

CUET 2026 May 18 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. Choose the correct passive or active form of the given sentence. "They have to paint the ceiling before they can install the new light fixtures."

- (a) The ceiling has to be painted before the new light fixtures can be installed.
- (b) The ceiling have to be painted before installing the new light fixtures.
- (c) Before the new light fixtures can install, the ceiling has to be painted.
- (d) The ceiling must be painted by them prior to installing the light fixtures.

Correct Answer: (a) The ceiling has to be painted before the new light fixtures can be installed.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Voice conversion involves shifting the focus of a sentence from the performer of the action (active voice) to the recipient of the action (passive voice). When a sentence contains multiple clauses connected by a conjunction, both clauses must be converted into their corresponding passive structures while maintaining subject-verb agreement and the original tense.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's break down the given active sentence into its two component clauses: 1. Clause 1 (Active): "They have to paint the ceiling..." The active structure uses "have to + verb (base form)". Passive

structure rule: "Object + has/have to + be + past participle (V3)". Since "The ceiling" is singular, it takes "has to be": "*The ceiling has to be painted...*" 2. Clause 2 (Active): "...before they can install the new light fixtures." The active structure uses the modal verb "can + verb (base form)". Passive structure rule: "Modal + be + past participle (V3)". The object is "the new light fixtures" (plural): "*...before the new light fixtures can be installed.*"

Combining both converted clauses gives: "*The ceiling has to be painted before the new light fixtures can be installed.*" This aligns with Option (a). Option (b) fails due to incorrect subject-verb agreement ("ceiling have to"), and Option (c) leaves the second clause in an ungrammatical active state ("fixtures can install").

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct passive form is option (a).

Quick Tip: Always check subject-verb agreement after shifting an object to the subject position! A singular passive subject like "the ceiling" must be paired with "has to be," never "have to be."

2. Choose the correct passive or active form of the given sentence. "We expect that the committee will approve the project by tomorrow."

- (a) It is expected that the project will be approved by the committee by tomorrow.
- (b) The committee is expected to have approved the project by tomorrow.
- (c) Approval of the project by the committee is expected tomorrow.
- (d) That the project will be approved by the committee by tomorrow is expecting.

Correct Answer: (a) It is expected that the project will be approved by the committee by tomorrow.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

When an active sentence contains a reporting verb (like expect, believe, say, think) followed by a complete "that-clause" object, it can be converted into the passive voice using an impersonal passive construction. This structure uses the introductory dummy pronoun "It" paired with the passive form of the reporting verb, followed by the passive conversion of the subordinate clause.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's analyze the sentence structure: 1. Main Clause (Active): "We expect [that...]" This is in the Simple Present tense. Impersonal passive rule: "It + is/are + V3 + that...". This yields: "*It is expected that...*" 2. Subordinate Clause (Active): "...the committee will approve the project by tomorrow." This is in the Simple Future tense ("will + verb"). Passive structure rule: "Object + will + be + V3 + by + Subject". This transforms to: "*...the project will be approved by the committee by tomorrow.*"

Putting the full structure together results in Option (a): "*It is expected that the project will be approved by the committee by tomorrow.*" Option (b) changes the aspect unnecessarily, while Option (d) incorrectly retains an active continuous participle ("is expecting").

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct passive form is option (a).

Quick Tip: When an active sentence starts with an introductory phrase like "We expect that..." or "People say that...", look for options starting with "It is expected that..." or "It is said that..." to find the correct passive fit quickly!

3. Choose the correct passive or active form of the given sentence. "He likes people flattering him."

- (a) He likes to be flattered by people.
- (b) He likes being flattered.
- (c) Flattering him is liked by people.
- (d) He is liked when people flatter him.

Correct Answer: (b) He likes being flattered.

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

This sentence features a gerund phrase ("flattering him") acting as the direct object of the principal verb "likes". When converting sentences containing a gerund phrase into the passive voice, the main verb ("likes") remains unchanged because the subject ("He") still performs

the emotional preference. The passive transformation occurs completely within the gerund element itself.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's look at the object verbal component: Active Gerund structure: "flattering him" (verb-ing + object pronoun). Passive Gerund conversion rule: "being + past participle (V3)". The passive equivalent of "flattering him" becomes "*being flattered*".

Now attach this passive gerund back to the unchanged initial subject and verb phrase:

"He likes" + "being flattered" $\Rightarrow$ "He likes being flattered."

The phrase "by people" is omitted because it represents an indefinite, obvious agent that adds no new meaning. While Option (b) attempts a passive infinitive ("to be flattered"), it alters the original active gerund structure ("flattering"). Options (c) and (d) shift the sentence focus entirely away from his personal preference. Thus, Option (a) is the best choice.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct passive form is option (b).

Quick Tip: When turning an active gerund (**verb-ing**) into a passive phrase, look for options containing "**being + V3**". This helps you quickly spot the correct structure without changing the meaning of the main verb!

4. Choose the correct passive or active form of the given sentence. "They let the prisoner leave early."

- (a) The prisoner was let leave early.
- (b) The prisoner was let to leave early.
- (c) The prisoner was allowed leave early.
- (d) Leaving early was what the prisoner was let do.

Correct Answer: (a) The prisoner was let leave early.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

In English grammar, the causative verb "let" is followed by an object and a bare infinitive (a verb without "to") in the active voice. When converting sentences with "let" into the passive voice, the verb "let" retains its bare infinitive complement. It does not take a full infinitive ("to leave"), unlike typical verbs converted into passive structures.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's analyze the syntax of the active sentence: Active structure: Subject ("They") + verb ("let") + object ("the prisoner") + bare infinitive ("leave") + extension ("early"). Passive rule for 'let' (retaining 'let'): New Subject ("The prisoner") + auxiliary verb ("was", since the sentence is simple past) + past participle ("let") + bare infinitive ("leave") + extension ("early").

Applying this rule gives us Option (a): *"The prisoner was let leave early."*

Note on standard grammatical variations: Because "was let leave" sounds awkward to many native speakers, standard English frequently swaps "let" out for its synonym "allow" when making a passive shift. However, "allow" requires a full infinitive with "to" (*"The prisoner was allowed to leave early"*). Since Option (c) leaves out the word "to" (*"was allowed leave"*), it is ungrammatical. Therefore, Option (a) is the only structurally sound choice.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct passive form is option (a).

Quick Tip: Remember that the three principal forms of the verb "let" are identical: let (V1) → let (V2) → let (V3). When converting to passive, keep the secondary action verb bare: "was let leave", not "was let to leave".

5. Choose the correct passive or active form of the given sentence. "Who did this damage?"

- (a) By whom was this damage done?
- (b) Who was this damage done by?
- (c) By whom this damage was done?
- (d) Whom was doing this damage?

Correct Answer: (a) By whom was this damage done?

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

When converting an interrogative sentence starting with "Who" into the passive voice, the word "Who" (subject pronoun) transforms into "Whom" (object pronoun) and is preceded by the preposition "by". Because the sentence is a question, it must maintain an interrogative word order, meaning the auxiliary verb must come before the new subject.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's break down the active question: Active components: Interrogative subject ("Who") + simple past verb ("did") + object ("this damage"). Passive transformation rules: 1. Turn "Who" into "By whom". 2. Because "did" is simple past and "this damage" is singular, use the auxiliary verb "was". 3. Place the auxiliary verb before the subject to keep it an interrogative sentence: "was this damage..." 4. Use the past participle (V3) form of the main verb: "done".

Putting it together gives Option (a): "By whom was this damage done?"

Option (c) uses assertive word order ("By whom this damage was done?"), which makes it grammatically incorrect for a direct question. While option (b) represents an acceptable informal alternative ("Who was this damage done by?"), option (a) is the standard, formally structured choice for academic testing.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct passive form is option (a).

Quick Tip: To easily check your word order in passive questions, make sure the auxiliary verb comes right before the object: "By whom + was/were + object + V3?"

6. Transform the following sentences into Indirect or Direct speech. "Had I known the truth, I would not have spoken so harshly," said Evelyn.

- (a) Evelyn said that if she had known the truth, she would not have spoken so harshly.
- (b) Evelyn regretted having spoken harshly without knowing the truth.
- (c) Evelyn said that had she known the truth she hadn't spoken so harshly.
- (d) Evelyn told that she wouldn't speak harshly if she knew the truth.

Correct Answer: (a) Evelyn said that if she had known the truth, she would not have spoken so harshly.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

When reporting conditional sentences in indirect speech, the tense adjustments depend on the type of conditional statement. The given sentence is a Type 3 (impossible/past) conditional, which uses an inverted past perfect structure ("*Had I known...*" is equivalent to "*If I had known...*"). In indirect speech, Type 3 conditional sentences do not undergo a tense shift because the past perfect and perfect conditional forms are already at their furthest past limit. Pronouns must be adjusted to match the speaker's perspective.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's analyze the required structural changes step by step: 1. Reporting Verb: "said Evelyn" transforms to "*Evelyn said that...*" 2. First-Person Pronoun Shifts: The pronoun "I" refers directly to Evelyn, so it changes to the third-person feminine singular pronoun "*she*". 3. Conditional Clause Conversion: The inverted phrase "*Had I known the truth*" can be rewritten with its explicit conjunction as "*if she had known the truth*". 4. Main Clause Tense Retention: The main consequence clause "*I would not have spoken so harshly*" retains its original perfect conditional tense, changing only the pronoun: "*she would not have spoken so harshly*".

Combining these elements yields Option (a): "*Evelyn said that if she had known the truth, she would not have spoken so harshly.*" Option (b) paraphrases the sentiment rather than directly transforming the speech structure. Options (c) and (d) introduce incorrect tense modifications to the clauses.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct indirect speech form is option (a).

Quick Tip: An inverted conditional phrase like "**Had I known**" is just a formal way of saying "**If I had known**". When converting past perfect or third conditional sentences to indirect speech, leave the tenses exactly as they are!

7. Choose the word most nearly opposite in meaning to the capitalized word. "BILIOUS"

- (a) Amiable
- (b) Peevish
- (c) Valiant
- (d) Sallow

Correct Answer: (a) Amiable

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Antonym identification requires analyzing the contextual, descriptive, and emotional weight of a given vocabulary word. "BILIOUS" historically relates to gastric distress or an excess of bile, but in modern vocabulary usage, it describes someone who is remarkably bad-tempered, irritable, or constantly cross. Therefore, we must look for an antonym that describes a pleasant, warm, and good-natured temperament.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's analyze the definitions of all the options provided: BILIOUS: Irritable, bad-tempered, or extremely cranky. Amiable (Antonym): Displaying a friendly, pleasant, and highly agreeable manner. This is the exact opposite of being irritable and bad-tempered. Peevish (Synonym): Easily irritated, especially by unimportant things. Valiant: Showing courage or determination; brave. Sallow: (Of a person's face or complexion) of an unhealthy yellow or pale brown color, which is a physical symptom often associated with being bilious.

Because "Amiable" represents a pleasant and friendly disposition, it stands as the correct opposite to the bitter and irritable nature of "Bilious".

Step 3: Final Answer:

The word most nearly opposite in meaning to BILIOUS is Amiable.

Quick Tip: To remember "bilious," think of "belly ache." Someone with a belly ache is usually cranky, bad-tempered, and irritable! The perfect cure for a cranky person is someone who is friendly and "amiable."

8. Choose the word most nearly opposite in meaning to the capitalized word. "INSOUCIANT"

- (a) Flamboyant
- (b) Nonchalant
- (c) Languid
- (d) Anxious

Correct Answer: (d) Anxious

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

To find the correct antonym, we first define the core disposition of the prompt word. "INSOUCIANT" describes a state of being completely carefree, unconcerned, or nonchalant. The direct polar opposite of a carefree state of mind is one filled with worry, apprehension, and mental stress.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's break down the definitions of each option: INSOUCIANT: Showing a casual lack of concern; entirely carefree and indifferent. Anxious (Antonym): Experiencing worry, unease, or nervousness, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome. This is the precise psychological opposite of being carefree. Nonchalant (Synonym): Feeling or appearing casually calm and relaxed; unconcerned. Languid: Displaying or having a disinclination for physical exertion or effort; slow and relaxed. Flamboyant: Tending to attract attention because of their exuberance, confidence, and stylishness.

Since "Insouciant" implies an absence of anxiety or concern, "Anxious" is its perfect contextual opposite.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The word most nearly opposite in meaning to INSOUCIANT is Anxious.

Quick Tip: The word "insouciant" comes from a French root meaning "not caring." If you are insouciant, you are entirely stress-free. The opposite of a stress-free person is an anxious one!

9. Choose the word most nearly opposite in meaning to the capitalized word. "TANTAMOUNT"

- (a) Incommensurate

- (b) Commensurate
- (c) Redundant
- (d) Obsolete

Correct Answer: (a) Incommensurate

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The word "TANTAMOUNT" is an adjective used to state that two things are virtually equivalent or equal in value, significance, or effect (e.g., "a statement tantamount to an admission of guilt"). To find its opposite, we must identify a word that describes two things that are unequal, disproportionate, or completely out of sync with each other.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's analyze the vocabulary choices: TANTAMOUNT: Equivalent in value, significance, or effect; equal to. Incommensurate (Antonym): Out of proportion; unequal or inadequate in size, degree, or value compared to something else. This perfectly opposes the concept of equivalence. Commensurate (Synonym): Corresponding in size, amount, or degree; proportionate or equal. Redundant: Not or no longer needed or useful; superfluous. Obsolete: No longer produced or used; out of date.

Because "Tantamount" indicates that two things equal each other in impact, "Incommensurate" is the correct antonym because it points out a clear disproportion or inequality.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The word most nearly opposite in meaning to TANTAMOUNT is Incommensurate.

Quick Tip: Think of the "Equal" sign (=) for Tantamount and Commensurate. To find the antonym, look for the negative prefix "In-" in Incommensurate, which acts like a "Not Equal" sign ($\neq$)!

10. Choose the word most nearly opposite in meaning to the capitalized word. "PERNICIOUS"

- (a) Salubrious
- (b) Nefarious
- (c) Innocuous

(d) Devastating

Correct Answer: (a) Salubrious

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

"PERNICIOUS" is a powerful descriptive adjective that indicates something is highly destructive, deeply harmful, or fatal in a subtle, gradual way (such as a pernicious rumor or a pernicious disease). When seeking its opposite, we are looking for a word that denotes something highly health-giving, wholesome, or beneficial.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Let's look at the precise definitions of all four options: **PERNICIOUS:** Having a harmful, destructive, or deadly effect, especially in a gradual or subtle manner. **Salubrious (Antonym):** Health-giving, beneficial, wholesome, or highly favorable to sanitary well-being. This is the most complete and direct opposite to the life-destroying nature of pernicious. **Nefarious (Synonym-adjacent):** Wicked, villainous, or criminal in nature. **Innocuous:** Not harmful or offensive; harmless. While "innocuous" means neutral/harmless, "salubrious" goes a step further by being actively beneficial and health-promoting, making it the strongest and most complete vocabulary antonym for a destructive force. **Devastating (Synonym):** Highly destructive, damaging, or causing severe shock.

Therefore, "Salubrious" stands out as the most precise opposite choice.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The word most nearly opposite in meaning to PERNICIOUS is Salubrious.

Quick Tip: Associate "Pernicious" with "Poisonous" (both start with P and mean harmful). Associate "Salubrious" with "Salute to health" (both start with Sal and mean healthy). This simple letter pairing keeps them clear in your mind!