

Wipro Elite NTH Verbal Ability Questions - Paper 1



(1-5) Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions.

“Boredom” first became a word in 1852, with the publication of Charles Dickens’ convoluted serial, *Bleak House*; as an emotional state, it obviously dates back a lot further. Roman philosopher Seneca talks about boredom as a kind of nausea. And the vast amount of ancient graffiti on Roman walls is a testament to the fact that teenagers in every era deface property when they have nothing else to do.

In Christian tradition, chronic boredom was “acedia”, a sin that’s sort of a proto-sloth. The “noonday demon”, as one of its early chroniclers called it, refers to a state of being simultaneously listless and restless and was often ascribed to monks and other people who led cloistered lives. In the 18th century, boredom became a punitive tool, although the Quakers who built the first “penitentiary” probably didn’t see it that way. In 1790, they constructed a prison in Philadelphia in which inmates were kept in isolation at all hours of the day. The idea was that the silence would help them to seek forgiveness from God. In reality, it just drove them insane.

It wasn’t until the 1930s that science took an interest in boredom. In 1938, psychologist Joseph Ephraim Barmack looked at how factory workers coped with the tedium of being factory workers. Stimulants – caffeine, amphetamines, and ephedrine – was the answer. Barmack was particularly concerned with what can be termed situational boredom, the kind of boredom that is perceived as a temporary state, such as being on a long car ride. This kind of boredom is relieved by change, or, as Barmack found, drugs.

But modern psychologists think boredom might be a lot more complicated than that. It’s appropriate that Dickens coined the word boredom, as literature is littered with characters for whom boredom became dangerously existential (think *Madame Bovary*, *Anna Karenina* or Jack Torrance in *The Shining*). What countless novels of the 19th and 20th century showed was

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that boredom has a much darker side, that it can be something much more akin to depression. Recent scientific research agrees: A host of studies have found that people who are easily bored may also be at greater risk for depression, anxiety disorders, gambling addictions, eating disorders, aggression and other psychosocial issues. Boredom can also exacerbate existing mental illness. And, according to at least one 2010 study, people who are more easily bored are two-and-a-half times more likely to die of heart disease than people who are not.

There has to be a reason for boredom and why people suffer it; one theory is that boredom is the evolutionary cousin to disgust. In Toohey's *Boredom: A Living History*, the author notes that when writers as far back as Seneca talk about boredom, they often describe it was a kind of nausea or sickness. The title of famous 20th century existentialist writer Jean-Paul Sartre's novel about existential boredom was, after all, *Nausea*. Even now, if someone is bored of something, they're "sick of it" or "fed up". So if disgust is a mechanism by which humans avoid harmful things, then boredom is an evolutionary response to harmful social situations or even their own descent into depression. Boredom, therefore, can be a kind of early warning system.

And though getting out of boredom can lead to extreme measures to alleviate it, such as drug taking or an extramarital affair, it can also lead to positive change. Boredom has found champions in those who see it as a necessary element in creativity. But how humans respond to boredom may have changed dramatically in the last century. Humans have become used to doing less to get more, achieving intense stimulation at the click of a mouse or touch of a screen. We are very used to being passively entertained. We have changed our understanding of the human condition as one of a vessel that needs to be filled. And it's become something like a drug – where we need another hit to remain at the same level of satisfaction.

There is hope, however, and it's back at the Boring Conference. Rather than turning to a quick fix – YouTube videos of funny cats, Facebook – the Boring Conference wants people to use the mundane as an impetus to creative thinking and observation. "It's not the most amazing idea in the

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world, but I think it's a nice idea – to look around, notice things,” says Ward, the conference organizer. “I guess that’s the message: Look at stuff.”

1) Which of the following can be understood from the example of the Quakers, who used boredom as a punitive tool?

- a) They believed that a bored person deserved to be punished.
- b) They believed that boredom would not be forgiven by God.
- c) They built a prison to carry out their belief, but it did not achieve the result they wanted.
- d) They built a prison for the purpose of mentally torturing criminals and wrongdoers.

Correct Choice: c

Solution

The passage tells us how the Quakers built a prison to keep inmates in isolation, believing that this would help them to seek forgiveness from God, but it just drove them insane in reality. Refer to the lines: *“In the 18th century, boredom became a punitive tool, although the Quakers who built the first “penitentiary” probably didn’t see it that way. In 1790, they constructed a prison in Philadelphia in which inmates were kept in isolation at all hours of the day. The idea was that the silence would help them to seek forgiveness from God. In reality, it just drove them insane.”* From this, we can conclude that the experiment did not work in the way the Quakers wanted. Thus, (c) is the right answer.

A and B are incorrect as the Quakers used boredom as a punishment for a crime, not as a reason to inflict punishment. D and E are incorrect as the passage tells us that the Quakers did so under the belief that it would help inmates to seek forgiveness from God.

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2) Which of the following is/ are supported by the recent research done on people who are easily bored?

1. People who are easily bored are more likely to be abused physically or sexually.
2. People who are easily bored are at a greater risk for anxiety, depression and eating disorders.
3. People who are easily bored are at a higher risk of heart disease than those who are not.

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

Correct Choice: d

Solution

Both 2 and 3 are true as per the passage. Refer to the lines: *“Recent scientific research agrees: A host of studies have found that people who are easily bored may also be at greater risk for depression, anxiety disorders, gambling addictions, eating disorders, aggression and other psychosocial issues. Boredom can also exacerbate existing mental illness. And, according to at least one 2010 study, people who are more easily bored are two-and-a-half times more likely to die of heart disease than people who are not.”* Thus, (d) is the right answer.

1 is not mentioned or implied in the passage.

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3) It can be understood from the passage that the author would agree with which of the following statements?

- a) People who are bored are more likely to bring about revolutions in science and technology.
- b) In today's world, people have got used to putting less effort to achieve maximum outcome, which will make people more likely to feel bored.
- c) People who are easily bored have greater brain activity than those who aren't.
- d) People who are bored are more likely to indulge in self-sabotaging behaviour like substance abuse or adultery.

Correct Choice: d

Solution

Refer to the lines: *“And though getting out of boredom can lead to extreme measures to alleviate it, such as drug taking or an extramarital affair, it can also lead to positive change.”* From these lines, we can understand that the author will agree with D. Thus, (D) is the right answer.

The information given in the passage is not sufficient to conclude whether the author will agree with A, C and B is incorrect as the author clearly believes the opposite. Refer to the lines: *“But how humans respond to boredom may have changed dramatically in the last century. Humans have become used to doing less to get more, achieving intense stimulation at the click of a mouse or touch of a screen.”* From this, we understand that

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people put less effort to maximise outcome out of boredom, so doing so is likely to make them feel less bored, not more.

4) As per a theory discussed in the passage, boredom can serve as a warning for which of the following?

- a) Harmful social situations
- b) Predators in the surroundings
- c) One's descent into depression
- d) Both (a) and (c)

Correct Choice: d

Solution

Refer to the lines: *“There has to be a reason for boredom and why people suffer it; one theory is that boredom is the evolutionary cousin to disgust... So if disgust is a mechanism by which humans avoid harmful things, then boredom is an evolutionary response to harmful social situations or even their own descent into depression. Boredom, therefore, can be a kind of early warning system.”* From these lines, we can understand that boredom can serve as an early warning system to protect us against dangerous social situations or against one's own descent into depression. Thus, (D) is the right answer.

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5) Which of the following is opposite in meaning to the word 'mundane' as used in passage?

- a) Tedious
- b) Monotonous
- c) Intriguing
- d) placid

Correct Choice: c

Solution

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MUNDANE means dull or uninteresting, and INTRIGUING (fascinating; interesting) is its antonym. Thus, (c) is the right answer.

Tedious - tiring. MONOTONOUS is a synonym to the given word. Placid - calm.

Topic – Jumbled Sentences

(6-7) In the question given below, rearrange the parts of the sentence in the correct order, and choose the correct option.

6) is credited to Joseph Fry, who in 1847 discovered (A)/ the creation of the first modern chocolate bar (B)/ that he could make a moldable chocolate paste (C)/ by adding melted cacao butter back into Dutch cocoa (D)

a) CDAB

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b) CBAD

c) BDAC

d) BACD

Correct Choice:d

Solution

BACD is the final order. B begins the sentence by establishing the subject - the creation of the first modern chocolate bar. A follows by telling us who was the first person to create it - Joseph Fry. CD concludes as a pair, by telling us the process by which he created the first chocolate bar. Thus, (d) is the right answer.

(6-7)In the question given below, rearrange the parts of the sentence in the correct order, and choose the correct option.

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7) though police officers stood in the centre (A)/ their arms, few drivers paid attention (B)/ blowing whistles and waving (C)/ of many of the most dangerous crossroads (D)

- a) ACBD
- b) ADCB
- c) DCBA
- d) DABC

Correct Choice: b

Solution

ADCB is the final order. AD begins the sentence as a pair, by telling us about the presence of police officers in the middle of the crossroads. C follows by telling us what the police officers were doing. B concludes by contradicting this, and telling us that despite the presence of the police officers, drivers were negligent. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

Topic – Phrase Replacement

(8-9) Which of the following phrases (1), (2), and (3) given below each sentence should replace the phrase printed in bold letters to make the

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sentence grammatically correct? Choose the best option among the five given alternatives that reflect the correct use of the phrase in the context of the grammatically correct sentence. If the sentence is correct as it is, mark 'No Improvement' as the answer.

8) In Algeria, public sector workers have mounted a general strike for higher wages and to improve working conditions.

1. Improved working conditions
2. an improvement in working conditions
3. Having improved working conditions

- a) No Improvement
- b) Only 1 and 2
- c) Only 1 and 3
- d) Only 2 and 3

Correct Choice: b

Solution

The sentence tells us how public sector workers in Algeria have begun a strike for higher wages and better working conditions. Both 1 and 2 can replace the highlighted phrase to convey the requisite meaning. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

3 is incorrect as the participle construction HAVING + VERB should have a dependent clause, which is not the case in this sentence. The highlighted phrase is incorrect as the preposition FOR will take a noun phrase after it rather than an infinitive verb phrase. When the conjunction AND is used, both the clauses joined by it must have the same form. Since, HIGHER WAGES is a noun phrase, the clause following AND should also be a noun phrase.

(8-9) Which of the following phrases (1), (2), and (3) given below each sentence should replace the phrase printed in bold letters to make the sentence grammatically correct? Choose the best option among the five

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given alternatives that reflect the correct use of the phrase in the context of the grammatically correct sentence. If the sentence is correct as it is, mark 'No Improvement' as the answer.

9) It was the only general strike in British history, as union leaders such as Ernest Bevin, who had coordinated the strike, in consideration of a mistake.

1. Considered it a mistake
2. Believed it was mistaken
3. Believed it had been a mistake

- a) No Improvement
- b) Only 1 and 2
- c) Only 1 and 3
- d) Only 2 and 3

Correct Choice: c

Solution

The highlighted phrase is incorrect as the sentence tells us how Ernest Bevin, who has coordinated the strike believed that it was a mistake. Both 1 and 3 can replace the highlighted phrase to convey the requisite meaning. Thus, (c) is the right answer.

2 is incorrect as MISTAKEN means wrong in one's opinion or judgement; this phrase would convey the meaning that strike was wrong in its judgement, which is absurd. The highlighted phrase is incorrect as it does not fit grammatically in the sentence to lend meaning to its context.

Topic – Error Location

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(10-11) Read the given sentence to find out whether there are any grammatical/ contextual errors in them. The errors, if any, will be in two of the phrases of the sentences and the combination of those parts will be the answer of that question. If no part in the sentence has an error then, mark 'no error' as your answer. Consider part (1) in bold as grammatically correct. (Ignore punctuation errors if any)

10) If the EU really wants (1)/ to help Africa, during the (A)/ pandemic and beyond, it (B)/ must urgently reformed its trade policies (C)/ to ensuring a level playing field and enhance food security. (D)

- a) AB
- b) BC
- c) BD
- d) CD

Correct Choice: d

Solution

(d) is the right answer. In C, we need to replace REFORMED with REFORM as we need a verb in its base form to follow the modal verb MUST. In D, we need to replace ENSURING with ENSURE as we need a verb in its base form to fit in the infinitive construction of TO+VERB.

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(10-11) Read the given sentence to find out whether there are any grammatical/ contextual errors in them. The errors, if any, will be in two of the phrases of the sentences and the combination of those parts will be the answer of that question. If no part in the sentence has an error then, mark 'no error' as your answer. Consider part (1) in bold as grammatically correct. (Ignore punctuation errors if any)

11) The company blamed (1)/ heavier than anticipate usage (A)/ of the service for the temporary (B)/ suspension, after existing (C)/ customers was unable to login. (D)

- a) AB
- b) BC
- c) BD
- d) AD

Correct Choice: d

Solution

(d) is the right answer. In A, we need to replace ANTICIPATE with ANTICIPATED. We need an adjective here to modify the noun USAGE. ANTICIPATE is a verb. It cannot modify a noun. In D, we need to replace WAS with WERE to agree with the plural subject (CUSTOMERS).



Topic – Cloze Test

(12-16) Directions: In the following passage, some of the words have been highlighted in bold. First read the passage and try to understand what it is about. Then replace the highlighted words with the correct option in order to make grammatical and contextual sense. In case the highlighted word is correct as it is, mark 'No Improvement' as the right answer.

Identifying a mass extinction event is not the same as explaining it, however, and the catastrophe at the end of the Permian is perhaps the most puzzling mystery of all time. Scientists have (A) imposed a list of possible extinction triggers, including global cooling, bombardment by cosmic rays, the shifting of continents and asteroid impacts, but many paleontologists' prime (B) inspect now is the intense eruptions of the Siberian Traps, volcanoes that covered nearly 800,000 square miles of what is now Russia with lava. The earth was much warmer at the end of the Permian than it is today. The atmosphere was relatively rich in carbon dioxide, which (C) furnished a hothouse world in which there were almost no glaciers. The eruption of the Siberian Traps would have added vast amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, causing further global warming, increasing ocean acidity and lowering atmospheric oxygen levels. These (D) drastic changes to the atmosphere and resulting environmental effects would have caused many organisms to asphyxiate from the lack of oxygen, while others would have died from an excess of carbon dioxide in the blood or otherwise perished because they were physiologically unable to cope with these new conditions. Where rich, diverse communities of organisms once (E) thrived, the extinction left only "crisis" communities of a few species that proliferated in the vacant habitats.



12) (A)

- a) Provoked
- b) Deposed
- c) Disposed
- d) proposed

Correct Choice: d

Solution

We need a past participle form verb to fit in the present perfect tense construction HAVE + VERB. PROPOSED (suggested) will fit here as the sentence tells us how scientists have suggested several possible causes for the extinction event. Thus, (d) is the right answer.

Provoked - instigated. Deposed - remove from office suddenly and forcefully. Disposed - cast away; threw. Imposed - forced a decision on someone.

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13) (B)

- a) prospect
- b) suspect
- c) suspend
- d) dissect

Correct Choice: b

Solution

We need a noun here to be modified by the adjective PRIME. SUSPECT (the factor thought to be responsible for something) will fit here as the

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sentence tells us how the culprits that paleontologists believe were responsible were volcanic eruptions. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

Prospect - possibility; likelihood. Suspend (verb) - terminate. Dissect (verb) - break into parts. Inspect (verb) - examine.

14) (C)

a) fuelled

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- b) festered
- c) impeded
- d) impended

Correct Choice: a

Solution

We need a verb here to link the subject ATMOSPHERE with the object A HOTHOUSE WORLD. FUELLED (gave rise to) will fit here as the sentence tells us how the carbon dioxide rich atmosphere gave rise to a hothouse world. Thus, (a) is the right answer.

Festered - decayed; rotted. Impeded - hindered. Impended - was about to happen. Furnished - decorated.

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- a) driven
- b) dramatically
- c) disaster
- d) No Improvement

Correct Choice: d

Solution

We need an adjective to modify the noun CHANGES. DRASTIC (extreme) will fit here as the sentence tells us how the extreme changes to the atmosphere caused organisms to suffocate. Thus, (d) is the right answer.

Driven - committed. DRAMATICALLY (greatly) is an adverb. DISASTER (calamity) is a noun. Despotic - autocratic.

16) (E)

- a) Deprived

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- b) Thrived
- c) Reputed
- d) derided

Correct Choice: b

Solution

We need a verb here to agree with the subject COMMUNITIES. THRIVED (flourished) will fit here as the sentence tells us how rich and diverse communities of organisms once flourished here. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

Deprived - to suffer a lack of something. Reputed (adj.) - respected; well-known. Derided - mocked. Strived - aspired.



Topic – Column1 & Column2 Connecting Sentences

17) In the following question, match the sentences beginning in Column 1 with their appropriate endings in Column 2.

Column 1	Column 2
A. Innovation in the private sector depends	D. the direction it takes must reflect social priorities.
B. If technological innovation is to serve society,	E. crucially on government funding of basic science and research labs.
C. Living standards are determined by productivity growth,	F. which in turn depends on the introduction of new technologies.

- a) A and D
- b) A and F
- c) B and D
- d) B and E

Correct Choice: c

Solution

(c) is the right answer. The correct pairs are: AE, BD and CF.

AE - Innovation in the private sector depends crucially on government funding of basic science and research labs. The sentence seeks to convey that innovation carried out by the private sector is dependent on the government funding of research labs.

BD - If technological innovation is to serve society, the direction it takes must reflect social priorities.

The sentence seeks to convey that if we want technological innovation to benefit the society then it must take into account the social priorities.

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CF - *Living standards are determined by productivity growth, which in turn depends on the introduction of new technologies.* The sentence seeks to convey that the living standards of people are determined by productivity growth, which is dependent on new technologies.

Topic – Synonyms

18) In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

Disparage

- a) Diminish
- b) Criticize
- c) Evade
- d) Defy

Correct Choice: b

Solution

DISPARAGE means to criticise or speak unfavourably of something or someone. CRITICISE will be its synonym; Thus, (b) is the right answer.

DIMINISH means to reduce, EVADE means to avoid and DEFY means to oppose.



Topic – Phrasal Verbs / Idioms

(19-20) In the following question, a sentence is given with a phrase or idiom in brackets. Select the option given below that can replace the bracketed phrase.

19) The tenants were (kicked out) by the landlord once it came to light that they were harbouring a fugitive.

- a) kicked in
- b) kicked off
- c) kicked around
- d) No Improvement

Correct Choice: d

Solution

We need a phrasal verb here that means that the tenants were expelled by the landlord. KICKED OUT means expelled and will fit here. Thus, (d) is the right answer.

KICKED IN means to start having an effect, KICKED OFF refers to an event that started or began and KICKED AROUND means to mistreat or bully.

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(19-20) In the following question, a sentence is given with a phrase or idiom in brackets. Select the option given below that can replace the bracketed phrase.

20) “Do not (pick at) your food; eat it all,” scolded the mother.

- a) pick up
- b) pick out
- c) pick with
- d) No Improvement

Correct Choice: d

Solution

We need a phrasal verb here that means to eat food in small quantities. PICK AT can be used to convey the requisite meaning. Thus, (d) is the right answer.

PICK UP means to hoist, PICK OUT means to select and PICK WITH is grammatically incorrect.



Topic – Direct Speech / Indirect Speech

(21-22) In the following question, 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 Direct/ Indirect speech.

21) "I have been to that place," he said.

- a) He said that I have been to that place.
- b) He said that I had been to that place.
- c) He said that he has been that place.
- d) He said that he had been that place

Correct Choice: d

Solution

Option (d) is the right answer. The sentence is in direct speech. To convert this sentence to the indirect speech, follow these rules: 1. Remove the comma and the inverted commas. 2. In the quoted part of the speech, change the first person subjective pronoun I to the third person subjective pronoun HE. 3. Begin the indirect speech sentence with the reporting speech clause HE SAID. 4. Put THAT between the reporting and reported speeches. 5. The present perfect tense HAVE BEEN will change to the past perfect HAD BEEN.

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(21-22) In the following question, 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 Direct/ Indirect speech.

22) "Do your homework," she said to her children.

- a) She told her children to do her homework.
- b) She told her children to do their homework.
- c) She told her children to did their homework.
- d) She told her children to done their homework.

Correct Choice: b

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Solution

Option (b) is the right answer. The sentence is in direct speech and in imperative mood (contains a command). To convert this sentence to the indirect speech, follow these rules: 1. Remove the comma and the inverted commas. 2. Change the reporting verb SAID to TOLD and begin the indirect speech sentence with the reporting speech clause SHE TOLD HER CHILDREN. The preposition TO will be redundant after TOLD, so it should be removed. 3. Change the second person possessive pronoun YOUR to the third person plural possessive pronoun THEIR (since the subject CHILDREN is plural). 4. In an imperative mood sentence, the verb clause will take an infinitive construction TO + VERB (to + eat) when converted to indirect speech. The infinitive construction always takes the base form of the verb (DO).

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