

MAH MCA CET English Comprehension & Verbal Ability

Sample Paper – 3

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 carefully and answer Questions 1 to 4.



Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming every sector of the modern economy, from healthcare and finance to transportation and creative entertainment. Proponents argue that AI-driven technologies can significantly enhance productivity, accelerate medical diagnoses, and help resolve complex global challenges such as climate change. Yet this technological revolution also brings profound risks that society must urgently address.

One of the most pressing concerns is the potential for widespread job displacement. As **autonomous** systems increasingly replace routine cognitive and manual tasks, millions of workers may find themselves without meaningful employment. Unlike previous industrial revolutions, the pace of AI adoption leaves little time for workers to retrain or adapt adequately.

Beyond displacement, critics highlight the danger of algorithmic bias: AI models trained on historical data often perpetuate existing social inequalities, shaping decisions in hiring, lending, and criminal justice. Perhaps most troubling is the expansion of AI-powered surveillance, which threatens civil liberties and could enable authoritarian control.

For AI to truly benefit humanity, developers, governments, and civil society must collaborate to establish robust ethical frameworks, transparent algorithms, and meaningful regulation — ensuring that progress does not come at the expense of human dignity.

What is the **main argument** of the passage?

- (A) AI will inevitably lead to mass unemployment and the collapse of modern society.
- (B) Governments should ban AI development until comprehensive ethical guidelines are established.
- (C) AI offers significant benefits but also poses serious risks that require urgent ethical oversight.
- (D) Algorithmic bias is the single greatest threat posed by artificial intelligence today.

Q2. Which concern about AI does the author **emphasise most strongly** in the passage?

- (A) The high financial cost of AI research and development programmes.
- (B) The inability of AI systems to solve complex scientific problems reliably.



- (C) The excessive dependence of consumers on digital and AI-powered technology.
- (D) The displacement of workers and the erosion of civil liberties through AI-powered surveillance.

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

- (A) Self-operating and independent.
- (B) Futuristic and technologically advanced.
- (C) Destructive and difficult to control.
- (D) Experimental and not yet fully developed.

Q4. Which of the following statements would the **author most likely agree** with?

- (A) Artificial intelligence should be developed without restrictions to maximise innovation and growth.
- (B) The dangers of AI far outweigh any potential advantages it may offer to humanity.
- (C) Effective regulation and ethical frameworks are essential for responsible AI development.
- (D) AI-powered surveillance is the only major concern that governments need to address immediately.

Q5. Choose the **synonym** of the word **PRAGMATIC**:

- (A) Idealistic
- (B) Practical
- (C) Impulsive
- (D) Abstract

Q6. Choose the **antonym** of the word **OSTENTATIOUS**:

- (A) Flashy



- (B) Modest
- (C) Extravagant
- (D) Pompous

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

“Her business _____ helped her identify the most profitable opportunity in a crowded market.”

- (A) Acumen
- (B) Lethargy
- (C) Ambiguity
- (D) Resentment

Q8. Choose the **one-word substitution** for the following:

“A person who collects postage stamps.”

- (A) Numismatist
- (B) Philatelist
- (C) Cartophilist
- (D) Bibliophile

Q9. Complete the **analogy**:

NEUROLOGIST : NERVES :: CARDIOLOGIST : _____

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

Q10. Choose the sentence that uses a **modal verb correctly** to express **possibility**:

- (A) She must visit her grandmother yesterday after the function ended.



- (B) He should is going to the market right now to buy provisions.
- (C) They will can finish the entire project before the end of this week.
- (D) It might rain this evening, so carry an umbrella when you go out.

Q11. Identify the **error** in the following conditional sentence:

“If she would study harder, she will pass the examination.”

- (A) “would study” should be replaced with “studies” (Type 1) or “studied” (Type 2).
- (B) “will pass” should be replaced with “would have passed.”
- (C) The adverb “harder” is used incorrectly in this context.
- (D) There is no error; the sentence is grammatically correct.

Q12. Fill in the blank with the **correct relative pronoun**:

“The professor _____ research was published in *Nature* received a prestigious international award.”

- (A) who
- (B) whom
- (C) whose
- (D) which

Q13. Choose the **correct form** (gerund or infinitive) to complete the sentence:

“The committee decided _____ the proposal before the deadline.”

- (A) reviewing
- (B) to reviewing
- (C) review
- (D) to review

Q14. Identify the sentence that has an **incorrect tense shift**:



- (A) She was walking to the library when she suddenly stops and looked around.
- (B) They had finished dinner before the guests arrived at the venue.
- (C) He will call you as soon as he reaches the station.
- (D) The manager asked the team to submit the report by Monday morning.

Q15. Para Jumble: The opening sentence of a paragraph is given. Rearrange the sentences **P**, **Q**, **R**, and **S** that follow it to form a coherent paragraph.

Opening Sentence (S1): “The global transition to renewable energy is one of the most critical challenges of the twenty-first century.”

P. Governments worldwide are now implementing policies that incentivise solar and wind power adoption.

Q. Traditional fossil fuels, while still abundant, contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

R. However, the shift requires massive infrastructure investment and a complete rethinking of energy distribution networks.

S. As technology matures and costs decline, renewables are becoming increasingly competitive with conventional energy sources.

Choose the **correct sequence** after the opening sentence:

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

Q16. Sentence Improvement: The underlined part of the sentence may contain an error. Choose the option that best **improves** it, or select “No improvement” if the original is correct.

“Being a hot day, we decided to stay inside the house.”

- (A) As it was a hot day



- (B) Because of hot
- (C) Since hot day
- (D) No improvement

Q17. Para Completion: Choose the sentence that **best concludes** the following paragraph.

Rapid urbanisation in developing nations presents both opportunities and formidable challenges. Cities attract migrants seeking better economic prospects, fuelling growth in labour markets and spurring innovation. Infrastructure, however, often lags behind population growth, resulting in overcrowded settlements, inadequate sanitation, and strained public services. Environmental pressures also intensify as urban sprawl consumes agricultural land and increases pollution levels. _____

- (A) Urban areas should therefore be abandoned in favour of revitalised rural communities.
- (B) Tourism has emerged as an unexpected solution to the most severe problems of urbanisation.
- (C) Sustainable urban planning and targeted investment in infrastructure are therefore essential to harness the benefits of urbanisation while minimising its social and environmental costs.
- (D) Governments have already successfully resolved all issues related to urban growth in most developing nations across the world.

Q18. Fill in the blank with the **most appropriate word:**

“Despite receiving sharp criticism from several quarters, the artist remained _____ in her commitment to using her work as a medium for social commentary.”

- (A) indifferent
- (B) hesitant
- (C) ambiguous
- (D) steadfast



Q19. What does the idiom “**Turn over a new leaf**” mean?

- (A) To read a new book or begin a new literary work.
- (B) To change one’s behaviour or habits for the better.
- (C) To start a new chapter in a story or narrative.
- (D) To discard old habits by force or compulsion.

Q20. What does the idiom “**Break the ice**” mean?

- (A) To shatter or destroy a solid physical object.
- (B) To cool a drink by adding ice cubes to it.
- (C) To initiate a conversation or ease tension in an awkward or unfamiliar situation.
- (D) To end a meeting or gathering abruptly without conclusion.



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

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Main Idea): The main argument of a passage is the central claim that the author develops throughout the entire text. It is broader than any single supporting point and encompasses the overall message.

Step 1 — Identify the thesis: The passage opens by acknowledging AI's transformative potential but immediately introduces a counterpoint: "Yet this technological revolution also brings profound risks that society must urgently address." The concluding paragraph calls for ethical frameworks and regulation, reinforcing that both promise and peril exist.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Too extreme — the passage does not predict collapse, only warns of risks.
- Option B: A ban is never suggested; the author calls for regulation, not prohibition.
- Option D: Algorithmic bias is one of several concerns, not the sole focus.

Final Answer: The passage argues that AI offers great promise but carries serious risks requiring ethical oversight. ⇒

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

Q2.**Solution**

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Author's Emphasis): To determine which concern the author emphasises most, examine the amount of space and strength of language dedicated to each issue.

Step 1 — Survey the concerns raised: The passage identifies job displacement, algorithmic bias, and AI-powered surveillance. Job displacement and surveillance each receive dedicated paragraphs, with surveillance described as "perhaps most troubling."

Step 2 — Identify the strongest emphasis: Together, displacement of workers and the threat to civil liberties via surveillance represent the two most emphatically stated dangers. Option D captures both.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Financial cost of AI research is never mentioned in the passage.
- Option B: The passage does not question AI's ability to solve scientific problems.
- Option C: Consumer dependence on digital technology is not discussed.

Final Answer: The author most strongly emphasises job displacement and the erosion of civil liberties. ⇒ D

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

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in Context: When determining the meaning of a word in context, read the surrounding sentence carefully. “Autonomous systems increasingly replace routine cognitive and manual tasks” indicates systems that operate on their own without human intervention.

Step 1 — Apply context clues: The sentence contrasts autonomous systems with human workers, implying these systems act independently. “Self-operating and independent” matches this usage precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: “Futuristic and advanced” relates to technology level, not to operational independence.
- Option C: “Destructive” is a subjective value judgement not implied by the word itself.
- Option D: “Experimental” implies uncertainty, whereas autonomous systems are established and deployed.

Final Answer: “Autonomous” means self-operating and independent. ⇒ A

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



Q4.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Author's View / Inference): The author's likely agreement can be inferred from the concluding paragraph, which advocates for "robust ethical frameworks, transparent algorithms, and meaningful regulation."

Step 1 — Match conclusion to options: The call for regulation and ethical governance aligns directly with Option C: "Effective regulation and ethical frameworks are essential for responsible AI development."

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The author explicitly calls for oversight, contradicting unrestricted development.
- Option B: The author acknowledges AI's benefits as well as risks, so dangers do not simply outweigh benefits.
- Option D: Surveillance is one concern among several; the author does not reduce the problem to a single issue.

Final Answer: The author would agree that regulation and ethical frameworks are essential. $\Rightarrow$

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

Q5.

Solution

Concept — Synonyms: A synonym is a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. *Pragmatic* (adjective) means dealing with things sensibly and realistically, based on practical rather than theoretical considerations.

Step 1 — Evaluate each option: "Practical" captures the real-world, results-focused nature of pragmatism and is its direct synonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: "Idealistic" is actually the antonym of pragmatic.
- Option C: "Impulsive" means acting without forethought, the opposite of measured pragmatism.
- Option D: "Abstract" refers to theoretical ideas, not practical reality.

Final Answer: PRAGMATIC $\approx$ Practical. $\Rightarrow$



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

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Antonyms: An antonym is a word of opposite meaning. *Ostentatious* means characterised by a vulgar or pretentious display, designed to impress others.

Step 1 — Identify the opposite: The opposite of showy and pretentious is restrained and unassuming — that is, *modest*.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Flashy” is a synonym, not an antonym, of ostentatious.
- Option C: “Extravagant” similarly suggests excess and display — again a synonym.
- Option D: “Pompous” implies self-importance and is also a synonym of ostentatious.

Final Answer: The antonym of OSTENTATIOUS is Modest. ⇒ B

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

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Contextual Vocabulary (Fill in the Blank): The blank must describe a quality that enables someone to identify the most profitable business opportunity in a competitive market.

Step 1 — Test each option in context: *Acumen* means the ability to make good judgements and quick decisions in a particular domain (here, business). It fits perfectly — “business acumen” is a standard collocation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: “Lethargy” means sluggishness — counterproductive in identifying opportunities.
- Option C: “Ambiguity” means lack of clarity, which would hinder rather than help decision-making.
- Option D: “Resentment” is an emotional reaction and has no connection to business skill.



Final Answer: “business *acumen*” is the correct collocation. ⇒ A

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

Q8.

Solution

Concept — One-Word Substitutions: English provides single words for complex definitions. Knowing specialist vocabulary for hobbyists and collectors is a common exam requirement.

Step 1 — Match definition to word: A *Philatelist* is a person who collects and studies postage stamps.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: A *Numismatist* collects coins and currency, not stamps.
- Option C: A *Cartophilist* collects cigarette cards or trade cards.
- Option D: A *Bibliophile* is a lover and collector of books.

Final Answer: A person who collects postage stamps is a *Philatelist*. ⇒ B

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

Q9.

Solution

Concept — Word Analogies: Analogies test the ability to identify a consistent relationship between pairs of words. The format is: *A is to B as C is to D*.

Step 1 — Define the relationship: A *Neurologist* is a specialist who studies and treats conditions of the *nerves* (nervous system). Therefore, a *Cardiologist* is a specialist who studies and treats conditions of the *heart*.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The brain is studied by a *Neurologist* (or specifically a neuroscientist).
- Option C: The lungs are the domain of a *Pulmonologist*.
- Option D: The kidneys are treated by a *Nephrologist*.

Final Answer: CARDIOLOGIST : HEART. ⇒ B

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



Q10.

Solution

Concept — Modal Verbs (Possibility): Modal verbs such as *may*, *might*, *could*, and *can* express varying degrees of possibility. *Might* expresses a tentative or weaker possibility.

Step 1 — Evaluate each sentence: Option D — “It might rain this evening, so carry an umbrella” — correctly uses *might* to express a possible future event. The grammar is sound and the meaning is appropriate.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: *Must* expresses necessity or certainty about the present/future, not past actions; “yesterday” makes it incorrect.
- Option B: “Should is going” is grammatically impossible; two finite verb forms cannot be combined this way.
- Option C: “Will can” stacks two modal verbs, which is not permitted in standard English.

Final Answer: “It might rain this evening...” correctly expresses possibility. ⇒

D

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

Q11.

Solution

Concept — Conditional Sentences: English conditionals follow fixed patterns. In a **Type 1** conditional (real/likely), the if-clause uses the *simple present*: “If she *studies* harder, she will pass.” In a **Type 2** conditional (unreal/hypothetical), the if-clause uses the *simple past*: “If she *studied* harder, she would pass.”

Step 1 — Locate the error: “If she would study harder, she will pass” mixes *would* (a modal marking hypothetical distance) in the if-clause with a Type 1 result clause. Using *would* in the if-clause is non-standard in English.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: “Will pass” is correct for a Type 1 conditional; replacing it with “would have passed” would create a Type 3 error.
- Option C: “Harder” is used correctly as an adverb modifying “study.”
- Option D: The sentence does contain an error, so this option is incorrect.

Final Answer: “would study” should be “studies” (Type 1) or “studied” (Type 2).



⇒ A

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

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Relative Pronouns: The choice of relative pronoun depends on its grammatical function in the relative clause. *Whose* is the possessive relative pronoun and is used when the clause refers to something belonging to the antecedent.

Step 1 — Analyse the sentence: “The professor ____ research was published...” — the blank introduces a relative clause that modifies “professor” and shows that the *research belongs to the professor*. This requires the possessive form: *whose*.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: *Who* is used as the subject of a verb (“the professor who received...”), not before a noun.
- Option B: *Whom* is used as an object (“the professor whom we invited”), not before a noun.
- Option D: *Which* refers to things or animals, not people.

Final Answer: The correct relative pronoun is *whose*. ⇒ C

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

Q13.

Solution

Concept — Gerund vs. Infinitive: Certain verbs are followed by the *infinitive* (to + base form), while others take a *gerund* (verb + -ing). The verb *decide* always takes the infinitive.

Step 1 — Apply the rule: “The committee decided ____ the proposal.” Since *decide* is followed by the infinitive, the correct form is *to review*.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “reviewing” (gerund) is not used after *decide*.
- Option B: “to reviewing” incorrectly combines the infinitive marker *to* with a gerund form.
- Option C: “review” (bare infinitive) is used after modal verbs or causatives, not after *decide*.



Final Answer: The committee decided *to review* the proposal. ⇒ D

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

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Tense Consistency: Within a sentence or clause describing a single time frame, all verbs should be in compatible tenses. An abrupt shift from one tense to another without logical reason is a tense inconsistency error.

Step 1 — Examine each option: Option A — “She *was walking* to the library when she suddenly *stops* and *looked* around.” The sentence begins in the past continuous (*was walking*), shifts to simple present (*stops*), then returns to simple past (*looked*). The shift to *stops* is an error; it should be *stopped*.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Past perfect + simple past is a standard and correct sequence of tenses.
- Option C: Simple future + simple present in a time clause is grammatically correct.
- Option D: Simple past + infinitive is standard reported speech structure.

Final Answer: Option A contains the incorrect tense shift (*stops* should be *stopped*). ⇒ A

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

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumbles: To sequence jumbled sentences, identify logical connectors, cause-effect relationships, and thematic progression. The opening sentence establishes the topic: the global challenge of transitioning to renewable energy.

Step 1 — Establish the logical flow:

- Q naturally follows S1 by explaining *why* the transition is necessary (fossil fuels cause emissions).
- P follows Q by describing the response: governments are now incentivising renewables.



- **S** builds on **P** by noting that economics are improving as technology matures.
- **R** introduces the counterpoint (“However. . .”) — the challenge of infrastructure, forming the concluding caveat.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (P Q S R): Starting with **P** before establishing *why* policy is needed is illogical.
- Option B (Q S P R): **S** (cost competitiveness) before **P** (policy action) breaks the cause-effect sequence.
- Option C (S Q P R): Beginning with **S** (technology maturity) before the problem (**Q**) is stated is premature.

Final Answer: The correct sequence is Q P S R. ⇒ D

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

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Sentence Improvement (Dangling Modifiers): A dangling modifier is an introductory phrase that does not logically connect to the subject of the main clause. “Being a hot day” implies that *we* are a hot day, which is illogical.

Step 1 — Correct the modifier: The phrase must be rewritten so that the subject of the modifying clause is clear and logical. “As it was a hot day, we decided to stay inside the house” uses a subordinating clause with an explicit subject (*it*), eliminating the dangling modifier.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: “Because of hot” is incomplete and ungrammatical.
- Option C: “Since hot day” omits the article and is grammatically incorrect.
- Option D: The original sentence contains a dangling modifier, so “No improvement” is incorrect.

Final Answer: The improved version is “As it was a hot day. . .” ⇒ A

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



Q17.

Solution

Concept — Para Completion: The concluding sentence of a paragraph should logically synthesise the points raised and provide a forward-looking or summary statement consistent with the author's stance.

Step 1 — Identify the paragraph's argument: The paragraph presents urbanisation as a double-edged phenomenon — economic opportunity versus infrastructure strain and environmental damage. A good conclusion should acknowledge both sides and propose a constructive path forward.

Step 2 — Evaluate Option C: "Sustainable urban planning and targeted investment in infrastructure are therefore essential..." uses "therefore" to signal a conclusion, addresses both the social and environmental costs, and provides a balanced, actionable recommendation — an ideal closing sentence.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Recommending abandonment of cities contradicts the paragraph's balanced tone.
- Option B: Tourism is not mentioned anywhere in the paragraph; it is an irrelevant non-sequitur.
- Option D: The paragraph explicitly describes ongoing challenges, making this optimistic claim factually inconsistent.

Final Answer: Option C best concludes the paragraph. ⇒ C

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

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Contextual Fill in the Blank: The sentence describes an artist who continues her approach *despite* criticism. The blank must reflect unwavering resolve.

Step 1 — Analyse the context: The conjunction "despite" sets up a contrast: external pressure (criticism) versus the artist's internal stance. A word conveying firm, unyielding commitment is required.

Step 2 — Select the best fit: *Steadfast* means resolutely and dutifully firm and unwavering — precisely the quality described.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Indifferent” means uncaring; it does not convey active commitment.
- Option B: “Hesitant” implies uncertainty, the opposite of what “despite criticism” suggests.
- Option C: “Ambiguous” means unclear or vague; it cannot modify a person’s commitment.

Final Answer: The artist remained *steadfast* in her commitment. ⇒ D

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

Q19.

Solution

Concept — Idioms: An idiom is a phrase whose meaning cannot be deduced from the literal meanings of its individual words. Recognising standard idioms is essential for verbal ability sections.

Step 1 — Recall the idiom: “Turn over a new leaf” originates from the practice of turning to a fresh, blank page (leaf) of a book. Metaphorically, it means to begin a fresh, improved course of behaviour or life.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Refers to the literal meaning of a leaf in a book, not the idiomatic sense.
- Option C: “Starting a new chapter” is a different (though related) expression.
- Option D: “Discard habits forcibly” misrepresents the idiom; it implies a positive, voluntary change.

Final Answer: “Turn over a new leaf” means to change one’s behaviour for the better. ⇒ B

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



Q20.

Solution

Concept — Idioms: “Break the ice” is a widely used English idiom. Understanding its figurative meaning is a standard competency tested in verbal ability papers.

Step 1 — Recall the idiom: The expression originated from the practice of sending smaller boats to break ice in frozen waterways to allow larger ships to pass, thereby “opening up” communication and movement. Figuratively, it means to initiate a conversation or interaction in a situation that feels stiff or awkward, thereby easing the tension.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Refers to the literal physical act of breaking ice, not the figurative meaning.
- Option B: Using ice to cool a drink is a completely unrelated, literal interpretation.
- Option D: Ending a meeting abruptly has no connection to this idiom.

Final Answer: “Break the ice” means to initiate conversation in an awkward situation. ⇒

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



Answer Key

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

