

MAH MCA CET English Comprehension & Verbal Ability

Sample Paper – 10

Duration: 18 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 40

Instructions

- This paper contains **20** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the English Comprehension & Verbal Ability section of **MAH MCA CET**.
- Each correct answer carries **+2 marks**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers.
- Only **one** option is correct. Choose carefully.
- The medium of examination is English. Use of mobile phones, calculators, or any electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

Q1. Read the following passage and answer Questions 1 to 4.

The world's cities are expanding at a pace unprecedented in human history. Rapid urbanisation, driven by industrialisation and the promise of economic opportunity, has led to burgeoning metropolises where millions compete for limited space, resources, and tranquillity. Overcrowding, noise pollution, and pervasive air contamination have become defining features of contemporary urban life, placing enormous strain on both the physical and psychological health of city dwellers.

Research consistently shows that urban residents face higher risks of anxiety, depression, and stress-related disorders compared to their rural counterparts. The relentless pace of city life, combined with social fragmentation and the erosion of traditional community bonds, fosters a profound sense of isolation even amidst teeming crowds. The anonymity of the urban environment, where neighbours may remain strangers for years, compounds the mental health burden borne by millions.

Green spaces — parks, community gardens, and tree-lined boulevards —



have emerged as vital antidotes to the psychological toll of urban density. Studies indicate that even brief exposure to nature within a city can significantly reduce cortisol levels, lower blood pressure, and restore cognitive function. Urban planners and policymakers must therefore prioritise the integration of green infrastructure into city design.

Addressing the mental health crisis of urbanisation requires more than individual remedies. Community-building initiatives, inclusive public spaces, and accessible mental health services are equally essential. Only through a holistic approach that acknowledges both the environmental and social dimensions of urban life can cities become places where human wellbeing truly flourishes.

Q1. What is the central idea of the passage?

- (A) The economic advantages that rapid urbanisation brings to developing nations
- (B) The causes of air and noise pollution in modern metropolitan cities
- (C) The decline of rural communities as a consequence of urban migration
- (D) The impact of rapid urbanisation on mental health and the need for remedial measures

Q2. According to the passage, what is stated about green spaces in cities?

- (A) Green spaces like parks and gardens can significantly reduce stress and improve mental health in cities
- (B) Green spaces are effective only when they cover more than half of the total urban area
- (C) Green spaces in cities are primarily used for recreational sports and physical fitness activities
- (D) Green spaces have no measurable impact on mental health unless combined with therapy

Q3. The word “**burgeoning**” as used in the passage most nearly means:



- (A) Slowly decaying and losing population
- (B) Severely overcrowded and uninhabitable
- (C) Rapidly growing and expanding
- (D) Recently planned and newly constructed

Q4. The author's attitude towards urbanisation can best be described as:

- (A) Entirely neutral and detached from the subject
- (B) Critical yet constructive, acknowledging problems while suggesting solutions
- (C) Deeply pessimistic, offering no hope for improvement
- (D) Enthusiastically celebratory of urban growth and progress

Q5. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to **OPULENT**:

- (A) Frugal
- (B) Lavish
- (C) Modest
- (D) Sombre

Q6. Choose the word that is most nearly **opposite** in meaning to **TACITURN**:

- (A) Talkative
- (B) Reserved
- (C) Reticent
- (D) Withdrawn

Q7. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word:

"The professor's lecture was so _____ that even complex topics seemed simple."

- (A) ambiguous



- (B) verbose
- (C) lucid
- (D) obscure

Q8. Choose the one word that best substitutes the underlined phrase:

“One who is indifferent to pleasure or pain and accepts both with equanimity”

- (A) Hedonist
- (B) Ascetic
- (C) Cynic
- (D) Stoic

Q9. Choose the word that best completes the analogy:

OPHTHALMOLOGIST : EYES :: CARDIOLOGIST : _____

- (A) Lungs
- (B) Heart
- (C) Brain
- (D) Kidneys

Q10. The following sentence has been divided into four parts labelled (A), (B), (C), and (D). Identify the part that contains a grammatical error:

(A) Neither the employees / **(B)** nor the manager / **(C)** were present / **(D)** at the meeting.

- (A) Neither the employees
- (B) nor the manager
- (C) were present
- (D) at the meeting

Q11. Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb:

“If she _____ harder, she would have passed the examination.”



- (A) had studied
- (B) studied
- (C) has studied
- (D) would study

Q12. Choose the correct preposition to complete the sentence:

“The new policy is aimed _____ reducing traffic congestion.”

- (A) for
- (B) towards
- (C) in
- (D) at

Q13. Choose the correct article to fill in the blank:

“He wants to become _____ engineer after completing his degree.”

- (A) a
- (B) an
- (C) the
- (D) No article is needed

Q14. Choose the correct passive form of the following sentence:

Active: “The committee will announce the results tomorrow.”

- (A) The results are announced by the committee tomorrow.
- (B) The results were announced by the committee tomorrow.
- (C) The results will be announced by the committee tomorrow.
- (D) The results have been announced by the committee tomorrow.

Q15. The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. The first sentence is given. Choose the option that gives the correct sequence of the remaining sentences **P, Q, R, S, T**:



Opening: “Reading habits are declining sharply in the digital age.”

- P. Social media platforms and short-form video content compete directly with the time once devoted to books.
- Q. Nevertheless, dedicated reading communities and literary festivals continue to celebrate the written word.
- R. Studies show that sustained reading improves concentration, empathy, and critical thinking skills.
- S. Screen fatigue and the constant bombardment of notifications make deep, focused reading increasingly difficult.
- T. Educators and librarians have called for renewed investment in reading promotion programmes to reverse this trend.

- (A) P, S, R, T, Q
- (B) S, P, R, Q, T
- (C) R, S, P, Q, T
- (D) R, P, S, T, Q

Q16. In the following sentence, the underlined portion may contain an error. Choose the option that best replaces it, or choose (D) if no improvement is needed:

“Being a rainy day, he did not go out.”

- (A) Since a rainy day
- (B) It being a rainy day
- (C) The day being rainy and wet
- (D) No improvement needed

Q17. Read the following paragraph and choose the sentence that best completes it:

“Physical exercise is far more than a means of maintaining a trim figure or building muscular strength. Regular physical activity has been conclusively linked to improved cardiovascular health, stronger immunity, and



enhanced mental well-being. Exercise triggers the release of endorphins — the body’s natural mood elevators — which help combat stress, anxiety, and depression. Even moderate activities such as brisk walking or cycling, when practised consistently, yield measurable long-term health benefits. _____”

- (A) Therefore, incorporating regular physical activity into daily life is indispensable for achieving true holistic well-being.
- (B) The government should subsidise gym memberships to encourage more people to exercise.
- (C) Competitive sports, however, may not be suitable for everyone owing to the risk of injury.
- (D) The benefits of exercise are limited to those who maintain a strict dietary regimen alongside their fitness routine.

Q18. Choose the most contextually appropriate word to fill in the blank:

“The government launched several _____ measures to control the spread of the disease.”

- (A) decorative
- (B) punitive
- (C) preventive
- (D) retrospective

Q19. What does the idiom “**Hit the nail on the head**” mean?

- (A) To complete a task with great physical effort
- (B) To make a mistake that causes irreversible damage
- (C) To strike an opponent at their weakest point
- (D) To describe or identify something exactly right or with perfect accuracy

Q20. What does the idiom “**Let the cat out of the bag**” mean?



- (A) To release tension by openly discussing a problem
- (B) To accidentally reveal a secret that was meant to be kept hidden
- (C) To free oneself from a difficult or restrictive situation
- (D) To cause confusion and chaos in a previously orderly environment



Detailed Solutions**Q1.****Solution**

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Central Idea): The central idea of a passage is the overarching message that unifies all paragraphs. It is broader than any individual detail and is typically signalled in both the opening and the concluding paragraphs.

Step 1 — Analyse the passage structure: The first paragraph introduces rapid urban growth and its link to physical and psychological strain. The second details mental health risks (anxiety, isolation). The third proposes green spaces as a remedy. The fourth calls for holistic community-based solutions. Every paragraph contributes to a single theme: urbanisation harms mental health and requires deliberate remediation.

Step 2 — Eliminate distractors: The passage does not celebrate economic gains, focus exclusively on pollution causes, or discuss rural decline as a central concern. These are either absent or peripheral.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Economic advantages of urbanisation are not discussed anywhere in the passage.
- Option B: Air and noise pollution are mentioned as symptoms, not the main subject of analysis.
- Option C: Rural community decline is not addressed; the passage focuses on urban dwellers.

Final Answer: The central idea is the impact of rapid urbanisation on mental health and the need for remedial measures. ⇒ D

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



Q2.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Factual Retrieval): Factual retrieval questions require locating specific information stated explicitly in the passage. No inference is needed; the correct option will mirror the passage's wording closely.

Step 1 — Locate the relevant lines: The third paragraph states: "Green spaces — parks, community gardens, and tree-lined boulevards — have emerged as vital antidotes to the psychological toll of urban density. Studies indicate that even brief exposure to nature within a city can significantly reduce cortisol levels, lower blood pressure, and restore cognitive function." This directly supports Option A.

Step 2 — Match to the correct option: Option A accurately paraphrases the passage: green spaces reduce stress and improve mental health in cities.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The passage mentions no specific percentage threshold for green space coverage.
- Option C: The passage links green spaces to psychological restoration, not recreational sports.
- Option D: The passage states benefits occur even from "brief exposure," contradicting the idea that therapy is a prerequisite.

Final Answer: Green spaces can significantly reduce stress and improve mental health in cities. ⇒ A

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

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in Context: To determine the meaning of a word in context, examine the sentence in which it appears and the idea it is being used to express. Surrounding clues and the overall tone of the passage are key guides.

Step 1 — Read the sentence: "...has led to *burgeoning* metropolises where millions compete for limited space, resources, and tranquillity." The passage links "burgeoning metropolises" to the pressure of urban growth and competition for resources, implying these cities are getting bigger and bigger at a rapid pace.

Step 2 — Etymology and meaning: "Burgeon" comes from Old French *bourgeonner*, meaning to bud or sprout. In modern English, "burgeoning" means growing



or expanding rapidly — as in “a burgeoning economy” or “a burgeoning population.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Slowly decaying” is the opposite of what the passage describes; cities are growing, not shrinking.
- Option B: “Severely overcrowded” describes a consequence of growth, not the meaning of “burgeoning” itself.
- Option D: “Recently planned” refers to origin, not pace or scale of growth.

Final Answer: “Burgeoning” means rapidly growing and expanding. ⇒ C

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

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Author’s Attitude / Tone): The author’s attitude is conveyed through word choices, the balance between problem identification and solution-offering, and the overall emotional register of the writing.

Step 1 — Identify critical elements: The passage uses words such as “unprecedented,” “enormous strain,” “profound sense of isolation,” and “mental health crisis” — signalling criticism of unchecked urbanisation. However, it also actively suggests remedies: green spaces, community initiatives, accessible mental health services, and holistic planning.

Step 2 — Characterise the balance: The author neither simply complains nor uncritically celebrates. The tone is simultaneously critical (highlighting harms) and constructive (proposing solutions), which precisely matches “critical yet constructive.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The author is not neutral — strong concerns and specific prescriptions are evident throughout.
- Option C: Deeply pessimistic would offer no remedies; this passage actively proposes several.
- Option D: The passage nowhere celebrates urban growth; it treats urbanisation as a challenge to be managed.

Final Answer: The author’s attitude is critical yet constructive. ⇒ B



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

Q5.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary (Synonyms): A synonym shares the same or very similar meaning as the target word. **OPULENT** describes great wealth, richness, and luxurious abundance.

Step 1 — Define OPULENT: From Latin *opulentus*, meaning wealthy. An opulent lifestyle or setting is characterised by lavish comfort and extravagant display of wealth. Example: “The opulent palace was decorated with gold and marble.”

Step 2 — Evaluate each option: “Lavish” means sumptuously rich, extravagant in expenditure or decoration — a precise synonym of opulent.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Frugal means economical and avoiding waste — the direct antonym of opulent.
- Option C: Modest implies simplicity and absence of extravagance — opposite in meaning.
- Option D: Sombre means dark, gloomy, or grave in tone — entirely unrelated to wealth.

Final Answer: Synonym of OPULENT is *Lavish*. ⇒ **B**

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

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary (Antonyms): An antonym is a word whose meaning is directly opposite to the target word. **TACITURN** describes a person who is habitually silent, reserved, and uncommunicative.

Step 1 — Define TACITURN: From Latin *taciturnus*, meaning inclined to silence. A taciturn person speaks very little and shares thoughts or feelings reluctantly. Example: “The taciturn professor rarely engaged in small talk.”

Step 2 — Identify the antonym: The direct opposite of taciturn — someone who speaks freely and at length — is *talkative* (also: garrulous, loquacious). Among the options, “Talkative” is the correct antonym.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Reserved is close in meaning to taciturn, not its antonym.
- Option C: Reticent means unwilling to speak freely — essentially a synonym, not an antonym.
- Option D: Withdrawn means emotionally distant and uncommunicative — also similar in meaning to taciturn.

Final Answer: Antonym of TACITURN is *Talkative*. ⇒ A

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

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary (Contextual Word Choice): The correct word must fit both the grammatical structure and the meaning implied by the surrounding context. Key clues: the subject (professor's lecture), the effect (even complex topics seemed simple), and the intensifier "so . . . that."

Step 1 — Analyse the context: If a professor's lecture makes complex topics seem simple, the lecture must be characterised by clarity, transparency of explanation, and ease of comprehension. The word *lucid* precisely captures this quality — it means clear, easy to understand, and logically expressed.

Step 2 — Confirm the collocation: "So lucid that" is a standard English construction. Example: "Her explanation was so lucid that the students grasped the concept immediately."

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Ambiguous means open to multiple interpretations — the opposite of making things simple and clear.
- Option B: Verbose means using more words than necessary; wordiness does not make topics seem simple.
- Option D: Obscure means difficult to understand or unclear — it would make topics harder, not simpler.

Final Answer: The correct word is *lucid*. ⇒ C

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



Q8.

Solution

Concept — One-word Substitution: One-word substitutions replace a descriptive phrase with the single most precise word. Recognising specialised vocabulary from philosophy, psychology, and sociology is essential for competitive English exams.

Step 1 — Identify the phrase: “One who is indifferent to pleasure or pain and accepts both with equanimity.” This describes a philosophical disposition of emotional neutrality and fortitude in the face of both positive and negative experiences.

Step 2 — Match to the correct word: *Stoic* (from the Stoic school of ancient Greek philosophy) precisely means a person who endures hardship and pleasure without complaint or excitement, maintaining calm indifference. Example: “He bore his illness with stoic composure.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Hedonist is one who pursues pleasure above all else — the opposite of indifference to pleasure.
- Option B: Ascetic practises severe self-denial, especially for spiritual reasons; this is more active rejection than indifference.
- Option C: Cynic is one who believes people are motivated only by self-interest; unrelated to indifference to pleasure or pain.

Final Answer: One-word substitution is *Stoic*. ⇒ D

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

Q9.

Solution

Concept — Word Analogy: Analogy questions test the ability to identify and consistently apply a relationship between pairs of words. The relationship here is: *a medical specialist treats or studies a specific organ.*

Step 1 — Define the relationship: An **Ophthalmologist** is a medical doctor who specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of **Eyes** (and related disorders). The analogy requires finding the organ that a **Cardiologist** specialises in.

Step 2 — Apply the pattern: *Cardiology* derives from the Greek *kardia* (heart) + *logos* (study). A Cardiologist specialises in the **Heart** — its structure, function, and diseases.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Lungs are studied and treated by Pulmonologists, not Cardiologists.
- Option C: Brain disorders are the domain of Neurologists and Neurosurgeons.
- Option D: Kidney diseases are treated by Nephrologists, not Cardiologists.

Final Answer: CARDIOLOGIST specialises in the *Heart*. ⇒ **B**

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

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Grammar (Error Detection — Neither...Nor Subject-Verb Agreement): With the correlative conjunction “neither...nor,” the verb agrees with the subject *nearest* to it (the proximity rule). If the subject nearest to the verb is singular, a singular verb is used.

Step 1 — Identify the subjects: In the sentence “Neither the employees nor the manager were present,” the two subjects are “the employees” (plural) and “the manager” (singular). The subject nearest to the verb “were present” is “*the manager*” (singular).

Step 2 — Apply the proximity rule: Since “the manager” is singular, the verb must be singular: *was present*, not “were present.” Part (C) “were present” is therefore incorrect and should read “was present.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Neither the employees” is grammatically correct as part of the correlative conjunction.
- Option B: “Nor the manager” is correctly formed; “nor” is the standard second element of “neither...nor.”
- Option D: “At the meeting” is a correctly formed prepositional phrase; no error here.

Final Answer: Error is in Part (C): “were present” should be “was present.” ⇒ **C**

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



Q11.

Solution

Concept — Grammar (Third Conditional — Past Unreal): The third conditional expresses a hypothetical situation in the past and its imagined past consequence. Structure: *If + subject + had + past participle, subject + would have + past participle.*

Step 1 — Identify the conditional type: The result clause “she would have passed” uses “would have + past participle,” which signals the third conditional. The condition clause (if-clause) must therefore use “had + past participle.”

Step 2 — Apply the rule: The correct form for the blank is *had studied*: “If she **had studied** harder, she would have passed the examination.” This correctly describes a past event that did not happen.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: “Studied” (simple past) is used in second conditionals (hypothetical present/future), not third conditionals.
- Option C: “Has studied” (present perfect) cannot be used in the past hypothetical if-clause of a third conditional.
- Option D: “Would study” cannot appear in the if-clause; “would” belongs in the result clause only.

Final Answer: Correct tense is *had studied* (past perfect for third conditional). ⇒

A

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

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Grammar (Preposition Usage — Fixed Collocation): The verb phrase “aimed at” is a fixed collocation in English. “Aim” in the sense of directing effort towards a goal always takes the preposition *at* when followed by a gerund or noun phrase.

Step 1 — Apply the collocation rule: The standard construction is *aimed at + gerund/noun*: “The policy is aimed **at** reducing congestion.” Example: “The campaign is aimed at raising awareness.”

Step 2 — Confirm the answer: Option D (“at”) is the only preposition that correctly collocates with “aimed” in this construction.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Aimed for” is used for goals or targets one hopes to reach, not for the means of achieving them; “aimed for reducing” is unidiomatic.
- Option B: “Aimed towards” is not a standard English fixed expression with this verb.
- Option C: “Aimed in” is not a recognised or grammatically correct collocation in English.

Final Answer: Correct preposition is *at*. ⇒ D

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

Q13.

Solution

Concept — Grammar (Article Usage): The choice between “a” and “an” depends on the *sound* with which the following word begins — not its spelling. Use *an* before words beginning with a vowel sound; use *a* before words beginning with a consonant sound.

Step 1 — Identify the initial sound: The word “engineer” begins with the vowel sound /ɛ/ (the “e” sound in “red”). Since it starts with a vowel sound, the article *an* is required. Example: “She is an engineer,” “He is an editor.”

Step 2 — Confirm: “He wants to become **an** engineer” is grammatically correct. This follows the same rule as “an author,” “an accountant,” “an umbrella.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “a” is used before consonant sounds; “engineer” begins with a vowel sound, so “a engineer” is incorrect.
- Option C: “the” is the definite article used for a specific, previously known noun; here “engineer” is being used generically as a profession.
- Option D: An article is mandatory before singular countable nouns used in a general sense; omitting it entirely is incorrect.

Final Answer: Correct article is *an*. ⇒ B

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



Q14.

Solution

Concept — Grammar (Active to Passive Voice — Future Simple): To convert a future simple active sentence to passive voice, use the formula: *Object + will be + past participle + by + subject*.

Step 1 — Identify elements of the active sentence:

- Subject: “The committee”
- Verb (future simple): “will announce”
- Object: “the results”
- Adverbial: “tomorrow”

Step 2 — Build the passive: Object becomes subject → “The results” + “will be” + “announced” + “by the committee” + “tomorrow.” → *The results will be announced by the committee tomorrow.*

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Are announced” is simple present passive — wrong tense for a future action.
- Option B: “Were announced” is simple past passive — contradicts the future time reference “tomorrow.”
- Option D: “Have been announced” is present perfect passive — incorrect tense and incompatible with “tomorrow.”

Final Answer: Correct passive form is “The results will be announced by the committee tomorrow.” ⇒

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

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Sentence Skills (Para Jumble): Para jumble questions require arranging sentences in a logical, coherent sequence. Use discourse connectors (“nevertheless,” “studies show”), thematic flow from problem to cause to response to conclusion, and pronoun references as guides.

Step 1 — Identify the logical sequence:

- The opener states that reading habits are declining in the digital age.



- R follows naturally: it establishes *why* reading matters (concentration, empathy, critical thinking) — motivating the concern expressed in the opener.
- P introduces the primary competing force: social media and short-form video take time away from books.
- S deepens the cause: screen fatigue and notifications make focused reading harder — elaborating on P.
- T introduces the institutional response: educators and librarians call for action — a logical next step.
- Q concludes with a hopeful but measured note using “Nevertheless” — literary communities persist despite the decline.

Step 2 — Confirm the sequence: Opener → R → P → S → T → Q, which matches **Option D: R, P, S, T, Q.**

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (P, S, R, T, Q): R (value of reading) should come before P and S (causes of decline) to establish what is at stake.
- Option B (S, P, R, Q, T): Beginning with screen fatigue (S) before establishing reading’s value (R) or the competing forces (P) is illogical.
- Option C (R, S, P, Q, T): Q (“Nevertheless... communities persist”) should close the paragraph, not precede T (calls for action).

Final Answer: Correct sequence is R, P, S, T, Q. ⇒ D

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

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Grammar (Dangling Participle / Absolute Phrase): The phrase “Being a rainy day” is a dangling participle. In the sentence “Being a rainy day, he did not go out,” the participial phrase implies that *he* is a rainy day, which is illogical. The phrase must be corrected to form an absolute construction that has its own logical subject.

Step 1 — Identify the error: The subject of the main clause is “he,” but the participial phrase “being a rainy day” has no subject of its own — it is incorrectly attached to “he.” This creates a dangling modifier.

Step 2 — Apply the correction: The absolute phrase “It being a rainy day” supplies a logical subject (“It” = the weather/day) for the participial construction,



correctly separating it from the main clause subject “he.” → “**It being a rainy day**, he did not go out.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Since a rainy day” is grammatically incomplete; “since” as a conjunction requires a full clause (subject + verb), not just a noun phrase.
- Option C: “The day being rainy and wet” introduces unnecessary redundancy (“rainy and wet” overlap) and the phrasing is more awkward than the standard absolute construction.
- Option D: Improvement is needed because the original phrase creates a dangling participle, which is a grammatical error.

Final Answer: Correct replacement is *It being a rainy day*. ⇒ B

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

Q17.

Solution

Concept — Sentence Skills (Para Completion): A concluding sentence must logically synthesise the key ideas of the paragraph, bring the discussion to a close, and maintain the same tone and scope as the preceding sentences.

Step 1 — Summarise the paragraph’s theme: The paragraph argues that physical exercise benefits extend far beyond the physical: cardiovascular health, immunity, and crucially mental well-being (through endorphin release). The scope is broad and holistic. The conclusion must reflect this comprehensive benefit.

Step 2 — Evaluate each option: Option A — “Therefore, incorporating regular physical activity into daily life is indispensable for achieving true holistic well-being” — directly synthesises all the mentioned benefits (physical and mental) under the unifying concept of holistic well-being, and uses “therefore” as an appropriate logical conclusion marker.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Government subsidies for gyms introduce an external policy recommendation not consistent with the paragraph’s individual-focused tone.
- Option C: The caveat about competitive sports introduces a limitation that contradicts the paragraph’s overall positive message about exercise.
- Option D: Tying exercise benefits to diet alone contradicts the paragraph’s broader claim about moderate activities like walking being sufficient.



Final Answer: Best concluding sentence is Option A. $\Rightarrow$ A

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

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Sentence Skills (Contextual Word Choice): The most appropriate word must fit the sentence grammatically and semantically. Key context clues: the subject (government), the verb (launched), the object (measures), and the purpose (to control the spread of the disease).

Step 1 — Analyse the sentence: The government is responding to the spread of a disease by introducing measures. The measures are designed to stop or limit the spread — they are proactive and precautionary in nature. The blank requires a word that describes this forward-looking, protective intent.

Step 2 — Evaluate options: *Preventive* means intended to stop something undesirable from occurring. “Preventive measures” is a standard, widely used collocation in public health contexts. This fits both the grammar and the meaning perfectly.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Decorative measures are unrelated to disease control; “decorative” pertains to aesthetics.
- Option B: Punitive measures involve punishment — appropriate for law enforcement, not disease management.
- Option D: Retrospective measures look back at past events; they would not control the *spread* of a disease but review what already happened.

Final Answer: Most appropriate word is *preventive*. $\Rightarrow$ C

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



Q19.

Solution

Concept — Idioms and Phrases: Idioms are fixed expressions whose meaning cannot be determined from the literal meanings of their individual words. “Hit the nail on the head” is one of the most widely used idioms in English.

Step 1 — Trace the origin: The idiom draws a metaphor from carpentry: a skilled carpenter strikes a nail squarely and precisely on its head, driving it in cleanly without bending it. This precision translates figuratively to saying or identifying something with perfect accuracy.

Step 2 — Confirm the correct meaning: The idiom means *to describe, identify, or say something exactly right* — to be precisely correct in one’s assessment or statement. Example: “When she said the problem was poor communication, she really hit the nail on the head.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Completing a task with physical effort is a literal (not idiomatic) interpretation; idioms are not read literally.
- Option B: Making an irreversible mistake is the meaning of a different idiom (“put one’s foot in it” or “cross a line”).
- Option C: Striking an opponent at their weakest point describes strategy — unrelated to the meaning of this idiom.

Final Answer: “Hit the nail on the head” means to describe or identify something exactly right. ⇒ D

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

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Idioms and Phrases: “Let the cat out of the bag” is a very common English idiom. Understanding its figurative meaning is essential for competitive English comprehension tests.

Step 1 — Trace the origin: The idiom is believed to have originated in medieval markets where dishonest traders would substitute a cat for a piglet in a bag (a “pig in a poke”). If a buyer “let the cat out of the bag,” the deception was exposed — the secret was accidentally revealed.

Step 2 — Confirm the correct meaning: “Let the cat out of the bag” means *to*



accidentally or carelessly reveal a secret that was meant to remain hidden. Example: “I was planning a surprise party, but my brother let the cat out of the bag.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Releasing tension by discussion describes a different process (perhaps “clearing the air”); unrelated to this idiom.
- Option C: Freeing oneself from restriction is the meaning of a different idiom (“break free” or “escape a bind”).
- Option D: Causing confusion and chaos is closer to “open a can of worms” — a different idiom entirely.

Final Answer: “Let the cat out of the bag” means to accidentally reveal a secret.

⇒ B

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



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	D	2	A	3	C	4	B	5	B
6	A	7	C	8	D	9	B	10	C
11	A	12	D	13	B	14	C	15	D
16	B	17	A	18	C	19	D	20	B

