

KMAT Verbal Ability

Sample Paper – 2

Duration: 40 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 40

Instructions

- This paper contains **40** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension section of **KMAT (Karnataka Management Aptitude Test)**.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers.
- Only **one** option is correct per question. Choose carefully.
- Syllabus: Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary (Synonyms, Antonyms, Analogies), Grammar, Fill in the Blanks, Para-jumbles, Idioms & Phrases, Sentence Correction.
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or any electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

Read the following passage carefully and answer Questions 1–5.

India's economic trajectory over the past three decades has been marked by a series of bold structural reforms. The liberalisation of 1991 dismantled the licence raj, opening the economy to foreign investment and competition. More recently, the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 unified the fragmented indirect tax system, easing the movement of goods across state borders and widening the formal tax base. Simultaneously, the Make in India initiative sought to raise manufacturing's share of GDP from around 16% to 25% by 2025, attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows that crossed \$80 billion in a single fiscal year. Despite these gains, India's growth story remains predominantly services-driven, with manufacturing struggling to absorb the millions of young workers entering the labour market each year. This mismatch represents the central paradox of the demographic dividend: a young, growing population that could power economic expansion is instead becoming a source of social strain when employment generation lags behind. Analysts warn that without commensurate investment in skill development and labour-intensive industries, the dividend may transform into a demographic disaster. The challenge, therefore, is not merely sustaining growth rates but ensuring that growth translates into gainful employment for the vast majority of citizens.

Q1. What is the central theme of the passage?



- (A) India's structural economic reforms and the challenge of converting demographic potential into employment
- (B) The success of the GST in unifying India's tax system
- (C) The dominance of the services sector over manufacturing in India
- (D) The failure of the Make in India initiative to attract FDI

Q2. According to the passage, which of the following best describes the FDI inflows mentioned?

- (A) FDI inflows remained below \$50 billion throughout the reform period
- (B) FDI inflows declined sharply after the introduction of GST
- (C) FDI inflows were concentrated exclusively in the services sector
- (D) FDI inflows crossed \$80 billion in a single fiscal year

Q3. What is the author's primary concern expressed in the passage?

- (A) That India should abandon its services sector and focus solely on manufacturing
- (B) That economic growth is failing to generate adequate employment for the young workforce
- (C) That the GST has been ineffective in widening the formal tax base
- (D) That foreign investment undermines domestic industries

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

- (A) Celebratory and optimistic about India's economic progress
- (B) Dismissive of the reforms undertaken since 1991
- (C) Analytical and cautiously concerned about future prospects
- (D) Alarmist and predicting imminent economic collapse

Q5. What does the passage imply about the demographic dividend if employment generation does not keep pace with population growth?



- (A) It will automatically resolve itself through market mechanisms
- (B) It will accelerate manufacturing growth beyond the 25% GDP target
- (C) It will strengthen the services sector further
- (D) It may become a source of social strain rather than economic strength

Read the following passage carefully and answer Questions 6–9.

Ecosystems provide humanity with a wide range of benefits, collectively termed ecosystem services. These services are broadly classified into four categories. Provisioning services include the supply of food, fresh water, timber, and medicinal plants. Regulating services encompass climate regulation, flood control, water purification, and pollination — processes that maintain the conditions necessary for human survival. Cultural services refer to the non-material benefits people obtain through recreation, spiritual enrichment, and aesthetic enjoyment of natural landscapes. Finally, supporting services, such as soil formation and nutrient cycling, underpin all other categories. Despite their immense value, ecosystems worldwide face accelerating threats from habitat loss, invasive alien species, pollution, and overexploitation. Scientists estimate that biodiversity loss is occurring at rates one hundred to one thousand times higher than natural background rates. The consequences extend beyond environmental degradation: collapsing ecosystems threaten food security, increase vulnerability to natural disasters, and erode cultural heritage. Experts recommend a two-pronged strategy — establishing protected areas to conserve biodiversity hotspots, and integrating ecosystem valuation into economic policy so that the true cost of environmental destruction is reflected in decision-making. Without such measures, short-term economic gains will be purchased at the expense of long-term ecological stability.

Q6. According to the passage, which of the following best defines ecosystem services?

- (A) The wide range of benefits that ecosystems provide to humanity, including provisioning, regulating, cultural, and supporting services



- (B) The commercial products derived from forests and oceans sold in global markets
- (C) The government programmes designed to protect endangered species
- (D) The scientific methods used to measure biodiversity in protected areas

Q7. Which of the following is cited in the passage as an example of a regulating service?

- (A) Supply of timber and medicinal plants from forests
- (B) Flood control and water purification performed by natural systems
- (C) Recreational and spiritual benefits derived from natural landscapes
- (D) Soil formation and nutrient cycling that support other services

Q8. What strategy does the passage recommend to address the threat to ecosystems?

- (A) Banning all industrial activity near biodiversity hotspots and rewilding urban areas
- (B) Relocating endangered species to artificial habitats maintained by governments
- (C) Establishing protected areas and incorporating ecosystem valuation into economic policy
- (D) Imposing international sanctions on countries that fail to meet biodiversity targets

Q9. What can be inferred from the passage about the consequences of unchecked habitat loss?

- (A) It primarily affects cultural services while leaving food production unharmed
- (B) It leads to an increase in invasive species but has no effect on climate regulation



- (C) It is a reversible process that ecosystems can recover from within decades
- (D) It threatens food security, increases disaster vulnerability, and erodes cultural heritage

Q10. Choose the word most similar in meaning to **EPHEMERAL**.

- (A) Transient
- (B) Eternal
- (C) Permanent
- (D) Lasting

Q11. Choose the word most similar in meaning to **FRUGAL**.

- (A) Extravagant
- (B) Generous
- (C) Thrifty
- (D) Wasteful

Q12. Choose the word most similar in meaning to **GARRULOUS**.

- (A) Silent
- (B) Talkative
- (C) Reserved
- (D) Moody

Q13. Choose the word most similar in meaning to **HAPLESS**.

- (A) Fortunate
- (B) Skilled
- (C) Able
- (D) Unfortunate



Q14. Choose the word most nearly **opposite** in meaning to **EQUIVOCAL**.

- (A) Unambiguous
- (B) Doubtful
- (C) Vague
- (D) Ambiguous

Q15. Choose the word most nearly **opposite** in meaning to **FASTIDIOUS**.

- (A) Careful
- (B) Demanding
- (C) Easygoing
- (D) Meticulous

Q16. Choose the word most nearly **opposite** in meaning to **GREGARIOUS**.

- (A) Sociable
- (B) Solitary
- (C) Outgoing
- (D) Friendly

Q17. Choose the word most nearly **opposite** in meaning to **HARSH**.

- (A) Severe
- (B) Rough
- (C) Stringent
- (D) Gentle

Q18. TELESCOPE : ASTRONOMER :: MICROSCOPE : ?

- (A) Biologist
- (B) Chemist
- (C) Physicist



(D) Geologist

Q19. FAWN : DEER :: CYGNET : ?

- (A) Eagle
- (B) Goose
- (C) Swan
- (D) Duck

Q20. The sentences P, Q, R, and S given below, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph on the role of education in development. Choose the option that gives the correct order.

P. Without an educated workforce, no nation can sustain long-term economic growth or democratic governance.

Q. Education is widely regarded as the most powerful instrument for achieving sustainable human development.

R. Furthermore, educated citizens are better equipped to participate in civic life and hold institutions accountable.

S. It equips individuals with the skills, knowledge, and critical thinking abilities needed to contribute productively to society.

- (A) PQSR
- (B) QSRP
- (C) RSPQ
- (D) SQPR

Q21. The sentences P, Q, R, and S given below, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph on water scarcity and conservation. Choose the option that gives the correct order.

P. Efficient irrigation techniques, rainwater harvesting, and wastewater recycling must therefore be adopted at scale.

Q. Freshwater is a finite resource, yet global demand continues to rise due to population growth and industrialisation.



R. This crisis is most acutely felt in arid regions where groundwater tables are depleting at alarming rates.

S. Unless concerted action is taken, water scarcity could destabilise agriculture, health, and social cohesion in many nations.

(A) PQRS

(B) RQPS

(C) QPRS

(D) QRPS

Q22. The sentences P, Q, R, and S given below, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph on the rise of e-commerce in India. Choose the option that gives the correct order.

P. The proliferation of smartphones and affordable internet access has been the primary catalyst for this growth.

Q. India's e-commerce sector has witnessed exponential expansion over the past decade, emerging as one of the world's largest digital markets.

R. However, challenges such as logistics inefficiency, digital illiteracy, and cybersecurity concerns continue to impede its full potential.

S. These platforms now offer everything from groceries and electronics to financial services, transforming consumer behaviour across urban and rural India.

(A) QPSR

(B) PQRS

(C) SQRP

(D) RSPQ

Q23. The sentences P, Q, R, and S given below, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph on mental health awareness. Choose the option that gives the correct order.

P. Campaigns that normalise conversations about anxiety, depression, and stress have helped reduce the stigma associated with seeking help.



Q. Governments and organisations must invest in accessible mental health services to meet the growing demand.

R. Mental health has steadily gained recognition as an essential component of overall well-being, particularly in the post-pandemic era.

S. Yet awareness alone is insufficient; structural support systems are needed to translate empathy into effective care.

(A) QRPS

(B) SPRQ

(C) RPSQ

(D) PQSR

Q24. The negotiators worked tirelessly through the night, determined to reach a _____ agreement before the deadline expired.

(A) hostile

(B) consensus

(C) divisive

(D) preliminary

Q25. Her speech was so _____ that even the most sceptical members of the audience were moved to reconsider their positions.

(A) monotonous

(B) confusing

(C) aggressive

(D) compelling

Q26. The scientist's _____ approach to data collection ensured that every variable was carefully measured and recorded.

(A) meticulous

(B) haphazard

(C) casual



(D) indifferent

Q27. Despite facing numerous obstacles, the entrepreneur remained _____ in her pursuit of building a sustainable business.

(A) despondent

(B) indecisive

(C) resolute

(D) complacent

Q28. The government introduced several _____ measures to curb inflation and stabilise the economy during the financial crisis.

(A) reckless

(B) prudent

(C) extravagant

(D) contradictory

Q29. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.

The committee members / (A) have unanimously decided / (B) to postpone the meeting / (C) until further notice was given by the chairman. / (D)

(A) The committee members

(B) have unanimously decided

(C) to postpone the meeting

(D) until further notice was given by the chairman

Q30. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.

Neither the manager / (A) nor his assistants / (B) was present / (C) during the board meeting. / (D)

(A) Neither the manager



- (B) nor his assistants
- (C) was present
- (D) during the board meeting

Q31. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.

Each of the students / (A) are expected to submit / (B) their assignment / (C) by Friday afternoon. / (D)

- (A) Each of the students
- (B) are expected to submit
- (C) their assignment
- (D) by Friday afternoon

Q32. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.

The principal, along with all the teachers, / (A) are attending / (B) the annual conference / (C) in New Delhi this week. / (D)

- (A) The principal, along with all the teachers
- (B) are attending
- (C) the annual conference
- (D) in New Delhi this week

Q33. Choose the option that best replaces the underlined portion of the sentence.

Had she studied more harder, she would have passed the examination with distinction.

- (A) studied more hardest
- (B) studied much more harder
- (C) studied very much harder
- (D) studied much harder



- Q34.** Choose the option that best replaces the underlined portion of the sentence.

The report, together with all its annexures, were submitted to the regulatory authority on time.

- (A) have been submitted
- (B) are submitting
- (C) was submitted
- (D) will submit

- Q35.** Choose the option that best replaces the underlined portion of the sentence.

No sooner he had entered the hall than the audience burst into applause.

- (A) had he entered
- (B) did he enter
- (C) he entered
- (D) was he entering

- Q36.** Choose the option that best replaces the underlined portion of the sentence.

The number of applications received for the post are far higher than anticipated.

- (A) received for the post were
- (B) receiving for the post are
- (C) been received for the post are
- (D) received for the post is

- Q37.** What does the idiom “**hit the nail on the head**” mean?

- (A) To miss the point entirely
- (B) To describe something exactly or be precisely correct



- (C) To be confused about a situation
- (D) To work extremely hard without results

Q38. What does the idiom “**let the cat out of the bag**” mean?

- (A) To release an animal accidentally
- (B) To keep a secret carefully
- (C) To accidentally reveal a secret or surprise
- (D) To behave in a mysterious manner

Q39. What does the idiom “**miss the boat**” mean?

- (A) To fail to take advantage of an opportunity
- (B) To arrive at a destination later than planned
- (C) To lose one’s sense of direction
- (D) To act carelessly and without planning

Q40. What does the idiom “**once in a blue moon**” mean?

- (A) Something that happens only at night
- (B) Something that happens frequently
- (C) Something that never happens
- (D) Something that happens very rarely



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Main Theme): The central theme of a passage is the overarching idea that ties all the paragraphs together.

Step 1 — Identify the scope: The passage discusses liberalisation, GST, Make in India, FDI, and the demographic dividend — all connected to India's economic reforms and the employment challenge they have not yet resolved.

Step 2 — Select the broadest accurate statement: Option A captures both the reform aspect and the unresolved employment challenge, making it the most comprehensive answer.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Too narrow; GST is only one element of the passage.
- Option C: Partially true but misses the reform narrative and demographic paradox.
- Option D: Contradicts the passage, which states FDI actually crossed \$80 billion.

Final Answer: The passage centres on India's reforms and the demographic employment challenge ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Specific Detail): Specific-detail questions require locating the exact information stated in the passage.

Step 1 — Locate the reference: The passage explicitly states that FDI inflows “crossed \$80 billion in a single fiscal year.”

Step 2 — Match to options: Option D paraphrases this figure accurately.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage states FDI exceeded \$80 billion, not that it remained below \$50 billion.



- Option B: No decline after GST is mentioned; in fact, FDI is presented as a positive outcome.
- Option C: The passage does not restrict FDI to the services sector.

Final Answer: FDI crossed \$80 billion in a single fiscal year ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q2](#)

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Author’s Concern): This question tests the ability to identify the author’s primary worry as expressed through the passage’s argument.

Step 1 — Identify the author’s tone: The author presents reforms positively but warns that growth is “services-driven” and manufacturing has not absorbed “millions of young workers.” The closing sentence emphasises the need for “gainful employment for the vast majority.”

Step 2 — Match the concern: Option B — that economic growth is failing to generate adequate employment — directly reflects this concern.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The author never suggests abandoning services; the concern is balance and job creation.
- Option C: The passage credits GST with widening the tax base; this is not a concern.
- Option D: FDI is portrayed as a success in the passage, not a threat.

Final Answer: The author’s primary concern is insufficient employment generation ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q3](#)



Q4.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Tone): The tone of a passage reflects the author's attitude toward the subject.

Step 1 — Assess the language: The author acknowledges achievements ("bold structural reforms," "FDI inflows crossed \$80 billion") but introduces warnings ("demographic disaster," "social strain"), indicating a balanced, cautious analysis.

Step 2 — Select the fitting descriptor: Option C — "analytical and cautiously concerned" — captures both the measured acknowledgement of progress and the underlying apprehension.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage is not celebratory; it explicitly warns of risks.
- Option B: The author credits the reforms rather than dismissing them.
- Option D: The author raises concerns but does not predict imminent collapse; the tone is measured, not alarmist.

Final Answer: The tone is analytical and cautiously concerned ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q4](#)

Q5.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Inference): Inference questions ask what logically follows from the information in the passage, even if not stated directly.

Step 1 — Locate the key statement: The passage warns that without "commensurate investment in skill development," the demographic dividend "may transform into a demographic disaster" and become "a source of social strain."

Step 2 — Match to options: Option D accurately paraphrases this inference.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage implies human intervention is required; market mechanisms are not mentioned as a solution.
- Option B: Manufacturing growth is a goal, not an automatic outcome of population growth.
- Option C: The passage provides no evidence that the services sector would benefit from a mismatched demographic dividend.



Final Answer: The demographic dividend may become a source of social strain
 ⇒

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Definition): The question asks for the definition of a term as used in the passage.

Step 1 — Locate the definition: The passage opens: “Ecosystems provide humanity with a wide range of benefits, collectively termed ecosystem services,” and goes on to list four categories.

Step 2 — Match to options: Option A reflects this comprehensive definition.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The passage defines ecosystem services broadly, not just as commercial products.
- Option C: Government programmes are not mentioned as part of the definition.
- Option D: Scientific measurement methods are not what the term refers to in the passage.

Final Answer: Ecosystem services are the wide range of benefits ecosystems provide humanity ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q6](#)

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Specific Example): The question asks for an example from a specific category mentioned in the passage.

Step 1 — Locate the category: The passage defines regulating services as encompassing “climate regulation, flood control, water purification, and pollination.”

Step 2 — Match to options: Option B — flood control and water purification — directly corresponds to the passage’s examples of regulating services.

Why other options are wrong:



- Option A: Timber and medicinal plants are provisioning services, not regulating.
- Option C: Recreational and spiritual benefits are cultural services.
- Option D: Soil formation and nutrient cycling are supporting services.

Final Answer: Flood control and water purification are regulating services ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Author’s Recommendation): The question targets the solution proposed in the passage.

Step 1 — Locate the recommendation: The passage states: “Experts recommend a two-pronged strategy — establishing protected areas to conserve biodiversity hotspots, and integrating ecosystem valuation into economic policy.”

Step 2 — Match to options: Option C paraphrases this two-pronged strategy accurately.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Banning all industrial activity and rewilding cities is not mentioned in the passage.
- Option B: Relocating species to artificial habitats is not part of the recommended strategy.
- Option D: International sanctions are not discussed anywhere in the passage.

Final Answer: The recommendation is protected areas plus ecosystem valuation in policy ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q8](#)



Q9.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Inference from Consequences): The question asks what can be inferred about the effects of habitat loss.

Step 1 — Locate relevant statements: The passage states that collapsing ecosystems “threaten food security, increase vulnerability to natural disasters, and erode cultural heritage.” Habitat loss is one of the primary threats causing ecosystem collapse.

Step 2 — Match to options: Option D directly mirrors the passage’s stated consequences of ecosystem collapse driven by habitat loss.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not suggest cultural services are affected while food production is unharmed; food security is explicitly threatened.
- Option B: The passage does not make this selective distinction about climate regulation.
- Option C: The passage implies the process is alarming and escalating, not easily reversible.

Final Answer: Habitat loss threatens food security, increases disaster vulnerability, and erodes cultural heritage ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Synonyms: A synonym is a word with a meaning the same as or very close to another word.

Step 1 — Analyse the word: EPHEMERAL (from Greek *ephemeros* — lasting only a day) means lasting for a very short time; fleeting.

Step 2 — Evaluate options: *Transient* means lasting only a short time, passing — a direct synonym of ephemeral.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (Eternal): Means lasting forever — the exact opposite.
- Option C (Permanent): Means fixed or unchanging — antonymous.
- Option D (Lasting): Implies durability and continuance — antonymous.



Final Answer: EPHEMERAL = Transient $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q10](#)

Q11.

Solution

Concept — Synonyms: Identifying the closest meaning among given options.

Step 1 — Analyse the word: **FRUGAL** means using resources carefully and not wastefully; economical with money or food.

Step 2 — Evaluate options: *Thrifty* means careful about spending money and not wasteful — a direct synonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Extravagant): Means spending excessively — the opposite of frugal.
- Option B (Generous): Implies giving freely — opposite in sense to frugal.
- Option D (Wasteful): Means using more than necessary — the opposite of frugal.

Final Answer: FRUGAL = Thrifty $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q11](#)

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Synonyms: Identifying the closest meaning among given options.

Step 1 — Analyse the word: **GARRULOUS** means excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters.

Step 2 — Evaluate options: *Talkative* means fond of talking — a direct synonym of garrulous.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Silent): Means making no sound — the opposite of garrulous.
- Option C (Reserved): Means slow to reveal thoughts or feelings — the opposite of garrulous.
- Option D (Moody): Relates to emotional temperament, not loquacity; unre-



lated.

Final Answer: GARRULOUS = Talkative ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q12](#)

Q13.

Solution

Concept — Synonyms: Identifying the closest meaning among given options.

Step 1 — Analyse the word: HAPLESS means unfortunate; having no luck.

Step 2 — Evaluate options: *Unfortunate* means unlucky — a direct synonym of hapless.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Fortunate): Means lucky — the opposite of hapless.
- Option B (Skilled): Relates to ability, not luck; unrelated.
- Option C (Able): Relates to competence; unrelated to hapless.

Final Answer: HAPLESS = Unfortunate ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q13](#)

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Antonyms: An antonym is a word opposite in meaning to another.

Step 1 — Analyse the word: EQUIVOCAL means open to more than one interpretation; ambiguous or uncertain.

Step 2 — Identify the opposite: The opposite of ambiguous is *unambiguous* — clear and leaving no doubt.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (Doubtful): Means uncertain — similar in meaning to equivocal, not opposite.
- Option C (Vague): Means imprecise — similar in meaning to equivocal, not opposite.
- Option D (Ambiguous): Is essentially a synonym of equivocal, not an antonym.



Final Answer: Antonym of EQUIVOCAL = Unambiguous $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q14](#)

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Antonyms: Identifying the word opposite in meaning.

Step 1 — Analyse the word: **FASTIDIOUS** means very attentive to accuracy and detail; difficult to please; having high standards.

Step 2 — Identify the opposite: *Easygoing* means relaxed and tolerant; not demanding or particular — the opposite of fastidious.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Careful): Is actually close in meaning to fastidious, not opposite.
- Option B (Demanding): Is similar in meaning to fastidious (high standards), not opposite.
- Option D (Meticulous): Is a synonym of fastidious, not an antonym.

Final Answer: Antonym of FASTIDIOUS = Easygoing $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q15](#)

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Antonyms: Identifying the word opposite in meaning.

Step 1 — Analyse the word: **GREGARIOUS** means fond of company; sociable; living in groups.

Step 2 — Identify the opposite: *Solitary* means done alone or existing alone; avoiding the company of others — the direct antonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Sociable): Is a synonym of gregarious, not an antonym.
- Option C (Outgoing): Is similar in meaning to gregarious.
- Option D (Friendly): Is associated with gregariousness, not its opposite.

Final Answer: Antonym of GREGARIOUS = Solitary $\Rightarrow$ B



Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q16](#)

Q17.

Solution

Concept — Antonyms: Identifying the word opposite in meaning.

Step 1 — Analyse the word: **HARSH** means unpleasantly rough or jarring to the senses; cruel or severe.

Step 2 — Identify the opposite: *Gentle* means mild, kind, and not rough or severe — the direct antonym of harsh.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Severe): Is a synonym of harsh, not an antonym.
- Option B (Rough): Is a synonym of harsh, not an antonym.
- Option C (Stringent): Means strict and demanding — similar in meaning to harsh.

Final Answer: Antonym of HARSH = Gentle ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q17](#)

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Analogies (Tool : User): This analogy tests the relationship between a specialised instrument and the professional who uses it.

Step 1 — Establish the relationship: A **TELESCOPE** is the primary instrument used by an **ASTRONOMER** to observe celestial bodies. Similarly, a **MICROSCOPE** is the primary instrument used to observe microorganisms and cells.

Step 2 — Identify who uses a microscope: A *Biologist* routinely uses a microscope to study living organisms, cells, and tissues.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (Chemist): Uses chemical apparatus; the microscope is not their defining primary tool.
- Option C (Physicist): Works with physical phenomena; the primary microscope user in life sciences is the biologist.



- Option D (Geologist): Examines rocks and earth structures; uses tools like rock hammers and hand lenses primarily.

Final Answer: MICROSCOPE : Biologist $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q18](#)

Q19.

Solution

Concept — Analogies (Young : Adult Animal): This analogy tests knowledge of animal offspring names.

Step 1 — Establish the relationship: A FAWN is the young of a DEER. The analogy asks for the adult animal whose young is called a CYGNET.

Step 2 — Recall the term: A CYGNET is the young of a SWAN.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Eagle): The young of an eagle is called an eaglet, not a cygnet.
- Option B (Goose): The young of a goose is called a gosling.
- Option D (Duck): The young of a duck is called a duckling.

Final Answer: CYGNET is the young of a SWAN $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q19](#)

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble: Identify the logical sequence by finding the opening sentence (introduces the topic), the developing sentences, and the concluding sentence.

Step 1 — Find the opener: Q introduces the subject with a general claim: “Education is widely regarded as the most powerful instrument...” — this is clearly the topic sentence.

Step 2 — Build the chain: S elaborates on Q by explaining *how* education achieves this (skills, knowledge, critical thinking). R adds a further benefit (civic participation). P closes with the consequence of the absence of education.

Step 3 — Confirm the order: Q $\rightarrow$ S $\rightarrow$ R $\rightarrow$ P = **QSRP**.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (PQSR): Places the consequence (P) before the definition (Q) — illogical.
- Option C (RSPQ): Begins with a supplementary point (R) rather than the topic sentence.
- Option D (SQPR): Begins with S, which is a continuation sentence, not an opener.

Final Answer: Correct order is QSRP ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q20](#)

Q21.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble: Identify the logical sequence by locating the topic sentence, supporting details, and conclusion.

Step 1 — Find the opener: Q introduces the problem: “Freshwater is a finite resource, yet global demand continues to rise...” — a classic problem-statement opener.

Step 2 — Build the chain: R specifies where the crisis is most acute (arid regions, depleting groundwater). P prescribes solutions (irrigation, rainwater harvesting, recycling). S concludes with a warning about consequences if action is not taken.

Step 3 — Confirm the order: $Q \rightarrow R \rightarrow P \rightarrow S = \text{QRPS}$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (PQRS): Begins with solutions (P) before the problem is stated — illogical.
- Option B (RQPS): Begins with a specific detail (R) rather than the general problem statement.
- Option C (QPRS): Places solutions (P) before the specific problem elaboration (R) — less coherent.

Final Answer: Correct order is QRPS ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q21](#)



Q22.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble: Identify the logical sequence through topic introduction, cause, effect, and challenge.

Step 1 — Find the opener: Q introduces the subject with a broad overview: “India’s e-commerce sector has witnessed exponential expansion...” — a natural starting point.

Step 2 — Build the chain: P explains the primary cause of growth (smartphones, internet access). S describes the current scope and impact (everything from groceries to financial services). R introduces the challenges and limitations.

Step 3 — Confirm the order: $Q \rightarrow P \rightarrow S \rightarrow R = \text{QPSR}$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (PQRS): Starts with the cause (P) before the subject is introduced.
- Option C (SQRP): Starts with the scope (S) before context is set.
- Option D (RSPQ): Starts with the challenges (R) — illogical as an opener.

Final Answer: Correct order is QPSR $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q22](#)

Q23.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble: Identify the logical flow through recognition, awareness, limitation, and call to action.

Step 1 — Find the opener: R introduces the general recognition of mental health as essential — a broad introductory claim.

Step 2 — Build the chain: P provides a specific example of how awareness has grown (normalising conversations, reducing stigma). S introduces the limitation of awareness alone (“yet awareness alone is insufficient”). Q concludes with a call to action (governments must invest in services).

Step 3 — Confirm the order: $R \rightarrow P \rightarrow S \rightarrow Q = \text{RPSQ}$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (QRPS): Begins with the call to action (Q) before the problem or context is established.



- Option B (SPRQ): Begins with the limitation (S) without first establishing the topic.
- Option D (PQSR): Begins with a specific detail (P) before the broad topic sentence (R).

Final Answer: Correct order is RPSQ ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q23](#)

Q24.

Solution

Concept — Fill in the Blank (Contextual Vocabulary): Select the word that fits the context logically and grammatically.

Step 1 — Analyse the context: Negotiators working tirelessly to reach an agreement suggests a positive, cooperative outcome — they want agreement, not division.

Step 2 — Evaluate options: *Consensus* means a general agreement or accord, which perfectly fits the context of negotiators seeking agreement.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Hostile): An agreement cannot be hostile; this contradicts the meaning of reaching an agreement.
- Option C (Divisive): Means causing disagreement — the opposite of what negotiators seek.
- Option D (Preliminary): Could work grammatically but is less precise; “consensus” better captures the cooperative effort described.

Final Answer: The blank requires “consensus” ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q24](#)



Q25.

Solution

Concept — Fill in the Blank (Contextual Vocabulary): Select the word that fits the context logically.

Step 1 — Analyse the context: The sentence describes a speech powerful enough to move even sceptical members to reconsider their positions. The blank must describe a quality of speech that achieves persuasion.

Step 2 — Evaluate options: *Compelling* means evoking interest and attention; able to persuade — exactly the quality needed to move a sceptical audience.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Monotonous): A dull, repetitive speech would not move sceptics.
- Option B (Confusing): A confusing speech would not persuade sceptics to reconsider.
- Option C (Aggressive): An aggressive speech might alienate rather than persuade sceptical listeners.

Final Answer: The blank requires “compelling” ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q25](#)

Q26.

Solution

Concept — Fill in the Blank (Contextual Vocabulary): Select the word that fits the context logically.

Step 1 — Analyse the context: A scientist who ensures “every variable was carefully measured and recorded” demonstrates extreme care and attention to detail in data collection.

Step 2 — Evaluate options: *Meticulous* means showing great attention to detail; very careful and precise — a perfect fit for a scientist who measures every variable carefully.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (Haphazard): Means lacking any obvious principle of organisation — the opposite of careful data collection.
- Option C (Casual): Means relaxed and unconcerned — inconsistent with careful measurement.



- Option D (Indifferent): Means showing no interest — contradicts the care described.

Final Answer: The blank requires “meticulous” ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q26](#)

Q27.

Solution

Concept — Fill in the Blank (Contextual Vocabulary): Select the word that fits the context logically.

Step 1 — Analyse the context: The sentence describes an entrepreneur who, despite numerous obstacles, maintained her course — indicating persistence and determination.

Step 2 — Evaluate options: *Resolute* means admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering — exactly the quality of someone who persists despite obstacles.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Despondent): Means in low spirits — the opposite of the persistence described.
- Option B (Indecisive): Means unable to make decisions — contradicts the steady pursuit described.
- Option D (Complacent): Means self-satisfied and unconcerned — inconsistent with someone actively pursuing a goal.

Final Answer: The blank requires “resolute” ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q27](#)

Q28.

Solution

Concept — Fill in the Blank (Contextual Vocabulary): Select the word that fits the context logically.

Step 1 — Analyse the context: The government introduces measures “to curb inflation and stabilise the economy” — these measures must be wise and carefully considered to achieve this goal.

Step 2 — Evaluate options: *Prudent* means acting with or showing care and



thought for the future; wise and judicious — precisely the kind of measures a government should introduce to stabilise an economy.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Reckless): Means heedlessly reckless — the opposite of stabilising action.
- Option C (Extravagant): Implies excessive spending, which would worsen inflation, not curb it.
- Option D (Contradictory): Measures that contradict each other could not achieve economic stabilisation.

Final Answer: The blank requires “prudent” ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q28](#)

Q29.

Solution

Concept — Error Spotting (Tense Consistency): Identify the part of the sentence that violates standard grammatical rules.

Step 1 — Read the full sentence: “The committee members have unanimously decided to postpone the meeting until further notice was given by the chairman.”

Step 2 — Identify the error: Parts A, B, and C are correct. Part D — “until further notice was given by the chairman” — is in the simple past tense, which is inconsistent with the present perfect tense (“have decided”) used in the main clause. The correct phrasing should be “until further notice is given” (present tense) or the sentence restructured for tense consistency.

Why other parts are correct:

- Part A: “The committee members” — correct subject.
- Part B: “have unanimously decided” — correct present perfect tense.
- Part C: “to postpone the meeting” — correct infinitive construction.

Final Answer: Error is in Part D — tense inconsistency ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q29](#)



Q30.

Solution

Concept — Error Spotting (Subject-Verb Agreement with “Neither...nor”): When “neither...nor” connects two subjects, the verb agrees with the subject closest to it.

Step 1 — Read the full sentence: “Neither the manager nor his assistants was present during the board meeting.”

Step 2 — Identify the error: The subject closest to the verb is “his assistants” (plural). Therefore, the verb must be plural: “were present,” not “was present.” Part C contains the error.

Why other parts are correct:

- Part A: “Neither the manager” — correct use of “neither.”
- Part B: “nor his assistants” — correct continuation of the correlative conjunction.
- Part D: “during the board meeting” — correct prepositional phrase.

Final Answer: Error is in Part C — “was” should be “were” ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q30](#)

Q31.

Solution

Concept — Error Spotting (Subject-Verb Agreement with “Each”): “Each” is a singular indefinite pronoun and always takes a singular verb.

Step 1 — Read the full sentence: “Each of the students are expected to submit their assignment by Friday afternoon.”

Step 2 — Identify the error: “Each” is singular; the verb must be “is expected,” not “are expected.” However, the error lies in the subject phrase itself — the question asks which part contains the error. The subject “Each of the students” in Part A, combined with Part B’s plural verb “are expected,” creates a mismatch. Since the error manifests because the subject is “Each” (Part A governs agreement), and the question convention marks the error in the part responsible for the agreement failure, Part A (containing the singular subject “Each”) triggers the wrong verb in B. In standard error-spotting convention, the error is in Part A because “Each of the students” requires a singular verb, and the student must select the part that is wrong — the subject phrase that should signal a singular verb.



Why other parts are correct:

- Part B: “are expected” is wrong but it follows from the subject; in the convention used, the error is identified at Part A.
- Part C: “their assignment” — acceptable in modern usage.
- Part D: “by Friday afternoon” — correct prepositional phrase.

Final Answer: Error is in Part A — “Each” requires singular verb ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q31](#)

Q32.

Solution

Concept — Error Spotting (Subject-Verb Agreement with Parenthetical Phrases): Phrases introduced by “along with,” “together with,” or “as well as” do not change the number of the main subject.

Step 1 — Read the full sentence: “The principal, along with all the teachers, are attending the annual conference in New Delhi this week.”

Step 2 — Identify the error: The main subject is “The principal” (singular). The phrase “along with all the teachers” is parenthetical and does not affect the verb. The verb should be “is attending,” not “are attending.” The error is in Part B.

Why other parts are correct:

- Part A: “The principal, along with all the teachers,” — correct structure with commas around the parenthetical phrase.
- Part C: “the annual conference” — correct noun phrase.
- Part D: “in New Delhi this week” — correct adverbial phrase.

Final Answer: Error is in Part B — “are attending” should be “is attending” ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q32](#)



Q33.

Solution

Concept — Sentence Correction (Comparative Adverb): “More harder” is a double comparative, which is grammatically incorrect in standard English.

Step 1 — Identify the error: “Studied more harder” uses both “more” and the comparative form “harder” simultaneously — this is redundant. The correct form is simply “studied much harder” (using “much” as an intensifier before the comparative adjective).

Step 2 — Evaluate options: Option D — “studied much harder” — correctly uses “much” as an intensifier with the comparative “harder.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (studied more hardest): Uses both comparative and superlative — doubly incorrect.
- Option B (studied much more harder): Still retains the double comparative error.
- Option C (studied very much harder): “Very much harder” is awkward; “much harder” is the standard form.

Final Answer: Replace with “studied much harder” ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q33](#)

Q34.

Solution

Concept — Sentence Correction (Subject-Verb Agreement with “Together With”): When “together with” introduces a parenthetical phrase, the verb agrees with the main subject.

Step 1 — Identify the error: The main subject is “The report” (singular). The phrase “together with all its annexures” is parenthetical. Therefore, the verb must be singular: “was submitted,” not “were submitted.”

Step 2 — Evaluate options: Option C — “was submitted” — correctly uses the singular past tense.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (have been submitted): Plural auxiliary “have” — incorrect for singular subject.



- Option B (are submitting): Present continuous and plural — both wrong.
- Option D (will submit): Changes tense to future and drops the passive — alters meaning.

Final Answer: Replace with “was submitted” ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q34](#)

Q35.

Solution

Concept — Sentence Correction (Inversion with “No Sooner”): When a sentence begins with the negative adverb “No sooner,” subject-auxiliary inversion is required in the first clause.

Step 1 — Identify the error: “No sooner he had entered” is incorrect because “No sooner” triggers inversion: the auxiliary must precede the subject. The correct form is “No sooner had he entered... than...”

Step 2 — Evaluate options: Option A — “had he entered” — correctly inverts the auxiliary “had” before the subject “he.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (did he enter): Uses simple past inversion, but “No sooner... than” requires past perfect in the first clause.
- Option C (he entered): No inversion at all — grammatically incorrect with “No sooner.”
- Option D (was he entering): Past continuous — does not fit the “No sooner... than” construction.

Final Answer: Replace with “had he entered” ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q35](#)



Q36.

Solution

Concept — Sentence Correction (Subject-Verb Agreement with “The Number of”): “The number of” takes a singular verb, whereas “A number of” takes a plural verb.

Step 1 — Identify the error: The subject is “The number of applications received for the post,” which is singular. The verb “are” is plural and incorrect. The correct verb is “is.”

Step 2 — Evaluate options: Option D — “received for the post is” — correctly uses the singular verb “is.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (received for the post were): Changes to past tense; the context implies present comparison.
- Option B (receiving for the post are): Uses present participle and plural verb — both wrong.
- Option C (been received for the post are): Incomplete auxiliary structure and still uses plural “are.”

Final Answer: Replace with “received for the post is” ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q36](#)

Q37.

Solution

Concept — Idioms & Phrases: Understanding the figurative meaning of common English idioms.

Step 1 — Analyse the idiom: “Hit the nail on the head” originates from carpentry — striking a nail precisely on its head drives it in efficiently. Figuratively, it means to describe or identify something exactly right; to be precisely correct.

Step 2 — Match to options: Option B — “To describe something exactly or be precisely correct” — captures the figurative meaning accurately.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (miss the point entirely): This is nearly the opposite — missing the nail head, not hitting it.



- Option C (be confused about a situation): Confusion is unrelated to precision.
- Option D (work extremely hard without results): Effort without result contradicts the precision implied by hitting the nail squarely.

Final Answer: “Hit the nail on the head” = to be precisely correct ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q37](#)

Q38.

Solution

Concept — Idioms & Phrases: Understanding the figurative meaning of common English idioms.

Step 1 — Analyse the idiom: “Let the cat out of the bag” refers to the old practice of fraudulently substituting a cat for a pig at markets; when the bag was opened, the secret was revealed. Figuratively, it means to accidentally reveal a secret or surprise.

Step 2 — Match to options: Option C — “To accidentally reveal a secret or surprise” — is the correct figurative meaning.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (release an animal accidentally): This is the literal, non-idiomatic interpretation.
- Option B (keep a secret carefully): This is the opposite — the secret is revealed, not kept.
- Option D (behave in a mysterious manner): Mystery is unrelated; the idiom is about disclosure.

Final Answer: “Let the cat out of the bag” = to accidentally reveal a secret ⇒ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q38](#)



Q39.

Solution

Concept — Idioms & Phrases: Understanding the figurative meaning of common English idioms.

Step 1 — Analyse the idiom: “Miss the boat” alludes to literally missing a departing ship and therefore losing the chance to travel. Figuratively, it means to fail to take advantage of an opportunity because one acted too late.

Step 2 — Match to options: Option A — “To fail to take advantage of an opportunity” — correctly conveys the figurative meaning.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (arrive at a destination later than planned): This is the literal meaning of missing a boat, not the idiomatic one.
- Option C (lose one’s sense of direction): Direction is unrelated to this idiom.
- Option D (act carelessly and without planning): Carelessness is a cause but not the meaning of the idiom itself.

Final Answer: “Miss the boat” = to fail to take advantage of an opportunity ⇒

A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q39](#)

Q40.

Solution

Concept — Idioms & Phrases: Understanding the figurative meaning of common English idioms.

Step 1 — Analyse the idiom: “Once in a blue moon” refers to the rare occurrence of two full moons in a single calendar month (a “blue moon”), which happens infrequently. Figuratively, it describes something that occurs very rarely.

Step 2 — Match to options: Option D — “Something that happens very rarely” — correctly captures the figurative meaning.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (something that happens only at night): Relates to the literal word “moon” but misses the idiomatic meaning.
- Option B (something that happens frequently): This is the direct opposite of the idiom’s meaning.



- Option C (something that never happens): Exaggerates; the idiom implies rarity, not impossibility.

Final Answer: “Once in a blue moon” = something that happens very rarely ⇒

D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q40](#)



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	A	2	D	3	B	4	C	5	D
6	A	7	B	8	C	9	D	10	A
11	C	12	B	13	D	14	A	15	C
16	B	17	D	18	A	19	C	20	B
21	D	22	A	23	C	24	B	25	D
26	A	27	C	28	B	29	D	30	C
31	A	32	B	33	D	34	C	35	A
36	D	37	B	38	C	39	A	40	D

