

SET Sample Paper 7

General English
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Duration: 16 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 16

Instructions

- This paper contains **16 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **no negative marking**.
- Each question has **four options** (A, B, C, D); choose the **single best answer**.
- This paper is designed for practice for the **SET (State Eligibility Test)** examination.
- Manage your time carefully. All questions carry equal marks.

Questions 1–4: Reading Comprehension

Read the following passage carefully and answer questions 1 to 4.

Globalisation, the process by which the world's economies, cultures, and populations have become increasingly interconnected through trade, communication, and migration, has brought undeniable prosperity to many nations. Yet its cultural consequences remain fiercely debated. On one hand, the global spread of technology and media has made it possible for a teenager in rural India to access the same music, films, and fashion as a peer in New York. On the other hand, critics argue that this very uniformity signals the erosion of distinct cultural identities, languages, and traditions that took centuries to develop.

Local languages are among the most visible casualties. Linguists estimate that one language disappears every two weeks, with dominant global languages—chiefly English—absorbing the communicative space once occupied by regional tongues. When a language vanishes, it takes with it an irreplaceable world view, a unique system of values, metaphors, and ecological knowledge encoded over generations.

Proponents of globalisation counter that culture is not a museum exhibit meant to be preserved in amber; it is a living, evolving entity. Cultures have always borrowed from one another, and the cross-pollination of ideas has historically driven creativity and progress. The question, they suggest, is not whether cultures will change, but whether communities retain the agency to direct that change on their own terms.

What is required, therefore, is not a rejection of globalisation but a conscious effort at *glocalization*—adapting global trends to local contexts while nurturing indigenous traditions. Governments, educators, and communities must invest in mother-tongue education, support local artisans and storytellers, and create digital spaces for minority



languages. Only then can cultural diversity survive as a living reality rather than a nostalgic memory.

- Q1.** According to the passage, what is the primary criticism of globalisation regarding culture?
- (A) It prevents economic development in developing countries.
 - (B) It discourages international trade and communication.
 - (C) It promotes a single dominant language at the cost of literature.
 - (D) It leads to cultural uniformity and erodes distinct cultural identities.
- Q2.** As used in the passage, what does the phrase “preserved in amber” (paragraph 3) most closely suggest?
- (A) Kept unchanged and frozen in its original form.
 - (B) Refined and improved over time through research.
 - (C) Displayed publicly for educational purposes.
 - (D) Transferred to future generations through oral traditions.
- Q3.** What solution does the author propose to reconcile globalisation with the preservation of cultural identity?
- (A) Completely rejecting globalisation and promoting isolationism.
 - (B) Replacing local languages with dominant global languages for efficiency.
 - (C) Adopting *glocalization*—blending global trends with local traditions.
 - (D) Establishing global cultural councils to regulate media content.
- Q4.** Which of the following best describes the author’s overall tone in the passage?
- (A) Dismissive and critical of globalisation.
 - (B) Balanced and constructively concerned.
 - (C) Enthusiastic and unconditionally supportive.



(D) Pessimistic and despairing about cultural loss.

Q5. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to “**Verbose**”.

- (A) Wordy
- (B) Concise
- (C) Taciturn
- (D) Ambiguous

Q6. Choose the word that is **opposite** in meaning to “**Candid**”.

- (A) Honest
- (B) Forthright
- (C) Transparent
- (D) Evasive

Q7. Select the option that correctly transforms the given sentence into its **superlative** degree.

Original (Positive degree): “Mount Everest is **as high as** no other peak in the world.”

- (A) Mount Everest is higher than most other peaks in the world.
- (B) No other peak in the world is as high as Mount Everest.
- (C) Mount Everest is the highest peak in the world.
- (D) Very few peaks in the world are as high as Mount Everest.

Q8. Choose the correct **question tag** for the following sentence.

“*She has never visited Paris, _____?*”

- (A) has she
- (B) has she not
- (C) hasn't she
- (D) didn't she

Q9. Para Jumble: Arrange the following sentences in the correct logical order to form a coherent paragraph about healthy lifestyle and habits.



- P. Regular physical activity, when combined with adequate sleep, helps the body recover and grow stronger.
- Q. A healthy lifestyle is not built overnight; it is the sum of small, consistent daily choices.
- R. Nutrition forms the foundation, as the body requires a balanced intake of proteins, carbohydrates, and essential vitamins.
- S. Together, these habits create a cycle of energy and well-being that sustains long-term health.

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

Q10. Para Jumble: Arrange the following sentences in the correct logical order to form a coherent paragraph about space exploration and its benefits.

- P. Beyond national prestige, these missions have generated technologies—from GPS to water purification systems—that improve daily life on Earth.
- Q. Critics, however, argue that the enormous cost of space programmes should instead be directed towards solving pressing problems on our own planet.
- R. Since the launch of Sputnik in 1957, humanity has been driven by an irresistible curiosity to explore the cosmos.
- S. Proponents respond that exploration and addressing earthly challenges are not mutually exclusive; the spin-off benefits of space science justify the investment.

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



Q11. Sentence Correction: One of the sentences below contains an **incorrect use of an article** (a / an / the). Identify the incorrect sentence.

- (A) She is an honest woman who always speaks her mind.
- (B) He submitted a university application to an Oxford University.
- (C) The committee reached a unanimous decision after lengthy deliberation.
- (D) He plays the violin remarkably well for a self-taught musician.

Q12. Fill in the Blank: Choose the correct verb form to complete the sentence.

“The professor suggested that all students _____ the reference material before attending the seminar.”

- (A) to read
- (B) reading
- (C) had read
- (D) read

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

“A person who hates or distrusts mankind in general.”

- (A) Philanthropist
- (B) Narcissist
- (C) Misanthrope
- (D) Recluse

Q14. Idiom / Phrase: What does the idiom “barking up the wrong tree” mean?

- (A) Pursuing a mistaken or misguided course of action.
- (B) Making an excessive amount of noise to gain attention.
- (C) Being overly aggressive in one’s approach to a problem.
- (D) Wasting time on an activity that has no value.



Q15. Article Usage: Choose the option that correctly fills in the blank.

“_____ Nile is _____ longest river in Africa, flowing through _____ northeast of _____ continent.”

(A) A / a / the / a

(B) An / the / a / the

(C) The / a / the / a

(D) The / the / the / the

Q16. Preposition: Choose the correct preposition to complete the sentence.

“The delegates arrived _____ the conference hall well _____ time for the inaugural address.”

(A) in / on

(B) at / in

(C) to / at

(D) into / by



Detailed Solutions — SET General English Sample Paper 7**Solution****Concept: Reading Comprehension — Identifying the Main Criticism**

The passage states in paragraph 1: “critics argue that this very uniformity signals the erosion of distinct cultural identities, languages, and traditions that took centuries to develop.” This directly points to cultural uniformity and the erosion of distinct identities as the primary criticism.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q1.
- (A) The passage discusses cultural, not economic, development as the main concern.
 - (B) Globalisation promotes, not discourages, trade and communication.
 - (C) Although language loss is mentioned, it is a subsidiary point; the broader criticism is about cultural identity, not only literature.

Final Answer:

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

Solution**Concept: Reading Comprehension — Phrase/Vocabulary in Context**

In paragraph 3, the author says culture is not “a museum exhibit meant to be preserved in amber.” Amber is a substance in which ancient organisms are found perfectly frozen. The metaphor therefore means keeping something unchanged and static, frozen in its original form without allowing it to evolve.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q2.
- (B) Refining over time is the opposite of the image of stasis the phrase conveys.
 - (C) Public display is linked to a museum but does not capture the “frozen” quality of the metaphor.
 - (D) Oral transmission implies active change; the phrase implies motionless preservation.

Final Answer:

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



Solution**Concept: Reading Comprehension — Identifying the Author's Solution**

Paragraph 4 explicitly states: "What is required ... is not a rejection of globalisation but a conscious effort at *glocalization*—adapting global trends to local contexts while nurturing indigenous traditions." Option (C) paraphrases this solution accurately.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q3.
- (A) The author explicitly states rejection of globalisation is *not* the answer.
 - (B) Replacing local languages with global ones is what the author argues against.
 - (D) The passage does not mention global cultural councils.

Final Answer:

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

Solution**Concept: Reading Comprehension — Identifying the Author's Tone**

The author acknowledges the benefits of globalisation, presents critics' concerns fairly, and then proposes a constructive middle path (*glocalization*). This measured, solution-oriented approach is best described as *balanced and constructively concerned*.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q4.
- (A) The author does not dismiss globalisation; he offers a nuanced view.
 - (C) Unconditional enthusiasm would ignore the concerns raised in paragraphs 1–2.
 - (D) A pessimistic tone would not end with actionable recommendations.

Final Answer:

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

Solution**Concept: Synonym — Verbose**

Verbose means using more words than necessary; excessively wordy. The closest synonym is **Wordy** (option A).

Why other options are wrong:

- Q5.
- (B) **Concise** — means brief and to the point; the antonym of verbose.
 - (C) **Taciturn** — means habitually silent; also an antonym.
 - (D) **Ambiguous** — means unclear in meaning; unrelated to word quantity.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Antonym — Candid

Candid means truthful, open, and frank. Its antonym must convey the opposite quality—being indirect or avoiding the truth. **Evasive** (option D) means tending to avoid commitment or directness, making it the correct antonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q6.
- (A) **Honest** — is a synonym, not an antonym.
 - (B) **Forthright** — also a synonym of candid.
 - (C) **Transparent** — conveys openness; again a synonym.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Degrees of Comparison — Positive to Superlative

The three degrees follow a pattern:

- Q7.
- **Positive**: “Mount Everest is as high as no other peak in the world.”
 - **Comparative**: “Mount Everest is higher than any other peak in the world.”
 - **Superlative**: “Mount Everest is **the highest** peak in the world.”

Option (C) correctly converts the sentence to superlative degree.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “higher than most” is a comparative form, not superlative.
- (B) This is still a positive degree construction.
- (D) “Very few . . . as high as” is a positive degree variant.

Final Answer:



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

Solution

Concept: Question Tags — Negative Sentence with “have/has never”

Rule: If the main clause is negative (here “has *never*” is negative), the question tag must be **positive**. The auxiliary verb is “has” and the subject is “she,” so the tag is **has she?**

Note: “hasn’t she” would be a negative tag, which is wrong because the sentence is already negative (“never” makes it negative).

Why other options are wrong:

- Q8. • (A) **has she** — This is the correct positive tag. (Answer: B is the label for “has she not” – revisiting: option B is “has she not” which is wrong; correct is A “has she”. The question tag for a sentence containing “never” (which is inherently negative) must be affirmative: *has she?*)

Correction note: Option (A) is “has she” (positive, correct) and option (B) is “has she not” (negative, incorrect for a negative sentence). The sentence contains “never” which makes it negative; the positive tag is required.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) **has she not** — Double negative with “never”; grammatically wrong.
- (C) **hasn’t she** — Negative tag; cannot be used with an already-negative sentence.
- (D) **didn’t she** — Wrong auxiliary; the sentence uses “has,” not “did.”

Final Answer: B

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

Solution

Concept: Para Jumble — Logical Coherence (Healthy Lifestyle)

Analysis:

- Q9. • Q introduces the main idea: a healthy lifestyle is built from daily choices. (Opening sentence.)
- R elaborates on the first pillar—nutrition—as the foundation.
 - P introduces the second pillar—physical activity and sleep.
 - S concludes by showing how these habits together create sustainable well-



being.

Correct order: Q – R – P – S

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) R – Q – S – P — S cannot follow Q because the conclusion requires prior elaboration of habits.
- (C) P – S – Q – R — Begins with a specific detail before establishing the theme.
- (D) S – P – R – Q — Conclusion (S) cannot open the paragraph.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Para Jumble — Logical Coherence (Space Exploration)

Analysis:

- Q10.
- R sets the historical context with the launch of Sputnik—the natural opening.
 - P follows by introducing the tangible benefits of space missions (technology spin-offs).
 - Q introduces the counter-argument: critics who question the cost.
 - S provides the rebuttal by proponents and a logical conclusion.

Correct order: R – P – Q – S

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) P – R – S – Q — Presents benefits before establishing context; also ends with an unresolved objection.
- (B) Q – P – R – S — Opens with criticism before establishing the topic.
- (D) S – Q – P – R — Rebuttal cannot open before the argument is made.

Final Answer:

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



Solution**Concept: Sentence Correction — Incorrect Use of Articles**

Option (B) reads: “He submitted a university application to **an** Oxford University.”

Error: “Oxford University” is a proper noun referring to a specific institution and should be preceded by no article at all, or simply by “the.” The article “an” is incorrectly used here. Moreover, even if an article were needed, Oxford begins with a vowel sound in “an” but “Oxford University” as a proper institutional name requires “the” or no article (“to Oxford University” or “to the University of Oxford”).

Why other options are correct:

- Q11.
- (A) “an honest” is correct because “honest” begins with a vowel sound (/ɒ/).
 - (C) “a unanimous” is correct because “unanimous” begins with a consonant sound (/j/).
 - (D) “the violin” is correct; instruments take the definite article when playing is referred to.

Final Answer: B

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

Solution**Concept: Verb Form — Gerund vs Infinitive (Verb “suggest”)**

After the verb *suggest*, the subjunctive mood is used in formal/academic English: *suggest that* + subject + **bare infinitive (base form of verb)**.

The sentence: “The professor suggested that all students read the reference material...” requires the bare infinitive **read** (option D).

Why other options are wrong:

- Q12.
- (A) **to read** — “Suggest” does not take the “to-infinitive” pattern when followed by a “that” clause.
 - (B) **reading** — A gerund is used when “suggest” is followed directly by a gerund (“I suggest reading...”) but not in a “that” clause.
 - (C) **had read** — Past perfect is incorrect here; it implies prior completion, not a recommendation.

Final Answer: D

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



Solution**Concept: One-Word Substitution — Hater of Mankind**

A **Misanthrope** is a person who dislikes, distrusts, or hates humankind in general. This is the precise one-word substitution for the given phrase.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q13.
- (A) **Philanthropist** — One who promotes the welfare of others; the opposite of a misanthrope.
 - (B) **Narcissist** — One excessively self-admiring; not someone who hates mankind.
 - (D) **Recluse** — A person who lives in isolation; does not necessarily hate mankind.

Final Answer:

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

Solution**Concept: Idiom — “Barking up the wrong tree”**

The idiom “**barking up the wrong tree**” originates from hunting, where a dog would bark at the base of a tree assuming the prey is there, while the animal has escaped elsewhere. It means to **pursue a mistaken or misguided course of action**—to look for something in the wrong place or blame the wrong person.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q14.
- (B) Making noise to gain attention is not what this idiom conveys.
 - (C) Being overly aggressive is a different concept; the idiom emphasises misdirection, not aggression.
 - (D) Wasting time on a valueless activity is close but misses the key idea of misdirection—the effort is real but wrongly directed.

Final Answer:

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

Solution**Concept: Article Usage — Proper Nouns, Superlatives, and Geographical Features**

The correct sentence: “**The** Nile is **the** longest river in Africa, flowing through **the**



northeast of **the** continent.”

Rules applied:

- Q15.
- Rivers take the definite article *the*: *the Nile*.
 - Superlatives require *the*: *the longest*.
 - Geographical directions used as specific regions take *the*: *the northeast*.
 - “Continent” used specifically also requires *the*: *the continent*.

Option (D) – *The / the / the / the* – is correct.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) Uses “A” before Nile—incorrect; rivers require “the.”
- (B) “An” before “the” makes no sense; also “a the” is impossible.
- (C) “The / a” — uses indefinite article before “longest,” violating the superlative rule.

Final Answer: D

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

Solution

Concept: Preposition Collocation — “arrive at” and “in time”

The correct sentence: “The delegates arrived **at** the conference hall well **in** time for the inaugural address.”

Rules applied:

- Q16.
- **Arrive at** is used with specific locations/venues (arrive at the station, arrive at the hall). “Arrive in” is used with cities/countries.
 - **In time** means early enough; not late. (Compare: “on time” = punctually, at the exact scheduled moment.)

Option (B) – *at / in* – is correct.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) **in / on** — “Arrived in the conference hall” is incorrect; “in” is used for cities, not specific halls.
- (C) **to / at** — “Arrived to” is non-standard in English; also “at time” is incorrect.
- (D) **into / by** — “Arrived into” is grammatically incorrect in this context.



Final Answer:

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



Answer Key — SET General English Sample Paper 7

Q. No.	Ans		Q. No.	Ans		Q. No.	Ans		
1	D	2	A	3	C	4	B	5	A
6	D	7	C	8	B	9	A	10	C
11	B	12	D	13	C	14	A	15	D
16	B								

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