

FDDI AIST Verbal Ability

Sample Paper – 7

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 closest in meaning to **INDOLENT**.

- (A) Diligent
- (B) Energetic
- (C) Lazy
- (D) Industrious

Q2. Choose the word closest in meaning to **ACRIMONIOUS**.

- (A) Pleasant
- (B) Mild
- (C) Gentle
- (D) Bitter and harsh

Q3. Choose the word most nearly **OPPOSITE** in meaning to **SAGACIOUS**.



- (A) Foolish
- (B) Wise
- (C) Intelligent
- (D) Perceptive

Q4. Choose the word most nearly **OPPOSITE** in meaning to **CLANDESTINE**.

- (A) Secretive
- (B) Open and overt
- (C) Hidden
- (D) Covert

Q5. Choose the word closest in meaning to **VOLUBLE**.

- (A) Quiet
- (B) Reserved
- (C) Talkative
- (D) Thoughtful

Q6. Choose the word most nearly **OPPOSITE** in meaning to **DOCILE**.

- (A) Gentle
- (B) Obedient
- (C) Submissive
- (D) Defiant

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

- (A) A feeling of anxiety and dismay
- (B) Great satisfaction
- (C) Mild surprise
- (D) Quiet acceptance



Q8. The word **MEAGRE** most closely means:

- (A) Plentiful
- (B) Inadequate and small in quantity
- (C) Generous
- (D) Excessive

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

- (A) Anxious and worried
- (B) Highly ambitious
- (C) Smugly self-satisfied and unaware of risks
- (D) Cautious and alert

Q10. Choose the meaning of **WARY** as used in:

*“The investor was **WARY** of putting money into an untested venture.”*

- (A) Completely careless
- (B) Blindly trusting
- (C) Entirely indifferent
- (D) Cautious and watchful

Q11. The word **CAJOLE** most closely means:

- (A) To persuade someone by flattery or gentle coaxing
- (B) To threaten forcefully
- (C) To demand harshly
- (D) To ignore completely

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

“The new collection was _____ by critics but _____ by the general public.”

- (A) celebrated ... rejected
- (B) dismissed ... embraced



- (C) ignored ... ignored
- (D) praised ... praised

Q13. Choose the word that best fills the blank:

“After years of hard work, she finally _____ a reputation as one of the best designers in the country.”

- (A) damaged
- (B) ruined
- (C) established
- (D) neglected

Q14. Choose the correct word to fill the blank:

“The fabric _____ by the supplier did not meet the required standards.”

- (A) provide
- (B) providing
- (C) is providing
- (D) provided

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

“The manager was _____ about the project deadline, and as a result, the team worked _____ to finish on time.”

- (A) firm ... tirelessly
- (B) careless ... lazily
- (C) indifferent ... poorly
- (D) uncertain ... randomly

Q16. Choose the word that best fills the blank:

“She has been _____ to leather design ever since she visited the FDDI campus.”

- (A) averse



- (B) drawn
- (C) opposed
- (D) indifferent

Q17. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error:

“The team, along with their (A) support staff, have (B) worked continuously (C) for completing the project (D) on schedule. No error”

- (A) their support staff
- (B) have worked
- (C) for completing
- (D) on schedule

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

- (A) Neither of the two reports have been submitted on time.
- (B) She is one of the designers who has exhibited her work abroad.
- (C) The committee are meeting tomorrow to review the proposals.
- (D) The announcement was made by the chairman before the close of business.

Q19. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error:

“The number of applications received this year (A) are significantly (B) higher than last year’s (C) total figures. (D) No error”

- (A) are significantly
- (B) higher than last year’s
- (C) total figures.
- (D) No error

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

- (A) The data collected was inaccurate and have led to wrong conclusions.



- (B) The board of directors has approved the new product design for production.
- (C) She is one of the few designers who understands fabric technology.
- (D) Neither the teacher nor the students was satisfied with the result.

Q21. The idiom “**hit the sack**” means to:

- (A) Start working on a difficult task
- (B) Get angry suddenly
- (C) Go to bed
- (D) Eat a large meal

Q22. The idiom “**the last straw**” means:

- (A) A very minor and unimportant problem
- (B) A final chance to redeem oneself
- (C) An unexpected stroke of luck
- (D) The final difficulty that makes a situation unbearable

Q23. The idiom “**go back to the drawing board**” means to:

- (A) Start a plan or project again from the very beginning
- (B) Finish a task that was previously incomplete
- (C) Present a design to a client
- (D) Give up on a project entirely

Q24. The idiom “**cut corners**” means to:

- (A) Work with exceptional care and precision
- (B) Do something in a cheaper or easier way that reduces quality
- (C) Take a shorter route to a destination
- (D) Finish a task very quickly while maintaining high standards



- Q25.** A person who pretends to be something they are not — especially pretending to have virtues or moral beliefs they do not actually possess — is called a:
- (A) Fraud
 - (B) Impersonator
 - (C) Deceiver
 - (D) Hypocrite
- Q26.** An extreme and irrational fear of spiders is called:
- (A) Entomophobia
 - (B) Arachnology
 - (C) Arachnophobia
 - (D) Claustrophobia
- Q27.** A person who collects and studies postage stamps as a hobby is called a:
- (A) Philatelist
 - (B) Numismatist
 - (C) Bibliophile
 - (D) Antiquarian
- Q28.** Choose the correct passive voice form of the sentence:
“The supervisor was checking the quality of the garments.”
- (A) The quality of the garments is being checked by the supervisor.
 - (B) The quality of the garments was being checked by the supervisor.
 - (C) The quality of the garments has been checked by the supervisor.
 - (D) The quality of the garments was checked by the supervisor.
- Q29.** Which of the following sentences is in the **passive voice**?
- (A) The weaver creates intricate patterns on the loom.



- (B) The supplier will deliver the raw materials next week.
- (C) The award was conferred upon her by the institution.
- (D) The students are presenting their designs today.

Q30. Choose the correct preposition to fill the blank:

“The teacher was genuinely concerned _____ the academic progress of her students.”

- (A) over
- (B) by
- (C) with
- (D) about



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

Quick Solution: INDOLENT means habitually lazy and avoiding activity or exertion. The closest synonym is **LAZY**.

Concept: “Indolent” derives from Latin *indolens* (not feeling pain, hence not troubled by effort). It describes a person who avoids work or activity because of a natural aversion to exertion.

Steps:

- Indolent = habitually idle, disinclined to exert effort.
- (A) Diligent = working carefully and persistently — the antonym.
- (B) Energetic = full of energy and enthusiasm — the antonym.
- (C) **Lazy** = unwilling to work or use energy; indolent. ✓
- (D) Industrious = hard-working and diligent — the antonym.

Why other options are wrong: Diligent, Energetic, and Industrious all describe active, hard-working qualities that are the direct opposite of the laziness conveyed by “indolent.”

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

Q2.**Solution**

Quick Solution: ACRIMONIOUS means angry and bitter in speech or manner. The closest synonym is **Bitter and harsh**.

Concept: “Acrimonious” comes from Latin *acrimonia* (sharpness, pungency). It describes communication or behaviour that is sharp, bitter, and filled with resentment or ill will.

Steps:

- Acrimonious = sharp, harsh, and bitter in tone or manner.
- (A) Pleasant = agreeable and enjoyable — the antonym.
- (B) Mild = gentle and moderate in manner — the antonym.
- (C) Gentle = kind and soft in manner — the antonym.



- (D) **Bitter and harsh** = sharp, resentful, severe — matches acrimonious exactly. ✓

Why other options are wrong: Pleasant, Mild, and Gentle all describe agreeable, soft qualities that are the polar opposite of the sharpness and bitterness that “acrimonious” conveys.

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

Q3.

Solution

Quick Solution: SAGACIOUS means having good judgment and keen perception; wise and discerning. Its antonym is **FOOLISH**.

Concept: “Sagacious” derives from Latin *sagax* (keen-scented, shrewd). It describes someone with the ability to make sound decisions and judgments. The antonym must describe the opposite quality of poor judgment.

Steps:

- Sagacious = wise, perceptive, and judicious.
- (A) **Foolish** = lacking good sense or judgment; the direct antonym. ✓
- (B) Wise = a direct synonym of sagacious.
- (C) Intelligent = a near-synonym; having quick understanding.
- (D) Perceptive = having good insight — a near-synonym.

Why other options are wrong: Wise, Intelligent, and Perceptive are all synonyms or near-synonyms of sagacious and therefore cannot be its antonym.

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

Q4.

Solution

Quick Solution: CLANDESTINE means done secretly or kept hidden, especially because it is illicit. Its antonym is **Open and overt**.

Concept: “Clandestine” comes from Latin *clam* (secretly). It describes activities conducted with concealment. The antonym must express something done openly and without concealment.

Steps:



- Clandestine = secret, hidden, done in concealment.
- (A) Secretive = a near-synonym of clandestine (inclined to keep secrets).
- (B) **Open and overt** = done publicly, without concealment — the true antonym. ✓
- (C) Hidden = a synonym of clandestine.
- (D) Covert = another synonym meaning concealed or undercover.

Why other options are wrong: Secretive, Hidden, and Covert are all synonyms of “clandestine” and describe qualities of concealment, making them unsuitable as antonyms.

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

Q5.

Solution

Quick Solution: VOLUBLE means speaking fluently and at length; tending to talk a great deal. The closest synonym is **Talkative**.

Concept: “Volatile” originates from Latin *volvere* (to roll), suggesting words rolling out easily. It describes someone who talks rapidly and at great length, sharing the same core sense as “talkative.”

Steps:

- Voluble = speaking at length, fluent, and garrulous.
- (A) Quiet = speaking very little or not at all — the antonym.
- (B) Reserved = slow to reveal thoughts; restrained — the antonym.
- (C) **Talkative** = fond of talking; inclined to talk a great deal. ✓
- (D) Thoughtful = careful and reflective — relates to thinking, not speaking volume.

Why other options are wrong: Quiet and Reserved are antonyms of voluble. Thoughtful describes a mental quality unrelated to the quantity of speech that “voluble” specifically addresses.

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



Q6.

Solution

Quick Solution: DOCILE means willing to be easily led or controlled; submissive and obedient. Its antonym is **DEFIANT**.

Concept: “Docile” derives from Latin *docilis* (easily taught). It describes someone who is compliant and yields to authority. The antonym must describe someone who resists and openly challenges authority.

Steps:

- Docile = obedient, compliant, easily managed.
- (A) Gentle = mild and kind in nature — a near-synonym in some contexts.
- (B) Obedient = a direct synonym of docile.
- (C) Submissive = ready to yield to authority — a direct synonym.
- (D) **Defiant** = openly resistant to authority; refusing to obey — the true antonym. ✓

Why other options are wrong: Gentle, Obedient, and Submissive all describe qualities of compliance and cooperation that are associated with being docile, not opposed to it.

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

Q7.

Solution

Quick Solution: CONSTERNATION means a feeling of great worry or shock, especially when something unexpected happens. The correct meaning is **A feeling of anxiety and dismay**.

Concept: “Consternation” comes from Latin *consternare* (to throw into confusion or terror). It describes a state of being distressed or alarmed, often due to an unexpected event or discovery.

Steps:

- Consternation = distress, alarm, sudden dismay or anxiety.
- (A) **A feeling of anxiety and dismay** = captures the core meaning exactly. ✓
- (B) Great satisfaction = the opposite emotional state; positive, not distressed.



- (C) Mild surprise = too weak; consternation implies significant alarm, not mere mild surprise.
- (D) Quiet acceptance = passive and calm — entirely opposite to the agitation of consternation.

Why other options are wrong: “Great satisfaction” and “quiet acceptance” are positive or neutral emotions; “mild surprise” fails to capture the intensity of alarm that consternation implies.

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

Q8.

Solution

Quick Solution: MEAGRE means lacking in quantity or quality; deficient and insufficient. The correct meaning is **Inadequate and small in quantity**.

Concept: “Meagre” derives from Latin *macer* (thin, lean). It describes something that is scanty, insufficient, or poor in amount — the opposite of abundant or generous.

Steps:

- Meagre = scanty, insufficient, lacking in amount.
- (A) Plentiful = abundant and more than enough — the antonym.
- (B) **Inadequate and small in quantity** = deficient and insufficient — matches meagre exactly. ✓
- (C) Generous = providing more than enough — the antonym.
- (D) Excessive = more than necessary — the antonym.

Why other options are wrong: Plentiful, Generous, and Excessive all describe abundance or surplus, which is the direct opposite of the scarcity and insufficiency that “meagre” conveys.

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



Q9.

Solution

Quick Solution: COMPLACENT means showing smug and uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements, often to the point of ignoring risks or problems. The correct meaning is **Smugly self-satisfied and unaware of risks**.

Concept: "Complacent" derives from Latin *complacere* (to be very pleasing). In modern usage it carries a negative connotation: a complacent person is overly satisfied and therefore fails to notice dangers or areas for improvement.

Steps:

- Complacent = self-satisfied, showing unwarranted contentment, oblivious to risks.
- (A) Anxious and worried = the opposite state of mind — excessive concern rather than lack of concern.
- (B) Highly ambitious = driven to achieve more — contrasts with complacency.
- (C) **Smugly self-satisfied and unaware of risks** = the precise modern meaning. ✓
- (D) Cautious and alert = the antidote to complacency, not a synonym.

Why other options are wrong: Anxious and cautious are alert states; ambitious implies striving forward — all contrast with the uncritical self-satisfaction that defines complacency.

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

Q10.

Solution

Quick Solution: In the given context, WARY of putting money into an untested venture means being **cautious and watchful** — proceeding with care because of potential risk.

Concept: "Wary" means feeling or showing caution about possible dangers or problems. The context (an untested venture = risky investment) reinforces the meaning of caution driven by awareness of risk.

Steps:

- Context clue: "untested venture" = a risk-laden situation requiring care.



- Wary of something = cautious about it because of perceived risk.
- (A) Completely careless = the antonym; ignoring risk entirely.
- (B) Blindly trusting = the antonym; proceeding without caution.
- (C) Entirely indifferent = not caring at all — also contradicts the caution implied by wary.
- (D) **Cautious and watchful** = alert to potential risks, careful — the meaning of wary. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C all describe attitudes of insufficient care, which is the opposite of the prudent vigilance that “wary” conveys.

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

Q11.

Solution

Quick Solution: CAJOLE means to persuade someone gradually or gently by use of flattery or gentle coaxing. The correct meaning is **To persuade someone by flattery or gentle coaxing**.

Concept: “Cajole” derives from French *cajoler* (to chatter like a jay in a cage; to coax). It describes the act of using pleasant talk, gentle persistence, or flattery to bring someone around to a desired course of action, without force or harshness.

Steps:

- Cajole = to coax gently, to use persuasion or flattery.
- (A) **To persuade someone by flattery or gentle coaxing** = the exact meaning of cajole. ✓
- (B) To threaten forcefully = uses force/intimidation — the opposite approach.
- (C) To demand harshly = abrasive and aggressive — the opposite of gentle coaxing.
- (D) To ignore completely = no attempt at interaction — unrelated.

Why other options are wrong: B and C involve force or harshness, which is the antithesis of the gentle, pleasant persuasion that “cajole” describes; D is entirely unrelated.

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



Q12.

Solution

Quick Solution: The conjunction “but” signals a contrast between the critics’ reaction and the public’s reaction. **Dismissed . . . embraced** creates the clearest and most natural contrast.

Concept: In two-blank completion questions with a contrast word (“but”), the two blanks must carry opposite meanings. The first blank describes critics’ reaction and the second describes the public’s — “but” ensures they contrast.

Steps:

- “But” = contrast marker between critics’ view and the public’s view.
- (A) “celebrated . . . rejected” — this is a valid contrast, but critics celebrating a new collection while the public rejects it is unusual. Less natural.
- (B) **dismissed . . . embraced** — critics dismissing a work while the public embraces it is a very common and natural contrast in fashion/art contexts. ✓
- (C) “ignored . . . ignored” — no contrast; “but” is contradicted.
- (D) “praised . . . praised” — no contrast; “but” is contradicted.

Why other options are wrong: C and D offer no contrast at all, making “but” meaningless. A reverses the typical critic/public dynamic; B is the most natural and contextually apt pairing.

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

Q13.

Solution

Quick Solution: The context describes the positive result of years of hard work. The word that logically and grammatically fits is **ESTABLISHED** — she built/created a reputation.

Concept: “Establish a reputation” is a standard collocation in English meaning to build and secure a standing over time. The sentence frames this as the positive reward of sustained effort.

Steps:

- Context clue: “after years of hard work” = a positive, earned outcome follows.



- (A) Damaged = to harm or worsen a reputation — contradicts the positive context.
- (B) Ruined = to destroy completely — contradicts the positive context.
- (C) **Established** = to build, secure, or create a reputation. ✓
- (D) Neglected = to fail to maintain — contradicts the active achievement implied.

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D all describe negative actions that would undermine a reputation, directly contradicting the positive outcome described by “after years of hard work.”

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

Q14.

Solution

Quick Solution: The blank modifies the noun “fabric” — we need a **past participle** acting as an adjective. “**Provided**” is the past participle of “provide” and correctly forms the participial phrase.

Concept: When a verb modifies a noun in a relative/participial phrase (“the fabric ____ by the supplier”), the passive participial form (past participle) is required. “Provided by the supplier” = “which was provided by the supplier.”

Steps:

- Structure needed: “The fabric [past participle] by the supplier did not meet...”
- This is a reduced relative clause: “fabric that was provided by the supplier.”
- (A) provide = base form; cannot modify a noun participially.
- (B) providing = present participle; would imply the fabric is actively providing (illogical here).
- (C) is providing = present continuous; a finite verb that creates a grammatically incorrect structure.
- (D) **provided** = past participle; forms “fabric provided by the supplier” — grammatically correct. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A is the base form, B implies active agency by the fabric, and C inserts a finite verb that breaks the sentence structure.

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



Q15.

Solution

Quick Solution: The phrase “and as a result” signals a cause-and-effect relationship. A manager who was **firm** about the deadline would cause the team to work **tirelessly** — this is the most logical and positive pairing.

Concept: The structure is: “Manager was [quality] about deadline $\Rightarrow$ team worked [manner] to finish on time.” Both blanks must be logically consistent with meeting a deadline successfully. The word “as a result” indicates that the team’s manner of working is a direct consequence of the manager’s attitude.

Steps:

- Causal link: manager’s attitude $\Rightarrow$ team’s working manner $\Rightarrow$ finishing on time.
- (A) **firm ... tirelessly** — a firm manager creates urgency; the team works tirelessly; they finish on time. Logically consistent. ✓
- (B) **careless ... lazily** — a careless manager and lazy team would not finish on time; contradicts the outcome.
- (C) **indifferent ... poorly** — indifference would not produce an on-time finish; contradicts the outcome.
- (D) **uncertain ... randomly** — uncertainty and random effort would not lead to on-time completion.

Why other options are wrong: B, C, and D all describe negative attitudes or working styles that would not logically result in successfully finishing the project on time.

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

Q16.

Solution

Quick Solution: The context — “ever since she visited the FDDI campus” — describes an attraction that developed from a specific experience. The word **DRAWN** (“drawn to”) correctly expresses being attracted or pulled towards something.

Concept: The collocation “drawn to” means attracted or pulled toward something with interest or fascination. This fits the context of someone developing a passion for leather design after visiting FDDI.

Steps:



- Context: a positive attraction developed after a campus visit.
- (A) averse = having a strong dislike — the opposite of attraction; contradicts the positive context.
- (B) **drawn** = attracted to, pulled toward with interest. “Drawn to leather design” = fascinated by it. ✓
- (C) opposed = actively against — the opposite of attraction; contradicts context.
- (D) indifferent = having no interest or concern — contradicts the attraction implied by “ever since she visited.”

Why other options are wrong: Averse, opposed, and indifferent all describe negative or neutral attitudes, directly contradicting the positive attraction triggered by visiting the campus.

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

Q17.

Solution

Quick Solution: The error is in part (C): “**for completing**” is incorrect. When expressing purpose after a verb, English uses the **infinitive** (“to complete”), not “for + gerund.”

Concept: In standard English, purpose is expressed using “to + infinitive” (e.g., “worked to complete the project”). The construction “for + gerund” (“for completing”) to express purpose is non-standard and incorrect in formal usage.

Steps:

- “Worked continuously **for completing** the project” — incorrect purpose construction.
- Correct form: “worked continuously **to complete** the project.”
- (A) “their support staff” — “along with their support staff” is correct; possessive is fine.
- (B) “have worked” — with “along with” the subject remains “The team” (singular collective), so “has” is more precise, but “have worked” is debatable; the clearer, unambiguous error is in (C).
- (C) **for completing** = non-standard purpose construction; should be “to complete.” ✓



- (D) “on schedule” — correct prepositional phrase.

Why other options are wrong: Parts A and D are grammatically sound. Part C contains the clear, unambiguous grammatical error — using “for + gerund” instead of the required infinitive for purpose.

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

Q18.

Solution

Quick Solution: D is grammatically correct — “The announcement was made by the chairman” is a well-formed passive sentence with no errors.

Concept: Each incorrect sentence contains a specific subject-verb agreement or pronoun reference error. Identifying the correct sentence requires eliminating each error.

Steps:

- (A) “Neither of the two reports **have** been submitted” — “Neither” is singular; should be “**has** been submitted.” ✗
- (B) “She is one of the designers who **has** exhibited” — “who” refers to “designers” (plural); should be “**have** exhibited.” ✗
- (C) “The committee **are** meeting” — collective noun “committee” takes singular verb; should be “**is** meeting.” ✗
- (D) “**The announcement was made by the chairman before the close of business.**” — passive voice, correct structure, no errors. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A has incorrect subject-verb agreement with “neither”; B has incorrect verb agreement for the relative clause; C uses a plural verb with a singular collective noun.

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



Q19.

Solution

Quick Solution: The error is in part (A): “**are significantly**” is incorrect. The subject “The number” is singular and requires the singular verb “**is**,” not the plural “are.”

Concept: “The number of + plural noun” takes a **singular verb** because the head noun is “number” (singular). This contrasts with “A number of + plural noun,” which takes a plural verb. This is a classic subject-verb agreement rule.

Steps:

- Subject analysis: “The number of applications received this year” — head noun = “number” (singular).
- Rule: “The number” $\Rightarrow$ singular verb.
- (A) **are significantly** = plural verb “are” is incorrect; should be “is significantly.” ✓ (Error is here)
- (B) “higher than last year’s” = correct comparative phrase.
- (C) “total figures” = correct noun phrase.
- (D) No error — but there is an error in (A).

Why other options are wrong: Parts B and C are grammatically correct. The sole error is the plural verb “are” in part A, which must be “is” to agree with the singular subject “The number.”

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

Q20.

Solution

Quick Solution: B is grammatically correct — “The board of directors has approved” correctly uses singular verb “has” with the collective noun “board.”

Concept: Collective nouns (board, committee, jury) and compound subjects joined by “neither...nor” follow specific agreement rules. Each option tests a different agreement rule.

Steps:

- (A) “The data collected was inaccurate and **have** led” — “data” here is treated as a mass/collective noun; “was” (singular) and “have” (plural) are inconsistent. Should be “**has** led.” ✗



- (B) “The board of directors has approved the new product design for production.” — “board” is singular collective; “has” is correct. ✓
- (C) “She is one of the few designers who **understands**” — “who” refers to “designers” (plural); should be “**understand.**” ✗
- (D) “Neither the teacher nor the students **was**” — with “neither...nor,” the verb agrees with the nearer subject (“students,” plural); should be “**were.**” ✗

Why other options are wrong: A has inconsistent number agreement; C uses singular verb with a plural relative clause antecedent; D violates the “nor” proximity rule for verb agreement.

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

Q21.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Hit the sack” is an informal idiom meaning to **go to bed** or go to sleep.

Concept: Historically, “sack” referred to a sack of straw used as a mattress by soldiers or labourers. To “hit the sack” therefore meant to lie down on one’s straw mattress. In modern usage, it simply means to go to bed.

Steps:

- Historical origin: “sack” = a sack stuffed with straw used as a primitive bed.
- Figurative meaning: to retire to bed; to go to sleep.
- (A) Start working on a difficult task — unrelated to the idiom’s meaning.
- (B) Get angry suddenly — confuses “hit” with a violent action; not the meaning.
- (C) **Go to bed.** ✓
- (D) Eat a large meal — entirely unrelated to sleep or rest.

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D all misinterpret the idiom — either by reading “hit” as aggressive or by associating “sack” with food or work, none of which captures the bedtime meaning.

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



Q22.

Solution

Quick Solution: “The last straw” means **the final difficulty in a series of problems that makes a situation unbearable and causes someone to lose patience.**

Concept: The phrase comes from the proverb “the last straw that broke the camel’s back.” A camel can carry heavy loads, but each additional straw adds weight until finally one more straw — even a single one — breaks its back. Figuratively, it is the final problem that exceeds one’s tolerance.

Steps:

- Origin: one extra straw on an overloaded camel causes collapse.
- Figurative meaning: the final problem that makes an already difficult situation intolerable.
- (A) A very minor and unimportant problem — misses the cumulative nature of the idiom.
- (B) A final chance to redeem oneself — confuses “last” with a final opportunity; unrelated.
- (C) An unexpected stroke of luck — entirely positive; opposite of the idiom’s meaning.
- (D) **The final difficulty that makes a situation unbearable. ✓**

Why other options are wrong: A minimises the significance, B misreads “last” as an opportunity, and C is the opposite in tone — all miss the sense of reaching a breaking point.

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

Q23.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Go back to the drawing board” means to **start a plan or project again from scratch because the previous attempt has failed.**

Concept: Architects and engineers use a “drawing board” to create initial plans and blueprints. If a design fails, you must return to the drawing board to start the planning process over. Figuratively, it means abandoning a failed plan and beginning again from the very beginning.

Steps:



- Literal image: returning to the architect's drawing board to begin a new plan.
- Figurative meaning: to restart completely after a plan or project has failed.
- (A) **Start a plan or project again from the very beginning.** ✓
- (B) Finish a task that was previously incomplete — this is the opposite; going back means restarting, not finishing.
- (C) Present a design to a client — misinterprets “drawing board” as a presentation tool.
- (D) Give up on a project entirely — “going back” implies restarting with effort, not abandonment.

Why other options are wrong: B suggests continuation; C misapplies the setting; D confuses a fresh start with giving up — none captures the meaning of recommencing from scratch.

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

Q24.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Cut corners” means to **do something in a way that saves time or money but reduces quality or thoroughness.**

Concept: The phrase originates from the idea of literally cutting the corner of a path (taking shortcuts) rather than following the proper route. Figuratively, it means to use shortcuts that lower the quality of work, skip necessary steps, or reduce standards to save effort or cost.

Steps:

- Origin: taking a shorter path by cutting across a corner instead of following the proper route.
- Figurative meaning: to compromise on quality in order to save time, money, or effort.
- (A) Work with exceptional care and precision — the opposite of cutting corners.
- (B) **Do something in a cheaper or easier way that reduces quality.** ✓
- (C) Take a shorter route to a destination — the literal meaning, not the figurative one tested here.



- (D) Finish a task quickly while maintaining high standards — contradicts the quality reduction implied.

Why other options are wrong: A and D describe high-quality work; C gives only the literal geometric meaning rather than the figurative idiomatic sense that the question tests.

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

Q25.

Solution

Quick Solution: A person who pretends to have virtues or moral beliefs they do not actually possess is called a **HYPOCRITE**.

Concept: “Hypocrite” derives from Greek *hypokrites* (stage actor, one who plays a part). It specifically refers to someone who professes beliefs or virtues they do not actually hold — a person whose public behaviour contradicts their private beliefs or actions.

Steps:

- Key phrase: “pretends to have virtues or moral beliefs they do not actually possess.”
- (A) Fraud = someone who deceives for material/financial gain; broader term.
- (B) Impersonator = someone who pretends to be a specific person; different type of pretence.
- (C) Deceiver = a general term for anyone who misleads; less specific than required.
- (D) **Hypocrite** = one who pretends to have moral standards or beliefs they lack in practice. ✓

Why other options are wrong: Fraud implies financial/material deception; Impersonator involves assuming another person’s identity; Deceiver is too general — only Hypocrite specifically refers to moral/virtue-based pretence.

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



Q26.

Solution

Quick Solution: An extreme and irrational fear of spiders is called **ARACHNOPHOBIA**.

Concept: “Arachnophobia” is formed from Greek *arachne* (spider) + *phobia* (fear). It is one of the most common animal phobias. Arachnida is the class of arthropods that includes spiders, scorpions, and mites.

Steps:

- Key: fear of spiders specifically.
- (A) Entomophobia = fear of insects (“entomo-” = insect); spiders are arachnids, not insects.
- (B) Arachnology = the scientific *study* of arachnids (not a fear).
- (C) **Arachnophobia** = irrational fear of spiders and other arachnids. ✓
- (D) Claustrophobia = fear of confined/enclosed spaces (“clastro-” = enclosed space).

Why other options are wrong: Entomophobia is for insects not spiders; Arachnology is a study, not a phobia; Claustrophobia relates to spaces, not animals.

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

Q27.

Solution

Quick Solution: A person who collects and studies postage stamps as a hobby is called a **PHILATELIST**.

Concept: “Philately” derives from Greek *philos* (loving) + *ateleia* (exemption from tax/charges — referring to prepaid postage). A philatelist is one who engages in the collection and study of postage stamps, postmarks, and related materials.

Steps:

- Key: collecting and studying postage stamps.
- (A) **Philatelist** = a collector and student of postage stamps. ✓
- (B) Numismatist = one who collects and studies coins and currency (“numisma” = coin).
- (C) Bibliophile = one who loves and collects books (“biblio-” = book).



- (D) Antiquarian = one who studies or collects antiques and objects from the past; not specific to stamps.

Why other options are wrong: Numismatist collects coins; Bibliophile collects books; Antiquarian deals with antiques generally — none specifically refers to postage stamps.

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

Q28.

Solution

Quick Solution: “The supervisor was checking the quality of the garments” is in the **past continuous active** tense. Its passive equivalent is: **“The quality of the garments was being checked by the supervisor.”**

Concept: To convert past continuous active to passive:

- Active form: Subject + *was/were* + *V-ing* + Object.
- Passive form: Object $\Rightarrow$ Subject + *was/were being* + Past Participle + *by* + Agent.

Steps:

- Active: “The supervisor [subject] was checking [past continuous] the quality of the garments [object].”
- Passive subject = “The quality of the garments.”
- Passive verb = “was being checked” (past continuous passive).
- Agent = “by the supervisor.”
- (A) “is being checked” = present continuous passive (wrong tense).
- (B) **“was being checked by the supervisor”** = past continuous passive — correct. ✓
- (C) “has been checked” = present perfect passive (wrong aspect and tense).
- (D) “was checked” = simple past passive; corresponds to active simple past, not past continuous.

Why other options are wrong: A uses the wrong tense; C uses the wrong tense and aspect; D converts to simple past passive, which would correspond to the active “checked,” not “was checking.”

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



Q29.

Solution

Quick Solution: In passive voice, the subject receives the action (indicated by a *be* verb + past participle). Sentence **C** — “The award was conferred upon her by the institution” — is in the passive voice.

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

Active voice structure: Subject (doer) + Verb + Object.

Steps:

- (A) “The weaver **creates** intricate patterns” — active; weaver (doer) + present simple verb. ✗
- (B) “The supplier **will deliver** the raw materials” — active; supplier (doer) + future tense. ✗
- (C) “**The award was conferred upon her by the institution**” — passive; “the award” (receiver) + “was conferred” (*be* + past participle) + “by the institution” (agent). ✓
- (D) “The students **are presenting** their designs” — active; students (doers) + present continuous. ✗

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D are all in the active voice where the grammatical subject is the doer performing the action. Only C has the characteristic passive structure.

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

Q30.

Solution

Quick Solution: The correct collocation is “concerned **about**” when referring to worry or care about something. The answer is **about**.

Concept: The adjective “concerned” collocates with “about” when it means worried or anxious about something: “She was concerned *about* his health.” Other prepositions with “concerned” serve different meanings (“concerned with” = involved in; “concerned for” = caring for someone’s welfare, less standard).

Steps:

- Context: the teacher was worried/anxious about students’ academic progress.



- (A) over — “concerned over” is less standard; “about” is the natural choice here.
- (B) by — “concerned by” is not the standard collocation for showing worry.
- (C) with — “concerned with” means involved in or dealing with, not worried about.
- (D) **about** — “concerned about” = worried or anxious about something — the standard and correct collocation. ✓

Why other options are wrong: “Over” is non-standard in this construction; “by” is not a valid collocation here; “with” changes the meaning to involvement rather than concern or worry.

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	D
26	C	27	A	28	B	29	C	30	D

