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ESE 2026 : Prelims Exam | **GS & ENGINEERING**
CLASSROOM TEST SERIES | **APTITUDE**
Test 15

Section A : Current Issues of National and International Importance Relating to Social,
Economic & Industrial Development **[All Topics]**

Section B : Standards & Quality practices in Production, Construction, Maintenance & Services **[All Topics]**

Section C : Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) **[All Topics]**

ANSWER KEY

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

Section A : Current Issues of National and International Importance Relating to Social, Economic and Industrial Development

1. (d)

Sanchar Saathi includes features like Chakshu for reporting fraud, IMEI tracking and blocking for lost phones, and a tool to verify handset genuineness.

2. (a)

- Recently, the World Economic Forum has released the report titled 'Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025'.
- The World Economic Forum's Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025, produced in collaboration with Accenture, examines the cybersecurity trends that will affect economies and societies in the year to come.
- **Other reports released by the World Economic Forum are:**
 - Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report
 - Global Competitiveness Report
 - Enabling Trade Report
 - Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report
 - Global Environment Performance Index
 - World Power Language Index
 - Inclusive Development Index
 - Human Capital Index
 - Global Gender Gap Index

3. (c)

- Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) are considered "too big to fail" because their collapse could trigger system-wide financial instability.
- The 2025 list confirms SBI, HDFC, and ICICI as D-SIBs. However, they are required to maintain a higher additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET-1) capital requirement.

4. (a)

- The Prime Minister launched the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM – SETU).
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme to transform 1,000 Government ITIs across India into modern, industry-aligned training institutions.
- PM-SETU will follow a hub-and-spoke model, with 200 hub ITIs linked to 800 spoke ITIs.

5. (b)

- Launched by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) targets youth aged 21–24 years who are currently not enrolled in any full-time academic program or employment.
- The internship will have a duration of 12 months and plans to provide opportunities to one crore youth in the top 500 companies across India over the next five years.

6. (a)

The 'Real Sector' refers to the portion of the economy that produces goods and services (agriculture, manufacturing, etc.).

7. (d)

- The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is the intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) is a modern and ambitious agreement that incorporates, for the first time in any Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed by India, a commitment linked to investment and job creation.
- EFTA has committed to 100% tariff elimination on non-agricultural goods and concessions on processed agricultural products, covering 99.6% of India's exports.
- It aims to attract USD 100 billion in foreign direct investment over 15 years and generate 1 million direct jobs in India.
- It covers 82.7% of tariff lines (95.3% of EFTA exports), with protections for sensitive sectors like pharma, food, dairy, and gold.

8. (a)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officially shifted to CPI (Combined) as its primary anchor for monetary policy in 2014 following the Urjit Patel Committee recommendations.

9. (c)

- The summit between the USA and China in Busan, South Korea ended with several outcomes for bilateral ties between the two countries.
- The US President called the meeting "G-2", borrowing from groupings like G-20 and the G-7, the latter of which constitutes some of the world's most advanced economies.

10. (d)

11. (b)

- Cloud seeding is a weather modification method to enhance a cloud's ability to produce rain.
- Cloud seeding depends on natural clouds; it can't create them.
- The salts, or the seeding agents, serve as nuclei around which water droplets can form or ice can crystallise.
- Clouds are usually injected with salts like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or sodium chloride to trigger condensation.

12. (a)

- Dr. Sonali Ghosh, Field Director of Kaziranga National Park, became the first Indian to receive the prestigious WCPA-Kenton Miller Award at the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- Established in 2006, the Kenton R. Miller Award for Innovation in National Parks and Protected Area Sustainability is presented every two years by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

- WCPA is one of the six technical commissions of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The award honors individuals who demonstrate innovation and leadership in conserving national parks and protected areas, particularly in ensuring their long-term sustainability.

13. (a)

Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies designed to maintain price stability by pegging their value to underlying assets such as Fiat currencies (e.g., USD, Euro), Commodities (e.g., gold), other cryptocurrencies, or Algorithm-based systems.

14. (a)

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is set to revise the base year of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to 2022–23, aligning it with the new base year proposed for GDP estimation.
- The IIP is an index which shows the growth rates in different industry groups of the economy in a stipulated period of time.
- It is released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

15. (c)

- A cess is a special-purpose levy imposed over and above the existing taxes (such as income tax, GST, or excise duty).
- It is collected to raise funds for a particular objective or sector, such as education, health, environment, or infrastructure.
- Unlike general taxes, which go into the Consolidated Fund of India or State, the proceeds from a cess are usually earmarked for a designated fund to be used only for that purpose.

16. (c)

A decrease in interest rates reduces the cost of borrowing for businesses and individuals. This typically encourages firms to borrow more for expansion (investment expenditure) and encourages consumers to spend more rather than save.

17. (a)

- The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry inaugurated the National Turmeric Board which will focus on the overall development and growth of the turmeric sector in the country. The Board will promote research and development of new turmeric products, and will look into the value addition of turmeric related products for marketing abroad.
- Its Head Office has been set up at Nizamabad, Telangana.

18. (d)

The Capital Account records all international transactions of assets. Loans and borrowings create a liability and are thus part of the Capital Account.

19. (d)

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) aims to develop 100 districts, with UP leading (12 districts), followed by Maharashtra (9 districts). It follows the successful model of the Aspirational Districts Programme.

20. (a)

21. (c)

- Ways and Means Advances (WMA) is a temporary advance given by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to both the Central and State governments to meet temporary mismatches in their receipts and payments. This facility helps the government manage short-term liquidity issues and is repayable generally within three months.
- WMA cannot be used as a permanent instrument for financing the fiscal deficit. It is meant only for temporary mismatches in cash flows and is not a long-term borrowing mechanism.
- The interest rate on WMA is linked to the RBI's Repo Rate.

22. (b)

23. (d)

China controls 60–70% of global rare earth production and 85–90% of refining, giving it near-monopoly from extraction to high-performance magnets.

24. (b)

25. (b)

- The primary objective of the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) is the development and scientific conservation of indigenous bovine breeds such as Gir, Sahiwal, and Red Sindhi.
- The mission aims to enhance the productivity of these native breeds, increase milk production sustainably, and promote genetic upgradation.
- It supports farmers through advanced breeding techniques, artificial insemination, and setting up specialized breeding centers called Gokul Grams.

Section-B: Standards & Quality Practices in Production, Construction, Maintenance & Services

26. (d)

Traditional concept	Modern concept
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low quality is due to poor working of people.• Quality depends only on the production.• Some minor defects and deviations are acceptable.• The quality control department is a separate unit, checking the finished product.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low quality is due to poor labour management.• Quality depends on all phases of the production process from the design till the delivery and after sales services.• The goal is to have defects free products and services.• Quality is everyone's business. Its total control includes all production phases.

27. (a)

28. (b)

Design of Experiments (DOE) is an active method of quality control, whereas statistical process control is a passive method of quality control.

29. (a)

Acceptance sampling gives no idea about the process that is used in order to produce the items.

30. (d)

Techno-craft paradigm : It seeks to employ the custom-craft paradigm in performance while reducing delivery time. It requires a high level of product process flexibility, which enables the customers to get exactly what they desire. The requirement here is to integrate machine, men and automation.

31. (a)

TQM works equally well in both service and manufacturing sectors.

There are many obstacles during the implementation of TQM, such as:

1. Lack of strategic planning related to changes necessary for various planning, processes and products.
2. Poor customer focus.
3. Lack of communication among intra-departments of a company.
4. Lack of employee empowerment in organisation.
5. More emphasis given to financial results in short-term.
6. Internal politics existing in the organisation.
7. Lack of strong motivation in employees.
8. Lack of commitment from top management.

32. (b)

Defects per million opportunities,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{DPMO} &= \frac{\text{Defects per unit} \times 1000000}{\text{Opportunity for error}} \\ &= \frac{2 \times 1000000}{80} = 25000 \end{aligned}$$

33. (c)

Six-sigma is a top-down solution to help organizations, it emphasizes leadership involvement and strategic alignment throughout an organization.

34. (c)

Limitation of line balancing:

Line balancing results in reduction in work-in-process inventory.

35. (d)

36. (a)

Dimensions of service quality are:

- (i) Tangibles (least important dimension)
- (ii) Reliability
- (iii) Responsiveness
- (iv) Empathy
- (v) Assurance

37. (b)

Benefits of ISO Certificate:

- The logo will increase the stature of the company assessed to ISO standard. Company will be able to display the certification body's logo on their correspondence.
- It will open international doors and not just those locally.
- It will satisfy the larger businesses that the company operates and will result in fewer customer audits needed to be carried out to confirm the on-going commitment.
- It will provide an improvement in communications on both internally and to customers.
- Employee will be better aware of their responsibilities and need to satisfy customers.
- Profit of the company increases.

38. (d)

Section C : Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

39. (a)

- MeghRaj is indeed the Government of India's Cloud initiative. It ensures that e-governance services can be deployed quickly and cost-effectively.
- e-Kranti is one of the 9 pillars of Digital India. Its mission is "Transforming e-Governance for Transforming Governance," covering mission-mode projects like e-Education, e-Healthcare, and Technology for Farmers.
- BharatNet under the Broadband Highways pillar primarily focuses on connecting Gram Panchayats (Rural India), not urban households. Urban broadband is a separate sub-component handled differently.

40. (b)

Deepfakes leverage "Deep Learning" to manipulate audio/video to make it look like someone said or did something they didn't.

41. (b)

Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) is India's national Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) platform offering courses from Class 9 to Post-Graduation.

42. (c)

43. (b)

Near Field Communication (NFC) operates at very short ranges (4 cm or less) and is the standard for secure contactless payments (Tap-and-pay) on cards and smartphones.

44. (b)

e-Sanjeevani is the National Telemedicine Service of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It consists of two verticals: e-Sanjeevani Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centre AB-HWC (Doctor-to-Doctor) and e-Sanjeevani OPD (Patient-to-Doctor wherein the beneficiaries visiting an HWC can virtually connect to Doctors/Specialist in the Hub.).

45. (d)

- Star Topology is the most common topology (e.g., home Wi-Fi/Ethernet). The central hub is the single point of failure.
- Bus Topology is legacy technology (coaxial). A break anywhere in the backbone stops all transmission.
- Mesh Topology is used where failure is not an option (e.g., military, critical servers). Every device connects to multiple others, ensuring data can find another path if one link fails.

46. (c)

Big Data is indeed a term for data sets that are so large (volume), generated so quickly (velocity), or are so complex/diverse in format (variety) that traditional data processing applications and database management tools struggle to store, process, and analyze them efficiently.

47. (b)

- Web 3.0 is the decentralized web utilizing blockchains, cryptocurrencies, and Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs).
- The core ethos of Web 3.0 is decentralization. It aims to reduce dependency on central servers (like those of Google/Amazon/Meta) and uses distributed storage.
- SSI is a key feature where users own their identity data (via private keys) rather than renting accounts from platform owners.

48. (a)

- The Dark Web is a subset of the Deep Web. It is intentionally hidden and requires specific overlay network software to access.
- Standard crawlers used by Google cannot index these pages because they cannot navigate the encrypted overlay networks.

49. (b)

50. (c)

- Ka-band (26.5–40 GHz) is used for high bandwidth/throughput satellite services.
- Ka-band operates at higher frequencies than C-band (4–8 GHz) and Ku-band (12–18 GHz). Higher frequencies allow for smaller antennas and focused “spot beams,” which increase capacity (throughput).

