

CUET 2026 May 26 Shift 2 English

Question Paper (Memory-Based)

Conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA)



General Instructions

- (i) The examination will be 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. Passage:

My grandmother always held a certain stoic posture toward life's erratic tides. Living in a small, weathered cottage, she looked back at a history filled with transient joys and lasting trials. Her penchant for storytelling transformed rainy afternoons into grand journeys. Though neighbors viewed her solitary lifestyle as ascetic, if not dangerously precarious given her failing health, she remained entirely loquacious whenever a guest crossed her threshold, speaking with an eloquent cadence that captivated anyone who listened. She often reminded us that lingering on past predicaments was a futile exercise, urging us instead to make peace with our conflicts and move forward without looking back.

Based on the passage, why did neighbors characterize the grandmother's lifestyle as "ascetic"?

- (A) Because she had an unpredictable, erratic pattern of welcoming visitors.
- (B) Because she lived a severe, self-disciplined, and simple life alone.
- (C) Because her penchant for grand storytelling was confusing.
- (D) Because she spent her time constantly worrying about her failing health.

2. Passage:

My grandmother always held a certain stoic posture toward life's erratic tides. Living in a small, weathered cottage, she looked back at a history filled with transient joys and lasting trials. Her

penchant for storytelling transformed rainy afternoons into grand journeys. Though neighbors viewed her solitary lifestyle as ascetic, if not dangerously precarious given her failing health, she remained entirely loquacious whenever a guest crossed her threshold, speaking with an eloquent cadence that captivated anyone who listened. She often reminded us that lingering on past predicaments was a futile exercise, urging us instead to make peace with our conflicts and move forward without looking back.

Which word used in the passage is closest in meaning to an “unstable, uncertain, or uncomfortable situation”?

- (A) Stoic
 - (B) Transient
 - (C) Precarious
 - (D) Ascetic
-

3. One Word Substitution: A person who studies or collects postage stamps is called a/an:

- (A) Ornithologist
 - (B) Philatelist
 - (C) Numismatist
 - (D) Graphologist
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4. One Word Substitution: Identify the correct terms for the following two definitions respectively:

1. The study and analysis of handwriting.
2. An instrument that records heart/beat action.

- (A) Numismatics, Stethoscope
 - (B) Graphology, Cardiograph
 - (C) Ventriloquism, Cardiograph
 - (D) Graphology, Stethoscope
-

5. Synonyms: Match the words in Column I with their correct meanings/synonyms in Column II.

Column I		Column II	
1.	Eloquent	P.	Fluent or persuasive in speaking
2.	Vivacious	Q.	Extremely unpleasant; repulsive
3.	Odious	R.	Lively, animated, and full of energy
4.	Penchant	S.	A strong or habitual liking for something

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) 1-P, 2-R, 3-Q, 4-S
 - (B) 1-R, 2-P, 3-S, 4-Q
 - (C) 1-P, 2-Q, 3-R, 4-S
 - (D) 1-S, 2-R, 3-Q, 4-P
-

6. Antonyms: Select the correct antonym for the word "Concise".

- (A) Brief
 - (B) Loquacious
 - (C) Verbose / Wordy
 - (D) Meticulous
-

7. Spelling Check: Identify the option with the exact correct spelling.

- (A) Maintainance
 - (B) Maintenance
 - (C) Maintenece
 - (D) Mentence
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8. Homophones: Complete the sentence using the correct set of homophones:

The actress wore a dark _____ to hide her face, but she could not suppress a loud _____ of grief when she saw the _____ state of the slum.

- (A) vail, wail, vile
- (B) veil, vail, vile
- (C) veil, wail, vile
- (D) vile, wail, veil

9. Match the Idioms in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

Column A		Column B	
1.	Bury the hatchet	P.	A sudden and completely unexpected event
2.	Bolt from the blue	Q.	To reveal a secret or disclose information prematurely
3.	Spill the beans	R.	To make peace or end a long-standing conflict
4.	Apple of discord	S.	A cause or subject of dispute and rivalry

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

- (A) 1-R, 2-P, 3-Q, 4-S
- (B) 1-P, 2-R, 3-Q, 4-S
- (C) 1-R, 2-Q, 3-P, 4-S
- (D) 1-S, 2-P, 3-Q, 4-R

10. Complete the sentence:

“The candidate was completely _____ by the deceptive questions asked by the interview board.”

- (A) taken in
- (B) brushed off
- (C) ironed out
- (D) lashed out