

Course of Action

Introduction

Statement: A format account of facts, views, problems or situations expressed in words.

Course of Action: A Practical and feasible action, administrative or otherwise, which solves a problem or alleviates a given condition or improves the situation.

These questions require:

(1) A clear and unbiased understanding of the given statement.

(2) Identification of the problem within the statement.

Technique to answer the question:

Problem – Solution

We accept a course of action,

(i) if it solves the problem contained in the statement.

(ii) if it is practical.

Effectiveness of a course of action:

A suggested course of action can be accepted if it is an accepted fact or an indication from past experience or a logical measure.

(a) If the suggested course of action is an established fact.

(b) If the suggested course of action is an indication based on past experiences.

(c) If the suggested course of action logically follows.

Points to remember:

A. A negative course of action should not be taken.

B. The given solution should be practical.

C. A solution which brings in benefits or solves the problem after an inordinate delay should be avoided.

D. The course of action should pertain directly to the problem.

E. The course of action proposed should independently be able to solve a problem and it should not be contingent to some other 'to' conditions being met.

F. It should not result in another problem.

Exercise Questions:

1. Statement: A large number of people in ward X of the city are diagnosed to be suffering from a fatal malaria type.

Courses of Action: I. The city municipal authority should take immediate steps to carry out extensive fumigation in ward X.

II. The people in the area should be advised to take steps to avoid mosquito bites.

Options:

A. Only I follows

B. Only II follows

C. Either I or II follows

D. Neither I nor II follows

E. Both I and II follow (Answer)

Explanation: Clearly, prevention from mosquitoes and elimination of mosquitoes are two ways to prevent malaria. So, both the courses follow.

2. Statement: Severe drought is reported to have set in several parts of the country.

Courses of Action: I. Government should immediately make arrangement for providing financial assistance to those affected.

II. Food, water and fodder should immediately be sent to all these areas to save the people and cattle.

Options:

A. Only I follows

B. Only II follows (Answer)

C. Either I or II follows

D. Neither I nor II follows

E. Both I and II follow

Explanation: In the break-out of a natural calamity, the basic duty of the government becomes to provide the basic amenities essential to save the lives of people and cattle. Providing financial assistance to all would put undue burden on the country's resources. So, only II follows.

3. Statement: Since its launching in 1981, Vayudoot has so far accumulated losses amounting to Rs 153 crore.

Courses of Action: I. Vayudoot should be directed to reduce wasteful expenditure and to increase passenger fare.

II. An amount of about Rs 300 crore should be provided to Vayudoot to make the airliner economically viable.

Options:

A. Only I follows (Answer)

B. Only II follows

C. Either I or II follows

D. Neither I nor II follows

E. Both I and II follow

Explanation: Clearly, for better economic gain, losses should be reduced and income increased. So, only course I follows.

Exercise Questions

1. Statement:

Food kiosks, rickshaw stands, hawkers and car repair shops, that are multiplying on the city's pavements, is leading to congestion. Residents of ground floor flats and building near markets are the worst affected as a result.

Course of Action:

I. Hawkers should be evicted from the pavements.

II. All encroachments should be immediately removed.

III. Residents should relocate to more peaceful surroundings.

Options:

(1) Only I follows

(2) Only II follows.

(3) Only I and II follows.

(4) All follow.

(5) None of these

2. Statement:

A shopkeeper was reported to be selling adulterated mustard oil.

Course of Action:

I.He should be fined and his shop sealed.

II.He should be asked to leave the town and open a shop elsewhere.

Options:

(1) Only I follows.

(2) Only II follows.

(3) Either I or II follows.

(4) Neither I nor II follows.

(5) Both I and II follows.

3. Statement:

Many of our effective age-old herbal medicines are being patented by foreign companies.

Course of Action:

I.We should tell our vaidyas to be more alert and patent all such medicines as early as possible.

II.The process of issuing patent should not take much time.

Options:

(1) Only I follows.

(2) Only II follows.

(3) Either I or II follows.

(4) Neither I nor II follows.

(5) Both I and II follows.

4. Statement:

The US state department, after pursuing several leads, has warned that the scheduled execution of a

Pakistani convicted of murdering two US citizens could trigger retaliatory attacks on US interests

overseas. Prime among them include recreational places like beaches and resorts.

Course of Action:

I.US military forces in foreign lands should exercise extreme caution and be on high alert.

II.All terrorists in the US should be immediately executed.

III.High security should be provided at all beaches and resorts.

Options:

(1) Only I follows

(2) Only I and II follows.

(3) Only I and III follows.

(4) All follow.

(5) None of these

5. Statement:

More than 50% of today's working youth, who have surplus money, are addicted to drugs.

Course of Action:

I.Work stress should be reduced in the office.

II.The salaries should be cut down.

Options:

(1) Only I follows.

(2) Only II follows.

(3) Either I or II follows.

(4) Neither I nor II follows.

(5) Both I and II follows.

Answer & Explanations

1. Option (2)

Exp: As hawkers are not the only problem, hence I does not follow.

As, II is talking about all encroachments, hence it follows.

III is not proper course of action as that is not practically possible.

2. Option (1).

Exp: If the shopkeeper is allowed to continue without being punished, the shopkeeper would create problem elsewhere. So, course I follows.

3. Option(5)

4. Option (3).

Exp: I and III are the proper courses of actions as the terrorist can attack at any place.

II is not a proper course of action, as this cannot be done immediately.

5. Option (4).

Exp: We do not know the reason for the addiction, so neither I nor II is a proper course of action.