

FDDI AIST Verbal Ability

Sample Paper – 4

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 option that is closest in meaning to the word **GREGARIOUS**.

- (A) Solitary
- (B) Sociable and outgoing
- (C) Timid
- (D) Reclusive

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

- (A) Petty
- (B) Stingy
- (C) Generous in spirit
- (D) Narrow-minded



- Q3.** Choose the option that is opposite in meaning (antonym) to the word **PERNICIOUS**.
- (A) Harmful
 - (B) Deadly
 - (C) Injurious
 - (D) Beneficial
- Q4.** Choose the option that is closest in meaning to the word **ASTUTE**.
- (A) Shrewd and clever
 - (B) Naive
 - (C) Foolish
 - (D) Reckless
- Q5.** Choose the option that is opposite in meaning (antonym) to the word **SANGUINE**.
- (A) Optimistic
 - (B) Pessimistic
 - (C) Hopeful
 - (D) Cheerful
- Q6.** Choose the option that is opposite in meaning (antonym) to the word **MUNDANE**.
- (A) Ordinary
 - (B) Routine
 - (C) Extraordinary
 - (D) Typical
- Q7.** Read the sentence below and choose the option that best explains the meaning of the word **PERFIDIOUS** as used in context.

“His perfidious actions destroyed the trust his colleagues had placed in him.”



- (A) Loyal
- (B) Industrious
- (C) Innovative
- (D) Deceitful and treacherous

Q8. Choose the option that is closest in meaning to the word **LANGUOROUS**.

- (A) Slow and relaxed
- (B) Energetic
- (C) Hurried
- (D) Aggressive

Q9. Choose the option that most closely means the word **EPHEMERAL**.

- (A) Lasting forever
- (B) Short-lived and transient
- (C) Very important
- (D) Recurring regularly

Q10. Read the sentence below and choose the option that best explains the meaning of the word **PLAUSIBLE** as used in context.

“The explanation seemed plausible at first, but further investigation revealed it was false.”

- (A) Impossible
- (B) Certain
- (C) Seemingly reasonable
- (D) Complicated

Q11. Choose the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.

“The _____ of the new collection was evident in how each piece harmonised with the others.”



- (A) coherence
- (B) confusion
- (C) disorder
- (D) randomness

Q12. Choose the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.

“The designer’s work is _____ for its bold use of colour and unconventional silhouettes.”

- (A) renowned
- (B) renown
- (C) renownedly
- (D) renowns

Q13. Choose the most appropriate pair of words to fill in the blanks.

“Fashion is not merely about _____ — it is also a form of self-expression that can _____ one’s identity.”

- (A) price ... hide
- (B) aesthetics ... define
- (C) fabrics ... destroy
- (D) trends ... ignore

Q14. Choose the most appropriate word or phrase to fill in the blank.

“She spoke so softly that nobody could hear her _____ she was right at the front of the room.”

- (A) and
- (B) but
- (C) even though
- (D) therefore



Q15. Choose the most appropriate pair of words to fill in the blanks.

“The project was completed _____ schedule, which was _____ given the number of challenges the team faced.”

- (A) before ... disappointing
- (B) on ... ordinary
- (C) after ... expected
- (D) ahead of ... remarkable

Q16. Choose the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.

“The committee meets _____ a month to review the progress of on-going projects.”

- (A) once
- (B) one
- (C) one time
- (D) ones

Q17. In the following sentence, four parts are labelled (A), (B), (C), and (D). Identify the part that contains a grammatical error.

“The chairman, along with (A) his advisors, (B) are expected to attend (C) the annual conference (D) this Friday.”

- (A) his advisors,
- (B) are
- (C) the annual conference
- (D) this Friday.

Q18. In the following sentence, four parts are labelled (A), (B), (C), and (D). Identify the part that contains a grammatical error.

“She was about (A) to leave the office when (B) her phone (C) rings and interrupts (D) her train of thought.”



- (A) to leave the office
- (B) her phone
- (C) rings
- (D) her train of thought.

Q19. In the following sentence, four parts are labelled (A), (B), (C), and (D). Identify the part that contains a grammatical error.

“She is not interested (A) in attending (B) the seminar, as (C) she is not familiar (D) to the topic.”

- (A) in attending
- (B) the seminar,
- (C) she is not familiar
- (D) to

Q20. Identify the **grammatically incorrect** sentence from the options below.

- (A) “A series of lectures was arranged for the students.”
- (B) “The number of applicants are increasing every year.”
- (C) “Each of the students has submitted the form.”
- (D) “The team of researchers has published its findings.”

Q21. What does the idiom “**Spill the beans**” mean?

- (A) Cook a special meal
- (B) Make a mess accidentally
- (C) Reveal secret or confidential information
- (D) Create chaos in an organisation

Q22. What does the idiom “**Pull someone’s leg**” mean?

- (A) Tease or joke with someone



- (B) Physically trip someone
- (C) Help someone walk steadily
- (D) Cause serious discomfort

Q23. What does the idiom “**Sit on the fence**” mean?

- (A) Avoid committing to either side of an argument
- (B) Observe from a safe distance
- (C) Procrastinate on an important task
- (D) Remain at the periphery of a group

Q24. What does the idiom “**Let sleeping dogs lie**” mean?

- (A) Allow animals to rest undisturbed
- (B) Avoid bringing up an issue that could cause trouble
- (C) Ignore a problem until it becomes worse
- (D) Take no action in any situation

Q25. Choose the **one word** that best substitutes the given phrase.

One who talks excessively

- (A) Introvert
- (B) Pedant
- (C) Garrulous
- (D) Orator

Q26. Choose the **one word** that best substitutes the given phrase.

The life history of a person written by that person themselves

- (A) Biography
- (B) Memoir
- (C) Chronicle



(D) Autobiography

Q27. Choose the **one word** that best substitutes the given phrase.

One who compiles a dictionary

(A) Lexicographer

(B) Linguist

(C) Grammarian

(D) Etymologist

Q28. Choose the correct **passive voice** form of the following sentence.

“The designer unveiled the latest collection at the fashion show.”

(A) The latest collection will be unveiled by the designer.

(B) The latest collection was unveiled by the designer at the fashion show.

(C) The latest collection is being unveiled by the designer.

(D) The designer is unveiling the latest collection.

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

(A) “The award was given to her by the jury.”

(B) “The song has been composed by the musician.”

(C) “The journalist wrote a detailed report on the event.”

(D) “The letter was posted by the secretary.”

Q30. Choose the correct preposition to fill in the blank.

“The new collection takes inspiration _____ traditional Indian textile crafts.”

(A) with

(B) on



(C) for

(D) from



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Synonyms. GREGARIOUS means enjoying the company of others; “Sociable and outgoing” is the closest match. **Answer:** B.

Concept — Synonyms: A synonym is a word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. GREGARIOUS comes from the Latin *grex* (flock) and literally means “living in flocks or communities.” In modern usage, it describes a person who is sociable, fond of company, and outgoing by nature.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning of GREGARIOUS: GREGARIOUS = sociable, enjoying the company of others, outgoing. The word describes someone who thrives in social situations and actively seeks the company of others, as opposed to someone who prefers solitude.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Solitary): Means preferring to be alone — the direct opposite of gregarious.
- Option C (Timid): Means lacking confidence or being shy — this concerns confidence, not sociability; a timid person may or may not enjoy company.
- Option D (Reclusive): Means avoiding society and living in seclusion — the direct opposite of gregarious.

Final Answer: GREGARIOUS = Sociable and outgoing ⇒ **B**

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

Q2.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Synonyms. MAGNANIMOUS means very generous and forgiving, especially toward a rival; “Generous in spirit” = C. **Answer:** C.

Concept — Synonyms: MAGNANIMOUS derives from Latin *magnus* (great) + *animus* (soul/mind). It describes a person who is nobly generous, forgiving, and free from petty resentment — especially toward those who have wronged them or toward rivals or those less powerful.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning of MAGNANIMOUS: MAGNANIMOUS = very generous and forgiving in spirit; showing a noble, elevated character that rises



above personal grievances. A magnanimous victor, for example, treats the defeated opponent with dignity and grace.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Petty): Means small-minded, ungenerous, and preoccupied with trivial matters — the direct opposite of magnanimous.
- Option B (Stingy): Means unwilling to give or spend; miserly — the direct opposite of the generosity implied by magnanimous.
- Option D (Narrow-minded): Means intolerant of other views — the direct opposite of the broad, noble spirit implied by magnanimous.

Final Answer: MAGNANIMOUS = Generous in spirit ⇒

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

Q3.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Antonyms. PERNICIOUS means having a harmful, destructive effect. Its antonym is BENEFICIAL (producing good results). **Answer:** D.

Concept — Antonyms: An antonym is a word that is opposite in meaning to another word. PERNICIOUS means having a harmful effect on someone or something, especially in a gradual or subtle way — it implies insidious, progressive damage.

Step 1 — Identify the antonym of PERNICIOUS: PERNICIOUS = causing great harm or damage in a subtle, insidious way. Its antonym must mean the opposite — producing good, helpful, or positive effects. BENEFICIAL (= resulting in good; advantageous) is the precise antonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Harmful): Is a direct synonym of pernicious — not an antonym.
- Option B (Deadly): Is an extreme form of pernicious (causing death) — another synonym.
- Option C (Injurious): Means causing injury or damage — another synonym of pernicious.

Final Answer: Antonym of PERNICIOUS = Beneficial ⇒

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



Q4.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Synonyms. ASTUTE means having sharp insight and practical intelligence; “Shrewd and clever” = A. **Answer:** A.

Concept — Synonyms: ASTUTE derives from Latin *astutus* (crafty, shrewd). It describes someone who has a quick, accurate ability to assess situations or people and turn this understanding to one’s advantage. It combines intelligence with practical wisdom.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning of ASTUTE: ASTUTE = having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people; shrewd, perceptive, and clever. An astute observer notices details others miss; an astute businessperson identifies opportunities quickly.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (Naive): Means lacking experience, wisdom, or judgment — the direct opposite of astute.
- Option C (Foolish): Means lacking good sense or judgment — the direct opposite of the sharp intelligence implied by astute.
- Option D (Reckless): Means acting without thinking about risks or consequences — opposite of the careful, considered perception implied by astute.

Final Answer: ASTUTE = Shrewd and clever $\Rightarrow$ A

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

Q5.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Antonyms. SANGUINE means optimistic. Its antonym is PESSIMISTIC (expecting the worst). **Answer:** B.

Concept — Antonyms: SANGUINE comes from Latin *sanguis* (blood) and was historically associated with the blood humour, which produced a cheerful, hopeful temperament. In modern English, SANGUINE means optimistic, especially in difficult situations.

Step 1 — Identify the antonym of SANGUINE: SANGUINE = confidently optimistic and positive about future outcomes, even in challenging circumstances. Its antonym is PESSIMISTIC — tending to see the worst aspect of situations; expecting that things will go wrong.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Optimistic): Is a direct synonym of sanguine, not an antonym.
- Option C (Hopeful): Is another synonym of sanguine — both mean expecting a good outcome.
- Option D (Cheerful): Is closely related to sanguine (the original meaning) — another synonym, not an antonym.

Final Answer: Antonym of SANGUINE = Pessimistic ⇒ **B**

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

Q6.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Antonyms. MUNDANE means ordinary, dull, and everyday. Its antonym is EXTRAORDINARY. **Answer:** C.

Concept — Antonyms: MUNDANE derives from Latin *mundus* (world). It means of, relating to, or typical of everyday earthly life; lacking interest or excitement — dull and routine.

Step 1 — Identify the antonym of MUNDANE: MUNDANE = lacking interest, excitement, or relevance; dull and ordinary; relating to the everyday world. Its antonym must mean the opposite — remarkable, unusual, and beyond the ordinary. EXTRAORDINARY = very unusual or remarkable; going far beyond what is normal.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Ordinary): Is a direct synonym of mundane, not an antonym.
- Option B (Routine): Means regular, habitual, and unvaried — another synonym of mundane.
- Option D (Typical): Means conforming to the usual type or pattern — another synonym of mundane.

Final Answer: Antonym of MUNDANE = Extraordinary ⇒ **C**

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



Q7.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Vocabulary in context. PERFIDIOUS means deceitful and untrustworthy; the context “destroyed the trust” confirms treachery. **Answer:** D.

Concept — Vocabulary in Context: PERFIDIOUS derives from Latin *perfidia* (treachery, faithlessness). It means guilty of betrayal or deception; deceitful and untrustworthy. Context clues in the sentence confirm the meaning.

Step 1 — Analyse the context clue: “His *perfidious* actions **destroyed the trust** his colleagues had placed in him.” The phrase “destroyed the trust” is the key context clue. Trust is destroyed by betrayal and deception — which is precisely what PERFIDIOUS means. Option D (Deceitful and treacherous) matches perfectly.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Loyal): Means faithful and devoted — the complete opposite of perfidious; loyal actions build trust, not destroy it.
- Option B (Industrious): Means hardworking and diligent — completely unrelated to trust or betrayal.
- Option C (Innovative): Means introducing new ideas or methods — completely unrelated to the context of destroyed trust.

Final Answer: PERFIDIOUS = Deceitful and treacherous ⇒ D

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

Q8.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Synonyms. LANGUOROUS means pleasantly slow and relaxed; “Slow and relaxed” = A. **Answer:** A.

Concept — Synonyms: LANGUOROUS (adjective form of *languor*) describes a state of pleasantly tired and relaxed inaction. It carries a sense of dreamy, comfortable sluggishness — often used to describe a lazy afternoon, a slow country pace, or an unhurried, contented mood.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning of LANGUOROUS: LANGUOROUS = having or producing a pleasantly tired, relaxed, and unhurried quality. Note that it is not negative — it implies comfortable, pleasurable slowness rather than exhaustion or weakness.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (Energetic): Means full of energy and vigorous activity — the direct opposite of the slow, relaxed quality of languorous.
- Option C (Hurried): Means done quickly and with urgency — the direct opposite of the unhurried, relaxed pace implied by languorous.
- Option D (Aggressive): Means hostile, forceful, and ready to attack — completely unrelated to the gentle, relaxed quality of languorous.

Final Answer: LANGUOROUS = Slow and relaxed $\Rightarrow$ **A**

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

Q9.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Synonyms. EPHEMERAL means lasting for a very short time; “Short-lived and transient” = B. **Answer:** B.

Concept — Synonyms: EPHEMERAL comes from Greek *ephemeros* (lasting only a day: *epi* = on + *hemera* = day). It describes something that lasts for a very short time, is temporary, or is fleeting. In fashion and design, trends are often described as ephemeral.

Step 1 — Identify the meaning of EPHEMERAL: EPHEMERAL = lasting for a very short time; transient; fleeting. The word focuses specifically on **duration** — something ephemeral exists only briefly before disappearing. “Short-lived and transient” captures both aspects: the brief duration and the impermanent nature.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Lasting forever): Is the precise opposite of ephemeral — permanent vs. temporary.
- Option C (Very important): Refers to significance, not duration — completely unrelated to the meaning of ephemeral.
- Option D (Recurring regularly): Refers to frequency of repetition, not duration — unrelated to ephemeral, which concerns how long something lasts.

Final Answer: EPHEMERAL = Short-lived and transient $\Rightarrow$ **B**

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



Q10.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Vocabulary in context. PLAUSIBLE means seemingly reasonable; the context “investigation revealed it was false” shows it only appeared true. **Answer:** C.

Concept — Vocabulary in Context: PLAUSIBLE means seeming reasonable or probable at first glance, even if it may not actually be true. The key is that plausibility is about the *appearance* of reasonableness — not confirmed truth.

Step 1 — Analyse the context: “The explanation *seemed* plausible at first, **but** further investigation revealed it was **false**.” Two clues confirm the meaning: (1) the word “seemed” emphasises appearance over reality; (2) the contrast word “but” followed by “revealed it was false” shows the explanation was not actually true — only seemingly reasonable. Option C (Seemingly reasonable) captures this nuance precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Impossible): The opposite of plausible — the explanation was not impossible; it seemed reasonable enough at first.
- Option B (Certain): Too strong; plausible does not mean certainly or definitively true. The context confirms it was ultimately false.
- Option D (Complicated): Refers to complexity or difficulty, not to apparent reasonableness — completely unrelated to the meaning of plausible.

Final Answer: PLAUSIBLE = Seemingly reasonable $\Rightarrow$ C

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

Q11.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Vocabulary (context-based word choice). The context “each piece harmonised with the others” points to logical consistency and unity = COHERENCE. **Answer:** A.

Concept — Vocabulary in Context: COHERENCE means the quality of being logical, consistent, and forming a unified whole. When all parts of a collection work together harmoniously, they display coherence. The key context clue is “each piece harmonised with the others” — this implies intentional unity, not randomness or confusion.



Step 1 — Use the context clue: “The ___ of the new collection was evident in how each piece harmonised with the others.” The word “harmonised” = worked together in a consistent, unified way. COHERENCE is the only option that means this logical, unified consistency.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (confusion): Means disorder and lack of clarity — directly contradicts the harmony described.
- Option C (disorder): Means a state of chaos or disorganisation — the direct opposite of pieces that harmonise.
- Option D (randomness): Means lack of pattern, plan, or intention — contradicts the deliberate harmony among the pieces of the collection.

Final Answer: The word is *coherence* ⇒ A

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

Q12.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Sentence Completion (parts of speech). “Is ___ for” requires a past participle used as an adjective. RENOWNED = A. **Answer:** A.

Concept — Parts of Speech in Sentence Completion: After a linking verb such as “is,” we need either an adjective or a past participle functioning as a predicate adjective. The phrase “renowned for” is a standard English collocation meaning “famous and celebrated for a particular quality or achievement.”

Step 1 — Identify the required word form: The sentence structure is: *[Subject] + is + [predicate adjective/past participle] + for + [reason]*. RENOWNED functions as a predicate adjective (originally a past participle of “renown” used as a verb, now predominantly an adjective): “The designer’s work **is renowned for** its bold use of colour.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (renown): Is a *noun* in modern English (“his renown was great”) — a noun cannot follow a linking verb in this predicate adjective position.
- Option C (renownedly): Is a non-standard adverb formation rarely used in modern English; adverbs do not fill the predicate adjective slot after a linking verb in this construction.
- Option D (renowns): Is an incorrect form attempting to make a verb from



“renown” — this is not standard English; “renown” is not conjugated this way.

Final Answer: The word is *renowned* ⇒ A

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

Q13.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Sentence Completion (meaning and logic). “Not merely about ___” + “self-expression that can ___ identity” → AESTHETICS ... DEFINE = B. **Answer:** B.

Concept — Sentence Completion (Logical Coherence): A double-blank question requires finding a pair of words that are both grammatically correct and logically consistent with the full sentence. The sentence argues that fashion extends beyond one dimension (the first blank) and also serves as self-expression (which the second blank completes).

Step 1 — Analyse the sentence structure: “Fashion is not merely about ___ — it is also a form of self-expression that can ___ one’s identity.” The first blank should be something fashion is commonly associated with as its primary purpose. The second blank must logically complete “self-expression that can ___ one’s identity.”

Step 2 — Evaluate option B (aesthetics ... define): AESTHETICS (visual beauty, style, and appearance) is exactly what fashion is most commonly associated with. DEFINE (to shape, characterise, or express) fits “self-expression that can define one’s identity” — a coherent and meaningful statement.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (price ... hide): “Self-expression that can hide one’s identity” directly contradicts the meaning of self-expression.
- Option C (fabrics ... destroy): “Self-expression that can destroy one’s identity” is illogical and contradicts the positive tone.
- Option D (trends ... ignore): “Self-expression that can ignore one’s identity” is self-contradictory and illogical.

Final Answer: aesthetics ... define ⇒ B

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



Q14.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Sentence Completion (concessive conjunctions). “Nobody could hear her” + “she was at the front” requires a concessive conjunction. EVEN THOUGH = C. **Answer:** C.

Concept — Concessive Conjunctions: A concessive conjunction introduces a clause that seems to contradict the main clause, yet both are true simultaneously. Common concessive conjunctions: *even though*, *although*, *though*, *despite the fact that*. They signal an unexpected contrast.

Step 1 — Identify the relationship between the clauses: Clause 1: “Nobody could hear her.” Clause 2: “She was right at the front of the room.” Being at the front of the room should logically make it *easier* to hear someone — yet nobody could hear her. This is an unexpected concession. EVEN THOUGH introduces this surprising contrast perfectly: “nobody could hear her **even though** she was right at the front.”

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (and): Connects two clauses as equally valid additions — does not signal contrast or surprise.
- Option B (but): Introduces contrast between two main clauses as a coordinating conjunction; however, in this position (without a comma) and with the clause that follows, “even though” creates a more natural and precise concessive subordinate clause structure.
- Option D (therefore): Introduces a result or consequence — it would imply that *because* she was at the front, nobody heard her, which is logically absurd.

Final Answer: The conjunction is *even though* ⇒ C

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

Q15.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Sentence Completion (collocation + adjective). “Completed __ schedule” + “which was __ given challenges” → AHEAD OF ... REMARKABLE = D. **Answer:** D.

Concept — Sentence Completion (Collocation and Tone): This question tests knowledge of common phrase collocations (“ahead of schedule”) and the ability



to match the evaluative tone of the sentence. The phrase “given the number of challenges the team faced” implies an achievement worthy of praise.

Step 1 — Identify the correct first blank: “Completed __ schedule” — common standard phrases: *on schedule* (on time), *ahead of schedule* (early), *behind schedule* (late). Given the positive evaluation in the second part, an achievement (finishing early) is implied.

Step 2 — Identify the correct second blank: “Which was __ given the number of challenges” — finishing a project early despite many challenges is impressive. REMARKABLE (= worthy of attention; extraordinary) fits perfectly with this achievement.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (before ...disappointing): “Completed before schedule” is non-standard; “disappointing” contradicts completing early despite challenges.
- Option B (on ... ordinary): Finishing on time is acceptable but not “ordinary” in a sentence that frames it with the word “which was” — the sentence implies a noteworthy result.
- Option C (after ... expected): Finishing late despite many challenges might be “expected,” but this does not align with the praiseworthy framing of the sentence.

Final Answer: ahead of ... remarkable $\Rightarrow$ D

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

Q16.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Sentence Completion (adverb of frequency). “Meets __ a month” requires an adverb of frequency. ONCE = A. **Answer:** A.

Concept — Adverbs of Frequency: Adverbs of frequency describe how often an action occurs. The construction “**once** + a + time period” is the standard English way to express single-occurrence frequency: *once a week*, *once a month*, *once a year*. ONCE is an adverb of frequency meaning one time (per the given period).

Step 1 — Identify the correct word form: “The committee meets __ a month” needs a word that tells how many times per month the committee convenes. ONCE is the correct adverb: “meets **once** a month.” It flows naturally and is the established standard phrase.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (one): Is a numeral adjective or pronoun, not an adverb of frequency — “meets one a month” is ungrammatical.
- Option C (one time): While semantically equivalent to “once,” it is verbose, unnatural, and non-standard in this construction; “once” is preferred.
- Option D (ones): Is a pronoun (referring to previously mentioned items) or plural noun — grammatically incorrect and meaningless in this context.

Final Answer: The word is *once* ⇒ A

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

Q17.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Subject-Verb Agreement. “The chairman” (singular subject) requires “is expected,” not “are expected.” Error at B. **Answer:** B.

Concept — Subject-Verb Agreement with Intervening Phrases: When phrases such as “along with,” “as well as,” “together with,” “in addition to,” or “accompanied by” come between the subject and the verb, they do **not** alter the number of the subject. The verb must agree with the **original subject**, not with the noun in the intervening phrase.

Step 1 — Identify the subject: Subject = “The chairman” (singular noun). The phrase “along with his advisors” is a parenthetical addition enclosed by commas — it does not make the subject plural. Compare: “The chairman [*along with his advisors*] is expected to attend.”

Step 2 — Identify the error: “are expected” (part B) uses the plural verb form. Since the subject “the chairman” is singular, the correct verb is “is expected.” The error is at part (B).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (his advisors,): Correctly identifies the object of “along with” in the parenthetical phrase — no error.
- Option C (the annual conference): Is the correct object of the infinitive “to attend” — no error.
- Option D (this Friday.): Is a correct adverbial phrase of time indicating when the event occurs — no error.

Final Answer: Error at part (B) — “are” should be “is” ⇒ B



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

Q18.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Tense Consistency. The sentence is in the past tense (“was about to leave”). “rings” (present tense) should be “rang” (past tense). Error at C. **Answer:** C.

Concept — Tense Consistency: In a sentence describing a past event or sequence of past actions, all verbs must use the appropriate past tense form. Mixing present tense with past tense when describing the same time frame creates a tense inconsistency, which is a grammatical error.

Step 1 — Establish the time frame: “She **was about to leave** the office” sets the narrative in the **simple past**. Both actions — her imminent departure and the phone ringing — belong to the same past moment.

Step 2 — Find the tense error: “her phone **rings** and interrupts” uses the **present tense** (simple present: rings, interrupts). Both verbs should be in simple past: “her phone **rang** and **interrupted**.” The error is at part (C) (“rings”).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (to leave the office): Correct — “was about to leave” is a past progressive construction indicating an imminent past action; no error.
- Option B (her phone): Correct — a noun phrase serving as the subject of the subordinate clause; no error.
- Option D (her train of thought): Correct — the object of the verb “interrupted”; no error.

Final Answer: Error at part (C) — “rings” should be “rang” ⇒ **C**

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



Q19.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Preposition Collocation. “Familiar **to**” is incorrect; the correct collocation for “having knowledge of” is “familiar **with**.” Error at D.
Answer: D.

Concept — Preposition Collocations with Adjectives: In English, certain adjectives always pair with specific prepositions — these fixed pairings are called collocations. The adjective **familiar** collocates with two prepositions, each with a different meaning:

- **familiar with** something = having knowledge of or experience with something (e.g., “I am familiar with the topic”).
- **familiar to** someone = known by someone (e.g., “The name is familiar to me”).

Step 1 — Identify the required collocation: “She is not familiar __ the topic” — here “familiar” means *having knowledge of* the topic. The correct preposition is **with**: “familiar **with** the topic.” The use of “to” in part (D) is incorrect in this context.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (in attending): “Interested **in**” + gerund is the correct and standard collocation — no error.
- Option B (the seminar,): A correctly placed noun phrase as the object of “attending”; the comma is appropriate — no error.
- Option C (she is not familiar): The subject, negation, and adjective are all correctly formed — the error lies in the preposition that follows.

Final Answer: Error at part (D) — “to” should be “with” ⇒ D

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



Q20.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Subject–Verb Agreement (“the number of”). “The number of applicants” is a singular subject and requires “**is** increasing,” not “are increasing.” Option B is incorrect. **Answer:** B.

Concept — “A number of” vs. “The number of”: This is a classic and frequently tested grammar rule:

- **A number of** + noun → **plural** verb. (“A number of students *are* attending.”)
- **The number of** + noun → **singular** verb. (“The number of students *is* increasing.”)

When “the” is used, “number” is the specific singular subject (a particular count). When “a” is used, “number” means “many” and the following noun drives plurality.

Step 1 — Analyse option B: “The number of applicants **are** increasing every year.” Subject = “**the number**” (singular). Correct verb = **is** increasing. The use of “are” (plural verb) is the grammatical error.

Why other options are correct:

- Option A: “A series of lectures *was* arranged” — “A series” is singular; “was” is correct.
- Option C: “Each of the students *has* submitted” — “Each” is always singular; “has” is correct.
- Option D: “The team of researchers *has* published *its* findings” — “The team” is a collective noun treated as singular; both “has” and “its” are correct.

Final Answer: Option B is grammatically incorrect — “are” should be “is” ⇒ B

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

Q21.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Idioms. “Spill the beans” = to reveal secret or confidential information = C. **Answer:** C.

Concept — Idioms: An idiom is a phrase whose meaning cannot be determined from the literal meanings of its individual words. “Spill the beans” is a common English idiom meaning to accidentally or deliberately reveal a secret or confidential piece of information.



Step 1 — Meaning and usage: “Spill the beans” = to disclose information that was meant to be kept secret, often by accident or indiscretion. Example: “Someone spilled the beans about the surprise party, and now she knows.” The idiom focuses specifically on *revealing a secret*.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Cook a special meal): A purely literal reading of the word “beans” in a culinary context — completely unrelated to the idiomatic meaning.
- Option B (Make a mess accidentally): Confuses “spill” with its literal meaning (knocking a liquid or substance over) — not the idiom’s meaning.
- Option D (Create chaos in an organisation): Overstates the consequence; spilling the beans can sometimes cause trouble, but the idiom itself means specifically *to reveal a secret*, not to create organisational chaos.

Final Answer: “Spill the beans” = Reveal secret or confidential information ⇒ C

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

Q22.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Idioms. “Pull someone’s leg” = to tease or joke with someone = A. **Answer:** A.

Concept — Idioms: “Pull someone’s leg” is a well-established English idiom meaning to tease someone in a playful way, or to tell someone something untrue as a joke without serious intent. It is always used in a light-hearted, friendly context.

Step 1 — Meaning and usage: “Pull someone’s leg” = to joke with someone; to tease them by saying something untrue in a playful, humorous way. Example: “Don’t take him seriously — he’s just pulling your leg!” The idiom carries no negative or harmful connotation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (Physically trip someone): Interprets “pull” and “leg” in their literal, physical sense — completely unrelated to the idiomatic meaning.
- Option C (Help someone walk steadily): Another literal misreading — has no connection to the idiom’s meaning of playful teasing.
- Option D (Cause serious discomfort): The idiom is explicitly light-hearted and friendly; it is not associated with causing harm or serious discomfort.



Final Answer: “Pull someone’s leg” = Tease or joke with someone ⇒ A

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

Q23.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Idioms. “Sit on the fence” = to avoid committing to either side of an argument or issue = A. **Answer:** A.

Concept — Idioms: “Sit on the fence” is an idiom describing the state of being neutral, undecided, or deliberately non-committal — avoiding taking a clear position in a controversy, debate, or argument. It suggests deliberate evasiveness rather than genuine uncertainty.

Step 1 — Meaning and usage: “Sit on the fence” = to remain neutral; to refuse to commit to one side of a debate or issue. Example: “When asked about the new policy, the minister sat on the fence and avoided giving a direct answer.” The imagery is of someone perched between two sides, belonging to neither.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (Observe from a safe distance): Conflates the physical image of a fence as a barrier with a different concept of detachment — not the idiom’s meaning about taking sides in a debate.
- Option C (Procrastinate on an important task): Procrastination is about delaying action; “sitting on the fence” is specifically about *not taking sides*, not about avoiding a task.
- Option D (Remain at the periphery of a group): Another literal spatial misreading; the idiom concerns intellectual and positional neutrality in a debate, not physical positioning in a social group.

Final Answer: “Sit on the fence” = Avoid committing to either side of an argument ⇒ A

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



Q24.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Idioms. “Let sleeping dogs lie” = avoid bringing up old problems that could cause trouble = B. **Answer:** B.

Concept — Idioms: “Let sleeping dogs lie” is an idiom advising against reviving or raising past issues, disputes, or conflicts that have settled down. It counsels restraint and caution, warning that stirring up old troubles could cause new, unnecessary conflict.

Step 1 — Meaning and usage: “Let sleeping dogs lie” = do not bring up past issues or disputes that have been resolved or forgotten, as doing so might create new problems. Example: “He thought about raising his old grievance with the manager but decided to let sleeping dogs lie.” The imagery: a sleeping dog causes no harm; disturbing it might provoke a bite.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Allow animals to rest undisturbed): A purely literal interpretation of the words — completely unrelated to the idiomatic meaning about human conflicts and issues.
- Option C (Ignore a problem until it becomes worse): Misunderstands the idiom. “Letting sleeping dogs lie” is about not *reviving settled issues*, not about ignoring a growing or active problem.
- Option D (Take no action in any situation): Too broad and general. The idiom has a specific meaning: restrain yourself from bringing up past issues that have already quieted down — not a general rule to never act.

Final Answer: “Let sleeping dogs lie” = Avoid bringing up an issue that could cause trouble ⇒ **B**

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

Q25.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: One Word Substitution. “One who talks excessively” = GARRULOUS = C. **Answer:** C.

Concept — One Word Substitution: In one-word substitution questions, a descriptive phrase is replaced by a single precise word that captures its entire meaning. GARRULOUS (adjective, from Latin *garrire* = to chatter) means excessively



talkative, especially on trivial matters. It may also be used as a noun to describe such a person.

Step 1 — Match the phrase: “One who talks excessively” — the core idea is *excessive talking*. GARRULOUS perfectly captures this: a garrulous person talks at length, often about unimportant things, going beyond what is necessary or welcome.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Introvert): An introvert is a person who is reserved, reflective, and prefers solitude — the opposite of someone who talks excessively.
- Option B (Pedant): A pedant is one who is obsessively concerned with rules, formal correctness, and minor details — this describes a style of thinking, not excessive talking.
- Option D (Orator): An orator is a skilled and eloquent public speaker — this describes a specific *ability and context* (formal public speaking), not the *excessive* quantity of talking implied by the phrase.

Final Answer: “One who talks excessively” = Garrulous ⇒ C

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

Q26.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: One Word Substitution. “Life history of a person written by that person themselves” = AUTOBIOGRAPHY = D. **Answer:** D.

Concept — One Word Substitution: AUTOBIOGRAPHY (from Greek: *autos* = self + *bios* = life + *graphe* = writing) is an account of a person’s own life, written by that person themselves. The key distinguishing feature is *self-authorship*.

Step 1 — Match the phrase: “The life history of a person **written by that person themselves**” — the critical qualifier is “by that person themselves” (self-written). AUTOBIOGRAPHY is the precise term for a life story authored by the subject.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (Biography): Is an account of someone’s life written by *another person* — not self-written. This is the most important distinction.
- Option B (Memoir): Is a narrative focusing on specific events, relationships, or periods from a person’s life — not necessarily the complete life story. While typically self-written, it differs from autobiography in scope.



- Option C (Chronicle): Is a historical record of events arranged in chronological order — not specifically about an individual's personal life story.

Final Answer: “Life history written by the person themselves” = Autobiography
⇒

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

Q27.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: One Word Substitution. “One who compiles a dictionary” = LEXICOGRAPHER = A. **Answer:** A.

Concept — One Word Substitution: LEXICOGRAPHER (from Greek: *lexikon* = of words + *graphein* = to write) is a person who compiles, writes, or edits dictionaries. The related discipline is LEXICOGRAPHY. Famous lexicographers include Samuel Johnson (*A Dictionary of the English Language*, 1755) and Noah Webster.

Step 1 — Match the phrase: “One who compiles a dictionary” — LEXICOGRAPHER is the exact, technical term for this occupation. It is the word used specifically and exclusively for someone who creates dictionaries.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B (Linguist): Linguists study the structure, development, acquisition, and social context of language in general — a far broader field than compiling dictionaries.
- Option C (Grammarians): A grammarian studies and writes about grammar, grammatical rules, and linguistic correctness — a related but distinct specialisation from dictionary-making.
- Option D (Etymologist): An etymologist studies the origin and historical development of words (etymology) — a related but distinct discipline; lexicography involves compiling entire dictionaries, not just tracing word origins.

Final Answer: “One who compiles a dictionary” = Lexicographer ⇒

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



Q28.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Active and Passive Voice. Simple past active → passive: “The latest collection was unveiled by the designer at the fashion show.” = B.
Answer: B.

Concept — Passive Voice Formation (Simple Past): To convert a simple past active sentence to passive voice: (1) Move the **object** to the subject position. (2) Use **was/were** + **past participle**. (3) Add “**by**” + original subject. (4) Retain all adverbial phrases.

Step 1 — Identify components of the active sentence: Active: “The designer (**Subject**) unveiled (**Verb — simple past**) the latest collection (**Object**) at the fashion show (**Adverbial phrase**).”

Step 2 — Construct the passive:

- New Subject: “The latest collection” (former object)
- Passive Verb: “was unveiled” (was + past participle of unveil)
- Agent: “by the designer” (former subject)
- Adverbial: “at the fashion show” (retained)

Result: “**The latest collection was unveiled by the designer at the fashion show.**” = Option B.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Uses future tense (“will be unveiled”) — incorrect tense; the original is simple past.
- Option C: Uses present continuous passive (“is being unveiled”) — wrong tense.
- Option D: “The designer is unveiling the latest collection” is active voice in present continuous — not a passive construction at all.

Final Answer: Correct passive = Option B ⇒ B

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



Q29.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Active Voice Identification. Option C has the subject (journalist) performing the action (wrote) — active voice structure. **Answer:** C.

Concept — Active vs. Passive Voice:

- **Active voice:** Subject performs the action. Structure: *Subject + verb + object*.
- **Passive voice:** Subject receives the action. Structure: *Subject + be + past participle + (by agent)*.

Step 1 — Analyse each option:

- Option A: “The award **was given** to her by the jury” — *was given* = passive (be + past participle); the award (subject) receives the action.
- Option B: “The song **has been composed** by the musician” — *has been composed* = passive (have + been + past participle); the song (subject) receives the action.
- Option C: “The journalist **wrote** a detailed report on the event” — *wrote* = simple past active verb; the journalist (subject) *performs* the action of writing. This is **active voice**.
- Option D: “The letter **was posted** by the secretary” — *was posted* = passive; the letter (subject) receives the action.

Why other options are wrong:

- Options A, B, D: All use passive constructions identifiable by the “be + past participle” pattern with “by” + agent.

Final Answer: Option C is in the active voice ⇒ C

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



Q30.

Solution

Quick Solution: Concept: Prepositions (Collocation). “Takes inspiration **from**” is the established English collocation. **Answer:** D.

Concept — Preposition Collocation: “Take inspiration from” is a fixed collocation in English, meaning to draw creative ideas, energy, or motivation from a particular source. This is analogous to “draw inspiration from” or “be inspired by” — all use the preposition **from** to indicate the source.

Step 1 — Identify the correct collocation: “The new collection takes inspiration ___ traditional Indian textile crafts.” Traditional Indian textile crafts are the *source* of inspiration. The standard English collocation for indicating source in this phrase is **from**: “takes inspiration **from** traditional Indian textile crafts.” Option D is correct.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A (with): “Takes inspiration with” is not a recognised English collocation — grammatically and idiomatically incorrect in this context.
- Option B (on): “Takes inspiration on” is not a standard phrase — “on” indicates surface or subject matter, not source of inspiration.
- Option C (for): “Takes inspiration for” is incorrect — “for” would suggest purpose or reason (“for what?”), not the source. The correct preposition to indicate the source from which inspiration is drawn is always “from.”

Final Answer: The correct preposition is *from* ⇒ D

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



Answer Key

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

