

General Instructions

- (i) This booklet contains 149 questions, each provided with a complete, step-by-step solution.
- (ii) It comprises 149 single-correct multiple-choice questions.
- (iii) Attempt each question on your own before reviewing the given solution.

. Average of five numbers is 61. If the average of first and third number is 69 and the average of second and fourth number is 69, what is the fifth number?

- (A) 31
- (B) 29
- (C) 25
- (D) 35

Correct Answer: (B) 29

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Treat the five numbers as a combined average problem.

Total of all five numbers = $5 \times 61 = 305$. The problem tells us two pairs share a common average of 69, which is a useful shortcut: any pair with average 69 has a pair sum of $69 \times 2 = 138$.

Step 2: Add the two pair sums together.

The first and third numbers together give 138, and the second and fourth numbers together also give 138. Together these four numbers contribute $138 + 138 = 276$ to the total of 305.

Final Answer:

The fifth number is whatever remains after removing these four numbers from the total, that is $305 - 276 = 29$, which matches option B.

29

Quick Tip: Use the total sum minus the two given pair sums to isolate the fifth number.

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. Kajal spends 55% of her monthly income on grocery, clothes and education in the ratio of 4 : 2 : 5 respectively. If the amount spent on clothes is Rs.5540/-, what is Kajal's monthly income?

- (A) Rs.55,400
- (B) Rs.54,500
- (C) Rs.55,450
- (D) Rs.55,650

Correct Answer: (A) Rs.55,400

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Split the 55% spending into 11 equal parts.

The ratio 4 : 2 : 5 has $4 + 2 + 5 = 11$ total parts, and these 11 parts together represent 55% of income, so each single part represents $\frac{55\%}{11} = 5\%$ of income.

Step 2: Find what 1% of income equals.

Clothes take up 2 parts, which is $2 \times 5\% = 10\%$ of income, and this equals Rs.5540. So 1% of income = $\frac{5540}{10} = 554$.

Final Answer:

The full income, that is 100%, equals $554 \times 100 = 55400$.

Rs. 55400

Quick Tip: Work out what fraction of the total income the clothes portion represents.

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. The simple interest accrued on a sum of certain principal in 8 years at the rate of 13% per year is Rs.6500. What would be the compound interest accrued on that principal at the rate of 8% per year in 2 years?

- (A) Rs.1040
- (B) Rs.1020
- (C) Rs.1060
- (D) Rs.1200

Correct Answer: (A) Rs.1040

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Recover the principal from the simple interest given.

Since $SI = \frac{PTR}{100}$, we get $P = \frac{100 \times SI}{TR} = \frac{100 \times 6500}{8 \times 13} = \frac{650000}{104} = 6250$.

Step 2: Build up the compound interest year by year instead of using the formula directly.

In year 1, interest = 8% of 6250 = 500, so the amount grows to 6250

$+ 500 = 6750$. In year 2, interest is charged on this new amount: 8% of $6750 = 540$.

Final Answer:

Total compound interest over the two years $= 500 + 540 = 1040$.

1040

Quick Tip: First recover the principal from the simple interest formula, then apply the compound interest formula.

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. 8 men and 4 women together can complete a piece of work in 6 days. The work done by a man in one day is double the work done by a woman in one day. If 8 men and 4 women started working and after 2 days 4 men left and 4 new women joined, in how many more days will the work be completed?

- (A) 5 days
- (B) 8 days
- (C) 6 days
- (D) 4 days

Correct Answer: (A) 5 days

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Assign a woman's daily work as 1 unit.

If one woman does 1 unit of work per day, one man, doing double, does 2 units per day. The original team of 8 men and 4 women then does $8(2) + 4(1) = 16 + 4 = 20$ units per day.

Step 2: Work out the total job size and how much is left after 2 days.

Working 6 days at 20 units per day gives a total job of $20 \times 6 = 120$ units. After working for 2 days, $20 \times 2 = 40$ units are finished, leaving $120 - 40 = 80$ units.

Step 3: Recompute the daily rate for the new team.

Now only $8 - 4 = 4$ men and $4 + 4 = 8$ women are working, giving $4(2) + 8(1) = 8 + 8 = 16$ units per day.

Final Answer:

The remaining 80 units at 16 units per day take $\frac{80}{16} = 5$ more days to finish.

5 days

Quick Tip: Track the work completed in the first 2 days, then recompute the rate for the new team.

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. The cost of fencing a circular plot at the rate of Rs.15 per m is Rs.3300. What will be the cost of flooring the plot at the rate of Rs.100 per sq m?

- (A) Rs.385000
- (B) Rs.220000
- (C) Rs.350000
- (D) Cannot be determined

Correct Answer: (A) Rs.385000

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Find the circumference first.

Fencing cost = $15 \times \text{circumference} = 3300$, so circumference $C = \frac{3300}{15}$
 $= 220$ m.

Step 2: Use the direct circumference to area shortcut instead of finding the radius separately.

Since $C = 2\pi r$, squaring gives $C^2 = 4\pi^2 r^2$, so the area $\pi r^2 = \frac{C^2}{4\pi}$.

Substituting $C = 220$ and $\pi = \frac{22}{7}$: area = $\frac{220^2}{4 \times \frac{22}{7}} = \frac{48400 \times 7}{88} = 3850$ sq m.

Final Answer:

Flooring cost = $3850 \times 100 = 385000$, confirming option A.

Rs. 385000

Quick Tip: Find the radius from the fencing cost first, then use it to get the area.

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. In an examination, Raman scored 25 marks less than Rohit. Rohit scored 45 more marks than Sonia. Rohan scored 75 marks which is 10 more than Sonia. Ravi's score is 50 less than the maximum marks of the test. What approximate percentage of marks did Ravi score in the examination, if he gets 34 marks more than Raman?

- (A) 90
- (B) 70
- (C) 80
- (D) 60

Correct Answer: (B) 70

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Write every score in terms of Sonia's marks.

Let Sonia's score be s . Rohan's fixed score of 75 is given as 10 more than Sonia, so $s = 65$, which checks out independently. Rohit = $s + 45$, Raman = $(s + 45) - 25 = s + 20$, and Ravi = $(s + 20) + 34 = s + 54$.

Step 2: Combine into a single expression for the percentage.

Maximum marks = Ravi's score + 50 = $(s + 54) + 50 = s + 104$. So the required percentage is $\frac{s+54}{s+104} \times 100$.

Final Answer:

Substituting $s = 65$: $\frac{119}{169} \times 100 \approx 70\%$, confirming option B.

70%

Quick Tip: Work out each person's marks step by step starting from Sonia's score.

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. An aeroplane flies with an average speed of 756 km/h. A helicopter takes 48 h to cover twice the distance covered by aeroplane in 9 h. How much distance will the helicopter cover in 18 h? (Assuming that flights are non-stop and moving with uniform speed.)

- (A) 5010km
- (B) 4875km
- (C) 5760km
- (D) 5103km

Correct Answer: (D) 5103km

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Find the helicopter's total distance for the 48-hour trip.

Aeroplane distance in 9 hours = $756 \times 9 = 6804$ km, and the helicopter covers twice this in 48 hours, so its 48-hour distance is $2 \times 6804 = 13608$ km.

Step 2: Scale this distance down to 18 hours using a direct proportion, without finding the speed first.

Since the helicopter moves at a uniform speed, distance is proportional to time: $\frac{\text{distance in 18 h}}{\text{distance in 48 h}} = \frac{18}{48} = \frac{3}{8}$.

Final Answer:

Distance in 18 hours = $13608 \times \frac{3}{8} = 5103$ km.

5103 km

Quick Tip: Find the helicopter's total distance in 48 hours, then scale it down proportionally to 18 hours.

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. Average weight of 19 men is 74 kgs, and the average weight of 38 women is 63 kgs. What is the average weight (rounded off to the nearest integer) of all the men and the women together?

- (A) 59 kg
- (B) 65 kg
- (C) 69 kg
- (D) 67 kg

Correct Answer: (D) 67 kg

SOLUTION:

This can be solved faster with the alligation rule instead of adding up totals separately. When two groups of different sizes are combined, the combined average splits the gap between the two group averages in the inverse ratio of the group sizes.

Let the combined average be x . The men's average is 74 and the women's average is 63, with group sizes 19 and 38.

By alligation: $\frac{x - 63}{74 - x} = \frac{19}{38} = \frac{1}{2}$

Cross multiplying: $2(x - 63) = 74 - x$, so $2x - 126 = 74 - x$, which gives $3x = 200$, so $x = 66.67$.

Rounding to the nearest integer gives 67 kg, confirming option D.

67 kg

Quick Tip: Add both total weights first, then divide by the combined headcount, not by 2.

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. Mr Giridhar spends 50% of his monthly income on household items and out of the remaining he spends 50% on transport, 25% on entertainment, 10% on sports and the remaining amount of Rs. 900 is saved. What is Mr Giridhar's monthly income?

- (A) Rs. 6000
- (B) Rs. 12000
- (C) Rs. 9000
- (D) Cannot be determined

Correct Answer: (B) Rs. 12000

SOLUTION:

Instead of writing an algebraic equation, this can be tracked using 100 assumed units of income, which keeps every step as plain arithmetic.

Assume the income is 100 units. Household spend takes away 50 units, leaving 50 units.

Out of these 50 units, transport, entertainment and sports together take $50\% + 25\% + 10\% = 85\%$, which is $0.85 \times 50 = 42.5$ units.

So the amount saved is $50 - 42.5 = 7.5$ units out of the assumed 100 units of income.

These 7.5 units correspond to the actual Rs 900 saved, so 1 unit of income equals $900/7.5 = 120$ rupees.

Therefore the full income of 100 units equals $100 \times 120 = 12000$ rupees, confirming option B.

Rs. 12000

Quick Tip: Work out what percentage of the total income the Rs 900 saving actually represents.

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. A and B together can complete a task in 20 days. B and C together can complete the same task in 30 days. A and C together can complete the same task in 40 days. What is the respective ratio of the number of days taken by A when completing the same task alone to the number of days taken by C when completing the same task alone?

- (A) 2 : 5
- (B) 2 : 7
- (C) 3 : 7
- (D) 1 : 5

Correct Answer: (D) 1 : 5

SOLUTION:

Another way to reach the same result is to work directly with the rate equations without summing all three at once.

Let $p = 1/A$, $q = 1/B$, $r = 1/C$ be the one day work rates. Then $p + q = 1/20$, $q + r = 1/30$, $p + r = 1/40$.

Subtract the second equation from the first: $(p + q) - (q + r) = p - r = \frac{1}{20} - \frac{1}{30} = \frac{3 - 2}{60} = \frac{1}{60}$.

Now combine this with the third equation $p + r = 1/40$: adding $p - r = 1/60$ and $p + r = 1/40$ gives $2p = \frac{1}{40} + \frac{1}{60} = \frac{3 + 2}{120} = \frac{5}{120} = \frac{1}{24}$, so $p = 1/48$.

Subtracting instead gives $2r = \frac{1}{40} - \frac{1}{60} = \frac{3 - 2}{120} = \frac{1}{120}$, so $r = 1/240$.

A alone takes $1/p = 48$ days and C alone takes $1/r = 240$ days, so the ratio is $48 : 240 = 1 : 5$, matching option D.

1 : 5

Quick Tip: Add all three pairwise equations, halve the sum to get $A+B+C$, then subtract each pair to isolate A and C.

...

. A certain amount was to be distributed among A, B and C in the ratio 2 : 3 : 4 respectively, but was erroneously distributed in the ratio 7 : 2 : 5 respectively. As a result of this, B got Rs.40 less. What is the amount?

- (A) Rs. 210
- (B) Rs. 270
- (C) Rs. 230
- (D) Rs. 280

Correct Answer: (A) Rs. 210

SOLUTION:

A quicker route is to scale the total amount to the LCM of the two ratio sums so both shares come out as whole numbers straightaway.

Correct ratio 2 : 3 : 4 has a sum of 9 parts, and the wrong ratio 7 : 2 : 5 has a sum of 14 parts. Take the total amount as $126k$, where $126 = \text{LCM}(9, 14)$, so it divides evenly under both ratios.

$$\text{Correct B share} = \frac{3}{9} \times 126k = 42k.$$

$$\text{Wrong B share} = \frac{2}{14} \times 126k = 18k.$$

The shortfall is $42k - 18k = 24k$, and this equals the given Rs 40, so $24k = 40$, giving $k = \frac{5}{3}$.

$$\text{Total amount} = 126k = 126 \times \frac{5}{3} = 210, \text{ confirming option A.}$$

Rs. 210

Quick Tip: Write B's share under both ratios as a fraction of the same total, then equate their difference to Rs 40.



. Last year there were 610 boys in a school. The number decreased by 20 percent this year. How many girls are there in the school if the number of girls is 175 percent of the total number of boys in the school this year?

- (A) 854
- (B) 848
- (C) 798
- (D) 782

Correct Answer: (A) 854

SOLUTION:

The same problem can be solved using fractions instead of decimals, which avoids any rounding along the way.

A 20% decrease means boys this year are $\frac{4}{5}$ of last year's count: boys this year = $\frac{4}{5} \times 610 = 488$.

Girls are 175% of this year's boys, and $175\% = \frac{7}{4}$, so girls = $\frac{7}{4} \times 488$.

$$\frac{7 \times 488}{4} = \frac{3416}{4} = 854.$$

So there are 854 girls in the school, matching option A.

854

Quick Tip: First apply the 20% decrease to last year's boys, then take 175% of that reduced number.

...

. Rs.73,689/- are divided between A and B in the ratio 4 : 7. What is the difference between thrice the share of A and twice the share of B?

- (A) Rs. 36,699
- (B) Rs. 46,893
- (C) Rs. 20,097
- (D) Rs. 13,398

Correct Answer: (D) Rs. 13,398

SOLUTION:

Instead of computing A's and B's rupee shares first and then combining them, the expression can be simplified algebraically before any big multiplication is done.

Let one part of the ratio be worth y rupees, so A's share is $4y$ and B's share is $7y$, where $y = \frac{73689}{11} = 6699$.

The required quantity is $3(4y) - 2(7y) = 12y - 14y = -2y$.

Taking the magnitude, the difference is $2y = 2 \times 6699 = 13398$.

This confirms the difference between thrice A's share and twice B's share is Rs 13,398, so option D is correct.

Rs. 13398

Quick Tip: Simplify $3A$ minus $2B$ in terms of one ratio part before substituting numbers.

...

. The average marks in English subject of a class of 24 students is 56. If the marks of three students were misread as 44, 45 and 61 of the actual marks 48, 59 and 67 respectively, then what would be the correct average?

- (A) 56.5
- (B) 59
- (C) 57.5
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (D) None of these

SOLUTION:

This can also be verified by rebuilding the total marks of the class from scratch instead of using the shortcut of adjusting the average directly.

Total marks of the class as originally (wrongly) recorded = $56 \times 24 = 1344$.

To correct this total, remove the misread marks and add back the actual marks: corrected total = $1344 - (44 + 45 + 61) + (48 + 59 + 67) = 1344 - 150 + 174 = 1368$.

Corrected average = $\frac{1368}{24} = 57$.

Since 57 does not match any of 56.5, 59 or 57.5, the correct choice is option D, "None of these".

57

Quick Tip: Find how much the actual marks exceed the misread marks in total, then spread that excess across all 24 students.

. The respective ratio between the present age of Manisha and Deepali is $5 : x$. Manisha is 9 years younger than Parineeta. Parineeta's age after 9 years will be 33 years. The difference between Deepali's and Manisha's age is the same as the present age of Parineeta. What will come in place of x ?

- (A) 23
- (B) 39
- (C) 15
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (D) None of these

SOLUTION:

Let Manisha's present age be M , Deepali's present age be D , and Parineeta's present age be P , with $M : D = 5 : x$.

1. **Find Parineeta's present age.** Parineeta's age after 9 years is 33, so $P + 9 = 33$, giving $P = 24$.
2. **Find Manisha's present age.** Manisha is 9 years younger than Parineeta, so $M = P - 9 = 24 - 9 = 15$.
3. **Use the ratio to express Deepali's age.** Since $M : D = 5 : x$ and $M = 15$, the common multiplier is $15/5 = 3$, so $D = 3x$.
4. **Apply the age-difference condition.** The difference between Deepali's and Manisha's age equals Parineeta's present age: $D - M = P$, that is $3x - 15 = 24$. Solving, $3x = 39$, so $x = 13$.

Since $x = 13$ is not listed among options A, B or C, the correct choice is option D, "none of these".

Quick Tip: First find Parineeta's age, then Manisha's, then use the ratio and the age-difference condition to solve for x .

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. Anand travelled 300 km by train and 200 km by taxi. It took him 5 hours and 30 minutes. However, if he travels 260 km by train and 240 km by taxi, he takes 6 minutes more. The speed of the train is:

- (A) 100 km/h
- (B) 120 km/h
- (C) 80 km/h
- (D) 110 km/h

Correct Answer: (A) 100 km/h

SOLUTION:

Let $p = 1/x$ and $q = 1/y$, where x is the train's speed and y is the taxi's speed. The two conditions become a linear system in p and q :

1. **Write the linear system.** $300p + 200q = 5.5$... (i), and $260p + 240q = 5.6$... (ii).
2. **Eliminate q .** Multiply (i) by 6 and (ii) by 5 to make the q -coefficients equal (1200 in both): $1800p + 1200q = 33$ and $1300p + 1200q = 28$.
3. **Subtract.** $(1800p - 1300p) = 33 - 28 \Rightarrow 500p = 5 \Rightarrow p = 0.01$.
4. **Recover x .** Since $p = 1/x = 0.01$, we get $x = 100$.
5. **Cross-check with q .** From (i): $300(0.01) + 200q = 5.5 \Rightarrow 3 + 200q = 5.5 \Rightarrow q = 0.0125 \Rightarrow y = 80$, which satisfies (ii) as well: $260(0.01) + 240(0.0125) = 2.6 + 3 = 5.6$.

So the train's speed is 100 km/h, option A.

Quick Tip: Form two equations in $1/\text{speed}$ for train and taxi from the two travel scenarios, then eliminate one variable.

...

. A certain number of people were supposed to complete a work in 24 days. The work, however, took 32 days, since 9 people were absent throughout. How many people were supposed to be working originally?

- (A) 32
- (B) 27
- (C) 36
- (D) 30

Correct Answer: (C) 36

SOLUTION:

Since the total amount of work does not change, the number of people needed is inversely proportional to the number of days taken.

1. **Set up the inverse proportion.** If x is the original number of people (planned for 24 days) and $x - 9$ people actually worked for 32 days, then $\frac{x}{x - 9} = \frac{32}{24} = \frac{4}{3}$.
2. **Cross-multiply.** $3x = 4(x - 9) = 4x - 36$.
3. **Solve for x .** $3x - 4x = -36 \Rightarrow -x = -36 \Rightarrow x = 36$.
4. **Verify.** $24 \times 36 = 864$ man-days, and $32 \times (36 - 9) = 32 \times 27 = 864$ man-days. Both match.

So 36 people were originally supposed to work, option C.

Quick Tip: Total work (people times days) stays constant; equate 24 times the original people to 32 times the people who actually worked.

• • •

. Profit earned by an organization is distributed among officers and clerks where the individual amount received by them is in the ratio of 5 : 3. If the number of officers is 45 and the number of clerks is 80, and the amount received by each officer is Rs. 25,000, what was the total amount of profit earned?

- (A) Rs. 22 lakh
- (B) Rs. 18.25 lakh
- (C) Rs. 18 lakh
- (D) Rs. 23.25 lakh

Correct Answer: (D) Rs. 23.25 lakh

SOLUTION:

Treat the ratio 5 : 3 as made up of equal "ratio units" of money.

1. **Find the value of one ratio unit.** An officer's share corresponds to 5 units and equals Rs. 25,000, so one unit = $25000/5 = \text{Rs. } 5000$.
2. **Find the clerk's share.** A clerk's share corresponds to 3 units, so a clerk receives $3 \times 5000 = \text{Rs. } 15000$, matching the direct ratio calculation.
3. **Total for officers.** $45 \times 25000 = \text{Rs. } 11,25,000$.
4. **Total for clerks.** $80 \times 15000 = \text{Rs. } 12,00,000$.
5. **Add them up.** $11,25,000 + 12,00,000 = \text{Rs. } 23,25,000 = \text{Rs. } 23.25 \text{ lakh}$.

So the total profit earned is Rs. 23.25 lakh, option D.

Quick Tip: Use the ratio to find each clerk's share from the officer's known share, then add up officers' and clerks' total amounts.

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. A shopkeeper labelled the price of his articles so as to earn a profit of 30% on the cost price. He then sold the articles by offering a discount of 10% on the labelled price. What is the actual per cent profit earned in the deal?

- (A) 18%
- (B) 15%
- (C) 20%
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (D) None of these

SOLUTION:

When a price is marked up by $a\%$ and then discounted by $b\%$, the net percentage change is given by the successive-percentage-change formula:

1. **Recall the formula.** $\text{Net \%} = a - b - \frac{ab}{100}$, where a is the markup percent and b is the discount percent.
2. **Substitute the values.** Here $a = 30$ (markup for profit) and $b = 10$ (discount): $\text{Net\%} = 30 - 10 - \frac{30 \times 10}{100} = 30 - 10 - 3 = 17\%$.
3. **Interpret the result.** A positive net percentage means an overall profit of 17% on the cost price, confirming the direct calculation.

Since 17% does not match 18%, 15% or 20%, the correct choice is option D, "none of these".

Quick Tip: Assume $CP = 100$, find the marked price with a 30% markup, then apply the 10% discount to get SP and compute the profit percent.

• • •

. There are five boys and three girls who are sitting together to discuss a management problem at a round table. In how many ways can they sit around the table so that no two girls are together?

- (A) 1220
- (B) 1400
- (C) 1420
- (D) 1440

Correct Answer: (D) 1440

SOLUTION:

An equivalent way to count the girls' placement is to directly count ordered selections of gaps using a permutation.

1. **Seat the boys in a circle.** Five boys around a round table can be arranged in $(5 - 1)! = 4! = 24$ ways, and this creates exactly 5 gaps between them.
2. **Place the girls using a permutation.** To seat 3 girls into 3 of these 5 distinct gaps, with order mattering (since the girls are distinct people occupying distinct seats), we use ${}^5P_3 = \frac{5!}{(5 - 3)!}$
 $= \frac{120}{2} = 60$.

3. **Multiply the two independent arrangements.** Total ways
 $= 24 \times 60 = 1440$.

This matches the combination-then-factorial approach (${}^5C_3 \times 3! = 10 \times 6 = 60$), confirming the answer is 1440, option D.

Quick Tip: Seat the boys first in a circle, then place the girls one per gap between boys so no two girls are adjacent.

...

. A pump can be operated both for filling a tank and for emptying it. The capacity of the tank is 2400 m^3 . The emptying capacity of the pump is 10 m^3 per minute higher than its filling capacity. Consequently, the pump needs 8 minutes less to empty the tank than to fill it. Find the filling capacity of the pump.

- (A) $45 \text{ m}^3/\text{min}$
- (B) $30 \text{ m}^3/\text{min}$
- (C) $50 \text{ m}^3/\text{min}$
- (D) $55 \text{ m}^3/\text{min}$

Correct Answer: (C) $50 \text{ m}^3/\text{min}$

SOLUTION:

The equation $x^2 + 10x - 3000 = 0$ can also be solved directly with the quadratic formula instead of factoring.

1. **Identify coefficients.** Comparing with $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$: $a = 1$,
 $b = 10$, $c = -3000$.

2. **Apply the quadratic formula.** $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$
 $= \frac{-10 \pm \sqrt{100 + 12000}}{2} = \frac{-10 \pm \sqrt{12100}}{2}.$

3. **Simplify the square root.** $\sqrt{12100} = 110$, so $x = \frac{-10 \pm 110}{2}$,
giving $x = 50$ or $x = -60$.

4. **Reject the negative root.** A filling capacity cannot be negative,
so $x = 50$.

5. **Verify.** Filling time = $2400/50 = 48$ min, emptying time
= $2400/60 = 40$ min, and $48 - 40 = 8$ min, which matches the
given condition.

So the filling capacity of the pump is $50 \text{ m}^3/\text{min}$, option C.

Quick Tip: Write filling and emptying times as $2400/x$ and $2400/(x+10)$,
set their difference to 8 minutes, and solve the resulting quadratic.

• • •

. A plane left 30 min later than its scheduled time to reach its destination
1500 km away. In order to reach in time it increases its speed by 250
km/h. What is its original speed?

- (A) 1000 km/h
- (B) 750 km/h
- (C) 600 km/h
- (D) 800 km/h

Correct Answer: (B) 750 km/h

SOLUTION:

A faster way is to test each option against the condition: increasing the speed by 250 km/h over a 1500 km trip must save exactly 30 minutes (0.5 hour) of flying time.

1. **Option A (1000 km/h):** time at 1000 km/h = $1500/1000 = 1.5$ h. Time at 1250 km/h = $1500/1250 = 1.2$ h. Saving = 0.3 h = 18 min, not 30 min. Rejected.
2. **Option B (750 km/h):** time at 750 km/h = $1500/750 = 2$ h. Time at 1000 km/h = $1500/1000 = 1.5$ h. Saving = 0.5 h = 30 min. This matches exactly.
3. **Option C (600 km/h):** time at 600 km/h = $1500/600 = 2.5$ h. Time at 850 km/h = $1500/850 \approx 1.76$ h. Saving ≈ 0.74 h ≈ 44 min, too much. Rejected.
4. **Option D (800 km/h):** time at 800 km/h = $1500/800 = 1.875$ h. Time at 1050 km/h = $1500/1050 \approx 1.43$ h. Saving ≈ 0.45 h ≈ 27 min, close but not exactly 30 min. Rejected.

Only the original speed of 750 km/h produces exactly a 30 minute saving, confirming $v = 750$ km/h as the answer.

Quick Tip: Set the scheduled time as distance/original speed, and the actual time (0.5 hour less) as distance/(original speed + 250), then solve the resulting quadratic.

...

. Mrs. X spends Rs. 535 in purchasing some shirts and ties for her husband. If shirts cost Rs. 43 each and the ties cost Rs. 21 each, then what is the ratio of the shirts to the ties, that are purchased?

- (A) 1 : 2
- (B) 2 : 1
- (C) 2 : 3
- (D) 3 : 4

Correct Answer: (B) 2 : 1

SOLUTION:

Since the answer choices are already given as ratios, a quicker approach is to plug each ratio into the cost equation and check whether it gives a whole, sensible number of shirts and ties totalling Rs. 535.

1. **Option A (1 : 2):** let shirts = k , ties = $2k$. Cost = $43k + 21(2k) = 43k + 42k = 85k$. Setting $85k = 535$ gives $k \approx 6.29$, not a whole number. Rejected.
2. **Option B (2 : 1):** let shirts = $2k$, ties = k . Cost = $43(2k) + 21k = 86k + 21k = 107k$. Setting $107k = 535$ gives $k = 5$, a whole number. This means shirts = 10, ties = 5, and the cost is $43(10) + 21(5) = 430 + 105 = 535$, which matches exactly.
3. **Option C (2 : 3):** let shirts = $2k$, ties = $3k$. Cost = $86k + 63k = 149k$. Setting $149k = 535$ gives $k \approx 3.59$, not whole. Rejected.
4. **Option D (3 : 4):** let shirts = $3k$, ties = $4k$. Cost = $129k + 84k = 213k$. Setting $213k = 535$ gives $k \approx 2.51$, not whole. Rejected.

Only the 2 : 1 ratio produces a whole number solution that exactly matches the total spend of Rs. 535, confirming option B.

Quick Tip: Write the total cost as $43x + 21y = 535$ and find the smallest whole-number solution, or test each answer ratio directly against the total.



. A mixture of 12 kg of wheat flour costing Rs. 16 per kg and 4 kg of corn flour costing Rs. 2 per kg is sold at Rs. 16 per kg. What is the profit made in selling 40 kg of the mixture?

- (A) Rs. 140
- (B) Rs. 280
- (C) Rs. 300
- (D) Rs. 420

Correct Answer: (A) Rs. 140

SOLUTION:

Instead of finding a per kg profit, we can scale the original 16 kg batch up to 40 kg directly, keeping the wheat to corn ratio fixed at 12:4, that is 3:1.

1. **Scale the batch:** 40 kg of mixture in a 3:1 ratio means wheat flour = $\frac{3}{4} \times 40 = 30$ kg and corn flour = $\frac{1}{4} \times 40 = 10$ kg.
2. **Find the cost of this scaled batch:** Cost = $30(16) + 10(2) = 480 + 20 = \text{Rs. } 500$.
3. **Find the revenue from selling it:** Revenue = $40 \text{ kg} \times \text{Rs. } 16/\text{kg} = \text{Rs. } 640$.

Profit = Revenue - Cost = $640 - 500 = \text{Rs. } 140$, which matches the per kg method exactly and confirms option A.

Quick Tip: Find the weighted average cost price per kg of the mixture, subtract it from the selling price to get profit per kg, then multiply by 40.



. The number of ways in which a committee of 3 ladies and 4 gentlemen can be appointed from a meeting consisting of 8 ladies and 7 gentlemen, if Mrs. X refuses to serve in a committee if Mr. Y is its member, is

- (A) 1960
- (B) 3240
- (C) 1540
- (D) none of these

Correct Answer: (C) 1540

SOLUTION:

A cleaner way to handle this restriction is complementary counting: find the total number of committees with no restriction, then subtract the invalid committees where both Mrs. X and Mr. Y are members together.

1. **Total unrestricted committees:** choose 3 ladies from 8 and 4 gentlemen from 7, giving ${}^8C_3 \times {}^7C_4 = 56 \times 35 = 1960$.
2. **Invalid committees (X and Y both included):** fix Mrs. X as one of the 3 ladies, so the other 2 ladies come from the remaining 7, giving ${}^7C_2 = 21$ ways. Fix Mr. Y as one of the 4 gentlemen, so the other 3 gentlemen come from the remaining 6, giving ${}^6C_3 = 20$ ways. Invalid committees = $21 \times 20 = 420$.

Valid committees = $1960 - 420 = 1540$, which exactly matches the case-by-case count and confirms option C.

Quick Tip: Split into two cases, Mr. Y included or excluded, since Mrs. X's availability depends entirely on whether Mr. Y is on the committee.

. A family consists of a grandfather, 5 sons and daughters and 8 grandchildren. They are to be seated in a row for dinner. The grandchildren wish to occupy the 4 seats at each end and the grandfather refuses to have a grandchild on either side of him. The number of ways in which the family can be made to sit is

- (A) 11360
- (B) 11520
- (C) 21530
- (D) none of these

Correct Answer: (D) none of these

SOLUTION:

Instead of directly counting the grandfather's valid seats, we can count all arrangements of the middle block and subtract the invalid ones where the grandfather sits at an end of that block.

1. **All arrangements of the middle block:** the grandfather plus 5 sons and daughters, 6 people in 6 seats, can be arranged in $6! = 720$ ways with no restriction.
2. **Invalid arrangements:** these are the ones where the grandfather sits at position 5 or position 10 of the row (the two ends of the middle block, each adjacent to a grandchild). Fixing the grandfather at either of these 2 spots, the remaining 5 people fill the other 5 seats in $5! = 120$ ways, giving $2 \times 120 = 240$ invalid arrangements.
3. **Valid middle block arrangements:** $720 - 240 = 480$, which equals $4 \times 5!$ from the direct method, confirming the two approaches agree.

Multiplying by the $8!$ ways to seat the grandchildren at the two ends gives $8! \times 480 = 19,353,600$ total arrangements, a number that matches none of options A, B or C, so the correct answer is "none of these" (option D).

Quick Tip: Seat the 8 grandchildren in the end blocks first ($8!$ ways), then find how many of the 6 middle seats the grandfather can safely occupy without sitting next to a grandchild.

• • •

. After distributing the sweets equally among 25 children, 8 sweets remain. Had the number of children been 28, 22 sweets would have been left after equally distributing. What is the smallest possible total number of sweets?

- (A) 328
- (B) 348
- (C) 358
- (D) Data inadequate

Correct Answer: (C) 358

SOLUTION:

A more direct check-by-listing approach works well here since the numbers are small. We list numbers that leave remainder 8 when divided by 25, then check each one against the second condition (remainder 22 when divided by 28).

1. **List candidates from the first condition:** $N = 25x + 8$ gives the sequence 8, 33, 58, 83, 108, 133, 158, 183, 208, 233, 258, 283,

308, 333, 358, ...

2. **Check each against the second condition:** dividing each by 28 and checking the remainder, none of the values up to 333 leave remainder 22 (for example $333 / 28 = 11$ remainder 25, and $308 / 28 = 11$ remainder 0).
3. **Test 358:** $358 / 28 = 12$ remainder 22, which is exactly the required remainder.

So the smallest total number of sweets satisfying both conditions is 358, confirming option C. Any smaller common solution would require going below the first term of the sequence, which isn't possible since sweets can't be negative.

Quick Tip: Express the total as $N = 25x + 8$, then find the smallest x for which $N - 22$ is exactly divisible by 28.

...

. I have to reach a certain place at a certain time and I find that I shall be 15 min too late, if I walk at 4 km an hour, and 10 min too soon, if I walk at 6 km an hour. How far have I to walk?

- (A) 25 km
- (B) 5 km
- (C) 10 km
- (D) none of these

Correct Answer: (B) 5 km

SOLUTION:

A slightly faster way avoids introducing the scheduled time T explicitly by working directly with the total time gap between the two walking speeds.

1. **Find the total time gap:** walking at 4 km/h makes me 15 minutes late, and walking at 6 km/h makes me 10 minutes early. The difference between these two travel times is therefore $15 + 10 = 25$ minutes $= \frac{5}{12}$ hour, since the gap spans both the late amount and the early amount relative to the correct on-time arrival.
2. **Express this gap using the distance:** if x is the distance, the time taken at 4 km/h minus the time taken at 6 km/h equals this same gap:

$$\frac{x}{4} - \frac{x}{6} = \frac{5}{12}$$

3. **Solve for x :** $\frac{3x - 2x}{12} = \frac{5}{12}$, so $\frac{x}{12} = \frac{5}{12}$, giving $x = 5$.

This confirms the distance is 5 km, matching option B, without needing to solve for the scheduled time T separately.

Quick Tip: The gap between being 15 minutes late and 10 minutes early is 25 minutes, use this directly as the difference between the two travel times.

• • •

. In triangle ABC , point M lies on side AC and point N lies on side BC , such that MN is parallel to AB (so triangle CMN is the smaller triangle near vertex C , and $ABNM$ is the trapezium formed below it). If the area of trapezium $ABNM$ is twice the area of triangle CMN , what is the ratio $CM : AM$?

(A) $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3} + 1}$

(B) $\frac{\sqrt{3} - 1}{2}$

(C) $\frac{\sqrt{3} + 1}{2}$

(D) None of these

Correct Answer: (C) $\frac{\sqrt{3} + 1}{2}$

SOLUTION:

Here is a second way to confirm the ratio, using a direct numeric substitution instead of pure algebraic simplification.

1. **Set the area ratio.** Since $MN \parallel AB$, triangles CMN and CAB are similar, so if we call the similarity ratio $r = CM/CA$, then $\text{Area}(CMN)/\text{Area}(CAB) = r^2$. Given trapezium $ABNM = 2 \times \text{Area}(CMN)$, the full triangle CAB has area $3 \times \text{Area}(CMN)$, so $r^2 = 1/3$.
2. **Solve for r numerically.** $r = 1/\sqrt{3} \approx 0.5774$, meaning CM is about 57.7% of CA .
3. **Convert to $CM:AM$.** Taking $CA = 1$ as a convenient unit, $CM \approx 0.5774$ and $AM = CA - CM \approx 0.4226$, so $CM : AM \approx 1.366 : 1$.
4. **Match to the answer choices.** Option C gives $(\sqrt{3} + 1)/2 = (1.732 + 1)/2 = 1.366$, which matches our numeric ratio exactly.

Both the exact algebraic method and this numeric check agree, so option C is correct.

$$\boxed{\frac{\sqrt{3} + 1}{2}}$$

Quick Tip: Use area ratio = (side ratio)² for similar triangles CMN and CAB.

• • •

. $ABCD$ is a square (vertices in order A, B, C, D) and BCE is an equilateral triangle drawn on side BC , with vertex E lying outside the square. What is the measure of angle DEC ?

- (A) 15°
- (B) 30°
- (C) 20°
- (D) 45°

Correct Answer: (A) 15°

SOLUTION:

Here is a second way, using coordinate geometry instead of the angle-chasing argument.

1. **Place the square.** Let the square have side 1, with $A = (0, 1)$, $B = (1, 1)$, $C = (1, 0)$, $D = (0, 0)$.
2. **Locate E.** BCE is equilateral on side BC (the segment from $(1, 1)$ to $(1, 0)$), built outward (to the right). Its apex is at $E = (1 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, 0.5) \approx (1.866, 0.5)$.
3. **Form the vectors from E.** $\vec{ED} = D - E \approx (-1.866, -0.5)$ and $\vec{EC} = C - E \approx (-0.866, -0.5)$.
4. **Apply the dot product formula.** $\vec{ED} \cdot \vec{EC} \approx (-1.866)(-0.866) + (-0.5)(-0.5) \approx 1.866$. $|\vec{ED}| \approx 1.932$, $|\vec{EC}| = 1$. So $\cos(\angle DEC) \approx 1.866/1.932 \approx 0.9658$.
5. **Solve for the angle.** $\angle DEC = \cos^{-1}(0.9658) \approx 15^\circ$.

The coordinate method gives the same result as the angle-chasing method, confirming option A.

$$\angle DEC = 15^\circ$$

Quick Tip: Add angle DCB (90°) and angle BCE (60°) to get angle DCE, then use isosceles triangle DCE.

• • •

. What is the value of $\frac{\log_{27} 9 \times \log_{16} 64}{\log_4 \sqrt{2}}$?

- (A) $\frac{1}{6}$
- (B) $\frac{1}{4}$
- (C) 8
- (D) 4

Correct Answer: (D) 4

SOLUTION:

Here is a second way, applying the general rule $\log_{a^m} b^n = \frac{n}{m} \log_a b$ directly.

1. **First term.** $\log_{27} 9 = \log_{3^3} 3^2 = \frac{2}{3} \log_3 3 = \frac{2}{3}$.
2. **Second term.** $\log_{16} 64 = \log_{2^4} 2^6 = \frac{6}{4} \log_2 2 = \frac{3}{2}$.
3. **Denominator term.** $\log_4 \sqrt{2} = \log_{2^2} 2^{1/2} = \frac{1/2}{2} \log_2 2 = \frac{1}{4}$.
4. **Combine.** Numerator = $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{3}{2} = 1$. Dividing by the denominator: $\frac{1}{1/4} = 4$.

5. **Decimal cross-check.** $\log_{27} 9 \approx 0.6667$, $\log_{16} 64 \approx 1.5$, product ≈ 1.0 . $\log_4 \sqrt{2} = 0.25$. $1.0/0.25 = 4$, matching exactly.

Both methods confirm the value is 4, so option D is correct.

4

Quick Tip: Convert each log to a simple fraction using powers of the same base first.

...

. At a college football game, $\frac{4}{5}$ of the seats in the lower deck of the stadium were sold. If $\frac{1}{4}$ of all the seating in the stadium is located in the lower deck, and if $\frac{2}{3}$ of all the seats in the stadium were sold, then what fraction of the unsold seats in the stadium was in the lower deck?

- (A) $\frac{3}{20}$
- (B) $\frac{1}{6}$
- (C) $\frac{1}{5}$
- (D) $\frac{1}{3}$

Correct Answer: (A) $\frac{3}{20}$

SOLUTION:

Here is a second way, plugging in a convenient actual seat count instead of working with the variable x throughout.

1. **Pick a convenient total.** Since we divide by 4, 5 and 3, let the total number of seats be 60 (a common multiple of 4, 5, and 3).

2. **Lower deck seats.** $\frac{1}{4}$ of 60 is 15 seats in the lower deck; the upper deck has the remaining 45.
3. **Sold and unsold in the lower deck.** $\frac{4}{5}$ of 15 is 12 seats sold there, so $15 - 12 = 3$ seats are unsold in the lower deck.
4. **Total sold and unsold in the stadium.** $\frac{2}{3}$ of 60 is 40 seats sold overall, so $60 - 40 = 20$ seats are unsold overall.
5. **Required fraction.** $\frac{3}{20}$.

This numeric check gives the same fraction as the algebraic method, confirming option A.

$$\boxed{\frac{3}{20}}$$

Quick Tip: Work in terms of total seats x : find lower deck unsold and total unsold separately, then divide.

...

. A train starts from Delhi at 6:00 AM and reaches Ambala Cantt at 10:00 AM. Another train starts from Ambala Cantt at 8:00 AM and reaches Delhi at 11:30 AM. If the distance between Delhi and Ambala Cantt is 200 km, at what time did the two trains meet each other?

- (A) 8:56 AM
- (B) 8:46 AM
- (C) 7:56 AM
- (D) 8:30 AM

Correct Answer: (A) 8:56 AM

SOLUTION:

Here is a second way, thinking in terms of the gap between the trains at 8:00 AM and how fast that gap closes.

1. **Speeds.** Train 1: $200/4 = 50$ km/h. Train 2: $200/3.5 = 400/7 \approx 57.14$ km/h.
2. **Position of Train 1 at 8:00 AM.** It has run for 2 hours by then, covering $50 \times 2 = 100$ km, so it is 100 km from Ambala Cantt.
3. **Gap at 8:00 AM.** Train 2 starts exactly at Ambala Cantt at 8:00 AM, so the two trains are 100 km apart at that moment, moving toward each other.
4. **Closing speed.** $50 + 400/7 = 350/7 + 400/7 = 750/7$ km/h.
5. **Time to close the gap.** $\frac{100}{750/7} = \frac{700}{750} = \frac{14}{15}$ hours ≈ 56 minutes.
6. **Meeting time.** 8:00 AM + 56 minutes = 8:56 AM.

This matches the first method exactly, confirming option A.

8 : 56 AM

Quick Tip: Account for the 2-hour head start of the first train before setting up the meeting equation.

• • •

. A ship, 40 km from the shore, springs a leak which admits $3\frac{3}{4}$ tonnes of water in 15 minutes. 60 tonnes would suffice to sink her, but the ship's pumps can throw out 12 tonnes of water in one hour. Find the average rate of sailing, so that it may reach the shore just as it begins to sink.

- (A) $1\frac{1}{2}$ km/h
- (B) $2\frac{1}{2}$ km/h
- (C) $3\frac{1}{2}$ km/h
- (D) 2 km/h

Correct Answer: (D) 2 km/h

SOLUTION:

Here is a second way, working entirely in minutes instead of converting to an hourly rate first.

1. **Leak rate per minute.** 3.75 tonnes in 15 minutes is $3.75/15 = 0.25$ tonnes per minute.
2. **Pump rate per minute.** 12 tonnes in 60 minutes is $12/60 = 0.2$ tonnes per minute.
3. **Net rate per minute.** $0.25 - 0.2 = 0.05$ tonnes per minute, net.
4. **Time to reach 60 tonnes.** $60/0.05 = 1200$ minutes = 20 hours, matching the hourly calculation.
5. **Required speed.** The ship must travel 40 km in 20 hours: $40/20 = 2$ km/h.

Working in minutes gives the same 20-hour window and the same required speed, confirming option D.

2 km/h

Quick Tip: Find net water inflow per hour, then time to reach 60 tonnes, then required speed.



. Three persons start walking together and their steps measure 40 cm, 42 cm and 45 cm respectively. What is the minimum distance each should walk so that each can cover the same distance in complete steps?

- (A) 25 m 20 cm
- (B) 50 m 40 cm
- (C) 75 m 60 cm
- (D) 100 m 80 cm

Correct Answer: (A) 25 m 20 cm

SOLUTION:

Here is a second way, using the division ladder method instead of writing out full prime factorisations.

1. **Set up the ladder.** Write 40, 42, 45 in a row and repeatedly divide by any prime that divides at least one of them, carrying down the numbers that are not divisible unchanged.
2. **Divide by 2 twice.** $40, 42, 45 \rightarrow 20, 21, 45 \rightarrow 10, 21, 45$ (only 20 was still even on the second pass).
3. **Divide by 3.** $10, 21, 45 \rightarrow 10, 7, 15$.
4. **Divide by 5.** $10, 7, 15 \rightarrow 2, 7, 3$.
5. **No common factor remains among 2, 7, 3, so stop.**
Multiply every divisor used (2, 2, 3, 5) by the final row (2, 7, 3):
 $\text{LCM} = 2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 2 \times 7 \times 3 = 2520$.
6. **Convert to metres.** $2520 \text{ cm} = 25 \text{ m } 20 \text{ cm}$.

This ladder approach gives the same LCM as prime factorisation, confirming option A.

25 m 20 cm

Quick Tip: The answer is simply the LCM of 40, 42, and 45 converted to metres and centimetres.

• • •

. Let x denote the greatest 4-digit number which when divided by 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 leaves a remainder of 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 respectively. Then, the sum of the four digits of x is

- (A) 25
- (B) 18
- (C) 20
- (D) 22

Correct Answer: (A) 25

SOLUTION:

Another way to see this is to work directly with the largest possible 4-digit multiple of the LCM and step down from there.

1. **Spot the pattern first:** dividing by 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 leaves remainders 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. In every case, remainder = divisor minus 2, so $x + 2$ is exactly divisible by each of 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.
2. **Compute the LCM:** $6 = 2 \times 3$, $7 = 7$, $8 = 2^3$, $9 = 3^2$, $10 = 2 \times 5$, so $\text{LCM} = 2^3 \times 3^2 \times 5 \times 7 = 2520$.
3. **Locate the largest 4-digit multiple of 2520:** multiples of 2520 are 2520, 5040, 7560, 10080. Since we need $x + 2 \leq 9999$, the largest usable multiple is 7560 (10080 exceeds the 4-digit range).
4. **Back out x :** $x = 7560 - 2 = 7558$, which is indeed a 4-digit number, so it is the greatest such x .

Digit sum = $7 + 5 + 5 + 8 = 25$.

25

Quick Tip: Notice remainder = divisor minus 2 in every case, so $x + 2$ is a common multiple of 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

...

. What is the maximum sum of the terms in the arithmetic progression $25, 24\frac{1}{2}, 24, \dots$?

- (A) $637\frac{1}{2}$
- (B) 625
- (C) $662\frac{1}{2}$
- (D) 650

Correct Answer: (A) $637\frac{1}{2}$

SOLUTION:

Since the terms of this AP keep falling by $\frac{1}{2}$ each time, the running sum keeps growing only as long as the terms being added are positive. Once a term turns negative, adding it pulls the sum back down, so the sum is greatest right at the last non-negative term.

1. **General term:** $a_n = 25 - \frac{1}{2}(n - 1)$.
2. **Last positive term:** for $a_n > 0$ we need $n - 1 < 50$, so $a_{50} = 25 - 24.5 = 0.5$ is the last strictly positive term, and $a_{51} = 0$ exactly.
3. **Sum through the zero term:** including $a_{51} = 0$ adds nothing extra, so $S_{51} = S_{50}$, both equal to the maximum sum.

4. **Apply the sum formula:** $S_{51} = \frac{51}{2} [2(25) + (51 - 1)(-\frac{1}{2})]$
 $= \frac{51}{2} [50 - 25] = \frac{51 \times 25}{2} = 637.5.$

So the maximum possible sum of the AP is $637\frac{1}{2}$.

$637\frac{1}{2}$

Quick Tip: Find the term that first touches zero, the sum stops growing once terms turn negative.

• • •

. In a team there are 240 members (males and females). Two-third of them are males. Fifteen percent of males are graduates. Remaining males are non-graduates. Three-fourth of the females are graduates. Remaining females are non-graduates.

What is the difference between the number of females who are non-graduates and the number of males who are graduates?

- (A) 2
- (B) 24
- (C) 4
- (D) 116

Correct Answer: (C) 4

SOLUTION:

It helps to express every group as a share of the full team of 240 before converting to actual head counts.

1. **Gender split:** males are $\frac{2}{3}$ of 240, i.e. 160; females are the remaining $\frac{1}{3}$, i.e. 80.
2. **Male graduates:** 15% of 160 = 24, so non-graduate males = 160 – 24 = 136.
3. **Female graduates:** $\frac{3}{4}$ of 80 = 60, so non-graduate females = 80 – 60 = 20.
4. **Difference required:** non-graduate females (20) versus graduate males (24) gives $24 - 20 = 4$.

So the difference between the number of non-graduate females and graduate males is 4.

4

Quick Tip: Compute graduate males and non-graduate females separately, then subtract.

...

. In a team there are 240 members (males and females). Two-third of them are males. Fifteen percent of males are graduates. Remaining males are non-graduates. Three-fourth of the females are graduates. Remaining females are non-graduates.

What is the sum of the number of females who are graduates and the number of males who are non-graduates?

- (A) 184
- (B) 96
- (C) 156
- (D) 196

Correct Answer: (D) 196

SOLUTION:

Instead of computing every category, focus only on the two groups this question asks for.

1. **Females who are graduates:** females number $\frac{1}{3} \times 240 = 80$, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of them are graduates, giving $\frac{3}{4} \times 80 = 60$.
2. **Males who are non-graduates:** males number $\frac{2}{3} \times 240 = 160$, and since 15% are graduates, the non-graduate share is 85%, giving $\frac{85}{100} \times 160 = 136$.
3. **Add the two figures:** $60 + 136 = 196$.

So the sum of female graduates and male non-graduates is 196.

196

Quick Tip: Add female graduates to male non-graduates directly, the other two groups are not needed.

• • •

. In a team there are 240 members (males and females). Two-third of them are males. Fifteen percent of males are graduates. Remaining males are non-graduates. Three-fourth of the females are graduates. Remaining females are non-graduates.

What is the ratio between the total number of males and the number of females who are non-graduates?

- (A) 6:1
- (B) 8:1
- (C) 8:3
- (D) 5:2

Correct Answer: (B) 8:1

SOLUTION:

This question only needs two numbers: the total male count and the non-graduate female count.

1. **Total males:** $\frac{2}{3}$ of 240 is 160.
2. **Non-graduate females:** females are $\frac{1}{3}$ of 240, i.e. 80; three-fourths of them are graduates, so one-fourth are non-graduates, giving $\frac{1}{4} \times 80 = 20$.
3. **Simplify the ratio:** 160 : 20 divides down by 20 to give 8 : 1.

So the ratio between total males and non-graduate females is 8:1.

8 : 1

Quick Tip: Find total males and non-graduate females, then simplify the ratio.

• • •

. In a certain code language, 'DRINK' is coded as 'JMHQC' and 'BLOTS' is coded as 'RSNKA'. In the same code language, 'HONEY' will be coded as '.....'

- (A) XDMOG
- (B) GNMDX
- (C) XDMNG
- (D) DXMGN

Correct Answer: (C) XDMNG

SOLUTION:

A different way to crack this code is to work with the numeric positions of the letters in the alphabet ($A = 1, B = 2, \dots Z = 26$) instead of shifting letters by eye.

1. **Convert DRINK to numbers and shift back by 1:** $D=4, R=18, I=9, N=14, K=11$. Subtracting 1 from each gives 3, 17, 8, 13, 10, which correspond to C, Q, H, M, J. Reversing the order gives J, M, H, Q, C = JMHQC, matching the given code.
2. **Verify with BLOTS:** $B=2, L=12, O=15, T=20, S=19$. Subtracting 1 gives 1, 11, 14, 19, 18, which are A, K, N, S, R. Reversed, this is R, S, N, K, A = RSNKA, matching the given code and confirming the rule (subtract 1 from each letter's position, then reverse).
3. **Apply the rule to HONEY:** $H=8, O=15, N=14, E=5, Y=25$. Subtracting 1 from each gives 7, 14, 13, 4, 24, which are G, N, M, D, X. Reversing this sequence gives X, D, M, N, G.

So HONEY is coded as XDMNG, confirming option C.

XDMNG

Quick Tip: Find the letter-shift and reversal pattern used in DRINK and BLOTS, then apply it to HONEY.

. Directions: Twenty students are standing in a straight line facing north. Rina is standing sixth from the left end. There are only three students between Rina and Shweta. Radha is standing exactly between Shweta and Rina. Tina is standing sixth to the right of Radha. Anita is standing fourth from the right end of the line. There are more than four students between Rina and Tina.

How many people are standing between Anita and Tina?

- (A) One
- (B) Two
- (C) Three
- (D) None

Correct Answer: (B) Two

SOLUTION:

A quicker way is to lay out the line as a simple position chart and slot in each name once the case-check is done.

1. **Set the anchors:** Positions run 1 to 20 from left to right. Rina = 6 (sixth from left). Anita = 17 (fourth from right, since $20 - 4 + 1 = 17$).
2. **Resolve Shweta, Radha and Tina:** Shweta is 4 away from Rina (three students between them), so Shweta = 2 or 10. Radha sits midway between Shweta and Rina, and Tina sits 6 to the right of Radha. Testing Shweta = 2 gives Radha = 4, Tina = 10, leaving only 3 students between Rina and Tina, which breaks the "more than four" condition. Testing Shweta = 10 gives Radha = 8, Tina = 14, leaving 7 students between Rina and Tina, which fits.

Position chart (left to right): 1 ... Rina(6) ... Radha(8) ... Shweta(10) ... Tina(14) ... Anita(17) ... 20.

Between Anita(17) and Tina(14) lie positions 15 and 16, i.e. 2 students.
Option B is correct.

2

Quick Tip: First fix everyone's position from the left end using the given clues, testing both possibilities for Shweta's position.

...

. Directions: Twenty students are standing in a straight line facing north. Rina is standing sixth from the left end. There are only three students between Rina and Shweta. Radha is standing exactly between Shweta and Rina. Tina is standing sixth to the right of Radha. Anita is standing fourth from the right end of the line. There are more than four students between Rina and Tina.

What is Shweta's position with respect to Anita?

- (A) Sixth to the left
- (B) Eighth to the left
- (C) Seventh to the left
- (D) Ninth to the left

Correct Answer: (C) Seventh to the left

SOLUTION:

Instead of just subtracting position numbers, we can verify the direction by counting outward step by step from Anita.

1. **Positions fixed from the puzzle:** Anita = 17, Shweta = 10 (out of 20 students, left end = position 1).
2. **Count from Anita towards the left:** One place to the left of Anita is position 16, two places is 15, and so on. Counting down: 16 (1st), 15 (2nd), 14 (3rd), 13 (4th), 12 (5th), 11 (6th), 10 (7th). Position 10 is reached on the 7th step to the left, and that is exactly where Shweta stands.

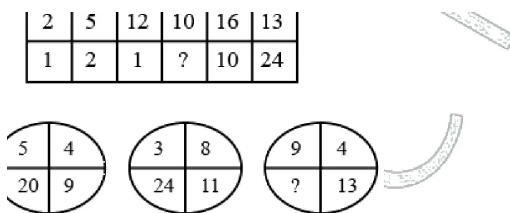
So Shweta is the seventh person to the left of Anita, confirming option C.

Seventh to the left

Quick Tip: Determine Shweta's and Anita's positions from the left end, then compare the two numbers.

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Choose the correct answer for figure 2.

- (A) 36
- (B) 117
- (C) 52
- (D) 26

Correct Answer: (A) 36

SOLUTION:

The pattern can also be confirmed algebraically instead of just spotting the multiplication by eye.

1. **Set up the relation:** Let the top-left number be a , the top-right number be b , and the bottom-left number be c . Testing circle 1: $a = 5, b = 4, c = 20$, and $c/a = 20/5 = 4 = b$, so $c = a \times b$. Testing circle 2: $a = 3, b = 8, c = 24$, and $c/a = 24/3 = 8 = b$, again confirming $c = a \times b$.
2. **Apply to circle 3:** Here $a = 9, b = 4$, so $c = a \times b = 9 \times 4 = 36$.

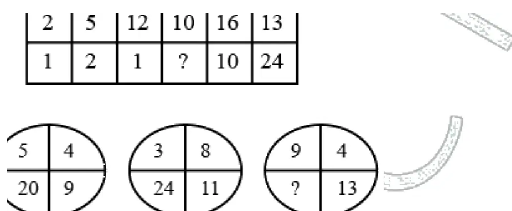
The missing value is 36, confirming option A.

36

Quick Tip: Check how the two top numbers in each circle relate to the bottom-left number.

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Choose the correct answer for figure 1.

- (A) 5
- (B) 11
- (C) 13
- (D) 8

Correct Answer: (C) 13

SOLUTION:

Another way to find the missing sum is to look at how much each column sum increases from the previous one, without identifying the squares directly.

1. **List the known column sums:** Column 1 = 4, Column 2 = 9, Column 3 = 16, Column 5 = 36, Column 6 = 49.
2. **Look at the differences:** $9 - 4 = 5$, $16 - 9 = 7$. The differences themselves increase by 2 each time (5, 7, 9, 11, 13, ...), which is the signature pattern of consecutive perfect squares. Continuing this: the next difference after 7 should be 9, so Column 4 = $16 + 9 = 25$. The following difference should be 11, giving Column 5 = $25 + 11 = 36$, which matches the actual value. The next difference should be 13, giving Column 6 = $36 + 13 = 49$, which also matches, confirming Column 4 = 25 is correct.

Since Column 4's entries are 2, 10 and the unknown x : $2 + 10 + x = 25 \Rightarrow x = 13$. Option C is correct.

13

Quick Tip: Add up each column of the table and look for a pattern among the sums.

. A cube has six sides each of a different colour. The red side is opposite black. The green side is between red and black. The blue side is adjacent to white and the brown side is adjacent to blue. The red side is face down. The side opposite brown is

- (A) Red
- (B) Black
- (C) White
- (D) Green

Correct Answer: (C) White

SOLUTION:

A faster way to solve cube-opposite-face problems is by elimination: every face has exactly one opposite face among the other five, and it can never be a face it is stated to be "adjacent" to.

1. **Fixed pair:** Red is opposite black (given directly).
2. **Green's restriction:** Green is between red and black, meaning green is adjacent to both, so green's opposite cannot be red or black. Green's opposite must be one of white, blue or brown.
3. **Blue's restrictions:** Blue is adjacent to white (given) and adjacent to brown (since brown is adjacent to blue), so blue's opposite cannot be white or brown. Among the remaining candidates (white, green, brown), blue's opposite must therefore be green.
4. **What's left for brown:** With red-black and blue-green already paired off, only white and brown remain unpaired, so they must be opposite each other.

Therefore the side opposite brown is white, confirming option C.

White

Quick Tip: Fix the top and bottom faces first using the opposite-pair clue, then place the side faces using the adjacency clues.

• • •

. Rajesh walked 25 metres towards South. Then he turned to his left and walked 20 metres. He then turned to his left and walked 25 metres. He again turned to his right and walked 15 metres. At what distance is he from the starting point and in which direction?

- (A) 60 metres - East
- (B) 35 metres - East
- (C) 35 metres - North
- (D) 40 metres - East

Correct Answer: (B) 35 metres - East

SOLUTION:

The same problem can be solved by separately tallying the North-South and East-West components of the walk, without plotting coordinates.

1. **Track facing direction through each turn:** Starts facing South. A left turn from South faces East. A left turn from East faces North. A right turn from North faces East. So the four legs are walked facing South, East, North, East respectively, covering 25 m, 20 m, 25 m and 15 m.

2. **Tally the North-South component:** 25 m South and 25 m North cancel out exactly, leaving a net North-South displacement of 0 m.
3. **Tally the East-West component:** 20 m East and 15 m East add up, leaving a net East-West displacement of 35 m East (there is no westward leg to subtract).

With zero North-South displacement and 35 m East-West displacement, Rajesh's straight-line distance from the start is 35 m, due East. This confirms option B.

35 m, East

Quick Tip: Plot Rajesh's path on a simple direction grid, tracking which way he faces after each turn.

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. In these questions, there are four groups of letters, words or numbers listed as (a), (b), (c) and (d). One of the groups does not belong to the same category as others. Find the odd one out. Unscramble the letters in the given words and find the odd one out.

- (A) UMRSME
- (B) EIWNTR
- (C) PIGRSN
- (D) LCUOD

Correct Answer: (D) LCUOD

SOLUTION:

A quicker check is to compare the letters in each scrambled group without even decoding the words fully.

1. **UMRSME**: 6 letters (U, M, R, S, M, E). This unscrambles to SUMMER, a season.
2. **EIWNTR**: 6 letters (E, I, W, N, T, R). This unscrambles to WINTER, a season.
3. **PIGRSN**: 6 letters (P, I, G, R, S, N). This unscrambles to SPRING, a season.
4. **LCUOD**: only 5 letters (L, C, U, O, D). This unscrambles to CLOUD, which is a weather term, not a season, and it is also the only group with a different letter count from the rest.

Both checks (the season category and the letter count) point to the same group. So LCUOD (CLOUD) is the odd one out.

LCUOD (CLOUD)

Quick Tip: Unscramble each word first - three of them name seasons.

• • •

. Shyam's house, his office and his gym are all equidistant from each other. The distance between any 2 of them is 4 km. Shyam starts walking from his gym in a direction parallel to the road connecting his office and his house and stops when he reaches a point directly east of his office. He then reverses direction and walks till he reaches a point directly south of his office. The total distance walked by Shyam is

- (A) 9 km
- (B) 6 km
- (C) 16 km
- (D) 12 km

Correct Answer: (D) 12 km

SOLUTION:

We can confirm this result using coordinates. Place the Office at the origin $O = (0, 0)$.

1. **Placing the vertices:** House and Gym must be positioned symmetrically about the east-west line through the Office, which is what makes a point directly east and a point directly south of the Office both reachable along the two straight-line legs of the walk. Take the Office-House road at 30° above east and the Office-Gym road at 30° below east. With a side of 4 km, this gives House $H = (4 \cos 30^\circ, 4 \sin 30^\circ) = (2\sqrt{3}, 2)$ and Gym $G = (4 \cos(-30^\circ), 4 \sin(-30^\circ)) = (2\sqrt{3}, -2)$. All three sides OH , OG and HG work out to exactly 4 km, confirming the triangle is equilateral.
2. **Walking to the east point:** The direction of the Office-House road is the unit vector $(\cos 30^\circ, \sin 30^\circ)$. Starting at G and moving along this direction by the vector $H - O$ gives the point $P_1 = G + (H - O) = (4\sqrt{3}, 0)$, which has $y = 0$, so it lies directly east of the Office. The distance covered, $|H - O|$, is exactly 4 km.
3. **Walking to the south point:** Reversing direction, Shyam retraces this same line. Moving back 4 km returns him to G . Continuing another 4 km past G along the same line (applying the vector $O - H$ to G once more) lands him at $P_2 = G - (H - O)$

$= (0, -4)$, which has $x = 0$ and $y < 0$, so it lies directly south of the Office, exactly 4 km away. This second leg is $4 + 4 = 8$ km.

Adding both legs: $4 + 8 = 12$ km, confirming option (D). 12 km

Quick Tip: Draw the equilateral triangle and track each straight-line leg using symmetry about the east-west line through the office.

• • •

. In each of the questions below, one term in the given number series is wrong. Find out the wrong term.

11, 5, 20, 12, 40, 26, 74, 54

- (A) 5
- (B) 20
- (C) 40
- (D) 26

Correct Answer: (C) 40

SOLUTION:

An alternate way is to test each candidate value directly by checking whether removing it restores a clean pattern in its own alternate sub-series.

1. **5:** This is an even-position term. The even sub-series 5, 12, 26, 54 already increases by 7, 14, 28, a perfectly doubling pattern, so 5 is not the error.
2. **20:** This is an odd-position term. Removing 20 breaks the chain between 11 and 40, since we would then need to explain 11 to 40

directly, which does not fit a clean doubling-difference pattern starting from 9. So 20 is not the error.

3. **40**: This is an odd-position term. The odd sub-series is 11, 20, 40, 74. Testing the doubling-difference pattern 9, 18, 36 on 11 gives 11, 20, 38, 74, which fits perfectly if 40 is replaced by 38. So 40 is the error.
4. **26**: This is an even-position term, and as shown above, the even sub-series 5, 12, 26, 54 is already fully consistent, so 26 is not the error.

Only replacing 40 with 38 makes both sub-series consistent, confirming the wrong term is 40. 40

Quick Tip: Split the series into alternate (odd-position and even-position) sub-series and check each one for a pattern.

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. In each of the questions below, one term in the given number series is wrong. Find out the wrong term.

8, 14, 26, 48, 98, 194, 386

- (A) 14
- (B) 48
- (C) 98
- (D) 194

Correct Answer: (B) 48

SOLUTION:

We can also verify this by working backward from the last term, using the reverse rule: if a term equals $2x - 2$, then the previous term is $x = \frac{\text{term}+2}{2}$.

1. Start from 386. Previous term $= \frac{386+2}{2} = 194$, which matches the given value.
2. From 194, previous term $= \frac{194+2}{2} = 98$, which matches the given value.
3. From 98, previous term $= \frac{98+2}{2} = 50$. The series shows 48 here instead of 50, so this is where the mismatch appears.
4. Continuing anyway from the given 48, previous term $= \frac{48+2}{2} = 25$, which does not match the given 26, confirming the break is exactly at the 48.
5. From 26, previous term $= \frac{26+2}{2} = 14$, which matches, and from 14, previous term $= \frac{14+2}{2} = 8$, which also matches.

Working from both ends, every term checks out except 48, which should have been 50. So the wrong term is 48. 48

Quick Tip: Check if each term follows the rule: double the previous term, then subtract 2.

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. In each of the questions below, two statements are given followed by two conclusions numbered I and II. Consider the two given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance with commonly known facts, and decide which of the given conclusions logically follow(s) from the statements.

Statements: All bulbs are birds. Some birds are butterflies.

Conclusions:

I. All butterflies are bulbs.

II. Some bulbs are butterflies.

- (A) if only conclusion II follows
- (B) if only conclusion I follows
- (C) if either conclusion I or II follows
- (D) if neither conclusion I nor II follows

Correct Answer: (D) if neither conclusion I nor II follows

SOLUTION:

A second way to confirm this is to construct one valid arrangement of numbers that satisfies both statements but makes each conclusion false, since a single valid counter-example is enough to show a conclusion does not necessarily follow.

1. Let birds total 100. Let bulbs be a small group of, say, 10 birds, so "all bulbs are birds" holds since $10 \leq 100$.
2. Let "some birds are butterflies" be satisfied by 20 birds overlapping with butterflies, and choose these 20 birds to be entirely separate from the 10 bulbs, which is allowed since the statement never says the overlap must include the bulbs.

3. Check **Conclusion I**: are all butterflies bulbs? Butterflies overlap with 20 birds, none of which are bulbs, so butterflies are not bulbs at all in this arrangement. Conclusion I fails.
4. Check **Conclusion II**: are some bulbs butterflies? The 10 bulbs and the 20 birds that are butterflies do not overlap in this arrangement, so zero bulbs are butterflies. Conclusion II fails too.

Since we found one legitimate arrangement, consistent with both given statements, where both conclusions are false, neither conclusion can be said to always follow. The correct answer is (D), neither I nor II follows. **Neither conclusion follows**

Quick Tip: Test the syllogism with a Venn diagram - watch for the undistributed middle term "birds".

• • •

. In each of the questions below, two statements are given followed by two conclusions numbered I and II. Consider the two given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance with commonly known facts, and decide which of the given conclusions logically follow(s) from the statements.

Statements: No coin is a dollar. Red token is a coin.

Conclusions:

- I. Red token is not a dollar.
- II. Red token may not be a dollar.

- (A) if only conclusion II follows
- (B) if only conclusion I follows
- (C) if either conclusion I or II follows
- (D) if neither conclusion I nor II follows

Correct Answer: (B) if only conclusion I follows

SOLUTION:

Step 1: Draw the relationship.

Picture two separate, non-touching circles for Coin and Dollar, since "no coin is a dollar" means zero overlap. Inside the Coin circle, draw a smaller circle for Red Token, since "red token is a coin" means every red token is a coin.

Step 2: Check where Red Token sits relative to Dollar.

Because the Red Token circle is completely inside the Coin circle, and the Coin circle does not touch the Dollar circle anywhere, the Red Token circle also cannot touch the Dollar circle. There is no way to draw this diagram, while staying true to both statements, so that any red token falls inside the Dollar circle.

Step 3: Match this to the conclusions.

"Red token is not a dollar" is exactly what the diagram shows in every valid case, so conclusion I definitely follows.

"Red token may not be a dollar" describes only a possibility, a weaker claim that becomes redundant once conclusion I is already certain, so it is not counted as an additional following conclusion.

Final Answer:

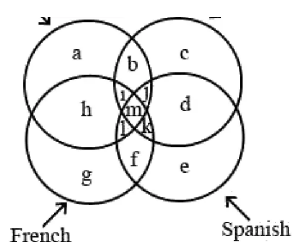
Only conclusion I follows.

Option B

Quick Tip: If red token is entirely inside coin, and coin has zero overlap with dollar, what must be true about red token and dollar?

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Staff employed in a UNESCO office in Paris are represented by four intersecting circles, one each for people who can read and write English, French, Spanish and Russian, as shown in the diagram above.

Given: $a = 40$, $c = 2a$, $e = \frac{1}{2}a$, $g = 2e$.

How many people know only Spanish?

- (A) 10
- (B) 20
- (C) 40
- (D) 60

Correct Answer: (B) 20

SOLUTION:

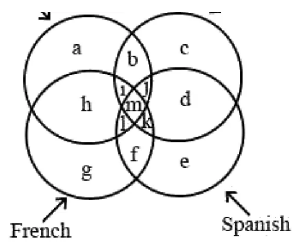
We can also read this off directly from the given ratio without separately identifying the diagram region first.

1. The question defines four "only" quantities through the equations at the top of the diagram: $a = 40$ is the only-Russian count, $c = 2a$ is the only-English count, $e = \frac{1}{2}a$ is the only-Spanish count, and $g = 2e$ is the only-French count.
2. Since the question asks specifically for the only-Spanish count, we use the third equation directly: $e = \frac{1}{2}a$.
3. Substituting $a = 40$: $e = \frac{1}{2} \times 40 = 20$.

This matches option (B). As a quick sanity check, since $c = 2a = 80$ (only English) and $g = 2e = 40$ (only French), all four "only" values (40, 80, 20, 40) are positive whole numbers, which is consistent with them representing head counts of staff. 20

Quick Tip: Only-Spanish is the region exclusive to the Spanish circle, given directly as $e = (1/2)a$.

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Staff employed in a UNESCO office in Paris are represented by four intersecting circles, one each for people who can read and write Russian, English, French and Spanish. The strength of people in some regions is given: $a = 40$, $c = 2a$, $e = \frac{1}{2}a$, $g = 2E$

How many people can read and write any one language except French?

- (A) 100
- (B) 160
- (C) 140
- (D) 120

Correct Answer: (C) 140

SOLUTION:

Look at the diagram as four separate "only" pockets, one attached to each circle, plus the overlaps in the middle. Besides French, the other three languages are Russian, English and Spanish, so this question only needs the three "only" pockets a, c and e.

1. **Pocket a (only Russian):** given directly as $a = 40$.
2. **Pocket c (only English):** from $c = 2a$, $c = 2(40) = 80$.
3. **Pocket e (only Spanish):** from $e = \frac{1}{2}a$, $e = \frac{1}{2}(40) = 20$.

4. **Pocket g (only French)**: excluded by the question, so it is left out of the sum.

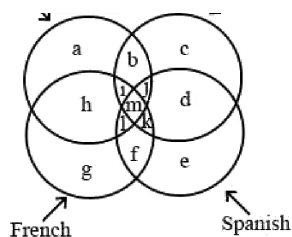
The total for "any one language except French" is $a + c + e = 40 + 80 + 20 = 140$, so option C is correct.

140

Quick Tip: Add the three regions that mean 'only one language' and are not French.

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Staff employed in a UNESCO office in Paris are represented by four intersecting circles, one each for people who can read and write Russian, English, French and Spanish. The strength of people in some regions is given: $a = 40$, $c = 2a$, $e = \frac{1}{2}a$, $g = 2E$

People who can read and write all the languages except Spanish are represented by

- (A) k
- (B) g
- (C) b
- (D) i

Correct Answer: (D) i

SOLUTION:

A quick way to read this diagram is to notice that each of the four small "triple overlap" regions (i, j, l, k) sits opposite the one circle it leaves out.

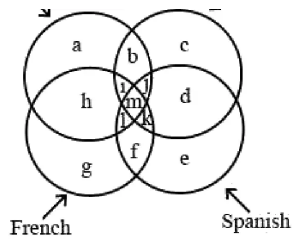
1. **Option A (k):** this triple region is farthest from the Russian circle, so k means English, French and Spanish together, without Russian. Not a match.
2. **Option B (g):** this is a single-circle pocket, the "only French" group, not three languages. Not a match.
3. **Option C (b):** this is a two-circle overlap of Russian and English only, missing French entirely. Not a match.
4. **Option D (i):** this triple region sits opposite the Spanish circle, so it stands for Russian, English and French together while leaving out Spanish, exactly the group the question describes.

So the people who read and write all the languages except Spanish are represented by region i, option D.

i

Quick Tip: Look for the triple-overlap region that sits opposite the Spanish circle.

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Staff employed in a UNESCO office in Paris are represented by four intersecting circles, one each for people who can read and write Russian, English, French and Spanish. The strength of people in some regions is given: $a = 40$, $c = 2a$, $e = \frac{1}{2}a$, $g = 2E$

People who cannot read and write Russian, English and French are represented by

- (A) i
- (B) j
- (C) h
- (D) e

Correct Answer: (D) e

SOLUTION:

Instead of hunting directly for the region, eliminate every option that still touches Russian, English or French.

1. **Option A (i):** this is the Russian-French-Spanish triple overlap, so a person here knows Russian. Ruled out.

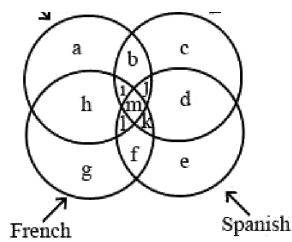
2. **Option B (j)**: this is the Russian-English-Spanish triple overlap, so a person here knows Russian and English. Ruled out.
3. **Option C (h)**: this is the plain Russian-French overlap, so a person here knows Russian and French. Ruled out.
4. **Option D (e)**: this is the "only Spanish" pocket, completely outside the Russian, English and French circles.

The only region left after eliminating everything that touches Russian, English or French is e, so option D is correct.

e

Quick Tip: If a person can't know Russian, English or French, only Spanish remains.

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Staff employed in a UNESCO office in Paris are represented by four intersecting circles, one each for people who can read and write Russian, English, French and Spanish. The strength of people in some regions is given: $a = 40$, $c = 2a$, $e = \frac{1}{2}a$, $g = 2E$

People who cannot read and write Spanish and French but are conversant with English and Russian are represented by

- (A) b
- (B) j
- (C) m
- (D) k

Correct Answer: (A) b

SOLUTION:

Build the answer from the two conditions separately, then combine them.

1. **Condition 1:** "conversant with English and Russian" restricts us to the overlap of the English and Russian circles.
2. **Condition 2:** "cannot read Spanish and French" removes any part of that overlap that also falls inside the French or Spanish

circles.

3. **Option A (b)**: this is exactly the Russian-English overlap that sits clear of the French and Spanish circles, so it satisfies both conditions.
4. **Option B (j)**, **Option C (m)** and **Option D (k)** all include Spanish, French, or both, so each fails condition 2.

Only region b, option A, fits both conditions at once.

b

Quick Tip: Find the region inside Russian and English but outside French and Spanish.

• • •

. A watch is a minute slow at 1 p.m. on Tuesday and 2 minutes fast at 1 p.m. on Thursday. When did it show the correct time?

- (A) 1:00 a.m. on Wednesday
- (B) 5:00 a.m. on Wednesday
- (C) 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday
- (D) 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday

Correct Answer: (B) 5:00 a.m. on Wednesday

SOLUTION:

Treat this as a simple rate problem: the watch's error moves at a steady speed, and we only need to find when that error crosses zero.

1. **Set up the error line:** at 1 p.m. Tuesday the error is -1 minute (slow), and 48 hours later, at 1 p.m. Thursday, the error is $+2$

minutes (fast). The error rises by $2 - (-1) = 3$ minutes over 48 hours, so the watch gains at $\frac{3}{48} = \frac{1}{16}$ minute per hour.

2. **Find the zero-crossing:** the error needs to rise by 1 minute (from -1 to 0) to hit the correct time, which takes $1 \div \frac{1}{16} = 16$ hours after 1 p.m. Tuesday.

3. **Convert to a clock reading:** 16 hours after 1 p.m. Tuesday is 5 a.m. Wednesday (12 hours reaches 1 a.m. Wednesday, and 4 more hours reaches 5 a.m.).

So the watch shows the exact correct time at 5:00 a.m. on Wednesday, option B.

5:00 a.m. Wednesday

Quick Tip: Find how fast the watch gains per hour, then see when it makes up its initial 1-minute lag.

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. If NOR is coded as 2-3-6, then how should REST be coded in the same code language?

- (A) 6-19-6-7
- (B) 5-19-5-8
- (C) 6-19-7-8
- (D) 6-18-5-8

Correct Answer: (C) 6-19-7-8

SOLUTION:

An easier way to see this pattern is to write the alphabet starting from M instead of A, and number it 1 to 26 in that new order.

1. **Build the shifted list:** $M = 1, N = 2, O = 3, P = 4, Q = 5, R = 6, S = 7, T = 8, U = 9, \dots, Z = 14, A = 15, B = 16, C = 17, D = 18, E = 19, \dots, L = 26$.
2. **Check it against the clue:** in this list $N=2, O=3$ and $R=6$, which matches the given code $NOR = 2-3-6$ exactly, confirming the list is correct.
3. **Read off REST:** from the same list, $R=6, E=19, S=7$ and $T=8$.

Putting these together, REST is coded as 6-19-7-8, which is option C.

6-19-7-8

Quick Tip: Try numbering the alphabet starting from M as 1.

• • •

. In a certain code language, '3a, 2b, 7c' means 'Truth is Eternal', '7c, 9a, 8b, 3a' means 'Enmity is not Eternal' and '9a, 4d, 2b, 8b' means 'Truth does not perish'. Which of the following means 'Enmity' in that language?

- (A) 3a
- (B) 7c
- (C) 8b
- (D) 9a

Correct Answer: (C) 8b

SOLUTION:

Instead of pinning down every code, focus only on isolating the code for "Enmity" using elimination.

1. **Compare sentence 1 and sentence 2:** "Truth is Eternal" = 3a, 2b, 7c and "Enmity is not Eternal" = 7c, 9a, 8b, 3a. The shared words are "is" and "Eternal", so the shared codes 3a and 7c must be these two words, leaving 9a and 8b as the codes for "Enmity" and "not" in sentence 2.
2. **Compare sentence 1 and sentence 3:** "Truth is Eternal" and "Truth does not perish" = 9a, 4d, 2b, 8b share only the word "Truth", so the one shared code, 2b, must be "Truth".
3. **Compare sentence 2 and sentence 3:** these two sentences share only the word "not", and the code 9a from sentence 2's leftover pair also shows up in sentence 3, so 9a is "not".
4. **Finish by elimination:** with 3a, 7c, 2b and 9a all assigned to is/Eternal/Truth/not, the one code from sentence 2 still unassigned is 8b, and the one word from sentence 2 still unassigned is "Enmity".

So "Enmity" is coded as 8b, which is option C.

8b

Quick Tip: Cancel out the codes shared by sentences that have 'is' and 'Eternal' or 'Truth' in common, to isolate 'Enmity'.

• • •

. If 'CONSTABLE' is coded as 91, what will be the code number for 'STABLE'?

- (A) 97
- (B) 59
- (C) 79
- (D) 75

Correct Answer: (B) 59

SOLUTION:

A quicker route uses subtraction instead of adding six letters fresh. Notice that STABLE is CONSTABLE with the letters C, O and N removed.

1. **Find the value removed:** C = 3, O = 15, N = 14, so together they contribute $3 + 15 + 14 = 32$ to the code of CONSTABLE.
2. **Subtract from the known total:** CONSTABLE codes to 91, so removing C, O, N leaves $91 - 32 = 59$ for the remaining letters S, T, A, B, L, E, which spell STABLE.
3. **Cross-check:** this 59 matches the direct letter-by-letter sum done the first way, confirming the answer is consistent regardless of method.

So the code for STABLE is 59, matching option B.

59

Quick Tip: Give each letter its alphabet position and add them up, the same way CONSTABLE was coded.



. Ravi has Rs 3 more than Ramu, but then Ramu wins on the horses and triples his money so that he now has Rs 2 more than the original amount of money that the two boys had between them. How much money did Ravi and Ramu have between them before Ramu's win?

- (A) Rs 9
- (B) Rs 11
- (C) Rs 13
- (D) Rs 15

Correct Answer: (C) Rs 13

SOLUTION:

Instead of forming the equation from scratch, this method verifies each answer choice directly against the two conditions given in the question.

1. **Rs 9:** If the total is 9 and Ravi is Rs 3 more than Ramu, $\text{Ramu} = (9 - 3)/2 = 3$, $\text{Ravi} = 6$. Tripling Ramu's money gives $3 \times 3 = 9$, but this should equal $\text{total} + 2 = 11$. It does not match, so Rs 9 is wrong.
2. **Rs 11:** $\text{Ramu} = (11 - 3)/2 = 4$, $\text{Ravi} = 7$. Tripled Ramu = 12, but $\text{total} + 2 = 13$. Mismatch, so Rs 11 is wrong.
3. **Rs 13:** $\text{Ramu} = (13 - 3)/2 = 5$, $\text{Ravi} = 8$. Tripled Ramu = $3 \times 5 = 15$, and $\text{total} + 2 = 13 + 2 = 15$. This matches exactly.
4. **Rs 15:** $\text{Ramu} = (15 - 3)/2 = 6$, $\text{Ravi} = 9$. Tripled Ramu = 18, but $\text{total} + 2 = 17$. Mismatch, so Rs 15 is wrong.

Only Rs 13 satisfies both conditions simultaneously, confirming the answer.

Quick Tip: Let Ramu's money be x , write Ravi's as $x + 3$, then use "tripled Ramu's money = original total + 2".

• • •

. A woman introduces a man as the son of the brother of her mother. How is the man related to the woman?

- (A) Nephew
- (B) son
- (C) cousin
- (D) uncle

Correct Answer: (C) cousin

SOLUTION:

A family-tree approach makes the chain visual instead of purely verbal.

1. **Place the woman and her mother:** draw the woman as a point, with a line up to her mother.
2. **Add the mother's brother:** from the mother, draw a sibling line to a second person, this is the maternal uncle of the woman.
3. **Add the uncle's son:** from the uncle, draw a line down to his son, this is the man described in the question.
4. **Read the final connection:** the woman and the man are both one generation below a pair of siblings (the woman's mother and her brother), which is exactly the structure of a cousin relationship.

Tracing the tree confirms the man is the woman's cousin.

cousin

Quick Tip: Break it into two steps: mother's brother is the uncle, and the uncle's son is the cousin.

...

. In a school the periodical examinations are held every month. In a session during April 'X' to March 'X + 1', Rakesh, a student of class IV, section B, appeared for each of the periodical exams. The maximum total marks in each periodical exam is 50. The aggregate marks obtained by him in each periodical exam are given below.

	Year X									Year X+1		
Months	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Marks	35	37	38	38	41	43	45	45	46	47	48	49

The total marks obtained in December X is what per cent more than the total marks obtained in June X?

- (A) 12.8%
- (B) 20.05%
- (C) 24.05%
- (D) 21.05%

Correct Answer: (D) 21.05%

SOLUTION:

An alternative way to reach the same figure is to first reduce the fraction to its simplest form before converting to a percentage, which avoids a messy long division.

1. **Difference in marks:** December X - June X = $46 - 38 = 8$.
2. **Form the fraction over the base:** the increase is $\frac{8}{38}$, which simplifies by dividing numerator and denominator by 2 to $\frac{4}{19}$.
3. **Convert using a known benchmark:** $\frac{1}{19} \approx 0.0526$, so $\frac{4}{19} \approx 4 \times 0.0526 = 0.2105$.
4. **Express as a percentage:** $0.2105 \times 100 = 21.05\%$.

This confirms the increase from June X to December X is 21.05%.

21.05%

Quick Tip: Take December marks minus June marks, divide by June marks, then multiply by 100.

...

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Marks	35	37	38	38	41	43	45	45	46	47	48	49

In which periodical exams did Rakesh obtain the highest percentage increase in marks over the previous periodical exams?

- (A) May
- (B) October
- (C) December
- (D) September

Correct Answer: (A) May

SOLUTION:

Rather than computing every percentage in full, this method compares the four fractions directly using the fact that a smaller base makes the same numerator count for more.

- Write the four fractions:** May gives $\frac{2}{35}$, September gives $\frac{2}{41}$, October gives $\frac{2}{43}$, December gives $\frac{1}{45}$.
- Compare the three fractions with numerator 2 first:** since $35 < 41 < 43$, and a smaller denominator with the same

numerator gives a bigger fraction, $\frac{2}{35} > \frac{2}{41} > \frac{2}{43}$. So May already beats September and October.

3. **Compare May with December:** December's $\frac{1}{45}$ doubled is $\frac{2}{90}$, which is far smaller than $\frac{2}{35}$ since 90 is much larger than 35. So May beats December too.
4. **Conclusion:** May's fraction $\frac{2}{35}$ is the largest of all four, so May has the highest percentage increase.

This ranking-by-fraction-size approach confirms May without needing exact decimal percentages.

May

Quick Tip: For each option, divide that month's increase over the previous month by the previous month's marks, then compare.

• • •

. India is a multi-religion, multi-language and multi-cultural country where people belonging to different religions join in celebrating the festivities together. The Indian Government declares such big occasions as public holidays to enable the citizens to enjoy and foster the feelings of brotherhood. Five broad-minded persons belonging to different religions were asked to give their preferences of four such festivals which they would like to enjoy with like-minded brethren. Their options are:

- A. Holi, Dussehra, Diwali, Guru Nanak Birthday
- B. Shivratri, Christmas, Onam, Eid
- C. Holi, Shivratri, Christmas, Diwali
- D. Holi, Dussehra, Guru Nanak Birthday, Eid
- E. Christmas, Diwali, Onam, Guru Nanak Birthday

Which pair celebrates Christmas and Onam but not Dussehra and Holi?

- (A) A and C
- (B) A and E
- (C) B and D
- (D) B and E

Correct Answer: (D) B and E

SOLUTION:

A table-based elimination makes the five lists easier to scan than checking them one at a time in prose.

1. **Mark presence of Christmas and Onam:** only B (Christmas, Onam) and E (Christmas, Onam) carry both festivals. A, C and D are eliminated immediately since each is missing at least one of the two.

2. **Check the remaining two for Dussehra and Holi:** B's list is Shivratri, Christmas, Onam, Eid, no Dussehra, no Holi. E's list is Christmas, Diwali, Onam, Guru Nanak Birthday, again no Dussehra, no Holi.
3. **Both survive the second filter**, so both B and E independently satisfy the full condition.

Matching this against the answer choices, "B and E" is the pair that fits both filters.

B and E

Quick Tip: Check each of the five lists for Christmas and Onam present, and Dussehra and Holi absent, then pick the pair where both members qualify.

• • •

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- D. Holi, Dussehra, Guru Nanak Birthday, Eid
- E. Christmas, Diwali, Onam, Guru Nanak Birthday

Which pair does not participate in Eid and Onam but joins in Holi?

- (A) A and B
- (B) A and C
- (C) C and D
- (D) D and E

Correct Answer: (B) A and C

SOLUTION:

A table-based elimination makes the five lists easier to scan than checking them one at a time in prose.

1. **Remove anyone carrying Eid or Onam:** B has Onam and Eid, D has Eid, E has Onam. All three are eliminated, leaving only A and C in contention.
2. **Check the remaining two for Holi:** A's list is Holi, Dussehra, Diwali, Guru Nanak Birthday, which includes Holi. C's list is Holi,

Shivratri, Christmas, Diwali, which also includes Holi.

3. **Both survive the second filter**, so both A and C independently satisfy skipping Eid and Onam while joining Holi.

Matching this against the answer choices, "A and C" is the pair that fits both filters.

A and C

Quick Tip: Check each of the five lists for Eid and Onam absent, and Holi present, then pick the pair where both members qualify.

...

. Five persons, A, B, C, D and E, belonging to different religions were asked to state their preferences for four festivals each, which they would like to celebrate with like minded people. Their preferences are:

A: Holi, Dussehra, Diwali, Guru Nanak Birthday

B: Shivratri, Christmas, Onam, Eid

C: Holi, Shivratri, Christmas, Diwali

D: Holi, Dussehra, Guru Nanak Birthday, Eid

E: Christmas, Diwali, Onam, Guru Nanak Birthday

Who enjoys Holi and Eid but not Diwali and Christmas?

(A) B

(B) C

(C) D

(D) E

Correct Answer: (C) D

SOLUTION:

A quicker route is to eliminate first on the two festivals that must be absent, and only then check the two that must be present.

1. **Step 1, remove anyone who has Diwali or Christmas:** A has Diwali, C has both Christmas and Diwali, and E has both Christmas and Diwali. So A, C and E are eliminated straight away, leaving only B and D as possible candidates.
2. **Step 2, check the two survivors for Holi and Eid:** B's list is Shivratri, Christmas, Onam, Eid. It does contain Eid, but it has no Holi, and worse, it still carries Christmas, which already disqualifies it. So B fails. D's list is Holi, Dussehra, Guru Nanak Birthday, Eid. It contains both Holi and Eid, and it carries neither Diwali nor Christmas, so D clears both the required and the forbidden tests.
3. **Step 3, conclude:** D is the only name left standing after applying both filters, so D has to be the person the question is looking for.

The person who enjoys Holi and Eid but not Diwali and Christmas is D, the third option in this question. **D**

Quick Tip: Check each person's list for both Holi and Eid while making sure Diwali and Christmas are absent from it.

...

. Which of the following expressions will definitely be true if the expression $R > O = A > S < T$ is definitely true?

- (A) $O > T$
- (B) $S < R$
- (C) $T < A$
- (D) $S = O$

Correct Answer: (B) $S < R$

SOLUTION:

Instead of reasoning with symbols alone, this can be checked quickly by substituting a set of numbers that satisfies $R > O = A > S < T$, and then testing which option survives across different valid choices.

1. **Pick one valid set of numbers:** let $S = 1$, $T = 5$, $A = 2$, $O = 2$ and $R = 3$. Checking the original condition: $3 > 2 = 2 > 1 < 5$, which holds true, so this is a valid assignment.
2. **Test each option with this set:** $O > T$ becomes $2 > 5$, false. $S < R$ becomes $1 < 3$, true. $T < A$ becomes $5 < 2$, false. $S = O$ becomes $1 = 2$, false. Only $S < R$ survives here.
3. **Try a second valid set to be sure it is not a coincidence:** let $S = 1$, $T = 1.5$, $A = 2$, $O = 2$, $R = 3$. This also satisfies $3 > 2 = 2 > 1 < 1.5$. Now $O > T$ becomes $2 > 1.5$, true this time, and $T < A$ becomes $1.5 < 2$, also true this time. Since these two options flip between true and false depending on the numbers chosen, neither of them is definitely true. $S < R$ still gives $1 < 3$, true, and $S = O$ still gives $1 = 2$, false.
4. **Conclude:** $S < R$ is the only option that stays true across every valid assignment, because it follows directly from $R > O = A > S$ by transitivity of the greater than relation, so it is the one that is definitely true.

The expression that is definitely true is $S < R$. $\boxed{S < R}$

Quick Tip: Split the chain into pairwise relations and use transitivity through the term that is common to two of them.

...

. A TED talk (the acronym stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design) is one of the routes to academic stardom that didn't exist a decade ago. (The 30th anniversary celebration aside, curators only began posting fame-making free online videos in 2006.) Although TED plays an inordinate role in setting the tone for how ideas are conveyed, not only because of the reach of its videos but also through spinoffs like regional "TEDx" events and the TED Radio Hour, one of the few places nonpolicy intellectuals get substantial on-air time, it's just one of a number of platforms that are changing the ecology of academic celebrity. These include similar ideas-in-nuggets conclaves, such as the Aspen Ideas Festival and PopTech, along with huge online courses and, yes, still, blogs. These new, or at least newish, forms are upending traditional hierarchies of academic visibility and helping to change which ideas gain purchase in the public discourse.

In a famous essay, "The Unbearable Ugliness of Volvos," first published in the early 90s, the literary scholar Stanley Fish wrote that "the flourishing of the lecture circuit has brought with it new sources of extra income ... [and] an ever-growing list of stages on which to showcase one's talents, and geometric increase in the availability of the commodities for which academics yearn, attention, applause, fame, and ultimately, adulation of a kind usually reserved for the icons of popular culture." Fish was Exhibit A among professors taking advantage of such trends, and his trailblazing as a lit-crit celebrity inspired the dapper, globe-trotting lit-theory operator Morris Zapp, a character in David Lodge's academic satire *Small World*. But the world Fish was describing, where no one could live-tweet the lectures, let alone post the talks for worldwide distribution, now seems sepia-toned. "If David Lodge's Morris Zapp were alive and kicking today," observes John Holbo, an associate professor of philosophy at the National University of Singapore, and blogger at *Crooked Timber* and *the Valve*, "he'd be giving a TED talk, not an MLA talk. Which is to say: He wouldn't

be doing Theory. He probably wouldn't be in an English department."

Q71. The passage is mainly about:

- (A) Technology, Entertainment, and Design
- (B) Turning over the conventional
- (C) Gaining popular adulation
- (D) Changing presentations

Correct Answer: (B) Turning over the conventional

SOLUTION:

A quick way to nail a main idea question is to summarize each paragraph in one line and see what common thread runs through all of them.

Paragraph 1: TED talks, along with festivals, online courses and blogs, are new routes to academic stardom that did not exist before, and they are described as upending traditional hierarchies of academic visibility.

Paragraph 2: Stanley Fish is offered as an example of an academic who chased fame even before this shift, and John Holbo's comment drives home the contrast: today's version of a Fish-like celebrity academic would be giving a TED talk instead of an academic lecture, and would probably not even be inside a traditional English department any more.

Put the two paragraphs together and the passage is not really about what TED stands for, or about applause and adulation as such, or merely about how a talk is presented. It is about how new, informal platforms are replacing the old, established channels through which

academics used to build a reputation, in other words, the conventional route is being turned over.

This matches option B exactly, so B, turning over the conventional, is the correct choice.

Quick Tip: Look for the theme running through the whole passage, not just one example in it.



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Q72. The phrase "sepia-toned" implies:

- (A) The end of an era
- (B) The way things were
- (C) The brown pigment
- (D) The time bound nature of things

Correct Answer: (A) The end of an era

SOLUTION:

Try substituting each option back into the sentence and see which one keeps the author's intended contrast intact: the world Fish was describing now seems [option].

If you plug in the brown pigment, the sentence becomes meaningless, since the passage is not talking about colour at all, so option C is out immediately.

If you plug in the time bound nature of things, the sentence turns into a vague philosophical statement that does not fit the specific comparison the author is drawing between pre-social-media academia and today's TED-talk culture, so option D does not work either.

Between the way things were and the end of an era, the deciding clue is the word now in now seems sepia-toned. The author is not just describing what things used to be like, he is marking a change, telling us that this older world is finished and has been replaced by the one Holbo describes, where a Fish-like figure would be doing TED talks instead. That sense of closure, of something being over, is exactly what end of an era captures, and it is stronger than the plain, neutral phrase the way things were.

So the correct answer is option A, the end of an era.

Quick Tip: Think about what an old sepia photograph represents about time.



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be doing Theory. He probably wouldn't be in an English department."

Q73. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?

- (A) TED is the future
- (B) Theory can no longer be counted on
- (C) Philosophy is best understood through demos
- (D) TED is irreplaceable

Correct Answer: (D) TED is irreplaceable

SOLUTION:

A faster way to handle this kind of question is to first mark the sentence in the passage that each option is trying to test, then check whether that sentence supports or denies the option.

For option A, the anchor is TED plays an inordinate role in setting the tone for how ideas are conveyed, which supports TED shaping the future of academic communication.

For option B, the anchor is the Holbo quote saying a modern Fish figure wouldn't be doing Theory, which supports Theory losing ground.

For option C, the anchor is that Holbo, a philosophy professor, is the one pointing out that ideas now spread through talks rather than papers, which loosely supports the idea of philosophy reaching people through demonstrations.

For option D, the anchor is the sentence describing TED as just one of a number of platforms that are changing the ecology of academic celebrity, alongside the Aspen Ideas Festival, PopTech, online courses

and blogs. This sentence does the opposite of supporting irreplaceability, it tells you TED has direct substitutes.

Since three options have a supporting anchor in the text and one option is contradicted by its anchor, the answer has to be the contradicted one.

The correct answer is option D, TED is irreplaceable.

Quick Tip: Find the one option the passage's own words actually work against.



. A spectre is haunting the world, just as Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote in the Communist Manifesto of 1848. This time, however, it is not the spectre of communism but that of neoliberalism. Just as Marx and Engels reported of 'a holy alliance to exorcise this spectre,' there is once again an alliance, whether holy or unholy, that has formed to chase the ghost of neoliberalism from the world stage. In any case, it is a curious alliance that has committed to fighting neoliberalism: Religious leaders and artists, environmental activists and globalisation critics, politicians of the left and the right as well as trade unionists, commentators and academics. They all share a passion to unmask neoliberalism as an inhuman, anti-social, and potentially misanthropic ideology or as a cynical exercise by strangely anonymous forces that wish to exploit the world to their own advantage.

The members of this colourful alliance against neoliberalism are as united in their opposition to neoliberalism as they are diverse. This suggests that neoliberalism cannot be too clearly defined as a concept. Rather, it is a broad umbrella under which very different groups with various points of view can meet. In the church of anti-neoliberalism, there is a place for anyone who believes that neoliberalism stands in the way of reaching his or her political goals. This may also explain the lack of any clear and coherent definition of neoliberalism among its dissenters.

Yet the most curious characteristic of neoliberalism is the fact that these days hardly anyone self-identifies as a neoliberal. In former times, ideological debates were fought between, say, conservatives and socialists, collectivists and individualists. While there may not have been any other agreement between these opposing groups, at least they would have agreed about their respective identities. A socialist would not have felt offended by a conservative calling him a socialist and vice-versa. In present-day debates around neoliberalism, on the other hand, most

accused of holding 'neoliberal' views would not accept being called 'neoliberal.' Either they would insist on being something else (whether it is 'liberal,' 'classical liberal,' or 'libertarian'), or they would simply claim to be misunderstood by their opponents. In any case, scarcely anybody wants to be a 'neoliberal' any more. For example, in an online survey of the readers of Andrew Norton's blog, out of more than 1,200 participants not a single person self-identified with the term, while 'classical liberal,' 'conservative,' and 'libertarian' were strong responses. These are strange debates indeed when the enemy you are fighting claims he does not exist.

Q74. According to the passage, the spectre is being chased by all except which one of the following:

- (A) Religious leaders and artists
- (B) Environmental activists and globalisation critics
- (C) Communists and socialists
- (D) Politicians and trade unionists

Correct Answer: (C) Communists and socialists

SOLUTION:

Underline the sentence in the passage that actually names the alliance, and tick off each option against it one at a time.

The sentence reads: a curious alliance that has committed to fighting neoliberalism, religious leaders and artists, environmental activists and globalisation critics, politicians of the left and the right as well as trade unionists, commentators and academics.

Ticking off the options: religious leaders and artists, present.

Environmental activists and globalisation critics, present. Politicians and trade unionists, present, since the passage covers politicians of

the left and the right as well as trade unionists. That leaves communists and socialists, which never appears in this sentence or anywhere else in the passage as a member of the alliance, it only appears indirectly through the Marx and Engels reference to the original spectre of communism, which is a different spectre from the one being discussed here.

Since three of the four options are directly ticked off in the passage's list and one is not, the group left unmatched is the answer.

The correct answer is option C, communists and socialists.

Quick Tip: Match each option against the passage's exact list of the alliance.



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Q75. Why, according to the passage, is there an association against the phenomenon of neoliberalism?

- (A) Because they cannot face it alone
- (B) Because it is easy to collaborate against it
- (C) Because they resent its spread
- (D) Because they fear the misuse of the world

Correct Answer: (D) Because they fear the misuse of the world

SOLUTION:

Look specifically at the closing clause of paragraph one, since that is where the author explains what unites this otherwise mismatched alliance.

The passage says the alliance unmask neoliberalism as an inhuman, anti-social, and potentially misanthropic ideology or as a cynical exercise by strangely anonymous forces that wish to exploit the world to their own advantage. Strip away the academic language and the plain meaning is that these groups believe neoliberalism is being used by unnamed powerful interests to exploit, or misuse, the world for

their own benefit. That is a fear about how the world is being treated or misused under neoliberalism.

None of the other options, facing it alone, ease of collaboration, or resentment of its spread, are stated anywhere in the passage. They sound plausible in isolation but have no textual support, while the fear of exploitation and misuse is stated almost word for word.

The correct answer is option D, because they fear the misuse of the world.

Quick Tip: Find the sentence that states the alliance's motive directly.



. A spectre is haunting the world, just as Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote in the Communist Manifesto of 1848. This time, however, it is not the spectre of communism but that of neoliberalism. Just as Marx and Engels reported of 'a holy alliance to exorcise this spectre,' there is once again an alliance, whether holy or unholy, that has formed to chase the ghost of neoliberalism from the world stage. In any case, it is a curious alliance that has committed to fighting neoliberalism: Religious leaders and artists, environmental activists and globalisation critics, politicians of the left and the right as well as trade unionists, commentators and academics. They all share a passion to unmask neoliberalism as an inhuman, anti-social, and potentially misanthropic ideology or as a cynical exercise by strangely anonymous forces that wish to exploit the world to their own advantage.

The members of this colourful alliance against neoliberalism are as united in their opposition to neoliberalism as they are diverse. This suggests that neoliberalism cannot be too clearly defined as a concept. Rather, it is a broad umbrella under which very different groups with various points of view can meet. In the church of anti-neoliberalism, there is a place for anyone who believes that neoliberalism stands in the way of reaching his or her political goals. This may also explain the lack of any clear and coherent definition of neoliberalism among its dissenters.

Yet the most curious characteristic of neoliberalism is the fact that these days hardly anyone self-identifies as a neoliberal. In former times, ideological debates were fought between, say, conservatives and socialists, collectivists and individualists. While there may not have been any other agreement between these opposing groups, at least they would have agreed about their respective identities. A socialist would not have felt offended by a conservative calling him a socialist and vice-versa. In present-day debates around neoliberalism, on the other hand, most

accused of holding 'neoliberal' views would not accept being called 'neoliberal.' Either they would insist on being something else (whether it is 'liberal,' 'classical liberal,' or 'libertarian'), or they would simply claim to be misunderstood by their opponents. In any case, scarcely anybody wants to be a 'neoliberal' any more. For example, in an online survey of the readers of Andrew Norton's blog, out of more than 1,200 participants not a single person self-identified with the term, while 'classical liberal,' 'conservative,' and 'libertarian' were strong responses. These are strange debates indeed when the enemy you are fighting claims he does not exist.

Q76. The author implies:

- (A) That neoliberalism defies conceptualization
- (B) That neoliberalism is vague
- (C) That neoliberalism has not been accepted
- (D) That neoliberalism has not been understood by people

Correct Answer: (D) That neoliberalism has not been understood by people

SOLUTION:

Map what each paragraph is doing before choosing an answer.

Paragraph two tells you neoliberalism cannot be clearly defined and works like a broad umbrella, which explains why its opponents cannot pin down a coherent definition either.

Paragraph three goes further and shows that the confusion is not limited to critics, even the people accused of holding neoliberal views reject the label, calling themselves liberal, classical liberal, or libertarian instead, or saying they have been misunderstood by their

opponents. The passage even cites a survey of over 1,200 people where not one person picked neoliberal to describe themselves.

Put these two paragraphs side by side and the author is not simply saying the word is vague, that is only paragraph two's contribution.

The author is making the larger point that this vagueness has produced real confusion on the ground, nobody, neither the accusers nor the accused, seems to actually understand or agree on what the term means. That combined idea is best expressed by option D.

The correct answer is option D, that neoliberalism has not been understood by people.

Quick Tip: Combine what paragraphs two and three both say about confusion over the term.



. A spectre is haunting the world, just as Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote in the Communist Manifesto of 1848. This time, however, it is not the spectre of communism but that of neoliberalism. Just as Marx and Engels reported of 'a holy alliance to exorcise this spectre,' there is once again an alliance, whether holy or unholy, that has formed to chase the ghost of neoliberalism from the world stage. In any case, it is a curious alliance that has committed to fighting neoliberalism: Religious leaders and artists, environmental activists and globalisation critics, politicians of the left and the right as well as trade unionists, commentators and academics. They all share a passion to unmask neoliberalism as an inhuman, anti-social, and potentially misanthropic ideology or as a cynical exercise by strangely anonymous forces that wish to exploit the world to their own advantage.

The members of this colourful alliance against neoliberalism are as united in their opposition to neoliberalism as they are diverse. This suggests that neoliberalism cannot be too clearly defined as a concept. Rather, it is a broad umbrella under which very different groups with various points of view can meet. In the church of anti-neoliberalism, there is a place for anyone who believes that neoliberalism stands in the way of reaching his or her political goals. This may also explain the lack of any clear and coherent definition of neoliberalism among its dissenters.

Yet the most curious characteristic of neoliberalism is the fact that these days hardly anyone self-identifies as a neoliberal. In former times, ideological debates were fought between, say, conservatives and socialists, collectivists and individualists. While there may not have been any other agreement between these opposing groups, at least they would have agreed about their respective identities. A socialist would not have felt offended by a conservative calling him a socialist and vice-versa. In present-day debates around neoliberalism, on the other hand, most

accused of holding 'neoliberal' views would not accept being called 'neoliberal.' Either they would insist on being something else (whether it is 'liberal,' 'classical liberal,' or 'libertarian'), or they would simply claim to be misunderstood by their opponents. In any case, scarcely anybody wants to be a 'neoliberal' any more. For example, in an online survey of the readers of Andrew Norton's blog, out of more than 1,200 participants not a single person self-identified with the term, while 'classical liberal,' 'conservative,' and 'libertarian' were strong responses. These are strange debates indeed when the enemy you are fighting claims he does not exist.

Q77. The word 'libertarian' used in the passage can be best substituted with:

- (A) Neoliberal
- (B) Libertine, immoral
- (C) Conservative
- (D) Liberal, favouring individual liberty

Correct Answer: (D) Liberal, favouring individual liberty

SOLUTION:

Check the sentence where the word actually appears: either they would insist on being something else, whether it is liberal, classical liberal, or libertarian. All three terms in that group are being used as roughly equivalent labels people prefer over neoliberal, so libertarian is functioning here as a variant of liberal, specifically the strand of liberal thought that puts individual liberty first.

Eliminate the distractors quickly: neoliberal is the very word being avoided, so it cannot be the substitute. Libertine is a different word altogether, about lacking moral restraint, not about political

philosophy. Conservative is listed later in the passage as its own separate response option in the Andrew Norton survey, alongside libertarian, not as another name for it.

That leaves liberal, favouring individual liberty, which fits both the grouped list in paragraph three and the general political meaning of the word.

The correct answer is option D, liberal, favouring individual liberty.

Quick Tip: Notice which words the passage groups libertarian together with.

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Instructions: Each of the following items is followed by four words or group of words. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word or group of words.

His remarks were filled with _____, which sounded lofty but presented nothing new to the audience.

- (A) aphorisms
- (B) platitudes
- (C) bombast
- (D) adages

Correct Answer: (B) platitudes

SOLUTION:

A quick way to solve this kind of question is to test each option by mentally reading it back into the sentence and checking whether the resulting meaning is logical and consistent throughout.

Try aphorisms: "filled with aphorisms, which sounded lofty but presented nothing new" - this is contradictory, since aphorisms are prized for their fresh, memorable truth, not for being empty of new ideas.

Try bombast: "filled with bombast, which sounded lofty but presented nothing new" - this is plausible but slightly off, because bombast is really about grand, inflated language rather than the remarks being stale repeats of old ideas.

Try adages: "filled with adages, which sounded lofty but presented nothing new" - again contradictory, since adages are respected sayings drawn from real experience, not hollow filler.

Try platitudes: "filled with platitudes, which sounded lofty but presented nothing new" - this reads naturally and consistently, since a platitude is by definition an overused remark that sounds important while adding nothing original.

Only platitudes keeps the sentence logically consistent from start to end, confirming option B as the answer.

Quick Tip: Look for a word meaning a trite, overused remark that sounds wise but says nothing new.



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Instructions: Each of the following items is followed by four words or group of words. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word or group of words.

When indecision grips a nation, free men feel the need for an _____ ruler and are prepared to throw democracy overboard.

- (A) optimistic
- (B) autocratic
- (C) eccentric
- (D) energetic

Correct Answer: (B) autocratic

SOLUTION:

Another reliable approach is to break the sentence into its logical parts and note the cause and effect relationship being described, then find the option that fits that relationship.

The sentence has two parts joined by "and": (1) indecision grips a nation, so free men feel the need for a certain kind of ruler, and (2) they are prepared to throw democracy overboard for that ruler.

Part two tells us directly that the ruler being sought is someone who represents the opposite of democratic government, since people are willing to give up democracy to get this kind of ruler.

Scanning the options for a word meaning "opposite of democratic": optimistic, eccentric, and energetic are all personality descriptors with no connection to political systems, so they can be eliminated immediately.

Autocratic specifically means governed by one person with unrestricted power, which is the precise opposite of democratic rule and fits both parts of the sentence perfectly.

This confirms option B, autocratic, as the correct answer.

Quick Tip: The sentence contrasts the blank word with democracy, so think of its direct opposite.

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Instructions: Each of the following items is followed by four words or group of words. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word or group of words.

A great literary or artistic work is known as _____.

- (A) par excellence
- (B) bete noire
- (C) peccadillo
- (D) magnum opus

Correct Answer: (D) magnum opus

SOLUTION:

A useful method here is to recall each phrase through a short example sentence, since these are all fixed foreign borrowings with fairly rigid usage patterns.

Par excellence is used like this: "He is a diplomat par excellence," meaning he is the best possible example of a diplomat. It always

attaches to a noun to praise it, it is never itself the name of a created work.

Bete noire appears as: "Public speaking is his bete noire," meaning it is something he dreads or dislikes intensely. This is clearly unrelated to describing a celebrated piece of art.

Peccadillo appears as: "Forgetting a birthday is a minor peccadillo," meaning a small, forgivable slip. This is the opposite of something described as great.

Magnum opus appears as: "The novel is considered the author's magnum opus," meaning it is that author's single greatest work. This example sentence matches the question's definition word for word.

Since only magnum opus fits naturally into a sentence meaning "a great literary or artistic work," option D is confirmed as correct.

Quick Tip: Think of the Latin phrase literally meaning "great work," used for an artist's finest achievement.

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Instructions: Each of the following items is followed by four words or group of words. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word or group of words.

The carriage foundered in a snowdrift and it took two hours to _____ it.

- (A) exert
- (B) pillage
- (C) exacerbate
- (D) extricate

Correct Answer: (D) extricate

SOLUTION:

Since this is a fill-in-the-blank verb question, it helps to substitute each option back into the sentence and read it aloud, testing which one produces a sensible complete action.

"It took two hours to exert it" - incomplete and awkward, exert always requires an object describing what force is being applied, such as exert pressure, so it cannot simply take "it."

"It took two hours to pillage it" - nonsensical, you cannot pillage a carriage, pillage applies to raiding towns or settlements.

"It took two hours to exacerbate it" - grammatically fine but logically backwards, nobody spends two hours deliberately making a stuck carriage's situation worse.

"It took two hours to extricate it" - reads naturally and makes complete sense, spending two hours to free a carriage trapped in a snowdrift is exactly the kind of task the sentence describes.

Since extricate is the only option that produces a logical, complete sentence, option D is confirmed as the answer.

Quick Tip: Think about what action is needed to free something stuck in the snow.



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Instructions: Each of the following items is followed by four words or group of words. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word or group of words.

The influence of the environment on man is revealed by an _____ study.

- (A) anthropological
- (B) ecological
- (C) epigraphic
- (D) numismatic

Correct Answer: (B) ecological

SOLUTION:

A quick way to solve this is to expand each adjective into the full name of its field of study and compare that field's actual subject matter to the sentence's requirement.

Anthropological expands to anthropology, the study of human societies and cultures across history, a broad field that touches on customs, language, and social organization, not specifically the environment.

Ecological expands to ecology, formally defined as the scientific study of the relationships between living organisms, including humans, and their physical environment. The sentence is asking for exactly this relationship, "the influence of the environment on man."

Epigraphic expands to epigraphy, the study of ancient written inscriptions on hard surfaces like stone or metal, entirely about historical writing, not environmental influence.

Numismatic expands to numismatics, the study of coins, medals, and currency, a field about monetary history, again unrelated to environmental influence.

Matching the sentence's requirement word for word against each field's definition shows ecology is the only correct fit, confirming option B.

Quick Tip: Recall the field of study that examines how organisms relate to their physical surroundings.

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Instructions: Each of the following items is followed by four words or group of words. Fill in the blank with the appropriate word or group of words.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn's works will be _____ by every lover of liberal thought and they will bring home to him how restrictive freedom is in the Russian system.

- (A) rejected
- (B) skimmed
- (C) compiled
- (D) perused

Correct Answer: (D) perused

SOLUTION:

Another way to approach this is to focus on the clause that follows the blank, "they will bring home to him how restrictive freedom is," since this tells us exactly what effect the reading must have, and then check which verb can produce that effect.

For a reader to have something "brought home" to them, meaning fully realized and understood, they must engage deeply with the material, not glance at it or merely gather it.

Rejected fails immediately, since a rejected work cannot bring any message home to anyone, the person never truly engages with it.

Skimmed fails too, a quick surface level read rarely brings deep realizations home, it only gives a rough impression.

Compiled fails on grammar and logic, gathering works together is a physical or editorial act, not a reading act that leads to insight.

Perused succeeds, since a careful, attentive reading is precisely what allows a reader to have an idea, here the restrictiveness of a political system, brought home to them clearly.

This confirms perused, option D, as the word that logically completes the sentence's cause and effect relationship.

Quick Tip: Think of a word meaning to read something thoroughly and carefully, in order to truly understand it.



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Instructions: Select the most appropriate set of words from the given choices to fill in the blanks.

The flood of brilliant ideas has not only ____ us, but has also encouraged us to ____ the last date for submission of entries.

(A) overwhelmed, extend

(B) enjoyed, stretch

(C) dismayed, decide

(D) scared, scrap

Correct Answer: (A) overwhelmed, extend

SOLUTION:

A reliable technique for double blank questions is to test each option pair against the two halves of the sentence separately, first for individual grammatical fit and then for the logical link the word "but" creates between them.

The word "not only... but also" structure signals that both halves describe positive or connected consequences of the same event, the flood of brilliant ideas, so both blanks should flow from that same cause without contradiction.

Testing enjoyed: "the flood of brilliant ideas has not only enjoyed us" is not standard English usage, since a flood cannot enjoy people, this pair fails on grammar alone.

Testing dismayed: brilliant ideas causing dismay does not fit the positive word "brilliant" describing the ideas, this is a mismatch in tone right at the first blank.

Testing scared: similarly, being scared by brilliant ideas contradicts the positive description "brilliant," and scrapping a deadline entirely is a disproportionate reaction to receiving many good ideas.

Testing overwhelmed and extend: an overwhelming flood of good entries logically leads organizers to extend the deadline so they can properly consider everything, or let more people submit, this pair alone tells a complete, sensible story matching real world behavior in such situations.

This confirms overwhelmed, extend as the correct pair, option A.

Quick Tip: The tone word "encouraged" tells you the first blank should be positive or neutral, not negative.



. Select the most appropriate set of words from the given choices to fill in the blanks.

The high cutoff marks this year have ____ college admission seekers to either ____ for lesser known colleges or change their subject preferences.

- (A) cajoled, ask
- (B) pressured, sit
- (C) forced, settle
- (D) strained, compromise

Correct Answer: (C) forced, settle

SOLUTION:

A quick way to solve fill in the blank pairs is to test each blank separately before checking the pair together. Look at the second blank

first: "either ____ for lesser known colleges." The phrase "settle for" is a fixed English collocation meaning to accept something less than ideal, which instantly points to option C. No other second word (ask, sit, compromise) pairs naturally with "for lesser known colleges" the way "settle for" does.

Now confirm the first blank: "high cutoff marks have ____ college admission seekers." Forced fits perfectly, since it conveys an external, unavoidable pressure caused by the cutoff, matching the compulsory outcome described later in the sentence (settle or change preferences).

Checking the remaining options against this test: cajoled implies persuasion through charm, which cutoffs cannot do; pressured is close but "sit for" breaks the idiom; strained is an unusual collocation with people as the object.

Let's summarize:

- Test the fixed collocation "settle for" first, it eliminates three options immediately.
- Confirm the first blank fits the compulsory tone of the sentence.

This collocation first approach is faster than evaluating every option from scratch.

Quick Tip: Focus on the fixed phrase "settle for" in the second blank.

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. Choose the option which is similar in meaning to the word given below.

FURLOUGH

- (A) Soldiers holiday
- (B) Wild growth
- (C) Wooden plough
- (D) Till

Correct Answer: (A) Soldiers holiday

SOLUTION:

Another way to crack a synonym question is to break the word into recognizable parts or recall it from a familiar context. "Furlough" comes from an old Dutch and German root meaning "permission," and in English usage it survives almost exclusively in the phrase "granted furlough," typically used for soldiers or government employees taking sanctioned time off duty.

Using this contextual memory, we scan the options for anything related to permission, leave, or time off: only "Soldiers holiday" fits, since a holiday is essentially a sanctioned break, and pairing it with "soldiers" mirrors the military association furlough carries.

The other three options, wild growth, wooden plough, and till, are all tied to farming and land, a field that shares no etymological or contextual link with furlough. This confirms they are distractors meant to test whether a candidate confuses furlough with an unrelated rustic term.

Let's summarize:

- Furlough's root sense is "permission to be away," most often military.
- Only option A carries this sense of sanctioned leave.

Anchoring a word to its most common real world usage, here military leave, is often faster than relying purely on dictionary definitions.

Quick Tip: Think of the word in a military context, permission to be away from duty.

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. Choose the option which is similar in meaning to the word given below.

PUNCTILIOUS

- (A) Prude
- (B) Wasteful
- (C) Meticulous
- (D) Timid

Correct Answer: (C) Meticulous

SOLUTION:

"Punctilious" is built from the same root as "punctual" and "punctuation," both of which trace back to the Latin "punctum," meaning a point. A punctilious person pays attention to every small point or detail of conduct, much like a punctual person attends carefully to the exact point in time.

Using this root based reasoning, we look for an option that reflects extreme care over small points: meticulous fits perfectly, since it means being extremely careful about details, precise to the smallest point.

We can rule out the rest by testing whether they relate to "small points of detail" at all: *prude* relates to modesty, *wasteful* relates to poor use of resources, and *timid* relates to a lack of boldness. None connect to precision or exactness.

Let's summarize:

- *Punctilious* shares its "point" root with *punctual*, both implying exactness.
- *Meticulous* is the closest match because it also centers on careful attention to detail.

Spotting shared word roots between the question word and one of the options is a reliable shortcut in vocabulary questions.

Quick Tip: The word shares a root with "punctual," think exactness.



. Choose the option which is similar in meaning to the word given below.

ENCOMIUM

- (A) Verve
- (B) Eulogy
- (C) Doggerel
- (D) Force

Correct Answer: (B) Eulogy

SOLUTION:

A useful technique here is to recall encomium from its typical usage: it almost always appears alongside words like "tribute," "praise," or "commendation," often in the context of honoring someone's achievements, sometimes posthumously.

Scanning the options for a word used in the same context of honoring achievements or memory, eulogy stands out immediately, since it is the standard English term for a speech of praise given especially at a person's funeral or in their honor.

The remaining options fail this context test: verve describes energetic style rather than content of praise, doggerel is a term of criticism for bad poetry, and force is a physical or abstract term about power, with no link to praise or tribute.

Let's summarize:

- Encomium is always used in the context of high, formal praise.
- Eulogy is the option that shares this exact context of honoring someone through words.

Matching the "context of usage" rather than just literal dictionary meaning often narrows down tricky synonym options quickly.

Quick Tip: Think of a speech given in someone's honor or praise.

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. Choose the option which is nearly opposite in meaning to the word given below.

TRITE

- (A) Hackneyed
- (B) Correct
- (C) Original
- (D) Certain

Correct Answer: (C) Original

SOLUTION:

An efficient way to attack antonym questions is to first eliminate any option that is actually a synonym of the given word, since test makers commonly place such traps. Here, hackneyed means exactly the same as trite, both describing something overused and cliched, so it can be crossed out immediately even though at first glance it seems like a strong contender.

Next, compare the remaining three, correct, original, and certain, against the core idea of trite: lack of freshness or novelty. Correct is about accuracy, certain is about confidence, neither addresses freshness. Original directly addresses the missing quality, since something original is, by definition, new and not stale or repeated.

This process of elimination, first removing the synonym trap, then matching the remaining options against the precise quality being negated, leads cleanly to original.

Let's summarize:

- Eliminate synonym traps first in antonym questions, hackneyed matches trite in meaning.
- Original is the true antonym, since it negates the "unoriginal, stale" sense of trite.

This elimination strategy prevents falling for the most common trap in antonym based vocabulary questions.

Quick Tip: Watch out, one option is a synonym trap, not the antonym.

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. Choose the option which is nearly opposite in meaning to the word given below.

COMPASSIONATE

- (A) Indecisive
- (B) Unsympathetic
- (C) Unlawful
- (D) Untrustworthy

Correct Answer: (B) Unsympathetic

SOLUTION:

A reliable method for antonym questions is to build the opposite word yourself before checking the choices. Compassionate is rooted in "sympathy," so its natural opposite would be something like "unsympathetic" or "uncaring." Holding this self generated opposite in mind, we scan the options for the closest match.

"Unsympathetic" appears directly among the choices and matches the self generated opposite almost exactly, since it explicitly negates the sympathy that defines compassion.

Testing the distractors against this same benchmark: indecisive relates to decision making, unlawful relates to legality, and untrustworthy relates to honesty and reliability. None of these touch

upon sympathy or emotional concern for others, confirming they are unrelated traits included only to distract.

Let's summarize:

- Compassionate centers on sympathy and concern for others' suffering.
- Generating "unsympathetic" as a mental opposite before scanning options quickly confirms option B.

Pre forming your own antonym before reading the choices is a strong strategy when the options include several unrelated negative sounding words.

Quick Tip: Think of the word that directly negates "sympathy."

• • •

. Choose the option which is nearly opposite in meaning to the word given below.

RESTIVE

- (A) Buoyant
- (B) Placid
- (C) Resistant
- (D) Insolent

Correct Answer: (B) Placid

SOLUTION:

Many students mistakenly assume restive is related to "rest" and therefore means calm, but it actually behaves more like "restless." A

good way to solve this is to recall restive in its typical usage: a "restive horse" or a "restive crowd," both describing agitation, impatience, or resistance to control.

Once this restless, agitated sense is fixed, the search shifts to finding a word describing the opposite state, calm and settled. Among the options, placid is the classic word for calm and untroubled, commonly paired with descriptions of still water or a peaceful temperament, making it the clearest opposite of an agitated, restless state.

The remaining options fail on closer inspection: buoyant describes a cheerful or floating quality, not stillness; resistant is a near homophone trap that actually describes opposition, not restlessness; insolent describes disrespect, an entirely different behavioral trait.

Let's summarize:

- Recall restive through common phrases like "restive crowd" to fix its restless meaning.
- Placid, meaning calm and peaceful, is the true antonym.

Anchoring an unfamiliar word to a common collocation, such as "restive horse," makes recalling its precise meaning much easier under time pressure.

Quick Tip: Do not confuse this with "restful"; think restless.

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. Instructions (92-93): Choose the word that does NOT match with the two given words.

Inordinate, Huge

- (A) Excessive
- (B) Considerable
- (C) Insatiable
- (D) Enormous

Correct Answer: (C) Insatiable

SOLUTION:

A quick way to crack "odd word out" questions like this one is to first pin down the core idea behind the two given words, then test each option against that idea one at a time instead of comparing all four options together at once.

Inordinate means going beyond reasonable limits, and huge means very great in size. Put together, the idea both words are pointing at is "being extremely large or beyond the usual measure".

Now check each option against that idea:

- Excessive: present in an amount greater than necessary, a synonym family match with inordinate.
- Considerable: notably large in extent or amount, another way of saying huge.
- Enormous: extremely large in size, a near perfect synonym for huge.
- Insatiable: never able to be satisfied. This describes a craving or hunger that cannot be filled, which has nothing to do with physical size or excess of quantity.

Three of the four options, excessive, considerable and enormous, describe magnitude or size exactly like inordinate and huge. Insatiable alone describes an unending desire, so it fails to match the pair.

The correct answer is option 3, Insatiable.

Quick Tip: Find the common thread between the two given words first, then check which option does not share that sense.

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. Instructions (92-93): Choose the word that does NOT match with the two given words.

Laconic, Succinct

- (A) Terse
- (B) Brief
- (C) Concise
- (D) Abrupt

Correct Answer: (D) Abrupt

SOLUTION:

Instead of comparing all four options side by side, try substituting each option into a sentence describing someone who "said very little but conveyed the point" and see if the meaning still holds. That test isolates the exact shade of meaning being asked for.

"He gave a laconic reply" and "her answer was succinct" both describe a response that used minimal words but got the point across. Now test the substitutions:

- "He gave a terse reply" still works, terse means brief and to the point.
- "Her answer was brief" still works, brief simply means short.

- "Her answer was concise" still works, concise means expressed clearly in few words.
- "He gave an abrupt reply" changes the meaning: it now suggests the reply was sudden, curt or even rude in tone, not necessarily short in word count. A long reply can still be abrupt if it is delivered suddenly or rudely.

Because abrupt shifts the focus from word count to tone and suddenness, it breaks away from the shared meaning of laconic and succinct, while terse, brief and concise all preserve that meaning.

The correct answer is option 4, Abrupt.

Quick Tip: Ask whether the option is about the NUMBER of words used, or about the MANNER in which something is said.

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. Instructions (94-98): Each of the questions below consists of statements having four phrases (a), (b), (c) and (d). One of the phrases is grammatically incorrect. Identify the incorrect phrase.

- (a) However, the advantages of teamwork can be minimized
- (b) and the benefits increased
- (c) if members (particularly those who lead them)
- (d) is aware of the methods for improving performance and making decisions

- (A) a
- (B) b
- (C) c
- (D) d

Correct Answer: (D) d

SOLUTION:

An efficient technique for these four-phrase error-spotting questions is to stitch the phrases into one continuous sentence first, then read it aloud in your head checking only for subject-verb agreement, since that is the most common trap in this format.

Joined together: "However, the advantages of teamwork can be minimized and the benefits increased if members (particularly those who lead them) is aware of the methods for improving performance and making decisions."

Strip out the parenthetical aside "(particularly those who lead them)", since a parenthesis never carries the grammatical weight of the sentence, and the core clause becomes: "if members is aware of the methods...". Read this way, the mismatch is obvious: "members" is plural, but "is" is a singular verb form. The parenthesis was likely inserted to create distance between the subject and the verb, tempting a reader to wrongly agree the verb with the nearer singular-sounding phrase "those who lead them" or simply lose track of the original subject.

Restoring correct agreement gives: "if members ... are aware of the methods for improving performance and making decisions," which belongs to phrase (d), confirming it as the faulty phrase.

The correct answer is option 4, phrase (d).

Quick Tip: Locate the real subject of phrase (d) by tracing it back through the parenthesis in phrase (c), then check if the verb agrees in number.



. Instructions (94-98): Each of the questions below consists of statements having four phrases (a), (b), (c) and (d). One of the phrases is grammatically incorrect. Identify the incorrect phrase.

- (a) When assertion is used with the win-win approach
- (b) and with others who also uses the win-win approach
- (c) each party can consider the needs of the other and
- (d) move towards a solution that satisfies as many needs as possible

- (A) a
- (B) b
- (C) c
- (D) d

Correct Answer: (B) b

SOLUTION:

A reliable shortcut for relative-clause agreement errors is to isolate the relative pronoun, trace it back to its antecedent noun, and then mentally replace "who" with that noun to test the verb directly.

In phrase (b), "and with others who also uses the win-win approach", the relative pronoun "who" stands in for "others". Replacing "who" with its antecedent gives: "others also uses the win-win approach". Read this way, the error becomes immediately obvious: "others" is plural, but "uses" is the singular present-tense form (the kind that takes an -s ending, like "he uses" or "she uses"). A plural subject like "others" needs the plain form "use", exactly as "assertion is used" in phrase (a) correctly pairs a singular subject with a singular verb form.

Checking the remaining phrases the same way: "each party can consider" (c) pairs a singular subject with a modal verb that does not

change with number, so no issue arises; "a solution that satisfies" (d) correctly uses the -s form because "solution" is singular. Only phrase (b) breaks the pattern.

The correct answer is option 2, phrase (b).

Quick Tip: Check what noun the word "who" in phrase (b) is referring back to, then see if the verb after it matches that noun in number.

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. Instructions (94-98): Each of the questions below consists of statements having four phrases (a), (b), (c) and (d). One of the phrases is grammatically incorrect. Identify the incorrect phrase.

- (a) It is always
- (b) been hard to change
- (c) the Indian car buyer's perception
- (d) When it comes to designs

- (A) a
- (B) b
- (C) c
- (D) d

Correct Answer: (A) a

SOLUTION:

For these jumbled-phrase questions, a fast method is to first rearrange the four phrases into a natural sentence order, then check tense consistency across the joined sentence rather than judging each phrase in isolation.

Rearranged, the phrases read: (d) "When it comes to designs", (a) "It is always", (b) "been hard to change", (c) "the Indian car buyer's perception", giving: "When it comes to designs, it is always been hard to change the Indian car buyer's perception."

Now test the verb chain "is always been". English forms the present perfect with has/have + past participle ("has been"), and the present continuous with is/am/are + present participle ("is being"). "Is ... been" matches neither pattern, it wrongly mixes a present simple auxiliary with a past participle. The verb chain that actually fits the sentence's meaning, an ongoing difficulty that started in the past and continues today, is the present perfect "has always been", not "is always been".

Since phrases (b), (c) and (d) all slot correctly into the corrected sentence without any change, the fault must lie in phrase (a), where "is" needs to become "has".

The correct answer is option 1, phrase (a).

Quick Tip: Look at how phrase (a) connects with the word "been" in phrase (b), and ask which auxiliary verb actually pairs with a past participle.

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. Instructions (94-98): Each of the questions below consists of statements having four phrases (a), (b), (c) and (d). One of the phrases is grammatically incorrect. Identify the incorrect phrase.

- (a) In a conflict, speak in a pleasant way
- (b) send appropriate non-verbal messages to the other person
- (c) and match your non-verbal behaviour
- (d) to the spoken message

- (A) a
- (B) b
- (C) c
- (D) d

Correct Answer: (C) c

SOLUTION:

A useful check for these phrase-ordering questions is to underline every pronoun in the joined sentence and ask whether they all refer consistently to the same point of view.

The joined sentence reads: "In a conflict, speak in a pleasant way, send appropriate non-verbal messages to the other person, and match your non-verbal behaviour to the spoken message."

Scanning the pronouns: phrase (a) has none, it simply states the general instruction "speak in a pleasant way". Phrase (b) refers to "the other person", again impersonal and general. Phrase (d) refers to "the spoken message", also impersonal. Phrase (c), however, uses "your non-verbal behaviour", suddenly addressing the reader directly with a second-person possessive where the rest of the sentence has stayed general and impersonal.

This kind of shift, from general description to direct address and back, is a common error type in these four-phrase questions: three phrases maintain one consistent style while a single phrase breaks the pattern. Since (a), (b) and (d) are internally consistent with each other and only (c) introduces the jarring "your", the flawed phrase is (c).

The correct answer is option 3, phrase (c).

Quick Tip: Track whether the sentence stays impersonal throughout, or whether one phrase suddenly switches to addressing "you" directly.

• • •

. Instructions (94-98): Each of the questions below consists of statements having four phrases (a), (b), (c) and (d). One of the phrases is grammatically incorrect. Identify the incorrect phrase.

- (a) To live, to love
- (b) to serve, and
- (c) also admiration are what
- (d) I aspire for

- (A) a
- (B) b
- (C) c
- (D) d

Correct Answer: (C) c

SOLUTION:

For parallelism questions like this one, the fastest approach is to list only the items in the series side by side, stripped of connecting words, and compare their grammatical form directly.

The series here, once extracted, is: "to live", "to love", "to serve", and "also admiration". Lined up this way, the mismatch jumps out immediately: the first three items are all infinitive verb phrases beginning with "to", while the fourth item is a plain noun, "admiration", with no "to" and no verb form at all.

For the sentence to read smoothly and grammatically, every item feeding into "are what I aspire for" must be the same part of speech. Since the established pattern is infinitives (to live, to love, to serve), the fourth item must also be an infinitive: "to admire". Swapping "also admiration" for "to admire" restores the parallel structure: "To live, to love, to serve, and to admire are what I aspire for."

Because this noun-versus-infinitive mismatch occurs specifically within phrase (c), "also admiration are what", that phrase is the one carrying the grammatical error.

The correct answer is option 3, phrase (c).

Quick Tip: List out the verb forms used in phrases (a) and (b), then check if phrase (c) keeps using the same form.

• • •

. Instructions: Each question has a sentence that has been scrambled and the scrambled parts have been marked A, B, C, D and E. Find the correct order of the parts to reconstruct the sentence.

- A. but there is some merit in it
- B. as distinct from consumption
- C. bifurcation of plan and non-plan funds
- D. in so far as it focuses attention on development expenses
- E. in the budget is artificial

- (A) ABCDE
- (B) CDBEA
- (C) CEABD
- (D) DEACB

Correct Answer: (C) CEABD

SOLUTION:

Another reliable way to crack sentence-reordering questions is the "mandatory pair" method, spotting two parts that **MUST** sit next to each other because of grammar or meaning, then building outward from that pair.

1. Look at A, "but there is some merit in it." The word "but" cannot start a sentence in this format, so A needs something before it that states a claim worth contradicting. Scan for a part that makes a claim: E, "in the budget is artificial," fits, giving the mandatory pair E-A.
2. Now look at D, "in so far as it focuses attention on development expenses." This is a subordinate clause that needs a main clause before it. B, "as distinct from consumption," pairs naturally before D since both describe the nature of the "merit" mentioned in A. This gives the pair A-B, and B leads into D, extending the chain to E-A-B-D.
3. Finally, C, "bifurcation of plan and non-plan funds," is the only part that can stand alone as a subject with no pronoun or connector tying it to the others, so it must be the opening part, ahead of E.
4. Chaining these mandatory pairs gives C-E-A-B-D, which is option C.

Cross-checking against the answer choices: option A (ABCDE) opens with "but," which is grammatically impossible for an opening sentence; option B (CDBEA) breaks the E-A pair; option D (DEACB) puts D before the subject it modifies even exists. Only option C keeps every mandatory pair intact.

Let's summarize:

- Identify parts that cannot open a sentence (those starting with "but," "as," "in so far as") and eliminate answer choices that place them first.
- Build mandatory pairs from connector clues, then slot in the standalone subject as the opener.

This pairing approach is often faster than reading the whole passage start to finish, especially under exam time pressure.

Quick Tip: Find the part that introduces the topic without a connector or pronoun, that must be the opening sentence.

...

. Instructions: Each question has a sentence that has been scrambled and the scrambled parts have been marked A, B, C, D and E. Find the correct order of the parts to reconstruct the sentence.

- A. like the industrialized countries
- B. as if they are to be suffered as relics of a backward past
- C. we have specially drawn attention to the non-motorized transport modes
- D. because they are completely overlooked in transport planning
- E. till replaced by faster petroleum fuelled transport

- (A) DEACB
- (B) CDEBA
- (C) CBADE
- (D) CDBEA

Correct Answer: (D) CDBEA

SOLUTION:

A quicker approach here is to scan for parts that clearly cannot be the opening line and eliminate answer choices on that basis alone before reading the full sentence.

1. D begins with "because," a subordinate conjunction, so D cannot open the sentence. This immediately rules out any option starting with D, eliminating option A (DEACB).
2. B begins with "as if they," a pronoun with no antecedent yet, so B also cannot open. E begins with "till," another subordinate marker, ruling out an E-first opener too.
3. That leaves C as the only viable opener, "we have specially drawn attention to the non-motorized transport modes," which is a complete independent clause. This matches options B, C and D, all of which start with C.
4. Among the remaining three, compare what follows C. Logically, the reason for drawing attention (D, "because they are completely overlooked") should come right after C, since D explains C's claim directly. Only option D (CDBEA) keeps D immediately after C.
5. From there, B ("as if they are to be suffered...") naturally follows D's idea of neglect, and E ("till replaced by...") extends B, ending with A's comparison to industrialized countries as the final flourish.

This confirms CDBEA, option D, as the answer. Option B (CDEBA) inserts E before B, disconnecting the "suffered as relics" idea from its "till replaced" continuation. Option C (CBADE) skips straight from C to B, losing the causal reason given in D.

Let's summarize:

- Eliminate options whose opening part starts with a subordinate conjunction or unresolved pronoun.
- Among the survivors, check which order keeps cause-explanation pairs (like C and D here) adjacent.

This elimination-first strategy narrows four or five options down to one or two very quickly.

Quick Tip: Rule out parts starting with 'because,' 'as if,' or 'till' as sentence openers first.

• • •

. Instructions: In each of these questions, each sentence has four words or phrases in braces marked A, B, C and D. Choose one word or phrase that must be changed for the sentence to be correct.

Drug abuse {have} (A) become {one of} (B) our {most} (C) serious social {problems}. (D)

- (A) A
- (B) B
- (C) C
- (D) D

Correct Answer: (A) A

SOLUTION:

A different way to approach this is to first identify the sentence's core subject and verb, then check every other phrase only if the core checks out.

1. Strip the sentence to its skeleton: "Drug abuse have become... problems." The bare subject-verb pair is "drug abuse have," and testing it in isolation immediately sounds wrong, you would say "drug abuse has," never "drug abuse have," just as you would say "the news has broken," not "the news have broken," because both are treated as singular in English.
2. Since the core subject-verb pair already fails, part A is confirmed as the error without needing to examine B, C or D in detail.
3. As a confirmation step, substitute "has" for "have" and read the full sentence: "Drug abuse has become one of our most serious social problems." This reads naturally and needs no further correction, confirming that B, C and D were never the issue.

This method, isolating subject and verb before scanning the rest of the sentence, points to option A as the answer, matching the direct error-spotting method.

Let's summarize:

- Test the subject-verb pair on its own first, many sentence-correction traps hinge on this single relationship.
- Only look for errors in the descriptive phrases once the core grammar has been verified as sound.

This shortcut saves time when four options are given and only one usually touches the verb.

Quick Tip: Check subject-verb agreement first, drug abuse is singular.



. Instructions: In each of these questions, each sentence has four words or phrases in braces marked A, B, C and D. Choose one word or phrase that must be changed for the sentence to be correct.

Alexander Calder, who was {originally} (A) interested {in} (B) mechanical engineering {later} (C) became {a sculpture}. (D)

(A) A

(B) B

(C) C

(D) D

Correct Answer: (D) D

SOLUTION:

Another way to solve this is to test each bracketed word by asking, "does swapping this word change the sentence's meaning to something nonsensical?"

1. Try each part as if it were the answer and see which produces an absurd or ungrammatical sentence when examined closely. A, "originally," B, "in," and C, "later" are all functional connector or modifier words, none of them create a logical inconsistency if you examine the sentence's meaning around them.
2. Now examine D, "a sculpture," literally: a sculpture is a carved or shaped object, a statue, made typically of stone, metal or wood. The sentence claims a PERSON, Alexander Calder, became this object, "Alexander Calder... became a sculpture." Taken literally, that would mean the man physically turned into an artwork, which is clearly not the intended meaning.

3. The intended meaning is that Calder took up sculpture as a profession, meaning he became a sculptor, the agent noun. Replacing "a sculpture" with "a sculptor" resolves the absurdity completely.

This "does it make literal sense" test isolates D as the flawed phrase, confirming option D as the correct answer, the same conclusion reached by checking word forms directly.

Let's summarize:

- When a sentence claims a person "became" a noun, check if that noun should be a person-noun (an agent noun ending in -or/-er) rather than an object-noun.
- Reading literally and asking if the sentence makes real-world sense is a fast way to catch this vocabulary trap.

This kind of confusable-word question rewards a careful second look rather than a quick grammar scan alone.

Quick Tip: A person cannot become an object, check if the noun should name the doer instead.

• • •

. Instructions: A sentence has been broken into four parts. Choose the part that has an error.

- (a) The sound was taken up by another dog, and then another and another,
(b) till, borne on the wind which now sighed softly through the pass,
(c) a wild howling began, which seemed to come from all over the country,
(d) as far as the imagination could grasp them through the gloom of the night.

- (A) a
(B) b
(C) c
(D) d

Correct Answer: (B) b

SOLUTION:

A different way to work through this is to read the four parts as one continuous sentence first, checking only for flow and logic, then go back and scrutinize capitalization and word choice separately.

1. Read (a)+(b)+(c)+(d) together: "The sound was taken up by another dog, and then another and another, till, borne on the wind which now sighed softly through the pass, a wild howling began, which seemed to come from all over the country, as far as the imagination could grasp them through the gloom of the night." The sentence flows logically as a single continuous description, so the error is not a structural or logical break between parts.

2. Since the flow-check clears all four parts, move to a second pass focused purely on capitalization of nouns, a common trap in this passage-based error format. Scan each part for any noun that might be referring to something specific rather than generic: "dog" (a) is generic, "wind" and "pass" (b) could be generic or specific depending on context, "country" (c) is generic here, and "night" (d) is generic.
3. "Pass" stands out because passages describing mountainous or hilly terrain typically name a specific pass earlier in the narrative (this excerpt is drawn from a longer passage), meaning subsequent references to "the pass" as that same location should be capitalized "the Pass."

This two-pass method, first for flow, then for capitalization, isolates part (b) as the error, confirming option B.

Let's summarize:

- Separate your check into a logic/flow pass and a mechanics pass (capitalization, punctuation), it is easy to miss a capitalization error while focused only on grammar.
- In passage-based questions, assume nouns referring back to an established specific location or person need capitals even if they look like common nouns.

This approach is especially useful when the grammar of every part looks equally clean, because it forces a second, different lens over the same text.

Quick Tip: The error is a capitalization slip on a proper noun, not a grammar mistake.

. Instructions: A sentence has been broken into four parts. Choose the part that has an error.

- (a) At last there came a time when the driver went
- (b) further afield than he had yet gone,
- (c) and during its absence, the horses began to tremble
- (d) worse than ever and to snort and scream with fright.

- (A) a
- (B) b
- (C) c
- (D) d

Correct Answer: (C) c

SOLUTION:

Here's an alternative way to catch this error: rewrite each part by substituting the pronoun with the noun it is meant to stand for, and see if the substitution still makes sense.

1. In part (c), "and during its absence, the horses began to tremble," replace "its" with the most likely antecedent from the sentence, which is "the driver" (introduced in part (a)). Substituting gives: "and during the driver's absence, the horses began to tremble." This reading makes complete sense: the horses grow frightened once the driver, who normally controls or calms them, has gone off.
2. Now check if "its" could correctly stand in for "the driver." Since "the driver" is a person, English requires "his" (or "her") as the

pronoun, not "its," which is reserved for objects or non-human antecedents. This mismatch confirms the error sits in part (c).

3. As a sanity check, apply the same substitution test to the other parts: (a) has no pronoun needing a check, (b) uses "he" for "the driver," which correctly matches (proving the writer does distinguish "he" from "it" elsewhere in the sentence, making the "its" in (c) look even more like a slip), and (d) has no ambiguous pronoun either.

This substitution test confirms part (c) as the faulty segment, so option C is correct.

Let's summarize:

- When you spot a pronoun, mentally swap in the noun you think it replaces and read the sentence again, if the pronoun's gender or animacy doesn't match, that's your error.
- Cross-check pronoun choices against how the same antecedent is referred to elsewhere in the sentence, here "he" in (b) already tells you the driver takes a personal pronoun, not "its."

This technique is quick and works well whenever a sentence has more than one part using pronouns for the same person or thing.

Quick Tip: Trace 'its' back to its antecedent, the driver is a person and needs 'his,' not 'its.'



. Instructions: A sentence has been broken into four parts. Choose the part that has an error.

- (a) The house was silent when we got back,
- (b) save for some poor creature who was
- (c) screaming away in one of the distant ward,
- (d) and a low, moaning sound from Vinod's room.

- (A) a
- (B) b
- (C) c
- (D) d

Correct Answer: (C) c

SOLUTION:

A different way to catch this is to isolate every "one of the..." type phrase across the sentence and apply the plural rule as a checklist, rather than reading part by part for general fluency.

1. Scan the four parts specifically for quantity phrases: "some poor creature" in (b) is a singular, indefinite noun phrase, which is fine on its own since it is not preceded by "one of the." "One of the distant ward" in (c) is flagged immediately as a "one of the" construction.
2. Apply the rule: any noun following "one of the [adjective]" must take the plural "-s" form, because logically you are describing one member selected from a set of multiple similar things, here, multiple wards in a house or building. "Ward" without the "-s" breaks this rule.

3. Double check there isn't a competing error elsewhere: (a) has no quantity phrase, (d) has "Vinod's room," a singular possessive that is correctly singular since only one room is being referred to, there's no "one of" construction attached to it, so no plural is needed there.

This checklist approach isolates the singular/plural mismatch to part (c) alone, confirming option C as the answer.

Let's summarize:

- Build a habit of flagging every "one of the" phrase in a sentence and verifying the noun that follows is plural, this single check resolves a large share of these error-spotting questions.
- Don't confuse this with singular possessive nouns like "Vinod's room," which are correct as singular since they refer to one specific, named thing.

Keeping a mental checklist of common grammar traps like this one speeds up error-spotting sections considerably.

Quick Tip: 'One of the' is always followed by a plural noun, check 'ward' against this rule.

• • •

. He said, "Where shall I be this time next year?"

Select the option that correctly converts the above sentence into indirect speech.

- (A) He asked that where should he be that time next year
- (B) He wondered where he should be that time the following year
- (C) He contemplated where shall he be that time the following year.
- (D) He wondered where he would be that time the following year

Correct Answer: (D) He wondered where he would be that time the following year

SOLUTION:

Let's build the indirect version from scratch instead of just checking the four choices, then match it against the options.

Direct sentence: He said, "Where shall I be this time next year?"

Step 1: Since this is a question, the reporting verb "said" must change to a verb that reports a question. Here the speaker is asking about his own future, so "wondered" fits naturally ("asked himself" would also work, but only "wondered" appears among the choices).

Step 2: The question word "where" stays as it is and becomes the connector between the two clauses; no "that" is added and no question mark is used.

Step 3: The clause order changes from question order (shall I be) to statement order (he would be).

Step 4: The modal "shall", used here for simple future with "I", shifts to "would" in reported speech (it would only shift to "should" if the original sentence were asking for advice or a suggestion, which this is not).

Step 5: Time expressions shift away from the speaker's original viewpoint: "this time next year" becomes "that time the following year".

Putting it together: "He wondered where he would be that time the following year", which is exactly option D.

Let's summarize:

- Build the sentence rule by rule rather than guessing, then match it to the given options.
- Every plain future "shall" with I/we becomes "would" when reported.
- "Next year" always becomes "the following year" once the reporting verb is in the past tense.

This step-by-step build confirms option D is correct.

Quick Tip: Shall with I/we becomes would in reported speech; also check the time-word shift.

• • •

. She said to him, "Why don't you go today?"

Select the option that correctly converts the above sentence into indirect speech.

- (A) She said to him that why he don't go today
- (B) She asked him if he was going that day
- (C) She asked him why he did not go today
- (D) She asked him why he did not go that day.

Correct Answer: (D) She asked him why he did not go that day.

SOLUTION:

Instead of comparing the four options side by side, let's derive the indirect form directly from the narration rules and then find the matching option.

Direct sentence: She said to him, "Why don't you go today?"

Step 1: The reporting verb "said to him" changes to "asked him" because the quoted sentence is a question, not a statement.

Step 2: The question word "why" is kept as the link between the two clauses; no "that" is inserted after it, and the question mark is dropped.

Step 3: The auxiliary verb tense moves one step into the past: "don't go" (simple present negative) becomes "did not go" (simple past negative).

Step 4: The pronoun "you" refers to the person being spoken to, so it becomes "he" from the reporter's point of view.

Step 5: The time word "today" is tied to the moment of the original conversation, so in reported speech it becomes "that day".

Combining all five steps gives: "She asked him why he did not go that day", which matches option D exactly.

Let's summarize:

- Reporting a "why" question always uses "asked", with "why" itself joining the clauses.
- Move the verb one tense back: "don't go" becomes "did not go".
- "Today" becomes "that day" whenever the reporting verb is in the past.

Building the sentence step by step, rather than only scanning the choices, makes it easy to see why option D is the only fully correct version.

Quick Tip: Reported why-questions use asked; also shift don't to did not and today to that day.

• • •

. In the following question, a group of four words is given. In this group one word is correctly spelt. Find the correctly spelt word.

- (A) rennassance
- (B) renaissance
- (C) rennaiscence
- (D) rennaissance

Correct Answer: (B) renaissance

SOLUTION:

A reliable way to check a tricky spelling is to break the word into its syllables and test each option against that pattern, rather than just eyeballing the choices.

The correct word "renaissance" splits into four sound units: re - nai - ssan - ce.

Testing each option against this pattern:

"rennassance" fails at the first unit itself, it has "renn" (double n) instead of "re" (single n), and it is also missing the "i" sound in the second unit.

"renaissance" matches the pattern exactly: "re" (single n), "nai" (with the i), "ssan" (double s), "ce".

"rennaissance" gets the first two units wrong in the same "renn" way, and additionally changes the ending sound from "ssance" to "scence", which is not part of this word at all.

"rennaissance" gets every unit right except the very first one, where it wrongly doubles the "n" to give "renn" instead of "re".

Since only "renaissance" satisfies the full re-nai-ssan-ce pattern, option B is confirmed as the correct spelling.

Let's summarize:

- Breaking a difficult word into syllables makes it much easier to catch a single wrong or doubled letter.
- The "renn-" versions in options A, C and D all fail at the very first syllable.
- Only option B carries the complete and correct re-nai-ssan-ce structure.

This syllable-check method works for most commonly confused spellings, not just this one.

Quick Tip: Renaissance has a single n after re, then ai, then a double s.



. In the following question, a group of four words is given. In this group one word is correctly spelt. Find the correctly spelt word.

- (A) irreparable
- (B) irreparable
- (C) irreparable
- (D) irreparable

Correct Answer: (B) irreparable

SOLUTION:

Rather than scanning the four spellings for what looks right, let's construct the word from its parts, prefix plus root, and see which option matches.

The word is built from the negative prefix "ir-" (a form of "in-" used before roots starting with r) and the root word "reparable", which comes from Latin roots meaning capable of being restored.

Prefix: ir-

Root: reparable (r-e-p-a-r-a-b-l-e)

Joining "ir-" directly to a root beginning with "r" naturally produces a double "rr": ir + reparable = irreparable.

Now checking the options against this construction: "ireparable" drops one of the two required "r"s at the join. "irreparable" keeps the correct double "rr" at the join but then inserts a third, unwanted "r" later in the word. "ireparable" drops one "r" at the join and additionally changes the root from "repar-" to "repair-", which does not belong in this word. Only "irreparable" reproduces the prefix-plus-root join correctly with no extra or missing letters anywhere else in the word.

This confirms option B, "irreparable", as the correct spelling.

Let's summarize:

- Build the word as prefix + root before checking the options: ir- + reparable = irreparable.
- A root beginning with "r" always doubles the "r" when the prefix "ir-" is attached.
- Check the rest of the word too, since an option can get the prefix right and still add a stray letter elsewhere, as in option C.

Quick Tip: Irreparable doubles the r where ir- meets the r-initial root reparable.

• • •

. How many members can be nominated to both the Houses of the Parliament by the President?

- (A) 14
- (B) 16
- (C) 10
- (D) 12

Correct Answer: (A) 14

SOLUTION:

This question tests a simple but often confused constitutional number: how many people the President can nominate to Parliament without an election.

1. **Rajya Sabha quota:** Article 80 fixes this at 12 members, picked for distinction in fields such as art, literature, science and social service.

2. **Lok Sabha quota:** at the time this exam was set, Article 331 allowed the President to nominate up to 2 members of the Anglo-Indian community if it lacked adequate representation in the House (this provision was later dropped by the 104th Amendment in 2019).

3. **Combined total:** 12 (Rajya Sabha) + 2 (Lok Sabha) = 14.

So the correct answer is option A, 14 members.

Quick Tip: Add the Rajya Sabha nominated quota (12) to the Lok Sabha nominated quota (2).

...

. Under which Article of the Constitution can an individual move to the Supreme Court directly in case of any violation of Fundamental Rights?

- (A) Article 31
- (B) Article 32
- (C) Article 28
- (D) Article 29

Correct Answer: (B) Article 32

SOLUTION:

Think of this as the enforcement article rather than a rights article.

1. **Article 31:** originally dealt with the right to property, which was itself removed from the list of Fundamental Rights by the 44th Amendment in 1978, so it cannot be the answer.
2. **Article 32:** grants the right to constitutional remedies, letting a citizen approach the Supreme Court directly, and empowering it

to issue writs to protect Fundamental Rights.

3. **Article 28:** concerns freedom from attending religious instruction in state-funded institutions, unrelated to enforcement.
4. **Article 29:** protects the right of minorities to conserve their language, script and culture.

Only Article 32 lets a person go straight to the Supreme Court for a Fundamental Rights violation, so option B is correct.

Quick Tip: This is the article Dr. Ambedkar called the heart and soul of the Constitution.

...

. The Dandi March of Gandhi is an example of

- (A) Non-Cooperation
- (B) Direct Action
- (C) Boycott
- (D) Civil Disobedience

Correct Answer: (D) Civil Disobedience

SOLUTION:

A quick way to place this event is by its date and its method.

1. **Non-Cooperation (1920-22):** about refusing to cooperate with British schools, courts and titles, not about breaking laws outright.
2. **Direct Action (1946):** a call by the Muslim League demanding a separate Muslim homeland, not led by Gandhi.

3. **Boycott:** refusing to purchase British-made goods, a tactic from the earlier Swadeshi movement.
4. **Civil Disobedience:** openly and peacefully breaking a specific unjust law, exactly what Gandhi did on 6 April 1930 when he made salt at Dandi in defiance of the British salt tax.

Since the Dandi March was Gandhi's way of deliberately breaking the salt law, it falls under Civil Disobedience, making option D correct.

Quick Tip: Gandhi broke the salt law at Dandi in 1930, launching a movement named after openly disobeying unjust laws.

...

. Inflation is caused by

- (A) decrease in production
- (B) increase in money supply and decrease in production
- (C) increase in money supply
- (D) increase in production

Correct Answer: (B) increase in money supply and decrease in production

SOLUTION:

Remember inflation with the simple idea, too much money chasing too few goods.

1. **Decrease in production alone:** reduces supply and can push prices up, but by itself this is usually called a supply shock rather than the standard definition of inflation.

2. Increase in money supply and decrease in production:

more currency in people's hands plus fewer goods on the shelves means both extra demand and reduced supply are pulling prices up together, which is the fullest description of what drives sustained inflation.

3. Increase in money supply alone: the standard monetarist cause of inflation, but only half the picture compared to option B.

4. Increase in production: this raises supply and would ease price pressure, not cause it.

Because option B combines both the demand-side (more money) and supply-side (less output) triggers, it is the correct choice.

Quick Tip: Think of the phrase too much money chasing too few goods.

• • •

. Dumping is a form of price discrimination at

- (A) local level
- (B) within industry
- (C) national level
- (D) international level

Correct Answer: (D) international level

SOLUTION:

The key clue in dumping is that it always involves selling abroad cheaper than at home.

1. **Local level:** dumping isn't about price differences between two towns or regions within the same country.
2. **Within industry:** this would mean different firms in the same industry pricing differently, not what dumping describes.
3. **National level:** dumping isn't confined to pricing choices inside one country's borders either.
4. **International level:** dumping specifically means a country's exporters sell a good abroad below its home-market price (or below cost), which is a cross-border practice that invites anti-dumping duties from the importing country.

Since the price gap is between the domestic market and an export market, dumping is an international-level form of price discrimination, so option D is correct.

Quick Tip: Dumping always involves exporting goods cheaper than they are sold at home.

...

. The equilibrium of a firm under perfect competition will be determined when

- (A) Marginal Cost > Average Cost
- (B) Marginal Revenue > Average Cost
- (C) Marginal Revenue > Average Revenue
- (D) Marginal Revenue = Marginal Cost

Correct Answer: (D) Marginal Revenue = Marginal Cost

SOLUTION:

Use the universal profit-maximisation rule that applies to every firm, competitive or not.

1. **MC greater than AC:** this is simply true for a whole range of output once diminishing returns set in, it doesn't identify one specific equilibrium point.
2. **MR greater than AC:** comparing marginal revenue to average cost tells you about profit per unit, not the profit-maximising output.
3. **MR greater than AR:** for a perfectly competitive firm, price (AR) is constant and always equal to MR, so this condition never actually holds.
4. **MR equals MC:** whatever the market structure, a firm keeps producing extra units as long as the revenue from the next unit exceeds its cost, and stops exactly where the two become equal, this is the equilibrium output.

So the firm settles at the output where Marginal Revenue equals Marginal Cost, making option D correct.

Quick Tip: The profit-maximising rule $MR = MC$ applies to firms in any market structure, including perfect competition.

• • •

. Match correctly the following, deserts and their location by choosing the correct response:

Desert	Location
A. Kalahari	1. South America
B. Atacama	2. Australia
C. Thar	3. Africa
D. Great Victoria	4. Asia

(A) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

(B) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4

(C) A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1

(D) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4

Correct Answer: (A) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

SOLUTION:

Go through each desert one at a time and place it on the map.

1. **Kalahari:** found in Southern Africa (Botswana, Namibia, South Africa), so it pairs with Africa (3).
2. **Atacama:** runs along the Chilean coast in South America and is famous for being extremely arid, so it pairs with South America (1).
3. **Thar:** also known as the Great Indian Desert, sits in India and Pakistan, so it pairs with Asia (4).
4. **Great Victoria Desert:** the largest desert in Australia, so it pairs with Australia (2).

Matching each desert to its continent gives A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2, confirming option A as the answer.

Quick Tip: Kalahari is in Africa, Atacama in South America, Thar in Asia (India), and Great Victoria in Australia.

• • •

. Which one of the following institutes in List I is wrongly matched with its location indicated in List II?

- (A) Central Institute of Mining Dhanbad and Fuel Research
- (B) Central Building Research Roorkee Institute
- (C) Central Arid Zone Jodhpur Research Institute
- (D) Central Drug Research Kanpur Institute

Correct Answer: (D) Central Drug Research Kanpur Institute

SOLUTION:

Concept:

India's CSIR network runs several specialised research institutes, each set up in a specific city for reasons tied to local resources or expertise (coalfields near Dhanbad, desert terrain near Jodhpur, and so on).

Explanation:

The Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research sits in Dhanbad because of the surrounding coal belt, the Central Building Research Institute operates out of Roorkee, and the Central Arid Zone Research Institute is based in Jodhpur to study desert agriculture and ecology. These three pairings are accurate. The odd one out is the Central Drug Research Institute, which the option places in Kanpur, but it is

actually headquartered in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, and has been since its founding in 1951.

Final Answer:

Option D wrongly matches the Central Drug Research Institute with Kanpur, its real location is Lucknow.

Quick Tip: Think about which city actually hosts the Central Drug Research Institute.

• • •

. In which one of the following films did Pran act as a character artist and not in the role of a villain?

- (A) Himalaya Ki Godh Mein
- (B) Ram aur Shyam
- (C) Zanjeer
- (D) Madhumati

Correct Answer: (C) Zanjeer

SOLUTION:

Concept:

For most of his early career, Pran was typecast as the man audiences loved to hate, playing scheming or violent antagonists in one film after another.

Explanation:

In Himalaya Ki Godh Mein, Ram aur Shyam and Madhumati, he stuck to that mould, playing the villain who drives the conflict of the story.

The break came with Zanjeer in 1973, where he was cast as Sher Khan, a rough talking Pathan who initially clashes with the honest, angry police officer played by Amitabh Bachchan but ends up becoming his steadfast ally. The role had shades of grey at the start but settled into a warm, positive character by the film's end, which is exactly what a "character artist" part means as opposed to a straight villain. This performance is widely credited with changing how filmmakers and audiences viewed Pran from that point onward.

Final Answer:

Zanjeer is the film in which Pran played a character artist rather than a villain, making option C correct.

Quick Tip: Think of the 1973 film where Pran played a Pathan who befriends the hero instead of opposing him.

• • •

. Who was the first posthumous recipient of Bharat Ratna?

- (A) M.G. Ramachandran
- (B) B.R. Ambedkar
- (C) K. Kamraj
- (D) Lal Bahadur Shastri

Correct Answer: (D) Lal Bahadur Shastri

SOLUTION:

The question asks which of these four Bharat Ratna awardees was the first to receive the honour after his death.

1. **M.G. Ramachandran:** awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1988, two years after his death, but this came well after the first posthumous award.
2. **B.R. Ambedkar:** honoured in 1990, more than three decades after he passed away in 1956, again later than Shastri's award.
3. **K. Kamraj:** given the award in 1976, posthumously, but still after 1966.
4. **Lal Bahadur Shastri:** died in January 1966 and was awarded the Bharat Ratna the same year, becoming the very first leader to receive it posthumously.

Since Shastri's award in 1966 predates the other three posthumous awards, option D is the correct answer.

Quick Tip: Think of the Prime Minister who died in Tashkent in 1966.

• • •

. Which country won the ICC Women's World Cup held in February 2013?

- (A) India
- (B) New Zealand
- (C) England
- (D) Australia

Correct Answer: (D) Australia

SOLUTION:

This question checks awareness of the result of the 2013 ICC Women's World Cup, which was played on Indian soil.

1. **India:** played as hosts but did not advance to the final of the tournament.
2. **New Zealand:** a strong contender in women's cricket at the time, but did not win this edition.
3. **England:** also competed but fell short of the title in 2013.
4. **Australia:** went on to win the final held in February 2013, adding another Women's World Cup trophy to their tally.

Australia's win in February 2013 makes option D the correct answer.

Quick Tip: The host nation did not win this edition, think of the team that dominated women's cricket around that time.

• • •

. Which country's currency is Ngultrum?

- (A) Bhutan
- (B) Laos
- (C) Bangladesh
- (D) Nepal

Correct Answer: (A) Bhutan

SOLUTION:

Each option lists a country neighbouring or near India, and only one of them uses the Ngultrum as its currency.

1. **Bhutan:** its official currency is the Ngultrum, which is pegged to the Indian Rupee and both currencies are accepted within the country.
2. **Laos:** uses the Kip as its currency, not the Ngultrum.

3. **Bangladesh:** its currency is the Taka.

4. **Nepal:** uses the Nepalese Rupee.

Since the Ngultrum belongs to Bhutan, option A is the correct answer.

Quick Tip: This currency is pegged at par with the Indian Rupee.

• • •

. Which of the following is not a characteristic of the Indian economy?

(A) Primacy of agriculture

(B) Balance between heavy industry and wage goods

(C) Population pressure

(D) Low per capita income

Correct Answer: (B) Balance between heavy industry and wage goods

SOLUTION:

This question lists common features associated with a developing economy like India and asks which one does not actually apply.

1. **Primacy of agriculture:** correct characteristic, agriculture still employs a large portion of India's workforce.
2. **Balance between heavy industry and wage goods:** not a real feature, India's planning history shows the opposite, an imbalance where heavy industry was prioritised over wage goods industries producing everyday consumer items.
3. **Population pressure:** correct characteristic, India's large population puts constant pressure on land, jobs and resources.

4. **Low per capita income:** correct characteristic, India's per capita income has historically stayed low compared to developed nations.

Because balance between heavy industry and wage goods does not describe the Indian economy, option B is the right choice.

Quick Tip: Think about the actual relationship between heavy industry investment and consumer goods production in India's planning history.

...

. Term 'Federal' has been used in the Indian Constitution in:

- (A) Part-III
- (B) Article-368
- (C) Nowhere in the Constitution
- (D) Preamble

Correct Answer: (C) Nowhere in the Constitution

SOLUTION:

This question checks whether the exact word "federal" is written anywhere in the Constitution of India.

1. **Part III:** covers Fundamental Rights and contains no reference to the term "federal."
2. **Article 368:** lays down the procedure for amending the Constitution, again without using the word "federal."
3. **Nowhere in the Constitution:** correct, the Constitution instead calls India a "Union of States" in Article 1, a deliberate

choice to signal that the Union cannot be broken apart by any state, unlike a typical federation formed by agreement.

4. **Preamble:** describes India as Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic, but does not mention "federal."

Since the term is absent throughout the document, option C is the correct answer.

Quick Tip: Check the exact wording of Article 1 that describes what kind of country India is.

...

. An employment situation where the marginal productivity of agricultural labour is zero is known as:

- (A) Seasonal unemployment
- (B) Cyclical unemployment
- (C) Disguised unemployment
- (D) Disguised employment

Correct Answer: (D) Disguised employment

SOLUTION:

A quick way to work through this is to test each option against the exact condition given: marginal productivity of labour equal to zero.

1. **Seasonal unemployment:** this describes workers with literally no job to do in certain months, for instance between crop cycles. The question describes someone still working on the land, not idle for part of the year, so this does not match.

2. **Cyclical unemployment:** this rises and falls with the broader business cycle, factory layoffs during a downturn being the classic example, and has no direct link to a fixed marginal product condition in farming.
3. **Disguised unemployment:** this is the general, broader label for the phenomenon of too many people crowding onto too little agricultural land, so that some of them are not really needed. It is close, but the question asks for the precise technical name of the MPL equals zero condition for an individual worker, not the general phenomenon.
4. **Disguised employment:** this names the exact state the question describes, a worker who is formally employed and physically present, yet whose marginal contribution to output is zero, meaning the job itself disguises what is effectively redundant labour.

Matching the precise wording of the question, marginal productivity is exactly zero, to the option that names that specific individual-level condition points to disguised employment, confirming option D.

Quick Tip: The worker is present and occupied every day, but adds nothing extra to total output, that hidden zero contribution is the clue.

• • •

- . Which one of the following National Park/Sanctuary is not in Rajasthan?
- (A) Sariska National Park
 - (B) Sambhar Wildlife Sanctuary
 - (C) Rajaji National Park
 - (D) Ranthambore National Park

Correct Answer: (C) Rajaji National Park

SOLUTION:

This question tests knowledge of which Indian state each protected area belongs to.

1. **Sariska National Park:** Located in Alwar district, Rajasthan, a well known tiger reserve.
2. **Sambhar Wildlife Sanctuary:** Wraps around the Sambhar Salt Lake close to Jaipur, again within Rajasthan.
3. **Rajaji National Park:** Situated in Uttarakhand near Haridwar and Dehradun, famous for its elephant corridors, and not connected to Rajasthan in any way.
4. **Ranthambore National Park:** Located in Sawai Madhopur district, Rajasthan, one of the state's most visited tiger reserves.

Since Sariska, Sambhar and Ranthambore are all within Rajasthan while Rajaji sits in Uttarakhand, the answer is Rajaji National Park.

Quick Tip: Three of the four are Rajasthan's famous tiger habitats; one belongs to a Himalayan foothill state known for elephants.

• • •

. The National Income of a country is

- (A) the annual revenue of the Government
- (B) sum total of factor incomes
- (C) surplus of PSU'S
- (D) export minus Import

Correct Answer: (B) sum total of factor incomes

SOLUTION:

This question checks the basic definition of national income used in macroeconomics.

1. **Annual revenue of the Government:** This is just the tax and non-tax receipts collected by the state, a fraction of the whole economy's activity, not national income.
2. **Sum total of factor incomes:** National income by definition equals the sum of wages, rent, interest and profit earned by a country's normal residents while producing goods and services in a year.
3. **Surplus of PSU's:** The profit earned by public sector undertakings is only a small slice of overall economic activity and cannot represent the whole national income.
4. **Export minus Import:** This measures the trade balance, one input used in the expenditure method of estimating GDP, not the definition of national income.

Since national income is derived by adding up all the factor incomes earned across the economy, the correct choice is "sum total of factor incomes".

Quick Tip: Think about the income approach to measuring national output: wages plus rent plus interest plus profit.

...

. Inflation in India is measured on which of the following indexes / indicators?

- (A) Cost of Living Index (CLI)
- (B) Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- (C) Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- (D) Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

Correct Answer: (D) Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

SOLUTION:

This question is about identifying the index India used to officially report inflation at the time of this exam.

1. **Cost of Living Index (CLI):** Used to compare living costs across regions or time periods, not adopted as India's official inflation indicator.
2. **Consumer Price Index (CPI):** Tracks retail-level prices and became India's main inflation benchmark only from 2014 onward, so it was not the measure in use at the time of this paper.
3. **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** Represents the total output of the economy, it is unrelated to tracking price changes.
4. **Wholesale Price Index (WPI):** Tracked wholesale-level price changes across a basket of goods and was the index India's government used to declare the official inflation rate at the time.

The correct answer is the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), the index India relied on for its official inflation figure at the time.

Quick Tip: Before 2014, which index did India's government use to declare the official inflation rate?



. TRIPS (Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement is administered by

- (A) UNCTD
- (B) UNO
- (C) WTO
- (D) World Bank

Correct Answer: (C) WTO

SOLUTION:

This question checks which international body oversees the TRIPS agreement.

1. **UNCTD (UNCTAD):** A UN body focused on trade and development policy, it does not administer TRIPS.
2. **UNO:** The umbrella international organisation, but it does not directly run specific trade agreements like TRIPS.
3. **WTO:** TRIPS is one of the WTO's foundational agreements from the 1995 Uruguay Round, and the WTO administers its implementation and dispute settlement among member countries.
4. **World Bank:** A development finance institution with no role in intellectual property agreements.

Since TRIPS was created as part of the WTO's founding agreements, the correct answer is WTO.

Quick Tip: TRIPS is one of the founding agreements signed at the Uruguay Round that created this global trade body.

. Which one of the following Institutions publishes the report of 'World Economic Outlook'?

- (A) IMF
- (B) World Bank
- (C) RBI
- (D) UNCTAD

Correct Answer: (A) IMF

SOLUTION:

This question is about identifying the publisher of the well known global growth forecast report.

1. **IMF:** Has published the World Economic Outlook since 1980, a twice-yearly survey of global growth trends and forecasts, making this the correct answer.
2. **World Bank:** Publishes its own reports such as Global Economic Prospects, but not the World Economic Outlook.
3. **RBI:** India's central bank, which issues domestic reports like the Monetary Policy Report, not a global outlook publication.
4. **UNCTAD:** Publishes the Trade and Development Report among others, but not the World Economic Outlook.

Since the World Economic Outlook has been the IMF's flagship publication since 1980, the correct answer is IMF.

Quick Tip: This is the same institution that also publishes the Global Financial Stability Report.

. Which one of the following is the correct sequence of the countries having foreign Exchange Reserve from high to low?

- (A) China - Russia - India - France
- (B) China - France - India - Russia
- (C) France - China - Russia - India
- (D) France - China - India - Russia

Correct Answer: (A) China - Russia - India - France

SOLUTION:

This question is about ranking four countries by the size of their foreign exchange reserves at the time of the exam.

1. **China - Russia - India - France:** Matches the actual ranking of the period, China's reserves were the largest by a wide margin, built up through sustained trade surpluses, followed by Russia's energy-export-driven reserves, then India's developing-economy reserves, and finally France's comparatively modest national reserves.
2. **China - France - India - Russia:** Wrongly places France ahead of Russia and India, when France's national reserves were in fact the smallest of the four.
3. **France - China - Russia - India:** Wrongly places France at the top, when France actually held the least reserves among these four countries.
4. **France - China - India - Russia:** Again wrongly starts with France and also swaps India and Russia's positions.

Since China led by far, followed by Russia, then India, then France, the correct sequence is China - Russia - India - France.

Quick Tip: China was the world's largest reserve holder by a huge margin at the time; France's national reserves were the smallest of the four.

• • •

. Which one of the following is correctly matched?

- (A) Kospi Index: South Korea
- (B) TSEC Weighted Index: Thailand
- (C) SET Index: China
- (D) All of the above

Correct Answer: (A) Kospi Index: South Korea

SOLUTION:

Let's check each index-country pairing given in the options one by one.

1. **Kospi Index: South Korea:** This is accurate. Kospi stands for Korea Composite Stock Price Index and is the official stock market index of South Korea.
2. **TSEC Weighted Index: Thailand:** This is incorrect. TSEC stands for Taiwan Stock Exchange Corporation, so this index belongs to Taiwan, not Thailand.
3. **SET Index: China:** This is incorrect. SET stands for the Stock Exchange of Thailand, so this index actually belongs to Thailand, not China.

4. **All of the above:** Since two of the three pairings are wrong, this option cannot be correct.

Because only the first pairing holds true, Kospi Index: South Korea is the correctly matched option.

Quick Tip: Match each stock index name to the country whose exchange it actually represents.

• • •

. Which of the following is not a chief organ of the United Nations Organisations?

- (A) International Labour Organisation
- (B) Security Council
- (C) International Court of Justice
- (D) General Assembly

Correct Answer: (A) International Labour Organisation

SOLUTION:

The United Nations has six principal organs. Let's see which of the given bodies does not belong to that list.

1. **International Labour Organisation:** This is a UN specialized agency, not one of the six principal organs, so it fits the question and is the correct answer.
2. **Security Council:** This is one of the six principal organs, responsible for maintaining international peace and security.
3. **International Court of Justice:** This is also one of the six principal organs, serving as the UN's main judicial body, seated at

The Hague.

4. **General Assembly:** This is another of the six principal organs, the main deliberative body where all member states are represented.

Since ILO is a specialized agency and not a principal organ, it is the one that does not belong, making International Labour Organisation the correct answer.

Quick Tip: Recall the UN Charter's six principal organs and note ILO's status as a specialized agency.

...

. Permanent Secretariat to coordinate the implementation of SAARC programme is located at

- (A) Dhaka
- (B) Kathmandu
- (C) Colombo
- (D) New Delhi

Correct Answer: (B) Kathmandu

SOLUTION:

Let's check where the SAARC Secretariat, which coordinates the implementation of SAARC programmes, is actually based.

1. **Dhaka:** This is the capital of Bangladesh, a SAARC member, but it does not host the Secretariat.
2. **Kathmandu:** This is correct. The SAARC Secretariat has been headquartered in Kathmandu, Nepal, since it was set up in

January 1987.

3. **Colombo:** This is the capital of Sri Lanka, another member country, but not the Secretariat's location.
4. **New Delhi:** This is India's capital and a major SAARC member's seat of government, but again not where the Secretariat sits.

Since the Secretariat is based in Kathmandu, option B is correct.

Quick Tip: The SAARC Secretariat has been based in Nepal's capital since 1987.

...

. Which of the following describe correctly the Group of Seven Countries (G-7)?

- (A) They are industrialised countries
- (B) They are developing countries
- (C) They are holding Atomic Bomb technology
- (D) They are countries who can launch their own satellites

Correct Answer: (A) They are industrialised countries

SOLUTION:

Let's see which description correctly fits the Group of Seven (G-7) countries.

1. **They are industrialised countries:** This is correct, the G-7 is a forum of the world's most advanced, industrialised economies (US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Canada).
2. **They are developing countries:** This is incorrect, the G-7 nations are developed, not developing, economies.

3. **They are holding Atomic Bomb technology:** This is incorrect, not all G-7 members possess nuclear weapons; Japan, Germany, Italy, and Canada do not.

4. **They are countries who can launch their own satellites:** This is incorrect, satellite-launch capability is not the defining or common criterion for G-7 membership.

Since the G-7 is defined by its members' advanced industrial economies, "they are industrialised countries" is the correct description.

Quick Tip: Think about what economically links the G-7 nations, not their military or space capability.

...

. Which of the following countries is not a member of Group 15 developing countries?

- (A) Mexico
- (B) Brazil
- (C) Malaysia
- (D) Bolivia

Correct Answer: (D) Bolivia

SOLUTION:

Let's check each country against the actual membership list of the Group of 15 (G-15) developing nations.

1. **Mexico:** Mexico is a founding member of the G-15, so this option is a genuine member.

2. **Brazil:** Brazil is also a founding member of the G-15, so this too is a genuine member.
3. **Malaysia:** Malaysia has been part of the G-15 grouping since its formation, so this is a genuine member as well.
4. **Bolivia:** Bolivia does not appear in the G-15 membership list at all, which makes it the country that is not a member.

Since Mexico, Brazil, and Malaysia are all confirmed G-15 members while Bolivia is not, Bolivia is the correct answer.

Quick Tip: Recall the roughly 17-nation G-15 membership list spanning Asia, Africa, and Latin America; check which option isn't on it.

• • •

. The headquarters of Food and Agriculture Organisation is in

- (A) Madrid
- (B) Rome
- (C) Washington
- (D) Paris

Correct Answer: (B) Rome

SOLUTION:

Let's go through each city to see which one actually hosts the FAO's headquarters.

1. **Madrid:** Madrid is not the FAO's headquarters city, though Spain does host other agricultural bodies.
2. **Rome:** This is correct. The FAO has been headquartered in Rome, Italy, since 1951.

3. **Washington:** Washington hosts the IMF and World Bank, not the FAO.
4. **Paris:** Paris hosts UNESCO, not the FAO.

Since the FAO's headquarters is in Rome, that is the correct answer.

Quick Tip: This UN food and agriculture agency has been based in an Italian capital since 1951.

• • •

. The headquarters of the UNESCO is at

- (A) Geneva
- (B) Rome
- (C) Paris
- (D) New York

Correct Answer: (C) Paris

SOLUTION:

Let's check each city against UNESCO's actual headquarters location.

1. **Geneva:** Geneva hosts organisations like the WHO and WTO, not UNESCO.
2. **Rome:** Rome is home to the FAO, not UNESCO.
3. **Paris:** This is correct. UNESCO has been headquartered in Paris, France, since its founding in 1945.
4. **New York:** New York hosts the main UN headquarters, not UNESCO specifically.

Since UNESCO's headquarters is located in Paris, that is the correct answer.

Quick Tip: This UN cultural and educational agency has always been headquartered in the French capital.

• • •

. Amnesty International is an organisation associated with which of the following fields?

- (A) Protection of Cruelty to animals
- (B) Protection of human rights
- (C) Protection of historic monuments
- (D) Environment protection

Correct Answer: (B) Protection of human rights

SOLUTION:

This question asks what field Amnesty International works in. Let's look at each option.

1. **Protection of Cruelty to animals:** This is the mission of animal welfare bodies such as PETA, not Amnesty International.
2. **Protection of human rights:** Amnesty International, established in 1961, campaigns worldwide against human rights abuses such as unlawful detention, torture and the death penalty, and pushes for the release of prisoners of conscience. This matches its real-world work.
3. **Protection of historic monuments:** Heritage protection is handled by agencies like UNESCO or national heritage

departments, not Amnesty International.

4. **Environment protection:** This falls under environmental bodies such as Greenpeace or UNEP.

Amnesty International's actual field of work is human rights, so option B is correct.

Quick Tip: Think of the organisation that campaigns for prisoners of conscience and against torture.

• • •

. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is located at which of the following places?

- (A) Vienna
- (B) Geneva
- (C) Rome
- (D) Paris

Correct Answer: (B) Geneva

SOLUTION:

The question asks for the headquarters city of UNCTAD. Checking the options one by one helps confirm the answer.

1. **Vienna:** Home to agencies like the IAEA and UNIDO, but not UNCTAD.
2. **Geneva:** UNCTAD, set up in 1964 as a UN body to promote trade and development for poorer nations, runs its secretariat from Geneva, alongside other UN offices like WHO and ILO.

3. **Rome:** This city hosts the FAO and the World Food Programme, unrelated to UNCTAD.
4. **Paris:** Paris is home to UNESCO, not UNCTAD.

Since UNCTAD's secretariat sits in Geneva, option B is the correct answer.

Quick Tip: This Swiss city also hosts the WHO and ILO headquarters.

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. 'Dans le harem de Kadhafi' is a book written by:

- (A) Lewis Hamilton
- (B) Annick Cojean
- (C) Barak Obama
- (D) Vladimir Putin

Correct Answer: (B) Annick Cojean

SOLUTION:

This question checks who authored the book 'Dans le harem de Kadhafi'. Going through the options:

1. **Lewis Hamilton:** A British Formula One driver, with no link to journalism or this book.
2. **Annick Cojean:** A French journalist at Le Monde who published this book in 2012, documenting testimonies of women abused by Muammar Gaddafi during his rule in Libya. This matches the book in question.

3. **Barak Obama:** The then US President, known for his own autobiographical works, not this book.
4. **Vladimir Putin:** The Russian President, unconnected to this French investigative work.

The author of 'Dans le harem de Kadhafi' is Annick Cojean, making option B correct.

Quick Tip: She is a French journalist with the newspaper Le Monde.

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. 12th Five year plan will be for the period of

- (A) 2010-2015
- (B) 2015-2020
- (C) 2011-2016
- (D) 2012-2017

Correct Answer: (D) 2012-2017

SOLUTION:

The question asks for the exact duration of India's 12th Five Year Plan. Let's evaluate the choices.

1. **2010-2015:** This period does not match any single official plan; it overlaps parts of the 11th and 12th Plans.
2. **2015-2020:** By 2015 the Planning Commission had been replaced by NITI Aayog, so no 12th Plan covers these years.
3. **2011-2016:** This is not the officially notified period for the 12th Plan either.

4. **2012-2017:** The 12th Five Year Plan was formally approved for this exact period, carrying the theme "Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth".

The correct duration of the 12th Five Year Plan is 2012-2017, option D.

Quick Tip: This plan started the same year the question paper was set.

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. Which one of the following is an important historical novel written during the latter half of the nineteenth century?

- (A) Rast Goftar
- (B) Durgesh Nandini
- (C) Maratha
- (D) Nibandhamala

Correct Answer: (B) Durgesh Nandini

SOLUTION:

This question asks to identify a historical novel from the latter half of the nineteenth century. Checking each option by its literary form helps.

1. **Rast Goftar:** A Gujarati newspaper started by Dadabhai Naoroji in 1851, meant for social reform writing, not fiction.
2. **Durgesh Nandini:** Written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and published in 1865, this Bengali work is considered the first

significant Indian historical novel, built around events during Mughal rule in Bengal.

3. **Maratha:** An English weekly newspaper founded by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, used to voice nationalist opinion, not a novel.
4. **Nibandhamala:** A Marathi essay collection by Vishnushastri Chiplunkar focused on social and cultural commentary, again not a novel.

Of the four works, only *Durgesh Nandini* is a historical novel, confirming option B as correct.

Quick Tip: This is a Bengali work by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

...

. The river Sone is a tributary of which one of the following rivers?

- (A) Ganga
- (B) Yamuna
- (C) Narmada
- (D) Mahanadi

Correct Answer: (A) Ganga

SOLUTION:

This question asks which major river the Son (Sone) river feeds into. Reviewing the options helps rule out the wrong ones.

1. **Ganga:** The Son, originating near Amarkantak, travels roughly 780 km and merges with the Ganga near Danapur close to Patna,

Bihar, making it one of the Ganga's important right bank tributaries.

2. **Yamuna:** The Yamuna is itself a tributary of the Ganga and does not receive the Son's waters.
3. **Narmada:** This river flows west into the Arabian Sea and has no confluence with the Son.
4. **Mahanadi:** This river flows through Odisha into the Bay of Bengal, an entirely separate system from the Son.

Since the Son joins the Ganga near Patna, option A is correct.

Quick Tip: It joins this river near Danapur, close to Patna.

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. When you travel in certain parts of India, you will notice red soil. What is the main reason for this colour?

- (A) Abundance of magnesium
- (B) Accumulated humus
- (C) Presence of ferric oxides
- (D) Abundance of phosphates

Correct Answer: (C) Presence of ferric oxides

SOLUTION:

The question asks why certain Indian soils appear red. Let's examine each possible cause.

1. **Abundance of magnesium:** Magnesium content does not give soil a red tint.

2. **Accumulated humus:** High humus content is linked to dark, fertile soils like black cotton soil, the opposite of red soil.
3. **Presence of ferric oxides:** Red soils form when iron bearing minerals in the underlying crystalline rocks weather and oxidise into ferric oxide coatings on the soil particles, which is what gives the soil its reddish hue. This matches the observed colour directly.
4. **Abundance of phosphates:** Phosphate content is not connected to soil colouration.

Ferric oxides are the actual cause of the red colour, so option C is correct.

Quick Tip: Think of what rust is made of.

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. Ankaleshwar and Navagaon are two oil fields in

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) Bihar
- (C) West Bengal
- (D) Assam

Correct Answer: (A) Gujarat

SOLUTION:

This question tests basic knowledge of India's petroleum-producing regions, a recurring static GK topic in MBA entrance exams.

1. **Gujarat:** Correct. Ankleshwar and Navagam are onshore oil fields in the Cambay basin of Gujarat, developed by ONGC starting in the 1960s.
2. **Bihar:** Incorrect. Bihar is not known for petroleum reserves; it has some coal deposits but no major oil fields.
3. **West Bengal:** Incorrect. The state has limited hydrocarbon output and no fields by these names.
4. **Assam:** Incorrect. Assam's well known oil fields are Digboi, Naharkatiya and Moran, which are different from Ankaleshwar and Navagaon.

The correct option is A, Gujarat, since both fields lie in the state's Cambay basin.

Quick Tip: Both fields lie in the Cambay basin of western India.

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. The award given in the field of agriculture is

- (A) Bhatnagar Award
- (B) Borlaug Award
- (C) Dhanwantari Award
- (D) Kalinga Award

Correct Answer: (B) Borlaug Award

SOLUTION:

Each award listed here honours a different discipline, so the question is really about matching the award to its correct field.

1. **Bhatnagar Award:** This is India's top award for science and technology research, not agriculture.
2. **Borlaug Award:** Named after Norman Borlaug, the scientist credited with the Green Revolution, this award specifically recognises work in agriculture.
3. **Dhanwantari Award:** This honours contribution to medicine and medical science.
4. **Kalinga Award:** A UNESCO prize for popularising science, unrelated to farming or crop research.

Since the question asks for the agriculture-related award, the correct choice is B, the Borlaug Award.

Quick Tip: Named after the scientist who led the Green Revolution.

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. Name the Tennis Legend who has been honoured with her name inclusion in Tennis hall of fame

- (A) Tracy Austin
- (B) Martina Hingis
- (C) Hana Mandlikova
- (D) Bjorn Borg

Correct Answer: (B) Martina Hingis

SOLUTION:

The question points to a specific female player honoured with induction into the Tennis Hall of Fame, so gender and timing both help eliminate wrong options.

1. **Tracy Austin:** A former US player, but she was inducted back in 1992, not matching the recent induction being referred to.
2. **Martina Hingis:** The five-time Grand Slam champion and former World No. 1 was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2013.
3. **Hana Mandlikova:** A former Czech-Australian player inducted in 1994, an earlier year than intended here.
4. **Bjorn Borg:** A legendary male player, so he cannot be the "her" mentioned in the question.

The correct answer is B, Martina Hingis.

Quick Tip: She was a former World No. 1 and five-time Grand Slam singles champion.

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. The Golden Globe Awards are presented by

- (A) National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences
- (B) Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA)
- (C) American Theatre Wing and The Broadway League
- (D) Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

Correct Answer: (B) Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA)

SOLUTION:

Matching an award show to the organisation behind it is a classic static GK question in entrance exams.

1. **National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences:** This body presents the Grammy Awards, honouring music, not the

Golden Globes.

2. **Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA):** This is the organisation of international entertainment journalists that presents the Golden Globe Awards every year.
3. **American Theatre Wing and The Broadway League:** These jointly present the Tony Awards for Broadway theatre.
4. **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences:** This body presents the Academy Awards, better known as the Oscars.

The correct answer is B, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

Quick Tip: Think of the organisation of international entertainment journalists covering Hollywood.

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. Which one of the following is not a football tournament?

- (A) I-League
- (B) Irani Trophy
- (C) Bardoloi Trophy
- (D) Durand Cup

Correct Answer: (B) Irani Trophy

SOLUTION:

Three of the four options are genuine football competitions, so the task is to spot the one from a different sport.

1. **I-League:** A professional football league in India, so this is a football tournament.

2. **Irani Trophy:** A first-class cricket tournament contested between the reigning Ranji Trophy champions and the Rest of India, not related to football at all.
3. **Bardoloi Trophy:** An annual football tournament held in Guwahati, Assam, named after the state's first Chief Minister.
4. **Durand Cup:** Asia's oldest football tournament, first held in 1888.

Since the Irani Trophy belongs to cricket, it is the odd one out, making B the correct answer.

Quick Tip: This one is actually a cricket tournament, not football.