



CLOZE Test (1-5)

(1-5) Directions: In the following passage, some of the words have been left out and replaced by a blank. First read the passage and try to understand what it is about. Then fill in the blanks as per the questions given.

Mountainous and meditative, Sikkim is a real-life Shangri-La boasting _____, deep valleys and soaring snow-capped peaks. The _____ landscape of this remote, sacred place is dotted with _____ traditional Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and Hindu shrines. Sikkim's lofty, modern capital Gangtok, elevation 5,410 feet, is the gateway to monastery tours and outdoor adventure, such as Himalayan mountain treks and guided _____ to the Khangchendzonga National Park UNESCO World Heritage Site. The park is named for the world's third-highest peak, Khangchendzonga, which reaches _____ of 4,000 to 28,170 feet above sea level and is part of the Khangchendzonga UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, one of the highest ecosystems in the world. On clear days, Khangchendzonga may be visible from Gangtok.

1) boasting _____, deep valleys

- a) Lush
- b) Richly
- c) Rush
- d) Wealthy

Correct Choice: a

Solution

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We need an adjective here to modify the noun VALLEYS. LUSH will fit here as it means rich and green, which would be suitable to describe how the valley looks. Thus, (a) is the right answer.

2) RICHLY is an adverb. RUSH is a verb which means to hurry. WEALTHY means financially well off.

The _____ landscape of this

- a) Scenic
- b) Stun
- c) Scenery
- d) Divinely

Correct Choice: a

Solution

We need an adjective here to modify the noun LANDSCAPE. The sentence talks about the beauty of the landscape of Sikkim. SCENIC means aesthetically beautiful and will fit here. Thus, (a) is the right answer.

STUN means surprise, but it is a verb. SCENERY is a noun. DIVINELY is an adverb.

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3) is dotted with _____ traditional

- a) Numerous
- b) Number
- c) Novel
- d) Immutable

Correct Choice: a

Solution

We need an adjective here to modify the noun MONASTERIES. NUMEROUS means several and will fit here. Thus, (a) is the right answer.

NUMBER is a noun. NOVEL means new but it will contradict TRADITIONAL. Immutable - unchanging.

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4) and guided _____ to the

- a) Tripping
- b) Expeditions
- c) Excerpts
- d) Extracts

Correct Choice: b

Solution

We need a noun here to be modified by the adjective GUIDED. EXPEDITIONS will fit here as the sentence talks about trips to a national park. Thus, (b) is the right answer.

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TRIPPING means to fall over something. EXCERPTS and EXTRACTS refer to a part of a written text.

5) which reaches _____ of 4,000

- a) Heights
- b) Elevate
- c) Range
- d) Evidence

Correct Choice: a

Solution



We need a noun to form the object of the verb REACHES. HEIGHTS will fit here as the sentence talks about how high the peak is. Thus, (a) is the right answer.

ELEVATE means to raise and it is a verb. RANGE will be contextually inapt. Evidence - proof.

Error Location (6)

(6) In the following question, one part of the sentence may have an error. Find out which part of the sentence has an error and select the appropriate option. If a sentence is free from error, select 'No Error' as your answer.



6) Jefferson ended the great public receptions, (A)/ and turned the State Dining Room, where (B)/ they had been held, into his office. (C)/ No error (D)

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

Correct Choice : c

Solution

The sentence is grammatically correct and free of error. Thus, (c) is the right answer.

Active – Passive Voice (7)

7) In the following question, a sentence has been given in Active/ Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.



Sundarbans is being threatened by rising sea levels and extreme weather.

- a) Rising sea levels and extreme weather are threatening Sundarbans.
- b) Rising sea levels and extreme weather will be threatening Sundarbans.
- c) Rising sea levels and extreme weather were threatening Sundarbans.
- d) Rising sea levels and extreme weather had been threatening Sundarbans.

Correct Choice : a

Solution

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

1. The subject clause will become the object clause. Here, the subject (SUNDARBANS) will change to the object of the verb, and the object (RISING SEA LEVELS AND EXTREME WEATHER) will change into the subject and begin the sentence.
2. Replace IS BEING THREATENED with ARE THREATENING.
3. Remove the conjunction BY before RISING SEA LEVELS AND EXTREME WEATHER.

Option (a) is the right answer.

Para Jumbled Sentences (8)

8) In the question given below, rearrange the sentences in the correct order, and choose the correct option.

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P. This is the story of Sundarbans and how Volvo machinery is building tomorrow in a very unique part of the world.

Q. Along the Bay of Bengal, 4.5 million people are living under the constant threat of rising sea levels and recurring cyclones.

R. Tens of thousands of people have lost their homes the last decades.

S. A major source of protection is embankments and now, new ones are being built to protect the population.

- a) SQRP
- b) SPRQ
- c) PQRS
- d) PSQR

Correct Choice : c

Solution

PQRS is the final order. P begins the passage by introducing the main topic around which the passage revolves - the story of the Sundarbans and how Volvo machinery is helping change its future. Q follows by beginning the story - how many people are living under the constant threat of rising sea levels and cyclones. R follows by telling us how so many people have lost their homes due to these threats. S concludes by telling us the course of action that is being taken to solve the problem. Thus, (c) is the right answer.

Phrasal Verbs/ Idioms (9)

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9) 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.

When funding shifts too drastically or is (cut off) altogether, then problems can dismantle research programmes anywhere.

- a) cut down
- b) cut across
- c) cut back on
- d) No Improvement

Correct Choice : d

Solution

(d) is the right answer. We need a phrase here that means to be stopped completely, as hinted by the use of the word 'altogether'.

Cut down – reduced. Cut across – to go across a place rather than around it. Cut back on – to reduce. Cut off – stopped completely.



Single Fillers (10)

10) In the given sentence, a blank is given indicating that something is missing. From the given four options, choose the one that provides the correct word to be filled in the blank, thereby making the sentence grammatically and contextually correct.

Not even the _____ fan could resist becoming irate at the unfair referee calls.

- a) Obvious
- b) Equable
- c) Equivalent
- d) Ego

Correct Choice :b

Solution

(b) is the right answer. We need an adjective to modify the noun FAN. The context implies that some fans were unhappy with the referee calls.

EQUABLE means not easily disturbed or angered; calm and even-tempered. Other words do not fit contextually.

OBVIOUS- easily perceived or understood; clear, self-evident, or apparent.

EQUIVALENT- equal in value, amount, function, meaning, etc.

EGO- a person's sense of self-esteem or self-importance.



Idioms (11)

11) In the following question , a sentence is given in which an idiom is highlighted. From the options below, choose the one that gives the correct meaning of the idiom.

This election is an eyewash, the leader has already been selected.

- a) A deceptive action
- b) A futile effort
- c) An important day
- d) An event or action that one is ashamed of

Correct Choice : a

Solution

'Eyewash' means "misleading or deceptive statements, actions, or procedures". Thus, (a) is the correct answer.



Reading Comprehension (12-15)

(12-15) Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions.

About 37% of the area of the entire world is agricultural land, a third of which (about 11%) is used for crops. And as the population of the world rises to 9.7 billion people in 30 years, the land available for crops will reduce. Thus, there is an immediate need to try and improve the efficiency of food production. Experts predict that agricultural yield must increase by 50% between now and 2050. How to do this is the question facing agricultural scientists across the world.

Plants use sunlight to produce energy for their metabolism and food production. This is referred to as photosynthesis (wherein sunlight is used to make energy-rich molecules needed for producing food molecules). However, the efficiency of photosynthesis is rather low, just about 5% in most land crops. The most efficient land crop with 8% average is sugarcane, which is not all that edible, except for the sugar in it. If only we can increase the efficiency of crops such as wheat, rice and other grains! One such attempt is through the project RIPE (Realizing Increased Photosynthetic Efficiency), undertaken by a group of scientists at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the US, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

One way of achieving it has been shown in the model plant tobacco where the scientists could “engineer photosynthesis” by increasing the expression

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of three genes involved in processing light. This increases the tobacco yield by 20%. The team is trying to do the same genetic engineering method in other plants. One such plant is cassava (also called tapioca, sago or 'sabudana') whose roots are carbohydrate-rich, and eaten by over half a billion people in Latin America and parts of Africa; indeed it is eaten as a staple food in parts of Andhra, Kerala and the hilly areas of Assam. Genetic engineering of this plant was done, just as in tobacco, and appears to work.

Another way that some other scientists are trying is to reduce what is called photorespiration in plants. Here the energy and oxygen produced in the 'light reaction' of photosynthesis is drained by the plant to make "wasteful" products in the 'dark reaction', and not just carbohydrates and other food material, particularly when the plant's leaves close in order to reduce water loss by evaporation. If we can find ways to reduce this photorespiration, edible food yields can go up.

12) As per the passage, which plant has the highest average efficiency of photosynthesis and what is that efficiency?

- a) Sugarcane and 8% respectively.
- b) Tobacco and 20% respectively.
- c) Wheat and 5% respectively
- d) Sago and 20% respectively.

Correct Choice : a

Solution

Refer to the line in the passage: "*The most efficient land crop with 8% average is sugarcane*". Thus, (a) is the correct answer.



13) As per the passage, which of the following steps have been taken or can be taken to increase the efficiency of photosynthesis in plants?

1. Reduce photorespiration in plants.
2. Increasing the expression of certain genes
3. Increase the concentration of sunlight over the plants

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

Correct Choice : b

Solution

Refer to the line in the passage: “*Another way that some other scientists are trying is to reduce what is called photorespiration in plants*”. Thus, 1 is a step that can be taken to increase the efficiency.

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Refer to the line in the passage: “*shown in the model plant tobacco where the scientists could “engineer photosynthesis” by increasing the expression of three genes involved in processing light*”. Thus, 2 is a step that has been taken to increase the efficiency of photosynthesis.

The passage states that plants use sunlight to make energy-rich molecules during photosynthesis. It does not say that the intensity of sunlight has an effect on the efficiency of photosynthesis. Thus, 3 is not a step that can be taken to increase the efficiency of photosynthesis.

Thus, (b) is the correct answer.

14) As per the passage, what is the end product of photosynthesis?

- a) Sunlight
- b) Energy-rich molecules
- c) Water
- d) Foodgrain

Correct Choice : b

Solution

The passage states that photosynthesis is the process wherein sunlight is used to make energy-rich molecules needed for producing food molecules. This means that in photosynthesis, sunlight is used to make energy-rich molecules. Thus, (b) is the correct answer.

15) As per the passage, what percentage of the world’s area is used for growing crops?

- a) 37%
- b) 23%
- c) 11%
- d) 8%

Correct Choice : c

Solution



Refer to the line in the passage: “About 37% of the area of the entire world is agricultural land, a third of which (about 11%) is used for crops”. Thus, (c) is the correct answer.

Error Location (16-17)

16) In the question below, a sentence is given, divided into five parts (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E). One of the parts is grammatically incorrect or has an error in it. You are required to identify the parts that are grammatically correct and choose the option accordingly.

Governments increasingly recognize (A)/ that economies can reach (B)/ their full potential only (C)/ with the full participation (D)/ of both women and men. (E)

- a) ABCD
- b) ACDE
- c) ABDE
- d) No error

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Correct Choice : d

Solution

(d) is the right answer. The sentence is grammatically correct. It does not contain any error.

17) In the question below, a sentence is given, divided into five parts (A), (B), (C), (D) and (E). One of the parts is grammatically incorrect or has an error in it. You are required to identify the parts that are grammatically correct and choose the option accordingly.

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Policymakers around the world already (A)/ recognize that they need to find a way to (B)/ reopen national economies safely and in (C)/ accordance to policies to keep the (D)/ COVID-19 pandemic under control. (E)

- a) ABCE
- b) ACDE
- c) ABDE
- d) BCDE

Correct Choice: a

Solution

(a) is the right answer. In D, we need to replace the phrase IN ACCORDANCE TO with IN ACCORDANCE WITH. If something is done IN ACCORDANCE WITH a particular rule or system, it is done in the way that the rule or system says that it should be done. The phrase IN ACCORDANCE TO is incorrect.

Single Fillers (18)



18) In the given sentence, a blank is given indicating that something is missing. From the given options a combination of words would fit the blank thereby making it grammatically and contextually correct.

Part of the continuing allure of police action films is the chance to get under the skin of a criminal, to _____ into an alien world.

1. Peak
2. Glimpse
3. Peek
4. Glare

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

Correct choice: c

Solution

We need a base form verb to fit in the infinitive construction TO + VERB. GLIMPSE and PEEK mean to look into or get a view of, and will fit here as the sentence tells us how police action films allow us to get a view of an alien world. Thus, (c) is the right answer.

Peak (noun) - summit. Glare - to stare in an angry or fierce way.

Interchanging of Words (19-20)

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(19-20) In the question below, a sentence is given with four words highlighted in bold. From the options, choose the pair of words that should be interchanged in order to make the sentence grammatically and meaningfully correct.

19) There was little **doubt** that the process **complained** milk safety by **eliminating** the diseases that led to so many deaths, but consumers **improved** that pasteurized milk was flavourless.

- a) doubt – eliminating
- b) doubt – improved
- c) complained – improved
- d) eliminating -- improved

Correct Choice : c

Solution

The sentence tells us that there was little doubt (uncertainty) that the process improved (bettered) milk safety by eliminating (getting rid of) the diseases, but consumers complained (expressed dissatisfaction) that pasteurized milk was flavourless. We need to interchange COMPLAINED and IMPROVED, as the former will agree with the subject CONSUMERS, and the latter will link the subject PROCESS with the object MILK SAFETY. Thus, (c) is the right answer.

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(19-20) In the question below, a sentence is given with four words highlighted in bold. From the options, choose the pair of words that should be interchanged in order to make the sentence grammatically and meaningfully correct.

20) The **potential** of wind power to **oppose** ecosystems by killing or disturbing wildlife has been a concern **voiced** by both environmentalists and those who more broadly **damage** renewable energy.

- a) potential – oppose
- b) potential – damage
- c) oppose – voiced
- d) oppose -- damage

Correct Choice : d

Solution

The sentence tells us how the potential (capacity) of wind power to damage (harm) ecosystems by killing or disrupting wildlife has been a concern voiced (expressed) by both environmentalists and those who oppose (stand against) renewable energy. We need to interchange OPPOSE and DAMAGE, as the latter will take the object ECOSYSTEMS while the latter will take the object RENEWABLE ENERGY after it. Thus, (d) is the right answer.



Para Jumbled Sentences (21-23)

(21-22)Directions: A set of seven statements is given out of which the 1st and the 4th statements are fixed (A and D), and the rest are jumbled in any random order. Rearrange the remaining statements in the right order and answer the questions.

A. It seems to be a law in the technology industry that leading companies eventually lose their positions

B. But consumers' preferences were already shifting towards touch-screen smartphones.

C. It lost its market share in the space of just a few years.

D. In 2007, Nokia accounted for more than 40% of mobile-phone sales worldwide.

E. With the introduction of Apple's iPhone in the middle of that year, Nokia's market share shrunk rapidly and revenue plummeted.

F. By the end of 2013, Nokia had to sell its phone business to Microsoft.

G. Mobile-phone champion Nokia, one of Europe's biggest technology success stories, was no exception.

21) Which of the following statements will follow A after rearrangement?

- a) B
- b) C
- c) E
- d) G

Correct Choice : d



Solution

(d) is the right answer. AGCDBEF is the correct sequence.

A begins the paragraph by establishing the subject: TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY. The sentence seeks to convey that one of the unique trends in the technology industry is that the leading companies often lose their dominant position.

G follows A. It shifts the discussion to NOKIA. It tells us that NOKIA was one such company, which lost its leading position.

C follows G. The pronoun IT refers to NOKIA. It tells us that Nokia lost its position in just a few years.

D has been given to us as the fourth statement. It tells us that Nokia accounted for a significant portion of the mobile phone sales globally.

B follows D. It begins with the conjunction BUT, which is used to link contrasting sentences. It tells us that although Nokia was a dominant force at that time, consumers' preferences were also changing. The shift towards touch-screen smartphones was already underway.

E follows B. It tells us that after the launch of Apple's iPhone, Nokia's market share declined rapidly.

F ends the passage by telling us that Nokia finally had to sell its business to Microsoft in 2013.



22) Which of the following statements will follow D after rearrangement?

- a) B
- b) C
- c) E
- d) G

Correct Choice : a

Solution

(a) is the right answer. AGCDBEF is the correct sequence.

A begins the paragraph by establishing the subject: TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY. The sentence seeks to convey that one of the unique trends in the technology industry is that the leading companies often lose their dominant position.

G follows A. It shifts the discussion to NOKIA. It tells us that NOKIA was one such company, which lost its leading position.

C follows G. The pronoun IT refers to NOKIA. It tells us that Nokia lost its position in just a few years.

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E follows B. It tells us that after the launch of Apple's iPhone, Nokia's market share declined rapidly.

F ends the passage by telling us that Nokia finally had to sell its business to Microsoft in 2013.