

FDDI AIST Verbal Ability Sample Paper – 9

Duration: 30 Minutes | Maximum Marks: 30

Instructions

- This paper contains **30 questions** carrying **1 mark** each.
- Total marks: **30**. Time allowed: **30 minutes**.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **no negative marking**.
- Read each question carefully before selecting your answer.
- This is Sample Paper **9** of the FDDI AIST Verbal Ability section.
- Topics covered: Synonyms, Antonyms, Vocabulary, Sentence Completion, Grammar, Idioms, One Word Substitution, Active & Passive Voice, Prepositions.

Verbal Ability — Questions (Q1–Q30)

Q1. Choose the word most **similar** in meaning to **INTREPID**.

- (A) Cowardly
- (B) Fearless
- (C) Timid
- (D) Cautious

Q2. Choose the word most **similar** in meaning to **LOQUACIOUS**.

- (A) Silent
- (B) Reserved
- (C) Talkative
- (D) Reflective

Q3. Choose the word most nearly **opposite** in meaning to **TORPID**.

- (A) Lethargic
- (B) Sluggish



- (C) Inert
- (D) Energetic

Q4. Choose the word most nearly **opposite** in meaning to **OSTENTATIOUS**.

- (A) Modest
- (B) Showy
- (C) Flashy
- (D) Gaudy

Q5. Choose the word most **similar** in meaning to **PETULANT**.

- (A) Patient
- (B) Irritable
- (C) Calm
- (D) Cheerful

Q6. Choose the word most nearly **opposite** in meaning to **SYCOPHANTIC**.

- (A) Flattering
- (B) Obsequious
- (C) Forthright
- (D) Subservient

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

- (A) Creative and imaginative
- (B) Flexible in approach
- (C) Insightful and perceptive
- (D) Overly concerned with minor rules of learning

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

- (A) Deep sadness or gloom
- (B) Great excitement



- (C) Intense anger
- (D) Profound joy

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

- (A) Contented
- (B) Complaining in a petulant manner
- (C) Grateful and appreciative
- (D) Enthusiastic and eager

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

- (A) Readily obedient
- (B) Willingly compliant
- (C) Stubbornly resistant to authority
- (D) Cooperatively helpful

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

- (A) Humble and approachable
- (B) Friendly and open
- (C) Nervous and anxious
- (D) Behaving as though others are inferior

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

“The new collection was _____ well-received, with critics calling it _____ and groundbreaking.”

- (A) universally ... innovative
- (B) largely ... outdated
- (C) barely ... conventional
- (D) rarely ... modern

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



“The intern was _____ for the award, having demonstrated exceptional creativity throughout the internship.”

- (A) disqualified
- (B) nominated
- (C) nomination
- (D) nominate

Q14. Fill in the blank with the correct preposition:

“The designer collaborated _____ the architect to ensure the building’s interior was both functional and aesthetically pleasing.”

- (A) to
- (B) for
- (C) with
- (D) at

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

“The jury found the defendant _____ of all charges; however, the prosecution vowed to _____ the verdict.”

- (A) innocent ... celebrate
- (B) acquitted ... enforce
- (C) guilty ... accept
- (D) guilty ... appeal

Q16. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate pair of words:

“Despite _____ years of experience, she remained _____ to learn from others.”

- (A) decades of ... eager
- (B) no ... reluctant
- (C) few ... unwilling



(D) little . . . hesitant

Q17. Each sentence below is divided into parts labelled (A), (B), and (C). Identify the part that contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, choose (D).

“(A) Each of the students (B) were required to submit their assignment (C) before the deadline.”

(A) Each of the students

(B) were required

(C) before the deadline

(D) No error

Q18. Each sentence below is divided into parts labelled (A), (B), and (C). Identify the part that contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, choose (D).

“(A) The principal, (B) along with the teachers, (C) are planning to introduce a new curriculum next semester.”

(A) The principal

(B) along with the teachers

(C) are planning

(D) No error

Q19. Choose the grammatically **correct** sentence from the options below.

(A) Neither John nor his brothers was present at the meeting.

(B) The data is showing a steady increase in sales this quarter.

(C) Everyone of the contestants have submitted their entries.

(D) The jury has reached a unanimous verdict.

Q20. Each sentence below is divided into parts labelled (A), (B), and (C). Identify the part that contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, choose (D).



“He (A) insisted in (B) going to the concert (C) despite the heavy rain outside.”

- (A) insisted in
- (B) going to the concert
- (C) despite the heavy rain
- (D) No error

Q21. What does the idiom “**pull the wool over someone’s eyes**” mean?

- (A) To help someone see the truth clearly
- (B) To deceive or trick someone
- (C) To protect someone from danger
- (D) To gain someone’s sympathy

Q22. What does the idiom “**back to square one**” mean?

- (A) To return to a familiar place
- (B) To complete a task successfully
- (C) To start again from the beginning after a setback
- (D) To revisit an earlier decision

Q23. What does the idiom “**the writing on the wall**” mean?

- (A) A creative message on a public wall
- (B) An announcement made in writing
- (C) A difficult message to interpret
- (D) Clear signs that something unpleasant is about to happen

Q24. What does the idiom “**throw in the towel**” mean?

- (A) To admit defeat and give up
- (B) To start a fight or argument
- (C) To make one last desperate effort
- (D) To clean up after others



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

A system of government in which power is held by the very wealthy.

- (A) Autocracy
- (B) Plutocracy
- (C) Theocracy
- (D) Oligarchy

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

A person who has an obsessive love of books.

- (A) Bibliophobe
- (B) Archivist
- (C) Bibliophile
- (D) Librarian

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

An extreme and irrational fear of the dark.

- (A) Photophobia
- (B) Pyrophobia
- (C) Chronomentrophobia
- (D) Nyctophobia

Q28. Choose the correct **Passive Voice** form of the following sentence:

“The fashion designer unveiled the new collection at the grand event.”

- (A) The new collection was unveiled by the fashion designer at the grand event.
- (B) The new collection has been unveiled by the fashion designer.
- (C) The new collection is unveiled by the fashion designer at the grand event.
- (D) The new collection was being unveiled at the grand event.



Q29. Choose the correct **Active Voice** form of the following sentence:

“The samples were tested by the quality control team before shipment.”

- (A) The quality control team has tested the samples before shipment.
- (B) The quality control team tested the samples before shipment.
- (C) The samples are tested by the quality control team before shipment.
- (D) The samples were being tested before shipment by the quality control team.

Q30. Fill in the blank with the correct preposition:

“The fashion designer was inspired _____ the vibrant colours of the Indian textile market.”

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



Detailed Solutions

FDDI AIST Verbal Ability — Sample Paper 9

Q1. [Synonyms — INTREPID]

Solution

Quick Solution: INTREPID means *fearlessly brave*; the closest synonym is **Fearless** (Option B).

Concept: The word *intrepid* derives from Latin *intrepidus* (“not alarmed or trembling”). It describes someone who shows remarkable courage and remains undaunted in the face of danger or difficulty, refusing to be intimidated.

- **(A) Cowardly** — This is the antonym of intrepid; a cowardly person avoids danger due to fear, the opposite of the intended meaning.
- **(B) Fearless** — *Correct.* Fearless directly and precisely matches the meaning of intrepid—both describe a complete absence of fear in the face of danger.
- **(C) Timid** — Means easily frightened or lacking confidence; another antonym of intrepid.
- **(D) Cautious** — Means careful and prudent about risk. While not cowardly, it does not capture the bold, fearless spirit of intrepid.

Options (A), (C), and (D) either contradict or only partially approximate the meaning of *intrepid*.

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

Q2. [Synonyms — LOQUACIOUS]

Solution

Quick Solution: LOQUACIOUS means *tending to talk a great deal*; the correct synonym is **Talkative** (Option C).

Concept: *Loquacious* comes from Latin *loqui* (“to speak”). It describes a person who is extremely fond of talking, often at length and on many subjects, sometimes to the point of being tiresome.

- **(A) Silent** — The direct antonym of loquacious; a silent person refrains from speaking.
- **(B) Reserved** — Means restrained and not forthcoming in speech; closer to



the antonym of loquacious.

- **(C) Talkative** — *Correct.* Talkative is the closest everyday synonym for loquacious—both describe a fondness for talking at length.
- **(D) Reflective** — Means thoughtful and contemplative; this relates to thinking, not the volume or frequency of speech.

Options (A), (B), and (D) do not convey the defining characteristic of loquacious—enthusiastic, prolific talking.

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

Q3. [Antonyms — TORPID]

Solution

Quick Solution: TORPID means *mentally or physically inactive, sluggish*; its antonym is **Energetic** (Option D).

Concept: *Torpid* originates from Latin *torpere* (“to be numb or sluggish”). It describes a state of extreme inactivity and lethargy, classically associated with hibernating animals. Its antonym must convey the opposite: vitality and active movement.

- **(A) Lethargic** — A direct synonym of torpid, not an antonym; means lacking energy.
- **(B) Sluggish** — Also a synonym; describes slow, heavy movement.
- **(C) Inert** — Means lacking the ability to move or act; yet another synonym of torpid.
- **(D) Energetic** — *Correct.* Energetic means full of vitality and vigorous activity—the precise opposite of torpid.

Options (A), (B), and (C) are all synonyms of torpid and therefore incorrect as antonyms.

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

Q4. [Antonyms — OSTENTATIOUS]



Solution

Quick Solution: OSTENTATIOUS means *characterised by vulgar or pretentious display*; its antonym is **Modest** (Option A).

Concept: *Ostentatious* comes from Latin *ostentare* (“to show off repeatedly”). It describes behaviour or appearance deliberately designed to impress others through excessive display of wealth, power, or luxury. The antonym must describe the opposite—unassuming simplicity.

- **(A) Modest** — *Correct*. Modest means unassuming, not drawing attention to oneself—the direct opposite of ostentatious behaviour.
- **(B) Showy** — A synonym of ostentatious; means attracting attention through elaborate display.
- **(C) Flashy** — Another synonym; describes bright, attention-seeking appearance.
- **(D) Gaudy** — Yet another synonym; means tastelessly showy or over-decorated.

Options (B), (C), and (D) are all synonyms of ostentatious and are therefore incorrect as antonyms.

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

Q5. [Synonyms — PETULANT]**Solution**

Quick Solution: PETULANT means *childishly sulky or bad-tempered*; the correct synonym is **Irritable** (Option B).

Concept: *Petulant* comes from Latin *petulans* (“forward, wanton, insolent”). It describes a person who reacts sulkily or bad-temperedly to minor frustrations, typically in a childish or unreasonable manner.

- **(A) Patient** — The antonym of petulant; a patient person remains composed under frustration.
- **(B) Irritable** — *Correct*. Irritable captures the quick-tempered, easily-annoyed nature of a petulant person—readily provoked to bad temper by trivial things.
- **(C) Calm** — Another antonym of petulant; describes emotional composure.



- **(D) Cheerful** — Describes a positive, upbeat disposition—the opposite of petulant sulkiness.

Options (A), (C), and (D) all describe pleasant or composed temperaments, which are contrary to the meaning of petulant.

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

Q6. [Antonyms — SYCOPHANTIC]

Solution

Quick Solution: SYCOPHANTIC means *excessively flattering to gain favour*; its antonym is **Forthright** (Option C).

Concept: A *sycophant* is one who uses excessive flattery and false praise to gain personal advantage from those in power. *Forthright* means direct, candid, and frank in speech—the complete opposite of ingratiating, insincere flattery.

- **(A) Flattering** — A synonym of sycophantic; involves offering excessive praise.
- **(B) Obsequious** — Also a synonym; means fawningly compliant and servile to a degree that is excessive.
- **(C) Forthright** — *Correct.* Being forthright means expressing oneself directly and honestly without flattery or hidden motives—the opposite of sycophantic behaviour.
- **(D) Subservient** — Another synonym; describes placing oneself beneath others in a submissive, eager-to-please manner.

Options (A), (B), and (D) are synonyms or near-synonyms of sycophantic, not antonyms.

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

Q7. [Vocabulary — PEDANTIC]

Solution

Quick Solution: PEDANTIC means being excessively concerned with minor rules, formalism, or book-learning. The correct answer is **(D)**.

Concept: *Pedantic* is derived from the word *pedagogue* (a strict, rule-bound



teacher). It describes a person who shows off knowledge by over-emphasising technical details, rules, or academic precision, often to a tiresome or unhelpful degree in practical situations.

- **(A) Creative and imaginative** — Describes an open, inventive mind—the opposite of the rigid, rule-bound pedantic approach.
- **(B) Flexible in approach** — Pedantic people are notably inflexible, insisting on strict adherence to rules and conventions.
- **(C) Insightful and perceptive** — Suggests deep understanding and wisdom; pedantry focuses on surface-level rules rather than genuine insight.
- **(D) Overly concerned with minor rules of learning** — *Correct.* This precisely captures the essence of pedantic behaviour.

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

Q8. [Vocabulary — MELANCHOLY]

Solution

Quick Solution: MELANCHOLY means a feeling of pensive sadness or deep gloom. The correct answer is (A).

Concept: *Melancholy* derives from Greek *melan* (“black”) + *khole* (“bile”), referring to the ancient humoral theory that believed an excess of black bile caused sadness. Today it describes a deep, thoughtful sadness—often tinged with a certain wistful beauty—or a pervading gloomy state of mind.

- **(A) Deep sadness or gloom** — *Correct.* This is the precise definition of melancholy.
- **(B) Great excitement** — Melancholy is the antithesis of excitement; it is a subdued, sorrowful state.
- **(C) Intense anger** — Describes a different negative emotion altogether; melancholy is sadness, not rage.
- **(D) Profound joy** — The direct opposite of melancholy.

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

Q9. [Vocabulary — QUERULOUS]



Solution

Quick Solution: QUERULOUS means habitually complaining, especially in a petulant manner. The correct answer is (B).

Concept: *Querulous* comes from Latin *querulus* (“full of complaints, whining”). It describes a person who has a persistent habit of whining and finding fault even over trivial matters, often in a plaintive or irritable tone.

- **(A) Contented** — Means satisfied and at peace; the direct antonym of querulous.
- **(B) Complaining in a petulant manner** — *Correct.* This is the definition of querulous—habitual, petty complaining.
- **(C) Grateful and appreciative** — Describes a positive attitude of thankfulness; the opposite of querulous fault-finding.
- **(D) Enthusiastic and eager** — Conveys positive energy and motivation, not complaint.

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

Q10. [Vocabulary — RECALCITRANT]**Solution**

Quick Solution: RECALCITRANT means stubbornly resistant to authority or control. The correct answer is (C).

Concept: *Recalcitrant* derives from Latin *recalcitrare* (“to kick back with the heels”), originally describing a horse that refused to be ridden. Today it refers to any person—or thing—that stubbornly defies instructions, authority, or expected behaviour.

- **(A) Readily obedient** — The direct antonym of recalcitrant; describes prompt, willing compliance.
- **(B) Willingly compliant** — Another antonym; describes someone who cooperates without resistance.
- **(C) Stubbornly resistant to authority** — *Correct.* This is the exact meaning of recalcitrant.
- **(D) Cooperatively helpful** — Also the opposite of recalcitrant; describes willing, productive assistance.



Options (A), (B), and (D) are all antonyms of recalcitrant.

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

Q11. [Vocabulary — SUPERCILIOUS]

Solution

Quick Solution: SUPERCILIOUS means behaving as though one is vastly superior to others. The correct answer is (D).

Concept: *Supercilious* comes from Latin *supercilium* (“eyebrow”), evoking the image of the raised eyebrow of disdain or contempt. It describes an attitude of haughty, condescending superiority—looking down on others as if they are beneath consideration.

- **(A) Humble and approachable** — The antonym of supercilious; a humble person does not consider themselves superior.
- **(B) Friendly and open** — Describes warmth and welcome; the opposite of supercilious condescension.
- **(C) Nervous and anxious** — Describes anxiety or worry; unrelated to the arrogance implied by supercilious.
- **(D) Behaving as though others are inferior** — *Correct.* This is the core meaning of supercilious.

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

Q12. [Sentence Completion — Two Blanks]

Solution

Quick Solution: The sentence maintains a wholly positive tone throughout. **universally ... innovative** fits both blanks perfectly. The correct answer is (A).

Concept: The sentence states the collection was “well-received” and “groundbreaking.” Both blanks must reinforce this strongly positive reception. The adverb in blank 1 must intensify “well-received,” and the adjective in blank 2 must be consistent with “groundbreaking.”

- **(A) universally ... innovative** — *Correct.* “Universally well-received” means everyone admired it; “innovative” is synonymous with “groundbreaking.”



Both blanks are positive and mutually consistent.

- **(B) largely ... outdated** — “Outdated” directly contradicts “groundbreaking”; cannot be correct.
- **(C) barely ... conventional** — “Barely well-received” undermines the positive tone; “conventional” is the antonym of “groundbreaking.”
- **(D) rarely ... modern** — “Rarely well-received” is negative and contradicts the sentence; “modern” is too weak to pair with “groundbreaking.”

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

Q13. [Sentence Completion — Grammar]

Solution

Quick Solution: The blank follows the auxiliary “was,” requiring a past participle in a passive construction. The answer is **nominated** (Option B).

Concept: The sentence uses the passive voice structure: “The intern *was* [past participle] for the award.” The base verb is *nominate*; its past participle is *nominated*. Additionally, context confirms a positive outcome—the intern “demonstrated exceptional creativity”—so the blank should carry a positive meaning.

- **(A) disqualified** — Grammatically possible (“was disqualified” is a valid passive), but contextually wrong: exceptional creativity leads to recognition, not disqualification.
- **(B) nominated** — *Correct*. “Was nominated” is grammatically accurate (passive past) and contextually appropriate (a reward for creativity).
- **(C) nomination** — A noun; cannot function as the verb complement after “was.”
- **(D) nominate** — The base form; grammatically incorrect after “was” in a passive construction.

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

Q14. [Sentence Completion — Preposition]



Solution

Quick Solution: The correct preposition after “collaborate” is **with**. The correct answer is (C).

Concept: The verb *collaborate* always collocates with the preposition *with* when indicating the person or party with whom one is working jointly. This is a fixed collocation in standard English: *collaborate with someone*.

- (A) **to** — Used to indicate direction or infinitive purpose. “Collaborated to the architect” is grammatically incorrect in this context.
- (B) **for** — Indicates purpose or benefit. “Collaborated for the architect” changes the meaning to working *on behalf of* rather than *together with*.
- (C) **with** — *Correct*. “Collaborated with the architect” is the standard fixed collocation expressing joint work.
- (D) **at** — Indicates a location or point in time; “collaborated at the architect” is grammatically and semantically incorrect.

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

Q15. [Sentence Completion — Two Blanks]**Solution**

Quick Solution: The conjunction “however” signals an unexpected contrast. If the prosecution took the unusual step of vowing to *appeal*, a *guilty* verdict creates the required tension. The correct answer is (D) **guilty . . . appeal**.

Concept: “However” introduces a contrasting clause—the second action must be surprising in relation to the first. If the defendant was found *guilty*, a prosecution would normally be satisfied; vowing to *appeal* (seeking a harsher charge or sentence) creates the unexpected contrast that “however” signals.

- (A) **innocent . . . celebrate** — A prosecution celebrating a not-guilty verdict is logically absurd.
- (B) **acquitted . . . enforce** — Vowing to “enforce” an acquittal makes no legal sense for a prosecution.
- (C) **guilty . . . accept** — If found guilty, a prosecution would simply accept; there is no contrast to justify “however.”
- (D) **guilty . . . appeal** — *Correct*. Despite a guilty verdict, the prosecution



vowed to appeal (perhaps seeking a stricter sentence), which is the unexpected contrast signalled by “however.”

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

Q16. [Sentence Completion — Two Blanks]

Solution

Quick Solution: “Despite” signals that something expected (arrogance from long experience) did not happen—she remained *eager* to learn. The correct answer is **(A) decades of ... eager**.

Concept: The word *despite* introduces a concessive clause—the first blank must contain something that would reasonably cause a person to stop learning (e.g., long experience), while the second blank must show the unexpected, admirable opposite attitude.

- **(A) decades of ... eager** — *Correct*. “Despite decades of experience” provides the expected reason for complacency; “remained eager” shows the admirable humility that defies that expectation.
- **(B) no ... reluctant** — “Despite no experience ... reluctant to learn” reverses logic and creates no meaningful contrast.
- **(C) few ... unwilling** — “Despite few years ... unwilling to learn” does not create a genuine or positive contrast; few years of experience would not typically breed arrogance.
- **(D) little ... hesitant** — Same problem as (C); “little experience” does not provide a meaningful “Despite” contrast.

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

Q17. [Grammar Error Detection — Subject-Verb Agreement]

Solution

Quick Solution: “Each of the students” is singular and requires the singular verb “was required,” not “were required.” The error is in part **(B)**.

Concept: When the subject begins with the indefinite pronoun *each*, the verb must always be *singular*, regardless of the noun that follows. “Each” refers to members



one at a time, making the subject grammatically singular.

- **(A) Each of the students** — Correct as a noun phrase. The pronoun “each” determines singular agreement.
- **(B) were required** — *Error here.* Should be “**was required**” to agree with the singular subject “each.”
- **(C) before the deadline** — A grammatically correct adverbial prepositional phrase indicating time.
- **(D) No error** — Incorrect; there is a clear subject-verb agreement error.

Corrected sentence: “Each of the students **was** required to submit their assignment before the deadline.”

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

Q18. [Grammar Error Detection — Parenthetical Phrase]

Solution

Quick Solution: Phrases introduced by “along with” do not change the number of the main subject. “The principal” is singular, so the verb should be “is planning,” not “are planning.” The error is in part (C).

Concept: Parenthetical phrases introduced by *along with*, *together with*, *as well as*, *in addition to*, and *accompanied by* are set off by commas and do *not* affect the grammatical number of the main subject. Here, the main subject “The principal” is singular, so the verb must be singular.

- **(A) The principal** — Correct; the singular main subject of the sentence.
- **(B) along with the teachers** — A grammatically correct parenthetical phrase; does not alter subject-verb agreement.
- **(C) are planning** — *Error here.* Should be “**is planning**” to agree with the singular subject “The principal.”
- **(D) No error** — Incorrect; there is a subject-verb agreement error in part (C).

Corrected sentence: “The principal, along with the teachers, **is** planning to introduce a new curriculum next semester.”

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



Q19. [Grammar — Correct Sentence]

Solution

Quick Solution: Option (D) “The jury has reached a unanimous verdict” is the only grammatically correct sentence.

Concept: This question tests subject-verb agreement with correlative conjunctions, collective nouns, and indefinite pronouns.

- (A) Neither John nor his brothers **was present** — With “neither . . . nor,” the verb agrees with the *nearest* subject. The nearest subject is “brothers” (plural), so the verb should be “**were present**,” not “was present.”
- (B) The data **is showing** a steady increase — “Data” is the plural of “datum” in formal English; the verb should be “**are showing**.” Additionally, “is showing” in progressive is stylistically awkward for a factual trend; “show” or “are showing” is preferred.
- (C) Everyone of the contestants **have submitted** — “Everyone” is a singular indefinite pronoun and always takes a singular verb; should be “**has submitted**.”
- (D) The jury **has reached a unanimous verdict** — *Correct*. “Jury” is a collective noun; in standard British and Indian English usage it takes a singular verb. “Has reached” is grammatically correct.

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

Q20. [Grammar Error Detection — Preposition Collocation]

Solution

Quick Solution: The verb “insist” collocates with the preposition **on**, not **in**. The error is in part (A) “**insisted in**”.

Concept: *Insist on (doing something)* is the fixed and correct collocation in English. The use of *insist in* is a common error, often occurring because learners transfer preposition rules from their native language. The gerund following “insist on” is also the correct form.

- (A) **insisted in** — *Error here*. The correct form is “**insisted on**.”
- (B) **going to the concert** — Grammatically correct; a gerund phrase used appropriately after the preposition “on.”



- (C) **despite the heavy rain** — A grammatically correct concessive prepositional phrase.
- (D) **No error** — Incorrect; the error is clearly in part (A).

Corrected sentence: “He insisted **on** going to the concert despite the heavy rain outside.”

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

Q21. [Idioms — “pull the wool over someone’s eyes”]

Solution

Quick Solution: To **pull the wool over someone’s eyes** means to **deceive or trick** that person. The correct answer is (B).

Concept: This idiom is believed to originate from the era of powdered wigs, which were sometimes made from wool-like fibres. Pulling such a wig down over someone’s eyes would temporarily blind them, making deception easy. Today the phrase means to mislead or hoodwink someone by withholding truth or feeding false information.

- (A) **To help someone see the truth clearly** — The opposite of the idiom’s meaning; the phrase is about *preventing* someone from seeing the truth.
- (B) **To deceive or trick someone** — *Correct.* This is the precise meaning.
- (C) **To protect someone from danger** — Unrelated; protection is not implied by this idiom.
- (D) **To gain someone’s sympathy** — Also unrelated; this idiom concerns deception, not sympathy.

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

Q22. [Idioms — “back to square one”]

Solution

Quick Solution: “**Back to square one**” means returning to the very beginning and starting a process over again, typically after a failure or setback. The correct answer is (C).



Concept: The phrase most likely originates from board games where landing on certain squares requires players to return to the start, or from early BBC radio football commentaries that divided the pitch into numbered squares. It is used when all progress is lost and one must begin completely afresh.

- (A) **To return to a familiar place** — Too literal and physical; the idiom concerns restarting a process or project, not a journey.
- (B) **To complete a task successfully** — The opposite meaning; “back to square one” implies failure, not success.
- (C) **To start again from the beginning after a setback** — *Correct.*
- (D) **To revisit an earlier decision** — Incomplete; the idiom implies losing *all* progress, not merely reconsidering one decision.

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

Q23. [Idioms — “the writing on the wall”]

Solution

Quick Solution: “The writing on the wall” refers to unmistakable signs that something bad or unpleasant is about to happen. The correct answer is (D).

Concept: This idiom originates from the Biblical story in the Book of Daniel (Chapter 5), where a mysterious hand wrote words on the wall of King Belshazzar’s palace, prophesying the fall of his kingdom. The phrase now refers to clear, unmistakable warning signs of impending failure or disaster.

- (A) **A creative message on a public wall** — Too literal; the idiom is entirely figurative and has nothing to do with literal wall messages.
- (B) **An announcement made in writing** — Also too literal; misses the prophetic warning aspect entirely.
- (C) **A difficult message to interpret** — The opposite; the writing on the wall is typically so *clear* that it cannot be ignored—its meaning is obvious.
- (D) **Clear signs that something unpleasant is about to happen** — *Correct.*

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

Q24. [Idioms — “throw in the towel”]



Solution

Quick Solution: “Throw in the towel” means to **admit defeat and give up**. The correct answer is (A).

Concept: This idiom originates from boxing, where a trainer would literally throw a towel or sponge into the ring to signal that their fighter was surrendering the bout to prevent further injury. It now applies broadly to conceding defeat in any contest, argument, or endeavour.

- (A) **To admit defeat and give up** — *Correct.*
- (B) **To start a fight or argument** — The opposite; throwing in the towel *ends* a contest, it does not start one.
- (C) **To make one last desperate effort** — Incorrect; throwing in the towel means *ceasing* effort entirely, not making a final push.
- (D) **To clean up after others** — A literal interpretation with no connection to the idiomatic meaning.

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

Q25. [One Word Substitution — Government by the Wealthy]**Solution**

Quick Solution: A system of government in which power is held by the very wealthy is called a **Plutocracy**. The correct answer is (B).

Concept: *Plutocracy* comes from Greek *ploutos* (“wealth”) + *kratos* (“power, rule”). It specifically describes a society or government in which the wealthy class exercises primary political control, either directly or through their influence over policy.

- (A) **Autocracy** — Rule by a single person with absolute, unchecked power; does not specifically imply wealth.
- (B) **Plutocracy** — *Correct.* Rule specifically by the wealthy.
- (C) **Theocracy** — Government based on religious authority; rule by clergy or in the name of a deity.
- (D) **Oligarchy** — Rule by a small group of people; while this group may include the wealthy, oligarchy is broader and encompasses rule by any small elite (military, aristocratic, etc.), not wealth specifically.



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

Q26. [One Word Substitution — Obsessive Love of Books]

Solution

Quick Solution: A person with an obsessive love of books is called a **Bibliophile**. The correct answer is (C).

Concept: *Bibliophile* comes from Greek *biblion* (“book”) + *philos* (“loving, dear”). A bibliophile is someone who loves, collects, and treasures books with deep passion—often taking pride in rare or fine editions.

- **(A) Bibliophobe** — The direct opposite; *phobos* means fear or aversion, so a bibliophobe has an aversion to books.
- **(B) Archivist** — A professional who manages, preserves, and organises archival records and documents; not specifically a book-lover.
- **(C) Bibliophile** — *Correct.* A lover and collector of books.
- **(D) Librarian** — A trained professional who manages a library and assists users; while librarians often love books, the word describes a profession, not an obsessive personal love.

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

Q27. [One Word Substitution — Extreme Fear of the Dark]

Solution

Quick Solution: An extreme and irrational fear of the dark is called **Nyctophobia**. The correct answer is (D).

Concept: *Nyctophobia* comes from Greek *nyktos* (“of night, of darkness”) + *phobos* (“fear”). It is a recognised clinical phobia characterised by an intense, persistent, and irrational fear of darkness or night-time environments, beyond ordinary caution.

- **(A) Photophobia** — Fear of (or extreme sensitivity to) light; *photo* = light. The opposite condition.
- **(B) Pyrophobia** — Fear of fire; *pyro* = fire.
- **(C) Chronomentrophobia** — An extreme fear of clocks or the passage of



time.

- (D) **Nyctophobia** — *Correct*. Fear of the dark.

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

Q28. [Active and Passive Voice — Active to Passive]

Solution

Quick Solution: The correct passive form retains the agent, verb, and adverbial phrase. The answer is (A) **“The new collection was unveiled by the fashion designer at the grand event.”**.

Concept: To convert Simple Past Active to Simple Past Passive:

Active Subject + *verb (past)* + Object → Object + *was/were* + past participle + *by* + Agent

“Unveiled” is Simple Past; “the new collection” (singular) becomes the passive subject using “was unveiled.” Adverbials remain in place.

- (A) **The new collection was unveiled by the fashion designer at the grand event.** — *Correct*. Proper Simple Past Passive with the agent and the adverbial phrase both retained.
- (B) **The new collection has been unveiled by the fashion designer.** — Present Perfect Passive; wrong tense, and the adverbial “at the grand event” is omitted.
- (C) **The new collection is unveiled by the fashion designer at the grand event.** — Simple Present Passive; wrong tense.
- (D) **The new collection was being unveiled at the grand event.** — Past Continuous Passive; wrong aspect, and the agent “by the fashion designer” is omitted.

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

Q29. [Active and Passive Voice — Passive to Active]



Solution

Quick Solution: The correct active form is (B) “The quality control team tested the samples before shipment.”.

Concept: To convert Simple Past Passive to Simple Past Active:

Agent + verb (*past*) + Original Subject + Adverbials

The agent “the quality control team” becomes the active subject; “were tested” converts back to the Simple Past “tested.” The adverbial “before shipment” is retained.

- (A) The quality control team has tested the samples before shipment. — Present Perfect Active; wrong tense.
- (B) The quality control team tested the samples before shipment. — *Correct.* Simple Past Active with the correct agent, verb form, object, and adverbial.
- (C) The samples are tested by the quality control team before shipment. — Simple Present Passive; still passive and wrong tense.
- (D) The samples were being tested before shipment by the quality control team. — Past Continuous Passive; still passive and wrong aspect.

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

Q30. [Prepositions — “inspired ___ the vibrant colours”]

Solution

Quick Solution: The correct preposition after “inspired” (in the passive construction) is **by**. The correct answer is (C).

Concept: The verb *inspire* in its passive form (“was inspired”) is always followed by the preposition *by* to indicate the source of inspiration. This is a fixed collocation in standard English: *inspired by something/someone*. Do not confuse it with *drew inspiration from*—that construction uses “from,” but the verb “inspired” uses “by.”

- (A) **from** — Incorrect with “inspired” as a passive verb. We say “drew inspiration *from*,” but “was inspired *by*.”
- (B) **with** — “Inspired with” can appear in a different construction (e.g., “inspired the team with confidence”), but when identifying the source that motivated a creative act, “by” is required.



- (C) **by** — *Correct.* “Inspired by the vibrant colours” correctly identifies the vibrant colours as the source of inspiration.
- (D) **about** — “Inspired about” is not a valid collocation in English.

Answer: (C)

[Go Back to Q 30](#)



Answer Key

FDDI AIST Verbal Ability — Sample Paper 9

Answer Key (click an answer to jump to its solution)									
Q.No	Ans	Q.No	Ans	Q.No	Ans	Q.No	Ans	Q.No	Ans
1	B	2	C	3	D	4	A	5	B
6	C	7	D	8	A	9	B	10	C
11	D	12	A	13	B	14	C	15	D
16	A	17	B	18	C	19	D	20	A
21	B	22	C	23	D	24	A	25	B
26	C	27	D	28	A	29	B	30	C

Option	No. of Correct Answers
A	7
B	8
C	8
D	7
Total	30

