

CUET 2026 May 13 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. Select the word closest in meaning to the word: Postulate

- (A) Highlight
- (B) Disprove
- (C) Refute
- (D) Hypothesize

Correct Answer: (D) Hypothesize

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

To "postulate" is to suggest or assume the existence, fact, or truth of something as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or belief. It is common in scientific and mathematical contexts.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Hypothesize:** To put forward an idea or theory as a starting point for further investigation. This is the closest synonym.
- **Highlight:** To draw special attention to something.

- **Disprove / Refute:** These are antonyms; they mean to prove that a statement or theory is wrong or false.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The word closest in meaning to "Postulate" is "Hypothesize."

Quick Tip: In geometry, a postulate is an axiom—something we accept as true without proof so that we can build other theorems on top of it!

2. Match the words given in List-I with the appropriate meanings given in List-II:

List-I (Words)	List-II (Meanings)
(A) Centrifugal	(i) Anything tending to move away from the centre
(B) Effeminate	(ii) Words inscribed on the tomb
(C) Ambidextrous	(iii) Womanish in habits
(D) Epitaph	(iv) One who can use either hand without any problem

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

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

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This matching exercise tests "One Word Substitution," where complex descriptions are represented by a single specialized term.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **(A) Centrifugal:** Derived from Latin *centrum* (center) and *fugere* (to flee). It describes moving away from the center. Matches **(i)**.
- **(B) Effeminate:** Used to describe a man who has characteristics or habits traditionally associated with women. Matches **(iii)**.

- **(C) Ambidextrous:** Derived from *ambi* (both) and *dexter* (right/skillful). It means being equally skillful with both hands. Matches **(iv)**.
- **(D) Epitaph:** A short text honoring a deceased person, strictly those inscribed on a tombstone. Matches **(ii)**.

Step 3: Final Answer:

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

Quick Tip: To remember "Centrifugal," think of a "Centrifuge" machine that spins things so fast they fly toward the edges (away from the center)!

3. Select the word or phrase that best completes the following sentence: Desert flowers can be invisible for years _____ appear suddenly after heavy rain.

- (A) alternatively or
- (B) consequently and
- (C) nevertheless, so
- (D) actually, but

Correct Answer: (D) actually, but

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question tests the use of conjunctions and adverbs to show contrast between two states: being "invisible" and "appearing suddenly."

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The sentence describes a surprising contrast.

- "Actually" emphasizes the reality of their invisibility.
- "But" is the coordinating conjunction used to introduce a statement that contrasts with what has already been mentioned.
- Options (A), (B), and (C) do not provide the logical "contrast" required to link "invisible"

with "appear."

Step 3: Final Answer:

The sentence should read: "...can be invisible for years, **actually, but** appear suddenly..."

Quick Tip: When you see a sentence where the second half is the "opposite" of the first half (Invisible vs. Appear), always look for contrast markers like but, however, yet, or nevertheless.

4. Identify the word that is closest in meaning to the word: Relegate

- (A) Elevate
- (B) Demote
- (C) Acknowledge
- (D) Celebrate

Correct Answer: (B) Demote

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

To "relegate" someone or something means to assign them to a lower or less important position, rank, or condition.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Demote:** To move someone to a lower rank or less senior position. This is the closest synonym.
- **Elevate:** To raise to a higher position (Antonym).
- **Acknowledge:** To accept or admit the existence or truth of something.
- **Celebrate:** To acknowledge a significant happy day or event with a social gathering or enjoyable activity.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The word closest in meaning to "Relegate" is "Demote."

Quick Tip: In sports, especially European football, if a team performs poorly, they are relegated to a lower league. If they do well, they are promoted.

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

- (A) into simpler molecules that can be absorbed into the bloodstream
- (B) digestion is an intricate process that begins in the mouth
- (C) where food is broken down mechanically and chemically
- (D) and continues in the stomach and intestines

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

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

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

When rearranging a descriptive sentence, follow the logical or chronological sequence of the process being described.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. Part (B) introduces the subject and the starting point: "digestion is an intricate process that begins in the mouth". 2. Part (D) follows the timeline of the process: "and continues in the stomach and intestines". 3. Part (C) explains what happens during those stages: "where food is broken down mechanically and chemically". 4. Part (A) provides the final result/purpose of that breakdown: "into simpler molecules that can be absorbed into the bloodstream".

Step 3: Final Answer:

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

Quick Tip: Always look for "and" (Part D) to see what it connects. Here, it connects "begins in the mouth" with "continues in the stomach."

6. Select the word opposite in meaning to the word: Stoic

- (A) Serene
- (B) Complaining
- (C) Resigned
- (D) stolid

Correct Answer: (B) Complaining

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A "Stoic" person can endure pain or hardship without showing their feelings or complaining. To find the opposite, we look for someone who expresses their distress or dissatisfaction.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Serene:** Calm, peaceful, and untroubled (Similar in vibe to stoic).
- **Complaining:** Expressing dissatisfaction or annoyance about something (Direct antonym).
- **Resigned:** Accepting that something undesirable cannot be avoided (Similar to stoic).
- **Stolid:** Calm, dependable, and showing little emotion or animation (Synonym).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The opposite of "Stoic" is "Complaining."

Quick Tip: A Stoic suffers in silence. A Complainer makes sure everyone knows they are suffering!

7. Select the word opposite in meaning to the word: Presumptuous

- (A) Pretentious
- (B) Brash

- (C) Bountiful
(D) Unassuming

Correct Answer: (D) Unassuming

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A "presumptuous" person fails to observe the limits of what is permitted or appropriate. They are often overconfident or arrogant in their behavior.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Unassuming:** Not pretentious or arrogant; modest. This is the direct opposite of being presumptuous.
- **Pretentious / Brash:** These are synonyms or near-synonyms for presumptuous, involving arrogance or overconfidence.
- **Bountiful:** Large in quantity; abundant.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The opposite of "Presumptuous" is "Unassuming."

Quick Tip: To remember "Presumptuous," think of someone who presumes they have more authority or friendship than they actually do. They overstep!

8. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option in the following sentence: Though Sharon complained and cried bitterly, Mom did not _____ on her.

- (A) let in
(B) let off
(C) let out
(D) let up

Correct Answer: (D) let up

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

This question tests phrasal verbs related to intensity and pressure.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Let up:** To become less intense or to stop being harsh. In this context, it means Mom did not stop being strict or demanding despite the crying.
- **Let in:** To allow someone to enter.
- **Let off:** To allow someone to go without punishment (e.g., "let off with a warning"). While similar, "let up on someone" specifically refers to the persistence of pressure or discipline.
- **Let out:** To release or utter a sound.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct phrase is "let up."

Quick Tip: We often use "let up" for weather: "The rain didn't let up all day." It means the intensity didn't decrease.

9. Select the word opposite in meaning to the word: Resonant

- (A) Resounding
- (B) Cacophonous
- (C) Smothered
- (D) Pulsating

Correct Answer: (C) Smothered

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

"Resonant" describes a sound that is deep, clear, and continuing to sound or echo. An opposite

would be a sound that is blocked, muffled, or prevented from echoing.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Smothered:** A sound that is muffled, suppressed, or stifled. This is the best antonym.
- **Resounding:** Deep and loud; very similar to resonant (Synonym).
- **Cacophonous:** Involving a harsh, discordant mixture of sounds (Refers to quality of sound, not the ability to echo).
- **Pulsating:** Expanding and contracting with regular movements.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The opposite of "Resonant" is "Smothered."

Quick Tip: A "Resonant" voice fills the whole room. A "Smothered" voice sounds like it's coming from under a pillow!

10. Re-arrange the following phrases to form a meaningful sentence:

- (A) a great buzzard was
(B) and scorching sun.
(C) blob against the blinding
(D) circling high overhead a

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

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

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Identify the subject and its action, then connect the modifiers that describe the setting.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. Part (A) starts with the subject: "a great buzzard was". 2. Part (D) provides the verb/action: "circling high overhead a". 3. Part (C) provides the visual description of the bird: "blob against the blinding". 4. Part (B) completes the description of the sky: "and scorching sun."

Step 3: Final Answer:

The sentence is: "A great buzzard was circling high overhead a blob against the blinding and scorching sun." (The sequence is A-D-C-B).

Quick Tip: "Blinding" and "Scorching" are both adjectives describing the sun, so (C) and (B) must follow each other to complete that phrase.