

FDDI AIST Verbal Ability

Sample Paper – 8

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 **ZEALOUS**.

- (A) Indifferent
- (B) Apathetic
- (C) Passive
- (D) Enthusiastic and passionate

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

- (A) Cheerful
- (B) Lively
- (C) Sorrowful and mournful
- (D) Energetic

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



- (A) Pungent
- (B) Pleasant and mild
- (C) Bitter
- (D) Sharp

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

- (A) Energetic
- (B) Tired
- (C) Sluggish
- (D) Drowsy

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

- (A) Peaceful
- (B) Friendly
- (C) Cooperative
- (D) Aggressive and combative

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

- (A) Enthusiastic
- (B) Excited
- (C) Gloomy
- (D) Animated

Q7. Choose the meaning of **PEDANTIC** as used in the sentence:

*“His **PEDANTIC** insistence on following every rule made the workplace inflexible.”*

- (A) Practical and adaptable
- (B) Excessively focused on rules and minor details
- (C) Creative and innovative



(D) Open-minded and flexible

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

- (A) Open to more than one interpretation; deliberately ambiguous
- (B) Clear and unambiguous
- (C) Forthright and direct
- (D) Certain and definitive

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

- (A) Truthful and accurate
- (B) Reliable and dependable
- (C) Well-reasoned
- (D) Based on a mistaken belief; containing errors in reasoning

Q10. Choose the meaning of **NONCHALANT** as used in the sentence:

*“Despite the pressure, she remained completely **NONCHALANT** throughout the presentation.”*

- (A) Visibly nervous and anxious
- (B) Extremely focused and alert
- (C) Casually calm and indifferent
- (D) Passionate and enthusiastic

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

“The committee felt that his remarks were entirely TANGENTIAL to the main agenda.”

- (A) Central and essential
- (B) Only slightly connected; peripheral to the main topic
- (C) Deeply relevant
- (D) Completely wrong



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

“The new collection was not only _____ to wear but also _____ to the environment.”

- (A) comfortable ... sustainable
- (B) expensive ... harmful
- (C) heavy ... toxic
- (D) impractical ... wasteful

Q13. Choose the word that best fills the blank:

“The research paper was _____ by the editorial board before it was accepted for publication.”

- (A) ignore
- (B) ignoring
- (C) ignored
- (D) scrutinised

Q14. Choose the correct word to fill the blank:

“She has worked in the fashion industry _____ she graduated from NIFT five years ago.”

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

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

“The designer’s work was _____ by her peers but _____ by the traditional critics.”

- (A) ignored ... celebrated
- (B) celebrated ... dismissed
- (C) rejected ... rejected



(D) praised . . . praised

Q16. Choose the word that best fills the blank:

“The buyers were _____ impressed by the quality of the handcrafted leather goods.”

(A) visibly

(B) poorly

(C) barely

(D) reluctantly

Q17. Identify the grammatically **CORRECT** sentence:

(A) The findings of the research committee was presented to the board.

(B) She is one of the employees who has never missed a deadline.

(C) Neither the principal nor the students were satisfied by the outcome.

(D) The range of products offered by the company meets international standards.

Q18. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error:

“He agreed (A) to cooperate with (B) the investigation, provided that (C) his personal (D) be examined. No error”

(A) to cooperate with

(B) the investigation, provided that

(C) his personal files will not

(D) be examined

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

“The results (A) of the examination (B) has been declared, and students can (C) check their scores (D) on the official website. No error”

(A) of the examination

(B) has been declared



- (C) check their scores
- (D) on the official website

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

- (A) The committee has submitted its report to the governing body.
- (B) The jury have given their verdict after deliberating for two hours.
- (C) Each of the candidates have been notified of the examination schedule.
- (D) The data are clearly showing a downward trend in production.

Q21. The idiom “**a penny for your thoughts**” means:

- (A) An expression of greed or miserliness
- (B) A discussion about financial matters
- (C) A question about someone’s monetary value
- (D) A way of asking what someone is thinking about

Q22. The idiom “**miss the boat**” means to:

- (A) Arrive late at a harbour or station
- (B) Fail an important examination
- (C) Lose an opportunity by acting too slowly
- (D) Get lost while travelling

Q23. The idiom “**once bitten, twice shy**” means:

- (A) A person who repeatedly takes the same risk
- (B) A person who is cautious because of a previous bad experience
- (C) Someone who is always afraid without reason
- (D) Someone who learns nothing from their failures

Q24. The idiom “**a stab in the back**” means:



- (A) An act of betrayal by someone you trusted
- (B) A sharp physical pain in the back
- (C) An unexpected achievement or success
- (D) Harsh criticism from a complete stranger

Q25. A scientist who studies the atmosphere and weather patterns is called a:

- (A) Geologist
- (B) Seismologist
- (C) Meteorologist
- (D) Astronomer

Q26. A person who makes and sells spectacles and other optical instruments is called an:

- (A) Oculist
- (B) Optician
- (C) Ophthalmologist
- (D) Optometrist

Q27. A system of government in which power is held by the people, exercised directly or through elected representatives, is called:

- (A) Autocracy
- (B) Oligarchy
- (C) Monarchy
- (D) Democracy

Q28. Which of the following sentences is in the **passive voice**?

- (A) The award was presented to her by the governor at the ceremony.
- (B) The governor presented the award to her at the ceremony.
- (C) The governor will present the award to her tomorrow.



(D) The governor is presenting the award to her right now.

Q29. Choose the correct **active voice** form of the sentence:

“The project was completed by the team ahead of schedule.”

(A) The project is completing ahead of schedule.

(B) The team had been completing the project.

(C) The team completed the project ahead of schedule.

(D) The project completes by the team ahead of schedule.

Q30. Choose the correct preposition to fill the blank:

“She was completely absorbed _____ her work and did not notice the time passing.”

(A) at

(B) in

(C) by

(D) with



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Quick Solution: ZEALOUS means having or showing great energy and enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause. **Enthusiastic and passionate** is the closest synonym.

Concept: “Zealous” derives from Greek *zelos* (ardour, fervour). It describes someone who pursues something with intense devotion and keenness.

Steps:

- Zealous = filled with eagerness and fervour; intensely devoted.
- (A) Indifferent = having no interest or concern — the direct antonym.
- (B) Apathetic = showing no feeling or interest — an antonym of zealous.
- (C) Passive = accepting without active response or enthusiasm — antonym.
- (D) **Enthusiastic and passionate** = exactly what zealous conveys. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C all describe a lack of interest or energy, which is the precise opposite of “zealous.” Only D captures the intensity and fervour the word describes.

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

Q2.

Solution

Quick Solution: LUGUBRIOUS = looking or sounding sad and dismal. The closest synonym is **Sorrowful and mournful**.

Concept: “Lugubrious” comes from Latin *lugubris* (mournful), related to *lugere* (to mourn). It describes a profoundly gloomy, dismal, or doleful appearance or sound.

Steps:

- Lugubrious = excessively gloomy, mournful, or dismal in appearance.
- (A) Cheerful = bright and happy — a direct antonym.
- (B) Lively = full of life and energy — an antonym.
- (C) **Sorrowful and mournful** = exactly captures the sad, doleful quality of lugubrious. ✓



- (D) Energetic = full of vigour — unrelated and opposite in tone.

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and D all convey positive or lively qualities, which are the opposite of the deep sadness and gloom that “lugubrious” describes.

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

Q3.

Solution

Quick Solution: ACRID = having a strong, unpleasant, and irritating smell or taste; harsh. Its antonym is **Pleasant and mild**.

Concept: “Acrid” derives from Latin *acer* (sharp, pungent). It describes smells, tastes, or remarks that are biting, harsh, and unpleasant. The antonym must convey gentleness and pleasantness.

Steps:

- Acrid = biting, harsh, and pungent in smell or taste.
- (A) Pungent = also strong and sharp in smell — a near-synonym, not an antonym.
- (B) **Pleasant and mild** = gentle, agreeable, and non-irritating — the antonym. ✓
- (C) Bitter = sharp, harsh in taste — another synonym of acrid.
- (D) Sharp = cutting and intense — also similar to acrid, not its opposite.

Why other options are wrong: A (pungent), C (bitter), and D (sharp) are all synonyms or near-synonyms of acrid. Only “pleasant and mild” captures the opposite quality.

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

Q4.

Solution

Quick Solution: LETHARGIC = affected by lethargy; sluggish and apathetic. Its antonym is **Energetic**.

Concept: “Lethargic” derives from Greek *lethargia* (drowsiness, forgetfulness). It describes a state of low energy, sluggishness, and mental dullness. The antonym must convey vitality and alertness.



Steps:

- Lethargic = lacking energy or enthusiasm; sluggish and slow.
- (A) **Energetic** = full of vigour and active energy — the direct antonym. ✓
- (B) Tired = physically or mentally fatigued — a near-synonym of lethargic.
- (C) Sluggish = slow-moving, lacking energy — a synonym of lethargic.
- (D) Drowsy = feeling sleepy — another synonym of lethargic.

Why other options are wrong: B (tired), C (sluggish), and D (drowsy) are all synonyms of “lethargic” and thus cannot be its antonym.

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

Q5.

Solution

Quick Solution: PUGNACIOUS = eager or quick to argue, quarrel, or fight. The closest synonym is **Aggressive and combative**.

Concept: “Pugnacious” comes from Latin *pugnax* (fond of fighting), from *pugnus* (fist). It describes a person or attitude that is quarrelsome, confrontational, and ready to fight.

Steps:

- Pugnacious = belligerent, combative, inclined to quarrel or fight.
- (A) Peaceful = calm and without conflict — a direct antonym.
- (B) Friendly = warm and amicable — an antonym.
- (C) Cooperative = willing to work together — an antonym.
- (D) **Aggressive and combative** = ready to attack or argue forcefully. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C all describe harmonious, non-confrontational qualities, which are the precise opposite of the fighting spirit that “pugnacious” conveys.

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



Q6.

Solution

Quick Solution: EBULLIENT = cheerful and full of energy. Its antonym is **Gloomy**.

Concept: “Ebullient” derives from Latin *ebullire* (to bubble up or overflow). It describes someone overflowing with enthusiasm, liveliness, and high spirits. The antonym must capture the opposite — a low, dark emotional state.

Steps:

- Ebullient = exuberantly enthusiastic and cheerful; bubbly and lively.
- (A) Enthusiastic = a synonym of ebullient — cannot be its antonym.
- (B) Excited = a synonym of ebullient in this context — not an antonym.
- (C) **Gloomy** = dark and depressing in mood; the opposite of cheerful and bubbly. ✓
- (D) Animated = lively and enthusiastic — a synonym of ebullient.

Why other options are wrong: A (enthusiastic), B (excited), and D (animated) are all synonyms or near-synonyms of ebullient. Only “gloomy” captures the opposite emotional state.

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

Q7.

Solution

Quick Solution: PEDANTIC = excessively concerned with minor details or rules; overly scholastic. The context — “insistence on following every rule made the workplace inflexible” — confirms **Excessively focused on rules and minor details**.

Concept: “Pedantic” derives from French *pédant* (schoolmaster). It describes someone who is overly strict about following rules and technicalities, often at the expense of common sense or flexibility.

Steps:

- Context clue: “insistence on following every rule” + result: “workplace inflexible.”
- (A) Practical and adaptable = the opposite of pedantic in this context.
- (B) **Excessively focused on rules and minor details** = precisely the mean-



ing of pedantic. ✓

- (C) Creative and innovative = the opposite; pedants resist change and creativity.
- (D) Open-minded and flexible = the direct opposite of pedantic behaviour.

Why other options are wrong: A, C, and D all describe qualities of a flexible, open, and pragmatic person — the antithesis of someone described as pedantic.

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

Q8.

Solution

Quick Solution: EQUIVOCAL = open to more than one interpretation; deliberately unclear or ambiguous. The answer is **Open to more than one interpretation; deliberately ambiguous**.

Concept: “Equivocal” derives from Latin *aequivocus* (of equal voice), from *aequi-* (equal) + *vox* (voice). It describes language or behaviour that can be interpreted in more than one way, often intentionally so.

Steps:

- Equivocal = having a double meaning; deliberately ambiguous or unclear.
- (A) **Open to more than one interpretation; deliberately ambiguous** = the exact definition. ✓
- (B) Clear and unambiguous = the direct antonym of equivocal.
- (C) Forthright and direct = the antonym; equivocal speech avoids directness.
- (D) Certain and definitive = the antonym; equivocal statements lack certainty.

Why other options are wrong: B, C, and D all describe clarity and definiteness, which are precisely what equivocal language avoids.

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



Q9.

Solution

Quick Solution: FALLACIOUS = based on a mistaken belief; containing a flaw in logic. The answer is **Based on a mistaken belief; containing errors in reasoning**.

Concept: “Fallacious” derives from Latin *fallax* (deceitful), from *fallere* (to deceive). In logic and argument, a fallacious claim is one that rests on faulty reasoning or false premises, even if it appears convincing.

Steps:

- Fallacious = logically unsound; based on error or deception.
- (A) Truthful and accurate = the direct antonym of fallacious.
- (B) Reliable and dependable = also an antonym; fallacious reasoning cannot be trusted.
- (C) Well-reasoned = the antonym; fallacious arguments are poorly reasoned.
- (D) **Based on a mistaken belief; containing errors in reasoning** = the exact meaning. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C all describe qualities of sound, trustworthy reasoning, which is the opposite of what “fallacious” conveys.

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

Q10.

Solution

Quick Solution: NONCHALANT = casually calm and relaxed; not showing anxiety or enthusiasm. The context — “remained completely nonchalant despite the pressure” — confirms **Casually calm and indifferent**.

Concept: “Nonchalant” comes from French *nonchaloir* (to be unconcerned), from *non-* (not) + *chaloir* (to concern). It describes an air of easy unconcern, as if nothing is troubling.

Steps:

- Context clue: “despite the pressure” — she showed no signs of being affected.
- (A) Visibly nervous and anxious = the opposite; nonchalant people show no nerves.



- (B) Extremely focused and alert = different quality; nonchalant implies unconcern, not focus.
- (C) **Casually calm and indifferent** = precisely the relaxed, unbothered quality of nonchalant. ✓
- (D) Passionate and enthusiastic = the opposite of indifferent and unconcerned.

Why other options are wrong: A is the antonym. B confuses calm with alertness. D confuses composure with passion, which is a different emotional state entirely.

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

Q11.

Solution

Quick Solution: TANGENTIAL = only slightly or indirectly related to the main subject; peripheral. The best replacement is **Only slightly connected; peripheral to the main topic**.

Concept: In geometry, a tangent line touches a circle at one point without crossing it — barely connected. Figuratively, “tangential” describes remarks or ideas that barely touch the main subject rather than addressing it directly.

Steps:

- Tangential = diverging from the main subject; only peripherally related.
- (A) Central and essential = the direct antonym; tangential ideas are not central.
- (B) **Only slightly connected; peripheral to the main topic** = exact meaning of tangential. ✓
- (C) Deeply relevant = an antonym; tangential remarks lack deep relevance.
- (D) Completely wrong = a different concept; tangential remarks may not be wrong, just off-topic.

Why other options are wrong: A and C are antonyms. D is conceptually different — a remark can be tangential without being incorrect; it simply strays from the main point.

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



Q12.

Solution

Quick Solution: The sentence praises a fashion collection using the structure “not only ____ but also ____”, which requires two complementary positive qualities. **Comfortable ... sustainable** is the only pair that fits.

Concept: The “not only ... but also” structure presents two positive, parallel qualities. In the context of a fashion collection, “comfortable” (quality of wear) and “sustainable” (quality regarding the environment) are ideal complements.

Steps:

- First blank: “____ to wear” = a positive quality; needs an adjective like comfortable.
- Second blank: “____ to the environment” = a positive quality; needs sustainable.
- (A) **comfortable ... sustainable** = both positive; fits the fashion/environment context perfectly. ✓
- (B) expensive ... harmful = both negative; contradicts the positive tone of the sentence.
- (C) heavy ... toxic = both negative and illogical for praising a collection.
- (D) impractical ... wasteful = both negative; directly contradicts a praise sentence.

Why other options are wrong: B, C, and D all pair negative adjectives, which is illogical in a sentence that is clearly praising the collection’s attributes.

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

Q13.

Solution

Quick Solution: The sentence uses the passive structure “was ____ by the editorial board.” The blank needs a **past participle**. Among the past participle options, **scrutinised** is correct both grammatically and semantically.

Concept: In a passive construction (was/were + past participle + by + agent), only the past participle form is grammatically valid. Semantically, editorial boards *scrutinise* (carefully examine) research papers before accepting them — they do not ignore them.

Steps:



- Required form: past participle (was _____ by ...).
- (A) ignore = base form of the verb — grammatically incorrect in passive voice.
- (B) ignoring = present participle/gerund — grammatically incorrect here.
- (C) ignored = past participle, but “was ignored by the editorial board” is semantically wrong; boards scrutinise, not ignore, submissions.
- (D) **scrutinised** = past participle; “was scrutinised” is both grammatically correct and semantically precise for an editorial review. ✓

Why other options are wrong: A and B fail the grammatical test. C fails the semantic test: an editorial board that ignores a paper would never accept it for publication.

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

Q14.

Solution

Quick Solution: “She graduated from NIFT five years ago” is a specific point in time in the past. The present perfect (“has worked”) with a starting point in time requires **SINCE**.

Concept: In English, “since” is used with a specific point in time to indicate when an ongoing action began, while “for” is used with a duration. Here, “she graduated” is a starting point, not a duration.

Steps:

- “she graduated from NIFT five years ago” = a past event acting as a starting point.
- (A) for = used with durations (e.g., for five years). Incorrect with a clause stating a point in time.
- (B) by = used to indicate a deadline (by Friday). Does not apply here.
- (C) **since** = used with a starting point in time (e.g., since she graduated). ✓
- (D) from = used in ranges (from Monday to Friday). Does not fit this structure.

Why other options are wrong: “For” requires a bare time expression (for five years), not a clause. “By” and “from” serve entirely different grammatical functions and do not indicate the starting point of an ongoing action.



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

Q15.

Solution

Quick Solution: The conjunction “**but**” signals a contrast between the two reactions. **Celebrated ... dismissed** is the only pair that creates a genuine contrast.

Concept: “But” introduces an opposing or contrasting idea. The first blank describes the peers’ reaction and the second the critics’ reaction; these must be opposed to create the contrast implied by “but.”

Steps:

- Sentence structure: “was _____ by her peers *but* _____ by the traditional critics.”
- “But” demands that the two reactions be contrasting.
- (A) ignored ... celebrated = reverse order; peers celebrating and critics celebrating shows no contrast where expected.
- (B) **celebrated ... dismissed** = peers appreciated the work (positive) but critics rejected it (negative) — clear, logical contrast. ✓
- (C) rejected ... rejected = both identical; no contrast at all.
- (D) praised ... praised = both identical; no contrast at all.

Why other options are wrong: C and D repeat the same idea on both sides, defeating the purpose of “but.” A places the positive reaction with the wrong group for logical contrast.

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

Q16.

Solution

Quick Solution: In the context of buyers reacting positively to quality goods, **visibly** best describes the evident, noticeable degree of their impression.

Concept: The sentence describes the reaction of buyers to high-quality hand-crafted goods. The adverb must reinforce the positive nature of this impression in a natural and contextually appropriate way.

Steps:



- Context: buyers reacted to handcrafted leather of notable quality.
- (A) **visibly** = in a way that is clearly observable or apparent; “visibly impressed” = noticeably and clearly impressed. ✓
- (B) poorly = “poorly impressed” is not a standard collocation and implies a weak or bad impression.
- (C) barely = “barely impressed” implies minimal impression, inconsistent with “quality” goods.
- (D) reluctantly = “reluctantly impressed” means impressed against one’s will, which is possible but does not naturally follow from good craftsmanship.

Why other options are wrong: B is unnatural as a collocation. C contradicts the implication of quality. D introduces an unwarranted sense of resistance that the sentence does not support.

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

Q17.

Solution

Quick Solution: D is grammatically correct. “The range . . . meets” has the singular subject “range” correctly matched to the singular verb “meets.”

Concept: Subject-verb agreement and correct collocation are tested here. Each incorrect option has a specific error.

Steps:

- (A) “The findings . . . **was** presented” — “findings” is plural; should be “were presented.” Incorrect.
- (B) “one of the employees who **has** never missed” — “who” refers to “employees” (plural); should be “have never missed.” Incorrect.
- (C) “Neither the principal nor the students were **satisfied by**” — the correct collocation is “satisfied *with* the outcome,” not “satisfied by.” The preposition “by” is incorrect here. Incorrect.
- (D) “**The range of products . . . meets international standards**” — “range” (singular) correctly takes singular verb “meets.” ✓

Why other options are wrong: A has a plural subject with a singular verb. B uses a singular verb where a plural is required. C uses the wrong preposition (“satisfied by” should be “satisfied with” to express contentment).



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

Q18.

Solution

Quick Solution: After “provided that” (a conditional conjunction), the verb in the dependent clause must be in a conditional or past form. “**will not**” (future) is incorrect; it should be “**would not.**” The error is in part **C**.

Concept: “Provided that” introduces a condition, requiring the conditional modal “would” rather than the future “will.” The sentence is set in a past-anchored context (“He agreed”), so “would not” is the appropriate form.

Steps:

- Main clause: “He agreed” = simple past.
- Conditional clause: “provided that ...” = sets a condition relating to the past agreement.
- (A) “to cooperate with” = correct infinitive construction after “agreed.”
- (B) “the investigation, provided that” = correct noun and conjunction usage.
- (C) “**his personal files will not**” = “will” is future tense; in a conditional clause dependent on a past verb, “would not” is required. ✓ (Error)
- (D) “be examined” = correct passive infinitive completing the clause.

Why other options are wrong: Parts A, B, and D are all grammatically correct. The sole error is the tense mismatch in part C, where “will not” should be “would not.”

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

Q19.

Solution

Quick Solution: The subject is “The results” (plural). The verb “**has been declared**” is singular and therefore incorrect; it should be “**have been declared.**” The error is in part **B**.

Concept: Subject-verb agreement requires that a plural subject takes a plural verb. “Results” is an unambiguously plural noun, so the present perfect verb must use “have” (plural), not “has” (singular).

Steps:



- Subject: “The results” = plural noun.
- Verb: “has been declared” uses singular auxiliary “has” — agreement error.
- Correction: “The results . . . **have been declared.**”
- (A) “of the examination” = correct prepositional phrase modifying “results.”
- (B) “**has been declared**” = singular verb with plural subject. ✓ (Error)
- (C) “check their scores” = correct verb phrase following the modal “can.”
- (D) “on the official website” = correct prepositional phrase.

Why other options are wrong: Parts A, C, and D are all grammatically correct. The error is exclusively the subject-verb disagreement in part B.

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

Q20.

Solution

Quick Solution: A is the grammatically correct sentence. “The committee” (collective noun) takes the singular verb “has” and the singular pronoun “its” — consistent and correct.

Concept: Collective nouns (committee, jury, team) are treated as singular in standard Indian/British English exam usage, taking singular verbs and pronouns. Options B, C, and D each contain a specific agreement error.

Steps:

- (A) “**The committee has submitted its report**” = collective noun + singular verb + singular pronoun. Fully correct. ✓
- (B) “The jury **have** given **their** verdict” = collective noun treated as plural; in standard exam usage “has given its verdict” is required.
- (C) “Each of the candidates **have** been notified” = “each” is always singular; should be “has been notified.”
- (D) “The data **are clearly showing**” = while “data” can take a plural verb, “are showing” (present progressive) is an unusual and non-standard construction; “clearly show” would be preferred.

Why other options are wrong: B treats a collective noun as plural. C uses a plural verb with the singular pronoun “each.” D employs a non-standard progressive construction with “data.”



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

Q21.

Solution

Quick Solution: “A penny for your thoughts” is **a way of asking what someone is thinking about**, usually said when someone appears to be lost in thought.

Concept: This idiom dates to the 16th century (recorded in John Heywood’s proverbs, 1546). Offering a penny — a small coin — figuratively means asking someone to share what is on their mind, as if their thoughts are worth a penny.

Steps:

- Literal image: offering a coin in exchange for a thought = asking someone to share their thoughts.
- (A) An expression of greed or miserliness — misinterprets “penny” as relating to being stingy.
- (B) A discussion about financial matters — incorrectly focuses on the monetary element.
- (C) A question about someone’s monetary value — confuses the idiom’s figurative use of money.
- (D) **A way of asking what someone is thinking about.** ✓

Why other options are wrong: A, B, and C all take the word “penny” too literally. The idiom uses money figuratively to invite someone to share their thoughts.

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

Q22.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Miss the boat” means to **lose an opportunity by acting too slowly or being too late**.

Concept: The idiom evokes the image of arriving at a dock after a boat has already departed — you have lost your chance to board. Figuratively, it means failing to take advantage of an opportunity because of delay or inaction.

Steps:

- Literal image: arriving too late to board a departing boat = losing your chance.



- (A) Arrive late at a harbour or station — too literal; the idiom is purely figurative.
- (B) Fail an important examination — unrelated; the idiom is about opportunity, not academic performance.
- (C) **Lose an opportunity by acting too slowly.** ✓
- (D) Get lost while travelling — entirely unrelated to the idiom's meaning.

Why other options are wrong: A interprets the idiom too literally. B and D describe entirely different situations unrelated to missed opportunity.

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

Q23.

Solution

Quick Solution: “Once bitten, twice shy” means **a person who has had a bad experience is cautious about the same situation in future.**

Concept: This proverb, found in various forms across many cultures, describes the natural human response to a painful experience: after being hurt once, a person becomes wary and careful to avoid a repeat of the same experience.

Steps:

- “Once bitten” = having suffered a bad experience once.
- “Twice shy” = being extra careful and hesitant afterwards.
- (A) A person who repeatedly takes the same risk — the opposite of the proverb's meaning.
- (B) **A person who is cautious because of a previous bad experience.** ✓
- (C) Someone who is always afraid without reason — misses the key idea that the caution stems from a real past experience.
- (D) Someone who learns nothing from their failures — the direct opposite of the proverb.

Why other options are wrong: A and D are antonyms of the proverb's meaning. C mischaracterises the fear as baseless, whereas the proverb's caution is rooted in a real past experience.

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



Q24.

Solution

Quick Solution: “A stab in the back” means **an act of betrayal by someone you trusted**.

Concept: The phrase evokes the image of being stabbed from behind by someone close to you — someone you trusted enough to turn your back on. Figuratively, it describes a treacherous act of disloyalty by a trusted person.

Steps:

- Literal image: a knife attack from behind by someone you trusted = treachery.
- (A) **An act of betrayal by someone you trusted.** ✓
- (B) A sharp physical pain in the back — takes the idiom far too literally.
- (C) An unexpected achievement or success — completely unrelated in meaning.
- (D) Harsh criticism from a complete stranger — misses the key element of trust and betrayal; the attacker must be someone trusted, not a stranger.

Why other options are wrong: B is a literal misreading. C has no connection to the idiom. D describes open criticism from a stranger, whereas a “stab in the back” specifically involves someone you trusted acting treacherously.

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

Q25.

Solution

Quick Solution: A scientist who studies the atmosphere and weather patterns is called a **METEOROLOGIST**.

Concept: “Meteorology” derives from Greek *meteoros* (high in the air) + *logos* (study). It is the science dealing with the atmosphere, weather phenomena, and weather forecasting.

Steps:

- Key: “atmosphere and weather patterns” = the domain of meteorology.
- (A) Geologist = scientist who studies the physical structure and history of the Earth (rocks, minerals). Not atmosphere/weather.
- (B) Seismologist = scientist who studies earthquakes and seismic waves. Not



atmosphere.

- (C) **Meteorologist** = scientist who studies the atmosphere, climate, and weather. ✓
- (D) Astronomer = scientist who studies celestial objects and outer space. Not Earth's atmosphere.

Why other options are wrong: Geology, seismology, and astronomy are distinct scientific disciplines dealing with Earth's structure, earthquakes, and space respectively — none covers weather and the atmosphere.

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

Q26.

Solution

Quick Solution: A person who makes and sells spectacles and other optical instruments is called an **OPTICIAN**.

Concept: An optician is specifically the trained professional who designs, fits, and supplies spectacles and contact lenses. The term must be distinguished from related eye-care professionals.

Steps:

- Key: “makes and sells spectacles and other optical instruments.”
- (A) Oculist = an older or informal term for an eye specialist/ophthalmologist; primarily a medical doctor, not a maker of spectacles.
- (B) **Optician** = a person trained and licensed to make and supply optical aids such as spectacles and contact lenses. ✓
- (C) Ophthalmologist = a medical doctor specialising in diseases and surgery of the eye; not focused on making spectacles.
- (D) Optometrist = a health professional who examines eyes and prescribes corrective lenses, but does not typically make them.

Why other options are wrong: Oculist and ophthalmologist are medical specialists focused on eye disease. An optometrist prescribes but does not necessarily make spectacles. Only the optician is the maker and seller of optical instruments.

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



Q27.

Solution

Quick Solution: A system of government in which power is held by the people, exercised directly or through elected representatives, is called **DEMOCRACY**.

Concept: “Democracy” derives from Greek *demos* (people) + *kratos* (power/rule). It is the system where citizens hold political power, exercising it either directly or through elected representatives.

Steps:

- Key phrase: “power is held by the people ... through elected representatives.”
- (A) Autocracy = rule by a single person with absolute power (“auto-” = self).
- (B) Oligarchy = rule by a small group of people (“oligo-” = few).
- (C) Monarchy = rule by a king or queen, typically hereditary (“mono-” = one).
- (D) **Democracy** = rule by the people (“demos-” = people). ✓

Why other options are wrong: Autocracy, oligarchy, and monarchy all concentrate power in one person or a few individuals, not in the people as a whole.

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

Q28.

Solution

Quick Solution: In passive voice, the grammatical subject receives the action rather than performing it. A (“The award was presented to her by the governor”) is passive — “The award” receives the action.

Concept: Passive voice structure: Subject (receiver) + *be* verb + past participle (+ *by* + agent). Active voice structure: Subject (doer) + verb + object.

Steps:

- (A) “The award **was presented** to her by the governor” — “the award” (subject) receives the action; “was presented” = passive construction. ✓
- (B) “The governor **presented** the award” — active voice; the governor (doer) is the subject.
- (C) “The governor **will present** the award” — active voice, future tense; the



governor is the doer.

- (D) “The governor **is presenting** the award” — active voice, present continuous; the governor is the doer.

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

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

Q29.

Solution

Quick Solution: The passive sentence “The project was completed by the team ahead of schedule” is in the simple past passive. Its active form is: **“The team completed the project ahead of schedule.”**

Concept: To convert passive to active:

- The “by + agent” (the team) becomes the active subject.
- The passive verb (“was completed”) reverts to simple past active (“completed”).
- The passive subject (“the project”) becomes the active object.

Steps:

- Passive: “The project [subject] was completed [simple past passive] by the team [agent].”
- Active subject = “the team.” Active verb = “completed” (simple past). Active object = “the project.”
- (A) “The project is completing” = present continuous; wrong tense and still not a proper conversion.
- (B) “The team had been completing” = past perfect continuous; incorrect tense and aspect.
- (C) **“The team completed the project ahead of schedule.”** = correct active simple past. ✓
- (D) “The project completes by the team” = grammatically incoherent; “by the team” does not fit.



Why other options are wrong: A uses the wrong tense and keeps the wrong subject. B uses an incorrect tense. D is grammatically incoherent.

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

Q30.

Solution

Quick Solution: The correct collocation is “absorbed **in**” when describing total engagement or immersion in an activity. The answer is **in**.

Concept: In English, “absorbed” collocates with the preposition “in” to express deep mental engagement with a task or activity: “absorbed *in* her work” = completely engrossed in her work.

Steps:

- Context: “She was completely absorbed ___ her work” = expressing total immersion.
- (A) at = “absorbed at her work” is not a standard English collocation.
- (B) **in** = “absorbed in her work” = fully engrossed and immersed in it. ✓
- (C) by = “absorbed by” is used in passive constructions where something absorbs you (“absorbed by a sponge”), but not for the state of being engrossed in one’s work.
- (D) with = “absorbed with” is not a standard collocation for expressing personal engrossment.

Why other options are wrong: “At” and “with” are not collocated with “absorbed” in this sense. “By” changes the meaning to physical absorption rather than mental engrossment.

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



Answer Key

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

