

SECTION 1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE USAGE AND READING COMPREHENSION

(50 QUESTIONS)

Directions (For Questions 1 to 6) : Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

How Facebook is changing the way we consume news. Greg Marra's team designs the code that drives Facebook's News Feed – the stream of updates, photographs, videos and stories that users see. The 26-year-old Facebook engineer is also fast becoming one of the most influential people in the news business. Facebook now has a fifth of the world – about 1.3 billion people – logging on at least monthly. It drives up to 20 percent of traffic to news sites, according to figures from the analytics company SimpleReach. On mobile devices, the fastest-growing source of readers, the percentage is even higher, SimpleReach says. About 30 percent of adults in the U.S. get their news on Facebook, according to a study from the Pew Research Center. Though other services, like Twitter and Google News, can also exert a large influence, Facebook is at the forefront of a fundamental change in how people consume journalism. Most readers now come to news not through the print editions of newspapers and magazines or their home pages online, but through social media and search engines driven by an algorithm, a mathematical formula that predicts what users might want to read. It is a world of fragments, filtered by code and delivered on demand. For news organizations, said Cory Haik, senior editor for digital news at *The Washington Post*, the shift represents "the great unbundling" of journalism. "People won't type in washingtonpost.com anymore," Ms. Haik said. "It's search and social."

In an interview at Facebook's sprawling headquarters here, Mr. Marra said he does not think too much about his impact on journalism. "We try to explicitly view ourselves as not editors," he said. "We don't want to have editorial judgment over the content that's in your feed. You've made your friends, you've connected to the pages that you want to connect to and you're the best decider for the things that you care about." Mr. Marra said, "We're saying 'We think that of all the stuff you've connected yourself to, this is the stuff you'd be most interested in reading.'"

Roughly once a week, he and his team of about 16 adjust the complex computer code that decides what to show a user when he or she first logs on to Facebook. The code is based on "thousands and thousands" of metrics, Mr. Marra said, including what device a user is on, how many comments or likes a story has received and how long readers spend on an article. The goal is to identify what users most enjoy, and its results vary around the world. In India, he said, people tend to share what the company calls the ABCDs: Astrology, Bollywood, Cricket and Divinity.

1. According to the passage, about 30% of adults in the U.S. get their news on
 - A) Twitter
 - B) Google News
 - C) Facebook
 - D) None of the options
2. The ABCDs mentioned in the passage refer to
 - A) Astrology, Bollywood, Cricket, Divinity
 - B) Astrology, Bollywood, Cricket, Diversity
 - C) Astronomy, Bollywood, Cricket, Divinity
 - D) Astronomy, Bollywood, Cricket, Democracy

3. Presently, most of the readers prefer to read news through
 A) Print editions of newspapers and magazines
 B) Home pages, of newspapers and magazines, online
 C) Social media and search engines
 D) All the options
4. Why do Marra and his team adjust the complex computer code once a week?
 A) It shows Marra and his team as to what Facebook users enjoy most.
 B) It decides what to show a user when he/she first logs on to Facebook.
 C) It displays a wide range of programs that Facebook users log on for the first time.
 D) It takes stock of the likes and dislikes of Facebook users.
5. Choose the SYNONYM of 'fragments' as used in the passage.
 A) Pages B) Editions C) Figures D) Pieces
6. What does Greg Marra's team do?
 A) They write about the latest current events.
 B) They publish Facebook's news updates.
 C) They design the code that drives Facebook's NewsFeed.
 D) They devise the methodology of writing codes for News Feed.

Directions (For Questions 7 to 9) : Fill in the blank with the correct Article

7. _____ Newton is a great scientist.
 A) No Article required
 B) A
 C) The
 D) An
8. _____ frozen snow crushed under the wheels of our car.
 A) An
 B) No Article required
 C) The
 D) A
9. We decided to go boating on _____ Dal lake.
 A) An
 B) No Article required
 C) A
 D) The

Directions (For Questions 10 to 13) : Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb

10. She _____ ten years ago.
 A) Die
 B) Dies
 C) Has died
 D) Died

11. Plutonium is a fuel used to _____ nuclear energy.
 A) Produced
 B) Produces
 C) Produce
 D) Producing

12. Vegetarianism _____ very popular these days.
 A) Are
 B) Is
 C) Has been
 D) Were

13. She _____ the television on continuously.
 A) Have
 B) Is having
 C) Has had
 D) Has

Directions (For Questions 14 to 16) : Fill in the blank with the correct option

14. She went out without _____ money.
 A) Lot
 B) A lot
 C) Some
 D) Any

15. Last week, we went out with _____ friends.
 A) Some
 B) Much
 C) Lot
 D) No

16. He has travelled _____.
 A) Some
 B) A lot
 C) Many
 D) Lot

Directions (For Questions 17 to 22) : Identify the error in the following sentences. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence, the number of that part is your answer. If there is no error, mark your answer as 4. Ignore punctuation errors.

17. (1) There is plenty of / (2) water in the lakes, / (3) despite the drought this year. / (4) No error.
 A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4

18. (1) One of my cousin, / (2) who is studying in Canada, / (3) married an American. / (4) No error.
 A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4

19. (1) As soon as the Prime Minister / (2) entered the Hall, / (3) all the foreign delegates stand up. / (4) No error.

A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4

20. (1) We asked him / (2) to return back the book / (3) but he refused to do so. / (4) No error

A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4

21. (1) The cricket ball hit him / (2) on the head and / (3) he curl up at once. / (4) No error

A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4

22. (1) They decided to carry on / (2) with their journey / (3) despite of the inclement weather. / (4) No error

A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4

Directions (For Questions 23 to 26) : Fill in the blanks with the appropriate preposition

23. The closing date _____ applications is the end _____ this month.

A) Of, of
B) On, by
C) For, in
D) For, of

24. The children sat silent _____ the carpet, entranced _____ the puppet show.

A) No Preposition required, on
B) Above, around
C) On, by
D) In, with

25. The actor's entry _____ the world _____ politics surprised most people.

A) In, of
B) On, with
C) Into, No Preposition required
D) Into, of

26. I was just enjoying a daydream _____ winning the Nobel Prize for literature.

A) For
B) In
C) About
D) With

Directions (For Questions 27 to 30) : Choose the appropriate synonym of the word underlined in the sentences given below from the options that follow that can replace it (underlined word)

27. It is often difficult to discern the truth of an event from a newspaper report.

- A) Follow
- B) Recognize
- C) Read
- D) Spread

28. She was greatly piqued when they refused her invitation.

- A) Hurt
- B) Irritated
- C) Delighted
- D) Honoured

29. He is in a pensive mood.

- A) Jovial
- B) Perfect
- C) Contemplative
- D) Bad

30. They prevailed over their enemies in the battle.

- A) Triumphed
- B) Panicked
- C) Scanned
- D) Manipulated

Directions (For questions 31 to 33): Select the correct meaning for the following words:

31. **Caucus**

- A) a group of people taking part in a procession.
- B) a group of people making noise.
- C) a closed political meeting.
- D) a group of people dancing.

32. **Flotilla**

- A) A fleet of cars in a rally.
- B) A fleet of motorcycles.
- C) A fleet of ships.
- D) A fleet of planes.

33. Brood

- A) A collection of notebooks.
- B) A family of young animals.
- C) A family of old animals.
- D) A family of young and old animals

Directions (For questions 34 to 36): Choose the option corresponding to the sentence in which the usage of the given word is incorrect or inappropriate.

34. FINESSE

- A) He lacked the required finesse to handle the situation.
- B) It was a disappointing performance which lacked finesse.
- C) She finessed the interview by playing down her lack of experience and talking about her long-standing interest in the field.
- D) Typically, partygoers are finesse, recluse are not.

35. WRITHE

- A) A snake writhed out of the bushes.
- B) The prisoner writhed in discomfort.
- C) Her writhed mood soon cooled down.
- D) He was writhing on the floor in agony.

36. PERMEATE

- A) Dissatisfaction among the directors soon permeated down to members of the workforce.
- B) The smell of onions permeated the room.
- C) The permeate in the wind was intolerable.
- D) The belief in dowry culture permeates all levels of the Indian society.

Directions (For questions 37 to 40): Select the appropriate pair for the below questions:

37. PULSATE : THROB

- A) walk : run
- B) tired : sleep
- C) examine : scrutinize
- D) ballet : dancer

38. SIAMESE : CAT

- A) type : breed
- B) dog : puppy
- C) mark : spot
- D) romaine : lettuce

39. COTTON : BALE

- A) butter : churn
- B) wine : ferment
- C) grain : shock
- D) curd : cheese

40. ELEPHANT : PACHYDERM

- A) mantis : rodent
- B) poodle : feline
- C) kangaroo : marsupial
- D) zebra : horse

Directions: (For Q 41 to Q 47): For each of the following questions, choose Antonyms / opposite of given word.

41. Callow

- A) Cunning
- B) Wealthy
- C) Sophisticated
- D) Complicated

42. FACSIMILE

- A) Reproduction
- B) Sincere
- C) Original
- D) Engineered

43. RESPITE

- A) Tension
- B) Continuation
- C) Regularity
- D) Delay

44. SPURIOUS

- A) False
- B) Genuine
- C) Simple
- D) Synthetic

45. PERTINENT

- A. Indifferent
- B. Detached
- C. Determined
- D. Irrelevant

46. VIVACIOUS

- A. Quarrelsome
- B. Dull
- C. Notorious
- D. Drunken

47. COMATOSE

- A. Asleep
- B. Alert
- C. Faint
- D. Counter-attack

Directions (For Q 48 to Q 50): Read the following Passage and Answer the questions

For fourteen and half months I lived in my little cell or room in Dehradun jail, and I began to feel as if I was almost a part of it. I was familiar with every bit of it, I knew every mark and dent on the whitewashed walls and on the uneven floors and on the ceiling with the moth eaten rafters. In the little yard outside I greeted little tufts of grass and odd bits of stone as old friends. I was not alone in my cell, for several colonies of wasp and hornets lived there, and many lizards found the home behind the rafters, emerging in the evening in search of prey.

48. Which of the following explains best the sentence in the passage "I was almost a part of it"?

- A) I was not alone in the cell
- B) I was familiar with every bit of the cell
- C) I greeted little tufts of grass like old friends.
- D) I felt quite at home in the cell

49. The passage attempts to describe:

- A) The general conditions of the country's jail
- B) The prisoner's capacity to notice the minute details of his surroundings
- C) The prisoner's conscious efforts to overcome the loneliness
- D) The prisoner's ability to live happily with other creatures

50. The author of the passage seems to suggest that

- A) It is possible to adjust one-self to uncongenial surroundings
- B) The conditions in Indian prisons are not bad
- C) It is not difficult to spend one's time in prison
- D) There is a need to improve the conditions in our jails