

CMAT Sample Paper – 7

Language Comprehension

Common Management Admission Test

Section	Language Comprehension
Total Questions	25
Marks per Question	+4
Negative Marking	–1 per wrong answer
Total Marks	100
Duration	30 minutes

Instructions

1. This paper contains **25 questions** carrying **4 marks** each.
2. Each wrong answer carries a penalty of **1 mark**.
3. Read all passages carefully before answering.
4. Attempt all questions; time management is crucial.
5. Detailed solutions are provided at the end.



Reading Comprehension

Passage 1 (Questions 1–3): India is home to an extraordinary range of biodiversity, much of it concentrated in forests inhabited by Adivasi and other tribal communities. These communities have lived in, and depended upon, forest ecosystems for centuries, developing intricate knowledge of local flora and fauna. The Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006 was designed to recognise the rights of forest-dwelling scheduled tribes by granting them community forest rights (CFR) over their ancestral lands. Studies have shown that villages exercising CFR experience significantly lower rates of deforestation compared with areas managed exclusively by state agencies. Critics, however, argue that collective governance of forests can be undermined by elite capture and weak local institutions. For biodiversity conservation to succeed, policymakers must therefore balance statutory recognition of community rights with robust institutional support.

Q1. According to the passage, which of the following best describes the significance of the Forest Rights Act, 2006?

- (A) It transferred all forest land to private corporations for sustainable exploitation.
- (B) It abolished the authority of state forest departments across India.
- (C) It legally recognised the rights of tribal communities over their ancestral forest land.
- (D) It mandated the relocation of tribal communities from biodiversity hotspots.

Solution

The passage states that the FRA “was designed to recognise the rights of forest-dwelling scheduled tribes by granting them community forest rights (CFR) over their ancestral lands.” This corresponds directly to option (C). Options (A) and (D) contradict the purpose of the Act, while option (B) is not mentioned anywhere in the passage.

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

Q2. Which of the following is cited in the passage as a potential drawback of community-based forest governance?

- (A) Excessive intervention by multinational timber companies
- (B) Elite capture and weak local institutions



- (C) Lack of scientific knowledge among tribal communities
- (D) Rapid deforestation driven by subsistence agriculture

Solution

The passage explicitly notes that critics argue “collective governance of forests can be undermined by elite capture and weak local institutions.” This matches option (B). Options (A), (C), and (D) are not mentioned as concerns in the passage; in fact, the passage highlights the ecological knowledge that tribal communities possess.

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

Q3. What does the passage suggest as the ideal approach to biodiversity conservation in forest areas?

- (A) Complete state control of all forest resources
- (B) Exclusion of tribal communities to allow natural regeneration
- (C) Privatisation of forests to attract investment in conservation
- (D) Combining statutory community rights with strong institutional support

Solution

The concluding sentence of the passage states: “policymakers must therefore balance statutory recognition of community rights with robust institutional support.” This aligns with option (D). Options (A) and (B) are contradicted by the passage’s positive portrayal of community management, and option (C) is not discussed.

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

Passage 2 (Questions 4–7): The COVID-19 pandemic catalysed an unprecedented shift to remote work, accelerating a transformation in how organisations think about physical office space. What was initially seen as a temporary measure has hardened into a long-term structural change. Commercial real-estate markets in major urban centres have been hit by rising vacancy rates as companies downsize their footprints or transition to flexible co-working arrangements. Urban planners now contend with a paradox: city cores lose footfall and retail revenue, yet surrounding suburban and tier-2 towns witness population inflows as workers opt for affordable housing and quality of life. This geographic redistribution of the workforce has broad implications for municipal tax revenues, infrastructure planning, and the social fabric of both cities and smaller towns absorbing new residents.



Q4. According to the passage, what was the initial perception of the shift to remote work during the pandemic?

- (A) A permanent and irreversible change in workplace culture
- (B) A temporary measure that would soon be reversed
- (C) A cost-saving strategy planned years in advance by companies
- (D) A government-mandated policy to reduce urban congestion

Solution

The passage states that remote work was “initially seen as a temporary measure” before it hardened into a long-term structural change. This matches option (B). Option (A) describes the eventual outcome rather than the initial perception; options (C) and (D) are not supported by the text.

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

Q5. Which of the following best explains the “paradox” mentioned by urban planners in the passage?

- (A) Cities gain revenue even as their populations decline.
- (B) Suburban areas suffer from overcrowding while city cores thrive.
- (C) Remote work increases office construction in city centres.
- (D) City cores lose activity while surrounding areas gain population.

Solution

The passage describes the paradox as: city cores “lose footfall and retail revenue, yet surrounding suburban and tier-2 towns witness population inflows.” Option (D) accurately captures this paradox. Options (A), (B), and (C) misrepresent or reverse the described trends.

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



Q6. What primary reason does the passage give for workers relocating to suburban and tier-2 towns?

- (A) Better employment opportunities in tier-2 cities
- (B) Mandatory government relocation schemes
- (C) Affordable housing and improved quality of life
- (D) Availability of high-speed internet infrastructure

Solution

The passage explicitly states that workers “opt for affordable housing and quality of life” when relocating to suburban and tier-2 towns. This matches option (C). Options (A), (B), and (D) are not cited as reasons in the passage.

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

Q7. Which of the following is NOT listed in the passage as a consequence of the geographic redistribution of the workforce?

- (A) Impact on municipal tax revenues
- (B) Decline in international migration to India
- (C) Implications for infrastructure planning
- (D) Effects on the social fabric of smaller towns

Solution

The passage lists municipal tax revenues, infrastructure planning, and the social fabric of cities and towns as consequences. International migration is not mentioned anywhere in the passage, making option (B) the correct answer. This is a standard “which is NOT mentioned” question requiring careful reading.

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

Vocabulary



Q8. Choose the meaning closest to the underlined word in the sentence below.

“The indigenous communities of the Andaman Islands have maintained their distinct cultural practices for thousands of years.”

- (A) Introduced from an external region; foreign
- (B) Pertaining to industrial or commercial production
- (C) Originating or occurring naturally in a place; native
- (D) Relating to the legal authority of a government

Solution

Indigenous derives from the Latin *indigena* meaning “native to a place.” It describes communities or species that have originated in and belong naturally to a particular region. Option (C) captures this meaning precisely. Option (A) is the antonym; options (B) and (D) are entirely unrelated in meaning.

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

Q9. Choose the meaning closest to the underlined word in the sentence below.

“His mercurial temperament made it difficult for colleagues to predict how he would react in any given situation.”

- (A) Steady and consistent in behaviour; dependable
- (B) Subject to sudden changes of mood; volatile
- (C) Extremely generous and open-handed
- (D) Slow-moving and difficult to excite

Solution

Mercurial originally referred to the planet Mercury and the element quicksilver, both associated with rapid, unpredictable movement. As an adjective describing temperament, it means prone to sudden and unpredictable mood changes—volatile. Option (B) is correct. Option (A) is the antonym; options (C) and (D) bear no semantic relation to the word.



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

Q10. Choose the meaning closest to the underlined word in the sentence below.

“A pragmatic approach to economic reform focuses on measurable outcomes rather than ideological purity.”

- (A) Guided by abstract philosophical principles
- (B) Focused exclusively on historical precedents
- (C) Dealing with things sensibly and realistically
- (D) Concerned with artistic or aesthetic values

Solution

Pragmatic comes from the Greek *pragma* (deed or action) and refers to an approach grounded in practical considerations and real-world outcomes rather than theory or ideology. Option (C) reflects this meaning accurately. Options (A), (B), and (D) describe orientations that are distinctly different from pragmatism.

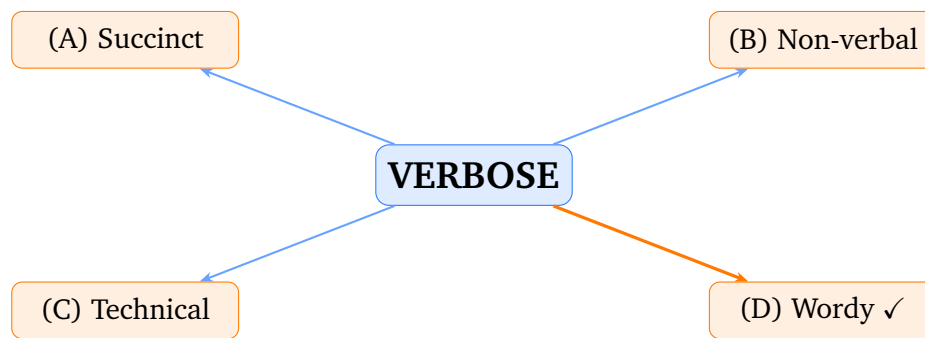
Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q10](#)

Q11. Choose the meaning closest to the underlined word in the sentence below.

“The professor’s verbose lecture notes confused students who were looking for concise summaries.”

- (A) Expressed in a brief and clear manner; succinct
- (B) Relating to non-verbal or visual communication
- (C) Highly technical and difficult to understand
- (D) Using more words than needed; wordy



**Solution**

Verbose derives from the Latin *verbosus* (full of words) and means using or containing more words than necessary. The word-web above shows that option (D) “Wordy” is the correct match. Option (A) is the antonym (succinct $\approx$ concise); options (B) and (C) have no etymological or semantic connection to the word.

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

Grammar / Error Detection

In each sentence below, the sentence is divided into four parts labelled (A), (B), (C), and (D). Identify the part that contains a grammatical error.

Q12. (A) The committee, whom was entrusted with / (B) the responsibility of reviewing the proposal, / (C) submitted its report after / (D) three weeks of deliberation.

(A) Part A

(B) Part B

(C) Part C

(D) Part D

Solution

Part (A) contains the error. The relative pronoun *whom* is used for objects, but here the committee is the *subject* of the relative clause (it “was entrusted”). The correct pronoun is *which* (or *that*) since the antecedent is a non-human noun (“the committee”). The corrected phrase: *The committee, which was entrusted with...*

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



Q13. (A) The new policy have been / (B) implemented across all departments / (C) since the beginning / (D) of the financial year.

(A) Part A

(B) Part B

(C) Part C

(D) Part D

Solution

Part (A) contains the subject-verb agreement error. “The new policy” is a singular subject and therefore requires the singular auxiliary *has*, not *have*. The correct construction is: *The new policy has been implemented...* Parts (B), (C), and (D) are grammatically correct as written.

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

Q14. (A) She could not believe / (B) that the project had been completed / (C) without nobody informing / (D) the senior management team.

(A) Part A

(B) Part B

(C) Part C

(D) Part D

Solution

Part (C) contains a double negative error. The construction “without nobody informing” uses two negatives (*without* + *nobody*), which cancel each other out and create an unintended affirmative meaning. The correct form is *without anybody informing* or *without anyone informing*. Parts (A), (B), and (D) are grammatically sound.

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

Fill in the Blanks



Q15. The government's decision to ____ subsidies on fertilisers was welcomed by farmers who had long struggled with rising input costs.

- (A) curtail
- (B) eliminate
- (C) suspend
- (D) reinstate

Solution

The context indicates that farmers “welcomed” the decision, implying that the action benefited them. “Curtail” (reduce), “eliminate” (remove), and “suspend” (temporarily stop) would all harm farmers by reducing support. Only *reinstate* (D)—meaning to restore something that was previously removed—makes farmers welcome the decision, as it implies the reintroduction of beneficial subsidies.

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

Q16. Her arguments were so ____ that even the most sceptical members of the audience found themselves convinced by the end of her speech.

- (A) cogent
- (B) ambiguous
- (C) superfluous
- (D) tepid

Solution

For the sceptical audience to be “convinced,” the arguments must be clear, logical, and compelling. *Cogent* (A) means “clear, logical, and convincing”—the ideal fit. *Ambiguous* (B) means unclear and would not convince anyone; *superfluous* (C) means unnecessary; *tepid* (D) means lukewarm or unenthusiastic—none of which lead to conviction.

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



Q17. The archaeologists were thrilled to discover an ____ manuscript that had never been studied before, offering new insights into medieval trade routes.

- (A) outdated
- (B) obsolete
- (C) examined
- (D) unexamined

Solution

The sentence specifies that the manuscript “had never been studied before,” which means it had not previously been examined. *Unexamined* (D) is the precise fit. *Outdated* (A) and *obsolete* (B) carry negative connotations of being no longer useful, and *examined* (C) directly contradicts “had never been studied.”

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

Para Jumbles

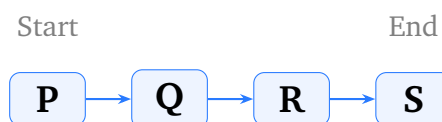
Q18. Arrange the following sentences into a coherent paragraph on India’s tourism potential and challenges.

P. India’s diverse landscape encompasses snow-capped Himalayan peaks, pristine beaches, and ancient heritage sites.

Q. Despite this natural and cultural wealth, tourism infrastructure in many regions remains underdeveloped.

R. The government has launched schemes such as PRASAD and HRIDAY to address these gaps in heritage city development.

S. Sustainable tourism, which balances visitor experience with environmental preservation, is therefore the need of the hour.



- (A) P – Q – R – S



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

Solution

The logical flow: **P** introduces India's diversity (the strength) → **Q** identifies the problem (underdeveloped infrastructure) → **R** states government schemes addressing the problem → **S** concludes with the overarching solution (sustainable tourism). The sequence P–Q–R–S (option A) creates a coherent problem-solution narrative. Other options disrupt this logical progression.

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

Q19. Arrange the following sentences into a coherent paragraph on the role of the judiciary in environmental protection.

P. Courts have increasingly stepped in to enforce environmental laws when executive agencies fail to act.

Q. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established in India specifically to handle environmental disputes swiftly.

R. However, critics caution that judicial overreach can undermine the domain expertise of environmental regulators.

S. A collaborative model, in which courts set standards while agencies implement them, may offer the best path forward.

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

Solution

P introduces judicial intervention as context → **Q** provides a specific institutional example (NGT) → **R** raises the counterargument (judicial overreach) → **S** proposes a balanced solution. This P–Q–R–S sequence (option C) follows standard argumentative structure: context → example → counterargument → resolution.



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

Idioms and Phrases

Q20. Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: **“once in a blue moon”**

- (A) Very rarely; on infrequent occasions
- (B) At predictable and regular intervals
- (C) With great enthusiasm and energy
- (D) In a confused or disoriented state

Solution

A “blue moon” refers to the rare occurrence of a second full moon in a calendar month, making the phrase synonymous with extreme rarity. “Once in a blue moon” therefore means something that happens very rarely or almost never—option (A). Option (B) describes regularity, which is the opposite; options (C) and (D) are unrelated to rarity.

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

Q21. Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: **“cost an arm and a leg”**

- (A) Be extremely expensive
- (B) Require great physical effort
- (C) Involve significant personal sacrifice
- (D) Demand medical expertise to complete

Solution

“Cost an arm and a leg” is an idiomatic expression meaning something is exorbitantly or extremely expensive. Option (A) captures this meaning precisely. Options (B) and (C), though superficially related to physical sacrifice, do not convey the monetary sense of the idiom. Option (D) is entirely unrelated.

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



One-word Substitution

Q22. Choose the single word that best substitutes the following phrase:

“One who travels from place to place having no fixed home”

One who travels from place to place having no fixed home

(A) Pilgrim

(B) Nomad ✓

(C) Vagrant

(D) Hermit

(A) Pilgrim

(B) Nomad

(C) Vagrant

(D) Hermit

Solution

A *Nomad* (B) is a member of a community or a person who has no fixed residence and moves from place to place. A *Pilgrim* (A) travels specifically to a religious site; a *Vagrant* (C) wanders but with connotations of idleness or homelessness rather than a culturally nomadic lifestyle; a *Hermit* (D) lives in seclusion, typically in one place—the opposite of travelling.

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

Q23. Choose the single word that best substitutes the following phrase:

“A person who compiles dictionaries”

(A) Lexicographer

(B) Bibliographer

(C) Etymologist

(D) Philologist



Solution

A *Lexicographer* (A) is a person who writes or compiles dictionaries—from Greek *lexikon* (of words) + *graphos* (writer). A *Bibliographer* (B) catalogues books; an *Etymologist* (C) studies the origin and history of words but does not necessarily compile dictionaries; a *Philologist* (D) studies language and literary texts. None of (B), (C), or (D) specifically denotes dictionary compilation.

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

Cloze Test

In the passage below, each blank is numbered. Choose the most appropriate word for each blank from the options given.

India's banking sector has long grappled with the challenge of non-performing assets (NPAs)—loans that have ceased to generate income for the lending institution. In the wake of aggressive credit expansion in the early 2000s, many banks extended loans to infrastructure and real-estate projects without adequate (24)____ of the borrowers' repayment capacity. When these projects encountered delays or failed to generate expected revenues, the loans turned bad, eroding bank capital. The government and the Reserve Bank of India introduced the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in 2016 as a time-bound mechanism to (25)____ stressed assets and provide creditors with a structured resolution pathway. Though the IBC has recorded notable successes, experts argue that faster adjudication and better **institutional** coordination remain essential for a sustained recovery in the health of Indian banks.

Q24. Choose the word that best fits blank (24):

- (A) celebration
- (B) ignorance
- (C) criticism
- (D) assessment



Solution

Blank (24) follows “without adequate ____ of the borrowers’ repayment capacity.” The context is about banks failing to properly evaluate whether borrowers could repay loans. *Assessment* (D) means a formal evaluation or appraisal—precisely what was lacking. *Celebration* (A) and *ignorance* (B) are contextually absurd; *criticism* (C) does not fit the banking evaluation context.

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

Q25. Choose the word that best fits blank (25):

- (A) ignore
- (B) resolve
- (C) create
- (D) aggravate

Solution

Blank (25) completes “a time-bound mechanism to ____ stressed assets and provide creditors with a structured resolution pathway.” The IBC was introduced as a corrective framework, so the blank requires a word meaning to deal with or fix the problem. *Resolve* (B) fits perfectly. *Ignore* (A) and *aggravate* (D) are antonymous to the legislative intent; *create* (C) is illogical since the stressed assets already exist.

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



Answer Key — CMAT Language Comprehension Sample Paper 7

Questions 1–25									
1	C	2	B	3	D	4	B	5	D
6	C	7	B	8	C	9	B	10	C
11	D	12	A	13	A	14	C	15	D
16	A	17	D	18	A	19	C	20	A
21	A	22	B	23	A	24	D	25	B

Quick Reference

