

Practice Exercise – 4

Directions for questions 1 to 5: The sentences given in each of the following questions, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is indicated with a number. Select the most logical order of sentences that constructs a coherent paragraph and mark the correct sequence of numbers in the box provided below each question.

1. (1) Its methodological error lies in the fact that it over-estimates the epistemological value of our logical operations and to a certain extent admits the validity of other sources of knowledge such as institution.
(2) Art is almost always harmless and beneficent, it does not seek to be anything else but an illusion.
(3) Philosophy is not opposed to science, it behaves itself as if it were science, and to a certain extent it makes use of the methods; but it parts company with science, in that it clings to the illusion that it can produce a complete and coherent picture of the universe, though in fact that picture needs to fall to pieces with every new advance in our knowledge.
(4) Save in the case of a few people who are obsessed by art, it never dares to make any attacks on the realms of reality.
(5) Of the three forces which can dispute the position of science, religion alone is a really serious enemy as it can exert its power over the strongest emotions of human beings.

2. (1) Tourism is rebounding here five years after the financial crisis stifled what had been a burgeoning industry.
(2) Across most of earth a tourist attraction that sees 35,000 visitors a year can safely be labelled sleepy.
(3) Visitors are taking tours inland and even engaging in "adventure tourism" like skydiving and scuba diving under the ever-sunlit skies of a southern hemisphere summer.
(4) But when it's Antarctica, every footstep matters.
(5) And it's not just retirees watching penguins form the deck of a ship.

3. (1) In feudal times, gentlemen settled all their quarrels with gun duels as if bullets could decide the justice or otherwise of things.
(2) Modern man tries to settle differences through the more civilized ways of diplomacy and dialogue.
(3) In primitive days, nations settled their disputes only through wars.
(4) In his arsenal of non lethal weapons humour occupies the prime place in negotiating potholes in both the public domain and private lives.
(5) In all dictatorships the army and suppression are of critical importance to the survival of the regime.

4. (1) The rise of the rupee is partly attributable to the depreciation of the other currencies, especially the dollar, against its competitors.
(2) Not surprisingly, exporters have begun to become restive, since a loss of 10% in the rupee price of their exports can shave-off margins on past fixed-price dollar/euro contracts and make it difficult to win new orders.
(3) The Indian rupee is on the rise – while its appreciation vis-à-vis the dollar began in June 2002, it has been rising vis-à-vis the euro as well over the last several months.
(4) That this was true for some time, is reflected in the fact that while the rupee was appreciating against the dollar for close to two years, it was depreciating vis-à-vis the euro for much of this period.
(5) During these periods of ascent, it appreciated by close to 12% vis-à-vis the dollar in 22 months and by a significant 9 percent vis-à-vis the euro in a short period of four months.
(6) This is, however, only small cause for comfort, since most export contracts are denominated in dollar terms and in recent months, the rupee has been appreciating against the euro as well.

5. (1) So the Centre needs to be congratulated on keeping the increases in Minimum Support Prices — the minimum price at which it guarantees it will procure grain from farmers — for food grains relatively modest.
(2) This was done despite the political pressure to do something dramatic in order to offset some of the anti-government sentiment engendered among farmers by its proposed Land Acquisition Bill.
(3) However, the Centre has displayed maturity in sticking to the path of moderate increases in MSPs, and not straying too far from the increases suggested by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
(4) With the prospects of a deficient monsoon looming as well, it would have been tempting to step up MSPs as a political gesture.
(5) Sound economics seldom makes for saleable politics.

Directions for question 6: In the following question there are five sentences / paragraphs. The sentence paragraph labelled a is in its correct place. The four that follow are b, c, d and e and need to be arranged in the logical order to form a coherent paragraph / passage. From the given options select the most appropriate option.

6. (a) What would a mechanical explanation of the mind be like?
(b) That is, sciences other than physics must have their scientific credentials vindicated by physics – all sciences should be reducible to physics.
(c) One influential idea in the philosophy of the last of the years is that explaining the mind would involve showing that it is really just matter.

- (d) Mental states, really, are just chemical states of the brain.
 - (e) This materialist (or 'physicist's) view normally depends on the assumption that to explain something fully is ultimately to explain it in terms of physical science.
- (A) cebd (B) cdeb (C) cbcd (D) cdbe

Directions for questions 7 to 11: The following questions have 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.

7. If you're reading this article in print, chances are you'll only get through half of what I've written. And if you're reading this online, you might not even finish a fifth. At least, those are the two verdicts from a pair of recent research projects – respectively, the Poynter Institute's Eyetrack survey, and analysis by Jakob Nielsen – which both suggest that many of us no longer have the concentration to read articles through to their conclusion _____.
- (A) Round-the-clock news feeds leave us hyperlinking from one article to the next – without necessarily engaging fully with any of the content.
 - (B) The problem doesn't just stop there: academics report that we are becoming less attentive book-readers, too.
 - (C) Keith Thomas, an Oxford historian, has written that he is bemused by junior colleagues who analyse sources with a search engine, instead of reading them in their entirety.
 - (D) According to *The Shallows*, a new book by technology sage Nicholas Carr, our hyperactive online habits are damaging the mental faculties we need to process and understand lengthy textual information.
8. One fateful day, Google Maps turned Arunachal Pradesh Chinese. It happened without warning. Arunachal Pradesh has been a source of ranking dispute between the two nations for decades. Its timing, moreover, was freakishly bad: the press noticed that Google's servers had started displaying Mandarin place-names all over the state only a few hours before Indian and Chinese negotiating teams sat down for talks in New Delhi to work toward resolving the delicate border issue. Then, Google rushed to admit its mistake, but not before a round of angry Indian news articles had flourished _____.
- (A) Google announced. "We are in the process of reverting the data to its previous state, and expect the change to be visible in the product shortly."
 - (B) One former member of Parliament said, "The Chinese know how to time their statements ahead of a bilateral meeting."
 - (C) One mystery remained, however; how did such an error happen in "the product" in the first place?
 - (D) Some commentators posited outright conspiracy with Beijing.
9. The steady stream of warm oil on my forehead had a soothing effect. Frayed nerves and tense muscles seemed to melt in the viscous liquid that poured out of the brass container suspended above me. At first the flow focussed on a single point, then slowly started to sweep across my forehead. The ayurvedic

therapist-cum-masseur channelled the oil through my hair and down the back of my head and let it drain through a small hole in the wooden bed into a container below _____.

- (A) I hovered in a zone wedged between sleep and wakefulness.
 - (B) At the end of the treatment they rubbed a paste of gram flour all over me and when I had hosed myself down with a jet of water, the oil was gone, leaving me feeling fresh and tingling clean and my skin soft as silk.
 - (C) The menu included body massages (Thai, Balinese, Hawaiian, Aromatic and Indian), concentrated massages (reflexology and Indian head massage), different body scrubs, body treatments (from natural mud and natural herbal wraps to Shirodhara) a variety of facials, hair and nail care as well as Mehendi, the Indian art of hand painting.
 - (D) I could feel myself radiate with a feeling of well-being, as I had shed much of the excess baggage – stress and anxiety – with which I had checked in last week.
10. Omkareshwar is an Om shaped island which has drawn pilgrims for centuries. The setting of this temple on layers of volcanic rock, rising in neat slabs above the river, is arresting. The trip across the narrow strip of water was however, fraught with danger – slippery rocks, overloaded boat and numerous little boys playing dolphin beneath and alongside the boat. We jostled our way up, with pilgrims, calves, goats, beggars and more urchins, and the pious felt the thrill of accomplishment at the sight of the Deity at the top _____.
- (A) Include a day trip to Omkareshwar, and you will have satisfied soul and body!
 - (B) The view was just magnificent.
 - (C) For city dwellers like us, the peace and quiet is a balm to the spirit.
 - (D) The dust everywhere is grey and fine as ash, and many of the trees stark, sporting a crown of brilliant orange flowers and never a leaf in sight! distinct from ours.
11. There seem to be three main reasons for the huge growth in sales of the new antidepressants called the SSRIs (selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors). First, the definitions of psychiatric disorders are so vague that many healthy people can be diagnosed inappropriately. Second, some of the psychiatrists who wrote the diagnostic manuals were on the industry's payroll, and this may have also led to significant diagnostic inflation. Third, the companies' behaviour has been worse in psychiatry than in any other area of medicine, with billion-dollar fines paid for the illegal marketing of psychiatric drugs for non-approved uses. The rise in sales reflects patient dependency on these SSRIs _____.
- (A) They may have great difficulty stopping even when they taper off the drugs slowly.
 - (B) Withdrawal symptoms are often misdiagnosed as a return of the disease or the start of a new one.
 - (C) Since the drugs can cause the symptoms they are supposed to alleviate, psychiatrists tend to increase the dose or add another drug when a patient reports negative effects.

- (D) These drugs are no better than placebo for mild depression, only slightly better for moderate depression, and benefit only one out of 10 with severe depression.

Directions for questions 12 to 15: Each of the following questions 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.

12. (A) This is how the Cargill works with customers.
 (B) Next to the revered hamburger, nothing is more classic to fast food than the french fry.
 (C) They called on Cargill, who worked with them to develop a special frying oil.
 (D) 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.
13. (a) It is conjectured to be the new frontier for military and intelligence activity: cyberspace.
 (b) In the past few weeks there have been alarming reports that America's systems have already been infiltrated.
 (c) There have been dark warnings, for the past couple of years, of the danger of a "digital Pearl Harbour".
 (D) For years military experts and computer scientists have speculated about the possibility of a nation's infrastructure being attacked using computers, rather than bombs.
 (A) a (B) b (C) c (D) d
14. (A) Intellectuals resisted fiercely, some out of the belief that China's writing system was superior to any other and others on simple sentimental grounds.
 (B) In the end Mao settled on a halfway step: cutting the number of strokes in some Chinese characters.
 (C) For better or worse, Mao Zedong usually came out on top, whether facing Japanese invaders, nationalist warlords or Communist Party rivals.
 (D) 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.
15. (A) 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.
 (B) Whatever the motive, however, the Vietnamese government is nervous about public criticism of China.
 (C) 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.
 (D) They include a nonagenarian war-hero, a dissident monk, and a slew of leading scientists and environmental campaigners.

Directions for question 16: Four alternative summaries are given below the following text. Select the option that best captures the essence of the text.

16. An amazing lack of socio-cultural sensitivity is provoking endless controversy and delaying much needed investment in Kalahandi, one of our most backward-albeit mineral rich-districts. The proposal of Vedanta Aluminium Ltd to source bauxite ore for its alumina refinery at Lanjigarh Kalahandi, cannot be faulted on technical grounds; the region has some of the world's best deposits. But to insist that the mining site be on top of the Nijamgiri hills, considered sacred by the local Dongria Kondhs seems to be the height of insensate policy. Afterfall, there are proven deposits of bauxite along large tracts in Orissa, including in Rayagada and Sunderbagh districts. So, to undertake intensive mining activity in Nijamgiri in the first place would alienate and deprive the tribals of a sacred space and cannot but harmfully affect the larger regional population. The idea that industrialisation must necessarily erase ancient myths needs to be nipped in the bud.
- (A) The idea that industrialization should wipe out superstition is borne out by the fact that Vedanta Aluminium Ltd. wants to undertake intense mining activity in the Nijamgiri hills despite the possibility of alienating the local tribes.
 (B) Large tracts of Orissa have been found to be very rich in bauxite deposits, which is why Vedanta Aluminium Ltd wants to set up its refinery at Lanjigarh in Kalahandi district. This will help wipe out traditional myths about the place.
 (C) The idea that industrialization wipes out local myth does not go hand in hand with investment and development in the region. In fact, it will alienate the local tribes, as was shown when Vedanta Aluminium proposed to conduct its mining activity on top of the Nijamgiri hills, held sacred by the local Dongria Kondhs.
 (D) The proposal of Vedanta Aluminium to source bauxite from the Nijamgiri hills though other areas are rich in the ore ignoring local sentiment regarding the sanctity of a region could alienate a whole segment of society and retard much needed investment and progress in the area. Hence the idea that killing ancient myth is a corollary to industrialisation needs to be checked.

Directions for questions 17 and 18: In each of the following questions, 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.

17. BACK
 (A) Deliveries should be made at the back entrance.
 (B) During the day, the opposition leader presented three speeches back to back.
 (C) A handful of back copies will give an indication of property prices.
 (D) Those houses back into the racecourse.

18. WISE

- (A) Consumers are becoming wise to the tricks of the marketing trade.
- (B) It is easy to be wise after the event.
- (C) He took me aside and put me wise to the rumours.
- (D) He thought he could fool me but I got wise on him

Directions for questions 19 to 27: Read the following passages carefully and choose the best answer for each of the questions that follow them.

PASSAGE – I

Everyone's had the experience. You walk into a gallery and see something hanging on the wall or sitting there on the floor or hovering all around you and you just don't know what to make of it. It may annoy you—what is this, and why is this art? Or you may find yourself intrigued, or even kind of loving it, although you couldn't really begin to explain what it might mean. Jerry Saltz, art critic, recently named this the "I-Don't-Get-It Aesthetic" phenomenon, referring to the kind of contemporary art that doesn't easily let us in.

Consulting a cross section of art-world professionals—including artists, collectors, dealers, and museum curators and directors—revealed that even the experts often don't understand new work, at least on first encounter. "I would go so far as to say that's exactly the kind of experience you're looking for in art. It's a disappointment when the work is too user-friendly," says Robert Storr, Senior Curator of painting and sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. "The nature of really serious art is that you don't know what you're looking at. You're impressed by some quality or bothered by some quality. You don't know why it's the way it is or how it came to be that way."

Others concur, finding that an aggressively negative introduction can bode well for a future relationship. "My radar is up around art that I don't understand precisely, because the early art experiences that I had, which proved to be the most revelatory, were the ones that really irritated me" says artist Fred Tomaselli. "When I first saw a James Turrell piece, I laughed, because I thought it was a stupid modernist dark square painted on the wall of a dimly lit gallery. Then when I tried to touch it, my hand went into empty space," Tomaselli recalls, referring to how Turrell manipulates lighting to create illusions of flat shapes. "I went from laughing at it, to thinking 'Ooh'. It challenged what I thought art was."

Dan Cameron, Senior Curator at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, says that there are many artists whose work he initially found unsettling. "I would go all the way back to an artist like Sherrie Levine, whose strategies in the 1980s I just found so baffling and disturbing that I wound up learning a whole lot more just to get to the bottom of it. Through that process, I discovered that her approach to appropriation was a form of testing the limits. I realized more about my own ways of looking at art, and I ended up liking her work a lot", he says.

"Art that makes you agitated, usually has something going for it, and you can't really trust your first reaction", Cameron continues. "The complexity that the artist is aiming towards, is based on a kind of push and pull of your own tastes and your own ideas and psychology about art."

Some liken the experience of trying to understand unfamiliar art to that of being introduced to someone new. "It's like meeting people—they may have a dazzling impact in the first ten minutes, but really interesting people continue to reveal themselves over years. I look for the same thing in art", says New York dealer Jeffrey Deitch.

"If people gave art just the same amount of courtesy and respect and time that they gave new people they meet, I suspect things would be a lot better", says Marcia Tucker, a freelance curator and former director of the New Museum, who thinks that viewers too often rush to judgment about contemporary art. She herself is happily confounded by the enigmatic performances of Brooklyn-based artist Tehching Hsieh, who, in one piece, punched a time clock every hour, day and night, for one year. In another work, he spent a year living in a cell where he did not speak, write, read, or listen to music. "What he's done is question the separation between works of art and quotidian life", Tucker says, "which means I have to reformulate what being an artist is. It is brilliant work, and fortunately. I continue to fail to understand it."

Children seem to have an easier time "getting it" than adults, observes Leonard Riggio, a collector and the Chairman of the board of New York's Dia Center for the Arts. "I watch children in museums, especially looking at some of the so-called difficult work", he says. "They move freely throughout these pieces, and there's a joy of discovery. I don't think that to them, the challenge is to understand but rather to observe and participate. Children might say, 'Wow, that's really neat,' or just shrug their shoulders, but they don't put their hands on their hips and say, 'I don't get it'.

19. Which of the following cannot be deduced from the reaction of children to pieces of art?

- (A) They try to see and share the work of art.
- (B) They do not bother about comprehending art.
- (C) They have an innate grasping power as far as art is concerned.
- (D) They are different from adults in their approach to art.

20. According to the passage, which of the following is not necessarily true regarding works of art?

- (A) What is disconcerting is doomed to die.
- (B) It may not be to its advantage if a piece of art is easily comprehensible.
- (C) What is enigmatic is captivating.
- (D) Obscurity helps generate interest.

21. Which of the following is the similarity between a work of art and new people?
 (A) Whatever mesmerizes you is good
 (B) Whatever has something new to offer even after years is interesting
 (C) Whatever is complex is unnerving
 (D) It doesn't take much time to differentiate between the good and the bad
22. Art that doesn't 'easily let us in'
 (A) is uninteresting.
 (B) is not worth exploring.
 (C) is a statement that is true of all contemporary art.
 (D) probably has a lot of depth.
23. The experience of artist Fred Tomaselli shows that
 (A) art may have more to it than the most obvious dimension.
 (B) what at first appears laughably absurd, is generally unique.
 (C) a negative reaction inevitably leads to appreciation.
 (D) lighting is an essential part of all art.

PASSAGE – II

The most important change in the world over the past 30 years has been the rise of China. The increase in its average annual GDP per head from around \$300 to \$6,750 over the period has brought previously unimagined prosperity to hundreds of millions of people. India's GDP per head was the same as China's three decades ago. It is now a quarter of the size. Despite a couple of bouts of reform and spurts of growth, India's economy has never achieved the momentum that has dragged much of East Asia out of poverty. The human cost, in terms of frustrated, underemployed, ill-educated, unhealthy, hungry people, has been immense. Government is at the heart of India's failure. The few strong governments India has had—always dominated by the Congress party, a Nehru-Gandhi family fief—have had rotten economic agendas. That is partly because 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. The former prime minister, Manmohan Singh, who was not much more than a Gandhi family retainer, had little chance of doing so. Now, for the first time ever, India has a strong government whose priority is growth. Narendra Modi, who leads the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has won a tremendous victory on the strength of promising to make India's economy work. Mr Modi, by contrast, has huge authority, both within his party and in the country. The BJP's victory owes something to good organisation but most to its leader's appeal. Not since Indira Gandhi was assassinated in 1984 has India had such a powerful personality in charge. Mr Modi has an outright majority—282 of the 543 elected seats in Parliament's lower house. Only Congress has ever won a majority by itself before, and it has not had one for 30 years. 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 than Mr Singh did. Congress, meanwhile, has been routed, retaining just 44 seats. The joke goes that until the parliamentary elections India had no government; now it has no opposition. Mr Modi has a mandate for economic reform. Although his core supporters are religious nationalists, steeped in the glories of a Hindu past, it was the votes of the young, urban and educated that won him the election. They were turned off by Congress's drift and venality, and its preference for welfare handouts over fostering opportunity. They want the chance of self-advancement that Mr Modi, a tea-seller's son, both represents and promises.

24. According to the passage, India's GDP is most likely to be
 (A) \$300. (B) \$3375.
 (C) \$1687. (D) \$5061.
25. In the context of the passage, the word "fissiparous" most likely means
 (A) divisive. (B) fragmented.
 (C) factious. (D) unstable.
26. According to the passage, which of the following presents the most serious impediment to India's chances of prosperity?
 (A) a fragile economy
 (B) The rotting institutions in the country
 (C) the country's complexity, overwhelmed by a combination of politics, bureaucracy and corruption
 (D) Indians who want economic development and not feudal charity
27. According to the passage, all of the following factors fortifies Mr Modi's potential to be a game changer EXCEPT:
 (A) Mr Modi's government committing itself to growth and a population hungry for it
 (B) Mr Modi winning the election by a margin almost nobody imagined possible, which should mean stable and decisive rule
 (C) the BJP winning only because of voters' grumpiness at the national misrule of Congress
 (D) Mr. Modi centralising power, thus his prime minister's office being mightier than its recent predecessors
- Directions for questions 28 and 29:** There are two blanks in each of the following sentences. From the pairs of words given below each sentence, select the pair that fills the blanks most appropriately.
28. Work of any kind is a _____ subject for representation; office work – gray, gnomic, and _____ – even more so.
 (A) perfidious, grandiose
 (B) wholesome, germane
 (C) tricky, unknowable
 (D) felicitous, ungainly

29. The enormous _____ of Slocum's inner life in *Something Happened*, a punishingly long novel, seems to reflect his own agonizing search for meaning in organizational life, when it has very clearly _____.

(A) magnitude, materialized
(B) scope, personified
(C) dilation, vanished
(D) turbulence, sanctified

Directions for questions 30 and 31: Each of the following questions 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 mark the number corresponding with it in the box provided below each question.

30. (1) In large parts of the developing world, a long walk to a cash machine is the least of saver's problems.
(2) Much of the new evidence emerging from countries such as Malawi suggests that it is more beneficial to help a farmer save the money needed to plant next year's crop than to have him borrow it at annual interest rate of 30% or higher.
(3) In Ghana and other West African countries people deposit savings with susu collectors, who take small deposits each day and hold on to the cash for their clients for a fee.
(4) Some are quite prepared to earn what is in effect a negative interest rate to save cash, because keeping money at home leaves them vulnerable to thieves or pleading relatives.

31. (1) But with successive governments, this has been observed more in the breach.
(2) Probity in public life — this is the promise every party makes, come the elections.
(3) Invariably, it crops up every time an impropriety has occurred.
(4) Had political parties been really tough on offenders, this could have been contained.

Directions for question 32: The following question consists of four sentences on a topic. Some sentences are grammatically incorrect or inappropriate. Select the option that indicates the grammatically correct and appropriate sentence(s).

32. (a) Milten Friedman once compared the business cycle to an elastic string stretched on a board.
(b) How far the string is plucked determines how much it springs back; similarly, the depth of recession decides the recovery strength.
(c) America's recent experience, though, has not been as predicated by the plucking model.
(d) Although the recession was the deepest since the second world war, the recovery has been a disappointment.
- (A) (a) and (b) (B) (a) and (d)
(C) (b), (c) and (d) (D) Only (c)

Directions for questions 33 and 34: Each of the following sentences has an idiom which is underlined. From among the options given below each sentence, pick the one which correctly. Express the meaning of the underlined idiom.

33. The errant employee was taken to task by his boss for not executing the work given to him properly.
(A) reproved (B) applauded
(C) denigrated (D) counselled
34. The dispute between the two parties came to a head forcing a mediator to intervene and make peace between them.
(A) came to the notice of higher authorities
(B) continued without a break
(C) reached a crisis
(D) started all over again after a brief interval.

Directions for question 35: In of the following question, the word at the top is used in four different ways, numbered A to D. select the option in which the usage of the word is INCORRECT or INAPPROPRIATE

35. MIND
(A) She has to mind her Ps and Qs when she is with her mother-in-law.
(B) I can't get that dreadful accident off my mind.
(C) Sally finds it really hard to get her mind round that complex mathematical problem.
(D) The two leaders are of the same mind on the proposed tax reforms.