

FDDI AIST Verbal Ability

Sample Paper – 10

Duration: 30 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 30

Instructions

- This paper contains **30** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the Verbal Ability section of **FDDI AIST**.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers.
- Only **one** option is correct per question.
- Topics covered: Synonyms & Antonyms, Vocabulary, Sentence Completion, Grammar, Idioms, One Word Substitution, Active & Passive Voice, Prepositions.
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

Q1. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to **BELLICOSE**.

- (A) Peaceful
- (B) Diplomatic
- (C) Aggressive
- (D) Timid

Q2. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to **GARRULOUS**.

- (A) Silent
- (B) Reserved
- (C) Concise
- (D) Excessively talkative

Q3. Choose the word that is most nearly **OPPOSITE** in meaning to **LACONIC**.



- (A) Verbose
- (B) Terse
- (C) Succinct
- (D) Pithy

Q4. Choose the word that is most nearly **OPPOSITE** in meaning to **MOROSE**.

- (A) Melancholic
- (B) Cheerful
- (C) Gloomy
- (D) Sullen

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

- (A) Virtuous
- (B) Honest
- (C) Wicked
- (D) Benevolent

Q6. Choose the word that is most nearly **OPPOSITE** in meaning to **PROFLIGATE**.

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

Q7. What does the word **SANCTIMONIOUS** mean?

- (A) Making a show of being morally superior to others
- (B) Genuinely righteous and devout
- (C) Humble and deeply religious
- (D) Strictly honest in all dealings



Q8. What does the word **TREPIDATION** mean?

- (A) Great courage and boldness
- (B) A feeling of fear or anxiety about something
- (C) Intense excitement and enthusiasm
- (D) Deep contentment and peace

Q9. What does the word **VERACIOUS** mean?

- (A) Dishonest and deceptive
- (B) Careless and negligent
- (C) Truthful and accurate
- (D) Vague and misleading

Q10. What does the word **CALLOUS** mean?

- (A) Sensitive and caring
- (B) Compassionate towards others
- (C) Kind-hearted and generous
- (D) Emotionally hardened and unsympathetic

Q11. What does the word **DUPLICITOUS** mean?

- (A) Deceitful and two-faced
- (B) Having two distinct personalities
- (C) Extremely capable and talented
- (D) Double the usual amount

Q12. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate pair of words:

“The textile industry has been _____ regulated, with authorities imposing strict controls to _____ the use of harmful dyes.”

- (A) loosely ... encourage
- (B) tightly ... limit



- (C) barely ... promote
- (D) partially ... increase

Q13. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word:

“The fashion show was _____ attended by international buyers, journalists, and industry veterans.”

- (A) sparsely
- (B) barely
- (C) heavily
- (D) rarely

Q14. Choose the correct form of the word to complete the sentence:

“She could not _____ the fact that her design had been copied without her permission.”

- (A) except
- (B) excepts
- (C) accepting
- (D) accept

Q15. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate pair of words:

“The new policy _____ that all fabrics must be tested before sale, ensuring _____ quality standards are maintained.”

- (A) mandates ... consistent
- (B) suggests ... irregular
- (C) forbids ... regular
- (D) ignores ... high

Q16. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word:

“He has a _____ for punctuality; he has never missed a single deadline in five years.”



- (A) disregard
- (B) reputation
- (C) lack
- (D) disdain

Q17. Each sentence below is divided into labelled parts. Identify the part that contains a grammatical error:

(A) The number of applicants / (B) for the post / (C) have increased significantly this year.

- (A) The number of applicants
- (B) for the post
- (C) have increased
- (D) No error

Q18. Identify the grammatically **CORRECT** sentence.

- (A) The teacher, along with her students, were present at the assembly.
- (B) Neither of the two candidates are suitable for the role.
- (C) Five hundred rupees are a lot of money for a student.
- (D) Mathematics is my favourite subject in school.

Q19. Identify the **underlined word** in the sentence that contains a grammatical error:

"I have not seen him since a long time."

- (A) since
- (B) a long time
- (C) have not seen
- (D) No error

Q20. Each sentence below is divided into labelled parts. Identify the part that contains a grammatical error:



(A) The manager asked the employees / (B) to co-operate each other / (C) during the project.

- (A) asked the employees
- (B) to co-operate each other
- (C) during the project
- (D) No error

Q21. The idiom “**kick the bucket**” means:

- (A) To start a new venture with enthusiasm
- (B) To make a serious mistake with consequences
- (C) To die
- (D) To abandon a long-running project

Q22. The idiom “**burn bridges**” means:

- (A) To start a fire for warmth
- (B) To take a shortcut
- (C) To create useful connections
- (D) To permanently damage a relationship by acting recklessly

Q23. The idiom “**blow hot and cold**” means:

- (A) To keep changing one’s opinion or attitude
- (B) To express strong emotions alternately
- (C) To treat different people very differently
- (D) To argue about working conditions

Q24. The idiom “**read between the lines**” means:

- (A) To read very carefully word by word
- (B) To find the hidden meaning in what is said or written



- (C) To critically analyse a literary text
- (D) To compare two different pieces of writing

Q25. A person who can use both hands equally well is called:

- (A) Ambiguous
- (B) Amphibious
- (C) Ambidextrous
- (D) Ambivalent

Q26. A word that reads the same forwards and backwards (like “level” or “madam”) is called a:

- (A) Oxymoron
- (B) Anagram
- (C) Homophone
- (D) Palindrome

Q27. The scientific study of coins, currency, and medals is called:

- (A) Numismatics
- (B) Philately
- (C) Cartography
- (D) Speleology

Q28. Choose the correct passive voice form of the sentence:

“Riya wrote the business proposal in two days.”

- (A) The business proposal is written by Riya in two days.
- (B) The business proposal was written by Riya in two days.
- (C) The business proposal was being written by Riya in two days.
- (D) The business proposal has been written by Riya in two days.



Q29. Which of the following sentences is in the **ACTIVE** voice?

- (A) The presentation was delivered by the head of marketing.
- (B) The new products are being evaluated by the panel.
- (C) The team leader assigned tasks to all the members.
- (D) The annual report had been submitted well before the deadline.

Q30. Choose the correct preposition to fill the blank:

“The students were divided _____ two groups for the project presentation.”

- (A) between
- (B) among
- (C) with
- (D) into



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

Quick Solution: BELLICOSE means aggressive and eager to fight. **AGGRESSIVE** is the closest synonym.

Concept: The word “bellicose” comes from Latin *bellicosus* (warlike), derived from *bellum* (war). It describes a person or nation that is hostile and inclined towards conflict.

Steps:

- “Bellicose” = warlike, combative, having a hostile disposition.
- (A) Peaceful = calm and free from conflict — the direct antonym.
- (B) Diplomatic = skilled at managing relations tactfully to avoid conflict — the opposite of bellicose.
- (C) **Aggressive** = ready or likely to attack; forcefully assertive. ✓
- (D) Timid = lacking courage or confidence — also an antonym of bellicose.

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D all describe qualities contrary to aggression and hostility. Only “Aggressive” matches the combative, confrontational nature of “bellicose”.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 1](#)

Q2.**Solution**

Quick Solution: GARRULOUS means excessively talkative. **EXCESSIVELY TALKATIVE** is the correct synonym.

Concept: “Garrulous” derives from Latin *garrire* (to chatter). It specifically describes someone who talks at great length, especially about trivial or unimportant matters.

Steps:

- “Garrulous” = talking too much, especially about insignificant things.
- (A) Silent = saying nothing — a direct antonym.
- (B) Reserved = slow to reveal emotions or opinions — also an antonym.
- (C) Concise = giving much information in few words — the opposite of



garrulous.

- (D) **Excessively talkative** = talking far more than necessary. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C all describe restraint or brevity in speech, which is directly opposite to the voluble nature of someone who is garrulous.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 2](#)

Q3.

Solution

Quick Solution: LACONIC means using very few words. Its antonym is **VERBOSE** = using more words than necessary.

Concept: “Laconic” derives from *Laconia* (Sparta), whose inhabitants were famous for terse speech. An antonym must capture the idea of being wordy rather than brief.

Steps:

- Laconic = brief, concise, using the fewest possible words.
- (A) **Verbose** = using or containing more words than are needed; long-winded. ✓
- (B) Terse = brief and abrupt — a synonym of laconic.
- (C) Succinct = expressed clearly in few words — another synonym of laconic.
- (D) Pithy = concise and forcefully expressive — yet another synonym of laconic.

Why other options are wrong: B, C, and D are all synonyms of laconic (they all describe brevity). Only “Verbose” captures the opposite meaning of being excessively wordy.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 3](#)



Q4.

Solution

Quick Solution: MOROSE means sullen and gloomy. Its antonym is **CHEERFUL** = happy and optimistic.

Concept: “Morose” comes from Latin *morosus* (peevish, self-willed). It describes a person who is ill-tempered, sulky, and difficult to please. Its antonym must convey brightness and positive mood.

Steps:

- Morose = gloomy, sullen, not inclined to talk or be sociable.
- (A) Melancholic = having a feeling of pensive sadness — a synonym of morose.
- (B) **Cheerful** = noticeably happy and optimistic. ✓
- (C) Gloomy = dark, pessimistic, and depressing — a synonym of morose.
- (D) Sullen = bad-tempered and sulky — a synonym of morose.

Why other options are wrong: A, C, and D all reinforce the same negative emotional state as morose. Only “Cheerful” provides the opposite, positive disposition.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 4](#)

Q5.

Solution

Quick Solution: NEFARIOUS means extremely wicked or criminal. **WICKED** is the closest synonym.

Concept: “Nefarious” comes from Latin *nefarius* (wicked), from *nefas* (crime against divine law). It describes acts or people that are villainous and morally wrong to an extreme degree.

Steps:

- Nefarious = wicked, criminal, extremely immoral.
- (A) Virtuous = having or showing high moral standards — a direct antonym.
- (B) Honest = free from deceit and fraud — also an antonym.
- (C) **Wicked** = evil or morally wrong. ✓
- (D) Benevolent = well-meaning and kind — another antonym.



Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D all carry positive moral connotations that stand in direct contrast to the evil and criminal nature implied by “nefarious”.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 5](#)

Q6.

Solution

Quick Solution: PROFLIGATE means recklessly wasteful. Its antonym is **THRIFTY** = careful and economical with resources.

Concept: “Profligate” comes from Latin *profligare* (to ruin, to squander). It describes someone who spends money and resources extravagantly without restraint. The antonym must express careful, economical management.

Steps:

- Profligate = wildly extravagant, wasteful, dissolute.
- (A) Wasteful = using or expending something carelessly — a synonym of profligate.
- (B) Extravagant = spending more than is necessary — a synonym of profligate.
- (C) Lavish = sumptuously rich and extravagant — another synonym of profligate.
- (D) **Thrifty** = using money and other resources carefully and without unnecessary waste. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C all describe excessive spending or resource use — they are all synonyms, not antonyms, of profligate.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 6](#)

Q7.

Solution

Quick Solution: SANCTIMONIOUS = making a hypocritical show of religious virtue or moral superiority. The answer is (A) **Making a show of being morally superior to others.**

Concept: “Sanctimonious” derives from Latin *sanctimonia* (holiness). Crucially, it describes *pretended* or *affected* piety — not genuine virtue. A sanctimonious person performs goodness for others to admire, rather than from sincere belief.



Steps:

- Key meaning: hypocritical display of moral superiority.
- (A) **Making a show of being morally superior to others** — captures both the performance and the hypocrisy. ✓
- (B) Genuinely righteous and devout — “genuinely” is the opposite of sanctimonious, which implies pretence.
- (C) Humble and deeply religious — “humble” directly contradicts the self-righteous overtone.
- (D) Strictly honest in all dealings — honesty is unrelated to the hypocritical show implied.

Why other options are wrong: B and C describe authentic spiritual qualities, the very opposite of the performed piety in “sanctimonious”. D refers to honesty, which is a different concept entirely.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 7](#)

Q8.

Solution

Quick Solution: TREPIDATION = a feeling of fear or agitation about something uncertain. The answer is **(B) A feeling of fear or anxiety about something**.

Concept: “Trepidation” comes from Latin *trepidare* (to tremble). It describes the trembling nervousness or apprehension one feels when facing something uncertain or potentially threatening.

Steps:

- Trepidation = alarm, anxious uncertainty, fearful anticipation.
- (A) Great courage and boldness — courage is the direct antonym of trepidation.
- (B) **A feeling of fear or anxiety about something** — matches exactly. ✓
- (C) Intense excitement and enthusiasm — excitement can be positive and energetic; trepidation is negative and cautious.
- (D) Deep contentment and peace — peace is the opposite of anxious worry.

Why other options are wrong: A, C, and D all describe positive or neutral emotional states (courage, excitement, peace) that are the opposite of the fearful ner-



vousness of trepidation.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 8](#)

Q9.

Solution

Quick Solution: VERACIOUS = habitually truthful. The answer is (C) **Truthful and accurate**.

Concept: “Veracious” comes from Latin *verax* (speaking truly), related to *veritas* (truth). It describes a person who is consistently honest and accurate in what they say. **Common confusion:** Do not confuse *veracious* with *voracious* (having an insatiable appetite or enthusiasm).

Steps:

- Veracious = truthful, speaking only what is true.
- (A) Dishonest and deceptive — a direct antonym of veracious.
- (B) Careless and negligent — unrelated to truth or honesty.
- (C) **Truthful and accurate** — matches the core meaning exactly. ✓
- (D) Vague and misleading — also an antonym, as misleading is the opposite of truthful.

Why other options are wrong: A and D are antonyms (dishonest, misleading). B introduces carelessness, which is unrelated to the honesty implied by veracious.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 9](#)

Q10.

Solution

Quick Solution: CALLOUS = showing cruel indifference to others’ feelings. The answer is (D) **Emotionally hardened and unsympathetic**.

Concept: “Calmous” originally referred to hardened skin (from Latin *callum*, hard skin). Figuratively, it describes a person whose emotions are hardened, making them indifferent to others’ pain or suffering.

Steps:

- Callous = unfeeling, insensitive, hardened against empathy.
- (A) Sensitive and caring — the direct antonym of callous.



- (B) Compassionate towards others — compassion is the opposite of callousness.
- (C) Kind-hearted and generous — kindness is the direct antonym.
- (D) **Emotionally hardened and unsympathetic** — captures both the emotional hardening and the lack of sympathy. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C all describe empathy, kindness, and care — qualities that a callous person specifically lacks.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 10](#)

Q11.

Solution

Quick Solution: DUPLICITOUS = deliberately deceptive in speech or behaviour. The answer is **(A) Deceitful and two-faced**.

Concept: “Duplicitous” comes from Latin *duplex* (double). It describes someone who says one thing but does another, presenting two different faces — one to deceive and one to appear trustworthy.

Steps:

- Duplicitous = characterised by duplicity; deceitful, hypocritical.
- **(A) Deceitful and two-faced** — captures both the deception and the double-dealing. ✓
- (B) Having two distinct personalities — a distractor using “two”, but this describes a psychological trait (not deception).
- (C) Extremely capable and talented — wholly unrelated; a positive trait.
- (D) Double the usual amount — a literal misreading of the “dupli-” prefix as a quantity.

Why other options are wrong: B exploits the “two” element of the prefix but misses the deceptive intent. C and D ignore the moral/behavioural meaning entirely.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 11](#)



Q12.

Solution

Quick Solution: Authorities imposing strict controls = **tightly** regulated; the purpose of controls over harmful dyes = to **limit** their use. The answer is **(B) tightly ... limit**.

Concept: Two contextual clues drive the answer: (1) “authorities imposing strict controls” signals tight (not loose) regulation; (2) harmful dyes must be restricted, not promoted.

Steps:

- First blank: “strict controls” demands **tightly**. Eliminate A (loosely), C (barely), D (partially).
- Second blank: harmful dyes should be **limited** (restricted). Confirm B.
- (A) “loosely ... encourage” — contradicts both strict control and harm reduction.
- (B) “**tightly ... limit**” — consistent with the entire context. ✓
- (C) “barely ... promote” — promoting harmful dyes is illogical.
- (D) “partially ... increase” — increasing use of harmful dyes is counterproductive.

Why other options are wrong: A, C, and D are all illogical given that the sentence describes a regulatory environment designed to reduce harm.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 12](#)

Q13.

Solution

Quick Solution: Three groups of distinguished attendees (buyers, journalists, veterans) indicate a large turnout. The answer is **(C) heavily**.

Concept: The adverb modifies “attended” and must be consistent with the listing of three prestigious groups of people attending. The context implies strong, substantial attendance.

Steps:

- Context clue: three different prominent groups attended — this signals a well-attended event.
- (A) sparsely = in small numbers; thinly — contradicts the evidence of mul-



tiple attendee groups.

- (B) barely = only just; almost not — implies very low attendance.
- (C) **heavily** = to a great degree; in large numbers. ✓
- (D) rarely = not often; infrequently — implies infrequent attendance, not the scale.

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D all suggest low or infrequent attendance, directly contradicting the listing of international buyers, journalists, and industry veterans as attendees.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 13](#)

Q14.

Solution

Quick Solution: After the modal “could not”, only the base (infinitive) form is grammatically correct. The answer is **(D) accept**.

Concept: Modal auxiliaries (can, could, will, would, shall, should, may, might, must) are always followed by the bare infinitive (base form) of the main verb.

Steps:

- Structure required: “could not + **base verb**”
- (A) except = a preposition/conjunction meaning “excluding” — not a verb that fits here.
- (B) excepts = third-person singular present tense of “to except” (to exclude) — changes the meaning entirely.
- (C) accepting = gerund/present participle — cannot directly follow a modal auxiliary.
- (D) **accept** = base form of the verb; fits “could not accept” perfectly. ✓

Why other options are wrong: “Except” (A) is not a verb in this context. “Excepts” (B) is the wrong tense and meaning. “Accepting” (C) is a non-finite form that does not follow a modal.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 14](#)



Q15.

Solution

Quick Solution: A policy that makes fabric testing compulsory **mandates** it; standards that are uniform and reliable are **consistent**. The answer is **(A) mandates ... consistent**.

Concept: Both blanks must be logically compatible with the sentence's purpose: introducing a rule that ensures quality.

Steps:

- First blank: the policy compels testing — “mandates” (requires by law/rule) is the best fit.
- Second blank: “ensuring ____ quality standards are maintained” — standards that are steady and uniform are “consistent”.
- **(A) mandates ... consistent** — correct on both counts. ✓
- (B) suggests ... irregular — a suggestion is weak; irregular standards undermine quality.
- (C) forbids ... regular — forbidding testing would destroy quality assurance, not ensure it.
- (D) ignores ... high — a policy cannot simultaneously ignore testing and ensure high standards.

Why other options are wrong: B is too weak and contradictory; C and D produce meanings that actively contradict the purpose of the policy described.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 15](#)

Q16.

Solution

Quick Solution: Never having missed a deadline establishes a strong record of punctuality. The correct collocation is “have a **reputation** for punctuality”. The answer is **(B) reputation**.

Concept: The idiom “have a reputation for” means to be widely known for a particular quality. The second clause (never missing a deadline) provides evidence that supports a positive reputation.

Steps:

- Clue: never missed a single deadline in five years = consistent track record.



- (A) disregard for punctuality = not caring about punctuality — contradicts the evidence.
- (B) **reputation for punctuality** = widely known for being punctual. ✓
- (C) lack for punctuality = non-standard phrasing; “lack of” would mean not being punctual.
- (D) disdain for punctuality = contempt for punctuality — the direct opposite of the evidence.

Why other options are wrong: A, C, and D all imply the person is *not* punctual, which is contradicted by never missing a deadline in five years.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 16](#)

Q17.

Solution

Quick Solution: The subject is “The **number**” (singular), so the verb should be “has increased”, not “have increased”. The error is in part (C) **have increased**.

Concept: Subject–verb agreement with “the number of”:

- “**The number** of + plural noun” ⇒ singular verb (the head noun is *number*).
- “**A number** of + plural noun” ⇒ plural verb (functions as a quantifier meaning “several”).

Steps:

- Subject: “The number” (singular head noun) — requires a singular verb.
- (A) The number of applicants — correct; the subject phrase itself is fine.
- (B) for the post — correct prepositional phrase.
- (C) **have increased** — error; should be **has increased** (singular verb). ✓
- (D) No error — incorrect; there is a clear subject–verb agreement error.

Corrected sentence: “The number of applicants for the post **has** increased significantly this year.”

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 17](#)



Q18.

Solution

Quick Solution: Names of academic subjects ending in “-s” (Mathematics, Physics, Economics) are singular and take a singular verb. **(D) “Mathematics is my favourite subject”** is correct.

Concept: Several grammatical rules are tested across the four options:

- Parenthetical phrases like “along with” do not affect subject number.
- “Neither of” takes a singular verb.
- Specific sums of money are treated as a single unit (singular).
- Subject names ending in “-s” (Mathematics, Physics) are singular.

Steps:

- (A) “The teacher . . . *were* present” — wrong; “along with her students” is parenthetical; the subject is singular “The teacher” $\Rightarrow$ *was*.
- (B) “Neither of the two candidates *are*” — wrong; “neither of” requires a singular verb $\Rightarrow$ *is*.
- (C) “Five hundred rupees *are* a lot of money” — wrong; a specific amount is a single sum $\Rightarrow$ *is*.
- (D) “**Mathematics is my favourite subject**” — correct; Mathematics is treated as singular. ✓

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 18](#)

Q19.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Since” is used with a point in time, not a duration. The correct word is “for”. The error is **(A) since**.

Concept: Distinguishing *since* and *for* with the Present Perfect:

- **Since** + *point in time*: since Monday, since 2010, since morning.
- **For** + *period/duration*: for a long time, for two years, for ages.

Steps:

- “a long time” = a duration/period, not a specific point.



- (A) **since** — error; should be **for**, as “a long time” is a duration. ✓
- (B) a long time — correctly identifies the duration; no error here.
- (C) have not seen — grammatically correct with Present Perfect.
- (D) No error — incorrect; there is a clear preposition error.

Corrected sentence: “I have not seen him **for** a long time.”

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 19](#)

Q20.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Co-operate” is intransitive and must be followed by “with” before an object. The error is **(B) to co-operate each other** (missing “with”).

Concept: The verb *co-operate* (to work together) is intransitive — it cannot take a direct object. When followed by a noun or pronoun indicating the person co-operated with, the preposition *with* is obligatory.

Steps:

- Correct structure: “to co-operate **with** each other”
- (A) “asked the employees” — grammatically correct.
- (B) “**to co-operate each other**” — error; “with” is missing before “each other”. ✓
- (C) “during the project” — correct prepositional phrase.
- (D) No error — incorrect; the missing preposition creates a grammatical error.

Corrected sentence: “The manager asked the employees to co-operate **with** each other during the project.”

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 20](#)



Q21.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Kick the bucket” is an informal euphemism for dying. The answer is **(C) To die**.

Concept: This idiom has uncertain origins — one theory links it to the wooden beam (“bucket” from Old French *buquet*) used in executions. Today it is used colloquially and often humorously as an informal expression for death.

Steps:

- Idiom: “kick the bucket” = to die (colloquial/informal).
- (A) To start a new venture with enthusiasm — unrelated to this idiom.
- (B) To make a serious mistake — also unrelated.
- (C) **To die** — the correct and widely recognised meaning. ✓
- (D) To abandon a long-running project — not the meaning of this idiom.

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D are all invented distractors that have no connection to the established figurative meaning of “kick the bucket”.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 21](#)

Q22.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Burn bridges” means to take an action that makes it impossible to return to a former state or relationship. The answer is **(D) To permanently damage a relationship by acting recklessly**.

Concept: The metaphor originates from military strategy — destroying a bridge after crossing it prevents retreat but also prevents any future return. In modern usage, it means to act in a way that permanently destroys goodwill, relationships, or future opportunities.

Steps:

- Idiom: “burn bridges” / “burn one’s bridges” = to destroy a relationship or opportunity irreparably.
- (A) To start a fire for warmth — a purely literal interpretation; not the figurative meaning.
- (B) To take a shortcut — unrelated to this idiom.
- (C) To create useful connections — the direct opposite of the idiom’s mean-



ing.

- (D) **To permanently damage a relationship by acting recklessly** — matches the figurative meaning precisely. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A is literal; B is unrelated; C is the exact opposite of burning bridges.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 22](#)

Q23.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Blow hot and cold” means to be inconsistent — alternately enthusiastic then unenthusiastic about something. The answer is **(A) To keep changing one’s opinion or attitude**.

Concept: The idiom originates from Aesop’s fable in which a man blows both hot and cold breath, signifying contradictory behaviour. It describes someone whose position or enthusiasm keeps shifting unpredictably.

Steps:

- Idiom: “blow hot and cold” = to be indecisive; to keep changing stance on something.
- **(A) To keep changing one’s opinion or attitude** — matches the core meaning of inconsistency. ✓
- (B) To express strong emotions alternately — close but missing the key idea of indecision or inconsistency of stance.
- (C) To treat different people very differently — describes discrimination or favouritism, not indecision.
- (D) To argue about working conditions — completely unrelated to this idiom.

Why other options are wrong: B describes emotional expression, not changing one’s stated position. C and D introduce entirely different concepts.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 23](#)



Q24.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Read between the lines” means to find a hidden or implied meaning not directly stated. The answer is **(B) To find the hidden meaning in what is said or written**.

Concept: The idiom uses the metaphor of reading the blank space between printed lines — where nothing is written literally, but meaning is implied. It describes inferring what is unstated from context, tone, or subtext.

Steps:

- Idiom: “read between the lines” = to infer or deduce an unstated meaning.
- (A) To read very carefully word by word — describes literal, detailed reading, not inferring hidden meaning.
- **(B) To find the hidden meaning in what is said or written** — correct. ✓
- (C) To critically analyse a literary text — literary criticism is more systematic; the idiom is about inferring unstated intent.
- (D) To compare two different pieces of writing — comparison is a different skill entirely.

Why other options are wrong: A refers to literal reading (the opposite). C and D describe formal academic activities not implied by this everyday idiom.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 24](#)

Q25.

Solution

Quick Solution: A person equally skilled with both hands is **ambidextrous**. The answer is **(C) Ambidextrous**.

Concept: The word “ambidextrous” comes from Latin *ambi-* (both) + *dexter* (right/skilful), literally meaning “right-handed on both sides” — i.e., equally dexterous with both hands.

Steps:

- (A) Ambiguous = open to more than one interpretation; unclear in meaning.
- (B) Amphibious = capable of living or operating both on land and in water (e.g., frogs, amphibious vehicles).
- **(C) Ambidextrous** = equally skilful with both the right and left hands. ✓



- (D) Ambivalent = having mixed, contradictory, or uncertain feelings about something.

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D all begin with the prefix “ambi-” (both/around), making them plausible distractors, but none refers to hand-skill. Only “ambidextrous” specifically means skill with both hands.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 25](#)

Q26.

Solution

Quick Solution: A word that reads the same forwards and backwards is called a **palindrome**. The answer is **(D) Palindrome**.

Concept: “Palindrome” comes from Greek *palin* (again, back) + *dromos* (running). Examples: *level*, *madam*, *racecar*, *civic*, *refer*, *noon*.

Steps:

- (A) Oxymoron = a figure of speech combining contradictory terms (e.g., “deafening silence”, “bittersweet”).
- (B) Anagram = a word formed by rearranging all the letters of another word (e.g., *listen* → *silent*).
- (C) Homophone = a word pronounced the same as another word but with different meaning or spelling (e.g., *flour/flower*; *bare/bear*).
- (D) **Palindrome** = a word, phrase, or sequence that reads the same forwards and backwards. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C are all distinct literary/linguistic terms that do not describe the forwards-backwards symmetry of a palindrome.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 26](#)



Q27.

Solution

Quick Solution: The study of coins and currency is **numismatics**. The answer is (A) Numismatics.

Concept: “Numismatics” comes from Greek *nomisma* (coin), from *nomos* (law/custom). The discipline covers the study, collection, and preservation of currency in all its forms — coins, banknotes, tokens, and medals.

Steps:

- (A) **Numismatics** = study of coins, currency, medals, and related objects. ✓
- (B) Philately = the study and collection of postage stamps and postal history.
- (C) Cartography = the science and art of drawing maps and geographical charts.
- (D) Speleology = the scientific study and exploration of caves and cave systems.

Why other options are wrong: B (stamps), C (maps), and D (caves) are entirely different fields of study, each with its own distinct subject matter.

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 27](#)

Q28.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Riya wrote the business proposal” is Simple Past Active. The correct Simple Past Passive is **“The business proposal was written by Riya in two days.”** The answer is (B).

Concept: Passive voice formula for Simple Past: Object of active → Subject + **was/were** + Past Participle + by + Subject of active.

Steps:

- Active subject: Riya (singular → “was”).
- Active object: “the business proposal” → becomes passive subject.
- Past participle of *write* = *written*.
- (A) “is written” — Simple Present Passive; wrong tense.
- (B) **“was written by Riya in two days”** — Simple Past Passive; correct tense. ✓



- (C) “was being written” — Past Continuous Passive; implies ongoing action, not completed.
- (D) “has been written” — Present Perfect Passive; wrong tense.

Why other options are wrong: A, C, and D all change the tense from Simple Past, altering the meaning of when or how the action was completed.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 28](#)

Q29.

Solution

Quick Solution: In active voice, the subject performs the action. “The team leader assigned tasks to all the members” — the team leader (subject) does the assigning. The answer is (C).

Concept: **Active voice:** Subject + Verb + Object. **Passive voice:** Subject (receiver) + *to be* + Past Participle + (by + Agent).

Steps:

- (A) “The presentation **was delivered** by the head of marketing” — *was delivered* = Simple Past Passive.
- (B) “The new products **are being evaluated** by the panel” — *are being evaluated* = Present Continuous Passive.
- (C) “**The team leader assigned tasks to all the members**” — “assigned” is a simple past active verb; team leader (subject) performs the action. ✓
- (D) “The annual report **had been submitted**” — *had been submitted* = Past Perfect Passive.

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D all contain the *to be* auxiliary combined with a past participle — the hallmark structure of passive voice.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 29](#)



Q30.

Solution

Quick Solution: The verb “divide” collocates with “into” when indicating the resulting parts. The answer is **(D) into**.

Concept: The preposition used after “divide” determines the meaning:

- “Divided **into**” = separated to form parts (e.g., divided into two groups).
- “Between” = involves choosing or sharing between two defined parties.
- “Among” = distribution among three or more parties.
- “With” = does not collocate with “divide” in this sense.

Steps:

- The students are being split to form two groups — this is partitioning, which requires **into**.
- (A) between — used for two parties sharing or choosing, not for partition.
- (B) among — used for distribution to three or more individuals or groups.
- (C) with — does not form a meaningful collocation with “divide” here.
- (D) **into** — “divided into two groups” is the standard, correct collocation. ✓

Why other options are wrong: “Between” (A) and “among” (B) describe distribution or selection, not the act of partitioning into groups. “With” (C) is simply unidiomatic with “divide” in this context.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 30](#)



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	C	2	D	3	A	4	B	5	C
6	D	7	A	8	B	9	C	10	D
11	A	12	B	13	C	14	D	15	A
16	B	17	C	18	D	19	A	20	B
21	C	22	D	23	A	24	B	25	C
26	D	27	A	28	B	29	C	30	D

