

CUET 2026 May 11 (Shift-1) English

Question Paper (Memory-Based) With Solutions PDF

Conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA)



General Instructions

- (i) The test is of 1 hour duration.
- (ii) The question paper consists of 50 questions. The maximum marks are 250.
- (iii) 5 marks are awarded for every correct answer, and 1 mark is deducted for every wrong answer.

1. Choose the synonym of the word: **CONCISE** _____.

- (A) Short and clear
- (B) Long
- (C) Confusing
- (D) Incorrect

Correct Answer: (A) Short and clear

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A synonym is a word or phrase that means exactly or nearly the same as another word in the same language.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word "**Concise**" is used to describe information that is given in a few words, typically in a way that is easy to understand and free of unnecessary detail.

- **Short and clear:** Matches the definition of being brief but comprehensive.
- **Long:** This is an antonym (opposite).

- **Confusing:** Irrelevant to brevity; a concise statement is usually the opposite of confusing.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The synonym of Concise is "Short and clear".

Quick Tip: To remember "Concise," think of the word "Cut." You have cut out all the extra "fluff" to leave only the important parts!

2. Choose the synonym of the word: APLOMB ____.

- (A) Confidence
- (B) Doubt
- (C) Anger
- (D) Surprise

Correct Answer: (A) Confidence

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question tests your knowledge of high-level vocabulary used to describe personal traits or behaviors.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

"**Aplomb**" refers to self-confidence or assurance, especially when shown in a demanding or difficult situation. It is synonymous with "poise" or "composure."

- **Confidence:** Correctly reflects the state of being self-assured.
- **Doubt:** This is the antonym.
- **Anger/Surprise:** These are emotions that a person with aplomb would typically control or hide.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The synonym of Aplomb is "Confidence".

Quick Tip: The word comes from the French "à plomb," meaning "according to the lead (plumb) line." Just as a plumb line is perfectly vertical and steady, someone with aplomb is "steady" under pressure.

3. Choose the synonym of the word: AMIABLE ____.

- (A) Friendly
- (B) Strict
- (C) Aggressive
- (D) Mysterious

Correct Answer: (A) Friendly

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Many English words have roots in Latin or French. Recognizing these roots can help identify synonyms.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word "**Amiable**" describes someone who has or displays a friendly and pleasant manner.

- **Friendly:** Directly matches the meaning of being sociable and kind.
- **Strict/Aggressive:** These describe harsh or forceful personalities, which are opposites of amiable.
- **Mysterious:** Describes someone difficult to understand, not necessarily their social warmth.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The synonym of Amiable is "Friendly".

Quick Tip: Look at the root ***"ami"***. In French, ***ami*** means friend, and in Latin, ***amare*** means to love. Words like "amigo," "amicable," and "amiable" all relate to being friendly!

4. Choose the synonym of the word: RECONDITE ____.

- (A) Deep/obscure
- (B) Easy
- (C) Popular
- (D) Wrong

Correct Answer: (A) Deep/obscure

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Identifying synonyms for advanced vocabulary involves understanding the nuance of a word's usage in academic or literary contexts.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

"**Recondite**" refers to knowledge or subjects that are little known, abstruse, or difficult to understand.

- **Deep/obscure:** This is the correct synonym as it describes something hidden from ordinary understanding.
- **Easy/Popular:** These are the opposite of recondite, which implies something rare and difficult.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The synonym of Recondite is "Deep/obscure".

Quick Tip: Think of the word "recondite" as being "hidden" in a dark corner. It's the kind of knowledge you only find in the back of a very old, dusty library.

5. Choose the synonym of the word: ABOLISH ____.

- (A) Establish
- (B) Eradicate
- (C) Support
- (D) Delay

Correct Answer: (B) Eradicate

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Synonyms can often be categorized by their intensity. Some words mean "to stop," while others mean "to completely destroy."

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

"Abolish" means to formally put an end to a system, practice, or institution.

- **Eradicate:** To destroy or get rid of something completely. This is the closest synonym.
- **Establish:** This is an antonym (to start something).
- **Support:** This is an antonym (to help something continue).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The synonym of Abolish is "Eradicate".

Quick Tip: We usually "abolish" laws or taxes, and we "eradicate" diseases or pests. Both imply getting rid of something unwanted permanently.

6. Choose the synonym of the word: DILIGENT ____.

- (A) Lazy
- (B) Careful and hardworking
- (C) Fast
- (D) Uncertain

Correct Answer: (B) Careful and hardworking

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Synonyms for character traits help in describing human behavior precisely.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

"**Diligent**" describes someone who shows care and conscientiousness in their work or duties.

- **Careful and hardworking:** This perfectly captures the two sides of diligence—effort and attention to detail.
- **Lazy:** This is a direct antonym.
- **Fast:** One can be fast but sloppy; diligence requires being careful regardless of speed.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The synonym of Diligent is "Careful and hardworking".

Quick Tip: A "diligent" student doesn't just finish their homework—they check it twice for mistakes. It's about the *quality* of the effort as much as the effort itself.

7. Choose the synonym of the word: IMMENSE ____.

- (A) Tiny
- (B) Huge
- (C) Slow
- (D) Unknown

Correct Answer: (B) Huge

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Synonyms are used to expand vocabulary and provide variety in writing. Words for size are among the most common synonyms in English.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word "**Immense**" refers to something that is extremely large or great, especially in scale or degree.

- **Huge:** This is a direct synonym, meaning extremely large.
- **Tiny:** This is the antonym (opposite).

- **Slow/Unknown:** These describe speed or familiarity, not physical or metaphorical size.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The synonym of Immense is "Huge".

Quick Tip: "Immense" comes from the Latin *immensus*, which means "unmeasurable." If something is immense, it is so big it's hard to measure!

8. To throw light on means: ____.

- (A) To shine a torch
- (B) To explain clearly
- (C) To burn something
- (D) To expose to sunlight

Correct Answer: (B) To explain clearly

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is an idiom. Idioms are phrases where the meaning cannot be understood just by looking at the individual words; they have a figurative meaning.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The phrase "**to throw light on**" something uses "light" as a metaphor for "knowledge" or "understanding."

- When a room is dark, you cannot see the details. When you "throw light" on it, the details become visible.
- Similarly, when a topic is confusing (dark), and someone provides an explanation, they are "throwing light" on it so you can "see" (understand) the truth.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The idiom "To throw light on" means to explain something clearly.

Quick Tip: Whenever you see "light" used figuratively in English (like "enlightenment" or "I see the light"), it almost always refers to gaining knowledge or clarity.

9. By leaps and bounds means: ____.

- (A) Slowly
- (B) Very fast
- (C) In small steps
- (D) Without interest

Correct Answer: (B) Very fast

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This idiom describes the rate or speed of progress or growth.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

A "leap" is a large jump, and a "bound" is a springy upward movement.

- If someone is walking normally, they move at a steady pace.
- If they are moving by "leaps and bounds," they are covering huge distances with every movement.
- Figuratively, this is used to describe rapid progress, such as: "The company's profits grew by leaps and bounds this year."

Step 3: Final Answer:

The phrase "By leaps and bounds" means very fast or rapidly.

Quick Tip: This idiom is almost always used to describe positive growth, like someone's health recovering or a student's grades improving.

10. Burn the midnight oil means: ____.

- (A) Waste time
- (B) Work late at night
- (C) Sleep early
- (D) Burn lamps

Correct Answer: (B) Work late at night

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is an idiom derived from historical practices before the invention of electricity.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Before electric light bulbs were common, people used oil lamps to see in the dark.

- "Oil" refers to the fuel (like kerosene or whale oil) used in these lamps.
- If someone was still "burning oil" at "midnight," it meant they were staying awake much longer than usual to finish a task.
- Today, the phrase is used figuratively to describe someone studying hard for an exam or working intensely on a project well into the late hours of the night.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The idiom "Burn the midnight oil" means to work late at night.

Quick Tip: A similar idiom is "pulling an all-nighter," though "burning the midnight oil" usually implies a more studious or diligent effort rather than just staying awake.