

FDDI AIST Verbal Ability

Sample Paper – 5

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 **DILIGENT**.

- (A) Hardworking
- (B) Lazy
- (C) Careless
- (D) Impulsive

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

- (A) Flexible
- (B) Stubborn
- (C) Agreeable
- (D) Indifferent

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



- (A) Tasteless
- (B) Bland
- (C) Stimulating
- (D) Dull

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

- (A) Moderate
- (B) Mild
- (C) Restrained
- (D) Excessive

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

- (A) Gullible
- (B) Sceptical
- (C) Perceptive
- (D) Shrewd

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

- (A) Silent
- (B) Loquacious
- (C) Quiet
- (D) Reserved

Q7. The word **FASTIDIOUS** most closely means:

- (A) Careless and hurried
- (B) Easily satisfied
- (C) Excessively particular about details



(D) Modest and simple

Q8. Choose the meaning of **IMPETUOUS** as used in the sentence:

*“Her **IMPETUOUS** decision to resign shocked the entire team.”*

(A) Carefully planned

(B) Thoughtful

(C) Deliberate

(D) Done hastily without sufficient thought

Q9. The word **PERTINENT** most closely means:

(A) Directly relevant to the matter at hand

(B) Beside the point

(C) Unrelated

(D) Vague and indirect

Q10. **CONVOLUTED**, in the context of an argument, means:

(A) Simple and easy to follow

(B) Unnecessarily complicated and difficult to understand

(C) Clear and concise

(D) Straightforward

Q11. Choose the word that best replaces the underlined word in the sentence:

“The scientist’s ABERRANT behaviour during the experiment alarmed his colleagues.”

(A) Normal

(B) Expected

(C) Abnormal

(D) Conventional



Q12. Choose the option that best fills the two blanks:

“A good designer must be both _____ and _____; creativity without practicality rarely leads to commercial success.”

- (A) stubborn ... inflexible
- (B) chaotic ... disorganised
- (C) passive ... uninspired
- (D) creative ... practical

Q13. Choose the grammatically correct word to fill the blank:

“The board has _____ the product launch to the next financial quarter.”

- (A) postponed
- (B) postponing
- (C) postpone
- (D) postponement

Q14. Choose the correct word to fill the blank:

“The apprentice has been training under the master craftsman _____ five years.”

- (A) since
- (B) for
- (C) from
- (D) by

Q15. Choose the option that best fills the two blanks:

“The exhibition was a _____ success; every visitor left _____ by the designer’s innovative vision.”

- (A) total ... disappointed
- (B) minor ... uninspired
- (C) resounding ... inspired



(D) quiet ... bored

Q16. Choose the word that best fills the blank:

“The professor’s lecture was so _____ that students found it impossible to take coherent notes.”

(A) clear

(B) organised

(C) structured

(D) disjointed

Q17. Identify the part that contains an error:

“Each of the students (A) are required (B) to submit their project (C) before the deadline. (D) No error”

(A) are required

(B) to submit

(C) before the deadline

(D) No error

Q18. Identify the part that contains an error:

“By the time we reached (A) the auditorium, the chief guest (B) has already delivered (C) the inaugural address. (D) No error”

(A) the auditorium

(B) has already delivered

(C) the inaugural address

(D) No error

Q19. Identify the part that contains an error:

“She wore (A) a unique handwoven sari to the ceremony, which was considered one of (B) the most elegant (C) event of the season. (D) No error”

(A) a unique handwoven sari



- (B) the most elegant
- (C) event of the season
- (D) No error

Q20. Identify the grammatically **CORRECT** sentence:

- (A) He don't know how to thread a needle properly.
- (B) The fashion designers has won several international awards this year.
- (C) Neither the manager nor the employees was informed about the change.
- (D) The jury has unanimously selected the winner of the design competition.

Q21. The idiom “**cost an arm and a leg**” means:

- (A) To be extremely expensive
- (B) To involve great physical effort
- (C) To cause physical injury
- (D) To take a very long time

Q22. The idiom “**bite off more than you can chew**” means to:

- (A) eat too much food at once
- (B) take on more responsibilities than one can manage
- (C) refuse to carry out an easy task
- (D) speak harshly and rudely to others

Q23. The idiom “**the ball is in your court**” means:

- (A) To score a decisive point in a game
- (B) To reach a group decision together
- (C) It is now your turn or responsibility to act
- (D) To be placed in an advantageous position



- Q24.** The idiom “**barking up the wrong tree**” means to:
- (A) start a quarrel over a trivial matter
 - (B) search in the correct location
 - (C) make a noisy complaint about something
 - (D) pursue a mistaken or misdirected course of action
- Q25.** A person who lives in seclusion and deliberately avoids the company of others is called a:
- (A) Recluse
 - (B) Vagabond
 - (C) Nomad
 - (D) Eccentric
- Q26.** An extreme and irrational fear of heights is called:
- (A) Claustrophobia
 - (B) Acrophobia
 - (C) Aquaphobia
 - (D) Xenophobia
- Q27.** An inscription written on a tombstone or gravestone is called an:
- (A) Elegy
 - (B) Epitome
 - (C) Epitaph
 - (D) Obituary
- Q28.** Choose the correct passive voice form of the sentence:
“*The fashion editor praised the young designer.*”
- (A) The young designer is praised by the fashion editor.
 - (B) The fashion editor is praised by the young designer.



- (C) The young designer was being praised by the fashion editor.
- (D) The young designer was praised by the fashion editor.

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

- (A) The fabric was carefully selected by the chief designer.
- (B) The chief designer carefully selected the fabric.
- (C) The chief designer will select the fabric tomorrow.
- (D) The chief designer is selecting the fabric now.

Q30. Choose the correct preposition to fill the blank:

“The seamstress complained _____ the poor quality of the fabric supplied to her.”

- (A) on
- (B) about
- (C) in
- (D) for



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Quick Solution: DILIGENT means having or showing care and conscientiousness in one's work. **HARDWORKING** is the closest synonym — both describe a person who puts in steady, persistent effort.

Concept: The word “diligent” comes from Latin *diligens* (careful, attentive). It describes someone who works with steady, earnest application and care.

Steps:

- “Diligent” = careful, persistent, and industrious in work.
- (A) **Hardworking** = putting great effort and dedication into one's work. ✓
- (B) Lazy = disinclined to work or exert effort — the direct antonym.
- (C) Careless = not giving enough attention or thought — antonym of diligent.
- (D) Impulsive = acting quickly without careful consideration — unrelated to work ethic.

Why other options are wrong: B and C are antonyms of diligent; D describes a decision-making trait, not a work-ethic quality. Only “hardworking” shares the core meaning of dedicated, persistent effort.

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

Q2.

Solution

Quick Solution: OBSTINATE means stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or action. **STUBBORN** is the closest synonym — both describe inflexible persistence despite reason or persuasion.

Concept: “Obstinate” derives from Latin *obstinatus* (resolute, determined). It describes someone who refuses to change their stance regardless of evidence or argument.

Steps:

- “Obstinate” = unreasonably unyielding, difficult to persuade or move.
- (A) Flexible = willing to change or adapt — the antonym of obstinate.



- (B) **Stubborn** = refusing to change ideas or attitudes despite good reasons. ✓
- (C) Agreeable = willing to agree or accommodate others — antonym of obstinate.
- (D) Indifferent = lacking interest or concern — unrelated to stubbornness.

Why other options are wrong: A and C are antonyms; D describes emotional detachment, not persistence. Only “stubborn” matches the core meaning of refusing to budge.

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

Q3.

Solution

Quick Solution: INSIPID means lacking vigour, interest, or strong flavour. Its antonym is **STIMULATING** = exciting, interesting, and full of energy.

Concept: “Insidip” derives from Latin *insipidus* (tasteless). It describes something that is dull, flat, and uninspiring. Its antonym must capture the opposite quality of being lively and interesting.

Steps:

- Insipid = dull, flat, lacking flavour or interest.
- (A) Tasteless = a near-synonym of insipid, not an antonym.
- (B) Bland = also a synonym of insipid — lacking strong flavour or character.
- (C) **Stimulating** = arousing interest, curiosity, or enthusiasm — direct antonym. ✓
- (D) Dull = yet another synonym of insipid, not an antonym.

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D are all synonyms of “insipid” and therefore cannot serve as its antonym. Only “stimulating” captures the opposite quality.

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



Q4.

Solution

Quick Solution: TEMPERATE means moderate, restrained, and avoiding extremes. Its antonym is **EXCESSIVE** = going beyond what is normal or necessary.

Concept: “Temperate” describes behaviour or conditions that are within reasonable bounds — not extreme in any direction. Its antonym must convey the idea of going beyond normal limits.

Steps:

- Temperate = moderate, not extreme or excessive.
- (A) Moderate = a direct synonym of temperate.
- (B) Mild = another synonym of temperate (gentle, not extreme).
- (C) Restrained = also a synonym of temperate (controlled, not extreme).
- (D) **Excessive** = more than is necessary, normal, or desirable — the antonym. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C are all synonyms of “temperate.” Only “excessive” conveys the opposite concept of going beyond reasonable limits.

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

Q5.

Solution

Quick Solution: CREDULOUS means too ready to believe things without proper proof. **GULLIBLE** is the closest synonym — both describe someone easily deceived.

Concept: “Credulous” derives from Latin *credulus* (easily believing). It describes a person who accepts claims as true without sufficient evidence.

Steps:

- “Credulous” = believing things too readily, easily taken in.
- (A) **Gullible** = easily persuaded to believe something; easily deceived. ✓
- (B) Sceptical = not easily convinced; requiring proof — the antonym of credulous.
- (C) Perceptive = having a ready insight into things — relates to intelligence, not gullibility.
- (D) Shrewd = having sharp powers of judgement — the opposite of credulous.



lous.

Why other options are wrong: B and D are antonyms of credulous; C describes a person of sharp insight, which is unrelated to the tendency to believe things uncritically.

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

Q6.

Solution

Quick Solution: TACITURN means reserved, saying little, and not given to conversation. Its antonym is **LOQUACIOUS** = talking a great deal; talkative.

Concept: “Taciturn” comes from Latin *taciturnus* (silent). It describes a person who speaks very little. The antonym must describe someone who speaks a great deal.

Steps:

- Taciturn = reticent, not inclined to talk.
- (A) Silent = a synonym of taciturn — also describes not speaking.
- (B) **Loquacious** = very talkative, speaking at length — direct antonym. ✓
- (C) Quiet = another synonym of taciturn (not making much noise or speech).
- (D) Reserved = also a synonym of taciturn (slow to reveal feelings or opinions).

Why other options are wrong: A, C, and D are all synonyms of “taciturn.” Only “loquacious” captures the opposite quality of speaking freely and at length.

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

Q7.

Solution

Quick Solution: FASTIDIOUS means very attentive to accuracy, detail, and neatness; **excessively particular about details** is the correct meaning.

Concept: “Fastidious” derives from Latin *fastidiosus* (disdainful, squeamish). It describes a person who has very high and often demanding standards, being extremely careful about details.



Steps:

- Fastidious = very concerned with accuracy and detail; hard to please.
- (A) Careless and hurried = the direct antonym of fastidious.
- (B) Easily satisfied = the antonym; a fastidious person is never easily satisfied.
- (C) **Excessively particular about details** = precisely the meaning of fastidious. ✓
- (D) Modest and simple = relates to humility or plainness, unrelated to fastidious.

Why other options are wrong: A and B are antonyms of fastidious; D describes a personality trait of simplicity that is entirely different from being particular about details.

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

Q8.

Solution

Quick Solution: IMPETUOUS means acting or done quickly and without careful thought. In the context of a sudden resignation decision, it means **done hastily without sufficient thought**.

Concept: “Impetuous” derives from Latin *impetuosus* (violent, forceful). It describes an action taken rashly, driven by impulse rather than reason. The context clue “shocked the entire team” confirms the decision was sudden and unconsidered.

Steps:

- Key context clue: “shocked the entire team” — the decision was unexpected and rash.
- (A) Carefully planned = the antonym of impetuous; contradicts the context.
- (B) Thoughtful = also an antonym; impetuous means the opposite of thoughtful.
- (C) Deliberate = means done intentionally with care — contradicts the impulsive nature.
- (D) **Done hastily without sufficient thought** = exactly what impetuous means. ✓



Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C all describe careful, considered decision-making, which is the opposite of the impulsive quality that “impetuous” conveys.

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

Q9.

Solution

Quick Solution: PERTINENT means relevant or applicable to a particular matter. The correct meaning is **directly relevant to the matter at hand**.

Concept: “Pertinent” derives from Latin *pertinere* (to relate to). It describes something that is directly related and applicable to the subject being discussed.

Steps:

- Pertinent = relating directly to the matter under consideration.
- (A) **Directly relevant to the matter at hand** = exactly the meaning of pertinent. ✓
- (B) Beside the point = the antonym of pertinent; describes irrelevance.
- (C) Unrelated = another antonym; something with no connection to the matter.
- (D) Vague and indirect = describes imprecision, not relevance or irrelevance.

Why other options are wrong: B and C are antonyms of pertinent; D describes a quality of vagueness that is unrelated to the concept of relevance.

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

Q10.

Solution

Quick Solution: CONVOLUTED, in the context of an argument, means **unnecessarily complicated and difficult to understand** — intricate in a way that is hard to follow.

Concept: Literally, “convoluted” means coiled or twisted (from Latin *convolutus*). Figuratively, a convoluted argument is one that is so complex and twisted in its reasoning that it becomes difficult to comprehend.

Steps:



- Literal meaning: twisted, coiled; figurative meaning: needlessly complex.
- (A) Simple and easy to follow = the direct antonym of convoluted.
- (B) **Unnecessarily complicated and difficult to understand** = the figurative meaning. ✓
- (C) Clear and concise = also an antonym; the opposite of complex and wordy.
- (D) Straightforward = yet another antonym; easy to understand without complexity.

Why other options are wrong: A, C, and D all describe clarity and simplicity, which is precisely the opposite of what “convoluted” means in the context of an argument.

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

Q11.

Solution

Quick Solution: ABERRANT means departing from an accepted or normal standard. The best replacement is **ABNORMAL**.

Concept: “Aberrant” comes from Latin *aberrare* (to wander away). It describes behaviour or results that deviate noticeably from what is expected or standard.

Steps:

- Aberrant = deviating from the norm; not typical or expected.
- (A) Normal = a direct antonym of aberrant.
- (B) Expected = also an antonym; aberrant behaviour is, by definition, unexpected.
- (C) **Abnormal** = deviating from what is normal or usual — the best replacement. ✓
- (D) Conventional = following accepted norms — the opposite of aberrant.

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D are all antonyms of “aberrant.” Only “abnormal” conveys the same sense of deviation from an accepted standard.

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



Q12.

Solution

Quick Solution: The sentence states that creativity without practicality rarely leads to success, implying both qualities are needed. **creative ... practical** is the only pair consistent with this logic.

Concept: The sentence provides a direct explanation (after the semicolon) that constrains the blanks: a good designer needs both the quality in the first blank and the quality in the second blank, and lacking the second quality leads to commercial failure.

Steps:

- The clause after the semicolon says “creativity without practicality rarely leads to commercial success.”
- First blank = creative; second blank = practical — directly supported by the explanation.
- (A) stubborn ... inflexible = negative traits; a good designer would not be described this way.
- (B) chaotic ... disorganised = negative traits; contradict the idea of a good designer.
- (C) passive ... uninspired = negative traits; entirely inconsistent with a good designer.
- (D) **creative ... practical** = directly echoed in the sentence’s own explanation. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C all describe negative qualities that no description of a “good designer” would use.

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

Q13.

Solution

Quick Solution: “The board has _____” requires a **past participle** to form the present perfect tense. “**Postponed**” is the past participle of “postpone.”

Concept: The present perfect tense is formed with “has/have + past participle.” The blank follows “has,” so a past participle is required.

Steps:

- Structure: “The board has ____.” ⇒ has + past participle.
- (A) **Postponed** = past participle of “postpone.” Gives: “has postponed” (correct present perfect). ✓
- (B) Postponing = present participle/gerund; forms “has postponing” which is ungrammatical.
- (C) Postpone = base form of the verb; forms “has postpone” which is ungrammatical.
- (D) Postponement = a noun; forms “has postponement” which is ungrammatical.

Why other options are wrong: B is a present participle, C is the base/infinite form, and D is a noun — none of these can follow “has” to form a grammatically correct verb phrase.

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

Q14.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Five years” is a period of duration, so the correct preposition is **FOR**. “For” is used to indicate how long something has continued.

Concept: In English, “for” is used with durations (periods of time), while “since” is used with specific points in time. The other options serve entirely different grammatical functions.

Steps:

- “Five years” = a duration (how long the training has lasted).
- (A) Since = used with a starting point in time (e.g., since 2019, since Monday). Does not fit a duration.
- (B) **For** = used with a period of time (e.g., for five years, for a month). ✓
- (C) From = marks the starting point of a range (e.g., from Monday to Friday). Does not fit here.
- (D) By = indicates a deadline (e.g., by Friday). Does not fit the context of duration.

Why other options are wrong: “Since” needs a point in time, not a period; “from” marks a starting boundary; “by” marks a deadline. Only “for” correctly accompanies a duration.



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

Q15.

Solution

Quick Solution: A successful exhibition where every visitor is positively moved calls for **resounding** (first blank) and **inspired** (second blank) — both positive words that are consistent with each other.

Concept: The sentence describes an exhibition where “every visitor left ____.” The second blank must be a positive outcome to match the overall positive tone, and the first blank must be an appropriate intensifier for “success.”

Steps:

- First blank needs a word that quantifies a great success: “resounding” = complete and impressive.
- Second blank needs a positive visitor reaction: “inspired” = filled with enthusiasm and creativity.
- (A) total ... disappointed = contradiction: a total success cannot leave visitors disappointed.
- (B) minor ... uninspired = contradiction: a minor success whose visitors are uninspired is bleak.
- (C) **resounding** ... **inspired** = consistent: a major success with inspired visitors. ✓
- (D) quiet ... bored = contradiction: success cannot logically leave visitors bored.

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D each create a logical inconsistency between the success described in the first clause and the visitor experience described in the second.

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



Q16.

Solution

Quick Solution: The effect — “impossible to take coherent notes” — implies the lecture lacked structure and logical flow. The answer is **DISJOINTED**.

Concept: Context clues within the sentence determine the correct vocabulary choice. If students cannot take coherent (well-organised) notes, the lecture itself must have been incoherent and poorly connected.

Steps:

- Effect: “impossible to take coherent notes.”
- Cause must be: the lecture was lacking in coherence and logical connection.
- (A) Clear = a clear lecture would make coherent notes easy — contradicts the effect.
- (B) Organised = an organised lecture aids note-taking — contradicts the effect.
- (C) Structured = a structured lecture helps students follow and note — contradicts the effect.
- (D) **Disjointed** = lacking order or coherence; disconnected — explains why notes were impossible. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C all describe qualities that would make note-taking easier, directly contradicting the stated outcome of impossibility.

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

Q17.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Each of the students” takes a **singular verb** because “each” is an indefinite pronoun that is always singular. “Are required” is incorrect; it should be “**is required**.”

Concept: Indefinite pronouns such as “each,” “every,” “either,” “neither,” “anyone,” and “everyone” are always grammatically singular and must be paired with a singular verb, regardless of the noun that follows in the prepositional phrase.

Steps:

- Subject: “Each of the students” — the head word is “each” (singular indefinite pronoun).



- “Of the students” is a prepositional phrase modifying “each,” not the subject.
- Singular subject requires singular verb: “is required,” not “are required.”
- (A) **are required** = plural verb; incorrect with singular “each.” ✓ (Error here)
- (B) to submit = correct infinitive construction.
- (C) before the deadline = correct prepositional phrase.
- (D) No error — there is an error in (A).

Why other options are wrong: Parts B and C are grammatically correct in context. The sole error is the plural verb in part A, which must be changed to “is required.”

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

Q18.

Solution

Quick Solution: When a past event (“reached the auditorium”) serves as the time anchor, an action that happened *before* it requires the **past perfect**: “**had already delivered**,” not “has already delivered” (present perfect).

Concept: The past perfect tense (had + past participle) is used to describe an action that was completed before another action in the past. The adverb phrase “by the time we reached” establishes the past anchor, making the present perfect tense grammatically incorrect.

Steps:

- “By the time we reached” = past time reference.
- The chief guest delivering the address happened *before* the arrival.
- Earlier past event requires past perfect: “had already delivered.”
- (A) the auditorium = correct noun phrase.
- (B) **has already delivered** = present perfect; incorrect with past anchor. ✓ (Error)
- (C) the inaugural address = correct noun phrase.
- (D) No error — there is an error in (B).

Why other options are wrong: Parts A and C are grammatically sound. The tense error is specifically in part B, where “has” must be replaced with “had.”



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

Q19.

Solution

Quick Solution: The expression “one of the most elegant” must be followed by a **plural noun**. “Event” is singular; it should be “**events**.”

Concept: The construction “one of the + superlative + noun” requires the noun to be in the plural form, because “one” is being selected from a group of multiple things. “One of the most elegant events” is correct; “one of the most elegant event” is not.

Steps:

- Rule: “one of the most [adjective] + plural noun.”
- (A) a unique handwoven sari = correct noun phrase; no error.
- (B) the most elegant = correct superlative construction; no error here by itself.
- (C) **event of the season** = “event” is singular; must be “events of the season.” ✓ (Error)
- (D) No error — there is an error in (C).

Why other options are wrong: Parts A and B are individually correct. The only error is the singular noun “event” in part C, which must be made plural to follow “one of the most elegant.”

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

Q20.

Solution

Quick Solution: D is the grammatically correct sentence — “The jury has unanimously selected” correctly uses the singular verb “has” with the collective noun “jury.”

Concept: Subject-verb agreement is the central grammar rule being tested. Collective nouns (jury, committee, board, team) take singular verbs. Additionally, “don’t” vs. “doesn’t” and agreement with compound subjects using “neither ... nor” are tested.

Steps:



- (A) “He **don’t** know” — “he” is third person singular; requires “doesn’t.” ✗
- (B) “The fashion designers **has** won” — “designers” is plural; requires “have won.” ✗
- (C) “Neither the manager nor the employees **was** informed” — with “neither . . . nor,” the verb agrees with the nearer subject (“employees,” plural); requires “were informed.” ✗
- (D) “**The jury has unanimously selected the winner.**” — collective noun “jury” takes singular verb “has.” ✓

Why other options are wrong: A misuses “don’t” with a singular subject; B uses a singular verb with a plural subject; C violates the proximity rule for “neither . . . nor.”

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

Q21.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Cost an arm and a leg” means **to be extremely expensive** — the price is so high it figuratively demands the most valuable things a person has.

Concept: This idiom uses hyperbole (exaggeration) to convey extreme cost. Arms and legs are among the most valuable possessions a person has; paying “an arm and a leg” suggests a price that is outrageously high.

Steps:

- Figurative image: giving up limbs = paying an extreme price.
- (A) **To be extremely expensive.** ✓
- (B) To involve great physical effort = confuses the body-part image with literal effort.
- (C) To cause physical injury = misinterprets “arm and leg” as literal body harm.
- (D) To take a very long time = confuses cost with time; unrelated to the idiom.

Why other options are wrong: B and C misinterpret the body-part reference literally; D conflates the concept of great cost with great time, which is a different idiom entirely.

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



Q22.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Bite off more than you can chew” means to **take on more responsibilities or tasks than one is able to manage**.

Concept: The idiom uses the image of taking a bite of food that is too large to chew comfortably. Figuratively, it means to accept an amount of work or responsibility that is beyond one’s capacity to handle.

Steps:

- Literal image: taking too large a bite of food = exceeding one’s capacity.
- (A) eat too much food at once = the literal meaning, not the figurative idiom.
- (B) **take on more responsibilities than one can manage** = the figurative meaning. ✓
- (C) refuse to carry out an easy task = unrelated; the idiom is about overcommitting, not refusing.
- (D) speak harshly and rudely to others = unrelated to the capacity-and-responsibility theme.

Why other options are wrong: A captures only the literal surface meaning; C and D describe entirely different behaviours that have no connection to overcommitting or exceeding one’s capacity.

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

Q23.

Solution

Quick Solution: “The ball is in your court” means **it is now your turn or responsibility to take action or make a decision**.

Concept: The idiom comes from tennis and other racquet sports, where the ball being on your side of the court means it is your responsibility to play. Figuratively, it means the next action or decision rests with you.

Steps:

- Sports origin: ball on your side = you must act next.
- Figurative meaning: the next step is yours to take.
- (A) To score a decisive point = stays too close to the literal sporting context.
- (B) To reach a group decision = implies collective action, not individual



responsibility.

- (C) **It is now your turn or responsibility to act.** ✓
- (D) To be placed in an advantageous position = misreads the idiom as about advantage, not responsibility.

Why other options are wrong: A conflates the sporting image with a literal game outcome; B implies a group decision when the idiom refers to one person's responsibility; D confuses responsibility with advantage.

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

Q24.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Barking up the wrong tree” means to **pursue a mistaken or misdirected course of action** — to look in the wrong place or blame/approach the wrong person.

Concept: The idiom comes from hunting, where a dog may bark at the base of a tree thinking its quarry is there, when the animal has actually moved elsewhere. Figuratively, it means to make a wrong assumption about something.

Steps:

- Hunting origin: dog barking at wrong tree = hunting in wrong location.
- Figurative meaning: pursuing a wrong line of inquiry or blaming the wrong person.
- (A) start a quarrel over a trivial matter = relates to conflict, not misdirection.
- (B) search in the correct location = the opposite of the idiom's meaning.
- (C) make a noisy complaint = misreads “barking” as literal or as complaining.
- (D) **pursue a mistaken or misdirected course of action.** ✓

Why other options are wrong: A relates to a different concept; B is the direct opposite; C focuses on the literal “barking” image and misses the figurative meaning of misdirection.

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



Q25.

Solution

Quick Solution: A person who lives in seclusion and deliberately avoids the company of others is called a **RECLUSE**.

Concept: “Recluse” derives from Latin *recludere* (to shut away). A recluse is a person who lives a solitary life and tends to avoid other people.

Steps:

- Key phrase: “lives in seclusion and deliberately avoids the company of others.”
- (A) **Recluse** = a person who lives alone and avoids contact with other people. ✓
- (B) Vagabond = a person who wanders from place to place without a settled home; not necessarily solitary.
- (C) Nomad = a member of a group that travels and lives with no fixed home; about mobility, not seclusion.
- (D) Eccentric = a person with unconventional behaviour; does not specifically imply seclusion.

Why other options are wrong: “Vagabond” and “Nomad” describe wanderers, not those who deliberately seclude themselves; “Eccentric” describes unusual behaviour without implying social withdrawal.

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

Q26.

Solution

Quick Solution: An extreme and irrational fear of heights is called **ACROPHOBIA**.

Concept: “Acrophobia” derives from Greek *akron* (peak, summit, height) + *phobos* (fear). It specifically denotes an extreme fear of being at high places.

Steps:

- Key: “heights” = “akron” in Greek.
- (A) Claustrophobia = fear of confined or enclosed spaces (“claustrum” = enclosed place).
- (B) **Acrophobia** = extreme fear of heights. ✓
- (C) Aquaphobia = fear of water (“aqua” = water in Latin).



- (D) Xenophobia = fear or dislike of people from other countries (“xenos” = stranger).

Why other options are wrong: Claustrophobia is about enclosed spaces; Aquaphobia is about water; Xenophobia is about foreigners or strangers — none of these is a fear of heights.

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

Q27.

Solution

Quick Solution: An inscription written on a tombstone or gravestone is called an EPITAPH.

Concept: “Epitaph” derives from Greek *epitaphios* (upon a tomb): *epi-* (upon) + *taphos* (tomb). It refers specifically to words inscribed on a tomb or written in commemoration of a deceased person.

Steps:

- Key: “inscription on a tombstone” = epitaph.
- (A) Elegy = a poem of serious reflection, typically lamenting the dead; it is a literary composition, not a gravestone inscription.
- (B) Epitome = a person or thing that is a perfect example of a quality; completely unrelated to death or tombs.
- (C) **Epitaph** = words written in memory of a dead person, especially on a tombstone. ✓
- (D) Obituary = a notice in a newspaper about a deceased person’s life; published, not inscribed on a tomb.

Why other options are wrong: An elegy is a poem; an epitome is a representative example; an obituary is a newspaper notice. Only an epitaph is specifically the inscription on a gravestone.

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



Q28.

Solution

Quick Solution: “The fashion editor praised the young designer” is simple past active. The correct passive form is: **“The young designer was praised by the fashion editor.”**

Concept: To convert a simple past active sentence to passive:

- The active object becomes the passive subject.
- The verb becomes: “was/were + past participle.”
- The active subject becomes “by + agent.”

Steps:

- Active: “The fashion editor [subject] praised [simple past] the young designer [object].”
- Passive subject = “The young designer.”
- Passive verb = “was praised” (simple past passive).
- Agent = “by the fashion editor.”
- (A) “The young designer **is** praised” = present simple passive (wrong tense).
- (B) “The fashion editor is praised by the young designer” = reverses subject and object; incorrect.
- (C) “was being praised” = past continuous passive (wrong aspect; active was not continuous).
- (D) **“The young designer was praised by the fashion editor.” ✓**

Why other options are wrong: A uses the wrong tense; B incorrectly reverses who is performing and who is receiving the action; C uses the past continuous passive, which does not correspond to the simple past active.

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



Q29.

Solution

Quick Solution: In passive voice, the grammatical subject receives the action. A (“The fabric was carefully selected by the chief designer”) is passive — “The fabric” is the subject receiving the action of selecting.

Concept: Passive voice structure: Subject (receiver of action) + *be* verb + past participle (+ by + agent).

Active voice structure: Subject (doer/agent) + verb + object (receiver).

Steps:

- (A) “The fabric **was** carefully **selected** by the chief designer” — “The fabric” receives the action; “was selected” = passive construction. ✓
- (B) “The chief designer **carefully selected** the fabric” — active voice; the designer (doer) is the subject.
- (C) “The chief designer **will select** the fabric tomorrow” — active voice, future tense; the designer is the doer.
- (D) “The chief designer **is selecting** the fabric now” — active voice, present continuous; the designer is the doer.

Why other options are wrong: B, C, and D are all in the active voice, where the chief designer (the agent performing the action) serves as the grammatical subject.

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

Q30.

Solution

Quick Solution: The verb “complain” collocates with the preposition “**about**” when indicating the subject of the complaint. The correct answer is **about**.

Concept: In English, verbs and adjectives have fixed preposition collocations. The verb “complain” is followed by “about” (the subject of the complaint) and “to” (the person addressed). Here, the blank refers to the subject of the complaint (the poor fabric quality), so “about” is correct.

Steps:

- Standard collocation: “complain **about** something” = to express dissatisfaction about it.
- (A) on = “complained on” is not a standard English collocation.



- (B) **about** = “complained about the poor quality” — correct and standard. ✓
- (C) **in** = “complained in” is not a valid collocation in this context.
- (D) **for** = “complained for” changes the meaning to complaining on behalf of or in exchange for something, which does not fit the context.

Why other options are wrong: “On” and “in” are not valid collocations with “complain” in this context; “for” creates an entirely different and illogical meaning. Only “about” correctly identifies the subject of the complaint.

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



Answer Key

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

