

Read the passage given below.

In these trying times, when buying ordinary foodstuff can burn a hole in our pockets, comes the news that can actually help us save some hard cash when we go out to shop the next time. According to a Stanford University study, a first of its kind in the world, there is no evidence to suggest that there are more nutritional benefits from expensive organic food than those grown by conventional methods. The researchers add that there is no difference in protein and fat content between organic and conventional milk and even the vitamin count is similar in both types. The only benefit is that organic foods are not contaminated with pesticides, but then, before you chew on that plate of organic okra with roti made from organic wheat, they are not 100% pesticide-free either. In India, organic food has been growing at 20–22% and the export market is valued at 1,000 crore. Obviously, the study is not good news for that sector and for people who are big on organic food.

In India, eating organic food is more of a style statement than due to health worries because the stuff is expensive. But people who can do indulge in not only organic vegetables but even organic eggs laid by 'happy hens', who are allowed to roam around freely, whereas 'unhappy hens' are kept in coops. Then there are companies that have installed music channels in their cowsheds and the milk from those sheds is sold at a marked-up price since it has more nutritional value because the animals are happy thanks to lilting 24 × 7 music. We don't know yet of any farmer using music to improve his crop quality, but then you never know: plants are known to respond to music.

Why such pickiness about food? These days, the huge number of TV shows and articles that we see and read on food provide bread and butter for the specialists. But instead of decoding food, its sources and what has gone into growing it, isn't it much better to enjoy what's on the plate?

(ii) Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes.

You don't have to cook fancy or complicated masterpieces - just good food from fresh ingredients. -Julia Child (1)	For the organic food, the less it's designed, the better it is. -Philippe Starck (2)	To eat is a necessity, but to eat intelligently is an art. -Francois De La Rochefoucauld (3)	Eating organic is not a trend. It's a return to tradition. -The Farmacy (4)
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(a) Option (1)

(b) Option (2)

(c) Option (3)

(d) Option (4)

(iii) Which two factors are not favourable for the organic food manufacturers?

1. No difference between organic and conventional food
2. Organic food is better for health.
3. Conventional methods were better.
4. Organic food is not 100% pesticide-free.
5. Conventional food is not contaminated with pesticides.
6. Organic food is more expensive.

(a) 2 and 5

(b) 3 and 6

(c) 1 and 4

(d) 2 and 3

(iv) Which of the following will be the most appropriate title for the passage?

- (a) Organic Food is the Best Food. (b) Not Organic, Not Food
(c) Food is Food! (d) The Expensive, the Better

(v) The phrase 'style statement' do not refer to the group of people who

- (a) are unaware of trends. (b) follow latest fashion.
(c) follow new trends. (d) are quite well-off.

(vi) Select the option that makes the correct use of the term 'conventional', as used in the passage.

- (a) Her mother is a respectable woman who has _____ opinions to live life.
(b) Some of the _____ practices for growing grains are still prevalent.
(c) The government will not use _____ weapons for this strategy.
(d) The write-up challenges the _____ wisdom of the companies they are engaged in.

(vii) The author tries to _____, with the help of the given paragraph.

- (a) create hatred towards organic food
(b) show pity towards food industry
(c) enlighten the readers to make food choices wisely
(d) help readers to select the best food

(viii) The author has used a satirical way to present the misconception that 'the organic food is more beneficial for health'. Which word describes the tone of the paragraph aptly?

- (a) humorous (b) mocking (c) pessimistic (d) gloomy

(ix) What does the author mean when he uses the idiom 'burn a hole in pocket'?

- (a) to spend money as soon as possible (b) to use resources wisely
(c) to burn the money easily (d) to spend money lavishly

(x) Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of 'contaminated', as used in the passage.

1. adulterated 2. for adults 3. containing
4. not healthy 5. polluted
(a) (1) and (4) (b) (2) and (3) (c) (3) and (5) (d) (4) and (5)

- (xi) The author's attitude towards the people who eat food sourced from happy animals is that he _____.
(a) is happy with them (b) is unhappy with them
(c) is laughing at them (d) wants crops to be grown similarly
- (xii) What is the message conveyed in the last paragraph of the passage?
(a) Enjoy food which is 'enough for survival'.
(b) Buy food items in bulk.
(c) Do not fall prey to the business of 'organic food industry'.
(d) Purchase food made with conventional methods only.

- ANS.**
- (i) (b) it has become a fashion
 - (ii) (c) Option (3)
 - (iii) (c) 1 and 4
 - (iv) (c) Food is Food!
 - (v) (a) are unaware of trends
 - (vi) (b) Some of the _____ practices for growing grains are still prevalent.
 - (vii) (c) enlighten the readers to make food choices wisely
 - (viii) (b) mocking
 - (ix) (a) to spend money as soon as possible
 - (x) (c) (3) and (5)
 - (xi) (b) is unhappy with them
 - (xii) (a) Enjoy food which is 'enough for survival'.