

SET Sample Paper 9

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.

Artificial intelligence, once the preserve of science fiction, has moved with breathtaking speed from laboratory curiosity to the engine of global commerce, healthcare, security, and governance. Machine-learning algorithms now recommend what we read, influence what we buy, assess our creditworthiness, screen job applications, and even guide surgeons through complex procedures. In doing so, they raise a cluster of ethical questions that societies have barely begun to answer.

Perhaps the most pressing concern is algorithmic bias. Because AI systems learn from historical data generated by human societies, they risk encoding and amplifying the very prejudices those societies have tried to overcome. A hiring algorithm trained on decades of corporate data, for instance, may inadvertently penalise women or minority candidates—not because of any explicit instruction, but because the patterns in the data reflect past discrimination. Left unchecked, such systems can entrench inequality at a scale no individual decision-maker ever could.

Privacy represents a second fault line. The insatiable appetite of AI systems for data has created an asymmetry of information between individuals and the corporations or governments that control those systems. Facial recognition deployed in public spaces, predictive policing tools, and the harvesting of health data for commercial purposes all raise legitimate questions about surveillance, consent, and the erosion of civil liberties.

The most effective response, the author argues, is not a moratorium on AI development but the construction of transparent, accountable governance frameworks—regulations with teeth, audit mechanisms that expose bias, and genuine diversity in the teams that design these systems. For AI to be a force for shared human flourishing rather than



concentrated power, its deployment must be guided by ethics as much as by engineering.

- Q1.** According to the passage, what is the central ethical concern arising from the rapid deployment of artificial intelligence?
- (A) The excessive financial cost of developing AI systems across different industries
 - (B) The inability of AI to comprehend or replicate human emotions and creativity
 - (C) The potential of AI to perpetuate inequality and erode individual privacy
 - (D) The inevitability that AI will replace all human workers within the next decade
- Q2.** As used in the passage, what does the term “algorithmic bias” most closely refer to?
- (A) A human tendency to prefer algorithmic decisions over personal judgement
 - (B) The faster computational speed of algorithms compared to human reasoning
 - (C) A mathematical flaw that causes random calculation errors in software
 - (D) The encoding and amplification of existing human prejudices within AI systems trained on biased data
- Q3.** What does the passage suggest is the most effective response to the ethical challenges posed by AI?
- (A) Imposing a complete moratorium on all AI development until global treaties are established
 - (B) Developing transparent, accountable governance frameworks with diverse teams and audit mechanisms



- (C) Slowing AI research substantially to allow society more time to adapt gradually
- (D) Delegating all AI regulation entirely to the technology companies themselves

Q4. How would you best characterise the author's perspective on the future of AI?

- (A) Guardedly optimistic — acknowledging AI's transformative potential alongside the need for responsible governance
- (B) Strongly pessimistic — arguing that AI will inevitably cause irreversible harm to humanity
- (C) Naively enthusiastic — celebrating AI's advances while ignoring the serious risks it poses
- (D) Completely neutral — presenting all viewpoints without adopting any personal stance

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

- (A) Deliberate
- (B) Cautious
- (C) Impulsive
- (D) Methodical

Q6. Choose the word that is **opposite** in meaning to **"Loquacious"**.

- (A) Verbose
- (B) Taciturn
- (C) Garrulous
- (D) Talkative

Q7. Choose the sentence that correctly uses the **Type 3 Conditional** (unreal past condition).

- (A) If she studies harder, she will pass the examination.



- (B) If he studied more regularly, he would pass the examination.
- (C) If they had work together, they would finished the project on time.
- (D) If the team had planned better, they would have avoided the delays entirely.

Q8. Choose the sentence in which **parallel structure** is correctly maintained.

- (A) She enjoys reading, swimming, and cycling on weekends.
- (B) He likes to swim, running, and to play tennis after work.
- (C) The report was long, detailed, and had many errors.
- (D) They promised to come early and that they would help with the arrangements.

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

- P.** Simple changes such as fixing leaky taps, harvesting rainwater, and using drip irrigation can dramatically reduce wastage.
- Q.** Water scarcity now threatens over two billion people globally, making conservation an urgent priority.
- R.** Industries and agriculture, which together account for roughly 90% of global water use, must adopt water-efficient technologies.
- S.** At the household and community level, behavioural change is equally critical.

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

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

- P.** Investors and policy-makers must therefore design ecosystems that identify and nurture such hidden talent early.



- Q.** The environment around an entrepreneur—mentors, funding, infrastructure—often determines success more than individual genius alone.
- R.** Studies show that many breakthrough innovations originate from individuals outside traditional high-tech corridors.
- S.** A diverse entrepreneurial landscape, where opportunity is not gatekept by geography or background, ultimately produces more resilient economies.

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

Q11. Sentence Correction: One of the following sentences contains an **incorrect use of “who” or “whom”**. Identify it.

- (A) The candidate whom the committee selected performed exceptionally well.
- (B) She is someone whom I have admired for many years.
- (C) The professor who the students complained about has since resigned.
- (D) He is a visionary leader whom many in the industry respect deeply.

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

“The children would rather _____ to the park than attend the indoor cultural event.”

- (A) go
- (B) to go
- (C) going
- (D) have gone

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

“A person who has a passionate love for and collects books.”

- (A) Lexicographer



- (B) Bibliophile
- (C) Cartographer
- (D) Philologist

Q14. Idiom / Phrase: What does the idiom “hit the nail on the head” mean?

- (A) To be overly aggressive in the pursuit of a professional goal
- (B) To complete a physically demanding task with exceptional precision
- (C) To make a costly and irreversible mistake during an important project
- (D) To describe or identify something exactly and with complete accuracy

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

“He plays _____ guitar beautifully, but his sister has always preferred _____ piano.”

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

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

“The findings of this new study are significantly different _____ those reported in earlier research on the same subject.”

- (A) than
- (B) to
- (C) from
- (D) with



Detailed Solutions — SET General English Sample Paper 9

Solution

Concept: Reading Comprehension — Central Ethical Concern

The passage introduces AI's widespread deployment and then identifies two main ethical concerns: **algorithmic bias** (paragraph 2) and **privacy erosion** (paragraph 3). Together, these represent the potential to “perpetuate inequality and erode individual privacy.” Option (C) correctly synthesises both concerns as the central ethical challenge highlighted.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q1.
- (A) Financial cost of AI development is not identified as an ethical concern in the passage.
 - (B) AI's inability to understand emotions is not the focus; the passage discusses data bias and privacy.
 - (D) While the passage acknowledges AI's impact on employment, it does not claim all workers will be replaced within a decade.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Reading Comprehension — Vocabulary in Context (Algorithmic Bias)

Paragraph 2 explains: “Because AI systems learn from historical data generated by human societies, they risk encoding and amplifying the very prejudices those societies have tried to overcome.” Option (D) paraphrases this definition precisely: the propagation of existing human prejudices through AI systems trained on biased historical data.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q2.
- (A) The passage discusses AI bias, not human preference for algorithmic decisions.
 - (B) Computational speed relative to humans is not what the passage means by bias.
 - (C) Random calculation errors are software bugs, not the socially embedded bias described.



Final Answer: **Answer:** (D) [Go Back to Q 2](#)**Solution****Concept: Reading Comprehension — Author's Proposed Solution**

The final paragraph states explicitly: “The most effective response . . . is not a moratorium on AI development but the construction of transparent, accountable governance frameworks—regulations with teeth, audit mechanisms that expose bias, and genuine diversity in the teams that design these systems.” Option (B) is a direct paraphrase of this recommendation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q3.
- (A) The author explicitly rules out a moratorium on development.
 - (C) Slowing research is not what the author recommends.
 - (D) Delegating regulation to tech companies themselves contradicts the call for external accountability.

Final Answer: **Answer:** (B) [Go Back to Q 3](#)**Solution****Concept: Reading Comprehension — Author's Perspective / Tone**

The author acknowledges AI's extraordinary reach and benefits (paragraph 1), identifies serious risks of bias and privacy erosion (paragraphs 2–3), and then proposes constructive governance as the way forward (paragraph 4). This balanced stance—recognising potential while calling for responsible frameworks—is best described as “guardedly optimistic.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Q4.
- (B) Strongly pessimistic would see no constructive path; the author clearly proposes solutions.
 - (C) Naively enthusiastic would ignore the risks; the author devotes two paragraphs to ethical concerns.
 - (D) The author does take a personal stance: the final paragraph advocates specific governance measures.

Final Answer: 

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

Solution

Concept: Synonym — Impetuous

Impetuous means acting or done quickly and without thought or care; rashly impulsive. The closest synonym is **Impulsive** (option C), which conveys the same quality of acting on sudden urges without deliberation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q5.
- (A) **Deliberate** — means done intentionally and with careful thought; the antonym of impetuous.
 - (B) **Cautious** — means careful to avoid potential problems; also an antonym.
 - (D) **Methodical** — means done in an orderly and systematic manner; the opposite of impetuous.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Antonym — Loquacious

Loquacious means tending to talk a great deal; garrulous or verbose. Its antonym must convey the quality of speaking very little. **Taciturn** (option B) means reserved or uncommunicative in speech, making it the precise antonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q6.
- (A) **Verbose** — means using more words than necessary; a synonym of loquacious.
 - (C) **Garrulous** — means excessively talkative; also a synonym.
 - (D) **Talkative** — another synonym of loquacious, not its opposite.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Type 3 Conditional — Unreal Past

The **Type 3 Conditional** describes an imaginary situation in the past and its hypothetical result: *If + Past Perfect, would have + Past Participle*.



Option (D): “If the team **had planned** better, they **would have avoided** the delays” — correctly uses Past Perfect in the condition and “would have + past participle” in the result.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q7.
- (A) Uses Simple Present + will — this is a Type 1 Conditional (real future).
 - (B) Uses Simple Past + would — this is a Type 2 Conditional (unreal present).
 - (C) “had work” is grammatically incorrect; also “would finished” is wrong (missing “have”).

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Parallel Structure

Rule: Elements in a list must be in the same grammatical form. Option (A) lists three gerunds: **reading, swimming, and cycling** — all parallel.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q8.
- (B) Mixes infinitive (to swim), gerund (running), and infinitive (to play) — not parallel.
 - (C) Mixes adjectives (long, detailed) with a verb phrase (had many errors) — not parallel; should be “long, detailed, and error-filled.”
 - (D) Mixes infinitive clause (to come early) with a noun clause (that they would help) — not parallel.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Para Jumble — Logical Coherence (Water Conservation)

Analysis:

- Q9.
- Q establishes the scale of the problem: water scarcity threatens two billion people. (Opening sentence.)
 - R identifies the major actors: industries and agriculture account for 90% of water use.



- **S** broadens the scope to household and community level—"equally critical."
- **P** provides concrete, actionable solutions at that household level.

Correct order: **Q – R – S – P**

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) **P – R – Q – S** — Opens with solutions before establishing the problem.
- (B) **S – Q – P – R** — Community-level discussion precedes context.
- (C) **R – Q – P – S** — Industrial actors introduced before the global scale is set.

Final Answer: D

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

Solution

Concept: Para Jumble — Logical Coherence (Entrepreneurship)

Analysis:

- Q10.**
- **R** opens with a surprising finding: breakthroughs often come from outside traditional hubs.
 - **Q** explains why: the surrounding ecosystem—not genius alone—determines success.
 - **S** draws the implication: a diverse landscape with equitable access produces stronger economies.
 - **P** concludes with a call to action: design systems to identify and nurture hidden talent.

Correct order: **R – Q – S – P**

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) **Q – R – P – S** — Ecosystem importance precedes the finding that motivated it; P comes before the implication S.
- (C) **S – P – R – Q** — The implication and call to action appear before the finding that grounds them.
- (D) **P – S – Q – R** — Call to action opens without any supporting evidence yet presented.

Final Answer: B



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

Solution

Concept: Sentence Correction — Who vs Whom

Rule: Use *who* for subject function (replaces he/she/they); use *whom* for object function (replaces him/her/them).

Option (C): “The professor **who** the students complained about...” — here the pronoun is the object of the preposition “about” (they complained about *him/her*), so **whom** is required: “The professor **whom** the students complained about.”

Why other options are correct:

- Q11.
- (A) “Whom the committee selected” — object of “selected” (they selected *him*): *whom* is correct.
 - (B) “Whom I have admired” — object of “admired” (I admired *her*): *whom* is correct.
 - (D) “Whom many ...respect” — object of “respect” (many respect *him*): *whom* is correct.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: “Would Rather” + Bare Infinitive

The expression **would rather** is always followed by the **bare infinitive** (base form without “to”): “would rather **go**.” (Option A)

Why other options are wrong:

- Q12.
- (B) **to go** — “would rather to go” is grammatically incorrect; “to” is not used after this expression.
 - (C) **going** — a gerund cannot follow “would rather” directly.
 - (D) **have gone** — the perfect infinitive changes the meaning to a past preference and is incorrect in this present context.

Final Answer:

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



Solution**Concept: One-Word Substitution — Bibliophile**

A **Bibliophile** is a person who loves, collects, and admires books. This is the precise one-word substitution for the given phrase.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q13.
- (A) **Lexicographer** — A person who compiles, writes, or edits dictionaries.
 - (C) **Cartographer** — A person who draws or produces maps.
 - (D) **Philologist** — A person who studies language and literature historically; different from a mere book-lover.

Final Answer:

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

Solution**Concept: Idiom — “Hit the nail on the head”**

The idiom “**hit the nail on the head**” comes from carpentry: striking a nail squarely drives it in perfectly. Figuratively, it means to describe, identify, or state something **exactly and accurately**. Option (D) captures this meaning correctly.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q14.
- (A) Aggression in goal pursuit is a different concept; the idiom is about precision, not force.
 - (B) Exceptional physical strength is the literal—not figurative—reading; the idiom is about accuracy of thought.
 - (C) Making a costly mistake is the *opposite* of what the idiom conveys.

Final Answer:

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

Solution**Concept: Article Usage — Musical Instruments**

Rule: When referring to *playing* a musical instrument, English uses the definite article *the*: “play **the** guitar,” “play **the** piano.”

Therefore: “He plays **the** guitar . . . she has always preferred **the** piano.” Option (A) — *the / the* — is correct.

Why other options are wrong:



- Q15.
- (B) **a / a** — Indefinite articles are used before countable nouns in general; musical instruments in performance context require “the.”
 - (C) **the / a** — “a piano” is incorrect when referring to playing the instrument in general.
 - (D) **a / the** — “a guitar” is incorrect for the same reason; only “the” is used here.

Final Answer:

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

Solution

Concept: Preposition Collocation — “Different from”

The adjective **different** is followed by the preposition **from** in standard formal English: “different **from** those reported in earlier research.” (Option C)

Why other options are wrong:

- Q16.
- (A) **than** — “Different than” is used informally in American English but is non-standard in formal academic writing.
 - (B) **to** — “Different to” is heard in informal British English but is not accepted in formal or examination contexts.
 - (D) **with** — “Different with” is not a valid collocation in English.

Final Answer:

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



Answer Key — SET General English Sample Paper 9

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

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