

VERBAL ABILITY TEST 5

Number of Questions: 20

Time: 30 min

Directions for question 1: The question has a sentence with three blanks followed by four pairs of words as choices. From among the choices, select the pair of words that can best complete the given sentence

1. It is now recognized in many countries that family and social environment of the children have a _____ impact on their performance than the quality of teaching at school and children from poor families score significantly _____ in vocabulary, communication skills, simple arithmetic and the ability to concentrate compared to children from _____ income households.
- (A) meagre...higher...higher
(B) lower.....lower....greater
(C) prime.....faster.....lower
(D) greater....lower....higher

Directions for questions 2 to 11: Fill in the blanks in the given sentences so as to make sense. Select the correct word from the answer choices and mark its number as the answer.

2. If the items in a diary are reliably listed and the list is _____ reviewed then certainly nothing should be forgotten.
- (A) perversely (B) phlegmatically
(C) languidly (D) conscientiously
3. The child had a _____ birth defect in the form of a cleft palate.
- (A) hereditary (B) compulsive
(C) congenial (D) congenital
4. The people of South Asia had been left behind in economic development _____ of tensions and conflicts.
- (A) in view of (B) because
(C) want (D) full
5. Financial difficulties _____ him to discontinue his studies, and take up a job.
- (A) enchanted (B) compelled
(C) entreated (D) dictated
6. Sixty houses were totally gutted _____ the fire accident.
- (A) at (B) beyond
(C) in (D) off
7. The Kaveri community in Bihar, which has for long _____ with poverty and backwardness, is yet to join the mainstream because of its nomadic lifestyle.
- (A) suffered (B) exhausted
(C) struggled (D) figured
8. Alzheimer's disease is not usually _____ until significant memory loss is evident.
- (A) detected (B) observed
(C) revealed (D) disclosed
9. When the dilapidated structure collapsed, the _____ of the people could be heard from a distance.
- (A) gossip (B) wails
(C) eviction (D) bombardment
10. He does not _____ the ugly aspects of human nature in his picture of life.
- (A) eliminate (B) include
(C) exclude (D) extricate
11. The airline has increased its frequency _____ nine flights a week to eleven flights a week.
- (A) between (B) of
(C) from (D) for

Directions for question 12 to 17: The question has a sentence with two blanks followed by four pairs of words as choices. From among the choices, select the pair of words that can best complete the given sentence.

12. I am not a _____, I am a _____.
- (A) 'have been' . . . 'will be'
(B) 'has been' . . . 'will be'
(C) 'was been' . . . 'will being'
(D) 'had been' . . . 'will be'
13. During his childhood, Williams _____ his parents _____ teachers.
- (A) never obeyed . . . or
(B) never had obeyed . . . or
(C) never obeyed . . . nor
(D) never had obeyed . . . nor
14. The two men were very _____ and rather looked the same but had _____ views on important aspects of life.
- (A) close . . . wide (B) similar . . . diverse
(C) different . . . complex (D) familiar . . . similar
15. I am not a _____, I am a _____.
- (A) 'have been' . . . 'will be'
(B) 'had been' . . . 'will be'
(C) 'was been' . . . 'will being'
(D) 'has been' . . . 'will be'
16. The two thieves _____ arrested on the charge of stealing from _____ house
- (A) was . . . an (B) am . . . a
(C) were . . . an (D) were . . . a
17. The country has no need to test its nuclear arsenal in the absence of an external _____ which is precisely why we have a voluntary _____ on testing.
- (A) provocation . . . regression
(B) collaboration . . . relapse
(C) wherewithal . . . setback
(D) aggression . . . moratorium

Directions for question 18 to 20: Read the following paragraph and answer the question that follows:

18. People are throwing themselves off the Golden Gate Bridge at the rate of two a month, which makes it the most popular place in the world for suicide. Many San Franciscans think that the solution is to put up a simple barrier. The Psychiatric Foundation of California, which has proposed to construct a barrier to act as a deterrent, has heard several arguments against a barrier; the most persistent has been that people would simply kill themselves somewhere else, so why bother? Here the word ‘deterrent’ is closest in meaning to?
- (A) Impediment (B) Assistance
(C) Indemnity (D) Restitution
19. In “ambush marketing” campaigns, companies try to promote their brands at sporting events without paying sponsorship fees. Ambush marketers have replaced hooligans as the villains of sporting events, because they undermine official sponsors, who are the main source of revenue in some sports. The IPL organizers

have responded by taking control of all prominent advertising sites in the city, including those at train stations and airports, and their use will be limited to official sponsors only. Nevertheless, preventing ambushes is difficult.

Which of the following is closest in meaning to ‘ambush’?

- (A) Deception (B) Integrity
(C) Virtue (D) Equity
20. Studies of promising young prodigies frequently reveal that most turned out to be failures, in both their professional and personal lives, in later years. Researchers also found that most of the prodigies were diagnosed with symptoms of paranoia and schizophrenia at a later stage. The researchers concluded that mental illnesses inhibited the prodigies from realizing their full potential in later life.
- Here, the word ‘prodigies’ is closest in meaning to
- (A) genius (B) Maestros
(C) Adept (D) Apprentice

ANSWER KEYS

1. D 2. D 3. D 4. B 5. B 6. C 7. C 8. A 9. B 10. B
11. C 12. B 13. A 14. B 15. D 16. D 17. D 18. A 19. A 20. A

HINTS AND EXPLANATIONS

Explanatory notes for question 1:

1. The sentence compares the social environment and the quality of teaching on the performance of children. Hence the comparative degree of an adjective has to be used in the first blank. ‘Lower’, and ‘greater’ are comparative degree adjectives and are apt. Hence choices A and C can be ignored. According to the passage, children from low income social background are likely to score ‘lower’ than their affluent counterparts with higher income background. All these words are found in choice D making it the right answer. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 2 to 11:

2. The context demands ‘proper listing’ and ‘meticulous review’ of the list. Among all the options only option D conveys this meaning. Options B and C refer to ‘laziness’ and ‘perversely’ refers to ‘contrary to what is accepted’. The correct option is D ‘conscientiously’ which refers to ‘being careful and thorough in one’s work’. Choice (D)
3. Birth defects are congenital (present from birth) and not hereditary (genetic), compulsive (uncontrollable), or congenial (affable; friendly). Choice (D)
4. The reason the people of South Asia have been left behind in tensions and conflicts. Choice (B)

5. Compel means to force. Financial difficulties forced him to drop his studies and take up a job. Choice (B)
6. ‘In’ is the correct preposition to be used as it expresses a period of time during which an event happens. Choice (C)
7. The sentence is about a community in Bihar which has not progressed. The reason for this is its poverty and backwardness. Exhausted means extremely tired. This is a wrong choice. ‘Figured’ means to understand. ‘Sustained’ means continued for a long time. The word ‘suffered’ means to experience physical or mental pain. So these words are not suitable when used in this particular context. ‘Struggled’ means to use a lot of effort to defeat someone, prevent something, or achieve something. The community has been struggling for a long time to join the mainstream. Choice (C)
8. Detected, which means to discover or identify the presence or existence of something, fits the blank appropriately. Choice (A)
9. Wails are prolonged high-pitched cries of pain or grief thus the word is apt here. Choice (B)
10. The preposition with choices (A), (B), and (D) is ‘from’ (exclude “from”). Only ‘include’ will collocate with the preposition ‘in’. Choice (B)

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11. The frequency is increased from something to something. Hence 'from' is the appropriate preposition in the blank. Choice (C)

Explanatory notes for questions 12 to 17:

12. The sentence implies that the focus should be on what the speaker 'will be' in the future and not what he was in the past. I has - been is a person considered to be outmoded, past his/her prime or no longer of any importance. Choice (B)
13. The correct option is 1. "Never.....or" is more apt than "Never.....nor". Similarly, there are no two actions taking place here. Therefore, the sentence should be in simple past. Choice (A)
14. The words apt in the context are 'similar' and diverse; note the use of the conjunction 'but' to link these opposite words. Choice (B)
15. A 'has been' is a person or thing considered to be no longer of any importance. The speaker say that he/she does have it him/her to remain relevant. Choice (D)
16. Since 'thieves' is plural, 'very' should be 'were'. Since the word 'house' begins with a consonant, the article before it should be 'a' Choice (D)
17. The word 'voluntary' rules out 'regression' 'relapse' and 'setback'. Only 'moratorium' makes sense. Choice (D)

Explanatory notes for questions 18 to 20:

18. The word 'deterrent' means an obstacle. This is closest in meaning to 'impediment'. The rest of the options are antonyms or inapt in the given concept. Choice (A)
19. The word 'ambush' means to be in a concealed position, waiting to make a move. Choice (A)
20. The meaning of the word 'prodigy' is a genius. Choice (A)