

NIMCET English Sample Paper-5

Duration: 5 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 40

Instructions

- This paper contains **10** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct).
- Each correct answer carries **+4 marks**.
- Each incorrect answer carries: **-1** marks.
- Unattempted questions carry **0** marks.
- Only one option is correct for each question.
- Use of mobile phones, smartwatches, calculators, or any electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

Q1. Identify the correct passive voice form of the following sentence: "The committee is looking into the discrepancies in the annual balance sheet."

- (A) The discrepancies in the annual balance sheet are looked into by the committee.
- (B) The discrepancies in the annual balance sheet are being looked into by the committee.
- (C) The discrepancies in the annual balance sheet have been looked into by the committee.
- (D) The discrepancies in the annual balance sheet were being looked into by the committee.

Q2. Choose the option that best expresses the meaning of the idiom underlined in the sentence below: "The manager decided to **play it by ear** when the crucial client data was delayed unexpectedly."

- (A) To strictly follow the contingency plan
- (B) To listen carefully to what the client wants
- (C) To improvise and deal with the situation as it develops



(D) To postpone the meeting to an indefinite date

Q3. Choose the correct antonym for the word "**OBSTINATE**".

(A) Pliable

(B) Dogged

(C) Adamant

(D) Tenacious

Q4. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error. If the sentence is correct as it is, choose option (D). "Neither the lead systems architect (A) / nor the software developers (B) / was able to fix the server breakdown before midnight. (C) / No error (D)"

(A) Neither the lead systems architect

(B) nor the software developers

(C) was able to fix the server breakdown before midnight.

(D) No error

Q5. Read the following passage carefully and answer Q5, Q6, and Q7 based on it.

The transition to a digital economy has accelerated rapidly over the last decade, fundamentally transforming the nature of global commerce. While this shift has democratized access to markets for small-scale entrepreneurs, it has simultaneously introduced unprecedented challenges regarding data privacy and market monopolization. Large tech conglomerates now wield enormous power, effectively acting as digital gatekeepers. They possess the ability to manipulate search algorithms, influence consumer preferences, and stifle smaller competitors who rely on their infrastructure. Regulatory bodies worldwide are grappling with the dilemma of curbing these anti-competitive practices without inadvertently dampening technological innovation, which thrives on a relatively unconstrained environment.



According to the passage, what dual effect has the transition to a digital economy had?

- (A) It has increased technological innovation while completely eliminating data privacy concerns.
- (B) It has empowered small-scale entrepreneurs while creating hurdles in market monopoly and data privacy.
- (C) It has restricted global commerce to big corporations while assisting regulatory bodies.
- (D) It has reduced consumer options while making search algorithms completely transparent.

Q6. Why are global regulatory bodies facing a dilemma, according to the author?

- (A) They are unable to understand the complex infrastructure used by large tech conglomerates.
- (B) They must balance the need to stop unfair market competition with the need to foster technological innovation.
- (C) They are under constant pressure from small-scale entrepreneurs to eliminate search algorithms.
- (D) They want to enforce digital gatekeeping while protecting consumer data from leaks.

Q7. What is the implied meaning of the term "**digital gatekeepers**" as used in the passage?

- (A) Security systems designed to protect user data from unauthorized access.
- (B) Small-scale businesses that control local distribution networks.
- (C) Regulatory officers appointed by governments to monitor internet traffic.
- (D) Dominant technology firms that control the access and infrastructure of online markets.

Q8. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition: "The research team worked tirelessly to ensure that the new software architecture was fully compatible



_____ the legacy systems used by the client."

- (A) to
- (B) with
- (C) for
- (D) about

Q9. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the highlighted word: "The CEO's **lucid** explanation of the company's restructuring strategy managed to calm the anxious investors."

- (A) Ambiguous
- (B) Intricate
- (C) Clear
- (D) Vehement

Q10. Select the correctly punctuated sentence from the options given below.

- (A) The project requires three things, a stable server, an experienced developer and sufficient funding.
- (B) The project requires three things; a stable server, an experienced developer, and sufficient funding.
- (C) The project requires three things: a stable server, an experienced developer, and sufficient funding.
- (D) The project requires three things: a stable server an experienced developer and sufficient funding.



Detailed Solutions**Q1.****Solution****Concept:**

The question tests the conversion of an active voice sentence into passive voice, specifically focusing on the present continuous tense. The active voice structure is: Subject + is/am/are + verb-ing + Object. When converting to passive voice, the structural formula transforms into: New Subject (original object) + is/am/are + being + past participle (V3) of the verb + by + New Object (original subject). Prepositional verbs like "look into" must retain their fixed prepositions immediately after the past participle form in the passive construction.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the structural components of the active voice sentence: "The committee is looking into the discrepancies in the annual balance sheet." Here, "The committee" serves as the active subject, "is looking into" is the main verb phrase in the present continuous tense, and "the discrepancies in the annual balance sheet" operates as the entire direct object phrase.

Step 2: Move the direct object phrase to the beginning of the sentence to act as the new subject of our passive sentence: "The discrepancies in the annual balance sheet...". This new noun phrase is plural because the head noun is "discrepancies".

Step 3: Choose the correct form of the auxiliary verb "to be" based on the new plural subject and the present continuous tense. Because the subject is plural, we use "are" followed by the continuous marker "being" to maintain the ongoing nature of the action. This results in "are being".

Step 4: Convert the primary action verb "look" into its past participle form, which is "looked", and ensure that the inseparable preposition "into" remains attached directly to it, creating the phrase "looked into".

Step 5: Append the original subject agent using the preposition "by", making it "by the committee". Combining all these steps systematically yields the complete passive sentence: "The discrepancies in the annual balance sheet are being looked into by the committee." This matches option B perfectly.

Final Answer:

The discrepancies in the annual balance sheet are being looked into by the committee.

Answer: (B)[Go Back to Question 1](#)

Q2.

Solution**Concept:**

This question evaluates the comprehension of English idioms and contextual vocabulary usage within a professional environment. The idiomatic phrase "play it by ear" originates from the field of music, where it describes a musician playing a piece by listening and replicating it without reading sheet music. In general usage and corporate contexts, it has evolved into a metaphorical expression meaning to handle a situation spontaneously, react dynamically to unfolding events, or improvise as things progress, rather than sticking strictly to a pre-established or rigid blueprint.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the specific context provided by the sentence: "The manager decided to play it by ear when the crucial client data was delayed unexpectedly." The sentence sets up a scenario where an unexpected delay of critical data has disrupted standard operating procedures, making a fixed plan impossible to execute.

Step 2: Evaluate option A ("To strictly follow the contingency plan"). This directly contradicts the meaning of the idiom, as playing something by ear means acting without a fixed plan or set instructions due to changing circumstances.

Step 3: Evaluate option B ("To listen carefully to what the client wants"). This is an incorrect literal interpretation of the word "ear" and does not capture the figurative, idiomatic meaning used in daily conversation.

Step 4: Evaluate option C ("To improvise and deal with the situation as it develops"). This choice correctly defines the figurative meaning of the idiom, as the manager must adapt and make decisions on the spot because the missing data prevents them from following any pre-planned strategy.

Step 5: Evaluate option D ("To postpone the meeting to an indefinite date"). While postponement might be a real-world reaction to delayed data, it does not define the idiom itself. Therefore, option C is the accurate definition.

Final Answer:

Answer: (C)

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Q3.

Solution**Concept:**

The focus of this vocabulary problem is identifying antonyms, which requires finding a word with the exact opposite semantic meaning to the target word. The adjective "obstinate" refers to someone who is stubbornly adhering to an opinion, purpose, or course of action despite reason, arguments, or persuasion. To find its antonym, we must identify a word that denotes flexibility, adaptability, willingness to yield to others, or being easily influenced and guided.

Solution:

Step 1: Define the target word precisely. "Obstinate" means unyielding, firm, inflexible, and headstrong. Synonyms include stubborn, bullheaded, and obdurate.

Step 2: Analyze the option A, "Pliable". The word "pliable" literally means easily bent or flexible, and metaphorically means easily influenced, receptive to change, or yielding to others. This stands as a direct semantic opposite to being stubborn or unyielding.

Step 3: Analyze option B, "Dogged". This word means showing tenacity and grim persistence. It is a close synonym to obstinate rather than an antonym.

Step 4: Analyze option C, "Adamant". This word describes someone who is utterly unyielding in attitude or opinion in spite of all appeals. This serves as another strong synonym for obstinate.

Step 5: Analyze option D, "Tenacious". This word means keeping a firm hold of something or being highly persistent. It also aligns closely with the meaning of obstinate. Since options B, C, and D are all synonyms, option A is the clear and correct antonym.

Final Answer:

Answer: (A)

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Q4.

Solution**Concept:**

This error-detection question focuses on advanced subject-verb agreement rules, specifically concerning compound subjects joined by the correlative conjunctions "neither... nor...". According to standard grammatical principles, when two subjects are connected by "neither... nor" or "either... or", the verb must agree in person and number with the closer subject. This is known grammatical rule as the "rule of proximity".

Solution:

Step 1: Break down the structure of the compound sentence. The sentence contains two subjects joined by correlative conjunctions: "Neither the lead systems architect nor the software developers...".

Step 2: Identify the first subject element (Subject 1) located after the word "neither". Subject 1 is "the lead systems architect", which is a singular third-person noun phrase.

Step 3: Identify the second subject element (Subject 2) located after the word "nor". Subject 2 is "the software developers", which is a plural third-person noun phrase.

Step 4: Locate the auxiliary verb in the sentence, which is "was able". Examine its position relative to the two subjects. The verb "was" is positioned immediately after the second subject, "the software developers".

Step 5: Apply the rule of proximity. Since the closer subject "the software developers" is plural, the corresponding verb must also be plural. The singular past tense verb "was" must be replaced with the plural past tense verb "were". Therefore, the error lies in segment C of the sentence.

Final Answer:

Answer: (C)

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Q5.

Solution**Concept:**

This reading comprehension question requires direct factual retrieval and explicit text-based interpretation. The question asks for the "dual effect" mentioned by the author regarding the digital economy. To solve this, we must locate the specific sentence in the passage that discusses simultaneous outcomes or contradictory impacts brought about by the shift toward a digital marketplace and analyze how those points map to the given options.

Solution:

Step 1: Scan the text for keywords related to dual outcomes, such as "shift", "democratized", "simultaneously", "challenges", or "introduced". These are found in the second sentence of the passage.

Step 2: Read and dissect the relevant sentence from the text: "While this shift has democratized access to markets for small-scale entrepreneurs, it has simultaneously introduced unprecedented challenges regarding data privacy and market monopolization."

Step 3: Break down the two opposing elements mentioned in this sentence. The positive effect is the democratization of market access for small-scale business owners. The negative concurrent effect is the rise of major difficulties concerning consumer data privacy and corporate market monopolies.

Step 4: Compare these extracted facts with option B, which states: "It has empowered small-scale entrepreneurs while creating hurdles in market monopoly and data privacy." The word "empowered" serves as an accurate paraphrase for "democratized access to markets," and "creating hurdles" perfectly mirrors "introduced unprecedented challenges."

Step 5: Reject other choices as option A mentions eliminating privacy concerns completely, option C inaccurately claims commerce is restricted entirely to big corporations, and option D focuses on search algorithm transparency which is not listed as part of the initial dual effect. This confirms option B as correct.

Final Answer:

It has empowered small-scale entrepreneurs while creating hurdles in market monopoly and data privacy.

Answer: (B)[Go Back to Question 5](#)

Q6.

Solution**Concept:**

This question tests reading comprehension and the ability to identify cause-and-effect relationships and underlying logic within a text. It specifically addresses why global regulatory bodies are experiencing a "dilemma". A dilemma implies a difficult situation where a choice has to be made between two options, both of which have compelling justifications or potentially negative outcomes if neglected. We need to identify these two competing forces from the text.

Solution:

Step 1: Locate the word "dilemma" in the passage. It appears in the final sentence: "Regulatory bodies worldwide are grappling with the dilemma of curbing these anti-competitive practices without inadvertently dampening technological innovation, which thrives on a relatively unconstrained environment."

Step 2: Analyze the two core components of the dilemma outlined by the author. The first task regulators must achieve is "curbing these anti-competitive practices," which refers to regulating large tech monopolies.

Step 3: Identify the counter-risk or the second element they must avoid, which is "inadvertently dampening technological innovation". The text notes that innovation requires an unconstrained, free environment to grow.

Step 4: Formulate the core problem: Regulators are stuck in a balancing act. If they regulate too heavily, they destroy technological growth, but if they leave markets alone, monopolies crush smaller competitors.

Step 5: Match this analysis with option B: "They must balance the need to stop unfair market competition with the need to foster technological innovation." This perfectly captures the exact nature of the trade-off described in the text, confirming option B as the correct choice.

Final Answer: They must balance the need to stop unfair market competition with the need to foster technological innovation.

Answer: (B)

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Q7.

Solution**Concept:**

This reading comprehension item focuses on inferential vocabulary and contextual definition. The question asks for the implied meaning of the metaphorical phrase "digital gatekeepers". To find the correct answer, we must examine how the phrase is set up by the surrounding sentences and evaluate the actions performed by the entities given this title.

Solution:

Step 1: Locate the phrase "digital gatekeepers" in the third sentence of the passage: "Large tech conglomerates now wield enormous power, effectively acting as digital gatekeepers." This tells us immediately that the term refers to "large tech conglomerates".

Step 2: Read the sentence that immediately follows to discover what these gatekeepers do: "They possess the ability to manipulate search algorithms, influence consumer preferences, and stifle smaller competitors who rely on their infrastructure."

Step 3: Define the function of a literal gatekeeper: someone who controls entry and exit through a gate. In a digital economy context, the "gate" refers to online market access, and the "infrastructure" belongs to these massive corporations. Smaller companies cannot reach customers without passing through them.

Step 4: Assess the choices based on this definition. Option A wrongly associates it with literal data security programs. Option B refers to small local companies, which is the opposite of large tech conglomerates. Option C claims they are government officers, which contradicts the text defining them as corporate entities.

Step 5: Review option D: "Dominant technology firms that control the access and infrastructure of online markets." This directly matches our context as they wield immense corporate control over the digital infrastructure that others depend on, making option D correct.

Final Answer: Dominant technology firms that control the access and infrastructure of online markets.

Answer: (D)

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Q8.

Solution**Concept:**

This question focuses on the correct application of appropriate dependent prepositions. In English grammar, certain adjectives, verbs, and nouns are idiomatically linked to specific prepositions. The adjective "compatible" describes the ability of two or more things to coexist, work together, or integrate without conflict. Grammatically, "compatible" requires a fixed preposition to connect it to the object it modifies.

Solution:

Step 1: Examine the sentence layout and context: "The research team worked tirelessly to ensure that the new software architecture was fully compatible _____ the legacy systems used by the client." The sentence discusses a relationship between a new software setup and older legacy systems.

Step 2: Test the idiomatic compatibility of option A ("to"). Saying "compatible to" is a common error made by learners, but it is grammatically incorrect in standard English when describing systems or people working smoothly together.

Step 3: Test the idiomatic compatibility of option B ("with"). In standard English usage, the adjective "compatible" is followed by the preposition "with" (e.g., "This operating system is compatible with your device"). This represents the standard idiom to express mutual harmony or technological integration.

Step 4: Test options C ("for") and D ("about"). Neither "compatible for" nor "compatible about" forms a valid or meaningful grammatical phrase in this structural context.

Step 5: Conclude that "compatible with" is the correct grammatical choice for this fill-in-the-blank question, pointing directly to option B.

Final Answer:

Answer: (B)

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Q9.

Solution**Concept:**

This vocabulary question requires finding a synonym, or the word closest in meaning, for the targeted adjective "lucid". The meaning of a word can often be verified through its contextual environment. The word "lucid" is derived from the Latin root "lucidus", meaning light or clear. In an intellectual or communicative context, it refers to speech, writing, or thought that is rational, coherent, transparent, and easy for an audience to follow.

Solution:

Step 1: Read the sentence to determine the word's contextual usage: "The CEO's **lucid** explanation of the company's restructuring strategy managed to calm the anxious investors."

Step 2: Infer the meaning from the context clues. The explanation had a positive effect; it "managed to calm the anxious investors." For an explanation to reassure anxious stakeholders during a major corporate shift, it must have been highly comprehensible, straightforward, and free of confusion.

Step 3: Analyze option A, "Ambiguous". This word means open to more than one interpretation or unclear, which is a direct antonym of lucid.

Step 4: Analyze option B, "Intricate". This word means very complicated or detailed. An intricate explanation might confuse anxious investors rather than calm them down.

Step 5: Analyze option C, "Clear". The word "clear" is an exact synonym for lucid, meaning easily understood, transparent, and plain. This matches our contextual deduction perfectly. Option D ("Vehement") means showing strong feeling or passion, which does not relate to the structural clarity of an explanation. Thus, option C is the correct answer.

Final Answer:

Answer: (C)

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Q10.

Solution**Concept:**

This question evaluates the mastery of punctuation rules, specifically the deployment of colons and commas when introducing an illustrative list of elements. A fundamental rule of English punctuation states that a colon (:) should be used to introduce a list of items only when the introductory clause preceding the colon stands alone as a grammatically complete independent clause. Furthermore, items within a series must be separated by commas, including the final comma before the coordinating conjunction (known as the Oxford or serial comma) to ensure maximum syntactic clarity.

Solution:

Step 1: Evaluate the introductory segment of the sentence: "The project requires three things". This group of words forms an independent clause with a complete subject ("The project") and a transitive verb phrase ("requires three things"). Because it is an independent clause introducing a specific list, a colon is the ideal punctuation mark to place right after "things".

Step 2: Examine option A. It uses a comma after "things" to introduce the list, which creates a punctuation error because a comma cannot be used to link a list directly to an independent clause in this manner.

Step 3: Examine option B. It uses a semicolon (;) after "things". Semicolons are used to link two closely related independent clauses or to separate complex items in a list that already contains commas. It is incorrect to use a semicolon to introduce a simple list.

Step 4: Examine option D. While it correctly uses a colon after "things", it completely omits commas between the list items ("a stable server an experienced developer and sufficient funding"). This lack of separation creates a major run-on list error.

Step 5: Examine option C. It places a colon correctly after the introductory independent clause, separates the first two items with a comma, and includes the serial comma before "and". This satisfies all standard grammatical and stylistic rules perfectly, making option C correct.

Final Answer:

The project requires three things: a stable server, an experienced developer, and sufficient funding.

Answer: (C)

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Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	2	C	3	A	4	C	5	B
6	B	7	D	8	B	9	C	10	C

