

SET General English

Sample Paper – 2

Duration: 16 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 16

Instructions

- This paper contains **16** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the General English section of **SET** (Symbiosis Entrance Test).
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers.
- Only **one** option is correct. Choose carefully.
- Syllabus level: **Class 10–12 English: Reading Comprehension, Grammar, Vocabulary, and Usage.**
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.



Climate change refers to long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns. While natural factors have always influenced the climate, scientific evidence now confirms that human activities—particularly the burning of fossil fuels—have become the dominant cause of climate change since the mid-twentieth century. The release of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane traps heat in the Earth's atmosphere, leading to a gradual rise in average global temperatures, a phenomenon commonly known as global warming.

The consequences of climate change are already visible across the planet. Polar ice caps and mountain glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates, causing sea levels to rise and threatening low-lying coastal regions. Extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and intense cyclones have become more frequent and severe. Ecosystems are disrupted as species struggle to adapt to rapidly shifting habitats. Agriculture faces serious challenges as changing rainfall patterns and prolonged heat waves reduce crop yields in many parts of the world.

Addressing climate change requires urgent and coordinated global action. Transitioning to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency, protecting forests, and adopting sustainable agricultural practices are among the key strategies proposed by scientists and policymakers. Individual choices—such as reducing energy consumption and minimising waste—also contribute, though systemic changes at the national and international level remain the most critical need of the hour.

Q1. Which of the following best states the central idea of the passage?

- (A) Human activities are the primary driver of climate change, which is causing widespread environmental disruption and demands urgent global action.
- (B) Natural factors have always been responsible for changes in global temperatures and weather patterns.
- (C) Individual lifestyle choices are the most effective solution to the problem of climate change.
- (D) Climate change affects only the polar regions and has limited impact on agriculture or coastal areas.

Q2. What can be inferred from the passage about the relationship between fossil fuel use and rising sea levels?

- (A) Fossil fuels directly pump water into the oceans, causing sea levels



to rise.

- (B) Sea levels are rising because of increased rainfall caused by industrial activity.
- (C) The melting of glaciers due to deforestation is the only factor contributing to rising seas.
- (D) Burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases that warm the atmosphere, which in turn melts ice and raises sea levels.

Q3. According to the passage, which of the following is a direct consequence of climate change on agriculture?

- (A) Farmers are switching entirely from crops to livestock because of better profitability.
- (B) Changing rainfall patterns and prolonged heat waves are reducing crop yields in many regions.
- (C) Increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is significantly boosting global food production.
- (D) New agricultural technologies have fully offset the negative effects of climate change on farming.

Q4. As used in the second paragraph of the passage, the word “**unprecedented**” most nearly means:

- (A) Familiar and well-documented
- (B) Slow and barely noticeable
- (C) Never experienced or seen before; extraordinary in scale
- (D) Predictable based on historical climate records

Q5. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the word **TENACIOUS**.

- (A) Fragile
- (B) Indifferent



(C) Persistent

(D) Careless

Q6. Choose the word that is *most opposite* in meaning to the word **FRUGAL**.

(A) Extravagant

(B) Thrifty

(C) Economical

(D) Careful

Q7. Identify the sentence that correctly uses the **past perfect tense**.

(A) She has finished her assignment before the teacher collected it.

(B) By the time the ambulance arrived, the patient had already lost consciousness.

(C) They were leaving the stadium when the match ended.

(D) He is completing the project before the deadline yesterday.

Q8. Choose the **active voice** form of the following sentence:

“The new policy was announced by the committee on Friday.”

(A) The new policy has been announced on Friday by the committee.

(B) On Friday, the new policy is announced by the committee.

(C) The new policy was being announced on Friday by the committee.

(D) The committee announced the new policy on Friday.

Q9. The sentences (P), (Q), (R), and (S) given below form a coherent paragraph when arranged in a particular order. Choose the option that gives the **correct sequence**.

P. Without digital literacy, citizens risk falling prey to misinformation and online scams.

Q. In today’s connected world, the ability to use digital tools effectively



has become as fundamental as reading and writing.

R. Schools and governments must therefore invest in digital literacy programmes that reach every section of society.

S. Access to the internet alone is not sufficient; one must also learn to evaluate the credibility of online information.

(A) Q – S – P – R

(B) P – Q – R – S

(C) R – P – S – Q

(D) S – R – Q – P

Q10. Rearrange the following sentences (P), (Q), (R), and (S) to form a meaningful paragraph.

P. Moreover, regular physical activity strengthens the immune system and reduces the risk of chronic illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease.

Q. Yet many people remain sedentary, citing lack of time or motivation as the primary obstacles.

R. Exercise is one of the most powerful tools available for maintaining both physical and mental health.

S. Even a brisk thirty-minute walk each day can bring measurable improvements in mood, energy levels, and overall well-being.

(A) P – R – S – Q

(B) Q – S – P – R

(C) R – P – S – Q

(D) S – Q – R – P

Q11. Identify the sentence in which the **misplaced modifier** has been **correctly** placed.

(A) Running quickly down the road, the bus was missed by Priya.

(B) Running quickly down the road, Priya missed the bus.



- (C) Priya missed the bus, running quickly down the road.
- (D) The bus was missed running quickly down the road by Priya.

Q12. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:

“The seminar on environmental policy will be held _____ the 15th of next month.”

- (A) at
- (B) in
- (C) from
- (D) on

Q13. Choose the **one word** that best substitutes the underlined phrase:

“Maria is a person who can speak several languages fluently, which makes her an invaluable asset to the international team.”

- (A) Bibliophile
- (B) Philanthropist
- (C) Polyglot
- (D) Misanthrope

Q14. What does the idiom “**hit the nail on the head**” mean?

- (A) To describe, identify, or explain something exactly and precisely
- (B) To make a serious mistake that causes a major problem
- (C) To work extremely hard to achieve a goal
- (D) To damage something beyond repair through careless action

Q15. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank:

“_____ honest person always tells the truth, even when it is difficult.”

- (A) A



- (B) An
- (C) The
- (D) No article required

Q16. Fill in the blank with the correct preposition:

“She has been working _____ this research project for the past six months without a break.”

- (A) at
- (B) about
- (C) for
- (D) on



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Answer: (A) The passage opens by establishing that human activity is the dominant cause of climate change, then details the widespread consequences (melting ice, rising seas, extreme weather, impact on agriculture), and concludes by calling for urgent coordinated global action. Option (A) captures all three threads – cause, impact, and need for action – making it the best statement of the central idea. Options (B) and (C) contradict the passage, and option (D) is factually too narrow.

Q2.

Solution

Answer: (D) The passage states that burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases, which trap heat and raise temperatures (global warming). It then notes that polar ice caps and glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates, causing sea levels to rise. Connecting these two facts yields the inference in option (D). Options (A), (B), and (C) introduce mechanisms not mentioned or directly contradicted by the passage.

Q3.

Solution

Answer: (B) The passage explicitly states: “Agriculture faces serious challenges as changing rainfall patterns and prolonged heat waves reduce crop yields in many parts of the world.” This directly supports option (B). Options (A), (C), and (D) are not supported by — and in some cases contradict — the information given in the passage.

Q4.

Solution

Answer: (C) In the passage, “unprecedented” describes the rate at which polar ice caps and glaciers are melting, emphasising that this rate has never been seen before in recorded history. Option (C) — *never experienced or seen before; extraordinary in scale* — correctly captures this meaning. Options (A) and (D) suggest familiarity, which is the opposite; option (B) implies gradualness, contradicting the alarming tone.

Q5.



Solution

Answer: (C) **Tenacious** means holding firmly to something; refusing to give up. The closest synonym among the options is **Persistent** (C), which means continuing steadfastly despite difficulties. *Fragile* (A) means easily broken; *Indifferent* (B) means lacking interest or concern; *Careless* (D) means not giving sufficient attention — all are unrelated or opposite in meaning.

Q6.

Solution

Answer: (A) **Frugal** means careful and sparing with money and resources. Its antonym is **Extravagant** (A), meaning spending much more than is necessary or wise. *Thrifty* (B) and *Economical* (C) are near-synonyms of *frugal*, not antonyms. *Careful* (D) is also positively associated with frugality, making it unsuitable as an antonym.

Q7.

Solution

Answer: (B) The past perfect tense (had + past participle) is used to indicate an action that was completed *before* another past action. Option (B) correctly uses “*had already lost consciousness*” to show that losing consciousness preceded the ambulance arriving. Option (A) incorrectly uses present perfect (*has finished*) in a past context. Option (C) uses past continuous, and option (D) mixes present continuous with a past time marker.

Q8.

Solution

Answer: (D) To convert a passive sentence to active voice, the doer (agent) becomes the subject and performs the action directly on the object. The passive sentence is: “*The new policy was announced by the committee on Friday.*” Agent = *the committee*; action = *announced*; object = *the new policy*. The active form is: **The committee announced the new policy on Friday** — which is option (D). The other options retain passive structures or distort the tense.

Q9.

Solution

Answer: (A) The logical flow begins with **Q** (general claim: digital literacy is now fundamental), moves to **S** (nuance: access alone is not enough; evaluation of information matters), then **P** (consequence of lacking this skill: vulnerability to misinformation), and ends with **R** (solution: invest in literacy programmes). The



correct sequence is **Q – S – P – R**, which is option (A).

Q10.

Solution

Answer: (C) The paragraph opens with **R** (general claim: exercise is a powerful health tool), expands with **P** (additional benefit: reduces chronic illness), provides a concrete example with **S** (even a 30-minute walk helps), and closes with **Q** (concession/contrast: many remain sedentary). The correct order is **R – P – S – Q**, which is option (C).

Q11.

Solution

Answer: (B) A misplaced modifier occurs when a descriptive phrase is placed too far from the noun it modifies, creating ambiguity or absurdity. In option (A), the participial phrase “*Running quickly down the road*” appears to modify *the bus*, which cannot run. In option (B), the phrase correctly modifies *Priya* — the one actually running. Options (C) and (D) retain the misplacement or create awkward constructions. Option (B) is the only grammatically correct and unambiguous sentence.

Q12.

Solution

Answer: (D) When referring to a specific calendar date (day of the month), English requires the preposition **on**: *on the 15th of next month*. We use *at* for clock times (at 9 a.m.), *in* for months or years (in July, in 2025), and *from* to indicate a starting point in time. Therefore, option (D) **on** is correct.

Q13.

Solution

Answer: (C) The phrase “a person who can speak several languages” is precisely defined by the single word **Polyglot** (C), derived from the Greek *poly* (many) + *glotta* (tongue/language). A *Bibliophile* (A) is a lover of books; a *Philanthropist* (B) is someone who promotes human welfare through charitable acts; a *Misanthrope* (D) is a person who dislikes humankind. None of the other options relate to language ability.

Q14.



Solution

Answer: (A) The idiom “**hit the nail on the head**” originates from the action of striking a nail precisely on its tip to drive it straight into wood. Figuratively, it means to describe, identify, or explain something *exactly right* — to be completely accurate. Option (A) captures this meaning. Option (B) suggests making a serious error (the opposite); options (C) and (D) describe hard work and damage, which are unrelated to this idiom.

Q15.

Solution

Answer: (B) The article **an** is used before words that begin with a *vowel sound*. The word *honest* starts with a silent ‘h’, so its first sound is a vowel. Therefore, the correct article is **an** — option (B). Using *a* (A) is incorrect because *a* precedes consonant sounds. *The* (C) is a definite article used for specific references, and no article (D) does not apply here since the noun requires an article.

Q16.

Solution

Answer: (D) The correct preposition is **on** (D): “*working on a project*” is the standard English collocation. We *work on* something when engaged with or devoted to a task. *At* (A) suggests a location or a point in time; *about* (B) expresses the subject of discussion rather than active engagement; *for* (C) indicates purpose or duration, not engagement with a specific task. *On* is therefore the only contextually and idiomatically correct choice.



Answer Key

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

