

CUET 2026 May 12 (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 correct meaning of the word "Taciturn".

- (A) Very talkative
- (B) Reserved or silent
- (C) Extremely angry
- (D) Careless in behaviour

Correct Answer: (B) Reserved or silent

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a vocabulary question focused on character traits. Understanding root words can often help identify the meaning of such terms.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word "**Taciturn**" comes from the Latin word *tacitus*, meaning "silent."

- A taciturn person is someone who says very little and seems unsociable or reserved.
- It is the opposite of "Loquacious" or "Talkative" (Option A).
- It does not necessarily imply anger or carelessness; it simply refers to a lack of speech.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct meaning is "Reserved or silent."

Quick Tip: Associate Taciturn with the word Tacit (implied without being spoken). Both relate to a lack of overt verbal communication!

2. The word "Sporadic" means: ____.

- (A) Continuous
- (B) Regular
- (C) Occurring at irregular intervals
- (D) Permanent

Correct Answer: (C) Occurring at irregular intervals

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

This word is used to describe the frequency or pattern of an occurrence.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

"**Sporadic**" refers to things that happen only occasionally or in a scattered, random manner.

- If rain is sporadic, it stops and starts without a predictable pattern.
- It is the antonym of words like "Continuous" (Option A) and "Regular" (Option B).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct meaning is "Occurring at irregular intervals."

Quick Tip: Think of the word "Spore." Just as spores are scattered randomly by the wind, sporadic events are scattered randomly in time.

3. A "Dipsomaniac" is a person who: ____.

- (A) Loves reading books
- (B) Has an uncontrollable craving for alcohol
- (C) Suffers from insomnia
- (D) Speaks many languages

Correct Answer: (B) Has an uncontrollable craving for alcohol

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

In English, words ending in "-maniac" refer to individuals with an obsession or uncontrollable compulsion toward something.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The term "**Dipsomaniac**" is derived from the Greek words *dipsa* (thirst) and *mania* (madness).

- It describes a historical medical term for an intense, paroxysmal craving for alcohol.
- **Option A** (Loves reading) is a "Bibliophile."
- **Option D** (Speaks many languages) is a "Polyglot."

Step 3: Final Answer:

A dipsomaniac is a person with an uncontrollable craving for alcohol.

Quick Tip: Whenever you see "-mania" in a word, think of an "unhealthy obsession." Dipso specifically targets the "thirst" for liquor.

4. Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful paragraph:

- A. Finally, the results were announced.
- B. The students entered the examination hall.
- C. They started writing their answers carefully.
- D. The invigilator distributed the question papers.

- (A) BADC
- (B) BDCA
- (C) BDAC

(D) BACD

Correct Answer: (B) BDCA

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Rearranging sentences (Parajumbles) requires finding a logical timeline or a cause-and-effect relationship between the statements.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. The process begins with the students arriving: (B) "The students entered the examination hall." 2. Once they are inside, the next logical step is getting the material: (D) "The invigilator distributed the question papers." 3. After receiving the papers, the students perform the task: (C) "They started writing their answers carefully." 4. The word "Finally" indicates the conclusion of the entire process: (A) "Finally, the results were announced."

Step 3: Final Answer:

The logical sequence is BDCA.

Quick Tip: Keywords like "Finally," "In conclusion," or "Lastly" are strong indicators of the final sentence in a sequence.

5. Rearrange the following words to make a meaningful sentence:

- A. always
- B. honesty
- C. the best policy
- D. is

- (A) BADC
- (B) BDAC
- (C) BACD
- (D) BCDA

Correct Answer: (B) BDAC

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

This question tests the ability to reconstruct a well-known English proverb by identifying the Subject, Verb, and Complement.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. The Subject of the sentence is (B) "Honesty." 2. This is followed by the Verb: (D) "is." 3. To emphasize the frequency or nature, the adverb is placed next: (A) "always." 4. The sentence concludes with the Complement: (C) "the best policy."

Step 3: Final Answer:

The sentence is "Honesty is always the best policy," which corresponds to BDAC.

Quick Tip: In simple English sentences, the structure is usually S-V-O (Subject + Verb + Object/Complement). Identify the "actor" (Honesty) and the "action" (is) first!

6. Rearrange the following sentences correctly:

- A. The rain stopped after an hour.
- B. Dark clouds gathered in the sky.
- C. Children started playing outside again.
- D. Soon, it began to rain heavily.

- (A) BADC
- (B) BDAC
- (C) BACD
- (D) DCBA

Correct Answer: (B) BDAC

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

A meaningful paragraph usually follows a chronological order of events—in this case, the cycle of a rainstorm.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. First, the weather changes: (B) "Dark clouds gathered in the sky." 2. The gathering clouds lead to the action: (D) "Soon, it began to rain heavily." 3. Next, the event concludes: (A) "The rain stopped after an hour." 4. Finally, the aftermath: (C) "Children started playing outside again." (The word "again" implies they had stopped during the rain).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct chronological order is BDAC.

Quick Tip: Look for transition words. "Soon" (in D) usually follows an initial observation (the clouds in B), and "again" (in C) implies a return to a previous state after an interruption (the rain).

7. Identify the poetic device used in the line: "The wind whispered through the trees."

- (A) Simile
- (B) Metaphor
- (C) Personification
- (D) Hyperbole

Correct Answer: (C) Personification

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Poetic devices (or figures of speech) are tools used by writers to create rhythm, enhance meaning, or help the reader visualize a scene.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Personification is a figure of speech in which human qualities are given to animals, objects, or ideas.

- In the line "The wind whispered," the act of "whispering" is a human action.
- By attributing this human behavior to the wind (a non-human element), the author uses personification to make the description more vivid and evocative.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The poetic device used is Personification.

Quick Tip: To spot personification, ask yourself: "Is an object doing something only a human can do?" If the answer is yes (like a dancing flower or a weeping willow), it's personification!

8. Which poetic device is used in the phrase: "Time is a thief."

- (A) Alliteration
- (B) Metaphor
- (C) Oxymoron
- (D) Irony

Correct Answer: (B) Metaphor

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Comparison devices like similes and metaphors are used to link two unrelated things to highlight a shared characteristic.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

A **Metaphor** is a direct comparison between two unlike things without using the words "like" or "as."

- In "Time is a thief," Time is being directly equated to a thief to suggest that it "steals" moments of our lives away.
- If the line were "Time is *like* a thief," it would be a simile.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The phrase uses a Metaphor.

Quick Tip: Metaphor = A is B (Direct).

Simile = A is like B (Indirect).

Think of a metaphor as a "stronger" comparison because it says one thing is the other.

9. Identify the poetic device in the line: "She sells seashells on the seashore."

- (A) Assonance
- (B) Simile
- (C) Alliteration
- (D) Repetition

Correct Answer: (C) Alliteration

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Sound devices are used in poetry to create a specific mood or to make a line more memorable and rhythmic.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Alliteration is the repetition of the same initial consonant sound in a series of words within a phrase or line of verse.

- In the sentence "She sells seashells on the seashore," the "s" sound is repeated at the beginning of almost every word.
- This creates a "hissing" or rhythmic effect often found in tongue twisters.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The poetic device is Alliteration.

Quick Tip: Alliteration focuses on the sound, not just the letter. For example, "City" and "Car" do not alliterate because one starts with an 's' sound and the other with a 'k' sound.

10. Match the following phobias correctly:

A. Xenophobia — P. Fear of strangers/foreigners

B. Gerascophobia — Q. Fear of growing old

C. Necrophobia — R. Fear of dead bodies/death

(A) A–P, B–Q, C–R

(B) A–Q, B–P, C–R

(C) A–R, B–Q, C–P

(D) A–P, B–R, C–Q

Correct Answer: (A) A–P, B–Q, C–R

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Phobias are intense, irrational fears of specific objects or situations. Many phobia names are derived from Greek or Latin roots that describe the source of the fear.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

By breaking down the root words, we can identify the meanings:

- **Xenophobia:** Derived from *xenos* (stranger/guest). It refers to the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. → **Matches P.**
- **Gerascophobia:** Derived from *geras* (old age). It is a clinical phobia involving an abnormal or persistent fear of growing old. → **Matches Q.**
- **Necrophobia:** Derived from *nekros* (dead body). It is the fear of death or dead things. → **Matches R.**

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct matching sequence is A–P, B–Q, and C–R.

Quick Tip: To remember Necro, think of "Necropolis" (city of the dead). For Xeno, think of "Xenon" (a gas named for being 'strange'). For Geras, think of "Geriatrics" (the branch of medicine dealing with the elderly).