Can India become a great power?

India’s lack of a strategic culture hobbles its ambition to be a force in the world. Nobody doubts that China has joined the ranks of the great powers: the idea of a G2 with America is mooted, albeit prematurely. India is often spoken of in the same breath as China because of its billion-plus population, economic promise, value as a trading partner and growing military capabilities. All five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council support — however grudgingly — India’s claim to join them. But whereas China’s rise is a given, India is still widely seen as a nearly-power that cannot quite get its act together.

That is a pity, for as a great power, India would have much to offer. Although poorer and less economically dynamic than China, India has soft power in abundance. It is committed to democratic institutions, the rule of law and human rights. As a victim of jihadist violence, it is in the front rank of the fight against terrorism. It has a huge and talented diaspora. It may not want to be co-opted by the West but it shares many Western values. It is confident and culturally rich. If it had a permanent Security Council seat (which it has earned by being one of the most consistent contributors to UN peacekeeping operations) it would not instinctively excuse and defend brutal regimes. Unlike China and Russia, it has few skeletons in its cupboard. With its enormous coastline and respected navy (rated by its American counterpart, with which it often holds exercises, as up to NATO standard) India is well-placed to provide security in a critical part of the global commons.

Yet India’s huge potential to be a force for stability and an upholder of the rules-based international system is far from being realized. One big reason is that the country lacks the culture to pursue an active security policy. Despite a rapidly rising defense budget, forecast to be the world’s fourth-largest by 2020, India’s politicians and bureaucrats show little interest in grand strategy. The foreign service is ridiculously feeble — India’s 1.2 billion people are represented by about the same number of diplomats as Singapore’s 5m. The leadership of the armed forces and the political-bureaucratic establishment operate in different worlds. The defense ministry is chronically short of military expertise. These weaknesses partly reflect a pragmatic desire to make economic development at home the priority. India has also wisely kept generals out of politics (a lesson ignored elsewhere in Asia, not least by Pakistan, with usually parlous results). But Nehruvian ideology also plays a role. At home, India mercifully gave up Fabian economics in the 1990s (and reaped the rewards). But diplomatically, 66 years after the British left, it still clings to the post-independence creeds of semi-pacifism and “non-alignment”: the West is not to be trusted.
42. The word albeit in the underlined sentence:

‘the idea of a G2 with America is mooted, albeit prematurely’, could be replaced, without changing its meaning, by

a) therefore
b) although
c) rather than
d) due to
e) besides

Resolução:
A conjunção concessiva albeit, que significa embora e passa ao leitor a ideia de quebra de expectativa, é sinônima de although.

Alternativa B

43. According to the text,

a) the decision of a G2 between China and USA is on the verge of taking place.
b) the five United Nations Security Council permanent members altogether back India’s aim to get a permanent Security Council seat with good will.
c) India leads a war against Islamic radicals for its death tolls from terror.
d) India has nothing to conceal regarding its past when compared to China or Russia.
e) India is likely to align with the West despite its unwillingness.

Resolução:
O texto afirma que a Índia é um dos países que contribui mais consistentemente com as operações de paz da ONU e, por instinto, não desculparia ou defenderia regimes brutais como os da China e Rússia, mostrando, assim, que a Índia não tem nada a esconder em relação ao seu passado, quando comparada à China e Rússia, pois sempre foi muito menos violenta, como pode ser lido no trecho: If it had a permanent Security Council seat (which it has earned by being one of the most consistent contributors to UN peacekeeping operations) it would not instinctively excuse and defend brutal regimes. Unlike China and Russia, it has few skeletons in its cupboard.

Alternativa D

44. According to the text,

a) India seems very keen on boosting its national defense, hence its increasing spending on the matter.
b) when it comes to foreign affairs, India doesn’t show much concern, despite having plenty representation around the globe.
c) economy is the powerhouse of the Indian administration, whereas little attention is paid on subjects such as diplomacy and security system.
d) Whenever military meddled in politics the outcome was jeopardizing.
e) Indians don’t rely on the West, regardless of Gandhi’s lessons of pacifism and independence.

Resolução:
Encontra-se a resposta nos dois trechos que seguem:

One big reason is that the country lacks the culture to pursue an active security policy.

The foreign service is ridiculously feeble — India’s 1.2 billion people are represented by about the same number of diplomats as Singapore’s 5m.

Alternativa C

45. The expression ‘as deadly as’ in the underlined sentence:

‘Conservationists say there’s a new threat to the survival of Africa’s endangered elephants that may be just as deadly as poachers’ bullets’, conveys an idea of

a) comparison
b) addition
c) exclusion
d) variation
e) exemplification

Resolução:
Esta questão apresenta o uso da estrutura as + adjetivo + as, que se traduz por tão + adjetivo + quanto, sendo um exemplo clássico do comparativo de igualdade.

Alternativa A
46. According to the text,

a) The already nearly-vanishing elephants in Africa are now under menace of becoming a cybermerchandise.
b) Activists have been holding Google accountable for sponsoring the elephant slaughter.
c) Environmentalists are attending a 178-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in order to curb the illegal tusk business in Bangkok.
d) Asian tourists purchase tusk jewelry in Africa and, therefore, should be ultimately charged with this bloodshed.
e) The online market is stealthy, around the clock, safer and highly rewarding for those in the ‘white gold’ business.

Resolução:
Pode-se encontrar a correspondência para a alternativa correta da questão no trecho:

The Internet is anonymous, it’s open 24 hours a day for business, and selling illegal ivory online is a low-risk, high-profit activity for criminals,

que assemelha-se a: O mercado na Internet é anônimo (furtivo = stealthy), funciona 24 horas por dia para negócios (around the clock) e para atividades criminosas representa um meio de baixo risco e alta lucratividade (safer and highly rewarding).

Alternativa E

47. According to the text,

a) There has been unprecedented killing of elephants over the last twenty years fueled mostly by customers in Asia.
b) More worrying than elephants being shot dead is the smuggling of their tusks on the internet.
c) Not only Asia but also the USA and Europe have contributed to the widespread ivory commerce since Africa was a colony.
d) Elephant tusks usually reach their destination by ship disguised as ‘white gold’, ‘ox bone’ and so on.
e) Online shops in Japan sell over 10,000 ivory goods, according to the Environmental Investigation Agency.

Resolução:
A resposta pode ser lida no trecho: The elephant slaughter, which has reached crisis proportions unheard of in two decades, is largely being driven by skyrocketing demand in Asia, where tusks are often carved into tourist trinkets and ornaments.

Bastava o candidato perceber a igualdade dos termos in two decades e the last twenty years.

Alternativa A

48. The word it in the underlined sentence:

‘IFAW says illegal ivory trading online is an issue within the U.S., including on eBay, and it is rife on some websites in Europe, particularly nations with colonial links to Africa.’, refers to

a) IFAW
b) illegal ivory trading online
c) an issue
d) the US
e) eBay

Resolução:
O pronome it refere-se ao comércio ilegal de marfim que acontece na Internet. Ressaltamos que o examinador, por desatenção, sublinhou a resposta no enunciado da questão, o que facilitou a resolução da mesma pelos candidatos.

Alternativa B
49. Turn Calvin’s last sentence ‘And it will tell me answers’ in the third frame of the comic strip into the passive voice:

a) And answers will be told by me.
b) And to me will be told answers.
c) And I will be told answers.
d) And it will be told answers to me.
e) And answers will be told by it.

Resolution: Nesta questão, usa-se a voz passiva indireta, ou seja, a resposta correta traz o objeto indireto como sujeito da oração passiva:

Voz Ativa: And it will tell me answers.

Suj. verb o.i. o.d.

Na voz passiva, o objeto indireto me foi transformado no sujeito I, o verbo will tell que está no Simple Future, deu origem ao Simple Future do verbo TO BE = will be + Past Participle do verbo TELL = TOLD, resultando em:

Voz Passiva: And I will be told answers.

Alternativa C

50. According to the strip,

a) Calvin has beheaded someone and kept their head in a bag.
b) Susie reckons the head will be most useful during Calvin’s test.
c) The head predicts the future and, therefore, Calvin won’t flunk test.
d) The ‘head in the bag’ calls Susie a doofus and Calvin seems to relish it.
e) Susie’s brain is teeming with booger in the ‘head’s opinion’.

Resolution: De acordo com a charge, a cabeça cortada que Calvin traz na sacola chama Susie de booger brain = cérebro desprezível (miolo mole) e Calvin afirma que a cabeça fala a verdade; assim, podemos afirmar que a cabeça na sacola chama Susie de incompetente, boba, tola = doofus e Calvin parece gostar disto.

Alternativa D

COMENTÁRIO DO CPV


O primeiro texto aborda os motivos que atrapalham a Índia para que esta se torne uma grande potência.

O segundo fala sobre o comércio de marfim pela Internet.

Além disso, a ESPM propôs duas questões baseadas em uma charge de Calvin, sendo uma de Gramática e uma de Vocabulário, a qual exigia do aluno o conhecimento de gíria em Inglês, o que é bastante incomum em provas de Vestibular.

Elogiamos a atitude da Banca por ter aumentado o nível de exigência vocabular, assim como a cobrança de conhecimentos gramaticais:

1 questão abordou o uso de Conjunções (Conjunctions);
1 questão abordou Pronomes Pessoais (Personal Pronouns);
1 questão abordou Graus de Comparação dos Adjetivos (Degrees of Comparison)
1 questão abordou Voz Passiva (Passive Voice)

Essa mudança de estratégia da Banca Examinadora deve motivar os alunos a continuarem cada vez mais envolvidos com a leitura de textos em Inglês, apoiados por sólidos conhecimentos de Gramática.

Os alunos do CPV devem ter obtido êxito neste exame, pois foram intensivamente preparados para enfrentá-lo.

Distribuição das Questões: Compreensão de Textos = 50%; Gramática = 40%; Vocabulário = 10%