

9. Alpha-Numeric Sequence Puzzle

In this type of questions, a jumbled sequence of some letters, numbers and symbols is given, followed by certain questions based on it.

The questions asked may be any of the following types :

1. To find elements (letters, numbers or symbols) satisfying certain conditions in the given sequence.
2. To determine the element at a certain given relative position in the sequence.
3. To complete a series consisting of terms formed by a combination of the elements of the sequence, by deciphering the hidden pattern in relation to the position of the elements in the sequence.
4. To find the odd combination from among a given set of combinations of elements, by finding the common property which other combinations share as per their positions in the given sequence.
5. To find the analogical relationship between a given pair of combinations of elements, and then find a combination which holds same relationship with another given combination.

Solved examples

Study the following arrangement of symbols, letters and numbers to answer the questions given below it :

$\delta = \beta F 2 \star K S 7 5 \# \$ P L V 8 @ M U E 6 \uparrow Q G \odot 9 3 \& T Y \text{E}$

Ex.1 How many such letters are there in the arrangements each of which is either immediately preceded by a symbol or immediately followed by a number, but not both?

- (1) Three (2) Four (3) Five (4) None of these

Sol. The letters satisfying the given conditions are shown as under :

$\delta = \beta F 2 \star \boxed{K} \boxed{S} 7 5 \# \$ \boxed{P} \boxed{L} \boxed{V} 8 @ \boxed{M} U \boxed{E} 6 \uparrow \boxed{Q} G \odot 9 3 \& \boxed{T} Y \text{E}$

Clearly, there are 8 such letters.

Hence, the answer is (4).

Ex.2 How many such consonants are there in the above arrangement each of which is immediately followed by a consonant but not immediately preceded by a symbol?

- (1) Nil (2) One (3) Two (4) Three

Sol. We know that of the 26 letters of English alphabet, five letters namely A, E, I, O, U are vowels, while remaining are consonants.

The consonants satisfying the given conditions may be shown as under :

$\delta = \beta F 2 \star K S 7 5 \# \$ P \boxed{L} V 8 @ M U E 6 \uparrow Q G \odot 9 3 \& T Y \text{E}$

Clearly, there is only one such consonant.

Hence, the answer is (2).

Ex.3 Which of the following is exactly in the middle of the ninth from the left end and the fifteenth from the right end in the above arrangement?

(1) P

(2) U

(3) E

(4) L

Sol. Clearly, counting from the left, the ninth element is 7. Counting from the right, the fifteenth element is @. The character midway between 7 and @ is P.

Hence, the answer is (1).

EXERCISE

Directions (Q.1 to Q.5) : Study the following arrangement carefully and answer the questions given below.

B 5 R 1 @ E K 4 F 7 © D A M 2 P 3 % 9 H 1 W 8 * 6 U J \$ V Q #

1. Which of the following is the sixth to the left of the seventeenth from the left end of the above arrangement?
 (1) ~~©~~ (2) 7 (3) D (4) A
2. Which of the following is exactly in the middle between 7 and \$ in the above arrangement?
 (1) % (2) ~~9~~ (3) H (4) 3
3. Three of the following four are alike in a certain way based on their position in the above arrangement and so form a group. Which is the one that does not belong to that group?
 (1) PM3 (2) KFE (3) 6J* (4) ~~7D4~~
4. How many such symbols are there in the above arrangement each of which is immediately preceded by a number but not immediately followed by a consonant?
 (1) One (2) ~~Two~~ (3) ~~Three~~ (4) None of these
5. How many such consonants are there in the above arrangement each of which is immediately followed by another consonant but not immediately preceded by a symbol?
 (1) One (2) Two (3) Three (4) None

Directions (Q.6 to Q.10) : Study the following arrangement carefully and answer the questions given below.

R D 1 5 E % K 3 J I 9 P 8 # G 2 b \$ K M 6 W @ N 4 © T * 7 F H

6. Which of the following is the third to the right of the twelfth from the left end of the above arrangement?
 (1) J (2) O (3) B (4) ©
7. Which of the following is the seventh to the right of the nineteenth from the right end?
 (1) P (2) 3 M (4) W
8. How many such numbers are there in the above arrangement, each of which is immediately followed by a consonant and immediately followed by a symbol?
 (1) One (2) Two (3) Three (4) Four
9. How many such consonants are there in the above arrangement, each of which is immediately preceded by a symbol and immediately followed by a number?
 (1) One (2) Two (3) Three (4) Four
10. Which of the following is exactly in the middle between the tenth from the left and the eighth from the right end?
 (1) \$ (2) B (3) # (4) G

Directions (Q.11 to Q.15) : Study the following arrangement carefully and answer the question given below.

F 4 © J 2 E % M P 5 W 9 @ I Q R 6 U H 3 Z 7 * A T B 8 V # G \$ Y D

11. Three of the following four are alike in a certain way based on their positions in the above arrangement and so form a group. Which is the one that does not belong to that group?
 (1) © 2 4 (2) R I 6 (3) B 8 A (4) None of these
12. What should come in place of the question mark (?) in the following series based on the above arrangement?
 4 J E M 5 9 I R U ?
 (1) 3 4 7 (2) 3 7 A (3) Z H * (4) None

13. How many such consonants are there in the above arrangement, each of which is immediately preceded by a number but not immediately followed by a number?

- (1) One (2) Two (3) Three (4) None

14. Which of the following is the tenth to the right of the nineteenth from the right end of the above arrangement?

- (1) M (2) Q (3) T (4) 2

15. If all the symbols are dropped from the above arrangement, which of the following will be the fourteenth from the left end?

- (1) R (2) Q (3) 6 (4) 3

Directions (Q.16 to Q.20) : Study the following arrangement carefully and answer the questions given below.

W 1 R % 4 J E # 7 M T 2 I 9 B H 3 A \$ 9 F Q 5 D G 6 U \$ P

16. Which of the following is the seventh to the right of the eighteenth from the right end?

- (1) A (2) E (3) \$ (4) #

17. If the order of the last fifteen elements is reversed, which of the following will be fifth to the right of twelfth from the left end?

- (1) U (2) \$ (3) 3 (4) 6

18. Three of the following four are alike in a certain way on the basis of above arrangement and hence form a group. Which one does not belong to that group?

- (1) R W 4 (2) 5 F G (3) 9 Q A (4) 3 B \$

19. If the positions of E and A are interchanged and similarly the positions of R and U are interchanged then how many symbols will be there each of which is either preceded or followed by a vowel?

- (1) One (2) Two (3) Four (4) Three

20. What should come in place of question mark on the basis of the above arrangement?

R 4 # M 2 B 3 \$ Q ?

- (1) 5 G U (2) D 6 S (3) 5 G S (4) D 6 P

EXERCISE

ANSWER KEY

Que	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Ans.	1	2	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	3	1	3	4	4