

CUET 2026 May 26 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. Match the word “ventriloquism” with its correct meaning.

- (A) Speaking in a way that makes the voice seem to come from somewhere else
- (B) Using too many words to express an idea
- (C) Fear of public speaking
- (D) Speaking informally

Correct Answer: (A) Speaking in a way that makes the voice seem to come from somewhere else

Solution:

Concept: Ventriloquism is the art of speaking in such a way that the sound appears to come from another source, usually a puppet or dummy.

Step 1: Understand the word root.

The word originates from:

Latin: “venter” = belly, “loqui” = to speak

Historically, it meant:

“speaking from the stomach”

Step 2: Identify the correct meaning.

A ventriloquist creates the illusion that:

- The voice comes from somewhere else
- Another object or puppet is speaking

Thus:

Option (A)

Quick Tip: Remember:

Ventriloquism → Throwing the voice

Usually associated with puppets and stage performances.

2. What does “circumlocution” mean?

- (A) Silent behaviour
- (B) Speaking indirectly using many words
- (C) Humorous imitation
- (D) Deep hatred for society

Correct Answer: (B) Speaking indirectly using many words

Solution:

Concept: Circumlocution refers to using unnecessary or indirect words instead of speaking clearly and briefly.

Step 1: Understand the word origin.

The word comes from:

“circum” = around

and

“locution” = speech

Thus, it literally means:

“speaking around the point”

Step 2: Identify the correct meaning.

Circumlocution involves:

- Using too many words
- Speaking indirectly
- Avoiding direct expression

Thus:

Option (B)

Quick Tip: Remember:

Circumlocution → Indirect lengthy speech

Example: Instead of saying “He died,” saying:

“He passed away from this mortal world.”

3. Choose the correct meaning of “taciturnity.”

- (A) Cheerfulness
- (B) Talkativeness
- (C) Habit of speaking very little
- (D) Informal language

Correct Answer: (C) Habit of speaking very little

Solution:

Concept: Taciturnity refers to the quality of being reserved or speaking very little.

Step 1: Understand the related adjective.

The adjective form is:

Taciturn

meaning:

Quiet or uncommunicative

Step 2: Identify the correct meaning.

A taciturn person:

- Speaks very little
- Avoids unnecessary conversation
- Is reserved in speech

Thus:

Option (C)

Quick Tip: Remember:

Taciturn → Silent / Reserved

Opposite:

Talkative or loquacious

4. A “colloquialism” is:

- (A) A scientific theory
- (B) A formal legal phrase
- (C) An informal everyday expression
- (D) A poetic device

Correct Answer: (C) An informal everyday expression

Solution:

Concept: A colloquialism is a word or phrase commonly used in informal conversation.

Step 1: Understand colloquial language.

Colloquial language:

- Is informal
- Is used in daily speech
- May vary regionally

Step 2: Identify the correct meaning.

Examples of colloquial expressions:

- “What’s up?”
- “Gonna”
- “Buddy”

These are informal everyday expressions.

Thus:

Option (C)

Quick Tip: Remember:

Colloquialism → Informal speech

Used commonly in conversation rather than formal writing.

5. Choose the correctly spelt word.

- (A) Cristallize
- (B) Crystallise
- (C) Crystallize
- (D) Crystalize

Correct Answer: (C) Crystallize

Solution:

Concept: Correct spelling is important in English vocabulary and grammar.

Step 1: Examine each option carefully.

- **Cristallize** → Incorrect spelling
- **Crystallise** → British variant exists, but standard accepted form here is “Crystallize”
- **Crystallize** → Correct spelling
- **Crystalize** → Missing one “l”

Step 2: Identify the standard correct spelling.

The correctly spelt word is:

Crystallize

Quick Tip: Remember:

Crystal + lize → Crystallize

Watch for double letters in spellings.

6. Fill in the blank with the correct verb.

The fusion band _____ playing since 9 a.m.

- (A) have been
- (B) has been
- (C) were
- (D) are

Correct Answer: (B) has been

Solution:

Concept: Subject-verb agreement depends on whether the subject is singular or plural.

Step 1: Identify the subject.

The subject is:

The fusion band

“Band” is a collective noun treated as singular here.

Step 2: Identify the tense.

The phrase:

since 9 a.m.

indicates an action continuing from the past to the present.

Hence:

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

Step 3: Choose correct auxiliary verb.

For singular subject:

has been

is correct.

Thus:

has been

Quick Tip: Remember:

Singular Subject → has been

Plural Subject → have been

“Since” usually indicates perfect tense.

7. Choose the antonym of “misanthropic.”

- (A) Hostile
- (B) Cruel
- (C) Sociable
- (D) Bitter

Correct Answer: (C) Sociable

Solution:

Concept: “Misanthropic” refers to hatred or dislike of people and society.

Step 1: Understand the meaning of misanthropic.

A misanthropic person:

- Avoids people
- Dislikes society
- Is unfriendly toward others

Step 2: Find the opposite meaning.

The opposite of hatred or dislike for people is:

Friendly and social behaviour

Hence:

Sociable

is the antonym.

Therefore:

Sociable

Quick Tip: Remember:

Misanthrope → Person who dislikes people

Sociable → Friendly and social

8. What does “burlesque” mean?

- (A) Serious speech
- (B) A humorous imitation or parody
- (C) Religious blessing
- (D) Violent protest

Correct Answer: (B) A humorous imitation or parody

Solution:

Concept: Burlesque refers to a humorous or exaggerated imitation intended to entertain or mock.

Step 1: Understand the literary meaning.

Burlesque is commonly used in:

- Literature
- Drama

- Comedy

It exaggerates serious subjects for humorous effect.

Step 2: Identify the correct meaning.

A burlesque performance or writing is:

A humorous imitation or parody

Thus:

Option (B)

Quick Tip: Remember:

Burlesque → Comic imitation

Often used to mock or entertain through exaggeration.

9. Choose the correct phrasal verb to complete the sentence.

Despite many difficulties, she managed to _____ the challenge successfully.

- (A) pull off
- (B) break down
- (C) give away
- (D) call out

Correct Answer: (A) pull off

Solution:

Concept: Phrasal verbs are combinations of verbs and prepositions/adverbs that create special meanings.

Step 1: Understand the sentence meaning.

The sentence indicates:

- She faced many difficulties
- Yet she succeeded

Thus, the required phrasal verb should mean:

“to succeed in doing something difficult”

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- **Pull off** → Successfully achieve something difficult
- **Break down** → Stop functioning or become emotional
- **Give away** → Donate or reveal
- **Call out** → Shout or summon

Thus:

Pull off

Quick Tip: Remember:

Pull off → Achieve successfully

Example:

“She pulled off a difficult performance.”

10. Fill in the blank with the correct word.

The British Royal Society became a subject of laughter because of its _____ attitude.

- (A) vain
- (B) wane
- (C) vein
- (D) vane

Correct Answer: (A) vain

Solution:

Concept: Homophones are words that sound similar but have different meanings.

Step 1: Understand the sentence context.

The sentence suggests:

- The society was laughed at
- Due to pride or excessive self-importance

Step 2: Understand meanings of options.

- **Vain** → Excessively proud
- **Wane** → Decrease gradually
- **Vein** → Blood vessel
- **Vane** → Device showing wind direction

Only “vain” fits the context.

Thus:

vain

Quick Tip: Remember:

Vain → Proud / Arrogant

Do not confuse with:

Vein → Blood vessel

11. What does “treacherous” mean?

- (A) Loyal
- (B) Dangerous and untrustworthy
- (C) Honest
- (D) Intelligent

Correct Answer: (B) Dangerous and untrustworthy

Solution:

Concept: Treacherous describes a person or situation that is deceptive, dangerous, or unreliable.

Step 1: Understand the meaning.

A treacherous person:

- Betrays trust
- Acts dishonestly
- May cause harm unexpectedly

Step 2: Identify the closest meaning.

The best matching option is:

Dangerous and untrustworthy

Thus:

Option (B)

Quick Tip: Remember:

Treacherous → Deceptive and dangerous

Example:

“Treacherous roads during snowfall.”

12. Choose the meaning of “tumultuous.”

- (A) Calm and peaceful
- (B) Noisy and disorderly
- (C) Short and clear
- (D) Bright and colourful

Correct Answer: (B) Noisy and disorderly

Solution:

Concept: Tumultuous refers to a situation full of noise, confusion, excitement, or disorder.

Step 1: Understand the word usage.

The word is commonly used for:

- Crowds
- Events
- Emotional situations

Example:

“A tumultuous protest.”

Step 2: Identify the correct meaning.

The closest meaning is:

Noisy and disorderly

Thus:

Option (B)

Quick Tip: Remember:

Tumultuous → Chaotic / Noisy

Opposite:

Calm and peaceful

13. What is the meaning of “benediction”?

- (A) Punishment
- (B) Formal blessing
- (C) Argument
- (D) Complaint

Correct Answer: (B) Formal blessing

Solution:

Concept: “Benediction” refers to a blessing or expression of good wishes, especially in a religious or formal setting.

Step 1: Understand the word origin.

The word comes from Latin:

“bene” = well

and

“dictio” = speaking

Thus, it literally means:

“speaking well of someone”

Step 2: Identify the correct meaning.

A benediction is:

- A blessing
- A prayer for good fortune
- A formal expression of goodwill

Hence:

Formal blessing

Quick Tip: Remember:

Benediction → Blessing

Often used in religious ceremonies or speeches.

14. A “misanthrope” is a person who:

- (A) Loves nature deeply
- (B) Dislikes humankind
- (C) Enjoys travelling
- (D) Speaks too much

Correct Answer: (B) Dislikes humankind

Solution:

Concept: A misanthrope is a person who dislikes or distrusts other people.

Step 1: Understand the word root.

The word comes from:

“misos” = hatred

and

“anthropos” = human

Thus:

Misanthrope → One who dislikes humans

Step 2: Identify the correct meaning.

A misanthrope:

- Avoids society
- Distrusts people
- Dislikes humankind

Thus:

Dislikes humankind

Quick Tip: Remember:

Misanthrope → Person who hates/dislikes people

Opposite:

Philanthropist → Lover of humanity

15. The idiom “ducks and drakes” means:

- (A) To spend money carelessly
- (B) To work very hard
- (C) To avoid responsibility
- (D) To make quick decisions

Correct Answer: (A) To spend money carelessly

Solution:

Concept: The idiom “to make ducks and drakes of something” means to waste or spend it recklessly.

Step 1: Understand idiomatic usage.

The idiom is commonly used with:

money or resources

Example:

“He made ducks and drakes of his inheritance.”

meaning:

He wasted his inheritance carelessly.

Step 2: Identify the correct meaning.

Thus, the idiom means:

To spend money carelessly

Hence:

Option (A)

Quick Tip: Remember:

Ducks and drakes → Waste recklessly

Usually used for careless spending of money.