

VERBAL ABILITY

Solutions

1. Which of the following options, is the closest in meaning to the phrase in bold in the sentence below?

It is fascinating to see life forms ****cope with**** varied environmental conditions.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| (a) Adopt to | (b) Adapt to |
| (c) Adept in | (d) Accept with |

Solution: Option (b)

Explanation:

Often seen in newspaper "Indian players couldn't adapt to foreign conditions".

Adopt - means legally take care of. Also means to take up and use as in "He adopted my point of view."

Adept in - means smart in. Example- "Sachin is adept in batting."

2. Choose the most appropriate word from the options given below to complete the following sentence.

He could not understand the judges awarding her the first prize, because he thought that her performance was quite _____.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| (a) superb | (b) medium |
| (c) mediocre | (d) exhilarating |

Solution: Option (c)

Explanation:

Mediocre meaning not very good, not up to par, average. Her performance was average and not worthy of 1st prize.

3. In a press meet on the recent scam, the minister said, "The buck stops here". What did the minister convey by the statement?

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| (a) He wants all the money | (b) He will return the money |
| (c) He will assume final responsibility | (d) He will resist all enquiries |

Solution: Option (c)

Explanation:

The buck stops here is a term meaning to put an end to something, not continue, stop it.

(idiomatic) A statement that no **excuses** will be made, that the speaker is going to take **direct responsibility** for matters, rather than pass the responsibility to higher authorities.

4. The Palghat Gap (or Palakkad Gap), a region about 30 km wide in the southern part of the Western Ghats in India, is lower than the hilly terrain to its north and south. The exact reasons for the formation of this gap are not clear. It results in the neighbouring regions of Tamil Nadu getting more rainfall from the South West monsoon and the neighbouring regions of Kerala having higher summer temperatures.

What can be inferred from this passage?

Select one:

- (a) The Palghat Gap is caused by high rainfall and high temperature in southern Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- (b) The regions in Tamil Nadu and Kerala that are near the Palghat Gap are low-lying
- (c) The low terrain of the Palghat Gap has a significant impact on weather patterns in neighbouring parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- (d) Higher summer temperatures result in higher rainfall near the Palghat Gap area.

Solution: Option (c)

Explanation:

The primary statement is about the Palghat Gap being low lying which is mentioned in the first sentence.

The second part mentions the results of that causing lots of rain and unusual temperatures in the other areas. (Tamil Nadu and Kerala)

5. Geneticists say that they are very close to confirming the genetic roots of psychiatric illnesses such as depression and schizophrenia, and consequently, that doctors will be able to eradicate these diseases through early identification and gene therapy.

On which of the following assumptions does the statement above rely?

Select one:

- (a) Strategies are now available for eliminating psychiatric illnesses

- (b) Certain psychiatric illnesses have a genetic basis
- (c) All human diseases can be traced back to genes and how they are expressed
- (d) In the future, genetics will become the only relevant field for identifying psychiatric illnesses

Solution: Option (b)

Explanation:

The first sentence mentions two specific illnesses, (depression and schizophrenia). B is the only one that mentions certain illnesses.

- (a) states strategies are now available. The statement says they are very close so its not yet available.
- (c) states that ALL human diseases can be traced back. The statement only mentions two specific illnesses.
- (d) the statement does not mention at all that it is the only relevant field.

6. Which one of the following options is the closest in meaning to the word given below?

Nadir

- (a) Highest
- (b) Lowest
- (c) Medium
- (d) Integration

Solution: Option (b)

Explanation:

- (b) the lowest point

7. Complete the sentence:

Universalism is to particularism as diffuseness is to _____.

- (a) specificity
- (b) neutrality
- (c) generality
- (d) adaptation

Solution: Option (a)

Explanation:

- (a) Specificity. This is asking for opposites.

Specificity Diffuseness

Direct, to the point, purposeful in relating

Precise, blunt, definitive and
transparent
Principles and consistent moral
stands independent of the person
being addressed
Indirect, circuitous, seemingly
"aimless" forms of relating
Evasive, tactful, ambiguous, even
opaque
Highly situational morality
depending upon the person and
context encountered

8. Were you a bird, you _____ in the sky.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| (a) would fly | (b) shall fly |
| (c) should fly | (d) shall have flown |

Solution: Option (a)

Explanation:

a) would fly

9. Choose the grammatically INCORRECT sentence:

- (a) He is of Asian origin
- (b) They belonged to Africa
- (c) She is an European
- (d) They migrated from India to Australia

Solution: Option (c)

Explanation:

(c) Should be... She is a European

"The **sound** of a word's first letter determines which to use. If the word starts with a vowel **sound**, you should use an. If it starts with a consonant **sound**, you should use a."

The word "European" does not start with a vowel sound, it starts with the syllable "you". The "y"-sound is in this case a consonant (or at least a half-consonant), so the indefinite article is "a".

10. After several defeats in wars, Robert Bruce went in exile and wanted to commit suicide. Just before committing suicide, he came across a spider attempting tirelessly to have its net. Time and again, the spider failed but that did not deter it to refrain from making attempts. Such attempts by the spider made Bruce curious. Thus, Bruce started observing the near-possible goal of the spider to have the net. Ultimately, the spider succeeded in having its net despite several failures. Such act of the spider encouraged Bruce not to commit suicide. And then, Bruce went back again and won many a battle, and the rest is history.

Which one of the following assertions is best supported by the above information?

- (a) Failure is the pillar of success.
- (b) Honesty is the best policy.
- (c) Life begins and ends with adventures.
- (d) No adversity justifies giving up hope.

Solution: Option (d)

Explanation:

(d) is my answer. He gave up hope and wanted to commit suicide until he saw the spider in his struggles so no struggle or difficulty is worth giving up hope. Continue on!

11. Choose the most appropriate phrase from the options given below to complete the following sentence.

India is a post-colonial country because

- (a) It was a former British colony
- (b) Indian Information Technology professionals have colonized the world
- (c) India does not follow any colonial practices
- (d) India has helped other countries gain freedom

Solution: Option (A)

Explanation:

A country is called postcolonial if it came into existence after the colonies of the British and the Europeans were abolished and the countries then under their rule were declared independent. India was under the British colonial rule till 1947, i.e. it was a former British colony and thus is called a postcolonial country. So, A is the correct option.

12. Match the columns:

Column 1

- 1) eradicate
- 2) distort
- 3) saturate
- 4) utilize

Column 2

- P) misrepresent
- Q) soak completely
- R) use
- S) destroy utterly

(a) 1:S, 2:P, 3:Q, 4:R

(c) 1:Q, 2:R, 3:S, 4:P

(b) 1:P, 2:Q, 3:R, 4:S

(d) 1:S, 2:P, 3:R, 4:Q

Solution: Option (a)

13. The old city of Koenigsberg, which had a German majority population before World War 2, is now called Kaliningrad. After the events of the war, Kaliningrad is now a Russian territory and has a predominantly Russian population. It is bordered by the Baltic Sea on the north and the countries of Poland to the south and west and Lithuania to the east respectively. Which of the statements below can be inferred from this passage?

- (a) Kaliningrad was historically Russian in its ethnic make up
- (b) Kaliningrad is a part of Russia despite it not being contiguous with the rest of Russia
- (c) Koenigsberg was renamed Kaliningrad, as that was its original Russian name
- (d) Poland and Lithuania are on the route from Kaliningrad to the rest of Russia

Solution: Option (B)

Explanation:

A is incorrect because First line says that Kaliningrad (Koenigsberg before war) had a majority of the German population before the war. So, it was historically German and not Russian.

B is correct as although Kaliningrad is not contiguous with the rest of Russia (being surrounded by countries of Poland in the south and west, Lithuania in the east and Baltic sea on the north), it has a predominantly Russian population.

C cannot be inferred from the passage as it is nowhere in the passage what the original Russian name of Koenigsberg was.

D is also not true because no data about the route is mentioned in the passage.

So, B is the correct option

14. The number of people diagnosed with dengue fever (contracted from the bite of a mosquito) in north India is twice the number diagnosed last year. Municipal authorities have concluded that measures to control the mosquito population have failed in this region.

Which one of the following statements, if true, does not contradict this conclusion?

- (a) A high proportion of the affected population has returned from neighbouring countries where dengue is prevalent
- (b) More cases of dengue are now reported because of an increase in the Municipal Office's administrative efficiency
- (c) Many more cases of dengue are being diagnosed this year since the introduction of a new and effective diagnostic test
- (d) The number of people with malarial fever (also contracted from mosquito bites) has increased this year

Solution: Option (D)

Explanation:

A is not the correct choice as it contradicts the conclusion of the municipal authorities

B is not the correct choice because there is no data in the passage relating the reporting of cases and the efficiency of the administrative capabilities of the municipal authorities.

C is also incorrect as it contradicts the conclusion of the municipal authorities.

D is the correct choice as both malarial fever and dengue fever are caused by mosquito bite. If dengue fever had increased because of some other reason other than that concluded by the municipal authorities, then there would not have been increase in the people with malarial fever. This statement supports the conclusion of the municipal authorities.

15. While trying to collect an envelope from under the table, Mr. feel down and

I

II

III

was losing consciousness.

IV

Which one of the above underlined parts of the sentence is NOT appropriate?

- (a) I
- (b) II
- (c) III
- (d) IV

Solution: Option (d)

Explanation:

While trying to collect an envelope from under the table, Mr. X fell down and was losing consciousness.

a :Mr. X is trying to collect an envelope from under the table (Present continuous tense)

b :Mr. X fell down (Simple past tense)

c :Mr. X was losing consciousness. (Past continuous tense)

While a, b and c

What is wrong is the usage of sentences b and c together.

"We use the past continuous tense with the simple past tense when we want to show that one thing happened in the middle of another thing."

eg-I was taking a bath and the telephone rang.

Here it says..

"Mr. X fell down and was losing consciousness."

i.e b is done.. and c starts. Where as the usage says.. c should have happened in the middle of b.

It should have been Mr. X fell down and lost consciousness.

16. If she _____ how to calibrate the instrument, she _____ done the experiment.

(a) knows, will have

(b) knew, had

(c) had known, could have

(d) should have known, would have

Solution: Option (c)

Explanation:

Option c) makes perfect sense, rest do not relate to each other.

17. Choose the word that is opposite in meaning to the word "coherent"

(a) sticky

(b) well connected

(c) rambling

(d) friendly

Solution: Option (c)

Explanation:

Coherent means clear, rambling means confused.

18. A dance programme is scheduled for 10.00 a.m. Some students are participating in the programme and they need to come an hour earlier than the start of the event. These students should be accompanied by a parent. Other students and parents should come in time for the programme. The instruction you think that is appropriate for this is

- (a) Students should come at 9.00 a.m. and parents should come at 10.00 a.m.
- (b) Participating students should come at 9.00 a.m. accompanied by a parent, and other parents and students should come by 10.00 a.m.
- (c) Students who are not participating should come by 10.00 a.m. and they should not bring their parents. Participating students should come at 9.00 a.m.
- (d) Participating students should come before 9.00 a.m. Parents who accompany them should come at 9.00 a.m. All others should come at 10.00 a.m.

Solution: Option (b)

19. By the beginning of the 20th century, several hypotheses were being proposed, suggesting a paradigm shift in our understanding of the universe. However, the clinching evidence was provided by experimental measurements of the position of a star which was directly behind our sun.

Which of the following inference (s) may be drawn from the above passage?

- i. Our understanding of the universe changes based on the positions of stars
- ii. Paradigm shifts usually occur at the beginning of centuries
- iii. Stars are important objects in the universe
- iv. Experimental evidence was important in confirming this paradigm shift

- (a) (i), (ii) and (iv)
- (b) (iii) only
- (c) (i) and (iv)
- (d) (iv) only

Solution: Option (d)

Explanation:

(i) and (iii) are incorrect as they generalize the experimental statement. (ii) is incorrect since if there was a paradigm shift at the beginning of the 20th century, it does not necessarily mean that all paradigm shifts usually occur at the beginning of centuries.

(iv) is correct.

20. Which of the following options is the closest in the meaning to the word below:

Inexplicable

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| (a) Incomprehensible | (b) Indelible |
| (c) Inextricable | (d) Infallible |

Solution: Option (a)

Explanation:

Inexplicable => difficult or impossible to explain

Incomprehensible => difficult or impossible to understand or comprehend => Most appropriate

Indelible => impossible to remove, erase or wash away => Not appropriate

Inextricable => unavoidable , inescapable => Not appropriate

Infallible => completely dependable or trustworthy => irrelevant

21. Despite several _____ the mission succeeded in its attempt to resolve the conflict.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| (a) attempts | (b) setbacks |
| (c) meetings | (d) delegations |

Solution: Option (b)

22. Which one of the following options is the closest in meaning to the word given below?

Mitigate

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| (a) Diminish | (b) Divulge |
| (c) Dedicate | (d) Denote |

Solution: Option (a)

23. Choose the grammatically INCORRECT sentence:

- (a) They gave us the money back less the service charges of Three Hundred rupees
- (b) This country's expenditure is not less than that of Bangladesh
- (c) The committee initially asked for a funding of Fifty Lakh rupees, but later settled for a lesser sum

(d) This country's expenditure on educational reforms is very less

Solution: Option (d)

24. Choose the most appropriate alternative from the options given below to complete the following sentence:

Suresh's dog is the one _____ was hurt in the stampede.

(a) that

(b) which

(c) who

(d) whom

Solution: Option (a)

Explanation:

(a)....that

Who and whom are people, not dogs.

Regarding that and which...

Restrictive Clause—That

A **restrictive clause** is just part of a sentence that you can't get rid of because it specifically restricts some other part of the sentence. Here's an example:

Gems that sparkle often elicit forgiveness.

The words that sparkle restrict the kind of gems you're talking about. Without them, the meaning of the sentence would change. Without them, you'd be saying that all gems elicit forgiveness, not just the gems that sparkle. (And note that you don't need **commas** around the words that sparkle.)

Nonrestrictive Clause—Which

A **nonrestrictive clause** is something that can be left off without changing the meaning of the sentence. You can think of a nonrestrictive clause as simply additional information. Here's an example:

Diamonds, which are expensive, often elicit forgiveness.

25. Wanted Temporary, Part-time persons for the post of Field Interviewer to conduct personal interviews to collect and collate economic data.

Requirements: High School-pass, must be available for Day, Evening and Saturday work. Transportation paid, expenses reimbursed.

Which one of the following is the best inference from the above advertisement?

- (a) Gender-discriminatory (b) Xenophobic
(c) Not designed to make the post attractive (d) Not gender-discriminatory

Solution: Option (d)

Explanation:

(d). Not gender_discriminatory. The post mentions "persons" meaning any gender. Xenophobic means having or showing an intense or irrational dislike or fear of people from other countries, so does not apply.

26. Choose the most appropriate word from the options given below to complete the following sentence:

His rather casual remarks on politics _____ his lack of seriousness about the subject.

- (a) masked (b) belied
(c) betrayed (d) suppressed

Solution: Option (c)

Explanation:

- (a) Masked : Hide under a false appearance => **o pposite**
(b) Belied : Be in contradiction with => **n ot appropriate**
(c) Betrayed : Reveal unintentionally => **most appropriate**
(d) Suppressed: To put down by force or authority => **irrelevant**

27. Which of the following options is the closest in meaning to the word given below:

Circuitous

- (a) cyclic (b) indirect
(c) confusing (d) crooked

Solution: Option (b)

28. Choose the most appropriate word from the options given below to complete the following sentence:

If we manage to _____ our natural resources, we would leave a better planet for our children.

- (a) uphold
- (c) cherish

- (b) restrain
- (d) conserve

Solution: Option (d)

29. The question below consists of a pair of related words followed by four pairs of words. Select the pair that best expresses the relation in the original pair.

Unemployed : Worker

- (a) fallow : land
- (c) wit : jester

- (b) unaware : sleeper
- (d) renovated : house

Solution: Option (a)

Explanation:

(a) **Fallow: Land**

Fallow is **land** that is uncultivated

Unemployed is a **worker** without a job

30. Modern warfare has changed from large scale clashes of armies to suppression of civilian populations. Chemical agents that do their work silently appear to be suited to such warfare; and regrettably, there exist people in military establishments who think that chemical agents are useful tools for their cause.

Which of the following statements best sums up the meaning of the above passage:

- (a) Modern warfare has resulted in civil strife
- (b) Chemical agents are useful in modern warfare
- (c) Use of chemical agents in warfare would be undesirable
- (d) People in military establishments like to use chemical agents in war

Solution: Option (d)

Explanation:

People in military establishments like to use chemical agents in war.

31. Complete the sentence:

Dare _____ mistake.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| (a) commit | (b) to commit |
| (c) committed | (d) committing |

Solution: Option (a)

32. Didn't you buy _____ when you went shopping?

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| (a) any paper | (b) much paper |
| (c) no paper | (d) a few paper |

Solution: (a)

33. Which of the following options is the closest in meaning of the sentence below?

She enjoyed herself immensely at the party.

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) She had a terrible time at the party | (b) She had a horrible time at the party |
| (c) She had a terrific time at the party | (d) She had a terrifying time at the party |

Solution: Option (c)

Explanation:

Except option (c), all other options indicate that she didn't enjoy the party.

34. Which one of the following combinations is incorrect?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) Acquiescence – Submission | (b) Wheedle – Roundabout |
| (c) Flippancy – Lightness | (d) Profligate – Extravagant |

Solution: (b)

35. Select the alternative meaning of the underlined part of the sentence.

The chain snatchers took to their heels when the police party arrived.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (a) Took shelter in a thick jungle | (b) Open indiscriminate fire |
| (c) Took to flight | (d) Unconditionally surrendered |

Solution: (c)

Explanation:

Took to flight and took to their heels means to run away.

36. The given statement is followed by some courses of action. Assuming the statement to be true, decide the correct option.

Statement:

There has been a significant drop in the water level in the lakes supplying water to the city.

Course of action:

- I. The water supply authority should impose a partial cut in supply to tackle the situation.
- II. The government should appeal to all the residents through mass media for minimal use of water.
- III. The government should ban the water supply in lower areas.

- (a) Statements I and II follow.
- (b) Statements I and III follow.
- (c) Statements II and III follow.
- (d) All the statements follow.

Solution: (a)

Explanation:

Banning water supply cannot solve the problem.

37. We _____ our friend's birthday and we _____ how to make it up to him.

- (a) completely forgot --- don't just know
- (b) forgot completely --- don't just know
- (c) completely forgot --- just don't know
- (d) forgot completely --- just don't know

Solution: Option (c)

38. Choose the statement where underlined word is used correctly.

- (a) The industrialist had a personnel jet.
- (b) I write my experience in my personnel diary.
- (c) All personnel are being given the day off.
- (d) Being religious is a personnel aspect.

Solution: Option (c)

Explanation:

Personnel means persons employed in an organization

39. A generic term that includes various items of clothing such as a skirt, a pair of trousers and a shirt is

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| (a) fabric | (b) textile |
| (c) fibre | (d) apparel |

Solution: Option (d)

40. The Tamil version of _____ John Abraham-starrer Madras Cafe _____ cleared by the Censor Board with no cuts last week, but the film's distributor _____ no takers among the exhibitors for a release in Tamilnadu _____ this Friday.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) Mr., was, found, on | (b) a, was, found, at |
| (c) the, was, found, on | (d) a, being, find, at |

Solution: Option (c)

41. Extreme focus on syllabus and studying for tests has become such a dominant concern of Indian student that they close their minds to anything _____ to the requirements of the exam.

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| (a) related | (b) extraneous |
| (c) outside | (d) useful |

Solution: Option (b)

42. Select the pair of best expresses a relationship similar to that expressed in the pair:

Children : Pediatrician

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) Adult : Orthopaedist | (b) Females : Gynaecologist |
| (c) Kidney : Nephrologist | (d) Skin : Dermatologist |

Solution: Option (b)

43. Alexander turned his attention towards India, since he had conquered Persia.

Which one of the statements below is logic valid and can be inferred from the above sentence?

- (a) Alexander would not have turned his attention towards India had he not conquered Persia.
- (b) Alexander was not ready to rest on his laurels, and wanted to march to India.
- (c) Alexander was not completely in control of his army and could command it to move towards India.
- (d) Since Alexander's kingdom extended to Indian borders after the conquest of Persia, he was keen to move further.

Solution: Option (a)

Explanation:

Answer should be (a).....as other options required more information

Let

P be " Alexander turned his attention towards India " and

Q be "he had conquered Persia"

P since $Q = \sim Q$ implies $\sim P$.

$\sim P$ is "Alexander would not have turned his attention towards India"

$\sim Q$ is "he had not conquered Persia"

44. The head of newly formed government desires to appoint five of the six selected members P, Q, R, S T and U to portfolios of Home, Power, Defense, Telecom and Finance. U does not want any portfolio if S gets one of the five. R wants either Home or Finance or no portfolio. Q says that if S gets Power or Telecom, then she must get the other one. T insists on a portfolio if P gets one.

Which is the valid distribution of portfolios?

- (a) P-Home, Q- Power, R-Defense, S-Telecom, T-Finance
- (b) R-Home, S- Power, P-Defense, Q-Telecom, T-Finance
- (c) P-Home, Q- Power, T-Defense, S-Telecom, U-Finance
- (d) Q-Home, U- Power, T-Defense, R-Telecom, P-Finance

Solution: Option (b)

Explanation:

"U does not want any portfolio if S gets one of the five"

So, S and U cannot come together. Option c eliminated.

"R wants either Home or Finance or no portfolio"

So, options a and d eliminated.

So, answer is b.

Just to confirm:

Q says that if S gets Power or Telecom, then she must get the other one

In b, S gets Power and Q gets Telecom

"T insists on a portfolio if P gets one"

In b, T is getting a portfolio.

45. Most experts feel that in spite of possessing all the technical skills required to be a batsman of the highest order, he is unlikely to be so due to lack of requisite temperament. He was guilty of throwing away his wicket several times after working hard to lay a strong foundation. His critics pointed out that until he addresses his problem, success at the highest level will continue to elude him.

Which of the statement(s) below is/are logically valid and can be inferred from the above passage?

- i. He was already a successful batsman at the highest level.
- ii. He was to improve his temperament in order to become a great batsman.
- iii. He failed to make many of his good starts count.
- iv. Improving his technical skills will guarantee success.

(a) iii and iv

(b) ii and iii

(c) i, ii and iii

(d) ii only

Solution: Option (b)

Explanation:

"possessing all the technical skills" - iv is false

"throwing away his wicket several time after working hard to lay a strong foundation" - iii is true

"he is unlikely to be so due to lack of requisite temperament" - ii is true

"success at the highest level will continue to elude him" - i is false

So, (b).

46. Few school curricula include a unit on how to deal with bereavement and grief, and yet all students at some point in their lives suffer from losses through death and parting.

Based on the above passage which topic would not be included in a unit on bereavement?

- (A) how to write a letter of condolence
- (B) what emotional stages are passed through in the healing process
- (C) what the leading causes of death are
- (D) how to give support to a grieving friend

Solution: Option (c)

Explanation:

As per the given passage, the unit on bereavement is about how to deal with bereavement and grief, not about the causes of death. All other options make sense.