

Vocabulary - 1 (Intro)



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VA - 01

CEX-V-0237/18

Number of Questions : **45**

Test Drive

Directions for question 1 to 5: Read the given poem and answer the questions that follow.

Time Limit: 5 minutes

(*The Bells* by Edgar Allan Poe)

Hear the mellow wedding bells

Golden bells!

What a world of happiness their harmony foretells!

Through the balmy air of night

How they ring out their delight!

From the molten-golden notes,

And all in tune,

What a liquid ditty floats

To the turtle-dove that listens, while she gloats

On the moon!

Oh, from out the sounding cells,

What a gush of euphony voluminously wells !

How it swells!

How it dwells

On the Future! How it tells

Of the rapture that impels

To the swinging and the ringing

Of the bells, bells, bells,

Bells, bells, bells —

To the rhyming and the chiming of the bells!

- Which of the following word best substitutes the word “rapture” in the poem?
(1) Disenchantment
(2) Exaltation
(3) Dedication
(4) Fracture
- The poet would most likely agree with:
(1) the chiming of bells confirms a wedding.
(2) the ringing of bells has a healing power.
(3) wedding bells are golden in colour.
(4) the ringing of bells is delightful.
- Which of the following can't substitute the word “euphony” in the poem?
(1) Mellifluous (2) Musical
(3) Grating (4) Melodious
- Which of the following technique has been predominantly used by the poet in this poem?
(1) Alliteration (2) Personification
(3) Allegory (4) Rhyming
- What is the best meaning of the word “mellow” as it is used in the poem?
(1) Placid (2) Melodious
(3) Harsh (4) Mild

Types of Vocabulary Questions

Vocabulary questions can be asked in various ways.

- i. Synonym / Antonym Question
- ii. Contextual usage Question
- iii. Analogy Question
- iv. Fill in the blank / Sentence completion Question
- v. Cloze Test Question
- vi. Confusable Words Question
- vii. Migratory Word / Phrase Question
- viii. Idiom / Phrasal Verb / Proverb Question

Points for Discussion:

- i. Is there any other type of vocabulary question that can be asked?
- ii. Which examinations ask vocabulary question?
- iii. How to remember words? What is root word technique?
- iv. How to create visual or auditory links to improve one's vocabulary?
- v. Our aim in this programme – To learn 1500 words in six months – What's the action plan?

Synonyms:

Directions for questions 6 to 15: Find the word that is closest in meaning to the word given in the question.

6. Aberrant
(1) Usual (2) Delirious
(3) Abnormal (4) Bewildered
7. Ablution
(1) Dedication (2) Purge
(3) Cleansing (4) Introduction
8. Acclivity
(1) Elevation (2) Adrift
(3) Plain (4) Meagre
9. Hidrosis
(1) Dehydration (2) Hinder
(3) Sweating (4) Humdrum
10. Impervious
(1) Impeccable (2) Manipulative
(3) Weak (4) Unreceptive
11. Rebuke
(1) Compliment (2) Censure
(3) Retract (4) Eulogize
12. Quagmire
(1) Quandary (2) Swamp
(3) Worry (4) Puddle
13. Anomaly
(1) Conformity (2) Compliance
(3) Tentative (4) Glitch
14. Ardent
(1) Fervent (2) Dispassionate
(3) Lukewarm (4) Apathetic
15. Impudence
(1) Audacity (2) Shallowness
(3) Timidity (4) Resistant

Antonyms:

Directions for questions 16 to 25: Find the word that is opposite in meaning to the word given in the question.

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| 16. | Badger | |
| | (1) Goad | (2) Hound |
| | (3) Please | (4) Hassle |
| 17. | Banal | |
| | (1) Vapid | (2) Bland |
| | (3) Trite | (4) Original |
| 18. | Magnanimous | |
| | (1) Benign | (2) Stingy |
| | (3) Affable | (4) Benevolent |
| 19. | Calibre | |
| | (1) Ineptness | (2) Distinction |
| | (3) Competence | (4) Capability |
| 20. | Camaraderie | |
| | (1) Intimacy | (2) Sociability |
| | (3) Conviviality | (4) Antagonism |
| 21. | Candid | |
| | (1) Tactful | (2) Forthright |
| | (3) Blunt | (4) Ingenuous |
| 22. | Chagrin | |
| | (1) Grumpiness | (2) Spleen |
| | (3) Glee | (4) Vexation |
| 23. | Chronic | |
| | (1) Ceasing | (2) Protracted |
| | (3) Inveterate | (4) Tenacious |
| 24. | Cognizant | |
| | (1) Sentient | (2) Awake |
| | (3) Conversant | (4) Nonchalant |
| 25. | Temperate | |
| | (1) Clement | (2) Callous |
| | (3) Mild | (4) Meek |

Confusable Words:

26. Accept & Except:

Accept means “to grant, to receive, to submit to, to answer yes, to agree to be a member or to take a position”.

For example: The committee accepted the director’s proposal.

Except as a verb means “specify as excluded from a category or group.” It also means “to take out, to leave out, to take exception to”.

For example: There are a few abbreviations, things like TOEFL and IELTS and such, that are specifically excepted from this rule.

27. Auger & Augur

Auger is a tool for boring holes into wood, leather, etc.: “He used an auger to make holes in the shoes for the shoelaces.”

Augur means to foretell, predict, forewarn: “The owl augurs the coming of bad times, as per Indian mythology.”

Augur is also used to refer to a prophet, a prognosticator, an oracle: “An ancient Roman augur told Julius Caesar to ‘Beware the Ides of March’.”

28. Bridal & Bridle

Bridal means referring to a bride or a wedding: “Ritu Kumar is the best designer of bridal gowns.”

Bridle, on the other hand, refers to the head harness, including bit and reins used to guide or to restrain a horse.

By extension, it also means the act of restraining power or action or limiting excess: “his common sense is a bridle to his quick temper”

29. **Bidding & Biding**

Bidding means to offer to pay a particular amount of money for something that is being sold: "He plans to stop the bidding on his house by making a huge counter offer."

Biding means waiting for the right time before doing something: "He is biding his time so that he can enter the bidding process at the right time and stop the bidding on his house by making a huge counter offer."

30. **Critic & Critique**

A critic is someone who forms and expresses judgments of the merits, faults, value, or truth of a matter: "He is his own worst critic when it comes to analyzing his writing."

A critique is an evaluation by using a review or commentary, especially one dealing with works of art or literature: "The critique of the new film in The Times of India was very positive."

Contextual Usage:

Directions for questions 31 to 35: Choose the best word to complete each sentence. All the sentences belong to the same paragraph. Hence, choose that word which best suits the context. Mark the correct option as your answer.

31. i. Among the groups the Nazi regime and its Axis partners singled out for prosecution (A) / persecution (B) on so-called racial grounds were the Roma (Gypsies).

- ii. Drawing support from many non-Nazi Germans who harboured (A) / harnessed (B) social prejudice towards Roma, the Nazis judged Roma to be "racially inferior."
- iii. Under the Nazi regime, German authorities subjected Roma to arbitrary interment (A) / internment (B), forced labour, and mass murder.
- iv. German authorities butchered (A) / marauded (B) tens of thousands of Roma in the German-occupied territories of the Soviet Union and Serbia and thousands more in the killing centres.

- (1) BBAB
(2) AABB
(3) BABA
(4) ABBA

32. i. While Arctic sea ice has shown a relatively steady descent (A) / decline (B) in square mileage over the past three decades as global temperatures rise,
- ii. its southern counterpart has yielded more erroneous (A) / erratic (B) and controversial data since monitoring began in the late 1970s.
- iii. The February 14 mark for Antarctic sea ice surpasses (A) / supersedes (B) lows seen around this time in 1997.
- iv. In 2012, Antarctic sea ice actually hit a record monthly high, with scientists theorizing (A) / prognosticating (B) that melting ice shelves were contributing to the growth.

- (1) ABAB
(2) ABBA
(3) BBAA
(4) BABA

33. i. Conservatism is a proclivity (A) / preference (B) for the historically inherited rather than the abstract and ideal.
- ii. This preference has traditionally rested on an organic conception of society—that is, on the belief that society is not merely a loose (A) / loose (B) collection of individuals but a living organism comprising closely connected, interdependent members.
- iii. Conservatives thus favour institutions and practices that have evolved gradually and are manifestations of continuum (A) / continuity (B) and stability.
- iv. Government's responsibility is to be the servant, not the master, of existing ways of life, and politicians must therefore resist the temptation to transcend (A) / transform (B) society and politics.

- (1) ABAB
(2) AABA
(3) BAAA
(4) BBBB

34. i. Power distributed and exercised hierarchically among groups and individuals is a requirement for the concept of society to emerge (A) / surge (B) in a certain group or community.
- ii. There should be no wonder that among indigenous (A) / ingenious (B) peoples who are egalitarian and still untouched by civilization, there is no concept of society.
- iii. In the fifties, there were forest-dwelling hunting and gathering groups (A) / crowds (B) who had no idea that they had been living in the Philippines.
- iv. Even their concept of community was not clear. They went by classification (A) / kinship (B).

- (1) ABBA
(2) BBAB
(3) AAAB
(4) BABB

35. i. Dawkins thinks it odd that Christians don't look eagerly forward to death, given that they will thereby be ushered (A) / entered (B) into paradise.
- ii. He does not see that Christianity, like most religious faiths, values human life gravely (A) / deeply (B), which is why the martyr differs from the suicide.
- iii. The suicide deserts (A) / desserts (B) life because it has become worthless; the martyr surrenders his or her most precious possession for the ultimate well-being of others.
- iv. This act of self-giving is generally known as sacrifice, a word that has unjustly accrued (A) / accredited (B) all sorts of politically incorrect implications.

- (1) ABAA
(2) BABB
(3) AABB
(4) BBAA

Fill in the Blanks

Directions for questions 36 to 45: Read the questions and complete the sentences by choosing the most appropriate word for each blank. Mark the appropriate option as your answer.

36. The word "feminism" evokes a / an _____ response in India compared to the word "dowry" which is almost _____ by the society.
- (1) vapid, acknowledged
(2) fanatic, ignored
(3) turbid, fascinated
(4) apocryphal, excited
37. _____ bans and clearance delays have brought the natural resource sector in India to a / an _____ position today.
- (1) Total, sustainable
(2) Justified, unsustainable
(3) Catastrophic, enviable
(4) Blanket, untenable

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| <p>38. No performer, teacher, or leader of an assembly could function properly without a high level of _____ perception.</p> <p>(1) audible
(2) aural
(3) oral
(4) vocal</p> | <p>42. A half-hour's drive north of Seoul, along a highway lined with _____ wire, lie two shopping malls the size of several football stadiums, a _____ away from the world's most militarized border.</p> <p>(1) barbed, stone's throw
(2) ironed, crow's feet
(3) fragile, spitting distance
(4) acerbic, blinking eye</p> |
| <p>39. "Part of the _____ of show business is escaping the _____ of real life", Hamill says.</p> <p>(1) routine, ordinary
(2) attraction, turtle-slow
(3) boredom, simplicity
(4) fun, drudgery</p> | <p>43. In these bleak and depressing times of _____ prices, non-performing governments and _____ crime rates; the women athletes have given us Indians a lot to cheer about.</p> <p>(1) swelling, boosting
(2) spiralling, mushrooming
(3) spiralling, soaring
(4) rising, debilitating</p> |
| <p>40. An _____ response is an electrical potential recorded from the nervous system of a human or other animal _____ the use of a stimulus.</p> <p>(1) invoked, allowing
(2) urgent, alluring
(3) evoked, following
(4) indeterminate, alluding</p> | <p>44. The manners and _____ of the nouveau riche is a recurrent _____ in the works of Jane Austen.</p> <p>(1) fashion, shape
(2) morals, legend
(3) affluence, premise
(4) morals, theme</p> |
| <p>41. During its subsequent history, usury has been repeatedly condemned, prohibited, _____, and restricted, mainly on moral, ethical, religious, and _____ grounds.</p> <p>(1) scorched, logical
(2) shunned, eligible
(3) derisive, judicial
(4) scorned, legal</p> | <p>45. If the chief source of our moral judgments is our own experience first and then the opinions of our families, both being far more important than the _____ of the pious, this adds credibility to the fears of a _____ slope.</p> <p>(1) persuasion, slimy
(2) expulsion, pivotal
(3) preaching, vital
(4) exhortations, slippery</p> |

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VA - 01

Answers and Explanations

CEX-V-0237/18

1	2	2	4	3	3	4	4	5	2	6	3	7	3	8	1	9	3	10	4
11	2	12	2	13	4	14	1	15	1	16	3	17	4	18	2	19	1	20	4
21	1	22	3	23	1	24	4	25	2	26	—	27	—	28	—	29	—	30	—
31	3	32	3	33	4	34	3	35	1	36	2	37	4	38	2	39	4	40	3
41	4	42	1	43	3	44	4	45	4										

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| <p>1.2 Rapture means intense happiness. Hence, exaltation will best substitute it.</p> <p>2. 4 Options (1) and (2) are not factually supported by the poem. Option (3) is distorted. "Golden bells" doesn't refer to the colour. Option (4) is written in the line "What a gush of euphony voluminously wells!"</p> <p>3. 3 Grating is an antonym of the word euphony which means sweet sounding.</p> <p>4. 4 Most of the lines in the poem read like a rhyme. Hence, option (4) is the answer.</p> <p>5. 2 The next line in the poem talks about harmony. Hence, melodious best expresses the meaning of the word mellow in this poem. Mellow means calm too. But this doesn't fit the context here.</p> <p>6. 3 Aberrant refers to a deviation from the usual behaviour. Hence, abnormal is the answer.</p> <p>7. 3 Ablution refers to cleansing.</p> <p>8. 1 Acclivity refers to elevation.</p> <p>9. 3 Hidrosis refers to the action of sweating.</p> <p>10. 4 Impervious means resistant or unreceptive.</p> <p>11. 2 Rebuke means to censure or criticize. Options (1) and (4) are its antonyms.</p> <p>12. 2 Quagmire refers to a swamp.</p> <p>13. 4 An anomaly refers to an inconsistency or glitch.</p> | <p>14. 1 Ardent means passionate or fervent. The other options are its antonyms.</p> <p>15. 1 Impudence refers to courage or bravery. Hence, audacity is the answer.</p> <p>16. 3 Options (1), (2), and (4) are its synonyms.</p> <p>17. 4 Banal means unoriginal or clichéd. Hence, option (4) is its antonym.</p> <p>18. 2 Magnanimous refers to generous. Hence, option (2) is its antonym.</p> <p>19. 1 Calibre means capability. Inaptness or lack of capability is its antonym.</p> <p>20. 4 Camaraderie refers to friendship. Enmity or Antagonism is its antonym.</p> <p>21. 1 Candid means straightforward or blunt. Options (2), (3) and (4) are its synonyms.</p> <p>22. 3 Chagrin means irritation. <i>Glee</i> or <i>delight</i> is its antonym.</p> <p>23. 1 Chronic means unceasing or continuous.</p> <p>24. 4 Cognizant refers to awareness. Nonchalant or indifferent will be its antonyms.</p> <p>25. 2 Temperate means mild or meek or clement. Harsh or Callous will be its antonyms.</p> <p>26 to 30: Not Applicable</p> |
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31. 3 BABA. "Prosecution" refers to a trial. "Persecution" refers to "harassment or torture". The context of the statement doesn't suggest litigation or judicial action. Hence, "persecution" best fits the blank. "Harboured" means "keep a thought (mostly negative) in one's mind". Harness as a verb refers to "control or make use of natural resources". The sentence talks about "social prejudice". Harness doesn't fit this context. Interment refers to burial or funeral. Internment means imprisonment. Arbitrary burial doesn't make any sense in the context. Arbitrary internment imprisonment suits the context. Butcher as a verb means "to kill indiscriminately". Maraud means "to steal or plunder". Hence, the answer is BABA.
32. 3 BBAA. "Descent" takes the preposition "into" and it means "fall". "Decline" fits this sentence the best. Erroneous doesn't fit the sentence thematically. In this sentence, the author is not talking about any statistical error. He is talking about "erratic or unpredictable" behaviour. "Supersede" means "to surpass or succeed". It doesn't fit the context here. "Prognosticate" means to "predict". The scientists, in this sentence, discuss an actual event. Hence "theorizing" makes more sense.
33. 4 BBBB. "Proclivity" refers to an inclination, normally for a negative thing. Hence, preference or choice fits the context better. Lose or misplace doesn't fit the sentence. Loose means moveable. Continuum doesn't fit the sentence because it means continuous series or whole, no part of which is noticeably different from its adjacent parts. Continuity means lack of interruption or disconnection. Continuum doesn't go with "of" too. "Transcend" means "to go beyond" or "rise above". "Transform" or "change" fits the theme of the sentence.
34. 3 AAAB. "Surge" means "rush". The sentence needs the word "appear" or "emerge". "Ingenious" means clever. Indigenous means "local" or "native". Crowd doesn't fit the context. Classification doesn't fit because of the word "community". Community requires "kinship".
35. 1 ABAA. "Ushered" or "led" fits the paragraph. "Entered" is not grammatically correct in the context. "Gravely or seriously" doesn't go with the word "value". We value something "deeply or profoundly". "Deserts" means "abandons". "Desserts" is a noun and it refers to a sweet dish served after a meal. It is not a verb and doesn't fit the sentence. "Accrued" means "acquired over a period of time". "Accredited" means "to be given credit for something". As the sentence talks about "politically incorrect implications", "accredited" can be rejected. Hence, ABAA is the answer.
36. 2 The word "compared" suggests a contrast relation. Vapid means lifeless. "Acknowledged" doesn't fit the second blank as "almost acknowledged" doesn't give any accepted meaning in the context. Options (3) and (4) are eliminated for the second blank as "fascinated" and "excited" don't fit the context grammatically.
37. 4 The second blank needs a negative word because of "ban" and "clearance delays". Hence, options (1) and (3) can be eliminated. "Unsustainable" and "Untenable" are synonyms. Both fit the second blank. However, "justified bans" doesn't go with "clearance delays". It doesn't match the tone of the sentence. "Blanket bans" or "complete bans" can fit the first blank as it can have a negative connotation.
38. 2 Aural refers to "hearing". No other word goes with "perception". The sentence means to say that a good leader must be a good listener too.
39. 4 The word "escape" shows a contrast relationship. "Ordinary" and "simplicity" don't reflect this contrast. "Turtle-slow" isn't grammatically correct in the context. Hence, option (4) is the answer.
40. 3 The word "stimulus" shows that the response is "evoked". Invoke or call upon doesn't fit the blank. Similarly, urgent response doesn't fit the context. "Indeterminate" can't be "recorded". Option (3) is the answer.
41. 4 The words "logical" and "eligible" don't go with "moral, ethical, and religious". Hence, options (1) and (2) can be eliminated. "Scorched or burned" doesn't make sense either. "Derisive" is grammatically incorrect as the blank requires a verb and not an adjective. Hence, option (4) is the answer.
42. 1 "Crow's feet" means laugh lines. Hence, option (2) can be eliminated. "Blinking eye" can't go with "away". It's also an incorrect form of the idiom. The correct idiom is "in the blink of an eye". Hence, option (4) is eliminated. "Fragile wire" doesn't make sense here. Hence, option (1) is the best answer.
43. 3 Soaring crime rates suggests a negative situation which fits the theme of the sentence appropriately. Boosting and Mushrooming don't describe crime rates. Only option (3) is a possible answer.
44. 4 Manners and morals go together. Recurrent goes with theme. No other option fits both the blanks.
45. 4 "Slippery slope" goes with "fears". Options (2) and (3) won't fit the second blank as it requires a negative word. "Slimy slope" is not an accepted phrase. Hence, option (4) is the answer.