

CAT 2010 VARC Slot 2 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours

Maximum Marks :300

Total questions :100

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. **Duration of Section:** 40 Minutes
2. **Total Number of Questions:** 22 Questions (as per latest pattern, may vary slightly)
3. **Section Covered:** Quantitative Aptitude (QA)
4. **Type of Questions:**
 - Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)
 - Type In The Answer (TITA) Questions – No options given, answer to be typed in
5. **Marking Scheme:**
 - +3 marks for each correct answer
 - -1 mark for each incorrect MCQ
 - No negative marking for TITA questions
6. **Syllabus Coverage:** Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Number System, Modern Math, and Mensuration
7. **Skills Tested:** Numerical ability, analytical thinking, and problem-solving

1.

Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to "EPHEMERAL":

- (1) Transient
- (2) Permanent
- (3) Fleeting
- (4) Momentary

Correct Answer: (2) Permanent

Solution:

- **Step 1: Define the word.** "Ephemeral" means lasting for a very short time, short-lived, or temporary.

- **Step 2: Analyze options.**

- (1) Transient: Means passing quickly, similar to ephemeral.
- (2) Permanent: Means lasting forever, opposite of ephemeral.
- (3) Fleeting: Means brief or passing quickly, similar to ephemeral.
- (4) Momentary: Means lasting for a moment, similar to ephemeral.

- **Step 3: Select the opposite.** Permanent is the clear opposite of ephemeral.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

For antonym questions, clearly define the given word and compare each option to identify the one with the opposite meaning.

2.

Fill in the blank: The scientist's discovery was so that it reshaped the entire field of physics.

- (1) Trivial
- (2) Groundbreaking
- (3) Obscure
- (4) Predictable

Correct Answer: (2) Groundbreaking

Solution:

- **Step 1: Understand the context.** The sentence suggests the discovery had a major, transformative impact on physics.

- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**

(1) Trivial: Means insignificant, does not fit.

(2) Groundbreaking: Means innovative and transformative, fits perfectly.

(3) Obscure: Means unclear or unknown, does not fit.

(4) Predictable: Means expected, does not convey impact.

- **Step 3: Choose the best fit.** Groundbreaking aligns with reshaping an entire field.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

For sentence completion, ensure the word fits both the meaning and tone of the sentence.

3.

Which of the following sentences is grammatically correct?

(1) Each of the students have completed their homework.

(2) Each of the students has completed his or her homework.

(3) Each of the students have completed his or her homework.

(4) Each of the students has completed their homework.

Correct Answer: (2) Each of the students has completed his or her homework.

Solution:

- **Step 1: Identify the subject.** The subject is "Each of the students," which is singular.

- **Step 2: Check verb agreement.** Singular subject requires singular verb "has," not "have."

Eliminate (1) and (3).

- **Step 3: Check pronoun agreement.** "Each" is singular, so the pronoun should be "his or her" (singular), not "their" (plural).

Eliminate (4).

- **Step 4: Confirm.** Option (2) uses "has" and "his or her," which is grammatically correct.
- **Step 5: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

For subject-verb agreement, focus on the main subject ("each" is singular) and ensure pronouns match in number.

4.

Choose the word that best completes the analogy: Big : Small :: Loud : ?

- (1) Quiet
- (2) Noisy
- (3) Bright
- (4) Dark

Correct Answer: (1) Quiet

Solution:

- **Step 1: Understand the analogy.** Big is the opposite of small. The relationship is antonymous.
- **Step 2: Apply the relationship.** Loud's antonym is needed.
 - (1) Quiet: Opposite of loud, fits.
 - (2) Noisy: Synonym of loud, does not fit.
 - (3) Bright: Unrelated to sound, does not fit.
 - (4) Dark: Unrelated to sound, does not fit.
- **Step 3: Confirm.** Loud : Quiet mirrors Big : Small as antonyms.
- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (1) is correct.

Quick Tip

For analogies, identify the relationship between the first pair and apply it consistently to the second pair.

5.

The politician's decision to ignore the economic data was regarded as utterly by the analysts.

- (1) Astute
- (2) Prudent
- (3) Absurd
- (4) Insightful

Correct Answer: (3) Absurd

Solution:

- **Step 1: Analyze context.** Ignoring economic data suggests a negative judgment by analysts.

- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**

- (1) Astute: Means shrewd, positive, does not fit.
- (2) Prudent: Means cautious, positive, does not fit.
- (3) Absurd: Means ridiculous, negative, fits context.
- (4) Insightful: Means perceptive, positive, does not fit.

- **Step 3: Select the best word.** Absurd conveys the analysts' critical view.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (3) is correct.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to the tone (positive or negative) implied by the sentence context when choosing words.

6.

Choose the synonym for "MITIGATE":

- (1) Aggravate
- (2) Intensify
- (3) Alleviate
- (4) Exacerbate

Correct Answer: (3) Alleviate

Solution:

- **Step 1: Define the word.** "Mitigate" means to make less severe or reduce.

- **Step 2: Analyze options.**

(1) Aggravate: Means to worsen, opposite.

(2) Intensify: Means to increase, opposite.

(3) Alleviate: Means to relieve or reduce, similar.

(4) Exacerbate: Means to worsen, opposite.

- **Step 3: Select the synonym.** Alleviate is closest in meaning to mitigate.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (3) is correct.

Quick Tip

For synonyms, eliminate options that are antonyms or unrelated to narrow down the correct choice.

7.

Which sentence uses the word "affect" correctly?

(1) The new policy will effect the company's profits.

(2) The weather can affect your mood significantly.

(3) The affect of the decision was immediate.

(4) Her effect on the team was positive.

Correct Answer: (2) The weather can affect your mood significantly.

Solution:

- **Step 1: Understand "affect" vs. "effect".** "Affect" is a verb meaning to influence.

"Effect" is usually a noun meaning result, or a verb meaning to bring about.

- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**

(1) Uses "effect" as a verb, should be "affect" to mean influence. Incorrect.

(2) Uses "affect" as a verb to mean influence, correct.

(3) Uses "affect" as a noun, should be "effect" for result. Incorrect.

(4) Uses "effect" as a noun, correct, but question asks for "affect." Incorrect.

- **Step 3: Confirm.** Option (2) correctly uses "affect" as a verb.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

Remember: "Affect" is a verb (to influence); "effect" is a noun (result) or rarely a verb (to cause).

8.

Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to "BOLSTER":

- (1) Support
- (2) Undermine
- (3) Strengthen
- (4) Reinforce

Correct Answer: (2) Undermine

Solution:

- **Step 1: Define the word.** "Bolster" means to support or strengthen.

- **Step 2: Analyze options.**

- (1) Support: Synonym of bolster.
- (2) Undermine: Means to weaken, opposite of bolster.
- (3) Strengthen: Synonym of bolster.
- (4) Reinforce: Synonym of bolster.

- **Step 3: Select the opposite.** Undermine is the clear opposite.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

For antonyms, consider the core meaning of the word and look for options that reverse it.

9.

Fill in the blank: Despite his demeanor, he was deeply concerned about the outcome.

- (1) Anxious
- (2) Composed
- (3) Distressed
- (4) Agitated

Correct Answer: (2) Composed

Solution:

- **Step 1: Analyze context.** "Despite" suggests contrast between outward appearance and inner feeling. He was concerned (negative), so his demeanor should appear positive.

- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**

- (1) Anxious: Means nervous, aligns with concern, no contrast.
- (2) Composed: Means calm, contrasts with concern.
- (3) Distressed: Means upset, aligns with concern, no contrast.
- (4) Agitated: Means restless, aligns with concern, no contrast.

- **Step 3: Select the best fit.** Composed provides the necessary contrast.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

In sentences with contrast (e.g., "despite"), choose a word that opposes the described emotion or state.

10.

Which of the following sentences is grammatically incorrect?

- (1) Neither of the candidates was suitable for the role.
- (2) Either of the options are acceptable.
- (3) Both of the teams have submitted their proposals.
- (4) None of the books were available in the library.

Correct Answer: (2) Either of the options are acceptable.

Solution:

- **Step 1: Check subject-verb agreement.**

- (1) "Neither" is singular, "was" is singular, correct.
- (2) "Either" is singular, "are" is plural, incorrect; should be "is."
- (3) "Both" is plural, "have" is plural, correct.
- (4) "None" can be singular, "were" agrees in context, correct.

- **Step 2: Identify the error.** Option (2) has a singular subject with a plural verb.

- **Step 3: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct (as the incorrect sentence).

Quick Tip

Words like "either" and "neither" are singular and require singular verbs.

11.

Choose the synonym for "PRAGMATIC":

- (1) Idealistic
- (2) Practical
- (3) Visionary
- (4) Theoretical

Correct Answer: (2) Practical

Solution:

- **Step 1: Define the word.** "Pragmatic" means dealing with things sensibly and realistically.

- **Step 2: Analyze options.**

- (1) Idealistic: Means pursuing perfection, opposite.
- (2) Practical: Means realistic and sensible, similar.
- (3) Visionary: Means imaginative, not realistic.
- (4) Theoretical: Means based on theory, not practice.

- **Step 3: Select the synonym.** Practical is closest to pragmatic.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

For synonyms, focus on the word's core meaning and eliminate options with different connotations.

12.

Choose the word that best completes the analogy: Pen : Write :: Hammer : ?

- (1) Build
- (2) Hit
- (3) Cut
- (4) Measure

Correct Answer: (2) Hit

Solution:

- **Step 1: Identify the relationship.** A pen is a tool used to write (its primary action).
 - **Step 2: Apply the relationship.** A hammer is a tool used primarily to hit or strike.
- (1) Build: Too broad, not specific to hammer's action.
 - (2) Hit: Matches hammer's primary action.
 - (3) Cut: Incorrect action for hammer.
 - (4) Measure: Incorrect action for hammer.
- **Step 3: Confirm.** Pen : Write :: Hammer : Hit, as both describe the tool's main function.
 - **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

In tool-action analogies, focus on the primary function of the tool.

13.

The CEO's speech was so that it left the audience uninspired.

- (1) Eloquent
- (2) Monotonous
- (3) Persuasive

(4) Articulate

Correct Answer: (2) Monotonous

Solution:

- **Step 1: Analyze context.** "Uninspired" suggests the speech was dull or unengaging.

- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**

(1) Eloquent: Means expressive, positive, does not fit.

(2) Monotonous: Means dull and repetitive, fits context.

(3) Persuasive: Means convincing, positive, does not fit.

(4) Articulate: Means clear, positive, does not fit.

- **Step 3: Select the best word.** Monotonous aligns with leaving the audience uninspired.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

Choose words that match the emotional impact described in the sentence.

14.

Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to "OBSCURE":

(1) Hidden

(2) Clear

(3) Vague

(4) Ambiguous

Correct Answer: (2) Clear

Solution:

- **Step 1: Define the word.** "Obscure" means unclear or hidden.

- **Step 2: Analyze options.**

(1) Hidden: Synonym of obscure.

(2) Clear: Means easy to understand, opposite of obscure.

(3) Vague: Synonym of obscure.

(4) Ambiguous: Synonym of obscure.

- **Step 3: Select the opposite.** Clear is the opposite of obscure.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

For antonyms, eliminate synonyms first to focus on the correct opposite.

15.

Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

(1) The meeting, which was held yesterday, was a success.

(2) The meeting which was held yesterday was a success.

(3) The meeting, which was held yesterday was a success.

(4) The meeting which was held, yesterday, was a success.

Correct Answer: (1) The meeting, which was held yesterday, was a success.

Solution:

- **Step 1: Understand non-restrictive clauses.** The clause "which was held yesterday" is non-restrictive (extra information), requiring commas.

- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**

(1) Commas before and after the clause, correct.

(2) No commas, incorrect for non-restrictive clause.

(3) Missing comma after "yesterday," incorrect.

(4) Comma after "held" is misplaced, incorrect.

- **Step 3: Confirm.** Option (1) follows correct punctuation rules.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (1) is correct.

Quick Tip

Non-restrictive clauses (using "which") need commas before and after.

16.

Choose the synonym for "TENACIOUS":

- (1) Fragile
- (2) Persistent
- (3) Yielding
- (4) Flexible

Correct Answer: (2) Persistent

Solution:

- **Step 1: Define the word.** "Tenacious" means holding firm or persistent.
- **Step 2: Analyze options.**
 - (1) Fragile: Means easily broken, opposite.
 - (2) Persistent: Means continuing firmly, similar.
 - (3) Yielding: Means giving way, opposite.
 - (4) Flexible: Means adaptable, not exact.
- **Step 3: Select the synonym.** Persistent is closest to tenacious.
- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

For synonyms, choose the word with the closest meaning in context.

17.

Fill in the blank: Her approach to problem-solving earned her respect among colleagues.

- (1) Hasty
- (2) Methodical
- (3) Careless
- (4) Impulsive

Correct Answer: (2) Methodical

Solution:

- **Step 1: Analyze context.** Earning respect suggests a positive, systematic approach.
- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**
 - (1) Hasty: Means rushed, negative, does not fit.
 - (2) Methodical: Means systematic, positive, fits.
 - (3) Careless: Means negligent, negative, does not fit.
 - (4) Impulsive: Means acting without thought, negative, does not fit.
- **Step 3: Select the best word.** Methodical aligns with earning respect.
- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

Choose words that align with the positive or negative outcome described in the sentence.

18.

Choose the word that best completes the analogy: Doctor : Hospital :: Chef : ?

- (1) Kitchen
- (2) Restaurant
- (3) Market
- (4) Garden

Correct Answer: (1) Kitchen

Solution:

- **Step 1: Identify the relationship.** A doctor primarily works in a hospital (workplace).
- **Step 2: Apply the relationship.** A chef primarily works in a kitchen.
 - (1) Kitchen: Chef's primary workplace, fits.
 - (2) Restaurant: Broader location, less specific.
 - (3) Market: Not a workplace, incorrect.
 - (4) Garden: Not a workplace, incorrect.
- **Step 3: Confirm.** Doctor : Hospital :: Chef : Kitchen, both are specific workplaces.
- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (1) is correct.

Quick Tip

In profession-place analogies, focus on the specific workplace associated with the profession.

19.

Which sentence is grammatically correct?

- (1) The data shows that sales have increased.
- (2) The data show that sales has increased.
- (3) The data shows that sales has increased.
- (4) The data show that sales have increased.

Correct Answer: (4) The data show that sales have increased.

Solution:

- **Step 1: Check subject-verb agreement.** "Data" is plural, requires plural verb "show."

Eliminate (1) and (3).

- **Step 2: Check verb in clause.** "Sales" is plural, requires plural verb "have," not "has."

Eliminate (2).

- **Step 3: Confirm.** Option (4) uses "show" and "have," correct for plural subjects.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (4) is correct.

Quick Tip

"Data" is plural and takes plural verbs like "show" or "are."

20.

Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to "VERBOSE":

- (1) Wordy
- (2) Concise
- (3) Loquacious
- (4) Talkative

Correct Answer: (2) Concise

Solution:

- **Step 1: Define the word.** "Verbose" means using more words than necessary.

- **Step 2: Analyze options.**

(1) Wordy: Synonym of verbose.

(2) Concise: Means brief and to the point, opposite.

(3) Loquacious: Means talkative, similar.

(4) Talkative: Similar to verbose.

- **Step 3: Select the opposite.** Concise is the opposite of verbose.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

For antonyms, focus on the word's primary attribute (e.g., wordiness) and find its opposite.

21.

Fill in the blank: The novel's plot kept readers engaged until the final page.

(1) Predictable

(2) Intriguing

(3) Simplistic

(4) Dull

Correct Answer: (2) Intriguing

Solution:

- **Step 1: Analyze context.** "Kept readers engaged" suggests a captivating, interesting plot.

- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**

(1) Predictable: Means easily foreseen, not engaging.

(2) Intriguing: Means fascinating, fits context.

(3) Simplistic: Means overly simple, not engaging.

(4) Dull: Means boring, opposite of engaging.

- **Step 3: Select the best word.** Intriguing aligns with keeping readers engaged.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

Choose words that enhance the described effect (e.g., engagement) in the sentence.

22.

Choose the synonym for "DISPARAGE":

- (1) Praise
- (2) Criticize
- (3) Encourage
- (4) Support

Correct Answer: (2) Criticize

Solution:

- **Step 1: Define the word.** "Disparage" means to belittle or criticize.

- **Step 2: Analyze options.**

- (1) Praise: Means to commend, opposite.
- (2) Criticize: Means to find fault, similar.
- (3) Encourage: Means to inspire, opposite.
- (4) Support: Means to uphold, opposite.

- **Step 3: Select the synonym.** Criticize is closest to disparage.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

For synonyms, eliminate opposites to narrow down the correct choice.

23.

Which sentence uses "its" and "it's" correctly?

- (1) The dog chased it's tail in the yard.
- (2) Its raining outside, so bring an umbrella.
- (3) The company lost its contract due to delays.
- (4) It's contract was renewed yesterday.

Correct Answer: (3) The company lost its contract due to delays.

Solution:

- **Step 1: Understand "its" vs. "it's".** "Its" is possessive (belonging to it). "It's" is a contraction of "it is" or "it has."

- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**

(1) "It's" should be "its" (possessive), incorrect.

(2) "Its" should be "it's" (it is raining), incorrect.

(3) "Its" is possessive, correct.

(4) "It's" should be "its" (possessive), incorrect.

- **Step 3: Confirm.** Option (3) uses "its" correctly.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (3) is correct.

Quick Tip

Test "it's" by expanding to "it is" or "it has"; if it doesn't fit, use "its."

24.

Choose the word that best completes the analogy: Bird : Fly :: Fish : ?

(1) Swim

(2) Walk

(3) Run

(4) Jump

Correct Answer: (1) Swim

Solution:

- **Step 1: Identify the relationship.** A bird's primary mode of movement is to fly.

- **Step 2: Apply the relationship.** A fish's primary mode of movement is to swim.

(1) Swim: Matches fish's movement.

(2) Walk: Incorrect for fish.

(3) Run: Incorrect for fish.

(4) Jump: Incorrect for fish.

- **Step 3: Confirm.** Bird : Fly :: Fish : Swim, both describe primary movement.
- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (1) is correct.

Quick Tip

In animal-movement analogies, focus on the characteristic mode of locomotion.

25.

The manager's leadership style fostered a collaborative environment.

- (1) Authoritarian
- (2) Inclusive
- (3) Rigid
- (4) Domineering

Correct Answer: (2) Inclusive

Solution:

- **Step 1: Analyze context.** "Collaborative environment" suggests a positive, team-oriented leadership style.
- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**
 - (1) Authoritarian: Means controlling, not collaborative.
 - (2) Inclusive: Means involving everyone, fits context.
 - (3) Rigid: Means inflexible, not collaborative.
 - (4) Domineering: Means overbearing, not collaborative.
- **Step 3: Select the best word.** Inclusive aligns with fostering collaboration.
- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

Choose words that reflect the outcome (e.g., collaboration) described in the sentence.

26.

Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to "CANDID":

- (1) Honest
- (2) Deceptive
- (3) Frank
- (4) Sincere

Correct Answer: (2) Deceptive

Solution:

- **Step 1: Define the word.** "Candid" means truthful and straightforward.
- **Step 2: Analyze options.**
 - (1) Honest: Synonym of candid.
 - (2) Deceptive: Means misleading, opposite.
 - (3) Frank: Synonym of candid.
 - (4) Sincere: Synonym of candid.
- **Step 3: Select the opposite.** Deceptive is the opposite of candid.
- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

For antonyms, eliminate synonyms to focus on the correct opposite.

27.

Which sentence is grammatically incorrect?

- (1) She and I are going to the concert.
- (2) Him and me went to the store.
- (3) They invited my brother and me to the party.
- (4) He and she were late for the meeting.

Correct Answer: (2) Him and me went to the store.

Solution:

- **Step 1: Check pronoun case.** Subjects use nominative case (I, he, she); objects use objective case (me, him, her).

- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**

- (1) "She and I" are subjects, nominative, correct.
- (2) "Him and me" are subjects, should be "he and I," incorrect.
- (3) "My brother and me" are objects, objective case, correct.
- (4) "He and she" are subjects, nominative, correct.

- **Step 3: Confirm.** Option (2) uses incorrect pronoun case for subjects.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct (as the incorrect sentence).

Quick Tip

Test pronouns by removing the other noun (e.g., "Him went" is wrong, so "He" is correct).

28.

Choose the synonym for "VIVID":

- (1) Dull
- (2) Bright
- (3) Faint
- (4) Pale

Correct Answer: (2) Bright

Solution:

- **Step 1: Define the word.** "Vivid" means strikingly clear or bright.

- **Step 2: Analyze options.**

- (1) Dull: Opposite of vivid.
- (2) Bright: Means vibrant, similar to vivid.
- (3) Faint: Opposite of vivid.
- (4) Pale: Opposite of vivid.

- **Step 3: Select the synonym.** Bright is closest to vivid.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

For synonyms, focus on the word's intensity or quality (e.g., vivid's brightness).

29.

Fill in the blank: The team's performance disappointed the coach.

- (1) Stellar
- (2) Mediocre
- (3) Exceptional
- (4) Outstanding

Correct Answer: (2) Mediocre

Solution:

- **Step 1: Analyze context.** "Disappointed" suggests a negative or underwhelming performance.

- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**

- (1) Stellar: Means excellent, positive, does not fit.
- (2) Mediocre: Means average or poor, fits context.
- (3) Exceptional: Means outstanding, positive, does not fit.
- (4) Outstanding: Means excellent, positive, does not fit.

- **Step 3: Select the best word.** Mediocre aligns with disappointment.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

Match the word to the emotional outcome (e.g., disappointment) in the sentence.

30.

Choose the word that best completes the analogy: Book : Read :: Painting : ?

- (1) Draw
- (2) View
- (3) Paint

(4) Frame

Correct Answer: (2) View

Solution:

- **Step 1: Identify the relationship.** A book is created to be read (its primary interaction).

- **Step 2: Apply the relationship.** A painting is created to be viewed.

(1) Draw: Incorrect, relates to creation, not interaction.

(2) View: Matches painting's primary interaction.

(3) Paint: Relates to creation, not interaction.

(4) Frame: Secondary action, not primary interaction.

- **Step 3: Confirm.** Book : Read :: Painting : View, both describe primary interaction.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

In object-interaction analogies, focus on how the object is primarily used or experienced.

31.

Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to "METICULOUS":

(1) Careful

(2) Careless

(3) Precise

(4) Thorough

Correct Answer: (2) Careless

Solution:

- **Step 1: Define the word.** "Meticulous" means showing great attention to detail.

- **Step 2: Analyze options.**

(1) Careful: Synonym of meticulous.

(2) Careless: Means lacking attention, opposite.

(3) Precise: Synonym of meticulous.

(4) Thorough: Synonym of meticulous.

- **Step 3: Select the opposite.** Careless is the opposite of meticulous.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

For antonyms, focus on the word's key trait (e.g., attention to detail) and find its reverse.

32.

Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

(1) I have two cats: a tabby and a siamese.

(2) I have two cats, a tabby and a siamese.

(3) I have two cats; a tabby and a siamese.

(4) I have two cats a tabby and a siamese.

Correct Answer: (1) I have two cats: a tabby and a siamese.

Solution:

- **Step 1: Understand colon usage.** A colon introduces a list or explanation following a complete sentence.

- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**

(1) Colon after complete sentence, introduces list, correct.

(2) Comma does not introduce a list, incorrect.

(3) Semicolon joins independent clauses, not lists, incorrect.

(4) No punctuation, unclear, incorrect.

- **Step 3: Confirm.** Option (1) uses a colon correctly for a list.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (1) is correct.

Quick Tip

Use a colon to introduce a list after a complete sentence.

33.

Choose the synonym for "ELUSIVE":

- (1) Obvious
- (2) Evident
- (3) Evasive
- (4) Clear

Correct Answer: (3) Evasive

Solution:

- **Step 1: Define the word.** "Elusive" means difficult to catch or grasp.
- **Step 2: Analyze options.**
 - (1) Obvious: Opposite of elusive.
 - (2) Evident: Opposite of elusive.
 - (3) Evasive: Means avoiding capture, similar.
 - (4) Clear: Opposite of elusive.
- **Step 3: Select the synonym.** Evasive is closest to elusive.
- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (3) is correct.

Quick Tip

For synonyms, eliminate opposites to focus on the correct choice.

34.

Fill in the blank: His remarks offended the entire audience.

- (1) Tactful
- (2) Insensitive
- (3) Considerate
- (4) Diplomatic

Correct Answer: (2) Insensitive

Solution:

- **Step 1: Analyze context.** "Offended" suggests remarks were negative or hurtful.

- **Step 2: Evaluate options.**

(1) Tactful: Means careful, positive, does not fit.

(2) Insensitive: Means lacking empathy, fits context.

(3) Considerate: Means thoughtful, positive, does not fit.

(4) Diplomatic: Means tactful, positive, does not fit.

- **Step 3: Select the best word.** Insensitive aligns with causing offense.

- **Step 4: Conclusion.** Option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip

Choose words that match the negative or positive impact described in the sentence.
