

RIE CEE Language Proficiency

Sample Paper – 10

Duration: 30 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 40

Instructions

- This paper contains **20** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the **Language Proficiency in English** section of the **RIE CEE** (NCERT Regional Institutes of Education Common Entrance Exam).
- Each correct answer carries **+2 marks**. There is a penalty of **−0.5 mark** for every incorrect answer. Unattempted questions carry **0 marks**.
- Only **one** option is correct. Choose carefully before marking, since wrong answers are penalised.
- The actual exam is a **Computer Based Test (CBT)**; attempt this paper in one timed sitting of 30 minutes.
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or electronic gadgets is not permitted.

Q1. Directions (Q.1–Q.4): Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

When a forest is cleared, people often count only the trees that fall, not the web of life that unravels with them. A single old fig tree can feed dozens of bird and bat species, whose droppings then carry seeds far beyond the grove, planting tomorrow's forest. Wildlife corridors, narrow strips of green that link one reserve to another, allow tigers and elephants to roam, breed, and avoid the dangers of inbreeding. Conservation, therefore, is less about fencing off a patch of wilderness and more about keeping these living threads connected. Protecting a species in isolation, while its neighbours and its pathways vanish, rarely succeeds for long.

What is the central idea of the passage?



- (A) Old fig trees are the most valuable trees in any forest.
- (B) Tigers and elephants are the only animals that need protection.
- (C) Effective conservation depends on keeping ecological connections intact.
- (D) Forests should be fenced off so that no human can enter them.

Q2. According to the passage, what role do birds and bats play after feeding on a fig tree?

- (A) They disperse seeds far away through their droppings.
- (B) They drive other species out of the grove.
- (C) They prevent new trees from growing nearby.
- (D) They build nests that block sunlight from the soil.

Q3. In the passage, the word “*unravels*” most nearly means:

- (A) strengthens steadily
- (B) is photographed
- (C) is replanted
- (D) comes apart

Q4. Which statement would the author most likely agree with?

- (A) Saving one rare animal in a zoo solves the conservation problem.
- (B) Linking reserves with corridors helps wildlife more than isolating them.
- (C) Counting fallen trees is the best measure of a forest’s health.
- (D) Human visitors are the greatest benefit a wilderness can offer.

Q5. Choose the option that correctly completes the sentence:

By the time the rangers reached the waterhole, the herd of deer _____ already moved into the deeper forest.



- (A) has
- (B) had
- (C) have
- (D) is having

Q6. Fill in the blank with the correct article:

The naturalist spotted _____ owl perched silently on the highest branch of the banyan.

- (A) the
- (B) no article
- (C) a
- (D) an

Q7. Choose the correct preposition:

The migratory cranes return to the wetland _____ the onset of winter every year.

- (A) with
- (B) among
- (C) since
- (D) until

Q8. Choose the correct verb form:

Neither the poachers nor their leader _____ aware that the patrol had been watching the trail.

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



Q9. Choose the option that correctly completes the sentence:

Every volunteer at the sanctuary must record _____ own sightings in the logbook before leaving.

- (A) his or her
- (B) their
- (C) its
- (D) whose

Q10. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error:

(A) The elephant (B) along with its calves (C) were crossing (D) the dried riverbed

- (A) The elephant
- (B) along with its calves
- (C) were crossing
- (D) the dried riverbed slowly.

Q11. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error:

(A) Hardly had the sun set (B) than the nocturnal animals (C) began to stir
(D) in the undergrowth.

- (A) Hardly had the sun set
- (B) than the nocturnal animals
- (C) began to stir
- (D) in the undergrowth.

Q12. Choose the best replacement for the underlined part:

The conservation officer suggested that the villagers should to plant native shrubs along the boundary.

- (A) that the villagers should to plant
- (B) that the villagers must to planting
- (C) that the villagers plant



(D) the villagers to planting

Q13. Choose the word that is the **synonym** of “**abundant**”:

- (A) scarce
- (B) fragile
- (C) hidden
- (D) plentiful

Q14. Choose the word that is the **antonym** of “**thrive**”:

- (A) dwindle
- (B) flourish
- (C) wander
- (D) gather

Q15. Choose the one word for the expression: “*an animal that feeds on both plants and flesh*”.

- (A) herbivore
- (B) omnivore
- (C) carnivore
- (D) scavenger

Q16. What does the idiom “*a fish out of water*” mean?

- (A) a person who swims very well
- (B) a sudden heavy downpour
- (C) someone uncomfortable in unfamiliar surroundings
- (D) a plan that fails at the last moment

Q17. Fill in the blank with the most suitable word:

The ranger spoke in a _____ voice so as not to startle the grazing antelope.



- (A) harsh
- (B) hushed
- (C) booming
- (D) shrill

Q18. Fill in the blank with the most suitable word:

Years of careful protection have allowed the once-vanishing crocodile population to _____ along the river.

- (A) decline
- (B) escape
- (C) scatter
- (D) recover

Q19. Arrange the parts to form a meaningful sentence:

- (P) a few decades ago
- (Q) that the marshland
- (R) the old fishermen recall
- (S) teemed with countless waterbirds

- (A) R Q S P
- (B) Q R P S
- (C) P S R Q
- (D) R P Q S

Q20. Arrange the parts to form a meaningful sentence:

- (P) the survival of the species
- (Q) without a safe passage between hills
- (R) becomes increasingly uncertain
- (S) for the small herd of bison

- (A) Q S P R
- (B) P R S Q



(C) Q P R S

(D) S Q P R



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: The central idea is the single thread that ties every sentence of the passage together.

Step 1 — Track the repeated point: The passage moves from fig trees feeding birds, to seeds being carried away, to corridors linking reserves, and finally states conservation is “about keeping these living threads connected”.

Step 2 — Match to an option: Option (C), “Effective conservation depends on keeping ecological connections intact”, restates that summary line directly.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) The fig tree is only one example, not the main point.
- (B) Tigers and elephants are examples; the passage never calls them the only species worth saving.
- (D) The author actually argues against simply fencing off wilderness.

Final Answer: The passage is about preserving ecological connections ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Locating a detail: A detail question is answered by pointing to the exact line in the text.

Step 1 — Find the relevant line: The passage says the droppings of birds and bats “carry seeds far beyond the grove, planting tomorrow’s forest”.

Step 2 — Paraphrase it: Carrying seeds far away through droppings is exactly seed dispersal, which is option (A).

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) Nothing in the passage says they drive other species out.
- (C) The opposite is stated; they help new trees grow.
- (D) Nests blocking sunlight is never mentioned.

Final Answer: They disperse seeds far away ⇒



Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q2](#)

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: The meaning of a word is fixed by how it is used in the sentence, not by its dictionary range alone.

Step 1 — Read the host sentence: “the web of life that unravels with them” describes a web falling apart when the trees fall.

Step 2 — Test the choices: A web that “unravels” comes undone; “comes apart” in (D) captures this loss of structure.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “strengthens” is the opposite of falling apart.
- (B) “is photographed” has nothing to do with the word.
- (C) “is replanted” confuses unravelling with the later idea of regrowth.

Final Answer: “unravels” here means comes apart ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q3](#)

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Inference: An inference must follow logically from the author’s stated stance.

Step 1 — Identify the stance: The author favours corridors that link reserves over “protecting a species in isolation”.

Step 2 — Pick the matching belief: Option (B), that linking reserves helps wildlife more than isolating them, is the natural extension of that stance.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) The author says isolated protection “rarely succeeds”.
- (C) The author dismisses merely counting fallen trees.
- (D) The passage focuses on ecology, not human visitors as a benefit.

Final Answer: The author supports linking reserves ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q4](#)



Q5.

Solution

Concept — Past perfect tense: When one past action finishes before another past action, the earlier one takes the past perfect (had + past participle).

Step 1 — Spot the two past events: The rangers “reached” the waterhole (simple past) and the herd had “moved” before that.

Step 2 — Apply the rule: The earlier action needs “had moved”, so the blank is filled by “had”.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “has” is present perfect, wrong for a past sequence.
- (C) “have” is present perfect plural, also non-past.
- (D) “is having” is present continuous and ungrammatical here.

Final Answer: The earlier past action takes “had” ⇒

[Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Indefinite article a/an: The choice between “a” and “an” depends on the sound, not the letter, that begins the next word.

Step 1 — Check the sound: “owl” begins with a vowel sound, so it takes “an”.

Step 2 — Check definiteness: The owl is introduced for the first time and is not specific, so the indefinite “an” fits, not “the”.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “the” wrongly treats a newly introduced owl as already known.
- (B) A singular countable noun like “owl” needs an article.
- (C) “a” is wrong before the vowel sound of “owl”.

Final Answer: “an owl” is correct ⇒

[Go Back to Q6](#)



Q7.

Solution

Concept — Preposition of accompaniment/time: “with” can mark an event that accompanies or coincides with another.

Step 1 — Read the meaning: The cranes return at the same time as winter begins, i.e. coinciding with “the onset of winter”.

Step 2 — Fit the preposition: “with the onset of winter” correctly shows this coincidence.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) “among” is used for being within a group, not a time event.
- (C) “since” needs a fixed starting point and a perfect tense.
- (D) “until” marks an end point, which reverses the intended meaning.

Final Answer: “with the onset of winter” is correct ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Neither...nor agreement: With “neither...nor”, the verb agrees with the subject nearer to it.

Step 1 — Find the nearer subject: The subject closer to the verb is “their leader”, which is singular.

Step 2 — Match the verb: A singular subject in the past needs “was”, so “their leader was aware” is correct.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “are” is plural and present, doubly wrong.
- (B) “have been” is plural present perfect.
- (D) “were” is plural and disagrees with the singular “leader”.

Final Answer: The nearer singular subject takes “was” ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q8](#)



Q9.

Solution

Concept — Pronoun agreement: A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number and person.

Step 1 — Find the antecedent: “Every volunteer” is singular and refers to a person.

Step 2 — Choose the pronoun: A singular human antecedent takes “his or her”, giving “record his or her own sightings”.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) “their” is plural and clashes with singular “every volunteer” in formal usage.
- (C) “its” is for things or animals, not a person.
- (D) “whose” is a relative/interrogative pronoun and does not fit the slot.

Final Answer: “his or her own sightings” is correct ⇒

[Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

Solution

Concept — “Along with” does not change the subject: A phrase added by “along with” does not make a singular subject plural.

Step 1 — Identify the real subject: The subject is “The elephant” (singular); “along with its calves” is merely an add-on.

Step 2 — Test the verb: A singular subject needs “was crossing”, not “were crossing”; so part (C) holds the error.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “The elephant” is a correct singular subject.
- (B) “along with its calves” is a correct parenthetical phrase.
- (D) “the dried riverbed slowly” is grammatically fine.

Final Answer: The error is in “were crossing” ⇒

[Go Back to Q10](#)



Q11.

Solution

Concept — “Hardly...when” construction: The correlative of “hardly” (or “scarcely”) is “when”, never “than”.

Step 1 — Spot the structure: The sentence begins “Hardly had the sun set”, which demands a following “when”.

Step 2 — Find the slip: Part (B) uses “than” instead of “when”, so (B) carries the error.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) The inversion “Hardly had the sun set” is correct.
- (C) “began to stir” is a correct past-tense phrase.
- (D) “in the undergrowth” is a correct adverbial.

Final Answer: “than” should be “when” ⇒

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q11](#)

Q12.

Solution

Concept — “Suggest that” + base verb: After “suggest that”, English uses the subjunctive base form of the verb, with no “should to”.

Step 1 — Spot the fault: “should to plant” is wrong because “should” is never followed by “to”.

Step 2 — Apply the rule: The correct form is “suggested that the villagers plant native shrubs”, which is option (C).

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “should to plant” is doubly marked and ungrammatical.
- (B) “must to planting” mixes a modal with “to” and an “-ing” form.
- (D) “the villagers to planting” drops “that” and uses a wrong verb form.

Final Answer: “that the villagers plant” is correct ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q12](#)



Q13.

Solution

Concept — Synonym: A synonym shares the same core meaning as the given word.

Step 1 — Define the word: “abundant” means existing in large quantity, more than enough.

Step 2 — Match it: “plentiful” carries the same sense of being available in large amounts, so (D) is correct.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “scarce” means too little, the opposite.
- (B) “fragile” means easily broken, unrelated to quantity.
- (C) “hidden” means concealed, not abundant.

Final Answer: “plentiful” is the synonym of “abundant” ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q13](#)

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Antonym: An antonym expresses the opposite meaning of the given word.

Step 1 — Define the word: “thrive” means to grow strongly and flourish.

Step 2 — Find the opposite: “dwindle” means to shrink or grow steadily less, which is the reverse of thriving, so (A) is correct.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) “flourish” is a synonym, not an antonym.
- (C) “wander” means to roam, unrelated to growth.
- (D) “gather” means to collect, not the opposite of thrive.

Final Answer: “dwindle” is the antonym of “thrive” ⇒ **A**

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q14](#)



Q15.

Solution

Concept — One-word substitution: A single precise word can replace a longer descriptive phrase.

Step 1 — Read the definition: “an animal that feeds on both plants and flesh” describes a mixed diet.

Step 2 — Recall the root: “omni-” means all and “-vore” means eater, so “omnivore” means an eater of all kinds of food, which fits.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “herbivore” eats only plants.
- (C) “carnivore” eats only flesh.
- (D) “scavenger” feeds on dead remains, not the stated mixed diet.

Final Answer: “omnivore” is the one word ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q15](#)

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Idiom meaning: An idiom carries a figurative sense different from its literal words.

Step 1 — Picture the image: A fish removed from water is out of its natural element and clearly distressed.

Step 2 — Apply the figurative sense: The idiom describes a person who feels uneasy in unfamiliar surroundings, which is option (C).

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) A good swimmer is the literal, not idiomatic, reading.
- (B) A heavy downpour is unrelated to the phrase.
- (D) A last-minute failure is a different idea altogether.

Final Answer: It means someone uncomfortable in unfamiliar surroundings ⇒ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q16](#)



Q17.

Solution

Concept — Word that fits meaning and tone: The blank must suit both the grammar and the sense of the sentence.

Step 1 — Read the purpose: The ranger speaks “so as not to startle” the antelope, so the voice must be soft and quiet.

Step 2 — Choose the word: “hushed” means lowered and quiet, exactly what avoids startling animals, so (B) fits.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “harsh” would alarm the animals.
- (C) “booming” is loud and would scare them.
- (D) “shrill” is sharp and piercing, the opposite of soothing.

Final Answer: “hushed” is the best fit ⇒

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q17](#)

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Word that fits meaning: The chosen word must agree with the positive sense of years of protection.

Step 1 — Read the cue: The population was “once-vanishing” but “careful protection” has helped it, so the trend is upward.

Step 2 — Choose the word: “recover” means to return to a healthy state, matching the rise after protection, so (D) fits.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “decline” contradicts the helpful effect of protection.
- (B) “escape” does not suit a population’s growth.
- (C) “scatter” describes dispersal, not revival.

Final Answer: “recover” is the best fit ⇒

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q18](#)



Q19.

Solution

Concept — Sentence rearrangement: Find the subject-verb opener, then attach the clause and its details in logical order.

Step 1 — Find the opener: “the old fishermen recall” (R) is the main clause that begins the sentence.

Step 2 — Build the rest: What they recall is “that the marshland” (Q), which “teemed with countless waterbirds” (S) “a few decades ago” (P), giving R-Q-S-P.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) Q-R-P-S starts with the “that” clause and breaks the structure.
- (C) P-S-R-Q opens with a time phrase and scrambles the clause.
- (D) R-P-Q-S misplaces the time phrase before the “that” clause.

Final Answer: The correct order is R-Q-S-P ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q19](#)

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Sentence rearrangement: Place the conditional opener first, then the subject and its verb.

Step 1 — Find the opener: “without a safe passage between hills” (Q) sets the condition and opens the sentence.

Step 2 — Build the rest: The subject is “the survival of the species” (P), which “becomes increasingly uncertain” (R) “for the small herd of bison” (S), giving Q-P-R-S.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) Q-P-S-R places the detail before the verb awkwardly.
- (B) P-R-S-Q hides the condition at the end.
- (D) S-Q-P-R opens with a dangling “for” phrase.

Final Answer: The correct order is Q-P-R-S ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q20](#)



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	C	2	A	3	D	4	B	5	B
6	D	7	A	8	C	9	A	10	C
11	B	12	C	13	D	14	A	15	B
16	C	17	B	18	D	19	A	20	C

