

RIE CEE Language Proficiency

Sample Paper – 1

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.

Glaciers in the high Himalayas are often called the water towers of Asia, because the rivers they feed support hundreds of millions of people downstream. In recent decades, however, these frozen reserves have begun to shrink at an alarming rate. Warmer summers melt the ice faster than winter snowfall can replace it, so the glaciers grow thinner year after year. For a while the extra meltwater swells the rivers and seems like a blessing, yet scientists warn that this surplus is temporary. Once the ice has dwindled past a certain point, the very rivers that now run full will begin to falter, threatening farming, drinking water and electricity for the entire region.

Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?



- (A) Shrinking Himalayan glaciers offer a short-lived gain but a serious long-term threat.
- (B) Himalayan rivers currently carry more water than ever before.
- (C) Winter snowfall in the Himalayas has completely stopped.
- (D) Glaciers are useful only because they look beautiful to tourists.

Q2. According to the passage, why do the glaciers grow thinner each year?

- (A) Because rivers carry the ice away to the sea.
- (B) Because tourists chip pieces off the glaciers.
- (C) Because summer melting outpaces the snowfall that should replace the ice.
- (D) Because farmers deliberately remove the snow for irrigation.

Q3. In the passage, the word “**dwindled**” is closest in meaning to:

- (A) decreased gradually
- (B) frozen solid
- (C) spread widely
- (D) turned salty

Q4. The tone of the writer towards the future of the region can best be described as:

- (A) cheerful and carefree
- (B) angry and accusing
- (C) concerned and cautionary
- (D) indifferent and bored

Q5. Choose the option that correctly completes the sentence: “By the time the delegates reached the summit, the negotiators _____ a draft of the climate agreement.”



- (A) have prepared
- (B) will prepare
- (C) are preparing
- (D) had already prepared

Q6. Fill in the blank with the correct article: “Renewable energy is now _____ honest alternative that many coastal towns are willing to fund.”

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

Q7. Choose the correct preposition: “The committee finally agreed _____ a plan to plant a million saplings along the eroded riverbank.”

- (A) on
- (B) from
- (C) against
- (D) into

Q8. Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) Neither the rivers nor the lake are drying as quickly as feared.
- (B) Neither the lake nor the rivers are drying as quickly as feared.
- (C) The data on rising sea levels are alarming, but it surprise no one.
- (D) Each of the villages have planted its own community forest.

Q9. Choose the most appropriate connector: “The town invested heavily in solar panels; _____, its electricity bills fell within a single year.”

- (A) however
- (B) nevertheless



- (C) consequently
- (D) otherwise

Q10. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error: “The scientists (A)/ has been collecting (B)/ rainfall data for over a decade (C)/ to study the changing monsoon. (D)”

- (A) has been collecting
- (B) The scientists
- (C) rainfall data for over a decade
- (D) to study the changing monsoon

Q11. Choose the best replacement for the underlined part: “If the factory would have installed cleaner filters, the river would not be so polluted today.”

- (A) would install
- (B) had installed
- (C) has installed
- (D) will install

Q12. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error: “Hardly had the storm passed (A)/ when the volunteers rushed out (B)/ to clear the fallen trees (C)/ from the flooded street. (D)”

- (A) Hardly had the storm passed
- (B) when the volunteers rushed out
- (C) from the flooded street
- (D) No error

Q13. Choose the word most nearly **similar** in meaning to “**arid**”:

- (A) fertile



- (B) parched
- (C) humid
- (D) frozen

Q14. Choose the word most nearly **opposite** in meaning to “**abundant**”:

- (A) plentiful
- (B) generous
- (C) enormous
- (D) scarce

Q15. Choose the single word for the expression: “a plant or animal that lives in a particular region and is found nowhere else naturally”.

- (A) migratory
- (B) invasive
- (C) endemic
- (D) nocturnal

Q16. What does the idiom “**a drop in the ocean**” mean?

- (A) an amount too small to make a real difference
- (B) a sudden and heavy rainfall
- (C) a clever and lasting solution
- (D) a long and tiring journey

Q17. Fill in the blank with the most suitable word: “Despite repeated warnings, the mill continued to _____ untreated waste into the stream.”

- (A) absorb
- (B) conserve
- (C) discharge
- (D) purify



- Q18.** Fill in the blank with the most suitable word: “The new policy aims to _____ the gap between rapid industrial growth and the protection of forests.”
- (A) widen
(B) bridge
(C) ignore
(D) deepen
- Q19.** Arrange the parts to form a meaningful sentence:
(P) every household was asked
(Q) to separate wet waste from dry waste
(R) before the new recycling plant opened,
(S) and to keep them in different bins
- (A) P Q S R
(B) Q R P S
(C) R Q P S
(D) R P Q S
- Q20.** Arrange the parts to form a meaningful sentence:
(P) the coral reefs began to recover
(Q) once the divers stopped
(R) and the fish returned in large numbers
(S) dropping anchors on them,
- (A) Q S P R
(B) P R Q S
(C) S Q R P
(D) Q P S R



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: The main idea is the single point the whole passage builds toward, not one supporting detail.

Step 1 — Trace the argument: The passage says glaciers feed major rivers, are now shrinking, give a temporary surplus of meltwater, but will later cause the rivers to falter.

Step 2 — Match to options: A statement covering both the short-term gain and the long-term danger captures the whole passage, which is exactly option (A).

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) describes only the temporary surplus, a single detail, not the overall point.
- (C) is false; the passage says snowfall is slower than melting, not stopped.
- (D) reduces glaciers to scenery, which the passage never claims.

Final Answer: Option (A) states both the brief benefit and the lasting threat ⇒ **A**

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

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Locating a detail: A detail question is answered by the exact line that states the cause.

Step 1 — Find the relevant sentence: The passage says, “Warmer summers melt the ice faster than winter snowfall can replace it.”

Step 2 — Restate it: Melting outpaces the replacing snowfall, so the ice steadily reduces, which option (C) repeats accurately.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) rivers carrying ice to the sea is never mentioned.
- (B) tourists chipping ice is invented information.
- (D) farmers removing snow contradicts the passage entirely.

Final Answer: Summer melting beats the replacing snowfall ⇒ **C**



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

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: Read the word inside its own sentence and pick the meaning that fits that sense.

Step 1 — See the usage: The text reads, “Once the ice has dwindled past a certain point.”

Step 2 — Test the meaning: “Dwindled” means to become steadily smaller or fewer, so “decreased gradually” fits perfectly.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) “frozen solid” is the opposite of melting away.
- (C) “spread widely” suggests growth, not reduction.
- (D) “turned salty” is unrelated to amount.

Final Answer: “Dwindled” equals “decreased gradually” ⇒

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

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Tone: Tone is the writer’s attitude, judged from word choice such as “alarming” and “warn”.

Step 1 — Collect signal words: The passage uses “alarming rate”, “scientists warn”, and “threatening”, all expressing worry.

Step 2 — Note the caution: The writer raises a warning about the future rather than condemning anyone, so the tone is concerned and cautionary.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “cheerful” clashes with the warnings of danger.
- (B) “angry and accusing” is too hostile; no one is blamed.
- (D) “indifferent” contradicts the clear concern shown.

Final Answer: The worried, warning tone is concerned and cautionary ⇒

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



Q5.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Spot the two past events: “Reached the summit” is one past action; preparing the draft happened before it.

Step 2 — Apply the rule: The earlier action must be in the past perfect, giving “had already prepared”.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “have prepared” is present perfect, wrong for a past-before-past sequence.
- (B) “will prepare” is future and clashes with “reached”.
- (C) “are preparing” is present continuous, again wrong tense.

Final Answer: The earlier past action needs past perfect ⇒

[Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

Solution

Concept — “a” versus “an”: The choice depends on the first *sound* of the next word, not the first letter.

Step 1 — Hear the word: “Honest” begins with a silent “h”, so it starts with the vowel sound /o/.

Step 2 — Pick the article: A word beginning with a vowel sound takes “an”, giving “an honest alternative”.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “a” is used before a consonant sound, but here the sound is a vowel.
- (B) “the” is definite, while the sentence introduces a general alternative.
- (D) an article is required before this singular countable noun.

Final Answer: The vowel sound in “honest” needs “an” ⇒

[Go Back to Q6](#)



Q7.

Solution

Concept — Verb plus preposition: Certain verbs pair with a fixed preposition, and “agree” changes meaning with the preposition used.

Step 1 — Identify the sense: Here a group accepts a particular proposal, which is “agree on a plan”.

Step 2 — Confirm the collocation: “Agree on” is used for reaching a decision about something, so “on” is correct.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) “agree from” is not a standard combination.
- (C) “agree against” would reverse the intended meaning.
- (D) “agree into” is not idiomatic English.

Final Answer: Deciding about a plan takes “agree on” ⇒ **A**

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

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Proximity rule in “neither...nor”: With “neither...nor”, the verb agrees with the subject nearer to it.

Step 1 — Check option (B): “Neither the lake nor the rivers” places the plural “rivers” nearest, so the plural verb “are” is correct.

Step 2 — Confirm the sentence is sound: The whole sentence “Neither the lake nor the rivers are drying as quickly as feared” obeys the rule and has no other fault.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) places plural “rivers” first and singular “lake” nearest, so “are” breaks the proximity rule.
- (C) “it surprise” lacks the “-s” for a singular subject.
- (D) “Each of” is singular and needs “has”, not “have”.

Final Answer: Only (B) follows the proximity rule correctly ⇒ **B**

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



Q9.

Solution

Concept — Logical connectors: The right connector must show the exact relation between the two clauses.

Step 1 — Read the relation: Investing in solar panels is the cause; lower bills are the result.

Step 2 — Choose the result connector: “Consequently” signals a result, which fits a cause-and-effect link.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “however” shows contrast, but there is no contrast here.
- (B) “nevertheless” also signals opposition, which is wrong.
- (D) “otherwise” means “if not”, which does not suit the sense.

Final Answer: A cause-and-result link needs “consequently” ⇒

[Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Subject-verb agreement: A plural subject takes a plural auxiliary verb.

Step 1 — Find the subject: The subject is “The scientists”, which is plural.

Step 2 — Test the verb: “Has been collecting” is singular and clashes with the plural subject; it must be “have been collecting”. This faulty part is given in option (A).

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) “The scientists” is a correct plural subject.
- (C) the phrase about rainfall data is grammatically fine.
- (D) the closing purpose clause is correct.

Final Answer: “Has been collecting” must become “have been collecting” ⇒

[Go Back to Q10](#)



Q11.

Solution

Concept — Third conditional: An unreal past condition uses “If + had + past participle” in the if-clause.

Step 1 — Spot the form: The if-clause must hold the past perfect, not “would have”, which belongs only in the main clause.

Step 2 — Correct it: “If the factory had installed cleaner filters” is the proper structure.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “would install” is a present-future form, wrong for the past condition.
- (C) “has installed” is present perfect and breaks the conditional.
- (D) “will install” is future and cannot follow “if” here.

Final Answer: The if-clause needs “had installed” ⇒ **B**

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

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Inversion after “Hardly...when”: “Hardly had + subject + past participle...when” is the standard correct pattern.

Step 1 — Check each part: “Hardly had the storm passed” uses correct inversion with the past perfect.

Step 2 — Check the rest: “When the volunteers rushed out to clear the fallen trees from the flooded street” is grammatically complete and correct.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) the inversion “Hardly had the storm passed” is correctly formed, so no error there.
- (B) the “when” clause is correctly built.
- (C) the closing prepositional phrase is fine.

Final Answer: The sentence is correct throughout, so “No error” ⇒ **D**

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



Q13.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Define “arid”: “Arid” means extremely dry, with little rainfall, like a desert.

Step 2 — Match the meaning: “Parched” also means very dry, so it is the closest synonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “fertile” means productive land, an opposite idea.
- (C) “humid” means damp and moist, the reverse of dry.
- (D) “frozen” refers to cold, not dryness.

Final Answer: “Arid” is closest to “parched” ⇒ **B**

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

Q14.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Define “abundant”: “Abundant” means existing in large, plentiful quantity.

Step 2 — Find the opposite: “Scarce” means available in very small quantity, the direct opposite.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “plentiful” is a synonym, not an antonym.
- (B) “generous” suggests giving freely, close in spirit to abundance.
- (C) “enormous” means very large, again not opposite.

Final Answer: The opposite of “abundant” is “scarce” ⇒ **D**

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



Q15.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Read the description: It describes a species native to one region and found naturally nowhere else.

Step 2 — Name it: Such a species is called “endemic”.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “migratory” describes animals that move between regions.
- (B) “invasive” means a species spreading where it does not belong.
- (D) “nocturnal” means active at night, unrelated to location.

Final Answer: A species unique to one region is “endemic” ⇒

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

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Idiom meaning: An idiom carries a figurative meaning beyond its literal words.

Step 1 — Picture the image: A single drop is tiny compared with a whole ocean.

Step 2 — Read the figure: So “a drop in the ocean” means an amount far too small to make any real difference.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) heavy rainfall takes the words literally, missing the idiom.
- (C) a lasting solution is the opposite of something trivial.
- (D) a tiring journey is unrelated to the phrase.

Final Answer: The idiom means an amount too small to matter ⇒

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



Q17.

Solution

Concept — Word fit by meaning: The blank must suit both the grammar and the meaning of the sentence.

Step 1 — Read the sense: The mill is sending untreated waste *into* a stream, which is a negative, polluting act.

Step 2 — Pick the verb: “Discharge” means to release or pour out waste, which fits exactly.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “absorb” means to soak up, the reverse of releasing.
- (B) “conserve” means to save, which contradicts polluting.
- (D) “purify” means to clean, the opposite of the harm described.

Final Answer: Releasing waste into a stream is “discharge” ⇒

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

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Word fit by meaning: Choose the word whose sense matches the goal of the policy.

Step 1 — Read the sense: The policy wants to reduce the distance between growth and forest protection, that is, to join the two.

Step 2 — Pick the verb: To “bridge” a gap means to close or connect it, which is the aim here.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “widen” would increase the gap, the opposite of the aim.
- (C) “ignore” means to overlook, not to address the gap.
- (D) “deepen” also worsens the gap rather than closing it.

Final Answer: Closing a gap is “bridge” ⇒

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



Q19.

Solution

Concept — Sentence rearrangement: Find the opener, then follow the logical and grammatical flow.

Step 1 — Find the opener: (R) “before the new recycling plant opened,” sets the time and starts the sentence.

Step 2 — Order the rest: (P) “every household was asked” follows, then (Q) “to separate wet waste from dry waste”, then (S) “and to keep them in different bins”. The sequence is R P Q S.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) P Q S R ends with the time clause, which reads awkwardly.
- (B) Q R P S breaks the link between the request and its purpose.
- (C) R Q P S puts the purpose before the request, which is illogical.

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

[Go Back to Q19](#)

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Sentence rearrangement: Identify the cause clause first, then the results that follow.

Step 1 — Find the opener: (Q) “once the divers stopped” begins the condition and needs its object next.

Step 2 — Order the rest: (S) “dropping anchors on them,” completes the condition, then (P) “the coral reefs began to recover” gives the result, and (R) “and the fish returned in large numbers” adds the second result. The sequence is Q S P R.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) P R Q S states the result before its cause, which is illogical.
- (C) S Q R P leaves (Q) without its object and breaks the flow.
- (D) Q P S R separates “stopped” from its object “dropping anchors”.

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

[Go Back to Q20](#)



Answer Key

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

