

CUET 2026 May 12 Shift 2 English

Question Paper (Memory-Based) With Solutions PDF

Conducted by National Testing Agency (NTA)



General Instructions

- (i) The examination will be conducted in Computer-Based Test (CBT) mode.
- (ii) Each question carries +5 marks for correct answer and -1 mark for wrong answer.
- (iii) The total number of questions are 50.
- (iv) Duration of the exam is 1 hour (60 minutes).

1. The honesty of the leader impressed everyone. The underlined word is:

- (A) Adjective
- (B) Verb
- (C) Noun
- (D) Adverb

Correct Answer: (C) Noun

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

In English grammar, a "Noun" is a word that identifies a person, place, thing, or idea. Nouns that represent ideas, qualities, or conditions rather than physical objects are specifically called "Abstract Nouns."

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word "honesty" refers to the quality of being honest. It functions as the subject of the sentence.

- It is preceded by the article "The," which is a common indicator of a noun.

- Unlike an adjective (which would be "honest"), it does not describe a noun directly but acts as a concept itself.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The underlined word is a Noun.

Quick Tip: A quick way to test if a word is a noun: Try putting "His/Her" or "The" before it. If it makes sense ("His honesty"), it is likely a noun!

2. She spoke softly to calm the child. The underlined word is:

- (A) Adjective
- (B) Adverb
- (C) Noun
- (D) Verb

Correct Answer: (B) Adverb

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

An "Adverb" is a word that modifies or describes a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. It often tells us how, when, where, or to what extent an action is performed.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In the sentence "She spoke softly," the word "softly" describes *how* she spoke.

- "Spoke" is the verb (the action).
- "Softly" provides more information about the manner of that action.
- Most adverbs of manner are formed by adding "-ly" to an adjective (Soft + ly).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The underlined word is an Adverb.

Quick Tip: Adverbs usually answer the question "How?". How did she speak? Softly.

3. He is very fond of music. The underlined word is:

- (A) Conjunction
- (B) Preposition
- (C) Adverb
- (D) Interjection

Correct Answer: (B) Preposition

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A "Preposition" is a word used to link nouns, pronouns, or phrases to other words within a sentence. They typically show relationships of time, place, or direction.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word "of" is used here to connect the adjective "fond" with its object "music."

- Prepositions act as connectors that show the relationship between the subject and the object.
- "Fond" is a specific adjective that is almost always followed by the fixed preposition "of."

Step 3: Final Answer:

The underlined word is a Preposition.

Quick Tip: Common prepositions include: in, on, at, by, with, and of. They are usually short words that "position" the relationship between different parts of the sentence.

4. Wow! That was an amazing performance. The underlined word is:

- (1) Interjection
- (2) Adjective
- (3) Adverb
- (4) Conjunction

Correct Answer: (1) Interjection

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

An "Interjection" is a word or phrase used to express strong feeling or sudden emotion. They are grammatically independent from the rest of the sentence.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word "Wow" is used to express excitement or surprise.

- It is often followed by an exclamation mark (!).
- It does not modify a noun (like an adjective) or a verb (like an adverb); it stands alone as an emotional outburst.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The underlined word is an Interjection.

Quick Tip: Interjections are the "emotional labels" of a sentence. Examples include: Ouch!, Oh!, Alas!, and Hurray!

5. She is smarter than her brother. The underlined word is:

- (1) Adverb
- (2) Noun
- (3) Adjective
- (4) Verb

Correct Answer: (3) Adjective

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

An "Adjective" is a word that describes or modifies a noun or pronoun. Adjectives can have different degrees: positive, comparative, and superlative.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In this sentence, "smarter" is used to describe the pronoun "She."

- Specifically, it is the comparative degree of the adjective "smart."
- It is used here to compare two people (the sister and the brother).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The underlined word is an Adjective.

Quick Tip: If a word ends in "-er" and is used with "than" to compare two things, it is almost always a comparative adjective.

6. By the time we reached the station, the train ____.

- (1) left
- (2) has left
- (3) had left
- (4) leaves

Correct Answer: (3) had left

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question tests the use of the Past Perfect Tense. We use this tense to show that one action in the past happened before another action in the past.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

There are two past actions here: 1. We reached the station. 2. The train left. The phrase "By the time" indicates that the train's departure happened *first*. To describe the earlier of two past actions, we use "had + past participle" (had left).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct form is "had left."

Quick Tip: Think of the Past Perfect as the "Past of the Past." If you are already talking about the past (reached), and something happened even earlier, use "had."

7. She _____ in Delhi since 2015.

- (A) lives
- (B) lived
- (C) is living
- (D) has been living

Correct Answer: (D) has been living

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question focuses on the Present Perfect Continuous Tense. This tense is used to describe an action that started in the past and is still continuing in the present.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The keyword in this sentence is "since 2015."

- Whenever we see "since" or "for" followed by a time duration, it usually indicates that the action has been ongoing.
- The structure for this tense is: Subject + has/have + been + Verb(ing).
- "Is living" (Option C) describes what is happening right now but doesn't account for the long duration starting in 2015.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct phrase is "has been living."

Quick Tip: "Since" refers to a specific point in time (since 2015), while "for" refers to a duration of time (for 11 years). Both usually trigger the Present Perfect Continuous tense!

8. If I _____ you, I would apologize.

- (A) am
- (B) was
- (C) were
- (D) had been

Correct Answer: (C) were

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is an example of a Second Conditional sentence, which deals with hypothetical or imaginary situations that are contrary to current facts.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In formal English, when using the "if" clause to express a hypothetical situation (especially with the verb "to be"), we use "were" regardless of the subject (I, he, she, it).

- This is known as the Subjunctive Mood.
- Even though we usually say "I was," in a hypothetical "If" statement, "If I were" is the grammatically correct choice.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct word is "were."

Quick Tip: Look for the word "would" in the second part of the sentence. The combination of "If... were" and "would" is the classic structure for imaginary advice!

9. Look! The children _____ in the rain.

- (A) play
- (B) played
- (C) are playing
- (D) have played

Correct Answer: (C) are playing

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

This question tests the Present Continuous Tense, used for actions happening exactly at the time of speaking.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word "Look!" is a command that draws attention to an action happening *right now*.

- For ongoing actions in the present, we use the is/am/are + Verb(ing) structure.
- Since "children" is a plural noun, we use "are playing."

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct tense is "are playing."

Quick Tip: Exclamations like "Look!", "Listen!", or "Be quiet!" are almost always clues that the next verb should be in the Present Continuous tense.

10. Rearrange the following parts of a sentence to form a meaningful sentence:

- (A) can be seen as an extension of citizenship, starting with
(B) the Factory Acts of the 1840s which protected
(C) the growing importance of social rights for children
(D) children from unrestricted exploitation at work

- (A) (A), (B), (C), (D)
(B) (A), (C), (B), (D)
(C) (B), (A), (D), (C)
(D) (C), (A), (B), (D)

Correct Answer: (D) (C), (A), (B), (D)

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

Sentence rearrangement requires identifying the subject (who/what the sentence is about) and then following the logical flow of the argument.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. We need a subject to start. Part (C) "the growing importance of social rights for children" introduces the main topic. 2. Next, we need a verb or an explanation of what that importance does. Part (A) "can be seen as an extension of citizenship, starting with" follows (C) perfectly. 3. Part (A) ends with "starting with," so we need a specific example. Part (B) "the Factory Acts of the 1840s which protected" provides that example. 4. Part (B) ends with "protected," which requires an object. Part (D) "children from unrestricted exploitation at work" completes the thought.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct sequence is (C) → (A) → (B) → (D).

Quick Tip: Check the links between parts: "starting with" (in A) naturally leads to a specific historical event (the Factory Acts in B). Identifying these "hooks" makes rearrangement much faster!