

SET General English

Sample Paper – 6

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.



Water scarcity has emerged as one of the most critical environmental challenges of the twenty-first century. Roughly two billion people across the globe currently live in regions experiencing high water stress, and projections suggest this number could rise steeply as population growth, urbanisation, and climate change intensify pressure on freshwater reserves. Rivers, lakes, and aquifers that once sustained entire civilisations are shrinking at an alarming rate. In several parts of South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, communities must walk kilometres each day simply to collect water that is often contaminated, making access to clean water both a social and a public health imperative.

Global conservation efforts have gained considerable momentum in response to this crisis. International bodies such as the United Nations have championed targets under the Sustainable Development Goals that aim to ensure clean water and sanitation for all by 2030. Governments in water-stressed nations are investing in rainwater harvesting, wastewater recycling, and the desalination of seawater to supplement dwindling supplies. Agricultural reforms are equally vital, since farming accounts for roughly seventy percent of global freshwater consumption; switching to drip irrigation and drought-resistant crops can dramatically reduce this burden. Experts emphasise, however, that no single solution will suffice – sustained international cooperation, public awareness, and responsible individual habits are all indispensable components of a long-term strategy to safeguard the world's freshwater resources.

Q1. Which of the following best captures the **central theme** of the passage?

- (A) Climate change is the sole cause of water scarcity around the world.
- (B) Water scarcity is a growing global crisis that demands a combination of solutions and collective action.
- (C) Desalination of seawater is the most effective way to solve the problem of water scarcity.
- (D) International bodies like the United Nations are solely responsible for addressing water shortages.

Q2. According to the passage, which sector accounts for approximately **seventy percent** of global freshwater consumption?



- (A) Industrial manufacturing
- (B) Domestic household use
- (C) Urban construction and infrastructure
- (D) Agriculture

Q3. As used in the passage, the word “**indispensable**” most nearly means:

- (A) Absolutely necessary and cannot be done without.
- (B) Easily replaceable by a cheaper alternative.
- (C) Of minor importance compared to other factors.
- (D) Uncertain in effectiveness under real-world conditions.

Q4. What can be **inferred** from the statement that communities “must walk kilometres each day simply to collect water that is often contaminated”?

- (A) Governments in affected regions have completely failed to build any water infrastructure.
- (B) Contaminated water is less harmful than water scarcity because at least it is available.
- (C) Lack of access to clean water has serious consequences for both health and daily life in affected communities.
- (D) People in water-stressed regions prefer to collect water from rivers rather than use local pipelines.

Q5. Choose the **synonym** of the word: **Eloquent**

- (A) Hesitant
- (B) Incoherent
- (C) Taciturn
- (D) Articulate

Q6. Choose the **antonym** of the word: **Benevolent**



- (A) Malevolent
- (B) Charitable
- (C) Generous
- (D) Compassionate

Q7. Choose the option that correctly converts the following sentence into **reported speech**:

Direct: She said, "I am preparing for my final examinations."

- (A) She said that she is preparing for her final examinations.
- (B) She said that she was preparing for her final examinations.
- (C) She said that I am preparing for my final examinations.
- (D) She said that she has been preparing for her final examinations.

Q8. Choose the **correct modal verb** to complete the sentence:

"You _____ wear a helmet while riding a motorcycle – it is the law."

- (A) might
- (B) can
- (C) must
- (D) should

Q9. The sentences given below, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph. Choose the option that gives the **correct sequence**.

P. Beyond physical benefits, regular exercise also reduces stress, improves mood, and enhances cognitive performance.

Q. Incorporating at least thirty minutes of moderate physical activity into one's daily routine is therefore strongly advisable.

R. Sports and physical fitness play a vital role in maintaining overall health and well-being.

S. Engaging in activities such as running, swimming, or team sports strengthens the cardiovascular system and builds muscular endurance.



- (A) P – S – R – Q
- (B) S – R – Q – P
- (C) Q – P – R – S
- (D) R – S – P – Q

Q10. The sentences given below, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph. Choose the option that gives the **correct sequence**.

P. Technology has fundamentally transformed the way students learn and teachers instruct in classrooms worldwide.

Q. Interactive whiteboards, online simulations, and AI-driven tutoring platforms personalise the learning experience to suit individual needs.

R. Educators must therefore ensure that technology is used purposefully and that students retain the ability to think critically without digital aids.

S. However, excessive dependence on devices can impair deep thinking and erode foundational skills such as handwriting and mental arithmetic.

- (A) P – Q – S – R
- (B) Q – P – R – S
- (C) S – R – P – Q
- (D) R – S – Q – P

Q11. Identify the option that **corrects** the dangling modifier error in the following sentence:

“Walking through the forest, the ancient ruins were discovered by the archaeologists.”

- (A) Walking through the forest, the ancient ruins had been discovered by the archaeologists.
- (B) The ancient ruins, walking through the forest, were discovered by the archaeologists.
- (C) Walking through the forest, the archaeologists discovered the ancient ruins.



(D) The ancient ruins were discovered by the archaeologists, walking through the forest.

Q12. Choose the option that **correctly fills** the blank in the sentence:

“_____ she had practised for months, she felt nervous before stepping on stage.”

- (A) Unless
- (B) Although
- (C) Because
- (D) Since

Q13. Choose the **one-word substitution** for the following expression:

“A person who studies the stars and planets scientifically.”

- (A) Astronomer
- (B) Astrologer
- (C) Cosmologist
- (D) Meteorologist

Q14. What is the **meaning** of the idiom “Let the cat out of the bag”?

- (A) To keep a secret safe from outsiders.
- (B) To create confusion in a well-organised situation.
- (C) To cause panic among a large group of people.
- (D) To accidentally reveal a secret or surprise.

Q15. Choose the **correct article** to fill in the blank:

“_____ Nile is the longest river in the world.”

- (A) A
- (B) An



- (C) The
- (D) No article needed

Q16. Choose the **correct preposition** to fill in the blank:

“The students are very enthusiastic _____ learning new languages.”

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



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Main Idea / Central Theme): The central theme of a passage encompasses the entire argument the author is making, not just a single detail or example.

Step 1 — Analyse the passage: The passage opens by establishing that water scarcity is a major global crisis affecting billions of people, then goes on to describe multiple solutions – rainwater harvesting, recycling, desalination, drip irrigation, and international cooperation – emphasising that no single measure is sufficient and that collective action is essential.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Climate change is mentioned as one of several causes; the passage does not claim it is the sole cause.
- Option C: Desalination is listed as one solution among many; the passage does not rank it as the most effective.
- Option D: The passage states that governments, international bodies, and individuals all share responsibility; placing it solely on the UN misrepresents the text.

Final Answer: Water scarcity is a growing global crisis demanding a combination of solutions and collective action. ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 1](#)

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Detail / Factual Recall): Detail questions require locating and correctly reading specific data stated in the passage.

Step 1 — Locate the relevant sentence: The passage explicitly states: “farming accounts for roughly seventy percent of global freshwater consumption.” The word “farming” corresponds directly to **Agriculture**.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Industrial manufacturing is not mentioned in the passage at all.
- Option B: Domestic household use is not cited as the dominant consumer in



the passage.

- Option C: Urban construction is not discussed in relation to water consumption figures.

Final Answer: Agriculture. $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 2](#)

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Vocabulary-in-context): “Indispensable” derives from the Latin *indispensabilis*, meaning not able to be set aside. It describes something that is **absolutely essential and cannot be done without**.

Step 1 — Check the context: The passage reads: “sustained international cooperation, public awareness, and responsible individual habits are all **indispensable** components of a long-term strategy.” The word signals that each component is essential; removing any one would make the strategy incomplete.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: “Easily replaceable” is the direct opposite of indispensable.
- Option C: “Of minor importance” contradicts the word’s meaning of being critically necessary.
- Option D: “Uncertain in effectiveness” relates to reliability, not to necessity, which is what indispensable conveys.

Final Answer: Absolutely necessary and cannot be done without. $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 3](#)

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Inference): Inference questions ask what can be logically concluded from a statement, even if it is not stated outright.

Step 1 — Analyse the statement: The passage notes that communities “must walk kilometres each day simply to collect water that is often contaminated.” This implies two things: (1) obtaining water is physically burdensome and time-consuming, and (2) the available water poses a health risk due to contamination – together pointing to serious consequences for both daily life and public health.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not state that governments have completely failed; it acknowledges ongoing conservation efforts.
- Option B: The passage treats contamination as an additional problem, not as something less harmful than scarcity.
- Option D: The passage mentions the act of walking to collect water but makes no claim about preferences for rivers over pipelines.

Final Answer: Lack of access to clean water has serious consequences for both health and daily life. ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 4](#)

Q5.

Solution

Concept — Synonyms (Eloquent): “Eloquent” describes someone who is fluent, persuasive, and expressive in speech or writing, conveying ideas clearly and effectively.

Step 1 — Identify the synonym: “Articulate” means able to express thoughts clearly and effectively – the closest synonym to eloquent.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Hesitant – implies uncertainty or lack of fluency; the opposite of eloquent.
- Option B: Incoherent – means unable to express oneself clearly; an antonym of eloquent.
- Option C: Taciturn – means habitually silent or reserved; another antonym.

Final Answer: Articulate. ⇒

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 5](#)



Q6.

Solution

Concept — Antonyms (Benevolent): “Benevolent” means well-meaning and kindly; wishing to do good for others. Its antonym must describe the opposite disposition.

Step 1 — Identify the antonym: “Malevolent” means having or showing a wish to do evil to others – the direct opposite of benevolent. Both words share the Latin root *velle* (to wish); “bene-” means well and “male-” means ill.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Charitable – means generous and giving; a synonym of benevolent, not an antonym.
- Option C: Generous – similarly implies giving freely; another synonym.
- Option D: Compassionate – means showing sympathy; also closely related to benevolent in meaning.

Final Answer: Malevolent. ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 6](#)

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Grammar (Reported Speech / Indirect Speech): When converting direct speech to reported speech, apply the following rules: (1) the reporting verb “said” does not change; (2) the pronoun shifts from first person to third person; (3) the tense of the reported verb shifts one step back (backshift).

Step 1 — Apply backshift and pronoun change:

- Direct verb: “am preparing” (present continuous).
- Backshift: present continuous → past continuous: “was preparing.”
- Pronoun: “I” (speaker) → “she” (third person).

Correct reported speech: *She said that she **was preparing** for her final examinations.*

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “is preparing” retains the present tense; backshift has not been applied.



- Option C: “I” and “my” are not changed to third person; pronouns must shift in reported speech.
- Option D: “has been preparing” is present perfect continuous; this would be the backshift of past perfect continuous, not present continuous.

Final Answer: She said that she was preparing for her final examinations. ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 7](#)

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Grammar (Modal Verbs – must / should / can / might): Modal verbs express different degrees of obligation, possibility, or permission. “Must” expresses a strong obligation or legal requirement. “Should” expresses a recommendation or advice. “Can” expresses ability or permission. “Might” expresses a remote possibility.

Step 1 — Analyse the sentence: The sentence states “it is the law,” signalling a legal obligation – the strongest level of necessity. This requires **must**, which expresses a mandatory obligation (legal or moral compulsion) with no room for choice.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (might): Expresses weak possibility (“perhaps”); entirely too weak for a legal requirement.
- Option B (can): Expresses ability or permission; using “can” here would mean the person is *able to* wear a helmet, not that it is *compulsory*.
- Option D (should): Expresses advice or recommendation; the sentence explicitly states it is a law, making “must” more appropriate than the softer “should.”

Final Answer: must (legal obligation). ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 8](#)



Q9.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble (Sports and Physical Fitness): To arrange sentences correctly, identify the topic sentence (introduces the subject), supporting sentences (develop the idea with specifics and benefits), and the concluding sentence (gives a recommendation or summary).

Step 1 — Identify the opening sentence: R introduces the broad topic – sports and physical fitness are vital for health and well-being – making it the natural starting point.

Step 2 — Build the logical flow:

- **R:** Introduces sports and fitness as vital for health.
- **S:** Gives specific physical benefits – cardiovascular strength and muscular endurance.
- **P:** Extends to mental benefits – stress reduction, mood improvement, cognitive performance.
- **Q:** Concludes with a practical recommendation – thirty minutes of daily activity.

Correct sequence: **R – S – P – Q.**

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (P–S–R–Q): Begins with mental benefits before the topic is established.
- Option B (S–R–Q–P): Places the topic sentence (R) second; the recommendation (Q) comes before mental benefits (P), illogically.
- Option C (Q–P–R–S): Starts with a recommendation before the subject has even been introduced.

Final Answer: R – S – P – Q. ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 9](#)



Q10.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble (Technology in Education): Identify the topic sentence, sentences that develop the idea (positive and negative aspects), and a concluding recommendation.

Step 1 — Identify the opening sentence: P introduces the broad claim that technology has transformed learning worldwide – the clearest topic sentence.

Step 2 — Build the logical flow:

- **P:** States that technology has transformed classrooms.
- **Q:** Provides specific positive examples – whiteboards, simulations, AI platforms.
- **S:** Introduces a counter-point (“However”) – excessive dependence impairs thinking and erodes basic skills.
- **R:** Concludes with what educators must do to balance the use of technology.

Correct sequence: **P – Q – S – R.**

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (Q–P–R–S): Begins with specific examples before the general topic is introduced.
- Option C (S–R–P–Q): Opens with a negative counterpoint before establishing the positive premise.
- Option D (R–S–Q–P): Starts with a recommendation before any context has been given.

Final Answer: P – Q – S – R. ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 10](#)

Q11.

Solution

Concept — Sentence Correction (Dangling Modifier): A dangling modifier is a descriptive phrase that does not logically modify the subject of the main clause. The participial phrase at the start of a sentence must refer to the grammatical subject that immediately follows it.

Step 1 — Identify the error: In the original sentence, “Walking through the forest” implies that the walker should be the subject of the main clause. However,



the main clause states “the ancient ruins were discovered” – ruins cannot walk. The modifier is therefore dangling (it has no proper subject to attach to).

Step 2 — Apply the correction: The subject performing the walking is “the archaeologists.” Making “the archaeologists” the subject of the main clause fixes the error: *Walking through the forest, **the archaeologists** discovered the ancient ruins.*

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Changing the tense to “had been discovered” does not fix the dangling modifier; ruins still cannot walk.
- Option B: Inserting the ruins as a mid-sentence modifier is grammatically awkward and still implies the ruins were walking.
- Option D: Appending the participial phrase at the end creates ambiguity – it now appears to modify “the archaeologists” but in an awkward trailing construction; the clearest fix is Option C.

Final Answer: Walking through the forest, the archaeologists discovered the ancient ruins. ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 11](#)

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Conjunctions (Although / Because / Unless / Since): Choosing the correct conjunction depends on the logical relationship between the two clauses.

Step 1 — Analyse the sentence: The sentence presents a contrast: despite having practised for months (which should reduce nervousness), she felt nervous. This is a concessive relationship – something is true even though another thing that might prevent it is also true. “Although” is a concessive conjunction meaning “in spite of the fact that,” making it the correct choice.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Unless): Means “except on the condition that”; implies a conditional relationship, which does not fit here.
- Option C (Because): Means the first clause is the reason for the second. Using it would imply she was nervous *because* she had practised, which is illogical.
- Option D (Since): Can mean “because” or “from the time that”; either reading creates a causal or temporal link that contradicts the intended contrast.



Final Answer: Although. $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 12](#)

Q13.

Solution

Concept — One-Word Substitution (Astronomer): One-word substitutions replace a descriptive phrase with a precise technical term.

Step 1 — Identify the correct term: A person who **scientifically studies** the stars, planets, and other celestial objects is called an **Astronomer**. Astronomy is the natural science that deals with the observation and explanation of events occurring beyond the Earth and its atmosphere.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Astrologer – studies the supposed influence of stars on human affairs (not a science); often confused with astronomer.
- Option C: Cosmologist – studies the origin and large-scale structure of the universe; a more specialised field than general astronomy.
- Option D: Meteorologist – studies the Earth’s atmosphere and weather; entirely unrelated to stars and planets.

Final Answer: Astronomer. $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 13](#)

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Idioms and Phrases (Let the cat out of the bag): Idioms cannot be understood word by word. This expression originated from a market fraud in medieval times where traders would substitute a cat for a piglet in a bag; if the bag was opened, the deception was accidentally revealed.

Step 1 — Meaning: “Let the cat out of the bag” means to **accidentally reveal a secret or surprise** that was meant to be kept hidden.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “To keep a secret safe” is the *opposite* of what this idiom means; it implies disclosure, not concealment.



- Option B: “To create confusion” describes a different situation and is not the established meaning of this phrase.
- Option C: “To cause panic” is unrelated; this idiom is specifically about revealing a secret, not about inducing fear.

Final Answer: To accidentally reveal a secret or surprise. ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 14](#)

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Articles (a / an / the): The definite article “the” is used before nouns that are unique (there is only one), or before proper nouns referring to rivers, seas, mountain ranges, and similar geographical features.

Step 1 — Apply the rule: The Nile is a specific, unique river – there is only one River Nile in the world. Proper nouns referring to rivers always take the definite article “the” (e.g., the Ganges, the Amazon, the Thames).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (A): The indefinite article “a” is used for non-specific singular countable nouns; “the Nile” is a specific, named river.
- Option B (An): Also an indefinite article; used before a vowel sound but still incorrect here because a specific proper noun is involved.
- Option D (No article needed): Proper nouns for rivers, seas, and mountain ranges require “the”; omitting it is grammatically incorrect.

Final Answer: The (definite article before a unique proper noun – a river). ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 15](#)

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Preposition Collocation (enthusiastic about): Certain adjectives are followed by specific prepositions as fixed collocations. The adjective “enthusiastic” collocates with the preposition **about**.

Step 1 — Collocation check: The standard collocation is: *enthusiastic about something*. Example: “She is enthusiastic about painting.” This is the accepted usage in both British and American English.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (for): “Enthusiastic for” is non-standard; while “eager for” is acceptable, “enthusiastic for” is not a recognised collocation.
- Option C (at): “Enthusiastic at” is grammatically incorrect; “at” typically follows adjectives like “good” or “skilled,” not “enthusiastic.”
- Option D (of): “Enthusiastic of” is not a standard English collocation and would be considered an error in formal usage.

Final Answer: enthusiastic **about** learning new languages. ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 16](#)



Answer Key

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

