

MAH MCA CET English Comprehension & Verbal Ability

Sample Paper – 8

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.

Questions

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

Sports and Nation Building

Sports have long been recognised as more than just a means of physical recreation; they are a powerful vehicle for nation building. When governments and institutions invest in grassroots sports programmes, the benefits ripple far beyond athletic tracks and playing fields. Communities develop a shared sense of identity as local heroes emerge and inspire the youth to dream beyond their immediate circumstances.

Physical fitness improves dramatically when children have access to quality sports infrastructure from an early age. Studies consistently show that active youth are healthier, more disciplined, and better equipped to handle the pressures of academic and professional life. Furthermore, sports foster social cohesion by bringing together people from diverse backgrounds, erasing barriers of class, caste, and creed under the banner of a common pursuit.

National pride swells when athletes embodying the indomitable spirit of a people perform on the world stage. Grassroots investment ensures that talent is not lost to poverty or neglect. The author concludes that sustained, equitable investment in grassroots



sports is not a luxury but a national imperative that yields dividends across generations.

What is the **central theme** of the passage?

- (A) The need for professional sports leagues and elite athletic academies
- (B) The importance of physical fitness as an end in itself
- (C) Sports as a means of mere entertainment and recreation
- (D) Sports as a vehicle for national development and social cohesion

Q2. According to the passage, what does the author identify as the **primary benefits** of investing in grassroots sports programmes?

- (A) Improved physical fitness, social cohesion, and national pride
- (B) Greater financial support for professional sports leagues
- (C) Development of sports infrastructure exclusively for elite athletes
- (D) Reduction in academic pressure on school students

Q3. As used in the passage, the word “**indomitable**” most nearly means:

- (A) Fragile and easily defeated
- (B) Unconquerable and unyielding
- (C) Modest and quietly restrained
- (D) Unpredictable and volatile

Q4. What **conclusion** does the author draw at the end of the passage?

- (A) Professional sports must replace academic pursuits in schools
- (B) International competitions are the only true measure of a nation's success
- (C) Grassroots sports are best managed by private enterprise, not governments
- (D) Sustained, equitable investment in grassroots sports is a national imperative, not a luxury



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

- (A) Verbose
- (B) Brief
- (C) Eloquent
- (D) Vivid

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

- (A) Careful
- (B) Meticulous
- (C) Careless
- (D) Particular

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

“It was her sheer _____ that carried her through the gruelling marathon despite utter exhaustion.”

- (A) Tenacity
- (B) Timidity
- (C) Apathy
- (D) Indolence

Q8. Choose the one word that best substitutes the following expression:

“The study of handwriting to reveal character traits.”

- (A) Graphology
- (B) Phrenology
- (C) Kinesiology
- (D) Palmistry



Q9. Choose the word that best completes the analogy:

PLAYWRIGHT : PLAYS :: SCULPTOR : _____

- (A) Paintings
- (B) Photographs
- (C) Statues
- (D) Murals

Q10. Which of the following is a correctly structured **Type 2 conditional** sentence?

- (A) If she studies hard, she would have passed.
- (B) If he had gone there, he will meet her.
- (C) If it rains, she would stay home.
- (D) If I were the principal, I would reform the curriculum.

Q11. Choose the sentence that **correctly** uses the **subjunctive mood**.

- (A) It is essential that he is present at the meeting.
- (B) It is essential that he be present at the meeting.
- (C) It was essential that he was present at the meeting.
- (D) It is essential that he will be present at the meeting.

Q12. Choose the sentence that **correctly** uses or omits the article with abstract nouns.

- (A) Courage is the foundation of great leadership.
- (B) The courage is essential in difficult times.
- (C) A honesty is the best policy.
- (D) The justice always prevails in the end.

Q13. Choose the correct **passive** transformation of the following sentence:

“The chef was preparing the meal.”



- (A) The meal was prepared by the chef.
- (B) The meal has been being prepared by the chef.
- (C) The meal is being prepared by the chef.
- (D) The meal was being prepared by the chef.

Q14. The following sentence is divided into four parts labelled (A), (B), (C), and (D). Identify the part that contains a **grammatical error**.

(A) She explained the project / (B) to my colleague and / (C) I, which made / (D) us both very excited.

- (A) She explained the project
- (B) to my colleague and
- (C) I, which made
- (D) us both very excited

Q15. The opening sentence of the paragraph is given. Choose the option that gives the **correct sequence** of the remaining sentences (P, Q, R, S) to form a coherent paragraph.

Opening: *India is witnessing an unprecedented surge in youth entrepreneurship in recent years.*

P. The government's Startup India initiative has played a crucial role in nurturing this spirit.

Q. Young Indians are increasingly choosing to build ventures rather than seeking traditional employment.

R. Digital platforms have lowered entry barriers, enabling even rural youth to launch their own businesses.

S. These entrepreneurs are not only creating wealth but also generating employment for others.

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



(D) P – S – R – Q

Q16. Choose the **grammatically correct** sentence.

- (A) He has been working here since 2015.
- (B) He is working here since 2015.
- (C) He works here since 2015.
- (D) He was working here since 2015.

Q17. Read the paragraph and choose the sentence that **best concludes** it.

Deforestation has accelerated at an alarming rate across the globe over the past century. Vast tracts of forest that once served as carbon sinks and biodiversity hotspots have been cleared for agriculture, urbanisation, and industry. The consequences extend beyond the loss of flora and fauna; disrupted water cycles have led to erratic rainfall and intensified droughts. Indigenous communities who depend on forests for their livelihoods have been displaced, deepening social inequalities. _____

- (A) Governments should focus exclusively on replanting trees in urban areas.
- (B) Forest conservation has become irrelevant in an era of advanced technology.
- (C) The economic benefits of deforestation far outweigh its environmental costs.
- (D) Only a concerted global effort combining policy reform, reforestation, and sustainable practices can reverse these devastating trends.

Q18. Choose the word that **most appropriately** fills in the blank:

“Despite facing _____ criticism from peers, the young author remained committed to her unconventional writing style.”

- (A) Generous
- (B) Constructive



- (C) Scathing
- (D) Mild

Q19. What does the idiom “**at the drop of a hat**” mean?

- (A) When a hat accidentally falls to the ground
- (B) Immediately, without any hesitation
- (C) At the start of a competitive event
- (D) After careful deliberation and planning

Q20. What does the idiom “**the tip of the iceberg**” mean?

- (A) The best and most exciting part of something
- (B) The most dangerous aspect of a situation
- (C) A small visible part of a much larger problem
- (D) The beginning of a particularly cold season



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Central Theme): The central theme of a passage is the overarching idea that the author develops and sustains throughout the text. It is broader than any single detail and encapsulates the author's main purpose.

Step 1 — Identify the controlling idea: The passage opens by declaring sports to be “a powerful vehicle for nation building” and proceeds to elaborate on physical fitness, social cohesion, and national pride before concluding with a call for sustained grassroots investment. Every paragraph serves this single thesis.

Step 2 — Evaluate each option: Only option (D) captures the full scope — sports as a vehicle for national development and social cohesion — without reducing the argument to a single aspect.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not argue for professional leagues or elite academies; it focuses on grassroots programmes.
- Option B: Physical fitness is one cited benefit, not the sole or central theme.
- Option C: Sports as entertainment is explicitly contrasted with the author's broader national-development vision.

Final Answer: The central theme is sports as a vehicle for national development and social cohesion ⇒ D

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

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Identifying Benefits): Questions about specific benefits test the reader's ability to locate and synthesise information spread across multiple paragraphs rather than relying on a single sentence.

Step 1 — Locate evidence in the passage: Paragraph 2 addresses physical fitness and discipline. Paragraph 3 discusses social cohesion and the breaking of barriers among diverse groups. The final paragraph addresses national pride. The author presents all three as interconnected outcomes of grassroots sports investment.



Step 2 — Match to options: Option (A) correctly names all three benefits in a single concise statement.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Financial support for professional leagues is never mentioned as a benefit.
- Option C: The passage argues against limiting sports infrastructure to elite athletes.
- Option D: Reduction of academic pressure is not cited as a primary or even secondary benefit.

Final Answer: The author identifies improved physical fitness, social cohesion, and national pride ⇒

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

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in Context (“Indomitable”): “Indomitable” derives from Latin *indomitabilis* (in- = not; domare = to tame or subdue). It describes a quality that cannot be overcome, suppressed, or defeated.

Step 1 — Analyse the context: The passage uses “indomitable spirit” to describe the quality of athletes who perform on the world stage despite all obstacles. The spirit referred to is one that refuses to be conquered — it is unconquerable and unyielding in the face of adversity.

Step 2 — Select the best synonym: “Unconquerable and unyielding” (option B) directly mirrors the etymology and contextual usage of the word.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Fragile and easily defeated” is the precise antonym of indomitable.
- Option C: “Modest and quietly restrained” implies humility, which is unrelated to resilience or invincibility.
- Option D: “Unpredictable and volatile” describes erratic behaviour, not strength of will or character.

Final Answer: “Indomitable” most nearly means unconquerable and unyielding ⇒



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

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Reading Comprehension (Author's Conclusion): The conclusion is typically found in the final paragraph and distils the author's central recommendation or judgement after presenting supporting evidence throughout the passage.

Step 1 — Locate the concluding statement: The final sentence of the passage reads: "...sustained, equitable investment in grassroots sports is not a luxury but a national imperative that yields dividends across generations." This maps directly to option (D).

Step 2 — Verify against the passage's argument: The author consistently builds towards this conclusion by cataloguing the social, physical, and national benefits of grassroots investment.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Replacing academics with sports is never suggested anywhere in the passage.
- Option B: International competitions are cited as one motivator for investment, not the sole measure of national success.
- Option C: The passage implies government and institutional responsibility for investment; private management is not advocated.

Final Answer: The author concludes that grassroots sports investment is a national imperative, not a luxury ⇒ D

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

Q5.

Solution

Concept — Synonyms (LACONIC): "Laconic" originates from the Laconian (Spartan) people of ancient Greece, who were renowned for their terse, economical use of language. The word describes speech or writing that uses very few words to convey a great deal.

Step 1 — Identify the synonym: "Brief" (option B) means short, concise, and to the point — the closest synonym to laconic in the given list.



Step 2 — Confirm by elimination:

- Option A: “Verbose” means using far too many words — the direct antonym of laconic.
- Option C: “Eloquent” implies fluency and persuasive expression, not brevity.
- Option D: “Vivid” relates to colourful, striking, or lively description — unrelated to conciseness.

Final Answer: LACONIC means brief (concise, terse) ⇒ **B**

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

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Antonyms (FASTIDIOUS): “Fastidious” means very attentive to and concerned about accuracy, quality, and detail; excessively particular and difficult to please. Its antonym must carry the opposite connotation.

Step 1 — Identify the antonym: “Careless” (option C) means negligent, inattentive, and unconcerned with accuracy or detail — the direct opposite of fastidious.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Careful” is a near-synonym of fastidious — both imply attentiveness.
- Option B: “Meticulous” is another strong synonym of fastidious — both suggest painstaking thoroughness.
- Option D: “Particular” also shares the meaning of being choosy or demanding, similar to fastidious.

Final Answer: Antonym of FASTIDIOUS is careless ⇒ **C**

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



Q7.

Solution

Concept — Fill in the Blank (Contextual Vocabulary): The correct word must logically and semantically fit the sentence's context. The sentence describes a positive quality that enabled a person to endure a demanding physical test despite exhaustion.

Step 1 — Analyse the context clues: Key phrases — “gruelling marathon,” “despite utter exhaustion,” and “carried her through” — collectively suggest persistent determination in the face of adversity. “Tenacity” (unyielding persistence and determination) is the only word among the options that captures this quality.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: “Timidity” (fearfulness or lack of confidence) would hinder rather than help one complete a gruelling race.
- Option C: “Apathy” (absence of motivation or interest) is the opposite of the drive needed to run a marathon.
- Option D: “Indolence” (laziness, disinclination to exert effort) directly contradicts the effort implied by the sentence.

Final Answer: The correct word is tenacity ⇒ A

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

Q8.

Solution

Concept — One-Word Substitution: One-word substitution tests knowledge of specialised vocabulary. The description “the study of handwriting to reveal character traits” has a precise scientific and investigative term.

Step 1 — Identify the correct term: *Graphology* is the analysis and interpretation of handwriting, undertaken with the belief that it reflects an individual's personality and psychological state. The root “graph” (from Greek *graphē* = writing) confirms this meaning.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: *Phrenology* is the pseudoscience of reading the shape and contours of the skull to determine mental faculties and character — not handwriting.
- Option C: *Kinesiology* is the scientific study of body movement, muscle mechanics, and physical activity.



- Option D: *Palmistry* is the practice of reading the lines, mounts, and shapes of a person's palm to make predictions about their future.

Final Answer: The one-word substitute for studying handwriting to reveal character is Graphology $\Rightarrow$

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

Q9.

Solution

Concept — Word Analogy (Creator : Creation): Analogy questions test the ability to identify and extend a logical relationship. Here, the relationship is between a creative professional and the specific type of work they produce.

Step 1 — Establish the base relationship: A playwright writes and creates plays. Therefore the analogy asks: what does a sculptor create? A sculptor carves, moulds, or assembles statues — three-dimensional works of art.

Step 2 — Apply the relationship: PLAYWRIGHT : PLAYS :: SCULPTOR : STATUES (option C).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Paintings are the work of painters (artists using pigment on a flat surface), not sculptors.
- Option B: Photographs are captured by photographers — a completely different creative discipline.
- Option D: Murals are large-scale paintings applied to walls by muralists or painters, not sculptors.

Final Answer: PLAYWRIGHT : PLAYS :: SCULPTOR : Statues $\Rightarrow$

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



Q10.

Solution

Concept — Conditional Sentences (Type 2): A Type 2 conditional expresses a hypothetical or unreal situation in the present or future. Its standard structure is: *If + past simple (subjunctive), would + base verb*. Note that the subjunctive form “were” is used for all persons (not “was”) in formal written English.

Step 1 — Evaluate option (D): “If I were the principal, I would reform the curriculum.” The *if*-clause uses the past subjunctive (“were”) and the main clause uses “would + base verb” (“would reform”). This is a textbook Type 2 conditional.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “If she studies hard, she would have passed” mixes a Type 1 *if*-clause with a Type 3 main clause.
- Option B: “If he had gone there, he will meet her” incorrectly combines a Type 3 *if*-clause with a Type 1 main clause.
- Option C: “If it rains, she would stay home” mixes a Type 1 *if*-clause (simple present) with a Type 2 main clause (“would”).

Final Answer: The correctly structured Type 2 conditional is option D ⇒ D

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

Q11.

Solution

Concept — Subjunctive Mood: The subjunctive mood in English expresses wishes, recommendations, demands, possibilities, or hypothetical situations. After expressions such as “it is essential / important / necessary / vital that . . .,” the verb in the subordinate clause takes the **base form** (bare infinitive), regardless of the person or number of the subject.

Step 1 — Apply the rule to option (B): “It is essential that he **be** present at the meeting.” The base form “be” (rather than “is,” “was,” or “will be”) correctly fulfils the subjunctive requirement after “it is essential that.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “is” is the indicative third-person singular — not the required subjunctive base form.
- Option C: “was” is past indicative; even with “it was essential,” the subjunctive requires the base form “be,” not a past tense form.



- Option D: “will be” introduces a modal auxiliary, which is incorrect in the standard English subjunctive pattern.

Final Answer: The sentence that correctly uses the subjunctive mood is option B
⇒

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

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Articles with Abstract Nouns: Abstract nouns (e.g., courage, honesty, justice, freedom, love) refer to concepts, qualities, or conditions rather than tangible objects. When used in a general or universal sense, they take **no article**. The definite article “the” is used only when the abstract noun is made specific by a qualifying phrase or context.

Step 1 — Evaluate option (A): “Courage is the foundation of great leadership.” Here “courage” is used as a general abstract concept with no article — this is grammatically correct.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: “The courage is essential in difficult times” incorrectly places the definite article before an abstract noun used in a wholly general sense.
- Option C: “A honesty is the best policy” is doubly incorrect: “honesty” begins with a vowel sound (requiring “an” not “a”), and abstract nouns used generally take no article at all.
- Option D: “The justice always prevails in the end” incorrectly adds “the” before an abstract noun used in a general, universal statement.

Final Answer: The sentence that correctly omits the article with an abstract noun is option A ⇒

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



Q13.

Solution

Concept — Passive Voice (Past Continuous Tense): The past continuous active voice has the structure: *Subject + was/were + present participle (V-ing) + object*. Its passive equivalent is: *Object + was/were + being + past participle + by + subject*.

Step 1 — Transform the given sentence: Active: “The chef was preparing the meal.”

- Object “the meal” → new subject.
- Auxiliary: “was” → retained (past tense singular).
- Insert “being” + past participle: “being prepared.”
- Agent: “by the chef.”

Passive: “The meal **was being prepared** by the chef.” — option (D).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “The meal was prepared” is simple past passive, not past continuous passive.
- Option B: “The meal has been being prepared” is a non-standard, ungrammatical construction.
- Option C: “The meal is being prepared” is present continuous passive, not past continuous.

Final Answer: The correct passive is “The meal was being prepared by the chef”
⇒ D

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

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Error Detection (Pronoun Case): Pronouns must appear in the correct grammatical case. When a pronoun functions as the object of a verb or a preposition, it must be in the **objective case** (me, him, her, us, them). Using a nominative-case pronoun (I, he, she, we, they) in an object position is a grammatical error.

Step 1 — Analyse part (C): The full sentence reads: “She explained the project to my colleague and I, which made us both very excited.” The pronoun “I” appears



as part of the compound object “my colleague and I” governed by the preposition “to.” Since it is in the object position, the objective case “me” is required: “to my colleague and **me**.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “She explained the project” is grammatically correct (subject + verb + direct object).
- Option B: “to my colleague and” — the preposition and partial compound object are correctly placed; no error here.
- Option D: “us both very excited” — “us” is correctly in the objective case (object of “made”).

Final Answer: The grammatical error is in part (C): nominative “I” should be objective “me” ⇒ C

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

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble (Logical Sequencing): A coherent paragraph follows a logical progression: the opening establishes the topic, subsequent sentences build on it through context or explanation, and the concluding sentence states the result or impact. Connective words and pronoun references are key sequencing clues.

Step 1 — Determine the logical sequence:

- **Opening (fixed):** India is witnessing a surge in youth entrepreneurship.
- **Q** follows naturally — it identifies *who* (young Indians choosing ventures over traditional employment).
- **R** explains *how* (digital platforms have lowered entry barriers, even for rural youth).
- **P** adds another enabling factor (the government’s Startup India initiative).
- **S** presents the *result* (these entrepreneurs create wealth and employment).

Correct sequence: Q – R – P – S, which is option (B).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Q–S–R–P): Places the result (S) before the enablers (R, P), disrupting the cause-effect flow.
- Option C (R–Q–S–P): Opens with the enabler (digital platforms) before introducing the main actors (young Indians in Q).



- Option D (P–S–R–Q): Begins with the government initiative (P) before establishing the broader trend, making the sequence abrupt.

Final Answer: The correct sequence is Q – R – P – S ⇒ B

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

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Sentence Correction (Tense with “since”): The time expression “since” followed by a specific point in time is used to indicate the start of an action or state that began in the past and **continues into the present**. This meaning requires the **present perfect** or **present perfect continuous** tense.

Step 1 — Evaluate option (A): “He has been working here since 2015.” This uses the present perfect continuous tense with “since + year,” correctly conveying that the action started in 2015 and is still ongoing. This is the grammatically correct sentence.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Present continuous (“is working”) cannot express duration from a past point; it only describes an action happening right now.
- Option C: Simple present (“works”) does not indicate a continuous span from a past moment; “since 2015” requires a perfect aspect.
- Option D: Past continuous (“was working”) implies the action has already ended, which contradicts the sense of continuity implied by “since 2015.”

Final Answer: The grammatically correct sentence is “He has been working here since 2015” ⇒ A

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



Q17.

Solution

Concept — Para Completion (Concluding Sentence): A good concluding sentence must (a) be consistent with the paragraph's tone and central message, (b) synthesise or follow from the points raised, and (c) introduce no contradictions, irrelevant information, or abrupt shifts.

Step 1 — Analyse the paragraph's tone and argument: The paragraph catalogues grave consequences of deforestation — biodiversity loss, disrupted water cycles, intensified droughts, and displacement of indigenous communities. The overall tone is urgent and calls implicitly for remedial action on a large scale.

Step 2 — Match to the best option: Option (D) — “Only a concerted global effort combining policy reform, reforestation, and sustainable practices can reverse these devastating trends” — synthesises all the issues raised and provides a fitting, proportionate conclusion consistent with the passage's scope and urgency.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Restricting focus to urban tree replanting is far too narrow a response given the global scale of problems described.
- Option B: Claiming forest conservation is “irrelevant” directly contradicts the entire argument of the paragraph.
- Option C: Asserting that economic benefits outweigh environmental costs is the opposite of the paragraph's stance.

Final Answer: The best concluding sentence is option D ⇒ D

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

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Cloze (Contextual Word Choice): The correct word must be semantically appropriate given the contrast established in the sentence. The word “despite” signals that the author faced significant adversity but persevered nonetheless.

Step 1 — Identify the contextual clue: The sentence structure is: “Despite facing _____ criticism . . . , the young author **remained committed**.” The contrast requires the missing word to describe criticism severe enough that an ordinary person might have abandoned their style. “Scathing” (bitterly severe and withering)



is the only word that creates this strong adversity.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Generous” criticism would be positive or appreciative — no meaningful adversity to overcome, making “despite” illogical.
- Option B: “Constructive” criticism is helpful by nature; using “despite” in that context would be incongruous and weak.
- Option D: “Mild” criticism presents negligible resistance; “despite” mild criticism is contextually hollow.

Final Answer: The most appropriate word is “scathing” ⇒ C

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

Q19.

Solution

Concept — Idiom (“At the drop of a hat”): Idioms carry figurative meanings distinct from the literal sum of their words. “At the drop of a hat” alludes to the historical practice of dropping or throwing a hat as a signal for a fight, race, or other activity to begin immediately, implying instant, unhesitating action.

Step 1 — Establish the figurative meaning: The idiom means “immediately and without any hesitation, without requiring much persuasion or preparation.” Example usage: “She is ready to help her friends at the drop of a hat.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The literal reading (a hat physically falling) has no idiomatic relevance in standard English.
- Option C: While the expression has roots in signalling the start of a contest, its established modern meaning is broader — immediate willingness — not specific to competitive events.
- Option D: “After careful deliberation and planning” is the antonym of the spontaneous, instant quality the idiom conveys.

Final Answer: “At the drop of a hat” means immediately, without any hesitation ⇒ B

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



Q20.

Solution

Concept — Idiom (“The tip of the iceberg”): This idiom originates from the physical fact that only approximately 10% of an iceberg’s mass is visible above the water’s surface; the overwhelming majority lies hidden beneath. Figuratively, it refers to a small, visible portion of something far larger and more complex that remains mostly unseen or unknown.

Step 1 — Establish the figurative meaning: “The tip of the iceberg” means a small visible part of a much larger underlying problem or situation. Example: “The financial irregularities uncovered in the audit are merely the tip of the iceberg.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: “The best and most exciting part” misinterprets the idiom; icebergs in idiomatic usage represent problems or issues, not desirable qualities.
- Option B: “The most dangerous aspect” echoes the literal peril of icebergs to ships but is not the established figurative meaning of the idiom.
- Option D: “The beginning of a cold season” has no connection whatsoever to the figurative meaning of this expression.

Final Answer: “The tip of the iceberg” means a small visible part of a much larger problem ⇒

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



Answer Key

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

