

CUET 2026 May 24 Shift 1 English

Question Paper (Memory-Based) With Solutions

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. Choose the word closest in meaning to “offspring.”

- (A) Ancestors
- (B) Progeny
- (C) Heritage
- (D) Relatives

Correct Answer: (B) Progeny

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to find the synonym of the word “offspring” among the given options.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Define each word to determine which one is closest in meaning to the target word.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- “Offspring” refers to a person’s child or children, or the young of an animal.
- Option (A) “Ancestors” refers to people from whom one is descended, which is the opposite of offspring.
- Option (B) “Progeny” refers to a descendant or descendants of a person, animal, or plant, making it a direct synonym for offspring.
- Option (C) “Heritage” refers to valued objects and qualities passed down through generations, such as historic buildings or cultural traditions.
- Option (D) “Relatives” refers to people connected by blood or marriage, which is a much broader term.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Therefore, the word closest in meaning to “offspring” is “Progeny”.

Quick Tip: In vocabulary questions, look at the prefix and suffix of the words. For example, “pro-” in progeny often relates to moving forward or producing, which aligns with the concept of future generations.

2. What does “recalcitrant” mean?

- (A) Helpful
- (B) Obedient
- (C) Stubborn
- (D) Generous

Correct Answer: (C) Stubborn

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the definition or meaning of the word “recalcitrant”.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Analyze the contextual usage and synonyms of the word “recalcitrant”.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- “Recalcitrant” describes someone who has an obstinately uncooperative attitude toward authority or discipline.
- Common synonyms for this word include stubborn, defiant, rebellious, or uncooperative.
- Options (A) “Helpful”, (B) “Obedient”, and (D) “Generous” are positive traits and generally contrast with or are unrelated to the meaning of recalcitrant.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Thus, the correct meaning of “recalcitrant” is “Stubborn”.

Quick Tip: The word recalcitrant comes from the Latin root “recalcitrare”, which literally means “to kick back”. This can help you associate the word with stubborn or resistant behavior.

3. Choose the correct meaning of “furtherance.”

- (A) Delay
- (B) Advancement
- (C) Opposition
- (D) Refusal

Correct Answer: (B) Advancement

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the correct definition of the noun “furtherance”.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Relate the root verb “further” to the noun form to deduce its meaning.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- The verb “further” means to help forward or promote.
- Adding the suffix “-ance” creates a noun that describes the state or action of promoting or helping progress.
- Hence, “furtherance” means the advancement or scheme of promoting a plan, interest, or policy.
- Options (A) “Delay”, (C) “Opposition”, and (D) “Refusal” act as antonyms or contrasting terms.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Therefore, the correct meaning of “furtherance” is “Advancement”.

Quick Tip: Identifying the root word “further” can easily guide you to “advancement” because both imply moving forward or progressing.

4. Identify the grammatically correct sentence.

- (A) He do not play cricket.
- (B) They has finished the task.
- (C) She enjoys reading novels.
- (D) I were waiting outside.

Correct Answer: (C) She enjoys reading novels.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to check each given sentence for grammatical correctness, specifically looking at subject-verb agreement and auxiliary verb usage.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Analyze the subject and the verb of each sentence:

- Singular subjects require singular verbs.
- Plural subjects require plural verbs.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- Option (A) “He do not play cricket.” is incorrect. “He” is a singular subject, so it must take the singular auxiliary verb “does”. The correct sentence is “He does not play cricket.”
- Option (B) “They has finished the task.” is incorrect. “They” is a plural subject and must take the plural auxiliary verb “have”. The correct sentence is “They have finished the task.”
- Option (C) “She enjoys reading novels.” is correct. The singular subject “She” agrees with the singular verb “enjoys”.
- Option (D) “I were waiting outside.” is incorrect. The first-person singular pronoun “I” takes the singular past tense verb “was”. The correct sentence is “I was waiting outside.”

Step 4: Final Answer:

The grammatically correct sentence is “She enjoys reading novels.”

Quick Tip: Always double-check subject-verb agreement first when asked to find grammatically correct sentences, as this is one of the most common testing points.

5. Choose the correct passive voice of: “She completed the project.”

(A) The project completed by her.

- (B) The project was completed by her.
- (C) The project has completed her.
- (D) The project is completed by she.

Correct Answer: (B) The project was completed by her.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to convert the given active voice sentence into passive voice.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Identify the components of the active sentence:

- Subject: "She"
- Verb: "completed" (Simple Past)
- Object: "the project"

The structure of a passive sentence in Simple Past is:

Object + was/were + past participle of verb + by + Subject (objective pronoun)

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- Apply the passive conversion rule:
 1. Bring the object to the front: "The project"
 2. Choose the correct auxiliary verb based on tense and number: "was" (since the project is singular and the active verb is in the past tense).
 3. Write the past participle of the main verb: "completed"
 4. Add the preposition "by" followed by the object pronoun of the original subject ("she" becomes "her"): "by her"
- This gives the sentence: "The project was completed by her."
- Option (A) lacks the auxiliary verb "was".
- Option (C) uses present perfect tense unnecessarily.
- Option (D) incorrectly uses present tense "is" and the subject pronoun "she" instead of the

object pronoun “her”.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The correct passive voice sentence is “The project was completed by her.”

Quick Tip: Always preserve the tense of the active voice sentence. Since the original sentence is in the simple past tense, the passive voice must contain “was” or “were”.

6. Choose the sentence with the correct use of “suite.”

- (A) He wore a black suite to the party.
- (B) We booked a luxury suite in the hotel.
- (C) The lawyer filed a suite in court.
- (D) This shirt suite you well.

Correct Answer: (B) We booked a luxury suite in the hotel.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question tests the correct usage of the word “suite” as distinguished from “suit”.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Determine the definition of each term to see which sentence uses “suite” correctly:

- “Suite” refers to a set of connected rooms, especially in a hotel.
- “Suit” refers to a set of outer clothes, a legal action in court, or a verb meaning to be appropriate or look good on someone.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- Option (A) uses “suite” incorrectly; it should be “suit” because it refers to clothing.
- Option (B) uses “suite” correctly to refer to a set of hotel rooms.
- Option (C) uses “suite” incorrectly; it should be “suit” because it refers to a lawsuit.
- Option (D) uses “suite” incorrectly; it should be “suits” as a verb meaning to look good on someone.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The correct sentence is “We booked a luxury suite in the hotel.”

Quick Tip: Remember that “suite” is pronounced like “sweet” and is associated with hotel rooms, while “suit” is pronounced like “soot” and refers to clothing or law.

7. Choose the correct use of “counsel.”

- (A) The city counsel met yesterday.
- (B) She asked her teacher for counsel.
- (C) The council defended the criminal.
- (D) The counsel passed a new law.

Correct Answer: (B) She asked her teacher for counsel.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question tests the correct usage of the homophones “council” and “counsel”.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Define each word:

- “Council” is an advisory, deliberative, or legislative body of people.

- “Counsel” is advice, or a lawyer conducting a case in court.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- Option (A): “The city counsel met yesterday.” - Incorrect. It should be “council” because it refers to a local governing body.

- Option (B): “She asked her teacher for counsel.” - Correct. “Counsel” is used here to mean advice.

- Option (C): “The council defended the criminal.” - Incorrect. A defense lawyer (counsel) defends a criminal, not an administrative body (council).

- Option (D): “The counsel passed a new law.” - Incorrect. A legislative body (council) passes laws.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The sentence with the correct use of “counsel” is “She asked her teacher for counsel.”

Quick Tip: To distinguish between the two: “coun-cil” ends with “cil” (like city, assembly), while “coun-sel” ends with “sel” (similar to sell or advice/selling services of a lawyer).

8. Which sentence is the most logical beginning of a paragraph about digital education?

- (A) Therefore, students performed better in exams.
- (B) As a result, schools introduced smart classrooms.
- (C) Technology has changed modern education significantly.
- (D) Consequently, online learning became common.

Correct Answer: (C) Technology has changed modern education significantly.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to identify the most suitable topic or introductory sentence to start a paragraph about digital education.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

The opening sentence of a paragraph should introduce the core theme independently. It should not contain transitional words or phrases that refer to prior arguments or events.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- Option (A) starts with “Therefore”, which is used to introduce a conclusion. This implies preceding context.
- Option (B) starts with “As a result”, indicating a consequence of an event mentioned earlier.
- Option (D) starts with “Consequently”, which also shows a cause-and-effect relationship from prior context.
- Option (C) introduces a broad, independent statement about how technology affects education. This is a classic topic sentence and provides a logical start.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The most logical beginning sentence is “Technology has changed modern education significantly.”

Quick Tip: Avoid choosing sentences that begin with transitional adverbs like “therefore”, “consequently”, “however”, or “as a result” for introductory positions, as they require prior sentences to make sense.

9. Identify the noun in the following options.

- (A) Courage
- (B) Quickly
- (C) Honest
- (D) Beautifully

Correct Answer: (A) Courage

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the word that belongs to the noun part of speech among the choices.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Analyze the parts of speech of each word:

- Noun: Person, place, thing, or concept.
- Adjective: Describes a noun.
- Adverb: Modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverb.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- Option (A) "Courage" is an abstract noun denoting a quality or state of mind.
- Option (B) "Quickly" is an adverb ending in "-ly", which describes how an action is performed.
- Option (C) "Honest" is an adjective used to describe a person or a noun.
- Option (D) "Beautifully" is an adverb ending in "-ly".

Step 4: Final Answer:

The noun among the options is "Courage".

Quick Tip: If a word ends in the suffix "-ly", it is highly likely to be an adverb. If a word can follow "the" or "possessive pronouns" (e.g., "my courage", "his courage"), it is a noun.

10. Which pair is an example of homophones?

(A) Accept – Refuse

- (B) Pale – Pail
- (C) Fast – Slow
- (D) Council – Meeting

Correct Answer: (B) Pale – Pail

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

We need to identify which word pair consists of homophones.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Homophones are words that share the exact same pronunciation but differ in meaning, spelling, or both.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

- Option (A) “Accept” and “Refuse” are antonyms with different pronunciations and spellings.
- Option (B) “Pale” (light-colored or white) and “Pail” (a bucket) are pronounced exactly the same but spelled differently and have different meanings. This matches the definition of homophones.
- Option (C) “Fast” and “Slow” are antonyms with different pronunciations.
- Option (D) “Council” and “Meeting” are related concepts but do not share pronunciation or spelling.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The correct pair of homophones is “Pale – Pail”.

Quick Tip: Say the words out loud. If they sound completely identical but mean different things and are spelled differently, they are homophones.