

Explanatory Notes for Practice Exercises on VA & RC

Practice Exercise – 1

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 5:

- Option (B) is the correct choice, as only sentences b and e are grammatically and syntactically correct. In part a, the absence of auxiliary 'is' renders the sentence incomplete. In part c, 'transportable' is erroneous. 'Transmittable' should be used here as the sentence talks of a condition or an ailment. The comma at the end of part d renders it erroneous. Choice (B)
- In part a, the preposition 'of' is missing between 'all' and human, rendering it a grammatical oddity. In part d, 'economic' activity is the apt word, and not 'economical', which means less expensive. Option (A) is hence appropriate as parts b, c and e are free of error. Choice (A)
- Part b should start with a singular verb (has) as the reference is to a singular subject (impact). b is hence incorrect. Since the Second World War is a specific event in history, it should be preceded by the definite article 'the', the absence of which makes c inappropriate. 'Absolute' dates and not 'obsolete' dates is the correction required in e. Option (A) is apt as a and d are grammatically correct. Choice (A)
- As 'none' in part a is singular, it should take the singular verb (evokes) and a is thereby incorrect. A comparison is being made in the sentence, and hence 'than' is corrected to 'then' in b. In choice C one of the (many) episodes is the correct grammatical usage. As only parts c and d are free of error, option (C) is pertinent. Choice (C)
- The absence of the past tense verb 'was' in a renders the sentence grammatically odd. 'Account' means a description of something and is used in the singular form. 'At a site' and not 'in a site' is the correct usage. In excerpt e, none, a singular subject, should be followed by has, a singular verb. All the sentence parts except d are erroneous. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 6 to 10:

- The error is in part D. We obey someone or something. We need not use 'to'. Choice (D)
- The error is in part B. Despite is not followed by 'of'. Choice (B)
- The error is in part C. The use of preposition 'up' with cope is incorrect. Choice (C)
- The adjective 'enlightened' is misplaced. It must be placed before the noun it qualifies 'fisherman'. The error is in (A). Choice (A)
- The error is in A. The preposition 'for' is incorrect. The correct preposition is 'on'. Choice (A)

Explanatory notes for questions 11 to 15:

- The word 'forbid' means 'refuse to allow'. One is forbidden from doing something. Hence '....forbidden drivers from.....' Choice (C)
- "India" is the subject which is singular and hence the verb should be has or had. To be 'cushioned off from something' is to be protected from the harm or the unpleasant effects of something. Hence the correction is 'has been cushioned off from - - -'. Choice (D)
- After a phrase beginning with 'a number of', the verb is always plural. Hence 'a number of wooden platforms were built'. The use of 'the before 'number' is incorrect as it refers to a general context. Choice (A)

- Something is done 'in' a particular period but 'at' the beginning or end of a month. For example, I am planning to visit Japan in June but at the beginning of June. Choice (C)

- China (cups, saucers etc) is an uncountable noun and does not have a plural form. 'Utensil' means a container for household use. We are talking of 'utensils' not just one utensil. Hence 'utensil and china' is incorrect. Choice (B)

Explanatory notes for questions 16 to 20:

- A person has to 'take you into his/her confidence'. The use of 'in' in place of 'into' is incorrect in the second sentence. Choice (B)
- To 'follow suit' is to act or behave in the way that someone else has just done. In sentence D this idiom is used with an article which is incorrect. The correction is '- - his wife followed suit'. Choice (D)
- 'Touch bottom' is an idiom which means to reach the worst possible state or, condition – 'Touched bottoms' hence is incorrect in option C. Choice (C)
- 'To hammer away' at something is to work very hard which is the meaning intended in choice C, but 'away' has been omitted making the sentence incorrect. Choice (C)
- The man refused to 'identify himself'. The omission of the reflexive pronoun makes option B incorrect. Choice (B)

Explanatory notes for questions 21 to 25:

- The idiom 'root and branch' means completely. Choice (B)
- 'With open arms' means with a warm welcome. Choice (D)
- The idiom 'tooth and nail' means with great energy. Choice (A)
- 'Spread like wild fire' means spread rapidly. Choice (C)
- 'To put on airs' is to act important. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for questions 26 and 27:

- B is the opening sentence which says that we are not born with 'minds with blank pages'. There are some 'innate operations' going on in the brain right from the beginning, the idea given in D which follows D logically. C tells us how those 'innate operations' help us. E A form a pair. E says that biological evolution is supplemented by cultural evolution and A concludes suggesting the significance of this cultural evolution especially in humans. Hence the proper sequence of the sentences would be BDCEA. Ans : BDCEA.
- D can ideally be the opening sentence of the passage. It introduces us to the idea that Headley had visited India at least eight times and all these he did with a valid visa. Sentence (B) follows (D) adding on more to this 'discovery' stated in (D). There is a 'cherry atop' this whole affair of Headley's visit which is stated in (E) and so ideally (E) follows (B). The response of the Indian government to this is given in (A) and (C) follows with the reaction to this 'response' from other countries. Hence the proper sequence of the sentences would be DBEAC. Ans : DBEAC

Explanatory notes for questions 28 and 29:

- Since employees get poached, the Vice-President (HR) is losing members of the workforce. Hence option (D) is correct. Choice (D)

29. The paragraph presents the objective of financial planning that can 'also' lead to tax-savings. Clearly options (A) and (B) are irrelevant. Option (B) exaggerates and option (D) leads to a dilemma. Option (C) gives a proper conclusion.
Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for question 30:

- 30 (A), (B) and (D) only talk of facial expressions in general. There is no mention of age groups. Hence (C) is the odd one out.
A grim expression in a yearbook photo or family snapshot could mean more than just a passing bad mood. It could also signal that the subject is more likely to get divorced than someone with a big smile for the camera. Researchers have shown that with very limited information—less than half a minute of interaction, the viewing of a video clip or just a look at a photograph—people can make accurate predictions about others' socioeconomic status, teaching ability, personality etc.
Ans : C

Explanatory notes for questions 31 to 40:

31. Refer to para 3 where the words in quotes occur in line 3. The following sentence makes it clear that the dispute among psychologists regarding their subject matter is being referred to.
Choice (B)
32. Refer to para 2 where the 'poverty of their science' occurs in line 2. A close reading points to choice (C).
Choice (C)
33. Refer to the last para, lines 4 – 7.
Choice (A)
34. Refer to para 1 which discusses the paradox. While psychology wants to be a science there are not enough facts to justify it being a science.
Choice (D)
35. Choice B is borne out by the passage.
Choice (B)
36. Refer to the last para, lines 3-4 (loved the world expressed themselves.)
Choice (B)
37. In the passage, the author uses the words to mean a dislike of empty spaces.
Choice (D)
38. Only choice (B) is right – in all other options the attributes are reversed.
Choice (B)
39. Statements (a) and (b) are true – last para, lines 1 – 3.
Choice (A)
40. The passage essentially discusses the art and sculpture of ancient India. The comparison with European art is only part of it. The focus is on Indian art.
Choice (C)

Practice Exercise – 2

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 20:

1. Refer to para 2 – nothing can stop development, it can only slow down the process.
Choice (D)
2. People's in distrust is spoken of in para 3. In para 4 the author explains what the layman is 'frightened' of. This would lead to the 'distrust' and this is the point made in Choice (C).
Choice (C)
3. Statement I is not true – para 4, last line says 'may be'. Statement II is negated by para 5. Statement III is not true – 'unequivocal' means 'clear' but the public's attitude is not clear. While they expect science to improve the standard of living, they distrust science (para 3). Statement IV is not true – the public does not have the scientific knowledge to make informed decisions (para 4, lines 1 – 2).
Choice (D)

4. The ignorance of the public about science is the reason for the support for Green parties (refer to para 3). Hence knowledge of science would reverse this.
Choice (A)

5. Refer to the first few lines of the last para. The author refers to his not studying molecular biology in school to point to the rapid pace of development.
Choice (A)

6. Refer to the 3rd and 4th line from the end. His sadness arises from the fact that 'one must go first' meaning one of them would die first.
Choice (D)

7. Refer to lines 14 – 17 which list A, C and D. Choice B is not mentioned.
Choice (B)

8. Refer to the first 2 lines where it is stated that the first sting of love is almost like venom
Choice (C)

9. Refer to the last two lines which validate option A.
Choice (A)

10. Choices A and B are supported by lines 9 – 11. Choice C by line 22. Choice D is not mentioned.
Choice (D)

11. The passage may be called descriptive since it describes the totem. Analytical implies examining and evaluating an issue or an argument.
Choice (B)

12. The last sentence of para 2 validates choice C.
Choice (C)

13. Refer to the first sentence of para 4 which clearly mentions what totemistic forms are based on.
Choice (D)

14. Refer to para 3, lines 7 – 9 where it is mentioned that the Ojibwa clans used to wear animal skins because they believed that the guardian spirit appeared in the form of an animal.
Choice (C)

15. Choice (B) is negated by the end of the last but one para. Option A, C and D are validated by the same para.
Choice (B)

16. Refer to para 1, line 3 – 4.
Choice (C)

17. Refer to para 2, lines 6 – 7.
Choice (B)

18. Para 1, line 7 supports choice A.
Para 4, lines 2 – 3 support choice B.
The last line of para 5 supports choice C.
Choice D is not true.
Choice (D)

19. He is talking of economic poverty because the lines following says 'Economic poverty is not the only kind of poverty 'implying that what has been referred to is economic poverty.
Choice (C)

20. The passage focuses on the various forms of poverty, hence statement I.
Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 21 to 25:

21. The word 'issue' is inappropriately used in option C. 'On issue' is an inappropriate usage. The correct usage is 'at issue' which means the question or point that is being agreed about or discussed.
Choice (C)

22. Option (C) is incorrect as 'in phase' refers to the working of two things together, and not a single 'machine' as given.
Choice (C)

23. Option (B) is the correct option. 'Recover from' renders the sentence appropriate.
Choice (B)

24. The correct phrasal verb is 'shot through' with something, meaning that it contains a lot of that element or feature (here mudslinging and frayed tempers). Option (A) is inapt as it doesn't include 'through' Choice (A)
25. To 'switch' two things means to replace one with the other (here, ballot boxes). 'Switch over' with reference to 'ballot boxes' is incorrect as it means to change to something else which is better. Option (B) is thereby, inappropriate. Choice (B)

Explanatory notes for questions 26 to 30:

26. The subject is 'behaviour' (singular) hence the verb should be 'was'. Choice (D)
27. If we want to do something, we are interested 'in' doing it. Hence part D of the sentence must have 'in learning' not 'to learn'. Choice (D)
28. We use 'another' with countable and 'more' with uncountable nouns. Hence part C of the sentence must have 'more information'. (We say 'another chair' but 'more furniture', 'another fact' but 'more' or 'further evidence') Choice (C)
29. 'To dress something up' means to present it as better or different from what it is. Hence part B should be 'dress it up with'. Choice (B)
30. When two actions in the past are referred to, the earlier one takes the past perfect tense. Since we already have 'took', it must be 'had been told'. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for questions 31 to 32:

31. 'World Conference on International Telecommunication' and 'heated debate' are key words to pick 2 as the opening sentence. The phrase 'some countries' is a clue to pick 1 as the second sentence and the sentence mentions a point of debate. 4 begins with 'some' which can easily be considered as a continuation of 'some countries' in the previous sentence. The clue to select 3 as the next sentence comes from the word 'others.' Sentences 1, 4 and 3 mention the stand taken by various countries. The concluding sentence can only be 5 as it states the result. Ans : 21435
32. A quick reading of the sentences will suggest that the paragraph is about a recent report in The Daily Mail. So we can choose 3 as the opening sentence. The response of 'most people' suggested in 3 is explained in 1 and 'their brain' (in 1) is the clue for choosing 1. Logically, 5 is the next sentence as it gives more information about the study referred to in the previous sentences. The ironical thing explained in 2 is well-linked to what is stated in 5 that the story has been echoed by a large number of news sources. So 5 should precede 2. Sentence 4 further explains the point mentioned in 2. Ans : 31524

Explanatory notes for questions 33 and 34:

33. As we can see from the opening statement, the author is addressing one who seems to think that voting serves no purpose. In his response he explains that the act of voting is an expression of our connection to our society. Thus, the most appropriate to conclude the para is statement C, that indicates that it is people who are not sociable who do not vote. Statement A reverses the connection that the author makes. Statement B is not appropriate since the para is not about faith in democracy or the democratic process. Statement D seems close, but is not appropriate because the para speaks of the loss of social connection, not of being busy or of patience. Choice (C)
34. The opening sentence introduces the idea of the para, getting a pilotless plane to land. Only sentence B tells us how it would use an infra-red system to identify populated areas and search for alternate open places to land on. Statements 2, 1 and 3 form a sequence. Statement 4

conveys a different idea and is therefore the odd man out. Choice (B)

Explanatory notes for question 35:

35. More than 3m students are getting their high school diplomas in late spring. Those who plan to go on to university have been told for years to expect a rough time: with so many students applying, winning admission to their college of choice will be a challenge. But those who clear that hurdle will find that their problems are just beginning. Ans : 4

Practice Exercise – 3

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 5:

- It was common to use rebuses or word puzzles with picture even during the Victorian times. 'Universal' means involving all the people in the world. Since we are talking about Victorian times in particular to use this word will be inappropriate. 'Fabled' means famous, often talked about, but rarely seen. This is not a suitable option. 'Dominant' means noticeable. This is not an appropriate option. 'Irresistible' means so strong that it cannot be stopped. So not an appropriate choice. 'Common' means happening often. It is an appropriate choice. Choice (B)
- Text messaging gives children a chance to practise reading and writing. 'Information' gives facts or details of something. It is inappropriate to use this word. The word 'mode' which means a particular way of doing something. To say text messaging gives children a 'mode' is inappropriate. The word 'performance' means the act of performing a play, concert or some other form of entertainment. To use this word is inappropriate. 'Incentive' is a wrong option. 'Opportunity' is a time when a particular situation makes it possible to do or achieve something. Text messaging gives children an opportunity to practise reading and writing. Choice (A)
- Text messaging helps to use words economically. It improves the skill of expression. The word 'overflow' means to be so full that the contents go over the sides. This is an inappropriate choice. 'Locale' means a place where something happens. It is not an appropriate choice. 'Plethora' means amount that is greater than is needed or can be used. This is not a suitable word in the present context. 'Excess' will mean more than what is necessary. It is not suitable. The word 'economy' means to use something that is available in a way that avoids waste. Text message helps to improve children's skills in economy of expression. Choice (C)
- Text message gives children an opportunity to learn spellings and sounds of words in a playful way. The word 'illustrious' means very famous and much admired. The word is inappropriate in the context. The word calculating means 'crafty'. Not a suitable word because the word has a negative connotation. 'Candid' means to say what you think openly or honestly. This is not an appropriate option. 'Dynamic' means the way in which people or things behave and react. 'Imaginative' is having or showing new and exciting ideas. Children learn to use imaginative ways in learning sounds and spellings of the language. Choice (D)
- It is interesting to know that the more one uses text message the better is his / her literacy score. The word 'preparing' means to make something ready to be used. 'Gunning' is to look for an opportunity to attack. 'Predicting' is to say that something will happen in future. 'Publicizing' is to make something known. These options are not appropriate. 'Beginning' means to start doing something. It is therefore not surprising that studies are beginning to show that the more you text the better your literacy scores will be. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 6 and 7:

6. In option C, the word fix should be used along with the preposition with. To fix someone with a look, stare, gaze etc is to look directly at somebody for a long time.
Choice (C)
7. Option C, is incorrect – because the phrasal verb stand out is incorrect here. The correction is to stand in (for somebody) meaning to take somebody's place.
Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for question 8:

8. The idiom, by the skin of one's teeth means, just barely or very narrowly. Thus the answer is 'very narrowly'.
Choice (B)

Explanatory notes for questions 9 and 10:

9. 'Occidental' means relating to the countries of Europe and America, and goes with 'menu'. (a) is hence apt.

In the second sentence, 'slick' thriller means an impressive and skilful movie, and (b) is thus the right pick.

'Loath' means unwilling to do something, and hence (a) is right in the context.

An 'allusion' is a reference, and (a) is thereby pertinent. 'Dual' means having two parts or functions, and gels with 'tasks'. (b) is appropriate here.
The sequenced arrangement is abaab, put forth by option (A).
Choice (A)
10. 'Horde' relates only to people whereas 'hoard' means a collection. (a) is right in the context of the sentence. To 'exult' means to show or feel great happiness or pleasure, and hence (a) is appropriate here.
'Childish' is something which is typical to a child, and if an adult is 'childish', it means he behaves in a way uncharacteristic of an adult. (a) is pertinent here.
'Backward' means old-fashioned and not modern, while 'backwards' means opposite to the usual direction, and the latter fits the bill aptly. (b) is hence, correct. A double 'bass' is an instrument, the largest in the violin family, which plays very low notes. (a) is validated here. The arrangement thus arrived at is aaaba, and is reflected in option (C).
Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for questions 11 and 12:

11. The context is about the effectiveness of personal contact, be it in healing or story telling. This is absent in electronic communication. Electronic communications are 'purposeful', 'complex' and 'reliable' (believable) but not personal. Hence option (C) is appropriate. Choice (C)
12. All the given words for the first blank are relevant. The war against the poor reached its peak. Under whom? It reached its peak under the liberal democratic administrators. 'Revival' means the act or an instance of bringing back to existence. There is no indication that the doctrine was revived. 'Expansion' refers to the act of increasing in size or importance. The given context suggests that the war reached its peak, with the strengthening of the doctrine. Hence, amplification is appropriate. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 13 and 14:

13. 'Approbation' means 'approval' and it is the opposite of 'flak' (criticism).
Choice (A)
14. 'Wanton' means deliberate and unprovoked. Hence it is 'wilful' (deliberate) and 'deliberate' and 'gratuitous' (uncalled for) but not 'immoral' (not moral) since it brings into the picture the concepts of what is right and wrong.
Choice (A)

Explanatory notes for questions 15 and 16:

15. The words compunction and remorse share a synonymous relationship. Among the given options, the words recalcitrance and obstinacy are synonyms. The words casuistry (fallaciousness) and authenticity (genuineness) truculence (defiance) and amiability, hebetude (dullness) and astuteness are not synonymous. Choice (A)
16. Perfidy (treachery; disloyalty) is a quality which can be attributed to a traitor. Degeneracy (moral decay) is a quality which can be attributed to a profligate (debauchee). Tyranny is not associated with a renegade (betrayer). Integrity cannot be attributed to a charlatan (cheat). Felony (criminal offence) cannot be attributed to a martinet (disciplinarian). Only choice B is apt. Choice (B)

Explanatory notes for questions 17 to 25:

17. Refer to the last 4 lines of para 2 from which it is clear that IMF conditionalities now pertain to a large number of specific structural features of the borrowing countries.
Choice (D)
18. The first three lines of para 3 validate option D.
Choice (D)
19. Statements I, II and III are true according to the last para of the passage.
Choice (D)
20. Refer to para 5 where the words in quote occur in line 2. The next sentence goes on to explain it.
Choice (A)
21. Refer to the penultimate para which lists the elements. Both A and B are mentioned.
Choice (D)
22. (D) can be easily inferred from "So give up waiting as a state. When you catch yourself slipping into waiting ... snap out of it. Come into the present moment". (A) is a passing observation. (B) is not mentioned in the passage. (C) is a recommendation.
Choice (D)
23. The author argues in the passage that the future is "imaginary" and not "real" in the first paragraph. (C) is beside the point. (A) is hyperbole. (D) is somewhat implied in health- and life-corroding insanity, but (B) is the concise answer.
Choice (B)
24. (B) can be safely inferred from "you will continue to experience the inner condition of lack, and deep down you will continue to feel unfulfilled". (A) is a technicality. (C) is a generalization. (D) does not come to the point. Choice (B)
25. (C) can be inferred from "Come into the present moment. Just be, and enjoy being", which will not make us wait for "further physical or psychological gratification". (A) is not substantiated. (B) is the opposite of the author's contention. (D) may or may not be true.
Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for questions 26 and 27:

26. (1) cannot begin the paragraph as fight back refers to people in (2). (4) cannot begin the paragraph as collapse refers to the thugs in (1). (5) cannot begin the paragraph as new regime refers to democratic government in (3). (3) has to follow (4) as setting up a viable democratic government refers to help build a democracy in (4).
Ans: 21435
27. (1) cannot begin the paragraph as it is the financial offshoot of (3). (4) also cannot begin the paragraph as it is the psychological offshoot of (3). Since (3) begins the paragraph with the mention of the crisis, it in (5) refers to the crisis in question in (3). The financial aspects are covered in (1) and the psychological aspects in (4). (2) is the extension of the paragraph.
Ans: 35142

Explanatory notes for question 28 and 29:

28. (A) abruptly derails the paragraph. (B) also comes as a bolt from the blue. (C) with however indicates a transition that echoes So it seemed at first in the paragraph. (D) gets into technicalities which have not been introduced yet in the paragraph. Choice (C)
29. (A) is not a conclusion that is likely to follow from the discussion on public opinion that closes the paragraph. (B) is a frivolous statement for lack of evidence. (C) is completely out of context. (D) logically follows from the paragraph as a paradoxical observation. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 30 to 31:

30. a is to be re-written as follows.
Never in recent economic history have interest rates been so low far so many for so long.
c is to be re-written as follows
It would hardly be surprising if rates stayed at the low levels of the past four years throughout 2014.
B and d are grammatically correct. Choice (B)
31. c is to be rewritten as follows
He receives guests, seated on a golden throne at the end of a long hall hung with chandeliers.
d is to be re-written as follows
He rules with an iron fist over the provincial capital, Mazar-i-sharif and Hairatan, on the border with Uzbekistan
a and b are grammatically correct. Choice (A)

Explanatory note for questions 32 and 33:

32. It is not difficult to discern that the topic sentence is (1) Shareholder activism, which is substantiated by (4) This referring to lost its distinctly negative connotation. (3) continues from the geographical expansion in (4) more commonplace - Nor is it restricted to America. (2) is a criticism that should form the vein of a different paragraph. Choice (B)
33. The topic under reference is the government's proposal to incentivise electronic transactions, so statement 1 is the opening sentence. 4 talks about some limitation of the earlier attempts, so logically, 4 follows 1. 3 gives details of 'Banking Cash Transaction Tax' in 4, so 3 follows 4. That the cash trail is impossible to track is not directly related to the topic discussed. It is another point that has to go into another paragraph. Ans: 2

Explanatory note for questions 34 and 35:

34. The first word is similar to schizophrenic, so the answer is psychopathic. The second word is similar to the end of her, so it is bury. Choice (D)
35. If the child is not to be admitted to a mental hospital, then there is nothing wrong with her in the first place, so she must be sane. influence naturally implies substance abuse, so the girl must have abused some dubious tablets. Choice (C)

Practice Exercise – 4

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 5:

1. Statement 5 introduces the fact that there are forces that can dispute the position of religion. The sentence tells us further that religion is one among the 'three'. The other two are 'art' and 'philosophy'. Sentences 2 and 4 form a pair as both talk about the influence of art and 3 and 1 go together explaining the influence of philosophy on the human mind. 'Its' in 5 refers to the 'philosophy' mentioned earlier in 3 as philosophy is the field which believes in intuitions. Hence the proper sequence of the sentences would be 52431. Ans: 52431

2. Statement 2 begins the para by saying that a tourist attraction can be labelled sleepy if it sees 35,000 visitors a year. 4 contrasts with 2 by saying that – if it is Antarctica every foot step matters. 1 follows 4 by saying how tourism is rebounding in Antarctica. 5 is a continuation of 1. Statement 3 concludes the paragraph by saying how Antarctica has now become a major tourist attraction. Hence 24153 is the correct sequence. Ans: 24153

3. Statement 3 begins the para by saying how nations settled their quarrels with gun duels. 1 is an extension of what is stated in 3 5 carries forward what is stated in 1 by talking about dictatorships. Statement 2 follows 5 by presenting a contrasting idea by saying how modern man tries to settle differences through diplomacy and dialogue. 4 which is a continuation of 2 is conclusive in nature. Hence 31524 is the correct sequence. Ans: 31524

4. 3 is easily the opening sentence of the paragraph as it states the topic i.e., the appreciation of the rupee. 5 follows 3, 'period of ascent' in 5 echoing 'on the rise' in 3 and both refer to the appreciation of the rupee against the dollar and the euro. 2 follows 3 and 5 as it mentions a response to the appreciation of the rupee. 'This' in 4 refers to the depreciation of the dollar mentioned in 1. 'Small cause for comfort' in 6 relates to the depreciation of the rupee vis-à-vis the euro that is mentioned in 4. Hence 352146. Ans: 352146

5. Statement 5, a general statement, is ideal to open the paragraph. Statement 1 is linked well with 5 since 5 gives the reason why the Centre should be congratulated, so 1 comes after 5. 2 further explains the reason for congratulating the Centre – there was political pressure to which the Centre did not yield. 4 is continuation of the same point, and it should follow 2; note 'as well' in 4. 3 concludes the paragraph. The sequence of statements is 51243. Ans: 51243

Explanatory notes for question 6:

6. c follows statement a. (from options). c gives the explanation that a seeks. d follows c, as it further clarifies what the second half of c says by rephrasing it. e explains what is categorically stated in d and b reiterates the latter half of what he says. Moreover we see that A specifically refers to 'the mind' as do c and d. Both b and d then go on bringing in a border perspective. Thus d precedes e and sums up. Choice (B)

Explanatory notes for questions 7 to 11:

7. The paragraph presents the problem of slow-reading. It also says that we don't have the concentration to read the articles completely. Option (A) deals with the lure of navigation on the internet, so doesn't go with the context. Option (C), which deals with search engine use instead of reading the articles completely, is incorrect as it states how people try to cut short the reading process, rather than slow reading. Option (D) is irrelevant. Only option (B) gives a logical continuation to the problem, by giving the extension of the problem. Choice (B)
8. The penultimate sentence mentions that there were very quick and angry reactions from around. So, option (A) is incorrect as it deals with the face saving process by Google. Option (C) is again for Google to ponder over the mistake. Hence incorrect. Option (D) could be good after mentioning some of the comments by the angry Indians. Hence, option (B) is appropriate, as it directly gives one of the comments. Choice (B)
9. The paragraph focusses on the oil therapy and the massage to the head and the hair, which gave the author the much required soothing effect. Hence, the concluding sentence should deal with the same idea. Option (A) presents that precisely. Option (B) appears to be partially

correct, but it deals with the concluding part of the treatment. So, inappropriate. Option (C) again deals with the details of the menu, so incorrect. Option (D) is a good option but for the extension of thought about the treatment for the last week. Choice (A)

10. The paragraph deals with the surroundings of the temple and eventually reaching the temple. The best conclusion would be one that gives the feeling of the person on seeing the deity. Hence option (B) is the best. Option (A) is like a suggestion. So incorrect. Option (C) digresses from the context. Options (D) is irrelevant. Choice (B)

11. The passage states the reasons for the growth in sales of antidepressants. Then the penultimate sentence says the rise in sales reflects patient dependency on these medicines. Option A explains the reason for the dependency and completes the paragraph. Further, 'they' refers to patients. Options B and C are irrelevant as they talk about the symptoms. B is inapt for conclusion as it is about a different point – the benefit of the drugs. Choice (A)

Explanatory notes for questions 12 to 15:

12. Cargill is not the restaurant chain but the company that was called upon the restaurant chain to develop a solution to the problem. Hence statement A is the odd one.

Next to the revered hamburger, nothing is more classic to fast food than the french fry. So when a major restaurant chain wanted to create French fries with 0 grams trans fat per serving, they knew they couldn't change the taste consumers loved. They called on Cargill, who worked with them to develop a special frying oil. Choice (A)

13. Expln: Sentences A, C and D are all guesses and predictions while sentence B talks of facts that are taking place in reality and hence the odd one.

It is conjectured to be the new frontier for military and intelligence activity: cyberspace. For years military experts and computer scientists have speculated about the possibility of a nation's infrastructure being attacked using computers, rather than bombs. There have been dark warnings, for the past couple of years, of the danger of a "digital Pearl Harbour. Choice (B)

14. The sentences B, C, D only talk of Mao Zedong's efforts to bring about change in China. Sentence A doesn't logically follow that train of thought.

For better or worse, Mao Zedong usually came out on top, whether facing Japanese invaders, nationalist warlords or Communist Party rivals. But for all his success in overturning traditional values and institutions, the founder of modern China came up short in his desire to convert written Chinese from its character-based system to an alphabet. In the end Mao settled on a halfway step: cutting the number of strokes in some Chinese characters. Choice (A)

15. Sentence B is out of context because it speaks about government reaction to the protests while the rest of the sentences follow a logical pattern in describing how the events unfold.

In a one-party state where people are routinely jailed for criticizing government policy, it is rare for all but the most brave or foolhardy to speak out. But a government plan to allow a Chinese company to start mining some of the massive reserves of bauxite lying beneath Vietnam's verdant Central Highlands has provoked an unprecedented backlash from an unlikely assortment of critics. They include a nonagenarian war-hero, a dissident monk, and a slew of leading scientists and environmental campaigners. Choice (B)

Explanatory notes for question 16:-

16. The main points of the passage are
 (1) Lack of socio-cultural sensitivity about the sanctity of Nijamgiri Hills is creating controversy and delaying much needed investment in Kalahandi.
 (2) Vedanta can source bauxite from places other than Nijamgiri Hills which are also rich in the ore.
 (3) Killing ancient myth, the corollary to industrialisation, is an idea that needs to be checked.

Option (A) can be ruled out because it distorts the ideas of the main passage.

Option (B) misses the point of ignoring socio-cultural sensitivity.

Option (C) The original paragraph states that industrialisation need not erase ancient myths. While this idea is presented it is too wordy for a summary, moreover it ignores the idea of progress.

Option (D) presents all the ideas correctly. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 17 and 18:-

17. In statement A, "back entrance" means located or placed in the rear; "back to back" means consecutively and without interruption and "back copies" means previous, earlier or past copies, respectively. In statement D, the phrasal verb should be "back on to", which means to have its back next to. Choice (D)

18. In statement A "become wise to" means aware of or familiar with; in statement B "be wise after the event" means become sensible; in statement C "put someone wise" means to inform, alert or warn about; Statement D is incorrect. The correct idiom is "be/get wise to somebody" which means to become aware that somebody is being dishonest. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 19 to 23:

19. Refer to the last para – choice C cannot be deduced from what is stated. Choice (C)

20. Choice A is not stated or implied and hence is not necessarily true. Choice (A)

21. Choice B can be inferred from para 6 of the passage. Choice (B)

22. The words in quote occur at the end of para 1 and para 2 goes on to elaborate it and leads to choice D as the answer. Choice (D)

23. The experience of Fred Tomaselli is found in para 3. He discovers a new dimension (depth) to what he thought was two dimensional painting. Choice (A)

Explanatory notes for questions 24 to 27:

24. The passage mentions that India's GDP per head is now a quarter of \$6,750, so (C) is precise. Choice (C)

25. The passage implies dissension in the given context - "deals have constantly to be done with a vast array of regional and caste-based parties", so while all the given choices are more or less relevant, (C) is most appropriate. Choice (C)

26. While (D) can be dismissed straightaway as a legitimate concern and not an impediment, (A) and (B) are less precise than (C) - "India is an extraordinarily hard place to govern. Much power is devolved to the states; the fissiparous nature of its polity means that deals have constantly to be done with a vast array of regional and caste-based parties; and a colonial and socialist past has bequeathed India a bureaucracy whose direction is hard to change" along with "Congress's drift and venality". Choice (C)

27. (C) is a matter of fact, and not a contributing factor to Modi's success. All the other choices are mentioned in the passage - "Mr Modi has a mandate for economic reform ... it was the votes of the young, urban and educated that won him the election", "Mr Modi has an outright majority—282 of the 543 elected seats in Parliament's lower house" and "The combination of parliamentary clout and personal power means that Mr Modi has a better chance of getting state governments to go along with him". Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for questions 28 and 29:

28. We simply have to look for unappealing words that agree with gray, gnomic etc. grandiose, wholesome, felicitous are all ruled out and we have (C). Choice (C)
29. Agonizing search implies that Slocum is unlikely to find what he is looking for, so the meaning in question has nothing short of vanished. Dilation agrees with punishingly long. Choice (C)

Explanatory Notes for questions 30 and 31:

30. We have to find a common thread running through three sentences in the given question. (1), (3) and (4) refer to saving cash. So does (B), but it also mentions borrowing cash. "Some" in (4) refers to "savers" in (1), (3) demonstrates the negative interest rate in (4). Choice (B)
31. 'Probity in public life' is discussed in the paragraph. Statement B opens the paragraph. Statement A states something that contradicts what is said in B, so A follows B. 'It' in C refers to 'breach' in A, so C follows A. BAC is the sequence of sentences. Statement D, which mentions an unfulfilled condition in the past, is rather vague -; it is not clear what could have been contained. Choice (B)

Explanatory Notes for question 32:

32. b is to be re-written as follows.
How far the string is plucked determines how much it springs back; similarly, the depth of a recession decides its strength of recovery. C is to be rewritten as follows. America's recent experience, though, has not been as predicted by the plucking model a and d are grammatically correct. Choice (B)

Explanatory Notes for questions 33 and 34:

33. If you take someone to task, you criticize them or tell them off because of something bad or wrong that they have done. Choice (A)
34. If a problem comes to a head or is brought to a head, it reaches a crisis. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for question 35:

35. In statement A, 'to mind her P's and Q's' means: she has to be especially polite. Statement B is incorrect: the correct expression is - I can't get that dreadful accident out of my mind. It means: I can't stop thinking about it. 'Get her mind round something' in C means 'to succeed in understanding something difficult.' In D 'are of the same mind' means 'to have the same opinion.' Choice (B)

Practice Exercise – 5

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 15:

1. Refer to para 3 that lists the commonalities among the women. 'A concern for the environment' is not mentioned. Choice (D)
2. Refer to the last line of para 7. It was because of the Freedom of Information Bill that ordinary people were able to expose the corruption of government officials. Choice (A)

3. Refer to para 5 and 6 in which choice C is validated. Choice (C)
4. Refer to the second last para from the end, option B can be inferred from the last sentence of the paragraph. Choice (B)
5. Midwives are those who help in births, hence midwives of change would be those who help change to occur. Choice (A)
6. Refer to para 3 end where the words in quote appear. Taken together with the preceding line it points to choice (B). Choice (B)
7. Para 1, line 2 talks of the Roman capture of Jerusalem in 70 AD and para 2, line 1 says the dispersion had begun many centuries before the fall of the Holy city; hence it began in pre-Christian era. Choice (A)
8. Refer to the last para, line 9 (lest it should incur the disfavour of a community . . .) Choice (C)
9. Choice (D) is not true, refer to para 1, line 3 and 4 from the end (triumphantly restored home). Choice (D)
10. Refer to para 4, line 5 (which know how much of its maritime ascendancy it owed to its Jews). Choice (A)
11. Refer to the last para – before the analogy of 'brain dead' the author says 'life and consciousness are examples of emergent complex systems'. Choice (A)
12. Refer to para 3 – borrowed life refers to their dependence on host cells. Choice (C)
13. 'Having the potential for life' is not an essential feature of living things, eg. seeds. Choice (B)
14. The first three lines of para 3 render option A to be true. Choice (A)
15. The passage explores the question 'Are viruses alive?' Choice (A)

Explanatory notes for questions 16 and 17:

16. The sentence suggests that the word in the second blank is negative. Hence we can rule out choice (D). 'Attitudes' is not followed by 'on' though callous (cruel) is possible. 'Interpretation' does not fit the meaning. The only possibility is 'postures' (an approach or attitude towards something) and 'truculent' (aggressively defiant) which is apt. Choice (C)
17. The earth's metal content diminishes (becomes less); other choices do not suit the first blank. In the second blank 'consumed' is the only suitable choice. 'To annihilate' means to destroy completely and 'to ravage' means to destroy badly. Human greed cannot conserve rare metals. Hence the other choices can be ruled out. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for question 18:

18. In (a), the word prevailed should be followed by over and not on. To prevail against or over somebody is to defeat an opponent especially after a long struggle. To prevail on or upon somebody is to persuade them to do something. The expression 'prevail over' ideally suits the given context. In (d), the word momentary, meaning temporary or lasting for a short time, does not make sense. The word momentous which means very important or serious especially because there may be important results, is the right word to fit into the given context. Hence (a) and (c) are erroneous. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for question 19:

19. In (a) the noun 'statistics' is used in plural sense and the verb should be 'show' to agree with the subject. In (b) the unemployment rates in Germany are compared to unemployment rates in euro-zone, so 'those' should be added after 'to' – 'to those in the euro-zone.' (c) and (d) have no errors. The problem with e is that the elements after 'This could result in' are not in the same grammatical forms. One is 'wages falling' and the other 'a rise in unemployment.' 'A rise in employment' should be changed to 'unemployment rising' to make the sentence grammatically correct. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for questions 20 and 21:

20. 6 is the first sentence for the simple reason that it gives the full name of the protagonist whereas the subsequent sentences refer to him as 'King'. Either 1 or 2 can follow 6 but there is no connection between 1 and 2 whereas 1 and 3 are linked by people's attitude ('smirks of disdain' in 1, 'morally indistinguishable' in 3) 6 talks of 'Black neighbourhood' and 2 continues the idea 'black leader' and 'Black equality'. 4 mentions what the white owe to King and 1 and 3 follow elaborating on this. (5) winds up asking a rhetorical question. Hence 624135. Ans: (624135)
21. Statement (1) begins the paragraph by citing a past – incident which forms the basis of this para. Statement (1) follows (3) as it presents a contrast with the past situation. (4) carries forward the idea and is hence a continuation of (1) Statement (2) is a continuation of (4). (5) concludes the para by speaking about the present situation. Hence 31425 is the correct sequence. Ans: (31425)

Explanatory notes for questions 22 and 23:

22. The paragraph talks about the practical difficulties in basing troops on foreign soil. Option (B) ideally concludes the paragraph by suggesting an alternative to this problem – that of basing the troops on the high seas. Option (A) can follow (B) but cannot conclude the para. Option (C) is not in line with what is stated in the para. Option (D) is rather vague. Choice (B)
23. The penultimate sentence in the paragraph says that one woman is raped every 22 minutes in India. The next sentence relates to what has been said in the previous sentence - rape. Hence the choice is choice (D) which says 'not a single VIP has been raped etc.' Other choices are not relevant to the context. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 24 and 25:

24. Statements 1, 2, and 3 which form a sequence in the order 2, 1, 3 are totally customer oriented, while (4) looks at the situation from the company's point of view. Ethnography is the branch of anthropology that involves trying to understand how people live their lives. Unlike traditional market researchers, who ask specific, highly practical questions, anthropological researchers visit consumers in their homes or offices to observe and listen in a non directed way. While this observational method may appear inefficient, it enlightens companies about the context in which customers would use a new product and the meaning it might hold in their lives. Ans: (4)
25. Statements (1), (3) and (4) (in the order 3, 1, 4) mention the many things Tony Greig will be remembered for. But statement (2) talks about his debut which is out of context. Ans: (2)

Explanatory notes for question 26:

26. The paragraph is about price rise acquiring political overtones and resulting in a loss to the Congress party in the Assembly elections in Uttaranchal and Punjab. The

sentence before the blank speaks of the central government trying to find quick solutions to the problem. The sentence after the blank begins by explaining how supply or lack of it has caused prices to rise. Hence the appropriate sentence in the blank should be a link between the two. Option C is the logical link. Options A and B talk of capacity rather than supply. Option D talks of the government adding to the problem. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for questions 27 and 28:

27. The expression '----- cross their swords' is incorrect in choice (D). The correction is '----- cross swords' meaning to have an argument with someone. Choice (D)
28. The phrasal verb 'get along' is incorrect in choice (B). The correct phrasal verb is 'get by' meaning 'to be able to live or deal with a situation with difficulty, usually by having just enough of something you need, such as money. Choice (B)

Explanatory notes for question 29:

29. Loathe, meaning dislike, is apt in the given context. Loath, meaning not willing to do something does not make sense. Hence (b). The word balmy (warm and pleasant) makes sense in this context. Only (a) is apt. If you wait for something with bated breath you are anxious or excited. Only (b) makes sense here. Wary meaning cautious makes sense in the given context. Weary (tired) is inappropriate. Hence (a). Choice (B)

Explanatory notes for question 30:

30. The main points of the passage are:
- (A) The Election Commission, after seeing the success of good voter turnout in Jharkhand through brand M. S. Dhoni, is now planning to entice more celebrities.
 - (B) The CEC, S. Y. Quraishi, is excited about the success in Delhi as well and feels that the right to vote should be made a proud duty.
 - (C) He expressed his discontentment about people in big cities, who fancy holidaying instead of exercising franchise, and hence the polling date will not precede or follow a weekend.

Option (1) is incorrect as it mentions that brand M.S. Dhoni was helpful for good voter turnout in both Jharkhand and Delhi. Also that the CEC is contentment about the people in big cities, who do not turn up for voting. Option (2) is incorrect only for the distortion that the CEC will see to it that "the polling date will precede or follow a weekend". Option (3) fails to include the idea that the CEC is concerned about the people 'in big cities'. Hence, incorrect. Option (4) is the best as it has all points summarised.

Ans: (4)

Explanatory notes for questions 31 and 32:

31. Statement (B) is incorrect because of the inappropriate positioning of the adverb 'perhaps'. In statement (C) the word restore should be followed by 'with'. Even in statement (D) the adverb 'perhaps' is inappropriately placed. Further, the expression 'global intellectual firmament' should be followed by the preposition 'in' and not 'over'. Only statement (A) is grammatically correct. Choice (A)
32. Statement (A) is incorrect because of the inappropriate positioning of the adverb 'also'. Further, in (A) and (B) the word threat should be followed by to and not for. In statement (B) the word integrity should be followed by the definite article. In statements (B) and (C) the use of the definite article before the word civilization is not required. Only statement (D) is grammatically correct. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 33 and 34:

33. 'Solvent' means 'secure', 'credit worthy' and 'sound' 'Laudable' means 'praiseworthy' and is the odd one out. Choice (B)
34. 'Pusillanimous' means 'cowardly' timid, timorous or spineless. Hence 'avaricious' which means greedy is the odd one. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for question 35:

35. Choice (A) is incorrect. The sentence should read "The cultural imperative". A specific reference is being made. Further, there is an error in parallelism. Choice (C) is ruled out because the tense "has been the" does not gel with the tense of the remaining paragraph. Choice (D) is incorrect. It should read "..... much less analysed and discussed but is much more problematic". Hence it is ruled out. Choice (B)

Practice Exercise – 6

Explanatory Notes for questions 1 to 15:

1. According to the passage, Gupta report rejects the Johl group suggestion reasoning that it would lead to denial of credit by moneylenders to small traders. As Johl group's recommendation is that one residential house and agricultural land upto five acres must not be attached and should not be taken as collaterals, it can be inferred that this is what would prevent moneylenders from lending to agriculturists. Choice (C)
2. From the passage, it can be inferred that the author argues in favour of the borrowers and hence he is criticizing the report which views fixing maximum rates unfavourably. Hence the author is in favour of maximum rates being specified. Choice (C)
3. According to the passage moneylenders take advantage of the mechanism of interlocked markets as the borrowers would not risk loan default as they would lose the security which is more valuable. Similarly a person insuring the life of self or the lives on whom he has interest would take proper care of the insured lives as the insured money is not more valuable. Choice (A)
4. In the first paragraph the author gives the agenda of the Technical group and goes on to say how it has done the opposite of what it intended to do. Choice (D)
5. 'The bill seeks to priority sector lending by banks' (para 3 end) shows that (B) is the correct choice. Choice (B)
6. By knowledge an empiricist means psychologically a mental state. (para1 line 7). Knowledge as a mental state presupposes awareness of the distinction between the known and the knower. If there is no distinction there cannot be a cognitive situation so the empiricist says that in neither sense of the word (psychologically and logically) the mystic can claim to have known god, as, if he becomes godlike, there cannot be any distinction and hence his claim becomes untenable. Choice (B)
7. (C) is a contention of the empiricist as understood from the second para of the passage. Choice (C)
8. 'Buddha preferred to remain silent about the existence of God' shows that (D) is the correct choice. Choice (D)
9. Choice B is validated by the penultimate para of the paragraph. 'In order to stop of its self-knowledge' shows that (B) is the correct choice. Choice (B)

10. According to an empiricist, if the knowledge of God is attained in a state of silence which does not involve any awareness of logical and psychological distinctions, it can only be a source of delightful emotion but cannot be a state of knowledge. Choice (A)
11. Choice (B) is not true because modern critics went back to the classical approach (para 3 lines 5 – 6). The modern critics attacked the Romantic approach. Choice (B)
12. Statement a is true – para 3, last line. Statement b is true, para 3, line 5. Statement c is true – Carlyle's definition of criticism in para 1, lines 3 – 5, is in line with the romantic approach to criticism. Statement d is false : (para 3, line 7) Oscar Wilde is among the Romantics. Choice (C)
13. Choices (A), (B), (C) and (D) are the functions of criticism – either from the classical or the romantic point of view. Choice (D) however is not a function of criticism. Choice (D)
14. Choices (A), (C), and (D) are true. Choice (B) is not – Matthew Arnold echoed the classical viewpoint though he lived in the Romantic age. Choice (B)
15. Walter Pater's definition of criticism is that it is 'the art of interpreting art' (para 1, line 1) which is the romantic view 'he almost creates a new work from the old' Choice (A)

Explanatory Notes for questions 16 to 18:

16. It should be 'I'm crossing my fingers' which means 'A hope that my plan will be successful.' In A 'cross swords' means 'to argue', in C, the expression means 'to come into mind' and in D it means 'to draw a line across.' Choice (B)
17. The usage of the word 'communicate' is incorrect in choice D. We don't 'communicate' goods; we 'convey' them. Other usages are right. Sentence C means 'the room connects with other rooms through a door.' Choice (D)
18. The phrasal verb 'catch out' is inappropriate in choice D, the correct phrasal verb to be used here is 'catch on' meaning 'to become popular'. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 19 and 20:

19. Only a is grammatically correct 'To travelling' in b is ungrammatical; it should be 'to travel'. In c the first word should be 'launched.' 'Was being expanded' in d is incorrect; 'has expanded' is ideal. In e it should be 'as well as' instead of 'as well'. Choice (D)
20. In sentence (a) 'than to enter new private banks' is confusing and the sentence doesn't convey the sense it wanted to. The correction required is 'than the entry of private banks.' (b) has no errors. The use of 'to drop' in (c) is incorrect as it doesn't go with 'foregoing' in (b). 'To drop' has to be corrected as 'dropping.' In sentence (d) 'of' is not required after 'bespoke.' Sentence (e) is free of errors. Hence b and e are error free. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for questions 21 and 22:

21. The passage begins with a general statement 3 - 'Elephants rumble to communicate....' The next sentence 2 explains the statement further: 'But till recently, no one knew...' The next sentence i.e. 4 makes some assumptions on the sounds: 'Were they purring....?' Now the findings of a new study are revealed: 'They blow air.....' And finally, a conclusion: 'These folds are the largest...' Hence 32415 is the logical sequence Ans: 32415

22. It may be noted that this is a typical example of a "specific to general" passage. It introduces a specific research and its implications leading to a general conclusion.

The passage begins with the introductory line '4' (an experiment conducted by a psychology professor to prove something)

Next comes sentence '1' which is the 'observation' made by the professor after the 'experiment'

Then, sentence '3' (the general case) follows sentence '1' (the specific case) and mentions a remedy (the ban) to curb 'the distraction'

Sentence '5' is a simpler and ideal remedy to ensure the safety of pedestrians who use cell phones. The pointer is the word 'but'

Line '2' is the concluding statement (to ensure the safety of pedestrians and drivers). Hence 41352 is the correct sequence of sentences. Ans: 41352

Explanatory notes for questions 23 to 27:

23. The ability to establish, grow and extend trust is best described as a competency (the skill that you need for a particular task) which is required for leadership. The words panache (the quality of being) able to do things in a confident and elegant way that other people find attractive), discretion (the freedom or power to decide what should be done in a particular situation) and discernment (the ability to show good judgement about the quality of somebody or something) are inappropriate in comparison. Choice (C)
24. Since the sentence talks about character, only integrity (morality) goes with character because integrity is a part of character. Diplomacy, tactfulness and sophistication are attributes and are not part of character. Choice (B)
25. Competency includes capabilities or the qualities necessary to do something. Only option (A) is apt in the given blank. The remaining options are easy eliminations. Choice (A)
26. The passage suggests that both character and competence are crucial for leadership. This is conveyed only using the word vital. The word discretionary (voluntary) runs contrary to what is stated in the passage. The words compelling and plausible do not make sense here. Choice (D)
27. Only the word 'ethics' fits the blank perfectly. As the focus is on ethics, the characters side of trust is fast becoming the price of entry in the global economy. The words candidness (frankness), fidelity (loyalty) and conscientiousness (diligence) are inappropriate in comparison. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for question 28:

28. The last sentence of the paragraph says that genetic variations across these mitochondria were reliable predictors of life expectancy in males, but not in females. Only option D continues the idea stating that the mutations have no effects on patterns of ageing in females. All other options are repetitions of earlier statements. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for question 29:

29. The paragraph attempts to define the sociology of religion. The sentence before the blank states that the sociology of religion is concerned with the patterns of social behaviour based on religion and not with eternal truths. The sentence after the blank 'says that is the sphere of theology'. The 'that' in this sentence refers to the fact that the sociology of religion is not concerned with belief systems which is more the concern of theology. This idea is presented in option D and is therefore the logical connective. All other sentences present different ideas which do not suit the blank. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for question 30:

30. Options 1, 2 and 4 talk about climate change causing weather extremes whereas option 3 talks about sea-level rise. Ans: (3)

Explanatory notes for question 31:

31. Statement 4, which sets the tone of the paragraph, is the opening sentence. "Augurs" in statement 2 relates to clues in 4, meaning animal movements and the color of the sky have been considered as augurs of monsoon. Hence 2 follows 4. The sentence moves on from the general to the specific with 5 which talks about the Indian weather forecasting methods becoming more refined from the rather outdated method of gleaning clues from the natural environment. Hence 5 is a continuation of 2. Statement 1 concludes the paragraph by saying that scientists want a better understanding of the weather patterns in India. Hence 4251 form a sequence. Statement 3 can start another paragraph but does not form a sequence with 4251. Ans: (3)

Explanatory notes for questions 32 and 33:

32. The words in the question pair share an antonymous relationship. The words intransigent (inflexible) and compliant are also antonyms. The words obsequious (servile) and autocratic, lugubrious (gloomy) and mournful, recondite (esoteric) and ambivalent are not antonyms. Choice (C)
33. Munificence (generosity) is a quality which is lacking in a miser. Frugality (thrift) is a quality which is lacking in a sybarite (a person who is very fond of luxury and pleasure). Hence option C is analogous to the question pair. It cannot be said that a sophist (a person who uses clever but false argument) is not lacking in pragmatism (the policy of approaching matters in a practical way). An ingrate (an ungrateful person) is not lacking in deceit. A diplomat does not lack tact. Hence only option (C) is correct. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for question 34:

34. Horde refers to a large crowd of people. Hoard is collection of money, food valuable objects etc. Only (b) is apt here.

Complacent is to be too satisfied with yourself or with a situation. Complaisant means ready to accept other people's actions and opinions and to do what other people want. Only (b) makes sense in this context.

Defuse is to stop a possibly dangerous or difficult situation from developing. Diffuse is to spread over a wide area. Only (a) is apt.

Site refers to a place, sight is the ability to see. Only (b) is apt in the context. The correct sequence is bbab.

Choice (D)

Practice Exercise – 7

Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 15:

1. Refer to the last but one para that talks of the babies of the world. They view things from their own perspective (not necessarily that they are myopic or short sighted). Choice (B)
2. Refer to para 3, lines 6 – 9 which renders option A to be true. Choice (A)
3. Statements (a) and (d) are supported by the last 4 lines of the last but one para. Statement (b) is supported by the first line of the last para. Statement c is not the author's view – in para 2 he refers to it as the opinion of people from

learned professors to babies. He negates it at the end of the last but one para when he says 'Is it logical to . . . human life?'
Choice (C)

4. Choices (B) and (C) negate the given statement. Choice (A) appears true but is not – while they may be parts of a whole they are not 'one and the same'. Choice (D) captures the meaning appropriately.
Choice (D)
5. Refer to para 2, lines 2 – 3. Choice (A)
6. Sentences 3 and 4 of para 3, "generosity toward needy strangers ---- owe you a favour" show that (C) is the correct choice. Choice (C)
7. The sentences in para 4, 'too often the rhetoric of justice to kill their will to excellence', show that (A) is the correct alternative. Choice (A)
8. The concluding line of para1 points to choice (B). Choice (B)
9. The opening sentence of the penultimate para 'With the advent of mass media ---- Marlboro man' shows that the example is quoted as a defiance of status divisions (anti-status rhetoric). Choice (D)
10. The passage argues for achieving excellence and treats the justice system as a hindrance to man's efforts to excel. So according to the author achieving success and excellence should be the goal of human life. Choice (D)
11. It is not implied anywhere in the passage that punctuation is in the process of becoming obsolete. Further, it is stated in the last para of the passage that playful punctuation, which is confined only to e-mail, texting etc, is just a fad which would soon become unfashionable. This further negates the idea that punctuation would become obsolete. Hence option A is not an inference which can be drawn from the passage. Even options C and D are not implied in the passage. It can be inferred from the passage, particularly from the first, second and the seventh paragraphs that punctuation has never been truly stable. Choice (B)
12. A Pandora's box refers to an action that may seem small or innocuous but that turns out to have severely detrimental and far-reaching negative consequences. In the given context, the expression has been used figuratively to state that the creation of the @ symbol by Tomlinson has led to the creation of new symbols and characters and as a consequence, punctuation has taken a beating. This point is validated by the 4th and 5th paragraphs. Option B is an overstatement. The word 'revolutionized' in option C has a positive connotation and is irrelevant to the given context. Even option D is far-fetched. Only option A suits the given description. Choice (A)
13. Option A is validated by the fourth para of the passage. The second sentence of para1 - "ancient texts had few of the devices that tell readers....and so on", renders option B incorrect. Options C and D are not stated or implied anywhere in the passage. Only option A is true. Choice (A)
14. While all the options define the word orthography, only option D is contextually relevant because here the reference is to the use of symbols (refer to the third para of the passage). Choice (D)
15. It is not stated in the given paragraph that punctuation is likely to become unfashionable, hence option B is not the correct summary of the paragraph. Options C and D capture only a part of the paragraph and do not summarize

the paragraph completely. Only option A is the correct summary of the paragraph. Choice (A)

Explanatory notes for questions 16 and 17:

16. The passage begins with a general statement, 'Not often does one come across....' statement (1) which is the next sentence states what it is: passersby were appalled by something. (4) gives the reason for passersby getting appalled: it happened mere months after the revolution.... Statements (5) and (3) speak about the occurrences that followed: crowds gathered and the poster was torn. Hence 21453 is the correct sequence. Ans: (21453)
17. (3) is better as the opening sentence than 1 (since (1) appears to be a continuation of something). (6) follows (3) more logically than (2) since (6) talks of 'unfazed by the gloomy reports' which is an evidence of 'positive' in (3). (2) follows (6) elaborating on the 'opportunity' mentioned in (6). (4) follows (2) with possible loopholes and solutions. (1) and (5) are linked by the reference to Gandhi. Hence 362415. Ans: (362415)

Explanatory notes for question 18:

18. Statement (1) mentions that Dhoni snapped up a ₹210-crore deal. The details of this deal are mentioned in (d) and it is also clear with the details given in (b) and (c), that (b) follows (c). Also that statement 6 gives a clue about Dhoni's composure. This has to precede (6). It comes through in statement (a) (... a man at ease in front of the camera). Hence dcba. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for question 19:

19. As one goes through the sentences, it is clear that the ambience is set in the jungle and the speaker is in his tent at the time of sunset. Statement (a) states that it is very peaceful. Statements (b) and (c) add to this idea. Hence, they follow (a). Statement (d), which adds to the description in (b) and (c), has to precede statement (e), which says, "And, to add to our idyll ...". Hence the best choice is (A) (bcde). Choice (A)

Explanatory notes for questions 20 to 22:

20. The paragraph speaks about the counterfeit medicine creating havoc. The problem is still existing, so the logical conclusion is choice (B). The use of present continuous tense suggests that the problem is being brought to the notice of people now, so choice (A), which says, 'We have recognised this problem' cannot be the choice. Though choice (C) might be a fallout of the problem, it is not the immediate result and hence the choice is not suitable as the concluding sentence of this paragraph. Choice (D) is ruled out since the use of the 'so far' suggests that the people have been aware of this problem for a long time, but the fact is that the problem is being brought to their notice now. Choice (B)
21. The passage says that warning signs like hate propaganda that culminate in genocide can be detected well in advance, so a logical way of concluding the paragraph is by saying that action now is less costly than paying for peacekeeping forces and refugee camps. Hence the right choice is (D). Others are out of context. Choice (D)
22. The paragraph discusses indoor pollution caused by cooking with solid fuels and deaths caused by this. The ideal conclusion is choice A which says that the worst-hit are the poor - especially stay-at-home women and children. Choice B talks about ailments whereas the paragraph talks about deaths, so this choice is ruled out. Choice C mentions a result of incomplete combustion and choice D states the environmental implications, but the focus of the paragraph is on deaths caused by this pollution. Choice (A)

Explanatory notes for questions 23 to 25:

23. (3) talks about a symptom of dyslexia while all other options talk about the dyslexic in general. Ans: (3)
24. Options (1), (3) and (4), in the order 3, 1 and 4, describe flexi-schooling, which means withdrawing children from school for part of the week. But option (2) is not related to that topic – it talks about free primary schools. Ans: (2)
25. Statements 2, 3 and 4 (in the order 2, 4, 3) state how dangerous driving a car is, emphasizing the need to regulate drivers. But statement 1 talks about speeding without noticing the speed cameras. So (1) is not related to the context. Ans: (1)

Explanatory notes for question 26:

26. The main points of the para are:
- (a) Foreign investment is a key part of globalisation.
 - (b) Privatisation, liberalisation and macrostability spur growth by attracting investment.
 - (c) Foreign businesses open new vistas and bring in the much-needed capital for host countries.
 - (d) FDI has promoted development in Singapore, Malaysia and China.

All the above are covered succinctly in option (3). Option (1) is a distortion as it states that foreign investment encourages the freeing of economies. Option (2) is discarded for the same reason. Option (4) says globalisation resulted from foreign investment and not the other way round, and is a digression. Ans: (3)

Explanatory notes for questions 27 and 28:

27. Option (A) which says '----- our politicians are an exception', runs contrary to what is stated in the given sentence and can therefore be eliminated. Options (C) and (D) are clear distortions of the original statement. Only (B) is the best restatement. Choice (B)
28. Option (A) which begins with '----- it is a surprising fact -----' is a clear distortion of the original sentence which says that it '----- is a surprisingly well-known fact.' Option (B) can be eliminated because it is rather categorical in stating that the politics of interest groups determined the general quality of an individual's life while the given paragraph implies that it is a possibility. Even option (C) is a distortion of the given sentence. Only option (D) best restates the original sentence. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 29 and 30:

29. Sentences (a) and (b) have no errors. In (c) the noun 'pie' is used as countable and so the correct usage should be 'twice as many mince pies'. 'Mark & Spencer' in (d) should be taken as a singular noun since it is the name of a retailer, so the verb has to be 'sells' to agree with the subject. In (e) 'a drain' is not to be repeated after 'as well as'. Choice (D)

30. In a the adverb 'amazingly' modifies the entire sentence, so it should come at the beginning of the sentence. Similarly, in (b) the adverb should be shifted to after 'amusing' (amusing enough). (c) has no errors. The verb 'own' is not used in the continuous form, so it should be 'who owns' in (d). The expression 'made somebody poor by' in (e) is incorrect; the correct usage is 'made Marks poorer by.' Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 31 and 32:

31. The use of the conjunction 'but' suggests that the two clauses joined by the conjunction talk about a paradox, so the words are likely to be opposites. That makes us reject choice D. Choice A can also be ruled out since 'the arts scene' where the narrator grew up cannot be described as 'privileged' (though one can be born into an underprivileged family). The words 'commonplace' and 'bizarre' do not fit in this situation, so choice C is eliminated. The words 'ordinary' and 'extraordinary' in choice B make sense in this context. Choice (B)
32. Any word from the given choices can suit the first column, but the only word that can fit in the second blank is 'averaging.' Hence choice C is the correct choice. The words 'equalizing,' 'balancing' and 'wavering' do not go with 'at less than 2 percent' in this context. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for questions 33 and 34:

33. In statement A the word open should be followed by up. To open something up is to show something that was hidden or not previously known. Choice (A)
34. Option C is incorrect. The correction is '----- down to the last detail; meaning including every small point or detail of something.' Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for question 35:

35. Choice (A) has two errors; the first is in the tense "had been replaced". The reference is to a duration of time. Hence it should take the present perfect tense, (has been replaced). Further, "one of the" should take a plural noun. Hence it should read "one of the most enlightened, liberal democracies". Choice (B) is incorrect because it should read "in the developed world". Choice (D) is grammatically consistent. Choice (C) is ruled out because the sentence is not properly structured. Choice (D)