

# CLOZE TEST



# What is it?

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- Just an overhyped “Fill in the blanks”...
- The blanks can be single, double or multiple
- You have to choose a suitable word, phrase or sentence to fill in the blank

# The TRICKS...

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- Read the entire sentence to get a handle on the sentence's overall structure and meaning before you start diving into the particulars

# The Tricks contd...

- **Word Fitting:**

- Before You Look At The Answer-Choices, Think Of A Word That "Fits" The Sentence.

- **Example:** Crestfallen by having done poorly in the GRE, Susan began to question her abilities. Her self-confidence was \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. appeased

- B. destroyed

- C. placated

- D. elevated

- E. sustained

- If somebody is crestfallen (despairing) and has begun to question herself, then her self-confidence would be destroyed. Hence, the answer is (B).

# The Tricks contd...

## □ Transitional Words:

- Transitional words tell you what is coming up. They indicate that the author is now going to draw a contrast with something stated previously, or support something stated previously.

□

## □ **i. Contrast Indicators:**

- To contrast two things is to point out how they differ. In this type of sentence completion problem, we look for a word that has the opposite meaning (an antonym) of some key word or phrase in the sentence.

□

Example: Although the warring parties had settled a number of disputes, past experience made them \_\_\_\_\_ to express optimism that the talks would be a success.

- A. rash
- B. ambivalent
- C. scornful
- D. overjoyed
- E. reticent

"Although" sets up a contrast between what has occurred--success on some issues--and what can be expected to occur--success for the whole talks. Hence, the parties are reluctant to express optimism. The common word "reluctant" is not offered as an answer-choice, but a synonym--reticent--is. The answer is (E).

□

# The Tricks contd...

- **ii. Support Indicators:**

- Supporting words support or further explain what has already been said. These words often introduce synonyms for words elsewhere in the sentence.

Example: Davis is an opprobrious and \_\_\_\_\_ speaker, equally caustic towards friends and foes

- A. lofty
- B. vituperative
- C. unstinting
- D. retiring
- E. laudatory

"And" in the sentence indicates that the missing adjective is similar in meaning to "opprobrious," which is very negative (harsh Critic). Now, vituperative--the only negative word--means "abusive." Hence, the answer is (B).

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## The Tricks contd...

### □ **iii. Cause And Effect Indicators:**

- These words indicate that one thing causes another to occur.

Example: Because the House has the votes to override a presidential veto, the President has no choice but to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. object
- B. abdicate
- C. abstain
- D. capitulate
- E. compromise

Since the House has the votes to pass the bill or motion, the President would be wise to compromise and make the best of the situation. The answer is (E).

## The Tricks contd...

- **Punctuation:**
- Whenever the punctuation "," (comma) appears, followed by a blank in between two sentences, it means that the synonym of the phrase/word before "," is the meaning of the blank. In simple words, when you find ',' followed by a blank then find the synonym of the word before ',' and check the options to match the synonym of the word.
- In the same way, when you find ":"( colon) or ";"( semi-colon) in the sentence, they will indicate that the idea coming up is merely an explanation of the earlier idea. So, simply find the synonym of the word/phrase before the punctuation and fill in the blank with the synonym from the options given.



## The Tricks contd...

- **Process of Elimination(POE):**
- You can easily eliminate all the options that are definitely wrong or are eliminated through the positive/negative flow.
- Suppose if you have a blank in the sentence for which the answer is positive, then you can eliminate all the options which are negative. In this way you can eliminate options and have very less options remaining. The probability of you getting right answer from 2 options is much higher than you getting right from 5 options.

## The Tricks contd...

- **Read Through the Passage Once You've Chosen the Answer**
- Once you've selected words for all of the blanks, make a quick pass through the sentence/passage again to **make sure everything makes sense.**

## Example- Single Blank

- Most spacecrafts are still at little risk of collision with space debris during their operational lifetimes, but given the numbers of new satellites launched each year, the orbital environment in the future is likely to be less \_\_\_\_\_.
- crowded
- vulnerable
- polluted
- benign

# Explanation

- **We know from the sentence** that most spacecraft currently face a low risk of collision with space debris, but that new satellites are being launched each year.
- The blank asks what the increased number of satellites **will make the orbital environment less like**, not what it will become more like. More satellites definitely won't make the orbital environment less "crowded" or "polluted," so (a) and (d) can be eliminated on a first pass. Then we have (b) "vulnerable". The choice may be tempting—if there are more satellites in the air, they will be less safe because of greater risk of collision. **But the adjective in question is modifying the orbital environment**, not the satellites. Saying the orbital environment itself is "invulnerable" doesn't really make sense here. This leaves us with choice (D) "benign," which means "harmless." The orbital environment will be less benign when there are more satellites, because there will be increased risk of collision. This makes sense; (D) is the correct answer.

## Example – Double Blank

- A newly published, laudatory biography of George Bernard Shaw fails, like others before it, to capture the essence of his personality: the more he is (i)\_\_\_\_\_, the more his true self seems to (ii)\_\_\_\_\_.
- Discussed – Disappear
- Disparaged – Emerged
- Disregarded - Coalesce

# Explanation

- **Two key ideas are presented in the first part of this sentence:** first, that the biography is “laudatory”—it praises George Bernard Shaw—and secondly, that it “fails” to adequately describe his personality. Because the biography praises Shaw, as we turn to blank (i), we can surmise that the biography does not “disparage” (belittle or ridicule) him, and a biography about him obviously doesn’t “disregard” (ignore) him. This means he is “discussed” in the biography.
- Given that the biography “fails” to capture Shaw’s personality, what would his true self seem to do in the biography? It certainly might “disappear.” It’s not likely to “emerge” or “coalesce,” which are both synonyms for “appear.” Thus, the correct choices for this sentence are “discussed” and “disappear.”

# Practice

- Ecology, in a very simple term, is a science that 1\_\_\_\_ the interdependent mutually reactive and interconnected relationships 2 \_\_\_\_ the organisms and 3\_\_\_\_ physical environment on the one hand and among the organisms on the other hand. 4\_\_\_\_ the term 'écology' was first coined and used by the German biologist Ernst Haeckel in 1869, a few conceptual terms 5\_\_\_\_ already proposed to reveal relationships 6\_\_\_\_ organisms and their environment.

- 1 **Studies**      study    studying      exploring
- 2 among      **between**      to      for
- 3 **their**      its      theirs      all
- 4 Through      In spite of      **Though**      Because
- 5 are **were**      have been      have
- 6 among      those      of      **between**

# Practice

- The founders of the Indian Republic 1\_\_\_\_\_ the farsightedness and courage to commit 2\_\_\_\_\_ to two major innovations of historical significance in nation-building and social engineering: first, to 3.\_\_\_ democratic and civil 4.\_\_\_\_\_society among illiterate people and, second, to undertake economic development 5.\_\_\_\_\_ democratic political structure.

- |                 |            |              |            |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| □ 1.had         | has        | has had      | were       |
| □ 2.them        | themselves | the people   | the course |
| □ 3.build       | building   | constructing | built      |
| □ 4.libertarian | liberation | liberating   | liberty    |
| □ 5.with a      | within a   | for the      | without a  |





Thank You!