

SET General English

Sample Paper – 3

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.

India's classical dance forms are among the most intricate and spiritually rich art traditions in the world. Rooted in ancient texts such as the *Natyashastra*, composed by the sage Bharata Muni, these dance forms were originally performed in temples as offerings to the divine. Bharatanatyam, which originated in Tamil Nadu, is celebrated for its precise footwork, expressive gestures known as *mudras*, and its ability to narrate mythological stories through movement. Kathak, prevalent in northern India, weaves together swift pirouettes, rhythmic footwork, and lyrical storytelling, bearing influences from both Hindu and Mughal court traditions. Odissi, from the eastern state of Odisha, is distinguished by its sculptural poses and graceful, fluid movements that mirror the carvings found on ancient temple walls.

Far from being mere entertainment, classical dance serves as a vehicle for preserving cultural memory, philosophical thought, and regional identity. Practitioners undergo years of rigorous training, mastering intricate rhythmic patterns and the subtle language of facial expressions called *abhinaya*. In contemporary times, these art forms have gained international recognition, inspiring choreographers, musicians, and scholars worldwide. Their enduring relevance demonstrates that traditional arts, when nurtured thoughtfully, can bridge the ancient and the modern, enriching both performers and audiences alike.



- Q1.** What is the central idea of the passage?
- (A) Indian dance forms were created solely for royal entertainment.
 - (B) Bharatanatyam is superior to all other classical dance traditions.
 - (C) Indian classical dance forms are deeply rooted in culture and serve as living repositories of tradition and identity.
 - (D) Classical dance has lost its relevance in the modern era.
- Q2.** What can be inferred about the original purpose of classical dance forms in ancient India?
- (A) They were performed as religious offerings in temples to honour the divine.
 - (B) They were exclusively staged for royal patrons in palace courts.
 - (C) They were practised only by women as a domestic skill.
 - (D) They were competitive sports performed during festivals.
- Q3.** According to the passage, which feature distinguishes Odissi from the other dance forms mentioned?
- (A) Its rapid pirouettes and Mughal court influences.
 - (B) Its use of *mudras* to narrate mythological stories.
 - (C) Its origin in Tamil Nadu and association with temple rituals.
 - (D) Its sculptural poses and fluid movements resembling temple carvings.
- Q4.** As used in the passage, the word “**abhinaya**” most nearly means:
- (A) A system of rhythmic footwork patterns.
 - (B) The subtle art of facial and emotional expression in classical dance.
 - (C) A classical music instrument used during performances.
 - (D) A Sanskrit text describing temple architecture.



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

- (A) Unstable
- (B) Calm
- (C) Fixed
- (D) Serene

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

- (A) Showy
- (B) Flamboyant
- (C) Gaudy
- (D) Modest

Q7. Identify the sentence in which articles are used **correctly**.

- (A) She is best singer in the choir.
- (B) He found an useful piece of advice in the book.
- (C) The Himalayas are the highest mountain range in Asia.
- (D) I saw a elephant near a river yesterday.

Q8. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:

“The train to Mumbai departs _____ 7 o’clock in the morning.”

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

Q9. Para Jumble: Arrange the following sentences (P, Q, R, S) to form a coherent paragraph about **education and literacy in India**.



P. Furthermore, the government has launched several schemes such as the Saakshar Bharat Mission to accelerate adult literacy rates across rural regions.

Q. India has made remarkable strides in improving literacy over the past seven decades since independence.

R. Despite this progress, challenges such as dropout rates and unequal access to quality education in remote areas continue to persist.

S. The overall literacy rate has risen significantly, reflecting the combined efforts of government programmes, non-governmental organisations, and community initiatives.

(A) P – Q – S – R

(B) S – P – Q – R

(C) R – S – P – Q

(D) Q – S – P – R

Q10. Para Jumble: Arrange the following sentences (P, Q, R, S) to form a coherent paragraph about **traditional Indian festivals**.

P. These festivals reflect India's rich tapestry of regional customs, reinforcing a sense of shared cultural heritage despite the country's remarkable diversity.

Q. Traditional Indian festivals such as Diwali, Eid, Pongal, and Durga Puja are celebrated with great fervour across the country.

R. Each festival carries its own unique rituals, foods, music, and attire that distinguish it from others.

S. They bring families and communities together, transcending barriers of language and geography.

(A) Q – R – S – P

(B) P – S – R – Q

(C) R – Q – P – S

(D) S – P – Q – R

Q11. Sentence Correction: Identify the sentence that is **grammatically correct**.

(A) Each of the boys forgot their homework at home.

(B) The committee have gave their report to the chairman.

(C) Neither of the two candidates has submitted his application yet.



(D) Everyone in the room raised their hands but the teacher ignore it.

Q12. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate article or choice:

“She is _____ honest woman who never compromises on her principles.”

(A) a

(B) an

(C) the

(D) no article needed

Q13. One-Word Substitution: Choose the word that best replaces the underlined phrase.

“He is known to be a person who hates and distrusts all of mankind.”

(A) Philanthropist

(B) Bibliophile

(C) Misogynist

(D) Misanthrope

Q14. What does the idiom “spill the beans” mean?

(A) To create unnecessary confusion in a discussion.

(B) To make a careless or embarrassing mistake in public.

(C) To reveal a secret or confidential information.

(D) To waste resources needlessly on a trivial matter.

Q15. Identify the sentence that is correctly written in the **past perfect continuous** tense.

(A) She had been waiting for the bus for over an hour when it finally arrived.

(B) They have been working on the project since yesterday afternoon.



- (C) He was studying very hard so that he passed the examination.
- (D) The children were been playing in the park all evening.

Q16. Choose the correct **passive voice** form of the following sentence:

“The committee will announce the results tomorrow.”

- (A) The results are announced by the committee tomorrow.
- (B) The results will be announced by the committee tomorrow.
- (C) The results would be announced by the committee tomorrow.
- (D) The results were announced by the committee tomorrow.



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

The passage discusses multiple classical dance forms — Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and Odissi — and emphasises their spiritual origins, cultural functions, and contemporary global relevance. The second paragraph explicitly states that classical dance “serves as a vehicle for preserving cultural memory, philosophical thought, and regional identity.” No single dance form is elevated above others, and the passage explicitly notes their enduring modern relevance, ruling out option (D). The correct answer is (C).

Answer: (C)

Q2.

Solution

The passage states in the opening lines that these dance forms “were originally performed in temples as offerings to the divine.” This directly indicates their religious, devotional purpose in ancient India. None of the other options are supported: the passage does not restrict them to royal courts alone, to women, or to competitive sports. The correct answer is (A).

Answer: (A)

Q3.

Solution

The passage clearly states that Odissi “is distinguished by its sculptural poses and graceful, fluid movements that mirror the carvings found on ancient temple walls.” Option (A) describes Kathak; option (B) describes Bharatanatyam; option (C) also refers to Bharatanatyam. The correct answer is (D).

Answer: (D)

Q4.

Solution

In the passage, *abhinaya* is introduced as “the subtle language of facial expressions,” which practitioners must master during their training. It is part of the expressive, emotive dimension of classical dance. None of the other options match the contextual meaning. The correct answer is (B).

Answer: (B)

Q5.



Solution

Volatile means liable to change rapidly and unpredictably, especially for the worse; easily evaporated; or emotionally unstable. The closest synonym among the choices is **Unstable** (A). Options (B) Calm, (C) Fixed, and (D) Serene are all closer in meaning to *antonyms* of volatile. The correct answer is (A).

Answer: (A)

Q6.

Solution

Ostentatious means characterized by a vulgar or pretentious display, designed to impress or attract notice. Its antonym is a word meaning unpretentious, understated, or plain. Options (A) Showy, (B) Flamboyant, and (C) Gaudy are all *synonyms* of ostentatious. Only (D) **Modest** is the correct antonym. The correct answer is (D).

Answer: (D)

Q7.

Solution

(A) is incorrect — it should be “She is *the* best singer” (superlative requires the definite article *the*).

(B) is incorrect — “useful” begins with a consonant sound /j/, so it requires “a useful,” not “an useful.”

(C) is correct — “The Himalayas” correctly uses the definite article before the name of a mountain range, and “the highest mountain range” correctly uses *the* before a superlative.

(D) is incorrect — “elephant” begins with a vowel sound, requiring “an elephant.”

The correct answer is (C).

Answer: (C)

Q8.

Solution

When specifying an exact clock time, the correct preposition in English is **at**: we say “at 7 o’clock,” “at noon,” “at midnight.” We use *in* for months, years, and parts of the day (in the morning, but combined with a clock time, *at* governs the time itself). We use *on* for days and dates. We use *by* to indicate a deadline, not a departure time. The correct answer is (B) *at*.

Answer: (B)

Q9.



Solution

The logical order is: **Q – S – P – R**.

Q introduces the general claim (India has made remarkable strides in improving literacy).

S elaborates with specific evidence (literacy rate has risen significantly).

P adds further detail (government schemes such as Saakshar Bharat Mission).

R provides a contrasting note to conclude (challenges persist despite progress).

This matches option **(D)**: **Q – S – P – R**.

Answer: (D)

Q10.

Solution

The logical order is: **Q – R – S – P**.

Q introduces the topic (Indian festivals like Diwali, Eid, Pongal, and Durga Puja).

R describes what makes each festival distinctive (unique rituals, foods, music, attire).

S highlights their social function (bringing communities together).

P provides a concluding synthesis (reflecting India's cultural tapestry and shared heritage).

This matches option **(A)**: **Q – R – S – P**.

Answer: (A)

Q11.

Solution

(A) is incorrect — “Each” is singular and requires a singular pronoun; it should be “his or her homework” (or “his homework” in traditional usage), not “their homework.”

(B) is incorrect — “have gave” is grammatically wrong; the correct form is “has given.”

(C) is correct — “Neither of the two” is singular and correctly takes “has” and the singular pronoun “his.”

(D) is incorrect — “ignore” should be “ignored” (past tense to match the context), and the pronoun “it” incorrectly refers to “hands.”

The correct answer is **(C)**.

Answer: (C)

Q12.



Solution

The word “honest” begins with a *vowel sound* (the ‘h’ is silent in “honest”), so it requires the indefinite article **an**, not *a*. We say “an honest man,” “an hour,” etc., because the rule is based on the *sound*, not the *spelling*, of the following word. The correct answer is **(B) an**.

Answer: (B)

Q13.

Solution

(A) Philanthropist — a person who seeks to promote the welfare of others; the *opposite* of the phrase given.

(B) Bibliophile — a person who loves and collects books.

(C) Misogynist — a person who dislikes or is prejudiced against *women* specifically.

(D) Misanthrope — a person who dislikes and distrusts *humankind* in general; exactly matches the given phrase.

The correct answer is **(D)**.

Answer: (D)

Q14.

Solution

The idiom “**spill the beans**” means to disclose secret or private information, often accidentally or prematurely. For example: “He spilled the beans about the surprise party.” This matches option **(C)**: to reveal a secret or confidential information. Options (A), (B), and (D) do not capture the meaning of this idiom. The correct answer is **(C)**.

Answer: (C)

Q15.

Solution

The **past perfect continuous** tense is formed with: *had been* + *verb-ing*. It is used to describe an action that was ongoing in the past up to a specific point.

(A) “She *had been waiting*” — correctly uses *had been* + *waiting*; “for over an hour” indicates duration and “when it finally arrived” marks the endpoint. This is correct.

(B) uses *have been* (present perfect continuous), not past perfect continuous.

(C) is simple past, not past perfect continuous.

(D) “were been playing” is ungrammatical.

The correct answer is **(A)**.



Answer: (A)

Q16.

Solution

The active sentence uses the **future simple** tense: *will + announce*. To convert to passive voice in the future simple, the structure is: *Object + will be + past participle + by + subject*.

Active: *The committee **will announce** the results tomorrow.*

Passive: *The results **will be announced** by the committee tomorrow.*

(A) uses simple present passive (are announced) — incorrect tense.

(B) correctly forms the future passive with *will be announced* — correct.

(C) uses *would be announced* (conditional) — incorrect.

(D) uses *were announced* (simple past passive) — incorrect.

The correct answer is (B).

Answer: (B)



Answer Key

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

