

CUET 2026 June 6 Shift 1 English

Question Paper

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. Identify the figure of speech used in the following lines: 'The house was crouching on its elbows then,' Choose the appropriate option from the ones given below:

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

2. Fill in the blanks in the sentences given in List-I with the appropriate Idioms given in List-II:

List-I	List-II
Sentences	Idioms
(A) The persuasive powers of his friends proved successful and he _____.	(I) to live the life of Reilly
(B) After inheriting her family fortunes, she is going _____.	(II) hold your horses
(C) Please _____ and do not jump to unfounded conclusions.	(III) cloud nine
(D) When my brother was selected in the NDA, he was on _____.	(IV) knuckled under

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

3. Choose the word similar in meaning to the underlined word in the following sentence:

Vitality and zest for life were at a vanishing point, spirituality glowed but in fitful embers.

- (A) zenith
 - (B) enthusiasm
 - (C) propensity
 - (D) satisfaction
-

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

- (A) actions of characters and dialogues
- (B) intended to be
- (C) a drama is a composition in prose or verse
- (D) acted on stage through

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

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

- (A) Commisionor
 - (B) commissioner
 - (C) comissioner
 - (D) commisioner
-

6. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word from the options given: *As an employee working for a long time, you know too _____ who could have spilled the beans.*

- (A) more
- (B) little
- (C) few
- (D) well

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

- (A) and saw her son in a blue shirt
- (B) she came to the balcony
- (C) surging on the rocking horse
- (D) hearing some sound sudden

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

8. Choose the correct passive construction of the given sentence from the options given:

The government will offer incentives to contractors completing high priority projects.

- (A) The government will be offered incentives by contractors completing high priority projects.
 - (B) Contractors who complete high priority projects would offer incentives to the government.
 - (C) Contractors completing high priority projects would be offered incentives by the government.
 - (D) The government would offer incentives to contractors completing high priority projects.
-

9. Select the word which can replace the given phrase:

The state of being legally responsible for something.

- (A) legitimate
 - (B) liable
 - (C) legalised
 - (D) eligible
-

10. Complete the sentence with the appropriate word from the given options:

Her command over English is _____.

- (A) more excellent
- (B) most excellent
- (C) excellent

(D) the most excellent

11. Choose the sentences which show the correct usage of phrasal verbs:

- (A) The unruly students egged on him to break the lock and enter the dean's office.
- (B) We promise to wrap up the session before sun-down.
- (C) Please turn in the volume of your music system.
- (D) She will not come to school today as she has suddenly come up with viral fever.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

12. Identify the Figure of Speech used in the given sentence:-

She was impressed to see shining silver spoons at the serving counter

- (A) Pun
 - (B) Alliteration
 - (C) Oxymoron
 - (D) Simile
-

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

- (A) most roads and routes across Delhi NCR
- (B) appeared as a crimson streak on real-time traffic maps
- (C) and increased travel time
- (D) indicating high traffic volume

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

14. Fill in the blank in the sentence with the correct word from the options given:-

After a minor accident with a bus, Madan's movements are _____ restricted, otherwise he is very active.

- (A) frequently
- (B) slightly
- (C) very much
- (D) entirely

15. Choose the word/words which are opposite in meaning to the given word.

Redress

- (A) set right
- (B) remedy
- (C) retribution
- (D) harm

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

16. Fill in the blanks given in List-I with the correct words given in List-II.

List-I	List-II
(A) He has changed a lot _____ I last saw him.	(I) although
(B) She arrived on time _____ it was raining cats and dogs.	(II) unless
(C) _____ there is an emergency don't disturb me.	(III) as
(D) Do unto others _____ you would have them do unto you.	(IV) since

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

17. Select the word from the given options that is OPPOSITE to the meaning of the word-
TACITURN

- (A) tainted
 - (B) reticent
 - (C) garrulous
 - (D) imprudent
-

18. Match the idioms given in List-I with their meanings given in List-II:

List-I	List-II
Idioms	Meanings
(A) Hands full	(I) Leave in a difficult situation
(B) Hand in glove with	(II) To be busy
(C) grease someone's palm	(III) To be closely associated with
(D) Leave in the lurch	(IV) To bribe someone

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

19. Choose the word which is correctly spelled from the given options:

- (A) Aggressive
 - (B) Agresive
 - (C) Agressive
 - (D) Aggresive
-

20. Select the word from the given options that is similar in meaning to the word-VOLATILE:

- (A) unstable
 - (B) trespass
 - (C) transient
 - (D) perpetual
-

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

- (A) that true science fiction
- (B) is a creation of
- (C) I have often made the point
- (D) the last two centuries

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

22. Choose the word OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined word in the following sentence:

“She declined to participate in the soccer game.”

- (A) supported
- (B) avoided
- (C) opposed
- (D) repudiated

23. Match the idioms given in List-I with their meanings given in List-II:

List-I	List-II
Idioms	Meanings
(A) Eat one's words	(I) Straightforward
(B) Fair and square	(II) Expressionless
(C) Play with fire	(III) Admit one's mistakes humbly
(D) Poker-faced	(IV) To do something dangerous

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

24. Choose the correct transformation of the given sentence in Indirect Speech:

The teacher said to the boy, “Why don’t you bring your books?”

- (A) The teacher said to the boy that why don’t you bring your books.
 (B) The teacher asked the boy why he didn’t bring his books.
 (C) The teacher asked the boy, why didn’t he bring your books?
 (D) The teacher asked the boy, why didn’t he bring his books.

25. Fill in the blanks given in List-I with the words given in List-II:

List-I	List-II
(A) He _____ the television when the bell rang.	(I) watch
(B) I already, _____ this movie.	(II) watching
(C) The police teams are on duty to _____ over his whereabouts.	(III) have watched
(D) At this time tomorrow, you will be _____ the cricket match in London.	(IV) was watching

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

26. Fill in the blanks with the correct pair from the options given below:

“Even in the present times, some people _____ their votes according to their _____.”

- (A) cast, caste
 (B) cast, casted
 (C) caste, casted
 (D) caste, cast

27. Select the word / words which mean the same as the given word:

Calumny

- (A) Defamation

- (B) Praise
- (C) Vindication
- (D) Aspersion

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

28. Fill in the blank with the correct option:

“My friend had barely _____ to pull out of the garage when he realised that he had left the dog inside.”

- (A) had been starting
 - (B) have started
 - (C) will start
 - (D) started
-

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

- (A) following the guidelines of the Supreme Court,
- (B) I appeal to the people of Delhi,
- (C) as responsible citizens,
- (D) to burn only green crackers

Choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below:

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

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

List-I	List-II
Sentences	Words
(A) A/an _____ studies secret writing and coded words.	(I) lexicographer
(B) A/an _____ compiles a dictionary.	(II) cartographer
(C) A/an _____ draws a map.	(III) anthropologist
(D) A/an _____ studies the evolution of mankind.	(IV) cryptographer

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

31. Fill in the blanks with the correct pair of words arranged sequentially:

“ _____ now that his views on how to control pollution _____ worth listening to.”

- (A) am convinced, are
 - (B) am convinced, is
 - (C) was convinced, is
 - (D) have been convinced, is
-

32. Fill in the blank by selecting the appropriate word from the options given below:

“As Rohit was driving fast, his car hit the divider and fell _____.”

- (A) on
 - (B) into
 - (C) inside
 - (D) under
-

33. Choose the correct option given below to fill in the blank:

“I could not stand in that room as there was a _____ smell.”

- (A) fowl
- (B) foil
- (C) foul
- (D) fuel

34. Match the words given in List-I with the phrases given in List-II:

List-I	List-II
Words	Phrases
(A) ERGONOMY	(I) The study of the human race
(B) ETHNOLOGY	(II) The study of earthquakes
(C) ARBORICULTURE	(III) The study of the effect of environment on workers
(D) SEISMOLOGY	(IV) Cultivation of trees and vegetables

Choose the correct answer from the options given below:

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

35. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate Phrasal Verbs from the options given below:

“The representative walked out as the negotiation broke _____ and no compromise could be made.”

- (A) down
- (B) in
- (C) off
- (D) with

36. Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the options given below:

“Even if he had been doing his job, as a man of character he _____ not have cooperated with standard.”

- (A) standardly
- (B) would
- (C) will not
- (D) often

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

“It is really difficult to deal _____ those people who do not want to listen to others.”

- (A) at
 - (B) about
 - (C) after
 - (D) with
-

38. Given below are four sentences. Choose the one which is grammatically correct:

- (A) I gave him a few coins I had.
 - (B) I gave him few coins I had.
 - (C) I gave him the few coins I had.
 - (D) I gave him the fewer coins I had.
-

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

The director is a perfectionist, _____ he is seldom satisfied with average performance.

- (A) hence
 - (B) however
 - (C) nevertheless
 - (D) but
-

40. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate Phrasal Verb from the options given below:

A snake might be hidden in this garden. You are advised to _____ the grass.

- (A) keep out
 - (B) keep under
 - (C) keep off
 - (D) keep up
-

Passage for Questions 41–45

Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow:

Declining Number of Elephants

All is not well with India’s elephants. A population estimation exercise by the Wildlife Institute of India has suggested a disturbing decline in their number. The 2025 count is 22,446, 17% lower than

in 2017, when the count was 27,312. Incidentally, the Centre informed the Lok Sabha in 2024 that India's pachyderm population, as per a synchronised estimation, was 29,964. These surveys are not comparable because of methodological differences. Experts have also said that the DNA model may have under-estimated the elephant count. These counters are valid, but there is enough and more evidence to be concerned about the health of the Indian elephants.

At least three inferences in the SAIF report ask for close reading. One, the once-contiguous elephant population in the Western Ghats is rapidly splintering due to changing land use, including expanding commercial plantations, invasive plants, farmland fencing, human encroachment and mushrooming developmental projects, all of which impact elephant survival and migration. Two, habitats in East Central India face fragmentation and deterioration from unmitigated mining and infrastructure projects. Habitat degradation and human use have prompted long-ranging elephants to venture into human dwellings, escalating human-wildlife conflict.

Three, the North East holds the second-largest elephant population in India but exploitation of natural resources since colonial times, driven by the productive nature of floodplains and geopolitics, has led to habitat loss and rising conflict with humans. The frequent reports of such conflicts and accidents on rail tracks from states such as Kerala, West Bengal and Assam confirm the anxieties recorded by the report. Project Elephant, established in 1992, needs a renewed push.

41. Read the given passage and answer the following question:

'Project Elephant' needs a renewed push because:

- (A) wildlife surveys are not conclusive.
 - (B) farmland fencing has proved to be a boon.
 - (C) human-wildlife conflict is on the rise.
 - (D) the North East has the second largest elephant population.
-

42. Read the given passage and answer the following question:

The changing land use in the Western Ghats is responsible for the _____ of the elephant population.

- (A) augmentation
 - (B) deterioration
 - (C) sickness
 - (D) migration
-

43. Read the given passage and answer the following question:

_____ have compelled the elephant population to invade human dwellings.

- (A) Infrastructure projects
 - (B) Habitats in Central India
 - (C) Contiguous elephant population
 - (D) Health of the elephants
-

44. Read the given passage and answer the following question:

Pachyderm population refers to the population of _____ .

- (A) Wildlife
 - (B) White Elephants
 - (C) Humans
 - (D) Elephants
-

45. Read the given passage and answer the following question:

In the word PACHYDERM, *derm* means–

- (A) trunk
 - (B) tusk
 - (C) tail
 - (D) skin
-

Passage for Questions 46–50

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

When Tao Ying rides on the bus alone, quite often she does not bother to buy a ticket.

“Why should she?” Without her, the bus would still be stopping at every stop, a driver and a conductor would still have to be employed, and the same amount of petrol used.

Clearly Tao Ying has to be astute. When the bus conductor looked the responsible type, she would buy a ticket as soon as she got on board. But if he appeared to be casual and careless, she would not dream of paying, considering it a small punishment for him and a little saving for herself.

Tao Ying works as a cook in the canteen of a factory. She spends all day next to an open fire, baking screw-shaped wheat cakes with sesame butter.

Today she is with her son Xiao Ye. She tickets him onto the bus. As the doors shut, her jacket is caught, ballooning up like a sail behind her. She twists this way and that, finally wrenching herself free.

“Mama, ticket?” Xiao Ye says. Children are often more conscious of rituals than adults. Without a ticket in his hand, he does not count as a proper rider.

On the peeling paint of the door somebody has painted the shape of a pale tiger. It points at a number: 1.50 m.

Xiao Ye pushed through. His hair looks as fluffy as a bundle of straw-dry and without lustre. As a rule, Tao Ying is very careful with her purse, but she has never skimmed on her child’s diet. Nonetheless, the goodness in his food refuses to advance beyond his hairline. As a result, Xiao Ye is healthy and clever, but his hair is a mess.

46. Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:

Which of the following does not hold true for the protagonist of the story?

- (A) She is a law abiding citizen.
 - (B) She is astute.
 - (C) Plenitude is her second name.
 - (D) She works in highly conducive environment.
-

47. Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:

“She has never skimmed on her child’s diet” clearly states that:

- (A) She is a strict mother.
 - (B) She wants to save on eatables.
 - (C) She is careful about her child’s nutritive requirements.
 - (D) She takes her maternal duties for granted.
-

48. Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:

Tao Ying’s son’s concern about the ticket shows that children, compared to adults, are:

- (A) lackadaisical
 - (B) reckless
 - (C) conscientious
 - (D) dexterous
-

49. Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:

The poetic device used in the line “his hair looks as fluffy as a bundle of straw” is:

- (A) metaphor
 - (B) irony
 - (C) personification
 - (D) simile
-

50. Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:

Tao Ying is “very careful with her purse”. This means that:

- (A) She is paranoid about being robbed.
 - (B) She is particular about carrying the most fashionable purse.
 - (C) Her purse is an unwanted burden.
 - (D) She is frugal by nature.
-