

RIE CEE Language Proficiency

Sample Paper – 6

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 the spacecraft slipped into orbit around the distant planet, the control room fell silent for a heartbeat and then burst into applause. The journey had taken seven years, and the smallest error in the early calculations could have sent the craft drifting past its target forever. What few people outside the laboratory realised was that the mission depended less on heroic last-minute decisions than on the patient, unglamorous work of thousands of engineers who had checked and rechecked every figure. Space exploration, the team often reminded reporters, rewards caution far more reliably than it rewards daring. The image of the lone astronaut leaping bravely into the unknown makes a fine story, but the real triumph belongs to careful



preparation.

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

- (A) Space missions usually fail because of last-minute decisions taken in the control room.
- (B) Astronauts deserve more public recognition than engineers do.
- (C) The success of space missions rests chiefly on meticulous preparation rather than daring.
- (D) Distant planets can only be reached after journeys lasting at least seven years.

Q2. According to the passage, what could a small error in the early calculations have caused?

- (A) The craft drifting past its target forever.
- (B) The control room falling silent permanently.
- (C) The engineers losing their jobs.
- (D) The journey taking far longer than seven years.

Q3. In the passage, the word “unglamorous” is closest in meaning to

- (A) dangerous and thrilling
- (B) poorly funded
- (C) secretive and hidden
- (D) ordinary and unexciting

Q4. The author’s attitude towards the popular image of “the lone astronaut leaping bravely into the unknown” can best be described as

- (A) openly hostile and dismissive
- (B) gently sceptical, valuing teamwork instead
- (C) completely admiring and uncritical
- (D) confused and undecided



- Q5.** Choose the option that correctly completes the sentence:
By the time the rover reached the crater, the dust storm _____ for three days.
- (A) has been raging
 - (B) had been raging
 - (C) is raging
 - (D) will rage
- Q6.** Choose the option that fills the blanks correctly:
The astronomer pointed at _____ faint star and called it _____ unusual sight.
- (A) an / a
 - (B) the / the
 - (C) a / a
 - (D) a / an
- Q7.** Choose the correct preposition to complete the sentence:
The new telescope is capable _____ detecting galaxies billions of light years away.
- (A) of
 - (B) for
 - (C) with
 - (D) to
- Q8.** Choose the option that completes the sentence correctly:
Neither the pilot nor the engineers _____ certain about the cause of the delay.
- (A) was
 - (B) has been
 - (C) were



(D) is

Q9. Choose the option that completes the sentence correctly:

The scientist whom the committee honoured devoted _____ entire career to studying comets.

(A) her

(B) hers

(C) she

(D) herself

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

(A) The members of the launch team / (B) was working tirelessly / (C) through the night / (D) to fix the faulty sensor.

(A) The members of the launch team

(B) was working tirelessly

(C) through the night

(D) to fix the faulty sensor

Q11. Choose the best replacement for the underlined part:

Hardly had the countdown begun than the alarm sounded.

(A) than (no improvement)

(B) then

(C) that

(D) when

Q12. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error:

(A) Each of the satellites / (B) carry a small camera / (C) that records / (D) the surface below.

(A) Each of the satellites

(B) carry a small camera



- (C) that records
- (D) the surface below

Q13. Choose the word most nearly SIMILAR in meaning to the word in capitals:

VAST

- (A) narrow
- (B) hollow
- (C) immense
- (D) distant

Q14. Choose the word most nearly OPPOSITE in meaning to the word in capitals:

ASCEND

- (A) climb
- (B) descend
- (C) hover
- (D) accelerate

Q15. Choose the one word for the phrase:

“A person who studies the stars, planets, and other celestial bodies.”

- (A) astrologer
- (B) geologist
- (C) meteorologist
- (D) astronomer

Q16. Choose the meaning of the idiom in the sentence:

The young researcher’s discovery promised her **the moon**, but the funding never arrived.

- (A) something wonderful that is unlikely to be delivered



- (B) a long and tiring night of work
- (C) a sudden burst of inspiration
- (D) a serious and dangerous risk

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

The probe's instruments were so _____ that they could measure temperature changes of a fraction of a degree.

- (A) reluctant
- (B) enormous
- (C) sensitive
- (D) careless

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

Despite the setbacks, the mission director remained _____ that the landing would succeed.

- (A) anxious
- (B) confident
- (C) indifferent
- (D) doubtful

Q19. Arrange the parts P, Q, R, S to form a meaningful sentence:

(P) before it could send back / (Q) the tiny lander touched down / (R) any pictures of the rocky surface / (S) gently on the icy moon

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

Q20. Arrange the parts P, Q, R, S to form a meaningful sentence:

(P) have always wondered / (Q) whether life exists / (R) human beings / (S) on other planets



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



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Main idea: The central idea is the single claim that ties all the sentences of the passage together.

Step 1 — Locate the recurring point: The passage repeatedly contrasts “heroic last-minute decisions” and “daring” with the “patient, unglamorous work” of checking figures.

Step 2 — State the conclusion: The author says the mission “rewards caution far more reliably than it rewards daring” and that “the real triumph belongs to careful preparation.”

Step 3 — Match the option: Option (C) restates exactly this: success rests on meticulous preparation rather than daring.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) reverses the passage; failure from last-minute decisions is not claimed.
- (B) is too narrow; the passage praises engineers but does not rank public recognition as its theme.
- (D) seizes on a single detail (seven years) and treats it as the main idea.

Final Answer: The passage centres on careful preparation ⇒

[Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Direct detail: A detail question is answered by the exact words of the text, not by reasoning.

Step 1 — Find the relevant line: The passage states that “the smallest error in the early calculations could have sent the craft drifting past its target forever.”

Step 2 — Match the option: Option (A) reproduces this consequence directly.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) the silence in the control room was a moment of suspense, not a consequence of error.



- (C) the passage never mentions engineers losing jobs.
- (D) the seven-year figure is fixed; an error would cause a miss, not a longer journey.

Final Answer: The craft drifting past its target forever ⇒ **A**

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q2

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context: The prefix “un-” negates “glamorous,” which means exciting and attractive.

Step 1 — Read the surrounding words: “Unglamorous” describes the routine “work of checking and rechecking every figure,” which is plainly dull, repetitive work.

Step 2 — Choose the synonym: “Ordinary and unexciting” captures the absence of glamour exactly.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “dangerous and thrilling” is the opposite of unglamorous.
- (B) funding is never discussed.
- (C) the work is open and routine, not secretive.

Final Answer: “Unglamorous” means ordinary and unexciting ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q3

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Author’s tone: Tone is the writer’s attitude, read from word choice and contrast.

Step 1 — Examine the wording: The author calls the lone-astronaut image “a fine story” but immediately adds that “the real triumph belongs to careful preparation.”

Step 2 — Interpret the contrast: Calling it merely a “story” while crediting teamwork shows mild doubt about the popular image, not hatred or worship.

Why other options are wrong:



- (A) “openly hostile” is too strong; “a fine story” is not an insult.
- (C) the author is clearly not admiring; he corrects the image.
- (D) the author has a clear, settled view, so he is not confused.

Final Answer: Gently sceptical, valuing teamwork ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q4

Q5.

Solution

Concept — Past perfect continuous: An action that continued for a period up to a point in the past uses “had been + verb-ing.”

Step 1 — Spot the time marker: “By the time the rover reached” fixes a past reference point.

Step 2 — Note the duration: “for three days” shows the storm was going on continuously up to that past point.

Step 3 — Apply the rule: Past point + ongoing duration = past perfect continuous: “had been raging.”

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “has been raging” is present perfect; the reference point is past.
- (C) “is raging” is simple present, wrong tense entirely.
- (D) “will rage” is future, contradicting the past setting.

Final Answer: “had been raging” ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q5

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Articles: “A” precedes a consonant sound; “an” precedes a vowel sound; both are indefinite, used for non-specific singular nouns.

Step 1 — First blank: “faint star” begins with the consonant sound /f/, and the star is being introduced for the first time, so “a faint star.”

Step 2 — Second blank: “unusual” begins with a vowel sound (“uh”), so it takes “an unusual sight.”



Step 3 — Combine: The pair is “a / an.”

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “an faint” is wrong; “faint” has a consonant sound.
- (B) “the” is definite, but both nouns are newly introduced.
- (C) “a unusual” is wrong; “unusual” has a vowel sound.

Final Answer: “a / an” ⇒

[Go Back to Q6](#)

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Adjective + preposition collocation: The adjective “capable” is fixed with the preposition “of.”

Step 1 — Recall the collocation: The standard pattern is “capable of (doing something).”

Step 2 — Test in the sentence: “capable of detecting galaxies” reads correctly.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) “capable for” is not idiomatic English.
- (C) “capable with” is incorrect.
- (D) “capable to” is a common error; “able to” takes “to,” but “capable” takes “of.”

Final Answer: “of” ⇒

[Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Identify the nearer subject: The subject closer to the verb is “the engineers,” which is plural.

Step 2 — Match the verb: A plural subject requires the plural verb “were.”



Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “was” is singular; the nearer subject is plural.
- (B) “has been” is singular.
- (D) “is” is singular and present tense, doubly wrong.

Final Answer: “were” ⇒

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

Q9.

Solution

Concept — Possessive pronoun: A possessive adjective (“her”) is needed before a noun to show ownership.

Step 1 — Find the noun: The blank comes before “entire career,” so a word modifying the noun is required.

Step 2 — Choose the form: “her” is the possessive adjective that fits before a noun.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) “hers” is a possessive pronoun and cannot precede a noun.
- (C) “she” is a subject pronoun, not possessive.
- (D) “herself” is reflexive and does not show possession of the career.

Final Answer: “her” ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Subject-verb agreement with “members”: A plural subject takes a plural verb.

Step 1 — Identify the true subject: The head noun is “members” (plural); “of the launch team” is only a modifying phrase.

Step 2 — Correct the verb: A plural subject needs “were working,” not the singular “was working.”

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “The members of the launch team” is a correct noun phrase.
- (C) “through the night” is a correct adverbial phrase.
- (D) “to fix the faulty sensor” is a correct infinitive phrase.

Final Answer: The error is in part (B) ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q10

Q11.

Solution

Concept — “Hardly ... when” structure: The correlative for “hardly” (and “scarcely”) is “when,” never “than.”

Step 1 — Recall the rule: “Hardly had X happened *when* Y happened” is the fixed pattern. (“No sooner” takes “than”; “hardly” takes “when.”)

Step 2 — Apply it: “Hardly had the countdown begun *when* the alarm sounded.”

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “than” wrongly pairs with “hardly.”
- (B) “then” is an adverb, not a linking conjunction here.
- (C) “that” does not signal the immediacy required.

Final Answer: “when” ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q11

Q12.

Solution

Concept — “Each” takes a singular verb: Words like “each,” “every,” and “everyone” are singular regardless of a following plural noun.

Step 1 — Identify the subject: “Each of the satellites” has the singular head “each.”

Step 2 — Correct the verb: The verb must be singular: “carries,” not “carry.”

Why other options are wrong:

- (C) “that records” is correctly singular for the relative clause.
- (D) “the surface below” is a correct object phrase.
- Only part (B) violates concord.



Final Answer: The error is in part (B) ⇒

Go Back to Q12

Q13.

Solution

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

Step 1 — Define the word: “Vast” means extremely large in extent or size.

Step 2 — Match it: “Immense” also means very great in size = closest synonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “narrow” is an antonym in terms of breadth.
- (B) “hollow” means empty inside, unrelated to size.
- (D) “distant” refers to far away, not large.

Final Answer: “immense” ⇒

Go Back to Q13

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Antonym: An antonym expresses the opposite meaning.

Step 1 — Define the word: “Ascend” means to move upward, to rise.

Step 2 — Find the opposite: “Descend” means to move downward = the antonym.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “climb” is a synonym of ascend, not opposite.
- (C) “hover” means to stay in one place in the air, neither up nor down.
- (D) “accelerate” refers to speed, not direction.

Final Answer: “descend” ⇒

Go Back to Q14



Q15.

Solution

Concept — One-word substitution: A single precise word replaces a descriptive phrase.

Step 1 — Read the definition: “A person who studies the stars, planets, and other celestial bodies.”

Step 2 — Recall the term: An “astronomer” is a scientist who studies celestial bodies.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) an “astrologer” claims the stars influence human affairs; not a scientist of celestial bodies.
- (B) a “geologist” studies the Earth’s rocks and structure.
- (C) a “meteorologist” studies weather and the atmosphere.

Final Answer: “astronomer” ⇒

[Go Back to Q15](#)

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Idiom “promise the moon”: To “promise the moon” means to promise something wonderful that is very unlikely to be delivered.

Step 1 — Read the context: “Promised her the moon, but the funding never arrived” shows a grand promise that came to nothing.

Step 2 — Match the meaning: Option (A) states exactly this sense.

Why other options are wrong:

- (B) a tiring night of work is unrelated to the idiom.
- (C) a burst of inspiration is not the meaning.
- (D) the idiom is about an unkept promise, not danger.

Final Answer: Something wonderful unlikely to be delivered ⇒

[Go Back to Q16](#)



Q17.

Solution

Concept — Word fit (grammar + meaning): The chosen word must suit both the sentence structure and its sense.

Step 1 — Read the clue: The instruments “could measure temperature changes of a fraction of a degree,” which shows great precision.

Step 2 — Pick the word: “Sensitive” means able to detect very small changes = exact fit.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “reluctant” (unwilling) makes no sense for instruments.
- (B) “enormous” describes size, not precision.
- (D) “careless” contradicts the precision described.

Final Answer: “sensitive” ⇒

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q17

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Word fit (contrast clue): The word “Despite” signals a contrast with the difficulties.

Step 1 — Read the contrast: “Despite the setbacks” implies that the director kept a positive outlook in spite of trouble.

Step 2 — Pick the word: “Confident” (sure of success) provides the needed positive contrast.

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) “anxious” is negative and does not contrast with setbacks.
- (C) “indifferent” (uncaring) does not fit a committed director.
- (D) “doubtful” is negative, breaking the “Despite . . .” contrast.

Final Answer: “confident” ⇒

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q18



Q19.

Solution

Concept — Sentence rearrangement: Build a grammatical, meaningful order by finding the subject first, then the rest.

Step 1 — Find the opener: “(Q) the tiny lander touched down” is the only part with a subject and main verb, so it begins.

Step 2 — Attach the manner/place: “(S) gently on the icy moon” describes how and where it touched down, so S follows Q.

Step 3 — Add the clause: “(P) before it could send back / (R) any pictures of the rocky surface” completes the idea, giving P then R.

Step 4 — Read the chain: Q–S–P–R: “The tiny lander touched down gently on the icy moon before it could send back any pictures of the rocky surface.”

Why other options are wrong:

- (A), (C) place P or R before the action, breaking the logic.
- (B) Q,P,R,S leaves “gently on the icy moon” stranded at the end.

Final Answer: Q, S, P, R ⇒

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

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Sentence rearrangement: Identify subject, verb, object, and modifier in order.

Step 1 — Find the subject: “(R) human beings” is the subject of the sentence.

Step 2 — Add the verb: “(P) have always wondered” is the predicate that follows the subject.

Step 3 — Complete the thought: “(Q) whether life exists / (S) on other planets” forms the object clause, Q then S.

Step 4 — Read the chain: R–P–Q–S: “Human beings have always wondered whether life exists on other planets.”

Why other options are wrong:

- (A) Q,S,R,P puts the clause before the subject.



- (B) R,Q,P,S separates the verb from its subject incorrectly.
- (D) P,R,S,Q has no subject before the verb.

Final Answer: R, P, Q, S ⇒ C

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	B
11	D	12	A	13	C	14	B	15	D
16	A	17	C	18	B	19	D	20	C

