

SET Sample Paper 10

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.

Across history, no investment has proved more transformative for human development than the education of women and girls. Decades of research across diverse economies consistently demonstrate that every additional year of schooling a girl receives translates into measurable gains in her family's health, nutritional status, and the educational attainment of her own children. When women participate fully in the economy, national productivity rises; when they engage in governance, decisions become more inclusive and far-sighted.

Yet the promise of women's empowerment continues to collide with stubborn structural barriers. In many parts of the world, girls are still pulled out of school at puberty—not because their families are indifferent to learning, but because poverty, distance, safety concerns, and entrenched social norms converge to make continued education seem too costly or too dangerous. Even in more economically advanced societies, a “glass ceiling” persists in professions and boardrooms, where women's competence is routinely underestimated and their advancement slowed by networks that remain predominantly male.

Research indicates that educated women invest a strikingly higher proportion of their incomes back into their families and communities than do their male counterparts—a multiplier effect that ripples across generations. A major international study found that closing the gender gap in employment and wages could increase GDP per capita by as much as 20% in some regions.

The path forward requires more than aspirational slogans. Governments must enforce girls' right to education, fund scholarships and safe hostels, legislate against workplace



discrimination, and ensure that political institutions reflect the societies they serve. Only when these systemic changes are made will the potential locked inside half the world's population be fully unleashed.

- Q1.** According to the passage, what does the author identify as the single most transformative investment a society can make?
- (A) Building state-of-the-art hospitals and expanding healthcare infrastructure
 - (B) Educating girls and women at every level of schooling
 - (C) Expanding digital connectivity to underserved rural communities
 - (D) Creating large-scale employment schemes for marginalised groups
- Q2.** As used in the passage, what does the phrase “glass ceiling” (paragraph 2) most closely mean?
- (A) An invisible but real barrier that prevents women from rising to senior positions
 - (B) A transparent management layer that allows women to observe leadership decisions
 - (C) A legal provision that limits working hours for women in certain industries
 - (D) A policy framework that reserves leadership positions for women in government
- Q3.** What evidence does the author provide to illustrate the economic impact of women's education?
- (A) A list of countries with the highest GDP per capita in the twentieth century
 - (B) A comparison of literacy rates between developed and developing nations
 - (C) A survey of employers who actively prefer educated female candidates



- (D) Data showing that closing the gender gap in employment could raise GDP per capita by up to 20%

Q4. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?

- (A) Nostalgic and regretful about historical injustices suffered by women
- (B) Aggressive and accusatory, primarily targeting patriarchal social structures
- (C) Persuasive and evidence-driven, advocating systemic change for women's empowerment
- (D) Neutral and academic, presenting all perspectives without a clear viewpoint

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

- (A) Practical
- (B) Idealistic
- (C) Theoretical
- (D) Impractical

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

- (A) Unaware
- (B) Ignorant
- (C) Inattentive
- (D) Conscious

Q7. Choose the sentence that correctly uses the **Type 1 Conditional** (real / possible future).

- (A) If it rained tomorrow, we would cancel the outdoor match.
- (B) If you submit the form before noon, the office will process it today.
- (C) If she had known the answer, she would have responded immediately.
- (D) If I were the principal, I would revise the entire examination schedule.



Q8. Fill in the Blank: Choose the correct form to complete the sentence.

“The luggage was _____ heavy _____ lift without assistance from a porter.”

- (A) enough / to
- (B) very / for
- (C) too / to
- (D) so / for

Q9. Para Jumble: Arrange the following sentences in the correct logical order to form a coherent paragraph about urbanisation.

- P. City planners and policymakers must therefore develop inclusive urban frameworks that ensure equitable access to resources and services.
- Q. Over half of the world’s population now lives in cities, a proportion expected to reach two-thirds by 2050.
- R. This rapid urbanisation brings both promise and peril: expanded economic opportunities alongside overcrowded slums and strained infrastructure.
- S. Sustainable urban design—integrating green spaces, efficient transport, and affordable housing—is key to managing this transition.

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

Q10. Para Jumble: Arrange the following sentences in the correct logical order to form a coherent paragraph about media and democracy.

- P. Unchecked misinformation, echo chambers, and algorithmic amplification of outrage now pose a serious challenge to informed democratic discourse.



- Q.** A free and responsible press has historically served as a vital pillar of democracy, holding power accountable to citizens.
- R.** The digital revolution has democratised information access but simultaneously fractured the media landscape into competing narratives.
- S.** Restoring trust in journalism requires investment in media literacy, editorial standards, and transparent ownership disclosure.

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

Q11. Sentence Correction: One of the following sentences contains a grammatical error involving a **gerund after a preposition**. Identify it.

- (A) She is looking forward to meeting the new team members next week.
- (B) He is interested in to learn more about ancient Indian civilizations.
- (C) They are committed to delivering the project by the agreed deadline.
- (D) The manager objected to changing the meeting venue at the last minute.

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

“The mountaineers pressed on towards the summit _____ the severe weather conditions that threatened to halt their progress.”

- (A) because of
- (B) due to
- (C) despite
- (D) therefore

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

“A person who pretends to be ill or injured in order to avoid work or duty.”

- (A) Convalescent



- (B) Hypochondriac
- (C) Recluse
- (D) Malingerer

Q14. Idiom / Phrase: What does the idiom “**burning the midnight oil**” mean?

- (A) Working or studying diligently late into the night
- (B) Wasting valuable resources on an unnecessary or futile task
- (C) Feeling extreme frustration or anger about an unresolved situation
- (D) Completing urgent work at the very last possible moment

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

“He reads _____ Times of India every morning and has studied _____ Bible extensively throughout his life.”

- (A) The / a
- (B) The / the
- (C) A / the
- (D) A / a

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

“The whistleblower was accused _____ leaking classified government documents to a foreign intelligence agency.”

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



Detailed Solutions — SET General English Sample Paper 10

Solution

Concept: Reading Comprehension — Main Investment Identified

The very first sentence of the passage states: “no investment has proved more transformative for human development than the education of women and girls.”

Option (B) directly restates this claim.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q1.
- (A) Building hospitals is not identified as the most transformative investment in the passage.
 - (C) Digital connectivity is not mentioned as the transformative investment being discussed.
 - (D) Large-scale employment schemes for marginalised groups are not highlighted as the central investment.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Reading Comprehension — Phrase in Context (Glass Ceiling)

Paragraph 2 uses “glass ceiling” to describe a situation where women’s “competence is routinely underestimated and their advancement slowed by networks that remain predominantly male.” This is a well-established metaphor for an **invisible but real barrier** preventing women from rising to senior positions—option (A).

Why other options are wrong:

- Q2.
- (B) A transparent management layer for observation is a literal, not figurative, reading of “glass.”
 - (C) A legal provision limiting working hours is not what the passage describes.
 - (D) A policy reserving positions for women is the opposite of what a glass ceiling describes.

Final Answer:

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



Solution**Concept: Reading Comprehension — Evidence for Economic Impact**

Paragraph 3 states: “A major international study found that closing the gender gap in employment and wages could increase GDP per capita by as much as 20% in some regions.” Option (D) accurately paraphrases this statistical evidence.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q3.
- (A) No list of countries by GDP per capita in the twentieth century is mentioned.
 - (B) A literacy-rate comparison between developed and developing nations does not appear in the passage.
 - (C) A survey of employers preferring female candidates is not cited as evidence.

Final Answer:

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

Solution**Concept: Reading Comprehension — Author’s Tone**

The passage presents research data (paragraphs 1 and 3) to support the case for women’s empowerment, acknowledges structural barriers (paragraph 2), and ends with concrete policy recommendations (paragraph 4). This approach—marshalling evidence to argue for systemic change—is best described as **persuasive and evidence-driven**.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q4.
- (A) Nostalgic and regretful would look backward without action; this passage ends with forward-looking recommendations.
 - (B) The tone is firm but not aggressive or accusatory; it focuses on solutions, not blame.
 - (D) The author clearly advocates a position and provides evidence; this is not a neutral presentation.

Final Answer:

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



Solution**Concept: Synonym — Pragmatic**

Pragmatic means dealing with things sensibly and realistically; concerned with practical application rather than theory. The closest synonym is **Practical** (option A).

Why other options are wrong:

- Q5.
- (B) **Idealistic** — concerned with high ideals rather than practical realities; the antonym of pragmatic.
 - (C) **Theoretical** — based on theory rather than practice; also contrasts with pragmatic.
 - (D) **Impractical** — not sensible or realistic; another antonym.

Final Answer:

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

Solution**Concept: Antonym — Oblivious**

Oblivious means not aware of or not concerned about what is happening around one. Its antonym must convey full awareness. **Conscious** (option D) means aware of and responding to one's surroundings, making it the precise antonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q6.
- (A) **Unaware** — a synonym of oblivious, not its antonym.
 - (B) **Ignorant** — means lacking knowledge or awareness; also a synonym.
 - (C) **Inattentive** — means not paying attention; closely related to oblivious, not its opposite.

Final Answer:

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

Solution**Concept: Type 1 Conditional — Real / Possible Future**

The **Type 1 Conditional** expresses a real or likely future situation: *If + Simple Present, will + base verb.*

Option (B): "If you **submit** the form before noon, the office **will process** it today." This correctly uses Simple Present in the "if" clause and "will + base" in the result



clause.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q7. • (A) “If it rained . . . we would cancel” — Past tense + would = Type 2 Conditional (unreal present).
- (C) “If she had known . . . she would have responded” — Past Perfect + would have = Type 3 Conditional (unreal past).
- (D) “If I were . . . I would” — subjunctive were + would = Type 2 Conditional.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: “Too . . . to” Structure

Rule: To express that something is more than enough to prevent an action, use: *too* + *adjective* + *to* + *infinitive*.

Correct form: “The luggage was **too** heavy **to** lift without assistance.” (Option C)

Why other options are wrong:

- Q8. • (A) **enough / to** — “enough to” expresses sufficiency (“heavy enough to crush”), not excessive heaviness preventing action. Semantically possible but “enough to lift” would mean it *could* be lifted, which contradicts “without assistance.”
- (B) **very / for** — “very heavy for lift” is grammatically incorrect; “for” requires a noun or gerund (“for lifting”) and even then “very . . . for” is not a standard construction.
- (D) **so / for** — “so heavy for lift” is also ungrammatical in this construction.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Para Jumble — Logical Coherence (Urbanisation)

Analysis:

- Q9. • Q establishes the global scale: over half the world lives in cities, rising to two-thirds by 2050. (Opening sentence.)



- **R** presents the paradox: urbanisation brings both opportunity and challenges (slums, strained infrastructure).
- **S** identifies sustainable design as the key approach to managing the transition.
- **P** concludes with a call to action: inclusive urban frameworks by planners and policymakers.

Correct order: **Q – R – S – P**

Why other options are wrong:

- **(B) R – S – Q – P** — The paradox is discussed before the global context is established.
- **(C) P – Q – R – S** — The policy call precedes the data and context that justify it.
- **(D) S – P – Q – R** — Solution and policy call appear before the problem is introduced.

Final Answer: A

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

Solution

Concept: Para Jumble — Logical Coherence (Media and Democracy)

Analysis:

- Q10.**
- **Q** establishes the historical role: a free press holds power accountable. (Opening sentence.)
 - **R** introduces the disruption: the digital revolution has fragmented the media landscape.
 - **P** deepens the problem: misinformation, echo chambers, and algorithmic outrage threaten discourse.
 - **S** proposes the solution: media literacy, editorial standards, transparent ownership.

Correct order: **Q – R – P – S**

Why other options are wrong:

- **(A) P – Q – S – R** — Opens with the problem before establishing the historical role; solution appears before the full problem is developed.
- **(B) R – P – Q – S** — Disruption precedes the historical role that contextualises



it.

- (C) Q – P – R – S — P (specific threats) appears before R (digital revolution context) that causes them.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Sentence Correction — Gerund after Preposition

Rule: After a preposition, a **gerund** (verb+ing) must be used, never a “to-infinitive.”

Option (B): “He is interested in **to learn**” — the preposition “in” must be followed by a gerund: “interested in **learning**.” Using “to learn” after a preposition is incorrect.

Why other options are correct:

- Q11.
- (A) “looking forward to **meeting**” — gerund after the preposition “to”: correct.
 - (C) “committed to **delivering**” — gerund after “to”: correct.
 - (D) “objected to **changing**” — gerund after “to”: correct.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Conjunction of Contrast — “Despite”

The sentence requires a word that shows **contrast**: the mountaineers pressed on *in spite of* the severe weather. The correct choice is **despite** (option C), which is followed directly by a noun phrase (“the severe weather conditions”).

Why other options are wrong:

- Q12.
- (A) **because of** — introduces a reason, not a contrast; it would imply the weather *caused* them to press on.
 - (B) **due to** — also introduces a cause/reason; same problem as (A).
 - (D) **therefore** — is a conjunctive adverb indicating result, not contrast.

Final Answer:



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

Solution

Concept: One-Word Substitution — Maligner

A **Maligner** is a person who pretends to be ill or injured, especially to avoid work or military service. This is the precise one-word substitution for the given phrase.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q13.
- (A) **Convalescent** — a person recovering from an illness; the illness is real, not feigned.
 - (B) **Hypochondriac** — a person who believes they are ill when they are not (genuine anxiety, not deliberate deception to avoid duty).
 - (C) **Recluse** — a person who lives in isolation; unrelated to feigning illness.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Idiom — “Burning the midnight oil”

The idiom “**burning the midnight oil**” originates from the era before electric lighting, when people literally burned oil lamps to read or work late at night. Figuratively, it means to **work or study diligently late into the night**. Option (A) captures this meaning accurately.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q14.
- (B) Wasting resources on a futile task describes a different idiom (“pouring oil on troubled waters” or “flogging a dead horse”).
 - (C) Feeling extreme frustration is unrelated to this idiom.
 - (D) Completing work at the last moment describes “down to the wire” or “at the eleventh hour,” not this idiom.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Article Usage — Newspapers and Sacred Texts

Rules applied:



- Q15.
- Newspapers with proper names take the definite article: *the* Times of India.
 - Sacred texts used in a specific, known sense take the definite article: *the* Bible, *the* Quran, *the* Gita.

Therefore: “He reads **the** Times of India . . . and has studied **the** Bible.” Option (B) — *The / the* — is correct.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) **The / a** — “a Bible” is incorrect; the Bible is a specific, uniquely identified text requiring “the.”
- (C) **A / the** — “A Times of India” is incorrect; newspapers require the definite article.
- (D) **A / a** — Both uses of the indefinite article are incorrect here.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Preposition Collocation — “Accuse of”

The verb **accuse** is always followed by the preposition **of**: “accused **of** leaking classified documents.” This is a fixed collocation in English.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q16.
- (A) **for** — “Accused for” is non-standard; only “of” follows accuse.
 - (B) **with** — “Accused with” is not a valid collocation in formal English.
 - (D) **about** — “Accused about” does not exist as a fixed expression.

Final Answer:

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



Answer Key — SET General English Sample Paper 10

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

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