

CLATGyan Reading Comprehension Exercise - 2015

Q1. In an effort to find out how ocean mass affects tectonic plates, a team of German scientists has recently taken on one of the most difficult sets of measurements possible in nature, namely to determine how much the sea “weighs.” Unlike calculating variations in sea levels, which is relatively simple, finding out the mass of the water is far more complex, as a large number of factors contribute to changes in this number.

Additionally, the oceans are not static, as in ideal models, so the number varies considerably over short time frames.

Scientists at the Helmholtz Association’s GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences and the Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Sciences, working together with colleagues from the University of Bonn, say they have solved the riddle by coming up with calculations so precise that they observed even short-term fluctuations in the spatial distribution of water masses inside the body of water.

“For our study we, therefore, combined different procedures so as to be able to judge changes in mass,” Dr Juergen Kusche writes. The scientist is a geodesist at the University of Bonn, and also a coauthor of a new scientific paper detailing the findings which appears in the latest issue of the respected Journal of Geophysical Research.

The two main elements that a scientist needs to know in order to calculate the mass of the ocean are the topography of its bottom and also the height of the sea level. There are, however, other elements at work as well, such as temperature and the salt content. Water expands when heated. Warm water, thus, weighs less than the same quantity of cold water.

Data from the German-American satellite mission GRACE and knowledge of the “bookshelf effect” were used. The ocean floor bends similarly to that of the shelves of an overfilled bookshelf. Thus, stationary GPS-gauging stations on land drop by up to one centimetre and move closer by a few millimetres. The heavier the water, the stronger is this movement.

“We combined these data with numerical models of the ocean. In this way we were able to prove, for the first time, that in particular in the higher latitudes, significant fluctuations of the

water mass occur and that this takes place within a time period of only one to two weeks,” Dr. Kusche writes.

1. Why did the German scientists want to “weigh” the ocean?
 - a) To calculate variation in sea levels
 - b) To determine fluctuations of water mass within a time period
 - c) To determine how ocean mass affects tectonic plates
 - d) To determine accurately the temperature and salt content of the ocean
2. The closest synonym of “topography” as used in the passage is?
 - a) Contour
 - b) Geology
 - c) Site
 - d) Country
3. What are the essentials elements required for calculating the mass of the ocean?
 - a) Temperature
 - b) Salt content
 - c) Topography of the ocean’s bottom
 - d) Height of sea level
 - A) a and b
 - B) a, b and c
 - C) b, d, and a
 - D) all of the above
4. What is true with regard to the passage?
 - a) Due to expansion of water, warm water weighs more than cold water
 - b) Cold water is less dense than warm water and thus weighs less
 - c) Water mass fluctuates more in lower latitudes
 - d) Due to expansion of water, warm water weighs lesser than cold water
5. Antonym of “fluctuate”
 - a) Undulate
 - b) Leave no stone unturned
 - c) Persist
 - d) Oscillate
6. Significant fluctuations of the water mass occur in the higher latitudes within
 - a) Three-four weeks

- b) One-two weeks
 - c) A few months
 - d) A couple of millennia
7. What has Dr. Juergen Kusche contributed to this field?
- a) He claims to have solved the riddle by coming up with precise calculations to determine even short-term fluctuations in the spatial distribution of water masses inside the body of water
 - b) He is a co-author of a new scientific paper detailing the findings which appears in the latest issue of the respected Journal of Geophysical Research
- A) Either a or b
B) a and b
C) only a
D) only b

Q2. Excerpt from Anne Marie Slaughter's article – Why women still can't have it all _ July 2012

Our usual starting point, whether we say it explicitly or not, is that having it all depends primarily on the depth and intensity of a woman's commitment to her career. That is precisely the sentiment behind the dismay so many older career women feel about the younger generation. *They are not committed enough*, we say, to make the trade-offs and sacrifices that the women ahead of them made.

Yet instead of chiding, perhaps we should face some basic facts. Very few women reach leadership positions. The pool of female candidates for any top job is small, and will only grow smaller if the women who come after us decide to take time out, or drop out of professional competition altogether, to raise children. That is exactly what has Sheryl Sandberg so upset, and rightly so. In her words, "Women are not making it to the top. A hundred and ninety heads of state; nine are women. Of all the people in parliament in the world, 13 percent are women. In the corporate sector, [the share of] women at the top—C-level jobs, board seats—tops out at 15, 16 percent."

Can "insufficient commitment" even plausibly explain these numbers? To be sure, the women who do make it to the top are highly committed to their profession. On closer examination,

however, it turns out that most of them have something else in common: they are genuine superwomen. Consider the number of women recently in the top ranks in Washington—Susan Rice, Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Michelle Gavin, Nancy-Ann Min DeParle—who are Rhodes Scholars. Samantha Power, another senior White House official, won a Pulitzer Prize at age 32. Or consider Sandberg herself, who graduated with the prize given to Harvard’s top student of economics. These women cannot possibly be the standard against which even very talented professional women should measure themselves. Such a standard sets up most women for a sense of failure.

What’s more, among those who have made it to the top, a balanced life still is more elusive for women than it is for men. A simple measure is how many women in top positions have children compared with their male colleagues. Every male Supreme Court justice has a family. Two of the three female justices are single with no children. And the third, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, began her career as a judge only when her younger child was almost grown. The pattern is the same at the National Security Council: Condoleezza Rice, the first and only woman national-security adviser, is also the only national-security adviser since the 1950s not to have a family.

The line of high-level women appointees in the Obama administration is one woman deep. Virtually all of us who have stepped down have been succeeded by men; searches for women to succeed men in similar positions come up empty. Just about every woman who could plausibly be tapped is already in government. The rest of the foreign-policy world is not much better; Micah Zenko, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, recently surveyed the best data he could find across the government, the military, the academy, and think tanks, and found that women hold fewer than 30 percent of the senior foreign-policy positions in each of these institutions.

These numbers are all the more striking when we look back to the 1980s, when women now in their late 40s and 50s were coming out of graduate school, and remember that our classes were nearly 50-50 men and women. We were sure then that by now, we would be living in a 50-50 world. Something derailed that dream.

Sandberg thinks that “something” is an “ambition gap”—that women do not dream big enough. I am all for encouraging young women to reach for the stars. But I fear that the obstacles that keep women from reaching the top are rather more prosaic than the scope of their ambition. My long-time and invaluable assistant, who has a doctorate and juggles many balls as the

mother of teenage twins, e-mailed me while I was working on this article: “You know what would help the vast majority of women with work/family balance? MAKE SCHOOL SCHEDULES MATCH WORK SCHEDULES.” The present system, she noted, is based on a society that no longer exists—one in which farming was a major occupation and stay-at-home moms were the norm. Yet the system hasn’t changed.

8. What is the necessary requirement as popularly perceived for women to be able to have it all?
 - a) Being able to juggle between work and family time.
 - b) By being committed enough towards one’s career
 - c) Keeping emotions from taking central roles in one’s life
 - d) Keeping professional and private lives separate
9. What can be attributed as a major factor in the few women who have reached the top?
 - a) They are all Rhodes scholars
 - b) They had children before the age of 30
 - c) They have sacrificed family life for work
 - d) They are all single
10. What are the trade-offs a woman is expected to make?
 - a) Commitment to career over family
 - b) Uphold expectations of the older generation
 - c) A and B
 - d) None of the above
11. Why are the particular women mentioned in the passage, considered Superwomen?
 - a) They all won Pulitzer Prizes
 - b) They were all Rhodes Scholars
 - c) They were top students of economics
 - d) They are committed to their professions and have a balanced life
12. What is a dimension used to measure the difference between working men and women?
 - a) Whether they have balanced family lives and professional lives
 - b) Whether they have families along with a profession
 - c) Whether they are successful in their professions
 - d) None of the above
13. What is the ambition gap being talked about?
 - a) Women are focussing only on family

- b) Women are focussing only on a professional career
 - c) Women are not dreaming big enough
 - d) Women aren't exploring their full potential
14. Who was a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations?
- a) Michelle Obama
 - b) Hilary Clinton
 - c) Micah Zenko
 - d) Condoleezza Rice
15. Find the word from the passage, which is similar to the word – thwart
- a. Striking
 - b. Failure
 - c. Insufficient
 - d. Derailed
16. Find the word which is opposite in meaning to the word elusive –
- a. Fugacious
 - b. Occult
 - c. Enticing
 - d. None of the above
17. What does the word plausibly mean?
- a) It appears that
 - b) Dubiously
 - c) Both A and B
 - d) Either A or B

Q3. Excerpt from O Henry's "The Furnished Room"

"This is the room," said the housekeeper, from her furry throat. "It's a nice room. It ain't often vacant. I had some most elegant people in it last summer - no trouble at all, and paid in advance to the minute. The water's at the end of the hall. Sprowls and Mooney kept it three months. They done a vaudeville sketch. Miss B'retta Sprowls - you may have heard of her - oh, that was just the stage names - right there over the dresser is where the marriage certificate hung, framed. The gas is here, and you see there is plenty of closet room. It's a room everybody likes. It never stays idle long."

"Do you have many theatrical people rooming here?" asked the young man.

"They comes and goes. A good proportion of my lodgers is connected with the theaters. Yes, sir, this is the theatrical district. Actor people never stays long anywhere. I get my share. Yes, they comes and they goes."

He engaged the room, paying for a week in advance. He was tired, he said, and would take possession at once. He counted out the money. The room had been made ready, she said, even to towels and water. As the housekeeper moved away he put, for the thousandth time, the question that he carried at the end of his tongue.

"A young girl - Miss Vashner - Miss Eloise Vashner - do you remember such a one among your lodgers? She would be singing on the stage, most likely. A fair girl, of medium height and slender, with reddish gold hair and a dark mole near her left eyebrow."

"No, I don't remember the name. Them stage people has names they change as often as their rooms. No, I don't call that one to mind."

No. Always no. Five months of ceaseless interrogation and the inevitable negative. So much time spent by day in questioning managers, agents, schools and choruses; by night among the audiences of theaters from all-star casts down to music halls so low that he dreaded to find what he most hoped for. He who had loved her best had tried to find her. He was sure that since her disappearance from home this great, water-girt city held her somewhere, but it was like a monstrous quicksand, shifting its particles constantly, with no foundation, its upper granules of today buried tomorrow in ooze and slime.

18. Synonym of vaudeville?

- a) burlesque
- b) revue
- c) both A and B
- d) None of the above.

19. Why did actors room in the building?

- a) it was like a studio
- b) they felt artistically motivated to do so
- c) the building was built for actors only
- d) it was convenient for them to lodge there

20. What was Miss Vashner's profession?

- A. Musician

- B. Actress
- C. performer
- a) A and B
- b) A and C
- c) B and C
- d) all of the above

21. What was the question that was bothering the author?

- a) Where the girl he was looking for, was
- b) why only actors roomed in the housekeeper's building
- c) why everybody liked that particular room
- d) whether the housekeeper remembered Miss Eloise Vashner

22. Why did the author call the city a 'monstrous quicksand'? –

- a) it had engulfed Miss Vashner
- b) she had disappeared in the city
- c) it was difficult to locate her in that city as it was so fast paced
- d) It was a huge city with a massive population.

Q4. "A historic opportunity" – Editorial, The Hindu, dated September 18th 2014.

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrives in India under extraordinary circumstances, when the political and economic dimensions of the international system are undergoing a profound transformation. There are distinct indicators that the era of a unipolar world, led by the United States following the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, is giving way to multipolarity, anchored also by countries that are part of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping and the G-20. Both President Xi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi are fully aware of the larger geopolitical context, where emerging powers have a first-rate chance of reshaping the global political and economic architecture in more equitable terms. The two had worked closely during the BRICS summit in Brazil; their "chemistry" playing its part in pragmatic negotiations that resulted in the formation of the BRICS Bank.

Hemmed in by the Pivot to Asia led by Washington and its allies, including Japan, Australia and the Philippines, to contain the perceived rise of an aggressive China, Beijing has responded with its bold home-grown riposte — the Silk Road initiatives, that include the proposal to form the Maritime Silk Road (MSR). The Chinese are bending over backwards to assign a benign role to the MSR based on trade and investment as well as physical and cyber-connectivity

among a large number of countries belonging to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Asia, including India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. India has already supported China's initiative on the formation of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) corridor, but would have to take a call on the MSR, at a time when China's detractors are slamming Beijing for its alleged India-containment strategy, borrowing from the "string of pearls" theory. With its enhanced strategic autonomy, New Delhi is now well-placed to positively and deeply engage with China with confidence on a bilateral platform or within the larger collective folds of the MSR initiative and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). As President Xi arrives, Mr. Modi has a rare chance to seize the moment by stating India's political intent of solving the border row between the two countries, beginning with solid and measurable steps to clarify the Line of Actual Control, and to root out distracting and headline-grabbing border incidents. With the two countries accounting for a collective population of 2.5 billion, Sino-Indian cooperation is based on hard-headed realism and goodwill. It can have a major impact on shifting the global balance of power, as well as on the realisation of an "Asian century" visualised ahead of Independence by Jawaharlal Nehru, during the historic Asian Relations Conference.

23. What are the extraordinary circumstances?
 - a) profound transformation of international system
 - b) political and economic reforms
 - c) end of a unipolar era
 - d) A unipolar era giving way to multipolarity.
24. What does the larger geopolitical context refer to?
 - a) emerging powers can shape the global political and economic structure
 - b) formation of the BRICS bank
 - c) unipolar era giving way to multipolarity
 - d) both A and B
25. Who were the leaders who had a hand in the formation of the BRICS Bank?
 - a) Narendra Modi
 - b) Xi Jinping
 - c) the leaders of the BRICS nations
 - d) A and B
26. Which are the other countries mentioned in association with the ASEAN countries?
 - a) India

- b) Sri Lanka
 - c) Maldives
 - d) all of the above
27. Why are China's detractors slamming Beijing?
- a) the alleged India-containment strategy
 - b) opinions borrowed from the 'string of pearls' theory
 - c) Both A and B
 - d) either A or B
28. The Indian and Chinese engagement comes under the umbrella of which two agreements?
- a) MSR+ SCO
 - b) Sino-Indian cooperation
 - c) BCIM+ASEAN
 - d) BRICS+G20
29. What is the Sino-Indian cooperation based on?
- a) Realism and goodwill
 - b) solid and measurable steps to clarify the Line of Actual Control
 - c) solving the border row
 - d) none of the above
30. What is the major impact being talked about in the last few lines of the passage?
- a) emergence of a new Asian Century
 - b) shifting of the global balance of power
 - c) solving of the border row between China and India
 - d) only A and B
31. From the passage, find the word that is opposite in meaning to the word unplanned or trivial
- a) Strategic
 - b) headline-grabbing
 - c) Pivot
 - d) profound
32. What is the word that is similar in meaning to the word riposte
- a) Request
 - b) Question
 - c) Repartee

d) none of the above

Q5. Passage from Martin Dixon's "The nature of international law and the international system."

Most legal systems provide for the use of forceful sanctions or penalties against malefactors. Under the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council may take 'enforcement action' against a state when it poses a threat to the peace, or has committed an act of aggression or breach of the peace (Art. 39 and Chapter VII UN Charter). Enforcement action is authorised by resolution of the Council and may comprise military action, as with the use of force by the UN in Korea in 1950, against Iraq in 1990/91 and as authorised (but barely used) against Indonesia over East Timor in 1999/2000; or economic sanctions, as with the trading restrictions and embargoes against South Africa in 1977 and Serbia/Montenegro in 1992; or other similar measures, be they diplomatic, political or social, such as the mandatory severance of air links with Libya (as a result of the Lockerbie incident) in 1992 and April 1993. That these can be effective is demonstrated by Libya's compliance with requests to hand over the Lockerbie suspects and the consequent lifting of sanctions in 1999.

In practice, however, up until the end of the 'cold war', the imposition of sanctions of any type by way of enforcement action under the UN Charter was difficult to achieve, even if there was quite a serious outbreak of violence, as with the various Arab-Israeli wars. Obviously, the veto power still enjoyed by the five permanent members of the Security Council, whereby any one negative vote can defeat a draft resolution, was the major cause of this. Indeed, this is not all history, for the threat of a veto – and the certainty of its use – has meant that the Security Council has been unable to pronounce on the invasions of Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon. However, despite these setbacks, it is apparent that the emergence of general co-operation among the five permanent members of the Security Council has led in recent times to the adoption of more 'enforcement resolutions' under Chapter VII of the Charter than at any other time in the Organisation's history and many of the sanctions regimes put in place by these Resolutions are ongoing. Moreover, Council action has encompassed many different and diverse conflicts: the straightforward Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, the breakup of the sovereign state of Yugoslavia, the civil wars in Somalia and Sudan, the alleged Libyan sponsorship of aircraft terrorism, the denial of East Timor's independence by Indonesia and conduct likely to cause the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Of course, it is to be remembered that the Security Council's powers are exercised in response to a breach of the peace, threat to

the peace or act of aggression and they are not specifically intended to meet the non-fulfilment of general legal obligations. Constitutionally, the powers of the Council are designed primarily to preserve the peace rather than to enforce the law, although sometimes these can coincide, as with Iraq and Kuwait. In fact, in an armed conflict, the first task of the Security Council is to stop the fighting and not necessarily to apportion blame or act only against the guilty party. That said, it seems that the Security Council is more willing to act in support of international legal principles than ever before. However, we must not lose perspective. Ultimately, the issue turns on the political will of states and the degree of cooperation among the five permanent members. As the crisis in the former Yugoslavian territories demonstrates, the Council (i.e. its members) is not always prepared to enforce even the most fundamental of international norms, even if the threat to international society is obvious and severe and even if the interests of the Big Five are not directly engaged. We also know that when those interests are engaged – for example, in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Falkland Isles, Tibet, Chechnya and Lebanon – the Security Council is paralysed politically and legally.

33. Antonym of malefactor

- a) Gangbuster
- b) Wrongdoer
- c) none of the above
- d) Angel.

34. Why were sanctions imposed on Libya

- a) non-fulfilment of general legal obligations
- b) Sponsorship of aircraft terrorism
- c) Lockerbie incident
- d) armed conflict

35. Synonym of apportion

- a) Prorate
- b) Appropriate
- c) Reserve
- d) Begrudge.

36. How does the Security Council meet the non-fulfilment of general legal obligations?

- A. by exercising powers against a nation : when it poses a threat to peace,
- B. has committed an act of aggression,
- C. breach of the peace,

- a) A+B
 - b) A+B+C
 - c) either A or B or C
 - d) none of the above
37. What was the primary objective of the powers assigned to the council?
- a) preserve peace and enforce the law
 - b) adjudicating of issues between two nations using international legal principles
 - c) A and B
 - d) Either A or B.
38. In what context does the Falkland Isles come up in the passage
- a) interest of Big five are engaged
 - b) economic sanctions to enforce compliance
 - c) veto power being used to defeat draft resolution
 - d) none of the above
39. What does Chapter 7 of the Charter entail?
- a) enforcement resolutions
 - b) trade embargoes
 - c) either A or B
 - d) neither A nor B
40. When was military action imposed against Iraq?
- a) 1999-2000
 - b) 1992
 - c) 1950
 - d) 1990-91