

Time: 50 min

Total Marks: 200

Instructions

1. This Test Booklet contains **50** items (questions). Each item comprises four responses (answer). You will select the response that you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response that you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
2. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See the directions in the Answer Sheet.
3. **All** items carry equal marks.
4. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer Sheet the response to the various items in the Test Booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the Answer Sheet as per instructions.
5. **Penalty for wrong answers :**
THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPERS.
 - (i). There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as a penalty.
 - (ii). If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a **wrong answer** even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
 - (iii). If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be **no penalty** for that question.

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the items that follow the passage. Your answers to these items should be based solely on the passage.

Can agricultural productivity meet human needs in the long run? Since twentieth century advances, given increasing costs, do not seem sustainable, further increases in output will not be achieved easily. Global population growth, while showing signs of slowing down, has pushed farmers and herders into areas unsuited to intensive agriculture, accelerating worldwide ecological disruptions. Reserves of arable land and fresh water have diminished alarmingly. Chemical runoffs have compounded pollution problems. Invasion of natural habitats have hastened species extinction. Desertification has been severe in the last hundred years, especially in North Africa, southern portions of Africa, Australia, northern Mexico, and the American Southwest. Tropical forests have shrunk by one-half since World War II, with agricultural pressures causing three-quarters of that loss. Government intervention has produced its share of catastrophes, ranging from a terrible famine in China between 1958-1961 that may have killed 30 million people and destroyed the Aral Sea. Taking everything into consideration, we may remain hopeful about humankind's agricultural prospects, but we can scarcely look forward optimistically at the end of the first quarter of the twenty-first century.

1. Why do twentieth century advances not seem sustainable?
 - (a) They do not meet the human needs
 - (b) Due to the increased cost of agricultural production
 - (c) Because they are outdated for the current times
 - (d) They are useful, but intensive
2. What pushes farmers into places unsuited for agriculture?
 - (a) Population growth
 - (b) Industrialisation
 - (c) Water scarcity
 - (d) Desertification
3. Which one of the following is NOT true, according to the passage, for ecological degradation?
 - (a) Global population growth
 - (b) Excess use of chemicals
 - (c) Desertification
 - (d) World War II
4. What is the conclusion of the author in the passage about the prospects of agriculture in the world?
 - (a) The author is both hopeful and sceptical of the prospects of agriculture
 - (b) The author is very hopeful of the prospects of agriculture

- (c) The author is sceptical of the prospects of agriculture
 (d) The author is neither hopeful nor sceptical of the prospects of agriculture

5. Which one of the following words means 'incursion'?

- (a) invasion (b) intensive
 (c) severe (d) intervention

Directions: The following items have a sentence in direct or indirect speech, followed by four options. One of the options correctly converts the direct speech into indirect speech. Select the most appropriate option and mark your answer on the Answer Sheet.

6. Convert from direct into indirect speech.

Ayushi said to the group, "We have had enough of suffering today. It is time to march forward."

- (a) Ayushi told the group that they had had enough of suffering that day and it was time to march forward
 (b) Ayushi asked the group that they had had enough of suffering this day and it was time to march forward
 (c) Ayushi told the group that they had enough of suffering and that it is time to march forward
 (d) Ayushi told the group that we had had enough of suffering this day and it was time to march forward

7. Convert from direct speech into indirect speech.

"Alas! We lost the match by one point," said the Captain

- (a) The Captain regretted that they had lost the match by one point
 (b) The Captain regretted that they lost the match by one point
 (c) The Captain exclaimed that they had lost the match by one point
 (d) The Captain told the team that they had lost the match by one point

8. Convert from direct speech into indirect speech.

"Where were you last week?" Alok asked Sheela

- (a) Alok told Sheela where she had been the week before
 (b) Alok asked Sheela where she had been the week before

(c) Alok asked Sheela where she was the week before

(d) Alok asked Sheela where she had been the last week

Directions: Following items have sentences in active voice with four options. One of the options converts the active voice into passive voice correctly. Select the most appropriate option and mark your answer on the Answer Sheet.

9. The king who the people loved built the castle five centuries ago

- (a) The castle was built five centuries ago by the king who was loved by the people
 (b) The castle was built five centuries ago by the king who loved the people
 (c) The castle built five centuries ago by the king loved by the people
 (d) The castle was built five centuries ago by the people who were loved by the king

10. The company has recruited four hundred engineers who will have to complete an internship for three weeks

- (a) Four hundred engineers have been recruited by the company and an internship of three weeks will have to be completed by them
 (b) Four hundred engineers have been recruited by the company and they will have to complete an internship of three weeks
 (c) The company has been recruited by four hundred engineers and an internship of three week will have to be completed by them
 (d) Four hundred engineers have been recruited by the company. Internship of three weeks will have had to be completed by them

Directions: In the following items, a pair of words is provided. You are required to select the option that most appropriately describes the meaning of both the words and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

11. Seldom and Often

- (a) Seldom means hardly ever and often means time and again
 (b) Seldom means time and again and often means hardly ever
 (c) Seldom means never and often means not at all
 (d) Seldom means frequently and often means time and again

12. Overview and Review
- Overview means assessment and review means general idea
 - Overview means general idea and review means assessment
 - Overview means general analysis and review means go through
 - Overview means summary and review means evaluation
13. Overcome and Succeed
- Overcome means triumph over and succeed means to achieve something
 - Overcome means achieve something and succeed means to triumph over
 - Overcome means to be successful and succeed means to achieve something
 - Overcome means winning and succeed means to rise above
14. Embed and Imbue
- Embed means instil and imbue means implant
 - Embed means implant and imbue means instil
 - Embed means accept and imbue means detest
 - Embed means include and imbue means accept
15. Emancipate and Empower
- Emancipate means authorise and empower means liberate
 - Emancipate means liberate and empower means authorise
 - Emancipate means liberal and empower means authorisation
 - Emancipate means freedom and empower means encounter

Directions: In the following items a sentence or a phrase is given with a word that is underlined, followed by four words or group of words. Select the option that is nearest in meaning to the underlined word and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

16. The Professor has been able to instil confidence in her students
- inculcate
 - infer
 - eradicate
 - unlike

17. The members of the group expressed their allegiance to their leader
- commitment
 - disloyalty
 - understanding
 - unlikely
18. The inscrutability surrounding the incident remains unresolved until the end of the movie
- clearness
 - comprehensibility
 - seriousness
 - mystery
19. The dodgy behaviour of the leader led to her fall
- principled
 - dubious
 - dishonest
 - painful
20. People have been advised not to venture into sea as the weather is likely to be inclement
- squally
 - calm
 - pleasant
 - indigent

Directions: In this section each item consists of six sentences of a passage. The first and sixth sentences are given in the beginning as S1 and S6. The middle four sentences in each have been jumbled up and labelled as P, Q, R and S. You are required to find the proper sequence of the four sentences and mark your response accordingly on the Answer Sheet.

21. S1. Sufism is an English word coined in the Nineteenth Century
- S6. It may also have been *suffa*, the platform outside a place of Islamic worship
- P. Historians have understood this term in several ways
- Q. According to some scholars, it is derived from *suf*, meaning wool
- R. Others derive it from *safa*, meaning purity
- S. The word used for Sufism in Islamic texts is *tasawwuf*
- Q R S P
 - S P Q R
 - P Q S R
 - R P S Q
22. S1. Al-Biruni was born in 973, in Khwarizm in present-day Uzbekistan
- S6. He arrived in Ghazni as a hostage, but gradually developed a liking for the city
- P. In 1017, when Sultan Mahmud invaded Khwarizm, he took several scholars back to his capital, Ghazni: Al-Biruni was one among them
- Q. He was well versed in several languages; Syriac, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew and Sanskrit

- R. Khwarizm was an important centre of learning, and Al-Biruni received the best education available at the time
- S. However he did not know Greek, although he was familiar with the works of Plato and other Greek philosophers
- (a) Q S R P (b) R Q S P
(c) P Q S R (d) R P S Q
23. S1. Vijayanagara or 'city of victory' was the name of both a city and an empire
- S6. They remembered it as Hampi, a name derived from that of the local mother goddess, Pampadevi
- P. In its heyday it stretched from the river Krishna in the north to the extreme south of the peninsula Indian
- Q. Although it fell into ruin in the seventeenth-eighteenth centuries, it continued to live in the memories of the people who inhabited the Krishna-Tungabhadra doab
- R. In 1565, the city was sacked and subsequently deserted
- S. The Empire was founded in the fourteenth century
- (a) S P R Q (b) S Q P R
(c) P Q S R (d) P Q R S
24. S1. Liberalisation and globalisation freed India's economy from the low GDP trap that had impeded India's progress
- S6. Today, India has transformed into one of the largest economies of the world
- P. India's 3 pc rate of growth and a set of emergent circumstances led to a balance of payment crisis in the early 1990s
- Q. Ease of business was ensured, and the requirement for import licences, and production quotas were removed
- R. Apart from these measures, India also took a loan from the IMF to tide over the crisis, but after 1993, India has not taken another loan from the IMF
- S. In a landmark budget in 1991, responding to the emergent crisis, India delicensed many industries and liberalised its economic policies
- (a) Q S R P (b) S Q P R
(c) R Q S P (d) P S Q R
25. S1. In many countries, there are millions of people who are underprivileged and deprived
- S6. In the past, forced labour was imposed by landlords, money-lenders, and other wealthy persons
- P. Both of these are prohibited under the Constitution of India
- Q. One such form of exploitation in our country has been *begar* or forced labour without payment
- R. The marginalised are often subjected to exploitation by their fellow human beings
- S. Another closely related form of exploitation is buying and selling of human beings and using them as slaves
- (a) Q S R P (b) R Q S P
(c) P Q S R (d) Q S P R
- Directions:** Given below are sentences that use discourse markers/expressions to make them complete. Identify the most appropriate discourse marker and mark your answer accordingly on the Answer Sheet.
26. I can't be bothered to tell him what I think; _____ he would not listen to me.
- (a) meanwhile (b) in any case
(c) in the meantime (d) somehow
27. _____, if the referee points his fingers, this indicates that someone has done something wrong.
- (a) On the contrary (b) Whatever more
(c) Briefly (d) As regards
28. _____, have you been to the local library yet?
- (a) Sort of (b) Frankly
(c) All the same (d) Incidentally
29. _____, women are healthier and are living longer than ever before: indeed on an average, they can expect to live five years longer than men.
- (a) To a large extent (b) As regards
(c) As far as (d) Turning now
30. The difference is that I have been fortunate to find a career that I love and, _____, I am getting paid reasonably for it.
- (a) briefly (b) broadly speaking
(c) what is more (d) in conclusion

31. _____, the Government of India has followed the policy of trying to improve relations with its neighbours.
 (a) Particular (b) Knowingly
 (c) Otherwise (d) In general
32. _____, this issue is likely to be discussed when the Council meets next.
 (a) As per reports (b) Accordingly
 (c) Likewise (d) Briefly
33. _____, you needed to consult a physician to have a clear idea of what the disease is about.
 (a) In that case (b) In these case
 (c) Likewise (d) Henceforth
34. _____, in the year-ago period the current account deficit stood at \$1.3 billion or 0.2% of the GDP.
 (a) Particularly (b) Notably
 (c) Seriously (d) Unknowingly
35. _____, the records have been completely undermined by shoddy book-keeping.
 (a) Because of (b) As such
 (c) Forever (d) Hence

Directions: Given below are words/expressions/jargons followed by four options. Identify the most appropriate option that defines the word/expression/jargon in each instance, and mark your response accordingly on the Answer Sheet.

36. Infelicity:
 (a) Disloyalty towards one's nation
 (b) An inappropriate remark
 (c) To kill or destroy
 (d) To touch or push gently
37. Corollary:
 (a) Something that is too expensive
 (b) Something that looks real but does not really exist
 (c) Something that naturally follows
 (d) Something resembling a coal mine
38. Quandary:
 (a) Situation in which you are confused about what to do
 (b) Situation in which two people or group argue

- (c) Situation in which no progress can be made
 (d) Situation in which a relationship becomes friendlier

39. Presumption:
 (a) Prediction based on past experiences
 (b) Judgement made with certainty
 (c) Decision based on facts
 (d) Opinion formed before having all the facts
40. Smug:
 (a) Too confident about one's own achievements
 (b) Too eager to help or obey someone important
 (c) Too emotional or dramatic
 (d) Too eager to bottle up conflicts

Directions: Each of the following items in this section consists of a sentence, the parts of which have been jumbled. These parts have been labelled as P, Q, R and S. Each sentence is followed by four sequences, namely (a), (b), (c) and (d), indicating the rearrangement of the parts. You are required to select the most appropriate option and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

41. P of children they also contain deeply embedded
 Q whereas traditional fairy tales
 R moral lessons that are relevant even for adults
 S were designed for the entertainment
 (a) R P Q S (b) Q S R P
 (c) R P S Q (d) Q S P R
42. P of school education is an ineluctable truth
 Q that sporting activities are an integral part
 R meaningfully towards the overall growth of a student
 S that underscores the learning process and contributes
 (a) Q P S R (b) Q S R P
 (c) R P S Q (d) Q S P R
43. P and contentment on account of a life lived
 Q the beneficial outcome of
 R well without retribution or rebuke
 S a virtuous life is peace of mind
 (a) S R Q P (b) S P Q R
 (c) Q S P R (d) Q S R P

44. **P** more representative than the latter
Q from a non-parliamentary system
R in as much as the former is
S it is widely believed that the parliamentary system differs
 (a) S Q R P (b) S P Q R
 (c) R S P Q (d) P S R Q
45. **P** crushes the spirit behind the service
Q it stunts the person offering the same and
R exhibition or for fear of public opinion
S when service is done for
 (a) S Q R P (b) S P Q R
 (c) R S P Q (d) S R Q P
- Directions:** Each of the following sentences in this section has a blank space, followed by four options. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.
46. It does not look like he is going _____ in his studies than what was predicted by his school principal.
- (a) any further (b) further
 (c) farther (d) any farther
47. _____ all the confusion the thief made a quiet getaway.
 (a) Among (b) Amongst
 (c) Amidst (d) Amid
48. The intricate operation on the patient required the expertise of a/an _____ surgeon.
 (a) special (b) especial
 (c) specialist (d) specialised
49. There are _____ thirty students inside the classroom at any time.
 (a) less than (b) fewer than
 (c) less then (d) fewer then
50. There are many _____ vehicles on the highway due to a sudden landslide.
 (a) stationery (b) stationed
 (c) stranded (d) straggle

Answer Key

Q. No	Answer Key	Chapter's Name	Topic's Name
1	(b)	Contextual	Reading comprehension
2	(a)	Contextual	Reading comprehension
3	(d)	Conclusion based	Reading comprehension
4	(a)	Conclusion based	Reading comprehension
5	(a)	Vocabulary	Reading comprehension
6	(a)	Reported speech	Grammar
7	(a)	Reported speech	Grammar
8	(b)	Reported speech	Grammar
9	(a)	Voice change	Grammar
10	(a)	Voice change	Grammar
11	(a)	Words often confused	Vocabulary
12	(b)	Words often confused	Vocabulary
13	(a)	Words often confused	Vocabulary
14	(b)	Words often confused	Vocabulary
15	(b)	Words often confused	Vocabulary
16	(a)	Synonyms	Vocabulary
17	(a)	Synonyms	Vocabulary

Q. No	Answer Key	Chapter's Name	Topic's Name
18	(d)	Synonyms	Vocabulary
19	(b)	Synonyms	Vocabulary
20	(a)	Synonyms	Vocabulary
21	(c)	Ordering of sentences	Parajumbles
22	(b)	Ordering of sentences	Parajumbles
23	(a)	Ordering of sentences	Parajumbles
24	(d)	Ordering of sentences	Parajumbles
25	(b)	Ordering of sentences	Parajumbles
26	(b)	Fill in the blanks	Vocabulary
27	(c)	Fill in the blanks	Vocabulary
28	(d)	Fill in the blanks	Vocabulary
29	(a)	Fill in the blanks	Vocabulary
30	(c)	Fill in the blanks	Vocabulary
31	(d)	Fill in the blanks	Vocabulary
32	(a)	Fill in the blanks	Vocabulary
33	(a)	Fill in the blanks	Vocabulary
34	(b)	Fill in the blanks	Vocabulary
35	(b)	Fill in the blanks	Vocabulary
36	(b)	Meanings	Vocabulary
37	(c)	Meanings	Vocabulary
38	(a)	Meanings	Vocabulary
39	(d)	Meanings	Vocabulary
40	(a)	Meanings	Vocabulary
41	(d)	Ordering of words	Parajumbles
42	(a)	Ordering of words	Parajumbles
43	(c)	Ordering of words	Parajumbles
44	(a)	Ordering of words	Parajumbles
45	(d)	Ordering of words	Parajumbles
46	(b)	Fill in the blanks	Grammar
47	(c)	Fill in the blanks	Grammar
48	(c)	Fill in the blanks	Grammar
49	(b)	Fill in the blanks	Grammar
50	(c)	Fill in the blanks	Grammar



ANSWERS WITH EXPLANATIONS

1. **Option (b) is correct.**

Explanation: The passage discusses the unviability of agricultural productivity. With the advancements of the twentieth century, certain factors make them difficult to sustain. This is evinced in the statement "Since twentieth century advances, given increasing costs, do not seem sustainable, further increases in output will not be achieved easily", wherein the increase in cost is blamed to render the agricultural productivity unsustainable in the long run. The correct answer is - Due to the increased cost of agricultural production.

2. **Option (a) is correct.**

Explanation: It is clearly stated in the passage that "Global population growth, while showing signs of slowing down, has pushed farmers and herders into areas unsuited to intensive agriculture...". This affirms that population growth is the primary reason behind farmers and herders getting pushed into locations ill-suited for farming. The correct answer is - population growth.

3. **Option (d) is correct.**

Explanation: The passage discusses factors contributing to ecological degradation, wherein Global population growth is a major contributor towards ecological degradation. The mention of "chemical runoffs" and increased pollution attribute them to be a source of ecological degradation. Similarly, the sentence "Desertification has been severe in the last hundred years..." aligns with the cause of ecological degradation. While World War II is not presented as a cause or a type of ecological degradation. The correct answer is - World War II.

4. **Option (a) is correct.**

Explanation: The concluding sentence "Taking everything into consideration, we may remain hopeful about humankind's agricultural prospects, but we can scarcely look forward optimistically at the end of the first quarter of the twenty-first century" gives away the tone

and approach of the author towards the subject. Here, he wants to remain "hopeful" with the inability to look "optimistically" forward. He seems to be hopeful but cautious of future challenges. Other options are in the extreme, hence negated.

5. **Option (a) is correct.**

Explanation: The word "invasion" means a forced entry or an unfair intrusion into someone's personal space or private information. Thus, to suggest an unwanted entry, 'invasion' is the word that best captures the sense of 'incursion'. "Intervention" implies interference, which does not validate the context.

6. **Option (a) is correct.**

Explanation: The given sentence: Ayushi said to the group, "We have had enough of suffering today. It is time to march forward" is in direct speech. To change into indirect speech, we must remove quotation marks and use a reporting verb (here, "told") followed by that. Pronouns must be changed from first person to third person ("we" changes to "they"), and tense shifts back to the past. Here, expression of time "today" becomes "that day". The correct sentence is: Ayushi told the group that they had had enough of suffering that day and that it was time to march forward.

7. **Option (a) is correct.**

Explanation: The given sentence: "Alas! We lost the match by one point," said the captain is in direct speech. In exclamatory sentence, to change into reported speech, we replace the exclamatory word with a phrase like "expressed sorrow that" or "said with regret that" as "Alas!" is used to express sorrow. Pronouns must be changed from first person to third person ("we" changes to "they"), and tense shifts back to the past (simple past "lost" becomes past perfect "had lost"). The correct sentence is: The captain regretted that they had lost the match by one point.

8. **Option (b) is correct.**

Explanation: The given sentence: "Where were you last week?" Alok asked Sheela is in

direct speech. To change into indirect speech, we must remove quotation marks and use a reporting verb (here, "asked"). Pronouns must be changed from first person to third person ("you" changes to "she"), and tense shifts back to the past (simple past "were" becomes past perfect "had been"). Moreover, the structure of the sentence changes from a question to a statement. Here, expression of time "the previous week" becomes "the week before". The correct sentence is: Alok asked Sheela where she had been the week before.

9. **Option (a) is correct.**

Explanation: The given sentence: The king who the people loved built the castle five centuries ago is in active voice. To change from active to passive voice, make the active sentence's object the passive sentence's subject. So, "the castle" (object) becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The main verb changes to its past participle form (V3); so "built" becomes "was built" ("was" + past participle of the verb). We often add "by" before the agent of the action ("the king"). The correct sentence is: The castle was built five centuries ago by the king who was loved by the people.

10. **Option (a) is correct.**

Explanation: The given sentence: The company has recruited four hundred engineers who will have to complete an internship for three years is in active voice. To change from active to passive voice, make the active sentence's object the passive sentence's subject. So, "four hundred engineers" (object) becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The main verb changes to its past participle form (V3); so "has recruited" becomes "have been recruited" ("have been" + past participle of the verb). This is because the subject is plural, so we use "have" instead of "has". We often add "by" before the agent of the action ("them"). Similarly, "will have to complete" becomes "will have to be completed" (add correct form of the verb "to be" (e.g., is, am, are, was, were, be, been, being) before the past participle). The correct sentence is: Four hundred engineers have been recruited by the company, and an internship for three years will have to be completed by them.

11. **Option (a) is correct.**

Explanation: "Seldom" is an adverb meaning "rarely" or "not often." It is used to refer to something that almost never occurs. Example: Seldom does he binge on junk food. "Often" is also an adverb of frequency that means

frequently or many times. Example: I often go to the swimming pool, and hence I have been nicknamed as "mermaid". So, "seldom" means hardly ever and "often" means time and again.

12. **Option (b) is correct.**

Explanation: An overview is a general summary of something, without going into details and specifics or considering the main points. Example: Before starting with the novel, our English professor gave an overview of the narrative and the background of the era when it was written. A review is a detailed evaluation and analysis of something. It is more related to opinions in order to make changes in it. Example: I was eagerly awaiting the review of the newly opened restaurant before trying my hand in their chef's choices. So, "overview" means summary and "review" means assessment.

13. **Option (a) is correct.**

Explanation: Overcome means to defeat or succeed in controlling or dealing with some adversity to get past it. Example: Shein has had overcome many challenging situations in life to attain her current status. Succeed means to achieve the desired aim or result. Example: I finally succeeded in getting a scholarship, after years of hard work. The basic difference lies in "overcome" dealing with a problem or difficulty while "succeed" is about attaining a desired outcome. So, "overcome" means triumph over and "succeed" means to achieve something.

14. **Option (b) is correct.**

Explanation: Embed means to implant and insert an object firmly and securely in a surrounding mass. Example: I tried to extract the thorn embedded in my arm. Imbue means inspire or permeate with (a feeling or quality). Example: The vulnerable peasants seemed to imbued with a sense of determination and courage to fight the injustices meted out to them. So, "embed" means implant and "imbue" means instil.

15. **Option (b) is correct.**

Explanation: Emancipate means to set free from restraint, control, or the power of another. Example: Women can emancipate themselves only when we realise our rights and protest against the inequality in all spheres. Liberate refers to giving someone the authority, and autonomy to do something or make decisions for themselves. Example: The new policies passed in the Parliament seek to empower the community of marginalised women. So,

“emancipate” means liberate and “empower” means authorise. Option (c) does not align with the appropriate part of speech.

16. Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: In the sentence, “The Professor has been able to instil confidence in her students”, the word “instil” means to introduce a feeling, idea, or principle gradually into someone’s mind. “Inculcate” means to cause someone to have particular beliefs or values by repeating them frequently. “Infer” means to conclude (something) from evidence and reasoning. Eradicate means to destroy completely.

17. Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: In the sentence, “The members of the group expressed their allegiance to their leader”, the word “allegiance” refers to loyalty or commitment to a superior or to a group. so, the members were asked to prove their loyalty and commitment to their leader. “Disloyalty” is the opposite.

18. Option (d) is correct.

Explanation: In the sentence, “The inscrutability surrounding the incident remains unresolved until the end of the movie”, the word “inscrutability” refers to the inability to fully comprehend or interpret a person, thing, situation. Here, the unresolved incident is referred as incomprehensible. “Mystery” is the word which is nearest in meaning. While “clearness” and “comprehensibility” are antonyms.

19. Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: In the sentence, “The dodgy behaviour of the leader led to her fall”, the word “dodgy” means suspicious or unreliable. The reason behind the downfall of the leader was always questionable. Dubious behaviour is behaviour that makes others suspicious or question one’s honesty. “Dishonesty” deals only with deceit, so this option can be negated.

20. Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: In the sentence, “People have been advised not to venture into sea as the weather is likely to be inclement”, the word “inclement” means unpleasantly cold or wet. The warning of not venturing into the sea implies the unpleasantness and squally nature of sea. While “indigent” means poor and needy.

21. Option (c) is correct.

Explanation: S1 introduces the term. P sets up that the term is interpreted differently. Q and R give two main derivations (suf and safa).

S tells what the Arabic term for it is.

S6 provides yet another possible derivation (suffa), which concludes the list.

22. Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: The correct sequence is: Al-Biruni was born in 973, in Khwarizm in present-day Uzbekistan (S1). Khwarizm was an important centre of learning, and Al-Biruni received the best education available at the time (R). He was well versed in several languages; Syriac, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, and Sanskrit (Q). However he did not know Greek, although he was familiar with the works of Plato and other Greek philosopher (S). In 1017, when Sultan Mahmud invaded Khwarizm, he took several scholars back to his capital, Ghazni : Al-Biruni was one among them (P). He arrived in Ghazni as a hostage, but gradually developed a liking for the city (S6). S1 introduces the topic- Al-Biruni and his birthplace was in Khwarizm in present-day Uzbekista. R connects to the previous sentence by representing Khwarizm as a center of learning and stating that he received a good education there. Q logically follows by detailing one aspect of this education (as mentioned in R) : his proficiency in multiple languages. S follows next with the use of “however” by mentioning a language he did not know (Greek). P precedes S6 with the mention of Mahmud’s invasion of Khwarizm and Al-Biruni being taken to Ghazni. Thus, RQSP forms a coherent paragraph.

23. Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: The correct sequence is: Vijayanagara or “city of victory” was the name of both a city and an empire(S1). The empire was founded in the fourteenth century (S). In its heyday it stretched from the river Krishna in the north to the extreme south of the peninsula (P). In 1565 the city was sacked and subsequently deserted(R). Although it fell into ruin in the seventeenth-eighteenth centuries, it lived on in the memories of people living in the Krishna-Tungabhadra doab(Q). They remembered it as Hampi, a name derived from that of the local mother goddess, Pampadevi (S6). S6 establishes Vijayanagara or “city of victory”. S continues by stating its origin. P logically continues to state that in its earlier stage of being built, it stretched from the river Krishna in the north to the extreme south of the peninsula. But this was completely opposite later in 1556- the city was sacked and subsequently deserted. While Q connects with R to this desertion finally culminated in ruins of the empire. While “they” in S6 refer to the

people living in the Krishna-Tungabhadra doab. Thus, SPRQ forms a coherent paragraph.

24. Option (d) is correct.

Explanation: The correct sequence is: Liberalization and globalisation freed India's economy from the low GDP trap that had impeded India's progress (S1). India's 3 pc rate of growth and a set of emergent circumstances led to a balance of payment crisis in the early 1990s (P). In a landmark budget in 1991, responding to the emergent crisis, India delicensed many industries and liberalized its economic policies (S). Ease of business was ensured, and the requirement for import licences, and production quotas, were removed (Q). Apart from these measures India also took a loan from the IMF to tide over the crisis, but after 1993, India has not taken another loan from the IMF (R).

S1 introduces the theme: India's economy being freed by liberalisation and globalisation. P logically follows S1 by providing one of such consequences of previous economic conditions. S proceeds to describe the response to the crisis mentioned in P by emphasizing on "landmark budget in 1991". Q provides further details about the liberalisation mentioned in S (like import licences and production quotas were removed). R offers an additional information on another measure taken to manage the crisis – securing a loan from the IMF. Thus, PSQR forms a coherent paragraph.

25. Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: The correct sequence is: In many countries there are millions of people who are underprivileged and deprived (S1). The marginalized are often subjected to exploitation by their fellow human beings (R). One such form of exploitation in our country has been begar or forced labour without payment (Q). Another closely related form of exploitation is buying and selling of human beings and using them as slaves (S). Both of these are prohibited under the Constitution of India (P). In the past forced labour was introduced by landlords, money-lenders and other wealthy persons. S1 sets the background of the topic. R picks up from there and discusses how the underprivileged are often subjected to exploitation by their fellow human beings. One such form is revealed in Q- begar or forced labour without payment. While the other form is discussed in S- buying and selling of human beings and using them as slaves. The use of "both" in P concludes the two types of exploitation. Thus, RQSP forms a coherent paragraph.

26. Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: I can't be bothered to tell him what I think; in any case he would not listen to me. The phrase "in any case" implies regardless of what was previously stated, the outcome or situation remains the same. This is the reason the speaker is unwilling to tell him what he thinks as the outcome remains the same- the concerned person will not listen.

27. Option (c) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: Briefly if the referee points his fingers, this indicates that someone has done something wrong. "Briefly" acts as an introductory adverb, meaning "in a short time" and the action of referee pointing his fingers acts as a short and terse explanation of the referee's gesture. The phrase "on the contrary" is used to emphasize on contrast' "whatever more" is grammatically incorrect. While other options do not align with the context.

28. Option (d) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: "Incidentally, have you been to the local library yet?" "Incidentally" is used to introduce something or add a further comment or a remark unconnected to the current subject, yet relevant. The question in the sentence appears to be a matter of fact, in the sense of "by the way".

29. Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: To a large extent, women are healthier and are living longer than before; indeed, on an average, they can expect to live five years longer than men. "To a large extent" implies that something is mostly true. This underscores that women are significantly healthier and living longer.

30. Option (c) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: The difference is that I have been fortunate to find a career that I love; what is more, I am reasonably getting paid for it. "What is more" is used to add additional information that strengthens or builds upon the previous statement. The sentence emphasizes on not only finding a career you love, but also the benefit of being reasonably well-paid. Other options either refer to a general statement or conclude an argument, and they do not align with the meaning of the sentence.

31. Option (d) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: In general, the government of India has followed the policy of trying to improve relations with its

neighbours. The phrase “in general” is used to refer to give a broad overview of a topic (“the government’s policy”). “Knowingly” seems likely as an option, but it is incorrect as it is inconclusive if the government was aware or it was intentional.

32. Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: As per reports, this issue is to be discussed when the council meets next. “As per reports” means on the basis of information received earlier. This applies to the context to imply that the issue is to be discussed because of something which has happened earlier- the Council’s discussion is based on a source of information already received.

33. Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: In that case, you need to consult a physician to have a clear idea of what the disease is about. “In that case” is used to refer to a specific condition that has been mentioned before. In consideration of the prior situation, it is mandatory to consult a physician.

34. Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: Notably, in the year-ago period, the current account deficit stood at \$1.3 billion or 0.2% of the GDP. “Notably” is used to refer to something particular. The given sentence clarifies the information is significant and striking, due to the deficit.

35. Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: As such, the records have been undermined by shoddy book-keeping. “As such” is used to refer to a situation discussed before and the consequence of that condition. Here, the focus is on the result of the poor record-keeping.

36. Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: “Infelicity” means something, typically a remark or expression, that is inappropriate. Example: Her speech was marked by striking fallacies and verbal infelicities.

37. Option (c) is correct.

Explanation: “Corollary” describes a result that is the natural consequence of something else. Example: After the flood swept off the entire village, the country was trying to cope with the corollary of depression.

38. Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: “Quandary” refers to a state of perplexity or uncertainty over what to do in a difficult situation.

39. Option (d) is correct.

Explanation: “Presumption” an idea that is taken to be true on the basis of probability. Example: The thief entered the building with the presumption that the society is devoid of CCTV cameras.

40. Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: “Smug” refers to be too pleased or satisfied about something you have achieved or something you know. Example: The contestant appeared smug after being selected for the top 10 finalists, which landed him up in danger.

41. Option (d) is correct.

Explanation: The correct sentence is: Whereas traditional fairy tales were designed for the entertainment of children they also contain deeply embedded moral lessons that are relevant for adults. The correct sequence is: QSPR. Q initiates the topic of the sentence- traditional fairy tales, S continues the thought with the objective of traditional fairy tales. The use of “also” in S asserts additional information regarding the function, which concludes in R.

42. Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: The correct sentence is: That sporting activities are an integral part of school education is an ineluctable truth that underscores the learning process and contributes meaningfully to the overall growth of a student. The correct sequence is: QPSR. Q initiates the topic of the sentence- the significance of sporting activities, S continues the thought of its implication with respect to school education. The importance is amplified in the learning process and contributes meaningfully to the overall growth of a student. Therefore, PSR form a logical link to contribute to form a coherent sentence.

43. Option (c) is correct.

Explanation: The correct sentence is: The beneficial outcome of a virtuous life is peace of mind and contentment on account of a life lived well without retribution or rebuke. The correct sequence is: QSPR. Q introduces the topic of the sentence- the beneficial outcome of a virtuous life, S continues the thought after the subject, with the verb “is”- clarifying that the outcome is peace of mind and contentment. The cause behind the consequence is “a life lived well without retribution or rebuke”. Therefore, QSPR form a logical link to contribute to form a coherent sentence.

44. Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: The correct sentence is: It is widely believed that the parliamentary system differs from a non-parliamentary system in as much

as the former is more representative than the latter. The correct sequence is: SQRP. S and Q effectively combine to present the topic of the sentence- the difference between the parliamentary system and a non-parliamentary system. The contrast is explicated in R and P- as the former is more representative than the latter. Therefore, SQRP form a logical link to contribute to form a coherent sentence.

45. Option (d) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: When service is done for exhibition or for fear of public opinion it stunts the person offering the same and crushes the spirit behind the service. The correct sequence is: SRQP. S and R combinedly introduce the topic of the sentence- the service done for exhibition, Q and P discuss the consequence of the same - it stunts the person offering the same and crushes the spirit behind the service. The cause behind the consequence is "a life lived well without retribution or rebuke". Therefore, SRQP form a logical link to contribute to form a coherent sentence.

46. Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: It does not look like he is going further in his studies than what was predicted by his school principal. "Farther" is an adverb used to refer to physical distance, so it's not suitable in the context of progress in studies. Whereas "further" refers to progress or advancement, and this aligns with the progress in studies. "Any further" emphasizes that no progress has been made at all. The sentence implies a lack of progression after a certain point, and 'further' suffices to ascribe to the progression in academics. Thus, the use of "any" is redundant.

47. Option (c) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: Amidst all the confusion the thief made a quiet getaway. "Amidst" I used to refer to being in the middle of a situation or environment ("the middle of the confusion"). Though both "amid" and "amidst" connote the same thing, but the use of "amid" is more simplistic and common, but "amidst" is more formal and used for literary aestheticism.

48. Option (c) is correct.

Explanation:

The sentence is referring to a surgeon with expert knowledge or skill in a specific area, especially for an intricate operation.

Specialist is a noun meaning a person who is an expert in a particular field or area.

The other options don't fit grammatically or contextually:

special (adj): general adjective; not specific enough.

especial (adj): rarely used and often sounds awkward; generally not used in this context.

specialised (adj): describes the type of training or field, not the person directly.

49. Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: There are fewer than thirty students inside the classroom at any time. "Fewer than" is used with countable nouns, such as "students", while "less than" applies to uncountable nouns.

50. Option (c) is correct.

Explanation: The correct answer is: There are many stranded vehicles on the highway due to a sudden landslide. The word "stranded" means stuck or unable to move, and this justifies the situation when the vehicles were unable to move due to the landslide.