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SSC MTS Exam

Study Material for General English

Simplifying
Government Exams



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CLOZE TEST

Read Thoroughly

- Read the passage provided very thoroughly to form an idea about the topic.
- Read slowly and gain an understanding of the text.
- Once the theme of the text is somewhat clear, your job becomes easier.
- You can then go on to think of the appropriate words that suit the situation being described and proceed to filling in the blanks.

Link the Sentences Together

- Remember that it is a passage with sentences that are connected to each other.
- Do not make the mistake of treating each sentence like an individual one and filling in the blanks accordingly.
- Try to come up with logical connections that link up the sentences together and your job will automatically become easier.

The Type of Word to Fill in

- Now look at the blanks carefully and assess the kind of words you have to fill in.
- Which part of speech would it be? Would it be a noun, a pronoun, a verb, a preposition, a conjunction or an article?

For example:

A noun – I forgot to carry my _____ to school. I therefore had to share with my friend.
The logical answer here would be a book or tiffin.

An article – He ate _____ papaya and threw _____ seeds away.
Articles are usually the easiest to answer. Fill in 'a' and 'an' where talking about general facts and 'the' when using it before something specific.

Here, the answer is 'the' or 'his' in the first case and 'the' or 'its' in the second.

A verb – _____ for half an hour left me breathless.
The idea of being breathless connotes something strenuous like 'exercising' or 'running'. In this way, think of the appropriate word to fill in.

Eliminate Options

- We can easily identify most unfit/illogical words in answer options.
- We should quickly eliminate these words. Only after that we should try to most fit word. Elimination will enhance accuracy and hence score.

Go with Frequently Used Words

Sometimes, you may not be able to decide between two words. In this case, if you see a word in the options that is frequently used with the words around the blank, then pick that option.

For example

Can I have a _____ word with you?

- A. Swift
- B. Quick
- C. Prompt

You can see that the three options nearly mean the same thing. How do you decide which one fits the blank?

Sometimes in English, some words are used more frequently with some others. Like 'bad habit', 'hardly ever', 'happy ending', 'take a seat', 'make room' etc. In the same way, the words 'quick' and 'word' are used together frequently. So 'quick' should be your answer in this case.

Check Tone of Passage

- The passage is usually written in a certain tone; sometimes narrative, sometimes critical, sometimes humorous.
- Pick words that fit in with the tone of the passage.

For example:

Jonah _____ down the stairs, bumping along like a quarter in a tumbling dryer.

- A. tumbled
- B. fell
- C. dropped

Clearly, you can use either 'tumbled' or 'fell' in this blank. But the rest of the sentence is written in a humorous vein. So we try to maintain the tone of the sentence. This is best accomplished by the use of the word 'tumbled' as it brings to mind images of people falling funnily.

Practice More

- In the end, there is no substitute for hard work and practice.
- Try to complete three to four passages each day while preparing and get an insight into your problem areas.
- Work on them and go deliver your best

Helpful Hints

#1 You must ensure that the word you have inserted in the blank enables you to read the sentence smoothly and correctly

#2 Apply grammar rules (grammar rules – prepositions, noun, pronoun, adj, verb etc)

- Preposition following a noun, adjective or verb. (Example: look at images)
- A prepositional phrase. (Example: in spite of)
- An adverb. (Example: they vacated the house two years ago)
- A connector. (Example: it is raining, therefore ground is wet.)
- A conjunction. (Example: although he is seven, he can speak eight languages)
- A auxiliary verb, an article, a pronoun , either subject or object. (example : it is easier to know)
- A comparative or superlative involved? (Example: she's taller than me)

Previous Year Questions

Practice Set 1

Directions: In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

Actually every day we all are engaged in this business of reading people. We do it (__1__). We want to figure others out. So, we (__2__) make guesses about what others think, value, want and feel and we do so based on our (__3__) beliefs and understandings about human nature. We do so because if we can figure out (__4__) and intentions of others the possibility of them (__5__) or hurting us, (__6__) and this will help us to (__7__) a lot of unnecessary pain and trouble. We also make second guesses about what they will do in future, how they will (__8__) if we make this or that response. We do all this second guessing based upon our (__9__) of what we believe about the persons inner nature (__10__) his or her roles and, manners. We mind read their fill (__11__) their motives. Also, every day we mis-guess and misread. Why? Because of the complexity, (__12__), and multidimensional functioning of people. After all how well do you read your own thoughts, aims, values, motives, beliefs etc.? How well do you know your own structuring process your own thinking and (__13__) styles?

Question 1

- a) vehemently
- b) practically
- c) actually
- d) incessantly
- e) virtually

Question 2

- a) ably
- b) constantly
- c) partly
- d) largely
- e) positively

Question 3

- a) futuristic
- b) proactive
- c) reactive
- d) decorative
- e) assumptive

Question 4.

- a) manifestations
- b) expressions
- c) motives
- d) hopes
- e) prospects

Question 5

- a) tricking
- b) blaming
- c) furthering
- d) alarming
- e) criticizing

Question 6

- a) lessens
- b) happens
- c) questions
- d) deepens
- e) laments

Question 7

- a) approach
- b) direct
- c) avoid
- d) implement
- e) prepare

Question 8

- a) solve
- b) apply
- c) plan
- d) approach
- e) react

Question 9

- a) projection
- b) exhibition
- c) situation
- d) perception
- e) attribution

Question 10

- a) organizing
- b) underneath
- c) appreciating
- d) proposing
- e) outside

Question 11

- a) cunning
- b) visible
- c) deeper
- d) obvious
- e) proposed

Question 12

- a) abnormality
- b) angularity
- c) focus
- d) unpredictability
- e) contribution

Question 13

- a) proposing
- b) developing
- c) upbringing
- d) lamenting
- e) emoting

Correct Answer: 1 – d; 2 – b; 3 – e; 4 – c; 5 – b; 6 – a; 7 – c; 8 – e; 9 – d; 10 – a; 11 – c; 12 – d; 13 - e

Practice Set II

Directions: In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. Against each number, five words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

After ten years of (__14__) inflation, prices have spiked 7.5% in the third week of July. This looks scary after all, Indians had got used to prices crawling up by 2% in the last two years, and a 10y ear average inflation rate of about 5% but you shouldn't worry. This burst of inflation is the result of three factors that have come together unexpectedly, are unlikely to (__15__) for long and are unlikely to (__16__) up together again. A (__17__) rise in global oil prices, a monsoon that arrived late and a spike in global metal prices. North Sea crude has crossed \$42 per barrel, driven up by low petroleum (__18__) and soaring demand In the US as war production heats up. Oil markets are also spooked by the (__19__) of Russian oil supplies falling on the back of the Yukos Sibneft probe. There's little that the government can do to (__20__) users from soaring oil prices indeed, it shouldn't, if it wants to (__21__) efficiency. Higher transport costs have pushed up rates of vegetables and fruits farm produce could also get affected by rains that arrived too late for kharif sowing. China is (__22__) up steel and other metals from all over the world to (__23__) a construction boom ahead of the 2008 Olympics, making metal prices soar all over the world, and sparking inflation in India.

Question 14

- a) mere
- b) moderate
- c) retarding
- d) vehement
- e) dull

Question 15

- a) obstinate
- b) constitute
- c) persist
- d) repeat
- e) normalize

Question 16

- a) go
- b) scramble
- c) mount
- d) yield
- e) crop

Question 17

- a) sustained
- b) suspicious

Question 18

- a) lists
- b) trades

Question 19

- a) prospect
- b) progress

- c) horrific
- d) erratic
- e) favourable

- c) services
- d) inventories
- e) details

- c) view
- d) extent
- e) deposit

Question 20

- a) support
- b) ignore
- c) propel
- d) prolong
- e) Insulate

Question 21

- a) position
- b) promote
- c) process
- d) pass
- e) form

Question 22

- a) hurrying
- b) passing
- c) pairing
- d) gobbling
- e) throwing

Question 23

- a) keep
- b) make
- c) feed
- d) grow
- e) fight

Correct Answer: 14 – b; 15 – c; 16 – e; 17 – c; 18 – b; 19 – a; 20 – e; 21 – b; 22 – d; 23 - b

Practice Set III

Directions: In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. Against each number, five words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

Though much theory has (__24__) little is really known about the power that lies at the (__25__) of scientific discoveries. It is true that great scientists and discoverers (__26__) discovery by employing all the (__27__) of personality and by fusing feelings, reasons and (__28__) But, what is the (__29__) synthesis that joins and (__30__) these complex parts into scientific invention? A famous scientist of yesteryears had developed one of the (__31__) and still generally (__32__) answers to this question. Imaginative (__33__) he concludes, is a complex process in which the conscious and the unconscious thinking processes jointly operate.

Question 24

- a) gathered
- b) amassed
- c) collected
- d) especially
- e) accumulated

Question 25

- a) climax
- b) heart
- c) foot
- d) link
- e) helm

Question 26

- a) respect
- b) treat
- c) like
- d) construct
- e) appreciate

Question 27

- a) enlightenment
- b) control
- c) exposure
- d) variation
- e) manifestations

Question 28

- a) intuitions
- b) invention
- c) formation
- d) outcomes
- e) ambition

Question 29

- a) scientific
- b) miraculous
- c) generally
- d) reasoned
- e) linking

Question 30

- a) ravage
- b) merges
- c) arranges
- d) deciphers
- e) overstates

Question 31

- a) most attractive
- b) simplest
- c) unswerving
- d) best
- e) original

Question 32

- a) suggested
- b) crucial
- c) satisfactory
- d) criticised
- e) concourse

Question 33

- a) prognosis
- b) talent
- c) content
- d) discoveries
- e) invention

Correct Answer: 24 – b; 25 – b; 26 – c; 27 – a; 28 – e; 29 – a; 30 – b; 31 – d; 32 – c; 33 - d

Practice Set IV

Directions: In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. against each number, five words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

Most of us are (__34__) of open conflict and avoid it if we can. And there is a (__35__) to expressing and working through conflict. If the working through involves harsh words and name-calling people feel deeply hurt and relationships can be (__36__). Some- times permanently. Some group members may be afraid that if they really (__37__) their anger, they may go out of control and become violent, or they may do this. These fears can be very (__38__) and based on experience. So why take the risk? Why not avoid conflict at all costs? Conflict is rather like disease (__39__) is best, that means attuning to areas where (__40__) may occur before they become an issue. If you have, not (__41__) a conflict happening, your next choice is to treat it early, or hope that it goes away. If it goes away over time fine. If it (__42__), then you will still have to handle (treat) it and it is likely to be more (__43__).

Question 34

- a) scared
- b) careful
- c) reckless
- d) aware
- e) worried

Question 35

- a) challenge
- b) measure
- c) principle
- d) chance
- e) risk

Question 36

- a) established
- b) maligned
- c) damaged
- d) rebuilt
- e) involved

Question 37

- a) sublimate
- b) express
- c) minimize
- d) regulate
- e) control

Question 38

- a) baseless
- b) imaginary
- c) exaggerative
- d) real
- e) national

Question 39

- a) cure
- b) diagnosis
- c) prescription
- d) prevention
- e) medicine

Question 40

- a) harmony
- b) discomfiture

Question 41

- a) expressed
- b) ignored

Question 42

- a) doesn't
- b) wont

- c) disagreement
- d) consensus
- e) statement

- c) induced
- d) seen
- e) perverted

- c) don't
- d) not
- e) hasn't

Question 43

- a) credible
- b) serious
- c) fraudulent
- d) urgent
- e) important

Correct Answer: 34 – a; 35 – e; 36 – c; 37 – b; 38 – d; 39 – d; 40 – b; 41 – b; 42 – a; 43 - b

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