

## SOME MORE PRACTICE EXERCISES ON VA & RC

### Practice Exercise – 1

**Direction for questions 1 to 5:** In each of the following questions there are sentences that form a paragraph. Identify the sentence(s) or part(s) of sentence(s) that is are correct in terms of grammar and usage (including spelling, punctuation and logical consistency). Then select the **most appropriate** option.

1. (a) Affluenza, a term used by critics of consumerism, a portmanteau of affluence and influenza.  
(b) Sources define this term as a painful,  
(c) contagious, socially transportable condition.  
(d) of overload, dust, anxiety and waste resulting,  
(e) from the dogged pursuit of more.  
(A) (a), (b) and (e) (B) (b) and (e)  
(C) (a), (c) and (d) (D) (a) and (d)
2. (a) It took all human history  
(b) to build the seven trillion dollar  
(c) world economy of 1950;  
(d) today economical activity grows by  
(e) that amount every decade.  
(A) (b), (c) and (e) (B) (a), (c) and (d)  
(C) (a) and (d) (D) (b) and (e)
3. (a) Undoubtedly, the biggest scientific impact of all  
(b) have come in the field of dating  
(c) where the invention of radiocarbon dating after Second World War  
(d) at last gave archaeologists the 'holy grail'  
(e) of obsolete dates for any organic material.  
(A) (a) and (d) (B) (b) and (e)  
(C) (c) and (d) (D) (a) and (c)
4. (a) None evoke more interest or enthusiasm  
(b) then the remains of Ancient Egypt.  
(c) The decipherment of this great civilisation's writing system  
(d) by means of the Rosetta Stone  
(e) stands as one of the classic episode in archaeological detective work.  
(A) (c), (d) and (e) (B) (a), (c) and (d)  
(C) (c) and (d) (D) (b) and (e)
5. (a) King Solomon, the wise, a great builder,  
(b) according to the biblical accounts of his reign.  
(c) Many monuments uncovered in archaeological sites  
(d) in Israel have been attributed to Solomon's reign  
(e) yet none have remained unchallenged.  
(A) (a) and (e) (B) (b), (c) and (d)  
(C) Only (c) (D) Only (d)

**Directions for questions 6 to 10:** Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error if any will be in one part of the sentence. The letter corresponding with that part is the answer.

6. All good schools / insist / that students / to obey rules.  
(A) (B) (C) (D)

7. It rained / despite of the firing / by Chinese authorities  
(A) (B)  
of thousands of rockets / with silver iodide crystals  
(C) (D)  
at the sky
8. The Indian IT industry / is / coping up / with a lot  
(A) (B) (C)  
of problems these days.  
(D)
9. Ramana the fisherman enlightened / lives / every  
(A) (B)  
moment he is by the pond / in a state of super  
(C) (D)  
consciousness.
10. The Italian automaker Fiat is not only working for /  
(A)  
revival plans in India / but is also drawing up plans  
(B) (C)  
to start export of cars.  
(D)

**Directions for questions 11 to 15:** Each question gives a sentence with a part of it underlined. Four alternatives for the underlined part are given. One of them is correct. Identify the correct one and mark its corresponding letter as your answer.

11. The government has forbidden to drivers to enter the city centre during certain hours.  
(A) has forbidden to drivers to enter  
(B) has forbidden drivers to entering  
(C) has forbidden drivers from entering  
(D) had forbidden drivers enter
12. India along with a few other South Asian countries, has been cushioned from the worst effects of the recession.  
(A) has been cushioned from  
(B) have been cushioned from  
(C) had been cushioned in against  
(D) has been cushioned off from
13. A number of wooden platforms were built for the traders to set up shop.  
(A) A number of wooden platforms were built  
(B) A number of wooden platforms was built  
(C) The number of wooden platforms are built  
(D) The number of wooden platforms had been built
14. I'm planning to visit Japan in the beginning of June.  
(A) in the beginning of June  
(B) beginning in the June  
(C) at the beginning of June  
(D) from the beginning of the June

15. After receiving the transfer orders, I packed all utensils and chinias in a separate box.  
(A) all utensils and chinias in a separate box  
(B) all the utensils and china in a separate box  
(C) all utensil and china in separate boxes  
(D) all the utensil and chinias in separate boxes

**Directions for questions 16 to 20:** In each question, the word at the top is used in four different ways, A to D. Select the option in which the usage of the word is INCORRECT or INAPPROPRIATE.

**16. CONFIDENCE**

- (A) Creating opportunities for employment is the best way for the government to win people's confidence.
- (B) She will not reveal her secrets to you unless she takes you in her confidence.
- (C) Eliza told me in confidence that she would be resigning soon.
- (D) The doctors could not say with confidence that the patient would gain full use of his limbs after the surgery.

**17. SUIT**

- (A) The man has decided to file a suit against the company.
- (B) There are four suits in every pack of cards.
- (C) He looks fit and strong, this weather suits him well.
- (D) He suddenly got up and left the room and his wife followed the suit.

**18. BOTTOM**

- (A) She found something written on the bottom of the plate.
- (B) You can save fuel if you go up the hill or cliff in bottom gear.
- (C) His career has touched bottoms with the release of his latest album.
- (D) He started at the bottom and worked his way up to become successful in life.

**19. HAMMER**

- (A) The sculptor carved the stone with hammer and chisel.
- (B) The child hammered at the door but there was no response.
- (C) The activists have been hammering at their non-smoking campaign.
- (D) The property is likely to come under the hammer next week.

**20. IDENTIFY**

- (A) The victim was asked to identify her attacker in a police line-up.
- (B) When the man who was arrested refused to identify during interrogation, the police resorted to violence.
- (C) I didn't enjoy the book because I could not identify with any of the main characters.
- (D) You shouldn't make the mistake of identifying wealth with happiness.

**Directions for questions 21 to 25:** In each of the following questions, an idiomatic expression and its four possible meanings are given. Pick out the correct meaning of the idiomatic expression and mark the letter corresponding with that meaning as your answer.

- 21.** The Prime Minister said that India was left with no option but to tap, root and branch, its sources of hydel energy.
- (A) viciously
  - (B) completely
  - (C) complacently
  - (D) only

- 22.** Caroline Kennedy, daughter of the late president John. Kennedy, was received with open arms, wherever she went, while she was campaigning for Obama.

- (A) with a sneer
- (B) with complete hostility
- (C) with fanfare
- (D) with a warm welcome

- 23.** The, mother of the slain Noida school girl Aarushi said that she would fight tooth and nail to stop filmmakers making movies or teleserials on her daughter's murder.

- (A) vigorously
- (B) sincerely
- (C) repeatedly
- (D) passively

- 24.** The news that the case of corruption against the former Chief Minister was upheld by the lower courts spread like wildfire in the whole state.

- (A) spread wildly
- (B) spread fully
- (C) spread rapidly
- (D) spread forcefully

- 25.** Ever since my neighbour purchased a new car, his wife puts on airs.

- (A) acts smart
- (B) behaves rude
- (C) acts important
- (D) behaves modestly

**Directions for questions 26 and 27:** The sentences given in each of the following questions, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a letter. Select the most logical order of sentences that constructs a coherent paragraph and indicate the correct sequence in the box provided below each question.

- 26.** (A) Cultural beliefs and ideas – or what some call "memes", the cultural counterpart of the genes – pass from individual to individual or from group to group or are selected for survival and particularly in the case of homosapiens, that process of cultural evolution deserves at least an equal place alongside those of biological evolution.
- (B) Human beings are not born into this world with minds like blank pages, waiting to be written on by others – family, church, politicians, advertising executives.
- (C) These are rules of thumb that allow organisms to find rapid solutions in the environment and predispose individuals to view the world in a particular innate way and automatically to make certain choices as opposed to others.
- (D) We emerged as a species a half-million years ago, during the Pleistocene, and ever since we have followed what Wilson calls 'epigenetic rules', which he defines as "innate operations in the sensory system of the brain."
- (E) This is not to say that our genes explain every bit of human behaviour: in many species evolution can be cultural as well as biological, as Darwin himself realised and modern scientists agree.

27. (A) In response, the Ministry of Home Affairs has decreed that no foreign tourist with a long-term, multiple-entry visa should be allowed to re-enter India within two months of his or her departure.
- (B) What has most alarmed our sleepy sleuths is the fact that Headley usually combines his visits to India with onward trips to Pakistan, where he is said to have received instructions from his handlers.
- (C) When a number of countries protested and threatened reciprocal restrictions on Indians holding long-term multiple-entry visas, this rule was relaxed by exempting 'bonafide tourists' from this category.
- (D) The discovery that David Headley – the alleged Lashkar-e-Taiba operative now arraigned in Chicago for his involvement in multiple terror plots against India – had travelled to Mumbai as many as eight times sent shockwaves through the security establishment not so much because he had visited but because he had done so on a valid visa.
- (E) That he stayed at the Taj and Oberoi Trident hotels in Mumbai, presumably as part of a reconnaissance team for the LeT's Nov 2008 attack on the city, is of course the cherry atop this wholesome confection.

**Directions for questions 28 and 29:** The following question has a paragraph from which the last sentence has been deleted. From the given options, select the one that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate way.

28. The Vice-President (HR) of a famous lifestyle store in, Mumbai, is chalking out business plans. The biggest stumbling block is not investment or getting business but hiring people. "Anybody who has any experience gets poached," he says wryly. \_\_\_\_\_
- (A) Headhunters have just been calling him with bigger salaries and better job profiles.
- (B) The number of jobs on offer has dipped by 22 percent this year.
- (C) The growing mobility of the workforce is also enabling better shuffling of the labour pool in the lifestyle store.
- (D) He loses at least 75 percent of his employees every year.

29. The objective of any financial planning exercise should be realisation of one's long-term and short-term goals. One has to identify the goals and the corresponding monetary requirements to eventually identify investment areas, which will ensure growth. If these investment areas entitle one to tax savings, then, it is a bonus. \_\_\_\_\_
- (A) This trend has been fuelled by the fact that a whole lot of financial instruments available today call themselves tax-saving instruments.
- (B) The tendency with this sort of frenzied approach to tax planning is that people tend to get so caught up with saving tax.
- (C) But, tax savings by itself, should never be the end objective of the financial planning exercise.
- (D) In this clutter, whether or not these investments have a goal-based approach is an important question that demands attention.

**Directions for question 30:** The following question presents 4 statements of which 3, when placed in appropriate order would form a contextually complete paragraph. Pick the statement that is not part of that context and indicate the letter corresponding with it in the box provided below the question.

- 30 (A) 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' socio-economic status, teaching ability, personality etc.
- (B) A grim expression in a yearbook photo or family snapshot could mean more than just a passing bad mood.
- (D) Facial expression predicted divorce even when the smile or frown was on a ten-year-old's face.
- (D) It could also signal that the subject is more likely to get divorced than someone with a big smile for the camera.

**Directions for questions 31 to 40:** Read each passage carefully and select the best answer for the questions that follow it.

### PASSAGE – I

It is something of a paradox that systems of psychology flourish as they do on American soil. Psychology, especially in the United States, has risked everything on being a science; and science on principle refrains from speculation that is not permeated and stabilized by fact. Yet there is not enough fact in the whole science of psychology to make a single solid system.

No one knows this better than the psychologists themselves. They see with the eyes of familiar association not only the undeniable poverty of their science, but the flimsiness and shoddiness of much of the material they are asked to accept as genuine fact. Psychologists are continually looking upon the work of their colleagues and finding that it is not good. And with little hesitation, they expose the weaknesses and flaws they discover.

One can hardly cross the threshold of the lively young science without suspecting that all is not peace and harmony under its roof-tree; that the bands of workers one encounters there, represent not only a necessary division of labour but a state of internal strife. Perhaps the most assertive of the warring groups is composed of the younger students of animal and comparative psychology, most of whom pride themselves on being hard-headed and realistic and on having discarded the airy nothings of a psychology that deals with minds.

A less aggressive group is composed of the experimental psychologists. To these psychologists, the term "experimental" is applied not in the sense of including all who conduct research by the experimental method common to natural science in general, but in the special and esoteric sense of designating those who are in the line of descent which derives more or less directly from the world's first active psychological laboratory, that was founded by Wilhelm Wundt in Leipzig. The typical representatives of experimental psychology are the "trained introspectionists," who believe that the true task of psychology is the examination of consciousness. Their work, required special training and extreme care, and because of the elaborate apparatus they have devised for their assistance, they are sometimes referred to as "brass-instrument psychologists." Theirs is the psychology, they are willing to maintain, that has stood and will stand the test of time.

Both these groups look somewhat askance at a third set, those occupied with the testing and measuring of mental traits. For in the workrooms of the mental-testers, there is little of the paraphernalia of the older sciences – few brass instruments to suggest the austere dignity of physics, no white rats to suggest the substantial actualities of biology. There is an abundance of quantitative data, however. For perhaps more than any other single group of psychologists, the mental testers have developed the mathematical mode of thinking that science finds so congenial; and operating with curves of distribution, correlation coefficients, and more recondite statistical devices, they have undertaken the task of measuring intelligence and other complex mental traits.

Closely associated with this group, are the workers in applied psychology. Among them are those who attack the problems of commerce and industry – the selection of employees, the management of personnel, the elimination of industrial fatigue. Here too are the clinical psychologists, who work in schools, in juvenile courts, and in institutions for the feeble-minded, the psychopathic, and the insane, attempting, by contributing to a better understanding of the persons under their care, to help them to make their adjustments to life. In applied psychology, too, are the educational psychologists, occupied not only with the many problems of learning and teaching, but more particularly with the attempt to measure the capacities and aptitudes of pupils, and the effectiveness of various educational procedures. These groups, together with other groups even less clearly defined and many independent individuals, make up the roll of psychologists.

31. The 'internal strife' in psychology refers to  
 (A) the contradiction in the theories proposed by various schools.  
 (B) the disagreements between different groups of psychologists over the subject matter of psychology.  
 (C) a recent discovery in psychology negating an earlier theory.  
 (D) the conflicts that psychologists encounter when they study the human mind.
32. The 'poverty' in psychology that the psychologists are aware of, refers to  
 (A) the scarcity of theories and new findings.  
 (B) the paucity of funds to carry out research.  
 (C) the dearth of evidence to support theories that are proposed.  
 (D) the absence of interest in the subject among laypersons.
33. If a person you know has attempted suicide, you would refer him to  
 (A) a clinical psychologist.  
 (B) an experimental psychologist.  
 (C) a mental tester.  
 (D) an educational psychologist.
34. What is the 'paradox' in relation to psychology?  
 (A) The psychologists themselves are the first to find flaws in the work of their colleagues.  
 (B) There are different groups of psychologists who only agree to disagree.  
 (C) It expounds a number of theories, but hardly any of them have practical applications.  
 (D) While it wishes to be a science, it is not based on indisputable facts.

35. Pick the option where the psychologists are correctly matched with the traits associated with their group.

1.	Experimental Psychologists	A.	involved in commerce and industry
2.	Comparative Psychologists	B.	operate with statistical devices
3.	Mental Testers	C.	probe into the depths of matter and muscle
4.	Applied Psychologists	D.	examine consciousness

(A)

1.	A
2.	B
3.	C
4.	D

(B)

1.	D
2.	C
3.	B
4.	A

(C)

1.	C
2.	D
3.	A
4.	B

(D)

1.	B
2.	A
3.	D
4.	C

## PASSAGE – II

Nearly all the artistic remains of ancient India are of a religious nature, or were at least made for religious purposes. Secular art certainly exists, for literature shows that kings dwelt in sumptuous palaces, decorated with lovely wall-paintings and sculpture, though all these have vanished. Much has been said and written about Indian art since. Some sixty years ago, European taste began to doubt the established canons of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and looked to Asia and Africa for fresh aesthetic experience. From that time to this, most authorities on the subject, have stressed the religious and mystical aspects of Indian art. While admitting the realism and earthiness of the earliest sculpture, they have read

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the truths of Vedanta or Buddhism into the artistic remains of our period, and have interpreted them as expressions of deep religious experience, sermons in stone on the oneness of all things in the Universal Spirit.

One student at least disagrees with this interpretation. There are indeed a few remains which seem imbued with an intensity of religious feeling rare in the art of the world, but it is the full and active life of the times which is chiefly reflected in the art of ancient India, at first directly, then with a gentle idealism, and finally in the multitude of figures, divine and human, carved on the many temples of the Middle Ages. In all these places, there is a horror vacui and an intense vitality, which remind us rather of this world than the next and suggest to us the warm bustle of the Indian city and the turbulent pullulation of the Indian forest.

Gothic architecture and sculpture are vertical. Spire and arch point upwards, and as the style develops, the spire becomes taller and the arch more pointed. The Christs, saints and angels of the Middle Ages in Europe are often disproportionately tall, and their tallness is accentuated by long garments reaching to the ankles. Their poses are generally restful, and they rarely smile. Medieval European art was truly religious; its conventions seem to have been deliberately designed to lead the worshipper's thoughts away from the world of flesh to the things of the spirit. Much of it was the work of pious monks, or of men with deep religious vocations.

The tendency of Indian art is diametrically opposite to that of medieval Europe. The temple towers, though tall, are solidly based on earth. The ideal type is not abnormally tall, but rather short and stocky. Gods are young and handsome; their bodies are rounded and well nourished. Occasionally they are depicted as grim or wrathful, but generally they smile, and sorrow is rarely portrayed. With the exception of the type of the dancing Siva, the sacred icon is firmly grounded, either seated or with both feet flat on the ground. We need hardly mention that all Indian temple sculpture, made full use of the female form as a decorative motif, always scantily dressed, and nearly always in accordance with Indian standards of beauty.

Asceticism and self-denial in various forms are praised in much Indian religious literature, but the ascetics who appear in sculpture are usually well-fed and cheerful.

Ancient India's religious art differs strikingly from her religious literature. The latter is the work of men with vocations, brahmans, monks and ascetics. The former came chiefly from the hands of secular craftsmen, who, though they worked according to priestly instructions and increasingly rigid iconographical rules, loved the world they knew, with an intensity which is usually to be seen behind the religious forms in which they expressed themselves. In our opinion, the usual inspiration of Indian art is not so much a ceaseless quest for the Absolute but as a delight in the world as the artist found it, a sensual vitality, and a feeling of growth and movement as regular and organic as the growth of living things upon earth.

- 36** The ascetics as seen in Indian sculpture are full of vitality because  
(A) Indian art follows a tradition of realism.  
(B) the sculptors who carved them were very much men of this world.  
(C) people understood and appreciated only what they were familiar with.  
(D) this is how the sculptors imagined the ascetics to be.
- 37** The phrase 'horror vacui' as used in the passage means  
(A) a horrible vacuum.  
(B) a dislike for nothingness.  
(C) a passion for horror.  
(D) a dislike for leaving empty spaces.
- 38** Which of the following, according to the passage, is/are (a) differences between European and Indian art?  
(A) The temple towers, though tall in both, are firmly based on the earth in the latter.  
(B) Gods of the former are tall and those of the latter are short and stocky.  
(C) Religiosity is more evident in the former than in the latter.  
(D) Sorrow is seldom portrayed in the former, whereas the latter rarely depicts smiling faces.
- 39** Which of the following is / are true of ancient Indian religious art and literature?  
(a) The arts were the work of craftsmen while the literature was the work of monks and Brahmins.  
(b) The art was full of earthy sensuality while not deviating from canonical rules set by religious literature.  
(c) The former was solely devoted to after life.  
(d) Indian temple sculptures are purely religious and mystical.  
(A) (a) and (b)  
(B) (c) and (d)  
(C) Only (d)  
(D) Only (b)
- 40.** The passage  
(A) examines the views of different people regarding art.  
(B) compares and contrasts contemporary Indian and European art.  
(C) discusses art and sculpture of ancient India.  
(D) studies mysticism and religiosity in Indian art and sculpture.