

**РОССИЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ ШКОЛА
ПРОГРАММА МАСТЕР ФИНАНСОВ
ОЛИМПИАДА ПО АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ (16 апреля 2022 г.)**

Part 1 A. Structure

Directions: Questions 1-15 are incomplete sentences. Beneath each sentence you will see four words or phrases, marked (A), (B), (C), and (D). Choose the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence. Only one answer is correct.

1. The use of Bitcoin as a form of payment _____ to 65 per cent in 2021 from 92 per cent in 2020, the company BitPay told Bloomberg.
(A) Has dropped
(B) Will drop
(C) Dropped
(D) Would drop

2. Bitcoin's price _____ 60 per cent last year and amid the unpredictability many investors _____ onto the crypto now, seeing it as a long-term investment rather than trade or spend it.
(A) Rose, hold
(B) Has risen, were holding
(C) Had risen, held
(D) Rose, had held

3. BitPay helps companies accept cryptocurrency payments and _____ so since 2011 up till now.
(A) Did
(B) Will do
(C) Has done
(D) Has been doing

4. Russian authorities _____ up a "road map" that envisages restrictions on cryptocurrencies but not a complete ban as advocated by the central bank, according to a document seen by Reuters.
(A) Have drawn
(B) Had drawn
(C) Would have drawn
(D) Draw

5. Visa launches cryptocurrency advisory arm to help clients _____ digital currency and NFTs.
- (A) Navigating
 - (B) Navigate
 - (C) To be navigated
 - (D) To have navigated
6. Last week, Russia's central bank proposed _____ the use and mining of cryptocurrencies on Russian territory, citing threats to financial stability, citizens' well-being, and its monetary policy sovereignty.
- (A) Banning
 - (B) Ban
 - (C) To be banned
 - (D) Be banned
7. According to a Central Bank report, Russia is home to 11.2 per cent of Bitcoin's global mining hashrate and there are over \$5 billion (€4.4 billion) worth of crypto transactions _____ every year.
- (A) Having conducted
 - (B) Conducted
 - (C) To be conducted
 - (D) Conducting
8. Tim Duy of the University of Oregon, a frequent blogger _____ monetary policy, suggested that more communication is needed to make the new policy framework as clear as possible.
- (A) In
 - (B) About
 - (C) Of
 - (D) Over
9. As the concept has gained traction globally, so _____ did the associated scams.
- (A) Either
 - (B) However
 - (C) Nevertheless
 - (D) Too

10. The practice is proving popular in fields ranging from computer gaming to digital art, but some buyers have fallen victim _____ fraud.

- (A) Into
- (B) With
- (C) To
- (D) By

11. ColossalBit launched MetaTerrace in Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), a lounge that aims _____ the digital and physical world together in a nightclub setting where the metaverse community can meet in real life.

- (A) Bringing
- (B) To bring
- (C) Bring
- (D) Having brought

12. Guests can _____ using NFTs and cryptocurrencies, and visit virtual reality (VR) rooms where they can don VR headsets to experience alternate realities.

- (A) Make purchases
- (B) Do purchases
- (C) Make do purchases
- (D) Do make purchases

13. The survey found that _____ than 50 percent of Fed watchers find the dot plot useful.

- (A) Fewer
- (B) Less
- (C) Many more
- (D) Much fewer

14. The survey asked about communication surrounding the new monetary policy framework and its expected impact _____ the economy.

- (A) In
- (B) Of
- (C) By
- (D) On

15. IF foreign investor's _____ Chinese stocks at record pace last week, we _____ an immense growth of share value back then.

- (A) Dumped, will see
- (B) Dumped, would see
- (C) Would dump, had seen
- (D) Hadn't dumped, would have seen

a dramatic hike in a bid to quell surging inflation.

D

30. The company spent as much money about developing its digital ecosystem in the first half

A

B

C

of 2021 as it did during the three previous years combined.

D

Part 2: READING COMPREHENSION

Directions: In this section you will read two passages which are followed by a number of questions about them. You are to choose the one best answer, A, B, C, or D to each question. Only one answer is correct.

- 1** Ken Griffin's Citadel has emerged as one of the biggest hedge fund winners from January's financial market turmoil.

The firm, which manages \$43bn in assets as one of the industry's largest players, gained 4.7 per cent last month in its flagship fund, according to a person who had reviewed its performance data. Citadel's global fixed income fund, meanwhile, gained 4.9 per cent.

The US S&P 500 share index fell 5.3 per cent during the month, having at one point been on track for its worst January on record. The fall came as investors dumped technology and other stocks that had been richly valued during the big rally from the pandemic-era lows hit in March 2020.

Hedge funds on average lost 1.5 per cent last month, according to data group HFR, their biggest monthly loss since the onset of the pandemic. Funds betting on equities fared worse, posting a fall of 2.1 per cent.

Citadel is one of a number of so-called multi-strategy funds that employ multiple teams of traders across a range of investing styles.

- 17** Such funds have been among the biggest winners during the pandemic, as their wide diversification across asset classes and their ability to increase their bets rapidly when markets are moving in their favour but slash positions when conditions sour has helped them navigate a series of major market upheavals.

Citadel, which made money across all its strategies last month, made 24.5 per cent in 2020, while last year it gained 26.3 per cent.

Rival Millennium International, meanwhile, gained around 1.7 per cent last month, according to people who had reviewed the fund's performance data. It made 13 per cent last year and 25.6 per cent in 2020, its best performance in two decades.

Citadel and Millennium declined to comment.

- 25** Citadel's profits last year equated to \$8.2bn in dollar gains for investors, according to
26 research by LCH Investments, leaving billionaire Griffin's Citadel as the second best
27 performing manager of all time, behind Ray Dalio's Bridgewater.
- 28** The big gains posted by multi-strategy funds have fuelled a vicious talent war in the sector, pushing payouts for top traders sky-high. Payments just to compensate traders when they leave a rival can now reach \$10mn and occasionally as much as \$20mn.

Last month the Financial Times reported that Canadian investment giant Brookfield was expanding its multi-strategy hedge fund business into Europe, pitting it against the likes of Citadel and Millennium in the region.

31. The purpose of the passage is to
(A) discuss the current situation with global hedge funds
(B) give an outlook on the history of hedge funds
(C) explain why Griffin is the second best performing manager
(D) inform on the reasons of hedge funds' high profits
32. According to paragraph 3, which of the following is true
(A) the US S&P 500 share index was the worst of all times
(B) the index fall was caused due to some previously valuable stocks getting depreciated
(C) investments were made in dumping stocks
(D) the pandemic-era hit the lows in March 2020
33. The word "emerged" in line 1 is closest in meaning to
(A) disappeared
(B) fell down
(C) rose
(D) highlighted
34. It can be inferred from paragraph 6 that
(A) It is important to navigate through volatile markets during pandemic
(B) the ability to keep high bets bring profit
(C) various marketing techniques are too risky
(D) multi-strategies help become winners on highly unpredictable markets
35. The word "sour" in line 17 could best be replaced by
(A) worsen
(B) improve
(C) skyrocket
(D) navigate

36. According to lines 25-27, who is the best performing manager of all time
- (A) Ken Griffin
 - (B) Ray Dalio
 - (C) Brookfield
 - (D) Bridgewater
37. It can be inferred from paragraph 7 that
- (A) Citadel yielded positive results in all investment areas
 - (B) Citadel made more profit in 2020
 - (C) Citadel should have invested in various strategies in 2020
 - (D) Citadel is the biggest player among other hedge funds
38. The tone of this passage is
- (A) pragmatic
 - (B) erudite
 - (C) theoretical
 - (D) criticizing
39. The word “fuelled” in line 28 could best be replaced by
- (A) stopped
 - (B) advocated
 - (C) denied
 - (D) boosted
40. According to the last paragraph
- (A) Citadel and Millennium have recently been confronted with a new strong rival who is expanding its business to Europe
 - (B) Citadel and Millennium will have to diversify their activities
 - (C) Brookfield stocks are likely to slash on the European market
 - (D) Citadel and Millennium won over Brookfield last month

FEW COMPANIES are more emblematic of the tech-obsessed, easy-money era of the early 21st century than SoftBank, the Japanese investment conglomerate founded and run by Son Masayoshi, or Masa for short. Starting life as an obscure Japanese internet company before the turn of the century, it has made one debt-fuelled bet after another to become first a telecommunications giant, and then what Mr Son last year called the world’s biggest venture-capital (VC) provider, comfortably ahead of Tiger Global, a New York hedge fund, and Sequoia Capital, a VC powerhouse. **Parts of its balance-sheet are opaque yet it continues to borrow heavily and is one of the world’s most-indebted non-financial firms.** Like many of the Silicon Valley firms it invests in, it has a dominant founding shareholder who is not averse to spouting gobbledegook. Mr Son says he invests with a 300-year horizon, making SoftBank as close to immortal as financial firms get. But it is the here and now that he should be most concerned with.

That is because the tech boom, which SoftBank has both fuelled and benefited from, may be coming to an end. In the face of the highest rates of inflation in decades, central banks have started to raise interest rates. That threatens to tighten credit markets for highly leveraged entities like SoftBank. More important, higher rates make a big difference to the long-term value of the sort of high-growth tech startups it invests in, whose profits are in the distant future. As one of the highest rollers in two of the
20 business megatrends of the past few decades, it is worth asking what would happen if
21 tech fandom and easy money prove evanescent. **As Warren Buffett once said, it's only
22 when the tide goes out that you can see who is swimming naked. What, Schumpeter
wonders, is the state of Mr Son's bathing attire?**

Mr Son, like Mr Buffett, enjoys a colourful turn of phrase. On Feb 8th, reporting an 87%
25 year-on-year slump in SoftBank's net profit in the nine months to December, he was
blunt. Not only was the company in the midst of a blizzard that started last autumn, he
said. The storm had got worse in America and elsewhere because of the threat of rising
rates. Though SoftBank eked out a small profit in the most recent quarter, the two most
important variables that Mr Son watches like a hawk deteriorated sharply. One was the
30 net value of SoftBank's portfolio of assets, which fell by \$19bn to \$168bn. The other was
the value of its net debt relative to equity, which reached the highest level since 2018
when SoftBank floated its Japanese telecoms business.

41. What can be inferred from paragraph 1?

- (A) Softbank is an obscure Japanese investment conglomerate
- (B) Softbank is the world's most-indebted financial firm
- (C) Softbank has to consider carefully its current situation
- (D) Soft bank safely invests with a 300-year horizon

42. The word "boom" in line 13 is closest in meaning to

- (A) growth
- (B) expectations
- (C) destruction
- (D) facilities

43. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 1, lines 7-9?

- (A) Softbank holds a fully open level of assets and liabilities
- (B) Softbank doesn't have a fully transparent financial information, yet continues maintaining one of the world's highest levels of liabilities
- (C) Mr. Son is investing in Softbank by attracting international assets
- (D) Tiger Global and Sequoia Capital are competing with Softbank to become the world's most-indebted non-financial firms.

44. What can be inferred from paragraph 2?

- (A) High-growth startups will yield a long-term value in the next several decades
- (B) The closest future will bring more profits to high-growth tech startups
- (C) Central banks will impose high interest rates to tighten credit markets
- (D) The technology advancements of the recent decades which made it possible for venture capital to soar may well come to an end.

45. The word “evanescent” in line 20 is closest in meaning to
(A) distinguishing
(B) crackling
(C) looming
(D) fading
46. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 2, lines 20-22?
(A) Softbank may be able to obtain more assets by investing in megatrends
(B) Mr. Son is risking to lose his assets in the distant future
(C) Mr. Son may turn out to be unprepared for the changes markets can face
(D) Softbank is planning to fiercely compete with its rivals
47. According to paragraph 3, which of the following variables are important for Softbank?
(A) capital and assets
(B) assets and mortgages
(C) assets and debts
(D) liabilities
48. The word “blizzard” in line 25 is closest in meaning to
(A) economic recession
(B) political turmoil
(C) financial backer
(D) legal slump
49. The pronoun “its” in line 30 refers to
(A) Mr. Son
(B) Softbank
(C) Equity value
(D) Equity debt
50. What is the tone of the whole passage?
(A) frustrating
(B) encouraging
(C) apologetic
(D) judgemental

THIS IS THE END OF THE TEST

THANK YOU!

ОТВЕТЫ

Part 1A.

1. C
2. A
3. D
4. A
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. B
9. D
10. C
11. B
12. A
13. B
14. D
15. D

Part 1B. Correct answers are indicated in brackets.

16. D (on March)
17. D (in)
18. A (resumed purchasing)
19. A (respond to Libra)
20. A (Given)
21. B (without regard TO risk)
22. A (at)
23. B (in)
24. C (that)
25. B (lowering)
26. B (that)
27. C (particularly)
28. B (on Friday)
29. B (on the announcement)
30. B (on developing)

Part 2.

31. A
32. B
33. C
34. D
35. A
36. B
37. A
38. A

- 39. D
- 40. A
- 41. C
- 42. A
- 43. B
- 44. D
- 45. D
- 46. C
- 47. C
- 48. A
- 49. B
- 50. D