**Verbal Ability**

**Parajumbles**

Sentence Rearrangement as the name itself advocates, consist of sentences not arranged in a logical sequence. A choice of arrangement of the sentences is given from which the candidate has to choose the most logical sequence which would be the most appropriate for conveying the message of the passage.

**Practise Questions**

**Directions:** Sentences given in each question, when properly sequenced, forms a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a letter. Choose the most logical order of sentences from among the five given choices to construct a coherent paragraph.

1. A. His family had mortgaged their meagre possessions to pay a tout for a job in the Gulf.

B. His small dream of being a pravasi ended, he hanged himself.

C. A while ago, during my mother’s routine call from Kerala, she told me about the suicide of a young man in my hometown

D. The tout decamped with the money, leaving the family destitute.

a] CABD b] CADB c] CBDA d] CBAD e] ADBC

2. A. We shouldn’t be harming other forms of life.

B. I don’t call myself an animal rights activist.

C. It’s regrettable that we were arrogant enough to think we could use animals for whatsoever we wanted.

D. I’ve been involved in a dialogue with scientists

a] CDBA b] CABD c] BDCA d] BCAD e] CBDA

3. A. That’s the problem of potential defaults by state governments.

B. Many of these bodies, in turn, are in a perilous financial condition.

C. Most of the states are in a deep financial mess, but that hasn’t stopped them from cheerfully extending guarantees, entitlements and special purpose vehicles.

D. While financial institutions are finally moving, to considerable popular acclaim, to crack down on bank defaults by private borrowers, an equally serious problem is being largely ignored.

a] DABC b] DCAB c] DCBA d] DBCA e] DACB

4. A. Politics itself – politics in the sense of running for elective office – remains far from popular.

B. And elsewhere in the world, some countries seem just as sceptical about democracy itself as they are about American style capitalism

C. A razor-close presidential election, which cast an unforgiving spotlight on democracy at its messiest and the rule of law at its most fragile, did nothing to re-awaken young Americans to the joys of public service.

D. More and more of the people who might once have gravitated to government are looking for fulfilment in the private sector.

a] ACBD b] DCAB c] ACDB d] DBAC e] CBAC

5. A. In ancient Rome, the movers and shakers of the day carried their valuables – knives, coins, jewellery – in a cloth pouch attached at the hip to a girdle : not very stylish !

B. Fast forward 500-or-so years: pockets are still with us – but now carrying all sorts of new stuff.

C. It was only during the Renaissance that the modern “patch” pocket finally appeared

D. Instead of cigarette cases, opera tickets or a pair of stain gloves, they are receptacles for all those blinking and chirping gadgets we’ve come to depend on.

a] ABCD b] ACDB c] CABD d] ACBD e] ADCB

6. A. Thus, the patient’s condition may nosedive.

B. Hence, many malaria patients are treated for chest infection or diarrhoea

C. Often the symptoms are cough and cold or diarrhoea and vomiting.

D. As a result of this delay in treatment, the load of the malarial parasite in the blood increases.

E. However, official records show that the number of deaths due to malaria have fallen this year to two from fifty-three last year.

a] BCADE b] CBAED c] CBDAE d] BDCAE

7. A. The problem is to find what you are actually looking for while surfing the Internet.

B. There are programmes called ‘search engines’ that help you do just that.

C. However, most of these have their shortcomings

D. Information is something that the Internet simply overflows with

E. Here is some news that all surfaces will welcome

a] DAEBC b] AEBCD c] DCEAB d] EDABC

8. A. The theft of Shannon Roy’s diving gold is the latest

B. But she still managed a bronze

C. Modahl’s shoes went missing from the athlete’s village

D. A thief stole a gold medal from under the noses of the Australians

E. Another theft also almost ruined England 800 metres runner Dianne Modahl’s hopes of making a medal-winning return.

a] DEACB b] DECBA c] DEABC d] CDEBA

9. A. How did they die?

B. Adopted as an orphaned three year old, her attempts to delve into her forgotten childhood throw up a number of intriguing questions.

C. How did her adoptive mother find her, and why did they then emigrate to America?

D. Kajori Roy, a vivacious young Indian-American returns to the land of her birth to discover her roots.

E. Who were here birth parents?

a] DBECA b] DBEAC c] DBCAE d] DBACE

10. A. For half a century. Harry R. Truman had loved the mountain, communing with it in spirit.

B. Despite many chances to evacuate, Harry chose to remain at His St. Helens Lodge on Spirit Lake.

C. There was a man who said he’d rather die than see his beautiful mountain blasted into an ugly shell of itself – and he got his wish.

D. He is there yet, together with his multitude of cats and at last report, 38 bottles of bourbon, all buried under hundreds of feet of landslide debris and elevated lake water.

a] ABDC b] BDAC c] CBDA d] CABD

11. A. Now, it is merely a curiosity found in flea markets and collections of Mao memorabilia.

B. The book Quotations of Mao Zedong was often said to be second most popular book – after the Bible – with about one billion captive readers.

C. It was said that Mao’s thoughts were all anyone needed for almost any endeavour from building dams to having a baby.

D. During the Cultural Revolution in China, it was considered obligatory to own a ‘little red book’ and wave it, at political rallies, like a talisman.

a] BDCA b] ACDB c] CADB d] CABD

12. A. Two studies look at this difference in learning, in elementary school and the role social pressures play in math achievement for adolescents.

B. Another study, conducted by a researcher, showed that girls’ interest in math is much lower than their performance

C. One study shows that, as early as first grade, differences exist in the strategies boys and girls use to solve math problems.

D. For decades, researchers and educators have discussed gender differences in mathematical abilities among children.

a] ABCD b] ACBD c] DCAB d] DACB

13. A. Spring in Mumbai is as ephemeral as winter, but while it lasts, one should enjoy the show put on by the city’s flora in full Eastman colour.

B. In this steel magnolia of a city choked with grotty high rises and claustrophobic slums, the tree population struggles to draw breath

C. Grey is the hue of the urban jungle, Mumbai being India’s densest one

D. But come spring, the green army rouses itself, brushes the dirt off its leaves and plunges headlong into the revelries of the season.

a] ABDC b] CDBA c] CBDA d] CADB

14. A. For thirty-eight days during Operation Desert Strom, the US military and its allies controlled the air.

B. That’s how most people remember the Gulf War of 1991

C. Cruise missiles hugged the terrain over hundreds of miles of hit heavily fortified targets, and radar-evading stealth fighters dropped smart bombs on communications centres and bridges.

D. A victory for technology

a] DCAB b] ACBD c] ABDC d] DACB

15. A. Trex was well suited for hunting but could also have bullied other hunters to abandon their prey.

B. What was Sue’s world like?

C. This indicates that some 67 million years ago the environment was warmer and wetter than today, offering plenty of forage for the plant-eating dinosaurs that in turn became Trex meals.

D. Fossils of broad-leaved plants, conifers and ferns were recovered from the same arid and rocky South Dakota site where Sue was found.

a] DBAC b] BADC c] BDCA d] BCDA

16. A. The men must have been great fishermen.

B. “The Indian struck this fish with a reed harpoon and then dragged it to shore”

C. The Guale’s dominion ended with the arrival of those seeking land, wealth and souls – Spanish friars, French from the Mississippi valley and Gen. James Oglethorpe’s British troops.

D. William Bartram, who with his father, John, travelled throughout the Georgia tidewater in the mid-18th century, reported seeing a native catch a 15 pound “Salmon trout” for supper.

a] ACBD b] ABDC c] ADCB d] ADBC

17. A. The primary use of critique occurs when the human factor is the critical ingredient; equipment and physical factors reflect human decisions rather than problems independent of them.

B. Sometimes critique is relied upon to discover what occurred to prevent it from occurring again, but the facts and data that have to be marshalled for the study have no human content.

C. This is critique to strengthen the resources of a team.

D. They are facts based upon the breakdown of machinery or equipment or a power failure or any number of mechanical things; but people are not a significant component in the performance.

a] ADBC b] CDBA c] BDAC d] DACB

18. A. In fact, no one had excavated at this chaotic site for 20 years when the team arrived in 1986.

B. Harappa’s kilns turned out millions of bricks, a feat that led, in modern times, to a woeful scrambling of archaeological evidence.

C. Afterwards archaeologists who dug at Harappa concluded that the earth was too disturbed to yield a coherent account of the city.

D. Needing ballast for a new track, British railroad builders in the 1850s sent labourers into the ruins to root out the bricks and cart them away.

a] DBCA b] BDCA c] BCDA d] CABD

19. A. “We’re just on the edge of being able to do it here”

B. Born in London of Guyanese origins, Philips is one of Britain’s best known broadcasters and the chairman of the London Arts Board.

C. “It is the holy grail of all societies to have the energy that hybridity brings without the distressing divisions”

D. Trebor Philips told me this as we sat in the living room of his house in Stanmore, a leafy suburb on the northern fringes of the city.

a] DCAB b] CBDA c] CDBA d] BDCA

20. A. Is the multipart harmony of different languages

B. That today’s Europeans are determined to preserve

C. Heard around the continent, a cultural heritage

D. A key element of this diversity.

a] DABC b] CADB c] BDAC d] DACB

21. A. And the great rains, came, forming oceans

B. As the Earth cooled, gases once caught in the molten mass migrated

C. On the then barren crust

D. To the surface and merged together forming water vapour.

a] ACBD b] CBDA c] BDAC d] BCAD

22. A. A study has said

B. Such as smoking, drinking or taking drugs

C. Might make an individual susceptible to take up habits

D. A slight difference in genetic make-up

a] ADCB b] DCBA c] DACB d] ABCD

23. A. Since sitting and waiting was the only thing to do just then

B. She was sitting there waiting for something or somebody, and

C. With all her might and main

D. She sat and waited

a] BADC b] ABCD c] BCAD d] DCAB

24. A. Our species, at more than six billion strong

B. More destructive than storms and droughts

C. Has become a geographical force

D. And heading towards nine billion by mid-century

a] ACBD b] BADC c] DACB d] ADCB

25. A. A wilderness continent that offers scientists unique views

of the working of the Earth – of active volcanoes

B. There are no places left like Antarctica:

C. That slide inexorably to the coast

D. Of fast flowing glaciers, of unstable ice sheets

a] ADCB b] BCAD c] BADC d] ACDB

26. A. New Orleans the day before

B. He was already acquainted with the market reports, and

C. And bits of news which he had not had time to read before quitting

D. He glanced restlessly over the editorials

a] DCAB b] BDAC c] DBCA d] BDCA

27. A. I had expected something

B. But what I saw was delicate

C. Soft, and lush

D. Wind whipped and barely clinging to life.

a] DACB b] ADBC c] CDAB d] ACBD

28. A. As the sum began to drop behind the neem trees there was a rustle of activity and the BSF soldiers let us move forward to a reviewing stand

B. Close to three hundred spectators had gathered on the Indian side of the border and the sentries kept us back about a hundred metres from the gate

C. The ceremony began with one of the soldiers presenting arms and marching with vigorous strides to the gate and back

D. Those who found no room on the benches were made to sit in the middle of the road and watch

a] BCAD b] ACDB c] BADC d] BACD

29. A. But all meaningful knowledge is contextual knowledge, and much of it is tacit and experimental.

B. Similarly, language is seen as a conduit through which ‘objective’ information is communicated.

C. In the computer model of cognition, knowledge is seen as context-and- value-free, based on abstract data.

D. In reality, as C.A. Bowers has argued eloquently, language is metaphorical, conveying tacit understanding within a culture.

a] CBDA b] CADB c] CDBA d] CABD

30. A. He complains that few people buy kites these days (I find this hard to believe), and tells me that I should have visited Agra twenty five years ago, when kite-flying was the sport of kings and even grown men found time to spend an hour, or two every day with these gay, dancing strips of paper.

B. The old man is soon talking to me, for he likes to talk and is not very busy

C. ‘Once I made a wonderful kite’, says Husain Ali nostalgically.

D. Now, he says, everyone hurries, hurries in a heat of hope, and delicate things like kites and day-dreams are trampled underfoot.

a] BDCA b] BDAC c] BADC d] BACD

31. A. An important precedent has been set in this regard by a Debt Recovery Tribunal authorizing the attachment of two offices in Mantralaya, the Maharashtra government headquarters

B. All state governments have offices on prime real estate, apart from the various official residences of ministers and bureaucrats

C. Of course, the state government has appealed against the order, and it’s unlikely that the attached offices will actually be put on the block

D. One way out would be for lenders to seize these buildings and auction them to the highest bidder.

a] BCAD b] BDAC c] BADC d] BCDA

32. A. While the balancing forces in the whirlpool are mechanical, the dominant force being gravity, those in the cell are chemical

B. However, the forces and processes at work in a cell are quite different – and vastly more complex – than those in a vortex.

C. More precisely, they are the catalytic loops in the cell’s automatic network that act as self-balancing feedback loops

D. Metaphorically, we can also visualize a cell as a whirlpool, i.e. as a stable structure with materials and energy continually flowing through it.

a] DBCA b] DCAB c] CDAB d] DBAC

33. A. From the beginning, these new flowering plants co-evolved with animals, who enjoyed eating their nutritious fruits and in exchange disseminated the undigested plant seeds.

B. A hundred million years later, plants whose flowers and seeds were enclosed in fruits began to appear

C. They were replaced by everyone conifers, similar to our present day fir and spruce, whose greater resistance to cold allowed them to survive the winters and to expand into higher alpine regions

D. About 200 million years ago, glaciers appeared on several continents and the seed ferns could not survive the long, cold winters

a] DCAB b] DBCA c] DBAC d] DCBA

34. A. The ability to stand upright, even for short moments, represented a strong selective advantage, as it allowed the primates to use their hands for gathering food, wielding sticks, or throwing rocks to defend themselves.

B. Most primates are insect-eaters or vegetarians feeding on nuts, fruits and grasses.

C. Looking anxiously for enemies over tall grasses they would assume an upright posture for brief moments before returning to a crouched position as baboons still do today.

D. At times, when there were not enough nuts and fruits available in the trees, the early primates would have left the protective branches and come down to the ground

a] BDAC b] BDCA c] BCAD d] BCDA

35. A. In the Cartesian paradigm, scientific descriptions are believed to be objective i.e., independent of the human observer and the process of knowing

B. The new paradigm implies that epistemology – understanding of the process of knowing – has to be included explicitly in the description of natural phenomena.

C. An important implication of the view of reality as an inseparable network of relationships concerns the traditional concept of scientific objectivity

D. This recognition entered into science with Warner Heisenberg and is closely related to the view of physical reality as a branch of relationships

a] CABD b] CBDA c] ADCB d] ADBC

**Sentence Improvement**

Sentence Correction is an important component of the English section. It involves combining knowledge of the basic rules of grammar and aligning it with the elements.

Example :

Three out of every ten taxi owners in Mumbai also own an auto

a] Three out of every ten taxi owners in Mumbai also own an auto

b] Autos are owned three out of every ten owners of taxis in Mumbai

c] Out of every ten, three taxi owners in Mumbai also owns an auto

d] In Mumbai, three out of every ten taxi owners owns autos.

ANSWER

The best choice is [a], as it maintains clarity and also subject verb agreement – three owners ‘own an auto. The verb ‘owns’ in [c] & [d] is in disagreement with the subject ‘three taxi owners’, and the passive construction ‘autos are owned’ in [b] is unnecessary. Hence [a].

**Practice Questions**

**Directions:** In each of the following sentences, a part of the sentence is highlighted. Beneath each sentence, four different ways of phrasing the underlined part are indicated. Choose the best alternative from among the four.

1. Pinned beneath 450000 kilos of tangled steel, it did not look as though Bob Fitch would make it out alive.

a] it did not look as though Bob Fitch would make it out alive

b] the chances of Bob Fitch making it out alive did not look probable

c] Bob Fitch didn’t look as though he’d make it out alive

d] Bob Fitch did not look as if making it out alive was possible

2. Aware of the board’s antagonism. Alex had suggested that his presentation be deferred until next month’s meeting

a] that his presentation be deferred until next month’s meeting

b] the deferment of his presentation for next month’s meeting

c] that the deferment of his presentation should be made until next month’s meeting

d] that until next month’s meeting, his presentation must be deferred

3. Neither Nepal requires the Indian citizens obtain passports to enter the country, or Bhutan does.

a] or Bhutan does b] Bhutan doesn’t either c] neither Bhutan does d] not does Bhutan

4. Big corporate employers often require that candidates applying in their company for jobs have not only a degree in management but two years experience

a] but two years experience b] also two years experience

c] but also two years experience d] and also two years experience

5. The prices at chain stores are as responsible, if not more reasonable, as those at discount stores

a] as reasonable, if not more reasonable, as those at discount stores.

b] as reasonable, if not more as those, at discount stores.

c] as reasonable, if not more reasonable, than those at discount stores.

d] as reasonable, if not more reasonable, than discount stores.

6. More and more health professionals these days advocate walking as a superior form of exercise because it burns as many calories as jogging, works muscle groups that jogging does not, and the chances of stress related injuries are reduced

a] and the chance of stress related injuries are reduced b] reducing the chance of stress related injuries

c] and the chance of stress related injury get reduced d] and reduces the chance of stress related injury

7. Even though Tennessee William’s plays have proved less popular than Shakespeare’s and less influential than Shaw’s they are no less important.

a] Shakespeare’s and less influential than Shaw’s they are

b] Shakespeare’s and less influential than Shaw’s he is

c] Shakespeare’s are and less influential than Shaw’s are, they are

d] Shakespeare and less influential than Shaw, he is

8. The exceptions were Ireland, where English colonization had begun in the previous century, and Scotland, where literary English was already influencing the speakers of a tongue descended from the old Northumbrian dialect

a] where English colonization had begun in the previous century, and Scotland

b] where English colonization had began in the previous century, and Scotland

c] where English colonization was began in the previous century, and Scotland

d] where English colonization was begun in the previous century, and Scotland

9. Family affection for his offspring, on the one hand, of course, he was, and, on the other, was deep filial piety, and that cherishing fondness which springs from piety.

a] on the one hand, of course, he was, and, on the other

b] on the one hand, was of course, there  and, on the other

c] in the one way, was of course, there and, in the other

d] in the one way, of course, he has, and, in the other

10. Unlike a typical suspense thriller which requires slick editing, the editing of a social tear jerker can afford to be more lax

a] the editing of a social tear jerker can afford to be more lax

b] the editing of a social tear jerker requires more laxity

c] with the editing of a social tear jerker one can be more lax

d] a social tear jerker can afford to be more lax in its editing

11. Even though Indian voters agree there is waste and corruption in the government and that the government on the whole is ineffectual, it is difficult to find broad support for clean and efficient government.

a] Even though Indian voters agree b] Despite the agreement among Indian voters to the fact

c] There is a consensus among Indian voters that d] Much Indian voters may agree that

12. Seeing the results of the six-month inquiry, the first thought that comes to me is what struck me when he was appointed to enquire the crime

a] enquire the crime b] investigate the crime c] communicate the obscurantism d] nab the culprits

13. Spanning more than thirty years, Amitabh began his career with a nondescript film, and today he is the hero of a widely acclaimed movie such as Black.

a] Amitabh began his career with a nondescript film,

b] Amitabh’s career began with a nondescript film,

c] Amitabh began his career with a non-descriptive film,

d] Amitabh’s career was beginning with a nondescript film

14. Analysts predict that the rate of increase in direct taxes will drop, while the decrease in indirect taxes will rise.

a] the decrease in indirect taxes b] those in indirect taxes

c] that in indirect taxes d] that of decrease in indirect taxes

15. The U.T.I. holds Rs. 200 crores in loans that are in such trouble that they do not expect payments when due

a] they do not expect payments when due b] payments are not expected by them to be paid when due

c] it does not expect payments when it is due d] it does not expect payments to be made when they are due

16. Diabetes is much more common among Dravidian males than males of other races.

a] than b] compared to c] than among d] in comparison with

17. According to a recent study, the number of women in business schools has grown in every academic year since 1995.

a] the number of women in business schools has grown

b] the number of women who are in business schools have grown

c] women have been growing in number in business schools

d] a growing number of women have been in business schools

18. For the advises in Indian jungles in the eighteenth century, wooden shields were essential items of military equipment, as a protection of warriors against enemy attacks.

a] as a protection of b] protecting c] as a method protecting d] to protect

19. In contrast to Goa which has long, clean and attractive beaches, the beaches of Mumbai are crowded, dirty and shabby

a] the beaches of Mumbai are crowded, dirty and shabby b] Mumbai’s beaches are crowded, dirty and shabby

c] those of Mumbai are crowded, dirty and shabby d] Mumbai has crowded, dirty and shabby beaches

20. Never before had the students confronted so many questions at once as they had in the last test

a] so many questions at once as they had in the last test

b] at once as many questions as they had in the last test

c] so many questions at once that confronted them in the last test

d] as many questions at once as they confronted in the last test

21. Except for a solo performance that the artiste herself staged the musical evening was a flop.

a] Except for a solo performance that the artiste herself staged,

b] Excepting a solo performance that the artiste herself staged,

c] Besides a solo performance being staged by the artiste herself

d] Except for a solo performance with the artiste herself staging it,

22. Participants at the programme, one who is deaf, will demonstrate the use of adaptive equipment for the hearing impaired.

a] one who is deaf, b] one of whom is deaf c] one of which is deaf d] one of them who is deaf,

23. It was Mom and me, who were invited to the party, and not our neighbours even though they were well-connected.

a] Mom and me, who were invited b] Mom and I who was invited

c] Mom and me who had been invited d] Mom and I who had been invited

24. We were so successful for so long that we could never see another point of view; and when the market shifted, we had to close out business

a] we had to close our business b] we almost went out of business

c] we also shifted our business d] we almost went out of control

25. When he arrived at his garage, his tools were already there for him to use

a] his tools were already there for his to use b] his tools, was ready there for him to use

c] his tools, was all ready there for him to use d] his tools were all ready there for him to use