

# Cause & Effect

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter is unavoidable for any exams as the questions based on causes and effect are frequently asked in such examinations. Therefore, PO aspirants must pay special attention towards such questions. Before discussing the chapter, you must get an idea of the format of the problems to be asked in the examination. Let us see.

## PROBLEM FORMAT/SAMPLE PROBLEM

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1-5) :** Given below are pairs of events 'A' and 'B'. You have to read both the events 'A' and 'B' and decide their nature of relationship. You have to assume that information given in 'A' and 'B' is true and you will not assume anything beyond the given information in deciding the answer.

### Mark answer:

- (a) If 'A' is the effect and 'B' is its immediate and principal cause.
- (b) If 'A' is the immediate and principal cause and 'B' is its effect.
- (c) If 'A' is an effect but 'B' is not its immediate and principal cause.
- (d) If 'B' is an effect but 'A' is not its immediate and principal cause.
- (e) None of these

### Examples :

1. **Event A:** Bihar has a lot of corruption.  
**Event B:** Bihar is one of the poorest state of our country.
2. **Event A:** Company 'X' has recorded a 25% jump in its sales.  
**Event B:** Company 'X' has reduced the prices of its products considerably.
3. **Event A:** Priyanka is suffering from scurvy.  
**Event B:** Priyanka has had inadequate intake of vitamin C.
4. **Event A:** Ramkishan died while going to hospital.  
**Event B:** A car dashed into the bike Madan was driving.
5. **Event A:** Vandana succeeded.  
**Event B:** Vandana worked hard.

After seeing the sample problem, now we are ready to discuss the main terms of the chapter in detail.

## CAUSES AND EFFECT

It is very important to understand that events do not just happen; they take place because there was a cause behind them. In fact, such causes are the conditions under which these events (or effects/results) take place. Further, point to be noted that something can be said to be a cause of another event only if it is a necessary as well as sufficient condition for that effect to take place. Now, the two questions arise:-

- (a) What does mean a necessary condition?
- (b) What does mean a sufficient condition?

Let us see:-

### Necessary Condition

A circumstance in whose absence the event can not occur is called a necessary condition. For example, no fire can take place without oxygen. But point to be noted here no doubt that presence of oxygen is a necessary condition for fire to occur, but it is not a sufficient condition for this event (fire to occur). Then what is the sufficient condition? Let us see below.

### Sufficient Condition

A circumstance in presence of which an event must occur is called the sufficient condition for that event to occur. As we know that presence of (i) combustible substance, (ii) ignition temperature and (iii) oxygen are only the sufficient condition for fire to occur.

Hence, (i), (ii) and (iii) together make sufficient condition for fire to occur. Point to be noted that (i), (ii) and (iii) each is a necessary condition for fire to take place but when they are combined together, they become sufficient condition for fire to occur. Thus, you can conclude that there may be several necessary conditions behind the occurrence of an event and they together are called sufficient condition.

From the above discussion we can also define a cause as

Cause is an event that leads to a said effect or result and this fact is either scientifically proven or logically expected.

## IMPORTANT

- (1) In the examinations, candidates are asked to find out if a cause is immediate as well as principal. It does mean that the said cause must be the principal reason of the given effect and it should also be fairly proximate in time to the said effect.
- (2) Cause is always antecedent. In another words, cause always occur before effect.

After having a complete discussion about causes and effects, we can solve our problems:-

### Solution:

1. (d) **Explanation:** No doubts, corruption does lead to underdevelopment and hence poverty. But this saying is very wrong that corruption is the immediate cause of poverty. Had it been so, all non-poor states must be non-corrupt; but this is very debatable.
2. (a) **Explanation:** Reduction in prices can be said to be logically expected to result in increased sales.
3. (a) **Explanation:** No doubts, that deficiency of vitamin C is the reason of scurvy as it is a scientifically proven truth.
4. (a) **Explanation:** It is very clear that death of Ramkishan took place because of the accident of his bike with a car.
5. (a) **Explanation:** It is always considered that without doing hard work success is not possible. It does mean that we take hard work to be a sufficient cause for success.

# EXERCISE

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1-5) :** In each of the following question two statements numbered I and II are given. There may be cause-and-effect relationship between the two statements. These two statements may be the effect of the same cause or independent causes. These statements may be independent cause without having any relationship. Read both the statements in each question and mark your answer accordingly. Give answer

- (a) if statement II is the effect of statement I.  
(b) if statement I is the effect of statement II.  
(c) if both the statements I and II are effects of the same cause.  
(d) if both the statements I and II are independent causes.  
(e) if both the statements I and II are effects of independent causes.
1. I. There is an unprecedented increase in the number of young unemployed in comparison to the previous year.  
II. A large number of candidates submitted applications against an advertisement for the post of manager is-sued by a bank.
2. I. The prices of vegetables have increased considerably during this summer.  
II. There is tremendous increase in the temperature during this summer, thereby damaging crops greatly.
3. I. Heavy downpour with high-velocity wind is probable in the coastal areas in next twenty four hours.  
II. A soap manufacturing company increased its production by more than 100 in the last month.
4. I. There has been considerable reduction in the number of people affected by water-borne diseases in City A during this rainy season.  
II. The government opened four new civil hospitals in City A at the beginning of the year.
5. I. There is increase in water level of all the water tanks supplying drinking water to the city during the last fortnight.  
II. Most of the trains were cancelled last week due to water logging on the tracks.

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 6-9):** Given below are pairs of events I and II. Read both the events and decide the relationship. Assume that the information given is true in deciding the answer. Mark answer as :

- (a) if I is an effect but II is not its immediate and principal cause.  
(b) if I is the immediate and principal cause and II is its effect.  
(c) if I is an effect and II is its immediate and principal cause.  
(d) if II is an effect but I is not its immediate and principal cause.  
(e) if both the statements I and II are effects of independent causes.

6. **Event (I):** The price of gold has gone up in the local market.  
**Event (II):** Indians have won several prizes in designing gold ornaments.
7. **Event (I):** Today, the prime ministers of countries P and Q have decided to take steps to improve bilateral relations.  
**Event (II):** Next week a committee of foreign ministers and senior officers of country P and Q will work out further steps to improve the relationship.
8. **Event (I):** Recently the prices of the personal computers (PCs) have come down.  
**Event (II):** Some school-children are showing keen interest in learning computers.
9. **Event (I):** This year Bank M has celebrated its silver jubilee.  
**Event (II):** More customers are getting attracted to the market branch of Bank M.

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 10-14):** In each of these questions two statements numbered I and II are given. Mark answer as :

- (a) If statement I is the cause and statement II is its effect.  
(b) If both the statement I and II are independent.  
(c) If statement II is the cause and statement I is its effect.  
(d) If both the statement I and II are affects of independent causes.  
(e) if both the statements I and II are effects of independent causes.
10. I. Most parts of both the arterial roads in the city are waterlogged and this has brought vehicular movement to a halt.  
II. There have been heavy showers in the city area during the past thirty-six hours.
11. I. The prices of all the petroleum products have increased substantially in the recent price hike announced a week ago due to increase in price of crude oil in the international market.  
II. Oil producing countries have increased the output of crude oil by ten percent for the last one month.
12. I. The private medical colleges have increased the tuition fees in the current year by 200 per cent over the last year's fees to meet the expenses.  
II. The government medical colleges have not increased their fees inspite of price escalation.
13. I. The university authority has decided to conduct all terminal examinations in March/April every year to enable them to declare results in time.

II. There has been considerable delay in declaring results in the past due to shortage of teachers evaluating the answer papers of the examination conducted by the university.

14. I. India has surpassed the value of tea exports this year over all the earlier years due to an increase in demand for quality tea in the European market.  
II. There is an increase in demand of coffee in the domestic market during the last two years.

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 15-19):** Each of the questions below consists of two statements labeled I and II. These statements may be effects of independent causes or of a common cause. One of these statements may be the effect of the other statement. Read both the statements and decide which of the following answer choices correctly depicts the relationship between these two statements:

- (1) If statement I is the cause and the statement II is its effect.  
(2) If statement II is the cause and the statement I is its effect.  
(3) If both the statements I and II are independent causes.  
(4) If both the statements I and II are effects of independent causes.  
(5) If both the statements I and II are effects of some common cause.
15. (I) The bank has provided a link on its website to obtain feedback from customers.  
(II) Customers have been complaining about poor services in the bank's branches.  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4  
(e) 5
16. (I) The production of pulses has dropped for the third consecutive year.  
(II) India has decided to import pulses this year.  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4  
(e) 5
17. (I) Budgetary allocation for building a better railway network, example; constructing new railway lines, has increased.  
(II) There has been a substantial drop in the number of passengers opting for air travel.  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4  
(e) 5
18. (I) Indian citizens are willing to incur the cost of using environment-friendly technology.  
(II) Many countries are taking steps to cut their carbon emissions.  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4  
(e) 5
19. (I) The government has amended tax laws to boost exports.  
(II) The export sector has been passing through difficult times due to heavy tax burdens  
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4  
(e) 5

20. **Cause:** All the major rivers in the state have been flowing way over the danger level for the past few weeks.

**Which of the following is/are possible effect (s) of the above cause?**

- (A) Many villages situated near the riverbanks are submerged, forcing the residents to flee.  
(B) Government has decided to provide alternate shelter to all the affected villagers residing near the river banks.  
(C) The entire state has been put on high flood alert.  
(a) Only (A) (b) Only (A) and (B)  
(c) Only (B) and (C) (d) All (A), (B) and (C)  
(e) None of these

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 21-22):** In each of the following questions, two statements numbered I and II are given based on the given passage. There may be cause and effect relationship between the two statements. These two statements may be the effect of the same cause or independent causes. These statements may be independent causes without having any relationship. Read both the statements in each question based on the given passage and mark your answer as

- (a) If statement I is the cause and statement II is its effect  
(b) If statement II is the cause and statement I is its effect  
(c) If both the statements I and II are independent causes  
(d) If both the statements I and II are effects of independent causes and  
(e) If both the statements I and II are effects of some common cause
21. The power distribution companies (Discos) are set to conduct 12-hour load shedding in urban areas during summer season as the gap between electricity demand and generation is expected to exceed 7,000MW after mid of April. The load shedding in rural areas would be more than 14 hours in scorching heat, they said quoting the Discos' report sent to the Ministry of Water and Power on expected power cuts. The electricity demand is considered to touch more than 21,000MW after a month, but its generation from hydel, thermal and IPPs components would remain below 15,000MW which includes around 6,000MW from hydel and 9,000MW from Wapda-owned Gencos (generation companies) and private IPPs (independent power producers).
- Statements:**
- I. Rural areas in the country have been suffering due to load shedding for quite some time.  
II. If the Government is not able to overcome the power crisis, load shedding will be extended even to the urban areas.
22. The revision of interest rates on small savings schemes would make them unattractive to small investors in the current interest rate scenario. Along with cutting the interest rates on short-term savings instruments by 0.25 per cent, the government has also made them market-linked, which will be revised every quarter. The labour ministry,

on the other hand, raised the interest rate on employees' provident fund (EPF) by a meagre five basis points to 8.8 per cent.

**Statements:**

- I. The government has decided to give tax benefits for small savings for investments and benefit accruals. However, all withdrawals of such savings are to be taxed.
  - II. People have been investing more in small savings than in equity market to avail maximum tax benefits.
23. It has been reported in recent years that a very large number of seats in engineering colleges in the country remain vacant at the end of admission session.

**Which of the following may be the probable cause of the above effect?**

- (a) There has been a considerable decrease in hiring of engineering graduates due to economic slowdown in the recent years.
- (b) Students have always preferred to complete graduation in three years time instead of four years for engineering.
- (c) The government has recently decided to provide post-qualification professional training to all engineering graduates at its own cost.
- (d) There has always been a very poor success rate among the engineering students.
- (e) None of these

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**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 24-25):** Read the given statements carefully and answer the questions which follow.

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24. **Effect:** After the government announced a compensatory policy for farmers in return for the acquisition of their land, the farmers demanded a written proof of the policy.

**Which of the following could possibly be a cause for demanding the written proof?**

- (a) The farmers were unable to contest the inadequate compensation for their land in earlier such policies
- (b) The compensation promised in the policy was grossly inadequate
- (c) The farmers were unwilling to surrender their lands to the government
- (d) The farmers demand a certain percentage of share out of the revenue generated by the government off their lands
- (e) The only option to enforce the government official to frame a compensatory policy for the farmers was to demand a proof

25. **Effect:** The number of cases concerning a non-contagious chemical poisoning is on the rise among local villagers.

**Which of the following could possibly be a cause of the statement given above?**

- (a) The government has ordered an immediate enquiry into the matter
- (b) Unless timely treatment is provided to the patients, the poisoning can prove to be fatal
- (c) Many factories surrounding the village do not dispose off their wastes appropriately
- (d) The only hospital in the areas is not equipped to treat chemical poisoning related ailments
- (e) A study done a couple of years ago had reported that a large number of farmers had stopped using chemical fertilizers owing to their ill-effects on health.

## Hints & Solutions

- 1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (e) 4. (e) 5. (c) 6. (a)
- 7. (b) 8. (d) 9. (d) 10. (c) 11. (b) 12. (b)
- 13. (b) 14. (d) 15. (b) 16. (a) 17. (e) 18. (e)
- 19. (b) 20. (d)
- 21. (e) The facts given in both the statements are clearly the result of acute power shortage.
- 22. (c) Both the statements I and II are independent causes.
- 23. (a) Economic slowdown affects the hiring of engineering graduates. Due to this reason admission in the colleges has been affected.
- 24. (a) Due to early bad experience, farmers demanded a written proof of the policy.
- 25. (c) Due to not disposing off wastes, non-contagious chemical poisoning is on the rise among local villagers.