

NIMCET English Sample Paper-6

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. Choose the option that best expresses the meaning of the underlined word in the sentence.

The defense attorney argued that the evidence presented against his client was entirely **specious** and could not hold up under rigorous cross-examination.

- (A) Authenticated
- (B) Deceptive
- (C) Erudite
- (D) Indisputable

Q2. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.

Hardly had the chairperson started reading the annual performance report _____ the power outage plunged the entire conference hall into absolute darkness.

- (A) than
- (B) then



- (C) when
- (D) that

Q3. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error. If there is no error, mark option (D).

The standard of living of the local inhabitants (A) / in this remote tribal region is (B) / relatively lower than that of the urban populace. (C) / No error (D)

- (A) The standard of living of the local inhabitants
- (B) in this remote tribal region is
- (C) relatively lower than that of the urban populace.
- (D) No error

Q4. Select the option that represents the correct idiomatic meaning of the underlined phrase.

After months of intensive research and development, the engineering team finally managed to **break the back of** the complex software synchronization problem.

- (A) To abandon a project due to insurmountable difficulties
- (B) To solve or finish the most difficult part of something
- (C) To create a brand new complication in an existing system
- (D) To pass on the responsibility of a task to a subordinate

Q5. Change the voice of the following sentence from active to passive.

The high-level technical committee was thoroughly investigating the sudden systemic failure of the central server before the backup system kicked in.

- (A) The sudden systemic failure of the central server has been thoroughly investigated by the high-level technical committee before the backup system kicked in.



- (B) The sudden systemic failure of the central server was being thoroughly investigated by the high-level technical committee before the backup system kicked in.
- (C) The sudden systemic failure of the central server had been thoroughly investigated by the high-level technical committee before the backup system kicked in.
- (D) The sudden systemic failure of the central server was thoroughly investigated by the high-level technical committee before the backup system kicked in.

Q6. Out of the four given options, choose the one that is the most appropriate antonym of the word '**Pusillanimous**'.

- (A) Craven
- (B) Intrepid
- (C) Melancholic
- (D) Reclusive

Q7. Read the following passage carefully and answer Q7, Q8, and Q9 based on it.

The phenomenon of digital distraction is often conceptualized as a modern affliction born out of the ubiquity of smartphones and real-time algorithmic notifications. However, viewing it purely through the lens of technology misses a deeper psychological reality. Human attention has always been a scarce and fragile resource, historically mediated by internal anxieties and external environments. What contemporary digital platforms have engineered is not a new human vulnerability, but rather an industrial-scale optimization of existing evolutionary biases.

Our brains are naturally wired to prioritize novel stimuli—a trait that once ensured survival against immediate environmental threats. In the digital ecosystem, this manifests as an insatiable urge to refresh feeds, track metric validations, and consume bite-sized informational fragments. The consequence is not merely the loss of productive hours, but the systematic erosion of deep cognitive endurance. Cognitive scientists warn that the capacity for sustained, linear deep



reading and complex conceptual synthesis is undergoing a structural atrophy. As we habituate our minds to switch contexts every few seconds, we slowly compromise our ability to tolerate the cognitive friction inherent in resolving ambiguous, high-level intellectual problems.

According to the author, modern digital distraction should be understood as:

- (A) A completely unprecedented human behavior caused exclusively by modern smart devices.
- (B) A technological exploitation of deeply ingrained, survival-based evolutionary tendencies.
- (C) An intentional effort by cognitive scientists to shift human learning away from deep reading.
- (D) A fleeting societal phase that will naturally resolve as users grow accustomed to technology.

Q8. Which of the following best describes the structural atrophy mentioned in the second paragraph?

- (A) A physical degradation of brain tissues responsible for basic motor control and survival.
- (B) A decrease in the human capacity to quickly shift between simple administrative tasks.
- (C) A decline in the psychological and intellectual ability to engage with lengthy, complex arguments.
- (D) An evolutionary adaptation that makes modern humans more efficient at solving ambiguous problems.

Q9. Why does the author use the phrase “cognitive friction” in the passage?

- (A) To describe the technical glitches that happen when software applications crash.
- (B) To illustrate the mental effort and discomfort required to work through complex, challenging ideas.



- (C) To highlight the social arguments that arise due to polarization on digital media platforms.
- (D) To define the rapid processing speed achieved by human brains when multitasking.

Q10. Rearrange the following sentences (P, Q, R, S) to form a coherent and logically meaningful paragraph.

P: This dynamic shift is primarily driven by the falling costs of renewable infrastructure and stricter international carbon emission mandates.

Q: Global energy markets are currently undergoing one of the most profound structural transitions since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution.

R: Consequently, major institutional investors are rapidly reallocating capital away from conventional oil and gas portfolios into green alternatives.

S: Traditional fossil fuels, while still dominant in terms of absolute volume, are steadily losing their long-term competitive edge to solar and wind technologies.

- (A) QSPR
- (B) QPSR
- (C) PRSQ
- (D) SQRP



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

The question tests vocabulary strength, specifically understanding contextual word meanings. The underlined word is 'specious'. We must analyze the context of a defense attorney's argument regarding evidence in a cross-examination to deduce its meaning and choose the closest synonym among the given options.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the sentence context. A defense attorney is challenging evidence during a trial, arguing that it will not hold up under rigorous cross-examination. This implies that the evidence seems plausible, correct, or attractive on the surface but is actually false, flawed, or misleading.

Step 2: Define the word 'specious'. The term 'specious' refers to something that superficially appears to be right, true, or attractive, but is fundamentally wrong, misleading, or deceptive in reality.

Step 3: Evaluate option (A) 'Authenticated'. Authenticated means proven to be real, genuine, or valid. If the evidence were authenticated, a defense attorney would not claim it fails under cross-examination. Thus, this is incorrect.

Step 4: Evaluate option (B) 'Deceptive'. Deceptive means giving an appearance or impression different from the true one; misleading or false. This matches the definition of 'specious' perfectly, as both refer to an misleading surface appearance.

Step 5: Evaluate option (C) 'Erudite'. Erudite means having or showing great knowledge or learning. This is an adjective typically used for people or scholarly texts, making it contextually irrelevant to legal evidence.

Step 6: Evaluate option (D) 'Indisputable'. Indisputable means unable to be challenged or denied. This is the exact opposite of what the defense attorney is trying to establish about the prosecution's evidence.

Step 7: Conclusion. Since 'deceptive' closely aligns with the meaning of 'specious', option (B) is the correct answer.

Final Answer:

Answer: (B)

[Go Back to Question 1](#)



Q2.

Solution**Concept:**

This question tests grammatical correctness and understanding of correlative conjunctions. Specifically, it tests the standard structural inversion pattern involving negative or restrictive adverbs like 'hardly', 'scarcely', and 'barely' at the beginning of a sentence.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the grammatical structure of the sentence. The sentence starts with the restrictive adverb 'Hardly', which is followed by an inversion of the subject and auxiliary verb: 'Hardly had the chairperson started...'

Step 2: Recall the rules for correlative conjunction pairs. In English grammar, the restrictive adverbs 'hardly', 'scarcely', and 'barely' are conventionally paired with the conjunction 'when' (or less frequently 'before') to introduce the second action that happened immediately after the first.

Step 3: Analyze the common distractor pairs. The adverb 'scarcely' or 'hardly' is frequently confused with 'no sooner'. The expression 'no sooner' is a comparative form and must always be paired with the conjunction 'than'. Combining 'hardly' with 'than' is a frequent grammatical error.

Step 4: Evaluate the options. Option (A) 'than' is incorrect because it pairs with 'no sooner'. Option (B) 'then' is a temporal adverb, not a conjunction for this correlative structure. Option (C) 'when' is the correct correlative partner for 'hardly'. Option (D) 'that' does not form a valid structural pairing here.

Step 5: Conclusion. The complete coherent structure must be 'Hardly... when', establishing that the power outage occurred immediately after the reading began. Therefore, option (C) is correct.

Final Answer:

Answer: (C)

[Go Back to Question 2](#)



Q3.

Solution**Concept:**

This question requires identifying grammatical errors related to redundancy and double comparatives in modifier structures. Specifically, it deals with using comparative modifiers alongside words that inherently imply a relationship of comparison.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze part (A): 'The standard of living of the local inhabitants'. This phrase establishes the subject of the sentence, which is 'The standard of living'. The syntax and preposition usage are correct.

Step 2: Analyze part (B): 'in this remote tribal region is'. This phrase acts as an adjectival modifier for the inhabitants and introduces the singular verb 'is', which correctly agrees with the singular noun phrase 'The standard of living'.

Step 3: Analyze part (C): 'relatively lower than that of the urban populace.' Here, we observe the word 'relatively' used right before the comparative adjective 'lower'.

Step 4: Evaluate the interaction between 'relatively' and 'lower'. The word 'relatively' inherently means 'in comparison with something else'. The adjective 'lower' is already in its comparative degree. Combining 'relatively' with a comparative degree adjective creates an ungrammatical redundancy, or a double comparative error.

Step 5: Formulate the correction. To make the sentence grammatically correct, one must either use a positive degree adjective after 'relatively' (i.e., 'relatively low') or drop the word 'relatively' altogether (i.e., 'is lower than that of').

Step 6: Conclusion. Since the redundancy occurs entirely within segment (C), this part contains the grammatical error. Therefore, option (C) is the correct choice.

Final Answer:

Answer: (C)

[Go Back to Question 3](#)



Q4.

Solution**Concept:**

This question tests idiom comprehension and contextual interpretation. Idioms are expressions whose meanings cannot be understood simply from the literal definitions of their constituent words. We must determine the meaning of the idiom 'break the back of'.

Solution:

Step 1: Examine the context of the sentence. An engineering team is working on an intensive research and development project for months. They face a 'complex software synchronization problem' and finally manage to 'break the back of' it. The context implies a breakthrough or major progress.

Step 2: Define the idiom 'break the back of'. To break the back of a task, problem, or project means to successfully complete the hardest, largest, or most difficult part of it, making the remaining portion much easier to manage or finish.

Step 3: Evaluate option (A): 'To abandon a project due to insurmountable difficulties'. This contradicts the positive tone implied by 'managed to' and 'finally'.

Step 4: Evaluate option (B): 'To solve or finish the most difficult part of something'. This aligns precisely with the established idiomatic definition, where the core obstacle of the software issue has been overcome.

Step 5: Evaluate option (C): 'To create a brand new complication in an existing system'. This would imply failure or regression, which does not fit the phrase's meaning.

Step 6: Evaluate option (D): 'To pass on the responsibility of a task to a subordinate'. This describes delegation or shifting blame, which is unrelated to the idiom.

Step 7: Conclusion. Option (B) accurately captures the exact figurative meaning of the phrase.

Final Answer: To solve or finish the most difficult part of something

Answer: (B)

[Go Back to Question 4](#)



Q5.

Solution**Concept:**

This question involves converting an active voice sentence into the passive voice while maintaining strict grammatical tense consistency. The primary task is identifying the subject, verb, and object of the active clause, and applying the corresponding passive transformation rules.

Solution:

Step 1: Deconstruct the active sentence to find its structural components.

- Subject: 'The high-level technical committee'
- Verb phrase: 'was thoroughly investigating'
- Object: 'the sudden systemic failure of the central server'
- Dependent clause: 'before the backup system kicked in'

Step 2: Determine the grammatical tense. The verb phrase 'was investigating' is in the past continuous (progressive) tense.

Step 3: Apply the past continuous passive voice formula. The rule dictates that:

Active: Subject + was/were + Verb-ing + Object

Passive: Object + was/were + being + Past Participle (Verb-3) + by Subject

Applying this, 'was investigating' must transform into 'was being investigated'.

Step 4: Evaluate the given choices based on this structural transformation.

- Option (A) uses 'has been thoroughly investigated' (present perfect passive), which changes the original tense.
- Option (B) uses 'was being thoroughly investigated' (past continuous passive), preserving the original tense and meaning perfectly.
- Option (C) uses 'had been thoroughly investigated' (past perfect passive), altering the aspect of time.
- Option (D) uses 'was thoroughly investigated' (simple past passive), which loses the continuous aspect.

Step 5: Conclusion. Option (B) is the only sentence that correctly applies the structural rules of passive voice conversion for the past continuous tense.

Final Answer:

The sudden systemic failure of the central server was being thoroughly investigated by the high-level technical committee before the backup system kicked in.

Answer: (B)

[Go Back to Question 5](#)



Q6.

Solution**Concept:**

This question tests lexical knowledge, specifically the ability to identify an antonym (a word with an opposite meaning) for an advanced vocabulary word. The target word is 'Pusillanimous'.

Solution:

Step 1: Define the target word 'Pusillanimous'. The word originates from Latin words meaning 'very small mind'. In English, it means showing a lack of courage or determination; timid, cowardly, or fainthearted.

Step 2: Analyze option (A) 'Craven'. Craven means contemptibly lacking in courage; cowardly. Since this is synonymous with pusillanimous, it cannot be the antonym.

Step 3: Analyze option (B) 'Intrepid'. Intrepid means completely fearless, undaunted, very brave, or adventurous. This represents the direct psychological and behavioral opposite of being cowardly or pusillanimous.

Step 4: Analyze option (C) 'Melancholic'. Melancholic describes a feeling of deep, pensive, long-lasting sadness or depression. It does not relate directly to bravery or cowardice.

Step 5: Analyze option (D) 'Reclusive'. Reclusive means avoiding the company of other people; living a solitary life. This refers to social habits rather than courage levels.

Step 6: Conclusion. Because 'intrepid' (brave) functions as a precise conceptual opposite to 'pusillanimous' (cowardly), option (B) is the correct antonym choice.

Final Answer:

Answer: (B)

[Go Back to Question 6](#)



Q7.

Solution**Concept:**

This reading comprehension question requires extracting information and understanding the main arguments explicitly or implicitly stated by the author in the text. We must identify how the author conceptualizes digital distraction based on the first paragraph.

Solution:

Step 1: Locate relevant textual evidence from the first paragraph. The author notes that looking at distraction solely as a modern technological issue misses a deeper point. The passage states: 'What contemporary digital platforms have engineered is not a new human vulnerability, but rather an industrial-scale optimization of existing evolutionary biases.'

Step 2: Interpret the author's meaning. The author argues that human attention vulnerability is not new; rather, modern applications and technology capitalize on biological, evolutionary predispositions that humans have always possessed.

Step 3: Match this interpretation against the choices.

- Option (A) claims it is completely unprecedented and caused exclusively by smart devices. This directly contradicts the author's statement that it is not a new vulnerability.
- Option (B) states it is a technological exploitation of deeply ingrained, survival-based evolutionary tendencies. This matches the phrase 'industrial-scale optimization of existing evolutionary biases' perfectly.
- Option (C) asserts that scientists are intentionally shifting human learning away from deep reading. This misinterprets the text, as scientists are merely warning about the effects, not driving them.
- Option (D) describes it as a fleeting phase that will resolve naturally, which is never mentioned or implied.

Step 4: Conclusion. Option (B) accurately reflects the author's core perspective.

Final Answer: A technological exploitation of deeply ingrained, survival-based evolutionary tendencies.

Answer: (B)

[Go Back to Question 7](#)



Q8.

Solution**Concept:**

This reading comprehension question evaluates the student's ability to interpret specific vocabulary terms ('structural atrophy') used metaphorically within the context of a cognitive science discussion in the passage.

Solution:

Step 1: Locate the specific term in the second paragraph. The text states: 'Cognitive scientists warn that the capacity for sustained, linear deep reading and complex conceptual synthesis is undergoing a structural atrophy.'

Step 2: Analyze the surrounding context to understand what is decaying. The text explains that because we habituate our minds to constantly switch contexts every few seconds, we compromise our ability to tolerate cognitive friction and lose our deep cognitive endurance. Thus, 'atrophy' refers to the weakening of our capacity to process prolonged, complex information.

Step 3: Evaluate the options based on this context.

- Option (A) describes a physical degradation of brain tissues for basic motor control. The text discusses high-level cognitive reading capacities, not motor control tissues.
- Option (B) suggests a decrease in shifting between simple tasks, whereas the text says we are switching tasks too much, which damages our capacity for focused depth.
- Option (C) states it is a decline in the psychological and intellectual ability to engage with lengthy, complex arguments. This matches 'sustained, linear deep reading and complex conceptual synthesis' perfectly.
- Option (D) views it as an adaptation making us more efficient, which completely misconstrues the passage's warning about cognitive decline.

Step 4: Conclusion. Option (C) is the only accurate description of the text's meaning.

Final Answer: A decline in the psychological and intellectual ability to engage with lengthy, complex arguments.

Answer: (C)

[Go Back to Question 8](#)



Q9.

Solution**Concept:**

This question focuses on understanding context-dependent phrasing. We must determine why the author introduces the concept of 'cognitive friction' and what it signifies regarding human thought processes in a digitally distracted environment.

Solution:

Step 1: Find the phrase 'cognitive friction' in the text. It occurs in the final sentence: 'As we habituate our minds to switch contexts every few seconds, we slowly compromise our ability to tolerate the cognitive friction inherent in resolving ambiguous, high-level intellectual problems.'

Step 2: Deduce the meaning from the immediate context. The author associates 'cognitive friction' with the process of 'resolving ambiguous, high-level intellectual problems'. This indicates that high-level thinking involves a mental resistance or effort that requires stamina and discomfort to push through.

Step 3: Analyze the options.

- Option (A) attributes it to software or technical crashes, which interprets 'friction' literally rather than metaphorically in relation to human thought.
- Option (B) states it describes the mental effort and discomfort required to work through complex, challenging ideas. This matches the contextual usage of tolerating difficulty while resolving high-level intellectual problems.
- Option (C) refers to social arguments and polarization, which shifts the topic away from individual cognition to sociology.
- Option (D) suggests it means rapid processing speed, which is the opposite of 'friction' (which slows things down and adds difficulty).

Step 4: Conclusion. Option (B) is the correct contextual explanation of the phrase.

Final Answer: To illustrate the mental effort and discomfort required to work through complex, challenging ideas.

Answer: (B)

[Go Back to Question 9](#)



Q10.

Solution**Concept:**

This question requires arranging scattered sentences into a logically consistent paragraph (Parajumbles). Success depends on identifying mandatory sentence pairs, discovering the introductory sentence, and tracking transition signals or pronouns.

Solution:

Step 1: Read all sentences to comprehend the core theme. The sentences discuss global energy markets transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable green energy due to economic and mandate factors.

Step 2: Identify the best introductory sentence. Sentence Q introduces a broad, independent statement: 'Global energy markets are currently undergoing one of the most profound structural transitions since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution.' This serves as an ideal opening topic sentence.

Step 3: Look for logical linkages. Sentence S specifies what this structural transition looks like: 'Traditional fossil fuels... are steadily losing their long-term competitive edge to solar and wind technologies.' Therefore, S naturally follows Q to describe the transition details. This forms the sequence Q-S.

Step 4: Track pronouns and cause-effect indicators. Sentence P begins with 'This dynamic shift is primarily driven by...'. The phrase 'This dynamic shift' refers back to fossil fuels losing their edge to renewables mentioned in S. Thus, P must come immediately after S. This expands our sequence to Q-S-P.

Step 5: Place the final concluding sentence. Sentence R begins with 'Consequently, major institutional investors are rapidly reallocating capital...'. 'Consequently' signals a final result derived from the drivers explained in P. Hence, R acts as the perfect conclusion. This completes the sequence as Q-S-P-R.

Step 6: Match with the choices. The established logical sequence Q-S-P-R corresponds to option (A).

Final Answer:

Answer: (A)

[Go Back to Question 10](#)



Answer Key

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

