

CUET 2026 May 13 Shift 1 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. A person who eats too much is a/an _____.

- (A) glutton
- (B) epicure
- (C) gourmand
- (D) pagan

Correct Answer: (A) glutton

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a "One Word Substitution" question, which tests your vocabulary regarding specific human behaviors and personality traits.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Glutton:** A person who eats or drinks excessively (often implying greed).
- **Epicure:** A person who takes particular pleasure in fine food and drink (a connoisseur).
- **Gourmand:** Someone who enjoys eating and eats large amounts, but usually with a

more positive connotation of appreciation than a glutton.

- **Pagan:** A person holding religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct term for eating too much is a glutton.

Quick Tip: To remember the difference: An **Epicure** cares about *quality*, while a **Glutton** cares only about *quantity*.

2. The unprecedented display of remarkable innovation and creativity _____ him into an enviable position.

- (A) catapulted
- (B) capsized
- (C) condemned
- (D) commemorated

Correct Answer: (A) catapulted

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This "Fill in the Blank" question tests your ability to choose a verb that logically fits the context of "sudden success" or "rapid movement" to a higher status.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Catapulted:** To hurl or launch something (metaphorically, to move someone suddenly into a new situation or status).
- **Capsized:** To overturn in the water (used for boats).
- **Condemned:** To express complete disapproval of; typically in a legal or moral sense.
- **Commemorated:** To recall and show respect for (someone or something) in a ceremony.

Step 3: Final Answer:

"Catapulted" is the only word that fits the positive, high-energy movement described in the sentence.

Quick Tip: Think of a physical **catapult**—it launches things forward with great force. In business or career contexts, "catapulted" is a common way to describe a "big break" or rapid promotion.

3. Identify the word closest in meaning to the underlined word: What are you trying to 'insinuate' through this message?

- (A) Express
- (B) Affirm
- (C) Allude
- (D) Propagate

Correct Answer: (C) Allude

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

This is a synonym-based question. "Insinuate" is a verb often used to describe indirect communication.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Insinuate:** To suggest or hint at something bad or unpleasant in an indirect and unpleasant way.
- **Express:** To state something directly and clearly.
- **Affirm:** To state as a fact; assert strongly and publicly.
- **Allude:** To suggest or call attention to something indirectly; to hint at.
- **Propagate:** To spread and promote (an idea, theory, etc.) widely.

Step 3: Final Answer:

"Allude" is the closest synonym as both words involve indirect suggestion rather than direct statement.

Quick Tip: An "insinuation" is usually a "sneaky" hint. If someone says "I'm not saying you're late, but the meeting started an hour ago," they are **insinuating** that you are late.

4. Rearrange the given parts to form a meaningful sentence:

- (A) while their white coats provide camouflage from
- (B) predators and help them silently approach prey
- (C) stay warm with thick fur, insulated feet, and fluffy tails,
- (D) arctic foxes, adapted to the harsh Arctic winter,

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

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

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

To rearrange a sentence, identify the subject first, followed by the actions (verbs) and the results or supporting details.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Part (D)** is the best starting point as it introduces the subject: "arctic foxes, adapted to the harsh Arctic winter,". 2. **Part (C)** follows logically by describing how they adapt: "stay warm with thick fur, insulated feet, and fluffy tails,". 3. **Part (A)** introduces an additional feature using a conjunction: "while their white coats provide camouflage from". 4. **Part (B)** completes the thought by explaining what they are camouflaged from and why: "predators and help them silently approach prey".

Step 3: Final Answer:

The logical sequence is $(D) \rightarrow (C) \rightarrow (A) \rightarrow (B)$.

Quick Tip: Look for commas as clues. The comma at the end of (D) and (C) suggests they are part of a list or introductory clause that must lead into the next thought.

5. Select the word closest in meaning to the word: Petulant

- (A) Placid
- (B) Patient
- (C) Irritable
- (D) Insignificant

Correct Answer: (C) Irritable

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a vocabulary question focused on synonyms. Understanding the "tone" of a word (positive, negative, or neutral) can help eliminate wrong choices.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Petulant:** Definition: (of a person or their manner) childishly sulky or bad-tempered.
- **Placid:** Calm and peaceful (Antonym).
- **Patient:** Able to accept delays or trouble without getting angry (Antonym).
- **Irritable:** Having or showing a tendency to be easily annoyed or made angry (Synonym).
- **Insignificant:** Too small or unimportant to be worth consideration (Unrelated).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The closest meaning to "Petulant" is "Irritable."

Quick Tip: "Petulant" is often used to describe someone acting like a spoiled child. Think of a "pet" that is "annoyed"—it helps link the sound to the meaning of being irritable.

6. Once you _____ into the routine, you will find the work is quite easy.

- (A) are settled
- (B) had settled
- (C) settled
- (D) will settle

Correct Answer: (A) are settled

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question deals with conditional time clauses. In English, we do not use the future tense ("will") in a clause starting with "once," "when," or "if" when the main clause already uses the future tense.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The sentence structure is: Once + [Present Tense], [Future Tense].

- The main clause is "you will find..." (Future).
- The "once" clause needs a present form. "Are settled" acts as a present state.
- "Will settle" (Option D) is incorrect because we avoid double "will" in these structures.
- "Settled" (Option C) and "had settled" (Option B) are past tenses and do not fit a future prediction.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct choice is "are settled."

Quick Tip: Remember the "No Future in Time Clauses" rule. Even if you are talking about the future, words like *if, when, before, after, as soon as,* and *once* are followed by the **Present Tense**.

7. Rearrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence:

- (A) surviving written literature from ancient Mesopotamia because of
- (B) through the ages, including the Iliad and the Odyssey
- (C) the Epic of Gilgamesh is often cited as the earliest
- (D) its significantly enduring impact on ancient literary works

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

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

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Sentence rearrangement requires linking modifiers to the nouns they describe and identifying the logical cause-and-effect or chronological flow.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Part (C)** acts as the subject and main claim: "the Epic of Gilgamesh is often cited as the earliest". 2. **Part (A)** completes the noun phrase started in (C): "surviving written literature from ancient Mesopotamia because of". 3. **Part (D)** explains the reason behind the fame/citation: "its significantly enduring impact on ancient literary works". 4. **Part (B)** provides specific examples of those "literary works": "through the ages, including the Iliad and the Odyssey".

Step 3: Final Answer:

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

Quick Tip: Look for the link between (D) and (B). Part (D) ends with "literary works," and Part (B) starts with examples of famous literary works (Iliad and Odyssey). This pair (D-B) must stay together.

8. From the given options, choose the word that best expresses the meaning of the given word:
Grisly

- (A) gloomy
- (B) greasy
- (C) disgusting
- (D) boorish

Correct Answer: (C) disgusting

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a vocabulary question testing your knowledge of synonyms. "Grisly" is a descriptive adjective often used in dark or morbid contexts.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Grisly:** Causing horror or disgust; typically involving details of death or injury.
- **Gloomy:** Dark or poorly lit; feeling distressed or pessimistic.
- **Greasy:** Covered with or resembling an oily substance.
- **Disgusting:** Arousing revulsion or strong indignation (The closest match for horror/revulsion).
- **Boorish:** Rough and bad-mannered; coarse.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The best synonym for "Grisly" from the given options is "disgusting."

Quick Tip: Don't confuse "Grisly" with "Grizzly" (the bear) or "Grisly" with "Gristly" (tough meat). "Grisly" usually describes a crime scene or a horror movie plot!

9. Choose the correct word from the options given below to substitute the highlighted words:
A careful 'preservation and protection' of the flora and fauna is the need of the hour.

- (A) Conservation

- (B) Promotion
- (C) Enhancement
- (D) Management

Correct Answer: (A) Conservation

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a "One Word Substitution" task where you replace a phrase with a more precise technical or formal term.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Conservation:** The specific term for the planned management of natural resources to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect (Matches "preservation and protection").
- **Promotion:** The act of encouraging the progress or existence of something.
- **Enhancement:** The process of improving the quality, value, or extent of something.
- **Management:** The process of dealing with or controlling things or people.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The term that specifically means preservation and protection of nature is "Conservation."

Quick Tip: While "Preservation" means keeping something exactly as it is, "Conservation" often implies the wise and sustainable use of resources so they last for the future.

10. Match the phrasal verbs given in List-I with their correct meanings in List-II:

List-I (Phrasal Verbs)	List-II (Meanings)
(A) Nod off	(i) Fall asleep
(B) Jack up	(ii) Raise prices
(C) Look up to	(iii) Finish something
(D) Wrap up	(iv) To respect

(A) (A)-(i), (B)-(ii), (C)-(iv), (D)-(iii)

(B) (A)-(iii), (B)-(i), (C)-(iv), (D)-(ii)

(C) (A)-(ii), (B)-(i), (C)-(iv), (D)-(iii)

(D) (A)-(iii), (B)-(iv), (C)-(ii), (D)-(i)

Correct Answer: (A) (A)-(i), (B)-(ii), (C)-(iv), (D)-(iii)

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Phrasal verbs consist of a verb and a particle (preposition or adverb) that together create a meaning different from the original verb.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's match each phrasal verb with its definition:

- **(A) Nod off:** This means to begin sleeping, especially while sitting up or in a situation where you shouldn't (e.g., in a meeting). Matches with **(i)**.
- **(B) Jack up:** This is an informal way to say someone has suddenly increased something, typically prices or interest rates. Matches with **(ii)**.
- **(C) Look up to:** This means to admire or respect someone greatly. Matches with **(iv)**.
- **(D) Wrap up:** This means to complete or finish a task, meeting, or project. Matches with **(iii)**.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct matching sequence is (A)-(i), (B)-(ii), (C)-(iv), (D)-(iii).

Quick Tip: To remember "Jack up," think of a car **jack**—it raises the car higher. Similarly, "jacking up" prices raises them higher!