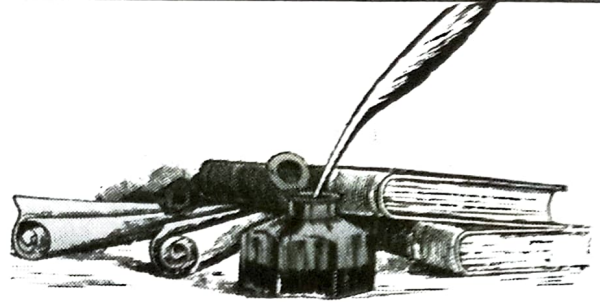


UNIT-2

OUT OF BUSINESS

R. K. Narayan (10 October 1906-13 May 2021)

Little over a year ago Rama Rao went out of work when a gramophone company, of which he was the Malgudi agent, went out of existence. He had put into that agency the little money he had inherited, as security. For five years his business brought him enough money, just enough, to help him keep his wife and children in good comfort. He built a small bungalow in the extension and was thinking of buying an old baby car for his use.

And one day, it was a bolt from the blue, the crash came. A series of circumstances in the world of trade, commerce, banking and politics was responsible for it. The gramophone company, which had its factory somewhere in Northern India, automatically collapsed when a bank in Lahore crashed, which was itself the result of a Bombay financier's death. The financier was driving downhill when his car flew off sideways and came to rest three hundred feet below the road. It was thought that he had committed suicide because the previous night his wife eloped with his cashier.

Rama Rao suddenly found himself in the streets. At first he could hardly understand the full significance of this collapse. There was little money in the bank and he had some stock on hand. But the stock moved out slowly; the prices were going down, and he could hardly realize a few hundred rupees. When he applied for the refund of his security, there was hardly anyone at the other end to receive his application.

The money in the bank was fast melting. Rama Rao's wife now tried some measures of economy. She sent away the cook and the servant; withdrew the children from a fashionable nursery school and sent them to a pre primary school. And they let out their bungalow and moved to a very small house behind the Market.

Rama Rao sent out a dozen applications a day, and wore his feet out looking for employment. For a man approaching forty, looking for employment does not come very easily, especially when he has just lost an independent, lucrative business. Rama Rao was very business-like in stating his request. He sent his card in and asked, 'I wonder, sir, if you could do something for me. My business is all gone through no fault of my own. I shall be very grateful if you can give me something to do in your office.'

What a pity, Rama Rao! I am awfully sorry, there is nothing at present. If there is an opportunity I will certainly remember you.'

It was the same story everywhere. He returned home in the evening; his heart sank as he turned into his street behind the Market. His wife would invariably be standing at the door with the children behind her, looking down the street. What anxious, eager faces they had! So much of trembling, hesitating hope in their faces. They seemed always to hope that he would come back home with some magic fulfillment. As he remembered the futile way in which he searched for a job, and the finality with which people dismissed him, he wished that his wife and children had less trust in him. His wife looked at his face, understood, and turned in without uttering a word; the children took the cue and filed in silently. Rama Rao tried to improve matters with a forced heartiness. 'Well' well. How are we all today? To which he received mumbling feeble responses from his wife and children. It rent his heart to see them in this condition. There at the Extension how this girl would sparkle with flowers. She had friendly neighbours, a women's club, and something to keep her happy there. But now she hardly had the heart or the need to change in the evenings, for she spent all her time cooped up in the kitchen. The house in the Extension had a compound and they romped about with a dozen other children: it was possible to have numerous friends in the fashionable nursery school!. But here the children had no friends, and could play only in the backyard of the house. Their shirts were beginning to show tears and frays. Formerly they were given new clothes once in three months. Rama Rao lay in bed and spent sleepless nights over it.

All the cash in hand was now gone. Their only source of income was the small rent they were getting for their house in the Extension. They shuddered to think what would happen to them if their tenant should suddenly leave.

It was in this connection that Rama Rao came across a journal in the Jubilee Reading Room. It was called *The Captain*. It consisted of four pages and all of them were devoted to crossword puzzles. It offered every week a first prize of four thousand rupees.

For the next few days, his head was free from family cares. He was intensely thinking of his answer. Whether it should be *TALLOW* or *FALLOW*, whether *BAD* or *MAD* or *SAD* would be most apt for a clue which said, 'Men who are this had better be avoided.' He hardly stopped to look at his wife and children standing in the doorway, when he returned home in the evenings. Week after week he invested a little money and sent down his solutions, and every week he awaited the results with a palpitating heart. On the day a solution was due he hung about the newsagent's shop, worming himself into his favour in order to have a look into the latest issue of *The Captain* without paying for it. He was too impatient to wait till the journal came on the table in the Jubilee Reading Room. Sometimes the newsagent would grumble, and Rama Rao would pacify him with an awkward, affected optimism. 'Please wait. When I get a prize I will give you three years' subscription in advance.' His heart quailed as he opened the page announcing the prize winners. Someone in Baluchistan, someone in Dacca, and someone in Ceylon had hit upon the right set of words; not Rama Rao. It took three hours for Rama Rao to recover from this shock. The only way to exist seemed to be to plunge into the next week's puzzle: that would keep him buoyed up with hope for a few days more.

This violent alternating between hope and despair soon wrecked his nerves and balance. At home he hardly spoke to anyone. His head was always bowed in thought. He quarrelled with his wife if she refused to give him his rupee a week for the puzzles. She was of a mild disposition and was incapable of a sustained quarrel, with the result that he always got what he wanted, though it meant a slight sacrifice in household expenses.

One day the good journal announced a special offer of eight thousand rupees. It excited Rama Rao's vision of a future tenfold. He studied the puzzle. There were only four doubtful corners in it, and he might have to send in at least four entries. A larger outlay was indicated. 'You must give me five rupees this time,' he said to his wife, at which that good lady became speechless. He had become rather insensitive to such things these days, but even he could not help feeling the atrocious nature of his demand. Five rupees were nearly a week's food for the family. He

felt disturbed for a moment; but he had only to turn his attention to speculate whether HOPE or DOPE or ROPE made most sense (for 'Some People Prefer This to Despair'), and his mind was at once at rest.

After sending away the solutions by registered post he built elaborate castles in the air. Even if it was only a share he would get a substantial amount of money. He would send away his tenants, take his wife and children back to the bungalow in the Extension, and leave all the money in his wife's hands for her to manage for a couple of years or so; he himself would take a hundred and go away to Madras and seek his fortune there. By the time the money in his wife's hands was spent, he would have found some profitable work in Madras.

On the fateful day of results Rama Rao opened The Captain, and the correct solution stared him in the face. His blunders were numerous. There was no chance of getting back even a few annas now. He moped about till the evening. The more he brooded over this the more intolerable life seemed.... All the losses, disappointments and frustrations of the life came down on him with renewed force. In the evening instead of turning homeward he moved along the Railway Station Road. He slipped in at the level crossing and walked down the line a couple of miles. It was dark. Far away the lights of the town twinkled, and the red and green light of a signal post loomed over the surroundings a couple of furlongs behind him. He had come to the conclusion that life was not worth living. If one had the misfortune to be born in the world the best remedy was to end matters on a railway line or with a rope ('Dope? Hope?' his mind asked involuntarily). He pulled it back. 'None of that,' he said to it and set it rigidly to contemplate the business of dying. Wife, children ... nothing seemed to matter. The only important thing now was total extinction. He lay across the lines. The iron was still warm. The day had been hot. Rama Rao felt very happy as he reflected that in less than ten minutes the train from Trichinopoly would be arriving.

He lay there he did not know how long. He strained his ears to catch the sound of the train, but he heard nothing more than a vague rattling and buzzing far off... Presently he grew tired of lying down there. He rose and walked back to the station. There was a good crowd on the platform. He asked someone, 'What has happened to the train?'

'A goods train has derailed three stations off, and the way is blocked. They have sent up a relief. All the trains will be at least three hours late today...?'

'God, you have shown me mercy!' Rama Rao cried and ran home.

His wife was waiting at the door looking down the street. She brightened up and sighed with relief on seeing Rama Rao. She welcomed him with warmth he had never known for over a year now. 'Oh, why are you so late today?' she asked. I was somehow feeling very restless the whole evening. Even the children were worried. Poor creatures! They have just gone to sleep.'

When he sat down to eat she said, 'Our tenants in the Extension bungalow came in the evening to ask if you would sell the house. They are ready to offer good cash for it immediately.' She added quietly, 'I think we may sell the house.'

'Excellent idea,' Rama Rao replied jubilantly. 'This minute we can get four and a half thousand for it. Give me the half thousand and I will go away to Madras and see if I can do anything useful there. You keep the balance with you and run the house. Let us first move to a better locality...'

'Are you going to employ your five hundred to get more money out of crossword puzzles?' she asked quietly. At this Rama Rao felt depressed for a moment and then swore with great emphasis, 'No, no. Never again.'

Life of the Author :

R. K. NARAYAN (10 October 1906-13 May 2001)

Sahitya Academy award winner R. K. Narayan had been one of the most prolific writers in English in India. His achievements are many and so is his list of works. His full name is Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami and he emerged from an ordinary family of total eight brothers and sisters in Tamilnadu. Most of his writings are based on a setting of an imaginary south Indian town named Malgudi and they focus on myriads of real life issues like—poverty, human relationship, career aspirations, family responsibilities etc. This fictional town, Malgudi was first introduced in *Swami and Friends*. This novel is also the first part of his semi-autobiographical trilogy where the remaining two parts are *The Bachelor of Arts and The English Teacher*. It is impressive to note in this context that at home his family members used to converse in English even though it was never their mother tongue.

Narayan's most famous work was *The Guide*. It had won him the Sahitya Academy award. Also this novel was adapted in the form of a movie and it turned out to be one of the all time famous movies in India winning a Filmfare award for best film. Published in 1951 *The Financial Expert* by Narayan is considered as his one of the most original works. *Out of Business* as a short story has very close resemblance to that work. According to yet another renowned Indian writer in English, Jhumpa Lahiri the short story writing capacity of Narayan is so beautiful that he can be easily compared to the great masters in this art like O. Henry, Guy de Maupassant, Flannery O'Connor, etc.

Summary :

The story deals with a sudden unexpected financial crisis in the life of Rama Rao and his family. He used to be a Malgudi agent of a gramophone company and the company all of a sudden collapsed due to a chain reaction of multiple crashes in the sectors of bank and other financial businesses. Rama Rao had an affluent life style with his family. They were living in an extension bungalow; the children would go to an expensive Nursery School, his wife would enjoy the membership of a women's club and there were lots of friends. In fact, he was also planning to purchase an old car. But this sudden change of fortune brought the entire family onto the streets.

From here onwards did start a new journey for them: a journey of survival. They shifted from the bungalow to a small house near the market. Rama Rao would start sending dozens of job applications to various companies. His wife would sacrifice her luxurious lifestyle and spend the entire day in kitchen. The children were also taken out from their Nursery School and admitted to a Government Primary School. And the bungalow was given on rent. It was the money coming from this rent that the family was surviving through. Otherwise, all savings of Rama Rao had melted. When all his sincere attempts to regain his economic stability had been futile he came across a new possibility to make good amount of money. It was a crossword puzzle competition published in a magazine named *The Captain*. The prize money for the winner was 4000 rupees which would have been handsome for his family's financial restoration. He started participating in this weekly competition. But even after attempting for several times with correct answer his name never appeared in the winner's list. His frustration

started growing. Quite naturally his intense involvement into this addictive task took away his normal intimacy with family members. Finally he found a jackpot chance to win double the prize money in a special competition. Somehow he managed the extra money as entry fee and participated only to realise on the fateful day of result that he had made numerous mistakes in it. His frustration grew so high that he decided to commit suicide by letting a train run over him. But coincidentally no train comes and he comes to know that due to an accident trains would be delayed today.

Being bewildered at this second chance to live he went home and was surprised to know that the tenants of their bungalow have offered them good sum to sell the bungalow to them. This was real good news. He decided to agree with this proposal and restore the family with the money.



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS [MCQ]

Marks

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1. Who was R. K. Narayan?

- (A) An Indian film director (B) An Indian actor
(C) An Indian writer in English (D) An NRI writer

2. Where is the town of Malgudi located?

- (A) In an interior part of Tamil Nadu
(B) It is an imaginary town
(C) Near Hyderabad
(D) A district where wagon vans were produced

3. Which of the following awards is won by R. K. Narayan?

- (A) Nobel Prize in literature (B) Pulitzer Prize
(C) Man Booker Prize (D) Sahitya Academy Award

4. In which language did R. K. Narayan write?

- (A) Tamil (B) Telugu
(C) English (D) French

5. Which format of literature was R. K. Narayan most famous for?

- (A) Prose (B) Poetry
(C) Drama (D) Biography

6. Who is Rama Rao?

- (A) Rama Rao is the protagonist of the short story *Out of Business*
- (B) Rama Rao is the main negative character of the short story *Out of Business*
- (C) Rama Rao is the owner of the gramophone company in the short story *Out of Business*
- (D) Rama Rao is the Bombay financier in the short story *Out of Business*

7. Where did Rama Rao work?

- (A) Rama Rao worked in Bombay Stock Exchange
- (B) Rama Rao worked in the Bank in Pune
- (C) Rama Rao worked in a gramophone company
- (D) Rama Rao was the owner of the gramophone company

8. How did Rama Rao become out of business?

- (A) The gramophone company had collapsed all of a sudden
- (B) A bank in Lahore had collapsed
- (C) A Bombay financier had died
- (D) All of the above

9. For how many years had Rama Rao been in his company?

- (A) 4 years
- (B) 5 years
- (C) 6 years
- (D) 7 years

10. How was the economic status of Rama Rao when he had his business?

- (A) He had an Extension bungalow at a posh living area in the city
- (B) His children used to go to an expensive English Medium School
- (C) His wife use to enjoy the membership of a women's club in the area
- (D) All of the above

11. How did Rama Rao's wife manage to cut the extra expense of family?

- (A) She sold out all of her jewellery
- (B) She started working as a freelancer
- (C) She changed the school of the children from expensive English medium to Govt. schools
- (D) She started selling ladies garments

- 12. How did the gramophone company collapse?**
- Ⓐ A Lahore bank had crashed
 - Ⓑ A Bombay financier had died
 - Ⓒ The financier's wife had eloped with his cashier in the last night
 - Ⓓ All of the above
- 13. How did the Bombay financier die?**
- Ⓐ His car flew off from the road while he was driving downhill
 - Ⓑ Someone had deliberately pushed his car from the road
 - Ⓒ He had jumped from the hill
 - Ⓓ All of the above
- 14. Why did he commit suicide?**
- Ⓐ He had incurred tremendous loss in stock market
 - Ⓑ He was insulted by his boss
 - Ⓒ His wife had eloped with his cashier in the last night
 - Ⓓ He had lost the crossword puzzle competition
- 15. What did Ram Rao do to get back to business?**
- Ⓐ He tried to rebuild the gramophone company,
 - Ⓑ He applied for fresh job in many companies,
 - Ⓒ He started his own business,
 - Ⓓ He searched for jobs in other cities.
- 16. What became Rama Rao's addiction?**
- Ⓐ Solving crossword puzzle
 - Ⓑ Alcohol
 - Ⓒ Smoking
 - Ⓓ Gambling
- 17. How was Rama Rao's initial approach in his applying for jobs?**
- Ⓐ He earnestly requested for a post in their offices
 - Ⓑ He made use of his good-will to secure some respectable position in some company
 - Ⓒ He placed very dignified requests for a position in any company keeping his reputation intact
 - Ⓓ He participated in regular crossword puzzle competition
- 18. In which journal did he see the crossword puzzle competition?**
- Ⓐ The Spectator
 - Ⓑ The Captain
 - Ⓒ The Hindu
 - Ⓓ None of the above

- 19. How was Rama Rao responded by the companies where he had applied for job?**
- Ⓐ Everywhere he received a word of pity and blank promises
 - Ⓑ Nobody showed any interest in his appeal
 - Ⓒ He was given offer from three companies
 - Ⓓ He was posted in the post of Manager in an automobile company
- 20. What was the situation when he returned to his family at every evening?**
- Ⓐ Every evening his wife and children eagerly waited for him to return
 - Ⓑ He would receive cold gesture from his family every evening
 - Ⓒ He would find solace after returning to his home every evening
 - Ⓓ His enthusiasm for working hard would increase by the encouragement he received from his family
- 21. How did Rama Rao try to induce momentary happy vibes into the children?**
- Ⓐ He would try to talk to his children in a happy tone
 - Ⓑ He would bring gifts for his children
 - Ⓒ He would take his children outside for dinner
 - Ⓓ He would read out stories to his children
- 22. How was the family managing money for its regular expenses?**
- Ⓐ Rama Rao's wife was selling ladies garments
 - Ⓑ Rama Rao had joined another company
 - Ⓒ Rama Rao was withdrawing money from his bank account
 - Ⓓ The Extension bungalow was given on rent
- 23. What would happen if the tenants decide to leave the bungalow?**
- Ⓐ New tenants would arrive
 - Ⓑ They would sell out the bungalow
 - Ⓒ They would soon have nothing to eat
 - Ⓓ They would move to the bungalow
- 24. What was the prize money for the winner of the crossword puzzle competition?**
- Ⓐ 3000 rupees
 - Ⓑ 4000 rupees
 - Ⓒ 5000 rupees
 - Ⓓ 6000 rupees

- 25. How much was the entry charges for the crossword puzzle competition?**
- (A) 50 rupees
(B) 60 rupees
(C) 70 rupees
(D) None of the above
- 26. How was Rama Rao treated by the newspaper shop owner?**
- (A) He would not enjoy Rama Rao's peeping at the shop to read the news paper for free
(B) He would welcome Rama Rao as they both were friends
(C) He would ask for money from Rama Rao
(D) None of the above
- 27. How many times did Rama Rao win the crossword puzzle competition?**
- (A) Once
(B) Twice
(C) Never
(D) Thrice
- 28. Where did Rama Rao come across the journal?**
- (A) In the newspaper shop
(B) In the local tea stall
(C) In the public library
(D) In Jubilee reading room
- 29. How many pages did the journal have?**
- (A) 4 pages
(B) 5 pages
(C) 6 pages
(D) 7 pages
- 30. What is the significance of this crisis situation in the family of Rama Rao?**
- (A) It shows how a well to do family can be ruined suddenly
(B) It shows how to manage a sudden crisis in family
(C) It shows what mistakes are not to be made in terms of family financial matters
(D) None of the above
- 31. In which context do the words like 'TALLOW', 'FALLOW', 'BAD', 'MAD', 'SAD' occur in the text?**
- (A) In the context of the school lessons of Rama Rao's children
(B) In the context of Rama Rao's solving of the crossword puzzles
(C) In the context of old recordings of the gramophone company
(D) These words were spoken to Rama Rao by the companies where he had applied for job

32. How would Rama Rao consider the importance of his family under his addiction?

- Ⓐ His family appeared to be of no importance to him when he was completely engrossed in the addiction of solving crossword puzzles
- Ⓑ His family appeared to be of no importance to him when he was completely engrossed in the addiction of alcohol
- Ⓒ Whatever may be mental state, he had never become careless about his family
- Ⓓ He was only dedicated towards the education of his children, not about his wife

33. How would Rama Rao pacify himself when he could not find his name in the list of winners?

- Ⓐ He would indulge into drinking to forget his pain
- Ⓑ He would be very upset about his fate and would not be able to control his emotions
- Ⓒ He would invest more for increasing his professional ability
- Ⓓ He would contemplate about winning the next week's competition

34. How long would Rama Rao remain depressed under the shock of not receiving the prize of crossword puzzle competition?

- Ⓐ The entire week
- Ⓑ 3 hours
- Ⓒ The entire evening
- Ⓓ None of the above

35. What was the prize money for the special issue of the crossword puzzle competition?

- Ⓐ 4000 rupees
- Ⓑ 6000 rupees
- Ⓒ 8000 rupees
- Ⓓ 10000 rupees

36. How did Rama Rao's wife react to her husband's addiction?

- Ⓐ She would occasionally have quarrel with Rama Rao, and would discourage him from participating in the competition
- Ⓑ She was his only support system and would always encourage him to take part in the competition
- Ⓒ She was more concerned about her children and their education
- Ⓓ She was so upset at Rama Rao's addiction that she left him in his state and went to her father's house

- 37. How much was the entry fee for the special issue of crossword puzzle competition?**
- (A) Nearly 10 rupees (B) Nearly 5 rupees
(C) Nearly 250 rupees (D) Nearly 71 rupees
- 38. How many entries did Rama Rao make for the special issue of crossword puzzle?**
- (A) Only one entry (B) Maximum 5 entries
(C) At least 10 entries (D) Only 4 entries
- 39. What was the amount of entry fee for the special issue of crossword puzzle competition equivalent to?**
- (A) To four copies of the journal
(B) To one bottle of alcohol
(C) To one week expenditure for Rama Rao's family
(D) To the children's education
- 40. What would have been a wise decision for the family to resolve their financial crisis?**
- (A) To have a constructive approach about finding source of money
(B) To start small scale business from home
(C) To launch a start-up business by taking some plot on lease
(D) Looking for any other source of quick money
- 41. Why had Rama Rao constantly been trying to win prize in the crossword puzzle competition?**
- (A) He had clear chances of winning and it would solve his financial crisis
(B) His participation in the competition would get him a post in some company
(C) The puzzles were very simple to solve
(D) He was desperate to arrange some means to fight with his financial crisis
- 42. Is there any metaphorical implication of the reference to the crossword puzzle competition?**
- (A) His submitting the job applications can be compared to his submitting of answers in the competition
(B) The crossword puzzle can be compared to the puzzling condition in his family
(C) Both (A) and (B),
(D) None of the above.

- 43. What was the result of the special issue of the crossword puzzle competition?**
- (A) Rama Rao had won the first prize
 - (B) Rama Rao had won only a consolation prize
 - (C) Someone from Baluchistan had won the first prize
 - (D) None of the above
- 44. What did he find in the final result of the special issue of crossword puzzle?**
- (A) He had made plenty of mistakes
 - (B) He had secured second position
 - (C) His submissions were rejected
 - (D) He could not check the final result properly
- 45. What did Rama Rao do after seeing the final result of the special issue of the crossword puzzle competition?**
- (A) He was initially upset, but gradually regained hope
 - (B) He could not trust the newspaper
 - (C) He was absolutely broken down and thought about ending his life
 - (D) He rejoiced his winning of the first prize
- 46. What was he thinking about his family when he chose to end his life?**
- (A) He was feeling very sad that he would never see his family any more
 - (B) He was very happy and was buying a lot of things to gift to his family
 - (C) He wanted to make a phone call to his family
 - (D) He considered his family to be of no importance
- 47. How did his skin feel the touch of the railway track?**
- (A) The railway track was very sharp
 - (B) The iron of the railway track was very hot
 - (C) There was a crack in the railway track
 - (D) The railway track was very cold
- 48. What is the implication of the temperature of the railway track?**
- (A) That a train had just passed by the track
 - (B) That a train had passed by the track long back
 - (C) That the track was at a distance from the nearest railway station
 - (D) That like Rama Rao the railway track had a very tiring day

49. From where was the train supposed to come?

- (A) Coimbatore
- (B) Bangalore
- (C) Trichinopoly
- (D) Mysore

50. After what time was the train expected to come?

- (A) Not less than 10 minutes
- (B) Not less than 15 minutes
- (C) Not less than 20 minutes
- (D) Not less than 5 minutes

51. How long did Rama Rao wait for train?

- (A) 30 minutes
- (B) 35 minutes
- (C) 1 hour and 10 minutes
- (D) None of the above.

52. Rama Rao did not think about ending his life after losing his well settled business, but he could not stand the loss in the crossword puzzle competition. Why?

- (A) Losing his business was a lesser shock than losing the crossword puzzle competition
- (B) He would get back to business again, but he cannot win the competition
- (C) He had indeed suffered after losing his business, but the competition became his addiction; hence losing it seemed like losing everything
- (D) When he lost his business he still had some hope, but after losing the crossword puzzle competition all hopes died for him

53. Why did no train come?

- (A) There was a train strike on that day
- (B) A goods train had derailed some three stations ahead
- (C) He was waiting in the wrong track
- (D) The driver of the train had seen Rama Rao

54. The trains were delayed for how long?

- (A) At least for 3 hours
- (B) At least for 3.5 hours
- (C) At least for 4 hours
- (D) At least for 4.5 hours

55. Was this a boon to Rama Rao's life that he could not successfully commit suicide?

- (A) Without any source of income his life being saved makes no difference to him
- (B) It was perhaps God's message to him that it is not the time to die for him
- (C) Life had more for him to suffer
- (D) Rama Rao would be cursing God for saving his life

56. Did the forces of Nature help Rama Rao in his struggle to help his family?

- Ⓐ It is very difficult to under the proper meaning of the forces of Nature
- Ⓑ None of Rama Rao's job applications were granted
- Ⓒ Somehow Nature helped his family in this dire situation of crisis
- Ⓓ All of the above

57. When Rama Rao returned home how was he received by his family?

- Ⓐ His family members were very anxiously waiting for him and they became very happy to see him
- Ⓑ His family members had the usual cold reception to offer to him,
- Ⓒ His family members abused him for his constant failure
- Ⓓ His family members were very happy to see him winning the special issue of the crossword puzzle competition

58. What was the sudden good news to the family?

- Ⓐ Rama Rao's Job application was accepted
- Ⓑ The gramophone company was restored and he was reinstated in his previous position
- Ⓒ The crossword puzzle company had chosen Rama Rao to be a special participant and had offered him a post in their company
- Ⓓ The tenants living in the Extension bungalow had offered Rama Rao's family to purchase the property for 4500 rupees

59. How much money was offered for the Extension bungalow by the tenants?

- Ⓐ 4000 rupees
- Ⓑ 4500 rupees
- Ⓒ 3000 rupees
- Ⓓ 3500 rupees

60. What did Rama Rao plan to do with the newly earned money?

- Ⓐ He planned to take 500 rupees and go to Madras to find some fortune
- Ⓑ He planned to take 500 rupees and invest in the crossword puzzle competition
- Ⓒ He planned to start his own business with the money
- Ⓓ He planned to purchase new cloths for his family members with that money

- 61. How long ago from the time of the narration of this story did Rama Rao go out of business?**
- (A) About 5 months ago
 - (B) About 9 months ago
 - (C) About 1 year ago
 - (D) About 1 year 3 months ago
- 62. What was the designation of Rama Rao in the gramophone company?**
- (A) He was the chief accountant
 - (B) He was the Malgudi agent in the company
 - (C) He was the manager in the Bombay showroom
 - (D) None of the above
- 63. Rama Rao had put some money in the agency as _____.**
- (A) Security
 - (B) Insurance
 - (C) Mortgage
 - (D) Deposit
- 64. How did Rama Rao earn the money that he had put into the agency?**
- (A) He had saved it from his regular income
 - (B) He had inherited this money
 - (C) He had accumulated this money from the savings of the family
 - (D) He had taken the money as loan from the gramophone company
- 65. During the days of his affluence what was Rama Rao planning to buy?**
- (A) He was planning to set up a new workshop
 - (B) He was planning to buy a new business firm
 - (C) He was planning to buy a large quantity of the company's stock
 - (D) He was planning to buy an old car
- 66. "And one day, it was a bolt from the blue, the crash came." What is the meaning of 'bolt from the blue'?**
- (A) Bolts coloured in blue
 - (B) Sudden rain
 - (C) Heavy storm
 - (D) Sudden unexpected shock

67. "And one day, it was a bolt from the blue, the crash came." What is referred as 'the crash' here?

- Ⓐ A Plane crash in which the owner of the gramophone company got killed
- Ⓑ Crash in Bombay Stock Exchange indicating further crash in the global economy
- Ⓒ A series of collapses in banking, politics, trade and commerce resulting in crash of the gramophone company
- Ⓓ A crash in the official website of the gramophone company as an effect of malware

68. Where was the bank located that had immediate impact in the crash of the gramophone company?

- Ⓐ Dhaka
- Ⓑ Baluchistan
- Ⓒ Bombay
- Ⓓ Lahore

69. The Bombay financier had died by a car accident. What was the nature of the terrain of his driving?

- Ⓐ Slippery road after heavy rainfall
- Ⓑ Mountain road
- Ⓒ Muddy road
- Ⓓ Slippery road after snowfall in the mountain

70. The Bombay financier's car had fallen _____ down from where it got off the road.

- Ⓐ 300 feet
- Ⓑ 400 feet
- Ⓒ 500 feet
- Ⓓ 600 feet

71. "Rama Rao suddenly found himself in the streets". Here 'street' means

- Ⓐ On the road
- Ⓑ Off guard
- Ⓒ Blinded
- Ⓓ Bankrupted

72. After the crash in the gramophone company the price of stocks was rapidly going down. How much could Rama Rao finally realise?

- Ⓐ Around 500 rupees
- Ⓑ Around 100 rupees
- Ⓒ Around 800 rupees
- Ⓓ Around 350 rupees

- 73.** In order to tackle the unexpected economic fall Rama Rao tried to withdraw the money that he had put into his agency as security. But he was disappointed to see that
- (A) There was no one to receive his withdrawal application
 - (B) The security money has also dissolved into nothing after this sudden crash
 - (C) All withdrawal applications are now rejected
 - (D) The security money is all consumed by the agency and there was no response from the customer care representatives
- 74.** When Rama Rao became out of business his family needed to find some measures to survive in this crisis. For that purpose they moved from the extension bungalow to a small house _____.
- (A) In the outskirts of the city
 - (B) Behind the market
 - (C) Near the bus station
 - (D) In the nearby village
- 75.** After moving away from the extension bungalow how was Rama Rao able to save some money?
- (A) The Bungalow was sold at a high price
 - (B) The Bungalow was auctioned at a high price
 - (C) The Bungalow was given on rent
 - (D) The Bungalow was taken over by the bank and Rama Rao's loan accounts were settled
- 76.** How many job applications would Rama Rao send every day at this situation?
- (A) A dozen
 - (B) Around ten to twelve
 - (C) Around twenty
 - (D) Fifteen
- 77.** What was the age of Rama Rao when he became out of business?
- (A) 45 years
 - (B) 43 years
 - (C) 42 years
 - (D) 40 years

- 78.** Although Rama Rao would apply for several jobs, it was not easy to get back to business at this age and in this situation for various reasons. Which among the following is not one of them?
- (A) He had just lost a lucrative and independent job
 - (B) He would apply for overseas jobs
 - (C) He was more aged than what is required by the companies
 - (D) He was in a respectable position in his company
- 79.** How would the wife and children of Rama Rao wait for him at the door every evening?
- (A) They would wait with anxiety and hope for some magic fulfillment
 - (B) They would wait with the usual anticipation of yet another day of failure
 - (C) They would wait with anxiety because they were worried if Rama Rao would commit some self destructive act by facing failure every day
 - (D) They would wait with happiness because they had some good stories to tell Rama Rao about how their days were spent
- 80.** Describe the degradation in the quality of life of the wife of Rama Rao after Rama Rao became out of his business.
- (A) Previously she would attend business parties and now she is trying to set up her own business
 - (B) Previously she would wear expensive clothing, but now she runs a small shop selling women's garments
 - (C) Previously she had friendly neighbours, a women's club and some or the other things of happiness, but now she is cooped up in kitchen all her day
 - (D) None of the above
- 81.** What is the change in the friend circle of Rama Rao's children after his losing of business?
- (A) Previously the children would have dozens of friends in the nursery school, but now they don't have any friends
 - (B) Previously the children would have dozens of friends in the nursery school, but they have retained their friendship even after the financial crisis of Rama Rao

- Ⓒ Previously the children would have dozens of friends in the nursery school, but after the change of their residence they found some better friends in the new locality and school
- Ⓓ Previously the children would have dozens of friends in the nursery school, but even after the change of their residence their school and friends have remained same

82. Where do the children of Rama Rao play after they have shifted to their new residence?

- Ⓐ They play in the community play ground
- Ⓑ They play in the municipality play ground
- Ⓒ They play in the backyard of their house
- Ⓓ They play in the barren farmlands

83. How frequently would the children of Rama Rao receive new cloths in the days of his affluence?

- Ⓐ Every month
- Ⓑ In every alternate month
- Ⓒ After every three months
- Ⓓ After every four months

84. Why would Rama Rao spend sleepless nights in his state of being out of business?

- Ⓐ The rigorous deterioration in the life style of his family haunted him
- Ⓑ His failure to get any job frustrated him
- Ⓒ Both Ⓐ and Ⓑ
- Ⓓ His continuous failure in the job market made him sick and he suffered from insomnia

85. What was the amount of rent they were receiving from their tenants in the Extension bungalow?

- Ⓐ 275 rupees per month
- Ⓑ 375 rupees per month
- Ⓒ 175 rupees per month
- Ⓓ None of the above

86. At what interval would the winning prize of the crossword puzzle be given?

- Ⓐ Every fortnight
- Ⓑ Every month
- Ⓒ Every week
- Ⓓ Every 10 days

- 87.** On the day of results of the crossword puzzle competition why did Rama Rao go to the newspaper shop instead of reading the newspaper in the Jubilee reading room?
- (A) The newspaper would not come to the Jubilee reading room on that day
 - (B) He was too impatient to wait till the evening for the newspaper to come to the Jubilee reading room
 - (C) The Jubilee reading room used to remain closed on the days of the results of the crossword puzzle competition
 - (D) The newspaper shops were the authorities to distribute the winning prizes
- 88.** How would Rama Rao pacify the newspaper shop owner who would not enjoy Rama Rao's peeping into the shop and reading the magazine free of cost?
- (A) He would pay three years of subscription to the newspaper shop owner
 - (B) He would promise to pay three years of subscription to the newspaper shop owner once he gets the first prize
 - (C) He would promise to pay three years of subscription to the newspaper shop owner on the next day
 - (D) He would request politely to the newspaper shop owner to kindly let him read the magazine free of cost
- 89.** When the final results were out Rama Rao would observe that there would be names from many places in the country, but not his. Which among the following places is not mentioned in the text?
- (A) Dacca
 - (B) Ceylon
 - (C) Baltistan
 - (D) None of the above
- 90.** When Rama Rao found himself in utter depression after not being nominated in the list of winners what would seem to him as the only means to get rid of this depression?
- (A) Ending his life
 - (B) Ending participating in this game of crossword puzzle
 - (C) Finding some ways to bring his name into the winners' list
 - (D) Plunging into the next week's puzzle as quickly as possible

91. In which way could this practice of plunging into the next week's puzzle be going to help Rama Rao come out of his trauma of this week's loss?

- (A) He was certain about winning in the next week
- (B) He had a hope to win in the next week
- (C) He managed some contacts that would help him win in the next week
- (D) He would win in every week from now onwards

92. This constant oscillation between despair and hope would surely have its side-effect in the psychology of any person. How did it impact the life of Rama Rao?

- (A) He would always remain tensed and agitated at home and would barely talk to anyone
- (B) He would not take his food properly and would occasionally fall sick
- (C) He would hallucinate very often about winning the prize and talk to himself in a tone of rejoicing
- (D) All of the above

93. Rama Rao's wife was not able to win against him and prevent him from playing in the crossword puzzle competition repeatedly in each week because,

- (A) She had a feeble hope about Rama Rao's winning some day
- (B) She was a lady of very mild disposition and could not sustain long quarrel with Rama Rao
- (C) She allowed Rama Rao to remain involved in this game because otherwise his frustration of remaining out of business would kill him
- (D) She was slowly becoming upset upon her husband and, therefore, was not bothered about his activities

94. When Rama Rao wanted to participate in the special competition of this crossword puzzle game he needed some 5 rupees for the entry fee. When he asked for this money to his wife what was her reaction?

- (A) She became speechless
- (B) She became terribly angry
- (C) She could not hold her patience anymore and started shouting upon Rama Rao
- (D) All of the above

- 95.** "After sending away the solutions by registered post he built elaborate castles in the air." What is the meaning of 'castle in the air'?
- (A) A floating castle
 - (B) A balloon that looked like a castle
 - (C) Day-dreaming
 - (D) An exotic castle that is an architectural marvel
- 96.** After submitting the solutions of the special entry of crossword puzzle competition Rama Rao started dreaming about a lot of happy moments with the hope of winning the prize, even though it might be only a share. What among the following is not mentioned in the text?
- (A) He would start his own business to regain an equal position to that of his previous business
 - (B) He would go back to the Extension bungalow and send the tenants away
 - (C) He would give all the money to his wife for managing the entire household matters
 - (D) He would go to Madras for better prospects in his career
- 97.** "The more he brooded over this the more intolerable life seemed.... All the losses, disappointments and frustrations of the life came down on him with renewed force." This happened to Rama Rao after he found that his entries in the special issue of crossword puzzle were all wrong. What made him think like that?
- (A) It shattered his limits of patience after a series of constant failures
 - (B) He could see no other means to regain his economic stability
 - (C) The losses both in financial and emotional terms were huge by now
 - (D) All of the above
- 98.** When Rama Rao decided to commit suicide he had chosen a spot where perhaps nobody would see him lying on the railway tracks. How far did he walk after crossing the level crossing to reach this spot?
- (A) 3 miles
 - (B) 2 miles
 - (C) 1 mile
 - (D) 4 miles

- 99.** The spot where he had chosen to commit suicide was ____.
- (A) Near a forest (B) Near a small railway bridge
(C) Near an uninhabited area (D) At a complete dark area
- 100.** From where Rama Rao had chosen to end his life how did the town seem to look to him?
- (A) The lights of the town twinkled
(B) The town was very far from the place and was not visible in any way
(C) Only the lights of the railway station were somewhat visible
(D) Rama Rao could see the nearby village and lights from the small cottages
- 101.** Why did Rama Rao come back to the station after lying on the railway tracks for some time?
- (A) He was seen lying by some railway staff and was called by the station manager
(B) He suddenly changed his mind and wanted to go home
(C) He grew tired of lying down there as no train came for a long time
(D) He heard an announcement of trains getting delayed
- 102.** The trains were all delayed because a goods train was derailed. Where did this accident occur?
- (A) Near the railway station
(B) Some three miles before the railway station
(C) Near the river bridge
(D) Some three stations before

Answer

1. (C)	2. (B)	3. (D)	4. (C)	5. (A)	6. (A)	7. (C)	8. (D)	9. (B)	10. (D)
11. (C)	12. (D)	13. (A)	14. (C)	15. (B)	16. (A)	17. (C)	18. (B)	19. (A)	20. (B)
21. (A)	22. (D)	23. (C)	24. (B)	25. (D)	26. (A)	27. (C)	28. (D)	29. (A)	30. (C)
31. (B)	32. (A)	33. (D)	34. (B)	35. (C)	36. (A)	37. (B)	38. (D)	39. (C)	40. (A)
41. (D)	42. (C)	43. (D)	44. (A)	45. (C)	46. (D)	47. (B)	48. (D)	49. (C)	50. (A)

51. Ⓓ	52. Ⓒ	53. Ⓑ	54. Ⓐ	55. Ⓑ	56. Ⓓ	57. Ⓐ	58. Ⓓ	59. Ⓑ	60. Ⓐ
61. Ⓒ	62. Ⓑ	63. Ⓐ	64. Ⓑ	65. Ⓓ	66. Ⓓ	67. Ⓒ	68. Ⓓ	69. Ⓑ	70. Ⓐ
71. Ⓓ	72. Ⓑ	73. Ⓐ	74. Ⓑ	75. Ⓓ	76. Ⓐ	77. Ⓓ	78. Ⓑ	79. Ⓐ	80. Ⓒ
81. Ⓐ	82. Ⓒ	83. Ⓒ	84. Ⓒ	85. Ⓓ	86. Ⓒ	87. Ⓑ	88. Ⓑ	89. Ⓒ	90. Ⓓ
91. Ⓑ	92. Ⓐ	93. Ⓑ	94. Ⓐ	95. Ⓒ	96. Ⓐ	97. Ⓓ	98. Ⓑ	99. Ⓓ	100. Ⓐ
101. Ⓒ	102. Ⓓ								