

# Staff Selection Commission Section Officer (Audit) Exam

January 2008 Question Paper (Fully Solved)

## ENGLISH

**Directions (Qs. 1 to 10) :** In the following passage, some of the words have been left out. First read the passage over and try to understand what it is about. Then fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given.

When we visited the volcano it was in a state of ...**(1)**... We stood near tip of the ...**(2)**... on an irregular plane. It was heaped ...**(3)**... stones and cinders and ...**(4)**... rocks which had been regularly ...**(5)**... out from the volcano.

During the volcanic eruption, large quantities of rocks and stones were hurled out from the summit in terrible ...**(6)**... From the summit volumes ...**(7)**... smoke and fountains of liquid fire ...**(8)**... forth continuously. The smoke now white, now impenetrably black was ...**(9)**... by a deep fiery roar. Stones ...**(10)**... down and the molten lava moved on with a horrible sound.

- (A) movement (B) eruption  
(C) ejection (D) insertion
- (A) point (B) summit  
(C) path (D) curve
- (A) on (B) in  
(C) with (D) by
- (A) slanting (B) curving  
(C) pointed (D) big
- (A) flung (B) toppled  
(C) distanced (D) over-flown
- (A) Calm (B) Confusion  
(C) Horror (D) Speed
- (A) in (B) about  
(C) of (D) with
- (A) flew (B) extracted  
(C) poured (D) oozed
- (A) together (B) turned  
(C) stuck (D) accompanied
- (A) rose (B) ascended  
(C) rained (D) poured

**Directions (Qs. 11 to 20) :** Here are two brief passages with five questions following each passage. Read the passages carefully and choose the best answer to each question out of the four alternatives given.

### PASSAGE I

For months the old tanker, **African Queen**, lay turned over on her side, stuck fast in the sands off the coast of

Maryland. She had run aground so badly that her owners had decided to leave her to her fate. It was considered impossible to refloat her and the ship began to rust and sink deeper and deeper into the sands. Men frequently came out in small boats and removed any parts that could be sold—until two men decided to attempt the impossible: to float the **African Queen** once more. Both men were engineers and had no experience of ships. So, few people thought they could succeed.

The men began by studying the exact state of the **African Queen** and came to the conclusion that she would float again if air were pumped into the tanks which were now full of sea-water. A diver was sent down to examine the underside of the ship. In the cold, dark water he found an enormous hole in her side which had been torn when the ship ran aground. It was plain that nothing could be done until the hole was repaired. As no single sheet of steel would cover it, the men were obliged to order a great number of sheets which had to be joined together. For several weeks divers worked continually to close the hole. At times, the sea was so rough that it was difficult to go down; and on more than one occasion, they had to contend with sharks.

At last the hole was covered and the men began to pump the sea-water out of the ship's tanks. It seemed as if they were bound to succeed, for when the tanks were full of air, the **African Queen** began to stir in the water. The men could not understand why she still would not float until they discovered that her rudder was embedded in mud. Huge cranes were brought to haul the sunken rudder out and the ship was again afloat. By this time, the men were almost exhausted. They had worked ceaselessly for three months to save the **African Queen** and had succeeded when everyone thought they would fail. Now they stood on the bridge of the ship, tired but proud, as tugs brought the **African Queen** into the harbour.

11. Men frequently went out to the **African Queen** because

- It was a rare sight to see a sunken ship.
  - They attempted to float the ship once again.
  - They wanted to take parts of the ship and sell them.
  - It was an interesting exercise.
12. How did the two men propose to float the ship again ?
- By sending divers to examine the damage.
  - By closing the large hole in her side.
  - By joining a large number of steel sheets together.
  - By pumping air into the tanks.
13. What was the danger which the divers faced ?
- The rough sea.
  - The cold and dark situation underwater.
  - Having to contend with sharks.
  - The cutting edges of the steel sheets.
14. The two men felt proud because
- They could float the ship in three months.
  - They had succeeded when everyone thought they would fail.
  - The **African Queen** was coming into the harbour.
  - The **African Queen** began to stir in the water.
15. The part of the ship used for steering is called
- Rudder (B) Bridge  
(C) Underside (D) Tank

### PASSAGE II

Speech is a great blessing but it can also be a great curse for while it helps us to make our intentions and desires known to our fellows, it can also, if we use it carelessly, make our attitudes completely misunderstood. A slip of the tongue, the use of an unusual word or of an ambiguous word may create an enemy where we have hoped to win a friend. Again different classes of people use different vocabularies and the ordinary speech of an educated man may strike an uneducated listener as showing pride; unwillingly we may use a word which bears a different meaning to our