

CUET 2026 English May 11 Shift 1

Question Paper with Solutions

Conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA)



General Instructions

- (i) The examination was conducted in Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode.
- (ii) Each question carries +5 marks for correct answer and -1 mark for wrong answer.
- (iii) The total number of questions are 50.
- (iv) Duration of the exam is 1 hour (60 minutes).

1. Rearrange the following phrases to complete the beginning of the given sentence:

Scientists and Naturals believe,

A. that early humans were fruit and vegetable eaters

B. our anatomy has not changed

C. including the great Charles Darwin who gave the theory of evolution,

D. and throughout history

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:-

(A) A, C, B, D

(B) C, A, B, D

(C) C, A, D, B

(D) A, B, D, C

Correct Answer: (C) C, A, D, B

Solution:

Concept:

Sentence rearrangement and syntactic coherence require an understanding of how complex

English sentences are constructed. In standard English syntax, when an introductory reporting clause (such as “Scientists and Naturalists believe”) is followed by parenthetical details that qualify the subject, the qualifying clause must be positioned immediately adjacent to that subject. Once the subject is fully elaborated, the substantive content of the belief is introduced using nominal complement clauses beginning with the subordinating conjunction “that”. Furthermore, multiple subordinate clauses or adverbial modifiers denoting temporal continuity (such as “throughout history”) must connect smoothly with the subsequent independent or dependent clauses to maintain logical flow, parallel structure, and clarity of thought.

Step 1: Structural and Syntactical Breakdown:

- The given starter is: “Scientists and Naturals believe,”.
- Phrase **C** begins with the prepositional participle “including the great Charles Darwin who gave the theory of evolution,”, which serves as an essential appositive phrase providing a distinguished example of the subject group. Thus, **C** immediately follows the introductory clause.
- Phrase **A** (“that early humans were fruit and vegetable eaters”) contains the conjunction “that”, which introduces the first proposition of what is believed.
- Phrase **D** (“and throughout history”) provides a coordinating conjunction “and” along with a temporal prepositional phrase that sets up the historical continuity.
- Phrase **B** (“our anatomy has not changed”) acts as the second proposition linked by the conjunction in phrase **D**, stating the unchanging nature of human anatomy over time.

Step 2: Sequence Synthesis and Evaluation:

Combining the fragments in the order $C \rightarrow A \rightarrow D \rightarrow B$ yields the complete, coherent sentence: “Scientists and Naturals believe, including the great Charles Darwin who gave the theory of evolution, that early humans were fruit and vegetable eaters and throughout history our anatomy has not changed.”

This sequence adheres strictly to rules of modification, complementation, and parallel coordination.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct logical and grammatical order is C, A, D, B, which corresponds directly to Option (C).

Quick Tip: Identify appositive and modifying phrases first.

Phrases beginning with “including...” directly elaborate on the preceding subject noun before the sentence moves to the main object or “that”-clause.

2. Rearrange the following phrases to form a meaningful sentence:-

A. species continue to live through

B. by natural or anthropogenic extinction

C. while individual organisms die without fail,

D. millions of years unless threatened

Choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below:

(A) C, A, D, B

(B) C, B, D, A

(C) A, C, D, B

(D) A, B, C, D

Correct Answer: (A) C, A, D, B

Solution:

Concept:

Constructing coherent complex sentences involves organizing dependent subordinate clauses of concession or contrast with independent main clauses. A sentence establishing a biological contrast typically opens with a subordinate conjunction like “while” or “although” to denote a universal condition affecting individuals. This is followed by the primary subject-verb-object structure highlighting the collective persistence of the species. Finally, conditional adverbial phrases (such as those introduced by “unless”) qualified by passive agentive phrases (such as “by natural or anthropogenic extinction”) delineate the boundary conditions or exceptions to that persistence.

Step 1: Structural and Syntactical Breakdown:

- Phrase C (“while individual organisms die without fail,”) operates as a dependent adverbial

clause of concession, creating the contextual framework of individual mortality.

- Phrase **A** (“species continue to live through”) supplies the main subject (“species”) and transitive phrasal verb (“continue to live through”), contrasting collective longevity with individual death.
- Phrase **D** (“millions of years unless threatened”) completes the prepositional object of duration (“millions of years”) and introduces the conditional sub-clause with the conjunction “unless threatened”.
- Phrase **B** (“by natural or anthropogenic extinction”) provides the prepositional agent complement describing the exact nature of the threat.

Step 2: Sequence Synthesis and Evaluation:

Combining the segments produces:

“While individual organisms die without fail, species continue to live through millions of years unless threatened by natural or anthropogenic extinction.”

This arrangement delivers a flawless semantic progression from individual mortality to macro-evolutionary survival and its external exceptions.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The logical and grammatically sound order is C, A, D, B, matching Option (A).

Quick Tip: A subordinate clause of contrast beginning with “while” naturally pairs with a contrasting main clause.

The phrase “unless threatened” must immediately precede the prepositional agent “by..”.

3. Rearrange the following phrases to form a meaningful sentence:

- A. to understand the cause of difficulties**
- B. in which the counsellor helps the clients**
- C. and guide them to sort out issues**
- D. counselling is an interactive process**

Choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below:-

- (A) D, C, A, B
- (B) A, B, C, D
- (C) D, B, A, C
- (D) C, D, B, A

Correct Answer: (C) D, B, A, C

Solution:

Concept:

The formulation of expository and definitional sentences follows a systematic hierarchy: Subject + Linking Verb + Predicate Noun (the definition), followed by a Relative Clause that specifies the operational mechanism, which is then elaborated by coordinated Infinitive Phrases expressing specific objectives or functional goals. Parallelism must be observed when linking multiple verb phrases with coordinating conjunctions like “and”.

Step 1: Structural and Syntactical Breakdown:

- Phrase **D** (“counselling is an interactive process”) is an independent clause that introduces the primary subject (“counselling”) and defines it with a predicate nominal phrase (“an interactive process”).
- Phrase **B** (“in which the counsellor helps the clients”) serves as a restrictive relative clause introduced by the relative pronoun phrase “in which”, modifying “interactive process”.
- Phrase **A** (“to understand the cause of difficulties”) presents the first infinitive phrase describing the initial objective of the counselling interaction.
- Phrase **C** (“and guide them to sort out issues”) supplies the coordinated second objective, linked seamlessly by the conjunction “and”.

Step 2: Sequence Synthesis and Evaluation:

Putting the parts together produces the unified sentence:

“Counselling is an interactive process in which the counsellor helps the clients to understand the cause of difficulties and guide them to sort out issues.”

This order satisfies all rules of syntax, relative clause attachment, and semantic progression.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct order is D, B, A, C, corresponding to Option (C).

Quick Tip: Start definitional sentences with the broadest introductory statement.

Connect relative clauses like “in which...” directly after the noun they qualify before stating the purpose with infinitive verbs.

4. Rearrange the following phrases to form a meaningful sentence:

A. within the country and internationally, for many reasons

B. with globalization

C. where people travel from one place to another,

D. the world has become a small place

Choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below:

(A) A, C, D, B

(B) C, D, B, A

(C) D, B, A, C

(D) B, D, C, A

Correct Answer: (D) B, D, C, A

Solution:

Concept:

Descriptive sentences dealing with socio-economic phenomena typically open with an introductory prepositional phrase establishing context (e.g., “With globalization”). This is succeeded by the primary independent clause declaring a major consequence or overarching observation (e.g., “the world has become a small place”). This observation is then characterized and explained by a relative clause introduced by a locative relative adverb (“where”), which is subsequently augmented by directional and rational prepositional modifiers.

Step 1: Structural and Syntactical Breakdown:

- Phrase **B** (“with globalization”) acts as the introductory prepositional modifier establishing the contextual cause.
- Phrase **D** (“the world has become a small place”) functions as the main clause featuring the subject (“the world”) and present perfect verb phrase (“has become”).
- Phrase **C** (“where people travel from one place to another,”) provides a relative clause introduced by “where”, modifying the metaphor “a small place”.
- Phrase **A** (“within the country and internationally, for many reasons”) serves as the concluding adverbial phrase detailing the geographic scope and motivators of travel.

Step 2: Sequence Synthesis and Evaluation:

Joining these segments in sequence creates:

“With globalization the world has become a small place where people travel from one place to another, within the country and internationally, for many reasons.”

The sequence presents a natural progression from cause to general effect, followed by specific descriptive details.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct order of phrases is B, D, C, A, matching Option (D).

Quick Tip: Look for the logical relationship: Cause (with globalization) → Effect (the world has become a small place) → Description (where people travel...).

5. Rearrange the following phrases to form a meaningful sentence:

- A. Rama and Lakshmana accompanying sage Vishwamitra
- B. distress the hermits by disturbing their meditative practices
- C. to the forests to defeat the demons who would
- D. another painting from the same set depicts

Choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below:-

- (A) A, D, B, C
- (B) D, A, C, B

(C) D, C, B, A

(D) C, D, B, A

Correct Answer: (B) D, A, C, B

Solution:

Concept:

Art historical and narrative descriptions in English follow a strict Subject + Verb + Direct Object structure, followed by prepositional phrases of destination and purposeful infinitive clauses. When a relative clause is embedded inside a purpose phrase (e.g., “the demons who would...”), the modal auxiliary “would” demands an uninflected base verb (such as “distress”) to complete the subordinate predicate grammatically and meaningfully.

Step 1: Structural and Syntactical Breakdown:

- Phrase **D** (“another painting from the same set depicts”) provides the main subject (“another painting from the same set”) and transitive verb (“depicts”).
- Phrase **A** (“Rama and Lakshmana accompanying sage Vishwamitra”) functions as the direct object participial construction showing the subjects in the painting.
- Phrase **C** (“to the forests to defeat the demons who would”) specifies the destination and purpose of their journey, ending with the relative pronoun “who” and modal auxiliary “would”.
- Phrase **B** (“distress the hermits by disturbing their meditative practices”) provides the base verb “distress” and completes the relative clause characterizing the actions of the demons.

Step 2: Sequence Synthesis and Evaluation:

Arranging the components produces:

“Another painting from the same set depicts Rama and Lakshmana accompanying sage Vishwamitra to the forests to defeat the demons who would distress the hermits by disturbing their meditative practices.”

This order preserves narrative logic and maintains grammatical continuity between the modal “would” in C and the verb “distress” in B.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct order is D, A, C, B, which corresponds to Option (B).

Quick Tip: Notice the grammatical link between the modal auxiliary “would” at the end of C and the base form verb “distress” at the start of B.

6. Select the most appropriate word from the given options that has a similar meaning to the word: **BRITTLE**.

- (A) Fragile
- (B) Tangy
- (C) Flexible
- (D) Radiant

Correct Answer: (A) Fragile

Solution:

Concept:

Synonymy is the semantic relation between words that share identical or closely overlapping senses in specific linguistic registers. The adjective “brittle” describes a physical property of materials characterized by hardness, structural rigidity, and a high susceptibility to fracturing, snapping, or shattering under slight stress without significant prior deformation. Identifying its synonym requires selecting a word that denotes an equivalent vulnerability to breakage or delicate structural integrity.

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Analysis of the Target Word:

- **Brittle:** Originating from Old English *brytel* (related to *breotan*, meaning to break), it denotes an object that is hard but liable to crack, break, or snap easily under pressure (e.g., brittle glass, brittle bones).

Step 2: Evaluation of Options:

- **(A) Fragile:** Originating from Latin *fragilis* (from *frangere*, to break), it signifies easily broken,

shattered, damaged, or delicate. It is a direct and precise synonym for “brittle”.

- **(B) Tangy:** Describes a sharp, piquant, acidic, or distinctive flavor or odor; completely unrelated to physical strength or brittleness.
- **(C) Flexible:** Refers to the capacity to bend easily without breaking; this is the direct physical antonym of “brittle”.
- **(D) Radiant:** Describes an object or person emitting rays of light, glowing brightly, or displaying vivid health and happiness.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The word most similar in meaning to “BRITTLE” is “Fragile”, corresponding to Option (A).

Quick Tip: Both “brittle” and “fragile” share the core semantic attribute of being easily broken or shattered under stress.

Be careful not to select “flexible”, which is an antonym.

7. Identify the most appropriate word which is similar to the underlined word in the following sentence:

The first day at the new school is always a MOMENTOUS day for the students.

- (A) Emotional
- (B) Melancholic
- (C) Sentimental
- (D) Important

Correct Answer: (D) Important

Solution:

Concept:

Contextual vocabulary evaluation requires understanding the semantic weight and precise denotation of a target word within a given sentence. The adjective “momentous” is derived

from the noun “moment” in its older sense of “weight, force, or consequence”. It refers to occasions, decisions, or milestones of tremendous significance that exert a lasting influence on future developments. It is vital to distinguish “momentous” (meaning monumental or epoch-making) from “momentary” (meaning brief or fleeting), as well as from purely affective adjectives describing emotional responses.

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Analysis of the Underlined Word:

- **Momentous:** Signifies of great importance, gravity, or consequence, especially in having a permanent bearing on future events; historically significant or pivotal. In the given sentence, a child’s first day at a new school represents a landmark life event.

Step 2: Evaluation of Options:

- **(A) Emotional:** Arousing or characterized by intense internal feelings; while a momentous event may evoke emotions, the word itself does not denote significance.
- **(B) Melancholic:** Characterized by deep, sorrowful, or pensive sadness; contextually unfitting.
- **(C) Sentimental:** Prompted by nostalgic feelings of tenderness or affection rather than reason.
- **(D) Important:** Marked by great value, significance, rank, or consequence. This captures the exact denotation of “momentous”.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The synonym that best reflects the meaning of “MOMENTOUS” in this context is “Important”, which is Option (D).

Quick Tip: Do not confuse “momentous” (greatly significant / important) with “momentary” (lasting only a brief moment).

8. Select the most appropriate antonym to the underlined word in the sentence given below:
The judge appreciated the young speaker for his IMMACULATE style of speaking.

- (A) Tidy
- (B) Perilous
- (C) Flawed
- (D) Flawless

Correct Answer: (C) Flawed

Solution:

Concept:

Antonymy involves identifying the lexical item that stands in diametrical semantic opposition to a given word. The adjective “immaculate” stems from the Latin prefix *in-* (not) and *macula* (spot, blemish, or stain). Consequently, “immaculate” literally and figuratively means without spot, blemish, error, or fault; entirely pristine and perfect. Finding the antonym requires selecting a term that explicitly denotes the presence of defects, imperfections, blemishes, or errors.

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Analysis of the Target Word:

- **Immaculate:** Spotless, pristine, faultless, impeccably clean, and free from any defect or error. When used to describe oratorical style, it implies a polished delivery completely devoid of mistakes.

Step 2: Evaluation of Options:

- **(A) Tidy:** Neatly arranged and in good order; a partial synonym related to neatness.
- **(B) Perilous:** Full of danger, hazard, or risk; unrelated to perfection or cleanliness.
- **(C) Flawed:** Characterized by flaws, defects, blemishes, or imperfections. This is the exact semantic opposite of “immaculate”.
- **(D) Flawless:** Having no flaws or defects; a direct synonym of “immaculate” that must be rejected since the question asks for an antonym.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The true antonym of “immaculate” is “Flawed”, which matches Option (C).

Quick Tip: Look at the root: *macula* = blemish/spot.

Immaculate = without blemish (flawless).

Antonym = with blemishes / errors (**flawed**).

9. Select the correct pairs of antonyms from the given options:

A. feisty, frisky

B. feasting, starving

C. feline, cunning

D. fecund, barren

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A and D only

(B) B and D only

(C) A, B and D only

(D) B and C only

Correct Answer: (B) B and D only

Solution:

Concept:

Identifying antonym pairs involves evaluating lexical couples to determine whether the two words express binary, polar, or complementary semantic opposites. An antonym pair represents mutually exclusive states or opposite extremes on a semantic continuum. Words that are synonyms, near-synonyms, or merely associative descriptors do not constitute valid antonym pairs.

Step 1: Detailed Analysis of Each Pair:

- **Pair A (feisty, frisky):** “Feisty” means touchy, aggressive, or high-spirited, while “frisky” means playful, lively, and energetic. These words share overlapping connotations of energetic vigor; they are related in meaning and do not oppose each other.
- **Pair B (feasting, starving):** “Feasting” denotes consuming food in lavish abundance and

celebratory excess, whereas “starving” denotes extreme deprivation of sustenance, severe hunger, and emaciation. They represent opposite extremes of food consumption and nutritional state, forming a true antonym pair.

- **Pair C (feline, cunning):** “Feline” means cat-like or relating to the cat family, whereas “cunning” means sly, crafty, or exhibiting deceitful ingenuity. Although cunning is colloquially attributed to cats, they are entirely different parts of speech/concepts and not antonyms.

- **Pair D (fecund, barren):** “Fecund” denotes high fertility, intellectual productivity, or prolific reproduction. In contrast, “barren” denotes sterility, incapacity to produce offspring, or total lack of vegetation/ideas. These represent polar opposites regarding fertility and productivity, forming a classic antonym pair.

Step 2: Evaluating the Option Combinations:

Since only Pair B and Pair D are authentic pairs of antonyms, the valid grouping is “B and D only”.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct choice is Option (B).

Quick Tip: “Fecund” (fertile) and “Barren” (infertile/sterile) is a classic high-yield antonym pair in competitive examinations.

10. Choose the most appropriate word from the given options to fill in the blank:

All the ministers paid homage and placed the _____ – on the platform.

- (A) Wrath
- (B) wreath
- (C) rattle
- (D) rattan

Correct Answer: (B) wreath

Solution:

Concept:

This question tests lexical precision, homophonic distinction, and ceremonial collocations in formal English. Sentences describing solemn state rituals, memorial services, and public commemorations frequently employ the fixed collocation of “laying/placing a wreath” alongside “paying homage”. A clear distinction must be maintained between visually or phonetically similar words having entirely disparate grammatical categories and definitions.

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Analysis of the Options:

- **(A) Wrath:** An abstract noun denoting intense, vengeful, or fierce anger and indignation. It is impossible to physically “place a wrath on a platform”.
- **(B) Wreath:** A concrete noun referring to an arrangement of flowers, leaves, or twigs fastened in a ring, traditionally laid at monuments, tombs, or cenotaphs as a formal token of tribute, mourning, or homage.
- **(C) Rattle:** A noun or verb denoting a series of rapid knocking sounds, or a child’s toy that produces such sounds when shaken.
- **(D) Rattan:** A durable climbing palm with long, thin, flexible stems widely used in wickerwork, basketry, and cane furniture manufacturing.

Step 2: Contextual Fit and Collocation:

The context involves ministers performing a ceremonial act of remembrance (“paid homage”). The customary physical object placed on a memorial platform during such ceremonies is a floral “wreath”.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The appropriate word is “wreath”, which corresponds to Option (B).

Quick Tip: Collocation memory hook:

“Pay homage” + “Lay/place a **wreath**” (a circular band of flowers for remembrance).

11. Choose the appropriate word from the options to fill in the blank:

As the structure was illegal, the authorities decided to _____ it.

- (A) rise
- (B) rays
- (C) raise
- (D) raze

Correct Answer: (D) raze

Solution:

Concept:

This question evaluates mastery over homophones and easily confused words, specifically focusing on phonetic twins with contradictory meanings in civil and administrative contexts. Transitive verbs dealing with physical construction, elevation, and destruction require rigorous morphological precision. Choosing the correct lexical item requires understanding the administrative consequence applied to an illegal or unapproved architectural structure.

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Analysis of the Options:

- **(A) Rise:** An intransitive verb meaning to ascend, move upward, or increase in height/value (e.g., “The sun rises”). Because it is intransitive, it cannot take the direct object “it”.
- **(B) Rays:** A plural noun referring to narrow beams of light, heat, or energy emanating from a source.
- **(C) Raise:** A transitive verb meaning to lift up, elevate, build, erect, or cultivate (e.g., “to raise a building”). Erecting an illegal building directly contradicts the punitive intention of the authorities.
- **(D) Raze:** A transitive verb meaning to completely tear down, level to the ground, demolish, or obliterate a structure or settlement.

Step 2: Syntactic and Contextual Verification:

The infinitive particle “to” requires a base transitive verb governing the direct object “it” (referring to “the structure”). Because the premise notes that the structure was unlawful, the municipal authorities’ mandated course of action is demolition (i.e., to raze it).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct word is “raze”, matching Option (D).

Quick Tip: Homophone distinction:

Raise = to build, elevate, or set upright.

Raze = to demolish, flatten, or tear down to the ground.

12. Select the options that can substitute the given group of words:

One who cares about and helps others selflessly.

A. Altruist

B. Philanthropist

C. Benevolent

D. Philistine

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

(A) A and B only

(B) A and D only

(C) A, B and D only

(D) A, B and C only

Correct Answer: (D) A, B and C only

Solution:

Concept:

One-word substitution tests the ability to condense an extended descriptive clause into precise nouns or adjectives that encapsulate human behavioral characteristics, moral philosophies, and charitable dispositions. Terms describing selfless altruism, humanitarian generosity, and general goodwill must be identified and differentiated from terms signifying cultural apathy or selfishness.

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Analysis of the Options:

- **A. Altruist:** Derived from the Latin *alter* (other) through French *altruisme*. An altruist is someone who possesses an unselfish devotion to the welfare and happiness of other people.
- **B. Philanthropist:** Formed from the Greek roots *philos* (loving) and *anthropos* (human). A philanthropist actively seeks to promote human welfare and alleviate suffering, especially through the generous dedication of time, resources, or wealth.
- **C. Benevolent:** Derived from Latin *bene* (well) and *volens* (wishing). It characterizes a person who is well-meaning, kindhearted, and actively oriented toward doing good and helping others selflessly.
- **D. Philistine:** Refers to a person who is smugly indifferent or fiercely hostile to cultural, artistic, and intellectual values. It has no semantic connection to helping others.

Step 2: Grouping Valid Substitutions:

Terms A (Altruist), B (Philanthropist), and C (Benevolent) all legitimately represent individuals who care about and selflessly aid their fellow human beings. Only D (Philistine) is completely contrary and irrelevant to the definition.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option encompassing all valid terms is “A, B and C only”, corresponding to Option (D).

Quick Tip: Root word breakdown:

Altru- = other; *Phil-* = love; *Bene-* = good.

All three prefixes denote positive, altruistic, and benevolent qualities!

13. Select the options that can correctly substitute the given phrase:

One who likes to fight-

- A. cheeky
- B. belligerent
- C. bellicose
- D. flippant

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) A, B and C only
- (B) A and D only
- (C) A, B and D
- (D) B and C only

Correct Answer: (D) B and C only

Solution:

Concept:

This question tests morphological roots and vocabulary related to combativeness, aggression, and argumentative character traits. In Latin-derived English vocabulary, the root morpheme *bell-* or *belli-* originates from *bellum* (meaning war or battle). Adjectives derived from this root specifically delineate a disposition marked by hostility, aggression, and an eager readiness to engage in physical or verbal combat.

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Analysis of the Terms:

- **A. Cheeky:** Impudent, insolent, or irreverently bold, typically in an amusing or endearing way; does not imply a desire to engage in fights.
- **B. Belligerent:** Derived from Latin *bellum* (war) + *gerere* (to wage). It defines an individual who is hostile, aggressive, pugnacious, and inclined to fight or wage conflict.
- **C. Bellicose:** Derived from Latin *bellicosus* (warlike). It specifically describes someone demonstrating a warlike disposition, eager to quarrel, fight, or start hostilities.
- **D. Flippant:** Showing an inappropriate lack of seriousness, depth, or respect; light-minded or glib.

Step 2: Grouping Valid Substitutions:

Both “belligerent” (B) and “bellicose” (C) directly substitute the definition “one who likes to fight” (pugnacious/combative). In contrast, “cheeky” and “flippant” describe disrespectful or casual tones rather than aggressive fight-seeking tendencies.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The valid terms are B and C only, which is Option (D).

Quick Tip: Root word clue:

Belli- = war/combat.

Belligerent and **Bellicose** both signify being combative, warlike, and prone to fighting.

14. Select the correct word from the given options to fill in the blank in the given sentence:

I am _____ to solve this problem today.

- (A) determination
- (B) determined
- (C) determine
- (D) determining

Correct Answer: (B) determined

Solution:

Concept:

This question evaluates understanding of predicative adjectives, participial complements, and subject-verb-complement agreement. In English syntax, when the copular (linking) verb “to be” (am, is, are, was, were) connects the subject to a state of firm resolution, it requires a predicative adjective or past participle functioning adjectivally. The established grammatical construction to express unwavering resolve is *be + determined + to-infinitive*.

Step 1: Morphological and Grammatical Breakdown of the Options:

- **(A) determination:** An abstract noun denoting the quality of being resolute. A noun cannot serve directly as a descriptive predicate complement without an article or preposition (e.g., one cannot say “I am determination to solve”).
- **(B) determined:** A participial adjective expressing resolute purpose, taking a catenative to-infinitive complement (“determined to solve”).

- (C) **determine**: The base/bare infinitive form of the verb. It cannot directly follow the linking verb “am” without an auxiliary structure.
- (D) **determining**: The present participle/gerund form, indicating an active causal role (e.g., “the determining factor”), which distorts the intended meaning of personal resolve.

Step 2: Syntactic Verification:

Substituting “determined” into the sentence creates the standard idiom of resolve:

“I am determined to solve this problem today.”

Step 3: Final Answer:

The grammatically correct word is “determined”, matching Option (B).

Quick Tip: Grammar pattern:

Subject + **be (am/is/are)** + **determined** + **to** + V_1 .

Use the participial adjective to show personal resolve.

15. Choose the correctly spelled word from the given options :

- (A) ingrediants
- (B) ingredients
- (C) ingradients
- (D) engredients

Correct Answer: (B) ingredients

Solution:

Concept:

Orthographic competency in English requires knowledge of etymological roots and correct suffixation patterns. Many English nouns derived from Latin verbs of the third conjugation end in the Latin present participial suffix *-ens* / *-entem*, which translates into English as the

suffix **-ent** (forming plural **-ents**), rather than the alternative **-ant**. Recognizing the underlying Latin stem prevents common phonological errors involving vowel reduction (schwa sounds).

Step 1: Etymological and Morphological Analysis:

- The word originates from the Latin verb *ingredi* (to go into, enter), formed from the prefix *in-* (into) and *gradi* (to step or walk).
- Its present participle is *ingredientem* (that which enters into a compound).
- English spelling adopts the root **ingred-** plus the standard suffix **-ient**, giving the singular **ingredient** and plural **ingredients**.

Step 2: Evaluation of the Options:

- (A) **ingrediants**: Incorrect; mistakenly substitutes the suffix *-ants* for *-ents*.
- (B) **ingredients**: Correct; accurately preserves the root vowel 'e' and suffix *-ents*.
- (C) **ingradients**: Incorrect; introduces an erroneous 'a' into the middle stem.
- (D) **engredients**: Incorrect; uses the mistaken prefix *en-* instead of the Latin *in-*.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The only correctly spelled word is “ingredients”, which is Option (B).

Quick Tip: Spelling checklist for “ingredients”:

Prefix: **in-** | Stem: **-gred-** | Suffix: **-ients**.

Always verify the **-ent** suffix rather than **-ant**.

16. Fill in the blank with the most suitable word from the options given below:-

The nurse asked the patient to _____ down and take some rest for speedy recovery.

- (A) lain
- (B) lie
- (C) lay
- (D) laid

Correct Answer: (B) lie

Solution:

Concept:

One of the most frequently tested areas in English grammar is the distinction between the intransitive verb *lie* (to assume a horizontal resting position) and the transitive verb *lay* (to place or put something down). An intransitive verb does not take a direct object, whereas a transitive verb requires an explicit direct object. Following an infinitive marker (“to”), standard grammar demands the base (uninflected) form of the appropriate verb.

Step 1: Verb Conjugation and Transitivity Rules:

- Lie (Intransitive - to recline/rest):

Base form: *lie* | Past: *lay* | Past Participle: *lain* | Present Participle: *lying*

- Lay (Transitive - to place something down):

Base form: *lay* | Past: *laid* | Past Participle: *laid* | Present Participle: *laying*

Step 2: Sentence Analysis and Selection:

- In the sentence, the patient is performing the action of reclining their own body; there is no direct object being placed down.
- The structure “asked the patient to [blank] down” requires the bare infinitive of the intransitive verb after “to”.
- Thus, the base form **lie** must be used: “to lie down”.
- Options “lain” and “laid” are participles and cannot follow “to” here, while “lay” in the present infinitive would incorrectly denote placing an object down.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct word to fill in the blank is “lie”, corresponding to Option (B).

Quick Tip: Quick check:

Is there a direct object?

- No object → use **lie** ("lie down").
- Has object → use **lay** ("lay the book down").

17. Fill in the blank with the correctly spelled word from the options given below:

After signing the agreement with the authorities, the mood of the company's director became _____.

- (A) ebulent
- (B) ebullient
- (C) ebbulent
- (D) ebuleint

Correct Answer: (B) ebullient

Solution:

Concept:

Advanced vocabulary orthography requires familiarity with Latin morphological doubling rules. Words derived from Latin compounds containing the prefix *e-* (a variant of *ex-* meaning "out") followed by a root beginning with a consonant do not double the prefix consonant, but preserve the geminate (doubled) liquid consonants present in the root stem. For example, Latin *bullire* (to boil/bubble) retains its double 'l' when forming the adjective.

Step 1: Etymological and Orthographic Analysis:

- The word is derived from the Latin verb *ebullire* (to boil up or burst forth), compounded from *e-* (out) + *bullire* (to boil, from *bulla* = bubble).
- Meaning: Overflowing with enthusiasm, high spirits, exuberance, or exhilaration.
- Orthographic structure: Single 'e', single 'b', double 'l', and ending in the suffix **-ient**.
- Correct form: **e-b-u-l-l-i-e-n-t**.

Step 2: Evaluation of Options:

- (A) **ebulient**: Incorrect because the liquid consonant 'l' is not doubled.
- (B) **ebullient**: Correctly spelled with single 'b' and double 'l'.
- (C) **ebbulient**: Incorrect because it mistakenly doubles the 'b'.
- (D) **ebuleint**: Incorrect due to missing double 'l' and transposed vowels 'ei'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct spelling is “ebullient”, which matches Option (B).

Quick Tip: Memory aid for **ebullient**:

Think of “bubbles” (double l) boiling over with enthusiasm: 1 'b' + 2 'l's + **ient**.

18. Fill in the blank in the given sentence with the most suitable word from the options given below:

She'll have a birthday present of one thousand rupees for five _____ years.

- (A) Success
- (B) Successive
- (C) Successful
- (D) Succeed

Correct Answer: (B) Successive

Solution:

Concept:

This question tests lexical selection and word family differentiation. Derivations originating from the Latin verb *succedere* (to go below, follow after) branch into two distinct semantic pathways in modern English: one relating to achievement and prosperity (*succeed*, *success*, *successful*), and another relating to temporal sequence, succession, and consecutive order (*succeed*, *succession*, *successive*). Choosing the correct word requires analyzing whether the

context demands a qualifier of achievement or a quantifier of sequential time.

Step 1: Morphological and Semantic Analysis of the Options:

- **(A) Success:** A noun meaning the favorable or prosperous termination of attempts; cannot grammatically modify the plural noun “years”.
- **(B) Successive:** An adjective meaning following in uninterrupted order or unbroken sequence; consecutive (e.g., “for three successive days”).
- **(C) Successful:** An adjective meaning having achieved popularity, profit, or desired results. Describing years as “successful years” would alter the intended meaning from recurring annual gifts to business/career prosperity.
- **(D) Succeed:** A verb meaning to attain a goal or to follow next; cannot function as an attributive modifier before a noun.

Step 2: Contextual Application:

The phrase “for five _____ years” clearly specifies a recurring annual duration (five consecutive years in a row). The precise adjective denoting consecutive occurrences is “successive”.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The appropriate word is “Successive”, which is Option (B).

Quick Tip: Distinguish between the two adjective branches:

Successive = consecutive / in a row.

Successful = achieving success / prosperous.

19. Fill in the blank with the most suitable word from the options given below :-

The Principal gave some _____ suggestions to the students and asked them to call off the strike.

- (A) Alternate
- (B) Alternating
- (C) Alternately

(D) Altering

Correct Answer: (A) Alternate

Solution:

Concept:

This question tests the selection of suitable adjectival modifiers from a group of paronymous words sharing the root *alter* (other). In English usage, adjectives modifying nouns such as “suggestions”, “routes”, or “plans” in conflict-resolution contexts must convey the availability of substitute choices or alternative options. Grammatical category rules also eliminate adverbial and participial forms that do not fit the attributive position before a plural noun.

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Analysis of the Options:

- **(A) Alternate:** Used adjectivally to mean alternative, substitute, or offering a choice between possibilities (e.g., “an alternate plan”, “alternate suggestions”).
- **(B) Alternating:** Present participle/adjective describing something that occurs in successive turns or oscillates back and forth repeatedly (e.g., “alternating current”).
- **(C) Alternately:** An adverb meaning in mutually following turns; cannot modify the noun “suggestions”.
- **(D) Altering:** Present participle of the verb *alter* (to change); implies causing modification rather than presenting fresh options.

Step 2: Contextual Application:

To persuade students to call off a strike, the Principal provided secondary options or substitute solutions (i.e., “alternate suggestions”).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct and most appropriate word is “Alternate”, which is Option (A).

Quick Tip: When describing substitute options or proposals, use **alternate** (or alternative) as the descriptive adjective before the noun.

20. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word from the options given below:

Although Sudhir did not get much time to prepare, yet he could present the topic _____ before the board of directors.

- (A) Effective
- (B) Effectively
- (C) Effectfully
- (D) Affective

Correct Answer: (B) Effectively

Solution:

Concept:

This question evaluates the syntactic distribution between adjectives and adverbs of manner. In English sentence structure, an adjective is restricted to modifying nouns or functioning as a subject complement after a linking verb. Conversely, when a word modifies an action verb or transitive verbal phrase (such as “could present the topic”), an adverb of manner (characteristically ending in the productive suffix *-ly*) is strictly required to describe the quality or success of that performance.

Step 1: Syntactic and Morphological Analysis:

- Clause structure: Subject (“he”) + Modal/Verb (“could present”) + Direct Object (“the topic”) + [Blank] + Prepositional Phrase (“before the board...”).
- The blank modifies the action of presenting (the verb “present”); therefore, it requires an adverb of manner.

Step 2: Evaluation of Options:

- **(A) Effective:** Adjective; produces a desired effect. Cannot directly modify the verb “present”.
- **(B) Effectively:** Adverb of manner; in a successful, convincing, or productive manner. Perfectly fits the required adverbial role.
- **(C) Effectfully:** Non-standard and ungrammatical form.

- (D) **Affective:** Adjective; relates to moods, emotions, and feelings (from psychology). Both incorrect in part of speech and meaning.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct adverb is “Effectively”, matching Option (B).

Quick Tip: Ask “How did he present the topic?”

The answer to “How?” modifying a verb is always an **adverb** (ending in **-ly**): *Effectively*.

21. Choose the option which is grammatically correct:

- (A) She is enough wise to decide on the right course of action.
- (B) She is wise enough to decide on the right course of action.
- (C) She is too wise to decide on the right course of action.
- (D) She is wise rather to decide on the right course of action.

Correct Answer: (B) She is wise enough to decide on the right course of action.

Solution:

Concept:

The syntactic positioning of the modifier “enough” represents a foundational rule in English grammar. Unlike most standard adverbs of degree (such as *very*, *quite*, *exceedingly*), which precede the adjectives they modify, “enough” functions as a postpositive modifier when qualifying adjectives or adverbs. That is, it must be placed directly **after** the adjective/adverb. When “enough” modifies a noun, however, it is placed **before** the noun as a determiner.

Step 1: Structural Rules for “Enough”:

- Rule 1: **Adjective/Adverb + enough + to-infinitive** (e.g., “wise enough to decide”, “fast enough to win”).

- Rule 2: **Enough + Noun + to-infinitive** (e.g., “enough wisdom to decide”, “enough time to finish”).

Step 2: Evaluation of Options:

- (A) “**enough wise**”: Violates Rule 1 by placing “enough” before the adjective.
- (B) “**wise enough to decide**”: Flawlessly conforms to Rule 1, placing “enough” immediately after the adjective “wise” and preceding the to-infinitive.
- (C) “**too wise to decide**”: The construction *too + adjective + to-infinitive* conveys an excessively negative implication (“so wise that she cannot decide”), which creates an illogical semantic contradiction.
- (D) “**wise rather to decide**”: Grammatically invalid and incoherent word order.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The grammatically correct option is Option (B).

Quick Tip: Positioning of **Enough**:

Adjective + **enough** (e.g., *wise enough*, *strong enough*).

Enough + Noun (e.g., *enough money*, *enough experience*).

22. Fill in the blanks with the most suitable word from the options given below:

The desire for revenge is very dangerous_____ it does not diminish with time.

- (A) whereas
- (B) while
- (C) because
- (D) so

Correct Answer: (C) because

Solution:

Concept:

Subordinating conjunctions establish precise logical and semantic relationships between main clauses and subordinate clauses. When connecting an assertion or evaluative claim (e.g., “revenge is very dangerous”) with its direct causal explanation or underlying justification (e.g., “it does not diminish with time”), a subordinating conjunction of reason or cause must be utilized. Contrastive conjunctions or illative (consequence) conjunctions cannot be applied where a direct cause-and-effect rationale is articulated.

Step 1: Detailed Analysis of the Conjunctions:

- (A) **Whereas:** A subordinating conjunction of contrast used to balance two opposing facts or viewpoints (e.g., “He likes tea, whereas she prefers coffee”).
- (B) **While:** Used to express simultaneous temporal duration or mild concession/contrast.
- (C) **Because:** A subordinating conjunction of cause used to introduce the explicit reason or explanation for the statement in the preceding clause.
- (D) **So:** A coordinating conjunction of result/consequence. If used, the order of clauses would have to be inverted (e.g., “It does not diminish, so it is dangerous”).

Step 2: Contextual Application:

The second clause (“it does not diminish with time”) provides the logical reason explaining why the desire for revenge is dangerous. Therefore, “because” correctly expresses the causal link.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct conjunction is “because”, which corresponds to Option (C).

Quick Tip: To identify causal conjunctions:

If the second clause answers the question “*Why is it dangerous?*”, join them with **because** or **since**.

23. Select the appropriate word to fill in the blank:

Rahul thought he had a good chance to get the job _____ his uncle was on the company's board of directors.

- (A) but
- (B) yet
- (C) since
- (D) unless

Correct Answer: (C) since

Solution:

Concept:

Conjunctions function as vital cohesive ties in complex discourse. When explaining the rationale, premise, or motivational belief behind a person's expectation, causal subordinators such as *since*, *as*, or *because* are deployed. The conjunction "since" specifically introduces a known fact or circumstance that serves as the basis or justification for a deduction or assumption made in the main clause.

Step 1: Evaluation of the Options:

- **(A) But:** A coordinating adversative conjunction introducing a contradiction, exception, or contrast; unfitting because having an uncle on the board supports, rather than contradicts, his optimism.
- **(B) Yet:** An adversative conjunction synonymous with "nevertheless"; creates an incorrect conflict between the clauses.
- **(C) Since:** A subordinating conjunction denoting "inasmuch as", "because", or "given that"; it correctly provides the reason for Rahul's confidence.
- **(D) Unless:** A conditional negative conjunction meaning "except if"; illogically suggests he would have a good chance only if his uncle were not on the board.

Step 2: Contextual Synthesis:

The presence of Rahul's uncle on the board of directors is the explicit reason for his belief that he had a good chance to secure the employment. "Since" seamlessly supplies this explanatory link.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct conjunction is “since”, corresponding to Option (C).

Quick Tip: “Since” has two major functions:

1. Time: indicating duration from a past point (*since 1990*).
2. Cause: functioning as a synonym for **because** / **given that**.

24. Choose the option which best expresses the same sentence in Passive voice:

Every Monday, she paid him rent without fail.

- (A) She had paid him rent every Monday without fail.
- (B) Every Monday, he was paid rent by her without fail.
- (C) Every Monday, he has been paid rent by her.
- (D) He is paid rent by her, every Monday without fail.

Correct Answer: (B) Every Monday, he was paid rent by her without fail.

Solution:

Concept:

Voice transformation shifts the grammatical focus from the agent performing the action (Active Voice) to the recipient or patient experiencing the action (Passive Voice) without altering the fundamental tense, aspect, or contextual adverbials of the original sentence. When transforming a ditransitive verb (a verb with both a direct object and an indirect object) in the Simple Past tense, the indirect object pronoun (“him”) typically becomes the subject pronoun (“he”), and the auxiliary verb must strictly reflect the simple past tense of the original verb.

Step 1: Grammatical Analysis of the Active Sentence:

- Active Sentence: “Every Monday, she paid him rent without fail.”
- Tense: Simple Past (V_2 : “paid”)

- Subject (Agent): “she”
- Indirect Object: “him”
- Direct Object: “rent”
- Adverbial Modifiers: “Every Monday”, “without fail”

Step 2: Passive Voice Formula for Simple Past:

Subject (from Object) + **was / were** + V_3 (past participle) + Direct Object + **by** + Agent

Applying this formula with the indirect object “him” as the new subject:

him → **he + was + paid + rent + by her.**

Retaining the original adverbial phrases yields:

“Every Monday, he was paid rent by her without fail.”

Step 3: Evaluation of Options:

- (A): Remains in active voice and incorrectly shifts tense to past perfect (“had paid”).
- (B): Perfectly implements the simple past passive rule while retaining all adverbials intact.
- (C): Incorrectly alters the tense to present perfect passive (“has been paid”) and omits the adverbial “without fail”.
- (D): Incorrectly shifts the tense to simple present passive (“is paid”).

Step 4: Final Answer:

The correct passive transformation is Option (B).

Quick Tip: Tense consistency rule in Passive Voice:

Active Simple Past (V_2) → Passive **was/were** + V_3 .

Do not change the tense to perfect or continuous forms!

25. Select the option that best expresses the synonym of the given word:

Mortify

- (A) embarrass
- (B) puzzle
- (C) praise
- (D) coax

Correct Answer: (A) embarrass

Solution:

Concept:

Synonym identification requires analyzing the core semantic components, figurative evolutions, and affective connotations of classical verbs. The verb “mortify” possesses a rich etymological history, originating from the concept of physical death and ascetic subjugation of bodily passions, which over centuries evolved into the psychological domain to signify an intense, crushing sense of social humiliation, shame, or acute embarrassment.

Step 1: Etymological and Semantic Breakdown of “Mortify”:

- **Origin:** Derived from Late Latin *mortificare* (literally “to put to death”), compounded from *mors* (death) + *facere* (to make).
- **Modern Usage:** In contemporary English, to mortify means to wound someone’s pride, self-respect, or dignity severely; to cause someone to feel extreme embarrassment, shame, or humiliation.

Step 2: Evaluation of Options:

- **(A) Embarrass:** To cause someone to feel awkward, self-conscious, ashamed, or humiliated. This is the direct and most accurate synonym of “mortify”.
- **(B) Puzzle:** To perplex, bewilder, or cause someone difficulty in understanding.
- **(C) Praise:** To express warm approval, admiration, or commendation; this represents an antonymous concept.
- **(D) Coax:** To persuade someone gently, gradually, or persistently by flattery or caresses.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The closest synonym to “Mortify” is “embarrass”, which corresponds to Option (A).

Quick Tip: Etymology link:

Mort- = death (as in *mortal*, *mortuary*).

To be **mortified** figuratively means to feel “dead with embarrassment”!

26. Select the option which expresses the given sentence in Indirect speech:

The visitor said to Sameer, " Why did your father drag you into this situation?"

- (A) The visitor said to Sameer that why his father dragged him into this situation.
- (B) The visitor asked Sameer why his father dragged him into that situation?
- (C) The visitor asked Sameer why his father had dragged him into that situation.
- (D) The visitor told Sameer why his father had dragged him into that situation?

Correct Answer: (C) The visitor asked Sameer why his father had dragged him into that situation.

Solution:

Concept:

Direct to Indirect Speech transformation of interrogative sentences (specifically Wh-questions) requires the application of several fundamental grammatical shift rules. When converting an interrogative sentence:

1. **Reporting Verb:** The reporting verb “said to” changes to “asked”, “inquired of”, or “demanded of”.
2. **Conjunction / Connector:** No conjunction like “that” or “if/whether” is used before Wh-question words (who, what, where, why, when, how). The Wh-word itself functions as the connecting relative adverb.
3. **Sentence Structure Shift:** The inverted interrogative word order (*Auxiliary + Subject + Main Verb*) must convert into standard assertive word order (*Subject + Auxiliary/Verb*), and the question mark is replaced by a full stop.
4. **Tense Backshift:** A Simple Past tense verb in direct speech (“did drag”) backshifts into the Past Perfect tense (“had dragged”).
5. **Pronoun and Deictic Shifts:** Second-person possessives and pronouns shift according to the object of the reporting verb (“your father” → “his father”, “you” → “him”), and proximal

demonstratives shift to distal forms (“this” → “that”).

Step 1: Transformation Analysis of the Direct Sentence:

- Reporting clause: “The visitor said to Sameer” → “The visitor asked Sameer”.
- Interrogative connector: “Why” remains “why” (never preceded by “that”).
- Subject transposition: The subject “your father” shifts to third-person singular “his father”.
- Tense shift: Simple past “did drag” shifts to past perfect “had dragged”.
- Object pronoun shift: Object “you” shifts to “him”.
- Demonstrative shift: “this situation” shifts to “that situation”.
- Punctuation: The terminating question mark is replaced by a period (full stop).

Step 2: Evaluation of Options:

- **Option (A):** Incorrectly includes the redundant conjunction “that” before “why”, fails to backshift the tense to past perfect (uses “dragged”), and retains the proximal demonstrative “this”.
- **Option (B):** Incorrectly uses simple past “dragged” instead of past perfect “had dragged” and mistakenly retains the question mark.
- **Option (C):** Accurately applies the reporting verb “asked”, eliminates “that”, applies past perfect “had dragged”, converts “this” to “that”, and ends with a full stop.
- **Option (D):** Uses the incorrect reporting verb “told” for an interrogative construction and retains the question mark.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correctly transformed sentence is given in Option (C).

Quick Tip: Remember the two key rules for Wh-questions in Indirect Speech:

1. Never use “that” before a Wh-word (e.g., “that why” is strictly incorrect).
2. Simple Past (V_2 / did + V_1) always backshifts to Past Perfect (**had** + V_3).

27. Select the antonym of the given word: Ostentatious

- (A) grand
- (B) magnificent
- (C) unobtrusive
- (D) lofty

Correct Answer: (C) unobtrusive

Solution:

Concept:

Antonym determination involves identifying the lexical item that embodies the diametrical opposite of a word's primary denotation and behavioral connotation. The adjective "ostentatious" originates from the Latin noun *ostentatio* (a vain display, showing off), derived from *ostendere* (to show or exhibit). It describes actions, possessions, manners, or architectural styles designed deliberately to attract excessive attention, impress others, and flaunt wealth or importance in a vulgar or pretentious manner. An antonym must therefore describe a quality of modesty, restraint, subtlety, or an absence of desire to draw public notice.

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Breakdown of "Ostentatious":

- **Definition:** Characterized by vulgar, pretentious, or showy display designed to impress, boast, or attract attention; flamboyant, grandiose, or flashy.
- **Typical Synonyms:** Pretentious, showy, flamboyant, gaudy, conspicuous, boastful, grandiose.
- **Typical Antonyms:** Unobtrusive, modest, restrained, understated, humble, inconspicuous, quiet.

Step 2: Evaluation of Options:

- **(A) Grand:** Magnificent, imposing, or impressive in size and appearance; shares semantic overlap with ostentatious displays (synonymous attribute).
- **(B) Magnificent:** Strikingly splendid, grand, or impressive; another near-synonym in aesthetic contexts.
- **(C) Unobtrusive:** Not conspicuous, not brazenly noticeable, modest, and not attracting undue attention to oneself or one's possessions. This represents the direct semantic opposite of "ostentatious".
- **(D) Lofty:** Imposing, elevated in height, or haughty; does not represent an antonym.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The true antonym of “Ostentatious” is “unobtrusive”, corresponding to Option (C).

Quick Tip: Etymology link:

Ostentatious = showy / flaunting wealth or status.

Unobtrusive = quiet, discreet, and not drawing attention (the exact opposite).

28. Match the idioms in List-I with their appropriate meanings in List-II

LIST-I (IDIOMS)		LIST-II (MEANINGS)	
A.	Black and blue	I.	Sudden or unexpected shock
B.	Bolt from the blue	II.	To be the first to do something
C.	Blaze a trail	III.	To beat mercilessly
D.	Blue blood	IV.	Belong to the royal family

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) A - I, B - II, C - III, D - IV
- (B) A - III, B - I, C - II, D - IV
- (C) A - I, B - III, C - II, D - IV
- (D) A - II, B - IV, C - III, D - I

Correct Answer: (B) A - III, B - I, C - II, D - IV

Solution:

Concept:

Idiomatic expressions are fixed figurative phrases whose figurative meaning cannot be deduced purely from the literal definitions of their component words. Color idioms based on “blue” and physical action idioms (like trail-blazing) are common in English tests. Mastering them requires understanding their cultural, historical, and metaphorical origins in classical and contemporary English literature.

Step 1: Detailed Analysis of Each Idiom in List-I:

- **A. Black and blue:** Originates from the discolored appearance of deep subcutaneous bruises on the skin resulting from severe physical impact. Idiomatically, it means covered in contusions or subjected to a severe, merciless beating (matches **III. To beat mercilessly**).
- **B. Bolt from the blue:** Metaphorically compares a sudden, disastrous thunderbolt emerging from a completely clear, blue sky to an event that happens totally unexpectedly and causes severe shock (matches **I. Sudden or unexpected shock**).
- **C. Blaze a trail:** Historically derived from the practice of early explorers chopping notches into tree bark (blazes) to mark an unexplored path through dense wilderness. Figuratively, it means to pioneer a new method or to be the first to do something innovative (matches **II. To be the first to do something**).
- **D. Blue blood:** A translation of the Spanish *sangre azul*, historically attributed to the Castilian aristocracy whose pale, untanned skin made their superficial veins look distinctly blue. Idiomatically, it denotes noble, aristocratic, or royal lineage (matches **IV. Belong to the royal family**).

Step 2: Synthesizing the Matches:

- A corresponds to III
- B corresponds to I
- C corresponds to II
- D corresponds to IV

Thus, the correct matched combination is A - III, B - I, C - II, D - IV.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The matching code aligns with Option (B).

Quick Tip: Idiom origins:

- *Black and blue* = bruises from being beaten.
- *Bolt from the blue* = lightning from clear skies (complete surprise).
- *Blue blood* = aristocratic/royal birth.

29. Match the idioms given in List-I with the appropriate meanings in List-II

LIST-I (IDIOMS)		LIST-II (MEANINGS)	
A.	Get into hot waters	I.	Inexperienced
B.	Green horn	II.	To bribe
C.	Give a wide berth	III.	Get into trouble
D.	Grease the palm	IV.	To avoid

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) A - II, B - IV, C - I, D - III
 (B) A - I, B - II, C - III, D - IV
 (C) A - III, B - I, C - IV, D - II
 (D) A - I, B - III, C - IV, D - II

Correct Answer: (C) A - III, B - I, C - IV, D - II

Solution:

Concept:

This question tests idiomatic competency across nautical, administrative, color, and culinary metaphors. Idioms are established figurative expressions that convey distinct socio-pragmatic meanings. Accurately pairing idioms with their definitions requires identifying the underlying metaphorical domain from which each phrase emerged.

Step 1: Detailed Analysis of Each Idiom in List-I:

- **A. Get into hot waters:** Evokes the image of being scalded or plunged into dangerously boiling liquid; idiomatically, it means to find oneself in a difficult, embarrassing, or dangerous situation involving severe trouble or reprimand (matches **III. Get into trouble**).
- **B. Green horn (Greenhorn):** Historically referenced young horned cattle whose horns were immature, later applied to novice soldiers and raw apprentices. In modern English, it denotes an inexperienced, naive, or easily duped person (matches **I. Inexperienced**).
- **C. Give a wide berth:** Originates in nautical navigation, where a ship allows ample sea room (berth) around rocks, shoals, or other vessels to prevent collision. Figuratively, it means to steer clear of, keep a safe distance from, or avoid someone or something entirely (matches **IV. To avoid**).

- **D. Grease the palm:** Originates from the metaphor of applying lubricant to mechanisms to make them run smoothly; in human interaction, it signifies paying a clandestine bribe or illicit fee to expedite a process or secure favorable treatment (matches **II. To bribe**).

Step 2: Synthesizing the Matches:

- A matches with III
- B matches with I
- C matches with IV
- D matches with II

Therefore, the correct mapping is A - III, B - I, C - IV, D - II.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The matching sequence corresponds to Option (C).

Quick Tip: Nautical & daily life idiom meanings:

- *Wide berth* = keep distance / avoid.
- *Grease palm* = bribe.
- *Greenhorn* = novice / inexperienced.

30. Fill in the blanks in the sentences given in List I with the appropriate idioms given in List II :-

LIST-I (Sentences)		LIST-II (Idioms)	
A.	Harassed by the repeated rebukes by the manager, the salesman decided to _____.	I.	tall order
B.	It is a _____ to control pollution in the cities.	II.	my cup of tea
C.	Swimming is not _____ as I have no courage.	III.	bone of contention
D.	The new flat is a _____ between the two brothers.	IV.	put his foot down

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) A - I, B - III, C - II, D - IV
(B) A - I, B - II, C - IV, D - III

(C) A - II, B - III, C - I, D - IV

(D) A - IV, B - I, C - II, D - III

Correct Answer: (D) A - IV, B - I, C - II, D - III

Solution:

Concept:

Idiomatic contextualization requires matching specific figurative idioms to sentences where the situational semantics, emotional tone, and syntactic constraints align seamlessly. The meaning of each idiom must satisfy both the logical premise of the sentence and the grammatical structure of the predicate.

Step 1: Detailed Contextual Analysis of Each Sentence:

- **Sentence A:** "Harassed by the repeated rebukes by the manager, the salesman decided to _____"

The salesman is facing unfair harassment and needs to assert himself firmly to stop the mistreatment. The idiom **put his foot down** (IV) means to take a firm, resolute stand against something. Thus, A → IV.

- **Sentence B:** "It is a _____ to control pollution in the cities."

Controlling urban pollution is an extraordinarily difficult and demanding task. The idiom **tall order** (I) signifies a task or demand that is exceedingly difficult to fulfill. Thus, B → I.

- **Sentence C:** "Swimming is not _____ as I have no courage."

The speaker admits an aversion or lack of affinity for swimming. The idiom **my cup of tea** (II), typically used in the negative ("not my cup of tea"), denotes something that does not suit one's taste, preference, or inclination. Thus, C → II.

- **Sentence D:** "The new flat is a _____ between the two brothers."

The property is the central source of dispute, argument, or rivalry between the brothers. The idiom **bone of contention** (III) refers to a subject or issue over which there is continuing disagreement. Thus, D → III.

Step 2: Synthesizing the Complete Match:

- A → IV

- B → I

- C → II
- D → III

This produces the combination: A - IV, B - I, C - II, D - III.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The matching code aligns with Option (D).

Quick Tip: Contextual Clues:

- “Controlling pollution” = a formidable challenge → **tall order**.
- “Disputed property” = source of quarrel → **bone of contention**.

31. Select the correct words given in List-I to complete the sentences given in List-II :-

LIST-I		LIST-II	
A.	laid off	I.	The wise people always ___ money for old age.
B.	lay up	II.	The workers were ___ due to financial problems.
C.	laid out	III.	He always violated the rules ___ by the office.
D.	laid down	IV.	The gardens were _____ with lawns and flower beds.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) A - II, B - III, C - I, D - IV
- (B) A - IV, B - II, C - I, D - III
- (C) A - II, B - I, C - IV, D - III
- (D) A - I, B - III, C - II, D - IV

Correct Answer: (C) A - II, B - I, C - IV, D - III

Solution:

Concept:

Phrasal verbs constructed from the base verb *lay* (such as *lay off*, *lay up*, *lay out*, *lay down*)

possess highly specialized and distinct meanings based on the accompanying preposition or particle. Successfully completing these sentences requires matching each phrasal verb to its specific operational domain, ranging from corporate retrenchment and resource accumulation to landscape architecture and legislative regulation.

Step 1: Detailed Analysis of Phrasal Verbs in List-I:

- **A. Laid off (from lay off):** To discharge or terminate employees temporarily or permanently due to economic hardship or lack of operational work. Matches Sentence **II** (“The workers were laid off due to financial problems.”).
- **B. Lay up (from lay up):** To store, hoard, accumulate, or save provisions or money for future necessity or emergency. Matches Sentence **I** (“The wise people always lay up money for old age.”).
- **C. Laid out (from lay out):** To plan, arrange, design, or physically construct a landscape, garden, or urban space according to a systematic blueprint. Matches Sentence **IV** (“The gardens were laid out with lawns and flower beds.”).
- **D. Laid down (from lay down):** To formally establish, prescribe, formulate, or enact rules, laws, principles, or regulations. Matches Sentence **III** (“He always violated the rules laid down by the office.”).

Step 2: Synthesizing the Pairings:

- A matches with II
- B matches with I
- C matches with IV
- D matches with III

The resulting sequence is: A - II, B - I, C - IV, D - III.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct matching sequence corresponds to Option (C).

Quick Tip: Phrasal verb memory hooks with *Lay*:

- **Lay off** = dismiss workers.
- **Lay up** = save/store money.
- **Lay down** = establish rules.
- **Lay out** = arrange/design a garden.

32. Match the phrasal verbs given in List-I with the meanings given in List-II

LIST-I		LIST-II	
A.	Call off	I.	visit a place to meet someone
B.	Call at	II.	Demand
C.	Call out	III.	Suspend or abandon
D.	Call for	IV.	Ask to come for help

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) A - I, B - III, C - II, D - IV
(B) A - III, B - I, C - IV, D - II
(C) A - III, B - II, C - I, D - IV
(D) A - II, B - IV, C - I, D - III

Correct Answer: (B) A - III, B - I, C - IV, D - II

Solution:

Concept:

Phrasal verbs formed with the root verb *call* combine with particles (*off, at, out, for*) to generate idiomatic meanings spanning cancellation, visitation, emergency summoning, and official requirement. Differentiating these phrasal verbs is essential for mastering formal English vocabulary.

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Breakdown of Each Phrasal Verb:

- **A. Call off:** Means to cancel, postpone indefinitely, suspend, or abandon an event, strike, match, or operation (matches **III. Suspend or abandon**).
- **B. Call at:** Means to stop briefly at a port, station, or visit a specific residence/place briefly to

meet someone (matches **I. visit a place to meet someone**).

- **C. Call out:** Means to summon someone to deal with an emergency, mobilize emergency services, or ask someone to come for urgent assistance (matches **IV. Ask to come for help**).

- **D. Call for:** Means to publicly demand, necessitate, or require a particular action, explanation, or measure (matches **II. Demand**).

Step 2: Evaluating the Match Combinations:

- A matches III

- B matches I

- C matches IV

- D matches II

The matching code is: A - III, B - I, C - IV, D - II.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct answer is Option (B).

Quick Tip: Phrasal verbs with *Call*:

- **Call off** = cancel / suspend.

- **Call for** = demand / require.

- **Call out** = summon emergency help.

- **Call at** = visit a place.

33. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option :

Kindness is a quality that is alien _____ Harish.

(A) for

(B) to

(C) about

(D) of

Correct Answer: (B) to

Solution:

Concept:

This question tests dependent prepositions and fixed adjective-preposition collocations. In English grammar, certain descriptive adjectives take specific prepositions to connect with their indirect objects or referents. The adjective “alien” in the sense of unfamiliar, foreign, or contrary to someone’s inherent nature requires the preposition **to**.

Step 1: Detailed Analysis of Dependent Preposition Rules:

- The adjective **alien** originates from Latin *alienus* (belonging to another).
- When “alien” is used to describe a concept, behavior, or trait that is foreign, strange, unfamiliar, or repugnant to an individual’s character or personality, it is followed by the preposition **to**.
- Standard construction: *Subject + be + alien + to + person/entity*.

Step 2: Evaluating the Options:

- (A) **for**: Incorrect; “alien for” is unidiomatic in standard English.
- (B) **to**: Correct; forms the standard collocation “alien to Harish” (meaning kindness is completely foreign to Harish’s nature).
- (C) **about**: Incorrect preposition for expressing personal foreignness.
- (D) **of**: Incorrect; “alien of” does not function as an adjective complement.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The appropriate preposition is “to”, corresponding to Option (B).

Quick Tip: Fixed Preposition Collocation:

Something is always **alien to** someone (meaning foreign or unfamiliar to them).

Similar collocations: *foreign to, contrary to, opposed to*.

34. Fill in the blanks with the most suitable option :

The two brothers quarreled _____ the share of their ancestral property.

- (A) for
- (B) at
- (C) over
- (D) off

Correct Answer: (C) over

Solution:

Concept:

This question evaluates mastery over verb-preposition combinations governing disputed subjects. The verb “quarrel” follows distinct prepositional rules depending on whether the object of the preposition is the person with whom one is arguing or the subject matter/topic causing the dispute:

1. *Quarrel **with** a person* (e.g., “He quarreled with his brother”).
2. *Quarrel **over** / **about** a matter* (e.g., “They quarreled over the property”).

Step 1: Syntactic and Prepositional Analysis:

- The clause features the plural subject “The two brothers”, the intransitive past verb “quarreled”, and the topic of contention “the share of their ancestral property”.
- When denoting the cause, prize, or disputed object of a feud or fight, standard English employs the preposition **over** (or **about**).

Step 2: Evaluating the Options:

- **(A) for:** Incorrect; “quarrel for” does not indicate the subject matter of an argument.
- **(B) at:** Incorrect; “quarrel at” is ungrammatical in this context.
- **(C) over:** Correct; “quarreled over the share” accurately expresses dispute regarding ownership of the property.
- **(D) off:** Incorrect; has no prepositional function in this verbal phrase.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The most suitable preposition is “over”, matching Option (C).

Quick Tip: Remember the preposition rule for *Quarrel*:

- Quarrel **with** a person.
- Quarrel **over** / **about** a thing or issue.

35. Match the Figures of speech given in List-I with their examples in List-II

LIST-I (Figures of speech)		LIST-II (Examples)	
A.	Hyperbole	I.	Dearth dwells in every nook and cranny of the slums.
B.	Simile	II.	The fair, funny, fragile looking waif
C.	Personification	III.	Malicious words are like bullets that tear through you.
D.	Alliteration	IV.	The husband's cruel desertion broke her heart into smithereens.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) A - II, B - I, C - III, D - IV
(B) A - III, B - I, C - IV, D - II
(C) A - IV, B - III, C - I, D - II
(D) A - II, B - IV, C - I, D - III

Correct Answer: (C) A - IV, B - III, C - I, D - II

Solution:

Concept:

Figures of speech represent rhetorical devices used in English literature to achieve artistic, evocative, or emotive expression beyond literal meaning:

1. **Hyperbole:** Deliberate, bold exaggeration used for dramatic emphasis or emotional impact.
2. **Simile:** Explicit comparison between two distinctly different entities using comparative markers such as “like” or “as”.
3. **Personification:** Attribution of human characteristics, actions, or emotions to inanimate objects, abstract concepts, or non-human entities.
4. **Alliteration:** The conspicuous repetition of identical initial consonant sounds in successive or closely positioned words.

Step 1: Detailed Analysis of Each Example in List-II:

- **Example I** (“Dearth dwells in every nook and cranny of the slums.”): “Dearth” (an abstract noun meaning scarcity or famine) is depicted as an entity that “dwells” (lives/resides), which is an exclusively animate/human action. This represents **Personification** (matches C).
- **Example II** (“The fair, funny, fragile looking waif”): Features the immediate repetition of the initial consonant sound /f/ in “fair, funny, fragile”. This is a classic demonstration of **Alliteration** (matches D).
- **Example III** (“Malicious words are like bullets that tear through you.”): Directly compares “words” to “bullets” using the explicit comparative connective “like”. This is a **Simile** (matches B).
- **Example IV** (“The husband’s cruel desertion broke her heart into smithereens.”): Claiming that an emotional heartbreak physically shattered a biological organ into microscopic fragments (“smithereens”) is an extreme rhetorical exaggeration, which defines **Hyperbole** (matches A).

Step 2: Synthesizing the Matches:

- A matches IV
- B matches III
- C matches I
- D matches II

The matching code is: A - IV, B - III, C - I, D - II.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct matching corresponds to Option (C).

Quick Tip: Identification checklist:

- Comparison with “like/as” → **Simile**.
- Repeated consonant sound → **Alliteration**.
- Human action given to abstract noun → **Personification**.
- Extreme exaggeration → **Hyperbole**.

36. Match the expressions given in List I with the appropriate figures of speech given in List II :

LIST-I (Phrases)		LIST-II (Figures of speech)	
A.	Her voice crowds up and down the lawn	I.	Alliteration
B.	He makes no friend, who never made a foe.	II.	Personification
C.	Singing in summer in full-throated ease	III.	Hyperbole
D.	Winter laid its icy hands over the city.	IV.	Epigram

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) A - II, B - III, C - I, D - IV
 (B) A - IV, B - I, C - II, D - III
 (C) A - III, B - II, C - I, D - IV
 (D) A - III, B - IV, C - I, D - II

Correct Answer: (D) A - III, B - IV, C - I, D - II

Solution:

Concept:

Literary devices enrich poetic and rhetorical texts through distinct stylistic techniques:

1. **Epigram:** A brief, pithy, and paradoxical statement containing a memorable, witty, or profound philosophical truth.
2. **Personification:** Investing natural phenomena, seasons, or objects with human physical anatomy or agency.
3. **Alliteration:** The acoustic repetition of identical consonant sounds at the beginning of neighboring words.
4. **Hyperbole:** Poetic overstatement magnifying the spatial reach or intensity of sensory impressions.

Step 1: Detailed Analysis of Each Phrase in List-I:

- **Phrase A ("Her voice crowds up and down the lawn"):** Describing a single human voice as possessing the volume and spatial mass of an entire crowd swarming across a lawn is a bold imaginative exaggeration, constituting **Hyperbole** (matches **III**).
- **Phrase B ("He makes no friend, who never made a foe." - Tennyson):** A classic literary

paradox stating that a person of strong conviction inevitably makes both friends and enemies. Such a succinct, paradoxical truth is an **Epigram** (matches IV).

- **Phrase C (“Singing in summer in full-throated ease” - Keats):** Features the prominent repetition of the initial sibilant consonant /s/ in “Singing in summer”. This represents **Alliteration** (matches I).

- **Phrase D (“Winter laid its icy hands over the city.”):** The season of “Winter” is endowed with human anatomy (“hands”) performing the physical action of touching/laying hands. This is **Personification** (matches II).

Step 2: Synthesizing the Matches:

- A → III
- B → IV
- C → I
- D → II

The resulting sequence is: A - III, B - IV, C - I, D - II.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct matching sequence corresponds to Option (D).

Quick Tip: Remember:

- **Epigram:** A concise, paradoxical saying containing deep truth (e.g., Tennyson’s line on friends and foes).
- **Personification:** Attributing body parts (“icy hands”) to seasons/nature.

37. Select the appropriate word to replace the given group of words:

The study of the structure, historical development and a relationship of a language.

- (A) Philology
- (B) Philately
- (C) Petrology
- (D) Phonetics

Correct Answer: (A) Philology

Solution:

Concept:

One-word substitution for academic disciplines requires precise differentiation between specialized scientific and linguistic fields. The study of language contains multiple sub-disciplines: the acoustic study of individual speech sounds (Phonetics), the structural and historical comparative development of whole languages and literary texts (Philology/Historical Linguistics), and entirely unrelated scientific disciplines studying minerals and rocks (Petrology) or hobbies like stamp collecting (Philately).

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Breakdown of the Options:

- **(A) Philology:** Derived from Greek *philos* (love) + *logos* (word, reason, speech). It is the branch of knowledge that deals with the structure, historical development, comparative evolution, and relationships of a language or languages, especially as preserved in written historical sources.
- **(B) Philately:** Derived from Greek *philos* (love) + *ateleia* (exemption from tax/postage). It is the collection and study of postage stamps and postal history.
- **(C) Petrology:** Derived from Greek *petra* (rock) + *logia* (study). It is the branch of geological science concerned with the origin, small-scale structure, and chemical composition of rocks.
- **(D) Phonetics:** Derived from Greek *phone* (voice/sound). It is the branch of linguistics that deals with the physical production, acoustic transmission, and auditory perception of human speech sounds.

Step 2: Matching with the Given Definition:

The exact definition “the study of the structure, historical development and relationship of a language” uniquely defines **Philology**.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct substitute is “Philology”, which is Option (A).

Quick Tip: Branch of Study Clues:

- **Philology** = historical evolution & structure of languages.
- **Phonetics** = physical sounds of speech.
- **Philately** = postage stamps.
- **Petrology** = rocks.

38. Select the appropriate option to fill in the blank:

The mob was _____ to indulge in a series of acts of arson.

- (A) inspired
- (B) instigated
- (C) motivated
- (D) animated

Correct Answer: (B) instigated

Solution:

Concept:

Semantic prosody and contextual collocation dictate word choice when describing illegal, violent, or destructive mob actions. Certain verbs share an overarching denotation of “spurring or prompting action”, but carry sharply polarized connotations:

- Positive/Noble actions are prompted by verbs like *inspired* or *motivated*.
- Unlawful, violent, or riotous actions (e.g., riots, rebellion, arson, violence) uniquely collocate with verbs having negative semantic prosody, specifically **instigate** or **incite**.

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Analysis of the Options:

- **(A) Inspired:** Filled with the urge or ability to do something creative, noble, or artistic; has an overwhelmingly positive connotation.
- **(B) Instigated:** Incited, provoked, or urged someone to commit an unlawful, harmful, or destructive action (e.g., “instigated a riot”, “instigated acts of arson”). Perfectly carries the required negative semantic prosody.

- (C) **Motivated**: Provided with a reason or enthusiasm to accomplish a goal; predominantly used for productive or neutral psychological drives.
- (D) **Animated**: Endowed with life, vigor, or spirited movement; descriptive of lively mannerisms rather than unlawful incitement.

Step 2: Contextual Fit:

“Arson” (the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property) represents a severe violent crime. In standard English, an unruly crowd or mob committing arson is said to be **instigated** (or incited) by provocateurs.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The appropriate word is “instigated”, corresponding to Option (B).

Quick Tip: Negative Semantic Collocation:

- Mob + Crime/Violence/Arson → **Instigated / Incited**.
- Positive/Creative acts → *Inspired / Motivated*.

39. Fill in the blank with the correct word:

The _____ lady followed the sacrosanct rituals with full devotion.

- (A) pious
- (B) devious
- (C) sacrilegious
- (D) careless

Correct Answer: (A) pious

Solution:

Concept:

This question tests semantic congruity and tone alignment in descriptive prose. When

qualifying a subject who adheres strictly to sacred religious observances (“followed the sacrosanct rituals with full devotion”), the attributive adjective must harmonize with reverence, spiritual piety, and devout faith. Adjectives denoting deceit, irreverence, or negligence produce severe semantic contradictions.

Step 1: Detailed Lexical Breakdown of the Options:

- **(A) Pious:** Devoutly religious; showing dutiful reverence, deep devotion, and respect for God or sacred religious observances. Perfectly harmonizes with “followed sacrosanct rituals with full devotion”.
- **(B) Devious:** Showing a skillful use of underhanded or dishonest tactics to achieve goals; deceitful.
- **(C) Sacrilegious:** Involving or characterized by sacrilege; having a profound lack of respect for sacred things or profaning holy objects. This is the direct opposite of devoted ritual observance.
- **(D) Careless:** Not giving sufficient attention or thought; negligent. Directly contradicts the phrase “with full devotion”.

Step 2: Contextual Application:

A person who performs “sacrosanct rituals with full devotion” is by definition devout and reverent, which is the exact definition of **pious**.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct word to fill in the blank is “pious”, which matches Option (A).

Quick Tip: Vocabulary harmony:

Pious (devout/holy) directly pairs with **sacrosanct** (sacred) and **devotion**.

40. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word:

His folly will surely _____ his ruin.

(A) bring out

- (B) bring up
- (C) bring about
- (D) bring in

Correct Answer: (C) bring about

Solution:

Concept:

Phrasal verbs constructed with the verb *bring* convey distinct causative, introductory, developmental, or commercial actions based on the attached preposition:

- *Bring about*: To cause something to happen, produce a result, or lead to a consequence.
- *Bring out*: To publish, release a product, or emphasize a particular quality.
- *Bring up*: To rear/raise a child, or mention a topic in discussion.
- *Bring in*: To earn income, introduce legislation, or yield profit.

Step 1: Detailed Analysis of the Sentence Structure:

- Subject: "His folly" (his foolishness / lack of wisdom).
- Object: "his ruin" (his downfall / destruction).
- The relationship between foolish behavior (folly) and downfall (ruin) is direct causality (cause → effect).
- The phrasal verb meaning "to cause to happen" or "to lead directly to an outcome" is **bring about**.

Step 2: Evaluating the Options:

- (A) **bring out**: Means to publish or highlight; inappropriate for causing ruin.
- (B) **bring up**: Means to raise/educate children or introduce a discussion point.
- (C) **bring about**: Correctly expresses the causative relation: "His folly will surely cause his ruin".
- (D) **bring in**: Means to generate revenue or introduce a new bill.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The appropriate phrasal verb is "bring about", which is Option (C).

Quick Tip: Common Phrasal Verb with *Bring*:

Bring about = to cause / lead to a result (e.g., *bring about a change, bring about ruin*).

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow (Questions 41 to 45):

There's a certain magic in the first chill of season... that moment when India's forests stir back to life. The sanctuary gates creak open, migratory birds return, and air carries that unmistakable scent of damp leaves and wild earth. In western Odisha, Dibrugarh Wildlife Sanctuary, near Sambalpur, is at the heart of this quiet awakening. Now on the cusp of being declared India's newest tiger reserve, it's drawing attention not just for its Wildlife, but for the people who have helped it thrive. Spread across forested slopes along the shimmering Hirakud reservoir, Dibrugarh is a revelation—serene, scenic, and full of small surprises. Mornings here are a melody of birdsongs echoing over still water. Spotted deer and langurs, dart through sal forests while eagles trace lazy circles in the sky. On Bot Island, thousands of bats hang like dark fruits from ancient trees. What was once an overlooked stretch of woodland is today one of eastern India's most inspiring stories of eco-tourism and community-led conservation.

At the edge of this wilderness lies Sambalpur, a city that rests gracefully along Mahanadi River. Its past stretches from the Chauhan dynasty to colonial days, and its present hums with trade, textiles, and temple bells. The river runs through it all, shaping lives, livelihoods, and legends.

A short drive away, Hirakud Dam stands as both an engineering marvel and landscape poetry, a structure that tames Mahanadi yet adds to its splendour. Built in 1950, it remains one of world's longest earthen dams. From Gandhi Minar viewpoint, the reservoir stretches like molten silver, dotted with fishing boats and green islets—same waters that cradle Dibrugarh's forests. Back in the narrow lanes of Sambalpur, looms click, and threads gleam. This is where the famed Sambalpuri ikat is born, each fabric a labor of precision and patience. During festivals, the city turns into a living gallery, women draped in ikat saris, men in handwoven kurtas—each garment carrying stories of skill, soil, and heritage.

41. Dibrugarh Wildlife Sanctuary is attracting tourists because of its-

(A) Wildlife

- (B) Mahanadi River
- (C) Community-led Conservation
- (D) Engineering Marvel

Correct Answer: (C) Community-led Conservation

Solution:

Concept:

Reading comprehension questions that test the primary focus of an informational text require identifying the central unique selling proposition (USP) highlighted by the author. When a passage mentions multiple features (such as wildlife and scenic views) but explicitly elevates a specific transformative model as the primary catalyst for inspiration and tourist attention, that highlighted model constitutes the intended answer.

Step 1: Textual Evidence Analysis:

- The first paragraph explicitly states:

“...it’s drawing attention not just for its Wildlife, but for the people who have helped it thrive.”

- The paragraph concludes by emphasizing:

“What was once an overlooked stretch of woodland is today one of eastern India’s most inspiring stories of eco-tourism and community-led conservation.”

Step 2: Evaluation of Options:

- **(A) Wildlife:** The passage explicitly states it is drawing attention *“not just for its Wildlife”*, showing that wildlife alone is not the distinguishing factor.
- **(B) Mahanadi River:** Mentioned as flowing near Sambalpur and Hirakud, not as the primary reason for the sanctuary’s unique tourist appeal.
- **(C) Community-led Conservation:** Directly matches the concluding sentence of paragraph 1, which identifies the sanctuary as an inspiring model of eco-tourism and community-led conservation.
- **(D) Engineering Marvel:** Refers to the Hirakud Dam, not the sanctuary itself.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is “Community-led Conservation”, matching Option (C).

Quick Tip: Pay close attention to contrasting phrases like “not just X, but Y”. The author places special thematic emphasis on Y (the community-led conservation).

42. Identify the figure of speech used in the line ‘Thousands of bats hang like dark fruits’.

- (A) Alliteration
- (B) Metaphor
- (C) Personification
- (D) Simile

Correct Answer: (D) Simile

Solution:

Concept:

A **Simile** is a figure of speech in which an explicit comparison is drawn between two fundamentally dissimilar entities using explicit connective words such as “like”, “as”, or “so”. Unlike a metaphor (which asserts that one thing *is* another without connecting words), a simile maintains the distinct identity of both subjects while highlighting a vivid visual or sensory resemblance.

Step 1: Textual Breakdown of the Expression:

- Target line: “Thousands of bats hang like dark fruits”
- Primary subject (tenor): “bats”
- Comparative object (vehicle): “dark fruits”
- Comparative connective marker: “like”
- Visual resemblance: The physical posture of dormant bats hanging inverted from branches is directly compared to dark ripe fruits hanging from trees.

Step 2: Evaluating the Figures of Speech:

- (A) **Alliteration:** Involves the repetition of initial consonant sounds; not the primary device here.
- (B) **Metaphor:** Would state “thousands of bats were dark fruits” (without “like”).
- (C) **Personification:** Involves attributing human traits to non-human entities.
- (D) **Simile:** The presence of the explicit connective marker “like” comparing bats to fruits confirms that the figure of speech is a Simile.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The figure of speech is a “Simile”, which corresponds to Option (D).

Quick Tip: Whenever two distinct items are compared using the words “**like**” or “**as**”, the figure of speech is unequivocally a **Simile**.

43. Which of the following river runs through the city of Sambalpur?

- (A) Western river
- (B) Hirakund river
- (C) Woodland river
- (D) Mahanadi river

Correct Answer: (D) Mahanadi river

Solution:

Concept:

Direct factual recall in reading comprehension requires locating explicit geographical and environmental proper nouns identified in the passage. Scanning techniques must be used to locate the reference to the city of Sambalpur and extract the name of the river directly associated with its geography and cultural life.

Step 1: Locating Textual Evidence in the Passage:

- In the second paragraph, the passage explicitly records:

"At the edge of this wilderness lies Sambalpur, a city that rests gracefully along Mahanadi River."

- The paragraph further underscores this fact:

"The river runs through it all, shaping lives, livelihoods, and legends."

- In the third paragraph, the dam is described as a structure that *"tames Mahanadi"*.

Step 2: Evaluation of Options:

- **(A) Western river:** Western is used as a directional adjective for Odisha ("In western Odisha"), not the name of a river.

- **(B) Hirakund river:** Hirakud is a dam and reservoir built on the Mahanadi River, not a separate river itself.

- **(C) Woodland river:** "Woodland" refers to the stretch of forest, not a river.

- **(D) Mahanadi river:** Accurately and explicitly named as the river running through the city of Sambalpur.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The river running through Sambalpur is the "Mahanadi river", matching Option (D).

Quick Tip: Use keyword scanning: Locate the keyword "Sambalpur" in paragraph 2 to find the exact name of the river: **Mahanadi River**.

44. Identify the meaning of the underlined word in the line, 'this is where the famed sambalpuri ikat is born.

(A) Gallery

(B) Handwoven fabric

(C) mass produced fabric

(D) Heritage

Correct Answer: (B) Handwoven fabric

Solution:

Concept:

Contextual vocabulary and cultural comprehension require deducing the meaning of specialized textile terms from surrounding descriptive modifiers. By examining the contextual clues provided in the sentence and the succeeding descriptions (e.g., “looms click”, “threads gleam”, “each fabric a labor of precision”, “women draped in ikat saris”, “men in handwoven kurtas”), the identity of “ikat” as a traditional handloom textile art form is clearly established.

Step 1: Textual Evidence and Descriptive Clues:

- Paragraph 3 describes the weaving culture:

“Back in the narrow lanes of Sambalpur, looms click, and threads gleam. This is where the famed Sambalpuri ikat is born, each fabric a labor of precision and patience.”

- The passage further specifies:

“...women draped in ikat saris, men in handwoven kurtas—each garment carrying stories of skill...”

Step 2: Evaluating the Options:

- **(A) Gallery:** A room or building for the display of art; the passage uses “living gallery” purely as a metaphor for the festival city, not the definition of ikat.
- **(B) Handwoven fabric:** Correctly captures the identity of ikat as a traditional, handloom-woven, precision textile.
- **(C) Mass produced fabric:** Directly contradicts the description of ikat as an intricate craft made on traditional clicking looms requiring painstaking patience.
- **(D) Heritage:** Refers to cultural inheritance in general, not the specific physical fabric itself.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The underlined word “ikat” refers to a “Handwoven fabric”, corresponding to Option (B).

Quick Tip: Context clues such as “looms click”, “threads gleam”, and “labor of precision” clearly point to an artisanal, **handwoven fabric**.

45. The main profession of the people in sambalpur is-

- (A) Animal Training
- (B) Wild life awakening
- (C) Textile and weaving
- (D) Engineering the dam

Correct Answer: (C) Textile and weaving

Solution:

Concept:

Inferential and factual comprehension involves synthesizing information distributed across descriptive passages to determine the primary economic and occupational identity of a community. Passages focusing on traditional crafts, clicking looms, and renowned woven garments establish weaving and textile craftsmanship as the core traditional profession of the local citizenry.

Step 1: Locating Evidence across the Passage:

- In paragraph 2, the author notes about Sambalpur:

"...its present hums with trade, textiles, and temple bells."

- In paragraph 3, the author details the widespread engagement with weaving in the city:

"Back in the narrow lanes of Sambalpur, looms click, and threads gleam. This is where the famed Sambalpuri ikat is born, each fabric a labor of precision and patience."

- The clothing of the populace during festivities consists of local handwoven garments (ikat saris, handwoven kurtas).

Step 2: Evaluating the Options:

- **(A) Animal Training:** Entirely unmentioned in the passage.

- **(B) Wild life awakening:** A poetic description of the morning forest, not an occupation.

- **(C) Textile and weaving:** Accurately reflects the bustling trade, ubiquitous looms, and renowned handwoven ikat craft celebrated throughout the passage.

- **(D) Engineering the dam:** The dam was built in 1950 and stands as an engineering

landmark, but dam engineering is not the widespread everyday occupation of the residents of Sambalpur's lanes.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The prominent profession highlighted in the city is "Textile and weaving", which is Option (C).

Quick Tip: Look for words related to occupations: "hums with trade, textiles", "looms click", and "handwoven kurtas" all indicate **textile and weaving**.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow (Questions 46 to 50):

One day several months ago, my elder brother, who was ninety-five years old then, called me, on phone from Rameswaram. He started the conversation by narrating an incident about my friend's visit to him. During the discussion, my friend asked my brother, "How old is your house?" He said, "The house was built by our father, more than a century ago. My younger brother, and my earning grandchildren have now come out with a proposal to build a new house in the same place after demolishing this one." My friend said he would not want to see such a historical place demolished. He was willing to make an arrangement through a trust to transform the house into a museum and library, while alternative accommodation was worked out for my brother and his family. My brother, was calling me, to say he was against the friend's proposal. "I would like to live in the house where I have grown and lived for ninety-five years. I would like to build a new house in the same place through the earnings of my kith and kin. I would not like to have any other arrangements. You thank your friend in a nice way". It struck me,—here is a man who would like to lead his life on his own terms and does not want any help, well-meant though it might be. It was a great learning for me, and I saw in my brother, a reflection of my father, who lived to 103 years and inculcated such a tradition in us.

46. From the offer made by the narrator's friend, it's evident that the friend is-

- (A) greedy
- (B) an opportunist
- (C) a Romanist

(D) an Antiquarian

Correct Answer: (D) an Antiquarian

Solution:

Concept:

Character inference in reading comprehension requires analyzing a person's motives, values, and proposals to categorize their intellectual and cultural disposition. A person who is deeply passionate about safeguarding century-old architecture from demolition, seeking instead to preserve it for posterity as a museum and library through a public trust, demonstrates a profound reverence for historical relics, heritage, and antiquities.

Step 1: Analyzing the Friend's Action in the Text:

- When the friend learned that the century-old ancestral home was slated for demolition, he protested:

"My friend said he would not want to see such a historical place demolished."

- He offered to fund and establish a trust to preserve the heritage building:

"He was willing to make an arrangement through a trust to transform the house into a museum and library..."

Step 2: Evaluating the Lexical Options:

- **(A) Greedy:** Characterized by an excessive desire for wealth or gain; contradicted by his willingness to establish a trust and provide alternative accommodation.
- **(B) An opportunist:** Someone who exploits circumstances for selfish personal gain; does not match his selfless, preservationist proposal.
- **(C) A Romanist:** An advocate of the Roman Catholic Church or Roman law; entirely irrelevant.
- **(D) An Antiquarian:** A person who studies, values, collects, or is devoted to the conservation of ancient objects, historical structures, and cultural heritage. The friend's desire to preserve a historic building as a museum precisely reflects an antiquarian mindset.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The friend's character is that of "an Antiquarian", matching Option (D).

Quick Tip: Definition check:

An **Antiquarian** is someone devoted to the study, preservation, and cherishing of historical monuments and ancient heritage.

47. Which among the following was not a topic of conversation between the narrator and his elder brother?

- (A) Buying a new house for the narrator
- (B) Transforming the house into a museum
- (C) Transforming the house into a library
- (D) Making arrangements through a trust

Correct Answer: (A) Buying a new house for the narrator

Solution:

Concept:

Negative factual identification questions (asking what was *not* discussed) require verifying every proposed option against the recorded dialogue and narration in the text. Any item that does not appear in the telephonic discussion between the two brothers represents the correct answer.

Step 1: Extracting the Conversation Topics from the Passage:

- The elder brother phoned the narrator to narrate the friend's visit and discussed:
 1. Transforming the ancestral house into a **museum** (explicitly mentioned: "...transform the house into a museum...").
 2. Transforming the ancestral house into a **library** (explicitly mentioned: "...and library...").
 3. Making funding arrangements through a **trust** (explicitly mentioned: "...make an arrangement through a trust...").
 4. Demolishing the old structure and building a new house in the same place for the elder brother's family using their own family earnings.

Step 2: Evaluating the Options:

- **Option (A):** “Buying a new house for the narrator” was never mentioned or discussed anywhere in the text. The narrator was merely a listener on the phone, and the housing discussion concerned only the ancestral home in Rameswaram.
- **Options (B), (C), and (D):** All represent explicit elements of the friend’s proposal discussed during the call.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The topic that was NOT part of the conversation is Option (A).

Quick Tip: Scan for explicit keywords: “museum”, “library”, and “trust” appear verbatim in the text. “Buying a new house for the narrator” is completely absent.

48. The narrator’s friend did not want the house to be demolished because it was

- (A) a magnificent building
- (B) a historical building
- (C) an architectural marvel
- (D) a newly constructed building

Correct Answer: (B) a historical building

Solution:

Concept:

Direct factual comprehension questions require matching the exact reasoning stated by a character in the narrative with the multiple-choice options, avoiding misleading stylistic or exaggerative descriptors that do not appear in the text.

Step 1: Locating Textual Evidence in the Passage:

- In the passage, the elder brother explains the age of the house:

"The house was built by our father, more than a century ago."

- When told that grandchildren wanted to demolish it, the friend's immediate rationale is stated verbatim:

*"My friend said he would not want to see such a **historical place** demolished."*

Step 2: Evaluating the Options:

- (A) **a magnificent building**: Subjective descriptor not used by the friend.

- (B) **a historical building**: Directly and precisely matches the friend's exact words: *"such a historical place"*.

- (C) **an architectural marvel**: Used earlier in the paper for Hirakud dam, not for the brother's ancestral house.

- (D) **a newly constructed building**: Contradicts the text, as the house was built more than a hundred years ago.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The friend opposed demolition because it was "a historical building", matching Option (B).

Quick Tip: Always look for the literal phrase in the text:

*"would not want to see such a **historical place** demolished"* → **historical building**.

49. Choose the best option to explain the given phrase:

It struck me

(A) To hit as a kick

(B) To attack suddenly

(C) To come to mind suddenly

(D) To take down or dismantle

Correct Answer: (C) To come to mind suddenly

Solution:

Concept:

Idiomatic verbal phrases employing the verb *strike* have distinct physical and cognitive meanings. When the impersonal construction “It struck me that...” is utilized in introspective narrative writing, “strike” functions as a cognitive mental verb denoting a sudden flash of insight, an unexpected realization, or an idea that dawns upon the speaker’s consciousness abruptly and powerfully.

Step 1: Analyzing Contextual Usage in the Passage:

- In the passage, the narrator reflects on his brother’s refusal of outside charity:
“It struck me,—here is a man who would like to lead his life on his own terms...”
- In this context, the narrator is having a sudden moment of profound realization regarding his brother’s self-reliance, moral dignity, and adherence to their father’s values.

Step 2: Evaluating the Options:

- (A) **To hit as a kick:** Literal physical impact; completely incorrect for an intellectual realization.
- (B) **To attack suddenly:** Refers to a military ambush or assault; not applicable.
- (C) **To come to mind suddenly:** Accurately defines the cognitive idiom “it struck me” (meaning a thought, realization, or conviction suddenly dawned upon someone).
- (D) **To take down or dismantle:** Refers to demolition or disassembly; irrelevant.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The phrase means “To come to mind suddenly”, corresponding to Option (C).

Quick Tip: Idiom Meaning:

“It struck me” = It suddenly occurred to me / A realization dawned upon me.

50. Identify the meaning of the phrase ‘kith and kin’

- (A) Friends
- (B) Relatives
- (C) Parents
- (D) Students

Correct Answer: (B) Relatives

Solution:

Concept:

Alliterative binomial idioms in English consist of coordinated pairs of words joined by a conjunction. The traditional phrase “kith and kin” is an Old/Middle English binomial pair where *kith* historically signified one’s acquaintances/friends and native country (from Old English *cydd*), while *kin* signified one’s blood relations and family members (from Old English *cynn*). In modern standard usage and standardized examination rubrics, the collective idiom is primarily defined as one’s family, blood relations, and relatives.

Step 1: Analyzing Contextual Usage in the Passage:

- The elder brother stated:

“I would like to build a new house in the same place through the earnings of my kith and kin.”

- He was referring specifically to the earnings of his younger brother, children, and earning grandchildren (i.e., his family members and relatives).

Step 2: Evaluating the Options:

- **(A) Friends:** Captures only the archaic sense of “kith” in isolation, but fails to represent the primary collective familial sense of the whole idiom.
- **(B) Relatives:** Accurately denotes one’s family, relations, and blood kin, which is the established definition of the phrase in standard usage.
- **(C) Parents:** Far too narrow, as the brother is 95 years old and speaking of his grandchildren.
- **(D) Students:** Completely irrelevant.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The idiom “kith and kin” means “Relatives”, which is Option (B).

Quick Tip: Idiom Definition:

Kith and kin = one's relatives, family, and relations.

Root: *Kin* = blood relation / family.
