

A Sentence Completion question consists of an incomplete sentence, which has one or two blanks. From the answer choices given, you are asked to choose the appropriate word / words that can take the place of the blanks in order to best complete the meaning of the given sentence.

Directions:

Each of the sentences below has one or two blanks; each blank indicates omission of a word or set of words. Beneath the sentence are given four answer choices, each containing a word or a set of words. Choose the word or set of words for each blank that gives the best meaning to the sentence as a whole.

A thinking man resists the vulgar prosperity that ____ ever to ____ by preserving and communicating heroic sentiments.

- A. disintegrates ... banality
- B. transforms... neutrality . .
- C. decays... luxury
- D. retrogrades ... barbarism
- E. level ...hurtly

The theory underlying a sentence completion stimulus is that the meaning and the tone of a sentence can be gathered without the missing word/ words. If so, it is possible for you to supply the appropriate word(s) to complete the sentence.

Invariably, in every sentence completion question, there will be a clue or two that could be used as lead(s) toward identifying the correct word(s).

These clues could be structural (syntax/grammar clues) or semantic (meaning clues). The word(s) that you choose should agree and merge with the sentence structurally and functionally or semantically.

Every sentence completion question can be analyzed for the negative or positive nature or tone of words to be filled in.

What is measured by a Sentence completion question?

i. Skill of vocabulary

Sentence completion question is a test of your word power and diction. It is only if you know the meaning of word(s) that you will be able to choose confidently, the appropriate one(s) to fill the incomplete sentence. Moreover the question sentence also may have difficult words in itself, knowing the meaning of which is essential for understanding the sentence holistically and thus to choose the appropriate word(s).

Look at the following question:

The department can use information received from dissatisfied employees and __ to launch an investigation against the company.

- A. pettifoggers
- B. buccaneers
- C. ambassadors
- D. whistleblowers

The knowledge of the meaning of the words in choices is essential for you to select the answer to this question with confidence. Let's analyze meaning of these words.

A Pettifogger is one who practices chicanery or unlawful business. Can this word fit the sentence? No.

A Buccaneer is a pirate; again not a word that would go with dissatisfied employees to supply information about a company.

A whistleblower is one who informs about corruption or wrongdoing. Yes, this fits the sentence.

An Ambassador is not one to do anything with a company. In fact this is the first choice you could eliminate.

ii. Skill of semantics and syntax

Every sentence has a semantic dimension (meaning) and a syntactical dimension (word arrangement). Knowledge of these two is a mandatory condition for you to be able to choose the appropriate word. You must understand the meaning of a sentence in order to identify the appropriate choice word that fills the blank, and completes the sentence coherently.

You should have a good understanding of the functions of structural words in a sentence such as unless, rather, yet, while unfortunately, in contrast, despite.

Look at the following question:

The meaning of words is destroyed if you change them, whereas the meaning of a thought_____ whatever word you think proper to use.

- A. alters B. transforms C. remains D. settles E. Ruins

When you read the sentence you must recognize the function of 'whereas' in the sentence. It signals a shift in the meaning of the sentence.

'One thing is destroyed whereas the other is not' the answer thus is (C) remains.

The semantic feature of a sentence refers to its meaning, and how the meaning of the given words in a sentence helps us to identify the word to complete the sentence.

Study the following sentence:

A cult brand ____ the imagination of a small group who spreads the word, makes converts, helps turn a fringe product into a ____ name.

- A. ceases... redoubtable
- B. elevates ... dynamic
- C. fires... dream
- D. seizes... mainstream

The first clue is the word Imagination; hence options (A) and (D) it, ceases and seizes can easily be eliminated. You have to work for fires and elevates. To fire One's Imagination is a standard idiomatic usage. Moreover the meaning of the sentence implies turning a fringe (peripheral) product into (the opposite of it) a dream product. Hence, answer is (C).

iii. Skill of identifying clues

A sentence completion question is not merely a test of your vocabulary. It also tests your ability to analyze the given sentence and to identify the structural and semantic clues that decide on the meaning and nature of the word(s) to be chosen.

You will find one or two clues in a sentence completion question. Common key words such as and or but are all more valuable for us in sentence completion. These are structural clues. (These are dealt with in detail later)

Sentence Completion Strategies

In order to answer sentence completion question correctly, you should first read the entire sentence as you see it, without trying to fill the word(s). Desist from working on each blank separately. The second part of the sentence may have a bearing on its first part. And both words must fit into the meaning of the sentence; therefore read your choice into the sentence supplying and evaluating both words.

Each sentence contains a few crucial clues that determine the answers, and finding these clues will guide you to the correct answer. Look for what is directly stated. In sentence completion question, you may also find poetic and literary language, which tests your understanding of figurative usage. The correct answer is the one that is directly implied in the sentence.

- Determine where the sentence is heading, using structural clues.
- Anticipate answers in your words.
- Look for answers that are similar to yours.
- Fix the words in the sentence to see if they get with the whole sentence.

Sentence completion strategy in a nutshell.

➤ Strategy 1

Read the entire sentence.

In both one- and two-blank sentences read the entire sentence before you inspect the choices. An overall understanding of the sentence is essential.

➤ **Strategy 2**

Identify structural clues to determine the nature of the word(s) required.

You can determine the positive or negative tone of the expected word using structural clues. And identify the words whose synonym, antonym, parallel word or cause/effect you have to supply.

➤ **Strategy 3**

Substitute your own words. •

Place your own words in the blanks assuming that answer choices are not given, going by the clues you have identified.

➤ **Strategy 4**

Identify the words similar to the ones you substituted.

If the word you have substituted goes with the requirements of the sentence, you are sure to find, a word(s) similar in meaning and tone to the ones you have substituted.

➤ **Strategy 5**

Read the sentence again with word(s) filled in.

Now read the entire sentence with the words filled in to see if the word(s) fit literally and figuratively.

A. THOUGHT CONTINUITY CLUES

In some sentences, the first part of the sentence and the second part are parallel ideas. There is no shift in meaning. The missing word in the sentence is parallel to, or has a meaning similar to a word already given in the sentence. One part of the sentence may be a support to another. Some other times, though, one part of the sentence may be complementary to the other in meaning. These clues continue the sentence in the same direction. The positive or negative tone of what follows is not changed by these clue words.

The words that indicate such continuity are:

- Similarly
- Because
- And
- Since
- Thus
- In fact
- Moreover
- Indeed
- In addition
- Consequently

Study the following sentences:

1. The film script showed depth and maturity; likewise the treatment showed profundity.
2. His argument was convincing and persuasive.
3. Shakespeare lives forever; in fact he is immortal.

Practice Exercise -1

Directions for (Que. 1-14): Read the information carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Read each of the following incomplete sentences, identify the thought continuity clues and supply your own word to complete the sentence. Your word should complete the meaning of the sentence.

1. Churchill was a fine political _____', thousand of people gathered to listen to his formal speeches.
2. The employees decided to go on a strike as the authorities were _____ to their plight.
3. His friends called him a _____' he is very lively and full of energy.
4. These days youngsters are highly _____', they show a lot of experience of the world and social situations.
5. He is _____ and does not show allegiance to any group or political organization.
6. The company is known for its _____ mode of functioning; it is not organized into a clear and efficient organization.
7. _____ people do not show or accept things as they really are.
8. The timing is _____ as the economy is booming and consumer interest is on the rise.
9. This shows the rise of fundamentalism _____ by selfish groups and power hungry politicians.
10. Human beings are not free-living solitary individuals; they are _____.
11. His writing lacks _____; there is nothing new or interesting in his books.
12. Albert is famous for his _____, he shows too high an opinion of himself and his achievements.
13. Delegates expressed strong _____ to the scheme, as it appeared anti-poor.
14. There is a new feeling of _____ in the state, owing to the progressive policies of the new government.

B. PARALLEL IDEA CLUES

These clues are similar to the thought continuity clues. The word that completes the sentence is in the same tone, as in the word already given. The word(s) that complete the sentence complements a word or phrase already given.

- i. All that the young ask of the political class is compassion and concern/ sympathy/ care.
- ii. On question about political and electoral reforms, the respondents showed great forethought and vision/rationality.

In the above sentences you may observe that the words given and the words that have to be filled in are parallel/ complementary or in the same tone.

Practice Exercise – 2

Directions for (Que. 1 - 8): Read the information carefully and answer the questions given below it.

In the following sentences, identify the clue words and supply a word that is parallel to the given word to complete the meaning of the sentence.

1. Global markets demand a more sophisticated and ____ approach.
2. For those who use knowledge at every stage, information will be both-their raw material as well as ____.
3. The _____ of intangible knowledge assets will also mean major change in management structures.
4. As the purchasing capacity of the consumer increases, he will also become more discriminating and ____ of quality and _____ of service.
5. India is a _____ society with varied religions, languages and beliefs.
6. The author of 'An Equal Music' knowingly and _____ overlooks some of the shortcomings of the book.
7. Joyce's clarity and _____ in sketching lives on the edge of despair ensures that her stories will be read widely.
8. The combination of elegance and _____ in his speech enthralled the audience.

C. THOUGHT REVERSAL CLUES

These terms change the direction of the sentence. They make one part of the sentence contradictory to the other part. The word or phrase that completes the sentence is opposite in meaning to a word or phrase already given. The positive or negative charge of an answer is changed by these clues.

Such sign – word include:

- But
- On the contrary

- In spite of
- Yet
- However
- Unless
- Rather
- Although
- While
- Unfortunately
- Nonetheless
- Ironically
- Paradoxically
- On the other hand
- Contradictorily
- Contrastively
- Despite
- Even though
- Even if

Illustrations:

His argument was flawed but persuasive.

There is no cynicism in the way the young deal with issues; on the contrary they are optimistic toward life.

The emphasis will not be on physical assets but on intangibles.

In the sentences above the word in *italics* are structural clues, which indicate that the words to be filled in are opposite in meaning to the words, that are already given in the sentences.

Practice Exercise-3

Directions for (Que.1-7): Read the information carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Now identify thought reversal clues in the following sentences and supply words that provide contrast ideas to those given in the first part of the given sentences.

1. Unless organizations learn to create a strong brand value, they may find their contact with their end customer ____ by intermediaries.
2. Spirituality is something that deals with the celebration of life, and not with ____.
3. Indians have lost their ____, and have succumbed to a culture of materialism.
4. Government agencies have failed to arrive at a consensus due to ____ considerations.
5. Science and religion are not antithetical, but instead hold the prospect of a ____ relationship.

6. Let our difference be the cause for admiration & celebration, and not for _____ & _____.
7. While we see Indians doing well outside India, inside India they are still _____.

Practice Exercise - 4

Directions for (Que. 1 to 9): Read the information carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Read each of the following sentences, identify the clues and write appropriate words in the blanks, to complete the meaning of the sentence.

1. It is heartening to come upon this book at a time, when journalism seems to have been overtaken by _____ and meaninglessness.
2. Although the development process provided security for women, it led to the _____ of their involvement in decision-making.
3. The new approach emphasizes intervention to _____ the problem, rather than to challenge the context that gives forth the problem.
4. One of the greatest threats that the nation faces today is the growing _____ between people of different faiths.
5. If the growing spread of reactionary and _____ religious assertion is any indicator, we in our country are yet to learn how to deal with pluralism.
6. Much of the book cites problems in public health reforms, but very few essays actually point towards _____.
7. At a time when children's stories were exclusively moral and _____ Anderson revolutionized the genre by infusing it with humour, anarchy and sorrow.
8. Anderson expressed the most painful and _____ emotions, with extraordinary aesthetic control.
9. In his simple and _____ way, Anderson told us much about the human condition.

D. CAUSE EFFECT CLUES

While studying a sentence completion question, you should be able to gauge as to which direction the sentence is heading. If the sentence has an idea, it is possible to infer what would logically follow the causal phenomenon. In other words, we can anticipate the type of effect that the given cause would lead to. Similarly by analyzing the nature of an effect (sentences in which effect is given), we can also infer the plausible causal factor that

would've contributed to the type of effect given. The easiest way is to identify the tone of the cause or effect to be supplied into the sentence-negative or positive

Let's work on sentences with cause effect relationship.

Torture is so prevalent and _____ of the helpless so common that these helpless beings are certainly _____

When they pair out their story of agony.

(1) indemnifications... unhinged

(2) felicitation... believable

(3) disparaging ...credulous

(4) victimization ... credible

In the above sentence you observe that there are two clues: parallel and causal. Signaled by the word and the first blank needs a word parallel to torture i.e. victimization. The intensity of these two results in the possibility of the stories believable or credible.

Look at another example:

Higher education in India can no longer be allowed to remain as a/ an _____ instrument that crushes the spirit of the individual while goading him into a _____ and consumerist mode.

(1) innervating... boisterous

(2) emasculating... materialist

(3) invigorating ... pragmatic

(4) relegating ... humanistic

An instrument that crushes the spirit of the individual cannot be innervating or invigorating (both means energizing) nor can it be riveting; since rivet means to hold firmly and relegate means to lower in rank is closer but the latter word cannot be humanistic (3) The word that is parallel to consumerist is materialist.

In a similar mode identify the cause effect ideas in the incomplete sentences in the following drill and choose appropriate words to complete them.

Practice Exercise – 5

Directions for (Que. 1-10): Read the information carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Read each of the following incomplete sentences and identify word(s) from the choices to complete the sentences employing cause-effect clues.

1. The therapies that try to _____ harmony and balance through physical methods, have recently become known collectively as bodywork.

(1) adjust

(2) tamper

(3) facilitate

(4) expurgate

(5) humiliate

2. The _____ of our natural environment has been accompanied by corresponding increase in health problems of individuals.

(1) alterations

(2) transformation

(3) deterioration

(4) transistorizes

(5) condition

3. Rural indebtedness, which has already reached _____, is also likely to grow into the drought-affected areas
 (1) magnanimous proportion (2) alarming properties (3) unambiguous levels
 (4) national standards (5) untimely heights
4. Unlike their civilian counterparts, the army_____ are quick in completing enquires, and therefore their report should be ____ before long.
 (1) legislations ... public (2) headquarters .. consigned (3) courts ...available
 (4) machinery... commissioned (5) troupes ... held
5. At the macro-level, the _____ alienation between nations and provoke wars and large-scale _____ cruelty.
 (1) assuages (2) alleviates (3) exhorts
 (4) aggravating (5) declining
6. The world's quest for peace is shaped by the ____ of power which also, _____, shapes is _____ approach to war.
 (1) paradigm.....ironically (2) perpetrators...paradoxically
 (3) framework.....arguably (4) corridors.....eventually
 (5) resolution.....metaphorically
7. The fact of the novel, that the reviewers found praiseworthy was Rushdie's _____ and sustained optimism in the face of _____.
 (1) forthrightness...evidence (2) honesty.....neutrality (3) perseverance...adversity
 (4) denial.....criticism (5) patience.....honesty
8. The special _____ and privileges writers receive, is their reward for using knowledge in the service of others.
 (1) deference (2) irreverence (3) impetus
 (4) broad-mindedness (5) appearance
9. Unless there are continuous efforts to _____ micronutrients, food grown in soil will be _____ in other nutrients. (Access Code - 01518009)
 (1) advocate.....bereft (2) deliver.....adequate (3) replenish.....deficient
 (4) impair....lacking (5) digest.....nourished
10. There is ____ evident to _____ the claim, that organic food is crucial for the health of human _____ beings.
 (1) yielding.....rebuke (2) captivating.....draft (3) compelling.....stultify
 (4) persuasive.....support (5) sufficient.....renounce
11. Because the ____ span of television-trained audiences has been artificially shortened, candidates are forced to _____ their programs in 30 or 60 seconds summaries.
 (1) campaign.....augment (2)confrontation...telecast (3) concentration...encapsulate
 (4) attention.....encapsulate (5) timely.....shutdown

E. WORD DEFINATION CLUES

Yet another common clue found in sentence completion stimuli is the meaning or definition of the word to be filled given as part of the incomplete sentence itself. It is similar to the thought continuity clue, except that in case the meaning of the word or definition of the word to be selected is already given.

Let us study an example :

The great irony of Apple Computers is that very posture that won Steve jobs' a cult following creating an exclusive group of ____ technicians who ____ refused to bow to IBM, hobbled his company.

iconoclastic.....stubbornly
conservative.....invariably
rebellious.....timidly
traditional.....out rightly

In the sentence above you would've already observed the words 'refused to bow', which signals the word to be placed in the second blank. This phrase clearly defines the word stubbornly.

Another example :

The crisis in modern education is not merely a constraint of ____ of funds but of _____ practices, unsuited for contemporary system.

scarcity.....doctrinaire
fulsomeness.....authoritative
restrictiveness.....autocratic
paucity.....anachronistic

In the above sentence the key to the letter word is 'unsuited for contemporary education', you can now easily eliminate unsuitable choices and arrive at choice D, i.e., anachronist.

Practice Exercise – 6

Clue-word Definition

Directions for (Que. 1 - 15) : Read the information carefully and answer the questions given below it.

Choose the appropriate words that complete the following incomplete sentences, using the clues available below the sentences. The clue is that definition or meaning of words to be selected is already present in the sentences,

1. One approach to define _____ art has suggested that some sort of female _____ or sensibility exists, involving an imagery and formal style specific to women.
(1) abstract....chauvinism (2) modern....sensitivity (3) contemporary...outlook
(4) feminist ... aesthetic (5) martial.....fighters

2. Many of Herbert's poems are mere bundles of ____ of metaphor; quaint and crabbed to the last degree.
 (1) indictment (2) oddities (3) portrayals
 (4) ramification (5) emotions
3. Although the hero travels from place to place and meets with a variety of adventures, Trollope is more than a story. (Access Code - 01518014)
 (1) picturesque (2) narrative (3) picaresque
 (4) thrilling (5) mere
4. Writing thus directly with his temperament, at the suggestion of his moods, Emerson is curiously _____.
 (1) disinterested (2) dispassionate (3) subjective
 (4) nonplussed (5) desperate
5. Tennyson courageously faced the wrath of science, as revealed in geology and biology, but he succeeded in ____ religious consolation from the very things which were ____ as a fatal menace to religion.
 (1) wringing...dreaded (2) occluding....considered (3) persisting...pertinent
 (4) dispersing....highlighted (5) renouncing....psychotic
6. Decorous though they might seem, Austen's ____ anonymity and her modest description of her miniature art imply a criticism.
 (1) studied (2) profound (3) self-exploring
 (4) self-effacing (5) sudden
7. Most relationships between living organisms are essentially ____ ones, characterized by coexistence and interdependence.
 (1) universal (2) dichotomous (3) distinctive
 (4) symbiotic (5) subtle
8. Throughout Greek antiquity, healing was considered as essentially a ____ phenomenon and was associated with many deities.
 (1) spiritual (2) psychotic (3) ideal
 (4) idyllic (5) unscientific
9. The great distinction between teachers and philosophers is that one class speaks from within, or from ____; and the other class from without, as _____. (Access Code-01518020)
 (1) cognizance...intuition (2) memory.... Observer (3) experience.....spectators
 (4) exposure.. experimenters (5) heart.....brain
10. With new push technology, information can be ____ to individual requirements and proactively made available to the people who most use it.
 (1) tailored (2) invested (3) managed
 (4) heralded (5) transformed
11. It is believed that a teacher is not trusted to give ____ of his pupils, and an average teacher's grading of his student is ____ by considerations of affinity and political persuasion.

- (1) a subjective analysis.....supported
 (2) an impartial assessment... clouded
 (3) a disinterested evaluation Denied
 (4) a controlled measurement experimented
 (5) a critical comment.....governed
12. Although a physicist, Franck's work had profound _____ chemistry and on the branch of _____ dealing with the fundamental process of photosynthesis.
 (1) probity...natural science
 (2) earnestness...pathology
 (3) influence on botany
 (4) dependence on ...anatomy
 (5) importance in agriscience
13. I do not think ordinary human beings can be happy without _____; in fact rivalry has been, ever since the origin of man, the spur to most serious matters.
 (1) sports (2) competition (3) art
 (4) cooperation (5) love
14. He was a _____ in his love for his country and consequently expressed himself in extreme ways.
 (1) partisan (2) patriot (3) figurehead
 (4) chauvinist (5) corrupt practices

Practice Exercise – 7

Direction for (Que 1-10): Read the information carefully and answer the question given below it.

Each of the following questions has a sentence that has either one or two blanks. The blanks indicate that a piece of the sentence is missing. Each sentence is followed by four answer choices that consist of words or phrases. Select the answer choice that completes the sentence best.

1. Nature and nature-related knowledge used to be _____ from patentability but recent development go a long way towards _____ the patentability of life forms.
 (1) derived....understanding (2) excluded...accepting (3) demarcated...protecting
 (4) inferred...safeguarding (5) different...similarities in
2. To avoid _____ is a natural tendency, to implicate innocents for reasons of vendetta is _____ not unnatural.
 (1) self-denial (2) self-incrimination (3) self-depreciation
 (4) self-indulgence (5) self-involvement
3. The cult advocates that changes must be on our terms that it must not be under _____, that we anticipate, and always be _____ to change.
 (1) rhapsody...conforming (2) duress.....proactive (3) censure.....welcome
 (4) grievousness...captivated (5) mess.....ready
4. Despite the honour accorded to them by society and the _____ rewards they enjoy for their work, many professionals complain that they feel _____.

- (1) optimal monetary...unperturbed
 (2) scholastic.....disturbed
 (3) substantial monetary.....demoralized
 (4) intangible.....left out
 (5) monetary community.....exhausted
5. Natural selection is a beautiful mechanism for turning rare events into _____ ones.
 (1) unique (2) advanced (3) common
 (4) complex (5) filthy
6. Some people have the ____ for learning foreign languages but they have no _____ to speak any.
 (1) mania....urge (2) capacity....ability (3) aptitude....interested
 (4) unskilled.....avoided (5) urge.....courage
7. Recent fossil evidences suggest that carnivorous dinosaurs were _____ swimmers, but some paleontologist still think that these dinosaurs _____ water.
 (1) swift.....entered (2) nervous.....loathed (3) accomplished....feared
 (4) unskilled avoided (5) fast.....regulated
8. Although we have been _____ universalization of elementary education, since 1950, there is little hope of _____ the objective in the near future.
 (1) forecasting...perpetuating (2) predicting...internalizing (3) carping...proliferating
 (4) stressing.....achieving (5) planning implementing
9. The _____ of foreign rule has left its trace everywhere in the country, but not so _____ as on our language and educational system.
 (1) epitome.....predictably (2) stigma.....noticeably (3) remnants.....obscurely
 (4) reflections.....proudly (5) None of these
10. The language of cinema is often regarded as _____, but an examination of films from various countries reveals the _____ of the medium.
 (1) deferential....variance (2) appealing....dichotomy (3) rural.....permeability
 (4) universal....ethnicity (5) jolly.....loopholes

Practice Exercise – 8

Direction for (Que 1-16):Read the information carefully and answer the question given below it.

Each of the following questions has a sentence that has either one or two blanks. The blanks indicate that a piece of the sentence is missing. Each sentence is followed by four answer choices that consists of words or phrases. Select the answer choice that completes the sentence best.

1. Implementation of educational programs is halting, inefficient and often ____ the main purpose.
 (1) obstructive of (2) insular to (3) rallying around
 (4) election in (5) diverge

2. Some people argue that the theory of a female aesthetic really _____ women that it limits them to certain feminine forms and images.
(1) thwarts (2) restricts (3) disports
(4) reminisces (5) exploits
3. As a result of rapid increases in computer-based technologies, _____ expansion in financial flows, both _____ and within countries has emerged.
(1) an energizing....overseas (2) a disturbing.. abroad (3) a dramatic....cross border
(4) an unexpected.... local (5) a calculated..... amongst
4. It is the _____ and moral _____ of every generation to ensure a better world for the next generation.
(1) spiritual....reward (2) ethical.....obligation (3) emotional...duty
(4) cognitive.....right (5) logical....activities
5. A fall in agricultural income means a _____ fall in rural demand.
(1) concomitant (2) illustrious (3) praiseworthy
(4) debatable (5) substantial
6. Too many people take a _____ arithmetic view of life; they assume that if numbers go down, living standards will _____ and correspondingly go up.
(1) advanced...debilitatingly (2) definite..diminish (3) simplistic.....automatically
(4) narrow.....indefinitely (5) calculated....aggrandize
7. Man's hopes and expectations clash continually with the loneliness and _____ with which he must contend.
(1) alienation (2) empathy (3) insensitivity
(4) poise (5) quilt
8. Though he earned _____ as painter, the artist felt that the _____ more acclaims for his murals.
(1) wealth.....escaped (2) fame....deferred (3) distinction.....publicized
(4) reputation....deserved (5) name...needed
9. Under the influence of western materialism, we try to find happiness in added _____, and fail to realize the need for compassion.
(1) comforts (2) appendages (3) expedencies
(4) volumes (5) zones
10. The Golmal party _____ tabling serious no confidence motion in the council; nevertheless it expressed protest against the treasury benches.
(1) resorted to (2) refrained from (3) insisted on
(4) relied on (5) refuted on
11. The international news service _____ information _____, so that events are reported all over the world shortly after they happen.
(1) records....accurately (2) falsifies.....deliberately (3) verifies.....painstakingly
(4) disseminates.....rapidly (5) delivers.....abroad
12. During the initial days, a name _____ against free software was common, as many assumed that such software would be whimsical and _____.
(1) prejudice....ineffective (2) propriety....applicable (3) bias.....user friendly
(4) reaction..... conductive (5) favored.... unresponsive

13. While the financial system is engaged in _____ investments and thereby accelerating growth, developments in the system have raised concerns relating to the _____ of the system.
 (1) mitigating.....safety (2) perpetuating....logic (3) garnering.....proximity
 (4) augmenting...soundness (5) argument.....lessen
14. The discovery of the radar has led to resolute efforts by the US to _____ other countries from stepping up their capabilities because of its desire to remain ahead.
 (1) preclude (2) summon (3) proscribe
 (4) rarify (5) rectify
15. The non-dramatic literature of the seventeenth century shows the opposing forces on one hand _____ the right of the individual, on the other insistence on the _____ standards.
 (1) assertion of.....adherence of....adherence to
 (2) poignancy to.....simplicity of
 (3) manipulation of..... recasting of
 (4) emending of..... benediction to
 (5) transform.....altered to
16. The new literary movements, which we have been tracing, were the work of a small _____ of men, for the part comparatively _____.
 (1) clique....recognize (2) essay....famed (3) compendium.....isolated
 (4) coterie....obscure (5) absolutely.....fair

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Practice Exercise – 9

Direction for (Que 1-20) :Read the information carefully and answer the question given below it.

Each of the following questions consist of a sentence that has either one or two blanks. The blanks indicate that a piece of the sentence is missing. Each sentence is followed by four answer choices that consists of words or phrases. Select the answer choice that completes the sentence best.

1. Bernard Shaw's _____ spirit was completely antithetical to the sentimental _____ of the Victorian era.
 (1) apprehensive...intransigence
 (2) dichotomous.....holism
 (3) doubtful.....pessimism
 (4) skeptical.....optimism
 (5) donkey.....cow
2. Today's small, portable computers contrast markedly with the earliest electronics computers which were _____.
 (1) effective (2) useful (3) destructive
 (4) enormous (5) massive

3. That truth led him to proclaim that good ends can never be attained by _____ methods.
 (1) malicious (2) evil (3) stealthy
 (4) surreptitious (5) pity
4. Modern feminist writers consider women's _____ men's domination one of their greatest themes and therefore achievements.
 (1) revolt against (2) conformity to (3) denial to
 (4) liberation of (5) submissive to
5. Although Freud showed a deep interest in religion and spirituality, he never acknowledged _____ as their source.
 (1) sense perception (2) mystical experience (3) intuitive understanding
 (4) cosmic phenomenon (5) intelligence
6. Proverbs, said Aldus Huxley, seem like _____; indeed truism are _____ are often ancient.
 (1) clichéd.....original (2) platitude....trite (3) axioms.....evanescent
 (4) short-lived.....polemic (5) long lived.....war like
7. Belief in the supernatural is an unfortunate psychological _____, fostered by blind belief in religious practices.
 (1) delusion (2) uneasiness (3) construct
 (4) conundrum (5) ruin
8. 'East goes west' is the fervent personal expression of a/an _____ who longed to be accepted into American society.
 (1) emigrant (2) immigrant (3) alien
 (4) native (5) vicinity
9. The violent thunderstorm and sudden lightning after the oppressive heat are a/an _____ of one of nature's most magical moments.
 (1) forbear (2) epithet (3) antithesis
 (4) aftermath (5) result
10. Philosophers are _____, and are rarely known to be practical in their approach to human problems.
 (1) electric (2) perfectionists (3) idealists
 (4) chauvinists (5) painter
11. Pure knowledge is valuable for its own sake, because the spirit cannot resign itself to _____.
 (1) contemplation (2) experimentation (3) abstraction
 (4) ignorance (5) alleviate
12. Immigrants are _____ as well as _____, so they create jobs as well as take them.
 (1) users....researchers (2) consumers....producers (3) buyers....sellers
 (4) supporters...detractors (5) room.....wonder

13. Some species obtain nutrients from dead and animal matter, but many others are _____ they steal nutrients from other living organisms.
 (1) predators (2) preys (3) parasites
 (4) neophytes (5) consumer
14. Labour that leaves no room for education probably _____ human potential.
 (1) consigns (2) augments (3) precipitates
 (4) stunts (5) shots
15. Human progress and its reflection are depicted in the media; in other words, media is viewed as a _____ of the society.
 (1) symbol (2) insignia (3) metaphor
 (4) epistle (5) epiphyte
16. I would like to have the matter settled immediately because it keeps a man on _____.
 (1) oars (2) feet (3) tenterhooks
 (4) ire (5) hand
17. The interest generated by the Soccer World Cup is _____ compared to the way cricket _____ the nation.
 (1) milder....nerves (2) lukewarm.....electrifies (3) unusual.....grips
 (4) magnanimous..magnifies (5) held.....closely
18. Our government, no doubt, seems to have borrowed ideas, using _____, solutions.
 (1) decadent (2) uncanny (3) second-hand
 (4) moribund (5) loosened
19. The telephone symbolizes that awkward _____; while it intends to bring us together, it keeps us apart.
 (1) allusion (2) satire (3) lampoon
 (4) paradox (5) passion
20. Most of us suffer in because we look at life in compartments, but if we look at things _____, everything will look much better and comfortable.
 (1) fragmentation (2) holistically (3) wishfully
 (4) inarguable (5) petulantly

Practice Exercise – 10

Direction for (Que 1-20): Read the information carefully and answer the question given below it.

Each of the following questions consist of a sentence that has either one or two blanks. The blank(s) indicate that a piece of the sentence is missing. Each sentence is followed by four answer choices that consists of words or phrases. Select the answer choice that completes the sentence best.

1. While _____ residents are looking to the MoU as another instruments for city improvements, _____ are beginning to wonder if this is just another instance of mistaking passively for action.

- (1) skeptical.....proponents (2) suspicious.....detractors (3) pugnacious....truculent
(4) optimistic.....pessimists (5) doubtful.....alluring
2. The report is thought to provide useful pointers to companies exploring click and mortar solutions to _____ the failure of dotcoms.
(1) counteract (2) reinforce (3) popularize
(4) deploy (5) dominate
3. Nothing is permanent and forever, all phenomena are in _____ state of dynamic, which _____ from moment to moment,
(1) a stubborn...stasis (2) an intransigent...flux (3) pretentious....transformation
(4) altering.....equanimity (5) silly.....ideas
4. We need to our political process in order to make sure that we can have an _____ democratic process.
(1) streamline..uninterrupted (2) marshal.....unrestrained (3) eradicate.....enticing
(4) program.....enviable (5) avoid.....plans
5. Research agencies couldn't be _____ and expected to grow just by piggybanking on clients or _____ market share from each other.
(1) obsequious...clinging (2) peremptory...touting (3) truculent.....gnawing
(4) complacent.....clawing (5) fault.....trial
6. The exercise served _____ purposes; it demonstrated why one should not be taken in by miracles; but it also _____ the practical applications of scientific principles.
(1) supreme.....negated (2) duel.....stressed (3) various....overlooked
(4) dual.....underscored (5) monologue.....people
7. In the past fifteen months, the Chinese Government has tried to _____ the approaching crisis by _____ deficit financing to speed up investments.
(1) divert.....clamouring for (2) aggrandize....truncating (3) avert....resorting to
(4) mollify....regularizing (5) ruined.....miracle
8. The dispute between the parties became so _____ that there was every likelihood of a free exchanges of blows.
(1) complicated (2) acrimonious (3) bellicose
(4) aggressive (5) polite
9. Once he had _____ the difference between regional dialects, Abby found himself speaking the language _____.
(1) rejected.....considerably (2) grasped....effortlessly (3) mastered.....implicitly
(4) forgotten....eloquently (5) permission.....river
10. His _____ directions being misleading; we did not know which of the two roads to take.
(1) complicated (2) foolish (3) ambiguous
(4) just (5) castle
11. Architects travel to Greece and Italy to _____ the marvels of classic design.
(1) Imitate (2) treat (3) recall
(4) study (5) casual
12. Automation threatens mankind with an increased number of _____ hours.
(1) meager (2) useless (3) active

- (4) idle (5) congenial
13. Surprisingly, you are frightened by a concept that _____ from your own mind.
 (1) accepted (2) idealized (3) externalized
 (4) originated (5) Discovered
14. Except for a few productive land areas, the prevailing methods of cutting the soil rapidly exhaust its _____.
 (1) loam (2) content (3) fertility
 (4) substance (5) matter
15. Several Indian nuclear experts have argued that it is in the country's _____ to conduct at least one hydrogen bomb test before the CTBT deadline in 2002.
 (1) safety (2) redemption (3) grasp
 (4) disaster (5) calamity
16. The bill in this effect is _____ the Lok Sabha, and the claims of making the entire country literate sound _____.
 (1) discussed in logical (2) clamoring.....inadequate (3) pending with.....hollow
 (4) passed by....desultory (5) regulated by.....ample
17. It is pointed out that around 2.5 million children are ____ elementary education every year, since there are not sufficient schools to _____ them.
 (1) deprived of...accommodate (2) taught in.....send (3) desisted from.....promote
 (4) missing....recognize (5) consist of.....degree
18. By early, 1999, the public report on basic education in India _____ two myths about primary education.
 (1) contradicted (2) negated (3) augmented
 (4) exploded (5) cord
19. Now the major _____ in the way of development is said to be _____ of resources.
 (1) hurdle.....hindrance (2) threat.... extension (3) obstacle.....paucity
 (4) impediment...availability (5) implement....programs
20. First, the calculations seems to be _____ to avoid the _____ to eat 'the forbidden food'.
 (1) deflated....knack (2) inflated.....temptation (3) estimated....inclination
 (4) propounded....penchant (5) cultured....suspicion

Practice Exercise – 11

Direction for (Que 1-20) :Read the information carefully and answer the question given below it.

Each of the following questions consist of a sentence that has either one or two blanks. The blank(s) indicate that a piece of the sentence is missing. Each sentence is followed by four answer choices that consists of words or phrases. Select the answer choice that completes the sentence best.

1. The finance minister suggested that to contain the damages caused by the earthquake, resources could be _____ by cutting down on the _____ expenditure.
(1) adjust.....impending (2) planned....efficacious (3) offset.....fecund
(4) daunting.....abdicate (5) relocated.....voracious
2. Even as city corporations try to use limited resources for the _____ task of urban renewal, citizens should also not _____ their responsibility towards the city.
(1) challenging....resurrect (2) petty.....sacrifice (3) tedious.....rescind
(4) daunting.....abdicate (5) relocated.....voracious
3. Knowledge management is the science of embracing the disparate sources where knowledge resides; whether they are explicit or _____ intellectual capital and unspoken thought processes.
(1) dynamic (2) progressive (3) tacit
(4) tangible (5) lovable
4. An effective knowledge management system will help _____ knowledge, wherever it resides give it relevance and context by linking it to related data.
(1) cultivate (2) outperform (3) utilize
(4) negate (5) helping
5. Technology in today's digital age is the _____ that can enable and streamline the capture and flow of information in a company.
(1) evaluation standard (2) one-stop shop (3) research tool
(4) undeniable facilitator (5) recollector
6. Research on _____ origins of adult diseases has shown that children with low birth weigh suffer from _____ degenerative disease in adult life, such as osteoporosis or diabetes.
(1) inherited....incurable (2) fetal....chronic (3) hereditary.....contagious
(4) familial.....pathological (5) Foe.....disastrous
7. The new lot is fluent in _____ prevalent in this field such as suspension, domestic inquiry and dismissal.
(1) habits (2) discourses (3) communications
(4) idiom and vocabulary (5) phrases and sentences
8. Most people are _____ the philosophy that discipline is a behavioural change process; and not a _____.
(1) averse to.....behavioural product
(2) oblivious of..... punitive measure
(3) resistant of.....welcome change
(4) carried forward.....on going
(5) beware of.....dods
9. Although many products are _____ in a burst of enthusiasm and good intentions, they often lose their way through _____ delays due to one reason or the other.
(1) kicked off... protracted (2) relocated...peeling (3) released.....regulated
(4) carried forward..on going (5) aftermath.....continuous

10. One of the preoccupations of the postcolonial mind is the _____, the shame of having been seduced by the colonialist's enticements.
(1) polemic response (2) subservience (3) guilt complex
(4) relentless allegiance (5) observation
11. There is a belief that mythology and therefore classical dance would be much easier to perceive for the common man, than the _____ themes in contemporary dance..
(1) prominent (2) abstract (3) colourful
(4) redundant (5) sweet
12. With the termination of talks went the one _____ of hope that the two _____ neighbours would be able to come closer, and be amiable to each other.
(1) ray....contended (2) glimmer....belligerent (3) pool....traumatized
(4) boomerang.....allying (5) colliding.....particles
13. Man with his _____ comfort and his passionate greed would eventually destroy natural resources.
(1) proximity to (2) reliance to (3) coherence to
(4) proclivity for (5) related to
14. Sea horses are _____ eaters, and slurp their prey whole.
(1) voracious (2) intransigent (3) stupendous
(4) gourmet (5) consistent
15. Many instance of human rights abuse _____ from across the world have _____ the need for human rights education in its varying manifestations.
(1) observed..predetermined (2) documented...reinforced (3) glaring.....assuaged
(4) reported...ignored (5) declared.....stopped
16. There is a neat total _____ on the fact that human rights education can help reduce human rights violations, contribute to building a free society.
(1) polarity (2) preciousness (3) consensus
(4) vacuousness (5) selfless
17. In times of war, it is not permissible to think of your enemies as ordinary human beings; it is almost a _____ duty to think of them as mindless savages.
(1) patriotic (2) perfidious (3) royal
(4) commissioned (5) poor
18. Despite the fact that _____ attitude has not been a major one on the modern art scene; it has rarely provided a foundation for a/an _____ interpretation of things in which one goes by that is verifiable.
(1) dogmatic.....eclectic (2) negative....universalistic (3) holistic....humanistic
(4) positivistic.....empirical
19. At a time when children's stories are moral and _____, Anderson revolutionized the genre by infusing it with _____.
(1) doctrinaire....principles (2) ethical.....precepts (3) didactive....humour
(4) altruistic.....purpose (5) remove.....black

Practice Exercise – 12

Direction for (Que 1 - 20): Read the information carefully and answer the question given below it.

Complete each sentence using appropriate choice.

1. Projecting rail accidents as phenomenon is a very convenient way of _____ all concerned, of their responsibility, accountability and even _____.
(1) acquitting..forthrightness (2) upstaging.....liability (3) absolving....culpability
(4) reinstating... Callousness (5) correctly.....earnest
2. The role of consumption of raw foods in the developments of cancer remain unclear, though certain studies have _____ that their intake should be _____.
(1) reinforced...continued (2) approved..reprimanded (3) disproved....contained
(4) refuted.....controlled (5) elated....feeling
3. For a just society, the immediate need is to control deterioration of moral standards, in fact _____ of ethical values has eaten away the moral fabric of the society.
(1) degradation (2) disabling (3) corruption
(4) abeyance (5) many
4. The quality of energy spontaneously _____, and the spontaneity of degradation drives the independent processes webbed around and within us, as through the _____ gear wheels of a sophisticated machine.
(1) spirals.....simplistic (2) polytheism...examination (3) degrades...interlocked
(4) permeates...suppressed (5) devalue.....act
5. The moot point of democracy is the avoidance of _____ or, in other words, the _____ imbalance.
(1) anarchy....search (2)polytheism...examination (3)oligarchy....predominance
(4) dictatorship...rejection (5) revolutionist....effort
6. Clearly these proposals are totally _____; and if agreed to, they will further _____ the imbalance.
(1) pluralistic.....aggrandize (2) one-sided.....aggrandize (3) multifarious.....alleviate
(4) lopsided.....expurgate (5) gloomy....glutton
7. More and more research are finding that what once were thought to be separate populations of the same species are, in fact, different _____, each as genetically _____ as a horse from a cow.
(1) races.....compatible (2) adaptations..contravening (3) inheritors.....uniform
(4) lineages.....distinct (5) godly....images
8. To meet the changing needs of the customers, the services provider has to _____ on an ongoing basis.
(1) replicate (2) innovate (3) proliferate
(4) deprecate (5) hedge..heat

9. When I compared Prigogine's criteria for self-organising system to Bateson's criteria of mental processes, I found that the two seats of criteria are very _____; in fact, they seemed close to being _____.
(1) contradictory...similar (2) similar.....identical (3) similar....polarized
(4) acceptable....conductive (5) infertile....prolific
10. Although Mounik admits that the _____ of his career is to make Blue Bunny a house name, he is not _____ about achieving his goals.
(1) worst part....concerned
(2) unspoken aim....bothered
(3) biggest challenge..unduly worried
(4) ultimate goal.....prepared
(5) lay..quilt
11. Creative minds see new angles to everyday things that most people would take for granted; indeed there is always a sense of _____ or wonder at even the most mundane objects.
(1) pride (2) anxiety (3) surprise
(4) curiosity (5) remains
12. While an overall picture is slowly emerging now post-disaster, there is as yet no _____ of the economic losses caused by the cyclone.
(1) accurate assessment (2) general account (3) tentative evidence
(4) acute measure (5) ample resource
13. Some employees may find it difficult to present a/an _____ of their case in a logical and orderly sequence.
(1) planned proposal (2) speculative base (3) appropriate
(4) coherent account (5) perfect
14. To the Indian observer, both are US power companies and thus _____; so the success of one and failure of another looks strange.
(1) quite dissimilar (2) seemingly similar (3) apparently polarized
(4) most expected (5) likely to be possible
15. A chaste mind tends towards the _____ of the material world, and helps in discovering the ways of the most needed _____.
(1) meaninglessness.....carnal satisfactions
(2) eternal aspect.....human pursuit
(3) morality.....ultimate satiations
(4) outer glamour.....spiritual tranquility
(5) shop.....lavishly
16. Generosity being the most pleasing aspect of a man's personality, its best _____ is that whatever he possesses, he happily distributed it among the needy.
(1) contrast (2) determination (3) sanctity
(4) manifestation (5) profane
17. No type of test can _____ forever; a periodic review should be made and new ideas are tried to enhance the value of the best.
(1) sacrosanct (2) flexible (3) succinct
(4) enamoured (5) insane

18. Volumes of tabulated data, reports and planning guidelines are as good as _____ if they are not easy to find when required.
(1) non-existent (2) proactive (3) over-used
(4) naught (5) nasty
19. Proponents insist that a/an _____ artistic language is being created, corresponding to the distinct social experience of women _____ male defined art.
(1) authentic..independent of (2) particularistic..influenced by
(3) universalistic....relying on
(4) congruous.....inspired by (5) oblige.....pathetically
20. We who have been labeled, stereotyped and _____ out of the very definition of art must be free to define art.
(1) expiated (2) classified (3) atoned
(4) gerrymandered (5) denoted
21. Our experiments have led us to _____ that electrostatic change has _____ properties that prevents abrasions.
(1) visualize.....anesthetic (2) theorize.....lubricating (3) posit.....centrifuging
(4) predict....electrifying (5) run....terribly
22. Those who deny the _____ of miracles, say that miraculous events are impossible because they _____ the laws of nature.
(1) existence.....violate (2) occurrence.....rescind (3) redemption.....break
(4) practice.....govern (5) lack.....confidence
23. Society undergoes continual changes but this change is not _____, because for everything that is given in society something is taken.
(1) temerity (2) amelioration (3) reciprocal
(4) probity (5) perfection
24. Every man is at some time _____; language cannot paint him with colours but we know that it _____ and contains us.
(1) affable...perpetuates (2) indefinable..circumscribes (3) sensible....pervades
(4) spiritual...balks (5) salute.....manners
25. In the context of erosion of quality in higher education offered by private enterprises, and the growing _____ with the performance of college teachers, there is an urgent need to _____ professional standards.
(1) disenchantment.....professional standards
(2) aspirations....mollify
(3) exception.....vilify
(4) immobility....pursue
(5) statue....idol

Answer Key :

Practice Exercise - 1

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. orator / rhetoric | 8. ripe / apt |
| 2. apathetic / unconcerned | 9. fanned / instigated |
| 3. live wire / an enthusiast | 10. independent / dependent |
| 4. wise / cognizant | 11. originality / novelty |
| 5. independent / non-partisan | 12. self adulation / imperiousness |
| 6. haphazard | 13. skepticism / opposition |
| 7. hypocritical | 14. optimism / hope |

Practice Exercise - 2

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. methods/ consumer friendly | 5. Multicultural |
| 2. end product / goal
deliberately | 6. intentionally / consciously / |
| 3. implementations / execution | 7. precision |
| 4. aware / demanding | 8. simplicity/rhetoric |

Practice Exercise - 3

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. interrupted
harmonious | 5. complementary / symbiotic / |
| 2. mortality | 6. antagonism and betrayal |
| 3. values / idealism | 7. floundering |
| 4. pluralistic | |

Practice Exercise - 4

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. mediocrity / triviality | 6. potential solutions / remedial action |
| 2. exclusion / denial | 7. didactic |
| 3. alleviate | 8. rawest |
| 4. dissention / polarity / cleavage | 9. characteristics / unsophisticated |
| 5. divisive / insular / chauvinistic | |

Practice Exercise - 5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
(3)	(3)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(4)	(3)	(1)	(3)	(4)	(4)

Practice Exercise – 6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
(4)	(4)	(3)	(3)	(1)	(4)	(4)	(1)	(3)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(4)	(3)

Practice Exercise – 7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
(2)	(2)	(2)	(3)	(1)	(3)	(3)	(4)	(2)	(4)

Practice Exercise – 8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
(1)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(1)	(4)	(1)	(2)	(4)	(1)	(4)	(3)
15	16												
(1)	(1)												

Practice Exercise – 9

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

Practice Exercise – 10

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

Practice Exercise – 11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
(4)	(4)	(3)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(4)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(4)	(1)
15	16	17	18	19									
(2)	(3)	(1)	(4)	(3)									

Practice Exercise – 12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
(3)	(1)	(1)	(3)	(4)	(2)	(4)	(2)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(4)	(2)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
(4)	(4)	(1)	(4)	(1)	(4)	(1)	(2)	(1)	(2)	(4)			