



IDIOMS AND PHRASES

Directions: Given below are some idioms/phrases followed by four alternative meanings to each. Choose the response (a), (b), (c) or (d) which is the most appropriate expression.

26. Cry over spilt milk

- (a) Complaining about a loss in the past
- (b) Too much inquisitive about something
- (c) When something is done badly to save money
- (d) Dealing with a problem only in an emergency situation



27. Cut the mustard

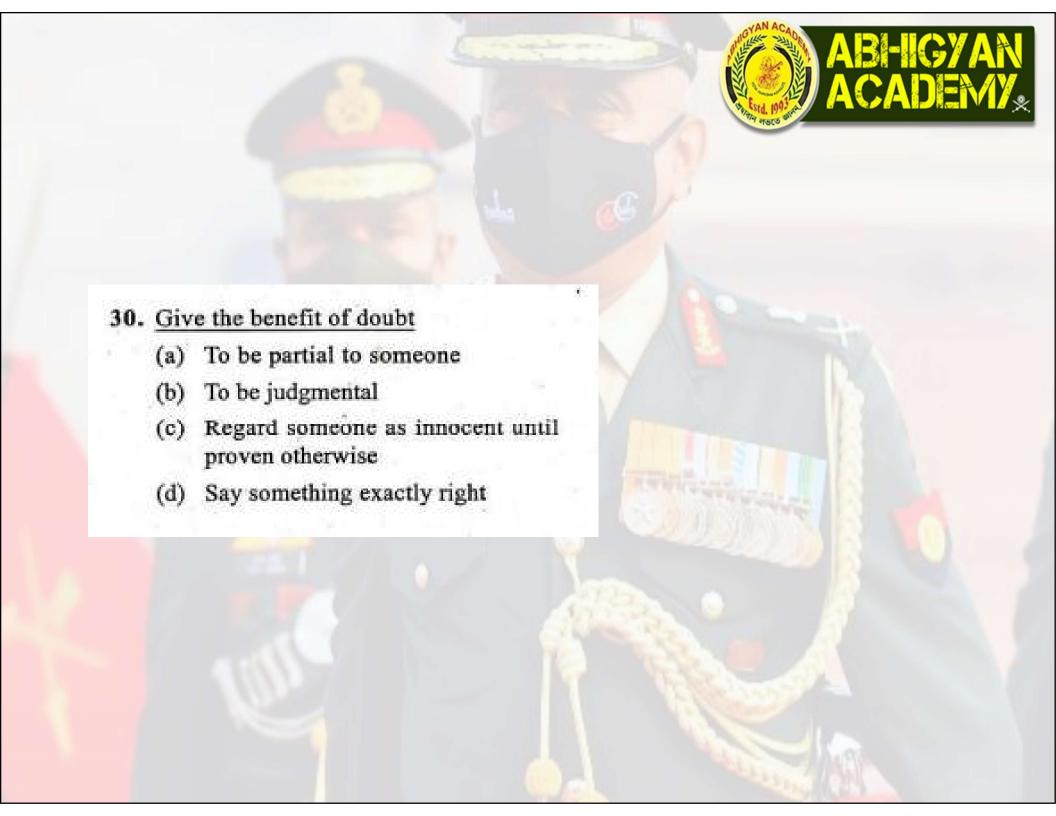
- (a) Prepare spices out of mustard seeds
- (b) To come up to expectations
- (c) Making absurd expectations
- (d) Very enthusiastic

28. Devil's advocate

- (a) A dangerous person
- (b) To present a counter argument
- (c) Very argumentative person
- (d) Creating an unpleasant situation



- 29. Don't count your chickens before the eggs have hatched
 - (a) If you are not good at something, better to avoid that
 - (b) Don't make plans for something that might not happen
 - (c) Not to come up to expectations
 - (d) Don't put all your resources in one possibility



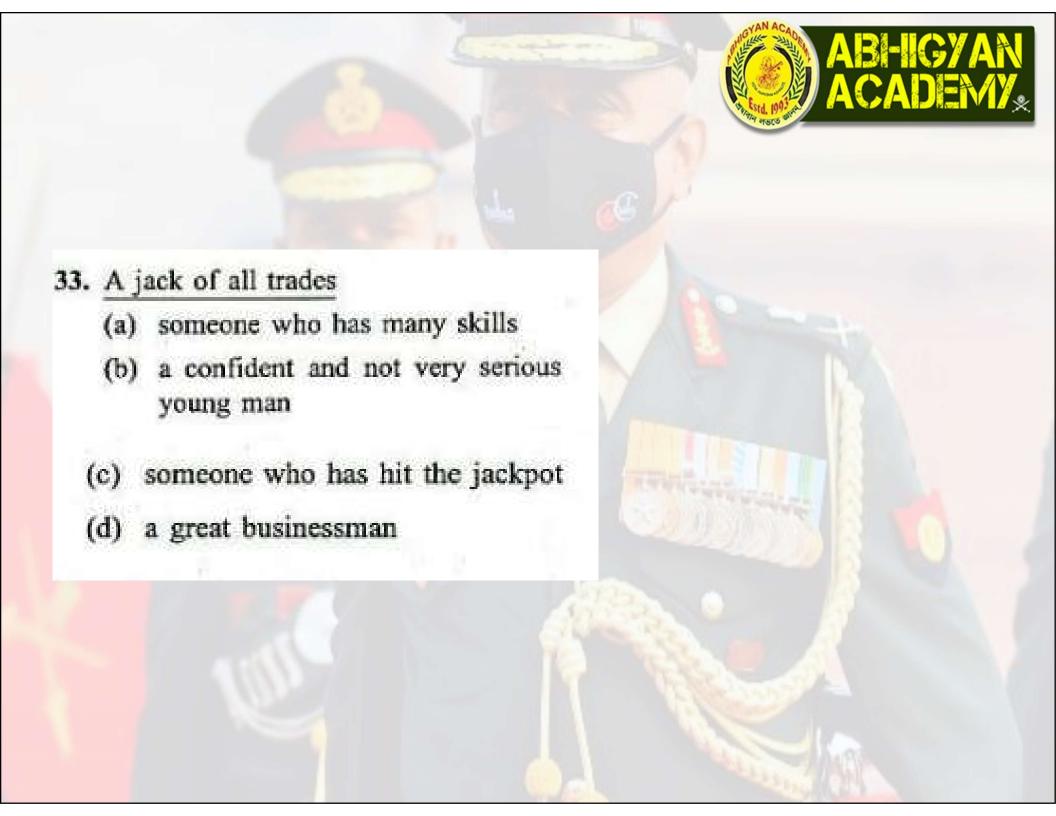


31. A dark horse

- (a) a black coloured horse
- (b) a person who wins a race or competition although no one expected him to
- (c) a person who keeps secrets
- (d) an ignorant person

32. A show-stopper

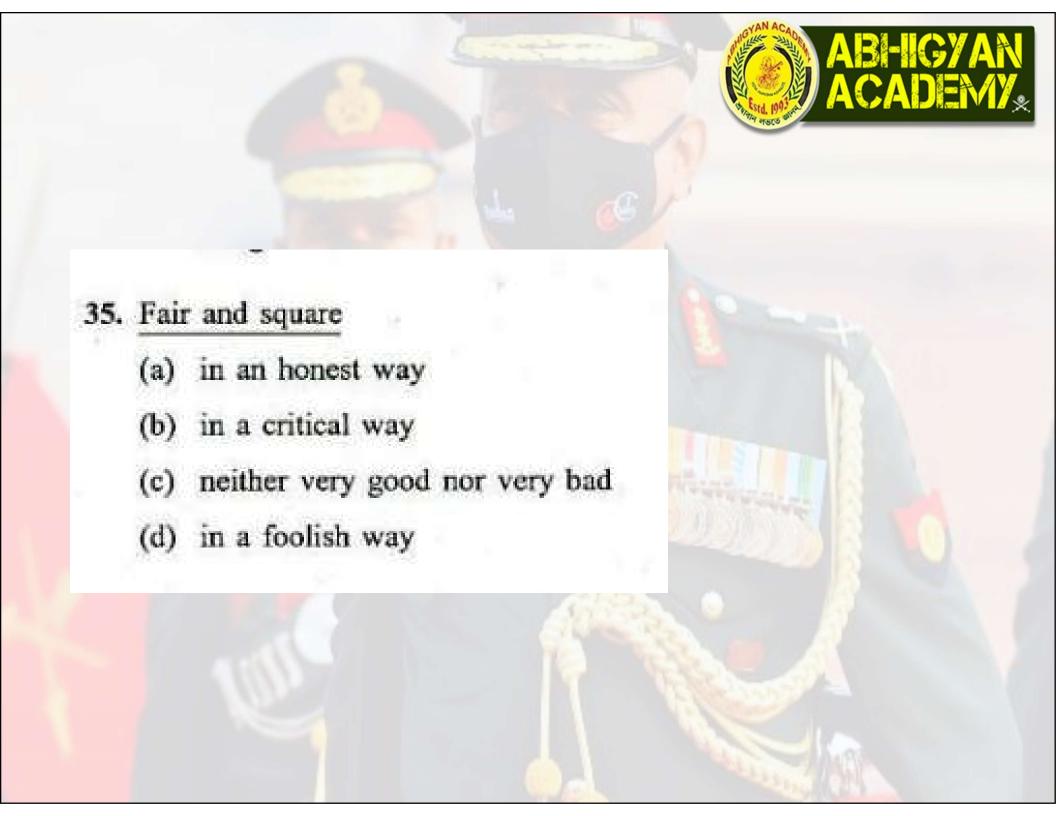
- (a) someone who stops the show
- (b) someone who organizes the show
- (c) a performance that is extremely good
- (d) a fashionable person





34. Fight tooth and nail

- (a) to quarrel with someone
- (b) to attack someone with a lot of force
- (c) to try hard to prevent something from happening
- (d) to try very hard to achieve something





21. Overstep the mark

- (a) To tell people how successful you are
- (b) To step into someone else's areas of expertise
- (c) To upset someone by doing/saying more than you should
- (d) To do something in an excited way

22. Palsy-walsy friends

- (a) Good friends
- (b) Friends who help each other in difficult situations
- (c) Friends by choice, and not by chance
- (d) Unfriendly

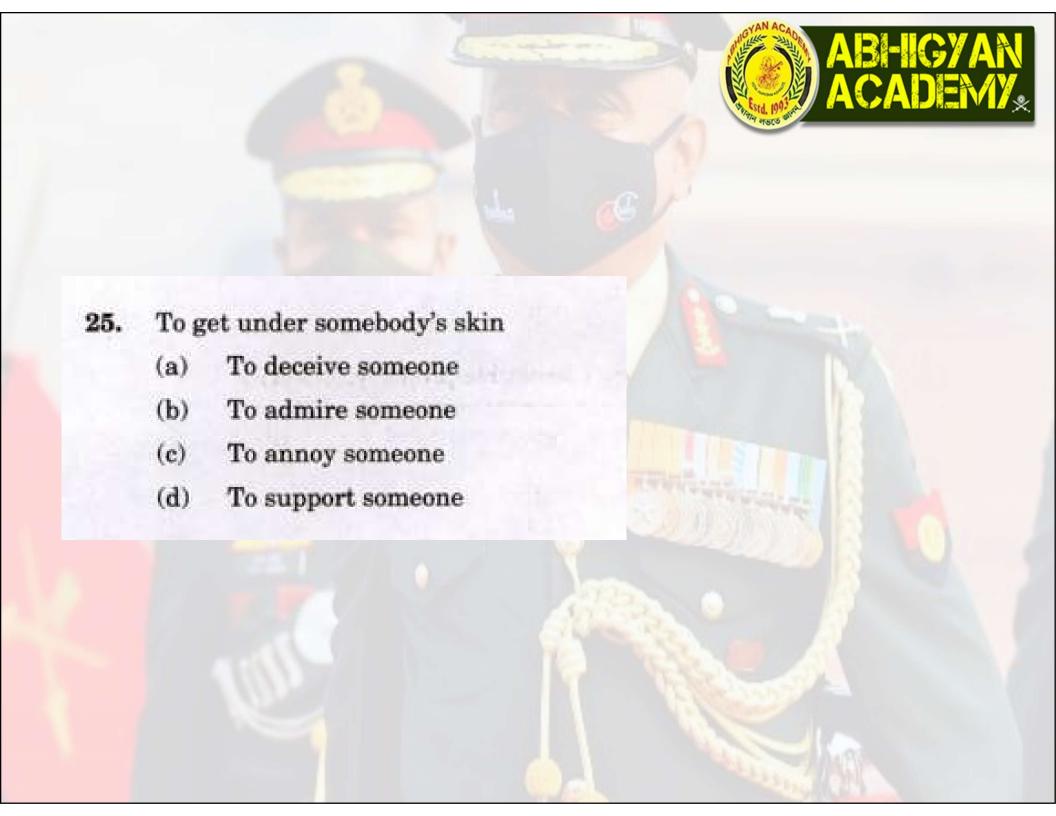


23. Open a Pandora's box

- (a) To do something that causes a lot of new problems that you did not expect
- (b) To do something out of compulsion
- (c) To do something beyond expectation
- (d) To do something out of the box, that causes awards and ceremonies for you

24. Pull your socks up

- (a) To get well-dressed for the occasion
- (b) Improve your work or behaviour
- (c) To speak in an honest way without hesitation
- (d) To be in control of an organization, often secretly





26. Turn topsy-turvy

- (a) To completely change something
- (b) To completely evaluate something
- (c) To enjoy yourself greatly
- (d) To exhaust yourself completely

27. A clarion call

- (a) A trumpet call
- (b) An intimidating voice
- (c) A strong request
- (d) An urgent order



29. A hunky-dory situation

- (a) There are serious issues among people
- (b) There are no problems and people are happy
- (c) There is war and bloodshed all over
- (d) There is no work, only enjoyment

30. Give somebody a leg up

- (a) To pull someone down
- (b) To deceive and betray someone
- (c) To help someone for their livelihood
- (d) To help someone to be successful



31. Be over the hill

- (a) To be on a mountain top
- (b) To travel in the jungle
- (c) To be too old to do things
- (d) To do something in the most complete way



32. Bite your tongue

- (a) To stop yourself from saying something because it would be better not to
- (b) To bite off your tongue while eating
- (c) To feel sorry
- (d) To ask someone something that you want



33. Turn a blind eye

- (a) To run away
- (b) To begin to behave in a more positive manner
- (c) To change a situation
- (d) To choose to ignore behaviour that you know is wrong



34. Yellow journalism

- (a) Paid storytelling
- (b) Government reports published on yellow coloured papers
- (c) Writings in newspapers that try to influence people's opinion by using strong language and false information
- (d) Journalism which agrees completely
 with the policies of the governments and
 capitalists



35. To be in seventh heaven

- (a) To fly in the air
- (b) To be extremely happy
- (c) To be completely alone
- (d) To visit a place which is in the list of the seven wonders of the world



11. Once-over

- (a) To do something quickly
- (b) To do something elaborately
- (c) To do something perforce
- (d) To do something for others

12. A bag of bones

- (a) An extremely fat person
- (b) An extremely thin person
- (c) A wealthy person
- (d) A healthy person



13. Muddy the waters

- (a) To spread dirt around
- (b) To make a situation easy
- (c) To make one's life happy
- (d) To make the situation complicated

14. To level with

- (a) To be honest
- (b) To be on a plain
- (c) To cheat someone
- (d) To take revenge



15. Show your hand

- (a) To tell people about the past
- (b) To tell people about the future
- (c) To tell people about them
- (d) To tell people about your plans

16.	To p	ull up
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- (a) To lift heavy weights
- (b) To check oneself
- (c) To shorten the distance
- (d) Too short of destination

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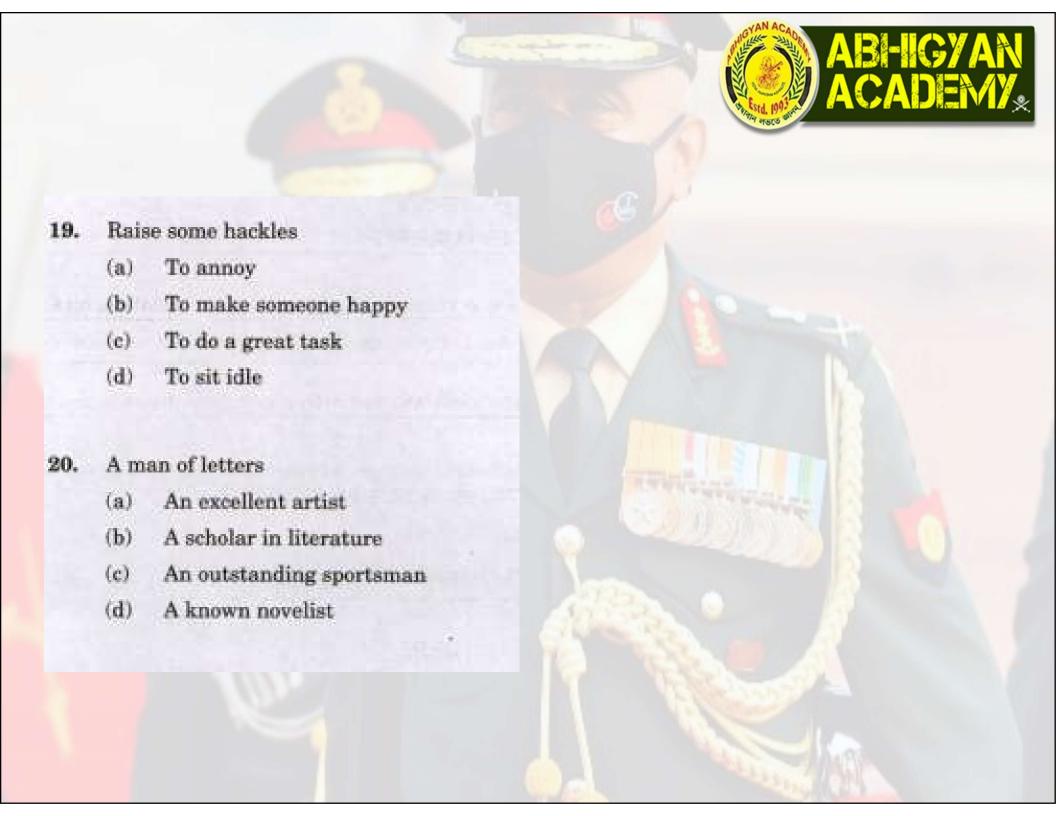
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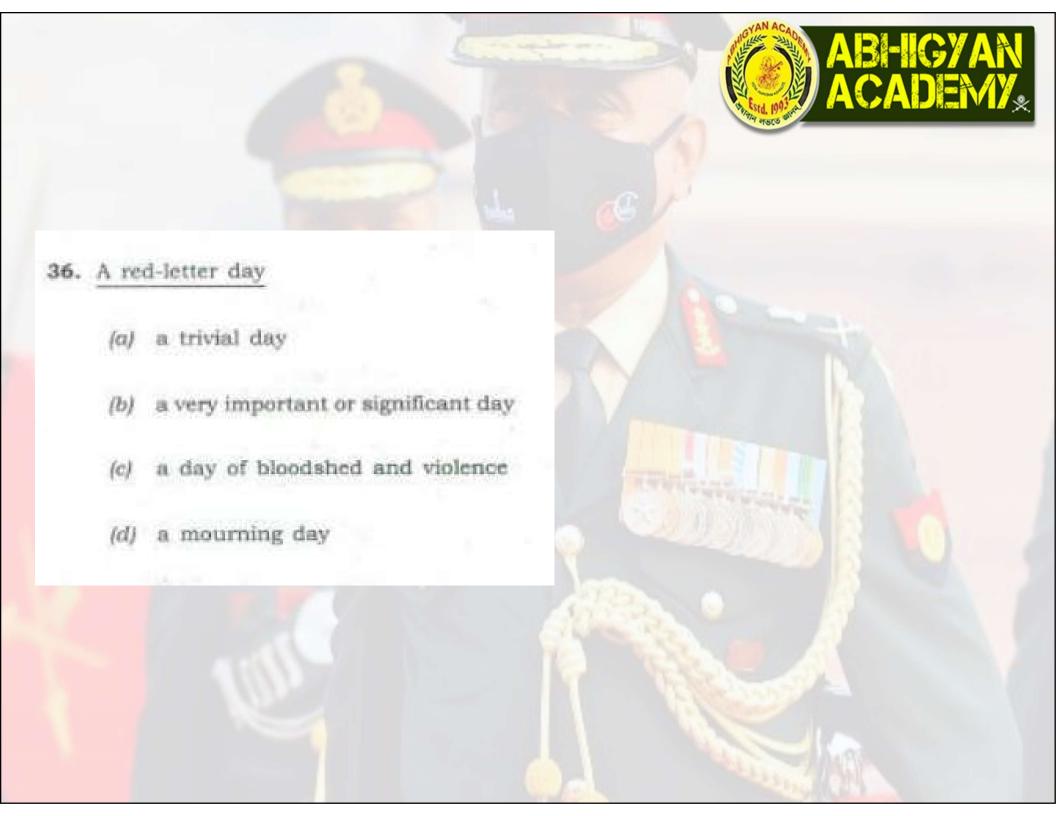
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17. Be out of action

- (a) To get punishment
- (b) To get reward
- (c) To become dysfunctional
- (d) To become superactive
- 18. Learning from the school of hard knocks
 - (a) Learning things from experience
 - (b) Learning things from others
 - (c) Learning things from environment
 - (d) Learning things through difficult experiences







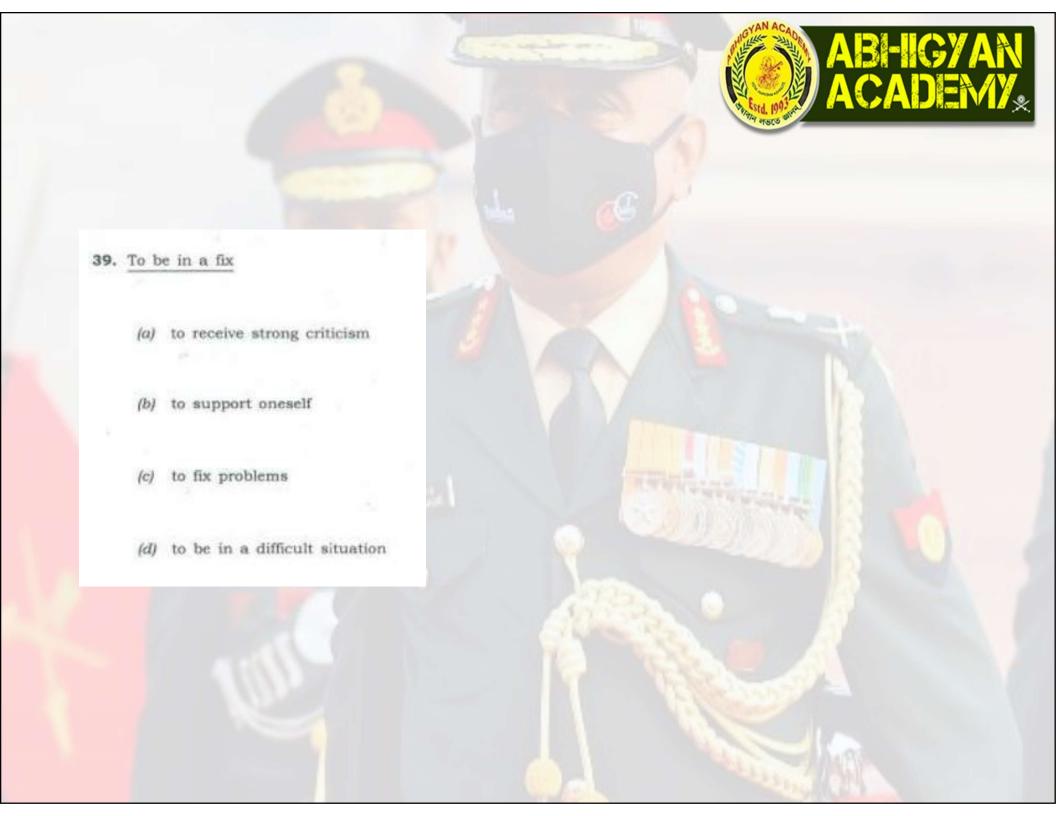
37. The gift of the gab

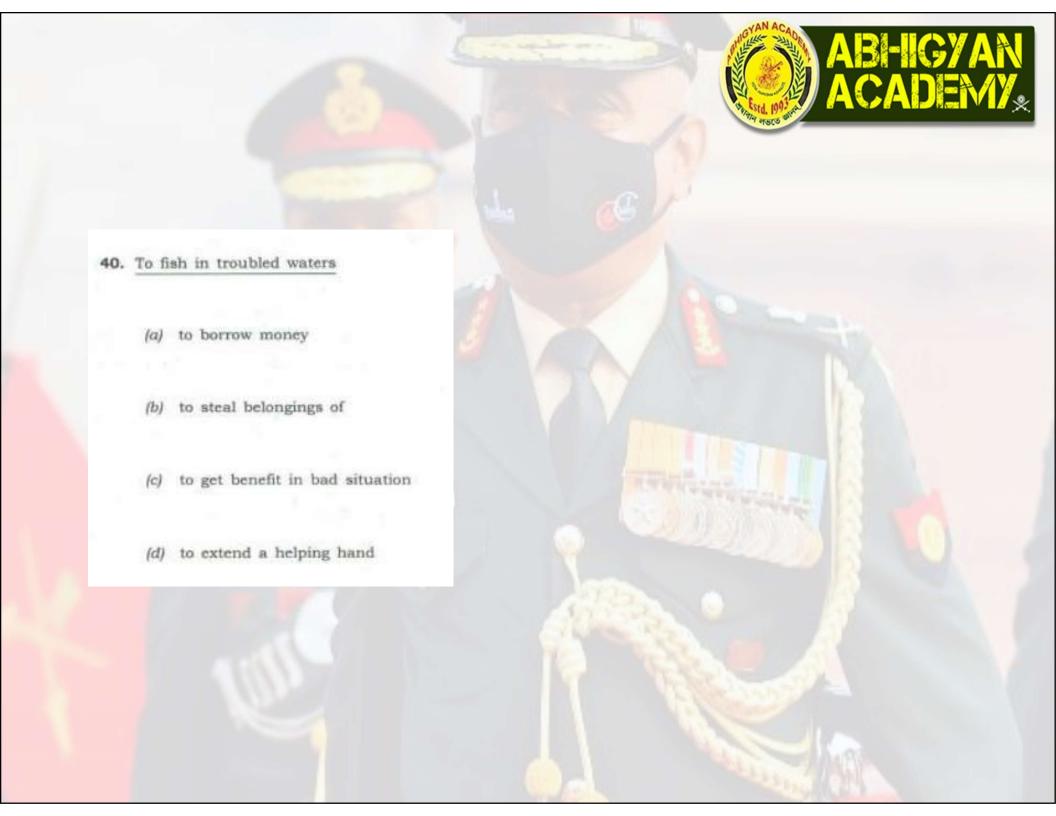
- (a) ability to speak easily and confidently
- (b) ability to spoil something
- (c) ability to sell things
- (d) gift from a sacred institution



38. Walk a tightrope

- (a) to be forced to leave your job
- (b) to be ready to fall
- (c) to act very carefully
- (d) to invite danger







26. Be bad news

- (a) feelings of hate
- (b) someone who behaves in a dishonest way
- (c) someone who is considered undesirable
- (d) to be ill

27. Back to the drawing board

- (a) to draw comparisons
- (b) to be a member of planning group
- (c) to start planning again because the previous plan has failed
- (d) to be fast at understanding a situation

28. Be in the eye of the storm

- (a) to look at something quickly
- (b) to fail miserably at a sport
- (c) to see something that you do not want to see
- (d) to be in the midst of a controversy



29. Life in the fast lane

- (a) to lead a selfless life
- (b) to have a happy life without complaints
- (c) life without money or comforts
- (d) an exciting and eventful lifestyle

30. To pass the buck

- (a) to collect money from a group of people
- (b) to shift the responsibility of something to someone
- (c) to have a short conversation with someone
- (d) to have the credentials for a particular job

