

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



1. In the following question, choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.

Brazen

- a) Soften
- b) Risen
- c) Access
- d) Timid

Correct Choice: d

Explanation:

(d) is the correct answer. BRAZEN means 'bold'. TIMID is its antonym.

Soften- Ease.

Risen- Increased.

Access- Ingress.

2.. In the question below, two sentences are given and each of them consists of two words highlighted in bold. The words may be incorrectly placed and need to be interchanged in order to make both the sentences contextually correct. From the options, choose the option that represents the correct combination of the words that need to be interchanged.

I. In order to (1)ascertain which applicant was most (2)inarticulate for the position, the hiring manager spent a long time reviewing the resumes.

II. Sadly, a number of high school students are (3)qualified when they graduate and cannot (4)properly word a sentence.

A -1-3, 2-4

B -2-3

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



C -1-2

D -2 -4

Solution

(b) is the right answer. We need to replace (2) with (3). The first sentence talks about how the hiring manager was reviewing the profiles of the applicants to make a decision. INARTICULATE means unable to speak in a manner that can be understood. This quality is not something that can get you a job. QUALIFIED means competent or knowledgeable to do something. ASCERTAIN means to calculate or estimate something. PROPERLY means in a way that is required.

3. In the question below, two sentences are given and each of them consists of two words highlighted in bold. The words may be incorrectly placed and need to be interchanged in order to make both the sentences contextually correct. From the options, choose the option that represents the correct combination of the words that need to be interchanged.

I. Nothing is more (1)beautiful to a mother than her children, and she will always choose to (2)deft them over anything else.

II. The (3)protect carpenter was able to take a few old boards and turn them into a (4)precious bookshelf.

A -1-4, 2-3

B -2-3

C -1-2

D -2-4, 1-3

Solution

(a) is the right answer. We need to replace (1) with (4) and (2) with (3). We need a verb in its base form to fit in the infinitive construction of TO+VERB. DEFT (skilled) is an adjective. PROTECT(to keep safe from harm or injury) is a verb. The first sentence talks about mothers. It states that children are very dear to mothers and they will go to any

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



length to keep them safe. The second sentence talks about how the carpenter was able to use some old boards and make a bookshelf.

4. In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

One who unable to pay his debt

- a) Bankrupt
- b) Chauvinist
- c) Arbitrator
- d) Ambidextrous

Correct Choice: a

Explanation:

(a) is the correct answer. A person is BANKRUPT when he is unable to pay his debt.

Chauvinist- One who follows an idea or belief blindly.

Arbitrator- a person who mediates between two people or groups who do not agree.

Ambidextrous- one who can use both hands easily.

5. In the question below, two sentences are given, each with four words highlighted in bold. From the options, choose the combination of words that are grammatically or contextually inappropriate in the sentence.

1. He seemed half **famished**, and **devoted** some slices of excellent ham, which I had put in my guide's **knapsack**, **wolfishly**.

2. Scotland's **beleaguered** industrial sector is still **ensuring** a **combination** of business failures and **cutbacks** on capital expenditure, according to new figures due out tomorrow.

A -famished, wolfishly, ensured

B -devoted, beleaguered

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



C -devoted, ensuring

D -knapsack, cutbacks

Solution

DEVOTED and ENSURING are inapt. 1 - the sentence tells us how he seemed famished (starving) and consumed wolfishly (hungrily) the ham which the speaker had put in his/her guide's knapsack (bag). DEVOTED means allocated, which is inapt; it should be replaced with DEVOURED. 2 - the sentence tells us how Scotland's beleaguered (troubled) industrial sector is still suffering a combination (mix) of business failures and cutbacks (reductions) on capital expenditure, according to the new figures. ENSURING means making certain of something, which is inapt here; it should be replaced with ENDURING (suffering). Thus, (c) is the right answer.

6. In the question below, two sentences are given, each with four words highlighted in bold. From the options, choose the combination of words that are grammatically or contextually inappropriate in the sentence.

1. Tolerance was an **inherent prospect** of Andalusian society, and from this, incredible **advances** in art, architecture, and technology were **achieved**.

2. Eastern mystical philosophies such as Buddhism **promote** an **attitude** of **acceptance** of suffering and difficulties which are an **invincible** part of life.

A -inherent, prospect, promote

B -prospect, invincible

C -advances, attitude

D -achieved, acceptance, invincible

Solution

1 - the sentence tells us how tolerance was an inherent (innate) feature of Andalusian society, and from this, incredible advances (progress) in several fields was achieved

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



(accomplished). PROSPECT means likelihood and will be inapt here; replace it with ASPECT (feature). 2 - the sentence tells us how certain philosophies promote (propagate) an attitude (mindset) of acceptance (endurance) of suffering and troubles, which are an avoidable part of life. INVINCIBLE means infallible, and will be inapt here; INEVITABLE means inescapable and will be more suitable here. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

7. In the question below, two sentences are given, each with four words highlighted in bold. From the options, choose the combination of words that are grammatically or contextually inappropriate in the sentence.

1. Tolerance was an **inherent prospect** of Andalusian society, and from this, incredible **advances** in art, architecture, and technology were **achieved**.

2. Eastern mystical philosophies such as Buddhism **promote** an **attitude** of **acceptance** of suffering and difficulties which are an **invincible** part of life.

A -inherent, prospect, promote

B -prospect, invincible

C -advances, attitude

D -achieved, acceptance, invincible

Solution

1 - the sentence tells us how tolerance was an inherent (innate) feature of Andalusian society, and from this, incredible advances (progress) in several fields was achieved (accomplished). PROSPECT means likelihood and will be inapt here; replace it with ASPECT (feature). 2 - the sentence tells us how certain philosophies promote (propagate) an attitude (mindset) of acceptance (endurance) of suffering and troubles, which are an avoidable part of life. INVINCIBLE means infallible, and will be inapt here; INEVITABLE means inescapable and will be more suitable here. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

8. Directions: In the question given below, a set of five sentences is given, four of which when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. One of the sentences does not

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



belong to the paragraph. Arrange the sentences in the correct sequence, and answer the questions.

P. At the same time, the increasing importance placed on individual well-being contributed to changes in conventional attitudes towards marriage and sexuality, reproduction and child rearing, and civil rights.

Q. Although the whole field of applied ethics as current understood is a fairly recent phenomenon, there have been discussions of moral issues since ancient times.

R. Bioethics emerged as a distinct field of study in the early 1960s.

S. It was influenced not only by advances in the life sciences, particularly medicine, but by the significant cultural and societal changes taking place at the time, primarily in the West.

T. The perfection of certain lifesaving procedures and technologies, such as organ transplantation and kidney dialysis, required medical officials to make difficult decisions about which patients would receive treatment and which would be allowed to die.

Which of the following sentences do NOT belong to the main theme of the paragraph?

A -P

B -Q

C -T

D -R

Solution

RSTP is the final order. R begins the paragraph by introducing the field which is discussed - bioethics. It tells us when this field emerged. S follows by telling us what this field was influenced by. It mentions advances in life sciences as well as societal and cultural changes as responsible factors. TP follow as a pair - T gives examples of some of these advances in life sciences, and P tells us the societal and cultural changes.

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



Q is the odd sentence as it talks about the broader field of applied ethics rather than the field of bioethics, which is discussed in the passage. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

9. In the question below, three idioms are given, each with a case that may or may not describe a situation where the idiom can be contextually used. From the options, choose the one that provides the combination of situations in which the given idiom can be used correctly.

1. Back to the salt mines

A. After a two-week-long vacation, I realised I had to go back to work and start working on a new project.

2. Bull in a china shop

B. He is very irresponsible in spending money; just last week, he gambled away his life savings and incurred massive losses.

3. Bottom of the barrel

C. Since all the best players had been selected for other matches, we had to make do with whoever volunteered.

A -Only A and B

B -Only B and C

C -Only A and C

D -All A, B and C

Solution

BACK TO THE SALT MINES means to rejoin work after a break; A is correct as it talks about how the speaker had to rejoin work after a vacation.

BULL IN A CHINA SHOP refers to a clumsy person; B is incorrect as it talks about how he was reckless and irresponsible in spending money.

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



BOTTOM OF THE BARREL means low-quality choices; C is correct as it talks about how they had to select whichever people volunteered as the best players were not available.

Thus, (c) is the right answer.

10. In the question below, three idioms are given, each with a case that may or may not describe a situation where the idiom can be contextually used. From the options, choose the one that provides the combination of situations in which the given idiom can be used correctly.

1. In the cards

A. I think I will be selected for this job as I answered all the questions in the interview fairly confidently.

2. Wet one's whistle

B. The teacher asked the children to come back to the classroom and drink something as they had been playing outside for over an hour.

3. Pull the plug on (something)

C. We have planned to terminate our project in Taiwan as it is not yielding any successful results.

A -Only A and B

B -Only B and C

C -Only A and C

D -All A, B and C

Solution

IN THE CARDS to be likely to happen; A is correct as the sentence tells us how the speaker believes that he/ she will be selected for the job. WET ONE'S WHISTLE means to drink something; B is correct as it tells us how the children were told to drink water after playing. PULL THE PLUG ON (SOMETHING) means to end something; C is correct as it

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



tells us how they had planned to finish their project as it was not bringing results. Thus, (d) is the right answer.

11. In the question below, three idioms are given, each with a case that may or may not describe a situation where the idiom can be contextually used. From the options, choose the one that provides the combination of situations in which the given idiom can be used correctly.

1. Green around the gills

A. Ever since the manager praised Jim's work, Paul has been feeling jealous.

2. Sharp as a tack

B. Even though my grandfather is in his nineties, he is still very quick when it comes to calculations.

3. House of correction

C. At the young age of twenty-three, he was arrested for petty crimes and spent over two years in prison.

A -Only A and B

B -Only B and C

C -Only A and C

D -All A, B and C

Solution

GREEN AROUND THE GILLS means unwell; A is incorrect as it talks about how Paul was feeling jealous.

SHARP AS A TACK means very quick or intelligent; B is correct as it talks about the speaker's grandfather and his ability to calculate fast.

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



HOUSE OF CORRECTION means prison; C is correct as it talks about how he spent a few years in prison.

Thus, (b) is the right answer.

12. Which property of coffee makes people believe that it is good for health?

1. It leads to a loss of appetite.
2. It leads to greater social interaction.
3. It has a high level of antioxidants

- A -Only 2
- B -Only 1
- C -Only 3**
- D -Only 1 and 2

Solution

(c) is the right answer. Refer to the lines: *Those who claim that coffee is healthy tend to point to its high level of antioxidants.* Thus, the presence of high level of antioxidants makes people believe that it is good for health. Both (1) and (2) are the impacts of coffee consumption and not its property.

13. Which of the following connectors can fit in the blank?

- A -Moreover
- B -Since
- C -However**
- D -Furthermore

Solution

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



(c) is the right answer. The previous sentence talks about how the new stories present coffee as a beverage that leads to a longer life. The sentence containing the blank states that it may just be a correlation and there can be a lot of factors that lead to longevity. Thus, it contrasts the information given in the previous sentence. HOWEVER can be used to link contrasting statements.

MOREOVER and FURTHERMORE are used to provide additional information.

SINCE is used to indicate a cause-effect relationship.

14. Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.

GRANDIOSE

- a) Humble
- b) Informative
- c) Indignant
- d) Elusive

Correct Choice: a

Explanation:

GRANDIOSE means magnificent. HUMBLE is its antonym. Thus, (a) is the right answer.

Informative - giving knowledge. Indignant - angry. Elusive - avoidant.

15. Select the correctly spelled word.

- a) Lethargic
- b) Lethargic
- c) Lethargic

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



d) Lethargic

Correct Choice: c

Explanation:

The correctly spelled word is LETHARGIC and it means lacking in energy. Thus, (c) is the right answer.

16. In the sentence identify the segment which contains a grammatical error.

During the past 50 years, our society have been immeasurably enriched by people from different cultures, creeds and religions.

- a) During the past 50 years, our society
- b) have been immeasurably
- c) by people from different
- d) cultures, creeds and religions.

Correct Choice: b

Explanation:

In B, replace the plural verb HAVE with the singular HAS as the subject SOCIETY is singular. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

17. In the question below, three idioms are given, each with a case that may or may not describe a situation where the idiom can be contextually used. From the options, choose the one that provides the combination of situations in which the given idiom can be used correctly.

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A. Ever since the manager praised Jim's work, Paul has been feeling jealous.

2. Sharp as a tack

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



B. Even though my grandfather is in his nineties, he is still very quick when it comes to calculations.

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C. At the young age of twenty-three, he was arrested for petty crimes and spent over two years in prison.

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SHARP AS A TACK means very quick or intelligent; B is correct as it talks about the speaker's grandfather and his ability to calculate fast.

HOUSE OF CORRECTION means prison; C is correct as it talks about how he spent a few years in prison.

Thus, (b) is the right answer.

18. Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.

FACILITATE

a) expedite

b) permit

c) hinder

d) hasten

Correct Choice: c

Explanation:

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



FACILITATE means to enable something. HINDER means to restrict and is an antonym. Thus, (c) is the right answer.

Expedite - enable. Permit - allow. Hasten - accelerate.

19. Select the correct active form of the given sentence.

The mask was worn by the culprit.

- a) The culprit wears the mask.
- b) The culprit wore the mask.
- c) The culprit had worn the mask
- d) A mask is being worn by the culprit.

Correct Choice: b

Explanation:

The sentence is in the indicative mood and passive voice. Follow the rules below to convert a sentence in the indicative mood to active voice:

1. The subject clause will become the object clause. Here, the subject THE MASK will change to the object, and the object THE CULPRIT will change into the subject and begin the sentence.

2. Replace WAS WORN with WORE.

3. Remove the conjunction BY before THE CULPRIT.

Option (b) is the right answer.

20. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

TACITURN

- a) Reticent

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



- b) Innocent
- c) Ignorant
- d) Complacent

Correct Choice: a

Explanation:

TACITURN means untalkative. RETICENT means reserved or silent, and is closest in meaning. Thus, (a) is the right answer.

Innocent - not guilty of an act. Ignorant - foolish; unaware. Complacent - self satisfied.

21. Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct order.

P. Lambs are usually dropped in the spring and are sold at ages of from three to eight months.

Q. In many parts of the world, small flocks are kept partly as scavengers to clean up fence rows, weeds, brush, and other undesirable forage.

R. But this is a diminishing role.

S. Large flocks are maintained partly for wool and partly for market lambs.

- a) QSRP
- b) QRSP
- c) PQSR
- d) PQRS

Correct Choice: b

Explanation:

QRSP is the final order. Q begins the passage by introducing the main topic - many small flocks of sheep are kept as scavengers. R tells us that this role is declining. S follows by telling us what large flocks are kept for. P follows by telling us more about market lambs mentioned in S. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



22. Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.

My parents had never asked such a question before.

- a) Such a question is never asked before by my parents.
- b) Never before had my parents asked such a question.
- c) Such a question had never been asked before by my parents.
- d) My parents will never ask such a question again.

Correct Choice: c

Explanation:

The sentence is in the indicative mood and active voice. Follow the rules below to convert a sentence in the indicative mood to passive voice:

1. The subject clause will become the object clause. Here, the subject MY PARENTS will change to the object, and the object SUCH A QUESTION will change into the subject and begin the sentence.
2. Replace HAD NEVER ASKED with HAD NEVER BEEN ASKED.
3. Put the conjunction BY before the subject MY PARENTS.

Option (c) is the right answer.

23. In the question below, two sentences joined by a connector are given. The connector is highlighted in bold. From the options, choose the connector that can replace the highlighted word such that the meaning of the joined sentence does not change.

The idea was rejected because it would have proved too costly, moreover, difficulties arose with getting permission to use the land.

1. Consequently
2. Furthermore
3. Additionally
4. Therefore

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



- a) 1 and 2
- b) 1 and 3
- c) 1 and 4
- d) 2 and 3

Correct Choice: d

Explanation:

The sentences are complementary - the first tells us that the idea was rejected due to the high cost, and the second adds that difficulties arose with getting permission to use the land. FURTHERMORE and ADDITIONALLY can replace MOREOVER to convey the requisite meaning. Thus, (d) is the right answer.

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CONSEQUENTLY and THEREFORE are used to show a cause-effect relationship, which is not the case here

24. In the question below, a sentence is given divided into 3 parts, out of which one or more parts may contain an error. From the options, choose the combination of parts that need to be replaced with the phrases provided below. In case the sentence is correct as it is, and needs

Water blooms, or great concentrations of algae and (A)/ microscopic organisms, often develops on the surface, preventing (B)/ the light penetration and oxygen absorption necessarily for underwater life. (C)

1. Water blooms, or greatly concentrations of algae and
2. microscopic organisms, often develop on the surface, preventing
3. the light penetration and oxygen absorption necessary for underwater life.

Mphasis Verbal Ability Old Placement Paper



- a) Only A and B
- b) Only B and C
- c) Only A and C
- d) All A, B and C

Correct Choice: b

Explanation:

A - no error. B - replace the singular verb DEVELOPS with the plural verb DEVELOP as the subject CONCENTRATIONS is plural. 2 can replace B. C - replace the adverb NECESSARILY with the adjective NECESSARY as it is being used to modify the noun PENETRATION and ABSORPTION. 3 can replace C. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

25. In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Direct/Indirect speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Indirect/Direct speech.

Teacher warned her that he could no longer tolerate her coming late.

1. Teacher said to her, "You can no longer tolerate my coming late."
- 2. Teacher said to her, "I can no longer tolerate your coming late."**
3. Teacher said to her, "He can no longer tolerate her coming late."
4. Teacher said to her, "I can no longer tolerate she coming late."