

Sentence Correction

As the name suggests, these questions ask you to correct a sentence. That is, of course, because it is wrong in the first place (but not necessarily so). They are asked on a number of tests because they do not only check your ability to spot an error, but also to correct it. Hence, your grammar abilities are put to some real test in these questions.

Let us first see how these questions are framed. Sentence(s) will be given to you, and a part of a sentence or the entire sentence will be underlined. Now, from the options given, you have to select the one which you think should replace the underlined part. Normally, the underlined part of the sentence is the first option. This is because the given statement might be correct and have no error(s). Thus, there's the possibility that there might be no error in the statement, so you first have to analyse if there is any error at all. These questions can end up eating up your time, so make sure that you do not give yourself more than a minute or two to solve a sentence correction question. Anything beyond that is considered too much for such questions.

Even if grammar is not your strong point, you can still manage to crack these questions by looking at the types of questions asked, and what kind of errors to search for in a question. We have covered some of the errors in the previous sections.

HOW TO SOLVE

- (i) Understand the given sentence, including the part that is not underlined. This way, you would be able to grasp the context and verb tense of the event or information talked about.
- (ii) Reread the underlined part; if you are sure that there is no error, then just select the option which mentions the underlined part as the correct option.
- (iii) If you get to know the error (s) in the underlined part, then correct it without looking at options; if you spotted the errors and corrected them appropriately, your answer would be there in the options.
- (iv) If you have not been able to identify the error, but still think that the underlined part is not right, then start checking on the 'grammar mistakes' we mentioned in the previous sections.
- (v) After selecting the option you think is correct, it is always advisable to reread the statement(s) given in the question with the corrected part to see if you have followed the right tense and everything is in line with the context of the sentences before or after the underlined portion.

TIPS

- (i) Mostly, the sentence would look logically incorrect if modifiers are incorrectly used, or if the verb tenses are not appropriate or consistent. You can read more about verb tenses and modifiers in the previous section.
- (ii) A redundant sentence might look wrong, but it could still be the answer if the other options are logically or grammatically incorrect, or if they change the intended meaning.
- (iii) Idioms can be tricky, as you may think that the statement sounds awkward, but then it would be a correct idiom. So, make sure you are in the know when it comes to idioms.
- (iv) Words like 'during', 'before' will help you know the time of the event, and hence the appropriate verb tense.
- (v) If you have been unable to spot an error in the underlined part, then you can check how the given options vary to see which grammatical concept(s) is/are being tested, and then see if the underlined portion is the best one.
- (vi) VPIMPS is the acronym for the most commonly tested errors in grammar. So if you think a sentence is not right, but not quite sure why, you can just check the VPIMPS:
 - (a) Verbs
 - (b) Parallelism
 - (c) Idioms
 - (d) Modification
 - (e) Pronouns
 - (f) Sentence structure

SKILLS REQUIRED

Refer Grammar Section.

COMMON MISTAKES

- (1) *Overlooking the rest of the sentence* : In order to save time, some students just look at the underlined part, avoid the correct part of the sentence altogether and try to select the correct option. There is a reason why the underlined section exists: telling you the context and the tense. Make sure you do not miss out on that.
- (2) *Not paying attention to the directions*: The directions for these type of questions clearly state that you have to choose the option that would best replace the underlined part. Nowhere is it mentioned that you have to only pay heed to the grammar of the sentence. It should be a complete sentence that makes sense, for e.g., if you have two options that both seem grammatically correct, then check for usage errors and find out which part (when in line with the completed sentence) makes the most sense.

FROM BEGINNER TO MASTERY

Directions : In each of the following examples a part of sentence has been underlines. From the choices given, you are required to choose the one which would best replaced the underlined part.

Example 1.

I fell up the stairs.

- (a) fell up (b) fell down (c) fell at (d) fall off

Explanation (b) When one trips and falls from the stairs, it is assumed that they will fall down and not 'up', or 'at' or 'off'.

Example 2.

I have been there often, because it had to be a nice place.

- (a) had to be a nice place. (b) must be nice going there. (c) is a nice place. (d) I felt so.

Explanation (c) The speaker says that he/she has been there often. This means that probably he/she thinks that it is a decent place. Since, this is experienced in the present tense, therefore the reason should be in the present tense too. Thus, option (c) becomes the most appropriate answer.

Example 3.

My chances of winning the lottery is similar to you.

- (a) winning the lottery is similar to you (b) winning the lottery is similar to yours
(c) having won the lottery is to yours. (d) winning the lottery are similar to yours.

Explanation (d) When we are comparing the fate of two people, we have to compare the fates and not the two peoples. If we say, 'My chances of winning the lottery is similar to you,' it means that we are comparing the person and the fate, whereas when we say 'My chances of winning the lottery are similar to you,' we are comparing the two fates.

Example 4.

Yesterday, I will have nothing to do.

- (a) I will have nothing to do. (b) I had nothing to do.
(c) was full of boredom. (d) I would have nothing to do.

Explanation (b) Here, because of the use of the 'yesterday', the sentence is considered to be acting out in the past tense.

Thus, option (b) is correct.

Example 5.

I was a bit surprised to see a call from an unknown number, so first of all I asked "What are you?"

- (a) Which are you (b) Who are you (c) Why did you call (d) How are you

Explanation (b) This one is easy. When we talk of people/person, we use the pronoun: 'Who'.

Example 6.

Victory is everything in the Indian universe and Tendulkar will be expected to translate his genius to that effect. To contemplate any other option is to contemplate the risk of failure.

- (a) To contemplate any other option is to contemplate the risk of failure.
(b) Failure is not an option that can be contemplated
(c) Any other action has the potential of failure
(d) Failure is not an option.

Explanation (c); The given statement states that a victory is paramount in India and Tendulkar is expected to perform to his potential to make sure that India wins. Thinking about any other possibility could lead to a failure. Now, the given statement sounds redundant, so we have to remove this error and make it simpler and option 'C' would do just that.

Example 7.

If you are on a three-month software design project and, in two weeks, you're put together a programme that solves part of the problem, show it to your boss without delay.

- (a) and, you've put together a programme that solves part of the problem in two weeks
(b) and, in two weeks you've put together a program that solves part of the problem
(c) and, you've put together a programme that has solved part of the problem in two weeks
(d) and, in two weeks you put together a programme that solved only part of the problem

Explanation (b); This one is easy. The position of the phrase: 'two weeks' should be in the starting of the clause and not at the end. This leaves us with two options: (b) and (d). option (d) changes the context of the sentence and makes it sound incorrect.

Example 8.

Many of these environmentalists proclaim to save nothing less than the planet itself.

- (a) to save nothing lesser than
- (b) that they are saving nothing lesser than
- (c) to save nothing less than
- (d) that they save nothing less than

Explanation (c); 'Lesser' is used while we are comparing two things, but there is no comparison done in the sentence. The word 'less' is just used to show the degree or extent of what they are doing or intend to. So, the appropriate word is 'less'.

Example 9.

Bacon believes that the medical profession should be permitted to ease and quicken death where the end would otherwise only delay for a few days and at the cost of great pain.

- (a) be delayed for a few days
- (b) be delayed for a few days and
- (c) be otherwise only delayed for a few days and
- (d) otherwise only delay for a few days and

Explanation (c); The given statement points out the opinion of Bacon: medical profession should be allowed to ease and quicken the death in cases where, not doing so would only delay the death for a few days, and those few days would only bring more pain and trouble to that patient. This question also tests our usage of the verb 'be'.

Example 10.

Men's interest in developing a cure for cancer have promoted the rapid advances in the abstruse field now known as Genetic Engineering.

- (a) Men's interest in developing a cure for cancer have promoted
- (b) That men are interested in developing a cure for cancer have promoted
- (c) Interest in developing a cure for cancer has promoted
- (d) Men's interest in developing cure for cancer has promoted

Explanation (c); The given sentence is wrong because verb 'have' is not in accordance with the noun 'interest', because 'have' is plural whereas, 'interest' is singular. Therefore, the correct combination would be 'interest...has.' Option (c) is right, because it has the correct noun-verb pair.

Example 11.

A little known danger of potent hallucinogens such as lysergic acid deithylamide-25 is that not only is the user immediately disoriented, but also he will experience significant ego suppression for a period of three weeks as well.

- (a) but also he will experience significant ego suppression for a period of three weeks as well
- (b) also there will be a three-week period of ego suppression as well
- (c) the ego is suppressed for a period of three weeks as well
- (d) but the user's ego is suppressed for a period of three weeks in addition

Explanation (d); The underlined sentence will begin with a coordinating conjunction that links the two clauses and only one of the given options has a coordinating conjunction i.e. option (d). The given sentence is wrong because it is redundant with the usage of 'also' and 'as well', as they both mean the same. Option (a) and option (b) have the same error. Option (c) is not chosen because there is no coordinating conjunction for the second clause. Option (d), i.e. the answer, also follows the correct '...not only x...but Y.' sentence construct as both X and Y are parallel (a grammatically correct sentence would have similar X and Y, i.e. they both will be verbs, adjectives or nouns)

Example 12.

By the time peace and happiness will have come to the planet, many lives will be wasted.

- (a) come to the planet, many lives will have been wasted
- (b) will have come to the planet, many lives will have been wasted
- (c) shall have come to the planet, many lives shall be wasted
- (d) would have come to the planet, many lives would have been wasted

Explanation (a); Both the events discussed in the sentence will take place in the future in such a way that one will take place before another. Hence, we will use the future perfect tense. The event which will happen earlier, or before the specified event employs 'will have' and only option (a) has used this tense correctly.

Example 13.

The leader of the Neanderthal tribe rarely hunted for food, and because of it was never acknowledged as a great hunter.

- (a) Because the leader of the Neanderthal tribe rarely hunted for food, he
- (b) In that he rarely hunted for food, the leader of the Neanderthal tribe was
- (c) Rarely hunting for food was the reason that the leader of the Neanderthal tribe
- (d) Hunts were rare, and because of this the leader of the Neanderthal tribe

Explanation (a); The main clause of the sentence is the one which is not underlined, and the one which is underlined is the clause which will reason it, hence our underlined part of the sentence will be the adverbial clause. Option (a) gives us the appropriate adverbial clause which begins with a subordinate conjunction. Option (b) is wrong because it is ambiguous. Option (c) is redundant and concise when compared with option (a) and option (d) is ambiguous because it is not easily understandable.

Example 14.

Regardless “new modernism” in literature, which produces novels, which often read like the diaries of madmen, most readers still prefer a conventional plot and simple style.

- (a) Regardless of the “new modernism” in literature, which produces
- (b) Regardless of the “new modernism” literature, which produce
- (c) Regardless, the “new modernism” in literature produces
- (d) Irregardless of the “new modernism” in literature, which produces

Explanation (a); ‘Regardless’ is an adverb which usually means ‘without regard or consideration for’. Option (a) is correct, because it uses the adverb correctly to form an appropriate adverbial clause. Option (b) is wrong because ‘new modernism’ refers to the changes brought on in literature, so the preposition ‘in’ should be used there to clear ambiguity and it also has the incorrect verb ‘produce’, it should be ‘produces’ instead. Option (c) is incorrect, because it uses regardless as an adjective which does not make logical sense.

Example 15.

A career in the medical profession, which requires an enormous investment of time and money, do not guarantee success as there is so much competition.

- (a) which requires an enormous investment of time and money, do not guarantee success as there is so much competition
- (b) which requires an enormous investment of time and money, does not guarantee success since there is so much competition
- (c) requiring an enormous investment of time and money, and cannot guarantee success because there is so much competition
- (d) requires that an enormous investment of time and money be made and success cannot be guaranteed due to competition

Explanation (b); The underlined part ‘which requires an enormous investment of time and money’ forms the adjective clause as it describes ‘medical profession’ and it does so correctly. The remaining underlined part gives us the main clause of the sentence. The error in the given sentence is in subject verb disagreement. ‘Medical profession’ is a singular noun, hence it should have a singular noun ‘does’ and not ‘do’. Hence, option (b) is correct. Options (c) and (d) are incorrect, because they do not properly use the required adjective clause.

Example 16.

The more the union stubbornly refused to budge from its original demand for 20% across-the-board salary increase, the more the company management reiterated its original proposal of a mere 3% raise.

- (a) the more the company management reiterated its original proposal of a mere 3% raise
- (b) the company management’s original proposal for a mere 3% raise was reiterated all the more
- (c) the company management kept on reiterating its original proposal of a mere 3% raise
- (d) the more the company management’s original proposal of a mere 3% raise was reiterated

Explanation (a); The given sentence is right. The only other sentence which follows ‘the more the..the more the...’ sentence construction is (d), but it is awkwardly worded so that it is giving the impression that the 3% raise proposal of the management was reiterated by some other party instead of the management itself.

Example 17.

The president of the resident welfare association tried to convince his neighbours they should join forces prevent crime in the neighbourhood rather than continuing to be victimized.

- (a) they should join forces to prevent crime in the neighbourhood rather than continuing to be victimized
- (b) that they should join forces to prevent crime in the neighbourhood rather than continue to be victimized
- (c) about joining forces to prevent crime in the neighbourhood instead of continuing to be victimized
- (d) to join forces to prevent crime in the neighbourhood rather than continuing to be victimized

Explanation (b); This question is about sentence construction and parallelism, and it is clearly evident that the underlined part forms the sub-ordinate sentence and it should be introduced with a conjunction to differentiate, or part the sentence, and only option (b) does that with the conjunction ‘that’ which introduces the subordinate clause. Also, notice that there are two verbs in the sentence and both should be used in the same infinitive form.

Example 18.

Lawyers and doctors alike both agree something should be done about the rise in medical malpractice cases which are on the increase.

- (a) alike both agree that something should be done about the rise in medical malpractice cases
- (b) alike agree that something should be done about the rise in medical malpractice cases
- (c) agree that something should be done about the rise in the number of medical malpractices
- (d) None of the above

Explanation (b); Alike means ‘equally or in a similar manner’. The given sentence has three errors: the word ‘both’ is redundant and not required as the coordinating conjunction ‘and’ has already formed the compound noun for the subject. Another error is that there is a bit of ambiguity because the sub-ordinate clause has not been introduced as there is no subordinating conjunction: there must be a subordinating conjunction to make it clear what both doctors and lawyers agree on. Third error of the given sentence is the adjective clause, ‘which are on the increase’ is redundant because the phrase ‘are on the rise’ has already conveyed that the number of medical malpractices is increasing. Option (b) has removed both these errors. Option (a) is wrong because it is similar to the given sentence. Option (c) is wrong, because it is taking an information which the original sentence tried to convey i.e. they both make the same error.

Example 19.

The conductor seemed entirely arbitrary the choice of tempo, because of which each successive movement of the piece seemed to have no connection to what had come before.

- (a) The conductor's choice of tempo seemed entirely arbitrary
- (b) It seemed the conductor chose tempo entirely arbitrary
- (c) The conductor was entirely arbitrary in his choice of tempo
- (d) The tempo was chosen entirely by the arbitrary conductor

Explanation (a); Arbitrary is used to describe something which is based on a random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system. A person would not normally be described as arbitrary. Thus, we can easily rule out options (c) and (d). They state that the conductor was arbitrary, which is illogical. The correct wording would be that the conductor's decision or choice was arbitrary and not the conductor himself. Hence, option (a) is correct. Option (b) is incorrect because arbitrarily should be used instead of arbitrary because arbitrarily is an adverb which would describe how he made the choice, thereby describing a mental action (verb) whereas, arbitrary is an adjective.

Example 20.

Although the conditions in which she lived suggest that she was miserly, her contributions to charities show that she is generous.

- (a) her charities showed generous contributions
- (b) her generosity made large contributions
- (c) her contributions to charities showed that she is not generous
- (d) her contributions to charities show that she was generous

Explanation (d); The given sentence is wrong because of the verb 'is'. This verb is in the present tense, whereas the given sentence is in the past tense as indicated by the verb 'was' used in the part of the sentence which is not underlined. Option (d) corrects this error and is our answer. Option (a) and (b) are wrong, because of the sentence construction with subordinating conjunction 'although' which means 'even though' so the main clause will be contradictory with the adverbial clause introduced by 'although'. So, the proper sentence construction would be parallel and this is how option (d) is. Option (c) is incorrect, because it neglects the 'although'.

Example 21.

Although he was often incomplete in his work, he was promoted simply because he was with the company longer than anyone else.

- (a) Although work was often incomplete
- (b) His work was often incomplete although
- (c) Although his work was often incomplete
- (d) Although he often completed his work

Explanation (c); The given sentence is wrong, because it sounds ambiguous by considering an individual incomplete. Option (c) corrects this error by stating that his work was often incomplete. Option (a) is wrong, because it is ambiguous and does not specify whose work or which work. Option (b) is wrong, because the correct placement of the subordinating conjunction 'although' would be in such a way that it introduces the adverbial clause – 'His work was often incomplete'. Option (d) is wrong, because then the use of although makes no sense.

Example 22.

Though the concert had been enjoyable, it was protracted overly.

- (a) it was overly protracted.
- (b) it overly protracted.
- (c) it protracted overly.
- (d) it got protracted overly.

Explanation (a); Protracted is used to describe something that is relatively long in duration. It is a negative term that is used to describe something which lasted more than you wanted it to. As a verb, it means 'lengthen in time'. The given sentence places the verb before the adverb, which is not always preferred and option (a) gives a more appropriate placement of the adverb. The remaining options are not consistent with the tense. There should be a verb 'was' to make the entire sentence consistent with the past tense.

Practice Exercise

LEVEL-I

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1-80): In the following questions, in the given sentences, a part of the sentence is underlined. Beneath each sentence, four different ways of phrasing the underlined part are indicated. Choose the best alternative.

1. All the allegations levelled against him were found to be baseless.
 (a) levelled for (b) level with
 (c) level against (d) No correction required
2. He has said so out of affection, do not take it to heart.
 (a) in heart (b) it in the heart
 (c) by the heart (d) No improvement
3. I would gladly accompany your sister if you had asked him.
 (a) would have gladly accompanied
 (b) was to have gladly accompanied
 (c) will gladly accompany
 (d) No improvement
4. What are needed are not large houses but small cottages.
 (a) were (b) was
 (c) is (d) No improvement
5. Sumit would have been looked smart in traditional clothes.
 (a) was looked (b) would be looked
 (c) had looking (d) would have looked
6. Hardly had I finished writing the letter before Anil arrived.
 (a) then (b) while
 (c) when (d) as
7. His father won't be able to leave for Varanasi until they have arrived.
 (a) until they arrive
 (b) until they will arrive
 (c) until they will have arrived
 (d) No improvement
8. He returned with two burning mugs of coffee and set them down on her desk.
 (a) heating (b) steaming
 (c) blazing (d) No improvement
9. People are tiring very soon in an activity which they don't like.
 (a) tried (b) trying
 (c) tired (d) trying
10. They felt humiliated because they realised that they had cheated.
 (a) had been cheating (b) had been cheated
 (c) have been cheated (d) were to be cheated
11. The summer has set out and the days are getting warm.
 (a) set up (b) set in
 (c) set off (d) No improvement
12. She could not help but laugh.
 (a) laughing (b) but laughing
 (c) laugh (d) No improvement
13. Im sorry, but I don't believe what you say.
 (a) I will not believe (b) I am not believing
 (c) I will not be believing (d) No improvement
14. Let's buy a new sari with the annual bonus, can we?
 (a) can't we (b) don't we
 (c) shall we (d) No improvement
15. Since 1986, there is no earthquakes here.
 (a) have been (b) are
 (c) were being (d) No improvement
16. It is time the six year old is learning how to read and write.
 (a) has learned (b) learnt
 (c) was learning (d) No improvement
17. He plays cricket and tennis also.
 (a) both (b) besides
 (c) too (d) No improvement
18. I am used to hard work.
 (a) hard working (b) work hard
 (c) work hardly (d) No improvement
19. Practically every part of the banana tree is used by man.
 (a) most part (b) any part
 (c) each part (d) No improvement
20. No sooner I saw the tiger than I ran away.
 (a) No sooner I had seen (b) No sooner did I see
 (c) As soon as I saw (d) No improvement
21. Try to be diplomatic when you refuse any invitation, so for not to cause bad feeling
 (a) as far not (b) so as not
 (c) if as far not (d) since then not
22. The need of the hour was some fast action on the part of the leaders.
 (a) needed (b) needing
 (c) needs (d) No correction required
23. The doctor examined my pulse.
 (a) observed (b) saw
 (c) felt (d) No improvement
24. He doesn't hesitate to do whatever his brother does.
 (a) will do (b) would do
 (c) shall do (d) would done
25. Bad habits must be nipped at the bud.
 (a) nipped off the bud (b) nipped in the bud
 (c) nipped on the bud (d) No improvement
26. It is no good to cry over spilt milk.
 (a) It is no good crying (b) It is of no good to cry
 (c) It is of no good crying (d) No improvement
27. To various practices and norms for bank's transactions are laid down by the Reserve Bank of India.
 (a) are laid up (b) are led down
 (c) are lead up (d) No correction required

28. No one needs to worry about me.
 (a) will worry (b) need worry
 (c) shall worry (d) No improvement
29. When the soldiers realised that they had been fooled, they rush back.
 (a) had rush (b) have rush
 (c) had rushed (d) rushed
30. The officer looked on my complaint.
 (a) looked of (b) looked into
 (c) looked to (d) No improvement
31. The actress said that it sometimes took her two hours to put her make-up.
 (a) put over (b) put up
 (c) put on (d) No improvement
32. The matter must be considered in every point of view.
 (a) with (b) from
 (c) at (d) No improvement
33. He enjoys to tell stories to children.
 (a) how to tell stories (b) telling stories
 (c) to narrate stories (d) No improvement
34. Manisha purchased the very good of all the saris kept in the shop
 (a) the better (b) the very better
 (c) the most good (d) the best
35. On seeing the lion she felt too much afraid.
 (a) very much (b) excessively
 (c) much (d) No improvement
36. Last evening I sent to the optician and bought spectacles.
 (a) a spectacle (b) two spectacles
 (c) a pair of spectacles (d) No improvement
37. Education is a strong instrument for moulding the character of the young.
 (a) striking (b) powerful
 (c) potent (d) No improvement
38. One of the men gave first aid to Hitesh who is injured in a road accident.
 (a) who had injured (b) who was injured
 (c) which was injured (d) as he was to injure
39. Mrs. Johnson had staying here since 1954 and has made India her home
 (a) will stay (b) was to stay
 (c) is staying (d) has been staying
40. The problems of translation are still remain.
 (a) are remain (b) will remained
 (c) will still remain (d) No improvement
41. They have stopped from constructing new buildings.
 (a) to construct (b) at constructing
 (c) constructing (d) No improvement
42. All over Russia, Indian films are more popular than those in any other country.
 (a) in (b) that in
 (c) that of (d) those of
43. Wise men catch time by the forelock.
 (a) hold (b) seize
 (c) take (d) No improvement
44. Seeing the injustice done to them by the Britishers, the sepoys broke into open revolt.
 (a) broke to (b) broke upto
 (c) resorted to (d) No improvement
45. The cloud of misfortunes appears to have blown out.
 (a) away (b) over
 (c) up (d) No improvement
46. Anand has the guts to rise from the occasion and come out successful.
 (a) to rise against (b) to rising from
 (c) to rise to (d) to rise with
47. A bird in hand is worth two in bush.
 (a) two in the bush (b) two at a bush
 (c) two on bush (d) No improvement
48. Scarcely had he entered the room than the phone rang.
 (a) when (b) while
 (c) as (d) No improvement
49. Five years ago today, I am sitting in a small Japanese car, driving across Poland towards Berlin.
 (a) was sitting (b) have been sitting
 (c) sat (d) No improvement
50. If you had told your problem yesterday, we might had helped you
 (a) would have (b) might have been
 (c) would have been (d) No correction required
51. When he heard the rhetorical speech of the leader, he was carried along by his enthusiasm.
 (a) was carried away (b) was carried down
 (c) was carried aloft (d) No improvement
52. The members of his family are coming in this train.
 (a) with (b) by
 (c) on (d) No improvement
53. If he had time he will call you.
 (a) would have (b) would have had
 (c) has (d) No improvement
54. The intruder stood quietly for few moments.
 (a) for few time (b) for a few moments
 (c) for the few moments (d) No correction required
55. A lot depends on your early brought up in the family.
 (a) bringing up (b) bringing on
 (c) upbringing (d) No improvement
56. Many believed that girls who received western education would make slaves of their husbands.
 (a) could receive (b) had received
 (c) have received (d) No improvement
57. I have not written many letter to him since my father had died.
 (a) died (b) was dead
 (c) has died (d) No improvement
58. The manager was unhappy at Gaurav because he did not complete the work in time
 (a) is unhapy at
 (b) is to be unhappy at
 (c) was unhappy with
 (d) No correction required

59. In the modern world it is difficult to live through one's ideals.
 (a) to live upto (b) to live by
 (c) to live for (d) No improvement
60. It is long since I last saw you.
 (a) long time (b) long before
 (c) long ago (d) No improvement
61. She gave most of her time to music
 (a) devoted (b) spend
 (c) lent (d) No improvement
62. When I was fourteen, I sat the entrance examination for senior secondary school.
 (a) sat for (b) sat in
 (c) sat at (d) No improvement
63. He has been working off and on for several years to compile a dictionary.
 (a) on or off (b) on and off
 (c) regularly (d) No correction required
64. Rajni unnecessarily picked up a quarrel with Kashish and left the party hurriedly.
 (a) picking up (b) picked on
 (c) picked (d) has picked up
65. She did not like the movie, nor I did.
 (a) nor did I (b) nor I like it
 (c) nor I liked it (d) No improvement
66. It will take two hours to walk across the forest.
 (a) over (b) between
 (c) away (d) through
67. The unemployment rate has dropped sharply this month, though it may only be temporary.
 (a) but it may be only temporary
 (b) but the drop may only be temporary
 (c) even though the drop may only be temporary
 (d) but such a drop may only be a temporary one
68. In accordance to your instructions, we have remitted the amount in the bank.
 (a) by (b) with
 (c) for (d) No improvement
69. Although he was the most friendly of all present and different from the others, he hadn't hardly any friends except me.
 (a) different from the others, he hardly had any friends except I
 (b) different than the others, he hardly had any friends except me
 (c) different than the others, he hardly had any friends except I
 (d) different from the others, he hardly had any friends except me
70. Since we are living in Bombay for five years, we are reluctant to move to another city.
 (a) Being that we living
 (b) Since we were living
 (c) Since we have been living
 (d) Being that we have been living
71. As a child, my parents took me to Jammu to visit my grandmother.
 (a) When I was a child, my parents took me to Jammu to visit my grandmother
 (b) My parents took me, as a child, to Jammu to visit my grandmother
 (c) My parents took me to Jammu to visit my grandmother as a child.
 (d) A child, my parents took me to Jammu to visit my grandmother
72. Anyone interested in the use of computer can learn much if you have access to a state-of-the-art microcomputer.
 (a) if he has access to
 (b) if access is available to
 (c) by access to
 (d) from access to
73. Start the motor, and then you should remove the blocks.
 (a) Start the motor, then removing the blocks
 (b) Starting the motor, the blocks should then be removed
 (c) Start the motor and then remove the blocks
 (d) Starting the motor remove the blocks
74. Eaten in Portugal only, the Indians viewed the potato with suspicion for they assumed it had poisonous properties since only the white skinned people consumed it.
 (a) Indians viewed the potato with suspicion for they
 (b) Indians were suspicious of the potato and they
 (c) potato was viewed with suspicion by Indians who
 (d) potato was suspicious to Indians, and it was
75. Though he was more faster than his opponent on the field, his chances of winning the race was low as he lacked the killer instinct.
 (a) Though he was more faster than his opponent on the field
 (b) As he was more faster than his opponent on the field
 (c) Though he was more fast from his opponent on the field
 (d) Though he was faster than his opponent on the field
76. Ever since the sting operation, there has been much opposition from they who maintain that it was an unauthorised act.
 (a) Ever since the sting operation, there has been much opposition from they who maintain that it had been an unauthorised act.
 (b) ever since the sting operation, there has been much opposition from they who maintain that it was an unauthorised act.
 (c) Ever since the sting operation, there has been much opposition from they who maintain that it was an unauthorised act.
 (d) Ever since the sting operation, there has been much opposition from those maintaining that it was an unauthorised act.
77. Anita liked to watch television, of which she found the science programme especially fascinating.
 (a) television, of which she found the science programme especially fascinating.

- (b) television; she found the science programme especially fascinating.
 (c) television, and it was especially the science programme that were of fascination.
 (d) television; the fascination of the science programme especially.
78. Although gale force winds often pass through the Eiffel Tower, **causing it to sway no more than four inches**.
 (a) causing it to sway no more
 (b) and yet it sways no more
 (c) they do not cause it to sway more
 (d) and they do not cause it to sway
79. **Underestimating its value, breakfast is a meal many people skip**.
 (a) Underestimating its value, breakfast is a meal many people skip.
 (b) Breakfast is skipped by many people because of their underestimating its value.
 (c) Many people, underestimate the value of breakfast and skip it.
 (d) Many people skip breakfast because they underestimate its value.
80. Certain shipwrecks have a particular fascination for those people **which have a belief in finding the treasure in them**.
 (a) which have a belief in finding the treasure in them.
 (b) who believe they hold treasure and that they can find it.
 (c) who believe that there is treasure to be found in them.
 (d) who believe about treasure to be found in them.

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 81-85) : Which of the phrases (a), (b), (c) and (d) given below should replace the phrase given in **bold** in the following sentence to make the sentence grammatically meaningful and correct? If the sentence is correct as it is and 'No correction is required', mark (e) as the answer.

[SBI Clerk 2012]

81. They are **yet to decided** about buying the new furniture.
 (a) still decide (b) yet to decision
 (c) yet to decide (d) still decided
 (e) No correction required
82. Rohan's mother was **feed up of** his laziness.
 (a) fed up in (b) fed off
 (c) feeds up of (d) fed up of
 (e) No correction required
83. She was just looking outside the window when a beautiful bird **caught the eye**.
 (a) catch the eye (b) eye catching
 (c) caught her eye (d) catch her eyes
 (e) No correction required
84. They **sent out** the invitations last evening.
 (a) send out (b) sending out
 (c) sent at (d) sending in
 (e) No correction required

85. He had to **bear the brunt** of his father's mistakes.
 (a) bear the burnt (b) bear the burns
 (c) bear a brunt (d) bear and burn
 (e) No correction required

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 86-90) : In the following questions, four words printed in bold type are given. These are lettered (a), (b), (c) and (d). One of these words printed in bold might either be wrongly spelt or inappropriate in the context of the sentence. Find out the word that is inappropriate or wrongly spelt, if any. The number of the word is your answer. If the words printed in bold are correctly spelt and appropriate in the context of the sentence then mark (e), i.e., 'All Correct' as your answer.

[SBI Clerk 2012]

86. Ronald was very **Proud of** his new car and would **always** be on the lookout for an **excuse** to **flaunt** it. All correct
 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
87. Ramesh had an **aversion** to alcohol and **would** avoid going to **partyes** with his **friends**. All correct
 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
88. Lucy was **working** overtime **because** she had to **prepare** for an important **meating**. All correct
 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
89. Roshni was **found** of pets and she was a **proud** owner of **may unique animals**. All correct
 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
90. Ahmad was not only very **intelligent** but also very **sincere** and would always **strand** first in his **class**. All correct
 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)

DIRECTIONS (91-95): Which phrase should replace the phrase given in bold in the sentence to make it grammatically correct? If the sentence is correct as it is given, then mark 'No correction required' as your answer.

[IBPS Clerk 2013]

91. We asked her **that how she got** time to write all these books.
 (a) that how did she got
 (b) that how she was getting
 (c) how did she get
 (d) how she got
 (e) No correction required
92. Studies in the past have shown that those who limit their activity span during the day in winters are **more likely to** suffer from depression.
 (a) more likely for (b) mostly likely to
 (c) most likely for (d) most likeliest for
 (e) No correction required

93. In some cases, factors like low salary, lack of growth prospects and lack of motivation **compel all employee** to look for a change.
 (a) compel those employees
 (b) compelling all employees
 (c) compelling the employee
 (d) compel employees
 (e) No correction required
94. Living with compassion and contributing to others lives **would helping us** add happiness to our lives as well.
 (a) will helping us (b) will help us
 (c) would helped them (d) will helped us
 (e) No correction required
95. The **easiest way for** prevent stress caused by work or home pressures is to indulge in high levels of physical activity.
 (a) easily way to (b) easier ways for
 (c) easiest way to (d) easier way from
 (e) No correction required

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 96 - 102) : In the following questions, part of the sentence is **bolded**. Below are given alternatives to the bolded part at (a), (b) and (c) which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed your answer is (d).

[SSC CHSL, 2012]

96. The trek is difficult but it is **worth well the endeavour**.
 (a) well worth the endeavour
 (b) worth the endeavour well
 (c) the endeavour well worth
 (d) No improvement
97. The manager was given a holiday and so he decided to go **to the hitch-hiking**.
 (a) for the hitch-hiking
 (b) for hitch-hiking
 (c) hitch-hiking
 (d) No improvement
98. Goaded to frenzy, **the bull charged its tormentors**.
 (a) the tormentors were charged by the bull
 (b) the tormentors were being charged by the bull
 (c) the bull charged on its tormentors
 (d) No improvement
99. The war was a time of **tribulations** for all of us.
 (a) intimacy (b) placidity
 (c) stupidity (d) No improvement
100. The temptations that **bestow** young people today are ruining them.
 (a) appeal (b) beset
 (c) confront (d) No improvement
101. We kept all the old paintings in a place where they **would remain safe** from harm or danger.
 (a) will remain safe (b) are safe
 (c) may remain safe (d) No improvement

102. The tragedy is **reflection** of an episode that took place a decade ago.
 (a) rendition
 (b) reincarnation
 (c) reminiscent
 (d) No improvement

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 103-104) : In the following questions, a part of the sentence is underlined. Below are given alternatives to the underlined part at (a), (b), (c) which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, your answer is (d). Mark your answer in the Answer Sheet.

[SSC CHSL 2013]

103. The commoners joined the king's army at crushing the rebels.
 (a) into (b) in
 (c) without (d) No improvement
104. She is quite well now, except a slight cold.
 (a) except have a slight cold
 (b) excepting a slight cold
 (c) except for a slight cold
 (d) No improvement

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 105-109) : In the following questions, a part of the sentence is underlined. Below are given alternatives to the underlined part at (a), (b), (c) which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed your answer is (d).

[SSC CHSL 2014]

105. Sohan is pleased at the news yesterday.
 (a) has been pleased (b) had been pleased
 (c) was pleased (d) No improvement
106. She did not like the movie, nor I did.
 (a) nor did I. (b) nor I like it.
 (c) nor did I like it. (d) No improvement
107. Old habits die hardly.
 (a) hard (b) too hard
 (c) much hardly (d) No improvement
108. One cannot be indifferent to one's health, can't one
 (a) can't be ? (b) can one ?
 (c) isn't it ? (d) No improvement
109. The mother with her children were expected.
 (a) was (b) will
 (c) have (d) No improvement

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 110-114) : In the following questions, a part of the sentence is underlined. Below are given alternatives to the underlined part at (a), (b) and (c) which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, your answer is (d).

[SSC Sub Insp. 2012]

110. The ship ran over when it crashed into an iceberg.
 (a) get over (b) gave up
 (c) went down (d) No improvement

111. His wife was contentious.
 (a) contagious (b) quarrelsome
 (c) content (d) No improvement
112. Historians feel there is an earnest need for the review of history text books every five years and a revision of the same every ten years.
 (a) imperative (b) indispensable
 (c) urgent (d) No improvement
113. My car broke off on my way to the office.
 (a) out (b) in
 (c) down (d) No improvement
114. Freedom is a wonderful thing, for Jimmy was eager to experience it.
 (a) though (b) and
 (c) but (d) No improvement

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 115 - 119) : In the following questions, a part of the sentence is underlined. Below are given alternatives to the underlined part at (a), (b) and (c) which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, your answer is (d)

[SSC Multi tasking, 2013]

115. On receiving his appointment letter, Ravi treated us with a sumptuous meal.
 (a) treated us to (b) treated us for
 (c) treated us by (d) No improvement
116. She is scrutinising hard for the final examination.
 (a) recollecting (b) recapitulating
 (c) revising (d) No improvement
117. Since she directing the play for quite some time, she knows the actors really well.
 (a) Since she has directed
 (b) Since she has been directing
 (c) Since she was directing
 (d) No improvement
118. You can borrow my laptop as long as you promise not to misuse it.
 (a) only long as (b) too long as
 (c) so long as (d) No improvement
119. This is the late edition of the Shakespearean play which was originally published in 1603.
 (a) later (b) latest
 (c) latter (d) No improvement

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 120-124) : In the following questions, a sentence / part of the sentence is printed **in bold**. Below are given alternatives to the bold sentence / part of the sentence at (a), (b) and (c) which may improve the sentence. Choose

the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, your answer is (d). [SSC Sub Insp. 2013]

120. The gentry of the town **was invited**.
 (a) is invited (b) has been invited
 (c) were invited (d) No improvement.
121. After the written exam, you will also have an **oral exam**.
 (a) practical (b) viva voice
 (c) vocal (d) No improvement
122. The regular use of alcohol, **only in small quantities**, tends to cause mischief in many ways to various organs of the body.
 (a) though in small quantities
 (b) even in a little quantity
 (c) even in small quantities
 (d) No improvement
123. If you were the Prime Minister of India what steps **would you have taken** to end unemployment?
 (a) will you take (b) will you be taking
 (c) would you take (d) No improvement
124. A high school student **is not even understanding** the basics of Chemistry and Physics.
 (a) does not understand even
 (b) was not even understanding
 (c) has even not understood
 (d) No improvement

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 125-129) : In the following questions, a sentence a part of the sentence is underlined. Below are given alternatives to the underlined part at (a), (b), (c) which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed your answer is (d). Mark your answer in the Answer sheet. [SSC Sub Insp. 2014]

125. He will revise it when he is comes back.
 (a) when he come back (b) on coming back
 (c) when he came back (d) No improvement
126. The members of the student's union did not give the examination in protest.
 (a) did not write (b) did not sit for
 (c) did not show up for (d) No improvement
127. She was kept from her assignment because of her loquacious room-mate.
 (a) noisy (b) irritating
 (c) talkative (d) No improvement
128. James epitomizes everything that a leader should be.
 (a) worships (b) loves
 (c) adores (d) No improvement
129. The businessman is respectively connected.
 (a) respectfully (b) respectably
 (c) receptively (d) No improvement

LEVEL-II

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1-54): In the following questions, in the given sentences, a part of the sentence is underlined. Beneath each sentence, four different ways of phrasing the underlined part are indicated. Choose the best alternative.

1. The government has given subsidies to the Navratnas but there is no telling whether the subsequent one will do.
 - (a) whether the subsequent government will do so.
 - (b) if the government to follow will accept the policy
 - (c) if the government to follow will adhere to the policy
 - (d) no telling whether the subsequent one will do so
2. Rahul Bajaj has done a great job of taking the company to its present status, but it is time that he let go of the reins.
 - (a) let go of the reins
 - (b) stepped down
 - (c) let go off the reins
 - (d) delegated responsibility
3. With the pick-up in the standard of education, expensive private schools have started blooming up in every corner of the country.
 - (a) started blooming in every corner of the country
 - (b) have started mushrooming all over the country
 - (c) have mushroomed all over the country
 - (d) have blossomed all over the country
4. It is important that whatever else happens, these two factors should not be messed around with.
 - (a) It is important that
 - (b) It is a fact that
 - (c) It should be urgently understood that
 - (d) It should be understood that
5. It must be note that under no circumstance should the company go in for diversification.
 - (a) It must be noticed that
 - (b) It must be noted that
 - (c) It must be pointed out that
 - (d) It should be noticed that
6. British Airspace has been focusing on building European links.
 - (a) concentrating on creating European links.
 - (b) pursuing ways of building European connectivity.
 - (c) stressing on building European links.
 - (d) focusing on forging European links.
7. The appetite of banks for funds was lost under the onslaught of the slowdown, corporate refused to borrow-even as bank deposit flourished.
 - (a) bank deposits flourished
 - (b) bank deposits swelled
 - (c) bank deposits were enhanced
 - (d) bank deposits flummoxed
8. He did many mischiefs.
 - (a) made many a mischief
 - (b) made much mischief
 - (c) Committed many mischiefs
 - (d) No correction required
9. The main point of his speech was well understood.
 - (a) that he spoke
 - (b) in the speech of his
 - (c) made when he spoke
 - (d) No correction required
10. The indecisive man was readily persuaded to change his mind again.
 - (a) was persuaded ready
 - (b) was ready to persuade
 - (c) was ready persuaded
 - (d) No improvement
11. The teacher asked the intruder who was he and why was he occupying his chair.
 - (a) who he was and why he was
 - (b) who he was and why was he
 - (c) who he had been and why he had been
 - (d) No correction required
12. The custom of many centuries ago origin is slowly disappearing.
 - (a) which was originated ago many centuries
 - (b) originating for many centuries
 - (c) which originated many centuries ago
 - (d) with many centuries of origin
13. He stayed back so that it can look as if he was unaware of the entire incident.
 - (a) may look
 - (b) would look
 - (c) will look
 - (d) No correction required
14. The local library has recommended that the books put up for the used book sale should be in good condition and should have no writing in them or be underlined.
 - (a) and should have no writing in them or be underlined
 - (b) and should not have writing in them or not be underlined
 - (c) and contain no writing or underlining
 - (d) without containing writing or underlining
15. The news of her employment soon circulated around the small town.
 - (a) circulated round the small town
 - (b) circulated in the small town
 - (c) was circulating across the small town
 - (d) was circulating within the small town
16. It is the craziness for speeding that is maddening that is responsible for many motor accidents.
 - (a) the craziness for speeding that is mad
 - (b) the mad craze for speed
 - (c) the mad craze for speeding
 - (d) the craze for speeding that is maddening
17. If they cooperate together by dividing up the work, they shall be over with the work faster.
 - (a) if they cooperate together by dividing the work
 - (b) if they cooperate by dividing up the work
 - (c) if they cooperate by dividing the work
 - (d) if they cooperate together by division of work
18. Knowing the area was prone to earthquakes, all the buildings were reinforced with additional steel and concrete.
 - (a) Having known that the area was prone to earthquakes
 - (b) Since they knew the area was prone to earthquakes
 - (c) Since the area was known to be prone to earthquakes
 - (d) Being prone earthquakes

19. He sailed for New York on Monday, arriving there on Saturday for the much-awaited inauguration of the new hospital.
 (a) and arrived there on Saturday for the much-awaited inauguration of the new hospital.
 (b) arriving there on Saturday for the inauguration of the much-awaited new hospital.
 (c) arriving there for the inauguration of the much awaited new hospital on Saturday.
 (d) and arrived here on Saturday for the long awaited inauguration of the new hospital.
20. After trying to convince him for a long time, I realized that he was one of those people who never listens to reason.
 (a) he was one of those people who never listen to reason.
 (b) he was one of those people who never .listen to reasoning
 (c) he is one of those people who never listen to reason.
 (d) he is one of those people who never listens to reason.
21. Scientists have long recognized the promise of research involving human embryos and foetuses for the advancement of basic science as well as for the development of life saving vaccines and therapies.
 (a) the promise of research involving human embryos and foetuses for the advancement of
 (b) the promise of research involving human embryos and foetuses to advance
 (c) the promising research which involves human embryos and foetuses for the advancing of
 (d) the promising research, which involves human embryos and foetuses in advancing
22. By finding, dating, and interpreting the trash and treasures of ancient generations, our curiosity about our past as a species is satisfied in archaeology, and shows us how we have become what we are.
 (a) generations, our curiosity about our past as a species is satisfied in archaeology, and shows
 (b) generations satisfy, in archaeology, our curiosity about our past as a species and show
 (c) generations, our past as a species satisfies our curiosity in archaeology and shows
 (d) generations, archaeology satisfies our curiosity about our past as a species and shows
23. Full of speculation that the United States was in a 'housing bubble' that was about to burst, the popular press ran feature stories depicting the irrational run-up in home prices and a potential crash which was very likely.
 (a) stories depicting the irrational run-up in home prices and a potential crash which was very likely.
 (b) stories about the irrational run-up in home prices and that there would be a potential crash.
 (c) Stories that describe about the irrational run-up in home prices and about the potential for a crash.
 (d) stories about the irrational run-up in home prices and about the potential for crash.
24. Seeing that there was an ongoing sale in one of her favourite stores, Seeta made a bee line for it immediately after entering the mall.
 (a) made a bee's line for
 (b) make bees lined to
 (c) made a bee line to
 (d) No correction required
25. Sharon made it to work in the nicks of times, or else she would have missed the meeting.
 (a) nick of time (b) nicked time
 (c) nick of timeliness (d) nick and time
26. Varun was on cloud nine after having stood first in his class.
 (a) in ninth cloud (b) on nine clouds
 (c) a cloudy nine (d) cloud on nine
27. Vithal had a habit of pass the buck when it came to important issues at work.
 (a) pass to bucking (b) passing buck
 (c) passing the buck (d) pass buck
28. Puneet raked his brains and tried to find an answer to a tricky question given in the paper but couldn't find one.
 (a) rake his brain (b) racked his brains
 (c) racked brains (d) raked brain
29. US secretary of state made it clear that time running out for diplomacy over Iran's nuclear programme and said that talks aimed at preventing Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapon would resume in April.
 (a) runs out (b) was running out
 (c) ran out (d) run
30. While the war of the generals rage on, somewhere in small town India, wonderful things are happening, quietly and minus fanfare.
 (a) rage (b) raging
 (c) rages on (d) raged on
31. According to WWF, the small island nation of Samoa was the first in switch off its lights for Earth Hour.
 (a) first to switch of (b) the first to switch off
 (c) the first of switch off (d) first in switch of
32. The campaign is significant because not just the youths are directly appealing to the world but because their efforts challenge the chimera of normalcy in the area.
 (a) not just because (b) just not because
 (c) not just (d) because just
33. The doctor's association has threatened to go on indefinite strike support of their teachers.
 (a) on supporting to (b) to supporting
 (c) for support (d) in support of
34. If one prays honestly and sincerely, God will listen to one's prayer.
 (a) If one pray (b) One if prays
 (c) If one will praying (d) No correction required
35. Not only I but also my parents are looking forward to see you soon.
 (a) am looking forward to seeing
 (a) are looking to see forward
 (c) are looking forward seeing
 (d) are looking forward to seeing
36. They are waiting for her since morning.
 (a) are waiting (b) are awaiting to
 (c) have been a waiting (d) have been waiting for
37. If he had asked me, I would have helped him.
 (a) If he ask (b) had he asked
 (c) He had asked (d) No correction required

38. I am sure that scientists must discover a cure for AIDS by the end of next decade.
 (a) will have discovered (b) might discovered
 (c) have discovered (d) must discover
39. It is important that whatever else happens, these two factors should not be messed around with
 (a) It is important that
 (b) It is a fact that
 (c) It should be urgently understood that
 (d) It should be understood that
40. The appetite of banks for funds was lost under the onslaught of the slowdown, corporates refused to borrow- even as bank deposits flourished
 (a) bank deposits flourished
 (b) bank deposits swelled
 (c) bank deposits were enhanced
 (d) bank deposits flummoxed
41. The MP rose up to say that, in her opinion, she thought the Woman's Reservation Bill should be passed on unanimously
 (a) rose to say that she thought the women's reservation bill should be passed
 (b) rose up to say that, the women's reservation bill should be passed on
 (c) rose to say that, in her opinion, she thought that the women's reservation bill should be passed
 (d) rose to say that, in her opinion, the women's reservation bill should be passed on
42. Doctors suggest that patients suffering on account of high blood pressure take regular exercise stay away from nicotine and eat plenty of vegetables.
 (a) who suffer from high blood pressure should be taking regular exercise, stay away from nicotine and eat plenty of vegetables.
 (b) suffering from high blood pressure have to be taking regular exercise, stay away from nicotine and eating plenty of vegetables.
 (c) suffering high blood pressure should take regular exercise, stay from nicotine and eat plenty of vegetables.
 (d) suffering from high blood pressure take regular exercise, stay away from nicotine and eat plenty of vegetables.
43. The irate resident dragged the builder to the court for failing to transfer the title of the property in their names.
 (a) to the court for failing to transfer the title of the property to their names.
 (b) to court for failing to transfer the title of the property to their names.
 (c) to court in failing to transfer the title of the property in their names.
 (d) to court for failing to transfer the title to the property in their names.
44. One of the reasons rich students opt for a foreign degree is because they may have lost out in the race for a seat in a good, local institution.
 (a) because they may have lost out in the race for a seat in a good, local institution.
 (b) that they may have lost out in the race for a seat in good, local institution.
 (c) for the reason that they may have lost out in the race for a seat in a good, local institution.
 (d) so that they may have lost out in the race for a seat in a good, local institution.
45. During the literary renaissance of the 1920s, a large number of new writers — William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, John Dos Passos, and F. Scott Fitzgerald — sought to record the inner life of Americans and to scrutinize the American dream, the dream that anyone can earn his own fortune and live happily ever after through hard work, which had become tarnished.
 (a) the dream that anyone can earn his own fortune and live happily ever after through hard work, which had become tarnished
 (b) the tarnished dream that anyone can make his own fortune and live happily ever after through hard work
 (c) the tarnished dream that anyone can, through hard work, make his own fortune and live happily ever after
 (d) the dream that anyone can earn his own fortune and live happily ever after, though tarnished, through hard work
46. Two recent statements on the tenure of university professors offer conflicting points of view: those that say that lifetime tenure ensures academic freedom and those that say that lifetime tenure encourages professional laziness and irresponsibility.
 (a) those that say that lifetime tenure ensures academic freedom and those that say that lifetime tenure encourages professional laziness and irresponsibility
 (b) some declare that lifetime tenure ensures academic freedom, and others say that it encourages professional laziness and irresponsibility
 (c) saying that lifetime tenure either ensures academic freedom or encourages irresponsible laziness
 (d) one emphasizes the academic freedom that tenure ensures, and the other stresses the professional laziness and irresponsibility it encourages
47. In the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians, the refusal of each side to acknowledge each other as a legitimate national movement is closer to the heart of the problem than is any other issue.
 (a) the refusal of each side to acknowledge each other as a legitimate national movement is closer to the heart of the problem than
 (b) that the refusal of each side to acknowledge another as a legitimate national movement is closer to the heart of the problem as
 (c) the refusal of each side to acknowledge another as a legitimate national movement is closer to the heart of the problem than
 (d) that the refusal of each side to acknowledge another as a legitimate national movement is closer to the heart of the problem than

48. Agencies studying discrimination in housing have experimentally proved that minority clients are often discouraged as prospective buyers of residential real estate and the antidiscrimination legislation of recent decades were only mitigating, rather than abolishing, inequity in housing practices.
- (a) the antidiscrimination legislation of recent decades were only mitigating, rather than abolishing, inequity in housing practices
 - (b) in recent decades, the antidiscrimination legislation only mitigated, rather than abolishing, inequity in housing practices
 - (c) that antidiscrimination legislation of recent decades has only mitigated, rather than abolished, inequity in housing practices
 - (d) that, in recent decades, antidiscrimination legislation has only mitigated, rather than abolishing, housing practices' inequity
49. Unlike German Shepherds or Doberman pinchers, there is an unwillingness on the part of many people to believe that pit bulls might be fully domesticated.
- (a) Unlike German Shepherds or Doberman pinchers, there is an unwillingness on the part of many people to believe that pit bulls might be fully domesticated.
 - (b) Many people, willing to believe that German Shepherds and Doberman pinchers might be fully domesticated, are unwilling to believe the same of pit bulls.
 - (c) Unlike German Shepherds or Doberman pinchers, pit bulls bring out an unwillingness in many people to believe that they might be fully domesticated.
 - (d) Many people are unwilling to believe that pit bulls might be fully domesticated even while they are willing to believe that German Shepherds and Doberman pinchers might be.
50. In contrast to accredited universities that can grant degrees and whose students can be eligible for Federal Aid, nonaccredited colleges, while still able to enroll students and to provide instruction, cannot provide their students with the same types of services.
- (a) nonaccredited colleges, while still able to enroll students and to provide instruction, cannot provide their students with the same types of services
 - (b) nonaccredited colleges cannot provide their students with the same types of services, though still able to enroll students and provide instruction
 - (c) enrolling students and providing instruction, while unable to provide their students with the same types of services, are nonaccredited colleges
 - (d) the services of nonaccredited colleges, while including the ability to enroll students and provide instruction, do not include the same types of services
51. Although the losing party disapproves of every aspect of the opponent's platform, they later conceded that there must be a basis for a cooperative government and agreed to compromise.
- (a) disapproves of every aspect of the opponent's platform, they later conceded that there must be a basis
 - (b) disapproves of every aspect of the opponent's platform, it later conceded that there must be a basis
 - (c) disapproved of every aspect of the opponent's platform, they later conceded that there had to be some basis
 - (d) had disapproved of every aspect of the opponent's platform, it later conceded that there must be a basis
52. Large and experienced firms are more efficient at acquiring smaller and distressed firms than are large and inexperienced firms, and converting them to profitable ventures.
- (a) Large and experienced firms are more efficient at acquiring smaller and distressed firms than large and inexperienced firms.
 - (b) Large and experienced firms are more efficient than large and inexperienced firms at acquiring smaller and distressed firms
 - (c) Large and experienced firms, acquire smaller and distressed firms more efficiently than large and inexperienced firms
 - (d) Large and experienced firms, more efficient than large and inexperienced firms at acquiring smaller and distressed firms
53. The economic growth increased from 7 to 9 percent in November 2010, supporting the expectations that industrial growth rate in October-December quarter more than doubled that of the 4 per cent growth rate in industrial growth for the previous quarter.
- (a) that industrial growth in the October-December quarter, more than the doubled that of
 - (b) of industrial growth in the October-December quarter, it more than doubled
 - (c) of industrial growth in the October-December quarter, that it would more than double that of
 - (d) that industrial growth in October-December quarter would more than double.
54. As a result of surging financial greed, the international rating agencies upgraded the rating of the credit derivative instruments, and hence analysts recommended a strong buy, ignoring the advice of Warren Buffett who warned that these instruments would prove not only dangerous but ineffective in the long-run
- (a) who warned that those instruments would prove to be both dangerous and
 - (b) warning that these instruments would prove not only dangerous and also
 - (c) warning that these instruments would prove itself to be both dangerous and
 - (d) who was warning that these instruments would prove not only dangerous but

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 55 - 59) : In the following questions a part of the sentence is underlined. Below are given alternatives to the underlined part at (A), (B) and (C) which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed your answer is (D). Mark your answer in the Answer-Sheet. **[SSC CGL 2012]**

55. You shall have attended if the court had instructed you to do so.
 (a) would have had to attend
 (b) would attend
 (c) would have to
 (d) No improvement
56. The relics of Greece over which such a great deal of evidence has been collected should be preserved.
 (a) from which (b) on which
 (c) ascent which (d) No improvement
57. When the beverage was ready, they drank possibly as much as they could.
 (a) as much as they possibly could
 (b) as much as possibly they could
 (c) as much as they could possibly
 (d) No improvement
58. A citizen is expected to give allegiance to his country of origin.
 (a) homage (b) loyalty
 (c) obedience (d) No improvement
59. We were with daggers drawn despite attempts to understand each other.
 (a) in (b) on
 (c) at (d) No improvement

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 60 - 69) : In the following questions, a sentence/part of the sentence is underlined. Below are given alternatives to the underlined sentence/part of the sentence at (a), (b) and (c) which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, your answer is (d). **[SSC CGL 2012]**

60. The climate of Karnataka is cooler than Tamil Nadu.
 (a) is cooler to (b) is cooler than of
 (c) is cooler than that of (d) No improvement
61. The Tsunami victims suffered of cholera.
 (a) suffered from (b) suffered under
 (c) suffered in (d) No improvement
62. I gave to Sana the keys.
 (a) I gave (b) I gave to the
 (c) I gave the (d) No improvement
63. If he smokes less he might get rid of his cough.
 (a) If he smoked less he would get rid of his cough.
 (b) If he had smoked less he might get rid of his cough.
 (c) If he smokes less he might have got rid of his cough.
 (d) No improvement.
64. He compensated the loss to me.
 (a) He compensated the loss for me.
 (b) He compensated me to the loss
 (c) He compensated me for the loss.
 (d) No improvement.

65. As employees, we are accountable for our stakeholders.
 (a) accountable with (b) accountable to
 (c) accountable against (d) No improvement
66. Recently he had insured for a mediclaim policy.
 (a) He had recently insured for
 (b) Recently he insured for
 (c) He insured recently for
 (d) No improvement
67. Everyday, we usually had lunch at 1.30 p.m.
 (a) we have had usually
 (b) we have usually
 (c) we usually have
 (d) No improvement
68. All nations must first become agricultural strong.
 (a) become agricultural strong
 (b) become strong agriculture
 (c) become agriculture strong
 (d) No improvement
69. An orangutan's intelligence is as superior to that of man.
 (a) is more superior to
 (b) is superior to
 (c) is superior than that of
 (d) No improvement

DIRECTIONS (Qs. 70-79): In the following questions, a sentence/a part of the sentence is underlined. Below are given alternatives to the underlined part at (a), (b), (c) which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed your answer is (d). Mark your answer in the Answer Sheet.

[SSC CGL, 2014]

70. Why should you be despaired of your success of your undertaking?
 (a) you despair of the success of your undertaking
 (b) you despair of success of undertaking
 (c) you be despaired of the success of your undertaking
 (d) No improvement.
71. As Rees was going to town in the High Street a savage dog attacked him and bit him.
 (a) going to town a savage dog attacked him and bit him in the High Street
 (b) in the High Street a savage dog attacked him and bit him in the town
 (c) going to town in the High Street a savage dog bit him and attacked him
 (d) No improvement
72. Something is pretty here that Vineeta can wear to the party.
 (a) Something here is pretty
 (b) Something is here pretty
 (c) Here is something pretty
 (d) No improvement

73. I have dreamt all my life to own a beautiful maroon coloured car.
 (a) of owning (b) to owning
 (c) at owning (d) No improvement
74. Sitting on the hill top, the sun went down watching before him.
 (a) he watched the sun go down.
 (b) the sun went down with him watching
 (c) the sun went down when he watched
 (d) No improvement
75. The office is soon to be closed.
 (a) just to (b) about to
 (c) immediately to (d) No improvement
76. He has achieved nothing out of his way worth mentioning.
 (a) out of the way (b) by the way
 (c) in a big way (d) No improvement
77. I prevailed on him to vote for you.
 (a) to (b) at
 (c) upon (d) No improvement
78. Eager to pass his final exams, studying was the students top priority.
 (a) the student's top priority was studying.
 (b) the student made studying his top priority.
 (c) the top priority of studying was made by the student.
 (d) No improvement.
79. Mr. Dev will not go to the wedding reception without being called.
 (a) if he is not invited
 (b) till he is invited
 (c) unless he is invited
 (d) No improvement

Hints & Solutions

LEVEL- I

1. (d) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (c) 5. (d)
6. (c) 7. (a) 8. (b) 9. (c) 10. (b)
11. (b) 12. (a) 13. (d) 14. (a) 15. (a)
16. (b) 17. (c) 18. (d) 19. (d) 20. (b)
21. (b) 22. (d) 23. (c) 24. (d) 25. (b)
26. (a) 27. (d) 28. (b) 29. (d) 30. (b)
31. (c) 32. (b) 33. (b) 34. (d) 35. (a)
36. (c) 37. (b) 38. (b) 39. (d) 40. (c)
41. (c) 42. (d) 43. (b) 44. (d) 45. (b)
46. (c) 47. (a) 48. (d) 49. (a) 50. (a)
51. (a) 52. (b) 53. (c) 54. (b) 55. (c)
56. (b) 57. (a) 58. (c) 59. (a) 60. (d)
61. (a) 62. (b) 63. (b) 64. (c) 65. (a)
66. (d) 67. (c) 68. (b)

69. (d) When we use the word 'hardly', it implies a negative meaning, there is then no need to use not, so the most suitable use is 'he hardly had any friends'.
70. (c) The tense in this sentence should be the present perfect continuous because it refers to an action that started at some time in past and continues till the present time so right use is 'have been living in Mumbai'.
71. (a) As a child, should be followed by a phrase that has 'child' as its subject, i.e., as a child I was taken by my parents to visit Jammu & Kashmir or other ways, we can change the first part of the sentence, the second part describes an action so the first should be an adverb clause. Thus when I was child is the most suitable alternative.
72. (a) 'Anyone' implies a person involved. So a personal pronoun will be needed to give conditions later in the sentence, there must be a 'he' or 'one' in the sentence. The noun cannot be in the second person but has to be in the third person because 'Anyone' refers to an unknown third person.
73. (c) The use of the modal 'should' is unnecessary in this statement. It is a statement giving directions.
74. (c) The first part of the sentence is directed at a subject, which is 'eaten in Portugal only', i.e., the potato, therefore the comma should be followed by a phrase with potato as its subject and not Indians. Of (c) & (d), (c) is the right option because 'suspicious to Indian' is not an appropriate usage.
75. (d) The comparative degree for verb 'fast' is 'faster' and there is no need to add more to it.
76. (d) Replace 'they' with 'those'.
77. (b) Option (b) depicts the best way of presenting the underlined part. The two parts of the sentence 'Anita liked to

watch television' and 'she found the...especially fascinating' are independent of each other. So the usage of the phrase 'of which' in option (a), is inappropriate as to whom it refers is unclear and it also depicts the link between the two parts of sentence. Option (c) is wordy. In option (d), the word 'especially' in the end is wrong as the sentence does not continue further. Also, it does not make any sense. Hence, option (b) is the correct option.

78. (c) Option (c) depicts the best way of presenting the underlined part. Option (a) is incorrect as the phrase 'causing it' does not go with the word 'although', which begins the sentence. The word 'although' itself means 'in spite of the fact'. So the phrase 'and yet' in option (b) is inappropriate to use with it. Option (d) is incorrect as the two parts of the sentence, one showing the action and other the effect, are dependent on each other. But the use of 'and' shows that they are independent. Hence, option (c) is the correct option.
79. (d) Option (d) depicts the best way of presenting the underlined part as it is grammatically correct and concise. Option (a) is incorrect as it is not clear that 'its' refers to what. Also, the phrase 'many people skip' is related to breakfast. In order to show this relation, a relative pronoun 'which' should be used before it. Option (b) is incorrect as it depicts an unnecessary shift from active voice to passive voice, thus making it wordy. Underestimation of breakfast serves as a reason for people skipping breakfast. But in option (c), the usage of 'and' shows no such relationship of cause and effect. Hence, option (d) is the correct option.
80. (c) Option (c) depicts the best way of presenting the underlined part as it is grammatically correct and concise. Option (a) is incorrect as the relative pronoun 'which' is used for a thing and not for 'people'. Option (b) is incorrect as it is not clear that 'they' refers to 'people' or 'shipwrecks'. Also, the emphasis is on the finding of treasure in shipwrecks and not simply on the finding of treasure. Option (d) is incorrect as with the word 'believe', the use of 'that' is more appropriate than the word 'about' in the given context. Hence, option (c) is the correct option.
81. (c) Since the whole sentence is in the present tense "yet to decided" should be replaced with "yet to decide".
82. (d) Rohan's mother cannot be feed up. It has no meaning. This should be replaced with fed up of.
83. (c) Since the subject is a female "caught the eye" should be replaced with "caught her eye".

84. (e)
 85. (e)
 86. (e)
 87. (c) The correct spelling is 'parties'
 88. (d) The correct spelling is 'meeting'
 89. (a) Replace 'found' with 'fond'
 90. (3) Replace 'strand' with 'stand'
 91. (d)
 92. (e)
 93. (d) 94. (b) 95. (c) 96. (a) 97. (c)
 98. (d) 99. (d) 100. (b) 101. (d) 102. (c)
 103. (b) 104. (c)
 105. (c) Sohan was pleased at the news yesterday. (the sentence is in past tense)
 106. (a) She did not like the movie, nor did I.
 107. (a) Old habits die hard.
 108. (b) One cannot be indifferent to one's health, can one?
 109. (a) The mother with her children was expected.
 110. (c)
 111. (b) Contentious means causing or likely to cause an argument. Best alternative is quarrelsome.
 112. (c)
 113. (c)
 114. (b)
 115. (a) Treated us to which also means offered us
 116. (c) Scrutinising means revising
 117. (b) Since she has been directing
 118. (c) So long as will be the exact phrase
 119. (b) Latest will be the correct word here
 120. (c) Gentry is plural in number.
 121. (b)
 122. (b) Here, even in a little quantity should be used. To use plural form is not proper.
 123. (c) Conditional sentence is in past simple. Hence, would you take ... should be used.
 124. (d) Here, generality is evident. Hence, present simple should be used.
 125. (b) He will revise it on coming back.
 126. (b) The members of the student's union did not sit for the examination in protest.
 127. (d) She was kept from her assignment because of her loquacious roommate.
 128. (d) James epitomises everything that a teacher should be. Epitomises means to personify, typify the traits/ characteristics.
 129. (a) The businessman is respectfully connected.

LEVEL- II

- (a) This is an easy one because the other choices don't fit in properly even when we read them along with the sentence.
- (a) The given statement means that Rahul Bajaj, who did a nice job of making the company what it is now, should now go away or leave it. 'Let go' refers to stop holding onto something, and in this context it means to stop holding onto this job in the company or the responsibilities. Rein as a noun could refer to anything which is a means of control. So, the given statement is correct: option (a) is the answer. Option (b) is not more appropriate than (a) because 'stepping down' can also mean reducing the level/scope, so then it would mean that Rahul Bajaj should not leave the company completely, which is different to what is stated in the statement. Option (c) is wrong, because the word 'off' is different from 'of'. Option (d) is wrong, because delegating responsibility means giving the responsibility to someone else, but that would slightly change the statement, as it does not say that Rahul Bajaj should leave and give his responsibility to someone; this would be like adding information from our side, which is not allowed.
- (c) The given statement is trying to mean that as the standard of education has improved or picked up, expensive private school has grown and spread all over the country (all over the country, and every corner of the country, have the same meaning). 'Blooming up' is wrong because it means growing up and is used to express a positive connotation. Here, it is clear that the author wants to state things in a negative shade.
 Now, 'have started blooming or have started growing or have started mushrooming' are all redundant sentences as by just stating 'have grown/spread/mushroomed' it can still mean that the action started sometime in the past and is still going on i.e. present perfect simple. So options (a) and (b) can be ruled out. Option (a) is wrong too, because then the tense would be simple past, which would mean that these private school grew or spread in the past, but this is not the case in present. Option (d) is wrong, because 'to blossom' is to develop and reach a promising state, but the sentence has not defined how much these schools have grown and what this stage of growth can be classified as. (an example of the use of blossomed: their friendship blossomed into romance).
- (a) The given statement is correct. Option (b) cannot be true, because saying something is 'important' and something is a 'fact' have two different meanings. A fact refers to something that can be argued upon, and there is a certain proof to affirm its validity, whereas 'important' means something that is crucial or vital or necessary, and

that is completely correct in the context as the speaker is stressing that the 'two factors' are vital. Options (c) and (d) are wrong, because understanding something is different from considering it important; understanding something means you 'get it', but 'understanding the importance' is a different thing. Option (c) is also incorrect, because there is nothing in the statement to suggest that the matter is 'urgent'.

5. (b) Let us understand the statement first: the speaker is expressing that it is very important to ensure that the company does not go for diversification (increasing the number of products/services that a company produces) i.e. the company should not go in different directions or set different goals. When we say 'it must be noted' we are suggesting that the people consider or understand the importance, whereas 'notice' refers to observing. It is clear from the context explained above that 'noted' is the appropriate word. Hence, option (b) is correct and (a) is incorrect. Option (c) is wrong too, because 'it must be pointed out' refers to showing or talking about something so that others will notice it, hence it will be clearly out of the context. Option (d) is similar to (b), the only difference being of 'should' instead of the presence of 'must'. The difference between must and should is only of the degree. When saying 'you must', you are saying that it is required and necessary, whereas in saying 'you should', you are merely suggesting something. Looking at the context, 'must' is the more appropriate word.
6. (a) The given statement means that the British Airspace is 'focusing' on spreading its network, but probably having their flights in more European countries. Let's first look at the words: concentrating, pursuing, stressing, and focusing. Focusing and concentrating are synonymous to each other and they refer to directing attention on someone or something. 'To pursue' is 'to chase, follow or seek to attain or accomplish a goal over a long period of time'. 'Stressing' means 'emphasizing something'. Hence, the appropriate word for the sentence would be concentrating or focusing. We have to pick between the options (a) and (d) now: forging can refer to creating something strong or enduring. We cannot say if the company is looking to form links for the long term, or the ones that would hopefully last, or it is just something they are trying out for sometimes. So, option (a) is correct.
7. (b) We have to basically pick the most appropriate word among: flourished, swelled, enhanced, and flummoxed. Let's look at the meanings of these words: Flourish refers 'to grow or develop rapidly or vigorously'; swell means 'grow or expand'; enhanced can refer to 'something has been made better or increased'; flummoxed means 'bewildered or perplexed'. The given statement means that the appetite of banks was lost and corporate were not

taking funds, or not borrowing money from banks, hence the amount of funds with the banks increased. Option (b) is right because swell means increase in magnitude or number and that fits into the context. Option (a) is wrong because flourished means to grow quickly or rapidly, but there is nothing to indicate in the statement to show that there was this 'rapid pace'. Option (c) can be rejected, because enhanced can also mean increase in quality too, so if we had to pick between swell or enhance, then swell is more appropriate for this statement. Option (d) is wrong because flummoxed is a very different word, as explained already.

8. (c) 9. (d) 10. (d) 11. (b)
12. (c) 13. (b)
14. (c) The modal 'should' need not be repeated since the conjunction 'and' is being used. The should in the sentence will be used for both the parts.
15. (b) 'in' is the correct preposition to be used with the verb circulated.
16. (c) 'craziness' is no word, the right noun is craze. If that is maddening is chosen it will be followed by 'that is responsible' which will not be appropriate 'mad craze' is the correct use, and this craze is not for the noun 'speed' but the verb 'speeding', i.e., driving vehicles at high speed.
17. (c) Co-operate has an implicit meaning of together. It means 'work together', so together must be eliminated. Similarly 'dividing' means 'breaking up' so 'up' from 'dividing' must also be eliminated.
18. (c) The second part of the sentence is an action taken as a result of an incident, so the first part of the sentence must give the incident and use the word 'since'. (b) is not the right option because it will make the first part active voice and second passive voice which must not happen. Similarity of voice should be maintained in the sentence.
19. (a) "arriving" is not in agreement with "sailed" in option (d) "here" is incorrect.
20. (b) "reason" is not the correct word for this context. There is no need to put an 's' in verb in case of third person plural number.
21. (a) The question tests the idiomatic expression. 'Recognizing the promise' is correct expression and 'promise of X' as well as 'for Y' is idiomatic expression. Both criteria are met and thus the sentence is correct in the given form.
 - (a) Correct. This option correctly uses the object 'promise' and uses the idiomatic expression 'for the advancement of'.
 - (b) 'promise' to is with a different meaning from 'promise for'. The second sense is correct in the given situation.
 - (c) Recognizing the promise is correct idiom, while this option uses 'the promising research' giving a sense that they recognize the 'research' rather than the 'promise' of it.
 - (d) The error of illogical shift of object is not corrected. Moreover, the use of 'in advancing' is not idiomatic.

22. (d) Dangling modifier and illogical predication.

The sentence starts with a prepositional phrase that should logically modify the subject. In the given sentence the prepositional phrase by 'finding, dating, and interpreting...' illogically modifies 'our curiosity', resulting in dangling modifier error. Further more, the use of 'curiosity' as subject makes it mean that our curiosity 'shows how have become what we are'. This is the error of illogical predication.

(a) The illogical predication and dangling modifier error with the prepositional phrase 'by finding...' make this option incorrect.

(b) The prepositional phrase 'by finding...' cannot function as subject of the verb 'satisfy'. This would have been correct, though awkward, in the absence of preposition 'by'.

(c) The subject 'our past' is illogically modified the prepositional phrase beginning the sentence creating dangling modifier error. The problem of illogical predication persists as the structure means 'our past satisfies our curiosity'.

(d) Correct. The use of archaeology as subject removes both the dangling modifier error and illogical predication error. The sentence is parallel with parallel verbs 'satisfies' and 'shows'.

23. (d) Wordiness and parallel structure.

The sentence presents a redundancy problem by using the words 'likely' and 'potential' together. The sentence uses a relative clause in stead of a phrase making the structure wordy.

(a) Redundancy of expression makes this sentence incorrect.

(b) The expression is wordy and unparallel because 'stories about X' and 'that there would be a potential crash' are not parallel.

(c) The use of relative clause after stories makes it not only wordy but also unparallel to the prepositional phrase after 'and'.

(d) Correct. The sentence uses prepositional phrase using concise structure and is parallel because it use two prepositional phrases with conjunction 'and'.

24. (d) Idiom make a beeline for something means : to go straight towards something / somebody as quickly as you can.

25. (a) Idiom in the nick of time means : at the very last moment; just in time before something bad happens.

26. (e) Idiom on cloud nine means : extremely happy.

27. (c) passing the bucks

28. (b) Idiom rack your brain (s) means : to think very hard or for a long time about something.

29. (a) runs out.

30. (c) rages on.

31. (b) the first to switch off.

32. (a) not just because.

33. (d) in support of.

34. (d) 35. (d) 36. (d) 37. (d)

38. (a)

39. (d) is correct because whatever is important should be understood.

40. (b) is correct as the word "swelled" is the better option to use than "flourished", as swelled means growing.

41. (a) is the correct choice as gramatically it is the only one which is making sense and the bill should be passed, "on" being wrongly used.

42. (d) (a) is verbose; (b) has structural and parallelism errors. In (c) preposition 'from' is omitted. Only (d) is correct in terms of parallelism and the right use of the subjunctive form.

43. (d) Visiting a court for the primary purpose does not warrant the use of an article. So 'the court' is incorrect. When we imply a legal right, we use the term 'title to' and not 'title of'.

44. (b) The term 'because' cannot be used with 'reason'. So option I can be ruled out. Since the first part of the sentence already states 'one of the reasons', the use of the phrase 'for the reason' in the second part of the sentence is incorrect. So option (c) can be ruled out. 'So that' does not make sense in the given context.

45. (c) The original version is confusing because the clause which had become tarnished is awkwardly separated from dream and the prepositional phrase through hard work is awkwardly separated from the verb it modifies, earn. In choices (b) and (d), the prepositional phrase is misplaced.

46. (d) In the original underlined portion, those is incorrect. To express respectively two singular points of view, the noun or pronoun which refers to each must be singular; those is, of course, plural. Only choice (d) provides a clearly singular reference, one, for each viewpoint.

47. (a) (a) gives the correct usage.

48. (c) (c) shows the correct usage of tenses.

49. (b) (b) corrects the misplaced modifier.

50. (a) (a) gives the correct usage.

51. (d) Only (d) shows the correct sequence of tenses.

52. (b) In the given sentence comparison has been made between "large and experienced firms" and "large and inexperienced firms" which is best brought out by option (b) is incorrect because 'are' is missing.

53. (d) Since the sentence is saying something about expectations to be met in future. Therefore (d) is the correct choice. Also 'supporting the expectations' should be followed by that.

54. (a) (b), (c) and (d) would be wrong because warning and was warning will render the sentence inconsistency in terms of tense.

55. (a) Would have had to attend
56. (c) ascent which
57. (a) as much as they possibly could
58. (b) Alternative should be 'Loyalty'
59. (c) at
60. (c) Here we compare the climate of Karnataka with the climate of Tamil Nadu and not with the Tamil Nadu itself; hence we use 'than that of'.
61. (a) If someone suffers from an unpleasant or difficult experience or situation, then we use 'suffer from.' Ex: Shiela is suffering from ill health. Lately factories are suffering from a desperate shortage of labours.
62. (a) The correct arrangement of sentence is - I gave Sana the keys.
63. (a) When you are using if to talk about something that is unlikely to happen or is impossible, use the past tense in the if-clause, not present. Ex: If someone gave me (NOT gives or would give me) the money, I'd buy a car tomorrow.
64. (c) 'He compensated me for the loss.' is the correct answer.
65. (b) The proposition 'to' is complementary with accountable.
66. (a) Recently denotes not long ago and thus usually takes perfect tense.
67. (c) Present tense shows what exists or happening now. It also denotes a habit which in this case is the timing of having lunch.
68. (a) Here 'agriculturally' is the adverb that adds to the meaning of the adjective 'strong'. Other examples are 'slowly' in 'He ran slowly', 'very' in 'It's very hot', or 'naturally' in 'Naturally, we want you to come.'
69. (b) Superior always takes preposition 'to'. Ex: Your computer is far superior to mine.
70. (a) The sentence requires an improvement. The underlined portion must be rectified to 'you despair of the success of your undertaking'.
71. (d) The statement requires no improvement. The underlined portion of the statement suits best with the meaning of the statement.
72. (c) The underlined portion of the statement requires an improvement. It may be rectified as 'here is something pretty that Vinita can wear to the party.'
73. (a) The underlined portion requires an improvement. It may be rectified as 'of owning'. So, the sentence will be as 'I have dreamt all my life of owning a beautiful maroon colored car'.
74. (a) The underlined portion in the sentence requires an improvement. It may be rectified as 'he watched the sun go down'. So, the sentence will be 'sitting on the top of the hill he watched the sun go down'.
75. (b) The underlined portion of the sentence has to be rectified. 'Soon to' may be replaced with 'about to'. So, the sentence will be as 'the office is about to close'.
76. (a) The underlined portion of the sentence needs to be rectified. It may be replaced with 'out of the way'. So, the sentence will be as 'He has achieved nothing out of the way worth mentioning'.
77. (c) 'On' may be replaced with 'upon'. So, the sentence will be as 'I prevailed upon him to vote for you'.
78. (b) The underlined portion may be replaced with 'the student made studying his top priority'. So, the sentence will be as 'Eager to pass his final exams the student made studying his top priority'.
79. (c) The underlined portion in the sentence may be replaced with 'unless he is invited'. So, the sentence will be as 'Mr. Dev will not go to the wedding reception unless he is invited'.