

MAT Language Comprehension Sample Paper-5

Duration: 24 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 30

Instructions

- This paper contains a total of 30 Multiple Choice Questions from the Language Comprehension section of MAT.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**.
- Each incorrect answer carries **-0.25 mark** (negative marking).
- No negative marking for unattempted questions.
- All questions are compulsory. Choose the best option (A, B, C or D) for each question.

Passage I

Read the passage below carefully. Questions 1 to 4 are based on this passage. Choose the one best answer for each question.

The Indian start-up ecosystem, often hailed as the third largest in the world, has entered a phase of structural recalibration. After a frenzied funding boom between 2020 and 2022, the so-called “funding winter” has forced founders to pivot from a growth-at-any-cost mindset to a discipline grounded in unit economics. Venture capitalists, once eager to underwrite cash-burning models in exchange for promised future scale, are now demanding clear pathways to profitability before releasing the next tranche. Several unicorns that once boasted billion-dollar valuations have quietly marked themselves down, a phenomenon investors euphemistically call a “recalibration” rather than a correction.

What the slowdown has revealed is not weakness but maturity. The capital tightening has compelled companies to revisit fundamentals: gross margins, customer acquisition cost, retention curves, and lifetime value. Founders are pruning unprofitable verticals, consolidating teams, and re-engineering products to serve narrower but stickier customer segments. Critics argue that India risks losing its innovation edge if it becomes too conservative, but the counterview is more compelling: enduring



businesses are seldom built during euphoria. They are forged in the discipline that follows it. The next decade, therefore, may produce fewer unicorns but more durable enterprises, and that, in the long run, is the trade-off any healthy economy should welcome.

Q1. According to Passage I, the primary reason venture capitalists are demanding clear pathways to profitability is:

- (A) a regulatory mandate imposed by the Indian government
- (B) the end of the funding boom and the resulting capital tightening
- (C) the disappearance of all start-ups from the Indian market
- (D) a coordinated decision by global stock exchanges

Q2. In Passage I, the term “recalibration” is used by investors to describe:

- (A) an increase in unicorn valuations
- (B) the entry of new venture capital firms
- (C) a downward adjustment of previously inflated valuations
- (D) the launch of new product verticals

Q3. Choose the option that best summarises Passage I in one sentence:

- (A) Indian start-ups are losing their global ranking because of the funding winter.
- (B) The capital slowdown is painful but is producing more disciplined and sustainable Indian companies.
- (C) Venture capitalists are no longer interested in Indian start-ups.
- (D) Unicorn valuations in India have permanently collapsed and recovery is unlikely.

Q4. The author’s overall stance towards the funding slowdown in Passage I is best described as:

- (A) alarmist and pessimistic



- (B) nostalgic and regretful
- (C) cautiously approving
- (D) entirely dismissive

Passage II

Read the passage below carefully. Questions 5 to 9 are based on this passage. Choose the one best answer for each question.

The relationship between artificial intelligence and the workplace is far more layered than the popular “robots are coming for your job” narrative suggests. A growing body of research indicates that AI rarely replaces an entire occupation; instead, it displaces specific tasks within an occupation. A radiologist, for example, may still be indispensable for clinical judgement and patient communication even if image classification is automated. The accountant continues to interpret regulation and advise clients even as ledger entries are auto-generated. In this sense, AI behaves less like a substitute and more like a power tool: it amplifies the productivity of those who learn to wield it and quietly erodes the relevance of those who do not.

The policy implication is uncomfortable but unavoidable. If automation transforms tasks rather than jobs, then the response cannot simply be to defend existing roles. It must be to redesign them. Lifelong learning, modular reskilling, and portable benefits become not luxuries but the basic infrastructure of a humane labour market. Governments that treat AI as a threat to be regulated away will discover that the technology does not wait for permission; it migrates to wherever the talent and the data flow most freely. Those that treat it as a capability to be diffused, however, may find that the same force which destabilises old jobs also creates the architecture for better ones.

Q5. According to Passage II, the example of the radiologist and the accountant is used to illustrate that:

- (A) AI primarily threatens low-skilled occupations
- (B) professions in healthcare and finance are completely automation-proof



- (C) AI typically displaces specific tasks within an occupation rather than the whole job
- (D) AI cannot perform any cognitive tasks at present

Q6. According to Passage II, AI most closely resembles:

- (A) a complete substitute for human labour
- (B) a power tool that amplifies the productivity of skilled users
- (C) a temporary novelty with limited workplace impact
- (D) a regulatory mechanism imposed on industries

Q7. In Passage II, the author describes “lifelong learning, modular reskilling, and portable benefits” as:

- (A) the basic infrastructure of a humane labour market in the AI era
- (B) attractive luxuries that only well-funded economies can afford
- (C) temporary measures that will be unnecessary once AI matures
- (D) barriers that slow down the adoption of new technology

Q8. According to Passage II, the author argues that governments should:

- (A) regulate AI strictly to protect existing jobs at all costs
- (B) treat AI as a capability to be widely diffused rather than a threat to be suppressed
- (C) nationalise the AI industry to ensure equitable outcomes
- (D) discourage workers from acquiring AI-related skills

Q9. Which of the following can be inferred from Passage II?

- (A) AI will eliminate the radiology and accounting professions entirely within a decade.
- (B) AI is a transient fad that policymakers can safely ignore.
- (C) Workers who learn to use AI tools will likely outperform those who refuse to engage with the technology.



(D) The author believes lifelong learning is an unnecessary burden on workers.

Passage III

Read the passage below carefully. Questions 10 to 13 are based on this passage. Choose the one best answer for each question.

Reading, in its deepest sense, is an act of resistance against the tyranny of the present moment. The reader who picks up a serious book agrees, however briefly, to suspend the urgent and attend to the important. In an age engineered for distraction, in which every device pulses with notifications and every screen competes for the next second of attention, this small act of withdrawal has acquired an almost subversive quality. To read is to opt out of a marketplace that profits from one's restlessness.

But the value of reading is not merely escapist. The deliberate slowness of a book trains a mode of attention that fast media cannot. A paragraph asks the reader to hold an argument in mind while it is examined; a chapter asks the reader to hold a thesis across hours. These are the very habits that complex problems demand, in courtrooms, in laboratories, in boardrooms, and in families. A society that loses the capacity to read carefully does not merely lose a leisure activity; it loses the cognitive infrastructure on which considered decisions depend. The decline of reading, therefore, is not a literary concern but a civic one.

Q10. According to Passage III, the act of reading is described as “subversive” because:

- (A) it openly defies government laws
- (B) it actively promotes anti-social behaviour
- (C) it replaces all forms of social interaction
- (D) it withdraws attention from an economy built on distraction

Q11. According to Passage III, sustained reading trains a mode of attention because:

- (A) it is purely a leisure activity disconnected from intellectual work
- (B) paragraphs and chapters require the reader to hold an argument or thesis in mind over time



- (C) it is faster than any other medium of information consumption
- (D) it is the only activity that involves the use of language

Q12. According to Passage III, the decline of reading should be viewed primarily as:

- (A) a purely literary concern
- (B) a civic concern affecting the quality of public decision-making
- (C) a personal lifestyle choice with no broader consequence
- (D) a problem confined to the publishing industry

Q13. Choose the option that best summarises Passage III in one sentence:

- (A) Reading is an outdated activity that should be replaced by digital media.
- (B) Books are commercial products like any other and should be regulated as such.
- (C) The decline of reading affects only a small minority of literary enthusiasts.
- (D) Sustained reading cultivates an attentional discipline that complex public and private decisions require.

Verbal Ability & Vocabulary

Q14. Choose the word that is the SYNONYM of the word in capitals: PRUDENT

- (A) judicious
- (B) reckless
- (C) indifferent
- (D) lavish

Q15. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error: (1) Neither the manager nor his assistants / (2) was available to address the / (3) concerns raised by the visiting / (4) delegation from the headquarters.

- (A) Part (1)



- (B) Part (3)
- (C) Part (2)
- (D) Part (4)

Q16. Rearrange the four sentences into a coherent paragraph and choose the correct order:

P. The result is a generation that knows more but understands less.

Q. Modern students have access to an unprecedented volume of information.

R. Yet quantity of information does not automatically translate into depth of insight.

S. Without the discipline of reflection, raw data remains inert and unenlightening.

- (A) QRSP
- (B) PQRS
- (C) QSPR
- (D) RQSP

Q17. Choose the option closest in meaning to the idiom: “To beat around the bush”

- (A) to defeat an opponent decisively
- (B) to search for something in vain
- (C) to start an argument deliberately
- (D) to avoid getting to the main point

Q18. Choose the option that fills the blank most appropriately: Although the proposal sounded _____ at first, a closer reading revealed several practical flaws that the team had overlooked.

- (A) promising
- (B) objectionable
- (C) trivial



(D) redundant

Q19. Choose the word that is the ANTONYM of the word in capitals: VERBOSE

(A) lengthy

(B) articulate

(C) terse

(D) ambiguous

Q20. Choose the one-word substitute for: “A speech delivered without prior preparation”

(A) extempore

(B) soliloquy

(C) elegy

(D) monologue

Q21. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error: (1) The committee have decided / (2) that each of the members / (3) is required to submit / (4) their report by Friday.

(A) Part (1)

(B) Part (2)

(C) Part (3)

(D) Part (4)

Q22. Choose the option that fills the blank most appropriately: The diplomat’s response was deliberately , designed to neither confirm nor deny the allegations.

(A) categorical

(B) ambivalent

(C) belligerent

(D) effusive



- Q23.** Choose the word that is the SYNONYM of the word in capitals: EPHEMERAL
- (A) permanent
 - (B) robust
 - (C) conspicuous
 - (D) transient
- Q24.** Rearrange the four sentences into a coherent paragraph and choose the correct order:
- P. Cities, by their very design, force this exchange every single day.
- Q. The strength of a society depends on the quality of conversations between strangers.
- R. That is why the decline of public spaces is, in effect, a decline of civic life.
- S. Without spaces where strangers meet, such conversations simply do not happen.
- (A) QSPR
 - (B) PQRS
 - (C) QRSP
 - (D) SQPR
- Q25.** Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error: (1) Hardly had he entered / (2) the conference hall when / (3) the chairperson started / (4) to deliver her speech.
- (A) Part (1)
 - (B) Part (2)
 - (C) Part (3)
 - (D) Part (4)
- Q26.** Choose the option that fills the blank most appropriately: The minister's repeated refusal to answer the question betrayed an . . . that the press immediately seized upon.



- (A) assurance
- (B) evasiveness
- (C) enthusiasm
- (D) indifference

Q27. Choose the word that is the ANTONYM of the word in capitals: BENEVOLENT

- (A) compassionate
- (B) generous
- (C) malevolent
- (D) tolerant

Q28. Choose the option that fills the blank most appropriately: Despite the company's public relations campaign, customers continued to doubt the safety of the product.

- (A) elaborate
- (B) negligible
- (C) reluctant
- (D) haphazard

Q29. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error: (1) The number of applicants / (2) for the scholarship have / (3) increased significantly / (4) over the last five years.

- (A) Part (1)
- (B) Part (2)
- (C) Part (3)
- (D) Part (4)

Q30. Choose the one-word substitute for: "A government run by a small group of people"



- (A) democracy
- (B) monarchy
- (C) oligarchy
- (D) theocracy



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept: This is a passage-based comprehension question requiring the candidate to identify the cause-and-effect chain stated in the text. The strategy is to locate the sentence in Passage I that explains *why* VCs are demanding profitability, and then map it to the option list.

Solution: Step 1: Locate the relevant claim. The passage opens with the statement that “After a frenzied funding boom between 2020 and 2022, the so-called ‘funding winter’ has forced founders to pivot from a growth-at-any-cost mindset to a discipline grounded in unit economics.” It then says: “Venture capitalists, once eager to underwrite cash-burning models in exchange for promised future scale, are now demanding clear pathways to profitability before releasing the next tranche.”

Step 2: Identify the causal trigger. The trigger is the transition from the funding boom to the funding winter — in short, capital tightening.

Step 3: Evaluate each option.

(A) “regulatory mandate by the Indian government” — never mentioned. Reject.

(B) “end of the funding boom and capital tightening” — exact paraphrase of the passage. Accept.

(C) “start-ups have disappeared” — contradicts the passage, which discusses surviving but recalibrating companies. Reject.

(D) “decision by global stock exchanges” — not in the passage. Reject.

Step 4: (B) is the only option directly supported by the text.

Final Answer:

the end of the funding boom and the resulting capital tightening

Answer: (B)

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Q2.

Solution

Concept: This is a passage-based vocabulary-in-context question. The required strategy is to locate the exact word in the passage, examine the surrounding sentence, and identify how the passage itself defines or implies its meaning.

Solution: Step 1: Locate the word. The passage says: “Several unicorns that once boasted billion-dollar valuations have quietly marked themselves down, a phenomenon investors euphemistically call a ‘recalibration’ rather than a correction.”

Step 2: Decode the contextual clue. The word “euphemistically” is critical. A euphemism is a softer term used to describe something unpleasant. The unpleasant fact here is that valuations have been “marked down” — that is, lowered.

Step 3: Map to options. Option (C) — “a downward adjustment of previously inflated valuations” — captures precisely what is being euphemised. Options (A), (B) and (D) describe positive or unrelated developments and contradict the passage.

Step 4: Verify. The author explicitly notes that this is a softer label for what is effectively a “correction”. Option (C) is the only choice consistent with this.

Final Answer:

a downward adjustment of previously inflated valuations

Answer: (C)

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Q3.

Solution

Concept: A summary question asks for the option that captures the *central thesis* of the entire passage, not a peripheral detail or an extreme paraphrase.

Solution: Step 1: Identify the central thesis. The passage acknowledges the slowdown but argues that it is producing more disciplined and sustainable businesses — “enduring businesses are seldom built during euphoria”.

Step 2: Test each option against this thesis.

(A) “losing global ranking” — not stated; the passage still calls India “the third largest”. Distractor.

(B) “painful but producing more disciplined and sustainable companies” — precisely captures the dual movement of the passage.

(C) “VCs no longer interested” — contradicted: they still fund, but with discipline.

(D) “permanently collapsed, recovery unlikely” — the passage actively argues the opposite.

Step 3: (B) alone preserves both halves of the author’s argument: the pain and the maturing of the ecosystem.

Final Answer:

The capital slowdown is painful but is producing more disciplined and sustainable Indian companies.

Answer: (B)

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Q4.

Solution

Concept: Tone questions test the author’s overall attitude, which is rarely either fully positive or fully negative in MAT passages. The reader must locate evaluative phrases and weigh them.

Solution: Step 1: Gather evaluative cues from the passage.

“What the slowdown has revealed is not weakness but maturity” — approving.

“The capital tightening has compelled companies to revisit fundamentals” — approving.

“Critics argue . . . but the counterview is more compelling” — author sides with the counter-critics.

“In the long run, [a trade-off] any healthy economy should welcome” — explicit approval.

Step 2: Note the qualifier. The author does not deny the pain — “forced founders to pivot” — but reframes it as productive. This is approval tempered by realism, not euphoria.

Step 3: Match with options. (C) “cautiously approving” is the only phrase that captures both elements — the approval and the qualification.

Step 4: Reject extremes. (A) and (B) overstate the negative; (D) underplays the engagement.

Final Answer:

cautiously approving

Answer: (C)

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Q5.

Solution

Concept: This is a passage-based question about the function of an illustrative example. The candidate must determine what general claim the radiologist and accountant examples are deployed to support. The technique is to locate the example in the passage, read the sentence that frames it, and identify the broader principle it illustrates.

Solution: Step 1: Locate the relevant text. The passage states: “A growing body of research indicates that AI rarely replaces an entire occupation; instead, it displaces specific tasks within an occupation. A radiologist, for example, may still be indispensable for clinical judgement and patient communication even if image classification is automated. The accountant continues to interpret regulation and advise clients even as ledger entries are auto-generated.”

Step 2: Identify the general claim. The two examples are introduced by “for example” immediately after the thesis sentence about task-level (not job-level) displacement.

Step 3: Evaluate the options.

(A) “AI threatens low-skilled occupations” — the examples are highly skilled professionals; the passage makes no claim about skill level. Reject.

(B) “healthcare and finance are automation-proof” — the passage says certain *tasks* within these jobs are automated; the whole field is not immune. Reject.

(C) “AI displaces tasks within an occupation rather than the whole job” — exact paraphrase of the thesis that the examples illustrate. Accept.

(D) “AI cannot perform cognitive tasks” — contradicted by image classification and ledger entry automation. Reject.

Step 4: (C) alone captures the general principle that the examples are designed to illustrate.

Final Answer:

AI typically displaces specific tasks within an occupation rather than the whole job



Answer: (C)

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Q6.

Solution

Concept: This is a passage-based analogy question. The passage offers an explicit comparison; we must locate it and match it to the option list.

Solution: Step 1: Locate the comparison. The passage says: “In this sense, AI behaves less like a substitute and more like a power tool: it amplifies the productivity of those who learn to wield it.”

Step 2: Translate to options.

(A) “complete substitute” — explicitly rejected by the passage.

(B) “power tool amplifying productivity” — direct paraphrase of the passage.

(C) “temporary novelty” — contradicts the policy gravity the passage assigns AI.

(D) “regulatory mechanism” — AI is the object of regulation in the passage, not the mechanism.

Step 3: Only (B) lifts directly from the author’s own analogy.

Final Answer:

a power tool that amplifies the productivity of skilled users

Answer: (B)

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Q7.

Solution

Concept: This is a direct passage-reference question. The candidate must locate the exact phrase “lifelong learning, modular reskilling, and portable benefits” in the passage and identify how the author characterises them.

Solution: Step 1: Locate the phrase. The passage says: “Lifelong learning, modular reskilling, and portable benefits become not luxuries but the basic infrastructure of a humane labour market.”

Step 2: Decode the structure. The sentence uses “not X but Y” — it explicitly *rejects* the description as “luxuries” and *asserts* the description as “basic infrastructure”.

Step 3: Evaluate the options.

(A) “basic infrastructure of a humane labour market” — direct lift from the passage. Accept.

(B) “attractive luxuries” — explicitly rejected by the passage. Common trap, because the word “luxuries” appears, but with a negation. Reject.

(C) “temporary measures” — the passage says these are *basic* infrastructure, implying permanence, not transience. Reject.

(D) “barriers that slow down adoption” — contradicts the author’s clear endorsement. Reject.

Step 4: The trap in (B) is engineered: students who skim the sentence may match the word “luxury” without noticing the negation.

Final Answer:

the basic infrastructure of a humane labour market in the AI era

Answer: (A)

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Q8.

Solution

Concept: A direct inference question. The author states an explicit policy recommendation in the second paragraph; we must locate the exact sentence.

Solution: Step 1: Locate the recommendation. “Governments that treat AI as a threat to be regulated away will discover that the technology does not wait for permission . . . Those that treat it as a capability to be diffused, however, may find . . . better [jobs].”

Step 2: Identify the author’s preference. The structure “Those that . . . , however, may find . . .” clearly favours the diffusion approach over the suppression approach.

Step 3: Match options.

(A) “regulate AI strictly” — explicitly criticised by the author.

(B) “treat AI as a capability to be diffused” — exact paraphrase.

(C) “nationalise the AI industry” — not in the passage.

(D) “discourage AI-related skills” — contradicted by the call for lifelong learning.

Final Answer:

treat AI as a capability to be widely diffused rather than a threat to be suppressed

Answer: (B)

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Q9.

Solution

Concept: An inference question asks for a conclusion that is logically supported by — but not always explicitly stated in — the passage. Avoid options that overreach or contradict.

Solution: Step 1: Recall the passage’s key claim about workers: “[AI] amplifies the productivity of those who learn to wield it and quietly erodes the relevance of those who do not.”

Step 2: Test each option.

(A) “eliminate radiology and accounting entirely” — the passage explicitly says radiologists and accountants will *still be indispensable*; this is the opposite of the passage. Reject.

(B) “AI is a transient fad” — the entire passage treats AI as a serious force. Reject.

(C) “workers who learn AI tools will outperform those who refuse” — direct paraphrase of the amplification/erosion sentence. Strongly supported.

(D) “author believes lifelong learning unnecessary” — the passage explicitly calls lifelong learning “basic infrastructure”. Reject.

Step 3: (C) is the only option that follows from the passage.

Final Answer:

Workers who learn to use AI tools will likely outperform those who refuse to engage with the technology.

Answer: (C)

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Q10.

Solution

Concept: The question tests close reading of the passage’s metaphor. The author calls reading “subversive” — a strong word — and the candidate must trace the author’s exact justification.

Solution: Step 1: Locate the justification. The passage says: “To read is to opt out of a marketplace that profits from one’s restlessness.”

Step 2: Interpret. The marketplace here is the attention economy; opting out of an economy is, in the author’s framing, an act of resistance — hence “subversive”.

Step 3: Match options.

(A) “defies government laws” — the passage never mentions law-breaking.

(B) “promotes anti-social behaviour” — contradicts the civic framing.

(C) “replaces social interaction” — not the author’s claim.

(D) “withdraws attention from an economy built on distraction” — exact paraphrase.

Final Answer:

it withdraws attention from an economy built on distraction

Answer: (D)

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Q11.

Solution

Concept: This is a passage-based mechanism question. The candidate must locate the author’s explanation of *how* reading trains attention — the specific cognitive process described in Passage III — and match it to the option list.

Solution: Step 1: Locate the mechanism. The passage states: “A paragraph asks the reader to hold an argument in mind while it is examined; a chapter asks the reader to hold a thesis across hours.”

Step 2: Identify the underlying claim. The structural form of writing — paragraph, chapter — forces sustained attention to an unfolding argument.



This is the mechanism by which the cognitive habit is trained.

Step 3: Evaluate the options.

(A) “purely a leisure activity” — contradicts the entire civic-importance argument. Reject.

(B) “paragraphs and chapters require holding an argument or thesis in mind over time” — direct paraphrase of the mechanism. Accept.

(C) “faster than any other medium” — the passage actually praises the *deliberate slowness* of books. Common trap built on a misread. Reject.

(D) “only activity that uses language” — never claimed; conversation, journalism and many other activities use language. Reject.

Step 4: Note the engineered trap in (C): it reverses the very property the author praises.

Final Answer:

paragraphs and chapters require the reader to hold an argument or thesis in mind over time

Answer: (B)

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Q12.

Solution

Concept: The question asks for the author’s framing of the decline of reading. The final lines of the passage are decisive: the author elevates a seemingly cultural topic into a civic one.

Solution: Step 1: Locate the framing. The passage ends: “The decline of reading, therefore, is not a literary concern but a civic one.”

Step 2: The author explicitly rejects the literary framing and chooses the civic framing.

Step 3: Match options.

(A) “purely literary” — explicitly rejected.

(B) “civic concern affecting public decision-making” — exact match.

(C) “personal lifestyle choice with no broader consequence” — contradicted by the entire second paragraph.



(D) “problem confined to the publishing industry” — not the author’s claim.

Final Answer:

a civic concern affecting the quality of public decision-making

Answer: (B)

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Q13.

Solution

Concept: A summary captures the central argument across the passage rather than any single sentence.

Solution: Step 1: Reconstruct the central argument. The passage claims (a) reading is an act of withdrawal from a distraction economy and (b) it cultivates the kind of sustained attention that complex decisions in public life require. The decline of reading therefore matters civically.

Step 2: Test each option.

(A) “reading is outdated, replace with digital media” — author argues the opposite.

(B) “books should be regulated” — not the author’s claim.

(C) “affects only a small minority” — contradicted by the civic framing.

(D) “sustained reading cultivates attentional discipline that complex public and private decisions require” — direct paraphrase of paragraph 2 and the closing.

Step 3: (D) alone captures both halves of the author’s argument — the cognitive habit and its public stakes.

Final Answer:

Sustained reading cultivates an attentional discipline that complex public and private decisions require.

Answer: (D)

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Q14.

Solution

Concept: A synonym question requires the option closest in *meaning* to the given word, not merely related to its topic. “Prudent” describes the quality of acting with care, wisdom and foresight, especially in practical matters.

Solution: Step 1: Establish the meaning of “prudent”. It means showing care, wisdom and good judgement in handling practical affairs; cautious in a sensible way.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) “judicious” — having or showing good judgement; wise and sensible.
- (B) “reckless” — the exact opposite (careless, taking dangerous risks).
- (C) “indifferent” — having no particular interest or sympathy; unconcerned.
- (D) “lavish” — extravagant, excessive — the opposite of prudent.

Step 3: Choose the closest match. “Judicious” is a near-perfect synonym of “prudent”. Both denote thoughtful, well-considered judgement.

Final Answer:

judicious

Answer: (A)

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Q15.

Solution

Concept: This question tests subject-verb agreement with the conjunction “neither . . . nor”. The rule of proximity states that when two subjects are joined by “neither . . . nor” or “either . . . or”, the verb agrees with the subject *closest* to it.

Solution: Step 1: Identify the subjects. “The manager” (singular) and “his assistants” (plural). The subject closer to the verb is “his assistants” — plural.

Step 2: Apply the rule. The verb must agree with the nearer subject, which is plural. Therefore, the correct form is “were available”, not “was available”.



Step 3: Locate the error. The form “was available” appears in Part (2): “was available to address the”. This is the part with the agreement error.

Step 4: Verify other parts. Parts (1), (3) and (4) are grammatically correct.

Final Answer:

Part (2)

Answer: (C)

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Q16.

Solution

Concept: Para-jumble questions test the ability to reconstruct logical flow. The standard technique is to identify the opening sentence (broadest, introduces the topic), then trace cause–effect, contrast and conclusion markers.

Solution: Step 1: Identify the opener. Sentence Q — “Modern students have access to an unprecedented volume of information” — introduces the broad subject. It must come first.

Step 2: Identify the contrast. Sentence R begins with “Yet”, signalling a contrast with Q’s positive statement. So R follows Q.

Step 3: Identify the elaboration. Sentence S elaborates on R by explaining what happens “without the discipline of reflection” — it specifies the mechanism behind R’s claim.

Step 4: Identify the conclusion. Sentence P — “The result is a generation that knows more but understands less” — is the takeaway, the consequence of S. It must end the sequence.

Step 5: Assemble. $Q \rightarrow R \rightarrow S \rightarrow P$, that is, QRSP.

Final Answer:

QRSP

Answer: (A)

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Q17.

Solution

Concept: Idioms must be interpreted holistically, not literally. The idiom “to beat around the bush” originated in hunting — beating shrubs to flush out game — and has come to mean approaching a topic indirectly, avoiding the main subject.

Solution: Step 1: Recall the idiomatic meaning. “To beat around the bush” means to talk evasively or in a roundabout way, deliberately not getting to the point.

Step 2: Evaluate the options against this meaning.

(A) “defeat decisively” — conflates with literal “beat”. Trap.

(B) “search in vain” — describes a different idiom (“a wild goose chase”).

(C) “start an argument” — unrelated.

(D) “avoid getting to the main point” — exact idiomatic match.

Step 3: Confirm (D) and reject the literal trap in (A).

Final Answer:

to avoid getting to the main point

Answer: (D)

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Q18.

Solution

Concept: The connector “Although . . . , a closer reading revealed several practical flaws” signals a contrast. The blank must describe how the proposal sounded at *first impression*, in opposition to the flaws revealed on closer inspection.

Solution: Step 1: Identify the structural cue. “Although” establishes a contrast between two clauses: an initial favourable impression versus a later unfavourable finding.

Step 2: The blank must therefore be a *positive* initial-impression word.

Step 3: Test each option.

(A) “promising” — positive, fits the contrast pattern.



(B) “objectionable” — negative, breaks the contrast.

(C) “trivial” — negative/dismissive; would not later need to be reassessed for flaws.

(D) “redundant” — negative; same issue.

Step 4: Only “promising” creates the intended Although-X-but-actually-Y contrast.

Final Answer:

Answer: (A)

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Q19.

Solution

Concept: An antonym question asks for the option opposite in meaning. “Verbose” means using more words than necessary, wordy.

Solution: Step 1: Define “verbose” — excessively wordy, long-winded.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

(A) “lengthy” — a near-synonym, not an antonym.

(B) “articulate” — means clearly expressive; does not specifically denote brevity. Common trap.

(C) “terse” — means brief, concise to the point of curtness. Direct opposite of verbose.

(D) “ambiguous” — means unclear in meaning, unrelated to length.

Step 3: “Terse” is the precise opposite of verbose.

Final Answer:

Answer: (C)

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Q20.

Solution

Concept: A one-word substitute question asks for the single word that captures the meaning of a longer phrase. Each option here is a kind of spoken composition; precise distinctions matter.

Solution: Step 1: Examine each candidate term.

“Extempore” — a speech delivered without prior preparation, on the spot.

“Soliloquy” — a speech in which a character speaks his thoughts aloud, usually alone on stage (e.g., Shakespeare’s Hamlet).

“Elegy” — a mournful poem, typically a lament for the dead.

“Monologue” — a long speech by one speaker, but can be prepared.

Step 2: Match the definition “without prior preparation”. Only “extempore” carries this exact meaning.

Step 3: Reject the close trap of “monologue”, which lacks the “without preparation” element.

Final Answer:

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Q21.

Solution

Concept: This question tests pronoun agreement and the collective-noun convention. “Each of the members” is a singular construction; the pronoun referring back to it must also be singular.

Solution: Step 1: Identify the antecedent. “Each of the members” — though it refers to multiple people, “each” is grammatically singular.

Step 2: A singular antecedent requires a singular pronoun — “his/her report” — not “their report”.

Step 3: Locate “their report” — it appears in Part (4): “their report by Friday”. This is the agreement error.

Step 4: Note that “The committee have decided” in Part (1) is acceptable British usage for a body acting collectively, so Part (1) is not the principal



error in standard formal usage; Part (4) is the unambiguous error.

Final Answer:

Part (4)

Answer: (D)

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Q22.

Solution

Concept: The sentence contains a strong contextual clue: “designed to neither confirm nor deny the allegations”. This signals deliberate non-commitment. The blank must describe a deliberately non-committal stance.

Solution: Step 1: Translate the clue. To neither confirm nor deny is to remain deliberately balanced between two positions.

Step 2: Test each option.

(A) “categorical” — means absolute, unambiguous; the exact opposite of non-committal.

(B) “ambivalent” — having mixed or contradictory feelings; deliberately undecided. Perfect fit.

(C) “belligerent” — hostile, aggressive; does not match “neither confirm nor deny”.

(D) “effusive” — gushingly enthusiastic; opposite tone.

Step 3: “Ambivalent” is the precise word for a stance that refuses to commit either way.

Final Answer:

ambivalent

Answer: (B)

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Q23.

Solution

Concept: “Ephemeral” is a high-frequency MAT vocabulary item meaning lasting for a very short time; transient.

Solution: Step 1: Define “ephemeral” — short-lived, fleeting, temporary.

Step 2: Evaluate options.

(A) “permanent” — antonym, not synonym. Common trap.

(B) “robust” — means strong, healthy; unrelated to duration.

(C) “conspicuous” — means easily seen, prominent; unrelated.

(D) “transient” — means short-lived, passing. Exact synonym.

Step 3: “Transient” matches “ephemeral” precisely.

Final Answer:

Answer: (D)

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Q24.

Solution

Concept: Para-jumble: identify the broadest opening generalisation, the supporting development, and the conclusion.

Solution: Step 1: The broadest claim is Q: “The strength of a society depends on the quality of conversations between strangers.” This is the thesis and must open.

Step 2: S supports Q with a necessary condition — without spaces where strangers meet, such conversations cannot happen. So S follows Q.

Step 3: P then identifies cities as the institution that supplies exactly such spaces — “Cities, by their very design, force this exchange every single day”. P follows S.

Step 4: R is the conclusion — “That is why the decline of public spaces is, in effect, a decline of civic life” — which ties Q, S, P together. R must end.

Step 5: Sequence: Q → S → P → R, that is, QSPR.



Final Answer:[Go Back to Question 24](#)

Q25.

Solution

Concept: This sentence uses the inversion structure “Hardly had . . . when . . .”. The correlative partner of “hardly” is “when”, and the correlative partner of “no sooner” is “than”. The construction in the sentence is correct in its correlative use; the error must lie elsewhere — in the verb form of the second clause.

Solution: Step 1: Check the correlatives. “Hardly had he entered . . . when” is well-formed.

Step 2: In the “Hardly had . . . when . . .” construction, the second clause normally takes the simple past, denoting a sudden completed action — “delivered her speech” — not the infinitive “to deliver her speech”.

Step 3: Locate the non-idiomatic verb form. “To deliver her speech” appears in Part (4). The correct idiomatic form would be “delivered her speech”.

Step 4: Parts (1), (2), and (3) are all standard.

Final Answer:[Go Back to Question 25](#)

Q26.

Solution

Concept: “Repeated refusal to answer” is the context. The blank must name the quality such refusals reveal — a tendency to dodge questions.

Solution: Step 1: Convert the clue into a target meaning. Refusing to answer reveals *evasiveness* — the tendency to avoid commitment or direct response.

Step 2: Compare options.

(A) “assurance” — confidence; opposite trajectory.

(B) “evasiveness” — tendency to avoid direct answers. Exact match.

(C) “enthusiasm” — eager interest; refusal would not betray enthusiasm.

(D) “indifference” — close trap. Indifference is not caring; evasiveness is actively dodging. Refusing to answer specific allegations is evasive, not indifferent.

Step 3: (B) is the precise word; (D) is the engineered trap.

Final Answer:

evasiveness

Answer: (B)

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Q27.

Solution

Concept: “Benevolent” means showing kindness, goodwill, or charitable disposition. Its antonym describes the wish to do harm.

Solution: Step 1: Establish “benevolent” — wishing to do good; well-meaning.

Step 2: Evaluate options.

(A) “compassionate” — synonym.

(B) “generous” — synonym.

(C) “malevolent” — wishing evil to others. Exact antonym.

(D) “tolerant” — not opposite; related but distinct.

Step 3: The Latin prefixes confirm: *bene-* (well) versus *male-* (badly). “Malevolent” is the precise opposite.



Final Answer:**Answer: (C)**[Go Back to Question 27](#)

Q28.

Solution

Concept: The contrast marker “Despite” sets up an opposition between what the company did (positive PR effort) and what failed to follow (customer trust). The blank must describe a substantial PR effort.

Solution: Step 1: Read the structural cue. “Despite X, Y still didn’t happen” implies X was significant. So the blank must denote a substantial, large-scale PR effort.

Step 2: Evaluate options.

(A) “elaborate” — carefully planned, detailed, extensive. Fits “despite”.

(B) “negligible” — trivially small; “despite negligible” makes no logical contrast.

(C) “reluctant” — unwilling; weakens the contrast.

(D) “haphazard” — random, poorly planned; “despite haphazard” suggests low effort, weakening the contrast.

Step 3: “Elaborate” is the only word that creates the intended despite-yet contrast.

Final Answer:**Answer: (A)**[Go Back to Question 28](#)

Q29.

Solution

Concept: This sentence uses the construction “The number of . . .”. The phrase “the number of” is grammatically *singular* (it refers to a single count), even though it speaks of multiple items. Contrast: “A number of . . .” takes a plural verb.

Solution: Step 1: Apply the rule. “The number of applicants . . .” — singular subject — requires a singular verb: “has increased”, not “have increased”.

Step 2: Locate the verb. The verb “have” appears in Part (2): “for the scholarship have”. This is the error.

Step 3: Verify other parts. Parts (1), (3) and (4) are all grammatically sound.

Trap to avoid: The proximity of the plural “applicants” tempts students to use “have”, but the subject is “number”, not “applicants”.

Final Answer:

Part (2)

Answer: (B)

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Q30.

Solution

Concept: This is a precise definitional question on forms of government. Each option names a different governing structure.

Solution: Step 1: Match each term to its strict meaning.

“Democracy” — government by the people, typically via elected representatives.

“Monarchy” — government by a single hereditary ruler (king or queen).

“Oligarchy” — government by a small group, often distinguished by wealth, family or military power. From Greek *oligoi* (few) + *arkho* (rule).

“Theocracy” — government by religious authority, where priests rule in the name of god.



Step 2: The definition asks for “a small group of people”. Only “oligarchy” fits precisely.

Step 3: Reject “monarchy”, a common trap (one person, not a small group).

Final Answer:

oligarchy

Answer: (C)

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Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	2	C	3	B	4	C	5	C
6	B	7	A	8	B	9	C	10	D
11	B	12	B	13	D	14	A	15	C
16	A	17	D	18	A	19	C	20	A
21	D	22	B	23	D	24	A	25	D
26	B	27	C	28	A	29	B	30	C

