I.**

**Concept:**

The given question is based on the cloze test. We have to find the correct filler from the options provided that fits best in the sentence.

**Application:**

According to the given context, we are here talking about the issue that the government is not doing anything to legalize the usage of genetic crops in India. It is confusing the farmers, also making illegal use of such seeds too prevalent in the country.

*Hanging fire* refers to *getting delayed for some reason* whereas the rest of the two words are not correct as per the given context. Hence only I can be used to fill this blank in the passage whereas the other two should be eliminated from consideration.

Hence, the chosen option is correct.

## 2. (c)

**The correct answer is option c i.e. Both I and III.**

### **Concept/Grammar rules:**

The given question is based on the cloze test. We have to find the correct filler from the options provided that fits best in the sentence.

### **Application:**

According to the given context, the main problem with the genetic seeds in India is that the scientific community of the country is divided over the usage of such crops in the country. It will take place only when there is the go-ahead from the technical community so that the government can go ahead with the decision regarding these seeds to be used in the country.

Among the given words, both accord and consensus can be used to fill the given blank whereas dissension is just the opposite of the words we have just chosen making it unfit for this blank. Hence this word should be eliminated from consideration.

Hence, the chosen option is correct.

## 3. (d)

**The correct answer is option d i.e. Both I and II.**

### **Concept:**

The given question is based on the cloze test. We have to find the correct filler from the options provided that fits best in the sentence.

### **Application:**

According to the given context, it is being said that the whole episode of giving approval to the genetically designed seeds by the government. The whole thing is like something that has already been decided even before those affected by it will hear it. It is the reason that nothing is happening regarding this.

Among the given words, engineered and doctored may be used to fill the blank but planned cannot be used to fill the blank though it is the synonym of the two words already mentioned before. So, this should be eliminated from consideration.

Hence, the chosen option is correct.

4. (b)

The correct answer is option b i.e. Only III.

**Concept:**

The given question is based on the cloze test. We have to find the correct filler from the options provided that fits best in the sentence.

**Application:**

In the given context we mean to imply that the air of suspicion regarding the genetic seeds should be done away with so that there is approval for the same from the government. It will make sure that such seeds are utilized properly in the country and no illegal use takes place of such seeds by the farmers.

Among the given words, both cancelled and expelled are not correct since both of these words will not go with the context in which we are talking about suspicion. 'Dispelled' may be used here to fill the blank so that it will imply that the confusion and suspicion are not there in the whole episode of approval for the GE seeds.

Hence, the chosen option is correct.

5. (b)

The correct answer is option b i.e. Only III.

**Concept:**

The given question is based on the cloze test. We have to find the correct filler from the options provided that fits best in the sentence.

**Application:**

According to the given context, we are saying that the farmers should be assured of the rising pest attacks during farming so that nothing of that sort brings down the morale of the farmers. It will make sure that such seeds are utilized properly in the country and more utilization can be done using these high yielding seeds once proper approval is provided by the government.

Among the given options, abbreviate should be eliminated since it may mean something similar to what may be placed, it is not going with the context at all. Expand is not going with the context whereas curtail is the right choice for the blank.

Hence, the chosen option is correct.