

CUET 2026 May 14 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. 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) (B), (D), (C), (A)

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

To form a logical sentence, we must follow the sequence of the biological process (digestion) and ensure grammatical connectivity between the phrases.

Step 2: Identifying the Sequence:

- **Part (B)** is the independent clause and the logical start: "digestion is an intricate process that begins in the mouth".
- **Part (D)** continues the timeline of the process: "and continues in the stomach and intestines".
- **Part (C)** describes what happens in those locations: "where food is broken down mechanically and chemically".
- **Part (A)** concludes with the end goal of the process: "into simpler molecules that can be absorbed into the bloodstream".

Step 3: Final Answer:

The full sentence is: "Digestion is an intricate process that begins in the mouth and continues in the stomach and intestines where food is broken down mechanically and chemically into simpler molecules that can be absorbed into the bloodstream."

Quick Tip: Look for transition markers. "Begins" in part (B) naturally pairs with "continues" in part (D), helping you establish the first half of the sequence immediately.

2. 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:

An antonym is a word that means the opposite of another word. "Presumptuous" refers to someone who oversteps their bounds or is overly bold/arrogant.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Presumptuous:** Overconfident, arrogant, or failing to observe the limits of what is appropriate.
- **Unassuming:** Modest, humble, and not bold or arrogant. This is the direct opposite.
- **Pretentious/Brash:** These are synonyms or related in meaning to being bold or showy.
- **Bountiful:** Means large in quantity or generous.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The opposite of "Presumptuous" is "Unassuming."

Quick Tip: The root "presume" means to take for granted. A presumptuous person "presumes" they are welcome or important, whereas an unassuming person stays humble.

3. 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 echoes. To find the opposite, we look for a word that describes a sound that is muffled or prevented from echoing.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Resonant:** Producing a deep, clear, reverberating sound.
- **Smothered:** A sound that is stifled, muffled, or suppressed. This acts as the best antonym in terms of sound quality.

- **Resounding:** Similar to resonant; loud and echoing.
- **Cacophonous:** Describes a harsh, unpleasant mixture of sounds.
- **Pulsating:** Rhythmic throbbing or vibrating.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The opposite of "Resonant" is "Smothered."

Quick Tip: Think of a bell. A "resonant" bell ring continues to vibrate in the air. If you put a cloth over the bell, the sound becomes "smothered."

4. Select the most appropriate expression to fill in the blank in the following sentence:- Given her fearful and timid nature in unfamiliar situations, we can say that she is _____.

- (A) audacious
- (B) timorous
- (C) reckless
- (D) intrepid

Correct Answer: (B) timorous

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question requires identifying a word that matches the descriptors "fearful" and "timid" provided in the sentence context.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Timorous:** Showing or suffering from nervousness or a lack of confidence. It is a direct synonym for timid and fearful.
- **Audacious / Intrepid:** These are antonyms meaning bold, brave, or fearless.
- **Reckless:** Heedless of danger or the consequences of one's actions.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The most appropriate word is "timorous."

Quick Tip: To remember "timorous," notice that it shares the same root as "timid." Both words describe a lack of courage or confidence.

5. 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.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Hypothesize:** To provide a tentative explanation or an assumption that can be tested. This is the closest in meaning.
- **Highlight:** To draw attention to something.
- **Disprove/Refute:** These mean to prove that something is false.

Step 3: Final Answer:

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

Quick Tip: In scientific methods, you first postulate an idea, then you test it. It's the "starting point" of an argument or theory.

6. 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 is a "One Word Substitution" exercise where specific technical or descriptive terms are matched to their definitions.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **(A) Centrifugal:** A force or tendency that moves objects away from the axis of rotation. Matches **(i)**.
- **(B) Effeminate:** Having characteristics regarded as typical of a woman; unmanly. Matches **(iii)**.
- **(C) Ambidextrous:** Able to use the right and left hands equally well. Matches **(iv)**.
- **(D) Epitaph:** A phrase or form of words written in memory of a person who has died, especially as an inscription on a tombstone. Matches **(ii)**.

Step 4: Final Answer:

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

Quick Tip: Break down "Ambidextrous": Ambi means "both" and dexter means "skillful." Literally, it means being "skillful with both."

7. 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:

The sentence presents a contrast between flowers being "invisible" and then "appearing suddenly." To connect these two contrasting ideas, we need a contrastive conjunction.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Actually:** Used to emphasize the surprising truth of their long invisibility.
- **But:** A coordinating conjunction used to introduce a statement that contrasts with the previous one.
- Options (A), (B), and (C) do not provide the correct logical transition to show how a long period of absence leads to a sudden appearance.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The completed sentence is: "Desert flowers can be invisible for years **actually, but** appear suddenly after heavy rain."

Quick Tip: When a sentence describes a shift from one state (invisible) to its opposite (appear), always look for "but," "yet," or "however" in the options!

8. 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:

"Relegate" means to assign an inferior rank or position to someone or something. It often implies a reduction in importance or status.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

- **Demote:** To move someone to a lower rank or less senior position. This is a direct synonym.
- **Elevate:** To raise to a more important or higher level (Antonym).
- **Acknowledge:** To accept or admit the existence or truth of.
- **Celebrate:** To honor or praise publicly.

Step 3: Final Answer:

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

Quick Tip: In sports, a team is "relegated" when they are moved down to a lower division because of poor performance.

9. 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:

A meaningful sentence usually follows the Subject + Verb + Object/Description pattern.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Part (A)** introduces the subject: "A great buzzard was". 2. **Part (D)** adds the action: "circling high overhead a". 3. **Part (C)** describes how it looked: "blob against the blinding". 4. **Part (B)** completes the environmental description: "and scorching sun."

Step 3: Final Answer:

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

Quick Tip: "Blinding" and "scorching" are coordinate adjectives that both describe the "sun." This tells you that (C) and (B) must stay together in that order.

10. Rearrange the given parts to form a meaningful sentence:-

- (A) and strengthens economic self-reliance
- (B) manufacturing, creates jobs, encourages
- (C) make in India promotes local
- (D) innovation, attracts global investments

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

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

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

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Identify the main subject/campaign (Make in India) and list the verbs/actions it performs in a logical, comma-separated sequence ending with "and."

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Part (C)** is the opening: "Make in India promotes local". 2. **Part (B)** follows with the objects of promotion: "manufacturing, creates jobs, encourages". 3. **Part (D)** continues the list: "innovation, attracts global investments". 4. **Part (A)** uses "and" to conclude the list of benefits: "and strengthens economic self-reliance".

Step 3: Final Answer:

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

Quick Tip: In a long list of actions, the part starting with "and" (Part A) almost always goes at the very end of the sentence!