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CAT

SENTENCE REARRANGEMENT





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Chapter 1: Introduction to Sentence Rearrangement / Para Jumbles

1.1 Introduction

One of the most frequently asked questions in the CAT and other MBA entrance tests is Sentence Rearrangement or Para-jumbles. Here, we are given a paragraph - but the sentences are not in the right order. We have to rearrange the sentences so that they logically make sense.

The paragraph given could be based on diverse subject area. Generally each paragraph will discuss only one idea. Regular reading material on diverse topics and practicing with the tests will help you in analyzing your strengths and improving your performance.

1.2 Relevance in various tests

CAT, SNAP, IIFT and XAT have 3- 6 questions each from Para-jumbles. As these questions are both knowledge-based as well as logic based, the para-jumble questions in CAT, XAT is mostly of an advanced level of difficulty. However, in XAT, the questions come as MCQ. Therefore the questions can be solved after reading the sentences one or two times and thereby understanding the context and eventually eliminating the choices.



As the questions are logic based, the only way to master this topic is through sufficient practice. In CAT, Para-Jumbles & finding misfit out of given four or five sentences come without options. The number of questions may vary in the exams in the coming year.

1.3 Key skills required

- Regular habit of reading
- Ability to read and comprehend articles on diverse topics
- Ability to understand the topic of the paragraph: You should have the skill to notice what is being talked about.
- Ability to understand the flow of thought in the sentences.
- Ability to connect the stream of ideas
- Regular practice

1.4 Types of Sentence Rearrangement Questions

The paragraph given will be with jumbled sentences, which may be:



Type 1- All sentences are jumbled

- a. 4 sentences
- b. 5 sentences
- c. 6 sentences

Type 2- The first and the last sentences are fixed

Type 3- Mis-fit or the odd sentence

Solved Examples:

Type - 1:

- A. A paragraph with 4 sentences is given and all the sentences are jumbled.**
1. A. All mammals eventually reach a fixed body size as they age; however, certain animals which do not have a fixed body size (such as some lobsters, flounders, sturgeons, sharks, and alligators) simply increase in body size with time but show no noticeable sign of aging.
- B. These texts confuse "life expectancy" with "life span." Life expectancy refers to the average age an organism lives until it dies of disease, predators, or starvation, whereas life span refers to the



maximum age an organism can live if these external causes of death are removed.

C. These animals are "immortal" in the sense that their aging process is so slow that it is either nonexistent or too slow to be measured reliably in the laboratory.

D. Many textbooks incorrectly state that these animals have a finite life span like other animals.

1. ACDB

2. BDCA

3. CADB

4. ADCB

5. ABCD

Sol: 1.

Type - 2:

B. First and the last sentences are fixed. Other sentences given in-between are jumbled.

2. 1. It is significant that one of the most common objections to competition is that it is blind.

A. This is important because in a system of free enterprise based on private property chances are not equal and there is indeed a strong case for reducing that inequality of opportunity.

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B. Rather it is a choice between a system where it is the will of a few persons that decides who is to get what and one where it depends, at least partly, on the ability and the enterprise of the people concerned.

C. Although competition and justice may have little else in common, it is as much a commendation of competition as of justice that it is no respecter of persons.

D. The choice today is not between a system in which everybody will get what he deserves according to some universal standard and one where individual shares are determined by chance or goodwill.

6. The fact that opportunities open to the poor in a competitive society are much more restricted than those open to the rich, does not make it less true that in such a society the poor are more free than a person commanding much greater material comfort in a different type of society.

1. ABCD 2.CDBA 3.DCBA 4. BDCA

Sol: 2

Type - 3:



- C. Misfit or Odd sentence. Sometimes more than 5-6 sentences are given and you have to identify the sentence which is misfit in the context/is not relevant or redundant.**
- 3. A.** Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) was the youngest son of Debendranath Tagore, a leader of the BrahmoSamaj.
- B.** He was educated at home; and although at seventeen he was sent to England for formal schooling, he did not finish his studies there.
- C.** In his mature years, in addition to his many-sided literary activities, he managed the family estates, a project which brought him into close touch with common humanity and increased his interest in social reforms.
- D.** Rabindranath Tagore originally wrote in Bengali, but later reached a broad audience in the West after recasting his poetry in English.
- E.** He also started an experimental school at Shantiniket an where he tried his Upanishadic ideals of education.
- F.** From time to time he participated in the Indian nationalist movement, though in his own non-



sentimental and visionary way; and Gandhi, the political father of modern India, was his devoted friend.

Sol: D





Chapter 2: Technique to Solve SR/ Para Jumbles Questions

In order to solve Para Jumble Questions it is important that you are able to comprehend the theme or the idea of the paragraph. When you read articles from diverse areas then your comfort level increases to deal with questions based on different areas. There aren't any straightforward approaches to solving Para Jumbles. With as many approaches as you can possibly think of, each Para jumble has a unique solution.

Here, we shall discuss few tips:

2.1 STOP- AC technique

- STOP- AC technique
- Subject
- Theme
- Opening Sentence
- Pairs
- Anticipate the order
- Confirm from the Options



Step 1- Identify the Subject:

Read the sentences and find out what is the subject or the topic that is being discussed in the given sentences. It could be about any subject, person, place, animal, thing, idea, theory etc.

Step 2-Identify the theme / central idea of the paragraph:

After identifying the topic of the paragraph, see what is the central is theme or idea.

Step 3- Try to locate the introductory sentence or conclusive Sentence:

While going through the labeled sentences, try to look for one that makes a fresh beginning.

Generally an introductory sentence:

- a. Introduces the idea or the theme of the paragraph
- b. It is an independent sentence. i.e. does not depend on other sentences to complete the meaning.
- c. It may have “subject” or noun of the theme/ central idea present
- d. It may talk of a general idea or may written in a generalised way

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Check for Conclusive last sentences

There are typically multiple options beginning with the introductory sentence. So you will need more than one clue.

Generally a conclusive sentence

- a. Summarizes the theme of the paragraph
- b. Has links to previous sentences
- c. May use closing key words like, hence, therefore etc.

Step 4-Check for sentences that make pairs:

Very often a pair of sentences can be chronologically arranged because of clues in one of the sentences. Standard clues include reference to a person or thing. The first time such a reference is made, a noun form is used. The second reference will be a pronoun or a preposition.

For example if we look at these two sentences.

- A. Its origins lie in Konark, where a huge chariot of Lord Jagannath is made every year to be taken out in a procession.
- B. The juggernaut, though it seems very German in origin, is actually quite Asian.



The "Its" in sentence A refers clearly to juggernaut. So we can infer that sentence B precedes sentence

A. Only using this information of the "its", we do not know if B comes immediately before A or whether one or two sentences separate A and B. But by looking closely, we also see a common word - "origin", which hints at the fact that the relationship is of immediate precedence.

Some **clues** on identifying the PAIRS:

Logical Continuity based on:

Pre	Post
Noun	Pronoun
Question	Answer
General idea	Specific example
Problem	Solution
Question	Answer
Former	Later
Cause	Effect
Full form	Abbreviation



A. Sequence- Time wise/Action Wise

Time Wise

Action Wise

Pre, present, future

Then, Now

Agri era, industrial era, IT era Did, Doing, Will do

1947, 1961, 1972- date wise

B. Connector Key words/transition words

Supporting Key words

Contradicting key words

And

But

Like wise

Despite

Similarly

However

In the Same way

Inspite of

Also

On the other Hand

Too

So

C. Beginning & Closing/Sequence

Beginning

Closing

Hence

First of all

As a result

Latter

Foremost

Finally

Former

Initially

Secondly...

Thus



Step 5-Anticipate the order of the sentences:

Knowing that going through each choice is cumbersome; we must clearly work towards generating some kind of order in our mind, before we look at the options. This tactic will help save us precious time.

Step 6-Confirm the closest option:

Having scribbled something like BCDA next to the question, we need to check if such an option exists. If we see an option like BDCA also alongside, then it would make sense to reconfirm the fact that sentence D follows sentence C. In case that there is no exact match, our judgment about a close option being correct, will depend whether there is a match on the introductory and the concluding sentences. If there is, then it is worth taking a chance and ticking that option off. If there is more than one such match, then a closer examination is required.

Step 7- Plug in all the options:

If everything else has failed, this is the last tactic. But this tactic needs to be used judiciously, especially in tests where there is negative marking.

Let's Practise using the STOP- AC technique



2.2 Practise Questions:

Choose the most logical order of sentences from amongst the four choices given to construct a coherent paragraph.

Ex. 1:

- A. Barstow forgot and went to get her at the usual time.
- B. Every Monday Aunt Hattie went to see her banker in the city and came home on the 5'O clock train.
- C. Since Barstow always drove at the same speed, can you figure out how long Hattie was walking before he picked her up?
- D. When Hattie arrived and found no one there, she started walking home.
- E. One day she told her husband, Barstow, that she would be back an hour earlier and to pick her up at the station
- F. Barstow met her on the road and took her back to the house, where they arrived twenty minutes earlier than usual.

1. ABCDEF

2. AFDECB

3.BDEFAC



4. BEADFC

5. BDEAFC

Sol: STOP - AC technique

1. **Subject-** Aunt Hattie and Barstow
2. **Theme-** Picking up Aunt Hattie from the way
3. **Opening Sentence-** Sentence B is the opening because it satisfies the following:
 - A. It is an independent sentence
 - B. It introduces the theme
 - C. It uses the Noun
4. **Pairs-** We have BE as Subject Pronoun Pair
Then we have EA as sequence of action Pair.
5. **Anticipate the order-** We know B is the opening and EA are pairs
6. Confirm from the options:- With the above criteria fulfilled we have option 4 as the answer.

Ex. 2: Choose the most logical order of sentences from amongst the four choices given to construct a coherent paragraph

- A. There has been for some time growing criticism of the projection of women in these three media.



- B. Things are even worse in the films.
- C. The report that the Union Cabinet considered the draft of a bill to prohibit the denigration of women photographs, advertisements and films, is welcome.
- D. Advertisements in the print media, as well as in films and television, frequently rely on feminine sex appeal to attract attention to products or to suggest that these products make Casanovas of ordinary mortals.

1. CADB 2. DABC 3. ADBC 4. CDAB 5. DBAC

Sol: STOP - AC technique

- 1. **Subject-** Women in media
- 2. **Theme-** Projection of women is depicted in a wrong way in media
- 3. **Opening-** Sentence C is likely to be the opening sentence as it introduces the idea, is independent and use of subject in the noun form is given.
- 4. **Pairs-** CA

Subject – Pronoun Pair- “These” in sentence A refers to the subject to the media forms in Sentence C



Sentence B uses the word “Even” so we know it should follow some other sentence. So if we look at the order of media used in sentence C-films is used last.

5. **Anticipate the order-** CADB
6. Confirm from the options- Hence correct option is answer choice 1

DIRECTIONS: The sentences given in each question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labeled with a letter. Choose the most logical order of sentences from among the given choices to construct a coherent paragraph

1.
 - A. Although there are large regional variations, it is not infrequent to find a large number of people sitting here and there and doing nothing.
 - B. Once in Office, they receive friends and relatives who feel free to call any time without prior appointment.
 - C. While working one is struck by the slow and clumsy actions and reactions, indifferent attitudes, procedure rather than outcome orientation, and the lack of consideration for others.



D. Even those who are employed often come late to the office and leave early unless they are forced to be punctual.

E. Work is not intrinsically valued in India

F. Quite often people visit ailing friends and relatives or go out of their way to help them in their personal matters even during office hours.

1. ECADBF 2. EADCFB 3. EADBFC 4. ABFCBE

Solution: Apply the STOP - AC technique

- A. In the first sentence, the word 'although' is a connector word and hence would be a following sentence to some other sentence.
- B. In the second sentence the pronoun 'they' is used, hence this sentence should be preceded by a subject. Ask yourself 'they' refers to which noun.
- C. The third sentence seems to be an independent sentence. So it can be an opening or a closing sentence.
- D. In the fourth sentence, the words 'even' is a connecting word and seems to present a contrast to some idea. Hence, it should follow some other sentence.



- E. The fifth sentence is an independent sentence so can be placed at the beginning or at the end.
- F. In the sixth sentence, look at **key words**- office hours...seems to have a reference to sentence B.

Hence we are sure that E is the opening. Now look at options with E as opening.

In link EC, sentence E is talking about work not being valued whereas sentence C is talking about people being clumsy, indifferent, inconsiderate etc. Sentence C is NOT talking about value of work. It is talking about people's behaviour. Therefore, EC cannot be a logical pair. In link EA, sentence E is talking about work not being valued and sentence A is talking about people sitting idle. This certainly says that people do not value work.

Therefore, EA is the correct link. Hence, option 3 is correct

DIRECTION: Choose the most logical order of sentences from amongst the four choices given to construct a coherent paragraph

- 2. A. Michael Hofman, a poet and translator, accepts this sorry fact without approval or complaint.



B. But thanklessness and impossibility do not daunt him.

C. He acknowledges too – in fact he returns to the point often – that best translators of poetry always fails at some level.

D. Hofman feels passionately about his work, and this is clear from his writings.

E. In terms of the gap between worth and rewards, translators come somewhere near nurses and street cleaners

1.EACDB 2. ADEBC 3.EACBD 4. DCEAB

Sol:

A. In the first sentence, there is a clue for us “this sorry fact”. Ask a question which fact?

B. In the second sentence ‘But’ is a contrast clue word- hence you need a preceding sentence to this idea.

C. In the third sentence ‘too’ is mentioned which again is a clue word for us. ‘This sorry fact’ mentioned in A has a supporting sentence in C .Therefore ‘AC’ becomes a logical pair.

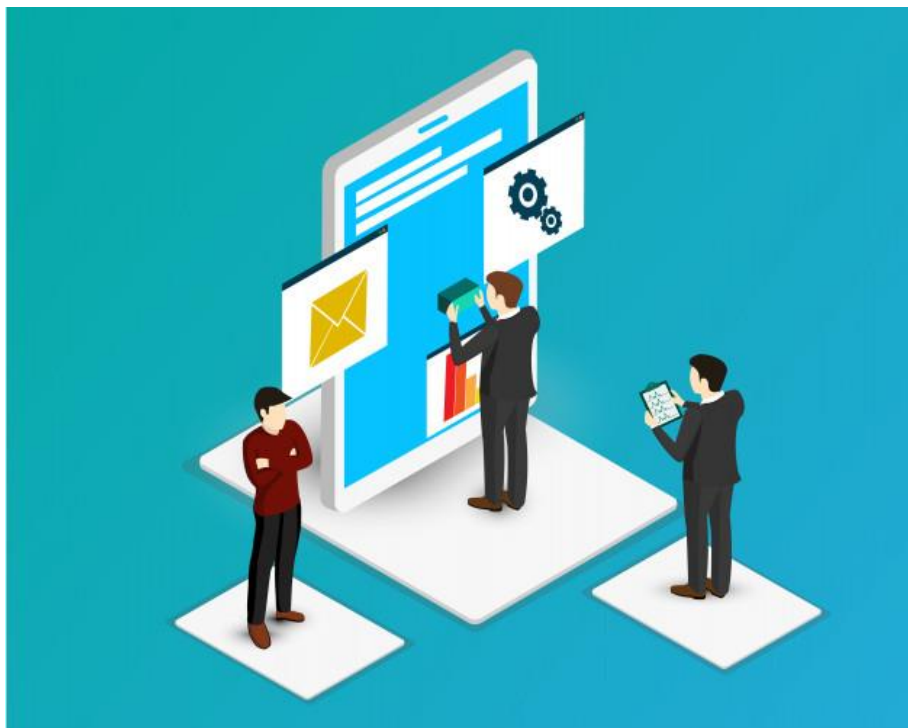
D. The fourth sentence is an independent sentence. So it can be placed at the beginning or the end.



E. The fifth sentence is an independent sentence, hence can be opening or closing sentence. It is an idea / opinion/ fact mentioned about translators.

STOP -AC Technique

1. **Subject-** Michael Hoffmann
2. **Theme-** Michael Hofman attitude towards translators
3. **Opening-** D or E. Sentence E will be a better opening sentence because a new idea is being introduced.
4. **Pairs-** AC is a pair as mentioned above. B will follow C as there is a contrasting idea present in B sentence.
5. **Anticipate-** Either Option 1 or 3
6. **Confirm from the options:-** ACB has to come together therefore we are left with only one option and that is option 3. Hence Option 3 is the right answer.





Chapter 3: Tips to handle- First and last sentence fixed (SR questions)

Type2-First and Last Sentences are fixed

Introduction: In this type of questions a set of six sentences is given, in which the first and the sixth sentences are fixed at their respective positions. The four sentences that falls between the first and the sixth sentences are presented in a jumbled form. You are asked to choose the logical order of sentences from the choices.

3.1 Strategy

Strategy- 1

Avoid reading the sentences closely. Inspect the choices; if each of the choices begins with different letters, identifying the sentence to begin the sequence leads to the correct answer.

Strategy- 2

In choices that are closely related, identify a mandatory pair of sentences (two sentences that should form a sequence). Refer the hints to identify pairs given in the previous chapter.



Strategy- 3

In six sentences variety, work backward from sentence 6 if there is no obvious clue to work from sentence 1; many a time we overlook the hints that may be valuable.

3.2 Practise Question:

DIRECTIONS: Arrange the sentences A, B, C, and D to form a logical sequence between sentences 1 and 6. Write the sequence of these letters as your answer.

1. 1.The fragile Yugoslav State has an uncertain future.
 - A. Thus, there will surely be chaos and uncertainty if the people fail to settle their differences.
 - B. Sharp ideological differences already exist in the country.
 - C. Ethnic, regional, linguistic and material disparities are profound
 - D. The country will also lose the excellent reputation it enjoyed in the international arena
6. At worst, it will once more become vulnerable to international conspiracy and intrigue.



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Sol: D connects very well with 6 due to the word 'international'. A seems to be a conclusion, but due to D, we will have to place A before it. CB is an apt link as both talk of differences. CBAD-6 is the best suggested sequence.



Chapter 4: Technique to handle Misfit Sentence Type Question

Introduction:

Pick the odd sentence or identify the misfit sentence from a group of sentences is a new twist on the old Para jumbles questions.

You will be given few sentences. You need to identify the one that does not fit in the context of the other sentences.eg: Out of four given sentences, any 3 are going to form a coherent paragraph. The fourth needs to be 'taken out'.

These questions create an extra difficulty as the student not only needs to find the misfit sentence but also unscramble the remainder of the sentences in order to reach correct answer.

4.1 Strategy to solve

1. Find the common subject/ Topic:

To identify the misfit sentence, you need to understand the overall context first. To grasp the overall context, try finding the common subject among all the sentences. The one sentence that doesn't share that common subject with other sentences is your answer.



2. Identify the common theme/general idea:

Try to identify the theme or the general idea around which the passage revolves. The general idea of the passage may appear to be the same in all the sentences. In such case, the difference may lie in the context in which the general idea is being talked about.

3. Spot the Opening Sentence:

This is going to be a relatively general sentence, one that introduces a place, person or a concept. Once you have grasped the general theme, it should be relatively easy to identify the introductory statement that initiates the scheme of events.

4. Spot the mandatory pairs/ sequence:

Note that all the sentences (except the odd one) may often form a proper sequential order when put together. So you may need to approach it as a paragraph jumble question and then find out the one that cannot fit in the sequence:

Find the odd one out

- A. With no spacecraft visiting Uranus in the near future and its sheer distance from the Earth, the potential for observations of its moons is limited.



- B. Ophelia and Cordelia are sometimes called shepherd moons.
- C. They are close to Uranus' Epsilon ring, with their gravitational influence essentially keeping the ring from falling apart.
- D. No one knows how big Cordelia is, or what its composition might be.
- E. Ophelia is believed to be 12 miles (20 kilometers) in diameter.

Sol: Ans. (A). If noticed carefully, all the statements except A are connected and form pairs.

B & C is a pair.....The pronoun –THEY in C refer to the moons in sentence B

D & E is a pair as they describe the traits of the moon as mentioned in sentence B.

Only option A does not form mandatory pair with any other sentence. Hence is an odd one out.

Note:-The examiner generally uses the following trick to confuse the reader to make it more difficult to identify the odd sentence



By making it look like a part of the given paragraph. It will usually feature the same people involved in the main discussion and the same broad theme.

However, what matters is whether the sentence fits into the logical pattern of the other sentences, in the established sequence more than the content of the sentence.

4.2 STOP Technique

Now that we have learnt some basic steps to identify the odd sentence, let's summarise in simple steps.

1. Find the Subject/ topic
2. Find the General Theme
3. Find the Opening Sentence.
4. Find out the sentences which can be put in Pairs
5. Find at least one connection, which gives you a reason to single out the misfit
6. Put the rest of the paragraph together by eliminating the misfit. Make a Tentative Order
7. Short List from the options (if given)



4.3 Practise Question

DIRECTIONS: Four sentences related to a topic are given below. Three of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out.

1. A. This is indeed a terrifying prospect. The right to privacy is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution. But then the right to “due process” too was not there and, in fact, was dropped by the framers of the Constitution.

 B. The Right to information in India has been mired with controversies ranging from their use in political battles asking opponent degrees, or cases of blatant refusals to provide information on high profile projects to allegations of misuse by civil society.

 C. When the mention of fundamental rights in the Constitution is not able to ensure their full implementation on ground, one wonders what will happen if privacy is not recognised as a fundamental right.

 D. In such a situation, citizens may not have protection against surveillance and even profiling



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by the state, the state could target those who speak against it, even voting preferences may be influenced, telephone tapping could be routinely resorted to and our mails intercepted.





Solutions:

Q. No.	Odd Sentence	Explanation
1	B	This is an easy question. Try to identify the theme of the paragraph. All the sentences, except B, talk about 'right to privacy' and how its absence will lead to a terrifying situation. B on the other hand talks about state could 'right to information', which is new idea and is not in sync with the theme. The first statement will be C. 'Such a situation' mentioned in D is for 'what will happen' mentioned in C. 'This is indeed a terrifying prospect' in A is for 'state could.....intercepted' mentioned in D. CDA is a set



DIRECTIONS for questions 1 to 5: Each question below consists of four jumbled-up sentences marked P, Q, R and S. Rearrange them so that they form a meaningful, coherent whole.

1. P. An ill-disciplined mind gradually loses all sense of grace and enjoyment and renders all relationships sterile.

Q. In contrast, a child enjoys the world around him.

R. As we grow older, we need to cultivate enjoyment with discrimination and discipline.

S. He is naturally graceful, and every new activity is a source of delight for him.

1. PQSR

2. QSRP

3. QSPR

4. PRQS

5. PQRS

2. P. Besides the fact that the proceedings of the Lokpal will be held in camera, it will also be a punishable offence for anyone to report the proceedings or even the substance of the complaint against an MP.

Q. By far, the most dangerous feature of the bill is the total lack of transparency.



R. And if the complaint is found to be false (even if it is not frivolous) the complainant is liable to be prosecuted.

S. Moreover, while the Lokpal is examining a complaint, they have the power to stop normal criminal investigations into offences by such persons.

1. PQRS 2. SRPQ 3. QPRS 4. PQSR 5. QRPS

3. P. But on second thoughts, I can see several advantages in such a move.

Q. At a time when most people are expressing delight at judicial activism to catch crooks in politics, you have expressed dismay.

R. Many people and newspapers have castigated your proposal, and I too was initially appalled.

S. You say the old harmony of relations between the legislature, executive and judiciary is breaking down, you want a special session of Parliament to discuss the matter.

1. PRSQ

2. QPSR

3. QSRP

4. SQPR

5. RQPS



4. P. Experiments carried out again, this time at IIT, Madras, have failed to validate his claim and consequently, his patent application has been turned down.

Q. While a large section of the scientific community may now satisfy itself by adopting an I could-have-told-you-so stance, it is important to emphasize a few not-so-obvious points about the practice of science in India.

R. Coming back to Mr. Pillai, it would appear that something may have been fundamentally wrong with his claim after all.

S. We have all along been very skeptical of such innovations so far.

1. QPRS

2. RPQS

3. PRQS

4. PQRS

5. PSQR

5. P. They also have side effects, which make suffering more acute.

Q. For those suffering from multiple myeloma, the cancer affecting bone marrow cells, there may be some good news coming soon if a team of



Southampton University medical researchers succeed in developing a genes-based vaccine.

R. The Southampton team has now come up with a procedure which is revolutionary and may even hold the key to cancer eradication in future: using genes to activate the body to attack and destroy cancer cells within it in the same way that protein molecules from organisms are injected into the body to stimulate response from the immune system.

S. The disease, which is a type of leukemia, has a poor prognosis and despite advances in modern medicine, the treatments used to deter bone destruction and subside acute pain of the patients seem less than effectual.

1. QSPR

2. RSPQ

3. QPRS

4. PSRQ

5. SRPQ





Answer Key and Explanation

Practise Exercise

Q.no	Key	Explanation
1.	4	R talks of older people, Q contrasts this with children so RQ is a logical pair. S follows Q, since it talks of the attitude of the child.
2.	3	Q has no upward links and so is the opening sentence. The 'and if' in R shows that R follows P.
3.	3	Q has no upward links and is the opening sentence. S details the reasons for 'dismay' of Q. The 'but on second thoughts' of P shows that P follows R.
4.	2	RP is a clear sentence pair. S has no downward links and is the closing sentence
5.	1	The 'disease' in S is the 'myeloma' of Q. 'They' of P refer to the 'treatments' of S. R with no downward links is the closing sentence.