

Instructions:

- Question numbers 1 to 40 carry 1 mark each.
- Question numbers 41 to 45 carry 2 marks each (Achiever's Section).
- All questions are compulsory. Select the most appropriate option for each question.

WORD AND STRUCTURE KNOWLEDGE (Q1 - Q20)

1. I work 18 Hours a day but I _____ my job.

- (a) loving (b) love ✓ Correct
(c) loved (d) loves

Answer: (b) love | Explanation: Present simple standard verb form for first-person singular pronoun 'I'.

2. My mother cooks delicious food. Replace the word 'delicious' with:

- (a) blend (b) insipid
(c) tasty ✓ Correct (d) None of these

Answer: (c) tasty | Explanation: 'Tasty' is a direct synonym of 'delicious'.

3. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option:

A _____ of wolves is running after a _____ of geese.

- (a) Bunch, basket (b) pack, gaggle ✓ Correct
(c) pride, gaggle (d) colony, flock

Answer: (b) pack, gaggle | Explanation: A group of wolves is called a 'pack', and a group of geese is called a 'gaggle'.

4. A: Why _____ for airport?

B: It is not time yet.

- (a) are you not leaving ✓ Correct (b) are you going
(c) you go (d) are you leaving

Answer: (a) are you not leaving | Explanation: B's reply ("It is not time yet") logically indicates Person A asked why they aren't leaving yet.

5. The Prime Minister's post is not _____.

- (a) on cloud nine (b) to make two ends meet
(c) apple of an eye (d) a bed of roses ✓ Correct

Answer: (d) a bed of roses | Explanation: The idiom 'a bed of roses' means a comfortable or easy situation.

6. The drama students started to act _____ the whole incident, and they did it _____ their teacher's advice.

- (a) out, on ✓ Correct (b) down, on
(c) up, of (d) out, for

Answer: (a) out, on | Explanation: 'Act out' means to perform/re-enact, and 'on advice' means following advice.

7. Select the most appropriate statement:

The budding singer said to her mentor, 'I shall improve if you guide me.'

- (a) the budding singer asked her mentor to guide her
- (b) the budding singer told her mentor that she must improve
- (c) the budding singer told her mentor that she needed his guidance

(d) the budding singer told her mentor that she would improve if he would guide her ✓ Correct

Answer: (d) | *Explanation:* Correct indirect speech transformation converting 'said to' to 'told' and tense shifted appropriately ('shall' -> 'would', 'guide' -> 'would guide'/guided).

8. Michael won't mind if I borrow his laptop, _____?

- (a) won't he?
- (b) will he? ✓ Correct
- (c) is he?
- (d) none of these

Answer: (b) will he? | *Explanation:* A negative main clause ('won't') requires a positive question tag ('will he?').

9. The gardener does hardly _____ work throughout the day.

- (a) few
- (b) much
- (c) any ✓ Correct
- (d) some

Answer: (c) any | *Explanation:* 'Hardly' has a negative connotation and pairs naturally with 'any'.

10. The factory workers _____ the strike, once their demands get fulfilled.

- (a) called down
- (b) called of
- (c) called off ✓ Correct
- (d) called up

Answer: (c) called off | *Explanation:* 'Call off' means to cancel or abandon an event/strike.

11. Taking the challenge, Rana _____ participates in the games, though _____ coaches junior players too.

- (a) himself, he ✓ Correct
- (b) him, he
- (c) himself, him
- (d) his, himself

Answer: (a) himself, he | *Explanation:* Emphatic pronoun 'himself' followed by subject pronoun 'he'.

12. Due to the lack of rain, the field was not _____, it was _____.

- (a) sharp, blunt
- (b) fertile, barren ✓ Correct
- (c) fresh, stale
- (d) deep, shallow

Answer: (b) fertile, barren | *Explanation:* Lack of rain makes soil not fertile, meaning it becomes barren.

13. Choose the most appropriate statement:

- (a) I wish to wear stout pants
- (b) I wish to wear thin pants
- (c) I wish to wear sweet pants
- (d) I wish to wear loose pants ✓ Correct

Answer: (d) I wish to wear loose pants | *Explanation:* 'Loose' is the standard adjective used to describe comfortable fitting clothing.

14. Synonym of the word "adhesive" is:

- (a) clumsy
- (b) sticky ✓ Correct
- (c) separate
- (d) enough

Answer: (b) sticky | *Explanation:* 'Adhesive' refers to a substance that sticks or adheres to objects.

15. _____ man you saw here yesterday is _____ uncle of mine _____ happens to be _____ most intelligent in our family.

(a) the, the, who, an

(b) the, an, who, the ✓ Correct

(c) a, an, who, a

(d) a, the, whom, the

Answer: (b) the, an, who, the | Explanation: "The man" (specific), "an uncle" (indefinite vowel sound), "who" (relative pronoun for person), "the most" (superlative degree).

16. Identify the type of the underlined noun: Wisdom is always better than strength.

(a) abstract ✓ Correct

(b) common

(c) collective

(d) none of these

Answer: (a) abstract | Explanation: 'Wisdom' is a quality/concept, making it an abstract noun.

17. The feminine gender of 'Monk' is:

(a) Nun ✓ Correct

(b) Maid

(c) Witch

(d) Nurse

Answer: (a) Nun | Explanation: The female equivalent of a monk is a nun.

18. _____ I know you very well, I'll tell you a secret.

(a) because of

(b) as for

(c) seeing that ✓ Correct

(d) like

Answer: (c) seeing that | Explanation: 'Seeing that' is a conjunction meaning 'since' or 'considering that'.

19. _____ to see the new offices yet?

(a) did you get the possibility

(b) have you got the occasion

(c) have you had a chance ✓ Correct

(d) do you get the opportunity

Answer: (c) have you had a chance | Explanation: Pairs correctly with present perfect tense required by the adverb 'yet'.

20. The authority and management have _____ plans for the new school.

(a) timid

(b) careful

(c) deviate

(d) audacious ✓ Correct

Answer: (d) audacious | Explanation: 'Audacious' means bold/ambitious, perfectly fitting describing large future plans.

READING COMPREHENSION (Q21 - Q30)

Passage 1 (For Questions 21 to 25):

The Sugar Maple tree is a deciduous tree native to eastern and central North America. It is one of the most common and iconic trees in the region, known for its bright orange, red and yellow fall colours. The Sugar Maple tree can grow up to 100 feet tall, with a trunk diameter of up to 3 feet. Its leaves are palmate, with five lobes, and its bark is gray and furrowed.

The Sugar Maple tree is also famous for its sap, which is used to make maple syrup. The sap is collected from the tree in late winter or early spring, and it takes about 40 gallons of sap to make just one gallon of syrup. Sugar Maple trees can live for up to 200 years, and they play a crucial role in the ecosystem, providing food and habitat for many animals.

21. What is the native region of the Sugar Maple tree?

- (a) Western North America (b) **Eastern & Central North America** ✓ Correct
(c) South America (d) Europe

Answer: (b) | Explanation: Directly stated in line 1 of Passage 1.

22. What is the Sugar Maple tree famous for?

- (a) Its bright fall colours (b) Its sap
(c) Its large size (d) **All of the above** ✓ Correct

Answer: (d) All of the above | Explanation: Paragraph mentions fall colors, sap for syrup, and tall growth up to 100 ft.

23. How much sap does it take to make one gallon of maple syrup?

- (a) 10 gallons (b) 20 gallons
(c) **40 gallons** ✓ Correct (d) 50 gallons

Answer: (c) 40 gallons | Explanation: Explicitly mentioned in paragraph 2 ("takes about 40 gallons of sap").

24. What is the shape of the Sugar Maple tree's leaves?

- (a) oval (b) **palmate** ✓ Correct
(c) heart-shaped (d) needle-like

Answer: (b) palmate | Explanation: Paragraph 1 states "Its leaves are palmate, with five lobes".

25. How long can Sugar Maple trees live?

- (a) up to 100 years (b) **up to 200 years** ✓ Correct
(c) up to 300 years (d) up to 500 years

Answer: (b) up to 200 years | Explanation: Text states "Sugar Maple trees can live for up to 200 years".

Passage 2 (For Questions 26 to 30):

Stephen Hawking was a renowned British theoretical physicist and cosmologist. He was born on January 8, 1942, in Oxford, England. At the age of 21, Hawking was diagnosed with a motor neuron disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Despite his physical disability, Hawking made groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of the universe.

Hawking's work focused on black holes and the origin of the universe. He proposed that black holes emit radiation, now known as Hawking radiation. He also wrote several popular science books, including "A Brief History of Time," which has sold over 10 million copies worldwide. Throughout his life, Hawking defied the odds of his illness and lived an active life. He travelled extensively, gave lectures, and even appeared on TV shows. Hawking passed away on March 14, 2018, at the age of 76.

26. What was Stephen Hawking diagnosed with at the age of 21?

- (a) parkinson's disease (b) cancer
(c) **amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)** ✓ Correct (d) heart disease

Answer: (c) | Explanation: Explicitly mentioned in line 2-3 of Passage 2.

27. Name the radiation emitted by black holes, proposed by Hawking.

- (a) **Hawking radiation** ✓ Correct (b) Black hole radiation
(c) Cosmic radiation (d) Galactic radiation

Answer: (a) Hawking radiation | Explanation: Stated in paragraph 2 ("now known as Hawking radiation").

28. _____ has sold over 10 million copies worldwide.

(a) "A Brief History of Time" ✓ Correct

(b) "The Theory of Everything"

(c) "The Origin of the Universe"

(d) "The Universe in a Nutshell"

Answer: (a) | Explanation: Direct quote from Passage 2.

29. Apart from writing, Hawking also _____

(a) travelled extensively

(b) gave lectures

(c) appeared on TV shows

(d) all of the above ✓ Correct

Answer: (d) all of the above | Explanation: Last lines list traveling, lecturing, and appearing on TV shows.

30. When did Stephen Hawking pass away?

(a) March 14, 2018 ✓ Correct

(b) March 14, 2015

(c) March 14, 2017

(d) March 14, 2016

Answer: (a) March 14, 2018 | Explanation: The final sentence confirms March 14, 2018.

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION (Q31 - Q40)

31. Person A: "I am sure the manager is hiding something as I have noticed some discrepancies in the financial reports."

Person B: "That's a pretty serious accusation. _____?"

(a) Do you have any proof ✓ Correct

(b) Are you working on it

(c) Are you the manager

(d) All of the above

Answer: (a) Do you have any proof | Explanation: Responding to a serious accusation logically requires asking for evidence/proof.

32. Rob: "I am so excited for our school trip to the museum tomorrow!"

Poly: "Me too! I've heard the museum has an amazing collection of ancient artifacts. But _____"

(a) I am worried if we get lost there

(b) is it closed tomorrow

(c) I wish we could spend more time there, one day is not enough ✓ Correct

(d) let us meet at the entrance at 9 AM sharp

Answer: (c) | Explanation: The conjunction 'But' introduces a contrasting limitation following excitement about the collection.

33. Ceaser: "I am having trouble with math homework. Can you help me?"

Cathy: "Oh! Sure. _____"

(a) I am busy right now, please ask someone else

(b) But, math is too hard to solve

(c) I don't know, ask your teacher

(d) Let me see the question, maybe I can figure it out

✓ Correct

Answer: (d) | Explanation: "Oh! Sure" signifies agreement to help, followed naturally by asking to see the problem.

34. Mother: Son, you _____ morning. Take rest for an hour.

Son: Mom, I have already taken some rest.

(a) were working since

(b) will be working from

(c) have been working since ✓ Correct

(d) work since

Answer: (c) have been working since | Explanation: Present perfect continuous tense is required for an action starting in past and continuing to present ('since morning').

35. Liz: "Thank you so much for inviting us to your party."

Mrs. Reed: " _____ "

(a) How nice!

(b) You're most welcome ✓ Correct

(c) It's okay

(d) Not at all

Answer: (b) You're most welcome | *Explanation: Standard polite response to "Thank you so much".*

Cloze Passage (For Questions 36 to 40):

The ancient city of Pompeii **(36)** by the Romans in 80 BC. It **(37)** a thriving commercial centre until the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. The volcano **(38)** the city with ash and pumice, killing thousands of people. Archaeologists **(39)** excavating the site since the 18th century and have uncovered many preserved ruins. Today, Pompeii **(40)** one of the most popular tourist destinations in Italy.

36. Fill in blank (36):

(a) was founded ✓ Correct

(b) is founded

(c) has been founded

(d) will be founded

Answer: (a) was founded | *Explanation: Past passive event (occurred in 80 BC).*

37. Fill in blank (37):

(a) will be

(b) has been

(c) was ✓ Correct

(d) is

Answer: (c) was | *Explanation: Refers to a completed state in historical past prior to 79 AD.*

38. Fill in blank (38):

(a) has buried

(b) shall be buried

(c) buried ✓ Correct

(d) have buried

Answer: (c) buried | *Explanation: Simple past tense describing historical action in 79 AD.*

39. Fill in blank (39):

(a) will

(b) are

(c) have

(d) have been ✓ Correct

Answer: (d) have been | *Explanation: Present perfect continuous "have been excavating" with "since the 18th century".*

40. Fill in blank (40):

(a) was

(b) are

(c) will be

(d) is ✓ Correct

Answer: (d) is | *Explanation: Present simple fact starting with "Today...".*

ACHIEVER'S SECTION (Q41 - Q45: 2 MARKS EACH)

41. Choose the correct synonym of the given word: Equivocate

(a) be ambitious

(b) be vague ✓ Correct

(c) be confused

(d) be equal

Answer: (b) be vague | *Explanation: 'Equivocate' means to use ambiguous/vague language to conceal truth or avoid committing.*

42. Change the voice: By the time I arrived, the play had already been started.

- (a) They already started the play by the time I arrived
(b) **They had already started the play by the time I arrived** ✓ Correct
(c) They started the play by the time I arrived
(d) They had already been starting the play by the time I arrived

Answer: (b) | *Explanation: Active form of past perfect passive ("had already been started") is "had already started".*

43. Choose the option in which the word is correctly spelled:

- (a) Onomotopoeia (b) Onamotopoeia
(c) Onomatapoeia (d) **Onomatopoeia** ✓ Correct

Answer: (d) Onomatopoeia | *Explanation: Standard spelling is O-N-O-M-A-T-O-P-O-E-I-A.*

44. Arrange A, B, C, D to the most appropriate meaningful way of their occurrence:

A: The school team won the match.

B: The team had practiced for weeks.

C: The match was against the arch-rivals.

D: The team was overjoyed.

- (a) CABD (b) ACBD
(c) **CBAD** ✓ Correct (d) BCAD

Answer: (c) CBAD | *Explanation: Context setup (C) -> Preparation (B) -> Outcome (A) -> Emotional reaction (D).*

45. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank:

The _____ view from the top of the mountain was breathtaking, but the _____ climb was exhausting.

- (a) **panoramic, arduous** ✓ Correct (b) picturesque, onerous
(c) intricate, shocking (d) convoluted, finical

Answer: (a) panoramic, arduous | *Explanation: 'Panoramic' fits breathtaking scenery; 'arduous' fits exhausting climb.*

QUICK ANSWER KEY SUMMARY

Q.No	Ans	Q.No	Ans	Q.No	Ans	Q.No	Ans	Q.No	Ans
1	(b)	10	(c)	19	(c)	28	(a)	37	(c)
2	(c)	11	(a)	20	(d)	29	(d)	38	(c)
3	(b)	12	(b)	21	(b)	30	(a)	39	(d)
4	(a)	13	(d)	22	(d)	31	(a)	40	(d)
5	(d)	14	(b)	23	(c)	32	(c)	41	(b)
6	(a)	15	(b)	24	(b)	33	(d)	42	(b)
7	(d)	16	(a)	25	(b)	34	(c)	43	(d)
8	(b)	17	(a)	26	(c)	35	(b)	44	(c)
9	(c)	18	(c)	27	(a)	36	(a)	45	(a)