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SSC CGL 2026 Tier 1 — English

English Medium Edition · English Language & Comprehension · All 53 Shifts (30 Sep – 28 Oct 2026) · 1325 questions, chapter-wise with detailed explanations — Prashant Solanki English · Toppers' Wisdom

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How to use this eBook: Each chapter gives all the questions first, then the Answer Key and then the Detailed Explanations. Click any question number in the Answer Key to open its explanation, and click the number in the explanation to go back to the question. Use the **GO TO INDEX** button at the top of every page to return here. Questions whose SSC key can be challenged are shown in red in the Answer Key, and the full list is given at the end under **SSC Answer Key Review**.

01
CHAPTER

Error Detection

Questions *90 questions · 53 shifts*

PART A Spot the Error

Directions (Q. 01–34): *Find the part of the sentence that contains an error*

01 It is high time the minister clarifies his stance on the matter rather than leaving it open to public speculation.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It is high time the minister
(b) clarifies his stance on the matter
(c) rather than leaving it
(d) open to public speculation.

02 All the equipments needed for the installation were procured well in advance.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) All the equipments
(b) needed for the installation
(c) were procured
(d) well in advance.

03 Although the results appear encouraging on the surface, yet critics remain sceptical of the methods employed in gathering and interpreting the underlying datasets.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Although the results appear encouraging on the surface,
(b) yet critics remain sceptical of the methods
(c) employed in gathering and interpreting
(d) the underlying datasets.

04 The professor recommended that each of the selected candidates submit their thesis proposal by next Friday failing which the slot would be offered to waitlisted scholars. No error

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The professor recommended that each of the selected candidates
(b) submit their thesis proposal by next Friday
(c) failing which the slot would be offered to waitlisted scholars.
(d) No error

05 She wore a stunning red silk long scarf that complemented her traditional attire during the award ceremony at the convention centre.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) She wore a stunning red silk long scarf
(b) that complemented her traditional attire
(c) during the award ceremony
(d) at the convention centre.

06 It seems as though the department is reluctant not because of the cost implications, but because that it might signal a policy shift they are not ready to make.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It seems as though the department is reluctant
(b) not because of the cost implications,
(c) but because that it might signal
(d) a policy shift they are not ready to make.

07 The editor-in-chief asked whether the article had underwent plagiarism screening before approval.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The editor-in-chief asked whether
(b) the article had underwent
(c) plagiarism screening
(d) before approval.

08 The tribunal objected to not the content of the testimony but the manner in which it was introduced without any authentication by the

official registrar or acknowledgment of its provenance.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The tribunal objected to not the content of the testimony
(b) but the manner in which it was introduced
(c) without any authentication by the official registrar
(d) or acknowledgment of its provenance.

09 Each applicant must bring his or her ID proof and fill the necessary documents prior to the final evaluation round scheduled this Friday.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Each applicant must bring his or her ID proof
(b) and fill the necessary documents
(c) prior to the final evaluation round
(d) scheduled this Friday.

10 There are less than twenty applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for the advanced fellowship offered by the institute.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) There are less than twenty applicants
(b) who meet the eligibility criteria
(c) for the advanced fellowship
(d) offered by the institute.

11 The correlation-matrix visualization appeared more clear when the superfluous variables were removed during the second iteration of analysis.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The correlation-matrix visualization
(b) appeared more clear
(c) when the superfluous variables were removed
(d) during the second iteration of analysis.

12 She has the rare ability of making complex theories sound simple and intuitively clear.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) She has the rare ability
(b) of making complex theories
(c) sound simple
(d) and intuitively clear.

13 What the consultant suggested implementing was a method that would reduce redundancies and optimize interdepartmental workflows without requiring additional fundings.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) What the consultant suggested implementing
(b) was a method that would reduce redundancies
(c) and optimize interdepartmental workflows
(d) without requiring additional fundings.

14 The vice-chancellor insisted that the policy is to be revised by the end of the quarter to address the audit remarks.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The vice-chancellor insisted that the policy
(b) is to be revised
(c) by the end of the quarter
(d) to address the audit remarks.

15 A very few researchers have attempted to replicate the study under identical field conditions due to logistical limitations.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A very few researchers
(b) have attempted to replicate the study
(c) under identical field conditions
(d) due to logistical limitations.

16 Each of the candidates are expected to carry their original ID proofs for verification.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Each of the candidates
(b) are expected to carry
(c) their original ID proofs
(d) for verification.

17 What critics often overlook is not the literary structure per se, but the emotional authenticity of characters and how it affects reader's trust.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) What critics often overlook
(b) is not the literary structure per se,
(c) but the emotional authenticity of characters
(d) and how it affects reader's trust.

18 The judge not only dismissed the petition but also reprimanding the lawyer for misrepresenting facts during the cross-examination.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The judge not only dismissed the petition
(b) but also reprimanding the lawyer
(c) for misrepresenting facts
(d) during the cross-examination.

19 While the director had hoped for clarity, what emerged instead were overlapping interpretations that undermined the coherence of the original draft.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) While the director had hoped for clarity,
(b) what emerged instead were overlapping interpretations
(c) that undermined the coherence
(d) of the original draft.

20 No less than five hundred students has enrolled in the online preparatory course for civil service exams.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) No less than five hundred students
(b) has enrolled in
(c) the online preparatory course
(d) for civil service exams.

21 Rarely the department issues such open calls for proposals without internal approvals from the steering committee.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rarely the department issues
(b) such open calls for proposals
(c) without internal approvals
(d) from the steering committee.

22 The management had the interns to submit their reports before the review committee arrived for evaluation.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The management had the interns
(b) to submit their reports
(c) before the review committee
(d) arrived for evaluation.

23 The economic indicators, though initially showing signs of recovery, were eventually deemed insufficiently compelling to warrant an upward revision of interest rates by most analysts who had doubted its trajectory.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The economic indicators, though initially showing signs of recovery,
(b) were eventually deemed insufficiently compelling
(c) to warrant an upward revision of interest rates
(d) by most analysts who had doubted its trajectory.

24 Despite of the warnings he ventured into the forest without any gear or backup plan.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Despite of the warnings
(b) he ventured into the forest
(c) without any gear
(d) or backup plan.

25 The diplomat tried to brush off the allegations but the press kept pressing on until he broke out.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The diplomat tried to brush off
(b) the allegations but the press
(c) kept pressing on
(d) until he broke out.

26 If he was knowing the answer he would have responded confidently in the interview yesterday.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) If he was knowing the answer
(b) he would have responded
(c) confidently in the interview
(d) yesterday.

27 Her avowed neutrality in the interdepartmental conflict was belied by her covert support to one faction.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Her avowed neutrality
(b) in the interdepartmental conflict
(c) was belied by
(d) her covert support to one faction.

28 She plays the piano very good considering she started just a year ago.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) She plays the piano
(b) very good
(c) considering she started
(d) just a year ago.

29 Not only the students but also the faculty members was concerned about the accreditation results.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Not only the students (b) but also the faculty members
(c) was concerned about (d) the accreditation results.

30 The professor was appreciative with the student's effort in curating the bibliography in multiple citation styles.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The professor was appreciative (b) with the student's effort
(c) in curating the bibliography (d) in multiple citation styles.

31 The committee discussed about the proposal for over two hours but failed to reach any conclusion.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The committee discussed about the proposal
(b) for over two hours
(c) but failed to reach
(d) any conclusion.

32 The employee were pulled out of the task for failing to keep it up.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The employee were (b) pulled out
(c) of the task (d) for failing to keep it up.

33 The manager had left before the team arrives causing confusion about the agenda.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The manager had left (b) before the team arrives
(c) causing confusion (d) about the agenda.

34 She is married with a banker and has been living in London for the past five years with her family.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) She is married with a banker (b) and has been living in London
(c) for the past five years (d) with her family.

Directions (Q. 35–49): *Identify the error in the sentence.*

35 The committee decided their decision.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) committee (b) decided
(c) their (d) decision

36 You should write clear so that the reader understands.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) reader (b) clear
(c) understands (d) should

37 He was late to an meeting scheduled at 9 AM.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) an (b) late
(c) meeting (d) scheduled

38 He is more smarter than anyone else in class.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) more (b) anyone
(c) class (d) smarter

39 We reached to a conclusion after the meeting.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) reached (b) conclusion
(c) meeting (d) to

40 She’s reading an Times of India editorial.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) India (b) an
(c) editorial (d) reading

41 He paid a heavy apology after the incident.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) apology (b) paid
(c) heavy (d) incident

42 He speaks too much fast for me to understand.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) understand (b) fast
(c) much (d) speaks

43 A Mount Everest is the highest peak in the world.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A (b) Everest
(c) highest (d) world

44 A earth revolves around the sun.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) a (b) sun
(c) revolves (d) earth

45 This is the most easiest question in the test.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) test (b) most
(c) question (d) easiest

46 We were leave for the airport when the storm began.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) storm (b) began
(c) airport (d) leave

47 The team have completed their project ahead of schedule

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) have (b) team
(c) project (d) schedule

48 She didn't went to the seminar last week.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) seminar (b) went
(c) she (d) last

49 She completed the assignment quick to meet the deadline.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) quick (b) deadline
(c) assignment (d) completed

Directions (Q. 50): *Identify the error in the sentence*

50 He passed away the forms to the candidates.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) forms (b) passed
(c) away (d) candidates

Directions (Q. 51–57): *Identify the error in the sentence.*

51 He was complete ignored by the team during the discussion.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) during (b) ignored
(c) complete (d) team

52 Her performance was extremely excellence throughout the quarter.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) extremely (b) excellence
(c) throughout (d) quarter

53 I have a strongly feeling that something's off.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) feeling (b) strongly
(c) have (d) something

54 She is a honest leader with integrity.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) a (b) leader
(c) integrity (d) honest

55 He came across with an old friend at the conference.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) friend (b) came
(c) across (d) with

56 We arrived at a Himalayas before sunrise.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) himalayas (b) sunrise
(c) arrived (d) a

57 I bought the pair of shoes from the online store.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) store (b) the
(c) online (d) shoes

Directions (Q. 58–59): *Choose the error in the sentence.*

58 The medicine had a strong affect on her recovery.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) medicine (b) affect
(c) strong (d) recovery

59 The teacher emphasized on the importance of time management.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) on (b) emphasized
(c) management (d) importance

Directions (Q. 60–67): *Spot the error in the following sentence and identify the INCORRECT part.*

60 He has been **afraid from** spiders since childhood.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) afraid from (b) spiders
(c) since childhood (d) No error

61 She always avoids to speak during the meetings because she is shy.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) always avoids (b) to speak
(c) during the meetings (d) No error

62 She prefers coffee than tea in the morning.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) prefers coffee (b) than tea
(c) in the morning (d) No error

63 She insisted me to attend the meeting at any cost.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) insisted me to (b) attend the meeting
(c) at any cost (d) No error

64 I have been waiting since two hours for the bus.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) have been waiting (b) since two hours
(c) for the bus (d) No error

65 She is good with mathematics but weak in physics.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) No error (b) but weak
(c) good with mathematics (d) in physics

66 She is good in English and Mathematics.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) English and Mathematics (b) good in
(c) She is (d) No error

67 Each of the players were awarded a certificate of appreciation.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Each of the players (b) were awarded
(c) a certificate of appreciation (d) No error

Directions (Q. 68–73): *The sentence given below is divided into four segments labelled P, Q, R, and S. Read the sentence carefully to determine which segment contains a lexical error. Select the letter corresponding to that specific segment as your answer. (Note: The sentence contains exactly one error. Ignore errors of punctuation, if any.)*

68 (P) Maintaining a posture of strict non-disclosure, the board of directors refuses to comment on the acquisition / (Q) even though rumours bound that the tech giant is on the verge of bankruptcy / (R) due to severe algorithmic failures that have fundamentally compromised / (S) its core proprietary architecture.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) P (b) Q
(c) R (d) S

69 (P) The coalition launched an aggressive media campaign to garter support / (Q) for the proposed labour reforms, seeking to mobilise constituent pressure /(R) and thereby influence critical swing-vote lawmakers whose final deliberations / (S) will dictate the outcome of the fast-approaching, high-stakes parliamentary vote.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) P (b) Q
(c) R (d) S

70 (P) As the affix body governing international aviation safety, the organisation possesses / (Q) the unilateral authority to ground entire commercial fleets if a systemic manufacturing defect / (R) is uncovered within critical propulsion or avionics architectures, forcing / (S) global aerospace manufacturers into immediate, mandatory retrofitting cycles.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) P (b) Q
(c) R (d) S

71 (P) According to the criminal profiling matrix, behavioural analysts noted that / (Q) the serial arsonist's distinct bogus operandi involved using highly refined chemical accelerants / (R) inside abandoned industrial warehouses, establishing a predictable tactical signature / (S) that ultimately allowed law enforcement to map and predict future geographic targets.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) P (b) Q
(c) R (d) S

72 (P) Despite a lucid awareness of catastrophic epidemiological outcomes, / (Q) active smokers frequently suffer from severe confident dissonance, / (R) systematically deploying deeply flawed psychological defence mechanisms to manipulate their internal narrative, / (S) minimise perceived vulnerability, and ultimately preserve the habituated patterns of their addictive behaviour.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) P (b) Q
(c) R (d) S

73 (P) The prime minister faced intense scrutiny from legislative oversight committees / (Q) after appointing his brother-in-law to head the central bank, a nepotistic appointment / (R) widely criticised as a blatant conflict of impress by anti-corruption watchdogs / (S) demanding an immediate, independent inquiry into executive overreach.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) P (b) Q
(c) R (d) S

Directions (Q. 74–76): *Identify the word in this sentence that contains an error.*

74 He was accused for cheating in the final exam.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) cheating (b) for
(c) accused (d) final

75 This information is irrelevant with our current topic.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) current (b) irrelevant
(c) topic (d) with

76 She was married with a diplomat from Spain.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) married (b) spain
(c) with (d) diplomat

Directions (Q. 77–80): *The sentence given below is divided into four segments labelled P, Q, R, and S. Read the sentence carefully to determine which segment contains a grammatical, syntactic, or idiomatic error. Select the letter corresponding to that specific segment as your answer. (Note: Every sentence contains exactly one error. Ignore errors of punctuation, if any.)*

77 (P) The multi-billion dollar corporate acquisition fell through / (Q) during the final phase of executive negotiations / (R) because the target subsidiary stubbornly refused to comply to / (S) the parent company's stringent data security architecture guidelines.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) P (b) Q
(c) R (d) S

78 (P) Instructed to flesh out them before submitting the documentation to the regulatory board, / (Q) the chief immunologist meticulously expanded the safety validation parameters / (R) of the experimental mRNA vaccine candidate, effectively mitigating any potential grounds / (S) for a structural patent rejection or clinical trial delay.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) P (b) Q
(c) R (d) S

79 (P) Intending to phase out them by the conclusion of the hardware lifecycle, / (Q) the Chief Technology Officer systematically replaced the legacy mainframe servers / (R) with a decentralised, quantum-resistant cloud computing network / (S) to optimise real-time data processing across all global subsidiaries.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) P (b) Q
(c) R (d) S

80 (P) Backed by comprehensive chemical analysis from independent environmental scientists, / (Q) the manufacturing consortium was finally forced to face up the reality / (R) of its severe heavy-metal contamination of the local watershed / (S) and initiate an immediate multi-million dollar soil reclamation project.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) P (b) Q
(c) R (d) S

> **Directions (Q. 81):** *Direction: Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.*

81 If Pushpa Latha have(A)/ passed the law course,(B)/ she would have (C)/become a lawyer.(D)

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) If Pushpa Latha have (A) (b) passed the law course (B)
(c) she would have (C) (d) become a lawyer (D)

PART B Choose the Correct / Incorrect Sentence

> **Directions (Q. 82–83):** *Read the sentences below carefully and identify which one contains a grammatical or structural error.*

82 (P) Professor Ali's latest historical monograph is more comprehensive than concise, offering exhaustive archival data at the expense of brevity.

(Q) The lead prosecutor remarked that the defendant's sudden courtroom confession was ready than calculated, catching the entire defence team off guard.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only P (b) Only Q
(c) Both P and Q (d) Neither P nor Q

83 (P) The agricultural collective harvested as many more metric tons of organic grain than the commercial farming conglomerate during the fiscal year.
(Q) The more thoroughly the research cohort analysed the genomic sequencing data, the fewer anomalies they found in the control group.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only P (b) Only Q
(c) Both P and Q (d) Neither P nor Q

> **Directions (Q. 84):** *Read the following sentences carefully and identify which one contains a grammatical or structural error.*

84 (P) The department seeks an administrative director more capable of managing international logistics than of drafting internal fiscal policies.

(Q) A legal framework less adaptive to technological disruption than intent on preserving historical precedents will inevitably stifle industrial innovation.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only P (b) Only Q
(c) Both P and Q (d) Neither P nor Q

> **Directions (Q. 85–87):** *Read the sentences provided in options A, B, C, and D carefully. While three of the sentences are grammatically sound, one contains an "article usage" error. Identify the option with the error.*

85

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A research team at the University of Cambridge successfully engineered a stable topological qubit, outpacing rival physics departments across Europe.

(b) Excavations funded by Yale University unearthed a beautifully preserved fossilised apex predator in the badlands of Montana.

(c) While the Administrator refused to comment on the launch failure, Director General Faiz issued a comprehensive technical briefing to the press.

(d) The diplomatic delegation travelled from Netherlands to the Czech Republic to ratify the new maritime trade agreement.

86

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A trireme was a highly manoeuvrable ancient warship powered by the three rows of oars, designed by Mediterranean civilisations.

(b) Following the catastrophic volcanic eruption on the island, the displaced were immediately provided with temporary shelter.

(c) Mangroves protect vulnerable coastlines from severe tidal erosion by trapping sediment within their complex, intertwined root structures.

(d) The blue whale is considered the largest animal ever known to have lived on Earth, occupying an apex position within marine ecosystems.

87

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The telescope detected so distant a galaxy that its cosmic light took over thirteen billion years to reach the observatory's deep-space sensors.

(b) The gallery curator remarked that it was quite masterpiece, possessing such a luminous quality that onlookers were instantly captivated.

(c) What an extraordinary performance the understudy delivered tonight, stepping into the lead role with such absolute composure!

(d) What fascinating behavioural adaptations deep-sea organisms display when surviving under extreme hydrostatic pressure!

Directions (Q. 88): *The sentence below is divided into two parts labelled P and Q. Identify which sentence contains a grammatical or idiomatic error.*

88 P: The corporate legal team meticulously ironed out the final merger documents with the target firm's underwriters before the executive board signed them.
Q: During the high-pressure restructuring session in the unventilated boardroom, the junior analyst suddenly passed out from heat exhaustion.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only P (b) Only Q

(c) Both P and Q (d) Neither P nor Q

Directions (Q. 89): *Read the two sentences given below carefully and identify which one contains a grammatical error.*

89 P: The target software corporation implemented an aggressive poison-pill strategy to fend off against the hostile takeover bid initiated by the activist hedge fund.
Q: During the cross-border corporate fraud investigation, the forensic accounting team began to home in on the anomalous shell company transactions routed through offshore tax havens.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only P (b) Only Q

(c) Both P and Q (d) Neither P nor Q

Directions (Q. 90): *Choose the grammatically INCORRECT sentence.*

90

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The workers have been demanding their wages for over a month

(b) The newly built highway connects Delhi to Agra seamlessly

(c) She did not realise that she was supposed to submit the form by yesterday

(d) The committee have decided to postpone the event

Answer Key

Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation

Part A · Spot the Error (Q. 01–81)

01	02	03	04	05
(b)	(a)	(b)	(b)	(a)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**
(c)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
(b)	(b)	(d)	(b)	(a)
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
(b)	(d)	(b)	(b)	(b)
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
(a)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(d)
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
(a)	(d)	(b)	(c)	(b)
31	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**
(a)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
36	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**
(b)	(a)	(a)	(d)	(b)
41	**42**	**43**	**44**	**45**
(c)	(c)	(a)	(a)	(b)
46	**47**	**48**	**49**	**50**
(d)	**(a)**	(b)	(a)	(c)
51	**52**	**53**	**54**	**55**
(c)	(b)	(b)	(a)	(d)
56	**57**	**58**	**59**	**60**
(d)	(b)	(b)	(a)	(a)
61	**62**	**63**	**64**	**65**
(b)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(c)
66	**67**	**68**	**69**	**70**
(b)	(b)	(b)	(a)	(a)
71	**72**	**73**	**74**	**75**
(b)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(d)
76	**77**	**78**	**79**	**80**
(c)	(c)	(a)	(a)	(b)
81				
(a)				

Part B · Choose the Correct / Incorrect Sentence (Q. 82–90)

82	83	84	85	86
(b)	(a)	(d)	(d)	(a)
87	**88**	**89**	**90**	
(b)	(d)	(a)	(d)	

Detailed Explanations

रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

PART A Spot the Error

01 ANSWER (b) clarifies his stance on the matter

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (It Is High Time + Past Tense) After **it is high time**, the verb takes the simple past, because the sentence points to an action that should already have been done. Hence **clarifies** must be **clarified**.

✓ Correct sentence It is high time the minister **clarified** his stance on the matter rather than leaving it open to public speculation.

Examiner's Trap The word 'is' tempts students to keep the verb in the present, whereas high time is always followed by the past tense.

02 ANSWER (a) All the equipments

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Uncountable Noun – Equipment) **Equipment** is an uncountable noun, so it takes no -s and the plural 'equipments' is wrong. The correct form is **equipment**, and the verb that follows, 'was procured', then fits. Furniture, luggage and information belong to the same class of words.

✓ Correct sentence All the **equipment** needed for the installation **was** procured well in advance.

03 **ANSWER (b)** yet critics remain sceptical of the methods

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Although ... Yet: Redundancy) Both **although** and **yet** are conjunctions that express contrast. Using the two together in one sentence creates redundancy, so **yet** must be removed from part (2).

✓ Correct sentence Although the results appear encouraging on the surface, critics remain sceptical of the methods employed in gathering and interpreting the underlying datasets.

04 **ANSWER (b)** submit their thesis proposal by next Friday

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Each – Singular Pronoun) **Each** is a singular pronoun, so the possessive that follows must also be singular: **his or her**, not 'their'. Hence the error lies in part (2). After 'recommended that' the subjunctive takes the base form of the verb, so 'submit' is correct. Parts (1) and (3) contain no error.

✓ Correct sentence The professor recommended that each of the selected candidates submit **his or her** thesis proposal by next Friday, failing which the slot would be offered to waitlisted scholars.

Examiner's Trap Treating 'submit' as wrong is a mistake, because the base form is required after 'recommended that'; the fault lies only in the plural pronoun 'their' with singular 'each'.

05 **ANSWER (a)** She wore a stunning red silk long scarf

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Order of Adjectives) When several adjectives come before a noun, they follow a fixed order: opinion, size, age, shape, colour, origin, material, purpose. Here the order should be stunning (opinion), long (size), red (colour), silk (material). The sentence places **long** after 'red silk', which breaks that order.

✓ Correct sentence She wore a stunning **long red silk** scarf that complemented her traditional attire during the award ceremony at the convention centre.

06 **ANSWER (c)** but because that it might signal

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Because That: Redundant Conjunction) **Because** is itself a conjunction and is followed directly by a full clause, so adding 'that' is unnecessary. 'Because that' is not used in standard English. The parallel structure 'not because ... but because' is already correct here.

✓ Correct sentence It seems as though the department is reluctant not because of the cost implications, but **because** it might signal a policy shift they are not ready to make.

07 **ANSWER (b)** the article had underwent

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Past Participle of an Irregular Verb) **Had** is followed by the past participle. **Underwent** is the simple past; the past participle is **undergone** (like go, went, gone: undergo, underwent, undergone).

✓ Correct sentence The editor-in-chief asked whether the article had **undergone** plagiarism screening before approval.

08 **ANSWER (a)** The tribunal objected to not the content of the testimony

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Parallelism with Not ... But) With **not ... but**, both parts must have a parallel structure. Since 'to' follows **but**, 'not' must come right before 'to'. In part (1) 'not' is wrongly placed, so the error lies there.

✓ Correct sentence The tribunal objected **not to** the content of the testimony **but to** the manner in which it was introduced.

09 **ANSWER (b)** and fill the necessary documents

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Verb Collocation – Fill In/Out) With forms, the verb is **fill in** or **fill out**, not fill. So 'fill the necessary documents' breaks the collocation, and the error is in part (2).

✓ Correct sentence Each applicant must bring his or her ID proof and **fill in** the necessary forms prior to the final evaluation round scheduled this Friday. (या: fill out)

10 ANSWER (a) There are less than twenty applicants

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Fewer vs Less) Applicants are countable, so they take **fewer than**. Less than is used with uncountable nouns, as in 'less than ten litres of water'.

✓ Correct sentence There are **fewer than** twenty applicants who meet the eligibility criteria for the advanced fellowship offered by the institute.

11 ANSWER (b) appeared more clear

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Comparative of a One-Syllable Adjective) The comparative of the one-syllable adjective **clear** is formed with -er, so the correct form is **clearer**. More is mainly used with longer adjectives.

✓ Correct sentence The visualization appeared **clearer** when the superfluous variables were removed during the second iteration of analysis.

12 ANSWER (b) of making complex theories

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Ability + To-Infinitive) **Ability** is not followed by 'of' and a gerund; it takes **to + verb**.

✓ Correct sentence She has the rare ability **to make** complex theories sound simple and intuitively clear.

Examiner's Trap A V-ing form after 'of' feels natural, so students accept 'ability of making'.

13 ANSWER (d) without requiring additional fundings.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Uncountable Noun – Funding) **Funding** is an uncountable noun, so it has no plural 'fundings'. Like money, advice and information, funding is uncountable.

✓ Correct sentence What the consultant suggested implementing was a method that would reduce redundancies and optimize interdepartmental workflows without requiring additional **funding**.

Examiner's Trap With a plural word like 'redundancies' nearby, students accept 'fundings' as well.

14 ANSWER (b) is to be revised

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Subjunctive after Insist) The clause after **insist that** takes the **subjunctive mood**, in which the verb is in its base form (be, not is). The same concept applies after suggest, recommend and demand.

✓ Correct sentence The vice-chancellor insisted that the policy **be** revised by the end of the quarter.

Examiner's Trap 'Is to be revised' sounds grammatically ordinary, so students accept it.

15 ANSWER (a) A very few researchers

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Very Few – No Article) **Very few** means 'hardly any' (a negative sense) and takes no 'a' before it. A few means 'some', but 'a very few' is incorrect.

✓ Correct sentence **Very few** researchers have attempted to replicate the study under identical field conditions due to logistical limitations.

Examiner's Trap Even students who know the difference between 'a few' and 'few' accept 'a very few', because 'a few' is a familiar form.

16 ANSWER (b) are expected to carry

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Each of – Singular Verb) Even when a plural noun follows **each of**, the verb stays **singular**, because the subject is each. So 'are' must be **is**.

✓ Correct sentence Each of the candidates **is** expected to carry their original ID proofs for verification.

Examiner's Trap Since candidates is plural, students choose a plural verb, though the subject is each.

17 **ANSWER (d)** and how it affects reader's trust.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Determiner before a Singular Noun) **Reader** is a singular countable noun and must have a determiner before it. So it should be **the reader's trust** or **readers' trust** (in the general sense). Part (4) has 'reader's' alone, so the error is there.

✓ Correct sentence What critics often overlook is not the literary structure per se, but the emotional authenticity of characters and how it affects **the reader's** trust.

Examiner's Trap Seeing a long sentence beginning with 'What', students look for the error in the earlier parts.

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18 **ANSWER (b)** but also reprimanding the lawyer

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Parallelism in Not Only ... But Also) The two parts of **not only ... but also** must be parallel. The first part has 'dismissed' (simple past), so the second must also be simple past: **reprimanded**, not reprimanding.

✓ Correct sentence The judge not only dismissed the petition but also **reprimanded** the lawyer for misrepresenting facts during the cross-examination.

Examiner's Trap An -ing form after 'but also' looks correct, but the first verb is finite, so the second must be finite too.

---

19 **ANSWER (b)** what emerged instead were overlapping interpretations

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (What-Clause – Verb Agreement) The phrase 'what emerged instead' is a noun clause functioning as the subject of the sentence, and such a what-clause takes a singular verb. The verb does not change to suit the complement ('interpretations') that follows. Hence 'was' must replace 'were', and the error lies in part (2). Option B is correct.

✓ Correct sentence While the director had hoped for clarity, what emerged instead **was** overlapping interpretations that undermined the coherence of the original draft.

Examiner's Trap The plural complement 'interpretations' makes 'were' sound right, but the verb agrees with the what-clause, not with the complement.

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20 **ANSWER (b)** has enrolled in

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (No Less Than – Plural Verb) **No less than** means 'as many as', and the noun after it, students, is plural. The verb agrees with the plural noun, so 'has' must be **have**.

✓ Correct sentence No less than five hundred students **have** enrolled in the online preparatory course for civil service exams.

Examiner's Trap Treating 'five hundred' as a single unit, students accept the singular verb.

---

21 **ANSWER (a)** Rarely the department issues

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Inversion after a Negative Adverb) When a negative adverb such as rarely, seldom, hardly or never begins a sentence, **inversion** takes place, that is, the auxiliary verb comes before the subject.

✓ Correct sentence Rarely **does the department issue** such open calls for proposals without internal approvals from the steering committee.

Examiner's Trap The sentence reads correctly in normal order, so students do not notice that the opening 'Rarely' demands inversion.

---

22 **ANSWER (b)** to submit their reports

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Causative Have + Base Verb) The causative of have/had is **have** + **object** + **base verb**, without 'to'. So 'to submit' should be **submit**. Get takes to: 'got the interns to submit'.

✓ Correct sentence The management had the interns **submit** their reports before the review committee arrived for evaluation.

Examiner's Trap Get takes 'to' in the causative, so students assume have does too.

---

23 **ANSWER (d)** by most analysts who had doubted its trajectory.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Pronoun–Antecedent Agreement) **Analysts** is plural, so the possessive pronoun must be **their**, not its. A pronoun must agree in number with its antecedent.

✓ Correct sentence ...by most analysts who had doubted **their** trajectory.

Examiner's Trap Seeing words like 'indicators' or 'economic' nearby, students pick the wrong antecedent for 'its'.

---

24 **ANSWER (a)** Despite of the warnings

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Despite vs In Spite Of) **Despite** is itself a preposition, so it takes no 'of'. Write either 'despite' or 'in spite of'.

✓ Correct sentence **Despite** the warnings, he ventured into the forest without any gear or backup plan.

Examiner's Trap 'In spite of' takes of, so students add of to despite too.

---

25 **ANSWER (d)** until he broke out.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Phrasal Verb – Break Down) **Break out** means to start suddenly or to escape, whereas the sentence needs the sense of cracking under the pressure of the allegations and confessing everything. For this, **break down** is used.

✓ Correct sentence The diplomat tried to brush off the allegations but the press kept pressing on until he **broke down**.

Examiner's Trap Break out is also a phrasal verb, so students accept it, but its meaning does not fit this context.

---

26 **ANSWER (a)** If he was knowing the answer

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Stative Verb in the Third Conditional) **Know** is a stative verb and has no continuous form. Also, 'yesterday' points to an imagined past situation, so the third conditional applies: if + had + past participle, would have + past participle.

✓ Correct sentence If he **had known** the answer, he would have responded confidently in the interview yesterday.

Examiner's Trap The main clause 'would have responded' is correct, so students look for the fault elsewhere than in the if-clause.

---

27 **ANSWER (d)** her covert support to one faction.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Support For) **Support** takes the preposition **for**, not to ('support for a cause'). The other parts are correct: **avowed** (declared) and **belied by** (shown to be false by) are proper collocations.

✓ Correct sentence Her avowed neutrality in the interdepartmental conflict was belied by her covert support **for** one faction.

Examiner's Trap Avowed and belied by are difficult words, so students search there, whereas the error is in a simple preposition.

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28 **ANSWER (b)** very good

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adverb Modifies a Verb) The verb **plays** must be modified by an adverb. Good is an adjective; its adverb form is **well**.

✓ Correct sentence She plays the piano **very well** considering she started just a year ago.

Examiner's Trap In everyday speech 'good' passes as an adverb, so students fail to catch this error.

---

29 **ANSWER (c)** was concerned about

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Not Only ... But Also: Proximity) With **not only ... but also**, the verb agrees with the subject nearer to it. The nearer subject, faculty members, is plural, so 'was' must be **were**.

✓ Correct sentence Not only the students but also the faculty members **were** concerned about the accreditation results.

Examiner's Trap The first subject, 'students', is also plural, but the error lies in the verb, so students are misled by part (1).

---

30 ANSWER (b) with the student's effort

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Appropriate Preposition: Appreciative Of) **Appreciative** takes the preposition **of**, not with. Note that grateful takes for, while appreciative takes of.

✓ Correct sentence The professor was appreciative **of** the student's effort in curating the bibliography in multiple citation styles.

---

31 ANSWER (a) The committee discussed about the proposal

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Transitive Verb: Discuss) **Discuss** is a transitive verb and takes its object directly, not 'about'. Discuss about, enter into and reach to are common errors.

✓ Correct sentence The committee **discussed** the proposal for over two hours but failed to reach any conclusion.

Examiner's Trap Influenced by the Hindi 'ke baare mein charcha', students accept 'discuss about'.

---

32 ANSWER (a) The employee were

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Subject–Verb Agreement (Number)) **Employee** is singular, so it cannot take the plural verb 'were'. In view of the verb were, the correct form is **employees**. The subject and verb must agree in number.

✓ Correct sentence The **employees** were pulled out of the task for failing to keep it up.

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33 ANSWER (b) before the team arrives

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Tense Agreement with the Past Perfect) The main clause has 'had left' (past perfect), which shows the earlier action. The action that follows is in the simple past, so 'arrives' must be **arrived**.

✓ Correct sentence The manager had left before the team **arrived**, causing confusion about the agenda.

---

34 ANSWER (a) She is married with a banker

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Preposition with Married) **Marry** is a transitive verb, and 'is married' takes the preposition **to**, not with.

✓ Correct sentence She is married **to** a banker and has been living in London for the past five years with her family.

Examiner's Trap Influenced by the Hindi 'ke saath', 'with' seems right, but in English married takes to.

---

35 ANSWER (b) decided

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Collocation – Make a Decision) The verb–noun collocation is wrong here. Decision goes with **make** or **reach**, not **decide**, as in 'made a decision' or 'reached a decision'. Decide is itself a verb, so using 'decision' as its object is needless repetition.

✓ Correct sentence The committee **made** its decision.

---

36 ANSWER (b) clear

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (d) · Correct answer (b)

Concept (Adverb Modifies a Verb (Disputed Key)) SSC treats D (should) as the error, but 'should write' is perfectly correct, since should is followed by the base form of the verb. The real error is in **clear**: to modify the verb write we need an adverb, not an adjective, so the correct form is **clearly**. Hence the correct answer is B.

✓ Correct sentence You should write **clearly** so that the reader understands.

Examiner's Trap The SSC key marks 'should' as wrong, but a base form after should is grammatically correct, so choosing D is a mistake.

---

37 ANSWER (a) an

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Article by Sound) The choice of article depends on the sound of the word, not its spelling. **Meeting** begins with the consonant sound /m/, so it takes **a**, not an.

✓ Correct sentence He was late to **a** meeting scheduled at 9 AM.

38 ANSWER (a) more

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Double Comparative) **Smarter** is already in the comparative degree. Adding 'more' to it creates a double comparative, which is wrong. A short adjective takes either -er or more, never both.

✓ Correct sentence He is **smarter** than anyone else in class.

39 ANSWER (d) to

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Transitive Verb – Reach) **Reach** is a transitive verb, so its object follows directly and no preposition 'to' is needed. Arrive takes at/in, but reach takes no preposition at all.

✓ Correct sentence We **reached** a conclusion after the meeting.

40 ANSWER (b) an

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Article before a Consonant Sound) The choice of article depends on pronunciation, not spelling. **Times** begins with the consonant sound /t/, so the article must be **a**, not an.

✓ Correct sentence She's reading **a** Times of India editorial.

Examiner's Trap Seeing India and editorial, students imagine a vowel, but the article belongs to the very next word, Times.

41 ANSWER (c) heavy

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Collocation Error: Heavy) The adjective 'heavy' forms a collocation with nouns such as 'price', 'fine', 'toll' or 'loss', as in 'pay a heavy price'. 'Apology' takes adjectives such as sincere, profuse, public or humble, not 'heavy'. Hence the word that does not fit in the given sentence is **heavy**. Option C is correct.

✓ Correct sentence He paid a heavy **price** after the incident.

Examiner's Trap The noun 'apology' draws students to A, but the answer rests on the collocation fault of the adjective 'heavy'.

42 ANSWER (c) much

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Too Fast: No Much with an Adverb) **Fast** is an adverb here, and 'much' is not placed between too and an adverb. The correct usage is **too fast**. 'Too much' is used when a noun or verb follows, as in 'too much noise'.

✓ Correct sentence He speaks **too fast** for me to understand.

43 ANSWER (a) A

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (No Article before Mount) When the name of a single mountain is used with **Mount**, no article precedes it, as it is a specific proper noun. A mountain range takes **the**, as in the Himalayas, but a single peak does not.

✓ Correct sentence **Mount Everest** is the highest peak in the world.

44 ANSWER (a) a

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Article with a Unique Noun) Unique objects such as the earth, the sun and the moon take the definite article **the**, not a.

✓ Correct sentence **The** earth revolves around the sun.

45 ANSWER (b) most

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Double Superlative) **Easiest** is already in the superlative degree. Adding 'most' to it forms a double superlative, which is wrong.

✓ Correct sentence This is the **easiest** question in the test.

46 ANSWER (d) leave

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Past Continuous Formation) **Were** is followed by the -ing form of the verb to make the past continuous, so 'were leave' should be 'were leaving'. The combination of past continuous with simple past after **when** is correct.

✓ **Correct sentence** We were **leaving** for the airport when the storm began.

47 ANSWER (a) have

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (a) · Disputed question

Concept (Collective Noun – Singular Verb (Disputed)) SSC treats **have** as the error, because a collective noun acting as a single unit takes a singular verb. In British English, however, a collective noun may be treated as plural when it means the members, so 'have' and 'their' are acceptable, and they agree with each other here. The question is therefore weak, but by the traditional exam concept the answer is A.

✓ **Correct sentence** The team **has** completed **its** project ahead of schedule.

Examiner's Trap Under British usage this sentence can actually be accepted as correct, but the exam expects a collective noun to be treated as a unit with a singular verb.

48 ANSWER (b) went

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Did + Base Form of the Verb) After **did** or **didn't** the verb takes its base form, not the past form, because the past sense is already carried by did.

✓ **Correct sentence** She didn't **go** to the seminar last week.

49 ANSWER (a) quick

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adverb Modifies a Verb) The verb **completed** must be modified by an adverb. Quick is an adjective; its adverb form is **quickly**.

✓ **Correct sentence** She completed the assignment **quickly** to meet the deadline.

50 ANSWER (c) away

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Phrasal Verb – Pass Out) **Pass away** means 'to die', which does not suit the context. For distributing forms, **pass out** or hand out is used. The wrong particle **away** is therefore the error.

✓ **Correct sentence** He **passed out** the forms to the candidates.

Examiner's Trap Pass away is also a common phrasal verb, so students accept it and move on, though its meaning is entirely different here.

51 ANSWER (c) complete

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Adverb Modifies a Verb) **Ignored** is the past participle of a verb, so it must be modified by an adverb. Complete is an adjective; the adverb form is **completely**.

✓ **Correct sentence** He was **completely** ignored by the team during the discussion.

Examiner's Trap After 'was', students are used to an adjective and accept 'complete', but the participle that follows calls for an adverb.

52 ANSWER (b) excellence

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Adjective, Not Noun) After 'was' an adjective is needed to describe the subject, and 'extremely' is the adverb modifying it. **Excellence** is a noun; the adjective form is **excellent**.

✓ **Correct sentence** Her performance was extremely **excellent** throughout the quarter.

53 ANSWER (b) strongly

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adjective Modifies a Noun) **Feeling** is a noun here, so it must be modified by an adjective, not an adverb. Strongly is an adverb; the adjective form is **strong**.

✓ Correct sentence I have a **strong** feeling that something's off.

Examiner's Trap The -ing form of feeling suggests a verb, so students accept the adverb.

54 ANSWER (a) a

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Article before a Silent H) The article depends on sound. In **honest** the h is silent and the word begins with a vowel sound, so **an** is needed. Hour and heir also take an.

✓ Correct sentence She is **an** honest leader with integrity.

Examiner's Trap Since h is a consonant in spelling, students accept 'a'.

55 ANSWER (d) with

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Come Across – No Preposition) **Come across** is a phrasal verb meaning to meet by chance. It is transitive, so it is not followed by the preposition with.

✓ Correct sentence He came across an old friend at the conference.

Examiner's Trap Adding 'with' copies usages like 'meet with', but here across is itself the particle.

56 ANSWER (d) a

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Article with a Mountain Range) **Himalayas** is the name of a mountain range, and a range takes the definite article **the**. A single peak such as Mount Everest takes no article.

✓ Correct sentence We arrived at **the** Himalayas before sunrise.

57 ANSWER (b) the

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Article: First Mention) A pair mentioned for the first time takes the indefinite article: **a pair of shoes**. 'The' is used when a specific item already known to the listener is meant, and no such reference exists here. In 'the online store' the store is a specific place already understood, so 'the' is right there. Hence the error lies in 'the', and option B is correct.

✓ Correct sentence I bought **a** pair of shoes from the online store.

Examiner's Trap 'The pair' sounds natural, so students take the sentence as correct and hunt for errors in other words.

58 ANSWER (b) affect

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Affect vs Effect) Affect and effect sound almost alike but belong to different parts of speech. **Affect** is a verb (to influence), while **effect** is a noun (result). After 'a strong' a noun is required, so **effect** is needed.

✓ Correct sentence The medicine had a strong **effect** on her recovery.

Examiner's Trap Because the two words sound similar, students put the verb form where the noun is required.

59 ANSWER (a) on

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Transitive Verb – Emphasize) **Emphasize** is a transitive verb and takes its object directly, so the preposition 'on' is not needed. Stress and highlight are used in the same way.

✓ Correct sentence The teacher emphasized the importance of time management.

Examiner's Trap Thinking of the Hindi phrasing 'par zor dena', students add 'on' after emphasize.

60 ANSWER (a) afraid from

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Preposition after Afraid) **Afraid** takes the preposition **of**, not from. Scared of, fond of, proud of and jealous of are used in the same way.

✓ Correct sentence He has been **afraid of** spiders since childhood.

61 ANSWER (b) to speak

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Gerund after Avoid) **Avoid** is followed by a gerund (verb + -ing), not an infinitive (to + verb). Enjoy, mind, finish and suggest also take a gerund.

✓ **Correct sentence** She always avoids **speaking** during the meetings because she is shy.

---

62 ANSWER (b) than tea

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Prefer to, Not Than) **Prefer** takes **to** in a comparison, not than. Prefer is also not used with more or rather than.

✓ **Correct sentence** She prefers coffee **to** tea in the morning.

---

63 ANSWER (a) insisted me to

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Insist on + Gerund) **Insist** is not followed by an object and an infinitive (me to). It takes the preposition **on** followed by a gerund.

✓ **Correct sentence** She insisted **on my attending** the meeting at any cost. (या: She insisted that I attend the meeting at any cost.)

---

64 ANSWER (b) since two hours

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Since vs For) **Since** goes with a point of time, as in since 2020, since Monday. For a period of time, **for** is used, as in for two hours.

✓ **Correct sentence** I have been waiting **for two hours** for the bus.

Examiner's Trap Since seems right with the present perfect continuous, so students accept the tense and overlook 'since two hours'.

---

65 ANSWER (c) good with mathematics

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Good At a Subject) To express skill in a subject, **good** takes the preposition **at**, not with. ('Weak in' is correct.)

✓ **Correct sentence** She is good **at** mathematics but weak in physics.

Examiner's Trap 'Weak in' is correct, so students treat both parts alike and accept 'good with'.

---

66 ANSWER (b) good in

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Preposition: Good At) To express competence in a subject or skill, the adjective **good** takes the preposition **at**.

✓ **Correct sentence** She is good **at** English and Mathematics.

---

67 ANSWER (b) were awarded

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Each of – Singular Verb) Even when a plural noun follows **each of**, the verb stays singular, because the subject is each.

✓ **Correct sentence** Each of the players **was** awarded a certificate of appreciation.

Examiner's Trap The plural noun 'players' stands right before the verb, so a plural verb sounds natural and students miss the error.

---

68 ANSWER (b) Q

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Lexical Error – Abound) **Bound** means tied or obliged, whereas the sentence needs the sense of rumours being plentiful and spreading. The verb for this is **abound**. So the lexical error lies in segment Q.

✓ **Correct sentence** Maintaining a posture of strict non-disclosure, the board of directors refuses to comment on the acquisition even though rumours **abound** that the tech giant is on the verge of bankruptcy due to severe algorithmic failures that have fundamentally compromised its core proprietary architecture.

Examiner's Trap Bound and abound differ by a single letter, so the error is easily missed while reading.

---

69 ANSWER (a) P

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Lexical Error – Garner) A **garter** is a band for holding up a stocking, which is absurd here. The verb

meaning to gather or obtain support is **garner**. So the error lies in segment P.

✓ Correct sentence The coalition launched an aggressive media campaign to **garner** support for the proposed labour reforms, seeking to mobilise constituent pressure and thereby influence critical swing-vote lawmakers whose final deliberations will dictate the outcome of the fast-approaching, high-stakes parliamentary vote.

Examiner's Trap Garter and garner sound alike, so students fail to notice the wrong word.

---

70 ANSWER (a) P

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Lexical Error – Apex Body) To **affix** means to attach or stick, whereas the sentence needs the sense of a supreme body. The word for this is **apex** (topmost). So the lexical error lies in segment P.

✓ Correct sentence As the **apex** body governing international aviation safety, the organisation possesses the unilateral authority to ground entire commercial fleets.

Examiner's Trap Affix looks somewhat like apex, so students overlook it, though its meaning is entirely out of place here.

---

71 ANSWER (b) Q

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Modus Operandi) **Bogus** means fake. The Latin phrase for 'method of working' is **modus operandi** (M.O.). So the error lies in segment Q.

✓ Correct sentence The serial arsonist's distinct **modus operandi** involved using highly refined chemical accelerants inside abandoned industrial warehouses.

Examiner's Trap 'Bogus operandi' sounds close to modus operandi, so students accept it and move on.

---

72 ANSWER (b) Q

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cognitive Dissonance Collocation) **Dissonance** goes with the well-known psychological term **cognitive dissonance** (a conflict between beliefs and behaviour). Confident means self-assured, which does not fit the context. So the lexical error lies in segment Q.

✓ Correct sentence Active smokers frequently suffer from severe **cognitive** dissonance.

Examiner's Trap Confident and cognitive look somewhat alike, so students fail to spot the wrong word.

---

73 ANSWER (c) R

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Conflict of Interest) The phrase is **conflict of interest**. Impress is a verb and is wrongly used here. The context, a prime minister appointing a relative, is also a classic example of a conflict of interest. So the error lies in segment R.

✓ Correct sentence ...widely criticised as a blatant conflict of **interest** by anti-corruption watchdogs.

Examiner's Trap Impress and interest sound alike, so the wrong word hides itself in smooth reading.

---

74 ANSWER (b) for

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Preposition with Accuse) **Accuse** takes the preposition **of**, not for. Charge takes with, as in 'charged with theft'.

✓ Correct sentence He was accused **of** cheating in the final exam.

Examiner's Trap Because 'for' feels natural for giving the reason for an accusation, students accept it.

---

75 ANSWER (d) with

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Preposition with Irrelevant) **Irrelevant** takes the preposition **to**, not with. Relevant to is used in the same way.

✓ Correct sentence This information is irrelevant **to** our current topic.

Examiner's Trap 'With' seems right as a translation of the Hindi 'se sambandhit'.

---

76 ANSWER (c) with

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Preposition with Married) **Married** takes the preposition **to**, not with.

✓ **Correct sentence** She was married **to** a diplomat from Spain.

Examiner's Trap Influenced by the Hindi 'ke saath', 'with' seems right, but in English married takes to.

---

77 ANSWER (c) R

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Comply With) **Comply** takes the preposition **with**, not to. (Conform to and adhere to are different collocations.)

✓ **Correct sentence** ...the target subsidiary stubbornly refused to comply **with** the parent company's stringent data security architecture guidelines.

Examiner's Trap Conform to and adhere to take 'to', so students accept 'to' after comply as well.

---

78 ANSWER (a) P

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Separable Phrasal Verb) **Flesh out** is a separable phrasal verb. When the object is a pronoun, it comes between the verb and the particle. With a noun object both orders are possible, but with a pronoun only the middle position works.

✓ **Correct sentence** Instructed to **flesh them out** before submitting the documentation to the regulatory board...

Examiner's Trap 'Flesh out the details' is also correct, so students assume the same order for a pronoun.

---

79 ANSWER (a) P

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Separable Phrasal Verb with a Pronoun) **Phase out** is a separable phrasal verb. When the object is a pronoun, it comes between the verb and the particle, so 'phase out them' is wrong and **phase them out** is correct. Here 'them' refers to the legacy mainframe servers.

✓ **Correct sentence** Intending to **phase them out** by the conclusion of the hardware lifecycle, the Chief Technology Officer systematically replaced the legacy mainframe servers...

Examiner's Trap The long, technical words in the other segments draw attention, while the error lies in the position of a small pronoun.

---

80 ANSWER (b) Q

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Face Up To) **Face up** is a phrasal verb that takes the preposition **to**: face up **to** the reality (to confront it).

✓ **Correct sentence** ...the manufacturing consortium was finally forced to face up **to** the reality of its severe heavy-metal contamination of the local watershed...

Examiner's Trap A missing preposition is a small error and is easily overlooked in a long sentence.

---

81 ANSWER (a) If Pushpa Latha have (A)

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Third Conditional – If Clause) This is the third conditional: **If + had + past participle, would have + past participle**. The if-clause needs **had passed**, not 'have'.

✓ **Correct sentence** If Pushpa Latha **had** passed the law course, she would have become a lawyer.

Examiner's Trap The main clause 'would have' is correct, so students look for the error there, whereas the fault is in the verb of the if-clause.

PART B Choose the Correct / Incorrect Sentence

82 ANSWER (b) Only Q

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Comparison of Two Qualities) When two qualities of the same person or thing are compared, the pattern is **more + adjective + than + adjective**. Sentence P, 'more comprehensive than concise', is correct. In Q, 'ready' has no 'more' before it, and its meaning does not suit the context either (a word like rash or impulsive is expected), so the error lies in Q.

✓ **Correct sentence** (Q) The lead prosecutor remarked that the defendant's sudden courtroom

confession was **more rash** than calculated, catching the entire defence team off guard.

83 ANSWER (a) Only P

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (As Many As vs Many More Than) For quantity, the patterns are **as many ... as** or **many more ... than**. P's 'as many more ... than' mixes the two and is wrong. Q's 'The more ... the fewer' is a correct double comparative, so Q has no error.

✓ Correct sentence (P) The agricultural collective harvested **many more** metric tons of organic grain than the commercial farming conglomerate during the fiscal year. (Q) is already correct.

Examiner's Trap The unusual structure 'the more ... the fewer' in Q looks wrong to students, but the error is in P.

84 ANSWER (d) Neither P nor Q

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Parallelism in Comparison) In both sentences the two sides of the comparison have the same structure. P keeps 'more capable of managing ... than of drafting', and Q keeps 'less adaptive to ... than intent on ...'; each adjective also carries its own correct preposition. Hence neither sentence has an error.

✓ Correct sentence Both are correct: (P) more capable **of** managing ... than **of** drafting ...; (Q) less adaptive **to** ... than intent **on** ....

Examiner's Trap Seeing the preposition repeated, students may think it is wrong, but giving each adjective its own preposition is exactly what correct parallelism requires.

85 ANSWER (d) The diplomatic delegation travelled from Netherlands to the Czech ...

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Article with Plural Country Names) **Netherlands** is a country with a plural name and takes **the**. The articles in the other sentences are correct: 'A research team', 'a beautifully preserved ... predator', and 'the Administrator' (a specific office).

✓ Correct sentence The diplomatic delegation travelled from **the** Netherlands to the Czech Republic to ratify the new maritime trade agreement.

Examiner's Trap Seeing 'the' before Czech Republic, students accept it as correct but overlook the missing 'the' before Netherlands.

86 ANSWER (a) A trireme was a highly manoeuvrable ancient warship powered by the ...

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Article Error: Number Before a Noun) In 'powered by the three rows of oars', the use of **the** is wrong, since the number (three) already determines the noun. The articles in the other options are correct: 'the displaced' (a plural noun formed from an adjective), 'Mangroves' (generic, no article) and 'The blue whale' (referring to a species).

✓ Correct sentence A trireme was a highly manoeuvrable ancient warship powered by **three** rows of oars, designed by Mediterranean civilisations.

Examiner's Trap 'The displaced' looks wrong to students, but the takes its place before a plural noun formed from an adjective.

87 ANSWER (b) The gallery curator remarked that it was quite masterpiece, ...

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Article with Quite) **Quite** is used with a/an before a singular countable noun: **quite a masterpiece**. In 'quite masterpiece' the article is missing. In A, 'so distant a galaxy' and in C and D the exclamatory patterns 'What an / What + plural noun' are correct.

✓ Correct sentence The gallery curator remarked that it was quite **a** masterpiece, possessing such a luminous quality that onlookers were instantly captivated.

Examiner's Trap The order in 'so distant a galaxy' looks unusual, so students wrongly think it is incorrect, though the pattern is right.

88 ANSWER (d) Neither P nor Q

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Phrasal Verbs: Iron Out, Pass Out) Both sentences are correct. In P, **iron out** means to settle problems,

which suits negotiations over merger documents. In Q, **pass out** means to faint, which is right in the context of heat exhaustion. Hence neither has an error.

✓ Correct sentence Both sentences are correct as written: **ironed out** the final merger documents; the junior analyst **passed out** from heat exhaustion.

89 ANSWER (a) Only P

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Transitive Phrasal Verb: Fend Off) In P, **fend off** is a transitive phrasal verb that takes its object directly, so adding 'against' is unnecessary. In Q, **home in on** (to focus on a target) is a correct idiom. So the error is only in P.

✓ Correct sentence P: ...to **fend off** the hostile takeover bid initiated by the activist hedge fund.

Examiner's Trap 'Fend off against' seems right in meaning, but an extra preposition after a phrasal verb is incorrect.

90 ANSWER (d) The committee have decided to postpone the event

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Collective Noun – Singular Verb) When a committee takes a decision as one unit, the collective noun takes a singular verb: 'The committee **has** decided'. Hence 'have decided' in D is incorrect. In A the present perfect continuous 'have been demanding' agrees with 'for over a month', B's 'connects' is right, and C's 'was supposed to' is correctly used. Hence option D is the answer.

✓ Correct sentence The committee **has** decided to postpone the event.

Examiner's Trap A plural verb with a collective noun looks familiar, so students leave D out, but here the committee acts as a single unit.



02
CHAPTER

Sentence Improvement

Questions *88 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01–05): *Improve the sentence by selecting the appropriate preposition from the following options.*

01 She received a gift ____her best friend.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) on
(b) from
(c) of
(d) in

02 The negotiations continued ____ the early hours of the morning, as both parties sought a mutually beneficial agreement.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) underneath
(b) below
(c) beside
(d) till

03 The intricate designs of the ancient manuscript were hidden _____ the layers of dust and time, waiting to be rediscovered by modern scholars.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) over
(b) outside
(c) beneath
(d) on

04 We need to plan carefully to stay ____of our competition.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) for
(b) in
(c) beyond
(d) ahead

05 The manager sent an email _____ the upcoming policy changes affecting all departments.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) regarding
(b) following
(c) through
(d) around

Directions (Q. 06–10): *Read the sentence below carefully. Choose the option (A/B/C) that best improves the sentence. If the sentence is already correct, select Option D (No improvement required).*

06 The planetary geologist hypothesised that ancient Martian liquid water could have fostered microbial life; consequently, early organic matter might still survive within deep subsurface caves today.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A hypothesis was made by the planetary geologist that if liquid water flowed on the ancient Martian surface, microbial life will have emerged, indicating that early organic matter will survive within deep subsurface caves today.
(b) The planetary geologist hypothesised that if liquid water had flown on the ancient Martian surface, microbial life should have emerged – a possibility indicating that early organic matter might have survive within deep subsurface caves today.
(c) According to the planetary geologist's hypothesis, had ancient Martian liquid water fostered microbial life, consequently, early organic matter shall still be surviving within deep subsurface caves today.
(d) No improvement required

07 The core reason why the global tech conglomerate decided to withdraw its investment from the region is because a massive supply chain disruption was suffered by its manufacturing division during the previous fiscal quarter.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The global tech conglomerate decided to withdraw its investment from the region because its manufacturing division suffered a massive supply chain disruption during the previous fiscal quarter.
(b) The reason why the global tech conglomerate decided to withdraw its investment from the region was owing to its manufacturing division suffering a massive supply chain disruption during the previous fiscal quarter.
(c) The global tech conglomerate decided on withdrawing its investment from the region on account of a massive supply chain disruption being suffered by its manufacturing division during the previous fiscal quarter.
(d) No improvement required

08 It was the clinical analyst's conclusion that the patient's underlying trauma was driven by a deep, unresolved desire, desires which continuously sabotaged their interpersonal relationships.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The clinical analyst concluded that underlying trauma of the patient being driven by a deep, unresolved desire, the desire that continuously sabotaged their interpersonal relationships.
(b) The clinical analyst concluded that the patient's underlying trauma was driven by a deep, unresolved desire, a desire that continuously sabotaged their interpersonal relationships.
(c) It was concluded by the clinical analyst that a deep, unresolved desire was driven the patient's underlying trauma, and their interpersonal relationships were continuously sabotaged by that desire.
(d) No improvement required

09 The constitutional jurist argued that by altering the founding charter without a public referendum would nullify it and render it completely void, an act of total and absolute betrayal of the social contract.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The constitutional jurist argued that altering the founding charter without a public referendum would render it null and void, representing a total betrayal of the social contract.
(b) The constitutional jurist argued that any alteration in the founding charter without holding a public referendum would null it as completely void, being a total betrayal of the social contract.
(c) The constitutional jurist argued that in altering the founding charter without a public referendum, we would void it totally, acting as an absolute betrayal of the social contract.
(d) No improvement required

10 The radical philosopher argued that the modern state's continuous prioritisation of absolute capital accumulation over human survival leads to an inevitable historical trajectory; yet, it is far better to sketch a path toward collective emancipation than to describe the apocalypse.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The radical philosopher laid an argument that the continuous prioritisation of absolute capital accumulation by the modern state over human survival leads to an inevitable historical trajectory; yet, far more better than to describe the apocalypse is to sketch a path toward collective emancipation.
(b) The radical philosopher was arguing that leading to an inevitable historical trajectory is the continuous prioritisation of absolute capital accumulation over human survival by the modern state; but it was far better, he argued, sketching a path toward collective emancipation than describing the apocalypse.
(c) The radical philosopher made an argument that continuously prioritising absolute capital accumulation than human survival by the modern state led to a historical trajectory that was inevitable; however, rather than to describe the apocalypse, it was far better to sketch a path toward collective emancipation.
(d) No improvement required

Directions (Q. 11–29): *Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence*

11 My brother **is good in cricket.**

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) good to cricket
(b) best in cricket
(c) is good at cricket
(d) well in cricket

12 They have been working on this project **since four months.**

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) from four months
(b) for past four months
(c) since last four months
(d) for four months

13 The principal was angry **upon the students.**

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) angry by the students
(b) angry with the students
(c) angry over students
(d) angry on students

14 She **sings good** for her age.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) sings greatly
(b) sings nicely
(c) sings well
(d) sings better

15 He **has went** to the market.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) has go
(b) had gone
(c) went
(d) has gone

16 He **told that he will come** later.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) said he would come
(b) told that he would came
(c) said that he would come
(d) said that he will come

17 The students **enjoyed to play in the rain**.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) enjoyed play in the rain
(b) were enjoying play
(c) enjoyed playing in the rain
(d) enjoyed to be playing

18 She **died from** cancer last year.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) died of
(b) was died by
(c) was dead from
(d) died by

19 The teacher **explained us the lesson** clearly.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) explained the lesson to us
(b) explained to us the lesson
(c) had explained us
(d) explained we the lesson

20 I **prefer tea than** coffee.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) prefer tea more than
(b) prefer tea for
(c) prefer tea to
(d) prefer tea on

21 He **is living here since** 2010.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) is living here from
(b) has been living here since
(c) lives here since
(d) was living here since

22 He **is used to work hard** every day.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) used to working hard
(b) is used to working hard
(c) used to work hardly
(d) uses to working hard

23 He **is capable to do** the task.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) capable of doing
(b) capable for doing
(c) capable in doing
(d) capable at doing

24 He was accused **for stealing** money.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) accused to
(b) accused of
(c) accused about
(d) accused by

25 They reached the station **in time to catch the train**.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) just in time to catch the train
(b) at the time to catch the train
(c) on time for catching the train
(d) timely to catch the train

26 He **is working hardly** to succeed.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) works hardly
(b) is working hard
(c) has been hardly working
(d) is hard working

27 She **is married with** a doctor.
[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) is married to
(b) is married of
(c) is marry with
(d) married with

28 I asked him **what was he doing there.**
[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) what he was doing there
(b) what he had been doing there
(c) what did he doing there
(d) what he has done there

29 He **is one of the best player** in the team.
[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) one of best players
(b) one of the better player
(c) one of the best players
(d) one of the most player

Directions (Q. 30): *Improve the sentence by choosing the correct parts of speech.*

30 In the beginning of the meeting, there were several misunderstandings due to unclear communication from the head of the department.
[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) At the beginning of the meeting, there were several misunderstandings due to unclear communication from the head of the department.
(b) In the beginning of the meeting, there was several misunderstanding due to unclear communication from the head of the department.
(c) At begin of the meeting, there were several misunderstandings due to unclear communication from the head of the department.
(d) While beginning of the meeting, there were several misunderstanding due to unclear communication from the head of the department.

Directions (Q. 31–34): *Improve the sentence using the correct phrasal verb of the underlined words.*

31 We must **bring out** a solution to this problem quickly.
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) bring up
(b) bring over
(c) bring about
(d) bring out

32 He **gave ahead** the documents at the reception.
[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) gave up
(b) gave away
(c) gave back
(d) gave in

33 The teacher asked him to **make down** a plan for the project.
[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) make up
(b) make over
(c) make out
(d) make off

34 He tried to **take away** a new business after his retirement.
[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) take in
(b) take over
(c) take up
(d) take out

Directions (Q. 35–42): *Identify the option that best corrects the highlighted part of the sentence for proper grammar and usage.*

35 He prevented me **to go outside**.
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) from going outside
(b) with going outside
(c) for going outside
(d) by going outside

36 He is **angry on** his friend for the mistake.
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) angry for
(b) angry with
(c) angry in
(d) angry by

37 He is **interested for learning** new languages.
[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) for learn
(b) in learning
(c) to learning
(d) with learning

38 He congratulated me **for my success**.
[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) with my success (b) by my success
(c) on my success (d) of my success

39 She succeeded in win the competition.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) for win (b) in winning
(c) of winning (d) with winning

40 She insisted to go to the market.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) insisted to going (b) insisted on going
(c) insisted going (d) insisted with going

41 The **police is investigating** the case thoroughly.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) are investigate (b) is investigated
(c) are investigating (d) is to investigate

42 She is more smarter than her brother.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) smarter (b) smartest
(c) extra smart (d) more smartest

Directions (Q. 43): *Improve the sentence by choosing the correct degree of comparison that replaces the word highlighted in bold.*

43 This road is **narrow** than the one we took yesterday.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) more narrower (b) narrower
(c) most narrow (d) narrowest

Directions (Q. 44–54): *Choose the most suitable option to replace the underlined part of the sentence*

44 She walked into the room **with silent** steps.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) with silenced (b) in silence
(c) silently (d) silence

45 Not only **the minister has denied** the allegations, but also filed a counter-suit.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) did the minister deny (b) the minister has denied
(c) did the minister denied (d) had the minister deny

46 The more you practice, **more fluent you become.**

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) the more fluent you become (b) more fluently you become
(c) fluently you become (d) most fluent you become

47 The medicine must be taken **between 6 to 8 pm.**

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) from 6 to 8 pm (b) between 6 and 8 pm
(c) during 6–8 pm (d) in 6 to 8 pm

48 The chair was placed directly **underneath of** the lamp.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) below (b) beneath
(c) underneath (d) under

49 Neither the manager nor the employees **knows** the correct procedure.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) know (b) knew
(c) have known (d) is knowing

50 The changes were subtle yet **profoundly impacted** the outcome.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) impacted profoundly (b) had profound impact on
(c) profound impacting (d) profoundly impacting

51 They congratulated him **for his promotion.**

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) at his promotion (b) on his promotion
(c) of his promotion (d) over his promotion

52 The director looked at the audience and smiled **confide.**

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) confident (b) confiding
(c) confidently (d) confidence

53 I wish the report **is finished** before the meeting began.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) was finishing (b) has finished
(c) had been finished (d) finished

54 Seldom **he expresses** regret for his decisions.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) does he express (b) he does express
(c) did he expressed (d) he expressed

Directions (Q. 55–56): *Improve the sentence using the correct phrasal verb of the underlined word.*

55 The project was **given away** by the new manager after the old one retired.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) carried out (b) carried away
(c) carried through (d) carried in

56 She **ran out** her old friends at the mall yesterday.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) ran after (b) ran into
(c) ran down (d) ran over

Directions (Q. 57–58): *Improve the sentence by choosing the correct degree of comparison that replaces the words highlighted in bold.*

57 Of all the interns, Rahul was the one who adapted **more quickly** to the fast-paced workflow.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) quicklier (b) quickest
(c) most quickly (d) much quickly

58 This is the **borest** movie I have ever seen.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) more boring (b) boring
(c) most boring (d) boringest

Directions (Q. 59–64): *Choose the option that best improves the sentence by using the correct collocation highlighted in bold.*

59 The company **reached a heavy loss** last quarter due to poor management.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) suffered a heavy loss (b) reached a large loss
(c) made a hard loss (d) got a strong loss

60 The team **added the responsibility** for the failure.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) accepted the responsibility (b) made the responsibility
(c) got the responsibility (d) received the responsibility

61 The manager **gave a suggestion** to cancel the meeting.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) created a suggestion (b) did a suggestion
(c) made a suggestion (d) offered a suggest

62 She **gave a serious effort** to solve the complex puzzle.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) made a serious effort (b) performed a serious effort
(c) established a serious effort (d) operated a serious effort

63 He **did an effort** to improve his writing skills.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) performed an effort (b) made an effort
(c) took an effort (d) created an effort

64 The scientist **created a solution** to the complicated theory.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) came up with a solution (b) created a resolution
(c) brought a solving (d) took a solution

Directions (Q. 65–70): *Read the following sentence carefully, focusing on the underlined portion. Select the option (A/B/C) that can suitably substitute the underlined segment to improve the given sentence. If*

the sentence is correct as written, then select Option D (No improvement required).

65 Hidden far beneath the dense, unexplored canopy of the Amazon rainforest, and completely shielded from modern satellite observation, **unprecedented numbers of endangered botanical species thrive**.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) unprecedented number of endangered botanical species' thrive
(b) unprecedented numbers of endangered botanical species' thrives
(c) unprecedented number of endangered botanical species thrives
(d) No improvement required

66 When the museum conservation team carefully applied the newly formulated chemical solvent to the damaged Renaissance fresco, **it dissolved almost instantly, causing widespread panic amidst the curators**.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) they dissolved almost instantly, a reaction which caused widespread panic around the curators
(b) the solvent dissolved almost instantly, that caused widespread panic in the curators
(c) the fresco dissolved almost instantly, causing widespread panic among the curators
(d) No improvement required

67 The multinational technology conglomerate officially absorbed the boutique software startup **because they possessed a highly lucrative proprietary algorithm that promised to dominate** the global market.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) as it possessed a highly lucrative proprietary algorithm who promised to dominate
(b) because the startup possessed a highly lucrative proprietary algorithm that promised to dominate
(c) since the conglomerate possessed a highly lucrative proprietary algorithm which promised to dominate
(d) No improvement required

68 The newly synthesised chemical catalyst, along with several volatile organic compounds, **were precipitously introduced into the chamber by the lab technicians**, an action that ultimately caused it to detonate prematurely.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) was precipitously introduced into the chamber by the lab technicians
(b) are precipitously introduced by the lab technicians upon the chamber
(c) is precipitously introduced by the lab technicians onto the chamber
(d) No improvement required

69 The newly appointed governing board, alongside the chief executive officer and several external auditing firms, **were heavily censured by the regulatory body for failing to disclose their financial liabilities** before the public offering.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) were heavily censured by the regulatory body for failing to disclose its financial liability
(b) was heavily censured by the regulatory body for failing to disclose their financial liability
(c) was heavily censured by the regulatory body for failing to disclose its financial liabilities
(d) No improvement required

70 The enigmatic polymath, as well as her newly appointed research fellows, **were heavily criticised by the oversight committee for failing to document their** experimental methodology before the launch of the clinical trials.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) was heavily criticised by the oversight committee for failing to document his
(b) were heavily criticised by the oversight committee for failing to document its
(c) was heavily criticised by the oversight committee for failing to document her
(d) No improvement required

Directions (Q. 71–74): *Read the sentence thoroughly, with special attention to the underlined segment. Choose the most appropriate substitution from A, B, or C. If the sentence is fine as it is, select D (No improvement required).*

71 The micro-lending firm's public evaluation **would have read far more unfavourably than it did** if only the oversight committee had discovered the algorithmic bias earlier.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) would be read far more unfavourably than they did
(b) would have read far more unfavourably than it done
(c) would read far more unfavourably than it had did
(d) No improvement required

72 The experimental composer conducted the discordant symphony **not because he lacked an understanding of classical harmony, but because he believed** that traditional methods were obsolete.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) not because he was lacking of an understanding in classical harmony, but because he had believed
(b) because he lacked an understanding of classical harmony, but because he has believed
(c) not lacking an understanding of classical harmony, but because he have believed
(d) No improvement required

73 The counterintelligence unit's tracking sweep caught the deep-cover operative **simply as she had failed to intercepted** the encrypted microdot quickly enough.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) since because she failed in intercepting
(b) simply because she failed to intercept
(c) due to her failing the intercept of
(d) No improvement required

74 The theocratic state's draconian blasphemy laws **failed to deter the radical philosopher, who openly launched** a challenge against the orthodox assembly.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) fail deterring the radical philosopher, who had openly launch
(b) fail to deter the radical philosopher, which had been openly launched
(c) failed in deterrence the radical philosopher, who openly launch
(d) No improvement required

Directions (Q. 75): *Improve the sentence by selecting the appropriate adverb of the underlined word.*

75 He **deeply** agreed to the proposal after much thought.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) immediately
(b) reluctantly
(c) suddenly
(d) eagerly

Directions (Q. 76): *Improve the sentence by selecting the appropriate tense of the underlined words.*

76 While he **deliver** his speech, the audience **listened** attentively.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) delivers, listens
(b) delivered, listened
(c) was delivering, was listening
(d) had delivered, had listened

Directions (Q. 77): *Choose the most suitable option to replace the underlined part of the sentence. If the sentence is already correct, select 'No substitution required*

77 The research paper was full of errors because the data **is not verified** by any expert.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) has not been verified
(b) was not verified
(c) had not been verified
(d) No substitution required

Directions (Q. 78–79): *Choose the most suitable option to replace the underlined part of the sentence. If the sentence is already correct, select 'No substitution required*

78 Her actions were seen as **complementary** rather than conflicting.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) complimentary
(b) complementary
(c) complimented
(d) No substitution required

79 He showed great interest in astronomy, an area that deeply **fascinates** him.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) fascinated
(b) was fascinating
(c) fascinates
(d) No substitution required

Directions (Q. 80): *Choose the most suitable option to replace the underlined part of the sentence If the sentence is already correct, select 'No substitution required*

80 Had the research team accounted for seasonal variability, the conclusions drawn in the final report **would reflect** a more comprehensive understanding of climatic trends.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) would have reflected
(b) should reflect
(c) will reflect
(d) No substitution required

Directions (Q. 81–84): *Choose the most suitable option to replace the underlined part of the sentence. If the sentence is already correct, select 'No substitution required*

81 He explained the concept so **precise** that everyone grasped it immediately.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) precisely
(b) precision
(c) precised
(d) No substitution required

82 He was admired not so much for his wealth **than** for his integrity.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) as
(b) but
(c) then
(d) No substitution required

83 Of all the candidates, he was the **most cleverest.**

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) most clever
(b) more clever
(c) cleverest
(d) No substitution required

84 The journalist was more shocked than **any political reporter.**

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) all political reporters
(b) other political reporters
(c) any of the political reporters
(d) No substitution required

Directions (Q. 85): *Read the following sentence carefully and focus on the underlined portion. Choose the option (A, B, or C) that best substitutes the underlined segment to improve the sentence grammatically or contextually. If the sentence is correct as written, select Option D (No Improvement Required).*

85 The researchers designed the clinical trial **to slowly map the degradation of neural pathways over six months** without altering the control group's environment.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) to map slowly the degradation of neural pathways over six months
(b) to map the degradation slowly of neural pathways over six months
(c) to slowly map over six months the degradation of neural pathways
(d) No improvement required

Directions (Q. 86): *Choose the option that best improves the sentence using the correct collocation highlighted in bold.*

86 After analyzing the data, we can **make a conclusion** about the results.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) draw a conclusion
(b) reach a conclusion
(c) create a conclusion
(d) find a conclusion

Directions (Q. 87–88): *Read the sentence given below carefully, focusing on the underlined portion. Select the option (A/ B/ C) that can suitably replace the underlined segment to improve the sentence. If the sentence is correct as it is written, then select Option D (No improvement required).*

87 The insulating properties of the new synthetic polymer **are significantly superior to that of** standard industrial fibreglass.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) is significantly superior to that of
(b) are significantly superior to
(c) are significantly superior to those of
(d) No improvement required

88 As a pioneer of early cybersecurity protocols in the late 1990s, Aegis-X provided more robust end-to-end data encryption **than any network security platform** of the time.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) than any other network security platform
(b) to any other network security platform
(c) than did any network security platform
(d) No improvement required

Answer Key *Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation*

01	**02**	**03**	**04**	**05**
(b)	(d)	(c)	(d)	(a)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**
(d)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(d)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
(c)	(d)	(b)	(c)	(d)
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
(c)	(c)	(a)	(a)	(c)
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
(b)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
(b)	(a)	(a)	(c)	(a)
31	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**
(c)	(d)	(a)	(c)	(a)
36	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**
(b)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(b)
41	**42**	**43**	**44**	**45**
(c)	(a)	(b)	**(c)**	(a)

		48		
46	**47**	**(a/b/c/d)**	**49**	**50**
(a)	(b)		(a)	(b)
51	**52**	**53**	**54**	**55**
(b)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(a)
56	**57**	**58**	**59**	**60**
(b)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(a)
61	**62**	**63**	**64**	**65**
(c)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(d)
66	**67**	**68**	**69**	**70**
(c)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(c)
71	**72**	**73**	**74**	**75**
(d)	(d)	(b)	(d)	(b)
76	**77**	**78**	**79**	**80**
(c)	**(b)**	**(b/d)**	(a)	(a)
81	**82**	**83**	**84**	**85**
(a)	(a)	**(c)**	(b)	(d)
86	**87**	**88**		
(a)	(c)	(a)		

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 ANSWER (b) from

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Preposition with Receive) **Receive** takes **from** to name the source: receive a gift from someone.

✓ Correct sentence She received a gift **from** her best friend.

02 ANSWER (d) till

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Preposition of Time – Till) For an action that lasts up to the early hours, **till** (until) marks the time limit. The other three (underneath, below, beside) express place, not time.

✓ Correct sentence The negotiations continued **till** the early hours of the morning, as both parties sought a mutually beneficial agreement.

Examiner's Trap Underneath, below and beside are prepositions of place, so they do not suit a sentence about a time limit.

---

03 ANSWER (c) beneath

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Preposition of Position – Beneath) The idea of being hidden under layers of dust is expressed by **beneath**. **Over** means above, **outside** means outside, and **on** means on the surface, so none of them conveys 'buried under the layers'.

✓ Correct sentence The intricate designs of the ancient manuscript were hidden **beneath** the layers of dust and time, waiting to be rediscovered by modern scholars.

Examiner's Trap The examiner includes common prepositions like **over** and **on**, which lead students to read 'above the layers', whereas concealment needs the sense of 'under'.

---

04 ANSWER (d) ahead

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Fixed Phrase: Stay Ahead Of) **To stay ahead of** is a fixed phrase meaning to remain in front of one's competitors, and **ahead of** is followed by a noun. **For**, **in** and **beyond** do not give this sense.

✓ Correct sentence We need to plan carefully to stay **ahead** of our competition.

Examiner's Trap **Beyond** means 'past', which seems close to 'staying ahead', but the phrase cannot be formed with it.

---

05 ANSWER (a) regarding

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Preposition: Regarding) The preposition meaning 'concerning' is **regarding**. **Following** means after, **through** means by means of, and **around** means near or about in place, none of which fits here.

✓ Correct sentence The manager sent an email **regarding** the upcoming policy changes affecting all departments.

---

06 ANSWER (d) No improvement required

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (No Improvement – Correct Sentence) The sentence is already correct. The tense sequence is sound: a hypothesis made in the past is matched by **could have fostered** and **might still survive**, and the connector **consequently** links the reasoning properly.

✓ Correct sentence The planetary geologist hypothesised that ancient Martian liquid water could have fostered microbial life; consequently, early organic matter might still survive within deep subsurface caves today. (No improvement required.)

Examiner's Trap Options A, B and C have been spoiled with errors such as **will have**, **might have survive** and **shall**.

---

07 ANSWER (a) The global tech conglomerate decided to withdraw its investment ...

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Reason ... Because Redundancy) In 'The reason ... is because', **reason** and **because** say the same thing, so the construction is redundant. The passive **was suffered by** is also needlessly heavy. Option A uses the active voice and a direct **because**-clause.

✓ Correct sentence The global tech conglomerate decided to withdraw its investment from the region **because** its manufacturing division **suffered** a massive supply chain disruption during the previous fiscal quarter.

---

08 ANSWER (b) The clinical analyst concluded that the patient's underlying trauma ...

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Appositive with Relative Clause) In the appositive, writing the plural **desires** after 'a deep, unresolved desire' is wrong. Option B joins the noun and its relative clause correctly with 'a desire that continuously sabotaged ...', and keeps the original meaning intact.

✓ Correct sentence The clinical analyst concluded that the patient's underlying trauma was driven by a deep, unresolved desire, **a desire that** continuously sabotaged their interpersonal relationships.

Examiner's Trap In A, **being driven** leaves the sentence incomplete, and in C, **was driven** reverses the meaning.

---

09 ANSWER (a) The constitutional jurist argued that altering the founding charter ...

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Gerund Subject and Redundancy) In the original, the prepositional phrase **by altering** sits awkwardly as the subject of **would nullify**, and **nullify** and **void** repeat each other. Option A, 'altering ... would render it null and void', gives a clear subject–verb structure, and 'representing a total betrayal' is a precise modifier.

✓ Correct sentence The constitutional jurist argued that **altering** the founding charter without a public referendum would render it null and void, representing a total betrayal of the social contract.

Examiner's Trap B and C contain faulty usages such as 'null it' and 'we would void', yet students risk choosing D (No improvement).

---

10 ANSWER (d) No improvement required

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (No Improvement – Parallelism) The sentence has no error. After the semicolon, **yet** and the comparison 'far better to sketch ... than to describe' are parallel. The options contain 'far more better' (a double comparative), the faulty order 'sketching ... than describing', and 'prioritising ... than'.

✓ Correct sentence The radical philosopher argued that the modern state's continuous prioritisation of absolute capital accumulation over human survival leads to an inevitable historical trajectory; yet, it is **far better to sketch** a path toward collective emancipation **than to describe** the apocalypse. (No improvement required)

Examiner's Trap The long options offer changes that look like improvements but actually introduce new errors.

---

11 ANSWER (c) is good at cricket

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Preposition with Good) **Good** takes the preposition **at** to show ability or skill: good at cricket. Option C also keeps the verb **is** intact.

✓ Correct sentence My brother **is good at** cricket.

---

12 ANSWER (d) for four months

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (For with Period of Time) A period of time (four months) takes **for**, whereas **since** goes with a point in time (since 2020).

✓ Correct sentence They have been working on this project **for four months**.

Examiner's Trap Option C is wrong because of **since**, and B lacks the article: it should be 'for the past four months'.

---

13 ANSWER (b) angry with the students

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Preposition with Angry) **Angry** takes **with** for a person (angry with someone), but **at** or **about** for a thing or event (angry at the delay).

✓ Correct sentence The principal was angry **with** the students.

---

14 ANSWER (c) sings well

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adverb Modifies a Verb) To modify the verb **sings** we need an adverb, not an adjective. **Good** is an adjective, and its adverb form is **well**.

✓ Correct sentence She sings **well** for her age.

---

15 ANSWER (d) has gone

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Past Participle in Present Perfect) **Went** is the simple past (V2), but the present perfect needs the past participle (V3) after **has**. The V3 of go is **gone**.

✓ Correct sentence He **has gone** to the market.

Examiner's Trap Option B, **had gone**, changes the present perfect context.

---

16 ANSWER (c) said that he would come

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Reporting Verb: Say vs Tell) The reporting verb **told** is always followed by a person as object (told him), so without an object **said** is required. As the reporting verb is in the past, **will** shifts to **would**.

✓ **Correct sentence** He **said that he would come** later.

Examiner's Trap Option B pairs **told** with the faulty **would came**, and D does not backshift **will**.

---

17 ANSWER (c) enjoyed playing in the rain

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Gerund after Enjoy) **Enjoy** is always followed by a gerund (V-ing), never an infinitive. Remember the same pattern for verbs such as avoid, finish and mind.

✓ **Correct sentence** The students enjoyed **playing** in the rain.

---

18 ANSWER (a) died of

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Die of vs Die from) **Die of** is used for death by illness (die of cancer), whereas **die from** is used for an external cause such as an injury or accident. 'Was died' is wrong because **die** is an intransitive verb and has no passive.

✓ **Correct sentence** She **died of** cancer last year.

---

19 ANSWER (a) explained the lesson to us

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Explain + Something + To + Person) **Explain** is not followed directly by a person as object; the structure is **explain + something + to + person**. Option B, 'explained to us the lesson', may also seem possible, but the standard, natural word order is that of A.

✓ **Correct sentence** The teacher **explained the lesson to us** clearly.

Examiner's Trap In Option B the word order is unusual, so the standard form is A.

---

20 ANSWER (c) prefer tea to

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Prefer – to, not than) In comparisons, **prefer** takes **to**, not **than**. Prefer itself carries the sense of comparison, so adding **more** or **than** is wrong.

✓ **Correct sentence** I prefer tea **to** coffee.

Examiner's Trap Seeing a comparison, students naturally pick **more than** or **than**, but prefer takes only **to**.

---

21 ANSWER (b) has been living here since

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Since – Present Perfect Continuous) With **since** and a point in time (2010), the present perfect or present perfect continuous is used, not the present continuous. The simple present in Option C is also wrong with **since**.

✓ **Correct sentence** He **has been living** here since 2010.

---

22 ANSWER (b) is used to working hard

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Be Used To + V-ing) **Be used to** means 'accustomed to', and it is followed by V-ing (gerund) because **to** is a preposition here. **Used to + V1** refers to a past habit, whereas **every day** points to a present habit. **Hardly** means 'scarcely', so C is wrong.

✓ **Correct sentence** He **is used to working** hard every day.

Examiner's Trap **Be used to** and **used to** look alike, so students confuse their different meanings and the forms that follow.

---

23 ANSWER (a) capable of doing

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Preposition with Capable) **Capable** takes the preposition **of**, followed by a gerund: capable of doing. 'Capable to do' is wrong, as an infinitive is not used.

✓ **Correct sentence** He is **capable of doing** the task.

Examiner's Trap Confusion between **able to** and **capable of** makes 'to do' seem correct.

---

24 ANSWER (b) accused of

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Preposition with Accuse) **Accuse** takes **of** to name the charge: accuse someone of a crime.

✓ Correct sentence He was accused **of** stealing money.

Examiner's Trap Because **for** mirrors the usual way of saying 'for' in many Indian languages, it seems right.

---

25 ANSWER (a) just in time to catch the train

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Phrase: Just in Time) 'In time to catch the train' means arriving with enough time to spare, while **just in time** carries the sense of 'at exactly the right moment, at the last minute'. B and D are wrongly used, and in C, 'for catching' is an unnatural structure.

✓ Correct sentence They reached the station **just in time** to catch the train.

Examiner's Trap The trap is to treat **on time** and **in time** as the same.

---

26 ANSWER (b) is working hard

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Hard vs Hardly) **Hardly** means 'scarcely', whereas working with effort is expressed by **hard**, which is both an adjective and an adverb. In Option C, **hardly** changes the meaning, and in D, 'hard working' is a different adjective.

✓ Correct sentence He is working **hard** to succeed.

Examiner's Trap Students add **-ly** to **hard** to make an adverb, but **hardly** has the opposite meaning (scarcely).

---

27 ANSWER (a) is married to

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Preposition with Married) The passive of **marry** takes the preposition **to**: be married to someone. 'Married with' is wrong, and 'is married of' and 'is marry with' are ungrammatical.

✓ Correct sentence She **is married to** a doctor.

Examiner's Trap Influenced by the mother-tongue equivalent of 'with', people use **with**, whereas English uses only **to** with married.

---

28 ANSWER (a) what he was doing there

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Word Order in Reported Question) In reported speech, a question word is followed by statement word order, that is, subject first and verb afterwards: what **he was doing** there. Inversion (what was he doing) belongs only to direct speech. Here the past continuous is already correctly backshifted after **asked**.

✓ Correct sentence I asked him **what he was doing there.**

Examiner's Trap Option B needlessly changes the tense to the past perfect continuous; the original error is only in the word order.

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29 ANSWER (c) one of the best players

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Superlative with One Of) **One of** is followed by a plural noun, and the superlative takes **the**: one of **the best players**. In 'best player', both the singular noun and the missing **the** before **best** are wrong.

✓ Correct sentence He is one of **the best players** in the team.

---

30 ANSWER (a) At the beginning of the meeting, there were several ...

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (At the Beginning of) The correct preposition with **beginning of** is **at**: at the beginning of the meeting.

✓ Correct sentence **At** the beginning of the meeting, there were several misunderstandings due to unclear communication from the head of the department.

Examiner's Trap In B, singular **misunderstanding** after **several** and **there was** are wrong; in C, **begin** is a verb, not a noun; in D, **While** cannot be followed by a noun phrase.

31 ANSWER (c) bring about

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Phrasal Verb – Bring About) **Bring out** means to publish or to bring something into the open (bring out a book). To find a solution or produce a result, **bring about** (to cause to happen) is used. **Bring up** means to raise a child or raise a topic, and **bring over** means to bring someone to one's place.

✓ **Correct sentence** We must **bring about** a solution to this problem quickly.

Examiner's Trap The given phrasal verb **bring out** looks familiar, but it means to publish, not to produce a result.

---

32 ANSWER (d) gave in

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Phrasal Verb – Give In) One sense of **give in** is to hand in or submit documents or work. This is the sense that suits handing documents over at a reception. Gave up means abandoned, gave away means gave free or distributed, and gave back means returned; none of these conveys submitting. Hence option D is correct.

✓ **Correct sentence** He **gave in** the documents at the reception.

Examiner's Trap The sense of 'gave in' meant here is 'to submit', not 'to surrender'.

---

33 ANSWER (a) make up

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Phrasal Verb – Make Up) **Make up a plan** means to devise or prepare a plan, which suits the sense of the sentence. **Make over** means to give a new look or to transfer, **make out** means to understand or to see clearly, and **make off** means to run away; none of these is used for devising a plan. Hence option A is correct.

✓ **Correct sentence** The teacher asked him to **make up** a plan for the project.

Examiner's Trap Some senses of 'make out' may confuse students, but the standard phrasal verb with 'plan' is make up.

---

34 ANSWER (c) take up

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Take Up) To start a new business, the phrasal verb **take up** is used.
take in – to absorb; to deceive
take over – to assume control
take out – to remove
Take away means to remove, so it is unsuitable here.

✓ **Correct sentence** He tried to **take up** a new business after his retirement.

Examiner's Trap **Take over** also seems business-related, but it means taking charge of something already running, not starting something new.

---

35 ANSWER (a) from going outside

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Prevent + from + V-ing) The structure is **prevent + object + from + V-ing**. Since **from** is a preposition and a preposition is followed by a gerund, 'to go' is wrong.

✓ **Correct sentence** He prevented me **from going** outside.

---

36 ANSWER (b) angry with

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Preposition with Adjective: Angry) To show anger towards a person, the adjective **angry** takes **with**. For a thing or event, **angry at/about** is used, but here the object is 'his friend'.

✓ **Correct sentence** He is **angry with** his friend for the mistake.

Examiner's Trap Seeing the word **mistake**, students lean towards **at** or **for**, but the target of the anger is 'his friend', so **with** is needed.

---

37 ANSWER (b) in learning

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Fixed Preposition – Interested in) **Interested** takes the fixed preposition **in**, followed by a gerund. Neither **for** nor **to** is used.

✓ **Correct sentence** He is **interested in learning** new languages.

---

38 ANSWER (c) on my success

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Fixed Preposition – Congratulate on) **Congratulate** takes **on** to name the achievement. **For** is wrong here.

✓ Correct sentence He congratulated me **on** my success.

---

39 ANSWER (b) in winning

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Succeed In + Gerund) **Succeed** takes the preposition **in**, and a preposition is followed by a gerund (V-ing). 'Succeed of' and 'succeed for' are wrong.

✓ Correct sentence She succeeded **in winning** the competition.

Examiner's Trap Option C, 'of winning', has the gerund but the wrong preposition.

---

40 ANSWER (b) insisted on going

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Insist On + Gerund) **Insist** takes the preposition **on**, followed by a gerund. Using the infinitive in 'insisted to go' is wrong.

✓ Correct sentence She insisted **on going** to the market.

Examiner's Trap Option A, 'to going', and C, 'insisted going', have the wrong preposition or none at all.

---

41 ANSWER (c) are investigating

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Police – Plural Verb) **Police** is a collective noun that is always used as a plural, so the verb is **are**. 'Is investigating' is wrong. In Option C, **are investigating** is correct because the present continuous with **thoroughly** conveys an action in progress.

✓ Correct sentence The police **are investigating** the case thoroughly.

Examiner's Trap With **the**, **police** seems singular, so students choose **is**, whereas it takes a plural verb.

---

42 ANSWER (a) smarter

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Double Comparative) 'More smarter' is a double comparative. **Smart** is a one-syllable adjective, so its comparative is only **smarter**, which is the form used with **than**.

✓ Correct sentence She is **smarter** than her brother.

Examiner's Trap Using **more** and **-er** together is common in speech, but in standard English the comparative is formed only once.

---

43 ANSWER (b) narrower

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Comparative with Than) **Than** signals comparison, so the comparative degree is needed. **Narrow** is a short adjective, and adding **-er** gives **narrower**.

✓ Correct sentence This road is **narrower** than the one we took yesterday.

Examiner's Trap Option A has both **more** and **-er**, a double comparative, which is wrong.

---

44 ANSWER (c) Defective question

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (c) · Defective question — no option is fully correct

Concept (Defective Question: No Correct Option) SSC accepts C (silently), but only 'with silent' is underlined. Substituting **silently** gives 'She walked into the room silently steps', which is wrong, and no option fits the remaining noun **steps**. Had the whole phrase 'with silent steps' been underlined, **silently** would have been correct, so the question as printed is defective.

✓ Correct sentence She walked into the room **silently**. (या: She walked into the room **with silent** steps.)

Examiner's Trap Option C (silently) looks fine on its own, but joined to the remaining noun **steps** the sentence becomes ungrammatical.

---

45 ANSWER (a) did the minister deny

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Inversion with Not Only) When **not only** begins the sentence, inversion takes place, that is, the

auxiliary comes first. For the simple past, **did** is used, followed by the base form of the main verb.

✓ Correct sentence Not only **did the minister deny** the allegations, but also filed a counter-suit.

Examiner's Trap Option C puts **denied** after **did**, which is wrong because **did** is followed by the base form.

---

46 ANSWER (a) the more fluent you become

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Double Comparative) 'The more ..., the more ...' is a double comparative structure in which **the** is essential in both parts. After **become** an adjective is needed, and **fluently** is an adverb.

✓ Correct sentence The more you practise, **the more fluent** you become.

Examiner's Trap Even after noticing **the** in the first part, students forget to use it in the second part.

---

47 ANSWER (b) between 6 and 8 pm

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Between ... And) **Between** is always followed by **and**, never **to**: between 6 and 8 pm. **To** goes with **from** (from 6 to 8 pm), so mixing between ... to is wrong.

✓ Correct sentence The medicine must be taken **between 6 and 8 pm**.

Examiner's Trap Option A, 'from 6 to 8 pm', is also grammatically correct, but it does not apply when the correction of the original word **between** is asked.

---

48 ANSWER (a)/(b)/(c)/(d) below / beneath / underneath / under

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

SSC Key (c) · More than one correct option: (a), (b), (c), (d)

Concept (Preposition: Underneath (Four Answers)) SSC's key is C (underneath), because the only error in the original is **of**: underneath is not followed by of. Even so, directly below, directly beneath, directly under and directly underneath are all equally correct and natural, so all four options make the sentence correct.

✓ Correct sentence The chair was placed directly **below / beneath / underneath / under** the lamp.

---

49 ANSWER (a) know

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Neither ... Nor: Proximity) In 'neither ... nor', the verb agrees with the subject nearer to **nor**. Here the nearest subject, **employees**, is plural, so the verb is **know**. To keep the present tense, **know** is correct.

✓ Correct sentence Neither the manager nor the employees **know** the correct procedure.

Examiner's Trap The first subject, **manager**, is singular, which makes students accept **knows**.

---

50 ANSWER (b) had profound impact on

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Formal Usage: Have an Impact on) Formal English prefers the noun phrase **have an impact on** to the verb 'impact'. In 'were subtle yet had profound impact on the outcome', 'had' matches 'were' in the past, and the preposition 'on' links the object. In A the adverb is wrongly placed between verb and object, 'profound impacting' in C is ungrammatical, and 'profoundly impacting' in D has no finite verb. Hence option B is correct.

✓ Correct sentence The changes were subtle yet had a **profound impact on** the outcome.

Examiner's Trap The original phrase sounds ordinary, so students accept it and move on, whereas only B offers a formal, grammatical construction.

---

51 ANSWER (b) on his promotion

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Preposition: Congratulate On) **Congratulate** takes **on** to name the achievement: congratulate someone on his promotion. **For**, **at**, **of** and **over** are not right here.

✓ Correct sentence They congratulated him **on** his promotion.

Examiner's Trap Translating 'congratulations for' literally from the mother tongue, students choose **for**.

---

52 ANSWER (c) confidently

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Adverb Modifies a Verb) To modify the verb **smiled** we need an adverb, so **confidently** is correct. confident – self-assured (adjective)

confiding – trusting, ready to share secrets
confidence – self-assurance (noun)

✓ Correct sentence The director looked at the audience and smiled **confidently**.

Examiner's Trap **Confident** is an adjective and may seem correct on its own, but only an adverb modifies a verb.

---

53 ANSWER (c) had been finished

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (I Wish + Past Perfect Passive) After 'I wish', the simple past expresses a wish about the present and the past perfect a wish about the past. 'Before the meeting began' shows that the wish concerns the past, and the report's being finished is passive, so **had been finished** is correct.

✓ Correct sentence I wish the report **had been finished** before the meeting began.

Examiner's Trap Option D (**finished**) is a simple past and so seems right, but it serves a wish about the present and gives no passive sense.

---

54 ANSWER (a) does he express

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Negative Adverb Inversion) When a negative adverb such as **seldom** begins a sentence, inversion takes place. In the simple present, **do/does** comes first, so 'Seldom **does he express**' is correct, with the main verb in its base form.

✓ Correct sentence Seldom **does he express** regret for his decisions.

Examiner's Trap Option C repeats the tense by adding **expressed** after **did**, and B and D have no inversion at all.

---

55 ANSWER (a) carried out

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Phrasal Verb – Carry Out) **Give away** means to hand over free of charge, but here the new manager is putting the project into effect, so **carried out** (to complete, to execute) is correct. **Carried away** means to be overcome by emotion, **carried through** means to see something through even in a crisis, and **carried in** means to bring inside.

✓ Correct sentence The project was **carried out** by the new manager after the old one retired.

---

56 ANSWER (b) ran into

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Phrasal Verb – Run Into) **Ran out** means to be exhausted or used up, whereas **ran into** is used for meeting old friends by chance. **Ran after** means to chase, **ran down** means to reduce or knock down, and **ran over** means to knock down with a vehicle.

✓ Correct sentence She **ran into** her old friends at the mall yesterday.

Examiner's Trap **Ran down** and **ran over** carry an idea of collision, which resembles **ran into**, but they do not mean meeting by chance.

---

57 ANSWER (c) most quickly

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Superlative Degree of Adverb) When one person is placed above many others ('Of all the interns'), the superlative degree is needed. The superlative of the adverb **quickly** is **most quickly**.

✓ Correct sentence Of all the interns, Rahul was the one who adapted **most quickly** to the fast-paced workflow.

Examiner's Trap **Quickest** is the adjective form, so to modify the verb **adapted** the adverb form is required.

---

58 ANSWER (c) most boring

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Superlative – Most + Adjective) **Borest** is not a word. The sentence describes a quality of the film, so the adjective **boring** is needed. The superlative of an adjective of two or more syllables is formed with **most** + **adjective**, so **most boring** is correct.

✓ Correct sentence This is the **most boring** movie I have ever seen.

Examiner's Trap **Boringest** looks like a superlative in form, but multi-syllable adjectives do not take **-est**.

---

59 ANSWER (a) suffered a heavy loss

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Verb–Noun Collocation) The correct collocation with **loss** is **suffer a heavy loss**. **Reach** is used with a target or decision (reach a target), and **heavy** is the natural adjective with loss; large, hard and strong do not collocate with it.

✓ **Correct sentence** The company **suffered a heavy loss** last quarter due to poor management.

Examiner's Trap In B, 'large loss' seems fine in meaning, but the verb **reached** remains wrong; students pick it by looking only at the adjective.

---

60 ANSWER (a) accepted the responsibility

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Verb–Noun Collocation – Accept Responsibility) To own up to a failure, the correct collocation is **accept the responsibility**. 'Added the responsibility' does not convey admission of fault, and the other options do not collocate naturally with this noun.

✓ **Correct sentence** The team **accepted the responsibility** for the failure.

---

61 ANSWER (c) made a suggestion

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Collocation: Make a Suggestion) The correct collocation with **suggestion** is **make a suggestion**. 'Give a suggestion' is heard in speech, but the standard collocation uses **make**. In Option D, **suggest** is a verb, not a noun.

✓ **Correct sentence** The manager **made a suggestion** to cancel the meeting.

Examiner's Trap **Offered** seems right, but **suggest** in D is a verb and cannot stand in place of a noun.

---

62 ANSWER (a) made a serious effort

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Collocation: Make an Effort) The correct collocation with **effort** is **make an effort**. Verbs such as perform, establish or operate do not collocate naturally with **effort**.

✓ **Correct sentence** She **made a serious effort** to solve the complex puzzle.

Examiner's Trap A formal verb like **performed** seems to students like 'better English', but the collocation does not accept it.

---

63 ANSWER (b) made an effort

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Collocation: Make an Effort) The correct collocation with **effort** is **make an effort**. Do, take, perform and create do not collocate naturally with **effort**.

✓ **Correct sentence** He **made an effort** to improve his writing skills.

Examiner's Trap **Did** and **took** are everyday verbs, so students choose them with **effort**.

---

64 ANSWER (a) came up with a solution

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Collocation: Come Up With) The correct usage with **solution** is **come up with a solution** (to think of one). 'Created a resolution' has a different meaning, and 'brought a solving' and 'took a solution' are incorrect.

✓ **Correct sentence** The scientist **came up with a solution** to the complicated theory.

Examiner's Trap **Resolution** looks like **solution**, but it means a determination or a decision.

---

65 ANSWER (d) No improvement required

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (No Improvement – Participial Phrase) The sentence is already correct. The opening participial phrase 'Hidden far beneath ...' modifies the subject **species**, and because 'numbers of species' is plural, the plural verb **thrive** is right. Options A, B and C have a wrong apostrophe in **species'** and subject–verb agreement errors.

✓ **Correct sentence** Hidden far beneath the dense, unexplored canopy of the Amazon rainforest, and completely shielded from modern satellite observation, **unprecedented numbers of endangered botanical species thrive**. (No improvement required)

Examiner's Trap Seeing a long sentence, students assume it must contain an error and pick the options that change a correct sentence.

---

66 **ANSWER (c)** the fresco dissolved almost instantly, causing widespread panic ...

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Pronoun Reference and Among) In the original, the reference of **it** is unclear. What **dissolved** must be what the solvent acted upon, namely the fresco, so Option C names 'the fresco' clearly. Also, **among** is correct for a feeling spread across a group of people. A is wrong because of **they**, and in B the **that caused** construction is ungrammatical.

✓ Correct sentence When the museum conservation team carefully applied the newly formulated chemical solvent to the damaged Renaissance fresco, **the fresco** dissolved almost instantly, causing widespread panic **among** the curators.

Examiner's Trap Students find 'the solvent dissolved' natural and choose B, but its **that caused** structure is faulty.

---

67 **ANSWER (b)** because the startup possessed a highly lucrative proprietary ...

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Pronoun Ambiguity) In the original, **they** is ambiguous, since it could refer to either the conglomerate or the startup. The algorithm belonged to the startup, so Option B removes the ambiguity by naming 'the startup'. In A, **who** is wrong for a non-living noun.

✓ Correct sentence The multinational technology conglomerate officially absorbed the boutique software startup because **the startup** possessed a highly lucrative proprietary algorithm that promised to dominate the global market.

Examiner's Trap Using 'the conglomerate' in C also removes the ambiguity, but then the meaning contradicts the facts.

---

68 **ANSWER (a)** was precipitously introduced into the chamber by the lab technicians

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Singular Verb with 'Along With') The subject is 'The newly synthesised chemical catalyst', and 'along with several volatile organic compounds' is merely an additional phrase, so the verb is singular: **was introduced**. **Were** is wrong.

✓ Correct sentence The newly synthesised chemical catalyst, along with several volatile organic compounds, **was** precipitously introduced into the chamber by the lab technicians.

Examiner's Trap Since **compounds** is plural, **were** seems right, but it is only the object of 'along with', not the subject. In B and C the tense changes and the prepositions **upon** and **onto** are unsuitable.

---

69 **ANSWER (c)** was heavily censured by the regulatory body for failing to disclose ...

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Collective Noun – Singular Verb) A phrase beginning with 'Alongside ...' does not make the subject plural. The subject is only 'governing board', so the verb is **was**. Since **board** is a collective noun here, the possessive **its** is used, and the plural **liabilities** is correct.

✓ Correct sentence The newly appointed governing board, alongside the chief executive officer and several external auditing firms, **was** heavily censured by the regulatory body for failing to disclose **its** financial **liabilities** before the public offering.

Examiner's Trap In Options A and B, either the verb or the pronoun is faulty, so choosing a half-correction without checking the whole sentence is a mistake.

---

70 **ANSWER (c)** was heavily criticised by the oversight committee for failing to ...

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Singular Subject with As Well As) A phrase with **as well as** does not make the subject plural. The subject **polymath** is singular, so the verb is **was**. The possessive **her** already appears in the sentence for the polymath, so the pronoun must also be **her**, not **his** or **its**.

✓ Correct sentence The enigmatic polymath, as well as her newly appointed research fellows, **was** heavily criticised by the oversight committee for

failing to document **her** experimental methodology before the launch of the clinical trials.

Examiner's Trap The plural **fellows** nearby makes **were** seem right, but **as well as** merely adds information; **his** and **its** break agreement in gender and number.

---

71 ANSWER (d) No improvement required

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Third Conditional: No Improvement) The sentence is already correct. 'If only the oversight committee **had discovered**' is a third conditional if-clause, so the main clause takes **would have read**. The other options contain errors such as **would be**, **it done** and **had did**.

✓ Correct sentence The micro-lending firm's public evaluation **would have read** far more unfavourably than it did if only the oversight committee had discovered the algorithmic bias earlier.

Examiner's Trap Students see a difficult-looking structure in the underlined part and want to change it, although it is correct.

---

72 ANSWER (d) No improvement required

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Parallelism: Not Because...But Because) The sentence is correct. The parallelism of 'Not because ..., but because ...' is properly built, and **lacked** and **believed** are both in the past tense. The other options contain errors such as **lacking of**, **has believed** and **have believed**.

✓ Correct sentence The experimental composer conducted the discordant symphony **not because he lacked an understanding of classical harmony, but because he believed** that traditional methods were obsolete.

Examiner's Trap The errors in the three wrong options are obvious, yet students hesitate to choose 'No improvement'.

---

73 ANSWER (b) simply because she failed to intercept

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Simply Because + Failed To) 'Simply as' is an incomplete conjunction; the correct form is **simply because**. After **failed to** the base form of the verb (V1) is used, so **intercepted** is wrong and **intercept** is needed.

✓ Correct sentence The counterintelligence unit's tracking sweep caught the deep-cover operative **simply because she failed to intercept** the encrypted microdot quickly enough.

Examiner's Trap Option A has the double conjunction 'since because', and C has the faulty structure 'failing the intercept of'.

---

74 ANSWER (d) No improvement required

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (No Improvement – Failed To Deter) The sentence is correct. **Failed to deter** has the past tense with subject **laws** and the structure **to + V1**, and the relative pronoun **who** is right for a person, 'the philosopher'.

✓ Correct sentence The theocratic state's draconian blasphemy laws **failed to deter** the radical philosopher, **who** openly launched a challenge against the orthodox assembly.

Examiner's Trap The options add errors such as **fail**, **who had openly launch** and **which** to tempt students into changing a correct sentence.

---

75 ANSWER (b) reluctantly

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Adverb Fitting the Context) 'Deeply agreed' is not a natural usage, and agreeing after much thought suggests hesitation. So with 'after much thought', **reluctantly** (unwillingly) fits best.

✓ Correct sentence He **reluctantly** agreed to the proposal after much thought.

Examiner's Trap Immediately, suddenly and eagerly suggest speed or enthusiasm, which does not match the deliberation in 'after much thought'.

---

76 ANSWER (c) was delivering, was listening

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (c) · Disputed question

Concept (Past Continuous with While) SSC's key is C (was delivering, was listening). **While** suggests an action in progress, so the past continuous suits both verbs. Objection: B (delivered, listened) is not grammatically wrong either, since the simple past can express two parallel actions, but C is the better choice.

> ✓ **Correct sentence** While he **was delivering** his speech, the audience **was listening** attentively.

Examiner's Trap B (delivered, listened) also seems grammatically acceptable, but only C conveys the sense of an ongoing action with **while**.

---

77 ANSWER (b) was not verified

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (b) · Disputed question

Concept (Sequence of Tenses – Passive) SSC's key is B (was not verified). With the past tense in 'was full of errors', the same tense is needed, so 'is not verified' is changed to the past. Objection: the lack of verification happened before the errors were found, so C (had not been verified) is also logical under sequence of tenses. The question is therefore open to discussion.

> ✓ **Correct sentence** The research paper was full of errors because the data **was not verified** by any expert.

Examiner's Trap C (had not been verified) is also logical because the event came earlier, so B cannot be called the undisputed answer.

---

78 ANSWER (b)/(d) complementary / No substitution required

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (b) · More than one correct option: (b), (d)

Concept (Complementary vs Complimentary) The underlined word **complementary** (completing each other) is already correct, as it gives the opposite sense to **conflicting**. Option B repeats the same word, and Option D, 'No substitution required', is also correct according to the directions. Hence both B and D are acceptable.

> ✓ **Correct sentence** Her actions were seen as **complementary** rather than conflicting.

Examiner's Trap **Complimentary** (praising; free of charge) is almost identical in spelling, so students pick it as a correction.

---

79 ANSWER (a) fascinated

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sequence of Tenses) The verb of the main clause, **showed**, is in the past, so under the concept of sequence of tenses the verb of the subordinate clause also takes the past. Hence 'fascinates' is replaced by **fascinated**. 'Was fascinating' means 'was captivating' and does not suit the object 'him', which needs a transitive verb. Hence option A is correct.

> ✓ **Correct sentence** He showed great interest in astronomy, an area that deeply **fascinated** him.

Examiner's Trap The original present tense sounds natural, so students stay with **fascinates**, whereas the question tests sequence of tenses against the past tense of the main clause.

---

80 ANSWER (a) would have reflected

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Inverted Third Conditional) 'Had the research team accounted ...' is an inverted third conditional if-clause (If the team had accounted ...). In that case the main clause takes **would have + V3**, so **would have reflected** is correct. **Would reflect** or **will reflect** breaks the conditional concept.

> ✓ **Correct sentence** Had the research team accounted for seasonal variability, the conclusions drawn in

the final report **would have reflected** a more comprehensive understanding of climatic trends.

Examiner's Trap Because the sentence begins with **Had**, students fail to recognise a conditional and accept a present form such as 'would reflect'.

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81 ANSWER (a) precisely

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Adverb Modifies a Verb) The word that modifies the verb **explained** must be an adverb, not an adjective. In 'so ... that', the adverb **precisely** is needed here.
precision – exactness (noun)
precised – does not exist

✓ Correct sentence He explained the concept so **precisely** that everyone grasped it immediately.

Examiner's Trap **Precise** sounds right, so students choose 'No substitution required', but an adjective does not modify a verb.

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82 ANSWER (a) as

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Correlative: Not So Much ... As) 'Not so much ... as ...' is a fixed correlative and does not take **than**. Option C, **then**, means 'at that time' and is out of place here.

✓ Correct sentence He was admired not so much for his wealth **as** for his integrity.

Examiner's Trap Seeing the idea of comparison, students accept **than**, but this correlative is completed only by **as**.

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83 ANSWER (c) cleverest

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (c) · Disputed question

Concept (Double Superlative (Disputed)) SSC's key is C (cleverest). 'Most cleverest' is a double superlative, so only one superlative form is needed, namely **cleverest**. Objection: according to Cambridge, **most clever** is also possible with clever, so A can be called acceptable, but the standard answer is C.

✓ Correct sentence Of all the candidates, he was the **cleverest**.

Examiner's Trap Option A, 'most clever', may also pass grammatically, but the key treats the standard superlative **cleverest** as correct.

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84 ANSWER (b) other political reporters

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Comparison: Than Any Other) When a person is compared with the other members of the same group, **other** must be used so that the person is excluded from the comparison. Here the journalist is also a reporter, so 'than other political reporters' is correct. With a bare **any**, the journalist would be compared with himself.

✓ Correct sentence The journalist was more shocked than **other** political reporters.

Examiner's Trap 'No substitution required' is tempting because the sentence reads smoothly, but logically the journalist is himself a member of that group.

---

85 ANSWER (d) No improvement required

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Split Infinitive – No Improvement) The sentence is already correct. The split infinitive 'to slowly map' is acceptable in English, and the position of 'over six months' is clear. In A, B and C the placement of the modifier is spoiled; in particular, B's 'the degradation slowly of neural pathways' breaks the meaning.

✓ Correct sentence The researchers designed the clinical trial **to slowly map the degradation of neural pathways over six months** without altering the control group's environment.

Examiner's Trap Students regard the split infinitive as wrong and pick options that move the modifier around, which only damages the sentence.

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86 ANSWER (a) draw a conclusion

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Collocation: Draw a Conclusion) 'Make a conclusion' is not a standard collocation; to infer a result after analysing data, English uses **draw a conclusion**, meaning to reason from the available evidence to a result. 'Reach a conclusion' fits better where a decision is arrived at after discussion or deliberation, whereas here the conclusion is inferred from data. Hence option A is the best answer.

✓ Correct sentence After analyzing the data, we can **draw a conclusion** about the results.

Examiner's Trap **Create** and **find** are chosen under the influence of the Hindi 'निष्कर्ष बनाना, खोजना', but they are not standard collocations.

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87 **ANSWER (c)** are significantly superior to those of

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Logical Comparison: Those Of) The subject **properties** is plural, so the verb **are** is correct. A comparison must be between like things, that is, the properties of the polymer with the properties of fibreglass. For a plural, 'that of' is wrong and **those of** is needed.

✓ Correct sentence The insulating properties of the new synthetic polymer are significantly superior to **those of** standard industrial fibreglass.

Examiner's Trap In Option B, since **fibreglass** follows **to** directly, the properties are compared with the fibreglass itself, which is illogical.

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88 **ANSWER (a)** than any other network security platform

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Comparison: Than Any Other) When one thing outdoes the other members of its own group, the comparative is followed by **than any other**. In 'than any network security platform', Aegis-X itself falls within the comparison. In Option C, 'than did' is wrong, and in B, **to** is wrong with **more robust**.

✓ Correct sentence Aegis-X provided more robust end-to-end data encryption **than any other network security platform** of the time.



03
CHAPTER

Active & Passive Voice

Questions *87 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01): *Choose the correct active form of the given sentence.*

01 Tomorrow, two hours of free time will be obtained by me.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Tomorrow, I will obtain two hours of free time.
(b) Yesterday I obtained two hours of free time.
(c) I am obtaining two hours of free time today.
(d) I had obtained two hours of free time yesterday.

Directions (Q. 02–40): *Change the following from active to passive*

02 They ought to clean the park.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The park ought to clean.
(b) The park ought to be cleaned.
(c) The park ought be cleaned.
(d) The park ought to have been cleaned.

03 They have denied the allegations.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The allegations are denied.
(b) The allegations were denied.
(c) The allegations have been denied.
(d) The allegations had been denied.

04 Why did they cancel the meeting?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Why have the meeting was cancelled?
(b) Why was the meeting cancelled?
(c) Why has the meeting been cancelled?
(d) Why is the meeting cancelled?

05 The proposal should not have undergone such sweeping modifications.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Such modifications should not have been undergone by the proposal.
(b) The proposal should not be modified so sweepingly.
(c) The modifications should not have been swept into the proposal.
(d) The proposal should not have been subjected to sweeping modifications.

06 They might announce the winner tomorrow.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The winner might be announced tomorrow.
(b) The winner may be announced tomorrow.
(c) The winner will be announced tomorrow.
(d) The winner might have been announced tomorrow.

07 The dog bit the postman.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The postman is bitten by the dog.
(b) The postman was bitten by the dog.
(c) The postman has been bitten by the dog.
(d) The postman had been bitten by the dog.

08 Did they approve your application?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Is your application approved by them?
(b) Was your application approved by them?
(c) Has your application been approved by them?
(d) Had your application been approved by them?

09 They will have been scrutinizing the proposal all afternoon.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The proposal will have scrutinized all afternoon.
(b) The proposal will have had been been scrutinized all afternoon.
(c) The proposal will have be being scrutinized all afternoon.
(d) The proposal will have been being scrutinized all afternoon.

10 Legal advisors urged the firm to amend the draft immediately.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It was urged that the firm amend the draft immediately.
(b) The draft was urged by legal advisors to be amended.
(c) The firm was urged by legal advisors to amend the draft immediately.
(d) Legal advice was urging amendment of the draft.

11 Someone has sent me a gift.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) I have been sent a gift.
(b) A gift is sent to me.
(c) A gift was sent to me.
(d) I was sent a gift.

12 People have elected her president.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) She has elected president by people.
(b) She has been elected president.
(c) She was elected president.
(d) She is being elected president.

13 The clerk has been processing the applications.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The applications have processed by the clerk.
(b) The applications have been being processed by the clerk.
(c) The applications are being processed by the clerk.
(d) The applications have been processed by the clerk.

14 We must obey the rules.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The rules must be obeyed.
(b) The rules must have been obeyed.
(c) The rules had to be obeyed.
(d) The rules are being obeyed.

15 They should not have let misinformation spread unchecked.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Misinformation should not have let to spread unchecked.
(b) Misinformation should not be spread unchecked.
(c) Misinformation should not have been allowed to spread unchecked.
(d) Misinformation should not have spread unchecked.

16 The child broke the window.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The window has been broken by the child.
(b) The window is broken by the child.
(c) The window was broken by the child.
(d) The window was being broken by the child.

17 The chef was preparing the dessert when we arrived.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The dessert is being prepared by the chef when we arrived.
(b) The dessert was being prepared by the chef when we arrived.
(c) The dessert has been prepared by the chef.
(d) The dessert had been prepared by the chef when we arrived.

18 Someone is following us.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) We are being followed.
(b) We are followed.
(c) We have been followed.
(d) We were being followed.

19 They are building a new bridge across the river.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A new bridge is built across the river by them.
(b) A new bridge has built across the river by them.
(c) A new bridge is being built across the river by them.
(d) A new bridge was being built across the river by them.

20 The opposition is expected to challenge the ruling in court.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It was expected that the ruling would be challenged in court.
(b) The ruling is expected to be challenged in court by the opposition.
(c) Challenging the ruling is expected by the opposition.
(d) The opposition was expected to be challenging the ruling.

21 They were cleaning the hall for the function.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The hall was cleaned for the function.
(b) The hall is being cleaned for the function.
(c) The hall was being cleaned for the function.
(d) The hall has been cleaned for the function.

22 Lightning struck the tree.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The tree had been struck by lightning.
(b) The tree was struck by lightning.
(c) The tree is struck by lightning.
(d) The tree has been struck by lightning.

23 They should have been following the guidelines for months.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The guidelines should have had been followed for months.
(b) The guidelines should have be being followed for months.
(c) The guidelines should have followed for months.
(d) The guidelines should have been being followed for months.

24 Who wrote this poem?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) By whom was this poem written?
(b) By whom is this poem written?
(c) By whom has this poem been written?
(d) By whom was this poem being written?

25 The speaker's tone conveyed more than the actual words.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) More than the actual words were conveyed by the speaker's tone.
(b) The speaker's tone has conveyed more than just words.
(c) What was conveyed by the speaker was more than actual words.
(d) The speaker's tone was conveyed more than the actual words.

26 The teacher had been praising the student.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The student had been praising by the teacher.
(b) The student has been being praised by the teacher.
(c) The student had been being praised by the teacher.
(d) The student was being praised by the teacher.

27 The company will refund the money.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The money is refunded by the company.
(b) The money will be being refunded by the company.
(c) The money will have been refunded by the company.
(d) The money will be refunded by the company.

28 Fire destroyed the warehouse last night.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The warehouse was destroyed last night.
(b) The warehouse is destroyed last night.
(c) The warehouse had been destroyed last night.
(d) The warehouse has been destroyed last night.

29 The panel will have finalized the report.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The report would be finalized by the panel.
(b) The report has been finalized by the panel.
(c) The report will have been finalized by the panel.
(d) The report will be finalizing by the panel.

30 The research team had already submitted the findings before the deadline.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The findings were submitted by the research team before the deadline.
(b) The findings had been submitted by the research team before the deadline.
(c) The findings were being submitted by the research team.
(d) The findings were already submitting by the team.

31 The developers have been updating the software regularly since its launch.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The software had been updated regularly since its launch.
(b) The software is being updated regularly since its launch.
(c) The software has been being updated regularly since its launch.
(d) The software has been updated regularly since its launch.

32 They had appointed him chairperson before the meeting even began.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) He had been appointed chairperson before the meeting began.
(b) He was appointed before the beginning of the meeting.
(c) He has been appointed the chairperson earlier.
(d) He had appointed the chairperson himself.

33 The government has not yet declared the revised tax policies.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The revised tax policies have not yet been declared by the government.
(b) The revised tax policies were being declared by the government.
(c) The tax declaration is yet to be made .by the government.
(d) The tax policy has not declared yet by the government.

34 They had been considering alternative solutions before the consultant arrived.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Alternative solutions were considered before the consultant arrived.
(b) Alternative solutions had been being considered before the consultant arrived.
(c) Alternative solutions had been considered before the arrival.
(d) Alternative solutions were being considered before arrival.

35 The editor was reviewing the final draft when the system crashed.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The final draft is reviewed by the editor.
(b) The final draft was reviewed before the system crashed.
(c) The final draft was being reviewed by the editor when the system crashed.
(d) The final draft had been reviewed when the crash occurred.

36 Critics had long questioned the validity of the experimental model.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The validity of the experimental model was being questioned.
(b) The validity of the experimental model had long been questioned by critics.
(c) The model's validity was long questioned by critics.
(d) The validity had been being questioned for long.

37 They must have completed the construction by the time the inspection happens.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The construction must have been completed by the time of the inspection.
(b) The construction is completed by inspection time.
(c) The construction was to be completed for inspection.
(d) The construction must have completed by the time of inspection.

38 Engineers are conducting tests.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Tests were conducted by engineers.
(b) Tests have been conducted by engineers.
(c) Tests are being conducted by engineers.
(d) Tests had been conducted by engineers.

39 They keep the documents in this cabinet.
[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The documents are kept in this cabinet.
(b) The documents were kept in this cabinet.
(c) The documents have been kept in this cabinet.
(d) The documents are being kept in this cabinet.

40 Security forces are monitoring the situation closely.
[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The situation is being closely monitored by security forces.
(b) The situation was closely monitored by security forces.
(c) The situation is being monitored by the forces closely.
(d) The situation was being closely monitored.

Directions (Q. 41–61): *Convert the sentence provided below from its passive voice structure to an active voice structure*

41 The decision is not expected to be reversed by the board despite ongoing protests.
[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ongoing protests will force the board to reverse the decision.
(b) The board is not expected to reverse the decision despite ongoing protests.
(c) It is not expected that the board protests against the decision.
(d) Protesters expect the board not to reverse the decision.

42 The passengers were confirmed to have been informed about the delay before boarding.
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It was confirmed the passengers were informed before boarding.
(b) Someone confirmed that passengers had been informed before boarding.
(c) Officials confirmed that the passengers had been informed about the delay before boarding.
(d) The delay was confirmed to have been known to the passengers.

43 The director was informed to have his team submit the revised plan by Friday.
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The team submitted the plan as the director was informed.
(b) Someone informed the director that he must have the team submit the revised plan.
(c) The plan was submitted by Friday, as informed.
(d) The director was told that he should submit the team's plan.

44 The player is rumored to be considering early retirement after this season.
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The player considers retiring early after the season, as rumored.
(b) Early retirement is being rumored by the player.
(c) Rumor has it that the player is considering early retirement.
(d) It is rumored that the season caused early retirement.

45 The evidence is believed to have been planted before the investigation began.
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The investigation believed that the evidence had been planted earlier.
(b) It is believed that someone planted the evidence before the investigation began.
(c) It is believed that the investigation planted the evidence.
(d) Someone had believed the evidence to be planted before the investigation.

46 Was the report being edited by the communications team when you checked?
[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Was the communications team editing the report when you checked?
(b) Did the team edit the report you checked?
(c) Were you checking the report while it was edited?
(d) The report was being edited after you checked.

47 The changes were not anticipated to have created such widespread confusion.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) No one had anticipated the changes to create such confusion.
(b) The confusion anticipated change wasn't widespread.
(c) It wasn't anticipated that changes caused confusion.
(d) Changes were confused before they were anticipated.

48 It had been acknowledged that the consignment was being rerouted without authorization.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The consignment acknowledged rerouting itself without authorization.
(b) The rerouting of the consignment was acknowledged to be unauthorized.
(c) Authorities acknowledged that someone was rerouting the consignment without authorization.
(d) The consignment was rerouted, as per acknowledgment.

49 Has the suspect been identified by the intelligence unit yet?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Has the intelligence unit identified the suspect yet?
(b) Has the suspect identified the unit yet?
(c) Did the intelligence unit identify the suspect before now?
(d) Is the intelligence unit identifying the suspect now?

50 The committee was believed to have been working on a draft since January.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It is believed that the committee was working on a draft since January.
(b) Someone believed the draft worked itself since January.
(c) It is believed that a draft was written on the committee.
(d) The committee had believed the draft was working.

51 It was concluded that the suspects had been hiding in plain sight.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The suspects were concluded to hide in plain sight.
(b) Someone concluded the suspects were hiding plainly.
(c) It was concluded that the suspects were hiding in plain sight.
(d) The conclusion was hiding of the suspects.

52 She was heard being scolded by the principal during the assembly.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The principal heard her being scolded during assembly.
(b) Someone heard the principal scolding her during the assembly.
(c) She was scolding the principal, who was heard during assembly.
(d) People heard the principal being scolded by her during the assembly.

53 The guest was believed to have been misinformed about the schedule.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It was believed that the guest had been misinformed about the schedule.
(b) Someone had misinformed the guest, as it was believed.
(c) It is believed the guest misinformed others.
(d) The schedule was believed to misinform the guest.

54 The operation had been planned to be executed at dawn by the strike team.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The strike team had planned to execute the operation at dawn.
(b) The operation was planned by the strike team at dawn.
(c) The strike team executes the operation at dawn, as planned.
(d) The dawn plan was to execute by the strike team.

55 Not a single instruction is believed to have been followed correctly by the staff.
[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It is believed that no instruction was followed correctly by the staff.
(b) The staff didn't believe the instruction was followed.
(c) The belief is that instructions followed incorrectly.
(d) Staff believed the instruction was incorrect.

56 The manager is assumed to have had prior knowledge of the breach.
[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It is assumed that the manager knew about the breach.
(b) The breach assumed the manager knew it.
(c) Prior knowledge of the breach is assumed for the manager.
(d) The manager assumes knowledge about the breach.

57 Was the new protocol being tested when the issue was reported?
[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Was the issue reporting the new protocol while it was tested?
(b) Was someone testing the new protocol when the issue was reported?
(c) Did the issue test the protocol during reporting?
(d) Was testing done on the issue because of the new protocol?

58 She is known to have been mentoring interns remotely throughout the year.
[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It is known that she has mentored interns remotely this year.
(b) She has been mentoring interns remotely, it is known.
(c) Interns were known to be remotely mentored by her.
(d) She is known to mentor interns remotely during the year.

59 The accused was understood to have been acting under pressure from influential figures.
[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It was understood that the accused had been acting under pressure.
(b) The understanding was that the pressure caused the accused to act.
(c) The accused understood to act under pressure.
(d) Influential figures acted through the accused, as was understood.

60 The evidence is believed to have been tampered with by unknown individuals.
[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Unknown individuals believed to have tampered with the evidence.
(b) Unknown individuals have been believed to have tampered with the evidence.
(c) Unknown individuals are believed to have tampered with the evidence.
(d) Unknown individuals are believed to will have tampered with the evidence.

61 The new constitutional provision is likely to be challenged by legal activists.
[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Legal activists have been likely to challenge the new constitutional provision.
(b) Legal activists are likely to challenge the new constitutional provision.
(c) Legal activists will be likely to challenge the new constitutional provision.
(d) Legal activists were likely to challenge the new constitutional provision.

Directions (Q. 62): *Convert the following passive sentence into active voice. Select the option that*

correctly identifies the true actor and uses the appropriate active transitive verb.

62 A fierce exchange of mutual misunderstanding is generated by alternative ways of thinking and different systems of value, while the individual is left entirely trapped within a rigid, unforgiving worldview.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Alternative ways of thinking and different systems of value generate a fierce exchange of mutual misunderstanding, while a rigid, unforgiving worldview leaves the individual entirely trapped.
(b) Alternative ways of thought and different systems of value generate a fierce exchange of mutual misunderstanding, while a rigid, unforgiving worldview leaves the individual entirely trapped.
(c) Alternative ways of thought and different systems of value generate a fiery exchanged of mutual misunderstanding, while a rigid, unforgiving worldview leaves the individual entirely trapped.
(d) Alternative ways of thinking and different systems of value generate a fierce exchange of mutual misunderstanding, while a rigid, unforgiving worldview leaving the individual entirely trapping.

Directions (Q. 63–73): *Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.*

63 The board had already selected the new candidate before the announcement.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The new candidate was already selected by the board before the announcement.
(b) The new candidate has already been selected by the board before the announcement.
(c) The new candidate had already been selected by the board before the announcement.
(d) The new candidate was being selected by the board before the announcement.

64 The judge will deliver the final verdict in the court tomorrow.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The final verdict will have been delivered in the court by the judge tomorrow.
(b) The final verdict will be delivered in the court by the judge tomorrow.
(c) The final verdict would be delivered in the court by the judge tomorrow.
(d) The final verdict is delivered in the court by the judge tomorrow.

65 The king ordered the soldiers to guard the fort at all times.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The soldiers are being ordered to guard the fort at all times by the king.
(b) The soldiers were ordered that they should have guarded the fort at all times by the king.
(c) The fort was ordered to be guarded at all times by the soldiers by the king.
(d) The soldiers were ordered to guard the fort at all times by the king.

66 Nobody had informed the passengers about the sudden change in the flight route.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The passengers had not been informed about the sudden change in the flight route.
(b) The passengers were not informed about the sudden change in the flight route by nobody.
(c) The passengers have not been informed about the sudden change in the flight route.
(d) The passengers had not been informed about the sudden change in the flight route by nobody.

67 The police let the suspect go after questioning him for two hours.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The suspect was let to go by the police after being questioned for two hours.
(b) The suspect was allow to go by the police after being questioned for two hours.
(c) The suspect was let go by the police after being questioned for two hours.
(d) The suspect was being let go by the police after being questioned for two hours.

68 The research scholars would rather present their findings at the national seminar than publish them in a journal.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The findings would rather be presented at the national seminar then published in a journal by the research scholars.
(b) The findings would rather be presented at the national seminar than be published in a journal by the research scholars.
(c) The findings would rather have been presented at the national seminar than published in a journal by the research scholars.
(d) The findings should rather be presented at the national seminar than published in a journal by the research scholars.

69 Everyone knows that the Earth revolves around the Sun.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It was known by everyone that the Earth revolves around the Sun.
(b) It is known by everyone that the Earth revolves around the Sun.
(c) The Earth is known to revolving around the Sun by everyone.
(d) That the Earth revolved around the Sun is known by everyone.

70 The village council used to resolve all minor land disputes through open discussions among the community elders.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) All minor land disputes used to be resolved through open discussions among the community elders by the village council.
(b) All minor land disputes were resolved through open discussions among the community elders by the village council.
(c) All minor land disputes had been resolved through open discussions among the community elders by the village council.
(d) All minor land disputes were used to be resolved through open discussions among the community elders by the village council.

71 The newspaper does not publish unverified news stories.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Unverified news stories are not being published by the newspaper.
(b) Unverified news stories were not published by the newspaper.
(c) Unverified news stories have not been published by the newspaper.
(d) Unverified news stories are not published by the newspaper.

72 People reported that a massive fire broke out near the railway station.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) It was reported by people that a massive fire broke out nearby the railway station.
(b) It was reported that a massive fire had broken out near the railway station.
(c) A massive fire was reportedly to break out near the railway station.
(d) It is reported that a massive fire broke out near the railway station.

73 The horse pulled the heavy cart along the narrow mountain road.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The heavy cart was pulled by the horse along the narrow mountain road.
(b) The heavy cart has been pulled by the horse along the narrow mountain road.
(c) The heavy cart was being pulled by the horse along the narrow mountain road.
(d) The heavy cart had been pulled by the horse along the narrow mountain road.

Directions (Q. 74): *Read the passive statement. If you were to explain the action in a single, direct sentence, which of the following active voice options would be the most accurate translation?*

74 The narrative's deeply cynical conclusion is created by the suggestion that rescue is ultimately brought about by appalling savagery, whereas it fails to be achieved by coordinated and purposeful efforts.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The suggestion that appalling savagery ultimately bring about rescue, whereas coordinated and purposeful efforts fail to achieve it, creates the narrative's deeply cynical conclusion.
(b) The suggestion that appalling savagery ultimately bring about rescue, whereas coordinate and purposeful efforts fail to achieve it, creates the narrative's deeply cynical conclusion.
(c) The suggestion that appalling savagery ultimately brings about rescue, whereas coordinated and purposeful efforts fail to achieve it, creates the narrative's deep cynical conclusion.
(d) The suggestion that appalling savagery ultimately brings about rescue, whereas coordinated and purposeful efforts fail to achieve it, creates the narrative's deeply cynical conclusion.

Directions (Q. 75): *Identify the correct active voice transformation of the following sentence.*

75 The vase had been shattered by the cat.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The cat had shattered the vase.
(b) The cat shatters the vase.
(c) The vase had shattered the cat.
(d) The cat shattered the vase.

Directions (Q. 76–78): *Convert the below given passive voice sentence into active voice.*

76 "The new policy was announced by the minister during the press conference".

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The minister announces the new policy during the press conference
(b) The minister announced the new policy during the press conference
(c) The minister is announcing the new policy during the press conference
(d) The minister had announced the new policy during the press conference

77 "The national award was presented to the artist by the President of India".

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The President of India presents the national award to the artist
(b) The President of India is presenting the national award to the artist
(c) The President of India presented the national award to the artist
(d) The President of India has presented the national award to the artist

78 "The classrooms were decorated by the students for Independence Day celebrations".

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The students decorate the classrooms for Independence Day celebrations
(b) The students are decorating the classrooms for Independence Day celebrations
(c) The students have decorated the classrooms for Independence Day celebrations
(d) The students decorated the classrooms for Independence Day celebrations

Directions (Q. 79): *Convert the following passive clause into its active voice equivalent. Select the single option that correctly uses the active form of the principal verb while preserving the original meaning.*

79 For a hostile prank to be carried out against an unsuspecting individual is tough, but for direct harm to be initially avoided is easy because behaviour remains conditioned by civilization, by which an invisible boundary of social restraint is instilled.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) An unsuspecting individual is tough to carry out a hostile prank against, but direct harm is initially easy to avoid because behaviour remains conditioned by civilization, which instils an invisible boundary of social restraint.

(b) An unsuspecting individual has been tough to carry out a hostile prank, but direct harm is initially easy to avoid because behaviour remained conditioned by civilization, which instils an invisible boundary of social restraint.

(c) An unsuspecting individual is tough to be carrying out a hostile prank against, but direct harm is initially easy to avoid because behaviour remains condition by civilization, which instils an invisible boundary of social restraint.

(d) An unsuspecting individual is tough to carry out a hostile prank against, but direct harm is initially easy to avoid because behaviour remains conditional by civilization, which instils an invisible boundary of social restraint.

Directions (Q. 80): *Three of the options below represent incorrect or ungrammatical attempts to modify the sentence. Select the single alternative that successfully achieves a correct active voice transformation.*

80 A gathering is formed by local workers to hear Raghav's situation recounted, and gentle corrections are made by them regarding the name of the mill worker being sought by him, yet no concern is felt by him over this discrepancy, and absolute confidence is maintained by him that his companion will be located.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Local workers form a gathering to hear Raghav's situation recounted, and they made gentle corrections regarding the name of the mill worker he is seeking, yet he feels no concern over this discrepancy and maintained absolute confidence that he will locate his companion.

(b) Local workers from a gathering to hear Raghav's situation recount, and they make gentle corrections regarding the name of the mill worker he is seeking, yet he feels no concern over this discrepancy and maintains absolute confidence that he will locate his companion.

(c) Local workers form a gathering to hear Raghav's situation recounted, and they make gentle corrections regarding the name of the mill worker he is seeking, yet he feels no concern over this discrepancy and maintains absolute confidence that he will locate his companion.

(d) Local workers form a gathering to hear Raghav's situation recount, and they made gentle corrections regarding the name of the mill worker he is seeking, yet he feels no concern over this discrepancy and maintains absolute confidence that he locate his companion.

Directions (Q. 81): *Convert the following passive sentence into active voice. Then, select the correct option that maintains tense consistency and proper syntax.*

81 A deep state of intimidation is easily experienced by them under a powerful leader, yet their assigned responsibilities are abandoned at that leader's command, proving how quickly accountability is crushed by the leader.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) They easily experience a deep state of intimidation under a powerful leader, yet they abandon their assigned responsibilities at that leader's command, proving how quickly the leader crushes accountability.
(b) They easily experienced a deep state of intimidation under a powerful leader, yet they abandon their assigned responsibilities at that leader's command, proving how quickly the leader crushes accountability.
(c) They easily experienced a deep state of intimidation under a powerful leader, yet they abandoned their assigned responsibilities at that leader's command, proving how quickly the leader crushes accountability.
(d) They easily experience a deep state of intimidation under a powerful leader, yet they abandoned their assigned responsibilities at that leader's command, proving how the leader crushed accountability.

Directions (Q. 82): *Read the passage and answer the questions*

82 Identify the correct transformation of the sentence.

"**Menstruation initiates with the systematic desquamation of the functional layer of the endometrium.**"

Which option correctly transforms it into a **passive voice** without changing the meaning?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The functional layer of the endometrium is systematically desquamated, initiating menstruation.
(b) Menstruation is initiating by the desquamation of the functional layer.
(c) The systematic endometrium desquamates itself to initiate menstruation.
(d) The menstruation systematically desquamates the functional layer of the endometrium.

Directions (Q. 83): *Read the provided passive voice sentence carefully. From the multiple-choice options listed below, select the single alternative that represents the grammatically correct and accurate transformation into the active voice.*

83 It is suggested by a responsible veteran that violent behaviour be interpreted by the authority figure as harmless play only until the events of the isolated setting are explained, the deep disconnect between appearance and hidden structural decay thereby being underscored.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A responsible veteran suggested that the authority figure interpret violent behaviour as harmless play only until someone explains the events of the isolated setting, thereby underscoring the deep disconnect between appearance and hidden structural decay.
(b) A responsible veteran suggested that the authority figure interpret violent behaviour as harmless play only until someone explains the events of the isolated setting, thereby underscored the deep disconnect between appearance and hidden structural decay.
(c) A responsible veteran suggests that the authority figure interpret violent behaviour as harmless play only until someone explains the events of the isolated setting, thereby underscoring the deep disconnect between appearance and hidden structural decay.
(d) A responsible veteran suggests that the authority figure interpret violent behaviour as harmless play only until someone explained the events of the isolated setting, thereby underscored the deep disconnect between appearance and hidden structural decay.

Directions (Q. 84): *Convert the following sentence from passive to active voice. Identify the correct option.*

84 A deep awareness is developed by the observer that he is being watched closely by the resilient individual, whose firm posture and practical attire are noted by him as she stands confidently with her hands on her hips, bearing an expression resembling that of a military leader who has been faced by a major defeat.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The observer developed a deep awareness that the resilient individual has been watching him closely, noted her firm posture and practical attire as she stands confidently with her hands on her hips, bearing an expression resembling that of a military leader who has faced a major defeat.

(b) The observer develops a deep awareness that the resilient individual was watching him closely, noted her firm posture and practical attire as she was standing confidently with her hands on her hips, bearing an expression resembling that of a military leader who has faced a major defeat.

(c) The observer develops a deep awareness that the resilient individual is watching him closely, noting her firm posture and practical attire as she stands confidently with her hands on her hips, bearing an expression resembling that of a military leader who has faced a major defeat.

(d) The observer developed a deep awareness that the resilient individual was watching him closely, noting her firm posture and practical attire as she stands confidently with her hands on her hips, bearing an expression resembling that of a military leader who faced a major defeat.

Directions (Q. 85): *Convert the below given active voice sentence into passive voice.*

85 "They celebrate Independence Day with great enthusiasm."

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm by them

(b) Independence Day has been celebrated with great enthusiasm by them

(c) Independence Day is being celebrated with great enthusiasm by them

(d) Independence Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm by them

Directions (Q. 86–87): *A sentence in the Passive Voice is given below. From the four alternatives, choose the one that best expresses the same sentence in the Active Voice.*

86 The crew members of the Astronef are expected by Lord Redgrave to test the anti-gravitational engines thoroughly before their voyage to Venus.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Lord Redgrave expected the anti-gravitational engines to be thoroughly tested by the crew members of the Astronef before their voyage to Venus.

(b) Lord Redgrave expected the crew members of the Astronef to thoroughly test the anti-gravitational engines before their voyage to Venus.

(c) Lord Redgrave expects the crew members of the Astronef to thoroughly test the anti-gravitational engines before their voyage to Venus.

(d) Lord Redgrave is expecting the anti-gravitational engines to be thoroughly tested by the crew members of the Astronef before their voyage to Venus.

87 It was recommended by the schoolmaster that Tom be forced by Aunt Polly to memorise two thousand Bible verses before the Sunday School assembly.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The schoolmaster recommended that Aunt Polly will force Tom to memorise two thousand Bible verses before the Sunday School assembly.

(b) The schoolmaster recommended that Aunt Polly forced Tom to memorise two thousand Bible verses before the Sunday School assembly.

(c) It was the recommendation of the schoolmaster that Aunt Polly forces Tom to memorise two thousand Bible verses before the Sunday School assembly.

(d) The schoolmaster recommended that Aunt Polly force Tom to memorise two thousand Bible verses before the Sunday School assembly.

Answer Key

Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation

01	02	03	04	05
(a)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(d)
06	07	08	09	10
(a)	(b)	(b)	(d)	(c)
11	12	13	14	15
(a)	(b)	(b)	(a)	(c)
16	17	18	19	20
(c)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(b)
21	22	23	24	25
(c)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(a)
26	27	28	29	30
(c)	(d)	(a)	(c)	(b)
31	32	33	34	35
(c)	(a)	(a)	(b)	(c)
36	37	38	39	40
(b)	(a)	(c)	(a)	(a)
41	42	43	44	45
(b)	(c)	(b)	(c)	(b)

46	47	48	49	50
(a)	(a)	(c)	(a)	**(a)**
51	52	53	54	55
(c)	(b)	**(a)**	(a)	**(a)**
56	57	58	59	60
(a)	(b)	**(b)**	**(a)**	(c)
61	62	63	64	65
(b)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(d)
66	67	68	69	70
(a)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(a)
71	72	73	74	75
(d)	(b)	(a)	(d)	(a)
76	77	78	79	80
(b)	(c)	(d)	(a)	(c)
81	82	83	84	85
(a)	(a)	(c)	(c)	(d)
86	87			
(c)	(d)			

Detailed Explanations

रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 ANSWER (a) Tomorrow, I will obtain two hours of free time.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Active of Future Passive) The given sentence is in the Future Simple Passive (**will be + V3**), so the active form takes **will + V1** after the subject. The 'me' of 'by me' becomes the subject 'I', and 'two hours of free time' follows the verb as its object. 'Tomorrow' points to the future, so the tense must stay in the future.

✓ Correct sentence Tomorrow, I **will obtain** two hours of free time.

Examiner's Trap Options B, C and D shift the tense to the past or present, whereas the tense must remain the same when the voice changes.

---

02 ANSWER (b) The park ought to be cleaned.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Modal (ought to)) 'Ought to' is a modal, so its passive follows the pattern **modal + be + V3**. Here 'ought to' is followed by 'be cleaned', and the 'to' is retained.

✓ Correct sentence The park ought to **be cleaned**.

Examiner's Trap C drops the 'to', A lacks 'be cleaned', and D adds 'have been', which gives the sentence a perfect sense.

---

03 ANSWER (c) The allegations have been denied.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Present Perfect) 'Have denied' is Present Perfect, so the passive takes **have/has been + V3**. The object 'the allegations' is plural, so 'have been denied' is formed.

✓ Correct sentence The allegations **have been denied**.

Examiner's Trap A, B and D are in the Present Simple, Past Simple and Past Perfect respectively, none of which matches the original tense.

04 ANSWER (b) Why was the meeting cancelled?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Simple Past Question) 'Did cancel' is the interrogative form of the Simple Past. Its passive is **was/were + V3**, and in a question the auxiliary comes before the subject.

✓ Correct sentence Why **was** the meeting **cancelled**?

Examiner's Trap A wrongly combines 'have' with 'was', C is in the Present Perfect and D is in the Present Simple.

05 ANSWER (d) The proposal should not have been subjected to sweeping modifications.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Modal Perfect) The original has a modal perfect (should not have + V3), whose passive is **should not have been + V3**. The passive of 'undergo' sounds unnatural here, because the proposal is not the doer of the modifications but the one that experiences them; the form that preserves the meaning is therefore 'should not have been subjected to'.

✓ Correct sentence The proposal should not **have been subjected to** sweeping modifications.

Examiner's Trap Option A forms the passive mechanically, but 'undergone by the proposal' is unnatural; B changes the tense and C distorts the meaning.

06 ANSWER (a) The winner might be announced tomorrow.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Modal (might)) 'Might announce' contains a modal verb, so the modal remains unchanged in the passive: **might + be + V3**.

✓ Correct sentence The winner **might be announced** tomorrow.

Examiner's Trap B changes 'might' to 'may', C brings in 'will', and D adds 'have been', which gives a perfect sense that does not fit 'tomorrow'.

07 ANSWER (b) The postman was bitten by the dog.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Simple Past) 'Bit' is the Simple Past of 'bite', so the passive takes **was/were + V3**. The V3 is 'bitten', and the object 'the postman' becomes the subject.

✓ Correct sentence The postman **was bitten** by the dog.

Examiner's Trap A, C and D all change the tense.

08 ANSWER (b) Was your application approved by them?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Simple Past Question) 'Did they approve ...?' is a Simple Past question. Its passive is **was/were + V3**, and the auxiliary stands before the subject.

✓ Correct sentence **Was** your application **approved** by them?

Examiner's Trap A is in the Present, C in the Present Perfect and D in the Past Perfect.

09 ANSWER (d) The proposal will have been being scrutinized all afternoon.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Future Perfect Continuous) The original is in the Future Perfect Continuous (will have been + V-ing). Its passive follows the pattern **will have been being + V3**, so 'will have been being scrutinized' is correct.

✓ Correct sentence The proposal **will have been being scrutinized** all afternoon.

Examiner's Trap A omits 'been', and B ('had been been') and C ('have be being') are ill-formed; seeing these, students wrongly dismiss the longer form in D as incorrect.

10 **ANSWER (c)** The firm was urged by legal advisors to amend the draft immediately.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive with Object + Infinitive) In 'urged the firm to amend', the object is 'the firm', so it becomes the subject of the passive. The infinitive 'to amend the draft' stays active.

✓ **Correct sentence** The firm **was urged** by legal advisors to amend the draft immediately.

Examiner's Trap In B, making 'the draft' the subject changes the meaning, because the one urged is the firm, not the draft.

---

11 **ANSWER (a)** I have been sent a gift.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Present Perfect with Indirect Object) 'Someone has sent me a gift' is in the Present Perfect, and an indefinite doer such as 'someone' is dropped in the passive. When the indirect object 'me' is made the subject, the result is **I have been sent a gift**.

✓ **Correct sentence** **I have been sent** a gift.

Examiner's Trap B is in the Present Simple, and C and D are in the Simple Past, so all three change the tense.

---

12 **ANSWER (b)** She has been elected president.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Present Perfect) 'Have elected' is Present Perfect. The passive takes **have/has been + V3**, and a general doer such as 'people' is usually omitted. The subject form of the object 'her' is 'she'.

✓ **Correct sentence** She **has been elected** president.

Examiner's Trap In A, 'has elected' is wrong, C is in the Simple Past and D is in the Continuous.

---

13 **ANSWER (b)** The applications have been being processed by the clerk.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Present Perfect Continuous) The original is in the Present Perfect Continuous (has been processing). Its passive follows the pattern **have/has been being + V3**. The object 'the applications' is plural, so 'have been being processed' is formed.

✓ **Correct sentence** The applications **have been being processed** by the clerk.

Examiner's Trap D looks like the more familiar Present Perfect Passive, but it does not carry the continuous sense; A omits 'been' and C is in the Present Continuous.

---

14 **ANSWER (a)** The rules must be obeyed.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Modal Verb) 'Must obey' contains a modal, so the passive takes **must + be + V3**.

✓ **Correct sentence** The rules **must be obeyed**.

Examiner's Trap B adds a perfect sense with 'must have been', C changes the modal with 'had to be', and D is in the Present Continuous.

---

15 **ANSWER (c)** Misinformation should not have been allowed to spread unchecked.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Modal Perfect) In the passive of 'should not have let misinformation spread', 'let' is replaced by 'be allowed to', and the passive of the modal perfect is **should not have been + V3**.

✓ **Correct sentence** Misinformation should not have **been allowed to** spread unchecked.

Examiner's Trap A has the ill-formed 'have let to', B changes the tense, and D loses the passive sense altogether.

---

16 **ANSWER (c)** The window was broken by the child.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Simple Past) 'Broke' is Simple Past, so the passive takes **was + V3** (broken).

✓ **Correct sentence** The window **was broken** by the child.

Examiner's Trap A is in the Present Perfect, B in the Present Simple and D in the Past Continuous.

---

17 **ANSWER (b)** The dessert was being prepared by the chef when we arrived.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Past Continuous) 'Was preparing' is Past Continuous. Its passive form is **was/were being + V3**.

✓ Correct sentence The dessert **was being prepared** by the chef when we arrived.

Examiner's Trap A is in the Present Continuous, C in the Present Perfect and D in the Past Perfect.

---

18 ANSWER (a) We are being followed.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Present Continuous) 'Is following' is Present Continuous, and an indefinite doer such as 'someone' is dropped in the passive. The subject form of the object 'us' is 'we'.

✓ Correct sentence We **are being followed**.

Examiner's Trap B is in the Present Simple, C in the Present Perfect and D in the Past Continuous.

---

19 ANSWER (c) A new bridge is being built across the river by them.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Present Continuous) 'Are building' is Present Continuous, so the passive takes **am/is/are being + V3**. Option A is in the Present Simple, 'has built' in B is incorrect, and D is in the Past Continuous.

✓ Correct sentence A new bridge **is being built** across the river by them.

---

20 ANSWER (b) The ruling is expected to be challenged in court by the opposition.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Infinitive) In 'The opposition is expected to challenge the ruling', the object of 'challenge' is 'the ruling', so it becomes the subject of the passive. The passive of the infinitive is **to be challenged**, and 'is expected' is retained. A, C and D change either the tense or the meaning.

✓ Correct sentence **The ruling is expected to be challenged** in court by the opposition.

Examiner's Trap Option A's 'It was expected that ...' structure looks familiar, but it changes both tense and meaning.

---

21 ANSWER (c) The hall was being cleaned for the function.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Past Continuous) 'Were cleaning' is Past Continuous, so the passive takes **was/were being + V3**. A is in the Simple Past, B in the Present Continuous and D in the Present Perfect.

✓ Correct sentence The hall **was being cleaned** for the function.

---

22 ANSWER (b) The tree was struck by lightning.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Simple Past) 'Struck' is Simple Past, so the passive takes **was + V3** (struck). A is in the Past Perfect, C in the Present Simple and D in the Present Perfect.

✓ Correct sentence The tree **was struck** by lightning.

---

23 ANSWER (d) The guidelines should have been being followed for months.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Modal Perfect Continuous) The original is a modal perfect continuous (should have been following). Its passive follows the pattern **should have been being + V3**. In A, 'had been' is incorrect, B's 'have be being' is wrong, and C is not passive at all.

✓ Correct sentence The guidelines **should have been being followed** for months.

Examiner's Trap 'Should have been followed' is the more familiar form, so students drop the continuous sense.

---

24 ANSWER (a) By whom was this poem written?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Who-Question) 'Who wrote this poem?' is in the Simple Past, and 'Who' is the subject, which comes to the front as **By whom** in the passive. The verb will be was + V3. B is in the Present, C in the Present Perfect and D in the Past Continuous.

✓ Correct sentence **By whom was** this poem written?

Examiner's Trap The usual mistakes here are forgetting the 'whom' form of 'who' and changing the tense.

---

25 ANSWER (a) More than the actual words were conveyed by the speaker's tone.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Simple Past) 'Conveyed' is Simple Past, so the passive takes **was/were + V3**, and the object 'more than the actual words' becomes the subject. B is in the Present Perfect and adds 'just', C changes the structure, and D makes the 'tone' itself the thing conveyed.

✓ Correct sentence **More than the actual words were conveyed** by the speaker's tone.

Examiner's Trap In D, 'was' has merely been added without swapping object and subject, which looks passive on the surface.

---

26 ANSWER (c) The student had been being praised by the teacher.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Past Perfect Continuous) 'Had been praising' is Past Perfect Continuous. Its passive follows the pattern **had been being + V3**. B is in the Present Perfect, D is in the Past Continuous, and A lacks both 'being' and the V3.

✓ Correct sentence The student **had been being praised** by the teacher.

Examiner's Trap 'Had been being' sounds awkward, so students choose a simpler form such as D.

---

27 ANSWER (d) The money will be refunded by the company.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Simple Future) 'Will refund' is Future Simple, so the passive takes **will be + V3**. A is in the Present Simple, B is the Future Continuous Passive and C is the Future Perfect Passive, so each changes the tense.

✓ Correct sentence The money **will be refunded** by the company.

---

28 ANSWER (a) The warehouse was destroyed last night.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Simple Past Passive) 'Destroyed' is Simple Past, so the passive takes **was + V3**. 'Last night' also indicates past time. ('By fire' may be added, but the tense is the deciding factor.)

✓ Correct sentence The warehouse **was destroyed** last night.

Examiner's Trap B, C and D use the Present, Past Perfect and Present Perfect, which clash with the time expression 'last night'.

---

29 ANSWER (c) The report will have been finalized by the panel.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Future Perfect Passive) 'Will have finalized' is Future Perfect. Its passive form is **will have been + V3**.

✓ Correct sentence The report **will have been finalized** by the panel.

Examiner's Trap A has 'would be', B is in the Present Perfect, and D's 'will be finalizing' does not form a passive.

---

30 ANSWER (b) The findings had been submitted by the research team before the ...

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Past Perfect) 'Had submitted' is Past Perfect, so the passive takes **had been + V3**. A is in the Simple Past, C in the Past Continuous, and 'were already submitting' in D is incorrect.

✓ Correct sentence The findings **had been submitted** by the research team before the deadline.

Examiner's Trap Option A looks natural, but the Past Perfect has become Simple Past.

---

31 ANSWER (c) The software has been being updated regularly since its launch.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Perfect Continuous) 'Have been updating' is Present Perfect Continuous, whose passive is **have/has been being + V3**. The object 'the

software' is singular, so 'has been being updated' is correct. 'Since' takes a perfect tense, so A, B and D are unsuitable.

✓ Correct sentence The software **has been being updated** regularly since its launch.

Examiner's Trap Option D looks short and familiar, so students choose it, but it loses the continuous sense ('being').

---

32 ANSWER (a) He had been appointed chairperson before the meeting began.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Passive with Complement) 'Had appointed him chairperson' is Past Perfect, and 'him' is the object, which becomes the subject 'He' in the passive. 'Chairperson' is a complement and so remains in the passive. B and C change the tense, and D alters the meaning completely.

✓ Correct sentence He **had been appointed chairperson** before the meeting began.

Examiner's Trap Option B drops the complement 'chairperson' and also moves to the Past Simple.

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33 ANSWER (a) The revised tax policies have not yet been declared by the government.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Passive of Present Perfect Negative) 'Has not yet declared' is Present Perfect Negative. The passive takes **have/has not been + V3**, and since the object 'policies' is plural, 'have not yet been declared' is correct. B is in the Past Continuous, C changes the sentence structure, and 'has not declared' in D is incorrect.

✓ Correct sentence The revised tax policies **have not yet been declared** by the government.

---

34 ANSWER (b) Alternative solutions had been being considered before the ...

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Past Perfect Continuous) 'Had been considering' is Past Perfect Continuous. Its passive is **had been being + V3**. A is in the Simple Past, C in the Past Perfect and D in the Past Continuous, and C and D also make changes such as 'before the arrival'.

✓ Correct sentence Alternative solutions **had been being considered** before the consultant arrived.

Examiner's Trap Option C seems relatively natural, but it loses the continuous sense and also alters the sentence.

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35 ANSWER (c) The final draft was being reviewed by the editor when the system ...

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Past Continuous) 'Was reviewing' is Past Continuous, so the passive takes **was being + V3**. A is in the Present Simple, B and D are in the Simple Past or Past Perfect, and they omit the agent.

✓ Correct sentence The final draft **was being reviewed** by the editor when the system crashed.

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36 ANSWER (b) The validity of the experimental model had long been questioned by ...

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Past Perfect with Adverb) 'Had long questioned' is Past Perfect, so the passive is **had long been questioned**, with the adverb 'long' standing between 'had' and 'been'. A is in the Past Continuous and C in the Simple Past, while D omits the agent and has an incorrect structure.

✓ Correct sentence The validity of the experimental model **had long been questioned** by critics.

---

37 ANSWER (a) The construction must have been completed by the time of the ...

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Modal Perfect) 'Must have completed' is a modal perfect, whose passive follows the pattern **must have been + V3**. B is in the Present Simple, C changes tense and meaning, and 'must have completed' in D is not passive.

✓ Correct sentence The construction **must have been completed** by the time of the inspection.

Examiner's Trap Option D looks like a correct modal perfect, but without 'been' it is no longer passive.

---

38 ANSWER (c) Tests are being conducted by engineers.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Present Continuous) 'Are conducting' is Present Continuous, so the passive takes **am/is/are being + V3**. The tense of the active remains the same in the passive.

✓ **Correct sentence** Tests **are being conducted** by engineers.

Examiner's Trap The Past Simple, Present Perfect and Past Perfect options look like passives, but they change the tense, which must never be done when the voice is changed.

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39 ANSWER (a) The documents are kept in this cabinet.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Present Simple) 'Keep' is Present Simple and describes a general, regular situation. The passive takes **is/are + V3**. B is in the Past, C in the Present Perfect and D in the Present Continuous, all of which change the tense.

✓ **Correct sentence** The documents **are kept** in this cabinet.

---

40 ANSWER (a) The situation is being closely monitored by security forces.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Present Continuous with Adverb) 'Are monitoring' is Present Continuous, so the passive takes **is/are being + V3**. The adverb 'closely' stands before the V3 and makes the sentence natural. B is in the Past Simple, C has a weak adverb position and the form 'forces', and D changes the tense and omits the agent.

✓ **Correct sentence** The situation **is being closely monitored** by security forces.

Examiner's Trap Option D shows the structure of the passive continuous with 'was being', but the tense becomes the past and the agent is lost.

---

41 ANSWER (b) The board is not expected to reverse the decision despite ongoing ...

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Active of Passive Infinitive) In the passive sentence the subject is 'The decision' and the doer is 'the board'. In the active, the doer becomes the subject, and 'is not expected to be reversed' becomes **is not expected to reverse**.

✓ **Correct sentence** The board is not expected to **reverse** the decision despite ongoing protests.

Examiner's Trap A, C and D change the original meaning, but a change of voice must never alter the meaning.

---

42 ANSWER (c) Officials confirmed that the passengers had been informed about the ...

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Active of Reporting Passive) The passive sentence does not name the doer, so a suitable subject has to be supplied when it is made active. 'Were confirmed to have been informed' means that it was confirmed that the passengers had already been informed, so the Past Perfect 'had been informed' is appropriate and 'about the delay' must be retained.

✓ **Correct sentence** **Officials confirmed** that the passengers had been informed about the delay before boarding.

Examiner's Trap A keeps the passive 'were informed' and omits 'about the delay', B also omits 'about the delay', and D changes the meaning.

---

43 ANSWER (b) Someone informed the director that he must have the team submit the ...

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Active of Passive with Infinitive) 'Was informed' becomes **Someone informed the director** in the active, because the person who gave the information is unknown. The instruction that follows (his team submit the revised plan) must be kept, and the director remains the object.

✓ **Correct sentence** **Someone informed** the director that he must have the team submit the revised plan.

Examiner's Trap A, C and D alter the subject-object relationships or lose the original meaning.

---

44 **ANSWER (c)** Rumor has it that the player is considering early retirement.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Active of Reporting Passive) 'Is rumored to be considering' means that it is rumoured that the player is thinking of retirement. Because the doer is unknown, the active takes a structure such as **Rumor has it that ...**, and the Present Continuous 'is considering' is retained.

✓ **Correct sentence** **Rumor has it** that the player is considering early retirement.

Examiner's Trap A changes both tense and meaning, B is still passive, and D adds a new and incorrect claim.

---

45 **ANSWER (b)** It is believed that someone planted the evidence before the ...

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Active of Reporting Passive) In the active form of 'is believed to have been planted', the unknown doer is expressed with **someone**, and 'have been planted' becomes the past form 'planted'.

✓ **Correct sentence** It is believed that **someone planted** the evidence before the investigation began.

Examiner's Trap Making the 'investigation' the doer in A and C is illogical, and D disturbs both the tense and the structure.

---

46 **ANSWER (a)** Was the communications team editing the report when you checked?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Active of Past Continuous Passive Question) The passive question 'Was the report being edited by the communications team ...?' is in the Past Continuous Passive. In the active, the agent after 'by' becomes the subject and the question form is kept.

✓ **Correct sentence** **Was the communications team editing** the report when you checked?

Examiner's Trap B moves to the Past Simple and the meaning of 'while it was edited' is altered; C changes the subject, and D is a statement, not a question.

---

47 **ANSWER (a)** No one had anticipated the changes to create such confusion.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Active of Negative Passive) Because the doer is unknown, 'were not anticipated' is made active as 'No one had anticipated ...', and the negative sense is carried by 'No one'. The idea of 'changes to have created such confusion' is retained, so A is the most suitable.

✓ **Correct sentence** **No one had anticipated** the changes to create such confusion.

Examiner's Trap B changes the meaning altogether, C changes the tense and structure, and D is meaningless.

---

48 **ANSWER (c)** Authorities acknowledged that someone was rerouting the consignment ...

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive to Active – Agent Missing) The original sentence does not name the doer, so subjects such as 'Authorities' and 'someone' have to be supplied in the active. The active of 'the consignment was being rerouted' is **someone was rerouting the consignment**, and the Past Continuous is retained.

✓ **Correct sentence** **Authorities** acknowledged that **someone was rerouting** the consignment without authorization.

Examiner's Trap A makes the consignment itself the doer, B is still passive, and D changes both meaning and tense.

---

49 **ANSWER (a)** Has the intelligence unit identified the suspect yet?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive to Active – Present Perfect Question) The passive question 'Has the suspect been identified by the intelligence unit yet?' is in the Present Perfect. In the active, the agent becomes the subject and the verb stays as **has/have + V3**.

✓ **Correct sentence** Has **the intelligence unit identified the suspect** yet?

Examiner's Trap In B the subject and object are reversed, C is in the Past Simple and D is in the Present Continuous.

---

50 ANSWER (a) Defective question

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (a) · Defective question — no option is fully correct

Concept (Passive to Active – Perfect Continuous) The SSC key is A, but A is not in fact a correct active-voice sentence. 'It is believed' is still passive, changing 'was believed' to 'is believed' alters the tense, and 'was working' is wrong with 'since January', because 'since' requires a perfect tense (had been working). No option gives the correct active form, so none of the options is correct; A is merely the least wrong.

✓ Correct sentence **People believed that the committee had been working** on a draft since January.

Examiner's Trap Option A looks closest, but it is still passive and its tense has also changed.

---

51 ANSWER (c) Defective question

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (c) · Defective question — no option is fully correct

Concept (Passive to Active – No Correct Option) The SSC key is C, but 'It was concluded that ...' is still passive, and changing 'had been hiding' to 'were hiding' alters the tense as well. The only active option is B, but it too changes the tense, and 'plainly' does not mean 'in plain sight'. Hence no option is correct.

✓ Correct sentence **Someone concluded that the suspects had been hiding** in plain sight.

Examiner's Trap Option C looks almost like the original sentence, but it is not active.

---

52 ANSWER (b) Someone heard the principal scolding her during the assembly.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Active of Passive with Perception Verb) In the active, 'was heard' becomes **Someone heard**, and 'being scolded by the principal' becomes 'the principal scolding her'. A wrongly makes the principal the hearer, C reverses subject and object, and D gets the person who scolds wrong.

✓ Correct sentence **Someone heard the principal scolding her** during the assembly.

Examiner's Trap In A, keeping 'her being scolded' leaves the sentence passive and also changes the doer.

---

53 ANSWER (a) Defective question

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (a) · Defective question — no option is fully correct

Concept (Active Voice – No Correct Option) The SSC key is A, but 'It was believed that the guest had been misinformed' is passive in both clauses, so it is not active voice. B is only partly active: it retains 'as it was believed' and omits 'about the schedule'; C and D change the meaning. No option gives the correct active form, so none is correct.

✓ Correct sentence **People believed that someone had misinformed the guest** about the schedule.

Examiner's Trap Seeing the familiar structure 'It was believed that' in A, students take it to be active, although both its clauses are passive.

---

54 ANSWER (a) The strike team had planned to execute the operation at dawn.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Active of Complex Passive) In the active, 'had been planned to be executed by the strike team' means that the strike team had planned to execute the operation. The Past Perfect is retained. B changes both tense and meaning, C moves to the Present, and D has an incorrect structure.

✓ Correct sentence **The strike team had planned to execute the operation** at dawn.

---

55 ANSWER (a) Defective question

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (a) · Defective question — no option is fully correct

Concept (Active Voice – No Correct Option) The SSC key is A, but A still contains the passive 'was followed ... by the staff'. No option gives the correct active form. B, C and D differ in meaning from the original sentence, so none is a genuine active conversion; A is merely the intended answer.

✓ Correct sentence **People believe that the staff did not follow a single instruction correctly.**

Examiner's Trap The 'It is believed that' form in A looks active, but 'was followed by the staff' keeps it passive.

---

56 ANSWER (a) It is assumed that the manager knew about the breach.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (a) · Disputed question

Concept (Impersonal Passive vs Active (SSC Key)) The SSC key is A, and only A preserves the original meaning; B, C and D alter it. A is therefore accepted. Students should nevertheless know that 'It is assumed that ...' is technically still a passive (impersonal) structure, and a fully active form would need a doer.

✓ Correct sentence **It is assumed that the manager knew about the breach.** (fully active: People assume that the manager had prior knowledge of the breach.)

Examiner's Trap A student may reject 'It is assumed' because it is passive in itself, but the remaining options distort the meaning, so A alone is acceptable.

---

57 ANSWER (b) Was someone testing the new protocol when the issue was reported?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Active of Past Continuous Passive Question) The passive question 'Was the new protocol being tested ...?' is in the Past Continuous Passive. Since the doer is unknown, 'someone' is added in the active. In A, C and D, the subject-object relationship or the meaning is spoilt.

✓ Correct sentence **Was someone testing** the new protocol when the issue was reported?

Examiner's Trap Students often forget to add 'someone' when converting an agentless passive to the active.

---

58 ANSWER (b) She has been mentoring interns remotely, it is known.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (b) · Disputed question

Concept (Passive with Perfect Continuous) The SSC key is B, because 'has been mentoring' keeps the sense of the perfect continuous. However, B retains the passive remnant 'it is known' and drops 'throughout the year', while A changes the meaning with 'has mentored' and 'this year'. B is therefore accepted as the closest answer, but the question is weak.

✓ Correct sentence People know that she has been mentoring interns remotely throughout the year.

Examiner's Trap A changes the tense and the time phrase and so alters the meaning; no option gives a correct active form, so B has been chosen as the closest.

---

59 ANSWER (a) Defective question

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (a) · Defective question — no option is fully correct

Concept (Faulty Question – No Option) The SSC key is A, but 'It was understood that ...' is still passive, and 'from influential figures' has also been dropped. B, C and D change the meaning. The question is therefore faulty and no option is correct.

✓ Correct sentence People understood that the accused had been acting under pressure from influential figures.

Examiner's Trap Because of 'It was understood that', the SSC key A still reads like a passive sentence, so it cannot be accepted as active.

---

60 ANSWER (c) Unknown individuals are believed to have tampered with the evidence.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Active of Passive Infinitive Perfect) The tense of the passive sentence is the present, and in the active the 'by unknown individuals' part becomes the subject. With a plural subject, 'is believed to have tampered' becomes **are believed to have tampered with**. A omits the verb 'are', B changes the tense with 'have been believed', and D has the incorrect 'will have'.

✓ Correct sentence Unknown individuals **are believed to have tampered with** the evidence.

Examiner's Trap The 'have been believed' of option B resembles a passive tense, but it becomes the Present Perfect and no longer matches the original tense.

---

61 **ANSWER (b)** Legal activists are likely to challenge the new constitutional ...

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Active of Passive with Be Likely To) The active of 'is likely to be challenged by legal activists' is 'legal activists are likely to challenge', because the agent of the passive becomes the subject of the active. The tense stays in the present, so **Legal activists are likely to challenge the new constitutional provision** is correct. A, C and D change the tense.

✓ **Correct sentence** Legal activists **are likely to challenge** the new constitutional provision.

---

62 **ANSWER (a)** Alternative ways of thinking and different systems of value ...

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Active of Compound Passive) The doer of the passive clause is 'alternative ways of thinking and different systems of value', so it becomes the subject, and 'is generated' becomes **generate**. In the second part, 'the individual is left trapped' becomes 'a rigid, unforgiving worldview leaves the individual entirely trapped'.

✓ **Correct sentence** Alternative ways of thinking and different systems of value **generate** a fierce exchange of mutual misunderstanding, while a rigid, unforgiving worldview **leaves** the individual entirely trapped.

Examiner's Trap B replaces 'thinking' with 'thought', C has the incorrect 'fiery exchanged', and D uses the faulty verb forms 'leaving' and 'trapping'.

---

63 **ANSWER (c)** The new candidate had already been selected by the board before the ...

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Passive of Past Perfect) The original sentence is in the Past Perfect (had selected). The passive of the Past Perfect follows the pattern **had been + V3**, and the object 'the new candidate' becomes the subject.

✓ **Correct sentence** The new candidate **had already been selected** by the board before the announcement.

Examiner's Trap A is in the Simple Past, B in the Present Perfect and D in the Past Continuous, so each changes the tense.

---

64 **ANSWER (b)** The final verdict will be delivered in the court by the judge ...

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Passive of Future Simple) 'Will deliver' is Future Simple, so the passive takes **will be + V3**: 'will be delivered'.

✓ **Correct sentence** The final verdict **will be delivered** in the court by the judge tomorrow.

Examiner's Trap A is in the Future Perfect, C uses 'would' and D is in the Present Simple, none of which matches the original tense.

---

65 **ANSWER (d)** The soldiers were ordered to guard the fort at all times by the king.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Passive of Order + Infinitive) In 'ordered the soldiers to guard the fort', the ones receiving the order are 'the soldiers', so they become the subject of the passive. The infinitive 'to guard' remains active. A changes the tense, B distorts the meaning with 'should have guarded', and C turns 'the fort' into the one receiving the order.

✓ **Correct sentence** **The soldiers were ordered to guard the fort** at all times by the king.

Examiner's Trap Making 'the fort' the subject in C seems natural, but the order was given to the soldiers, not to the fort.

---

66 **ANSWER (a)** The passengers had not been informed about the sudden change in the ...

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Passive of Negative Subject) A negative subject such as 'Nobody had informed ...' appears in the passive as 'not', and the passive of the Past Perfect is **had been + V3**. The correct form is therefore 'The passengers had not been informed ...'. B and D create a double negative with 'by nobody', and C is in the Present Perfect.

✓ Correct sentence The passengers **had not been informed** about the sudden change in the flight route.

Examiner's Trap Retaining 'by nobody' feels like a direct transfer of the subject, but it produces a double negative.

---

67 **ANSWER (c)** The suspect was let go by the police after being questioned for two ...

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Let) The passive of 'let' is **was let**, and 'go' follows it without 'to'. A has the incorrect 'let to go', B has the wrong form 'allow' (it should be 'allowed'), and D changes the tense by using the Past Continuous.

✓ Correct sentence The suspect **was let go** by the police after being questioned for two hours.

Examiner's Trap The habit of adding 'to' in the passive makes 'was let to go' seem right, but 'to' does not follow 'let'.

---

68 **ANSWER (b)** The findings would rather be presented at the national seminar than ...

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive of Would Rather) In 'would rather ... than ...', both parts must have the same verb form (parallelism). In the passive, both verbs become 'be presented' and 'be published'. A needs 'than' in place of 'then', C changes the meaning with 'have been', and D changes the modal to 'should'.

✓ Correct sentence The findings **would rather be presented** at the national seminar **than be published** in a journal by the research scholars.

Examiner's Trap C and D contain only a small change, which quietly alters the sense of the modal or tense.

---

69 **ANSWER (b)** It is known by everyone that the Earth revolves around the Sun.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Universal Truth) 'Everyone knows' is Present Simple, so the passive takes **is + V3**. Because it is a universal truth, the clause stays in the Present Simple.

✓ Correct sentence **It is known** by everyone that the Earth **revolves** around the Sun.

Examiner's Trap The past tense in A and D is wrong, and 'to revolving' in C is incorrect.

---

70 **ANSWER (a)** All minor land disputes used to be resolved through open ...

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive of Used To) The passive of 'used to resolve' is **used to be resolved**, because the base form of the verb follows 'used to'.

✓ Correct sentence All minor land disputes **used to be resolved** through open discussions among the community elders by the village council.

Examiner's Trap B and C lose the sense of 'used to', and 'were used to be' in D is an incorrect structure.

---

71 **ANSWER (d)** Unverified news stories are not published by the newspaper.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Present Simple Negative Passive) 'Does not publish' is Present Simple Negative. The passive takes **am/is/are not + V3**, and it expresses a general policy.

✓ Correct sentence Unverified news stories **are not published** by the newspaper.

Examiner's Trap A is in the Continuous, B in the Past and C in the Present Perfect, all of which change the tense.

---

72 **ANSWER (b)** It was reported that a massive fire had broken out near the railway ...

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Passive of Reporting Verb) The passive of 'People reported that ...' is 'It was reported that ...', and a general agent such as 'people' is dropped. The report was made in the past and the fire broke out before it, so the clause takes the Past Perfect **had broken out**. In A, 'by people' and 'nearby' are unnecessary or wrong, C is unnatural, and D is in the present tense.

✓ Correct sentence It was reported that a massive fire **had broken out** near the railway station.

Examiner's Trap Option A looks the most complete because it includes the agent, but 'by people' is unnecessary and 'nearby' is wrong.

---

73 ANSWER (a) The heavy cart was pulled by the horse along the narrow mountain road.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Passive of Simple Past) 'Pulled' is Simple Past, so the passive takes **was + V3**. B is in the Present Perfect, C in the Past Continuous and D in the Past Perfect, all of which change the tense.

✓ Correct sentence The heavy cart **was pulled** by the horse along the narrow mountain road.

---

74 ANSWER (d) The suggestion that appalling savagery ultimately brings about ...

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Passive to Active in a Long Sentence) The active form of 'is created' is 'creates', and that of 'is brought about' is 'brings about'. Here 'suggestion' means 'hint' or 'implication', not 'proposal', so the verb takes the indicative **brings**.

✓ Correct sentence The suggestion that appalling savagery ultimately **brings** about rescue, whereas coordinated and purposeful efforts fail to achieve it, creates the narrative's deeply cynical conclusion.

Examiner's Trap A and B use the subjunctive form of 'bring', and there are small errors as well: 'coordinate' in B and 'deep' in C.

---

75 ANSWER (a) The cat had shattered the vase.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Active of Past Perfect Passive) The passive sentence 'had been shattered' is in the Past Perfect, so the active takes **had + V3**, and the doer 'the cat' becomes the subject.

✓ Correct sentence The cat **had shattered** the vase.

Examiner's Trap Option D is in the Simple Past, which changes the Past Perfect; in C the subject and object are reversed.

---

76 ANSWER (b) The minister announced the new policy during the press conference

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Active of Past Simple Passive) 'Was announced' is Past Simple Passive, so in the active the doer 'the minister' becomes the subject and the verb remains in the Past Simple: 'announced'.

✓ Correct sentence The minister **announced** the new policy during the press conference.

Examiner's Trap A is in the Present, C in the Present Continuous and D in the Past Perfect, all of which change the tense.

---

77 ANSWER (c) The President of India presented the national award to the artist

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Past Simple Passive to Active) 'Was presented' is Past Simple Passive. In the active, 'by the President of India' becomes the subject and the verb remains 'presented'.

✓ Correct sentence The President of India **presented** the national award to the artist.

Examiner's Trap A, B and D are in the Present Simple, Present Continuous and Present Perfect, which differ from the original tense.

---

78 ANSWER (d) The students decorated the classrooms for Independence Day ...

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive to Active: Past Simple) 'Were decorated' is Past Simple Passive. In the active, 'the students' become the subject and the verb remains 'decorated'. A is in the Present Simple, B in the Present Continuous and C in the Present Perfect, all of which change the tense.

✓ Correct sentence The students **decorated** the classrooms for Independence Day celebrations.

Examiner's Trap The structure of the sentence is right in A, B and C, but the tense has changed.

---

79 ANSWER (a) An unsuspecting individual is tough to carry out a hostile prank ...

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Active Voice of Complex Passive) 'For a hostile prank to be carried out against an unsuspecting individual is tough' becomes 'An unsuspecting individual is tough to carry out a hostile prank against', and 'for direct harm to be avoided is easy' becomes 'direct harm is easy to avoid'. In the last part, 'by which ... is instilled' gives **which instils**.

✓ Correct sentence An unsuspecting individual is tough to carry out a hostile prank against, but direct harm is initially easy to avoid because behaviour remains conditioned by civilization, **which instils** an invisible boundary of social restraint.

Examiner's Trap B changes the tense, C has the incorrect 'to be carrying' and 'condition', and D uses the wrong word 'conditional' (it should be 'conditioned'). In a long sentence such small changes are easily missed.

---

80 ANSWER (c) Local workers form a gathering to hear Raghav's situation ...

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Active Voice with Tense Consistency) The correct active form is the one in which tense and verb forms are consistent with the original sentence. In C, all the verbs (form, make, feels, maintains, will locate) are correct. In A, 'made' and 'maintained' change the tense; B has 'from' (for 'form') and 'recount', which are wrong; D has the errors 'recount', 'made' and 'he locate'.

✓ Correct sentence Local workers **form** a gathering to hear Raghav's situation recounted, and they **make** gentle corrections regarding the name of the mill worker he is seeking, yet he **feels** no concern over this discrepancy and **maintains** absolute confidence that he **will locate** his companion.

Examiner's Trap In a long sentence, the tense of one verb in the middle has been quietly changed, which is hard to catch in a hurry.

---

81 ANSWER (a) They easily experience a deep state of intimidation under a ...

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Active Voice in Present Tense) The active of the first part, 'is easily experienced by them', is 'they easily experience', and that of 'are abandoned at that leader's command' is 'they abandon'. The last part, 'is crushed by the leader', gives 'the leader crushes accountability'. All the verbs must stay in the present tense; B, C and D change the tense.

✓ Correct sentence They easily **experience** a deep state of intimidation under a powerful leader, yet they **abandon** their assigned responsibilities at that leader's command, proving how quickly the leader **crushes** accountability.

Examiner's Trap The main trap is that the tense of one verb in a long sentence has been changed.

---

82 ANSWER (a) The functional layer of the endometrium is systematically ...

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive Voice – Transformation Preserving Meaning) In the original, the verb is 'initiates' and its subject is 'menstruation', while the actual event is the shedding (desquamation) of the endometrial layer. Option A turns this event into the passive verb **is systematically desquamated** and adds 'initiating menstruation', thereby preserving the meaning. In B 'is initiating' is not a passive, C is a reflexive active construction, and D reverses subject and object and so changes the meaning. Hence option A is correct.

✓ Correct sentence The functional layer of the endometrium **is systematically desquamated**, initiating menstruation.

Examiner's Trap In B 'is + V-ing' is an active Present Continuous, not a passive; the passive needs 'is + V3'.

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83 ANSWER (c) A responsible veteran suggests that the authority figure interpret ...

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Active Voice of Subjunctive) The original sentence is in the present tense, so the active of 'is suggested' is **suggests**. 'Be interpreted' is a subjunctive, so the active takes 'interpret' (without -s). 'Are explained' gives 'someone explains', and 'being underscored' gives 'thereby underscoring'.

✓ **Correct sentence** A responsible veteran **suggests** that the authority figure **interpret** violent behaviour as harmless play only until someone **explains** the events of the isolated setting, thereby **underscoring** the deep disconnect between appearance and hidden structural decay.

Examiner's Trap A and B change the tense with 'suggested', and D has the incorrect forms 'explained' and 'underscored'.

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84 ANSWER (c) The observer develops a deep awareness that the resilient ...

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Active Voice of a Long Passive) The passive sentence is in the present tense, so the verbs in the active must also be in the present: 'develops', 'is watching', 'stands'. 'Are noted by him' gives 'noting', and the active of 'has been faced by a major defeat' is 'has faced a major defeat'.

✓ **Correct sentence** The observer **develops** a deep awareness that the resilient individual **is watching** him closely, **noting** her firm posture and practical attire as she stands confidently with her hands on her hips, bearing an expression resembling that of a military leader who has faced a major defeat.

Examiner's Trap A, B and D change the tense ('developed', 'was watching'), against the present tense of the original.

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85 ANSWER (d) Independence Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm by them

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Present Simple Passive) 'Celebrate' is Present Simple. Independence Day is celebrated every year, and the passive of the Present Simple is **is + V3**.

✓ **Correct sentence** Independence Day **is celebrated** with great enthusiasm by them.

Examiner's Trap A is in the Past, B in the Present Perfect and C in the Present Continuous.

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86 ANSWER (c) Lord Redgrave expects the crew members of the Astronef to ...

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Active of Passive with Infinitive) 'Are expected' in the passive is in the present tense, so the active verb is **expects** and the subject is 'Lord Redgrave'. The sense of 'to test the engines thoroughly' is kept in the active infinitive. A and B change the tense with 'expected', and A and D remain passive because of 'to be tested'.

✓ **Correct sentence** Lord Redgrave **expects** the crew members of the Astronef **to thoroughly test** the anti-gravitational engines before their voyage to Venus.

Examiner's Trap The past-tense options and the 'to be tested' options look active, but they either change the tense or leave the sentence passive.

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87 ANSWER (d) The schoolmaster recommended that Aunt Polly force Tom to memorise ...

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Subjunctive in Passive to Active) The active of 'It was recommended that Tom be forced by Aunt Polly' is 'The schoolmaster recommended that Aunt Polly force Tom'. After 'recommend', the that-clause takes the subjunctive, so the base form **force** is used. 'Will force' in A, 'forced' in B and 'forces' in C break the subjunctive concept.

✓ **Correct sentence** The schoolmaster recommended that Aunt Polly **force** Tom to memorise two thousand Bible verses before the Sunday School assembly.

Examiner's Trap Ordinary tense forms such as 'forced' or 'forces' sound natural, but after 'recommend' only the base form of the verb is used.



04
CHAPTER

Direct & Indirect Speech

Questions *92 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01): *Complete the sentence in indirect speech.*

01 "Have you submitted the assignment yet?" the teacher asked.

The teacher asked me ____ the assignment yet.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) if I submit
(b) whether I had submitted
(c) if I have submitted
(d) whether had I submitted

Directions (Q. 02): *Choose the statement that represents the indirect narration of the given direct narration.*

02 Ritam said to Asha, “The local groups shouted at me, ‘You had better move away because we are not going to tolerate your relative's community activism regarding cultural heritage and migration!’”

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Ritam told Asha that the local groups shouted at him that he had better move away because they were not going to tolerate his relative's community activism regarding cultural heritage and migration.
(b) Ritam told Asha that the local groups shouted at him that he had better moved away because they were not going to tolerate his relative's community activism regarding cultural heritage and migration.
(c) Ritam told Asha that the local groups had shouted at him that he had better been moving away because they were not going to tolerate his relative's community activism regarding cultural heritage and migration.
(d) Ritam told Asha that the local groups had shouted at him that he had better move away because they were not going to tolerate his relative's community activism regarding cultural heritage and migration.

Directions (Q. 03–04): *The following sentence is given in Indirect Speech. Select the option that correctly expresses it in Direct Speech.*

03 Mr. Casaubon bluntly asked Dorothea whether she would faithfully continue compiling his sprawling, unfinished mythological notes after his death.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Mr. Casaubon bluntly asked Dorothea, “whether she would faithfully continue compiling his sprawling, unfinished mythological notes after his death.”
(b) Mr. Casaubon bluntly said to Dorothea, “Will you faithfully continue compiling my sprawling, unfinished mythological notes after my death?”
(c) Mr. Casaubon bluntly told Dorothea, “Would you faithfully continue compiling my sprawling, unfinished mythological notes after my death!”
(d) Mr. Casaubon bluntly questioned Dorothea, “You will faithfully continue compiling my sprawling, unfinished mythological notes after my death?”

04 Tertius Lydgate questioned himself wretchedly why he had allowed the shallow material desires of Rosamond Vincy to ruin his scientific ambitions.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Tertius Lydgate questioned himself wretchedly, “Why did I allow the shallow material desires of Rosamond Vincy to ruin my scientific ambitions?”
(b) Tertius Lydgate questioned himself, “wretchedly why he had allowed the shallow material desires of Rosamond Vincy to ruin his scientific ambitions.”
(c) Tertius Lydgate questions himself wretchedly, “Why did I allowed the shallow material desires of Rosamond Vincy to ruined my scientific ambitions?”
(d) Tertius Lydgate questioned himself wretchedly. “Why I had allowed the shallow material desires of Rosamond Vincy to ruin my scientific ambitions?”

Directions (Q. 05–06): *Which of the following is the correct direct speech form of the given sentence?*

05 The players were asking if their coach would return before the game.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The players, "Will our coach can return before the game?"
(b) The players said, "Will our coach return before the game?"
(c) The players, "Would our coach return before the game?"
(d) The players said, "Would our coach return before the game?"

06 Chayanika wanted to know if Garry had selected those candidates for the interview.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Chayanika asked, "Did Garry select these candidates for the interview?"
(b) Chayanika asked, "Did Garry select those candidates for the interview?"
(c) Chayanika asked, “Had Garry selected these candidates for the interview?”
(d) Chayanika asked, "Has Garry selected these candidates for the interview?"

Directions (Q. 07–29): *A sentence is provided in indirect speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding direct speech.*

07 The captain said that had they practiced more, they might have won the tournament.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) “If we practiced more, we might win the tournament,” said the captain.
(b) “Had we practiced more, we might have won the tournament,” said the captain.
(c) “If only we would practice more, we might win,” said the captain.
(d) “Had we been practicing, we might win,” said the captain.

08 The coach said that practice would begin at 6 a.m. the next day.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) “Practice will begin at 6 a.m. tomorrow,” said the coach.
(b) “Practice would begin at 6 a.m. the next day,” the coach said.
(c) “We begin practice at 6 a.m.,” said the coach.
(d) “Practice is starting at 6 a.m. tomorrow,” said the coach.

09 He said that were it not for her, they would have lost everything.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) "If it was not for her, we would have lost everything," he said.
(b) "If not for her, we would have lost it all," he said.
(c) "Were it not for her, we would have lost everything," he said.
(d) "Had it not been for her, we would lose everything," he said.

10 She said that she had hardly begun the speech when the microphone failed.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) "Hardly had I begun the speech when the microphone failed," she said.
(b) "I hardly began the speech when the microphone failed," she said.
(c) "The microphone failed as I started speaking," she said.
(d) "The microphone failed just after I began," she said.

11 The teacher informed the students that the results would be declared the following Monday.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) "The results will be declared next Monday," the teacher said.
(b) "We declare the results next Monday," the teacher said.
(c) "The results would be declared next Monday," the teacher said.
(d) "Your results are going to be declared on Monday," said the teacher.

12 He said that he would prefer to remain silent rather than speak without proof.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) "I would prefer to stay silent than speak without proof," he said.
(b) "I prefer silence over false claims," he said.
(c) "I'd rather not talk if there's no proof," said he.
(d) "I would prefer to remain silent rather than speak without proof," he said.

13 He said that he would rather have been punished than be humiliated publicly.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) "I would rather be punished than get humiliated publicly," he said.
(b) "I would rather have been punished than be humiliated publicly," he said.
(c) "I prefer punishment over humiliation," he said.
(d) "I'd rather punishment than public humiliation," he said.

14 She said that not only had he lied, but he had also stolen the money.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) "He lied and also stole the money," she said.
(b) "Not only did he lie, but he also stole the money," she said.
(c) "Not only he lied but he also had stolen the money," she said.
(d) "He had lied and stolen the money as well," said she.

15 The journalist said that under no condition would the authorities release the documents early.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) "Under no condition will the authorities release the documents early," said the journalist.
(b) "Authorities will not release the documents early under any condition," he said.
(c) "Under no condition would the authorities release the documents early," said the journalist.
(d) "The documents shall not be released early," said the journalist.

16 He said that nothing but sheer luck could have saved them that day.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) "Only sheer luck saved them that day," he said.
(b) "Sheer luck might have saved them that day," he said.
(c) "Nothing but sheer luck could have saved us that day," he said.
(d) "Only good fortune was with them that day," said he.

17 The leader said that not for a moment did he believe the accusations.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) "Not for a moment did I believe the accusations," said the leader.
(b) "I never believed the accusations," said the leader.
(c) "Not even once I believed the accusations," said the leader.
(d) "I did not believe the accusations for a moment," said the leader.

18 She said that barely had she stepped out when it began to rain.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) "Barely had I stepped out when it began to rain," she said.
(b) "I had barely stepped out when it started to rain," said she.
(c) "It started raining as soon as I stepped out," she said.
(d) "I barely stepped out and it rained," she said.

19 The doctor said that no sooner had the treatment begun than the symptoms improved.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) "No sooner had the treatment begun than the symptoms improved," said the doctor.
(b) "As soon as the treatment began, symptoms improved," said the doctor.
(c) "No sooner the treatment began, the symptoms improved," said the doctor.
(d) "The symptoms improved once treatment began," said the doctor.

20 The economist said that had the reforms been implemented sooner, the economy would have recovered faster.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) "If the reforms had implemented sooner, the economy would recover faster," said the economist.
(b) "If the reforms had been implemented sooner, the economy recovered faster," said the economist.
(c) "Had the reforms been implemented sooner, the economy would have recovered faster," said the economist.
(d) "If only the reforms had been implemented sooner, the economy will recover faster," he said.

21 He said that if it were not raining, they would go out.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) "If it was not raining, we would go out," he said.
(b) "If it were not raining, we would go out," he said.
(c) "If it didn't rain, we would go out," he said.
(d) "If it were raining, we won't go out," said he.

22 The neurologist speculated that the patient might have regained partial synaptic plasticity had the therapy commenced earlier.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The neurologist speculated, "The patient might regain partial synaptic plasticity if therapy commenced earlier."
(b) The neurologist speculated, "Had the therapy commenced earlier, the patient might have regained partial synaptic plasticity."
(c) The neurologist speculated, "If therapy was commenced earlier, plasticity might regain."
(d) The neurologist speculated, "If therapy had commenced earlier, the patient might regain synaptic plasticity."

23 The linguist noted that the prioritization of grammatical purity over communicative intent often marginalizes dialects that embody rich socio-cultural realities.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) "When we prioritize grammar over meaning, we push out dialects that carry culture," the linguist said.
(b) "Focusing too much on grammar sidelines dialects full of cultural depth," the linguist observed.
(c) "Strict grammar norms marginalize dialects that carry sociocultural meaning," she noted.
(d) "Grammar obsession causes linguistic exclusion," said the linguist.

24 The judge remarked that it was regrettable that the accused had shown no remorse even after the gravity of the offense had been clearly established.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) "It is regrettable that you show no remorse despite your crime being proven," said the judge.
(b) "You haven't expressed any remorse even though we know how grave your offense is," said the judge.
(c) "How regrettable it is that even now, you do not regret your act," the judge said.
(d) "You should have shown remorse after your crime was proven," remarked the judge.

25 The teacher warned the class that unless they submitted their projects on time, they would not be allowed to appear for the practicals.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) "Submit your projects on time or you can't sit for the practicals," the teacher warned.
(b) "If you don't submit the projects, you'll be barred from the practicals," the teacher warned.
(c) "You won't be allowed for the practicals unless the projects are submitted," the teacher said.
(d) "Turn in your work or don't expect to attend the practicals," the teacher told them.

26 The author said that so compelling was the plot that readers couldn't put the book down.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) "So compelling was the plot that readers couldn't put the book down," said the author.
(b) "The plot was compelling, so readers kept reading," said the author.
(c) "It was such a compelling plot, readers read it all," said the author.
(d) "The plot made readers unable to stop," said the author.

27 The coordinator instructed the volunteers to remain at their assigned stations until further orders were issued.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) "Remain at your posts until you receive further orders," the coordinator said.
(b) "Do not leave your stations unless instructed," said the coordinator.
(c) "You're to stay where assigned until the next announcement," she said.
(d) "All volunteers must stay put until they hear otherwise," the coordinator said.

28 The officer enquired, in a tone of suppressed irritation, why the requisition requests had been repeatedly submitted with incomplete documentation.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) "Why do you keep submitting incomplete requisitions?" asked the officer.
(b) "Don't submit requisitions without documentation."
(c) "Why have the requisition forms repeatedly lacked complete documentation?" he asked irritably.
(d) "Why were the requisitions submitted incomplete each time?" the officer asked.

29 The legal scholar remarked that the jurisprudential basis for such a ruling, if indeed it existed, appeared to derive more from ideological urgency than from doctrinal consistency.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) "If this ruling even has a legal basis, it seems driven more by ideology than jurisprudence," remarked the scholar.
(b) "Does this ruling's foundation lie in legal tradition, or is it motivated by ideology?" the scholar said.
(c) "Surely, no consistent doctrine could justify this ruling—it reeks of urgency," the scholar observed.
(d) "The ruling appears to prioritize ideology over precedent, if legal logic exists at all," she said.

Directions (Q. 30–31): *Choose the correct direct speech form of the following sentence.*

30 They asked if I enjoyed working in a fast-paced environment.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) They said, "Do they enjoy working in a fast-paced environment?"
(b) They said, "Do you like working in fast-paced environments?"
(c) They said, "Did you like working in a fast-paced environment?"
(d) They said, "Do you enjoy working in a fast-paced environment?"

31 She told him that he would play basketball.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) She said to him, "You should play basketball."
(b) She said to him, "You would play basketball."
(c) She said to him, "You will play basketball."
(d) She said to him, "He would play basketball."

Directions (Q. 32–47): *A sentence is provided in direct speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding indirect speech.*

32 He said, "What time does the train arrive?"
[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) He asked what time does the train arrive.
(b) He said what time the train had arrived.
(c) He asked what time the train arrived.
(d) He asked what time the train has arrived.

33 I said to her, "What are your plans for tomorrow?"
[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) I asked her what her plans for the next day were.
(b) I told her what were her plans for the next day.
(c) I asked her what are her plans for tomorrow.
(d) I asked her what her plans were for tomorrow.

34 She said, "John must have missed the train."
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]
(a) She said John might missed the train.
(b) She said that John must had missed the train.
(c) She said that John must have missed the train.
(d) She said John had to miss the train.

35 She said, "I hope he will arrive on time."
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]
(a) She hoped he would arrive on time.
(b) She said that I hope he will arrive on time.
(c) She said that she hoped he arrived on time.
(d) She said that she hoped he will arrive on time.

36 She said to him, "Are you coming to the party?"
[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]
(a) She asked him was he coming to the party.
(b) She asked him if he is coming to the party.
(c) She asked him if he was coming to the party.
(d) She asked him are you coming to the party.

37 The girl said, "I want a new book."
[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) The girl said she wanted a new book.
(b) The girl said she had wanted a new book.
(c) The girl said she wants a new book.
(d) The girl told she wanted a new book.

38 He said to her, "Do not make noise."
[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) He told her not to make noise.
(b) He said her not to make noise.
(c) He told her do not make noise.
(d) He requested her not making noise.

39 The man said, "I bought a new car yesterday."
[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]
(a) The man said he had bought a new car the day before.
(b) The man said he bought a new car the day before.
(c) The man said he had bought new car yesterday.
(d) The man said he had buy a new car the day before.

40 "Were it not for her persistence, we would never have succeeded," remarked the CEO.
[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) The CEO said if it weren't her persistence, they wouldn't have succeeded.
(b) The CEO remarked that had it not been for her persistence, they would never have succeeded.
(c) The CEO remarked they never would have succeeded if not for her persistence.
(d) The CEO said had it not been her persistence, they wouldn't succeed.

41 She said, "I don't like spicy food."
[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) She said she didn't liked spicy food.
(b) She said that she didn't like spicy food.
(c) She said she doesn't like spicy food.
(d) She said that she doesn't liked spicy food.

42 She said, "I met him yesterday."
[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) She said that she met him the day before.
(b) She said that she had met him the day before.
(c) She said that she has met him the day before.
(d) She said that she meets him yesterday.

43 Rahul said, "Let us go for a walk."
[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rahul said let us go for a walk.
(b) Rahul suggested we go for a walk.
(c) Rahul suggested that we should go for a walk.
(d) Rahul said we went for a walk.

44 He said, "I must finish this work."
[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) He said that he must finish that work.
(b) He said that he had to finish this work.
(c) He said that he had to finish that work.
(d) He said that he has to finish that work.

45 They said, "We are watching a movie."
[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]
(a) They said they are watching a movie.
(b) They said they had watched a movie.
(c) They said that they were watching a movie.
(d) They said that we watched a movie.

46 "No sooner had he stepped outside than the alarm went off," said the guard.
[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) The guard said that as soon as he had stepped outside, the alarm had gone off.
(b) The guard said that no sooner had he stepped outside than the alarm went off.
(c) The guard said no sooner he stepped outside than the alarm had gone off.
(d) The guard said the moment he stepped outside, the alarm had gone off.

47 The principal said, "Should any student violate the rule again, they will face strict disciplinary action."
[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) The principal said that if any student violated the rule again, they would face strict disciplinary action.
(b) The principal warned that if a student should violate the rule again, he will face strict action.
(c) The principal said any student who violates the rule will face action.
(d) The principal announced that should any student violated the rule, they would face action.

Directions (Q. 48): *Fill in the blank to complete the indirect speech correctly.*

48 Rudraksh said to me, "I was not planning for any trip."

Rudraksh told me that he ___ not planning for any trip.
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]
(a) was
(b) is
(c) had been
(d) were

Directions (Q. 49): *Convert the below given direct speech into indirect speech appropriately.*

49 She said, "I need some rest now".
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) She said that she needs some rest now
(b) She said that she is needing some rest now
(c) She said that she needed some rest then
(d) She said that she needs some rest then

Directions (Q. 50–58): *Convert the below given indirect speech into direct speech appropriately*

50 She said that she had completed the task.
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) She said, "I completes the task".
(b) She said, "I completed the task".
(c) She said, "I would have completed the task".
(d) She said, "I will complete the task".

51 He told me that he was going to the market.
[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]
(a) He told me, "I go to the market".
(b) He told me, "I had been going to the market".
(c) He told me, "I am going to the market".
(d) He told me, "I will be going to the market".

52 She said that she had been living in Mumbai for three years.
[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) She said, "I live in Mumbai for three years".
(b) She said, "I had lived in Mumbai for three years".
(c) She said, "I have been living in Mumbai for three years".
(d) She said, "I will be living in Mumbai for three years".

53 He said that he was watching a movie.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) He said, "I will watch a movie".
(b) He said, "I watch a movie".
(c) He said, "I have watched a movie".
(d) He said, "I am watching a movie".

54 The teacher said that the students had completed their assignments.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The teacher said, "The students are completing their assignments".
(b) The teacher said, "The students have completed their assignments".
(c) The teacher said, "The students complete their assignments".
(d) The teacher said, "The students will complete their assignments".

55 He said that he would come to the party tomorrow.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) He said, "I want to come to the party tomorrow".
(b) He said, "I may come to the party tomorrow".
(c) He said, "I am coming to the party tomorrow".
(d) He said, "I will come to the party tomorrow".

56 She said that she would visit the museum the next day.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) She said, "I will visit the museum tomorrow".
(b) She said, "She would visit the museum the next day".
(c) She said, "I am visiting the museum tomorrow".
(d) She said, "She would be visiting the museum the next day".

57 He said that he had been living in India for five years.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) He said, "He live in India for five years".
(b) He said, "I have been living in India for five years".
(c) He said, "I lived in India for five years".
(d) He said, "I had lived in India for five years".

58 He told her that he had finished his homework.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) He told her, "I finish my homework".
(b) He told her, "He have finished his homework".
(c) He told her, "I finished my homework".
(d) He told her, "He had finished his homework".

Directions (Q. 59): *Choose the accurate direct speech version of the following sentence.*

59 She asked me to tell her the location of the guest house.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) She said, "I was wondering if you could possibly tell me the location of the guest house?"
(b) She asked, “Could you tell me the location of the guest house?”
(c) She said, "Tell me the location of the guest house."
(d) She asked, "Could you possibly tell me the location of the guest house?"

Directions (Q. 60–61): *Convert the following sentence from direct to indirect speech. Choose the option that best represents the correct transformation.*

60 Janvi said to Kamal, “I travel about in an old utility vehicle, which is a simple transport setup with basic bedding on its floor, stopping where people gather to listen and observe; however, in the process, I have formed an impression of my surroundings, the accuracy of which is limited only by my own shortcomings.”

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Janvi told Kamal that she travelled about in an old utility vehicle, which was a simple transport setup with basic bedding on it's floor, stopping where people gathered to listen and observe; however, in the process, she had formed an impression of her surroundings, the accuracy of which was limited only by her own shortcomings.

(b) Janvi told Kamal that she travelled about in an old utility vehicle, which was a simple transport setup with basic bedding on its floor, stopping where people gathered to listen and observe; however, in the process, she had formed an impression of her surroundings, the accuracy of which was limited only by her own shortcomings.

(c) Janvi told Kamal that she travelled about in an old utility vehicle, which was a simple transport setup with basic bedding on it's floor, stopping where people gather to listen and observe; however, in the process, she had formed an impression of her surroundings, the accuracy of which was limited only by her own shortcomings.

(d) Janvi told Kamal that she travelled about in an old utility vehicle, which was a simple transport setup with basic bedding on its floor, stopping where people gathered to listen and observed; however, in the process, she had formed an impression of her surroundings, the accuracy of which is limited only by her own shortcomings.

61 Harman said to Lipika, “If you had observed us during our transit between facilities, as we watched the mountain peaks illuminated by the sunset through the small, restricted windows of our transport vehicle, you would never have guessed that we had previously abandoned all expectations of our future.”

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Harman told Lipika that if she had observed them during their transit between facilities, as they had watched the mountain peaks illuminated by the sunset through the small, restricted windows of their transport vehicle, she would never have guessed that they had previously abandoned all expectations of their future.

(b) Harman told Lipika that if she observed them during their transit between facilities, as they had watched the mountain peaks illuminated by the sunset through the small, restricted windows of their transport vehicle, she would never have guessed that they had previously abandoned all expectations of their future.

(c) Harman told Lipika that if she had observed them during their transit between facilities, as they had watched the mountain peaks illuminated by the sunset through the small, restricted windows of their transport vehicle, she would never guess that they had previously abandoned all expectations of their future.

(d) Harman told Lipika that if she had observed them during their transit between facilities, as they had watched the mountain peaks illuminated by the sunset through the small, restricted windows of their transport vehicle, she would never have guessed that they would have previously abandoned all expectations of their future.

Directions (Q. 62–63): *Complete the following sentence in indirect speech with the correct option.*

62 She said, "I will open the window."

She said that she ____ open the window.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) will (b) shall

(c) would (d) can

63 Kavyana said, "I am thirsty."

Kavyana said that she ___ thirsty.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) is (b) was

(c) had been (d) will be

Directions (Q. 64): *Which option correctly expresses the sentence in direct speech?*

64 He said that he would travel the world if he had more money.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) He said, "I would travel the world if I have more money."
(b) He said, "I will travel the world if I had more money."
(c) He said, "I would travel the world if I had more money."
(d) He said, "I could travel the world if I had more money."

Directions (Q. 65–66): *Choose the correct direct speech transformation of the sentence below.*

65 The banner welcomed visitors to Belgium.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The banner said, "Welcome to Belgium."
(b) The banner said, "People, welcome to Belgium."
(c) The banner said, "Belgium welcomes you."
(d) The banner said, "Welcome Belgium."

66 Upasana said that she hadn't seen her childhood friend for years.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Upasana said, "I haven't seen my childhood friend since previous years."
(b) Upasana said, "I hadn't seen my childhood friend for years."
(c) Upasana said, "I haven't seen my childhood friend for ages."
(d) Upasana said, "I haven't seen my childhood friend for years."

Directions (Q. 67–70): *Choose the correct indirect speech form of the following sentence.*

67 Nikhil said, "You must buy this bag."

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Nikhil advised me to buy that bag.
(b) Nikhil told me that I must buy that bag.
(c) Nikhil said to me to buy this bag.
(d) Nikhil asked me to buy that bag.

68 He said, "I have never been on a submarine!"

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) He admitted that he has never been on a submarine.
(b) He admitted that he had never been on a submarine.
(c) He admitted that he never had been on a submarine.
(d) He admitted that he never been on a submarine.

69 He said, "May I come in?"

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) He asked if he may come in.
(b) He asked whether he can come in.
(c) He asked if he might come in.
(d) He told if he could come in.

70 The teacher said, "Go to the classroom."

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The teacher told the students that they must go to the classroom.
(b) The teacher ordered the students to go to the classroom.
(c) The teacher asked the students to go to the classroom.
(d) The teacher said to the students going to the classroom.

Directions (Q. 71): *Choose the correct indirect speech form of the sentence given below.*

71 Barbie said to me, "I want a mandolin."

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Barbie told me that she wanted a mandolin.
(b) Barbie told me that she wants a mandolin.
(c) Barbie said me that she wanted a mandolin.
(d) Barbie said to me that she has wanted a mandolin.

Directions (Q. 72–73): *Choose the correct transformation of the sentence into direct speech.*

72 I told the children not to stay out too late.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) I said, "Don't stay out too late, children."
(b) I said, "Don't stay out late, children."
(c) I told, "You can't stay out late, children."
(d) I said, "Stay out too late, children."

73 She wondered if she should apply for the scholarship.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) She asked, "Do I apply for the scholarship?"
(b) She said, "Should I apply for the scholarship?"
(c) She wondered, "Will I apply for the scholarship?"
(d) She said, "I should apply for the scholarship."

Directions (Q. 74): *Identify the option that correctly transforms the given sentence into indirect speech.*

74 Himansh said to Laksh, “Even within our structured work environment, I might point out a pleasant view of the setting sun shining through the tall trees of our local forest to a colleague working next to me—the very same forest surrounding the enormous, concealed manufacturing facility we had constructed.”

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Himansh told Laksh that even within their structured work environment, he might have pointed out a pleasant view of the setting sun shining through the tall trees of their local forest to a colleague working next to him—the very same forest surrounding the enormous, concealed manufacturing facility they had constructed.
(b) Himansh told Laksh that even within their structured work environment, he might point out a pleasant view of the setting sun shining through the tall trees of their local forest to a colleague working next to him—the very same forest surrounding the enormous, concealed manufacturing facility they had constructed.
(c) Himansh told Laksh that even within their structured work environment, he might point out a pleasant view of the setting sun shining through the tall trees of their local forest to a colleague having worked next to him—the very same forest surrounding the enormous, concealed manufacturing facility they had constructed.
(d) Himansh told Laksh that even within their structured work environment, he might point out a pleasant view of the setting sun shining through the tall trees of their local forest to a colleague working next to him—the very same forest having surrounded the enormous, concealed manufacturing facility they had constructed.

Directions (Q. 75–78): *Select the option that correctly converts the following indirect statement into direct speech.*

75 Tanisha told Kavita that after a couple of years, she had grown tired of the school and had decided, with no evidence, that their headmaster had meant to dismiss her on the pretext of catching her nodding in the staff room.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Tanisha said to Kavita, "After a couple of years, I grew tired of the school and decided, with no evidence, that our headmaster meant to dismiss me on the pretext of catching me nodding in the staff room."

(b) Tanisha said to Kavita, "After a couple of year, I had grown tired of the school and decided, with no evidence, that our headmaster meant to dismiss me on the pretext of catching me nodding in the staff room."

(c) Tanisha said to Kavita, "After a couple of years, I grew tired of the school and had decided, with no evidences, that our headmaster meant to dismiss me on the pretext of catching me nodding in the staff room."

(d) Tanisha said to Kavita, "After a couple of years, I grew tired of the school and decided, with no evidence, that our headmaster meant was going to dismissed me on the pretext of catching me nodding in the staff room."

76 Swati told Kashvi that she had learned to fly in order to come to terms with her fear of heights, and to think highly of humanity by meeting labourers at their local inn who had led lives of destitution and had worked on towers that had been several feet tall.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Swati said to Kashvi, "I learned to fly in order to come to terms with my fear of heights, and thought highly of humanity by meeting labourers at our local inn who led lives of destitution and worked on towers that were several feet tall."

(b) Swati said to Kashvi, "I learned to fly in order to come to terms with my fear of heights, and to think highly of humanity by having met labourers at our local inn who led lives of destitution and worked on towers that were several feet tall."

(c) Swati said to Kashvi, "I learned to fly in order to come to terms with my fear of heights, and to think highly of humanity by meeting labourers at our local inn who led lives of destitution and worked on towers that were several feet tall."

(d) Swati said to Kashvi, "I learned to fly in order to come to terms with my fear of heights, and to think highly of humanity by meeting labourers at our local inn who lead lives of destitution and worked on towers that were several feet tall."

77 Sunita told Kartik that it had been a position of authority under an enlightened headmaster who had allowed him the ample freedom that he had been enjoying.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sunita said to Kartik, "It is a position of authority under an enlightened headmaster who allowed you the ample freedom that you were enjoying."

(b) Sunita said to Kartik, "It was a position of authority under an enlightened headmaster who allowed you the ample freedom that you were enjoying."

(c) Sunita said to Kartik, "It is the position of authority under an enlightened headmaster who allowed you the ample freedom that you were enjoying."

(d) Sunita said to Kartik, "It was a position of authority under an enlightened headmaster who had been allowed you the ample freedom that you were enjoying."

78 Shruti told Manas that outside the station she had been waiting, and then her friend had merely sung, which was so typical, telling her to follow her, but not as though she were doing so, until they

came to a tiny toll-house by the river, against which leant a faded cab.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Shruti said to Manas, “Outside the station I was waiting, and then my friend merely sang, which is so typical, 'Follow me, but not as though you are doing so,' until we came to a tiny toll-house by the river, against which leant a faded cab.”

(b) Shruti said to Manas, “Outside the station I had waited, and then my friend merely sang, which is so typical, 'Follow me, but not as though you are doing so,' until we came to a tiny toll-house by the river, against which leant a faded cab.”

(c) Shruti said to Manas, “Outside the station I was waiting, and then my friend merely sung, which is so typical, 'Follow me, but not as though you are doing so,' until we came to a tiny toll-house by the river, against which leant a faded cab.”

(d) Shruti said to Manas, “Outside the station I was waiting, and then my friend merely sang, which is so typical, 'Followed me, but not as though you are doing so,' until we came to a tiny toll-house by the river, against which leant a faded cab.”

Directions (Q. 79): *Choose the correct indirect speech form of the sentence below.*

79 The science instructor said, "Water turns into ice at 0 degrees Celsius."

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The science instructor said that water turned into ice at 0 degrees Celsius.

(b) The science instructor said that water turns into ice at 0 degrees Celsius

(c) The science instructor said that water had turned into ice at 0 degrees Celsius.

(d) The science instructor told that water turns into ice at 0 degrees Celsius.

Directions (Q. 80): *Change the following sentence into indirect speech.*

80 "I shall be 16 tomorrow," said Tanuka.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Tanuka said that she will be 16 tomorrow.

(b) Tanuka said that she shall be 16 tomorrow.

(c) Tanuka said that she would be 16 the next day.

(d) Tanuka said that she would be 16 tomorrow.

Directions (Q. 81): *Choose the appropriate direct speech from the given sentence.*

81 She forbade me to go with him.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) She said, "Don't go with him."

(b) She said, "You should not go with him."

(c) She said, "Go with him."

(d) She said, "You must not go with him."

Directions (Q. 82): *of the following Choose the correct indirect speech form sentence.*

82 She said, "Do you like mangoes?"

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) She asked me if I liked mangoes.

(b) She said if I like mangoes.

(c) She asked me do I like mangoes.

(d) She told me that I liked mangoes.

Directions (Q. 83–84): *Choose the correct option to complete the sentence in indirect speech.*

83 He said, “Have you ever been to the Marshall Islands?”

He asked me if I ___ ever been to the Marshall Islands.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) have (b) had

(c) was (d) would

84 Ruhi says, “I don’t drink coffee.”

Ruhi says that she ___ drink coffee.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) didn’t (b) doesn’t

(c) hadn’t (d) won’t

Directions (Q. 85): *Choose the correct direct speech transformation of the sentence.*

85 Darci asked me if my father was at the office.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Darci said, "Was your father at the office?"
(b) Darci said, "Is your father at the office?"
(c) Darci asked me, "Is your father at the office?"
(d) Darci asked me, "Was your father at the office?"

Directions (Q. 86): *Choose the correct option to convert the following sentence into indirect speech.*

86 Popi said, "I've lived in India for a long time."

Popi said that she ___ in India for a long time.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) has lived
(b) had lived
(c) lived
(d) was living

Directions (Q. 87–88): *Convert the following sentence from direct to indirect speech. Select the option that correctly applies tense shift, pronoun change, and maintains grammatical accuracy.*

87 Avneet said to Sanjay, "I could endure the morning meal if I could mix it with standard dairy liquids, letting the fluid absorb into the grains, but following a major shift in our group's beliefs, we have been preparing it strictly with water."

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Avneet told Sanjay that she could endured the morning meal if she could mix it with standard dairy liquids, letting the fluid absorb into the grains, but following a major shift in their group's beliefs, they had been preparing it strictly with water.
(b) Avneet told Sanjay that she could endure the morning meal if she could mixed it with standard dairy liquids, letting the fluid absorb into the grains, but following a major shift in their group's beliefs, they had been preparing it strictly with water.
(c) Avneet told Sanjay that she could endure the morning meal if she could mix it with standard dairy liquids, letting the fluid absorbed into the grains, but following a major shift in their group's beliefs, they had been preparing it strictly with water.
(d) Avneet told Sanjay that she could endure the morning meal if she could mix it with standard dairy liquids, letting the fluid absorb into the grains, but following a major shift in their group's beliefs, they had been preparing it strictly with water.

88 Avani said to Shanaya, "Instantly I remembered that during my youth I followed my mother around our home, the two of us singing about how a legendary warrior fought gloriously and returned safely from a conflict to settle in his community."

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

TOPPERS' WISDOM
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(a) Avani told Shanaya that instantly she had remembered that during her young she had followed her mother around their home, the two of them singing about how a legendary warrior had fought gloriously and had returned safely from a conflict to settle in his community.
(b) Avani told Shanaya that instantly she had remembered that during her youth she had followed her mother around their home, the two of them singing about how a legendary warrior had fought gloriously and had returned safely from a conflict to settle in his community.
(c) Avani told Shanaya that instantly she had remembered that during her young she had followed her mother around their home, the two of them singing about how a legendary warrior had fought glorious and had returned safely from a conflict to settle in his community.
(d) Avani told Shanaya that instantly she had remembered that during her youth she had been following her mother around their home, the two of them singing about how a legendary warrior had fought glorious and had returned safely from a conflict to settle in his community.

Directions (Q. 89): *Choose the correct indirect speech of the given sentence from the options below.*

89 The teacher said to the student, "Finish your homework before class."

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The teacher said the student must finish his homework before class.
(b) The teacher told the student to finish his homework before class.
(c) The teacher asked the student to finish his homework before class.
(d) The teacher said that finish your homework before class.

90 Choose the most appropriate Indirect Speech for the following sentence:
The activist said, “People demanded justice.”

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The activist said that people had demanded justice.
(b) The activist said that people have been demanded justice.
(c) The activist said that people had been demanded justice.
(d) The activist said that people has been demanded justice.

Directions (Q. 91): *Convert the following exclamatory sentence from direct to indirect speech. Select the option that correctly applies tense shift, pronoun change, and maintains grammatical accuracy.*

91 Anant said to Vansh, "How truly incredible it is that it resembles a seraph in the artistic sketches, like two dark wings, which will cross the sky and lift into the high peaks, briefly parting the mist that quickly swirls opaque again!"

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Anant exclaimed to Vansh with wonder that it was truly incredibly that it resembled a seraph in the artistic sketches, like two dark wings, which would cross the sky and lift into the high peaks, briefly parting the mist that quickly swirled opaque again.
(b) Anant exclaimed to Vansh with wonder that it was truly incredible that it resembled a seraph in the artistic sketches, like two dark wings, which would cross the sky and lift into the high peaks, briefly parting the mist that quickly swirled opaque again.
(c) Anant exclaimed to Vansh with wonder that it was truly incredible that it was resembling a seraph in the artistic sketches, like two dark wings, which would cross the sky and lift into the high peaks, briefly parting the mist that quickly swirled opaque again.
(d) Anant exclaimed to Vansh with wonder that it was truly incredible that it resembled a seraph in the artistic sketches, like two dark wings, which would have crossed the sky and lift into the high peaks, briefly parting the mist that quickly swirled opaque again.

Directions (Q. 92): *Identify the choice that provides the accurate direct speech rendering of the reported statement.*

92 Prateek told Anik that in him, the parsimony which he had inherited had taken the form at the time of a strong repugnance to paying direct taxes or, as he had preferred to call it, to subscribing directly to the financial support of local politicians.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Prateek said to Anik, "In me, the parsimony which I had inherited took the form at the time of a strong repugnance to paying direct taxes or, as I preferred to call it, to subscribing directly to the financial support of local politicians."

(b) Prateek said to Anik, "In me, the parsimony which I had inherited took the form at the time of a strong repugnance to pay direct taxes or, as I preferred to call it, to subscribing directly to the financial support of local politicians."

(c) Prateek said to Anik, "In me, the parsimony which I had inherited took the form at the time of a strong repugnance to paying direct taxes or, as I preferred to call it, to subscribe directly to the financial support of local politicians."

(d) Prateek said to Anik, "In me, the parsimony which I had inherited took the form at the time of a strong repugnance to pay direct taxes or, as I preferred to call it, to subscribe directly to the financial support of local politicians."

Answer Key

Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation

01	02	03	04	05
(b)	(d)	(b)	(a)	(b)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**
(a/d)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(a)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
(a)	(d)	(b)	(b)	**(a)**
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
(c)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(c)
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
(b)	(b)	(a)	(a)	(a)
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
(a)	(a)	(c)	(a)	(d)
31	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**
(c)	(c)	(a)	(c)	(a)
36	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**
(c)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(b)

41	42	43	44	45
(b)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(c)
46	**47**	**48**	**49**	**50**
(b)	(a)	(a)	(c)	(b)
51	**52**	**53**	**54**	**55**
(c)	(c)	(d)	(b)	(d)
56	**57**	**58**	**59**	**60**
(a)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(b)
61	**62**	**63**	**64**	**65**
(a)	(c)	(b)	(c)	(a)
66	**67**	**68**	**69**	**70**
(d)	**(a/b)**	(b)	(c)	(b)
71	**72**	**73**	**74**	**75**
(a)	(a)	(b)	(b)	(a)
76	**77**	**78**	**79**	**80**
(c)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(c)

81	**82**	**83**	**84**	**85**
(a)	(a)	(b)	(b)	**(c)**
86	**87**	**88**	**89**	**90**
(b)	(d)	(b)	(b)	(a)
91	**92**			
(b)	(a)			

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 **ANSWER (b)** whether I had submitted

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Yes/No Question in Indirect Speech) A Yes/No question is reported with **if** or **whether** after the reporting verb, and the clause takes statement order, not question order. The Present Perfect of the direct speech (Have you submitted) backshifts to the Past Perfect (had submitted).

✓ **Correct sentence** The teacher asked me **whether I had submitted** the assignment yet.

Examiner's Trap Option D keeps inversion after whether (had I), which is wrong, while A and C do not backshift the tense at all.

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02 **ANSWER (d)** Ritam told Asha that the local groups had shouted at him that he ...

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Indirect Speech – Had Better) The reporting verb is in the past (said/told), so the tense moves one step back: shouted becomes had shouted. The pronouns change (you→he, we→they, your→his), and **had better** is always followed by the base form, so 'had better move away' stays unchanged in indirect speech.

✓ **Correct sentence** Ritam told Asha that the local groups **had shouted** at him that he **had better move** away because they were not going to tolerate his relative's community activism regarding cultural heritage and migration.

Examiner's Trap Options B and C use 'had better moved' and 'had better been moving', both wrong, because had better takes only the base form.

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03 **ANSWER (b)** Mr. Casaubon bluntly said to Dorothea, "Will you faithfully ...

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Direct Speech of a Whether-Question) A question reported with **whether** becomes a Yes/No question in direct speech. The would of the reported clause reverts to **Will you ...?**, because the backshift is undone; the pronouns also change (her→my, his→my), and 'asked' is replaced by 'said to'.

✓ **Correct sentence** Mr. Casaubon bluntly said to Dorothea, "**Will you** faithfully continue compiling my sprawling, unfinished mythological notes after my death?"

Examiner's Trap Option A leaves whether inside the quotation, C ends the question with an exclamation mark, and D has the wrong question word order (You will).

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04 **ANSWER (a)** Tertius Lydgate questioned himself wretchedly, "Why did I allow the ...

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Wh-Question in Direct Speech) 'Why he had allowed' in this reflexive indirect question returns to **Why did I allow** in direct speech: the Past Perfect becomes the Past Simple and question order (did + subject + V1) is restored. The pronoun he becomes I and his becomes my.

✓ **Correct sentence** Tertius Lydgate questioned himself wretchedly, "Why **did I allow** the shallow material desires of Rosamond Vincy to ruin my scientific ambitions?"

Examiner's Trap Option B begins the quotation at the wrong place, C has the double past form 'did I allowed', and D does not form the question order.

---

05 ANSWER (b) The players said, "Will our coach return before the game?"

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Direct Speech of a Yes/No Question) The reporting verb asking/asked is in the past and the reported clause has would return, so the backshift is reversed and **Will** appears in direct speech. If/whether is dropped and the auxiliary comes before the subject, as in any question.

✓ Correct sentence The players said, "**Will** our coach return before the game?"

Examiner's Trap Option A pairs 'will' with 'can' (two modals cannot stand together), C loses the reporting verb altogether, and D keeps Would unchanged.

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06 ANSWER (a)/(d) Chayanika asked, "Did Garry select these candidates for the ...

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (d) · More than one correct option: (a), (d)

Concept (Direct Speech – Past Perfect (Disputed Key)) SSC treats D (Has Garry selected these...?) as correct. However, the Past Perfect of indirect speech (had selected) can come from two direct forms: the Present Perfect (has selected) and the Past Simple (**Did Garry select**). So A is equally correct. Both correctly change those→these; only B is wrong, as it keeps those, and C keeps the tense unchanged in 'Had Garry selected'.

✓ Correct sentence Chayanika asked, "**Did Garry select** these candidates for the interview?" (Option A) / Chayanika asked, "**Has Garry selected** these candidates for the interview?" (Option D)

Examiner's Trap Students regard only the Present Perfect as the direct form of the Past Perfect and ignore the Past Simple option, which is why this question became disputed.

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07 ANSWER (b) "Had we practiced more, we might have won the tournament," said the ...

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Direct of an Inverted Third Conditional) 'Had they practised more, they might have won' is the inverted form of a Third Conditional (If they had practised more...). The Past Perfect and 'might have + V3' already express the past, so they stay unchanged in direct speech; only the pronoun changes (they→we).

✓ Correct sentence "**Had we practiced** more, we might have won the tournament," said the captain.

Examiner's Trap Options A and D alter the tenses and so change the meaning of the Third Conditional, and C has an entirely different structure.

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08 ANSWER (a) "Practice will begin at 6 a.m. tomorrow," said the coach.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Direct of Future-in-the-Past) The would of indirect speech returns to **will** in direct speech, and 'the next day' returns to tomorrow.

✓ Correct sentence "Practice **will** begin at 6 a.m. **tomorrow**," said the coach.

Examiner's Trap Option B leaves the indirect words (would, the next day) as they are, while C and D change the tense and the meaning.

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09 ANSWER (c) "Were it not for her, we would have lost everything," he said.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Direct of an Inverted Conditional) 'Were it not for her' is the inverted form of 'If it were not for her', and it remains the same in direct speech. 'Would have lost' belongs to the past conditional and does not change; only they becomes we.

✓ Correct sentence "**Were it not for her**, we would have lost everything," he said.

Examiner's Trap 'Was' in option A and 'would lose' in D destroy the meaning and structure of the sentence.

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10 ANSWER (a) "Hardly had I begun the speech when the microphone failed," she said.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Hardly...When in Direct Speech) In 'Hardly had she begun... when', Hardly causes subject-auxiliary inversion, and the same structure remains in direct speech. Hardly...when shows the sequence of two past events, so the Past Perfect also stays in direct speech; only she becomes I.

✓ Correct sentence "**Hardly had I begun** the speech when the microphone failed," she said.

Examiner's Trap Option B removes the inversion, and students pick it out of a habit of turning the Past Perfect into the Past Simple.

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11 **ANSWER (a)** "The results will be declared next Monday," the teacher said.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Would to Will in Direct Speech) The would of indirect speech should become **will** in direct speech, and 'the following Monday' becomes 'next Monday'. The passive construction remains as it is.

✓ Correct sentence "The results **will** be declared **next** Monday," the teacher said.

Examiner's Trap Option C keeps would, B changes the passive to the active and so changes the meaning, and D has an altogether different structure.

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12 **ANSWER (d)** "I would prefer to remain silent rather than speak without proof," ...

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Expressing Preference in Direct Speech) 'Would prefer to remain silent rather than speak' expresses a preference, which stays unchanged in direct speech without any tense change; only he becomes I.

✓ Correct sentence "I would prefer to **remain silent rather than speak** without proof," he said.

Examiner's Trap In option A, the use of 'than' with prefer is incorrect (prefer takes rather than or to), while B and C change the words and the meaning.

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13 **ANSWER (b)** "I would rather have been punished than be humiliated publicly," he ...

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Would Rather Have – Direct Speech) 'Would rather have been punished than be humiliated' expresses a preference about the past and remains the same in direct speech; only he becomes I.

✓ Correct sentence "I **would rather have been punished than be humiliated** publicly," he said.

Examiner's Trap Option A changes the tense (be punished), and C and D change both the meaning and the structure.

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14 **ANSWER (b)** "Not only did he lie, but he also stole the money," she said.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Not Only Inversion in Direct Speech) 'Not only had he lied, but he had also stolen' has inversion because of Not only. In direct speech the Past Perfect (had lied) becomes the Past Simple, and the structure changes to 'Not only did he lie, but he also stole'.

✓ Correct sentence "**Not only did he lie**, but he also stole the money," she said.

Examiner's Trap Option A loses the emphasis of 'not only'; C has no inversion and the wrong tense in 'had also stolen'; D changes the sentence structure.

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15 **ANSWER (a)** "Under no condition will the authorities release the documents ...

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (c) · Correct answer (a)

Concept (Negative Inversion in Direct Speech) SSC treats C as correct, in which the 'would' of indirect speech is kept in the quotation. However, in converting indirect to direct the backshift is reversed, so the reported 'would' should become will in direct speech, while the inversion after 'Under no condition' remains.

✓ Correct sentence "Under no condition **will** the authorities release the documents early," said the journalist.

Examiner's Trap Option C keeps the indirect 'would' unchanged, which is why it is the SSC key; but in B the inversion is dropped and D means something different.

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16 **ANSWER (c)** "Nothing but sheer luck could have saved us that day," he said.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Perfect Modal in Direct Speech) 'Could have saved' is a perfect modal and stays the same in direct speech; only the pronoun changes (them→us), because the speaker is himself among those people. 'That day' also remains in a past report. Options A and

B change the meaning of the modal, and D changes the original sentence with 'only good fortune'.

✓ Correct sentence "Nothing but sheer luck **could have saved us** that day," he said.

Examiner's Trap Students either leave them unchanged or simplify the modal and alter the meaning, whereas only the pronoun needs to change.

---

17 ANSWER (a) "Not for a moment did I believe the accusations," said the leader.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Direct Speech – Negative Inversion) 'Not for a moment did he believe' has inversion because of the negative adverbial. This inversion remains in direct speech, and the sentence is formed with he→I. In B, C and D the inversion is dropped or the meaning changes; D, by changing the position of 'Not for a moment', loses the emphasis.

✓ Correct sentence "**Not for a moment did I believe** the accusations," said the leader.

Examiner's Trap Option D seems similar in meaning but removes the inversion and the emphasis, so it is not the exact direct form of the original sentence.

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18 ANSWER (a) "Barely had I stepped out when it began to rain," she said.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Direct Speech – Negative Inversion with Barely) 'Barely had she stepped out when it began to rain' has inversion because of Barely. This inversion remains in direct speech, the Past Perfect (had stepped) also stays unchanged, and only she becomes I. Option B has no inversion, and C and D change the meaning and structure of the sentence.

✓ Correct sentence "**Barely had I stepped out** when it began to rain," she said.

Examiner's Trap Option B seems close in meaning, but by dropping the inversion it changes the original structure.

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19 ANSWER (a) "No sooner had the treatment begun than the symptoms improved," ...

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Inversion in Direct Speech) 'No sooner had... than' involves inversion, and the same structure remains in direct speech. The sequence of the Past Perfect followed by the Past Simple (than the symptoms improved) stays as it is, so the whole sentence is correct unchanged. In B and D the structure has changed, and C drops both the inversion and than.

✓ Correct sentence "**No sooner had** the treatment begun **than** the symptoms improved," said the doctor.

Examiner's Trap Students regard the Past Perfect as an indirect-speech change and turn it into the Past Simple, whereas here the structure remains the same.

---

20 ANSWER (c) "Had the reforms been implemented sooner, the economy would have ...

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Third Conditional Inversion in Direct Speech) 'Had the reforms been implemented sooner, the economy would have recovered faster' is the inverted Third Conditional. In direct speech the Past Perfect and 'would have + V3' stay as they are, because they already express an unreal past. A omits 'been', B uses 'recovered' and so breaks the conditional, and D has the wrong tense 'will recover'.

✓ Correct sentence "**Had the reforms been implemented** sooner, the economy **would have recovered** faster," said the economist.

Examiner's Trap Students apply the concept of moving the Past Perfect back here too, but a Third Conditional undergoes no change.

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21 ANSWER (b) "If it were not raining, we would go out," he said.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Subjunctive Were in Direct Speech) 'If it were not raining' is the unreal form of the Second Conditional; 'were' is the Subjunctive Mood and stays the same in direct speech. Would go also does not change; only they becomes we. Option A breaks the subjunctive with 'was', C changes the meaning, and D reverses the meaning with 'won't' and 'were raining'.

✓ Correct sentence "If it **were** not raining, we would go out," he said.

Examiner's Trap 'Was' sounds natural in conversation, but the Subjunctive keeps were.

---

22 ANSWER (b) The neurologist speculated, "Had the therapy commenced earlier, the ...

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Inverted Third Conditional) 'Might have regained... had the therapy commenced earlier' is the inverted Third Conditional. In direct speech both the perfect modal (might have regained) and the Past Perfect inversion remain unchanged.

✓ Correct sentence The neurologist speculated, "**Had** the therapy commenced earlier, the patient **might have regained** partial synaptic plasticity."

Examiner's Trap Options A, C and D change the tenses and spoil the conditional; C also has a faulty subject-verb relation in 'plasticity might regain'.

---

23 ANSWER (a) "When we prioritize grammar over meaning, we push out dialects that ...

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Direct Speech Retaining the Meaning) In converting to direct speech, the full meaning of a noun phrase such as 'the prioritization of grammatical purity over communicative intent' must be preserved. In option A the Present Simple tense stays and the meaning is closest.

✓ Correct sentence "**When we prioritize grammar over meaning, we push out dialects that carry culture**," the linguist said.

Examiner's Trap Options B and C give only an incomplete indication of the meaning; in C the pronoun 'she' does not match the gender of the original sentence; D changes the meaning considerably.

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24 ANSWER (a) "It is regrettable that you show no remorse despite your crime ...

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Indirect to Direct: Statement) The 'was regrettable' of indirect speech becomes **is regrettable** in direct speech; 'had shown' becomes the Present Simple show, and the sense of 'after the gravity... had been established' is preserved in 'despite your crime being proven'. The accused becomes you. Option B changes the sense, C introduces an exclamatory form, and D adds the modal in 'should have shown', which changes the meaning.

✓ Correct sentence "It is regrettable that you **show** no remorse despite your crime being proven," said the judge.

Examiner's Trap Options B, C and D have similar words, but each either changes the meaning or adds an exclamatory or modal form.

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25 ANSWER (a) "Submit your projects on time or you can't sit for the practicals," ...

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Indirect to Direct: Warning) 'Unless they submitted... they would not be allowed' becomes a warning in the imperative in direct speech. Unless means 'if not', and this is expressed precisely with 'or'. In option B 'barred' and in C 'unless the projects are submitted' change the words and the sense, and D means something else.

✓ Correct sentence "**Submit your projects on time or you can't sit for the practicals**," the teacher warned.

Examiner's Trap B and C keep the if/unless condition and so look correct, but their wording and meaning change.

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26 ANSWER (a) "So compelling was the plot that readers couldn't put the book ...

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Indirect to Direct: Inversion) 'So compelling was the plot that...' has inversion after So, and the same structure remains exactly as it is in direct speech. 'Couldn't put the book down' is a past modal, which does not change in direct speech, because its past sense remains completely intact. In B, C and D the inversion is lost and so is the sense of emphasis.

✓ Correct sentence "**So compelling was the plot that** readers couldn't put the book down," said the author.

---

27 ANSWER (a) "Remain at your posts until you receive further orders," the ...

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Indirect to Direct: Command) The direct form of an order (instructed... to remain) is an imperative. 'Their' becomes 'your', and the active 'you receive' is natural for 'were issued'. Option B changes the meaning with 'unless', and C ('You're to') and D ('must') lose the imperative concept.

✓ Correct sentence "**Remain at your posts until you receive further orders**," the coordinator said.

Examiner's Trap C and D sound like orders, but they are statements, not imperatives.

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28 ANSWER (c) "Why have the requisition forms repeatedly lacked complete ...

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Indirect to Direct: Wh-Question) 'Why the requisition requests had been repeatedly submitted' is a wh-question in indirect speech; in direct speech the Past Perfect becomes the Present Perfect. This option is the closest, and 'irritably' conveys the sense of 'in a tone of suppressed irritation'. Option A changes the tense and the meaning, B turns the question into an instruction, and D keeps the Past tense unchanged.

✓ Correct sentence "Why **have** the requisition forms repeatedly lacked complete documentation?" he asked irritably.

Examiner's Trap Option D keeps the same Past tense and so looks close to the original, but the tense must change in direct speech.

---

29 ANSWER (a) "If this ruling even has a legal basis, it seems driven more by ...

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Indirect to Direct – Conditional Statement) The direct form of 'jurisprudential basis ... if indeed it existed' is a conditional statement. In option A, 'If this ruling even has a legal basis' keeps the condition, and 'driven more by ideology than jurisprudence' keeps the comparison; the tense change appeared→seems is also correct. Option B makes it a question, C changes the tone with 'Surely' and 'reeks', and D reverses the sense of the condition.

✓ Correct sentence "If this ruling even has a legal basis, it **seems** driven more by ideology than jurisprudence," remarked the scholar.

Examiner's Trap Option D also retains a condition, but its changed order reverses the meaning; B changes the sentence type itself by making it a question.

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30 ANSWER (d) They said, "Do you enjoy working in a fast-paced environment?"

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Direct Speech of a Yes/No Question) The reporting verb asked is in the past and 'enjoyed' is Past Simple, so in direct speech it returns to the Present Simple: **Do you enjoy**. The pronoun I becomes you, because the listener is now addressed directly.

✓ Correct sentence They said, "**Do you enjoy** working in a fast-paced environment?"

Examiner's Trap Option A wrongly uses they; B replaces enjoy with like and makes environment plural; C keeps the past tense.

---

31 ANSWER (c) She said to him, "You will play basketball."

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Would to Will in Direct Speech) The would of indirect speech becomes will in direct speech, and the pronoun he becomes you, because in 'told him' the listener is he.

✓ Correct sentence She said to him, "You **will** play basketball."

Examiner's Trap Options A (should) and B (would) do not reverse the tense or modal, and D keeps the pronoun he, which is wrong for the listener.

---

32 ANSWER (c) He asked what time the train arrived.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Wh-Question in Indirect Speech) The direct speech is a wh-question, so the reporting verb said is replaced by **asked**. In indirect speech the question takes statement order (what time the train arrived), and the Present Simple (does arrive) becomes the Past Simple arrived.

✓ Correct sentence He asked what time the train **arrived**.

Examiner's Trap Option A keeps question order (does the train), B uses said, and D (has arrived) changes the meaning with a Present Perfect.

33 ANSWER (a) I asked her what her plans for the next day were.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Wh-Question in Indirect Speech) In a wh-question the reporting verb is **asked**, not said to, and the clause takes statement order: what her plans were. Tomorrow becomes the next day, the Present (are) becomes the Past (were), and your becomes her.

✓ Correct sentence I asked her what her plans for **the next day were**.

Examiner's Trap Option D retains tomorrow, which should be the next day after a past reporting verb; B uses told and keeps question order; C changes neither the tense nor tomorrow.

34 ANSWER (c) She said that John must have missed the train.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Indirect of a Modal Perfect (must have)) 'Must have + V3' expresses a deduction about the past, and such a perfect modal does not change its tense in indirect speech.

✓ Correct sentence She said that John **must have missed** the train.

Examiner's Trap Option A ('might missed') is ungrammatical, B ('must had') is wrong, and D ('had to miss') changes the meaning.

35 ANSWER (a) She hoped he would arrive on time.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Indirect Speech with Hope + Will) With the reporting verb said, 'I hope he will arrive' involves two changes: the pronoun I becomes she, and will becomes would. 'That' is optional after 'She said', and in 'She hoped he would arrive on time' hope itself can serve as the reporting verb.

✓ Correct sentence She hoped he **would** arrive on time.

Examiner's Trap Option B does not change the pronoun, C turns will into arrived (a wrong tense change), and D leaves will unchanged.

36 ANSWER (c) She asked him if he was coming to the party.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Yes/No Question in Indirect Speech) A Yes/No question takes the reporting verb asked and the conjunction **if**, and the clause is in statement order. The Present Continuous (are you coming) becomes the Past Continuous 'he was coming'.

✓ Correct sentence She asked him **if he was coming** to the party.

Examiner's Trap Option B has if but no tense change, A lacks if and has the wrong order, and D keeps the question form as it was.

37 ANSWER (a) The girl said she wanted a new book.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Present Simple to Past Simple) When the reporting verb (said) is in the past, the Present Simple (want) becomes the Past Simple wanted, and I becomes she.

✓ Correct sentence The girl said she **wanted** a new book.

Examiner's Trap Option B uses an unnecessary Past Perfect, C does not change the tense, and in D 'told' needs an object (told her).

38 ANSWER (a) He told her not to make noise.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Negative Imperative in Reported Speech) A negative imperative (Do not make noise) takes the reporting verb **told**, and in indirect speech it becomes **not to + V1**.

✓ Correct sentence He told her **not to make** noise.

Examiner's Trap In B, said cannot be followed directly by the object her; C keeps the 'do not' form; and D is wrong because 'requested' cannot take 'not making'.

39 **ANSWER (a)** The man said he had bought a new car the day before.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Past Simple to Past Perfect) The Past Simple (bought) becomes the Past Perfect **had bought** in indirect speech, and yesterday becomes the day before.

✓ Correct sentence The man said he **had bought** a new car **the day before**.

Examiner's Trap Option B does not change the tense, C omits both 'a' and the time expression, and D has the wrong verb form 'had buy' (had takes V3).

---

40 **ANSWER (b)** The CEO remarked that had it not been for her persistence, they ...

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Inverted Conditional in Reported Speech) 'Were it not for' is an inverted conditional, and in indirect speech after a past reporting verb it is changed to 'had it not been for'. In 'would never have succeeded' the perfect modal is already past, so it stays, and we becomes they.

✓ Correct sentence The CEO remarked that **had it not been for** her persistence, they would never have succeeded.

Examiner's Trap Option A, 'weren't her persistence', loses the word for; C has the same meaning but a weaker structure; D, 'wouldn't succeed', makes the tense wrong.

---

41 **ANSWER (b)** She said that she didn't like spicy food.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Reported Speech – Negative Present) The Negative Present Simple (don't like) becomes **didn't like** after a past reporting verb. After the past auxiliary didn't, the first form of the verb is used. 'Didn't liked' and 'doesn't liked' carry a double past form, and the 'doesn't' option has not changed the tense at all.

✓ Correct sentence She said that she **didn't like** spicy food.

Examiner's Trap Options A and D attach the past form of the verb to the auxiliary, which looks like a tense change but is grammatically wrong.

---

42 **ANSWER (b)** She said that she had met him the day before.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Reported Speech – Past to Past Perfect) The Past Simple (met) becomes the Past Perfect **had met**, and yesterday becomes the day before. When the reporting verb is in the past, the tense moves one step back.

✓ Correct sentence She said that she **had met** him **the day before**.

Examiner's Trap Option A changes the time expression but not the tense; looking half correct, it misleads students.

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43 **ANSWER (c)** Rahul suggested that we should go for a walk.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Reported Speech – Let us Suggestion) A 'Let us' suggestion is expressed in indirect speech with the reporting verb **suggested** and 'that + subject + should + V1'. Option A retains the direct form, B lacks 'that' and should and so weakens the suggestion, and D, with the Past Simple (went), changes the meaning into a past event.

✓ Correct sentence Rahul **suggested that we should** go for a walk.

---

44 **ANSWER (c)** He said that he had to finish that work.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Reported Speech – Must) The reporting verb 'said' is in the Past Tense, so the verb in the reported speech also shifts into the past. 'Must', expressing obligation, becomes **had to**, and 'this', which marks nearness, changes to 'that'. Hence option C is correct. In A 'must' remains in its present form, in B 'this' has not been changed, and in D 'has to' is in the present.

✓ Correct sentence He said that he **had to** finish that work.

Examiner's Trap In option B 'had to' is right, but 'this' has not been changed to 'that'; both changes are needed together.

---

45 ANSWER (c) They said that they were watching a movie.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Present Continuous in Indirect Speech) The Present Continuous (are watching) becomes the Past Continuous **were watching** after a past reporting verb, and we becomes they.

✓ Correct sentence They said that they **were watching** a movie.

Examiner's Trap Option A does not change the tense, B changes the aspect (continuous to perfect), and D keeps the pronoun 'we'.

---

46 ANSWER (b) The guard said that no sooner had he stepped outside than the alarm ...

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Fixed Structure in Indirect Speech) When direct speech has a fixed structure such as 'No sooner had... than', the same structure remains in indirect speech. Because the reporting verb is in the past (said), the Past Perfect (had stepped) stays as it is, and 'went off' is in the Past Simple.

✓ Correct sentence The guard said that **no sooner had he stepped outside than the alarm went off**.

Examiner's Trap Options A, C and D change the structure, and 'the alarm had gone off' is also a wrong tense; students apply the backshift mechanically and turn 'went off' into 'had gone off'.

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47 ANSWER (a) The principal said that if any student violated the rule again, ...

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Direct to Indirect: Inverted Conditional) 'Should any student violate' is the inverted form of a conditional (If any student violates), and in indirect speech, because of the past reporting verb, will becomes would and the Present violates becomes violated. In option B 'will face' and 'he' are wrong, in C the meaning of the condition changes, and in D 'should any student violated' has a wrong verb form.

✓ Correct sentence The principal said that **if any student violated** the rule again, they **would** face strict disciplinary action.

Examiner's Trap In option B 'should' survives, so it looks close to the original, but both its tense and its pronoun are wrong.

---

48 ANSWER (a) was

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Past Continuous in Indirect Speech) The Past Continuous of direct speech (was not planning) can become the Past Perfect Continuous in indirect speech, but here 'not planning' is already given, so the blank needs only an auxiliary. The subject he is singular, so **was** is correct.

✓ Correct sentence Rudraksh told me that he **was** not planning for any trip.

Examiner's Trap 'Were' does not go with a singular subject, 'is' does not backshift the tense, and 'had been not planning' has the wrong word order (it should be had not been planning).

---

49 ANSWER (c) She said that she needed some rest then

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Backshift in Indirect Speech) The reporting verb (said) is in the past, so the Present Simple (need) becomes the Past needed. The time expression now changes to then, and the pronoun I becomes she. Need is a stative verb, so it cannot be changed to a continuous form.

✓ Correct sentence She said that she **needed** some rest **then**.

Examiner's Trap Option D changes now to then but keeps the tense; students see this half-change and accept it, although the backshift is also required.

---

50 ANSWER (b) She said, "I completed the task".

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Indirect to Direct: Past Perfect) The Past Perfect of indirect speech (had completed) becomes the Past Simple (completed) in direct speech, and she becomes

I. In option A, completes does not agree with the subject I.

✓ Correct sentence She said, "I **completed** the task."

Examiner's Trap Options C and D add modals (would have, will) and so change the meaning; in direct speech the tense simply moves forward again.

---

51 ANSWER (c) He told me, "I am going to the market".

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Past Continuous to Present Continuous) The Past Continuous of indirect speech (was going) becomes the Present Continuous **am going** in direct speech.

✓ Correct sentence He told me, "I **am going** to the market."

Examiner's Trap Option A uses the Simple Present, which loses the continuous sense; B has a Past Perfect Continuous, which is not formed in direct speech; D introduces a sense of future.

---

52 ANSWER (c) She said, "I have been living in Mumbai for three years".

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Past Perfect Continuous in Direct Speech) The Past Perfect Continuous (had been living) becomes the Present Perfect Continuous **have been living** in direct speech, because the period 'for three years' is still continuing.

✓ Correct sentence She said, "I **have been living** in Mumbai for three years."

Examiner's Trap Option A wrongly uses 'for' with the Simple Present, B retains the Past Perfect, and D suggests a future sense.

---

53 ANSWER (d) He said, "I am watching a movie".

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Past Continuous in Direct Speech) The Past Continuous (was watching) becomes the Present Continuous **am watching** in direct speech, and he becomes I.

✓ Correct sentence He said, "I **am watching** a movie."

Examiner's Trap Option A has a future, B has the Simple Present, which loses the continuous sense, and C's Present Perfect changes the meaning.

---

54 ANSWER (b) The teacher said, "The students have completed their assignments".

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Past Perfect to Present Perfect) The Past Perfect of indirect speech (had completed) becomes the Present Perfect **have completed** in direct speech.

✓ Correct sentence The teacher said, "The students **have completed** their assignments."

Examiner's Trap Option A changes the meaning with a continuous form, and C (Simple Present) and D (Future) lose the original meaning.

---

55 ANSWER (d) He said, "I will come to the party tomorrow".

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Indirect to Direct: would) The would of indirect speech becomes will in direct speech, and he becomes I; tomorrow stays as it is. Options A (want) and B (may) change the meaning, and C's Present Continuous conveys an arrangement rather than the future.

✓ Correct sentence He said, "I **will** come to the party tomorrow."

Examiner's Trap In options A, B and C a change of modal or tense alters the original sense.

---

56 ANSWER (a) She said, "I will visit the museum tomorrow".

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Indirect to Direct: would) The would of indirect speech becomes will in direct speech; she becomes I and 'the next day' becomes tomorrow. Option B keeps the indirect words as they are, C changes the meaning with the Present Continuous, and D brings in a continuous sense with 'would be visiting'.

✓ Correct sentence She said, "I **will** visit the museum **tomorrow**."

---

57 **ANSWER (b)** He said, "I have been living in India for five years".

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Indirect to Direct: Perfect Continuous) The Past Perfect Continuous (had been living) becomes the Present Perfect Continuous **have been living** in direct speech, because the period 'for five years' continues up to now. Option A has wrong subject-verb agreement (He live), C is the Simple Past, and D retains the Past Perfect.

✓ Correct sentence He said, "I **have been living** in India for five years."

---

58 **ANSWER (c)** He told her, "I finished my homework".

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Indirect to Direct: Past Perfect) The Past Perfect of indirect speech (had finished) becomes the Past Simple finished in direct speech, and he becomes I, his becomes my. Option A has the Present Simple, B has the wrong agreement in 'He have', and D changes neither the tense nor the pronouns.

✓ Correct sentence He told her, "I **finished** my homework."

---

59 **ANSWER (c)** She said, "Tell me the location of the guest house."

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (A Request in Direct Speech) 'Asked me to tell her' in indirect speech expresses a request or command, and in direct speech it becomes a plain imperative. The original sentence only gives an instruction; there is no sense of questioning or hesitation.

✓ Correct sentence She said, "**Tell me** the location of the guest house."

Examiner's Trap Words such as could or wondering in options A, B and D were not in the original; seeing 'asked', students choose a question form, but the sentence is an imperative.

---

60 **ANSWER (b)** Janvi told Kamal that she travelled about in an old utility ...

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Indirect Speech: Backshift in a Long Sentence) The reporting verb told is in the past, so the Present Simple (travel, is) becomes the Past (travelled, was); 'stopping where people gather' becomes gathered, have formed becomes had formed, and is limited becomes was limited. The pronoun I becomes she and my becomes her.

✓ Correct sentence Janvi told Kamal that she travelled about in an old utility vehicle, which was a simple transport setup with basic bedding on **its** floor, stopping where people **gathered** to listen and observe; however, in the process, she **had formed** an impression of her surroundings, the accuracy of which **was** limited only by her own shortcomings.

Examiner's Trap Options A and C have 'it's' (the contraction of it is), whereas the possessive its is needed; D has the wrong tenses in 'observed' and 'is limited'.

---

61 **ANSWER (a)** Harman told Lipika that if she had observed them during their ...

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Third Conditional in Indirect Speech) In the Third Conditional (If you had observed... you would never have guessed) the Past Perfect and 'would have + V3' are already past, so they stay the same; the pronouns change: you→she, us→them, our→their. 'As we watched' (Past Simple) becomes the Past Perfect **had watched**. Option B ('observed'), C ('would never guess') and D ('would have previously abandoned') make wrong changes.

✓ Correct sentence Harman told Lipika that if she **had observed** them during their transit between facilities, as they **had watched** the mountain peaks illuminated by the sunset through the small, restricted windows of their transport vehicle, she **would never have guessed** that they **had previously abandoned** all expectations of their future.

Examiner's Trap All four options are nearly identical and differ in a single verb form, so students who do not read the whole sentence miss the answer.

---

62 **ANSWER (c)** would

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Backshift of Will to Would) After a past reporting verb (said), the modal will becomes its past form **would**. Shall and will are not changed to other forms in the past, and can has a different sense ('ability'), whereas the original sentence expresses determination or future intention.

✓ **Correct sentence** She said that she **would** open the window.

Examiner's Trap Students leave will unchanged (option A), but a past reporting verb requires the backshift.

---

63 ANSWER (b) was

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Present to Past in Indirect Speech) The auxiliary 'am' of the Present Simple becomes **was** after a past reporting verb, and I becomes she. Option A does not change the tense, C has an unnecessary Past Perfect, and D introduces a sense of future.

✓ **Correct sentence** Kavyana said that she **was** thirsty.

---

64 ANSWER (c) He said, "I would travel the world if I had more money."

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Second Conditional in Direct Speech) In the Second Conditional (would travel... if he had more money), 'would' and 'had' already indicate an unreal situation, so they do not change in direct speech; only the pronoun he becomes I.

✓ **Correct sentence** He said, "I **would** travel the world if I **had** more money."

Examiner's Trap Option D, by putting could for would, changes the meaning, and A and B break the tense structure of the conditional.

---

65 ANSWER (a) The banner said, "Welcome to Belgium."

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Imperative Greeting in Direct Speech) The direct form of 'welcomed visitors to Belgium' is a simple greeting, in which the subject (you) is understood.

✓ **Correct sentence** The banner said, "**Welcome to Belgium.**"

Examiner's Trap Option B adds an unnecessary 'People', C begins with a different subject, and in D 'Welcome Belgium' would mean welcoming Belgium itself.

---

66 ANSWER (d) Upasana said, "I haven't seen my childhood friend for years."

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Past Perfect to Present Perfect) 'Hadn't seen... for years' is the Past Perfect in indirect speech, which becomes the Present Perfect (haven't seen) in direct speech; the time expression 'for years' stays as it is.

✓ **Correct sentence** Upasana said, "I **haven't seen** my childhood friend **for years**."

Examiner's Trap Option A misuses a preposition ('since previous years'), B retains the Past Perfect, and C changes the wording with 'for ages', which is not acceptable when the question asks for the 'most accurate' version.

---

67 ANSWER (a)/(b) Nikhil advised me to buy that bag. / Nikhil told me that I must buy ...

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (a) · More than one correct option: (a), (b)

Concept (Reporting Verb for Must) SSC treats A (advised me to buy that bag) as correct, because 'You must' can be reported as advice. However, the modal 'must' may also remain unchanged in indirect speech, so B is correct too; it applies you→I and this→that properly. B is the more literal conversion, so both A and B should be accepted here.

✓ **Correct sentence** Nikhil **advised me to buy** that bag. / Nikhil told me that I **must** buy that bag.

Examiner's Trap Option C is wrong because 'said to' cannot be followed by a to-infinitive, and D is wrong because 'asked' conveys a request.

---

68 ANSWER (b) He admitted that he had never been on a submarine.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Present Perfect to Past Perfect) After a past reporting verb the Present Perfect (have never been) becomes the Past Perfect **had never been**. The adverb never is placed after had.

✓ Correct sentence He admitted that he **had never been** on a submarine.

Examiner's Trap Option A does not change the tense, C ('never had been') misplaces the adverb, and D lacks the auxiliary had.

---

69 **ANSWER (c)** He asked if he might come in.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Reported Speech – May for Permission) The permission modal 'May I' becomes **might** after a past reporting verb, and the question takes if. In option A may remains unchanged, in B can is a different modal, and in D 'told' is the wrong reporting verb for a question.

✓ Correct sentence He asked if he **might** come in.

---

70 **ANSWER (b)** The teacher ordered the students to go to the classroom.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Reporting Verb for a Command) For an imperative (Go to the classroom), the reporting verb can be **ordered** instead of said, and indirect speech takes 'to + V1'. Option A turns the command into a statement, C has asked, which means a request while the order is firm, and D has the ungrammatical 'going'.

✓ Correct sentence The teacher **ordered** the students **to go** to the classroom.

Examiner's Trap 'Asked' also looks like a reporting verb close to an order, but it carries the sense of a request, not of a command.

---

71 **ANSWER (a)** Barbie told me that she wanted a mandolin.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Said to – Told in Reported Speech) The Present Simple (want) becomes wanted and I becomes she. 'Said to me' is replaced by 'told me'.

✓ Correct sentence Barbie **told me** that she **wanted** a mandolin.

Examiner's Trap Option B does not change the tense, C is wrong because 'said me' is incorrect (said takes to), and D has the wrong tense has wanted.

---

72 **ANSWER (a)** I said, "Don't stay out too late, children."

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Negative Command in Direct Speech) 'Told... not to stay out too late' is a negative command in indirect speech, which becomes **Don't + V1** in direct speech. The address to the listener (the children) comes at the end, and the sense of 'too late' must be retained.

✓ Correct sentence I said, "**Don't stay out too late**, children."

Examiner's Trap Option B drops too and D loses the negative sense, so hurried readers accept them as correct.

---

73 **ANSWER (b)** She said, "Should I apply for the scholarship?"

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Direct Speech of a Self-Question) The direct form of 'wondered if she should apply' is a question to oneself, in which the modal should stays unchanged. So direct speech becomes **Should I apply for the scholarship?** In option A the modal is dropped, in C will creates a definite future decision, and in D the question is turned into a statement.

✓ Correct sentence She said, "**Should** I apply for the scholarship?"

Examiner's Trap Forms such as 'Do I apply' or 'Will I apply' change the modal and spoil the meaning; seeing 'if', students focus only on forming a question.

---

74 **ANSWER (b)** Himansh told Laksh that even within their structured work ...

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Reported Speech – Might Unchanged) The reporting verb is in the past (said to→told), so the pronouns change: our→their, me→him, we→they. In 'might point out' the modal might is already a past form, so there is no change of tense; 'had constructed' is already Past Perfect and stays. The 'having worked' of C and the 'having surrounded' of D are unnecessary participle forms that change the meaning.

✓ Correct sentence Himansh told Laksh that even within **their** structured work environment, he **might point out** a pleasant view of the setting sun shining through the tall trees of their local forest to a colleague working next to him—the very same forest surrounding the enormous, concealed manufacturing facility they had constructed.

Examiner's Trap Option A moves the tense a step back with 'might have pointed', although might, being already a past form, does not change.

---

75 ANSWER (a) Tanisha said to Kavita, "After a couple of years, I grew tired of ...

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Direct Speech – Past Perfect to Past Simple) The Past Perfect of indirect speech becomes the Past Simple in direct speech: had grown→grew, had decided→decided, had meant→meant. The pronoun she becomes I and their becomes our. B has the singular 'year' and had grown, which are wrong; C has 'had decided' and 'evidences' (evidence is uncountable); D has the wrong verb form in 'meant was going to dismissed'.

✓ Correct sentence Tanisha said to Kavita, "After a couple of years, I **grew** tired of the school and **decided**, with no evidence, that our headmaster **meant** to dismiss me on the pretext of catching me nodding in the staff room."

Examiner's Trap In option C the Past Perfect has been changed only halfway with 'had decided', which looks correct at a glance.

---

76 ANSWER (c) Swati said to Kashvi, "I learned to fly in order to come to terms ...

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Past Perfect to Past Simple in Direct Speech) The Past Perfect of indirect speech becomes the Past Simple in direct speech: had learned→learned, had led→led, had worked→worked, had been→were. The infinitive/gerund part, 'to think highly of humanity by meeting', stays unchanged. Option A turns 'to think' into 'thought', B has the unnecessary 'having met', and D has 'lead' (present), which is wrong.

✓ Correct sentence Swati said to Kashvi, "I **learned** to fly in order to come to terms with my fear of heights, and to think highly of humanity by meeting labourers at our local inn who **led** lives of destitution and **worked** on towers that **were** several feet tall."

Examiner's Trap Students mistakenly change the non-finite parts (to think, meeting) in tense too.

---

77 ANSWER (b) Sunita said to Kartik, "It was a position of authority under an ...

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Direct Speech from the Past Perfect) The 'it had been' of indirect speech becomes the Past Simple **It was** in direct speech; 'had allowed' becomes allowed, 'had been enjoying' becomes the Past Continuous were enjoying, and him becomes you.

✓ Correct sentence Sunita said to Kartik, "It **was** a position of authority under an enlightened headmaster who **allowed** you the ample freedom that you **were enjoying**."

Examiner's Trap In options A and C 'is' makes the tense wrong (and C has 'the' for 'a'), and D misuses the passive in 'had been allowed you'.

---

78 ANSWER (a) Shruti said to Manas, "Outside the station I was waiting, and then ...

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Indirect to Direct – Past Perfect) The Past Perfect of indirect speech becomes the Past Simple in direct speech: had been waiting→**was waiting**, had sung→sang. The pronoun she becomes I and her friend becomes my friend. Option B loses the continuous sense with 'had waited', C wrongly uses 'sung' (V3), and D is wrong in using 'Followed me' as an imperative.

✓ Correct sentence Shruti said to Manas, "Outside the station I **was waiting**, and then my friend merely **sang**, which is so typical, 'Follow me, but not as though you are doing so,' until we came to a tiny toll-house by the river, against which leant a faded cab."

Examiner's Trap The tense of 'had waited' in option B seems right but removes the continuous sense; in addition, the sang/sung distinction is a trap.

---

79 ANSWER (b) The science instructor said that water turns into ice at 0 degrees ...

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Universal Truth in Reported Speech) When a statement is a universal truth, the tense does not change even if the reporting verb is in the past. So in 'Water turns into ice at 0 degrees Celsius', turns stays. In option D, 'told' has no object (told us).

✓ **Correct sentence** The science instructor said that water **turns** into ice at 0 degrees Celsius.

Examiner's Trap Seeing a past reporting verb, students change the tense to the past (options A and C), but the tense of a scientific fact remains unchanged.

---

80 ANSWER (c) Tanuka said that she would be 16 the next day.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Reported Speech – Shall to Would) **Shall** is used with the first person for the future, and after a past reporting verb shall becomes **would**, while tomorrow becomes the next day. In options A and B will/shall are not backshifted, and D keeps tomorrow.

✓ **Correct sentence** Tanuka said that she **would** be 16 **the next day**.

Examiner's Trap In option D the modal is changed correctly but tomorrow remains; this near-correct option misleads students.

---

81 ANSWER (a) She said, "Don't go with him."

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Reported Speech – Forbade) The direct form of 'forbade me to go' is a negative imperative of prohibition: **Don't go with him**. Options B and D, 'You should/must not', express advice or obligation, not an order, and in C the sense of prohibition is reversed.

✓ **Correct sentence** She said, "**Don't go** with him."

---

82 ANSWER (a) She asked me if I liked mangoes.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Reporting Verb for Questions) A Yes/No question takes the reporting verb asked, not said, and after if the clause has statement order, with the Present Simple becoming the Past (**liked**); you becomes I. In B the combination of said and if is wrong, C retains the question order (do I like), and in D 'told... that' turns the question into a statement.

✓ **Correct sentence** She **asked** me **if I liked** mangoes.

Examiner's Trap Option C has the correct asked but keeps the question order, so students accept it as correct.

---

83 ANSWER (b) had

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Present Perfect to Past Perfect in Indirect Speech) With the reporting verb 'asked', the Present Perfect (have you been) becomes the Past Perfect **had ... been**. With the subject I, the Past Perfect auxiliary is had. In option A have shows no tense change, C ('was ever been') is ungrammatical, and D's would changes the meaning.

✓ **Correct sentence** He asked me if I **had** ever been to the Marshall Islands.

---

84 ANSWER (b) doesn't

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Present Reporting Verb – No Tense Change) When the reporting verb is in the Present Tense (Ruhi says), the tense of the reported speech does not change. So 'don't drink' becomes 'she **doesn't** drink'; only the auxiliary agrees with the subject. A and C have a past tense, and D's won't changes the meaning.

✓ **Correct sentence** Ruhi says that she **doesn't** drink coffee.

Examiner's Trap Choosing didn't is the mistake of applying the backshift concept in every situation.

---

85 ANSWER (c) Darci asked me, "Is your father at the office?"

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (b) · Correct answer (c)

Concept (Direct Speech of a Yes/No Question (SSC Key Disputed)) SSC treats B as correct, but it uses 'said' and omits the listener 'me'. The indirect sentence is 'Darci asked me if...', so the reporting verb in direct speech should remain **asked me**, and the Past Simple (was) becomes the Present Simple (is) in direct speech.

Options A and D keep the past tense was, which is wrong in direct speech.

✓ Correct sentence Darci **asked me**, "**Is** your father at the office?"

Examiner's Trap Because SSC's key is B, the option with 'said' becomes tempting, but the reporting verb for a question must remain asked.

---

86 ANSWER (b) had lived

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Present Perfect to Past Perfect) 'I've lived' is the Present Perfect, which becomes the Past Perfect **had lived** after the past reporting verb (said). A keeps the Present Perfect, C (Simple Past) is a change of only one level too few, and D's continuous form alters the meaning.

✓ Correct sentence Popi said that she **had lived** in India for a long time.

Examiner's Trap 'Lived' is a change of only one level, whereas the backshift of the Present Perfect is the Past Perfect.

---

87 ANSWER (d) Avneet told Sanjay that she could endure the morning meal if she ...

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Indirect Speech with Modals) After a past reporting verb the modal could is already past and stays as it is; 'have been preparing' becomes the Past Perfect Continuous **had been preparing**. The pronoun I becomes she and our becomes their.

✓ Correct sentence Avneet told Sanjay that she could endure the morning meal if she could mix it with standard dairy liquids, letting the fluid absorb into the grains, but following a major shift in **their** group's beliefs, they **had been preparing** it strictly with water.

Examiner's Trap Option A has 'could endured', B 'could mixed', and C 'the fluid absorbed', each producing a wrong verb form.

---

88 ANSWER (b) Avani told Shanaya that instantly she had remembered that during ...

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Reporting: Past Simple to Past Perfect) After a past reporting verb the Past Simple (followed, fought, returned) becomes the Past Perfect **had followed, had fought, had returned**, and I becomes she, my becomes her, our becomes their. Options A and C put the adjective 'young' for the noun 'youth', and in C and D 'glorious' is an adjective, whereas the adverb **gloriously** is needed to modify the verb. D also changes the aspect with 'had been following'.

✓ Correct sentence Avani told Shanaya that instantly she had remembered that during her **youth** she had followed her mother around their home, the two of them singing about how a legendary warrior had fought **gloriously** and had returned safely from a conflict to settle in his community.

Examiner's Trap In a long sentence, even when the tense and pronouns are right, small word-form changes such as young/youth and glorious/gloriously are hidden among the options.

---

89 ANSWER (b) The teacher told the student to finish his homework before class.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Reporting Verb for Commands) For an imperative (Finish your homework before class) the reporting verb is **told**, and indirect speech takes 'to + V1'. Your becomes his. Option A adds must and turns the command into a statement, C has asked, which means a request, and D leaves the direct form as it was.

✓ Correct sentence The teacher **told the student to finish** his homework before class.

Examiner's Trap 'Asked' also takes to + V1, but it conveys a request, not a command.

---

90 ANSWER (a) The activist said that people had demanded justice.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Reporting: Simple Past to Past Perfect) The Past Simple (demanded) becomes the Past Perfect **had demanded** in indirect speech. Options B, C and D are wrong in using the passive 'been demanded justice', because the verb demand needs the active here, and D also has the wrong agreement in 'people has'.

✓ Correct sentence The activist said that people **had demanded** justice.

Examiner's Trap 'Had been demanded' looks like a Past Perfect, but it becomes passive and spoils the meaning.

---

91 **ANSWER (b)** Anant exclaimed to Vansh with wonder that it was truly incredible ...

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Exclamatory Sentence in Indirect Speech) An exclamatory sentence is reported with 'exclaimed with wonder that', and the sentence takes statement order. 'How truly incredible' becomes 'truly incredible' (adjective), and the Present (resembles) becomes the Past (resembled), will cross becomes would cross. Option A has 'incredibly' (an adverb), which is wrong, C changes the aspect with 'was resembling', and D breaks the agreement of tenses with 'would have crossed' and 'lift'.

✓ Correct sentence Anant exclaimed to Vansh with wonder that it was truly **incredible** that it **resembled** a seraph in the artistic sketches, like two dark wings, which **would cross** the sky and lift into the high peaks, briefly parting the mist that quickly swirled opaque again.

Examiner's Trap Small changes such as incredibly and was resembling leave the whole sentence almost identical, so it is hard to spot the difference in long options.

---

92 **ANSWER (a)** Prateek said to Anik, "In me, the parsimony which I had inherited ...

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Indirect to Direct – Gerund after To) The 'had inherited' (Past Perfect) of indirect speech stays as it is in direct speech, while 'had taken' becomes the Past Simple **took**, and the pronouns change from he to I. In 'repugnance to paying' and 'to subscribing', **to** is a preposition, so a gerund (-ing) follows. The infinitive forms 'to pay'/'to subscribe' in options B, C and D are wrong after the preposition 'to'.

✓ Correct sentence Prateek said to Anik, "In me, the parsimony which I had inherited took the form at the time of a strong repugnance to **paying** direct taxes or, as I preferred to call it, to **subscribing** directly to the financial support of local politicians."

Examiner's Trap From the habit of putting the base form after 'to', students choose to pay/to subscribe, whereas here to is a preposition.

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के English Special VOD batch में enroll करें।
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MOCK TEST (NEW PATTERN)
PRIVATE DOUBT GROUP
TOPPERS' WISDOM

05
CHAPTER

Fill in the Blanks

Questions *94 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01–08): *Select the correct option*

01 Despite the scholar's penchant for convoluted prose, his central thesis emerged with surprising ____ in the concluding chapter.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) lucidity (b) opacity
(c) perversity (d) tenacity

02 Not only ____ the funding, but he also offered strategic guidance.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) did he provide (b) he provided
(c) he did provide (d) had he provided

03 Given the proliferation of misinformation, it becomes all the more imperative to ___ sources before dissemination.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) ameliorate (b) fabricate
(c) corroborate (d) incriminate

04 The document was classified; ___, it could not be circulated publicly.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) therefore (b) however
(c) nonetheless (d) otherwise

05 No matter how ____ the evidence was, the jury remained unconvinced.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) compelling (b) compel
(c) compels (d) compulsion

06 The sociologist was renowned for her ___ analysis of systemic inequalities.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) penetrative (b) penetrating
(c) penetrable (d) penetrated

07 The operative complied, albeit ____ reluctance.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) with great (b) in great
(c) on great (d) at great

08 The grant allowed researchers to delve __ topics previously considered fringe.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) onto (b) into
(c) in (d) about

Directions (Q. 09–18): *Choose the most appropriate option to fill the blank in the given sentence.*

09 When the lights went out, we spent a ____ evening talking by the ____ light of a few candles.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) noiseless, waving (b) silent, blinking
(c) quiet, flickering (d) still, shaking

10 This year's costumes are ____ than last year's, but they were also ____ to prepare.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) elaborater, difficulter (b) most elaborate, most difficult
(c) elaborate, difficult (d) more elaborate, more difficult

11 By the time the workshop ended yesterday, Rahul _____ the model that he _____ for three hours.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) had finished, had been building
(b) finished, was building
(c) has finished, is building
(d) finishes, built

12 If I _____ my camera battery last night, I _____ more photos during the walk today.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) charged, would take
(b) had charged, would have taken
(c) have charged, will take
(d) had charged, would take

13 I decided to ____ embroidery because I wanted to ____ the tradition my grandmother had started.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) take on, carry out
(b) take in, carry off
(c) take up, carry on
(d) take after, carry away

14 After I accidentally ____ my juice during the interview, it took me a moment to ____ my composure.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) knocked out, recover
(b) knocked off, retain
(c) knocked up, redo
(d) knocked over, regain

15 Tomorrow, I _____ the dusty old book from the attic and relive my favorite childhood memories.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) would open
(b) am open
(c) will open
(d) opened

16 I managed to find my way to the museum _____ only a tattered paper map and a few landmarks.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) beneath
(b) by means of
(c) following the path
(d) barring

17 I _____ the defective laptop to the store before I realized I had left my charger at home.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) had returned
(b) returned
(c) was returning
(d) have returned

18 I _____ the local market this weekend to restock the pantry before the busy work week begins.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) would visit
(b) will visit
(c) visiting
(d) visited

Directions (Q. 19–26): *Fill in the blank with an appropriate phrasal verb.*

19 Despite repeated warnings, he ____ risky investments and lost everything.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) plowed into
(b) plowed over
(c) plowed away
(d) plowed through

20 Despite initial enthusiasm, investors began to _____ when the project's viability was questioned.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) backwash
(b) backpedal
(c) backlash
(d) backburn

21 If you're serious about your goals, you must _____ all distractions.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) cast off
(b) cast down
(c) caste away
(d) caste over

22 The new compliance rules _____ several loopholes that companies had previously exploited.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) narrowed down
(b) nailed down
(c) cracked up
(d) clamped down on

23 The insurgents attempted to _____ support from local communities through propaganda.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) drum up
(b) crank out
(c) whip out
(d) spin off

24 After initial hesitation, the entrepreneur finally _____ the risky investment.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) plumped for
(b) leaned over
(c) leaned over
(d) plunged out

25 The committee agreed to _____ the lesser clauses to prevent unnecessary complications.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) pare down (b) pluck out
(c) plow through (d) peel back

26 The committee decided to _____ the controversial proposal until after the elections.
[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) put forward (b) put off
(c) put out (d) put up

Directions (Q. 27–30): *Fill in the blank with appropriate parts of speech.*

27 Rarely ___ such blatant disregard for protocol, nor ___ it so openly tolerated.
[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) had one witnessed, was (b) one had witnessed, was
(c) had one witnessed, were (d) had witnessed one, were

28 The soldiers, exhausted though they were, pressed on with an almost _____ fortitude.
[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) mechanical (b) mechanically
(c) mechanize (d) mechanic

29 The scientist was awarded a medal _____ her groundbreaking contributions to molecular biology.
[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) because (b) although
(c) owing to (d) lest

30 The committee's decision was met with widespread _____ among the academic community, although some dissenters voiced their reservations.
[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) acclaimed (b) acclaiming
(c) acclimated (d) acclaim

Directions (Q. 31–33): *Fill in the blank with the appropriate adverb.*

31 The technology has ___ transformed the field of molecular biology.
[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) marginally (b) ostensibly
(c) consecutively (d) irreversibly

32 The instructions were _____ outlined, leading to confusion among participants.
[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) minutely (b) succinctly
(c) nebulously (d) punctiliously

33 The scholar spoke _____, preferring depth to flamboyance.
[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) within (b) onward
(c) amiss (d) thus

Directions (Q. 34–37): *Fill in the blank with the appropriate preposition.*

34 He answered _____ the spur of the moment, without reflection.
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) under (b) by
(c) at (d) on

35 The professor spoke _____ length about the implications of the study.
[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) in (b) on
(c) by (d) at

36 The agreement remained _____ abeyance until further notice.
[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) at (b) on
(c) under (d) in

37 The event transpired _____ circumstances still unknown to the public.
[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) under (b) amidst
(c) within (d) inside

Directions (Q. 38–39): *Choose the correct collocation*

38 His explanation was ___, and to the point.
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) short and right (b) quick and good
(c) clear and concise (d) smart and simple

39 The attorney was ___ in her defense of the whistleblower.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) steadfast (b) standfast
(c) stand firm (d) fast standing

Directions (Q. 40–41): *Fill in the blank with the correct degree of comparison*

40 India is one of the _____ growing economies in the world, attracting significant foreign investments.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) more fast (b) most fast
(c) faster (d) fastest

41 This project is far _____ than the previous one.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) easy (b) easier
(c) easiest (d) more easiest

Directions (Q. 42–45): *Complete the collocation by choosing a suitable word to fill in the blank.*

42 The researchers meticulously _____ the parameters for the study.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) delineated (b) decorated
(c) deviated (d) deliberated

43 The scientist was able to ___ a theory that explained the phenomenon.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) put forward (b) invent
(c) bring out (d) bring forward

44 The lawyer managed to _____ access to confidential documents.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) obtain (b) gain
(c) receive (d) attain

45 Many professionals find it difficult to _____ a balance between work and personal life.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) keep (b) strike
(c) set (d) form

Directions (Q. 46): *Read the passage and answer the questions*

46 Choose the correct form of the verb for the blank:
"Despite the endogenous predictability of this sequence, the menstrual cycle _____ considerable vulnerability to extrinsic perturbations."

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) exhibits (b) exhibit
(c) exhibiting (d) exhibited

Directions (Q. 47–62): *Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option*

47 He was reprimanded not for the error itself, but for his evasion ___ responsibility thereafter.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) of (b) for
(c) to (d) towards

48 The analyst's conclusion, while mathematically valid, was marred by a glaring ___ of contextual variables.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) abstinence (b) integration
(c) omission (d) alignment

49 His recent paper is as __ as any ever published in the journal's history.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) insightful (b) more insightful
(c) most insightful (d) insightfully

50 The speaker's tone, marked by sarcastic inflections, stood in stark __ to the solemnity of the occasion.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) proportion (b) contrast
(c) parallel (d) deference

51 The speaker's rhetoric was replete with appeals to emotion but lacked the __ of empirical substantiation.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) depth (b) rigor
(c) tone (d) validity

52 His consistent refusal to acknowledge empirical evidence reflects a dangerous __ to ideological rigidity.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) adherence (b) resistance
(c) deference (d) contribution

53 The consultant's prognosis, though optimistic, failed to __ the structural weaknesses evident in the model.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) diagnose (b) address
(c) predict (d) relieve

54 No strategy was found to be __ than diversification during the crisis.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) effective (b) most effective
(c) more effective (d) effectively

55 The treaty was hailed as a breakthrough despite its __ language that allowed for multiple interpretations.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) ambiguous (b) concise
(c) forthright (d) implicit

56 The committee's reluctance to engage directly with dissenting voices was seen as a tacit ___ of accountability.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) evasion (b) invocation
(c) revision (d) expansion

57 Her remarks were not only misinformed but also ___, undermining years of community-led advocacy.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) derogatory (b) contentious
(c) illustrative (d) preliminary

58 The team decided to ___ the outdated policy and draft a more inclusive one.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) do with (b) do away with
(c) do about (d) do off with

59 The report's language, laden with technical jargon, served more to ___ than to inform the general public.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) illuminate (b) obfuscate
(c) clarify (d) communicate

60 Although framed as reformist, the policy inadvertently ___ structural inequalities rather than mitigating them.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) perpetuated (b) repelled
(c) amplified (d) suppressed

61 Unable to handle the sustained pressure, the junior associate eventually ____ during the audit.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) broke out (b) broke away
(c) broke down (d) broke off

62 The ambassador's statement was meticulously phrased to maintain diplomatic decorum while subtly ____ criticism.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) deflecting (b) inflicting
(c) reflecting (d) injecting

Directions (Q. 63–65): *Fill in the blanks with the appropriate article.*

63 _____ education is vital for societal progress, but _____ education received in underfunded areas often lacks basic resources.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The, the (b) A, the
(c) An, a (d) No article, the

64 ____ apple fell from ____ tree, which was during ____ summer season.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) An, the, the (b) A, the, an
(c) An, an, the (d) The, the, the

65 Although _____ emergence of artificial intelligence promises significant benefits, it also raises _____ host of ethical dilemmas.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) a, the (b) the, a
(c) an, the (d) the, the

Directions (Q. 66–69): *Complete the sentence by choosing a suitable word to fill in the blank.*

66 Were he to have followed the instructions, none of this ____ occurred.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) would have (b) will have
(c) had (d) should

67 Had he not intervened, the negotiations ____ long before the deadline.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) would break (b) had broken
(c) would have broken down (d) should be breaking

68 That she, of all people, ____ the one to criticize others is baffling.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) are (b) be
(c) were (d) is

69 Neither the manager nor his assistants _____ prepared for the sudden audit.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) was (b) were
(c) is (d) be

Directions (Q. 70–72): *Fill in the blank with an appropriate degree of comparison.*

70 He wrote with _____ skill, weaving intricate narratives effortlessly into complex themes.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) utmost (b) most
(c) too much (d) extreme

71 When comparing the two theories, Newton's laws were initially considered ____ acceptable.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) least (b) less
(c) lesser (d) little

72 Between the two musicians, I find Bach's compositions to be ____ profound.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) most (b) more
(c) better (d) best

Directions (Q. 73): *Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blanks*

73 My introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool ---------- unpleasant memories.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) revived (b) rewind
(c) recognise (d) repeat

Directions (Q. 74–75): *Fill in the blank with the correct preposition*

74 The decision was made ____ consultation with the stakeholders.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) by (b) under
(c) upon (d) in

75 The Prime Minister emphasised the importance of digital literacy _____ rural women to bridge the digital divide.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) after (b) with
(c) across (d) among

Directions (Q. 76): *Choose the most suitable option to fill in the blank.*

76 I was practising the guitar _____.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) codes (b) cords
(c) chords (d) cards

Directions (Q. 77): *Fill in the blanks with appropriate parts of speech.*

77 The director's ____ refusal to compromise and the board's ____ criticism led to a stalemate.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) steadiness, scathing (b) steadfastly, scathe
(c) steadfast, scathing (d) steadily, scathes

Directions (Q. 78–82): *Fill in the blank with the appropriate tense.*

78 By the end of the fiscal year, the company ____ nearly 15% more than it had projected initially.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) has earned (b) had earned
(c) will have earned (d) was earning

79 If technological advancements _____ at the current pace, we will soon witness innovations previously deemed impossible.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) continue (b) continued
(c) had continued (d) have continued

80 Were the data _____ earlier, corrective measures could have been implemented.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) analyzed thoroughly (b) had analyzed thoroughly
(c) were analyzed thoroughly (d) analyze thoroughly

81 If the team _____ the interim results more meticulously, the final report would not have contained so many discrepancies.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) analyze (b) have analyzed
(c) had analyzed (d) has analyzed

82 Although the panel _____ several contentious issues during the discussion, it failed to reach a unanimous conclusion.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) addresses (b) had addressed
(c) addressed (d) was addressing

Directions (Q. 83): *Fill in the blanks with the correct option, ensuring the verb tenses accurately reflect the chronological sequence of events.*

83 Scarcely _____ the morning train when I realized that, if I had left my house five minutes later, I _____ the crucial interview.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) I had boarded, missed
(b) had I boarded, would have missed
(c) did I board, would miss
(d) had I boarded, will miss

Directions (Q. 84): *Choose the option that provides the correct sequence of prepositions to complete the sentence grammatically.*

84 The philosopher contended that morality exists _____ the realm of legality, operates _____ opposition to utilitarianism, and persists _____ spite of cultural relativism.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) within, against, despite (b) beyond, in, in
(c) beneath, concerning, owing to (d) alongside, with, prior to

Directions (Q. 85): *In the following sentence, four alternatives are given for the two blanks. Choose the most appropriate alternative to complete the sentence meaningfully and grammatically.*

85 The theoretical model proposed by the committee underscores the necessity _____ methodological flexibility while simultaneously _____ epistemic biases that often distort empirical interpretation.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) of adopting, mitigating (b) to adopt, to mitigate
(c) to have adopted, be mitigated (d) to adopt, to have mitigated

Directions (Q. 86): *In the following question, a sentence with three blanks is given. Choose the most appropriate option that fills all the blanks correctly and meaningfully.*

86 The director's _____ reinterpretation of the classic tale, coupled with a _____ cinematographic palette and _____ pacing, divided both critics and audiences.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) unconventional, exaggerated, erratic
(b) audacious, muted, deliberate
(c) incoherent, glossy, methodical
(d) simplistic, monochrome, accelerated

87 Which of the following sentences uses the correct collocation?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The judge delivered justice swiftly and efficiently
(b) The minister made a quick decision on the proposal
(c) The committee took a strong step towards reform
(d) The officer made a large mistake in his report

Directions (Q. 88): *Fill in the blanks with an appropriate degree of comparison.*

88 Seldom have we encountered a theory _____ intriguing _____ this one.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) much, than
(b) more, than
(c) as, that
(d) more, as

Directions (Q. 89): *Fill in the blank with the correct collocation*

89 The NGO took _____ the responsibility of educating underprivileged children in rural areas.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) up
(b) in
(c) off
(d) out

Directions (Q. 90): *Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combination of articles and verb form.*

90 It is imperative that _____ anonymity of the whistle-blower _____ maintained, as even _____ slightest leak could compromise the entire federal investigation.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) no article, is, a
(b) an, be, a
(c) the,is, the
(d) the, be, the

Directions (Q. 91): *Choose the correct option to complete the sentence meaningfully and grammatically.*

91 The director _____ the entire script multiple times before the producers finally _____ it last week.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) has rewritten, approve
(b) had rewritten, approved
(c) rewrites, approve
(d) was rewriting, approved

Directions (Q. 92): *Select the idiom that contextually fits the blank to complete the following sentence most suitably.*

92 Junior members of the diplomatic mission were explicitly warned that they must _____ during the international summit, as any public departure from the official state policy would result in immediate dismissal.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) hit the mark
(b) stretch the truth
(c) go against the grain
(d) toe the line

Directions (Q. 93): *Fill in the blanks in the following sentence with the most appropriate set of words to form a grammatically correct and meaningful sentence.*

93 ___ the central bank intervened more decisively during the liquidity crisis, the cascading defaults that _____ the financial sector would have been largely contained, and investor confidence _____ so dramatically.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Had, crippled, would not have eroded
(b) Should, crippled, would not have eroded
(c) If, had crippled, would not erode
(d) Had, crippling, would not have eroded

Directions (Q. 94): *Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option to make the sentence grammatically correct and meaningful.*

94 It was _____ undeniable irony that _____ man once celebrated as _____ architect of peace should become the very symbol of conflict.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) an, the, an
(b) a, a, the
(c) an, a, an
(d) the, the, an

Answer Key

Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation

01	02	03	04	05
(a)	(a)	(c)	(a)	(a)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**
(b)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
(a)	**(b/d)**	(c)	(d)	(c)
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
(a)	(d)	(a)	(a)	(a)
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
(b)	(a)	(a)	(c)	(d)
31	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**
(d)	(c)	(d)	(d)	(d)
36	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**
(d)	**(a)**	(c)	(a)	(d)
41	**42**	**43**	**44**	**45**
(b)	(a)	(a)	(b)	(b)
46	**47**	**48**	**49**	**50**
(a)	(a)	(c)	(a)	(b)

51	52	53	54	55
(b)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)
56	**57**	**58**	**59**	**60**
(a)	(a)	(b)	(b)	**(a)**
61	**62**	**63**	**64**	**65**
(c)	(d)	(d)	(a)	**(b)**
66	**67**	**68**	**69**	**70**
(a)	(c)	(d)	(b)	(a)
71	**72**	**73**	**74**	**75**
(b)	(b)	(a)	(d)	(d)
76	**77**	**78**	**79**	**80**
(c)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(a)
81	**82**	**83**	**84**	**85**
(c)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(a)
86	**87**	**88**	**89**	**90**
(b)	**(a/b)**	(b)	(a)	(d)
91	**92**	**93**	**94**	
(b)	(d)	(a)	(a)	

Detailed Explanations

रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 ANSWER (a) lucidity

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Contrast with Despite) **Despite** signals contrast. The scholar's prose is convoluted, yet his central thesis emerged with clarity in the final chapter, so the blank needs a word meaning 'clarity'. **Lucidity** means clarity; opacity means obscurity, perversity means wilful contrariness and tenacity means firmness. Only lucidity contrasts with convoluted prose.

✓ Correct sentence Despite the scholar's penchant for convoluted prose, his central thesis emerged with surprising **lucidity** in the concluding chapter.

Examiner's Trap Opacity means obscurity, which merely extends the idea of convoluted prose instead of contrasting with it.

02 ANSWER (a) did he provide

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Inversion with Not Only) When **Not only** opens a sentence, inversion follows: the auxiliary comes before the subject. For the past tense this gives **did he provide**, with the base form of the verb after did.

✓ Correct sentence Not only **did he provide** the funding, but he also offered strategic guidance.

Examiner's Trap Options B and C have no inversion, and D brings in the Past Perfect for no reason.

---

03 ANSWER (c) corroborate

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Vocabulary: Corroborate) The sentence says that, given the spread of misinformation, it is vital to confirm sources before circulating them. **Corroborate** means to confirm or support with evidence; ameliorate means to improve, fabricate means to invent, and incriminate means to blame for a crime.

✓ Correct sentence Given the proliferation of misinformation, it becomes all the more imperative to **corroborate** sources before dissemination.

---

04 ANSWER (a) therefore

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Connector for Cause and Result) The first part says the document was classified, and the second gives the consequence: it could not be circulated publicly. A connector joining cause and result is needed, and that is **therefore**.

✓ Correct sentence The document was classified; **therefore**, it could not be circulated publicly.

Examiner's Trap However and nonetheless show contrast, and otherwise shows an alternative condition; none of them expresses cause and effect.

---

05 ANSWER (a) compelling

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (No Matter How + Adjective) **No matter how** is followed by an adjective or adverb. In 'the evidence was ...' the linking verb **was** needs an adjective complement, so **compelling** (convincing, powerful) is correct.

✓ Correct sentence No matter how **compelling** the evidence was, the jury remained unconvinced.

Examiner's Trap Compel and compels are verbs and compulsion is a noun; none can serve as a complement after 'was'.

---

06 ANSWER (b) penetrating

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Collocation: Penetrating Analysis) Before the noun 'analysis' we need an adjective meaning deep and insightful. **Penetrating analysis** means sharp, probing analysis and is the established collocation. Penetrative relates to physical piercing, penetrable means able to be pierced, and penetrated means pierced.

✓ Correct sentence The sociologist was renowned for her **penetrating** analysis of systemic inequalities.

Examiner's Trap Penetrative looks like penetrating, but it is used for physical penetration, not for analysis.

---

07 ANSWER (a) with great

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Albeit + with Reluctance) **Albeit** means 'although' and is usually followed by an adjective or prepositional phrase. **With reluctance** is the established collocation, so 'albeit with great reluctance' is correct. In, on and at are not used with it.

✓ Correct sentence The operative complied, albeit **with great** reluctance.

---

08 ANSWER (b) into

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Preposition with Delve) **Delve** takes the preposition **into**: delve into (to investigate a subject deeply). Onto, in and about do not form the standard collocation.

✓ Correct sentence The grant allowed researchers to delve **into** topics previously considered fringe.

Examiner's Trap 'In' looks simple and familiar, so students choose 'delve in'.

---

09 ANSWER (c) quiet, flickering

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Collocation: Quiet, Flickering) An evening spent talking when the power fails is naturally called a **quiet** evening, and the trembling light of candles is naturally called **flickering** light.

✓ Correct sentence When the lights went out, we spent a **quiet** evening talking by the **flickering** light of a few candles.

Examiner's Trap Waving light, blinking light and shaking light are not natural English, and blinking light is used for signals or bulbs.

---

10 ANSWER (d) more elaborate, more difficult

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Comparative with Than) Both blanks express comparison (**than**, and 'also ... to prepare'), so the Comparative Degree is needed. 'Elaborate' and 'difficult' are polysyllabic adjectives, so they take **more**, not -er.

✓ Correct sentence This year's costumes are **more elaborate** than last year's, but they were also **more difficult** to prepare.

Examiner's Trap Option A has the incorrect forms elaborater and difficulter, B uses the Superlative, and C uses the Positive Degree, which does not go with than.

---

11 ANSWER (a) had finished, had been building

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous) Both actions precede the end of the workshop yesterday. With 'By the time ... ended' (Past Simple), the action completed earlier takes the Past Perfect: **had finished**. The work that had been going on for three hours, shown by 'for three hours', takes the Past Perfect Continuous: **had been building**.

✓ Correct sentence By the time the workshop ended yesterday, Rahul **had finished** the model that he **had been building** for three hours.

---

12 ANSWER (b)/(d) had charged, would have taken / had charged, would take

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

SSC Key (b) · More than one correct option: (b), (d)

Concept (Third and Mixed Conditional) SSC's key is option B (**had charged, would have taken**), which is a correct Third Conditional. However, option D (**had charged, would take**) is also correct as a Mixed Conditional: the failure to charge last night affects today's walk, and 'today' supports this. The sentence does not make clear whether the walk has already taken place, so both B and D are grammatically correct.

✓ Correct sentence If I **had charged** my camera battery last night, I **would have taken** (or **would take**) more photos during the walk today.

Examiner's Trap Students remember only the Third Conditional and pick B, ignoring the Mixed Conditional (D) that 'today' makes possible.

---

13 ANSWER (c) take up, carry on

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Phrasal Verbs: Take Up, Carry On) **Take up** means to begin a new hobby or activity, so 'take up embroidery' is correct. **Carry on** means to continue a tradition already under way. Take on means to accept responsibility, carry out means to complete, take after means to resemble, and carry away means to captivate.

✓ Correct sentence I decided to **take up** embroidery because I wanted to **carry on** the tradition my grandmother had started.

Examiner's Trap Carry out is familiar as 'to complete a task', but continuing a tradition takes carry on.

---

14 ANSWER (d) knocked over, regain

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Phrasal Verb and Collocation) **Knock over** means to cause something to fall, so 'knocked over my juice' is correct. **Regain composure** means to recover one's calm. Retain composure means to keep one's calm, which does not suit a situation after it has been lost.

✓ Correct sentence After I accidentally **knocked over** my juice during the interview, it took me a moment to **regain** my composure.

Examiner's Trap Retain also goes with composure, so students take it as correct, but the sense here is of losing composure and winning it back.

---

15 ANSWER (c) will open

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Simple Future for a Planned Action) 'Tomorrow' points to a future action, so the Simple Future **will open** is correct. Would open is for hypothetical or

future-in-the-past use, 'am open' turns open into an adjective, and opened is Past Tense.

✓ Correct sentence Tomorrow, I **will open** the dusty old book from the attic and relive my favorite childhood memories.

Examiner's Trap Would open seems more polite or 'better', but a direct statement about the future needs will.

---

16 ANSWER (b) by means of

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Phrase: By Means Of) **By means of** means with the help of some instrument or method. The sentence presents the tattered paper map and a few landmarks as the means. Beneath means under, 'following the path' refers to following a route, and barring means except, which gives the opposite sense.

✓ Correct sentence I managed to find my way to the museum **by means of** only a tattered paper map and a few landmarks.

---

17 ANSWER (a) had returned

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Past Perfect for an Earlier Action) The sentence has two past actions: 'realized' (the later one) and returning the laptop (the earlier one). The action completed first takes the Past Perfect: **had returned**.

✓ Correct sentence I **had returned** the defective laptop to the store before I realized I had left my charger at home.

Examiner's Trap Simple Past returned puts both actions on the same level and does not make the sequence clear.

---

18 ANSWER (b) will visit

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Simple Future for a Plan) 'This weekend' is a future time, and the sentence expresses a plan or intention already made, so the Simple Future **will visit** is correct.

✓ Correct sentence I **will visit** the local market this weekend to restock the pantry before the busy work week begins.

Examiner's Trap Would visit is for hypothetical or past contexts and visited is Past Tense, neither of which matches 'this weekend'; visiting is not even a finite verb.

---

19 ANSWER (a) plowed into

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Plough into) **Plough into** (US spelling: plow into) means to put a large amount of money or energy into something. 'Plowed into risky investments' means he poured his money into risky investments and lost everything.

✓ Correct sentence Despite repeated warnings, he **plowed into** risky investments and lost everything.

Examiner's Trap Plow over means to run over or crush something, and plow away and plow through (to struggle through a task) do not collocate with 'investments'.

---

20 ANSWER (b) backpedal

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Backpedal) **Backpedal** means to retreat from an earlier statement, decision or position. Investors drawing back once the project's viability was questioned is exactly what it expresses. **Backlash** is a noun, so it cannot fill the slot after 'to'.

✓ Correct sentence Despite initial enthusiasm, investors began to **backpedal** when the project's viability was questioned.

Examiner's Trap Backwash, backlash and backburn look similar to backpedal, but none of them means to retreat from a position.

---

21 ANSWER (a) cast off

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Cast Off) **Cast off** means to discard something or rid oneself of it. A person serious about goals must cast off all distractions. **Cast down** means to depress, and 'caste' means a social class and is not a verb.

✓ Correct sentence If you're serious about your goals, you must **cast off** all distractions.

Examiner's Trap Caste and cast sound alike, so students who ignore spelling choose C or D.

---

22 ANSWER (d) clamped down on

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Clamp Down On) **Clamp down on** means to impose strict control on something or to act firmly against it. The new compliance rules clamped down on loopholes that companies had earlier exploited. Narrowed down means reduced, nailed down means settled firmly, and cracked up means burst out laughing.

✓ Correct sentence The new compliance rules **clamped down on** several loopholes that companies had previously exploited.

Examiner's Trap Narrowed down seems close because of the idea of limiting, but the sense of strict action against loopholes is given only by clamp down on.

---

23 ANSWER (a) drum up

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Drum Up) **Drum up support** is an established phrasal verb meaning to gather support through publicity or effort. Crank out means to produce in large quantities, whip out means to pull out suddenly, and spin off means to form a separate unit from a larger organisation.

✓ Correct sentence The insurgents attempted to **drum up** support from local communities through propaganda.

---

24 ANSWER (a) plumped for

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Plump For) **Plump for** means to choose an option after some consideration. After hesitation, the entrepreneur chose the risky investment. **Leaned over** means bent forward (it is repeated in options B and C), and 'plunged out' is not a valid phrasal verb.

✓ Correct sentence After initial hesitation, the entrepreneur finally **plumped for** the risky investment.

---

25 ANSWER (a) pare down

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Pare Down) **Pare down** means to reduce something by trimming it back. It suits a committee cutting minor clauses. Pluck out means to pull out, plow through means to get through something with difficulty, and peel back means to remove a layer.

✓ Correct sentence The committee agreed to **pare down** the lesser clauses to prevent unnecessary complications.

Examiner's Trap Pluck out also suggests removing, but it is not a phrasal verb for reducing or trimming.

---

26 ANSWER (b) put off

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Put Off) **Put off** means to postpone something. It suits a committee deferring a controversial proposal until after the elections. Put forward means to propose, put out means to extinguish or publish, and put up means to erect or accommodate.

✓ Correct sentence The committee decided to **put off** the controversial proposal until after the elections.

Examiner's Trap Put forward seems natural with a proposal, but it means to present a proposal, not to postpone it.

---

27 ANSWER (a) had one witnessed, was

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Inversion after a Negative Adverb) When a sentence begins with a negative adverb such as **Rarely**, inversion follows: the auxiliary comes before the subject, so 'Rarely had one witnessed' is correct. Inversion also follows **nor**: 'nor was it'. The subject 'it' is singular, so **was** is used, not were.

✓ Correct sentence Rarely **had one witnessed** such blatant disregard for protocol, nor **was** it so openly tolerated.

Examiner's Trap Option B has no inversion, C has the wrong verb were, and D has the wrong word order.

---

28 ANSWER (a) mechanical

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adjective before a Noun) The noun 'fortitude' needs an adjective before it, and 'almost' modifies that adjective. **Mechanical** (machine-like, unfeeling) is an adjective. Mechanically is an adverb, mechanize is a verb, and mechanic is a noun (a repairer); none of these can modify a noun.

✓ **Correct sentence** The soldiers, exhausted though they were, pressed on with an almost **mechanical** fortitude.

Examiner's Trap After 'almost', students expect an adverb and choose mechanically, but here 'almost' modifies an adjective.

---

29 ANSWER (c) owing to

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Compound Preposition vs Conjunction) The blank is followed by a noun phrase, 'her groundbreaking contributions', so a preposition is needed. **Owing to** (because of) is a compound preposition. Because and although are conjunctions, which take a full clause, and lest is also a conjunction.

✓ **Correct sentence** The scientist was awarded a medal **owing to** her groundbreaking contributions to molecular biology.

Examiner's Trap Because fits the meaning, so students choose it, but it cannot be followed by a noun phrase.

---

30 ANSWER (d) acclaim

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Noun after Adjective) After the adjective 'widespread' a noun is needed, and 'with widespread ... among the academic community' expresses praise. **Acclaim** is a noun meaning public praise. Acclaimed means praised, acclaiming means praising, and acclimated means adapted to a climate or environment; none of the three is a noun.

✓ **Correct sentence** The committee's decision was met with widespread **acclaim** among the academic community, although some dissenters voiced their reservations.

Examiner's Trap Acclaimed and acclimated look like acclaim, but the need for a noun after an adjective rules them out.

---

31 ANSWER (d) irreversibly

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adverb: Irreversibly) The blank needs an adverb that completes the sense of 'transformed': the technology changed molecular biology in a way that cannot be undone. **Irreversibly** means in a way that cannot be reversed; marginally means slightly, ostensibly means apparently, and consecutively means one after another. Only irreversibly fits logically with 'transformed'.

✓ **Correct sentence** The technology has **irreversibly** transformed the field of molecular biology.

---

32 ANSWER (c) nebulously

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Vocabulary: Adverb in Context) The sentence says the instructions caused confusion, so they were set out vaguely. **Nebulously** means vaguely or in a hazy way. Minutely means in great detail, succinctly means briefly, and punctiliously means with great care over correct form.

✓ **Correct sentence** The instructions were **nebulously** outlined, leading to confusion among participants.

Examiner's Trap The other three words suggest clarity or detail, which cannot cause confusion.

---

33 ANSWER (d) thus

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Adverb of Manner) The blank needs an adverb of manner, and among the options only **thus** (in this way) shows manner; it joins with 'preferring depth to flamboyance' to complete the sentence. Within and onward are adverbs of place or direction, and amiss means wrongly, which does not match the sense of 'preferring depth'. Hence option D is correct.

✓ **Correct sentence** The scholar spoke **thus**, preferring depth to flamboyance.

Examiner's Trap Amiss is also an adverb meaning 'wrongly', but it does not match the sense of 'preferring depth'.

---

34 ANSWER (d) on

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Idiom: On the Spur of the Moment) **On the spur of the moment** is a fixed idiom meaning suddenly, on impulse and without thinking. It always takes the preposition **on**.

✓ **Correct sentence** He answered **on** the spur of the moment, without reflection.

---

35 **ANSWER (d)** at

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Idiom: At Length) **At length** is an idiom meaning in full detail or for a long time, so 'spoke at length about' is correct. Forms such as 'in length' or 'on length' are not used.

✓ **Correct sentence** The professor spoke **at** length about the implications of the study.

---

36 **ANSWER (d)** in

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Idiom: In Abeyance) **In abeyance** is an established idiom meaning temporarily postponed or suspended. The other prepositions are not used in this phrase.

✓ **Correct sentence** The agreement remained **in** abeyance until further notice.

---

37 **ANSWER (a)** under

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (b) · Correct answer (a)

Concept (Preposition: Under Circumstances) SSC's key is B (amidst), but the correct answer is **A (under)**. **Under circumstances** is the standard collocation, as in 'under mysterious circumstances' (Oxford, Cambridge). **Amidst** means 'in the middle of' and goes with things such as noise, crowds or commotion, not with 'circumstances' in this sense. Within and inside are not used in this collocation either.

✓ **Correct sentence** The event transpired **under** circumstances still unknown to the public.

Examiner's Trap Amidst looks more literary, so it attracts students, and it is also SSC's key, but the standard collocation with circumstances is under.

---

38 **ANSWER (c)** clear and concise

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Collocation: Clear and Concise) **Clear and concise** is a common collocation used for an explanation that is easy to understand and brief; its meaning also matches 'and to the point' perfectly.

✓ **Correct sentence** His explanation was **clear and concise**, and to the point.

Examiner's Trap The other options (short and right, quick and good, smart and simple) are word-for-word combinations and do not form natural collocations with 'explanation'.

---

39 **ANSWER (a)** steadfast

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Collocation: Steadfast) **Steadfast** is an adjective meaning unwavering, firm and loyal, and 'steadfast in her defence' is a natural expression. Standfast is not a valid word here, 'stand firm' is a verb phrase that cannot be a complement after 'was', and 'fast standing' is an ill-formed combination.

✓ **Correct sentence** The attorney was **steadfast** in her defense of the whistleblower.

---

40 **ANSWER (d)** fastest

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (One of the + Superlative) **One of the** is followed by a Superlative and a plural noun. 'Fast' is a one-syllable adjective, so its superlative is formed with -est: **fastest**. 'More fast' and 'most fast' are incorrect forms.

✓ **Correct sentence** India is one of the **fastest** growing economies in the world, attracting significant foreign investments.

Examiner's Trap Option C, faster, is a Comparative and does not go with 'one of the', but students pick it because 'growing economies' suggests a comparison.

---

41 **ANSWER (b)** easier

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Comparative with Far) **Far** here is an adverb that intensifies the Comparative, and **than** follows, so the Comparative Degree is needed: far **easier** than.

✓ Correct sentence This project is far **easier** than the previous one.

Examiner's Trap More easiest is wrong because it mixes Comparative and Superlative, and easiest is a Superlative.

---

42 ANSWER (a) delineated

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Collocation: Delineate the Parameters) **Delineate the parameters** is an established collocation meaning to set out limits or standards clearly. Decorated (adorned), deviated (strayed from a path) and deliberated (thought over) do not fit the sense.

✓ Correct sentence The researchers meticulously **delineated** the parameters for the study.

Examiner's Trap All the options begin with d and sound alike, so students who choose by word shape alone are confused.

---

43 ANSWER (a) put forward

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Collocation: Put Forward) **Put forward a theory** is an established collocation meaning to present a theory or idea for discussion. Invent is used for a machine or object, bring out means to publish, and bring forward means to move a date earlier or to put a proposal.

✓ Correct sentence The scientist was able to **put forward** a theory that explained the phenomenon.

Examiner's Trap Bring forward can also mean 'to propose', so students choose it, but the standard collocation with theory is put forward.

---

44 ANSWER (b) gain

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Collocation: Gain Access) **Gain access to** is an established collocation meaning to obtain entry to a place or material. Obtain, receive and attain do not form the standard collocation with 'access'.

✓ Correct sentence The lawyer managed to **gain** access to confidential documents.

Examiner's Trap Obtain means 'to get', so it seems right, but gain is the natural verb with access.

---

45 ANSWER (b) strike

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Collocation: Strike a Balance) **Strike a balance** is an established collocation meaning to reach a fair compromise between two opposing things. 'Keep a balance' is also used in some contexts, but with 'difficult to ... a balance between' the standard collocation is strike; set and form are not used this way.

✓ Correct sentence Many professionals find it difficult to **strike** a balance between work and personal life.

Examiner's Trap Keep a balance sounds familiar and natural, so students choose it.

---

46 ANSWER (a) exhibits

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Subject-Verb Agreement: Singular Subject) The subject 'the menstrual cycle' is singular and the sentence states a general scientific fact, so the singular Simple Present verb **exhibits** is needed. Exhibiting is not a finite verb, and exhibited is Past Tense.

✓ Correct sentence Despite the endogenous predictability of this sequence, the menstrual cycle **exhibits** considerable vulnerability to extrinsic perturbations.

Examiner's Trap The long opening phrase beginning with 'Despite' pushes the subject far from the verb, so students pick the plural verb exhibit.

---

47 ANSWER (a) of

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Noun + Preposition: Evasion of) The noun **evasion** takes the preposition **of**: evasion of responsibility, meaning escaping responsibility. Similar constructions are avoidance of and neglect of.

✓ Correct sentence He was reprimanded not for the error itself, but for his evasion **of** responsibility thereafter.

---

48 ANSWER (c) omission

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Omission) The analyst's conclusion was mathematically sound but marred by the absence of contextual variables, so the sense of 'leaving out' is needed. 'A glaring **omission** of variables' is the natural expression.

✓ **Correct sentence** The analyst's conclusion, while mathematically valid, was marred by a glaring **omission** of contextual variables.

Examiner's Trap Abstinence means self-restraint and does not fit with 'of variables', but its sound attracts students.

---

49 ANSWER (a) insightful

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (As ... As: Positive Degree) In the **as ... as** construction, the Positive Degree of the adjective stands between the two 'as's.

✓ **Correct sentence** His recent paper is as **insightful** as any ever published in the journal's history.

Examiner's Trap More insightful and most insightful are Comparative and Superlative, which do not stand between 'as ... as'; insightfully is an adverb, whereas an adjective is needed here.

---

50 ANSWER (b) contrast

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Stand in Stark Contrast) **Stand in stark contrast to** is an established phrase meaning to be sharply different from something. The sarcastic tone and the solemnity of the occasion are opposed.

✓ **Correct sentence** The speaker's tone, marked by sarcastic inflections, stood in stark **contrast** to the solemnity of the occasion.

Examiner's Trap Parallel (similarity) is the opposite of the meaning needed, and proportion and deference do not form a collocation with 'stark ... to'.

---

51 ANSWER (b) rigor

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Rigour of Substantiation) The sentence says the speech was full of emotional appeals but lacked the strictness of empirical proof. **Rigor** (British spelling: rigour) means strictness, precision and careful scrutiny. 'Rigour of empirical substantiation' means strict, scientific testing of the evidence.

✓ **Correct sentence** The speaker's rhetoric was replete with appeals to emotion but lacked the **rigor** of empirical substantiation.

Examiner's Trap Depth, tone and validity may sound suitable, but 'rigour of substantiation' is the established expression.

---

52 ANSWER (a) adherence

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adherence To) **Adherence to** means firm attachment to an idea or principle. Refusing to acknowledge evidence shows clinging to ideological rigidity.

✓ **Correct sentence** His consistent refusal to acknowledge empirical evidence reflects a dangerous **adherence** to ideological rigidity.

Examiner's Trap Resistance also takes 'to', but resistance to ideological rigidity would give a sense opposite to the one intended.

---

53 ANSWER (b) address

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Fail To Address) **Address** here means to deal with a problem or take it into account. The consultant's forecast was optimistic but did not deal with the structural weaknesses of the model. 'Fail to address weaknesses' is a natural expression.

✓ **Correct sentence** The consultant's prognosis, though optimistic, failed to **address** the structural weaknesses evident in the model.

Examiner's Trap Diagnose and predict look attractive because of 'prognosis', but they do not form natural collocations with 'weaknesses'.

---

54 ANSWER (c) more effective

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Comparative with 'Than') 'No strategy was ... than diversification' contains **than**, so the Comparative Degree is required. Effective is Positive; most effective is a Superlative and does not go with than; effectively is an adverb.

✓ Correct sentence No strategy was found to be **more effective** than diversification during the crisis.

Examiner's Trap Seeing the negative sense of 'No ...', students pick the Superlative 'most effective', but than always calls for a Comparative.

---

55 ANSWER (a) ambiguous

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Ambiguous) The treaty was hailed as a breakthrough despite its language being open to several interpretations, so the sense 'unclear' is needed. **Ambiguous** (open to more than one meaning) matches 'multiple interpretations' exactly. Concise means brief, forthright means direct and frank, and implicit means implied.

✓ Correct sentence The treaty was hailed as a breakthrough despite its **ambiguous** language that allowed for multiple interpretations.

Examiner's Trap 'Implicit' (implied) seems related to vagueness, but it does not indicate the possibility of several interpretations.

---

56 ANSWER (a) evasion

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Evasion) The committee's reluctance to engage directly with dissenting voices was taken as a silent sign of avoiding accountability. **Evasion** means dodging or avoiding, and 'evasion of accountability' is a natural collocation.

✓ Correct sentence The committee's reluctance to engage directly with dissenting voices was seen as a tacit **evasion** of accountability.

---

57 ANSWER (a) derogatory

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Derogatory) Besides being misinformed, the remarks are described as undermining years of community advocacy, so a negative, insulting sense is needed. **Derogatory** means insulting or disparaging. Contentious means controversial, illustrative means serving as an example, and preliminary means preparatory.

✓ Correct sentence Her remarks were not only misinformed but also **derogatory**, undermining years of community-led advocacy.

Examiner's Trap Contentious also sounds negative, but it suggests controversy, not insult.

---

58 ANSWER (b) do away with

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Do Away With) **Do away with** means to abolish or get rid of something. Replacing an outdated policy with a more inclusive one needs this phrasal verb. Do with means to manage with; do about means to take action concerning; 'do off with' is not a valid phrasal verb.

✓ Correct sentence The team decided to **do away with** the outdated policy and draft a more inclusive one.

Examiner's Trap 'Do off with' sounds like do away with, but it is not a valid phrasal verb.

---

59 ANSWER (b) obfuscate

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Antonym Clue: More to X Than to Y) The report's language, full of technical jargon, did something other than inform the public, namely confuse it. In 'served more to ... than to inform' we need the opposite of inform, which is **obfuscate** (to make unclear). Illuminate and clarify mean to make clear, which goes along with inform.

✓ Correct sentence The report's language, laden with technical jargon, served more to **obfuscate** than to inform the general public.

Examiner's Trap Positive words such as illuminate, clarify and communicate seem attractive, but 'more ... than to inform' demands a sense opposite to inform.

---

60 ANSWER (a) perpetuated

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

SSC Key (a) · Disputed question

Concept (Verb Choice: Perpetuate vs Amplify) SSC's key is A (**perpetuated**), and it fits: a policy described as reformist kept structural inequalities alive. However, **amplified** (increased) is also natural and is the direct opposite of 'mitigating', so the question can be

challenged. Repelled means drove away; suppressed means held down.

✓ Correct sentence Although framed as reformist, the policy inadvertently **perpetuated** structural inequalities rather than mitigating them.

Examiner's Trap Amplified fits just as well because it directly contrasts with mitigating, which is why this question is debatable.

---

61 ANSWER (c) broke down

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Break Down) **Break down** means to collapse under pressure or to lose emotional control. It is the natural choice for a junior associate who cannot cope with sustained pressure. Broke out means began suddenly, broke away means separated, and broke off means stopped abruptly or ended.

✓ Correct sentence Unable to handle the sustained pressure, the junior associate eventually **broke down** during the audit.

Examiner's Trap Break out, break away and break off sound alike, but none of them conveys collapsing under pressure.

---

62 ANSWER (d) injecting

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Verb Choice: Inject) **While** sets up a contrast: the statement kept diplomatic decorum but subtly slipped in criticism. 'Subtly **injecting** criticism', meaning introducing criticism indirectly, therefore fits precisely. Deflecting means turning aside, which does not match the idea set against decorum; inflicting means imposing, and reflecting means mirroring. Hence option D is correct.

✓ Correct sentence The ambassador's statement was meticulously phrased to maintain diplomatic decorum while subtly **injecting** criticism.

Examiner's Trap Deflecting sounds natural in diplomatic language, so students choose it, but the sentence speaks of slipping criticism in, not of turning it aside.

---

63 ANSWER (d) No article, the

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Article with an Uncountable Noun) In the first blank 'education' is used in a general sense, and as an uncountable noun it takes no article: **no article**. In the second blank, 'education received in underfunded areas' is made specific by the phrase that follows, so **the** is used.

✓ Correct sentence **No article** education is vital for societal progress, but **the** education received in underfunded areas often lacks basic resources.

Examiner's Trap In option A the first 'The' is wrong, because education in a general sense takes no article.

---

64 ANSWER (a) An, the, the

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Articles: A/An and The) 'Apple' begins with a vowel sound, so the first blank takes **An**. 'The tree' in the second blank refers to a particular tree, and 'the summer season' is likewise specified, so both take **the**.

✓ Correct sentence **An** apple fell from **the** tree, which was during **the** summer season.

---

65 ANSWER (b) the, a

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (d) · Correct answer (b)

Concept (Articles: The, and A Host Of) SSC's key is D (the, the), but the correct answer is **B (the, a)**. In 'The emergence of artificial intelligence' the first article **the** is correct, since a particular emergence is meant. In the second blank, **a host of** is an established phrase meaning a great many (Oxford, Cambridge).

✓ Correct sentence Although **the** emergence of artificial intelligence promises significant benefits, it also raises **a** host of ethical dilemmas.

Examiner's Trap SSC's key D gives 'the host of', which is not current in this sense; 'a host of' is the established phrase.

---

66 ANSWER (a) would have

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Inverted Third Conditional) This is an Inverted Third Conditional: 'Were he to have followed the instructions' means 'If he had followed the instructions'. The main clause then takes **would have + V3** for the unreal past result.

✓ Correct sentence Were he to have followed the instructions, none of this **would have** occurred.

Examiner's Trap Will have and should do not suit this conditional, and 'had occurred' does not express an unreal result in the main clause.

---

67 ANSWER (c) would have broken down

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Inverted Third Conditional) 'Had he not intervened' is an Inverted Third Conditional, meaning 'If he had not intervened'. Its main clause takes **would have + V3** for the unreal past result. Would break and should be breaking belong to present or future contexts, and had broken does not form a conditional result in the main clause.

✓ Correct sentence Had he not intervened, the negotiations **would have broken down** long before the deadline.

Examiner's Trap Seeing Had at the start, students choose had broken for the main clause too, but a Third Conditional result takes would have + V3.

---

68 ANSWER (d) is

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Noun Clause as Subject) 'That she ... the one to criticize others' is a whole noun clause that is the subject of the sentence, and its verb is 'is baffling'. Inside the clause the subject 'she' is singular, so the singular present verb **is** is needed. Are is plural; be and were are not suitable for a plain statement of fact.

✓ Correct sentence That she, of all people, **is** the one to criticize others is baffling.

Examiner's Trap Choosing were or be, students treat the clause as subjunctive, but it states a real fact.

---

69 ANSWER (b) were

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Neither ... Nor: Proximity) In **neither ... nor**, the verb agrees with the subject nearer to it. Here the nearest subject, 'his assistants', is plural, so the plural verb **were** is needed. Was and is are singular, and be is incorrect in this sentence.

✓ Correct sentence Neither the manager nor his assistants **were** prepared for the sudden audit.

---

70 ANSWER (a) utmost

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Collocation: Utmost Skill) **Utmost** means the greatest possible and appears in collocations such as 'with utmost skill / care / respect'. 'With most skill' is not idiomatic without an article, too much carries a negative sense, and extreme is rarely used naturally here.

✓ Correct sentence He wrote with **utmost** skill, weaving intricate narratives effortlessly into complex themes.

Examiner's Trap Most and extreme sound complimentary, but 'with utmost skill' is the established collocation.

---

71 ANSWER (b) less

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Comparative Degree: Less) Two theories are being compared, and the sense of 'less acceptable' is needed. **Less** before the adjective 'acceptable' forms the Comparative. Least is a Superlative and does not suit a comparison of two; lesser is itself an adjective (as in 'lesser evil') and does not come before another adjective.

✓ Correct sentence When comparing the two theories, Newton's laws were initially considered **less** acceptable.

Examiner's Trap Lesser looks like less, so students take it as a Comparative.

---

72 ANSWER (b) more

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Comparative for Two: More) 'Between the two' calls for the Comparative Degree. 'Profound' is a polysyllabic adjective, so the form is **more profound**. Most and best are Superlatives, used for more than two, and 'better profound' is ungrammatical.

✓ Correct sentence Between the two musicians, I find Bach's compositions to be **more** profound.

Examiner's Trap Better looks like a Comparative, so students choose it, but it cannot be attached to 'profound'.

---

73 ANSWER (a) revived

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Collocation: Revive Memories) The sentence means that being introduced to the swimming pool brought back old unpleasant memories. **Revive memories** is the right collocation, and the past tense also requires revived. Rewind means to wind back, recognise means to identify, and repeat means to say again.

✓ Correct sentence My introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool **revived** unpleasant memories.

Examiner's Trap Rewind is a base form, not past tense, and 'rewind memories' is not a natural collocation either.

---

74 ANSWER (d) in

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Fixed Phrase: In Consultation With) **In consultation with** is a fixed phrase meaning after consulting someone. By, under and upon do not form this collocation with 'consultation with'.

✓ Correct sentence The decision was made **in** consultation with the stakeholders.

---

75 ANSWER (d) among

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Preposition: Among) **Among** is used to show something existing within a group of people. After means following, with means together with, and across means over or throughout. None of these gives the sense of literacy within a group.

✓ Correct sentence The Prime Minister emphasised the importance of digital literacy **among** rural women to bridge the digital divide.

Examiner's Trap Across also suggests spread, so students choose it, but it does not convey being within a group.

---

76 ANSWER (c) chords

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Homophones: Chords and Cords) In the context of the guitar, the word needed is **chords** (several notes sounded together). Codes means systems of signals, cords means ropes or strings (a homophone of chords), and cards means playing cards or similar.

✓ Correct sentence I was practising the guitar **chords**.

Examiner's Trap Cords and chords sound the same, so students pick the wrong spelling without checking the meaning; for music the spelling is chords.

---

77 ANSWER (c) steadfast, scathing

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Parts of Speech: Adjective Pair) The first blank comes before the noun 'refusal', so an adjective is needed: **steadfast** (unwavering). The second blank comes before 'criticism', so the adjective **scathing** (harsh) is needed. Steadiness and scathe are nouns, steadfastly and steadily are adverbs, and scathes is a verb form.

✓ Correct sentence The director's **steadfast** refusal to compromise and the board's **scathing** criticism led to a stalemate.

Examiner's Trap Adverbs such as steadfastly and steadily look familiar, but only an adjective can come before a noun.

---

78 ANSWER (c) will have earned

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Future Perfect Tense) 'By the end of the fiscal year' refers to completion of an action by a fixed point in the future, which takes the Future Perfect: **will have earned**. Has earned and had earned do not fit a future reference, and was earning is a Past Continuous.

✓ Correct sentence By the end of the fiscal year, the company **will have earned** nearly 15% more than it had projected initially.

Examiner's Trap Seeing 'had projected' at the end, students lean towards a past tense, but the time limit is in the future.

---

79 **ANSWER (a)** continue

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (First Conditional If-Clause) This is a First Conditional, with 'will soon witness' in the main clause. The if-clause therefore takes the Simple Present, so **continue** is correct. Continued and had continued are past forms. Have continued can go with a plural subject, but the usual First Conditional concept is the Simple Present.

✓ Correct sentence If technological advancements **continue** at the current pace, we will soon witness innovations previously deemed impossible.

Examiner's Trap Have continued fits grammatically, which makes it the closest distractor.

---

80 **ANSWER (a)** analyzed thoroughly

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Inverted Second Conditional) This is an inverted conditional: 'Were the data analysed earlier' replaces 'If the data were analysed earlier'. **Were** is already present, so the blank needs only the past participle for the passive: **analyzed**. Options B and D do not contain a past participle, and C repeats 'were'.

✓ Correct sentence Were the data **analyzed** thoroughly earlier, corrective measures could have been implemented.

Examiner's Trap 'Had analyzed' pulls towards the Third Conditional, but Were is already present in the inversion and the verb must be passive.

---

81 **ANSWER (c)** had analyzed

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Third Conditional If-Clause) The main clause has 'would not have contained', the result part of a Third Conditional, so the if-clause takes the Past Perfect: **had analyzed**. Analyze, have analyzed and has analyzed are present forms and do not suit this conditional.

✓ Correct sentence If the team **had analyzed** the interim results more meticulously, the final report would not have contained so many discrepancies.

---

82 **ANSWER (c)** addressed

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Simple Past for a Completed Action) 'During the discussion' refers to a completed past event, and the next clause is also in the past (failed), so the Simple Past **addressed** is correct. Addresses is Present; had addressed unnecessarily shows an earlier event; was addressing shows an action in progress, whereas a completed action is meant.

✓ Correct sentence Although the panel **addressed** several contentious issues during the discussion, it failed to reach a unanimous conclusion.

Examiner's Trap The Although clause looks complex, so students choose the Past Perfect, but both actions are at the same time level.

---

83 **ANSWER (b)** had I boarded, would have missed

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Inversion with Scarcely and Third Conditional) When a sentence begins with **Scarcely**, inversion follows, giving the pattern **Scarcely had + subject + V3 ... when + Past Simple**; hence 'had I boarded'. 'If I had left ... later' is the if-clause of a Third Conditional, so the main clause takes **would have missed**. A has no inversion; in C, 'did I board' does not fit this pattern; in D, 'will miss' does not match an unreal past.

✓ Correct sentence Scarcely **had I boarded** the morning train when I realized that, if I had left my house five minutes later, I **would have missed** the crucial interview.

Examiner's Trap The two blanks rest on different concepts, so students who look only at the first part and choose C or D go wrong in the second blank.

---

84 **ANSWER (b)** beyond, in, in

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Prepositions in Fixed Phrases) All three prepositions must be chosen by meaning: morality exists **beyond** the realm of legality (outside its scope), operates **in** opposition to (opposing), and persists **in** spite of (despite). 'In opposition to' and 'in spite of' are established prepositional phrases.

✓ Correct sentence The philosopher contended that morality exists **beyond** the realm of legality, operates **in** opposition to utilitarianism, and persists **in** spite of cultural relativism.

Examiner's Trap The pairing of 'against' with opposition, and the fact that 'despite' has no 'in', make A attractive, while the fixed phrase with 'spite' is harder to recognise.

---

85 **ANSWER (a)** of adopting, mitigating

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Necessity Of + Gerund) The noun **necessity** takes the preposition **of**, and a preposition is followed by the -ing form (gerund). After 'while simultaneously', the -ing form is also used for parallelism: **of adopting, mitigating**.

✓ Correct sentence ...underscores the necessity **of adopting** methodological flexibility while simultaneously **mitigating** epistemic biases...

Examiner's Trap Options B, C and D use 'necessity to' and infinitives, which break the parallel structure.

---

86 **ANSWER (b)** audacious, muted, deliberate

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Coherent Set of Adjectives) The sentence says the director's treatment divided critics and audiences, so the words must show bold but controversial creative choices. **Audacious** (daring), **muted** (subdued in colour) and **deliberate** (carefully measured, unhurried) together form a coherent artistic style.

✓ Correct sentence The director's **audacious** reinterpretation of the classic tale, coupled with a **muted** cinematographic palette and **deliberate** pacing, divided both critics and audiences.

Examiner's Trap In A, 'exaggerated palette' and 'erratic pacing' are negative combinations; in C, 'incoherent' and 'glossy' do not fit well; in D, 'simplistic' and 'accelerated' make an unsuitable combination.

---

87 **ANSWER (a)/(b)** The judge delivered justice swiftly and efficiently / The minister ...

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

SSC Key (b) · More than one correct option: (a), (b)

Concept (Collocation (Two Answers)) SSC's key is B ('made a quick decision'), which is a correct collocation. However, 'deliver justice' is also an established collocation (commonly found in Oxford and Cambridge examples), alongside dispense justice and administer justice. So A is also correct. C is wrong because we say 'take a firm/major step', not 'strong step'; D is wrong because we say 'big/serious mistake', not 'large mistake'.

✓ Correct sentence A: The judge **delivered justice** swiftly and efficiently. B: The minister **made a quick decision** on the proposal.

---

88 **ANSWER (b)** more, than

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Comparative after Inversion) The negative adverb **Seldom** causes inversion (Seldom have we encountered). The adjective 'intriguing' follows the blank and the comparison ends with 'this one', so the Comparative construction **more ... than** is needed. Much ... than and more ... as are incorrect pairs; in as ... that, the comparison connector is wrong.

✓ Correct sentence Seldom have we encountered a theory **more** intriguing **than** this one.

Examiner's Trap In the complex inverted opening, students lose track of the comparative structure and choose a pair such as 'as ... that'.

---

89 **ANSWER (a)** up

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Take Up) **Take up** means to accept a responsibility, task or challenge. 'Took in', 'took off' and 'took out' do not give this sense with 'responsibility'.

✓ Correct sentence The NGO took **up** the responsibility of educating underprivileged children in rural areas.

---

90 **ANSWER (d)** the, be, the

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Mandative Subjunctive with Articles) After 'It is imperative that' the Mandative Subjunctive is used, which takes the base form of the verb, so 'anonymity ... **be** maintained' is correct. In 'The anonymity of the whistle-blower' the specific reference needs **the**, and in 'even the slightest leak' the superlative 'slightest' takes **the**.

✓ Correct sentence It is imperative that **the** anonymity of the whistle-blower **be** maintained, as

even **the** slightest leak could compromise the entire federal investigation.

Examiner's Trap 'Is maintained' seems normal, but after imperative the that-clause takes the base form; placing a before 'slightest' is another trap.

---

91 **ANSWER (b)** had rewritten, approved

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Past Perfect with Simple Past) The director's rewriting of the script many times happened before the producers' approval ('last week'), so the earlier action takes the Past Perfect (**had rewritten**) and the later one the Simple Past (**approved**). The Present Perfect or Present Tense is not used with 'last week', and 'was rewriting' does not convey the completed sense of 'entire script multiple times'.

✓ Correct sentence The director **had rewritten** the entire script multiple times before the producers finally **approved** it last week.

Examiner's Trap The Present Perfect in option A seems ordinary, but it is not used with a definite past time marker such as 'last week'.

---

92 **ANSWER (d)** toe the line

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Idiom: Toe the Line) **Toe the line** means to follow the rules or official policy. Junior members of the mission were warned of dismissal for departing from official policy, so this idiom fits. Hit the mark means to be exactly right, stretch the truth means to exaggerate, and go against the grain means to act contrary to nature or custom.

✓ Correct sentence Junior members of the diplomatic mission were explicitly warned that they must **toe the line** during the international summit, as any public departure from the official state policy would result in immediate dismissal.

Examiner's Trap Go against the grain seems to match 'departure', but it describes exactly what the warning forbids.

---

93 **ANSWER (a)** Had, crippled, would not have eroded

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Inverted Third Conditional) This is an Inverted Third Conditional: 'Had the central bank intervened' means 'If the central bank had intervened'. The main clause takes **would not have eroded** for the unreal past, while the relative clause 'that crippled the financial sector' states the actual past fact about the defaults, so **crippled** is correct. Should does not suit a past reference; 'would not erode' in C is present; in D, crippling makes the relative clause ungrammatical.

✓ Correct sentence **Had** the central bank intervened more decisively during the liquidity crisis, the cascading defaults that **crippled** the financial sector would have been largely contained, and investor confidence **would not have eroded** so dramatically.

Examiner's Trap Assuming the conditional affects the defaults clause too, students choose had crippled or crippling, but that clause states a real past fact.

---

94 **ANSWER (a)** an, the, an

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Articles Before Vowel Sounds) 'Undeniable' begins with a vowel sound, so the first article is **an**. 'The man once celebrated as ...' refers to a particular man, so the second article is **the**. 'Architect' begins with a vowel sound, so the third article is **an**.

✓ Correct sentence It was **an** undeniable irony that **the** man once celebrated as **an** architect of peace should become the very symbol of conflict.

Examiner's Trap Option C puts a in the second place, making 'man' general, whereas a particular man is meant.


Zero to Hero English सीखने के लिए आज ही Prashant sir
के English Special VOD batch में enroll करें।
VALIDITY
LIFETIME
English Special
recorded
VOD BATCH
(PRE+MAINS) FOR ALL GOVT EXAMS
GRAMMAR, VOCAB, COMPREHENSION
RECORDED CLASSES
HANDWRITTEN & E-NOTES
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06
CHAPTER

Homonyms

Questions *48 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01–03): *Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?*

01 He had to ____ his brains trying to remember how he came to be on the shore strewn with ____ and driftwood.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) wrack, rack
(b) rack, rack
(c) rack, wrack
(d) wrack, wrack

02 The two knights engaged in a fierce ____, using swords with ____ edges.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) dual, duel
(b) duel, duel
(c) dual, dual
(d) duel, dual

03 The tribal women exercised their ____ to challenge the ____ of passage that had been followed for generations.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) rites, rites
(b) rites, rights
(c) rights, rites
(d) rights, rights

Directions (Q. 04–07): *From the given options, select the homonym that corresponds to both Definition (P) and Definition (Q).*

04 (P) A company's legal financial debts or monetary obligations owed to outside parties
(Q) A person or thing whose presence or behaviour creates a disadvantageous burden

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Liability
(b) Arrears
(c) Onus
(d) Impediment

05 (P) To adjust or compromise one's desires or actions to prevent conflict and cooperate harmoniously with others
(Q) To provide temporary lodging, physical space, or overnight living quarters for someone

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Rehabilitate
(b) Accommodate
(c) Articulate
(d) Designate

06 (P) The mathematical process of finding the total area under a curve
(Q) The mixing and unifying of previously segregated social groups

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Derivation
(b) Integration
(c) Convergence
(d) Divergence

07 (P) A military flag, banner, or symbolic staff raised to mark the rally point of an army

(Q) An officially approved level of quality, requirement, or specification

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Benchmark
(b) Insignia
(c) Criteria
(d) Standard

08 Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'panel'?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A group of people chosen to give advice or judgement
(b) A flat, usually rectangular piece forming part of a surface or structure
(c) A touchscreen interface or display area
(d) A legal fee charged per hearing

09 Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'impertinent'?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Irrelevant or not related to the matter at hand
(b) Inappropriate in a given context
(c) Rude or disrespectful, especially towards someone older or in authority
(d) Very eager or passionate about a subject

10 Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'subject'?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To freely exclude oneself from external governance or control
(b) A branch of knowledge studied or taught in school or university
(c) A person under the rule of a monarch or sovereign state
(d) To cause or force someone to undergo an unpleasant experience

11 Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'deposition'?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The act of giving sworn evidence in a legal proceeding
(b) The geological process in which material is added to a landform
(c) The removal of a sovereign or person from office
(d) The legal classification of a sovereign territory under international law

12 Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'constitution'?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The system of fundamental principles according to which a state or organisation is governed.
(b) The physical or mental makeup of a person, especially in relation to health or temperament.
(c) The formal disbandment of a legal contract between two or more parties.
(d) The composition or structure of something, especially a material or compound.

13 Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'advance'?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Move forward
(b) Progress
(c) Special benefits
(d) Ahead of time

Directions (Q. 14–33): *Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word*

14 The manuscript bore a **colophon** detailing the scribe's name.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The typesetter inserted a printer's colophon on the final page.
(b) The insect's antenna ended in a segmented colophon.
(c) The medieval colophon praised the patron.
(d) The librarian studied the Syriac colophon.

15 She caught the **train** just before it departed.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) He had to train hard for the marathon.
(b) The train was unusually delayed.
(c) They boarded the overnight train.
(d) The steam train whistled loudly.

16 The architect designed a convex **lunette** above the doorway.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The archaeologist unearthed a Bronze Age lunette.
(b) The chapel's stained-glass lunette depicted an angel.
(c) The frieze curved into a crescent-like lunette.
(d) The basilica's façade included a Romanesque lunette.

17 The zoologist highlighted the **rostrum** in the dolphin's skull.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The orator stood on the rostrum to address the assembly.
(b) The anatomist studied the rostrum near the frontal bone.
(c) The cetologist measured the beaklike rostrum carefully.
(d) The dissection revealed damage to the rostrum.

18 She shed a silent **tear** during the speech.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The actor gave a tearful performance.
(b) He feared his shirt might tear during the match.
(c) Tears rolled down her cheeks.
(d) The sound of tearing paper startled him.

19 The calligrapher added a **cadel** in the manuscript margin.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The scribe's cadel resembled a floral spiral.
(b) The artist painted a cadel into the decorative header.
(c) The engineer adjusted the cadel in the circuit board.
(d) The monk illuminated the cadel in gold leaf.

20 The professor critiqued the flawed **lemma** in the manuscript.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The botanist identified a damaged lemma in the grass sample.
(b) The lemma connects two axioms in formal logic.
(c) She corrected a misapplied lemma in the proof.
(d) The mathematician introduced a bridging lemma.

21 The ethnographer noted the **fetish** worshipped by the tribe.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The tourist purchased a tribal fetish as a souvenir.
(b) The historian discussed colonial views on fetish objects.
(c) The novel explored a character's shoe fetish.
(d) The anthropologist documented a carved fetish near the shrine.

22 The **seal** used on the treaty indicated mutual assent.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The marine biologist studied a wounded seal.
(b) The seal was broken before the parcel arrived.
(c) The office uses a mechanical seal for certification.
(d) He pressed the seal onto the wax to formalize the pact.

23 The monk noted a red **incipit** at the beginning of the psalm.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The librarian traced the incipit of a Carolingian hymn.
(b) The choir sang the incipit before the full chant began.
(c) The weather forecaster tracked the storm's incipit.
(d) The scholar cataloged the incipit for liturgical use.

24 The choir sang a **motet** written for Advent.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The motet featured complex polyphonic layering.
(b) The musicologist analyzed a 14th-century motet.
(c) The legal clerk filed a motet to the high court.
(d) The cathedral's motet was accompanied by lute.

25 The professor gave a long **lecture** on postmodernism.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The lecture began at 2 PM.
(b) The lecture hall was packed.
(c) He will lecture the students on discipline.
(d) Students attended the lecture daily.

26 He offered his **resignation** without protest.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Her face showed resignation to fate.
(b) The resignation letter was printed.
(c) They accepted his resignation.
(d) The manager signed the resignation note.

27 He picked up a **rock** and threw it into the lake.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The kids climbed a big rock near the beach.
(b) The band played rock music all night.
(c) Their cottage stood beside a rock face.
(d) She collected shiny rocks by the river.

28 The scribe recorded a **bulla** at the bottom of the charter.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The medieval bulla sealed the papal decree.
(b) The physician diagnosed the lesion as a bulla.
(c) The diplomat delivered a golden bulla to the emperor.
(d) The monk copied the Latin text below the bulla.

29 The **content** of the speech was thought-provoking.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) They found new content in the document.
(b) The artist uploaded fresh content daily.
(c) His content appeared in the magazine.
(d) She was content with the outcome.

30 His remarks **struck** a nerve with the audience.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Lightning struck the tree during the storm.
(b) She struck a pose on the runway.
(c) He was struck by the depth of her words.
(d) Workers struck over unfair wages.

31 The mystic interpreted the **oracle**'s message symbolically.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The Oracle database crashed during the migration.
(b) The villagers consulted the oracle every full moon.
(c) The oracle's cave is still a sacred site.
(d) Her verses echoed the oracle's cryptic tone.

32 The **gaffe** cost the candidate valuable public support.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The sailors hoisted the gaffe to adjust the sail.
(b) The ambassador apologized for the diplomatic gaffe.
(c) His verbal gaffe went viral within hours.
(d) The comedian's gaffe was interpreted as offensive.

33 The treasure was hidden inside the ancient **vault**.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The vault was made of reinforced steel.
(b) He placed the bag in the vault.
(c) The gymnast executed a perfect vault.
(d) The guards opened the vault with a key.

> **Directions (Q. 34–36):** *Choose the sentence containing the homonym of the underlined word*

34 The **match** was very exciting.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) He used a match to light the candle.
(b) The match was watched by millions.
(c) That match ended in a draw.
(d) Football matches are thrilling.

35 She had a bright **pupil** in her class.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The pupil of his eye was dilated.
(b) The pupil was late for school.
(c) The new pupil performed well.
(d) The pupil solved the problem quickly.

36 He couldn't **bear** the pain.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The bear was wandering in the forest.
(b) She couldn't bear the noise.
(c) He couldn't bear the loss.
(d) Bear with me for a moment.

> **Directions (Q. 37):** *Identify the correct homonym that best fits the context of the sentence*

37 The children were excited to see the _____ during their visit to the national park.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) dear (b) deer
(c) dears (d) dare

> **Directions (Q. 38–42):** *Pick out the homonym from the given options that can suitably complete both Sentence (P) and Sentence (Q) given below.*

38 (P) Avian zoologists monitored the artificial _____ environment, meticulously regulating thermal variables and humidity levels to ensure optimal embryonic development within the clutch.

(Q) Epidemiologists warned that the pathogenic agent possessed an extended, asymptomatic _____ period, allowing infected hosts to propagate the virus across borders before clinical detection.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) expectancy (b) dormancy
(c) incubation (d) maturation

39 (P) Astrophysicists observed that the atmospheric _____ of solar radiation by dense greenhouse gas compounds altered the planet's thermodynamic equilibrium over geological eras.

(Q) In cognitive research, a participant's profound _____ in an immersive virtual simulation can temporarily diminish their conscious awareness of external physical stimuli.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) retention (b) absorption
(c) assignation (d) immersion

40 (P) Experimental physicists analysed the specular _____ of high-frequency laser beams off the polished beryllium mirrors to calculate minor deviations in electromagnetic alignment.

(Q) Epistemological texts emphasize that deliberate, critical _____ upon one's own ethical presuppositions is a fundamental requirement for achieving genuine moral autonomy.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) refraction (b) radiation
(c) divergence (d) reflection

41 (P) Audio engineers deliberately introduced harmonic _____ into the guitar's vacuum-tube amplifier circuit to cultivate the gritty, saturated sonic texture essential for rock music production.

(Q) Political scientists warn that the systematic, intentional _____ of historical facts by partisan media outlets severely polarises the electorate and undermines democratic discourse.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) manipulation (b) modulation
(c) distortion (d) corruption

42 (P) Analytical chemists utilized high-performance liquid chromatography to precisely quantify the molecular _____ of the active pharmaceutical ingredient suspended within the saline solvent.

(Q) Cognitive psychologists theorize that the prolonged, uninterrupted _____ of mental bandwidth required for advanced data analysis causes rapid depletion of an individual's executive functioning reserves.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) magnetism (b) conjunction
(c) reduction (d) concentration

Directions (Q. 43): *Select the option in which the underlined homonym "assimilation" is used with the same meaning as in the sentence below.*

43 The educational psychologist explained that cognitive schema expansion requires a careful balance between the **assimilation** of familiar data points and the accommodation of radically disruptive new concepts.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Sociologists argue that forced cultural **assimilation** policies systematically erode indigenous languages and traditions, causing generational trauma by severing a community's connection to its heritage.
(b) Gastroenterologists noted that structural damage to the intestinal villi severely compromises the metabolic **assimilation** of essential lipids, leading to systemic malnutrition despite adequate caloric intake.
(c) Piagetian developmental theorists observe that a child utilises **assimilation** when they categorise a newly encountered target object, like a raccoon, into their pre-existing mental framework for "dogs."
(d) Phonetic analysis reveals that rapid, colloquial speech frequently triggers mutual **assimilation**, where adjacent articulation points overlap and blend to minimise the mechanical effort required by the human vocal tract.

Directions (Q. 44): *Choose the most appropriate homonym to fill in the blank.*

44 A lovely maiden sat by the stream, weaving tiny wildflowers into her long _____.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) brayed (b) braid
(c) bread (d) bred

Directions (Q. 45): *Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'tender'?*

45

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) An offer to carry out work or supply goods at a stated price
(b) Showing gentleness or concern
(c) A legal document authorizing someone to conduct a trial
(d) A small boat used to ferry people or supplies to a larger ship

Directions (Q. 46): *Select the option(s) in which the underlined homonym "configuration" is used with the same meaning as in the sentence below.*

46 Organic chemists observed that the geometric **configuration** around the carbon-carbon double bond prevented the molecule from rotating freely, forcing the substituents into a rigid cis-orientation that fundamentally altered its physical melting point.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) X-ray crystallography revealed that the complex macromolecule adopted a unique spatial **configuration** when exposed to thermal stress, breaking the hydrogen bonds that stabilised its original structural geometry.
(b) The database administrator altered the memory allocation **configuration** within the root directory, significantly optimising query response times during peak transactional traffic.
(c) Early Renaissance astronomers relied on rudimentary astrolabes to chart the shifting planetary **configuration**, attempting to reconcile geocentric models with empirical observations of retrograde motion.
(d) The doctor utilised advanced psychometric assessments to map the patient's internal personality **configuration**, identifying how deeply ingrained archetype patterns influenced their interpersonal communication style.

Directions (Q. 47–48): *Select the most appropriate homonym to fill in the blank.*

47 My grand mother placed fruits and flowers on the ---------- as an offering to the sun God.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) altar
(b) alter
(c) praise
(d) objective

48 Hypno kamalakar created the ---------- of a jumping boy on stage.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) illusion
(b) allusion
(c) band
(d) basis

Answer Key

Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation

01	02	03	04	05	16	17	18	19	20
(c)	(d)	(c)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
(b)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(a)	(c)	(a)	(c)	(c)	(c)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
(d)	(c)	(c)	(b)	(a)	(a)	(b)	(b)	(d)	**(d)**

31	32	33	34	35	41	42	43	44	45
(a)	(a)	(c)	(a)	(a)	(c)	(d)	(c)	(b)	(c)
36	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**	**46**	**47**	**48**		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(a)	(a)		

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 ANSWER (c) rack, wrack

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

The first blank takes **rack**, because 'rack one's brains' is a fixed collocation meaning to strain hard to remember something. The second blank takes **wrack**, the seaweed or debris washed up on a shore, which is why 'wrack and driftwood' occur together.

- rack — instrument of torture; to strain (the brain)
- wrack — seaweed or debris washed ashore

02 ANSWER (d) duel, dual

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The first blank needs a noun, so **duel** (a formal fight between two persons) is used. The second blank needs an adjective describing 'edges', so **dual** (double) is used, giving swords with two cutting edges.

- dual — double
- duel — a fight between two people

03 ANSWER (c) rights, rites

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In the first blank, 'exercised their ____' calls for **rights** (legal or moral entitlements). In the second blank, 'of passage' pairs with **rites**, since 'rites of passage' are ceremonies marking a stage of life.

- rights — entitlements
- rites — religious or traditional ceremonies
- (right — correct; opposite of left)

04 ANSWER (a) Liability

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Liability fits both definitions: (P) in accounting, the debts a company owes to outside parties, and (Q) a person or thing that becomes a burden or handicap, as in 'He is a liability to the team'.

- Benchmark — a standard for comparison
- Arrears — money overdue
- Onus — burden of responsibility (does not fit (P))
- Impediment — obstacle

05 ANSWER (b) Accommodate

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Accommodate fits both definitions: (P) to adjust oneself or compromise in order to get along, and (Q) to provide someone with lodging or space.

- Rehabilitate — to restore to a normal life or condition
- Articulate — to express clearly
- Designate — to appoint or name

06 ANSWER (b) Integration

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Integration fits both definitions: (P) in mathematics, finding the area under a curve, and (Q) the bringing together of separate social groups.

- Derivation — origin; (in mathematics) finding a derivative
- Convergence — coming together at a point
- Divergence — moving apart

07 ANSWER (d) Standard

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Standard fits both definitions: (P) a military flag raised to mark an army's rallying point, and (Q) an accepted level of quality.

- Benchmark — a point of reference for comparison
- Insignia — a badge of rank or office
- Criteria — standards of judgement (plural)

Insignia lacks the meaning in (Q), and Benchmark and Criteria lack the meaning in (P).

08 **ANSWER (d)** A legal fee charged per hearing

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

'Panel' commonly means a group of experts giving advice or judgement (A), a flat section of a surface or structure (B), and a control or display area (C). A legal fee charged per hearing is not a meaning of 'panel', so **D** is the answer.

09 **ANSWER (d)** Very eager or passionate about a subject

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

'Impertinent' means irrelevant (A), inappropriate (B) and, especially towards elders, rude or insolent (C). 'Very eager or passionate' is not a meaning of it; words such as ardent or zealous carry that sense. So **D** is the answer.

10 **ANSWER (a)** To freely exclude oneself from external governance or control

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

'Subject' means a branch of study (B), a person under the rule of a monarch or state (C), and, as a verb, to make someone undergo an unpleasant experience (D). 'To exclude oneself freely from control' is not a meaning; it is in fact the opposite, since to subject is to bring someone under control. So **A** is the answer.

11 **ANSWER (d)** The legal classification of a sovereign territory under ...

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

'Deposition' means sworn testimony in a legal proceeding (A), the laying down of sediment in geology (B), and removal from office (C). The legal classification of a territory as sovereign is not a meaning of it, so **D** is the answer.

12 **ANSWER (c)** The formal disbandment of a legal contract between two or more ...

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

'Constitution' means the fundamental principles by which a state or organisation is governed (A), a person's physical or mental makeup (B), and the composition of something (D). The formal ending of a contract is not a meaning of it; dissolution or termination carries that sense. So **C** is the answer.

13 **ANSWER (c)** Special benefits

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

'Advance' means to move forward (A), to progress (B), and, in 'in advance', ahead of time (D). 'Special benefits' is not a meaning of it, so **C** is the answer.

14 **ANSWER (b)** The insect's antenna ended in a segmented colophon.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In the given sentence 'colophon' is the inscription at the end of a manuscript, and A, C and D use it in the same sense. Only in option B is colophon used for the terminal tip of an antenna, that is, the closing part of a structure, which differs from the bookish sense. Hence B is the sentence in which the word carries a different meaning.

15 **ANSWER (a)** He had to train hard for the marathon.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In the given sentence, **train** is a noun meaning a railway train. In option A it is a verb meaning to practise or undergo instruction, a different meaning, so A is the homonym. B, C and D all use 'train' for the railway vehicle.

16 **ANSWER (a)** The archaeologist unearthed a Bronze Age lunette.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In the given sentence, **lunette** is the crescent-shaped space above a door or window in architecture, and B, C and D use it in the same architectural sense. In option A, which speaks of a Bronze Age find, the word refers to a crescent-shaped ornament or object, a different meaning. So **A** is the answer.

17 **ANSWER (a)** The orator stood on the rostrum to address the assembly.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In the given sentence, **rostrum** is a biological term for a beak-like projection, here the front part of a dolphin's skull, and B, C and D keep this anatomical

sense. In option A it means a platform for public speaking, a different meaning, so A is the homonym.

18 **ANSWER (b)** He feared his shirt might tear during the match.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In the given sentence, **tear** is a drop from the eye. In option B it is a verb meaning to rip, and it is pronounced differently, so B is the homonym. A, C and D contain 'tearful', 'tears' and 'tearing', all connected with weeping or ripping, but the word 'tear' itself does not appear in them.

19 **ANSWER (c)** The engineer adjusted the cadel in the circuit board.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In the given sentence 'cadel' is a decorative flourish or ornate letter in calligraphy, and A, B and D also use it within the art of writing. Only option C uses it in a technical context, with a circuit board, which differs from the calligraphic sense. Hence C is the sentence with the different meaning.

20 **ANSWER (a)** The botanist identified a damaged lemma in the grass sample.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In the given sentence, **lemma** is a helping proposition used in a proof (mathematics and logic), and B, C and D use it in that sense. In option A, 'grass sample' shows the botanical sense: the outer covering of a grass floret. This is a different meaning, so **A** is the answer.

21 **ANSWER (c)** The novel explored a character's shoe fetish.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In the given sentence, **fetish** is an object worshipped by a tribe as sacred or powerful, and A, B and D keep this sense. In option C, 'shoe fetish' means an abnormal, excessive attachment to an inanimate object, a different meaning, so **C** is the answer.

22 **ANSWER (a)** The marine biologist studied a wounded seal.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In the given sentence, **seal** means a stamp or impression of authority, and B, C and D use it for an official stamp or a closing fastener. In option A it is a sea animal, a different meaning, so A is the homonym.

23 **ANSWER (c)** The weather forecaster tracked the storm's incipit.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In the given sentence 'incipit' is the opening line or words of a text or hymn, and A, B and D also use it for the opening portion of a hymn, chant or record. Only option C uses it for the onset of a storm, which differs from the textual sense. Hence C is the sentence with the different meaning.

24 **ANSWER (c)** The legal clerk filed a motet to the high court.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In the given sentence 'motet' is a choral composition, and A, B and D also use it for a piece of music. Only option C, with a legal clerk and a high court, uses it for a legal paper, which differs from the musical sense. Hence C is the sentence with the different meaning.

25 **ANSWER (c)** He will lecture the students on discipline.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In the given sentence, **lecture** is a noun meaning a talk given to an audience. In option C it is a verb meaning to scold or admonish ('lecture the students on discipline'), a different meaning, so C is the homonym. A, B and D use 'lecture' to mean a talk.

26 **ANSWER (a)** Her face showed resignation to fate.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In the given sentence, **resignation** means the act of giving up a post. B, C and D use it in the same sense. In option A it means a calm acceptance of fate, a different meaning, so **A** is the answer.

27 **ANSWER (b)** The band played rock music all night.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In the given sentence, **rock** means a stone. A, C and D use it in the same sense. In option B, 'rock music'

refers to a genre of music, a different meaning, so B is the homonym.

28 **ANSWER (b)** The physician diagnosed the lesion as a bulla.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In the given sentence, **bulla** means the seal attached to a papal or imperial document, and A, C and D keep this sense. In option B it is a medical term for a large fluid-filled blister on the skin, a different meaning, so **B** is the answer.

29 **ANSWER (d)** She was content with the outcome.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In the given sentence, **content** is a noun meaning subject matter. In option D it is an adjective meaning satisfied, and it is pronounced differently (con-TENT), so D is the homonym. A, B and C use 'content' to mean material.

30 **ANSWER (d)** Workers struck over unfair wages.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (d) · Disputed question

SSC's key is D, and it is the most suitable choice. In 'struck a nerve', **struck** means to provoke a strong reaction. In option D, 'workers struck' means to stop work in protest, which is clearly different from all the others. A (hit) and C (impressed) are close to the original sense. It may be objected that 'struck a pose' in B is also a different meaning, but D is the most clearly distinct.

31 **ANSWER (a)** The Oracle database crashed during the migration.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In the given sentence, **oracle** means a person or divine source of prophecy, and B, C and D use it in that sense. In option A, Oracle is the name of database software, an entirely different use, so **A** is the answer.

32 **ANSWER (a)** The sailors hoisted the gaffe to adjust the sail.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In the given sentence, **gaffe** means a public blunder, and B, C and D use it in that sense. Option A refers to the spar that holds the upper edge of a sail, for which the spelling 'gaff' is normally used. This is a different meaning, so **A** is the answer.

33 **ANSWER (c)** The gymnast executed a perfect vault.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In the given sentence, **vault** means a strongroom or secure chamber, and A, B and D use it in that sense. In option C, with the gymnast, it means to leap over an obstacle using the hands or a pole, a different meaning, so **C** is the answer.

34 **ANSWER (a)** He used a match to light the candle.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In the given sentence, **match** means a contest or game. In option A it means a small stick used to light a flame, which is an entirely different meaning, so A is the homonym. B, C and D all use 'match' in the sense of a sporting contest.

35 **ANSWER (a)** The pupil of his eye was dilated.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In the given sentence, **pupil** means a student. In option A it means the dark opening in the eye through which light enters, a different meaning, so A is the homonym. B, C and D all use 'pupil' to mean a student.

36 **ANSWER (a)** The bear was wandering in the forest.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In the given sentence, **bear** is a verb meaning to endure. In option A it is a noun meaning the animal, so A is the homonym. B, C and D use 'bear' in the sense of enduring or, in D, being patient, which is connected with the original meaning.

37 **ANSWER (b)** deer

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The sentence refers to an animal seen in a national park, so **deer** is correct.

- dear — beloved

- deer — a hoofed animal
- dears — loved ones (plural)
- dare — to have the courage

'Dear' and 'deer' sound alike, so the choice must be made from the meaning.

38 ANSWER (c) incubation

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In (P) the setting is an artificial 'incubation environment' for eggs, and in (Q) an 'incubation period' is the time between infection and symptoms. **Incubation** fits both. It means the warming of eggs so that they hatch, and also the period of development of a disease.

- expectancy — anticipation
- dormancy — inactive state
- maturation — the process of ripening

39 ANSWER (b) absorption

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In (P) the atmosphere's soaking up of radiation is 'absorption of radiation', and in (Q) being deeply engrossed in a task is 'absorption in a simulation'. **Absorption** fits both.

- retention — keeping hold of something
- assignation — allotment; a secret meeting
- immersion — dipping into liquid (does not fit (P))

40 ANSWER (d) reflection

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In (P) the return of light rays from a mirror is 'reflection of laser beams', and in (Q) deep thought about one's own presuppositions is 'reflection upon one's presuppositions'. **Reflection** fits both.

- refraction — bending of rays
- radiation — emission of energy
- divergence — spreading in different directions

41 ANSWER (c) distortion

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In (P) the deliberate 'harmonic distortion' of an amplifier and in (Q) the 'distortion' of facts are both covered by **distortion**, which means twisting something out of its true shape or form.

- manipulation — skilful or cunning handling to influence
- modulation — variation of tone or wave
- corruption — dishonesty; decay

42 ANSWER (d) concentration

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In (P) the amount of a drug in a solution is its 'molecular concentration', and in (Q) the prolonged focusing of mental effort is 'concentration of mental bandwidth'. **Concentration** fits both.

- magnetism — the force of a magnet
- conjunction — a joining; a connecting word
- reduction — a lessening

43 ANSWER (c) Piagetian developmental theorists observe that a child utilises ...

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In the given sentence, **assimilation** has Piaget's sense: fitting new information into an existing mental schema. In option C, the child places a new object (a raccoon) into the old category 'dogs', so the meaning is the same.

- A — cultural absorption of a minority group
- B — absorption of nutrients by the body
- D — blending of neighbouring sounds in phonetics

These three meanings are different.

44 ANSWER (b) braid

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The blank needs a noun that can be woven with flowers into hair, so **braid** (a plait of hair) is correct.

- brayed — (of a donkey) made a harsh cry
- bread — a baked food
- bred — raised (past form of breed)

45 ANSWER (c) A legal document authorizing someone to conduct a trial

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

'Tender' means an offer to do work or supply goods at a stated price (A), gentle or affectionate (B), and a small boat that ferries people or supplies to a larger

ship (D). A legal document authorising someone to conduct a trial is not a meaning, so **C** is the answer.

46 **ANSWER (a)** X-ray crystallography revealed that the complex macromolecule ...

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In the given sentence, **configuration** means the spatial arrangement of the atoms in a molecule. Option A also speaks of the spatial structure of a macromolecule, so the meaning is the same.

- B — the settings of a computer system
- C — the relative positions of the planets
- D — the makeup of a personality

These three meanings are different.

47 **ANSWER (a)** altar

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The sentence speaks of the place where offerings are laid before a deity, so **altar** is correct.

- alter — to change
- praise — words of approval
- objective — an aim

'Altar' and 'alter' sound alike, so the choice must be made from the meaning.

48 **ANSWER (a)** illusion

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The sentence speaks of a stage magician creating a false impression of a boy jumping, so **illusion** is correct.

- allusion — an indirect reference
- band — a strip; a group of musicians
- basis — foundation

'Illusion' and 'allusion' sound similar but differ in meaning.



07
CHAPTER

Synonyms

Questions *40 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01–06): *Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word*

01 ESOTERIC

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Obscure
(b) Popular
(c) Simple
(d) Common

02 MALEDICTION

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Prayer
(b) Hope
(c) Blessing
(d) Curse

03 ABSTRUSE

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Evident
(b) Spartan
(c) Obscure
(d) Common

04 BANEFUL

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Harmless
(b) Deadly
(c) Playful
(d) Beneficial

05 MENDACIOUS

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Honest
(b) Truthful
(c) Dishonest
(d) Candid

06 IMBRUE

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To cleanse
(b) To soak
(c) To purify
(d) To expel

Directions (Q. 07–09): *Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.*

07 PANACEA

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Remedy
(b) Solution
(c) Universal cure
(d) Treatment

08 CONVICTION

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Doubt
(b) Certainty
(c) Confusion
(d) Hesitation

09 PERNICIOUS

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Harmless
(b) Deadly
(c) Helpful
(d) Safe

Directions (Q. 10–14): *Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word*

10 BELLICOSE

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Peaceful
(b) Aggressive
(c) Passive
(d) Gentle

11 ANATHEMA

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Approval
(b) Admiration
(c) Curse
(d) Blessing

12 EXPEDITE

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Delay
(b) Hasten
(c) Obstruct
(d) Prolong

13 OBSTREPEROUS

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Unruly
(b) Taciturn
(c) Plausible
(d) Discreet

14 OBFUSCATE

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Explain (b) Confuse
(c) Clarify (d) Simplify

Directions (Q. 15–18): *Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.*

15 LAUD

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Ridicule (b) Mockery
(c) Praise (d) Criticism

16 ELOQUENCE

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Halting (b) Hesitant
(c) Fluency (d) Stammering

17 SYCOPHANT

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Advisor (b) Flatterer
(c) Companion (d) Advocate

18 OBEISANCE

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Acceptance (b) Worship
(c) Bow (d) Servitude

Directions (Q. 19): *Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word*

19 DISINGENUOUS

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Naive (b) Deceitful
(c) Honest (d) Open

Directions (Q. 20–24): *Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.*

20 TACIT

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Explicit (b) Silent
(c) Implied (d) Declared

21 PUGNACIOUS

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Serene (b) Calm
(c) Docile (d) Combative

22 BANTER

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Chitchat (b) Ridicule
(c) Argument (d) Lecture

23 INSCRUTABLE

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Mysterious (b) Transparent
(c) Understandable (d) Obvious

24 IMPECUNIOUS

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Poor (b) Affluent
(c) Wealthy (d) Rich

Directions (Q. 25–27): *Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word*

25 NEFARIOUS

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Just (b) Virtuous
(c) Good (d) Wicked

26 LUGUBRIOUS

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Bright (b) Mournful
(c) Happy (d) Hopeful

27 INDEMNIFY

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Charge (b) Remunerate
(c) Tax (d) Fine

Directions (Q. 28–36): *Choose the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word.*

28 There is an **implicit** trust between a doctor and their patient.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Stated clearly (b) Hidden
(c) Unspoken (d) Confusing

29 The app's interface is **concise** and user-friendly.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Lengthy (b) Detailed
(c) Brief (d) Confusing

30 Fame can be **ephemeral** if not sustained by talent.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Permanent (b) Temporary
(c) Lasting (d) Constant

31 The trespasser remained **obstinate** despite repeated warnings.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Flexible (b) Stubborn
(c) Gentle (d) Obedient

32 The instructions were **ambiguous** and caused confusion.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Clear (b) Certain
(c) Vague (d) Exact

33 The professor gave a **lucid** explanation of the concept.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Confusing (b) Clear
(c) Dark (d) Complicated

34 The researcher was **meticulous** in recording data.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Careless (b) Hasty
(c) Thorough (d) Casual

35 The storm began to **abate** after several hours.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Intensify (b) Diminish
(c) Destroy (d) Delay

36 She took a **pragmatic** approach to solving the problem.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Idealistic (b) Emotional
(c) Practical (d) Theoretical

Directions (Q. 37): *Which of the following options is TRUE about the underlined word?*

37 The debate over climate change is **moot** since the policy has already been enacted.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The word 'moot' is incorrectly used here. The word 'mute' should be used instead.
(b) The word 'moot' is incorrectly used here. The word 'mote' should be used instead.
(c) The word 'moot' is incorrectly used here. The word 'moat' should be used instead.
(d) The word 'moot' is correctly used here.

Directions (Q. 38): *Identify the odd one which of the following words does not belong to the group?*

38

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Pugilist (b) Fencer
(c) Boxer (d) Pacifist

39 What is the synonym of the word "proponent"?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Critic (b) Detractor
(c) Opponent (d) Supporter

Directions (Q. 40): *What is the synonym of the word "serene"?*

40

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Calm (b) Bright
(c) Angry (d) Disturbed

Answer Key

Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation

01	02	03	04	05	11	12	13	14	15
(a)	(d)	(c)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(c)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
(b)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(c)

21	22	23	24	25	31	32	33	34	35
(d)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(d)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(c)	(b)
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**36**	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**
(b)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(a)

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 ANSWER (a) Obscure

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

ESOTERIC means understood by only a small circle of experts, that is, hidden or hard to grasp: **Obscure**. Popular, Simple and Common all express the opposite idea.

- Obscure — hard to understand
- Popular — liked by many
- Simple — easy
- Common — ordinary

02 ANSWER (d) Curse

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

MALEDICTION means a spoken curse, or the uttering of evil words: **Curse**. The prefix mal- signals 'bad', as in malice and malfunction.

- Prayer — a request to God
- Hope — expectation of good
- Blessing — a wish for good (the antonym of Malediction)
- Curse — an evil wish spoken aloud

03 ANSWER (c) Obscure

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

ABSTRUSE means difficult and hard to understand: **Obscure**. Evident is its antonym here.

- Evident — clear
- Spartan — plain and austere
- Obscure — hard to understand
- Common — ordinary

04 ANSWER (b) Deadly

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

BANEFUL means harmful or deadly. Bane means 'ruin' or 'poison', so the closest meaning is **Deadly**.

- Harmless — causing no harm
- Deadly — likely to cause death
- Playful — fond of fun
- Beneficial — useful

05 ANSWER (c) Dishonest

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

MENDACIOUS means given to telling lies: **Dishonest**. The other three options all suggest truthfulness, so they are antonyms.

- Honest — truthful and fair
- Truthful — telling the truth
- Dishonest — not honest
- Candid — frank

06 ANSWER (b) To soak

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

IMBRUE means to steep or stain something, usually with blood or liquid: to **soak**.

- To cleanse — to make clean
- To soak — to wet thoroughly
- To purify — to make pure
- To expel — to drive out

07 ANSWER (c) Universal cure

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

PANACEA means a cure for all diseases or problems: a **Universal cure**. Remedy, Solution and Treatment address a particular problem; only Panacea and Universal cure carry the sense of 'for everything'.

- Remedy — a cure for one ailment or problem
- Solution — an answer to a problem
- Universal cure — a cure for everything
- Treatment — medical care

08 ANSWER (b) Certainty

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

CONVICTION means a firm belief: **Certainty**. The other three options show a lack of belief.

- Doubt — uncertainty
- Certainty — being sure
- Confusion — muddled thinking
- Hesitation — pausing from uncertainty

09 ANSWER (b) Deadly

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

PERNICIOUS means causing deep, gradual harm, hence deadly: **Deadly**.

- Harmless — causing no harm
- Deadly — fatal
- Helpful — useful
- Safe — free from danger

10 ANSWER (b) Aggressive

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

BELLICOSE means eager to fight. Bell- relates to war (as in belligerent), so the synonym is **Aggressive**.

- Peaceful — calm and free of conflict
- Aggressive — ready to attack
- Passive — not taking action
- Gentle — mild

11 ANSWER (c) Curse

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

ANATHEMA means something detested, or a formal religious curse. Of the options, the closest is **Curse**.

- Approval — consent
- Admiration — respect
- Curse — an evil invocation
- Blessing — a wish for good

12 ANSWER (b) Hasten

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

EXPEDITE means to carry out a task faster: **Hasten**.

- Delay — to put off
- Hasten — to speed up
- Obstruct — to block
- Prolong — to extend in time

13 ANSWER (a) Unruly

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

OBSTREPEROUS means noisy and unwilling to accept discipline: **Unruly**.

- Unruly — disorderly
- Taciturn — saying very little
- Plausible — seeming believable
- Discreet — careful and prudent

14 ANSWER (b) Confuse

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

OBFUSCATE means to make something deliberately unclear or confusing: **Confuse**. The other three options suggest clarity, so they are opposites.

- Explain — to make understandable
- Confuse — to bewilder
- Clarify — to make clear
- Simplify — to make easy

15 ANSWER (c) Praise

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

LAUD means to praise someone: **Praise**.

- Ridicule — mockery
- Mockery — making fun of
- Praise — expression of approval
- Criticism — expression of disapproval

16 ANSWER (c) Fluency

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

ELOQUENCE is the art of speaking fluently and persuasively, so the closest meaning is **Fluency**. The remaining three options all describe obstruction in speech.

- Halting — speaking with pauses
- Hesitant — unsure
- Fluency — smooth flow of speech
- Stammering — speaking with repeated stops

17 ANSWER (b) Flatterer

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SYCOPHANT means a person who flatters the powerful for personal gain: **Flatterer**.

- Advisor — one who gives advice
- Flatterer — one who praises insincerely
- Companion — a friend

• Advocate — a supporter of a cause

18 ANSWER (c) Bow

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

OBEISANCE means bowing as a sign of respect or submission: **Bow**. Worship and Servitude seem close, but the key idea in Obeisance is the act of bowing.

• Acceptance — agreement
• Worship — reverence for a deity
• Bow — a bending of the body in respect
• Servitude — slavery

19 ANSWER (b) Deceitful

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

DISINGENUOUS means appearing sincere while hiding a deceitful intent: **Deceitful**. Ingenuous means simple and frank; adding dis- reverses the meaning.

• Naive — innocent and unworldly
• Deceitful — misleading
• Honest — truthful
• Open — frank and sincere

20 ANSWER (c) Implied

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

TACIT means understood without being put into words: **Implied**. Silent is an attractive distractor, but it refers to absence of sound, whereas Tacit refers to something understood without being said.

• Explicit — clearly stated
• Silent — making no sound
• Implied — suggested without being stated
• Declared — announced

21 ANSWER (d) Combative

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

PUGNACIOUS means quarrelsome, always ready to fight: **Combative**.

• Serene — peaceful
• Calm — quiet and steady
• Docile — gentle and obedient
• Combative — eager to fight

22 ANSWER (a) Chitchat

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

BANTER means light, playful conversation, so the closest meaning is **Chitchat**.

• Chitchat — light talk
• Ridicule — mockery
• Argument — a heated exchange
• Lecture — a formal talk

23 ANSWER (a) Mysterious

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

INSCRUTABLE means impossible to understand or read, hence mysterious. Its synonym is **Mysterious**.

• Mysterious — hard to explain
• Transparent — easy to see through
• Understandable — able to be grasped
• Obvious — plain

24 ANSWER (a) Poor

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

IMPECUNIOUS means having no money: **Poor**. Pecuni- relates to money (as in pecuniary), and im- means 'not'. The other three options all indicate abundance of wealth.

• Poor — lacking money
• Affluent — prosperous
• Wealthy — having much money
• Rich — having great wealth

25 ANSWER (d) Wicked

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

NEFARIOUS means extremely wicked or sinful: **Wicked**.

• Just — fair
• Virtuous — morally good
• Good — of high quality or character
• Wicked — evil

26 ANSWER (b) Mournful

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

LUGUBRIOUS means showing deep sorrow or gloom: **Mournful**.

• Bright — cheerful
• Mournful — expressing grief
• Happy — joyful

• Hopeful — expecting good

27 ANSWER (b) Remunerate

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

INDEMNIFY means to compensate someone for a loss. Of the options, the closest to making good a loss is **Remunerate** (to pay). In the other three options money is taken from a person, whereas in Indemnify money is given.

• Charge — to demand a fee
• Remunerate — to pay or compensate
• Tax — to levy a duty
• Fine — to impose a penalty

28 ANSWER (c) Unspoken

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Implicit means understood although not stated, so an 'implicit trust' is a trust that exists without being spoken: **Unspoken**.

• Stated clearly — openly expressed (the meaning of Explicit)
• Hidden — concealed
• Unspoken — not said aloud
• Confusing — puzzling

29 ANSWER (c) Brief

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concise means expressing much in few words, that is, short and to the point. Its synonym is **Brief**.

• Lengthy — long
• Detailed — full of particulars
• Brief — short
• Confusing — puzzling

30 ANSWER (b) Temporary

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

EPHEMERAL means lasting a very short time: **Temporary**. The sentence agrees: fame that is not supported by talent soon fades.

• Permanent — lasting for ever
• Temporary — lasting a short time
• Lasting — enduring
• Constant — unchanging

31 ANSWER (b) Stubborn

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

OBSTINATE means refusing to change one's stand: **Stubborn**. In the sentence, the trespasser ignores repeated warnings, which shows exactly this.

• Flexible — willing to bend
• Stubborn — unyielding
• Gentle — mild
• Obedient — dutiful

32 ANSWER (c) Vague

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

AMBIGUOUS means open to more than one interpretation, hence unclear. Its synonym is **Vague**. The sentence supports this, since the instructions caused confusion.

• Clear — easy to understand
• Certain — sure
• Vague — not clearly expressed
• Exact — precise

33 ANSWER (b) Clear

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

LUCID means clear and easy to understand: **Clear**.

• Confusing — puzzling
• Clear — easy to follow
• Dark — lacking light
• Complicated — intricate

34 ANSWER (c) Thorough

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

METICULOUS means paying careful attention to every small detail: **Thorough**.

• Careless — not attentive
• Hasty — done in a hurry
• Thorough — complete and careful
• Casual — relaxed and unconcerned

35 ANSWER (b) Diminish

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

ABATE means to lessen in intensity or amount: **Diminish**. The sentence says the storm weakened after several hours.

• Intensify — to strengthen

- Diminish — to reduce
- Destroy — to ruin
- Delay — to put off

36 ANSWER (c) Practical

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

PRAGMATIC means concerned with practical results rather than ideals: **Practical**.

- Idealistic — guided by ideals
- Emotional — ruled by feeling
- Practical — sensible and realistic
- Theoretical — based on theory

37 ANSWER (d) The word 'moot' is correctly used here.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Moot means a matter that has become practically irrelevant. Since the policy has already been enacted, debating it changes nothing, so **moot** is used correctly here.

- Mute — silent
- Mote — a speck of dust
- Moat — a ditch around a castle

None of these three words fits the meaning of the sentence.

38 ANSWER (d) Pacifist

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Pugilist (boxer), Fencer (swordsman) and Boxer are all fighters in sport. A **Pacifist** opposes violence and war, so it is the odd one out.

39 ANSWER (d) Supporter

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

PROPONENT means a person who supports an idea or plan: **Supporter**.

- Critic — one who finds fault
- Detractor — one who belittles
- Opponent — one who opposes
- Supporter — one who backs

40 ANSWER (a) Calm

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SERENE means peaceful and untroubled, so its synonym is **Calm**.

- Calm — peaceful
- Bright — shining
- Angry — full of rage
- Disturbed — troubled

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08
CHAPTER

Antonyms

Questions *67 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01–35): *Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.*

01 Excoriate

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Praise
(b) Berate
(c) Condemn
(d) Rebuke

02 Crepuscular

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Dusk
(b) Diurnal
(c) Dim
(d) Twilight

03 Prudent

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Reckless
(b) Wise
(c) Thoughtful
(d) Careful

04 Peregrinate

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Wander
(b) Roam
(c) Stay
(d) Travel

05 Intransigent

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Unyielding
(b) Flexible
(c) Dogmatic
(d) Obstinate

06 Sententious

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Moralistic
(b) Terse
(c) Concise
(d) Unpretentious

07 Jejune

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Insipid
(b) Bland
(c) Dull
(d) Interesting

08 Enigmatic

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Obscure
(b) Lucid
(c) Arcane
(d) Ambiguous

09 Zealous

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Apathetic
(b) Ardent
(c) Fervent
(d) Eager

10 Altruism

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Selflessness
(b) Generosity
(c) Egoism
(d) Charity

11 Tacit

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Expressed
(b) Implied
(c) Informed
(d) Understood

12 Recalcitrant

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Defiant
(b) Compliant
(c) Disobedient
(d) Rebellious

13 Internecine

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Internal
(b) External
(c) Harmonious
(d) Civil

14 Inveterate

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Chronic (b) Casual
(c) Habitual (d) Long-standing

15 Somniferous

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Somnolent (b) Sedative
(c) Stimulant (d) Sleep-inducing

16 Obsolete

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Ancient (b) Current
(c) Useless (d) Outdated

17 Copious

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Prolix (b) Scarce
(c) Comprehensive (d) Voluminous

18 Placate

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Soothe (b) Appease
(c) Infuriate (d) Calm

19 Voluble

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Talkative (b) Garrulous
(c) Reticent (d) Chatty

20 Quiescent

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Dormant (b) Active
(c) Silent (d) Passive

21 Pellucid

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Limpid (b) Transparent
(c) Murky (d) Clear

22 Gregarious

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Social (b) Reserved
(c) Friendly (d) Outgoing

23 Ignominious

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Honorable (b) Shameful
(c) Disgraceful (d) Infamous

24 Magnanimous

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Noble (b) Forgiving
(c) Petty (d) Generous

25 Vituperative

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Complimentary (b) Abusive
(c) Scolding (d) Vindictive

26 Acquiescent

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Agreeable (b) Obliging
(c) Obdurate (d) Obsequious

27 Rehabilitation

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Recuperation (b) Deterioration
(c) Restoration (d) Adjustment

28 Euphoria

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Bliss (b) Elation
(c) Despair (d) Joy

29 Benevolent

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Charitable (b) Kind
(c) Cruel (d) Gentle

30 Trivial

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Insignificant (b) Vital
(c) Petty (d) Small

31 Lament

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Celebrate (b) Mourn
(c) Wail (d) Grieve

32 Mitigate

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Intensify (b) Reduce
(c) Pacify (d) Ease

33 Succinct

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Verbose (b) Concise
(c) Terse (d) Brief

34 **Detrimental**

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Helpful (b) Harmful
(c) Damaging (d) Toxic

35 **Apathy**

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Indifference (b) Passion
(c) Disinterest (d) Detachment

Directions (Q. 36–58): *Choose the most appropriate antonym of the underlined word.*

36 The professor was known for his **abstruse** lecturing style.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Complex (b) Simple
(c) Recondite (d) Obscure

37 His speech was marred by a certain **infelicity** of expression that confused the audience.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Unhappiness (b) Appropriateness
(c) Misfortune (d) Awkwardness

38 The new law had a **pernicious** effect on the local economy.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Beneficial (b) Harmful
(c) Damaging (d) Deleterious

39 The committee's **admonition** regarding the safety breach was taken seriously by the staff.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Commendation (b) Counsel
(c) Forewarning (d) Reprimand

40 The witness was accused of being **mendacious** during the trial.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Dishonest (b) Truthful
(c) False (d) Deceitful

41 The witness gave a **murky** account of the incident, making it hard to follow.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Dark (b) Gloomy
(c) Obscure (d) Clear

42 The villagers were **destitute** after the devastating floods.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Wealthy (b) Penniless
(c) Needy (d) Poor

43 At the editor's request, the author agreed to **abridge** the book's final chapter.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Shorten (b) Condense
(c) Expand (d) Curtail

44 The prime minister gave a **perfunctory** nod to the reporters.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Thorough (b) Hasty
(c) Casual (d) Careless

45 The school enforced **stringent** rules regarding student attendance.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Lax (b) Firm
(c) Rigorous (d) Strict

46 The witness gave a **precise** account of the incident.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Specific (b) Exact
(c) Inaccurate (d) Correct

47 He is merely a **dilettante** who paints for fun but lacks any formal training.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Amateur (b) Dabbler
(c) Professional (d) Tyro

48 The teacher gave the students **ample** time to complete the examination.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Plentiful (b) Sufficient
(c) Abundant (d) Meagre

49 The Chairman decided to **convene** a meeting of all the board members.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Gather (b) Assemble
(c) Summon (d) Disperse

50 The new software update was **compatible** with all older versions of the hardware.
[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Consistent (b) Conflicting
(c) Harmonious (d) Adaptable

51 The lawyers tried to **protract** the trial by filing unnecessary motions.
[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Prolong (b) Curtail
(c) Extend (d) Lengthen

52 The historian spent years attempting to establish the **verity** of the ancient scrolls.
[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Authenticity (b) Probity
(c) Mendacity (d) Rectitude

53 The team's **morose** attitude after the defeat was visible to everyone.
[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Gloomy (b) Sullen
(c) Cheerful (d) Glum

54 The young pop star was surrounded by the **adulation** of her millions of fans.
[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Criticism (b) Praise
(c) Worship (d) Flattery

55 The dictator was obsessed with the **aggrandizement** of his own power and wealth.
[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Exaltation (b) Ennoblement
(c) Abasement (d) Glorification

56 The editor praised the columnist for the **brevity** of her political analysis.
[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Prolixity (b) Conciseness
(c) Pithiness (d) Terse

57 The witness provided **corroborative** evidence that supported the suspect's alibi.
[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Contradictory (b) Supporting
(c) Confirming (d) Validating

58 The basketball team was looking for a **lanky** player to defend the post.
[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Tall (b) Thin
(c) Gaunt (d) Stocky

59 What is the antonym of the word "sophisticated"?
[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Controlled (b) Cultured
(c) Refined (d) Simple

60 What is the antonym of the word "ostensible"?
[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Depressed (b) Real
(c) Illogical (d) Unpredictable

61 What is the antonym of the word "mendacious"?
[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Truthful (b) Hidden
(c) Joyful (d) Depressed

62 What is the antonym of the word "tenacious"?
[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Angry (b) Elated
(c) Hesitant (d) Strong

63 What is the antonym of the word "intrepid"?
[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Fearless (b) Humble
(c) Timid (d) Clear

64 What is the antonym of the word "lucid"?
[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bright (b) Clear
(c) Confused (d) Transparent

65 Choose the word that is opposite in meaning to the given word "**Murky** ".
[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Lucid (b) Doubtful
(c) Mysterious (d) Confusing

Directions (Q. 66): *Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word. Adorn*

66

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Decorate
(b) Disfigure
(c) Beautify
(d) Accessorize

Directions (Q. 67): *What is the antonym of the word "meticulous"?*

67

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Careless
(b) Detailed
(c) Flexible
(d) Precise

Answer Key *Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation*

01	02	03	04	05
(a)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(b)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**
(d)	(d)	(b)	(a)	(c)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
(a)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(c)
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
(b)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(b)
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
(c)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(a)
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
(c)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(b)
31	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**
(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(b)

36	37	38	39	40
(b)	(b)	(a)	(a)	(b)
41	**42**	**43**	**44**	**45**
(d)	(a)	(c)	(a)	(a)
46	**47**	**48**	**49**	**50**
(c)	(c)	(d)	(d)	(b)
51	**52**	**53**	**54**	**55**
(b)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(c)
56	**57**	**58**	**59**	**60**
(a)	(a)	(d)	(d)	(b)
61	**62**	**63**	**64**	**65**
(a)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(a)
66	**67**			
(b)	(a)			

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 ANSWER (a) Praise

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Excoriate means to criticise severely or censure harshly. Its opposite is therefore praise.

- Praise — approval, commendation
- Berate — to scold angrily
- Condemn — to express strong disapproval
- Rebuke — to reprimand sharply

B, C and D are all synonyms of excoriate, so the antonym is **Praise**.

02 ANSWER (b) Diurnal

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Crepuscular means relating to twilight. Its antonym must relate to the day.

- Dusk — the time just after sunset
- Diurnal — active or occurring during the day
- Dim — faintly lit
- Twilight — the light before sunrise or after sunset

Dusk and Twilight are synonyms, whereas **Diurnal** describes daytime activity and is therefore the opposite.

03 ANSWER (a) Reckless

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Prudent means careful and sensible in judgement. Its opposite is reckless.

- Reckless — heedless of risk

- Wise — sensible
- Thoughtful — considerate, reflective
- Careful — cautious

B, C and D are all close in sense to prudent; only **Reckless** is opposite.

04 ANSWER (c) Stay

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Peregrinate means to travel from place to place. Its opposite is to stay in one place.

- Wander — to move about aimlessly
- Roam — to travel without a fixed destination
- Stay — to remain where one is
- Travel — to journey

The three words expressing movement are synonyms; the sense of remaining put is given by **Stay**.

05 ANSWER (b) Flexible

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Intransigent means refusing to change one's view. Its opposite is flexible.

- Unyielding — firm, not giving way
- Flexible — willing to adapt
- Dogmatic — asserting opinions as unquestionable
- Obstinate — stubborn

The other three are synonyms of intransigent, so the antonym is **Flexible**.

06 ANSWER (d) Unpretentious

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Sententious means pompously moralising, making a show of one's moral wisdom. Its opposite is plain and free of pretension.

- Moralistic — inclined to preach morals
- Terse — brief and abrupt
- Concise — brief but comprehensive
- Unpretentious — free from show or affectation

Terse and Concise describe only length, whereas sententious concerns showy moralising; hence **Unpretentious** is the correct antonym.

07 ANSWER (d) Interesting

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Jejune means dull and lacking interest. Its opposite is interesting.

- Insipid — lacking flavour or interest
- Bland — mild, unexciting
- Dull — boring
- Interesting — arousing curiosity

Three options convey dullness; **Interesting** is their opposite.

08 ANSWER (b) Lucid

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Enigmatic means mysterious and difficult to understand. Its opposite is clear.

- Obscure — unclear
- Lucid — clear, easily understood
- Arcane — secret, known to few
- Ambiguous — open to more than one meaning

The other three carry a sense of unclearness, so the antonym is **Lucid**.

09 ANSWER (a) Apathetic

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Zealous means full of enthusiasm. Its opposite is apathetic.

- Apathetic — showing no interest or enthusiasm
- Ardent — passionate
- Fervent — intensely enthusiastic
- Eager — keen

B, C and D express enthusiasm; **Apathetic** expresses the lack of it.

10 ANSWER (c) Egoism

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Altruism means selfless concern for the welfare of others. Its opposite is selfishness.

- Selflessness — putting others first
- Generosity — readiness to give
- Egoism — excessive concern for oneself
- Charity — giving to those in need

Three options relate to the good of others, whereas **Egoism** places one's own interest above all.

11 ANSWER (a) Expressed

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Tacit means understood without being stated. Its opposite is something stated openly.

- Expressed — put into words
- Implied — suggested but not stated
- Informed — given information
- Understood — grasped

Implied and Understood are close to tacit; the opposite is **Expressed**.

---

12 ANSWER (b) Compliant

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Recalcitrant means stubbornly uncooperative and resistant to authority. Its opposite is obedient.

- Defiant — openly resisting
- Compliant — ready to obey
- Disobedient — failing to obey
- Rebellious — resisting control

Three options convey resistance; **Compliant** is their opposite.

---

13 ANSWER (c) Harmonious

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Internecine means destructive to both sides, as in conflict within a group. Its opposite is peaceful and cooperative.

- Internal — inside
- External — outside
- Harmonious — in agreement, peaceful
- Civil — relating to citizens

External is opposite only in position, not in meaning; internecine implies conflict, so the antonym is **Harmonious**.

---

14 ANSWER (b) Casual

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Inveterate means long-established and habitual. Its opposite is occasional.

- Chronic — long-lasting
- Casual — occasional, not regular
- Habitual — done by habit
- Long-standing — existing for a long time

The other three carry the sense of an old habit; **Casual** is the opposite.

---

15 ANSWER (c) Stimulant

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Somniferous means inducing sleep. Its opposite is something that wakes or energises.

- Somnolent — sleepy
- Sedative — a calming, sleep-inducing drug
- Stimulant — something that increases activity
- Sleep-inducing — causing sleep

Sleep-inducing is a direct synonym, and Somnolent and Sedative also relate to sleep; the opposite is **Stimulant**.

---

16 ANSWER (b) Current

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Obsolete means no longer in use. Its opposite is in current use.

- Ancient — very old
- Current — in present use
- Useless — serving no purpose
- Outdated — old-fashioned

Outdated is a direct synonym, and Ancient and Useless point the same way; the antonym is **Current**.

---

17 ANSWER (b) Scarce

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Copious means abundant. Its opposite is a small quantity.

- Prolix — tediously lengthy
- Scarce — insufficient, rare
- Comprehensive — complete, extensive
- Voluminous — large in quantity

The other options express abundance or extent; **Scarce** is the opposite.

---

18 ANSWER (c) Infuriate

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Placate means to calm someone's anger. Its opposite is to provoke anger.

- Soothe — to comfort
- Appease — to pacify
- Infuriate — to make extremely angry
- Calm — to make tranquil

Three options mean to make someone calm, whereas **Infuriate** increases anger.

19 ANSWER (c) Reticent

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Voluble means talking easily and at length. Its opposite is speaking little.

- Talkative — fond of talking
- Garrulous — excessively talkative
- Reticent — reserved, saying little
- Chatty — fond of informal talk

Three options denote talking a lot; **Reticent** is the opposite.

20 ANSWER (b) Active

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Quiescent means inactive and still. Its opposite is active.

- Dormant — temporarily inactive
- Active — engaged in action
- Silent — making no sound
- Passive — not acting

Dormant and Passive are directly close to quiescent; hence the antonym is **Active**.

21 ANSWER (c) Murky

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Pellucid means transparently clear. Its opposite is cloudy.

- Limpid — clear
- Transparent — see-through
- Murky — cloudy, dark
- Clear — easy to see through

Three options denote clarity; **Murky** is the opposite.

22 ANSWER (b) Reserved

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Gregarious means sociable and fond of company. Its opposite is withdrawn.

- Social — fond of company
- Reserved — shy, keeping apart
- Friendly — kind and pleasant
- Outgoing — openly sociable

The other three suggest sociability, so the antonym is **Reserved**.

23 ANSWER (a) Honorable

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Ignominious means causing public disgrace. Its opposite is honorable.

- Honorable — deserving respect
- Shameful — causing shame
- Disgraceful — dishonourable
- Infamous — notorious

Three options denote disgrace, whereas **Honorable** denotes respect.

24 ANSWER (c) Petty

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Magnanimous means generous, especially in forgiving. Its opposite is petty.

- Noble — of high character
- Forgiving — willing to pardon
- Petty — small-minded
- Generous — giving freely

The other three suggest generosity of spirit; **Petty** suggests meanness.

25 ANSWER (a) Complimentary

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Vituperative means bitterly abusive. Its opposite is complimentary.

- Complimentary — praising
- Abusive — insulting
- Scolding — rebuking
- Vindictive — vengeful

Three options show bitterness, so the antonym is **Complimentary**.

26 ANSWER (c) Obdurate

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Acquiescent means accepting without protest. Its opposite is stubborn and unyielding.

- Agreeable — willing to agree
- Obliging — ready to help
- Obdurate — stubborn, hard-hearted
- Obsequious — excessively eager to please

Obsequious also suggests excessive yielding, which is close to acquiescent; the antonym is therefore **Obdurate**.

27 ANSWER (b) Deterioration

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Rehabilitation means restoring to good condition. Its opposite is decline.

- Recuperation — recovery of health
- Deterioration — worsening
- Restoration — bringing back to a former state
- Adjustment — a small alteration

Recuperation and Restoration suggest improvement, so the antonym is **Deterioration**.

28 ANSWER (c) Despair

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Euphoria means intense happiness. Its opposite is deep despondency.

- Bliss — perfect happiness
- Elation — great joy
- Despair — complete loss of hope
- Joy — gladness

Three options denote happiness; **Despair** is the opposite.

29 ANSWER (c) Cruel

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Benevolent means kind and well-meaning. Its opposite is cruel.

- Charitable — generous to those in need
- Kind — considerate
- Cruel — causing pain without pity
- Gentle — mild

The other three suggest kindness, so the antonym is **Cruel**.

30 ANSWER (b) Vital

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Trivial means of little importance. Its opposite is extremely important.

- Insignificant — unimportant
- Vital — essential
- Petty — minor
- Small — little

Three options denote lack of importance; **Vital** is the opposite.

31 ANSWER (a) Celebrate

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Lament means to mourn or wail. Its opposite is to celebrate.

- Celebrate — to rejoice
- Mourn — to feel sorrow
- Wail — to cry loudly
- Grieve — to feel deep sorrow

Three options express sorrow; **Celebrate** is the opposite.

32 ANSWER (a) Intensify

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Mitigate means to make less severe. Its opposite is to make worse.

- Intensify — to make stronger
- Reduce — to lessen
- Pacify — to calm
- Ease — to relieve

Three options mean to lessen or soothe; **Intensify** is the opposite.

33 ANSWER (a) Verbose

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Succinct means briefly and clearly expressed. Its opposite is wordy.

- Verbose — using too many words
- Concise — brief and clear
- Terse — using few words
- Brief — short

Three options denote brevity; **Verbose** is the opposite.

34 ANSWER (a) Helpful

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Detrimental means causing harm. Its opposite is helpful.

- Helpful — giving assistance
- Harmful — causing damage
- Damaging — causing harm
- Toxic — poisonous

Three options denote harm; **Helpful** is the opposite.

35 ANSWER (b) Passion

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Apathy means lack of interest or enthusiasm. Its opposite is strong enthusiasm.

- Indifference — lack of concern
- Passion — strong enthusiasm
- Disinterest — lack of interest
- Detachment — aloofness

Three options denote lack of interest; **Passion** is the opposite.

36 ANSWER (b) Simple

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Abstruse means difficult to understand because of its complexity. Its opposite is something simple.

- Complex — complicated
- Simple — easy to understand
- Recondite — obscure, known to few
- Obscure — unclear, hard to understand

The other three options carry a similar sense, so the antonym is **Simple**.

37 ANSWER (b) Appropriateness

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Infelicity means inappropriateness or clumsiness, here of expression. Its opposite is appropriateness.

- Unhappiness — sadness
- Appropriateness — suitability
- Misfortune — bad luck
- Awkwardness — clumsiness

The sentence speaks of an infelicity of expression, so the antonym is **Appropriateness**.

38 ANSWER (a) Beneficial

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Pernicious means having a harmful effect. Its opposite is beneficial.

- Beneficial — advantageous
- Harmful — damaging
- Damaging — causing harm
- Deleterious — harmful

Three options are synonyms of pernicious, so the antonym is **Beneficial**.

39 ANSWER (a) Commendation

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Admonition means a warning or mild reprimand. Its opposite is praise.

- Commendation — praise, approval
- Counsel — advice
- Forewarning — advance warning
- Reprimand — a formal rebuke

Counsel, Forewarning and Reprimand are all close to admonition; only **Commendation** is opposite.

40 ANSWER (b) Truthful

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Mendacious means lying or untruthful. Its opposite is truthful.

- Dishonest — not honest
- Truthful — telling the truth
- False — untrue
- Deceitful — misleading, fraudulent

The other three are synonyms of mendacious, so the antonym is **Truthful**.

41 ANSWER (d) Clear

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Murky means dark and unclear. The sentence says the account was hard to follow, so the opposite is clear.

- Dark — lacking light
- Gloomy — dim, dismal
- Obscure — unclear
- Clear — easy to understand

The antonym is **Clear**.

42 ANSWER (a) Wealthy

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Destitute means without money or basic necessities. Its opposite is rich.

- Wealthy — rich
- Penniless — without money
- Needy — lacking necessities
- Poor — having little money

The other three denote poverty, so the antonym is **Wealthy**.

43 ANSWER (c) Expand

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Abridge means to shorten a text. Its opposite is to lengthen it.

- Shorten — to make shorter
- Condense — to make compact
- Expand — to make larger
- Curtail — to cut short

Three options mean to shorten; **Expand** is the opposite.

44 ANSWER (a) Thorough

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Perfunctory means done with minimum effort and no real interest. Its opposite is done carefully.

- Thorough — complete and careful
- Hasty — done in a hurry
- Casual — relaxed, unconcerned
- Careless — showing lack of attention

The other three suggest carelessness, so the antonym is **Thorough**.

45 ANSWER (a) Lax

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Stringent means strict and severe. Its opposite is slack.

- Lax — not strict
- Firm — unyielding
- Rigorous — strict
- Strict — demanding obedience

Three options denote strictness; **Lax** is the opposite.

46 ANSWER (c) Inaccurate

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Precise means exact and accurate. Its opposite is inexact.

- Specific — clearly defined
- Exact — accurate
- Inaccurate — wrong, not exact
- Correct — free from error

The other three relate to accuracy, so the antonym is **Inaccurate**.

47 ANSWER (c) Professional

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Dilettante means one who dabbles in an art without serious commitment or training. Its opposite is a professional.

- Amateur — one who does something for pleasure
- Dabbler — one who engages superficially
- Professional — one who does something as a trained occupation
- Tyro — a beginner

Three options convey inexperience or amateur interest; **Professional** is the opposite.

48 ANSWER (d) Meagre

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Ample means enough or more than enough. Its opposite is insufficient.

- Plentiful — existing in large quantity
- Sufficient — enough
- Abundant — more than enough
- Meagre — scanty

The other three denote sufficiency, whereas **Meagre** denotes lack.

49 ANSWER (d) Disperse

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Convene means to call people together for a meeting. Its opposite is to scatter them.

- Gather — to bring together
- Assemble — to come or bring together
- Summon — to call
- Disperse — to scatter

Three options mean to bring together; **Disperse** is the opposite.

50 ANSWER (b) Conflicting

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Compatible means able to work together without conflict. Its opposite is incompatible.

- Consistent — in agreement
- Conflicting — clashing, incompatible

- Harmonious — in agreement
- Adaptable — able to adjust

The other three suggest agreement, so the antonym is **Conflicting**.

51 ANSWER (b) Curtail

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Protract means to prolong. Its opposite is to shorten.

- Prolong — to extend in time
- Curtail — to cut short
- Extend — to lengthen
- Lengthen — to make longer

Three options mean to make longer; **Curtail** is the opposite.

52 ANSWER (c) Mendacity

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Verity means truth, the quality of being true. Its opposite is falsehood.

- Authenticity — genuineness
- Probity — honesty
- Mendacity — lying, untruthfulness
- Rectitude — moral uprightness

The other three relate to truth and honesty, so the antonym is **Mendacity**.

53 ANSWER (c) Cheerful

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Morose means sullen and gloomy. Its opposite is cheerful.

- Gloomy — dismal
- Sullen — bad-tempered and silent
- Cheerful — happy
- Glum — dejected

The other three express low spirits, so the antonym is **Cheerful**.

54 ANSWER (a) Criticism

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Adulation means excessive praise or worship-like admiration. Its opposite is criticism.

- Criticism — disapproval
- Praise — approval
- Worship — extreme respect
- Flattery — insincere praise

Three options lean towards praise; **Criticism** is the opposite.

55 ANSWER (c) Abasement

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Aggrandizement means increasing power or status. Its opposite is humiliation or lowering of rank.

- Exaltation — raising in rank or honour
- Ennoblement — making noble
- Abasement — humiliation, degradation
- Glorification — praising highly

The other three denote raising up, so the antonym is **Abasement**.

56 ANSWER (a) Prolixity

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Brevity means shortness of expression. Its opposite is wordiness.

- Prolixity — tedious wordiness
- Conciseness — briefness
- Pithiness — brief and meaningful expression
- Terse — using few words

The other three are close to brevity, so the antonym is **Prolixity**.

57 ANSWER (a) Contradictory

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Corroborative means supporting or confirming a claim. Its opposite is contradicting it.

- Contradictory — opposing
- Supporting — backing up
- Confirming — verifying
- Validating — proving valid

The other three convey support, so the antonym is **Contradictory**.

58 ANSWER (d) Stocky

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Lanky means tall and thin. Its opposite is short and sturdy.

- Tall — of great height
- Thin — slim
- Gaunt — lean and haggard

• Stocky — short and solidly built

Three options relate to height or thinness; **Stocky** is the opposite.

59 ANSWER (d) Simple

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Sophisticated means refined and cultured; it can also mean complex in design. Here its opposite is simple.

• Controlled — regulated
• Cultured — refined in taste
• Refined — polished, elegant
• Simple — plain, unsophisticated

Cultured and Refined are close to sophisticated; hence **Simple** is the correct antonym.

60 ANSWER (b) Real

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Ostensible means apparent, but perhaps not real. Its opposite is real.

• Depressed — sad
• Real — actual, genuine
• Illogical — not reasonable
• Unpredictable — not foreseeable

Ostensible concerns appearance, so its antonym is **Real**.

61 ANSWER (a) Truthful

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Mendacious means lying. Its opposite is truthful.

• Truthful — honest
• Hidden — concealed
• Joyful — happy
• Depressed — sad

Only **Truthful** relates to honesty.

62 ANSWER (c) Hesitant

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Tenacious means persistent and not letting go. Its opposite is hesitant or wavering.

• Angry — displeased
• Elated — overjoyed
• Hesitant — slow to act
• Strong — powerful

Strong suggests physical force only, whereas tenacious implies firmness of purpose. Its opposite is **Hesitant**.

63 ANSWER (c) Timid

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Intrepid means fearless. Its opposite is timid.

• Fearless — without fear
• Humble — modest
• Timid — lacking courage
• Clear — easy to understand

Fearless is a synonym of intrepid, while **Timid** carries a sense of fear.

64 ANSWER (c) Confused

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Lucid means clearly expressed and easy to understand. Its opposite is confusing.

• Bright — full of light
• Clear — easy to understand
• Confused — muddled
• Transparent — see-through

Clear and Transparent are close to lucid, and Bright relates only to light. The antonym is **Confused**.

65 ANSWER (a) Lucid

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Murky means dark and unclear. Its opposite is clear.

• Lucid — clear
• Doubtful — uncertain
• Mysterious — difficult to explain
• Confusing — bewildering

The other three carry a sense of unclearness, so the antonym is **Lucid**.

66 ANSWER (b) Disfigure

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Adorn means to make more attractive by decorating. Its opposite is to spoil the appearance.

• Decorate — to make attractive
• Disfigure — to spoil the appearance of
• Beautify — to make beautiful
• Accessorize — to add accessories

Three options are close to adorn, so the antonym is **Disfigure**.

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67 ANSWER (a) Careless

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Meticulous means extremely careful and attentive to detail. Its opposite is careless.

- Careless — not paying attention
- Detailed — full of detail
- Flexible — adaptable
- Precise — exact

Detailed and Precise are close to meticulous; the opposite is **Careless**.



09
CHAPTER

One Word Substitution

Questions *53 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01): *What is the correct one-word substitute for "the official residence and office representing India in France"?*

01 The Indian government has appointed a new diplomat to head the official residence and office representing India in France.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Consulate
(b) Embassy
(c) High Commission
(d) Chancery

Directions (Q. 02): *Choose the correct one-word substitution for: 'The act of stealing from shops'.*

02

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Robbery
(b) Looting
(c) Burglary
(d) Shoplifting

Directions (Q. 03): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A person who flatters for personal gain.'*

03

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Altruist
(b) Protégé
(c) Mentor
(d) Sycophant

Directions (Q. 04): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'Pleasure derived from others' misfortune.'*

04

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Antipathy
(b) Schadenfreude
(c) Empathy
(d) Sympathy

05 What is the correct one-word substitution for "descent from an ancestor; family or ancestral line"?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Heritage
(b) Dynasty
(c) Lineage
(d) Legacy

06 Which of the following is a one-word substitution for a life-sized model of the human body used to display clothes?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Mannequin
(b) Sculptor
(c) Tailor
(d) Designer

07 Which of the following refers to a group of stars that form a recognizable pattern in the sky?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Eclipse
(b) Constellation
(c) Meteor
(d) Asteroid

08 Choose the correct **one-word substitute** for: 'A person who lives in solitude for spiritual reasons'.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Anchorite
(b) Herald
(c) Recline
(d) Mystic

09 Choose the correct **one-word substitute** for: 'A situation involving mutually destructive conflict'.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Impasse
(b) Quagmire
(c) Pyrrhic
(d) Stalemate

10 Someone who is capable of doing anything is called.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Omnipotent (b) Omnipresent
(c) Omniscient (d) God

11 Choose the correct **one-word substitute** for: 'A person who studies and deciphers ancient inscriptions'.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Philologist (b) Lexicographer
(c) Epigrapher (d) Numismatist

12 Someone who is skilled at public speaking is called.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Orator (b) speaker
(c) Messanger (d) Lecturer

13 What is the custom of having many wives called?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Misogamy (b) Polygamy
(c) Bigamy (d) Monogamy

Directions (Q. 14): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'Travelling from place to place for work.'*

14

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Premedieval (b) Wayfarer
(c) Sedentary (d) Peripatetic

Directions (Q. 15–16): *Choose the appropriate one-word substitution for*

15 A person who composes music.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Vocalist (b) Singer
(c) Lyricist (d) Composer

16 A person who cannot hear.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Blind (b) Speechless
(c) Mute (d) Deaf

Directions (Q. 17): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A false name used by an author.'*

17

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Acronym (b) Pseudonym
(c) Homonym (d) Patronym

Directions (Q. 18): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'Excessively idealistic; impractical.'*

18

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Visionary (b) Pragmatic
(c) Quixotic (d) Dogmatic

Directions (Q. 19): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A person who cannot be tired'.*

19

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Infallible (b) Invincible
(c) Indefatigable (d) Incurable

Directions (Q. 20): *Choose the correct one-word substitution for*

20 A person who engages in espionage.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Diplomat (b) Spy
(c) Proprietor (d) Investigator

Directions (Q. 21): *Choose the correct one-word substitution for the blank in the sentence below*

21 Despite having three young children and a full-time job, Jenna always kept her house _____, impressing every guest who walked through the door.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) immaculate (b) mediocre
(c) erratic (d) obsolete

Directions (Q. 22–33): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for*

22 'Having keen insight; shrewd'.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Stolid (b) Perspicacious
(c) Obtuse (d) Myopic

23 'Inability to sleep.'

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Narcolepsy (b) Insomnia
(c) Somnolence (d) Somnambulist

24 'Looking or sounding sad and dismal'

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) jubiliant (b) Lugubrious
(c) Maudlin (d) Sardonic

25 'The centre of attraction or attention.'

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Locus (b) Epitome
(c) Cynosure (d) Paradigm

26 'A person who seeks to overthrow established government by unlawful means'.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Anarchist (b) Immigrant
(c) Diplomat (d) Patriot

27 'Habitually dishonest; lying'.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Veracious (b) Candid
(c) Mendacious (d) Frank

28 'A person who is excessively concerned with minor details and rules'.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Pedant (b) Recluse
(c) Egoist (d) Stoic

29 'An indirect or subtle reference, typically critical in nature'.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Allusion (b) Elusion
(c) Illusion (d) Delusion

30 'One who is indifferent to pleasure or pain'.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ascetic (b) Skeptic
(c) Optimist (d) Masochist

31 'A person who studies the origin of words'.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Lexicographer (b) Philologist
(c) Etymologist (d) Paleographer

32 'An annual calendar containing important dates and statistical information'.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Atlas (b) Chronicle
(c) Almanac (d) Ledger

33 'A word that is no longer in use'.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Jargon (b) Colloquialism
(c) Archaism (d) Neologism

Directions (Q. 34): *Choose the one-word substitute for "an act of talking excessively or pointlessly; rambling."*

34

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Prolixity (b) Taciturnity
(c) Reticence (d) Brevity

Directions (Q. 35): *Choose the correct one-word substitution for the sentence below.*

35 "Ravi is known for his ability to manage money wisely and never spends more than necessary."

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Extravagant (b) Prodigal
(c) Thrifty (d) Spendthrift

Directions (Q. 36): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'Lasting for a very short time.'*

36

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ephemeral (b) Nascent
(c) Incessant (d) Intransient

Directions (Q. 37): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'Something that cannot be explained or understood'.*

37

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Illegible (b) Incredible
(c) Inexplicable (d) Indelible

Directions (Q. 38): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'Something mysterious or difficult to understand'.*

38

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Enchant (b) Enigma
(c) Meme (d) Riddle

Directions (Q. 39): *Which of the following is the correct definition of the word "protege"?*

39

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A mentor or advisor
(b) A young person under the guidance of an older, more experienced person
(c) A person who offers help or support
(d) A competitor or rival

Directions (Q. 40): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'Fear of the number thirteen'.*

40

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Triskaidekaphobia (b) Hexakosioihexekontahexaphobia
(c) Pyrophobia (d) Aichmophobia

Directions (Q. 41): *Choose the correct one-word substitution for: 'A person who hates mankind'.*

41

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Misanthrope (b) Pessimist
(c) Skeptic (d) Misogynist

Directions (Q. 42): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'The invention or use of new words or expressions.'*

42

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Neology (b) Neologism
(c) Coinage (d) Jargon

Directions (Q. 43): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A person who believes that people are motivated purely by self-interest'*

43

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Cynic (b) Fatalist
(c) Stoic (d) Epicure

Directions (Q. 44): *Which term refers to*

44 **"The portrayal of realistic and detailed scenes of everyday life, often focusing on mundane or trivial subjects"?**

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Impressionism (b) Surrealism
(c) Realism (d) Verism

Directions (Q. 45): *Choose the correct one-word substitution for the italicized phrase*

45 "After a long day, Maya sat by the window in a state of being pleasantly lost in her thoughts."

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Euphoria (b) Solitude
(c) Reverie (d) Delirium

Directions (Q. 46–47): *Select the correct one-word substitution for*

46 A person who believes in or tries to bring about anarchy.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Patriot (b) Anarchist
(c) Idealist (d) Realist

47 A speech delivered without preparation.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Monologue (b) Memorised
(c) Prepared (d) Impromptu

Directions (Q. 48–50): *What is the one-word substitute for*

48 **"A person who pretends to be knowledgeable or skilled but is actually a fraud."**

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Savant (b) Virtuoso
(c) Charlatan (d) Visionary

49 **"An obscure or deliberately evasive statement used to mislead."**

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Non sequitur (b) Euphemism
(c) Equivocation (d) Tautology

50 "The pathological fear of open spaces or being in situations where escape might be difficult."

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Nyctophobia (b) Nyctophobia
(c) Agoraphobia (d) Xenophobia

Directions (Q. 51): *Identify the correct one-word substitution for*

51 A person who tells lies.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Liar (b) Hypocrite
(c) Speaker (d) Fraud

Directions (Q. 52): *Identify the appropriate one-word substitution for*

52 A person who is indifferent to pain or pleasure.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Stoic (b) Pessimist
(c) Optimist (d) Narcissist

Directions (Q. 53): *Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'A person who is skilled in beautiful handwriting'*

53

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Numismatist (b) Archivist
(c) Philatelist (d) Calligrapher

Answer Key *Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation*

01	02	03	04	05
(b)	(d)	(d)	(b)	(c)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**
(a)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(a)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
(c)	(a)	(b)	(d)	(d)
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
(d)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(b)
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
(a)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(c)
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
(a)	(c)	(a)	(a)	(a)

31	32	33	34	35
(c)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(c)
36	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**
(a)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(a)
41	**42**	**43**	**44**	**45**
(a)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(c)
46	**47**	**48**	**49**	**50**
(b)	(d)	(c)	(c)	(c)
51	**52**	**53**		
(a)	(a)	(d)		

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 **ANSWER (b)** Embassy

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

The government building and office through which one country represents itself in another, through its Ambassador, is called an **Embassy**. An Embassy is located in the capital of the host country and is headed by an Ambassador.

- Consulate — office in a city that helps citizens and trade
- Embassy — the Ambassador's mission in a foreign capital

- High Commission — embassy between Commonwealth countries
- Chancery — only the office section of an embassy

02 ANSWER (d) Shoplifting

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The act of stealing goods from shops, usually by pretending to be a customer, is called **Shoplifting**.

- Robbery — taking by force or threat
- Looting — plunder during riots or disasters
- Burglary — breaking into a house to steal
- Shoplifting — stealing goods from a shop

03 ANSWER (d) Sycophant

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

A person who flatters others for personal gain is called a **Sycophant**.

- Altruist — one who selflessly works for the good of others
- Protégé — a person guided and protected by an influential one
- Mentor — a guide or adviser
- Sycophant — a flatterer who seeks favour

04 ANSWER (b) Schadenfreude

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The pleasure derived from another person's misfortune is expressed by the German-origin word **Schadenfreude**.

- Antipathy — strong dislike
- Schadenfreude — joy at another's suffering
- Empathy — sharing another person's feelings
- Sympathy — compassion for another's suffering

05 ANSWER (c) Lineage

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Descent from an ancestor, that is, the family or ancestral line, is called **Lineage**. The phrase "descent from an ancestor" points directly to the line of succession, so Lineage is correct.

- Heritage — traditions and culture inherited from ancestors
- Dynasty — a succession of rulers from the same family
- Lineage — ancestral line of descent
- Legacy — property or influence left by a predecessor

06 ANSWER (a) Mannequin

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

A life-sized model of the human body used to display clothes is called a **Mannequin**. The other three words name persons, not an object (a model).

- Mannequin — a dummy for displaying clothes
- Sculptor — one who carves or models statues
- Tailor — one who makes clothes
- Designer — one who plans the look of something

07 ANSWER (b) Constellation

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A group of stars forming a recognisable pattern in the sky is called a **Constellation**.

- Eclipse — the blocking of light from the Sun or Moon
- Constellation — a recognised pattern of stars
- Meteor — a streak of light from a falling space rock
- Asteroid — a small rocky body orbiting the Sun

08 ANSWER (a) Anchorite

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

A person who lives in solitude for spiritual reasons is called an **Anchorite**. A Mystic is also spiritual, but living in solitude is not an essential feature of a mystic.

- Anchorite — a religious recluse
- Herald — a messenger
- Recline — to lean or lie back (a verb)
- Mystic — one who seeks spiritual union with God

09 ANSWER (c) Pyrrhic

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Among the options, **Pyrrhic** best fits 'a situation involving mutually destructive conflict', because a Pyrrhic victory is won at such heavy cost that it almost amounts to defeat, conveying a conflict that ruins both sides. Impasse and Stalemate denote only a deadlock, not destruction, and Quagmire is an entangling difficult situation. Hence the answer is C.

- Impasse — a deadlock

- Quagmire — a difficult, bog-like situation
- Pyrrhic — (of a victory) won at too great a cost
- Stalemate — a situation in which neither side can make progress

10 ANSWER (a) Omnipotent

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Someone capable of doing anything is called **Omnipotent** (omni = all, potent = powerful).

- Omnipotent — all-powerful
- Omnipresent — present everywhere
- Omniscient — all-knowing
- God — a noun, whereas the other three describe qualities

11 ANSWER (c) Epigrapher

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A person who studies and deciphers ancient inscriptions is called an **Epigrapher**.

- Philologist — one who studies the historical development of languages
- Lexicographer — a compiler of dictionaries
- Epigrapher — a student of inscriptions
- Numismatist — a student or collector of coins

12 ANSWER (a) Orator

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

A person skilled at public speaking is called an **Orator**.

- Orator — a skilled public speaker
- Speaker — one who speaks, with no hint of skill
- Messenger — a carrier of messages (the question misspells it as "Messanger")
- Lecturer — one who gives lectures

13 ANSWER (b) Polygamy

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The custom of having many wives is called **Polygamy** (poly = many, gamy = marriage).

- Misogamy — hatred of marriage
- Polygamy — having more than one spouse
- Bigamy — marrying again while still married
- Monogamy — having one spouse at a time

14 ANSWER (d) Peripatetic

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

A person who travels from place to place for work is described as **Peripatetic**.

- Premedieval — belonging to the period before the Middle Ages
- Wayfarer — a traveller on foot, not necessarily for work
- Sedentary — staying in one place, inactive
- Peripatetic — travelling from place to place for work

15 ANSWER (d) Composer

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

A person who composes music is called a **Composer**. A Lyricist writes the words, not the tune, and the option has been built on exactly this difference.

- Vocalist — a singer in a band or group
- Singer — one who sings
- Lyricist — one who writes the words of songs
- Composer — one who creates the music

16 ANSWER (d) Deaf

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

A person who cannot hear is called **Deaf**.

- Blind — unable to see
- Speechless — silent from shock or surprise
- Mute — unable to speak
- Deaf — unable to hear

17 ANSWER (b) Pseudonym

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A name used by an author in place of his or her real name is called a **Pseudonym** (pseudo = false, onym = name).

- Acronym — an abbreviation formed from initials (e.g. NATO)
- Pseudonym — a false name, pen name
- Homonym — a word with the same sound or spelling as another
- Patronym — a name derived from one's father's name

18 ANSWER (c) Quixotic

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A person who is excessively idealistic and impractical is called **Quixotic**; the word comes from the character Don Quixote in Cervantes' novel.

- Visionary — farsighted, imaginative
- Pragmatic — practical (the opposite of Quixotic)
- Quixotic — unrealistically idealistic
- Dogmatic — obstinately holding to one's own opinion

19 ANSWER (c) Indefatigable

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

A person who never gets tired is called **Indefatigable** (in = not, fatigue = tiredness). The word **fatigue** itself hints at the meaning.

- Infallible — never making mistakes
- Invincible — impossible to defeat
- Indefatigable — tireless
- Incurable — impossible to cure

20 ANSWER (b) Spy

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A person who engages in espionage is called a **Spy**.

- Diplomat — an official representing a country abroad
- Spy — one who secretly gathers information
- Proprietor — an owner
- Investigator — one who inquires, but not necessarily in secret

21 ANSWER (a) immaculate

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The sentence says that, despite three young children and a job, Jenna kept her house in a state that impressed every guest. The blank therefore needs a positive word, and **immaculate** fits.

- immaculate — perfectly clean and tidy
- mediocre — ordinary, of average quality
- erratic — irregular, unpredictable
- obsolete — out of date

22 ANSWER (b) Perspicacious

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

A person with keen insight, who sees and understands things sharply, is described as **Perspicacious**.

- Stolid — showing little emotion
- Perspicacious — shrewd, quick to grasp things
- Obtuse — slow to understand
- Myopic — short-sighted, lacking foresight

23 ANSWER (b) Insomnia

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The inability to sleep is called **Insomnia**.

- Narcolepsy — a disorder causing sudden attacks of sleep
- Insomnia — inability to sleep
- Somnolence — drowsiness
- Somnambulist — a sleepwalker

24 ANSWER (b) Lugubrious

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Looking or sounding sad and dismal is expressed by **Lugubrious**. (Option A is misspelt "jubiliant"; the word **jubilant** means joyful, which is the opposite in any case.)

- jubilant — joyful, triumphant
- Lugubrious — mournful, gloomy
- Maudlin — tearfully sentimental
- Sardonic — mocking, sarcastic

25 ANSWER (c) Cynosure

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The centre of attraction or attention is called a **Cynosure**.

- Locus — a place or point
- Epitome — a perfect example, a summary
- Cynosure — the centre of attention
- Paradigm — a typical model or pattern

26 ANSWER (a) Anarchist

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

A person who seeks to overthrow an established government by unlawful means is called an **Anarchist**.

- Anarchist — one who rejects or seeks to overthrow government
- Immigrant — one who settles in a foreign country
- Diplomat — an official representing a country abroad
- Patriot — one who loves and supports his country

27 ANSWER (c) Mendacious

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

A habitually dishonest person, a liar, is described as **Mendacious**. The other three words denote truthfulness or openness, so they carry the opposite sense.

- Veracious — truthful
- Candid — outspoken, straightforward
- Mendacious — lying, untruthful
- Frank — open and honest

28 ANSWER (a) Pedant

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A person excessively concerned with minor details and rules is called a **Pedant**.

- Pedant — one who is overly fussy about small details and rules
- Recluse — one who lives in seclusion
- Egoist — a self-centred person
- Stoic — one who stays calm in pleasure and pain

29 ANSWER (a) Allusion

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

An indirect reference to something is an **Allusion**. Note that Allusion, Elusion, Illusion and Delusion look alike but differ in meaning.

- Allusion — an indirect reference
- Elusion — escaping or evading
- Illusion — a false impression
- Delusion — a false belief

30 ANSWER (a) Ascetic

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct word for 'one who is indifferent to pleasure or pain' is **Ascetic**. An ascetic lives a life of severe self-discipline and self-denial, gives up worldly pleasures and endures hardship, and is therefore indifferent to both pleasure and pain. A skeptic doubts, an optimist expects the best, and a masochist enjoys pain, none of which matches the given meaning. Hence the answer is A.

- Ascetic — one who practises severe self-denial
- Skeptic — one who doubts
- Optimist — one who expects the best
- Masochist — one who enjoys pain

31 ANSWER (c) Etymologist

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

A person who studies the origin of words is called an **Etymologist** (etymology = the origin of words).

- Lexicographer — a compiler of dictionaries
- Philologist — a student of language and literature in history
- Etymologist — a student of word origins
- Paleographer — a student of ancient handwriting

32 ANSWER (c) Almanac

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

An annual calendar containing important dates and statistical information is called an **Almanac**.

- Atlas — a book of maps
- Chronicle — a record of events in order of time
- Almanac — a yearly calendar with data
- Ledger — a book of accounts

33 ANSWER (c) Archaism

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

A word that is no longer in use is called an **Archaism** (archaic = old-fashioned).

- Jargon — the special vocabulary of a profession
- Colloquialism — a word used in conversation
- Archaism — an obsolete word
- Neologism — a newly coined word (the opposite of Archaism)

34 ANSWER (a) Prolixity

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The tendency to talk at excessive length, rambling without need, is called **Prolixity**. The other three words relate to speaking little or briefly, so they carry the opposite sense.

- Prolixity — wordiness, tedious length
- Taciturnity — habitual silence
- Reticence — reluctance to speak
- Brevity — shortness, conciseness

35 ANSWER (c) Thrifty

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A person who manages money wisely and never spends more than necessary is called **Thrifty**. The other three words describe someone who spends too much.

- Extravagant — spending lavishly
- Prodigal — wastefully extravagant
- Thrifty — careful with money
- Spendthrift — one who wastes money

36 ANSWER (a) Ephemeral

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Something that lasts for a very short time is **Ephemeral**.

- Ephemeral — short-lived
- Nascent — just coming into existence
- Incessant — continuing without pause
- Intransient — lasting, permanent (the opposite of transient)

37 ANSWER (c) Inexplicable

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Something that cannot be explained or understood is **Inexplicable** (explicable = able to be explained).

- Illegible — impossible to read
- Incredible — hard to believe
- Inexplicable — impossible to explain
- Indelible — impossible to erase

38 ANSWER (b) Enigma

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Something mysterious or difficult to understand is called an **Enigma**. A Riddle is also a puzzle, but a riddle has an answer waiting to be found, whereas Enigma suits a person or thing that is hard to comprehend; hence Enigma fits better here.

- Enchant — to charm or delight (a verb)
- Enigma — a mysterious, puzzling person or thing
- Meme — an idea or image spread on the internet
- Riddle — a puzzle with a definite answer

39 ANSWER (b) A young person under the guidance of an older, more experienced person

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A **protégé** is a young person who receives guidance and protection from an older, experienced and influential person.

- A mentor or advisor — the guide, i.e. the other side of the relationship
- A person who offers help or support — a helper
- A competitor or rival — an opponent

A young person under the guidance of an older, more experienced person – a protégé

40 ANSWER (a) Triskaidekaphobia

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The fear of the number thirteen is called **Triskaidekaphobia** (triskaideka = thirteen, phobia = fear).

- Triskaidekaphobia — fear of the number 13
- Hexakosioihexekontahexaphobia — fear of the number 666
- Pyrophobia — fear of fire
- Aichmophobia — fear of sharp objects

41 ANSWER (a) Misanthrope

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

A person who hates mankind is called a **Misanthrope** (miso = hatred, anthropos = human being).

- Misanthrope — a hater of mankind
- Pessimist — one who expects the worst
- Skeptic — one who doubts accepted claims
- Misogynist — a hater of women

42 ANSWER (b) Neologism

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct one-word substitute for 'the invention or use of new words or expressions' is **Neologism**. It denotes a newly coined word or expression and also the practice of coining and using such words, whereas Coinage is merely the act of making one word, and Jargon is the special vocabulary of a profession. Hence the answer is B.

- Neology — the study or practice of new words
- Neologism — a newly coined word or expression, and the practice of coining and using them
- Coinage — the act of making a new word
- Jargon — the special vocabulary of a profession

43 ANSWER (a) Cynic

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A person who believes that people act purely out of self-interest is called a **Cynic**.

- Cynic — one who distrusts people's motives
- Fatalist — one who believes everything is fated
- Stoic — one who stays calm in pleasure and pain
- Epicure — a lover of fine food and drink

44 ANSWER (c) Realism

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The portrayal of realistic and detailed scenes of everyday life is called **Realism**. Verism is a particular, harsher form of Realism, but the general description in the stem fits Realism.

- Impressionism — art capturing light and fleeting impressions
- Surrealism — art of dreamlike scenes
- Realism — faithful depiction of real life
- Verism — extremely stark realism (chiefly in Italian art and opera)

45 ANSWER (c) Reverie

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In the sentence, Maya sits by the window pleasantly lost in her thoughts, and such a state is called **Reverie**.

- Euphoria — intense joy
- Solitude — the state of being alone
- Reverie — pleasant daydreaming
- Delirium — raving caused by fever or illness

46 ANSWER (b) Anarchist

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A person who believes in anarchy or tries to bring it about is called an **Anarchist**.

- Patriot — one who loves his country
- Anarchist — a believer in or promoter of anarchy
- Idealist — one guided by ideals
- Realist — one who sees things as they are

47 ANSWER (d) Impromptu

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

A speech delivered without preparation is called **Impromptu**.

- Monologue — a long speech by one person
- Memorised — learnt by heart
- Prepared — made ready beforehand
- Impromptu — unrehearsed, off the cuff

48 ANSWER (c) Charlatan

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

A person who pretends to have knowledge or skill but is actually a fraud is called a **Charlatan**.

- Savant — a learned person
- Virtuoso — a person highly skilled in an art
- Charlatan — a quack, a pretender
- Visionary — a person with foresight

49 ANSWER (c) Equivocation

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

An obscure or deliberately evasive statement used to mislead is called **Equivocation**.

- Non sequitur — a conclusion that does not follow logically
- Euphemism — a mild word for a harsh thing
- Equivocation — ambiguous, evasive speech
- Tautology — saying the same thing twice

50 ANSWER (c) Agoraphobia

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The pathological fear of open spaces, or of situations from which escape may be difficult, is called **Agoraphobia** (agora = open marketplace). Note that options A and B are both printed as Nyctophobia, but this does not affect the answer.

- Nyctophobia — fear of darkness
- Agoraphobia — fear of open or crowded places
- Xenophobia — hatred or fear of foreigners

51 ANSWER (a) Liar

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

A person who tells lies is simply called a **Liar**.

- Liar — one who tells lies
- Hypocrite — one who says one thing and does another
- Speaker — one who speaks
- Fraud — a cheat

52 ANSWER (a) Stoic

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A person who is indifferent to both pleasure and pain is called a **Stoic**.

- Stoic — one who endures pleasure and pain calmly
- Pessimist — one who expects the worst
- Optimist — one who expects the best
- Narcissist — a person excessively absorbed in himself

53 ANSWER (d) Calligrapher

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A person skilled in beautiful handwriting is called a **Calligrapher** (calli = beauty, graph = writing).

- Numismatist — a collector or student of coins
- Archivist — a keeper of records
- Philatelist — a collector of postage stamps
- Calligrapher — an expert in fine handwriting



10
CHAPTER

Idioms & Phrases

Questions *109 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01–17): *Choose the correct idiom for the word highlighted in bold.*

01 "Mrs. Robinson has three children to support, and she doesn't make very much money at her job. She is barely **keeping her head above water.**"

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Struggling to survive financially
(b) Learning how to swim
(c) Feeling relaxed and stress-free
(d) Living in a house near the water

02 The parents are **in high spirits** as their son has got a decent job.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Very happy
(b) Feeling dizzy
(c) Extremely angry
(d) In a confused state

03 "I don't believe Tara really hurt herself when she fell. I think she's crying **crocodile tears** just to get attention."

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Genuine sadness and emotional pain
(b) Tears caused by a physical injury
(c) Insincere or fake tears meant to fool others
(d) A loud and dramatic cry of joy

04 He didn't tell me directly, but **reading between the lines**, I think he is not happy with them.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Understanding the hidden or implied meaning.
(b) Taking words literally as they are written.
(c) Skipping parts of a text while reading.
(d) Guessing randomly without any context.

05 "The teacher **took me to task** for not completing my homework."

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Praised me for my efforts
(b) Scolded me for my mistake
(c) Helped me with my homework
(d) Ignored my mistake

06 My uncle has a **green thumb** and can grow anything in his garden.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) He has a thumb that is actually green.
(b) He is very good at gardening.
(c) He dislikes gardening.
(d) He only grows green plants.

07 "The voters know very little about Mr. Singh, but he's a **dark horse** and I think he'll win the election."

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A dishonest candidate who hides the truth
(b) A person who is not expected to succeed but ends up doing well
(c) A candidate who is very experienced and well-known
(d) A person who refuses to take part in the competition

08 "Kavita told her manager that she planned to leave the company, but after the manager offered her a pay raise, she had a **change of heart** and agreed to stay."

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To become physically unwell due to stress
(b) To change one's feelings or decision about something
(c) To get emotional during a conversation
(d) To start working harder to get promoted

09 "Benjamin isn't happy now that he's **working the graveyard shift**."

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) He is working at a cemetery.
(b) He is working late-night hours.
(c) He is working fewer hours than before.
(d) He is working in a dangerous job.

10 Jatin was progressing **by leaps and bounds** because of his hard work.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Very slowly
(b) With great speed and progress
(c) Without making any progress
(d) In a confused and disorganized manner

11 There is no point in discussing the new project with him as he always **pours cold water on** any ideas.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) He strongly supports new ideas.
(b) He discourages or criticizes new ideas.
(c) He ignores new ideas completely.
(d) He enthusiastically accepts new ideas.

12 She didn't realize that the clever salesman was **taking her for a ride**.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Giving her a lift in his car
(b) Cheating or deceiving her
(c) Taking her on an amusement park ride
(d) Offering her a business opportunity

13 The two famous writers **crossed swords** with each other on every issue.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Became good friends
(b) Engaged in a heated argument
(c) Collaborated on a project
(d) Ignored each other

14 This is so simple that even **a man in the street** can understand it.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A common or ordinary person
(b) A homeless person
(c) A wealthy businessman
(d) A police officer

15 Yesterday, in a collision between a truck and a car, he had a **close shave**.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A minor injury
(b) A lucky escape
(c) A serious accident
(d) A smooth journey

16 "The president told the people that if they wanted the country to continue to move forward, they should reelect him. He said that to elect his opponent would be like **changing horses in midstream.**"

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Switching to a new leader or plan in the middle of an ongoing process
(b) Going horseback riding during a flood
(c) Trying a new hobby while still learning the old one
(d) Giving up on something before even starting it

17 Having no arguments to defend his point, the Manager began to **beat about the bush.**

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To avoid coming to the main point
(b) To directly address the issue
(c) To make a false statement
(d) To strongly defend one's argument

Directions (Q. 18–39): *Choose the correct meaning of idiom*

18 **Beard the lion in his den**

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Hide from danger
(b) Flatter a powerful person
(c) Feed captive animals
(d) Confront someone powerful on their own ground

19 **Giving a false colouring to**

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Describing something vividly
(b) Misrepresenting the facts
(c) Hiding something completely
(d) Adding visual detail to a scene

20 **Cried up**

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ignored intentionally (b) Exposed harshly
(c) Praised extravagantly (d) Rejected summarily

21 Ride roughshod over

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Travel very quickly
(b) Disregard others' feelings or rights
(c) Improve something drastically
(d) Face obstacles bravely

22 Give someone the slip

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To insult someone subtly
(b) To evade or escape from someone unnoticed
(c) To forgive after insult
(d) To follow and copy someone

23 To milk the ram

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To exploit one's privilege
(b) To attempt the impossible or futile
(c) To exaggerate defeat
(d) To question authority subtly

24 Break the fourth wall

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To construct a theater set
(b) To hide from the audience
(c) To address the audience directly
(d) To remove a character from a play

25 Cut him up

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To assist him generously (b) To criticize him severely
(c) To imitate him humorously (d) To promote him rapidly

26 To steal a march on someone

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To win unexpectedly
(b) To surpass someone by cunning or timing
(c) To escape scrutiny subtly
(d) To lead without recognition

27 To ride the high horse

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Detached and reclusive (b) Arrogant and self-righteous
(c) Humble and grounded (d) Boastful but harmless

28 Grain of salt

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Complete faith in something
(b) A hint of manipulation
(c) A cautious or skeptical attitude toward truth
(d) An excess of honesty

29 To throw one's cap over the windmill

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To act recklessly
(b) To challenge authority in public
(c) To mock traditional values
(d) To fall prey to delusion

30 Man of straw

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A person of high emotional strength
(b) A confident negotiator
(c) A highly rigid and disciplined man
(d) A weak or ineffectual person

31 Hoist with one's own petard

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To elevate one's reputation
(b) To be harmed by one's own scheme
(c) To succeed after effort
(d) To compete fearlessly

32 Rock the boat

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To maintain balance (b) To disturb the status quo
(c) To enjoy boating (d) To avoid trouble

33 To kick against the pricks

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To act with excessive caution
(b) To challenge injustice successfully
(c) To resist futilely against authority
(d) To support power without question

34 Put a good face on

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To appear angry despite happiness
(b) To act cheerfully despite adversity
(c) To distort the truth intentionally
(d) To change appearance for attention

35 **Hung on his lips**

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Argued relentlessly
(b) Was emotionally unstable
(c) Listened with deep admiration
(d) Spoke in riddles

36 **Gild the lily**

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To beautify something already perfect
(b) To plant lilies in spring
(c) To decorate unnecessarily
(d) To misrepresent reality

37 **The die is cast**

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A new choice is offered
(b) An irreversible decision has been made
(c) There's a risk involved
(d) The plan has failed

38 **Brought into play**

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Put under physical strain
(b) Engaged in recreational activity
(c) Made operational or effective
(d) Delayed unnecessarily

39 **To pour new wine into old bottles**

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To repeat history unnecessarily
(b) To disguise change as tradition
(c) To force a new idea into an outdated framework
(d) To dilute meaning through overuse

40 Which of the following options most accurately expresses the meaning of the idiom "to hit a purple patch"?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To experience a highly volatile period of civil unrest and institutional friction triggered by sudden austerity measures.
(b) To enjoy an extended, highly successful period of outstanding performance, immense creativity, or exceptional good fortune.
(c) To navigate an ideological gridlock within a legislative body where opposing parties refuse to reach an equitable policy compromise.
(d) To have been luckily allotted a highly fertile piece of agricultural land that consistently yields an exceptionally bountiful crop.

41 What does the idiom "Best of both worlds" mean?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Experiencing the advantages of two different situations at the same time
(b) Choosing between two difficult situations
(c) Losing both opportunities due to indecision
(d) Sacrificing one thing to gain another

42 What does the idiom "A bolt from the blue" mean?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A sudden and unexpected event
(b) A predictable outcome
(c) A slow and gradual change
(d) A clear and sunny day

43 What does the idiom "Red letter day" mean?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A day of great significance or celebration
(b) A day of financial loss
(c) A day of regret and sadness
(d) A day of strict discipline

44 What does the idiom "to go through fire and water" mean?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To face any danger or difficulty for someone or something
(b) To be indecisive and keep changing opinions
(c) To avoid taking risks at all costs
(d) To be extremely lazy and unmotivated

45 What does the idiom "bristle with anger" mean?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To become visibly angry and defensive
(b) To remain calm under pressure
(c) To ignore a provocation
(d) To laugh at a situation

46 What is the best meaning of the idiom "Birds of a feather flock together"?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) People with similar interests or characteristics tend to associate with each other.
(b) Birds always fly in groups.
(c) Different people can never be friends.
(d) Only rich people make friends with other rich people.

47 What does the idiom "a snake in the grass" mean?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A loyal and trustworthy friend
(b) A secret or deceitful enemy
(c) A person who loves nature
(d) A shy and introverted person

48 What does the idiom "All his ventures went to the winds" mean?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) All his efforts were wasted
(b) He became very successful
(c) He changed his business frequently
(d) His ventures were well-organized

49 People who do not lay out their money carefully, soon come to grief.What does "come to grief" mean?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To experience failure or trouble
(b) To become very rich
(c) To achieve great success
(d) To find unexpected luck

50 What does the idiom "To have a chip on one's shoulder" mean?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To be overly cautious
(b) To be very confident in one's abilities
(c) To be unaware of one's surroundings
(d) To hold a grudge or be easily offended

51 What is meant by the idiom "To jump the gun"?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To think things through before acting
(b) To delay taking action
(c) To complete a task without mistakes
(d) To act too soon or prematurely

52 What does the idiom "To cry wolf" mean?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To ignore warnings or advice
(b) To express genuine concern
(c) To seek help in a time of need
(d) To raise a false alarm

53 What is meant by the idiom "In hot water"?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To experience a sudden burst of energy
(b) To relax and enjoy oneself
(c) To be in trouble
(d) To seek advice from someone

54 What is meant by the idiom "To get cold feet"?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To remain neutral in a conflict
(b) To take a break from something
(c) To be very excited about something
(d) To feel nervous or scared

55 What does the idiom "Let the cat out of the bag" mean?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To keep a secret
(b) To reveal a secret by mistake
(c) To be dishonest
(d) To create confusion

56 What does the idiom "take the bull by the horns" mean?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To face a difficult situation with courage and determination
(b) To avoid a problem by ignoring it
(c) To make a situation worse by interfering
(d) To give up easily when facing a challenge

57 What does the idiom "To add fuel to the fire" mean?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To improve a situation
(b) To stop a situation from escalating
(c) To make a bad situation worse
(d) To remain neutral in a conflict

58 What does the idiom "To call it a day" mean?
[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To stop working for the day
(b) To make a decision
(c) To continue working after a break
(d) To start a new project

59 What does the idiom "To go the extra mile" mean?
[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To put in extra effort to achieve something
(b) To work just enough to get by
(c) To avoid working on something
(d) To do something with less effort

60 What does the idiom "To have a sweet tooth" mean?
[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To enjoy spicy foods
(b) To dislike sugary foods
(c) To have a liking for sweet foods
(d) To prefer savoury foods

61 What does the idiom **"let bygones be bygones"** mean?
[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To forget past grievances and forgive
(b) To hold onto past grudges
(c) To revisit old conflicts frequently
(d) To seek revenge for past wrongs

62 Which of the following options most accurately expresses the meaning of the idiom “to fly a kite”?
[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To indulge in trivial, non-productive recreational distractions during critical corporate working hours to evade administrative duties.
(b) To harness atmospheric wind patterns through innovative, non-traditional renewable energy technologies to power local manufacturing grids.
(c) To experience an overwhelming sensation of creative euphoria or psychological detachment during a complex brainstorming session.
(d) To intentionally introduce a controversial policy or speculative idea to the public to gauge collective reactions and opinions.

63 What does the idiom "Get up on the wrong side of the bed" mean?
[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To start the day in a bad mood
(b) To wake up very early in the morning
(c) To feel refreshed after a good night's sleep
(d) To accidentally fall out of bed

64 What does the idiom "Once in a blue moon" mean?
[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Something that happens often
(b) Something that happens daily
(c) Something that happens every year
(d) Something that happens very rarely

65 What does the idiom **"to be pressed for time"** mean?
[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To have plenty of free time
(b) To be in a hurry due to a lack of time
(c) To waste time on unnecessary things
(d) To manage time effectively

> **Directions (Q. 66):** *Complete the collocation by choosing a suitable word to fill in the blank.*

66 Despite the groundbreaking nature of their discovery, the research team decided ____ all the experimental data had been thoroughly verified and peer-reviewed.
[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) break even
(b) to keep it under wraps
(c) above my hand
(d) slipped my mind

Directions (Q. 67–89): *Choose the correct meaning of idiom given below*

67 **"Bury the hatchet"**

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Hide evidence of wrongdoing
(b) Bury something literally
(c) End a conflict and make peace
(d) Start a new quarrel

68 **"Go the whole hog"**

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Refuse to try
(b) Do something completely
(c) Be lazy
(d) Plan early

69 **"Put the cart before the horse"**

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Prioritize tasks logically
(b) Reverse the proper order
(c) Show urgency
(d) Delegate responsibility

70 **" Break new ground"**

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Create a mess
(b) Innovate or pioneer
(c) Destroy something
(d) Start agriculture

71 **"Break out in hives"**

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To develop rashes from allergies
(b) To react angrily
(c) To become unconscious
(d) To recover from illness

72 **"The sword of Damocles"**

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A lucky opportunity
(b) A constant threat hanging over someone
(c) A weapon of power
(d) A tool for justice

73 **"Turn the page"**

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Publish a new chapter
(b) Forget the past and start anew
(c) Add suspense to a story
(d) Reveal a plot twist

74 **"Skeleton in the closet"**

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A hidden treasure
(b) An unknown character in a book
(c) A family heirloom
(d) A hidden shame or scandal

75 **"Bark is worse than bite"**

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Looks better than it is
(b) Threat is worse than action
(c) Sound is louder
(d) Dog is angry

76 **"Pay through the nose"**

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Get a big discount
(b) Pay much more than usual
(c) Borrow money from a friend
(d) Avoid paying altogether

77 **" The powers that be"**

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Supernatural forces
(b) Current authorities
(c) Past rulers
(d) Media groups

78 **" Penny wise, pound foolish"**

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Economical always
(b) Careful and rich
(c) Frugal yet careless in big matters
(d) Only saves big money

79 **"Ride roughshod over"**

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Treat with extreme care
(b) Disregard others' rights or feelings
(c) Assist someone compassionately
(d) Move slowly

80 **" Know the ropes"**

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Understand procedures
(b) Be a sailor
(c) Learn to fight
(d) Fear nothing

81 " **Hit the roof**"

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Achieve success
(b) Become very angry
(c) Climb a building
(d) Escape trouble

82 "**Poetic justice**"

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Justice through courts
(b) Punishment fits the crime
(c) Irony where villain suffers fittingly
(d) Justice delayed

83 " **No love lost**"

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Mutual dislike
(b) Deep friendship
(c) Unspoken love
(d) Neutrality

84 " **Clutch at straws**"

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Attempt desperately
(b) Handle fragile objects
(c) Succeed against odds
(d) Refuse to help

85 **“Cut the Gordian knot”**

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Take a complicated approach
(b) Solve a complex problem decisively
(c) Create confusion intentionally
(d) Tie a knot tightly

86 **“ Feather in one’s cap”**

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Heavy burden
(b) Past failure
(c) Achievement or honor
(d) Strange habit

87 **“By leaps and bounds”**

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Slowly
(b) Rapidly and noticeably
(c) Carefully
(d) Through politics

88 "Fly in the face of"

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Challenge or contradict
(b) Fly over someone's head
(c) Travel by flight
(d) Act suspiciously

89 " Face the music"

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Attend a concert
(b) Deal with consequences
(c) Celebrate
(d) Avoid issues

Directions (Q. 90–92): *Choose the correct phrase for the word highlighted in bold.*

90 "He expects his subordinates to be always **at his beck and call**"?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To be constantly available to obey orders
(b) To challenge authority frequently
(c) To work only when convenient
(d) To ignore requests deliberately

91 The poor subordinates are **made scapegoats** by their superiors.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Blamed for others' faults
(b) Given a reward for their hard work
(c) Promoted to a higher position
(d) Praised for their honesty

92 Ravi and his neighbour are always **at loggerheads**.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Always in agreement
(b) Constantly in conflict
(c) Supporting each other
(d) Ignoring each other

Directions (Q. 93–96): *Identify the option in which the underlined idiom has been used incorrectly.*

93

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The minister did not **mince words** during the live television broadcast, spending nearly forty minutes delivering vague, evasive responses.

(b) When the journalist suggested that the CEO had intentionally misled investors, the executive angrily cut her off, accusing her of trying to **put words into his mouth**.

(c) The eccentric philosophy professor loved to **talk in riddles**, frequently answering direct student questions with cryptic metaphors that left the entire lecture hall confused.

(d) The interviewer accidentally **hit a raw nerve** when he asked the retired athlete about the career-ending knee injury that had cost his team the championship final.

94

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Realising that their primary competitor was about to file a groundbreaking patent, the tech firm's research department **strained every nerve** to finish their own prototype first.

(b) By introducing a surprise clause that doubled the financial penalty for any late delivery, the procurement attorney managed to **raise the stakes** of the contract negotiations.

(c) After the real estate conglomerate filed for bankruptcy, the director decided to **go down with the ship**, quickly selling off all his corporate shares to protect his personal wealth.

(d) Seeking vengeance for the sabotage that ruined his startup, the entrepreneur claimed **an eye for an eye** by orchestrating a public relations crisis for his rival.

95

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The elite research institute's academic curriculum is widely considered **a cut above** that of regional universities, owing to its mandatory advanced robotics modules and global lab partnerships.

(b) The lead actors met for the first time during the table read and **hit it off**, resulting in an uncomfortable, visible lack of chemistry on set that forced the director to repeatedly pause production.

(c) Before initiating the cross-border merger, the lead legal strategist spent several weeks analysing the rival firm's previous litigation history **to take the measure of** their executive board.

(d) Trailing by fifteen points in the final quarter, the underdog basketball team completely **turned the tables** by executing a relentless full-court press and securing a dramatic one-point victory at the buzzer.

96

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The corporate restructuring proposal has been **in the pipeline** for over eighteen months, with the human resources department quietly preparing the final severance packages and contract templates for next week's announcement.

(b) During the high-stakes climate summit, the environmental minister decided **to lock horns with** the automotive lobby, aggressively pushing for an immediate ban on combustion engines despite their fierce resistance.

(c) The seasoned trade diplomat managed **to oil the wheels** of the stalled maritime negotiations by imposing strict, unyielding tariff penalties that deeply angered both international shipping delegations.

(d) Before criticising the regional manager's controversial decision to downsize the customer support department, the consultant tried to **stand in his shoes** by reviewing the severe budget deficits imposed by the board.

> **Directions (Q. 97):** *To be successful in today's world, you require the gift of the gab.*

97 What does "the gift of the gab" mean?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The ability to speak fluently and persuasively
(b) The habit of talking too much without making sense
(c) A natural talent for writing poems and stories
(d) The ability to stay silent and observe carefully

Directions (Q. 98–99): *Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence*

98 The boy **fell down from** the bicycle.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) fell down of
(b) fell off
(c) fell from
(d) dropped off

99 The boy **drew a painting** of his village.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) made a painting
(b) painted a picture
(c) drew an art
(d) drew a sketch

Directions (Q. 100): *Read the sentence carefully and select the most suitable idiom/phrase to fill in the blank.*

100 My grandmother ---------- Spanish while living in Spain for three years.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) picked up
(b) spend up
(c) leaning
(d) talking to

Directions (Q. 101–102): *Read the sentence below and choose the meaning of the idiom that best fits the context*

101 "Kavita managed through hard work to win a big contract for her company. It was a real feather in her cap."

What does the idiom “a feather in her cap” mean in this context?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A surprising reward she didn’t expect.
(b) A mistake that hurt her reputation.
(c) An achievement to be proud of.
(d) A personal gift she received from her boss.

102 "Rahul will always be sorry that his father and he fought before he died and he never got a chance to bury the hatchet."

What does the idiom “bury the hatchet” mean in this context?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To make peace and end a disagreement
(b) To hide something important from someone
(c) To feel guilty about a past mistake
(d) To physically bury a weapon in the ground

Directions (Q. 103): *What does this idiom mean?*

103 Mohit said to Ananya, “Don’t make a mountain out of a molehill.”

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Don’t exaggerate a small problem
(b) Work hard to achieve success
(c) Keep your emotions under control
(d) Be cautious while making decisions

Directions (Q. 104): *What does the idiom "To take to one's heels" mean?*

104

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To start running away quickly
(b) To wear new shoes
(c) To stand still in fear
(d) To take a rest after a long walk

Directions (Q. 105): *Read the sentence below and choose the idiom meaning that best fits the context*

105 “Meeta says she doesn’t want to become a big wheel in the company because she doesn’t want so much responsibility.”

What does the idiom “a big wheel” mean in this context?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A person who does physical work in the company
(b) A person who is important or powerful in an organization
(c) A person who constantly changes jobs in the company
(d) A person who causes problems in the company

Directions (Q. 106): *Choose the option that best explains the meaning of the underlined idiom in the sentence below.*

106 In order to expedite the approval of the offshore drilling permits through the highly bureaucratic ministry, the multinational energy corporation resorted to **greasing the regional director's palm.**

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Offering illicit financial inducements or surreptitious capital transfers to secure preferential treatment from an official
(b) Registering a systemic administrative grievance to censure an official for regulatory negligence
(c) Leveraging executive political networks to exert coercive, top-down institutional pressure on someone
(d) Utilising aggressive intimidation tactics to psychologically coerce someone into compliance

Directions (Q. 107): *What does the idiom "Rise like a phoenix" mean?*

107

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To recover and become successful after a setback
(b) To disappear without a trace
(c) To remain in the same place without progress
(d) To lose everything permanently

Directions (Q. 108): *What does the idiom "to smell a rat" mean?*

108

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To suspect something is wrong
(b) To have a keen sense of smell
(c) To admire someone's intelligence
(d) To clean up a messy situation

Directions (Q. 109): *Select the option that shows the grammatically and lexically correct form of the idiom meaning "to confess something fully to relieve one's conscience."*

109

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To make a light chest of something
(b) To make a clear chest of something
(c) To make a clean breast of something
(d) To make a light breast of something

Answer Key

Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation

01	02	03	04	05
(a)	(a)	(c)	(a)	(b)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**
(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
(b)	(b)	(b)	(a)	(b)
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
(a)	(a)	(d)	(b)	(c)
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
(b)	(b)	(b)	(c)	(b)
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
(b)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(d)
31	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**
(b)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(c)

36	37	38	39	40
(a)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(b)
41	**42**	**43**	**44**	**45**
(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
46	**47**	**48**	**49**	**50**
(a)	(b)	(a)	(a)	(d)
51	**52**	**53**	**54**	**55**
(d)	(d)	(c)	(d)	(b)
56	**57**	**58**	**59**	**60**
(a)	(c)	(a)	(a)	(c)
61	**62**	**63**	**64**	**65**
(a)	(d)	(a)	(d)	(b)
66	**67**	**68**	**69**	**70**
(b)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(b)

71	72	73	74	75
(a)	(b)	(b)	(d)	(b)
76	**77**	**78**	**79**	**80**
(b)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(a)
81	**82**	**83**	**84**	**85**
(b)	(c)	(a)	(a)	(b)
86	**87**	**88**	**89**	**90**
(c)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)

91	92	93	94	95
(a)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(b)
96	**97**	**98**	**99**	**100**
(c)	(a)	(b)	(b)	(a)
101	**102**	**103**	**104**	**105**
(c)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(b)
106	**107**	**108**	**109**	
(a)	(a)	(a)	(c)	

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 **ANSWER (a)** Struggling to survive financially

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Keep one's head above water means to just manage to survive, especially when short of money. A mother with three children and a low income, barely managing to cope, fits this meaning exactly.

02 **ANSWER (a)** Very happy

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In high spirits means very cheerful and full of enthusiasm. Parents whose son has got a decent job would naturally be happy, so A is correct.

03 **ANSWER (c)** Insincere or fake tears meant to fool others

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Crocodile tears means insincere or false tears, shed to deceive others or to win sympathy. The speaker doubts that Tara is really hurt and thinks she is pretending to get attention, so C is correct.

04 **ANSWER (a)** Understanding the hidden or implied meaning.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Read between the lines means to understand the hidden or unstated meaning of something. When a person does not say a thing directly but his words or behaviour reveal his feelings, this idiom is used.

05 **ANSWER (b)** Scolded me for my mistake

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Take someone to task means to scold a person for a fault or for carelessness. A teacher's reaction to unfinished homework is exactly this.

06 **ANSWER (b)** He is very good at gardening.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Green thumb means a natural skill at gardening, so that whatever one plants flourishes. The sense is figurative, not literal, and the clue 'can grow anything' in the sentence points the same way.

07 **ANSWER (b)** A person who is not expected to succeed but ends up doing well

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Dark horse means a person whose abilities are little known but who unexpectedly does well. The clue 'voters know very little about Mr. Singh' supports this meaning.

08 **ANSWER (b)** To change one’s feelings or decision about something

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Change of heart means a change in one's feelings or decision about something. Kavita dropping her plan to leave and agreeing to stay is an example.

09 **ANSWER (b)** He is working late-night hours.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Graveyard shift means the night shift, usually running from around midnight until morning. It has nothing to do with working in a cemetery.

10 **ANSWER (b)** With great speed and progress

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

By leaps and bounds means with very rapid and substantial progress. This is the sense intended for Jatin, who progressed because of hard work.

11 **ANSWER (b)** He discourages or criticizes new ideas.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Pour cold water on means to dampen enthusiasm for a plan or idea, that is, to discourage or criticise it. The clue 'no point in discussing' reflects this negative attitude.

12 **ANSWER (b)** Cheating or deceiving her

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Take someone for a ride means to cheat or deceive someone. Clues such as 'clever salesman' and 'didn't realize' reinforce this meaning.

13 **ANSWER (b)** Engaged in a heated argument

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Cross swords with someone means to get into a heated argument or dispute with that person. 'On every issue' makes the constant clash clear.

14 **ANSWER (a)** A common or ordinary person

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

A man in the street means an ordinary, average person. The sentence says the matter is so simple that any ordinary person can understand it.

15 **ANSWER (b)** A lucky escape

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The idiom **close shave** means a narrow escape from serious danger, that is, a lucky escape. In the sentence, he survived even after a collision between a truck and a car, which supports this meaning.

- A minor injury — a slight hurt
- A lucky escape — a narrow escape from danger
- A serious accident — a grave mishap
- A smooth journey — a comfortable trip

16 **ANSWER (a)** Switching to a new leader or plan in the middle of an ongoing process

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The idiom **changing horses in midstream** means switching to a new leader or plan in the middle of an ongoing process. In the passage, the president argues that the country is moving forward, so it would be unwise to change leadership halfway.

Switching to a new leader or plan in the middle of an ongoing process – the idiomatic meaning

- Going horseback riding during a flood — a literal reading
- Trying a new hobby while still learning the old one — an unrelated idea
- Giving up on something before even starting it — an unrelated idea

17 **ANSWER (a)** To avoid coming to the main point

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The idiom **beat about the bush** means to avoid coming to the main point and talk around it. In the sentence, the Manager has no arguments, so he evades a direct answer.

- To avoid coming to the main point — to speak evasively
- To directly address the issue — to speak straight to the point
- To make a false statement — to say something untrue
- To strongly defend one's argument — to argue firmly

18 **ANSWER (d)** Confront someone powerful on their own ground

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Beard the lion in his den means to confront a powerful person on their own ground. Here the verb beard means 'to face boldly and challenge'; it has nothing to do with a beard on the face.

19 **ANSWER (b)** Misrepresenting the facts

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Give a false colouring to means to present facts in a way that creates a wrong impression, that is, to distort them. Here colouring does not mean adding colour; it means the slant given to an account of events.

20 ANSWER (c) Praised extravagantly

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Cry up means to praise someone or something highly, even extravagantly. Its opposite is **cry down**, which means to disparage.

21 ANSWER (b) Disregard others' feelings or rights

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Ride roughshod over means to act in a high-handed way, with no regard for the feelings, rights or opinions of others. Roughshod literally refers to a horse shod with projecting nails, which tramples whatever lies in its path.

22 ANSWER (b) To evade or escape from someone unnoticed

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Give someone the slip means to escape unnoticed from a person who is following or watching you.

23 ANSWER (b) To attempt the impossible or futile

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

To milk the ram means to attempt something impossible or futile, since a ram gives no milk.

24 ANSWER (c) To address the audience directly

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Break the fourth wall means that a character in a play or film speaks directly to the audience. A stage shows three walls, and an imaginary fourth wall separates the actors from the audience.

25 ANSWER (b) To criticize him severely

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Cut someone up means to criticise someone severely or to give him a harsh dressing-down.

26 ANSWER (b) To surpass someone by cunning or timing

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Steal a march on someone means to gain an advantage over someone by cleverness or by acting earlier. March here means a military advance, and the expression comes from military vocabulary.

27 ANSWER (b) Arrogant and self-righteous

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

To ride the high horse means to behave in an arrogant, self-righteous manner, as though one were superior to others.

28 ANSWER (c) A cautious or skeptical attitude toward truth

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Take something with a grain of salt means not to believe it fully but to receive it with caution and doubt. The question gives only grain of salt, so the sense is 'a cautious or sceptical attitude'.

29 ANSWER (a) To act recklessly

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

To throw one's cap over the windmill means to act recklessly, with no concern for the consequences.

30 ANSWER (d) A weak or ineffectual person

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Man of straw means a weak, insubstantial person, or one who cannot be relied on, like a scarecrow with no real strength. Hence D is correct.

31 ANSWER (b) To be harmed by one's own scheme

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Hoist with one's own petard means to be harmed by one's own scheme. A petard was an old explosive device that sometimes blew up the man who set it. The phrase comes from Shakespeare's Hamlet.

32 ANSWER (b) To disturb the status quo

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Rock the boat means to disturb the status quo, that is, to create trouble in a situation that is going smoothly.

33 **ANSWER (c)** To resist futilely against authority

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Kick against the pricks means to resist a powerful authority or an unavoidable situation in vain, and so to hurt oneself. Pricks here are goads or sharp spikes, and the expression comes from the Bible.

34 **ANSWER (b)** To act cheerfully despite adversity

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Put a good face on means to appear cheerful or positive even in a difficult or unpleasant situation.

35 **ANSWER (c)** Listened with deep admiration

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Hang on someone's lips means to listen to a person with deep attention and admiration, eager to catch every word.

36 **ANSWER (a)** To beautify something already perfect

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Gild the lily means to try to embellish something that is already beautiful or perfect, so that the decoration becomes superfluous. Hence the sense is 'to improve what is already perfect'. Option C looks close, but the decisive point in the original meaning is that the thing is already perfect, and this is clear in A.

37 **ANSWER (b)** An irreversible decision has been made

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The die is cast means that a decision has been made and cannot be reversed. It is said when the die has been thrown and the outcome is left to fortune.

38 **ANSWER (c)** Made operational or effective

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Bring into play means to put something, such as a force or a resource, to use or to make it effective. Here play does not mean a game but being in action.

39 **ANSWER (c)** To force a new idea into an outdated framework

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

To pour new wine into old bottles means to try to fit a new idea or system into an old, unsuitable framework. The expression comes from a Biblical story in which new wine bursts old wineskins.

40 **ANSWER (b)** To enjoy an extended, highly successful period of outstanding ...

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Hit a purple patch means to go through a period of sustained success, good form or good fortune. It is common in sports commentary, where a player or team in excellent form is said to be in a purple patch.

41 **ANSWER (a)** Experiencing the advantages of two different situations at the same ...

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Best of both worlds means a situation in which one enjoys the advantages of two different things at once, such as having a job and also the freedom to work from home.

42 **ANSWER (a)** A sudden and unexpected event

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

A bolt from the blue means a sudden and wholly unexpected event, just as lightning would be unexpected from a clear blue sky.

43 **ANSWER (a)** A day of great significance or celebration

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Red letter day means a day that is memorable because of a special celebration or an important event. On old calendars, important days were printed in red.

44 **ANSWER (a)** To face any danger or difficulty for someone or something

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Go through fire and water means to face every kind of danger and hardship for a person or a cause.

45 **ANSWER (a)** To become visibly angry and defensive

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Bristle with anger means to become visibly angry and defensive or aggressive. Bristle originally refers to the hairs that stand up on an angry animal.

46 **ANSWER (a)** People with similar interests or characteristics tend to associate ...

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Birds of a feather flock together means that people of similar nature, interests or tendencies keep company with one another. It is a proverb and not a literal description of birds.

47 **ANSWER (b)** A secret or deceitful enemy

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A snake in the grass means a hidden enemy or treacherous person who poses as a friend and harms you. Like a snake hidden in grass that strikes suddenly, such a person acts unexpectedly.

48 **ANSWER (a)** All his efforts were wasted

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Go to the winds means to come to nothing or be wasted completely, like something scattered in the wind. So 'All his ventures went to the winds' means all his efforts were in vain.

49 **ANSWER (a)** To experience failure or trouble

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Come to grief means to fail or to get into trouble. The sentence speaks of people who do not spend their money carefully, so the result can only be failure or distress.

50 **ANSWER (d)** To hold a grudge or be easily offended

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

To have a chip on one's shoulder means to nurse an old grievance and to take offence easily.

51 **ANSWER (d)** To act too soon or prematurely

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

To jump the gun means to start something before the proper time. The original picture is of a runner starting before the starting gun is fired.

52 **ANSWER (d)** To raise a false alarm

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

To cry wolf means to raise a false alarm when there is no real danger. In the story of the shepherd boy, no one came to help him when the real wolf appeared because of his earlier false cries.

53 **ANSWER (c)** To be in trouble

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In hot water means to be in trouble or difficulty.

54 **ANSWER (d)** To feel nervous or scared

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

To get cold feet means to become nervous or fearful and draw back just before carrying out a plan.

55 **ANSWER (b)** To reveal a secret by mistake

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Let the cat out of the bag means to reveal a secret by accident. It differs from option C, 'be dishonest', because the idea is a slip that exposes the secret, not deceit.

56 **ANSWER (a)** To face a difficult situation with courage and determination

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Take the bull by the horns means to face a difficult situation directly, with courage and determination.

57 **ANSWER (c)** To make a bad situation worse

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

To add fuel to the fire means to make a bad situation even worse, just as fuel poured on a burning fire.

58 **ANSWER (a)** To stop working for the day

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

To call it a day means to stop work for the day, or to stop doing something and not carry on.

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59 **ANSWER (a)** To put in extra effort to achieve something

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

To go the extra mile means to make more effort than is expected so that the aim is well achieved.

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60 **ANSWER (c)** To have a liking for sweet foods

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The idiom **to have a sweet tooth** means to have a liking for sweet foods. Here 'tooth' is not meant literally; it stands for a taste or fondness.

- To enjoy spicy foods — liking hot, pungent food
- To dislike sugary foods — disliking sweet things
- To have a liking for sweet foods — being fond of sweets
- To prefer savoury foods — liking salty or tangy food

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61 **ANSWER (a)** To forget past grievances and forgive

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The idiom **let bygones be bygones** means to forget past quarrels and grievances and forgive. 'Bygones' simply means things that belong to the past.

- To forget past grievances and forgive — to let old quarrels go
- To hold onto past grudges — to keep old resentment alive
- To revisit old conflicts frequently — to raise old quarrels again and again
- To seek revenge for past wrongs — to take vengeance for old injuries

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62 **ANSWER (d)** To intentionally introduce a controversial policy or speculative ...

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The idiom **to fly a kite** means to put forward a controversial policy or speculative idea in order to test public opinion; it is also called floating a trial balloon. Options A, B and C mislead the student towards the literal sense of kites and wind, so D is the only option that gives the true meaning of the idiom.

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63 **ANSWER (a)** To start the day in a bad mood

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The idiom **get up on the wrong side of the bed** means to begin the day in an irritable or bad mood. It has nothing to do with falling out of bed or waking up early.

- To start the day in a bad mood — to begin the day irritable
- To wake up very early in the morning — to rise before dawn
- To feel refreshed after a good night's sleep — to wake up energetic
- To accidentally fall out of bed — to drop off the bed by mistake

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64 **ANSWER (d)** Something that happens very rarely

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The idiom **once in a blue moon** means something that happens very rarely. It suggests an occasion so uncommon that it hardly ever comes.

- Something that happens often — frequently
- Something that happens daily — every day
- Something that happens every year — annually
- Something that happens very rarely — seldom

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65 **ANSWER (b)** To be in a hurry due to a lack of time

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The idiom **to be pressed for time** means to be in a hurry because there is very little time. Here 'pressed' carries the sense of being under pressure.

- To have plenty of free time — to be unhurried
- To be in a hurry due to a lack of time — to be short of time
- To waste time on unnecessary things — to idle away time
- To manage time effectively — to use time well

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66 **ANSWER (b)** to keep it under wraps

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (b) · Disputed question

The stem is faulty: no conjunction is printed, so the sentence reads incomplete. It should read 'decided **to keep it under wraps** until all the experimental data had been verified'. Even so, only option B is meaningful, because decide takes a to-infinitive and **keep it under wraps** means to keep something secret. Withholding the discovery until the data was verified fits the context. Since the printing error in the stem is obvious, the SSC key B should be accepted.

- break even — to make neither profit nor loss
- above my hand — not a valid idiom in this form
- slipped my mind — I forgot

67 **ANSWER (c)** End a conflict and make peace

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Bury the hatchet means to end a quarrel and make peace. The idiom comes from an old custom of burying weapons when war between tribes was brought to an end.

68 **ANSWER (b)** Do something completely

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Go the whole hog means to do something thoroughly, without leaving it half done.

69 **ANSWER (b)** Reverse the proper order

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Put the cart before the horse means to reverse the natural order of things, doing first what should come later. The picture of a cart hitched in front of the horse makes the sense clear.

70 **ANSWER (b)** Innovate or pioneer

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Break new ground means to do something new in a field, or to innovate and be a pioneer.

71 **ANSWER (a)** To develop rashes from allergies

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Break out in hives means to develop a rash or itchy bumps on the skin, usually from an allergy or nervousness. Hives is a skin condition.

72 **ANSWER (b)** A constant threat hanging over someone

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The sword of Damocles means a constant threat hanging over someone, especially at a time of comfort or good fortune. The expression comes from the story of Damocles, over whose head a sword hung by a single hair.

73 **ANSWER (b)** Forget the past and start anew

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Turn the page means to put the past behind one and make a fresh start.

74 **ANSWER (d)** A hidden shame or scandal

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Skeleton in the closet means a hidden secret or disgrace in a family or person's past, which would cause embarrassment if exposed. In American English it is also called a skeleton in the cupboard.

75 **ANSWER (b)** Threat is worse than action

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

One's bark is worse than one's bite means that a person's threats or harsh words sound more terrible than his actual deeds, that is, he says more than he does.

76 **ANSWER (b)** Pay much more than usual

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Pay through the nose means to pay far more than the usual price for something.

77 **ANSWER (b)** Current authorities

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The powers that be means the people currently in authority or in charge of an institution or government.

78 **ANSWER (c)** Frugal yet careless in big matters

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Penny wise, pound foolish means being careful about small savings but careless about large expenses

or important matters. A penny stands for a small sum and a pound for a large one.

79 ANSWER (b) Disregard others' rights or feelings

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Ride roughshod over means to act in a high-handed way, disregarding the rights or feelings of others.

80 ANSWER (a) Understand procedures

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Know the ropes means to be thoroughly familiar with the procedures and details of a job. The expression comes from knowledge of the ropes on a ship.

81 ANSWER (b) Become very angry

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Hit the roof means to become extremely angry. A synonymous idiom is **hit the ceiling**.

82 ANSWER (c) Irony where villain suffers fittingly

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Poetic justice means an ironic outcome in which a wicked person suffers a fitting punishment for his deeds. It is a literary term, since stories often end with the good rewarded and the bad suitably punished. Option B sounds like ordinary justice, but the special sense of the idiom is 'fitting punishment with irony'.

83 ANSWER (a) Mutual dislike

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

No love lost means a feeling of mutual dislike or hostility between two people, as in 'There is no love lost between them'.

84 ANSWER (a) Attempt desperately

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Clutch at straws means to grasp desperately at any hope or remedy in a crisis, even when the chance of success is very slight.

85 ANSWER (b) Solve a complex problem decisively

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The idiom **cut the Gordian knot** means to solve a very complicated problem in a bold and decisive way. The story comes from Alexander the Great, who, instead of untying the knot, cut it through with his sword.

- Take a complicated approach — to make things harder
- Solve a complex problem decisively — to settle a difficulty boldly
- Create confusion intentionally — to muddle matters deliberately
- Tie a knot tightly — to fasten firmly

86 ANSWER (c) Achievement or honor

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The idiom **feather in one's cap** means an achievement or honour of which a person can be proud. In earlier times, a feather was worn in a cap or turban as a mark of bravery.

- Heavy burden — a load that weighs one down
- Past failure — an earlier setback
- Achievement or honour — a distinction to be proud of
- Strange habit — an odd practice

87 ANSWER (b) Rapidly and noticeably

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The idiom **by leaps and bounds** means very quickly and in a noticeable way, usually of growth or improvement. Both 'leap' and 'bound' mean a jump, which suggests rapid progress.

- Slowly — at a low pace
- Rapidly and noticeably — with fast, visible progress
- Carefully — with caution
- Through politics — by political means

88 ANSWER (a) Challenge or contradict

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The idiom **fly in the face of** means to openly defy or go against a rule, argument or expectation, that is, to challenge or contradict it. Example: **His decision flew in the face of all advice.**

- Challenge or contradict — to defy openly
- Fly over someone's head — a literal reading
- Travel by flight — a literal reading

• Act suspiciously — to behave in a doubtful way

89 **ANSWER (b)** Deal with consequences

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The idiom **face the music** means to accept the consequences of one's actions or to face criticism. It has no connection with music or a concert.

• Attend a concert — a literal reading
• Deal with consequences — to accept the results of one's actions
• Celebrate — to rejoice
• Avoid issues — to dodge problems

90 **ANSWER (a)** To be constantly available to obey orders

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

At someone's beck and call means always ready to obey that person's orders. A beck is a gesture and a call is a summons, so the phrase means being available at the slightest signal or call.

91 **ANSWER (a)** Blamed for others' faults

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Make a scapegoat means to put the blame for others' faults on an innocent person. So made scapegoats means 'blamed for the faults of others'.

92 **ANSWER (b)** Constantly in conflict

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

At loggerheads means in continual dispute or disagreement with someone.

93 **ANSWER (a)** The minister did not mince words during the live television ...

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The question asks for the incorrectly used idiom. **Mince words** means to soften what one says, so did not mince words means to speak plainly and bluntly. In A, however, the minister's answers are described as 'vague, evasive', which directly contradicts that meaning; hence A is the incorrect use.

In B, put words into someone's mouth (to attribute to someone what he never said), in C, talk in riddles (to speak in a puzzling way) and in D, hit a raw nerve (to touch a sensitive spot) are all used correctly.

94 **ANSWER (c)** After the real estate conglomerate filed for bankruptcy, the ...

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The question asks for the incorrectly used idiom. **Go down with the ship** means to stay with a failing enterprise to the end and share its failure. In C the director sells off his shares to protect his personal wealth, which is the opposite of this meaning; hence C is the incorrect use.

In A, strain every nerve (to make the utmost effort), in B, raise the stakes (to increase the risk or what is at issue) and in D, an eye for an eye (equal retaliation) are all used correctly.

95 **ANSWER (b)** The lead actors met for the first time during the table read and ...

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The question asks for the incorrectly used idiom. **Hit it off** means to get along well from the first meeting. In B the outcome is described as a 'lack of chemistry', which does not agree with this meaning; hence B is the incorrect use.

In A, a cut above (superior), in C, take the measure of (to assess someone) and in D, turn the tables (to reverse a situation) are all used in the right context.

96 **ANSWER (c)** The seasoned trade diplomat managed to oil the wheels of the ...

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The question asks for the incorrectly used idiom. **Oil the wheels** means to make a process smooth and easy. In C, strict tariff penalties are imposed and both delegations are angered, which obstructs the talks instead of easing them; hence C is the incorrect use.

In A, in the pipeline (being prepared), in B, lock horns with (to come into conflict with) and in D, stand in his shoes (to put oneself in his position) are all used correctly.

97 **ANSWER (a)** The ability to speak fluently and persuasively

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The gift of the gab means a natural talent for speaking fluently and persuasively. Gab means talk, and the idiom is usually used in a complimentary sense.

98 **ANSWER (b)** fell off

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In 'fell down from', down is redundant because fell already carries the sense of falling. For falling off a bicycle, a horse or a ladder, the standard phrasal verb is **fall off**, so 'The boy fell off the bicycle' is correct.

'Fell down of' is ungrammatical. In D, dropped off means to doze or to decline in quantity, which does not fit. C (fell from) is grammatically possible, but with something one rides, the idiomatic collocation is **fell off**.

99 **ANSWER (b)** painted a picture

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Drawing and painting are different arts: draw is used for making line drawings with a pencil or pen, and paint for making pictures with colours. 'Drew a painting' is therefore a faulty verb–noun collocation, and the correct form is **painted a picture**.

In A, 'made a painting' is not a natural usage. In C, art is an uncountable noun, so 'an art' is wrong. In D, sketch changes the meaning, since the original sentence speaks of a painting.

100 **ANSWER (a)** picked up

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The blank needs a phrasal verb in the simple past meaning 'learnt', which suits the grandmother's three years in Spain. **Pick up** means to learn a language or skill casually, without formal study, and picked up is also correctly in the past tense.

'Spend up' and 'leaning' are ungrammatical after the subject without an auxiliary, and 'talking to' means 'conversing with' and leaves the sentence incomplete.

101 **ANSWER (c)** An achievement to be proud of.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A feather in one's cap means an achievement to be proud of. Winning a big contract through hard work is Kavita's success, so C is correct.

102 **ANSWER (a)** To make peace and end a disagreement

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Bury the hatchet means to end a quarrel and become friends again. Rahul never got the chance to reconcile with his father after their fight, so 'to make peace' is the meaning that fits.

103 **ANSWER (a)** Don’t exaggerate a small problem

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Make a mountain out of a molehill means to exaggerate a small problem until it seems very big. The picture of calling a tiny mound of earth a mountain makes the sense clear.

104 **ANSWER (a)** To start running away quickly

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

To take to one's heels means to run away quickly out of fear or danger.

105 **ANSWER (b)** A person who is important or powerful in an organization

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

A big wheel means an important and influential person in an organisation. Meeta does not want much responsibility and so wants to avoid a senior position, which agrees with this meaning.

106 **ANSWER (a)** Offering illicit financial inducements or surreptitious capital ...

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Grease someone's palm means to bribe an official to get one's work done. Here the corporation gives the director illicit money to obtain the permits quickly.

107 **ANSWER (a)** To recover and become successful after a setback

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Rise like a phoenix means to recover and succeed again after failure or destruction. In myth, the phoenix is reborn from its own ashes.

108 **ANSWER (a)** To suspect something is wrong

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

To smell a rat means to suspect that something is wrong or that there is some deceit.

109 **ANSWER (c)** To make a clean breast of something

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Make a clean breast of something means to confess it fully and so relieve one's conscience. Here breast stands for the heart or conscience, and clean suggests freeing it of guilt.

The combinations 'light chest', 'clear chest' and 'light breast' in A, B and D are not real idioms; hence only C is correct in both grammar and meaning.



11
CHAPTER

Spelling

Questions *122 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01–16): *Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.*

01 The speaker's ____ tone alienated many listeners during the debate.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) supercilious (b) supercillious
(c) supercileous (d) suppercillious

02 The scientist maintained ____ even when her theory was harshly criticized.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) equanamity (b) equanimity
(c) equinimity (d) equinammity

03 His ____ mannerisms made him a target for ridicule.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) grotesque (b) grotisque
(c) grottesque (d) groteseque

04 You must always _____ your luggage before the flight.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) recieve (b) receive
(c) receeve (d) receve

05 The ritual had a distinctly _____ feel to it.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) hieratick (b) hieretical
(c) hieratic (d) hiearatic

06 The investment strategy was criticized for its _____ risks.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) unbridled (b) unbreidled
(c) unbriddled (d) umbridled

07 The _____ behavior of electrons challenged classical physics.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) anomaleous (b) anomallous
(c) anomalous (d) anomulous

08 He gave a very ____ explanation of the scientific theory.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) conscientious (b) consciensious
(c) consciencious (d) consientious

09 The committee requested a detailed ____ before approving the project funding.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) proposal (b) proposel
(c) propasal (d) proposall

10 The climate model is still _____ due to limited data.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) specullative (b) speculative
(c) specculative (d) speculattive

11 The environmental impact of the project was assessed using _____ models.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) stocastic (b) stochastic
(c) stocchastic (d) stochhastic

12 The team proposed a _____ solution that addressed all major concerns.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) comprihensive (b) comprehansive
(c) comprehenzive (d) comprehensive

13 Their argument was weakened by _____ assumptions not supported by data.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) tenious (b) tenuous
(c) tenuos (d) tennuous

14 The diplomat spoke in a _____ manner, avoiding any inflammatory remarks.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) circumspect (b) circumpect
(c) circumspeckt (d) circumspace

15 The treaty marked a _____ moment in international diplomacy.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) watershed (b) wotershed
(c) watershead (d) wottershed

16 She was praised for her _____ handling of the sensitive situation.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) diplomattic (b) diplomatik
(c) diplomatic (d) diplometic

Directions (Q. 17–18): *Which of the following is the correct spelling of the word?*

17

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Logorrhoea (b) Logorhoea
(c) Loggorrhoea (d) Loggorrhea

18

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Disenfranchaisement (b) Desenfranchisement
(c) Disinfranchisement (d) Disenfranchisement

Directions (Q. 19–32): *Select the wrongly spelt word out of the four alternatives.*

19

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Prejudise (b) Ignorant
(c) Repulsive (d) Ancestor

20

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Anesthetic (b) Intricate
(c) Unexpectid (d) Creeping

21

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Comprehention (b) Surgeon
(c) Discovery (d) Fathoms

22

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Superstistious (b) Courteously
(c) Superficial (d) Fertilizer

23

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Assasination (b) Indispensable
(c) Sentimental (d) Expressionless

24

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Absoloot (b) Brusquely
(c) Messenger (d) Exhausted

25

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Assassination (b) Unacustomed
(c) Ruthlessness (d) Liaison

26

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Brusquely (b) Messenjer
(c) Absolute (d) Exhausted

27

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Millennium (b) Perrenial
(c) Centennial (d) Biannual

28

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Pterodactyl (b) Phsychology
(c) Pneumatic (d) Pseudo

29

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Occurrence (b) Reference
(c) Preference (d) Diferrence

30

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Liquefy (b) Stupefy
(c) Putrefy (d) Pacifiy

31

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Brusquely (b) Messenger
(c) Exhaustid (d) Absolute

32

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Indispensible (b) Sentimental
(c) Expressionless (d) Rustling

Directions (Q. 33–50): *Select the correctly spelt word to replace the highlighted word in the given sentence.*

33 The gardens are **perenially** beautiful and lush.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Perennially (b) Perenially
(c) Perenialy (d) Perennialy

34 The climate there is very **salubrius.**

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Salubrious (b) Salubrius
(c) Salubreeous (d) Salubreous

35 Her **scintilating** wit charmed every single guest.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Scintilating (b) Scintillating
(c) Scintallating (d) Scintalating

36 A **propencity** for violence was noted during the investigation.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Propensity (b) Propensitty
(c) Propencitty (d) Propencity

37 The movie was a **poinyant** family drama.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Poinyant (b) Poinant
(c) Poignnant (d) Poignant

38 The weather was truly **bizaare** today.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bizar (b) Bizarre
(c) Bizaare (d) Bizzare

39 His **averice** led to his eventual downfall.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Avarice (b) Averice
(c) Avvarice (d) Avarise

40 His **punicious** habits eventually led to a very serious illness.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Pernicious (b) Pernicius
(c) Punicious (d) Pernicous

41 He faced a **conundrom** regarding his future.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Conundrom (b) Conundrum
(c) Connundrum (d) Conunderum

42 Her **supersilious** manner often alienated her from her many colleagues.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Supercilioussss (b) Supersilious
(c) Supercillious (d) Supercilious

43 His **ecentricity** was noted by his peers.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Eccentricity (b) Ecentricity
(c) Eccantricity (d) Eccentriccity

44 That remark was an **inuendo** about her career.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Inuendo (b) Innuendoe
(c) Innuenndo (d) Innuendo

45 The **curiculum** was revised by the board.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Curiculum (b) Curricullum
(c) Curriculum (d) Cerriculum

46 To alter a historic monument is considered a **sacriligious** act.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sacreligious (b) Sacrilegious
(c) Sacriligious (d) Sacriligeous

47 The **buraeu** was made of solid oak.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Buro (b) Buraeu
(c) Burau (d) Bureau

48 The new business was launched on an **auspiciouss** day.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Auspiciouss (b) Auspicious
(c) Auspiceous (d) Auspisious

49 The ship was kept in **quarrentine**.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Quarrentine (b) Quarantine
(c) Quarantyne (d) Quarentine

50 The **vicisitudes** of life can be quite challenging for anyone.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Vicisitudes (b) Visissitudes
(c) Vicissitudes (d) Vicissatudes

Directions (Q. 51): *Which is the correct spelling of a word meaning 'prevent from happening'?*

51

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Avert (b) Avart
(c) Avirrt (d) Avurt

Directions (Q. 52–54): *Identify the misspelt word.*

52

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Belligerent (b) Beligerent
(c) Ineffable (d) Inscrutable

53

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Licencious (b) Obsequious
(c) Countenance (d) Vouchsafe

54

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Apostrophize (b) Ethereal
(c) Munificense (d) Penumbra

Directions (Q. 55): *Identify the misspelt word*

55

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Magnanimous (b) Gregarious
(c) Perserverance (d) Meticulous

Directions (Q. 56–67): *Identify the misspelt word.*

56

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Internecine (b) Equivocate
(c) Magnanimus (d) Lassitude

57

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Deliquesce (b) Ennui
(c) Surreptious (d) Halcyon

58

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Discomfiture (b) Abnegation
(c) Perspicacity (d) Efflugence

59

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Impecunious (b) Susurration
(c) Mellifluos (d) Languorous

60

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Hegemony (b) Panache
(c) Epiphanny (d) Bombastic

61

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Winsom (b) Veneration
(c) Temerity (d) Supercilious

62

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Pulchritude (b) Redolant
(c) Paroxysm (d) Inchoate

63

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Elucubrate (b) Anachronism
(c) Sobriquett (d) Peremptory

64

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Recalcitrant (b) Perspicuity
(c) Superfluous (d) Prophane

65

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Anathema (b) Renumeration
(c) Obstreperous (d) Epistolary

66

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Disconsolate (b) Demogoguery
(c) Temerity (d) Grandiloquent

67

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Reprihensible (b) Idiosyncratic
(c) Obstreperous (d) Lamentable

Directions (Q. 68): *Identify the misspelt word*

68

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Entrepreneur (b) Surveillance
(c) Judgement (d) Embarrasment

Directions (Q. 69): *Identify the misspelt word.*

69

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Assiduous (b) Lambent
(c) Malapropism (d) Prestegious

Directions (Q. 70): *Spot the correct spelling of the ear-nose-throat specialty.*

70

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Otorhinolarynology (b) Otorhinolaryngology
(c) Otorhinolaringology (d) Otorrhinolaryngology

Directions (Q. 71): *Spot the correct spelling of blood-vessel narrowing.*

71

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Vasoconstriction (b) Vasokonstruction
(c) Vasioconstriction (d) Vasoconstriktian

Directions (Q. 72): *Spot the spelling error*

72

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Irrefutable (b) Hieroglyphics
(c) Anomally (d) Euphemism

Directions (Q. 73): *Spot the correct spelling of a word meaning "gold or silver in bulk form".*

73

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Bullian (b) Bullon
(c) Bullion (d) Bulyon

Directions (Q. 74): *Which is the correct spelling for a word meaning 'without equal or unmatched'?*

74

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Incomparable (b) Incomparible
(c) Incompareable (d) Incomperable

Directions (Q. 75–80): *Choose the correctly spelt word that best completes the sentence meaningfully.*

75 His _____ car blocked the main road for hours, causing a major traffic jam.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) stationary (b) stationery
(c) statuary (d) statutory

76 The company's new marketing strategy has received _____ feedback from customers.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) positiv (b) posotive
(c) positve (d) positive

77 The _____ of the meeting was clear: the new policy would improve employee morale.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) objctive
(b) objctve
(c) objective
(d) objectve

78 The team's _____ towards the timely delivery of the project was appreciated by the management.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) comitment
(b) committment
(c) comittment
(d) commitment

79 The _____ for the new building will be presented to the committee next week.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) bleprint
(b) bluepring
(c) blueprint
(d) bluprint

80 The _____ of the new software update includes several useful features.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) fuctionality
(b) functinality
(c) functionality
(d) functionallity

Directions (Q. 81): *Spot the correct spelling of mountain-building term.*

81

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Orogensis
(b) Orogenesis
(c) Orogenisis
(d) Oroginisis

Directions (Q. 82): *Spot the correct spelling of a cross-sensory phenomenon.*

82

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Synesthesia
(b) Synesthasia
(c) Synaesthesia
(d) Synestesia

Directions (Q. 83–84): *Select the incorrectly spelt word.*

83

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Vignette
(b) Viguour
(c) Victuals
(d) Vindicate

84

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) vertebraites
(b) unnatural
(c) understand
(d) vanish

Directions (Q. 85): *Choose the correct spelling of the word, which means a general agreement or collective opinion reached by a group of people.*

85

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Consanus
(b) Consensus
(c) Consensus
(d) Consenus

Directions (Q. 86): *Spot the correct spelling of a philosophical term meaning 'lifelessness or indifference'.*

86

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Apathy
(b) Appathy
(c) Apathie
(d) Apithy

Directions (Q. 87): *Spot the correct spelling of a molecular-lattice science.*

87

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Crystallography
(b) Crystallographi
(c) Crystalography
(d) Crystaloography

Directions (Q. 88): *Spot the correct spelling of an ancient tear-bottle.*

88

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Lacrimetory
(b) Lacrymatory
(c) Lacrimattory
(d) Lacrymotory

Directions (Q. 89): *Spot the correct spelling of word meaning 'disguise or concealment'*

89

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Camoflage (b) Camouflage
(c) Camoflauge (d) Camuoflage

Directions (Q. 90): *Choose the correct spelling for a word meaning 'capable of burning'.*

90

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Corosive (b) Corrosive
(c) Corrosiv (d) Corroisive

Directions (Q. 91): *Spot the correct spelling of a thorny ornamental plant genus.*

91

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Bouganvillea (b) Bougainvillea
(c) Bougainvillaea (d) Bougainvilea

92 Which of the following is incorrectly spelled?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Onerous (b) Indispensable
(c) Equanimity (d) Qintessential

93 Which of the following is the correct spelling of the word that means "in the middle" or "most important"?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Cental (b) Centril
(c) Centrel (d) Central

94 Spot the **correct spelling** of a philosophical term.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Consciousness (b) Conscienceness
(c) Conshousness (d) Consciencenes

95 Spot the **correct spelling** of a blood-disorder term.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Thrombocytopaenia (b) Thrombocytopenia
(c) Thrombocitopenia (d) Thrombosytopenia

96 Identify the **misspelt** word.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Obfuscate (b) Dispondent
(c) Inveigle (d) Capitulation

97 Identify the **misspelt** word.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Recondite (b) Apothegm
(c) Impregnable (d) Sagacius

98 Which of the following is NOT a misspelt word?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Accomadation (b) Accommodation
(c) Accommodetion (d) Accomodation

99 Identify the correct spelling of the word used to describe someone who serves the nation, especially in the army.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Soldier (b) Soldior
(c) Souldier (d) Soulier

100 Spot the **correct spelling** of a term for 'human-centered thinking'.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Anthropocentric (b) Anthropocentrix
(c) Anthropacentric (d) Anthropocentik

101 Spot the **correct spelling** of a word meaning 'mental picture or image'.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Imaginashun (b) Imagynation
(c) Imagination (d) Immagination

102 Spot the **correct spelling** of a term meaning 'study of existence'.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ontollogy (b) Ontologie
(c) Ontology (d) Ontolegy

103 Identify the **misspelt** word.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Egregious (b) Inimitible
(c) Garrulous (d) Pugnacious

104 Spot the **correct spelling** of the study of fingerprints.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Dermatoglyphic (b) Dermatoglyphics
(c) Dermatoglyphiks (d) Dermatoglyfics

105 Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) prepositionel (b) seize
(c) sewage (d) shoulder

Directions (Q. 106): *Spot the correct spelling of a word for long-winded style.*

106

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sesquipidalian (b) Sesquipedelian
(c) Sesquipedalian (d) Sesquipadalian

Directions (Q. 107): *Spot the correct spelling of 'the process where particles form clumps or flocs'.*

107

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Floculation (b) Flocullation
(c) Flocculation (d) Flokkulation

Directions (Q. 108): *Choose the correct spelling of a word meaning 'abundant in growth, especially vegetation'.*

108

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Luxuriant (b) Luxuirant
(c) Luxurient (d) Luxureant

Directions (Q. 109): *Spot the correct spelling of a practitioner who treats musculoskeletal issues.*

109

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Chiropracter (b) Kiropractor
(c) Chiropractor (d) Chirapractor

Directions (Q. 110): *Spot the correct spelling of a phase-change term for absorbing moisture from air.*

110

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Deliquescence (b) Deliquesence
(c) Deliquessence (d) Deliquescense

Directions (Q. 111): *Which of the following is incorrectly spelled?*

111

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Viceregal (b) Egregious
(c) Magnanimity (d) Opprobreum

Directions (Q. 112): *Which of the following words is misspelt?*

112

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Juxtaposition (b) Sychophant
(c) Obfuscate (d) Quandary

Directions (Q. 113): *Spot the correct spelling of a five-year interval term.*

113

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Quinquennial (b) Quinquenniel
(c) Quinquenial (d) Quinquannial

Directions (Q. 114): *Which spelling correctly refers to 'a skilled legal professional'?*

114

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Attourney (b) Attorney
(c) Atourney (d) Attorny

Directions (Q. 115): *Which of these is NOT a misspelt word?*

115

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Definately (b) Definetely
(c) Definitely (d) Definitly

Directions (Q. 116): *Identify the correctly spelt word which means a detailed plan or schedule of a trip, listing the places to visit, activities, and times for each part of the journey.*

116

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Itenary (b) Iteniry
(c) Itinerery (d) Itinerary

Directions (Q. 117): *Identify the correct spelling of the term which means the supreme legislative body in a country.*

117

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Parliamant (b) Parliament
(c) Parlimant (d) Parliment

Directions (Q. 118): *Select the correctly spelt word meaning 'a person who loves and collects books'.*

118

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Biblophile (b) Bibliophyle
(c) Bibliophile (d) Bibliofeal

Directions (Q. 119): *Spot the correct spelling of a word meaning "impossible to compare".*

119

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Incommensurabel (b) Incomensurable
(c) Incommensurable (d) Incommensuarable

Directions (Q. 120): *Spot the correct spelling of a word meaning 'beyond physical'.*

120

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Metaphysics (b) Metaphisics
(c) Metaphesics (d) Metaphyzics

Directions (Q. 121): *Spot the correct spelling of a Jurassic "first bird".*

121

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Archeopteryx (b) Archaeopterix
(c) Archaeopteryx (d) Archaopteryx

Directions (Q. 122): *Spot the correct spelling of a term meaning 'state of self-rule or independence'.*

122

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Autonomy (b) Autonamy
(c) Autonnomy (d) Autonimy

Answer Key

Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation

01	02	03	04	05
(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(c)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**
(a)	(c)	(a)	(a)	(b)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
(b)	(d)	(b)	(a)	(a)
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
(c)	(a)	(d)	(a)	(c)
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**
(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(b)
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
(b)	(b)	(b)	(d)	(d)
31	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**
(c)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(b)

36	37	38	39	40
(a)	(d)	(b)	(a)	(a)
41	**42**	**43**	**44**	**45**
(b)	(d)	(a)	(d)	(c)
46	**47**	**48**	**49**	**50**
(b)	(d)	(b)	(b)	(c)
51	**52**	**53**	**54**	**55**
(a)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(c)
56	**57**	**58**	**59**	**60**
(c)	(c)	(d)	(c)	(c)
61	**62**	**63**	**64**	**65**
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(b)
66	**67**	**68**	**69**	**70**
(b)	(a)	(d)	(d)	(b)

71	72	73	74	75
(a)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(a)
76	77	78	79	80
(d)	(c)	(d)	(c)	(c)
81	82	83	84	85
(b)	(a/c)	(b)	(a)	(c)
86	87	88	89	90
(a)	(a)	(b)	(b)	(b)
91	92	93	94	95
(b/c)	(d)	(d)	(a)	(b)
96	97	98	99	100
(b)	(d)	(b)	(a)	(a)

101	102	103	104	105
(c)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(a)
106	107	108	109	110
(c)	(c)	(a)	(c)	(a)
111	112	113	114	115
(d)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(c)
116	117	118	119	120
(d)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(a)
121	122			
(c)	(a)			

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 ANSWER (a) supercilious

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **supercilious**, meaning haughty or disdainful of others. After **-cil-** there is only one l, and the word ends in **-ious**; a double l or an opening like 'suppe-' is wrong. This meaning suits the word 'tone' here.

02 ANSWER (b) equanimity

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **equanimity**, meaning calmness and composure even in a difficult situation. It runs equ + **anim** + ity, where 'anim' relates to the mind. Most students hesitate between -nam- and -nim-; the correct form is -nim-.

03 ANSWER (a) grotesque

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **grotesque**, meaning bizarre or absurdly distorted. This word of French origin ends in **-esque**, like picturesque and statuesque.

04 ANSWER (b) receive

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **receive**. The concept is that **ei** follows c (receive, deceive, ceiling), while ie usually appears after other letters (believe, achieve).

05 ANSWER (c) hieratic

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **hieratic**, meaning priestly or ritualistic. 'Hieretical' is not a valid word; it is a trap created by its resemblance to heretical (opposed to accepted religious belief). The word ends in **-ic**, not -ick.

06 ANSWER (a) unbridled

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **unbridled**, meaning unrestrained. It is formed from bridle (the straps of a horse's headgear), which contains the sequence -idle; hence every other form is wrong.

07 ANSWER (c) anomalous

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **anomalous**, meaning abnormal or irregular. It is the adjective of anomaly, with a single l and the ending -ous.

08 ANSWER (a) conscientious

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **conscientious**, meaning dutiful and careful in work. It derives from conscience, but has **-scien-** in the middle and ends in -tious; forms built with 's' or 'c' are wrong.

09 **ANSWER (a)** proposal

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **proposal**, meaning a suggestion put forward. It is a noun formed by adding **-al** to the verb propose; it does not end in -el or a double l.

10 **ANSWER (b)** speculative

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **speculative**, meaning based on conjecture. It comes from the verb speculate, so neither the l nor the t is doubled.

11 **ANSWER (b)** stochastic

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **stochastic**, meaning based on chance or probability. It comes from Greek stochos, so it has **-ch-**, not -cc- or -c-.

12 **ANSWER (d)** comprehensive

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **comprehensive**, meaning thorough and wide-ranging. It comes from comprehend, so it has **-hens-** in the middle and ends in -ive, not -ize.

13 **ANSWER (b)** tenuous

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **tenuous**, meaning weak or flimsy. It comes from Latin tenuis (thin), so it has a single n and **-u-** in the middle.

14 **ANSWER (a)** circumspect

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The sentence says the diplomat spoke carefully and with restraint, so the correct word is **circumspect** (cautious, considering all consequences). It comes from the Latin circum (around) and specere (to look), so it contains **-spect**, as in inspect and respect. Circumpect drops the 's', circumspeckt has a wrong 'ck', and circumspace is a different word altogether.

15 **ANSWER (a)** watershed

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The sentence speaks of a decisive turning point, so the correct word is **watershed**, meaning a critical moment that changes a situation. It is made of two words, water and shed. Options B and D write 'wo' or 'wot' for 'wa', and watershead turns 'shed' into 'shead'.

16 **ANSWER (c)** diplomatic

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

An adjective is needed to modify 'handling', and the correct word is **diplomatic** (tactful, skilful in dealing with people). It is formed from diplomat, with a single 'm' and a single 't', and ends in '-ic'. Diplomattic doubles the 't', diplomatik ends in 'k', and diplometic writes 'e' for 'a'.

17 **ANSWER (a)** Logorrhoea

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

The correct British spelling is **Logorrhoea**, meaning excessive and uncontrollable talkativeness. It is made of logo (word) + **rrhoea** (flow), so the r is doubled while the g stays single. Option B has a single r, and C and D double the g, so all are wrong; '-rrhea' is the American form.

18 **ANSWER (d)** Disenfranchisement

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Disenfranchisement**, meaning the removal of the right to vote or of civil rights. It is dis + en + **franchise** + ment, so the -ise part of franchise is retained.

19 **ANSWER (a)** Prejudise

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

The wrongly spelt word is **Prejudise**; the correct word is **Prejudice** (bias), because the noun ends in -ice.

- Ignorant — lacking knowledge
- Repulsive — disgusting
- Ancestor — forefather

20 **ANSWER (c)** Unexpectid

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

The wrongly spelt word is **Unexpectid**; the correct word is **Unexpected**, because the past participle ends in -ed.

- Anesthetic — numbing (American form; British: anaesthetic)

- Intricate — complicated
- Creeping — crawling

21 ANSWER (a) Comprehention

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Comprehention**; the correct word is **Comprehension** (understanding), because it ends in -sion.

- Surgeon — a doctor who performs operations
- Discovery — finding something new
- Fathoms — units of water depth

22 ANSWER (a) Superstistious

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Superstistious**; the correct word is **Superstitious** (believing in omens and charms), in which '-sti-' occurs only once.

- Courteously — politely
- Superficial — shallow
- Fertilizer — a substance that enriches soil

23 ANSWER (a) Assasination

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Assasination**; the correct word is **Assassination** (murder of a public figure), which has double **ss** twice, as in assassin.

- Indispensable — essential
- Sentimental — emotional
- Expressionless — showing no feeling

24 ANSWER (a) Absoloot

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Absoloot**; the correct word is **Absolute** (complete), which ends in -ute.

- Brusquely — abruptly and curtly
- Messenger — one who carries a message
- Exhausted — very tired

25 ANSWER (b) Unacustomed

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Unacustomed**; the correct word is **Unaccustomed** (not used to something), which has **cc** because of accustom.

- Assassination — murder of a public figure
- Ruthlessness — cruelty
- Liaison — contact, coordination

26 ANSWER (b) Messenjer

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Messenjer**; the correct word is **Messenger** (one who carries a message), which has 'g', not 'j'.

- Brusquely — abruptly and curtly
- Absolute — complete
- Exhausted — very tired

27 ANSWER (b) Perrenial

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The misspelt word is **Perrenial**; the correct word is **Perennial** (lasting through the year), which has a single r and a double n.

- Millennium — a period of a thousand years
- Centennial — relating to a hundredth anniversary
- Biannual — occurring twice a year

28 ANSWER (b) Phsychology

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The misspelt word is **Phsychology**; the correct word is **Psychology** (study of the mind), which begins with 'ps'.

- Pterodactyl — an extinct flying reptile
- Pneumatic — operated by air
- Pseudo — false

29 ANSWER (d) Diferrence

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The misspelt word is **Diferrence**; the correct word is **Difference** (the way things are unlike), which has a double f and a single r: dif-fer-ence.

- Occurrence — an event
- Reference — a mention or source
- Preference — a greater liking

30 ANSWER (d) Pacifiy

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The misspelt word is **Pacifiy**; the correct word is **Pacify** (to calm), which ends in just -fy.

- Liquefy — to make liquid

- Stupefy — to stun
- Putrefy — to rot

31 ANSWER (c) Exhaustid

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Exhaustid**; the correct word is **Exhausted** (very tired), because the past participle ends in -ed.

- Brusquely — abruptly and curtly
- Messenger — one who carries a message
- Absolute — complete

32 ANSWER (a) Indispensible

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Indispensible**; the correct word is **Indispensable** (essential), which ends in **-able**.

- Sentimental — emotional
- Expressionless — showing no feeling
- Rustling — a soft crackling sound

33 ANSWER (a) Perennially

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **perennially**, meaning all year round or perpetually. It comes from Latin per + **annus** (year), hence the **nn**. The adverb is formed by adding -ly to the adjective perennial, so the ending stays -ially.

34 ANSWER (a) Salubrious

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **salubrious**, meaning health-giving. The adjective-forming suffix here is **-ious**, so the -ius form is incomplete. Options C and D misplace the vowels.

35 ANSWER (b) Scintillating

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **scintillating**, meaning sparkling or brilliant. It comes from the verb scintillate, which has **ll**; the other options have a single l or faulty vowels.

36 ANSWER (a) Propensity

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **propensity**, meaning an inclination or tendency. It ends in **-sity**, not -city, so 'propencity' is wrong.

37 ANSWER (d) Poignant

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **poignant**, meaning moving or touching. The g is silent and is followed by -nant; adding y or doubling the n makes it wrong.

38 ANSWER (b) Bizarre

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **bizarre**, meaning strange. It has a single z and a double **rr**, so options C and D both go wrong.

39 ANSWER (a) Avarice

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **avarice**, meaning extreme greed for wealth. It ends in **-ice** (as in justice), not -ise, and the vowels inside run a, a, i.

40 ANSWER (a) Pernicious

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct word is **pernicious**, meaning deadly or highly harmful. 'Punicious' makes no sense in the sentence. Options B and D drop letters, so only A, with the full **-icious** ending, is right.

41 ANSWER (b) Conundrum

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **conundrum**, meaning a puzzle or perplexing situation. It ends in **-rum** and has a single n, so conundrom is wrong.

42 ANSWER (d) Supercilious

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **supercilious**, meaning haughty and contemptuous of others. After 'super' comes **cilious**, which begins with c and has a single l.

43 ANSWER (a) Eccentricity

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **eccentricity**, meaning oddness or quirkiness. It begins with **ecc-** and ends in -ity; there is no need to double the c further in.

44 ANSWER (d) Innuendo

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **innuendo**, meaning an indirect hint or insinuation. It comes from Latin innuere, so it begins with **nn** and ends in -o.

45 ANSWER (c) Curriculum

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **curriculum**, meaning the course of study. It comes from Latin currere (to run), so it has **rr** and only one l.

46 ANSWER (b) Sacrilegious

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **sacrilegious**, meaning disrespectful to something sacred. It comes from the noun sacrilege, so the middle is **-leg-**, not -lig- as in 'religious'.

47 ANSWER (d) Bureau

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The sentence speaks of an object made of solid oak, so the correct word is **Bureau**, here meaning a writing desk or chest of drawers. Remember the order 'eau'. In 'buraeu' the 'e' and 'a' are swapped, Buro loses letters, and Burau has no 'e'.

48 ANSWER (b) Auspicious

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **Auspicious**, meaning favourable or promising. It is built on auspice and takes the adjective suffix '-ious', with a single 's' at the end. Auspiciouss has an extra 's', Auspiceous uses '-eous', and Auspisious writes 's' for 'c'.

49 ANSWER (b) Quarantine

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **Quarantine**, meaning isolation to prevent the spread of infection. It comes from the Italian quaranta (forty), so 'qua' is followed by '-ran-' and the word ends in '-tine'; there is no 'rr' as in 'quarrentine'. Option A repeats the same error, Quarantyne ends in 'yne', and Quarentine writes 'e' for 'a'.

50 ANSWER (c) Vicissitudes

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **Vicissitudes**, meaning the ups and downs of life. It has a single **c** and a double **ss**: vi-**ci**-**ss**i-tudes. Vicisitudes has only one 's', Visissitudes turns the first 'c' into 's', and Vicissatudes writes 'a' for 'i'.

51 ANSWER (a) Avert

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Avert**, meaning to prevent something from happening or to turn it away. Verbs of this kind end in -ert, as in divert and convert; the other options distort the vowels to produce non-words.

52 ANSWER (b) Beligerent

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The misspelt word is **Beligerent**; the correct word is **Belligerent** (aggressive, quarrelsome), which has **ll** because it comes from Latin bellum (war).

- Ineffable — too great to be described in words
- Inscrutable — impossible to understand or interpret

53 ANSWER (a) Licencious

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Licencious**; the correct word is **Licentious** (morally unrestrained, lawless in conduct). The noun licence takes c, but the adjective takes -ti-.

- Obsequious — excessively obedient or fawning
- Countenance — facial expression
- Vouchsafe — to grant graciously

54 ANSWER (c) Munificense

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The misspelt word is **Munificense**; the correct word is **Munificence** (generosity), which ends in -ence.

- Apostrophize — to address directly
- Ethereal — delicate and heavenly

• Penumbra — partial shadow

55 ANSWER (c) Perserverance

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The misspelt word is **Perserverance**; the correct word is **Perseverance** (persistence), in which 've' follows 'ser' directly.

• Magnanimous — generous
• Gregarious — sociable
• Meticulous — extremely careful

56 ANSWER (c) Magnanimus

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Magnanimus**; the correct word is **Magnanimous** (generous), which ends in -ous.

• Internecine — destructive to both sides in a conflict
• Equivocate — to avoid giving a clear answer
• Lassitude — weariness

57 ANSWER (c) Surreptious

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The misspelt word is **Surreptious**; the correct word is **Surreptitious** (done secretly), in which '-tit-' has been dropped.

• Deliquesce — to dissolve by absorbing moisture
• Ennui — boredom
• Halcyon — calm and happy

58 ANSWER (d) Efflugence

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The misspelt word is **Efflugence**; the correct word is **Effulgence** (radiance, brilliant shining), which contains ful.

• Discomfiture — embarrassment caused by failure
• Abnegation — self-denial
• Perspicacity — keen insight

59 ANSWER (c) Mellifluos

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The misspelt word is **Mellifluos**; the correct word is **Mellifluous** (sweet-sounding), which ends in -ous.

• Impecunious — having little money
• Susurration — whispering
• Languorous — lazy, relaxed

60 ANSWER (c) Epiphanny

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The misspelt word is **Epiphanny**; the correct word is **Epiphany** (a sudden profound realisation), which has a single n.

• Hegemony — dominance
• Panache — flamboyant style
• Bombastic — pompous

61 ANSWER (a) Winsom

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Winsom**; the correct word is **Winsome** (attractive, charming), which ends in e.

• Veneration — deep respect
• Temerity — reckless boldness
• Supercilious — haughty

62 ANSWER (b) Redolant

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The misspelt word is **Redolant**; the correct word is **Redolent** (fragrant, or suggestive of something), which ends in -ent.

• Pulchritude — physical beauty
• Paroxysm — a sudden violent fit
• Inchoate — just begun, undeveloped

63 ANSWER (c) Sobriquett

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The misspelt word is **Sobriquett**; the correct word is **Sobriquet** (nickname), which ends in a single t.

• Elucubrate — to compose by laborious night work
• Anachronism — something out of its historical time
• Peremptory — insisting on immediate obedience

64 ANSWER (d) Prophane

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Prophane**; the correct word is **Profane** (irreverent, unholy), made of pro + fane, with no 'ph'.

• Recalcitrant — stubbornly resistant
• Perspicuity — clarity

• Superfluous — unnecessary

65 ANSWER (b) Renumeration

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The misspelt word is **Renumeration**; the correct word is **Remuneration** (payment), derived from Latin munus (gift), hence 'remun-'.

• Anathema — something intensely disliked
• Obstreperous — noisy and unruly
• Epistolary — relating to letters

66 ANSWER (b) Demogoguery

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The misspelt word is **Demogoguery**; the correct word is **Demagoguery** (politics that stirs up popular emotion), which comes from demagogue.

• Disconsolate — deeply dejected
• Temerity — reckless boldness
• Grandiloquent — pompous in speech

67 ANSWER (a) Reprihensible

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Reprihensible**; the correct word is **Reprehensible** (deserving condemnation), which comes from reprehend.

• Idiosyncratic — peculiar to an individual
• Obstreperous — noisy and unruly
• Lamentable — regrettable

68 ANSWER (d) Embarrasment

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The misspelt word is **Embarrasment**; the correct word is **Embarrassment** (awkward self-consciousness), in which both **rr** and **ss** are doubled.

• Entrepreneur — a business founder
• Surveillance — close observation
• Judgement — a decision (this form is acceptable in British English)

69 ANSWER (d) Prestegious

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The misspelt word is **Prestegious**; the correct form is **Prestigious** (esteemed). It is derived from prestige, so it has 'ti', not 'te'.

• Assiduous — hardworking, diligent
• Lambent — softly glowing
• Malapropism — the comic misuse of a word

These three are correctly spelt.

70 ANSWER (b) Otorhinolaryngology

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Otorhinolaryngology**. It is built from oto (ear) + rhino (nose) + laryngo (larynx) + **-logy** (study). The branch-of-study ending **-logy** comes last, 'rhino' has a single r, and 'laryng' contains a y.

71 ANSWER (a) Vasoconstriction

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **Vasoconstriction**, meaning the narrowing of blood vessels. It joins vaso (vessel) + constriction (tightening); there is no basis for an 'i' in the middle or for the ending '-tian'.

72 ANSWER (c) Anomally

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The misspelt word is **Anomally**; the correct word is **Anomaly** (irregularity), which ends in a single l.

• Irrefutable — impossible to disprove
• Hieroglyphics — picture writing
• Euphemism — a mild word used in place of a harsh one

73 ANSWER (c) Bullion

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Bullion**, meaning gold or silver in bulk, as bars or ingots. It can be remembered as bull + **ion**; there is no 'ia' or 'yo' in the middle.

74 ANSWER (a) Incomparable

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Incomparable**, meaning without equal. The adjective takes the suffix **-able**, not -ible, and no e follows compar.

75 ANSWER (a) stationary

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The sentence says the car stood in one place for hours, so **stationary** (not moving) is correct.

- stationery — writing materials
- statuary — statues collectively
- statutory — required by law

Trick: the E in stationEry stands for Envelope.

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76 ANSWER (d) positive

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **positive**, meaning favourable. An adjective is needed for 'feedback', and it ends in -ive; forms like 'positiv' are incomplete.

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77 ANSWER (c) objective

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **objective**, meaning aim or purpose. It keeps all the letters of ob + ject + ive, so **-jec-** must not be dropped.

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78 ANSWER (d) commitment

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **commitment**, meaning dedication. When the suffix -ment is added to the verb commit, the t is not doubled, so 'committment' is wrong.

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79 ANSWER (c) blueprint

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The blank needs a noun, and the correct spelling is **blueprint** (blue + print), meaning a plan or design for a building. It is a compound of two complete words, so neither the 'ue' of 'blue' nor the 't' of 'print' may be dropped. Each of the other options loses or changes one letter: bleprint, bluepring and bluprint.

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80 ANSWER (c) functionality

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The blank needs a noun, and the correct spelling is **functionality** (function + al + ity), meaning the range of operations a thing can perform. 'Func-' is followed by 'tion', and the 'l' in '-ality' appears only once. Fuctionality omits the 'n', functinality omits the 'o', and functionallity doubles the 'l'.

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81 ANSWER (b) Orogenesis

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **Orogenesis**, meaning the process of mountain building. It comes from oros (mountain) + **genesis** (origin), so it ends exactly like genesis.

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82 ANSWER (a)/(c) Synesthesia / Synaesthesia

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (a) · More than one correct option: (a), (c)

The SSC key accepts only A (Synesthesia), but in Oxford and Cambridge **synaesthesia** is the British spelling and **synesthesia** the American one; Merriam-Webster lists both. Hence A and C are both correct spellings and both should be accepted. Options B and D are wrong.

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83 ANSWER (b) Viguour

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The misspelt word is **Viguour**; the correct word is **Vigour** (energy, strength; American: vigor), in which r follows 'u' directly.

- Vignette — a short description or small illustration
- Victuals — food supplies
- Vindicate — to clear of blame

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84 ANSWER (a) vertebraites

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The incorrectly spelt word is **vertebraites**; the correct form is **vertebrates** (animals with a backbone). An unnecessary 'i' has crept in. Unnatural, understand and vanish are all correctly spelt.

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85 ANSWER (c) Consensus

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **Consensus**, meaning general agreement. Do not confuse it with consent; after '**sens**' comes 'us'. Options A and D have missing vowels or letters. Note that B and C look identical in the printed question; the key is C.

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86 **ANSWER (a)** Apathy

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Apathy**, meaning lack of interest or concern. It comes from a (without) + pathos (feeling), so it has th in the middle and a single p.

87 **ANSWER (a)** Crystallography

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Crystallography**, meaning the science of crystal structure. It keeps both the l of crystal and **-ography**, so it has ll; the ending is -graphy, not -graphi.

88 **ANSWER (b)** Lacrymatory

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **Lacrymatory**, meaning a small ancient vessel for tears. It derives from Latin lacrima (tear), but the standard spelling of this word has y and ends in -atory.

89 **ANSWER (b)** Camouflage

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Camouflage**, meaning disguise or concealment. This word of French origin contains **-ou-** and **-flage**, so forms like camo- and -flauge are wrong.

90 **ANSWER (b)** Corrosive

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Corrosive**, meaning gradually eating away a substance. It has **rr** and ends in -ive.

91 **ANSWER (b)/(c)** Bougainvillea / Bougainvillaea

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (b) · More than one correct option: (b), (c)

The SSC key accepts B (Bougainvillea), the main spelling. However, Oxford and Merriam-Webster also list **bougainvillaea** (option C) as an accepted variant. Hence B and C are both correct spellings. In options A and D the sequence after g ('ainv') is distorted.

92 **ANSWER (d)** Qintessential

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The wrongly spelt word is **Qintessential**; the correct word is **Quintessential** (the perfect example), in which q must be followed by u.

- Onerous — burdensome
- Indispensable — essential
- Equanimity — calmness of mind

93 **ANSWER (d)** Central

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **Central**, meaning of the centre, middle or most important. The word comes from centre, so 'cent' is followed by **r** and the word ends in **-al**. Cental drops the 'r', while Centril and Centrel have the wrong ending.

94 **ANSWER (a)** Consciousness

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Consciousness** (conscious + ness), meaning awareness. Note the 'sc' followed by 'i' and 'ou'. Conscienceness wrongly borrows the form of conscience, Conshousness writes 'sh' for 'sc', and Consciencenes loses the final 'ss'.

95 **ANSWER (b)** Thrombocytopenia

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (b) · Disputed question

SSC's key accepts **Thrombocytopenia**, the standard international spelling, for the condition in which the blood has too few platelets. Thrombocytopaenia is the British variant, so the key can be challenged, but the exam treats the standard form as the answer. Thrombocitopenia and Thrombosytopenia replace 'cyto' (cell) with 'cito' and 'sy', so they are clearly wrong.

96 **ANSWER (b)** Dispondent

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The misspelt word is **Dispondent**; the correct form is **Despondent**, meaning dejected. It comes from the Latin despondere (to give up hope), so the word begins with 'des-', not 'dis-'.

- Obfuscate — to confuse or obscure
- Inveigle — to entice by flattery or trickery
- Capitulation — surrender

These three are correctly spelt.

97 **ANSWER (d)** Sagacius

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The misspelt word is **Sagacius**; the correct form is **Sagacious** (wise, shrewd). The adjective suffix here is '-ious', not '-ius'.

- Recondite — obscure, hard to understand
- Apothegm — a terse, witty saying
- Impregnable — impossible to capture

These three are correctly spelt.

98 **ANSWER (b)** Accommodation

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The question asks for the word that is NOT misspelt, i.e. the correct spelling, which is **Accommodation**. It has a **double c** and a **double m**, and ends in '-ation'. Accomadation and Accomodation lose an 'm', while Accommodetion ends in '-etion' instead of '-ation'.

Trick: two c's, two m's.

99 **ANSWER (a)** Soldier

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Soldier**, meaning a person who serves in an army. After 'sol' comes '-dier', with 'i' after 'd' and 'r' after 'e'. Soldior, Souldier and Soulier add wrong vowels or drop the 'd'.

100 **ANSWER (a)** Anthropocentric

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Anthropocentric**, meaning human-centred. It is formed from anthropos (human being) and centric (having a centre). The adjective ends in '-ic', so Anthropocentrix and Anthropocentik are wrong. Anthropacentric writes 'a' in place of 'o'.

101 **ANSWER (c)** Imagination

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Imagination**, meaning the ability to form images in the mind. It is the noun from the verb imagine: one 'm', 'g' followed by 'i', and the ending '-ation'. Imaginashun spells the ending as it sounds, Imagynation uses 'y' for 'i', and Immagination doubles the 'm'.

102 **ANSWER (c)** Ontology

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Ontology**, the study of existence or being. Words ending in '-logy' take a single 'l', as in biology and geology. Ontollogy doubles the 'l', Ontologie ends in '-ie', and Ontolegy writes 'e' for 'o'.

103 **ANSWER (b)** Inimitible

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The misspelt word is **Inimitible**; the correct form is **Inimitable** (impossible to imitate, unique). The adjective ends in '-able', not '-ible'.

- Egregious — outstandingly bad
- Garrulous — talkative
- Pugnacious — quarrelsome

These three are correctly spelt.

104 **ANSWER (b)** Dermatoglyphics

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Dermatoglyphics**, the study of fingerprints. 'Glyph' takes 'ph', and the name of a field of study ends in '-ics', as in physics and mathematics. Dermatoglyphic is only the adjective form, while Dermatoglyphiks and Dermatoglyfics wrongly use 'k' and 'f'.

105 **ANSWER (a)** prepositionel

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The incorrectly spelt word is **prepositionel**; the correct form is **prepositional**. The adjective suffix is '-al', not '-el'.

- Seize — to grab (note the 'ei')
- Sewage — waste water
- Shoulder — the joint between arm and body

These three are correctly spelt.

106 **ANSWER (c)** Sesquipedalian

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **Sesquipedalian**, meaning given to using long words. It comes from sesqui (one and a half) + **ped** (foot), that is, words a foot and a half long; -alian follows.

107 **ANSWER (c)** Flocculation

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Flocculation**, meaning the process by which particles cluster into clumps. It comes from Latin floccus (a tuft of wool), hence **cc** followed by -ulation.

108 **ANSWER (a)** Luxuriant

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Luxuriant**, meaning growing thickly and abundantly. It is related to luxury and ends in **-iant**, not -ient or -eant.

109 **ANSWER (c)** Chiropractor

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Chiropractor**, meaning a practitioner who treats disorders of the spine and joints. It comes from Greek cheir (hand), so it begins with **chiro-** and ends in -tor.

110 **ANSWER (a)** Deliquescence

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **Deliquescence**, meaning the dissolving of a substance by absorbing moisture from the air. It contains **-sc-** (Latin liquescere) and ends in -ence.

111 **ANSWER (d)** Opprobreum

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The misspelt word is **Opprobreum**; the correct word is **Opprobrium** (public disgrace), which ends in -ium.

- Viceregal — relating to a viceroy
- Egregious — outstandingly bad
- Magnanimity — generosity

112 **ANSWER (b)** Sychophant

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The misspelt word is **Sychophant**; the correct word is **Sycophant** (a flatterer), in which phant follows syco-.

- Juxtaposition — placing two things side by side
- Obfuscate — to make unclear
- Quandary — a state of uncertainty

113 **ANSWER (a)** Quinquennial

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Quinquennial**, meaning occurring once in five years. It is quinque (five) + **annus** (year), so annus gives **nn**, and the ending is -ial.

114 **ANSWER (b)** Attorney

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Attorney**, meaning a lawyer or legal representative. It has tt followed by -orney; forms with 'ou' or missing letters are wrong.

115 **ANSWER (c)** Definitely

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The question asks which word is NOT misspelt, so the correct spelling **Definitely** is the answer. It is formed by adding -ly to definite, which contains -ite-. Definately and Definetely wrongly use a/e, and Definitly drops the i.

116 **ANSWER (d)** Itinerary

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The correct spelling is **Itinerary**, meaning a detailed plan of a journey. It ends in -ary and has **-tin-** in the middle.

117 **ANSWER (b)** Parliament

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Parliament**, meaning the national legislature. The order is par-**lia**-ment; writing 'li' or 'la' in place of 'lia' is wrong.

118 **ANSWER (c)** Bibliophile

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Bibliophile**, meaning a lover and collector of books. It is biblio (book) + **phile** (lover), so it ends in -phile, not -phyle or -feal.

119 **ANSWER (c)** Incommensurable

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Incommensurable**, meaning having no common measure for comparison. It is in + com + mensura (measure), so it has **mm** and ends in -able.

120 **ANSWER (a)** Metaphysics

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Metaphysics**, from 'meta' (beyond) and physics; it denotes the branch of philosophy that deals with what lies beyond the physical world. Since the word contains physics, the 'ph' and 'y' stay as they are. Metaphisics, Metaphesics and Metaphyzics alter letters in exactly this part.

121 **ANSWER (c)** Archaeopteryx

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The correct spelling is **Archaeopteryx**, the name of the early bird-like fossil of the Jurassic period. It comes from the Greek archaios (ancient) and pteryx (wing), so it begins with **archaeo-** and ends in **-pteryx**. Archeopteryx drops an 'a', Archaeopterix ends in 'ix', and Archaopteryx drops the 'e'.

122 **ANSWER (a)** Autonomy

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The correct spelling is **Autonomy**, meaning self-rule. It comes from 'auto' (self) and 'nomos' (law), so 'auto' is followed by 'no' and then '-my'. Autonamy and Autonimy change the middle vowel, and Autonnomy doubles the 'n'.



12
CHAPTER

Para Jumbles

Questions *172 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01–39): *Rearrange the parts of the sentence in the correct order.*

01 As the 2024 Paris Olympics approached,
P. raising concerns over diplomatic boycotts and the potential exclusion of certain nations,
Q. global geopolitical tensions, including conflicts in Eastern Europe and trade disputes among superpowers,
R. while the International Olympic Committee attempted to maintain neutrality and ensure an inclusive competition
S. cast a shadow over the event's spirit of international unity and sportsmanship,

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) PSQR (b) SRQP
(c) RSPQ (d) QSPR

02 In response to persistent inflationary pressures,
P. against the risk of prolonged stagnation
Q. restrictive monetary policies were implemented,
R. by raising interest rates and reducing liquidity
S. forcing central banks to balance economic growth

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) PRQS (b) QSRP
(c) SQPR (d) RPSQ

03 In a landmark moment for space exploration,
P. offering unprecedented insights into planetary formation and the conditions necessary for life,
Q. raising the possibility of habitable worlds beyond our solar system,
R. the James Webb Space Telescope detected the presence of complex organic molecules in the atmosphere of an exoplanet,
S. while astronomers cautioned that further studies were required to confirm the findings

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) QSRP (b) QPRS
(c) RPQS (d) SRPQ

04 The escalating climate crisis
P. with rising sea levels and extreme weather patterns
Q. has intensified global efforts towards mitigation,
R. urging industries to adopt sustainable practices
S. while reinforcing commitments to international climate accords

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) QPRS (b) SRPQ
(c) SPRQ (d) RSPQ

05 A groundbreaking medical discovery
P. has been developed by scientists
Q. using innovative genetic engineering techniques
R. paving the way for more effective vaccines
S. which enhances the body's immune response,

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) RSPQ (b) QPSR
(c) QSPR (d) PSRQ

06 The expansion of space programs
P. has led to discussions on regulatory frameworks,
Q. as technological capabilities advance at an unprecedented pace
R. among major spacefaring nations and private entities
S. ensuring peaceful exploration and equitable resource distribution

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QPSR (b) PSRQ
(c) SRPQ (d) RPQS

07 Following a series of controversial decisions in major football tournaments,
P. while some argued that its inconsistent application undermined the integrity of the sport
Q. the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system faced intense scrutiny from players, coaches, and fans,
R. as governing bodies struggled to standardize its usage across different leagues,
S. raising concerns about the subjectivity of interpretations despite the promise of technological precision,

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) QRSP (b) SPRQ
(c) RSPQ (d) PQSR

08 With the awarding of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics,
P. for their pioneering work in quantum materials,
Q. as scientists hailed the breakthrough for its potential applications in next-generation computing and renewable energy
R. the recipients sparked renewed interest in the study of exotic electronic properties,
S. while debates emerged over the accessibility of high-cost experimental setups required for further research.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) PRQS (b) PSQR
(c) RPQS (d) QPRS

09 The geopolitical landscape
P. necessitating strategic alliances and diplomatic interventions
Q. has been reshaped by emerging superpowers,
R. as nations navigate complex economic and military rivalries
S. to maintain regional stability and global influence

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) QPRS (b) SRPQ
(c) RSPQ (d) SQPR

10 The recent advancements in space exploration
P. and paving the way for future Mars colonization
Q. unlocking new possibilities for interplanetary travel,
R. have been driven by international collaborations,
S. focused on developing sustainable lunar habitats

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) PSQR (b) RQSP
(c) SRPQ (d) QPSR

11 Following the approval of a groundbreaking cancer therapy,
P. while skeptics warned of the long-term side effects and limited accessibility for low-income patients,
Q. oncologists and researchers hailed the innovation as a paradigm shift in cancer treatment,
R. leading to global discussions on the affordability and regulatory challenges of the new treatment
S. as early trials demonstrated unprecedented success in eliminating aggressive tumors,

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) PQRS (b) SQRP
(c) QSPR (d) QPSR

12 The ethical dilemmas in scientific research
P. have sparked ongoing debates among scholars,
Q. concerning genetic modifications and bioengineering,
R. as technological advancements outpace regulatory frameworks,
S. raising concerns about moral boundaries and unintended consequences

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) QPRS (b) SPRQ
(c) PRQS (d) SQPR

13 Amid the rising threat of state-sponsored cyberattacks,
P. while also collaborating with private sector firms to safeguard national digital assets
Q. targeting critical infrastructure such as power grids, financial institutions, and defense systems,
R. by investing heavily in advanced threat detection and response mechanisms,
S. governments worldwide bolstered their cybersecurity frameworks,

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) SPQR (b) RSPQ
(c) PRQS (d) SQRP

14 The constitutional amendment
P. to ensure greater fiscal transparency,
Q. was introduced in the parliament
R. with provisions mandating periodic audits

S. of government expenditure across all departments

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) SRPQ (b) QPRS
(c) PSQR (d) RQPS

15 Although the emergence of general relativity,
P. by postulating that gravity arises from spacetime curvature
Q. rather than being a Newtonian force acting at a distance
R. fundamentally altered our understanding of gravitation
S. it remained incomplete without a quantum-theoretic formulation

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RPSQ (b) RPQS
(c) PRSQ (d) SQRP

16 The global push for sustainability
P. necessitating urgent collaboration among nations
Q. has been intensified by alarming environmental shifts,
R. and fostering the transition towards renewable energy sources
S. leading to policy frameworks aimed at reducing carbon emissions

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) RSPQ (b) QPSR
(c) PSRQ (d) SPRQ

17 With FIFA's decision to expand the 2026 World Cup to 48 teams,
P. despite concerns over player fatigue and scheduling congestion in an already crowded football calendar,
Q. with critics arguing that the dilution of quality and increased logistical challenges could diminish the tournament's prestige,
R. while commercial stakeholders welcomed the move due to its potential to generate higher broadcasting revenues
S. football federations worldwide debated the impact of this expansion on competitiveness,

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) SQPR (b) PRQS
(c) RPSQ (d) QPRS

18 Excessive use of social media has
P. affecting self-esteem and emotional well-being due to
Q. teenagers and young adults,
R. been linked to mental health issues among
S. unrealistic portrayals of success and beauty

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) PSRQ (b) QSRP
(c) RQPS (d) SPRQ

19 Amid the escalating trade war between the United States and China,
P. which included extensive tariffs, regulatory restrictions, and sanctions on key industries,
Q. disrupting global supply chains and triggering price volatility across financial markets
R. both nations engaged in aggressive economic retaliatory measures,
S. forcing multinational corporations to diversify their production hubs to mitigate risks

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) QPRS (b) RSPQ
(c) RPQS (d) PQSR

20 The code of digital ethics
P. in response to rising cyberbullying cases
Q. was proposed to regulate online behavior
R. that disrupt democratic processes
S. and misinformation campaigns

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) QPSR (b) QPRS
(c) SPQR (d) RPQS

21 The enforcement of international human rights laws
P. to hold violators accountable for war crimes and genocide
Q. has faced obstacles due to political resistance,
R. despite the establishment of global courts and legal frameworks
S. and the complexities of diplomatic immunity in sovereign states

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) SRQP (b) QRSP
(c) PSQR (d) RSQP

22 Despite the abstract nature of quantum mechanics,
P. mathematical formulations such as Hilbert

spaces and wave functions
Q. to make remarkably accurate predictions
R. provide a rigorous framework
S. about the behaviour of subatomic particles

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) PRQS (b) PSQR
(c) RPQS (d) QPRS

23 As geopolitical tensions reshaped international diplomacy,
P. as emerging economies sought to assert greater influence in global decision-making,
Q. leading to the realignment of trade agreements and defense partnerships
R. traditional alliances among major world powers faced significant strain,
S. while long-standing institutions like the United Nations and G7 faced calls for reform

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) RPSQ (b) RPQS
(c) PRSQ (d) SQRP

24 The transboundary conservation program
P. through joint international efforts
Q. that traverse national borders
R. protects migratory species
S. by creating safe corridors

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) PRSQ (b) RQSP
(c) SPQR (d) RPQS

25 With the integration of artificial intelligence in historical research,
P. sparking debates on whether AI-driven interpretations maintain the authenticity of the original scripts,
Q. while some researchers expressed concerns about the reliability of automated translations in understanding linguistic nuances
R. machine learning algorithms have successfully deciphered ancient texts previously considered unreadable,
S. enabling scholars to reconstruct lost fragments of knowledge from damaged manuscripts,

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) PSQR (b) RSPQ
(c) QPSR (d) SRPQ

26 The dietary guidelines
P. to reduce dependence on imports
Q. and encourage balanced nutrition
R. promote locally sourced ingredients
S. in both urban and rural populations

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) PSQR (b) RPQS
(c) QPRS (d) SRPQ

27 The recent diplomatic summit
P. and fostering regional cooperation
Q. witnessed discussions on security concerns
R. while addressing climate change policies,
S. aimed at strengthening bilateral trade

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) PQRS (b) QSRP
(c) QRSP (d) PRSQ

28 The Nobel Prize in Literature
P. for its powerful storytelling and deep philosophical insights
Q. was awarded to the renowned author
R. whose latest novel explores human resilience
S. in the face of adversity and historical struggles

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) PRSQ (b) QRSP
(c) PRQS (d) QSPR

29 The recent excavation
P. shedding light on lost civilizations
Q. dating back over two thousand years
R. with unique linguistic patterns
S. unearthed inscriptions and artifacts

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) QRSP (b) SPRQ
(c) PSQR (d) QSPR

30 Traditional folk music
P. reflecting historical narratives and local traditions
Q. shaping the cultural identity of diverse communities
R. while preserving indigenous languages and artistic expressions
S. continues to evolve in response to contemporary influences,

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) SPRQ (b) QPRS
(c) PRSQ (d) RPQS

31 As global debt levels reached an all-time high,
P. raising concerns over potential defaults and economic downturns,
Q. developing nations struggled to service their loans due to rising interest rates,
R. while major economies implemented austerity measures to curb fiscal imbalances
S. prompting international financial institutions to consider restructuring debt repayment plans,

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) SRPQ (b) PQSR
(c) RPQS (d) QSPR

32 Recent medical trials,
P. previously considered untreatable
Q. in targeting rare genetic disorders
R. have yielded promising results
S. involving mRNA technology,

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) SRQP (b) PSRQ
(c) QPRS (d) RSPQ

33 While Gödel's incompleteness theorems,
P. demonstrating that in any sufficiently powerful formal system
Q. unprovable statements must necessarily exist
R. shattered the foundational ambitions of mathematical logic,
S. they also paradoxically reinforced its internal consistency

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) PRSQ (b) RQPS
(c) RSPQ (d) PQRS

34 The record-breaking performance
P. established a new world record
Q. after years of rigorous training
R. and was hailed as a historic achievement
S. by the young athlete at the championship

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) SPQR (b) RSQP
(c) SRPQ (d) PQSR

35 With the rapid expansion of the cryptocurrency market,
P. prompting governments to establish strict regulatory frameworks,
Q. while investors faced heightened market volatility due to regulatory uncertainties
R. concerns over financial stability and illicit transactions escalated,
S. leading to increased scrutiny on decentralized finance platforms,

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) PRSQ (b) RPSQ
(c) SQPR (d) QPRS

36 The prestigious innovation award
P. for developing a revolutionary energy-efficient device
Q. that significantly reduces carbon emissions
R. was presented to the young engineer
S. at an international technology summit

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) SQPR (b) RPQS
(c) PSRQ (d) QPSR

37 Following the geopolitical crisis triggered by the Russia- Ukraine war,
P. compelling European nations to accelerate their transition towards renewable energy
Q. while industries struggled to maintain production levels amid skyrocketing operational costs,
R. forcing governments to implement emergency measures such as energy rationing,
S. severe disruptions in energy supplies sent natural gas prices soaring,

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) PRSQ (b) SQRP
(c) QSPR (d) SRPQ

38 The legacy of colonialism
P. contributing to persistent economic and social inequalities
Q. as former colonies navigate issues of national identity and sovereignty
R. continues to shape global political dynamics,
S. while striving for reparations and historical accountability

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) SRPQ (b) QPSR
(c) PQRS (d) RPQS

39 As women's sports gained increasing global recognition,
P. sparking discussions on the long-term impact of these changes on gender equality in athletics,
Q. while governing bodies introduced policies to ensure equal prize money in certain competitions,
R. major broadcasting networks and corporate sponsors started investing heavily in female athletes,
S. despite ongoing disparities in media coverage and sponsorship deals compared to men's sports

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) SPQR (b) RSQP
(c) RPQS (d) PQSR

Directions (Q. 40): *Rearrange the parts of the sentence in the correct order*

40 The nature of consciousness
P. has long been a subject of philosophical inquiry,
Q. integrating perspectives from neuroscience and artificial intelligence
R. as scholars attempt to decipher its origins and mechanisms
S. while exploring the boundaries between cognition and perception

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) PQRS (b) PRSQ
(c) SRPQ (d) QPRS

Directions (Q. 41–65): *Which of the given options arranges the following sentences in the most logical sequence to form a meaningful paragraph?*

41 1. This led to the development of groundbreaking theories such as Heisenberg's uncertainty principle and Schrödinger's wave equation.
2. In the early 20th century, physicists realized that classical mechanics could not explain certain atomic and subatomic phenomena.
3. Quantum mechanics revolutionized technology, enabling advancements in semiconductors, lasers, and quantum computing.
4. Scientists like Max Planck and Albert Einstein introduced the idea that energy is quantized, laying the foundation for quantum mechanics.
5. Despite its success, the theory remains counterintuitive, challenging our understanding of reality at the fundamental level.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 2-4-1-3-5 (b) 3-1-4-2-5
(c) 1-3-4-2-5 (d) 3-2-5-4-1

42 1. Despite their seemingly simple form, jellyfish possess specialized cells called nematocysts that deliver venomous stings to their prey.
2. Scientists continue to study jellyfish to understand their unique regenerative abilities and their potential applications in medicine.
3. The evolutionary history of jellyfish dates back over 500 million years, making them one of the oldest living creatures on Earth.
4. Some species, like the Turritopsis dohrnii, exhibit biological immortality by reverting to their juvenile state after reaching maturity.
5. Their ability to thrive in diverse marine environments has made them a key subject of research in evolutionary biology.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 4-3-2-1-5 (b) 1-3-4-5-2
(c) 3-1-5-4-2 (d) 2-1-4-3-5

43 1. Some theories suggest that language evolved as a tool for social bonding, replacing grooming behavior seen in primates.
2. The development of complex language is considered one of the most defining traits of Homo sapiens.
3. Archaeological evidence shows that early humans created symbolic representations, such as cave paintings, which indicate the ability to communicate abstract ideas.
4. The emergence of language enabled cooperation, cultural transmission, and the rapid expansion of human societies.
5. Scientists continue to study the origins of language using genetics, neurology, and comparative studies of primates.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 3-2-1-5-4 (b) 1-3-4-2-5
(c) 2-1-3-4-5 (d) 4-3-2-1-5

44 1. Some researchers believe that the decline of the Neanderthals was due to competition with early Homo sapiens, who had superior tools and social structures.
2. Neanderthals, an extinct species of hominins, lived in Eurasia for thousands of years before

disappearing around 40,000 years ago.
3. Genetic studies reveal that modern humans share a small percentage of DNA with Neanderthals, indicating interbreeding between the two species.
4. Others argue that climate change played a crucial role in their extinction by reducing food sources and altering their habitats.
5. Despite their disappearance, the legacy of Neanderthals lives on through genetic traces found in modern human populations.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 5-1-2-3-4
(b) 2-1-4-3-5
(c) 5-4-3-1-2
(d) 2-1-3-4-5

45 1. Fossil evidence suggests that whales evolved from land-dwelling ancestors that gradually adapted to aquatic life.
2. Over millions of years, their limbs transformed into flippers, and their nostrils shifted to the top of their heads, forming blowholes.
3. This transformation is considered one of the most remarkable examples of evolutionary adaptation in the animal kingdom.
4. The discovery of transitional fossils, such as Ambulocetus, provides crucial insights into this evolutionary shift.
5. The ancestors of modern whales were hoofed mammals that once roamed the land before returning to the sea.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 2-4-3-5-1
(b) 2-4-5-1-3
(c) 4-2-1-3-5
(d) 5-1-2-4-3

46 1. However, rising ocean temperatures and acidification are causing coral bleaching, threatening reef survival.
2. Corals have a symbiotic relationship with algae, which provide them with nutrients and vibrant colors.
3. When stressed by environmental changes, corals expel the algae, leading to their pale, bleached appearance.
4. Coral reefs are among the most biodiverse ecosystems, providing habitat for thousands of marine species.
5. Scientists are exploring conservation strategies, including artificial reefs and selective breeding of heat-resistant coral species.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2-3-1-4-5
(b) 3-1-4-2-5
(c) 4-2-1-3-5
(d) 5-4-1-3-2

47 1. Philosophers debate the role of experience, reason and perception in the acquisition of knowledge.
2. The nature of knowledge is a central concern in philosophy, particularly in the field of epistemology.
3. Some argue that knowledge comes from sensory experiences, while others believe in the primacy of reason or innate ideas.
4. Epistemology explores the sources, limits and validity of knowledge, asking questions like "What can we know?"
5. Ultimately, understanding knowledge involves examining the relationship between the knower, the known and the process of knowing.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 3-1-2-4-5
(b) 2-4-1-3-5
(c) 4-3-1-2-5
(d) 5-2-1-3-4

48 1. Predators evolve sharper claws, faster speeds, or enhanced hunting techniques to catch prey more effectively.
2. This cycle of adaptation and counter-adaptation drives the continuous evolution of both groups.
3. In response, prey species develop defensive adaptations such as camouflage, speed, or toxic chemicals.
4. The concept of an evolutionary arms race describes the ongoing adaptations between predators and prey.
5. Such evolutionary arms races are seen in species like cheetahs and gazelles or venomous snakes and resistant prey.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 3-4-2-1-5
(b) 1-4-5-3-2
(c) 2-1-3-5-4
(d) 4-1-3-2-5

49 1. Over generations, cultural and genetic adaptations improved their resilience to extreme environments.
2. They created insulated clothing from animal skins and built durable shelters to retain heat.
3. Early humans living during the Ice Age had to develop survival strategies to endure harsh conditions.
4. The ability to control fire allowed them to cook food, stay warm, and protect themselves from

predators.
5. These adaptations enabled human populations to spread across colder regions and establish new settlements.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 5-2-3-1-4
(b) 1-3-2-4-5
(c) 4-1-2-5-3
(d) 3-2-4-5-1

50 1. Mass media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and cultural norms.
2. Understanding media literacy is essential to critically analyze and interpret information.
3. The influence of media extends to politics, social behavior, and consumer choices.
4. While it can educate and inform, media can also spread misinformation and biases.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 4-3-2-1
(b) 1-3-4-2
(c) 3-2-1-4
(d) 2-4-1-3

51 1. Their research revealed that fungi play a crucial role in nutrient cycling, breaking down organic matter and forming symbiotic relationships with plant roots.
2. Understanding these fungal connections has transformed ecological studies and highlights the interdependence of forest ecosystems.
3. In recent years, scientists have discovered vast underground fungal networks known as mycorrhizal networks.
4. These networks allow trees and plants to share nutrients and even send chemical signals, sometimes described as the "Wood Wide Web."
5. Some species of fungi can even warn trees about insect attacks by transmitting distress signals through the underground network.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2-4-5-1-3
(b) 3-1-4-5-2
(c) 1-4-3-5-2
(d) 5-3-2-1-4

52 1. The first confirmed exoplanet was discovered in 1992, marking a breakthrough in space exploration.
2. In recent decades, advanced telescopes like Kepler and TESS have identified thousands of exoplanets.
3. Astronomers classify exoplanets based on size, atmosphere, and their position within the habitable zone.
4. Some exoplanets exhibit Earth-like characteristics, fueling scientific interest in their potential for hosting life.
5. These planets orbit stars beyond our solar system and may provide insights into the possibility of extraterrestrial life.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 2-1-3-4-5
(b) 1-3-2-4-5
(c) 1-5-2-3-4
(d) 1-4-5-2-3

53 1. Groups like the Society of Revolutionary Republican Women demanded equal rights and representation.
2. Despite their contributions, women's rights were largely ignored in post-revolutionary France.
3. Women played a significant role in the French Revolution, advocating for political rights and social reforms.
4. This struggle laid the foundation for later feminist movements in Europe

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 4-3-2-1
(b) 2-4-3-1
(c) 1-4-3-2
(d) 3-1-2-4

54 1. It was formed due to tectonic activity, where the Earth's crust is slowly pulling apart, creating deep fissures and valleys.
2. The Great Rift Valley in East Africa is one of the most significant geological formations on Earth.
3. The valley is home to some of the richest fossil sites, including discoveries of Australopithecus fossils that provide insights into early human ancestors.
4. Over time, the valley has influenced the course of human evolution, as early hominins adapted to its diverse environments.
5. Today, the region continues to be studied by geologists and anthropologists to understand both Earth's history and the origins of humankind.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2-1-4-3-5
(b) 3-1-4-5-2
(c) 3-2-1-4-5
(d) 5-4-3-2-1

55 1. Socialization is the process by which individuals learn and internalize the values, beliefs, and norms of their society.
2. Role theory explains how individuals occupy different roles in society and how their behavior is shaped by these roles.
3. The process of socialization is critical for an individual's development and is influenced by

various agents like family, peers, and media.
4. The roles people play, such as being a student, parent, or worker, come with expectations that guide their actions and interactions.
5. Through socialization, individuals learn to perform specific social roles within their community.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 3-5-4-1-2
(b) 2-5-4-3-1
(c) 1-4-3-2-5
(d) 1-3-5-2-4

56 1. Mythology played a vital role in early societies by explaining natural events and human existence.
2. Over time, mythology evolved, influencing literature, art and philosophy.
3. Many ancient civilizations, such as the Greeks and Egyptians, used myths to explain the origins of the world.
4. These myths were often passed down orally, shaping cultural traditions and religious beliefs.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 4-2-3-1
(b) 2-3-4-1
(c) 3-4-2-1
(d) 1-3-4-2

57 1. Many birds migrate seasonally, traveling thousands of kilometers to find suitable breeding or feeding grounds.
2. Scientists have discovered that birds use a combination of celestial navigation, Earth's magnetic field, and learned landmarks to guide their journeys.
3. This behavior is often triggered by changes in daylight duration and temperature, signaling the need to relocate.
4. Some species, such as the Arctic Tern, undertake the longest migration, covering distances between the Arctic and Antarctic.
5. Understanding bird migration patterns is crucial for conservation efforts, as climate change and habitat destruction pose growing threats.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2-1-4-3-5
(b) 1-3-2-4-5
(c) 3-4-2-5-1
(d) 3-2-1-5-4

58 1. This groundbreaking finding has led archaeologists to reconsider the role of religious practices in shaping early human societies.
2. Recent excavations at Göbekli Tepe in Turkey have challenged conventional theories about the development of civilization.
3. The discovery of massive, intricately carved stone pillars suggests that organized religion may have preceded the advent of agriculture.
4. Previously, scholars believed that settled farming communities were necessary for the rise of large-scale social structures.
5. The site, dating back over 11,000 years, predates Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids by several millennia.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1-3-2-4-5
(b) 3-4-5-2-1
(c) 3-2-4-1-5
(d) 2-4-3-5-1

59 1. It relies on measuring the decay of carbon-14, a radioactive isotope found in organic materials.
2. Carbon dating is a scientific method used to determine the age of ancient artifacts.
3. Despite its accuracy, carbon dating has limitations when applied to very old or non-organic materials.
4. Archaeologists use this technique to estimate the age of fossils, tools, and historical objects.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1-3-2-4
(b) 2-1-4-3
(c) 3-1-2-4
(d) 4-2-1-3

60 1. The concrete operational stage marks the development of logical thinking and understanding of conservation.
2. In the sensorimotor stage, infants learn through sensory experiences and motor actions, developing object permanence.
3. In the preoperational stage, children begin using symbols and language but still lack logical reasoning abilities.
4. In the formal operational stage, adolescents develop the ability to think abstractly and hypothetically.
5. Jean Piaget proposed that cognitive development occurs in four distinct stages.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1-3-5-4-2
(b) 2-5-1-4-3
(c) 5-2-3-1-4
(d) 3-1-2-4-5

61 1. The therapist and client work together to replace maladaptive thinking with healthier, more rational thought processes.
2. It helps individuals identify and challenge

negative thought patterns that lead to emotional distress.
3. The goal is to teach clients coping strategies to manage their emotions and behaviours effectively.
4. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy focuses on the relationship between thoughts, feelings and behaviours.
5. This method has been shown to be effective in treating a wide range of mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 3-2-5-4-1
(b) 2-4-5-1-3
(c) 3-1-4-2-5
(d) 4-2-1-3-5

62 1. Social stratification refers to the hierarchical arrangement of individuals in a society based on factors such as wealth, power and prestige.
2. This stratification system shapes individuals' access to resources and opportunities in society.
3. Sociologists have identified various forms of social stratification, including caste, class and race.
4. Social mobility, the ability to move between different strata, varies across societies and can be influenced by education and employment opportunities.
5. The study of social stratification is crucial in understanding inequality and its impact on individuals and communities.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2-3-4-1-5
(b) 1-3-2-4-5
(c) 2-4-5-1-3
(d) 3-5-4-1-2

63 1. It helps safeguard individual freedoms and maintain the rule of law in the country.
2. The executive branch implements laws, while the legislative branch makes laws, and the judiciary interprets them.
3. The separation of powers is a core principle in many democratic systems, such as the United States.
4. The separation of powers is a model for governance in which the functions of government are divided into distinct branches.
5. This system prevents any one branch from gaining too much power and ensures checks and balances.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2-4-3-1-5
(b) 1-3-2-4-5
(c) 1-2-3-4-5
(d) 4-5-2-3-1

64 1. According to Kant, individuals must treat others as ends in themselves, not merely as means to an end.
2. The Categorical Imperative is a moral law that commands individuals to act in ways that could be made a universal law.
3. Immanuel Kant's ethical theory is based on the idea of the Categorical Imperative, which dictates that actions must be universally applicable.
4. Kant believed that morality is not based on the consequences of actions, but on the principle behind them.
5. Thus, the Categorical Imperative is a key component of Kant's deontological ethics, which emphasizes duty over outcomes.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 3-2-4-1-5
(b) 4-3-1-2-5
(c) 5-1-2-3-4
(d) 4-3-1-5-2

65 1. With the help of allies and through personal growth, the hero ultimately conquers the ordeal and returns home with a gift or knowledge.
2. The hero receives a call to adventure, often from a mentor or supernatural source, prompting them to leave their ordinary world.
3. The hero's return marks the completion of their transformation and reintegration into society.
4. The Hero's Journey is a narrative pattern that involves a hero who goes on an adventure, faces a crisis, and returns home transformed.
5. After a series of challenges, the hero faces a major ordeal, often involving life or death situations.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 3-5-1-2-4
(b) 4-2-5-1-3
(c) 2-4-1-5-3
(d) 5-1-4-3-2

Directions (Q. 66–77): *In the following question, the first and last parts of the sentence (1 and 6) are given. The rest of the sentence is split into four parts and named P, Q, R, and S. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentence and find out which of the four combinations is correct.*

66 1. Lack of sleep
P. and negatively affects
Q. not only impairs

R. but also weakens
S. cognitive functions
6. the immune system.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) PQRS (b) RQSP
(c) QSRP (d) SQRP

67 1. If we do not
P. of our natural resources
Q. take immediate steps
R. then future generations
S. for the conservation
6. will have to face severe crises.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QSPR (b) PSQR
(c) QRPS (d) RSQP

68 1. The fundamental right
P. which ensures that every citizen
Q. is a cornerstone
R. to freedom of speech
S. of modern democracy
6.can express their opinions without fear.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) RQSP (b) PQRS
(c) RPSQ (d) SRQP

69 **1. Not only did**
P. the socio-economic conditions
Q. but it also highlighted
R. the revolution improve
S. of the working class
6. the inherent flaws of the monarchy.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) RPSQ (b) SQRP
(c) RQSP (d) PQRS

70 **1. Economic growth is**
P. the standard of living
Q. a sustained increase
R. in the production of
S. goods and services that improves
6. for the entire population.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QRSP (b) RSQP
(c) QPSR (d) QSPR

71 **1. The concept of the Blue Economy**
P. to promote economic growth
Q. while ensuring the environmental sustainability
R. seeks to harness ocean resources
S. and improved social inclusion
6. of the vast marine and coastal ecosystems.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) PQSR (b) RPSQ
(c) RSQP (d) QSRP

72 1. The Thar Desert constitutes
P. rainfall and high evaporation
Q. characterised by extremely low
R. a vast arid region
S. which results in a
6. landscape dominated by shifting sand dunes.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RSPQ (b) SQRP
(c) RQPS (d) PSQR

73 1. Mount Kailash stands as a
P. reaching a height that remains
Q. and serves as a sacred
R. magnificent peak in the Himalayas
S. destination for several religious pilgrimages
6. largely unchallenged by modern mountaineering expeditions.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RQSP (b) PSQR
(c) QSRP (d) RSPQ

74 1. Our ability to
P. of others is what
Q. and feel the emotions
R. understand the perspectives
S. makes us truly
6. compassionate human beings.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) PQSR (b) RSPQ
(c) RPSQ (d) RQPS

75 1. It is widely
P. to the environment
Q. believed that the
R. poses a serious threat
S. use of plastic bags
6. and our marine life.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QSRP (b) PRSQ
(c) QRPS (d) QRSP

76 1. Moisturisers for the face
P. as oily ones may block
Q. in greater concentration on the face
R. the oil glands found
S. should be chosen carefully
6. and cause pimple/acne to break out.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) RSQP (b) PQRS
(c) SRPQ (d) SPRQ

77 1. The Harappan culture was
P. to have developed a
Q. known for its advanced
R. distinguished by being the first
S. town planning and is
6. sophisticated system of standardised weights.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QSRP (b) PQSR
(c) RQPS (d) QRPS

Directions (Q. 78–79): *Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful passage*

78 1. Ancient Greek democracy laid the foundation for civic participation.
2. Citizens debated laws in public assemblies.
3. This model influenced later republics worldwide.
4. However, rights were limited to free adult males.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1-4-2-3 (b) 2-1-3-4
(c) 1-2-4-3 (d) 4-1-2-3

79 1. Augmented reality (AR) enhances user interaction by overlaying digital elements onto the physical world. 2. It has applications in gaming, education, and training. 3. AR uses devices like smartphones and AR glasses to deliver experiences. 4. However, widespread adoption is limited due to the cost of AR hardware.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 2-4-1-3 (b) 3-2-1-4
(c) 4-1-3-2 (d) 1-3-2-4

Directions (Q. 80–84): *Rearrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph*

80 1. This process ensures that the food we eat is safe and does not contain harmful bacteria or other contaminants.
2. Food processing is a series of methods used to transform raw ingredients into consumable products.
3. These methods can range from simple actions like cutting and grinding to more complex procedures such as pasteurization and fermentation.
4. Furthermore, it also helps to preserve food, extend its shelf life, and enhance its nutritional value.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2, 3, 1, 4 (b) 1, 2, 3, 4
(c) 3, 1, 4, 2 (d) 4, 2, 1, 3

81 1. The integrity of scientific research is maintained through a rigorous process of documentation and peer review. 2. This systematic approach ensures the reproducibility of findings and builds a body of reliable knowledge. 3. This process creates a detailed paper trail of experiments, data analysis, and conclusions. 4. These documents are then subjected to scrutiny by other experts in the field to identify potential errors or biases.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 4, 2, 1, 3 (b) 3, 2, 1, 4
(c) 1, 3, 4, 2 (d) 1, 4, 3, 2

82 1. The erosion of trust in public institutions is a defining feature of contemporary political discourse, influencing voter behavior and policy outcomes. 2. Consequently, robust and transparent governance mechanisms are essential to rebuilding public confidence and ensuring the legitimacy of a democratic system. 3. This crisis can be traced to a historical understanding of the "social contract" where the public grants authority in exchange for protection and well-being. 4. The breakdown of this unwritten agreement has led to widespread disillusionment and a perception of institutional failure, with significant social consequences.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 2, 3, 1, 4 (b) 1, 4, 3, 2
(c) 1, 3, 4, 2 (d) 3, 1, 2, 4

83 1. This phenomenon, where the physical state of a substance changes without a change in temperature, is a result of the absorption or release of latent heat. 2. When a solid, such as ice, melts, its temperature remains constant at 0°C until all of the

ice has turned to water. 3. This energy is used to break the molecular bonds of the solid, rather than increasing the kinetic energy of the molecules. 4. The concept of latent heat is crucial for understanding phase transitions in thermodynamics.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 4, 2, 1, 3
(b) 2, 1, 4, 3
(c) 1, 3, 2, 4
(d) 3, 1, 2, 4

84 1. The most prevalent of these is the peer review process, where a manuscript is evaluated by other experts in the same field.
2. The integrity of scientific publications is upheld by a series of rigorous checks and balances.
3. The goal of this process is to validate the methodology, findings, and conclusions of the research before it is made public.
4. This external scrutiny helps to ensure that only high-quality, credible research is disseminated to the scientific community.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 2, 1, 3, 4
(b) 1, 2, 3, 4
(c) 3, 4, 1, 2
(d) 4, 3, 2, 1

Directions (Q. 85–107): *Rearrange the following sentences in correct order to make a meaningful sentence*

85 P: and cultural pluralism Q: India's democratic fabric R: is deeply rooted S: in historical dialogues

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) QRSP
(b) PRSQ
(c) QSPR
(d) QPSR

86 P. as part of a nationwide public health intervention
Q. through mobile diagnostic units
R. regular screening camps
S. were conducted in remote and underserved areas

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RQSP
(b) RSPQ
(c) QPRS
(d) PRSQ

87 P. by integrating machine learning diagnostics
Q. to minimize false negatives
R. the AI-powered screening tool
S. has significantly improved early disease detection

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RSPQ
(b) RQPS
(c) PQRS
(d) RPSQ

88 P. reflecting the precarious balance between economic development and environmental conservation
Q. the recent Supreme Court judgment on mining activities in forest regions
R. has set a legal precedent
S. for all future industrial clearance protocols

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QPRS
(b) QRSP
(c) RQPS
(d) QSRP

89 P. following a joint recommendation from the audit and ethics committees Q. the procurement policy R. was suspended indefinitely S. due to procedural inconsistencies and budgetary overreach

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QRSP
(b) PQRS
(c) QPRS
(d) RQSP

90 P. amid global economic instability Q. the central bank's monetary interventions R. were cautiously adjusted S. to manage inflation without stalling growth

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QRSP
(b) QSPR
(c) QSRP
(d) RQSP

91 P: than decolonial methods of inquiry Q: is more extractive R: the dominance of Eurocentric paradigms S: in indigenous research contexts

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RQSP
(b) QRSP
(c) RPQS
(d) QSRP

92 P: remains elusive Q: in fragmented welfare systems R: the ideal of universal access S: to healthcare entitlements

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RPSQ
(b) RPQS
(c) QSRP
(d) RQSP

93 P: in emerging democracies Q: media literacy R: must be integrated S: into school curricula

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) QRSP (b) QSRP
(c) RQPS (d) RPQS

94 **P.** after a decade of legal deliberations and forensic analysis **Q.** was conclusively settled by the supreme adjudicating body **R.** the dispute over land ownership **S.** in favor of the indigenous claimants

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) RQPS (b) RPSQ
(c) QRSP (d) QPRS

95 **P.** were introduced as part of the digital governance reform **Q.** biometric attendance systems **R.** to reduce proxy attendance and data manipulation **S.** across all urban local bodies

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QRPS (b) QPRS
(c) RQPS (d) RSPQ

96 **P.** were subjected to scrutiny by audit authorities **Q.** for inconsistencies in declared financial holdings **R.** senior administrative officers **S.** across multiple state departments

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RQSP (b) RSQP
(c) RPSQ (d) RQPS

97 **P:** of community-oriented justice **Q:** modern legal systems **R:** often marginalise **S:** the embedded practices

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QSRP (b) QSPR
(c) QRSP (d) RPQS

98 **P:** in legitimising state violence **Q:** under regimes of legal formalism **R:** the abstraction of rule of law **S:** often functions

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QRPS (b) RSQP
(c) RQSP (d) QSRP

99 **P.** were finalized after months of inter-agency deliberations **Q.** the national disaster response protocols **R.** under the supervision of the central emergency council **S.** to streamline rescue operations

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) QPRS (b) SPRQ
(c) QSRP (d) QPSR

100 P: in fostering innovation and collaboration Q : plays a critical role R: across interdisciplinary fields S: institutional support

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) SQRP (b) QSRP
(c) SRQP (d) RSQP

101 P. to detect early-stage structural vulnerabilities in bridges Q. using AI-driven sensors and real-time analytics R. a nationwide safety audit mechanism S. has been deployed by the Ministry of Transport

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RQSP (b) QRSP
(c) RSQP (d) PRSQ

102 P: continues to shape legal consciousness Q: within postcolonial judicial reasoning R: the legacy of colonial jurisprudence S: in subtle but significant ways

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RPSQ (b) RPQS
(c) QRSP (d) PRSQ

103 P: at the intersection of caste and gender Q: the vulnerability of Dalit women R: is compounded S: by systemic exclusions

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) SQPR (b) QRSP
(c) QSRP (d) PRSQ

104 **P.** using advanced meteorological models **Q.** cyclone warnings **R.** are now issued with greater lead time **S.** by the national weather bureau

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QRSP (b) RQSP
(c) SQRP (d) PRSQ

105 **P.** using the real-time demographic dashboard **Q.** migration patterns during economic

downturns **R.** were mapped by the analytics cell **S.** for targeted policy interventions

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QPRS (b) QRSP
(c) RQPS (d) QRPS

106 **P.** under the sovereign green bonds framework **Q.** were allocated to renewable energy infrastructure **R.** funds mobilized from the January 2023 issuance **S.** after alignment with climate action goals

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QRPS (b) RQSP
(c) RQPS (d) QSRP

107 **P:** in producing ethical legal judgments **Q:** within adversarial frameworks **R:** judicial discretion **S:** remains a contentious variable

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RSPQ (b) RQSP
(c) RQPS (d) RPQS

Directions (Q. 108–111): *Rearrange the following sentences in correct order to make a logical passage.*

108 1. Therefore, libraries are evolving into community learning hubs.
2. The role of traditional libraries is changing.
3. They now offer more than just books, including digital resources and workshops.
4. This adaptation ensures their continued relevance in the digital age.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2-4-1-3 (b) 2-1-3-4
(c) 3-4-2-1 (d) 2-3-4-1

109 1. The first stage involves identifying suitable candidates.
2. The recruitment process is vital for any organization.
3. Subsequent steps include interviews and background checks.
4. The goal is to find the best fit for the company culture.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 2-4-1-3 (b) 2-3-1-4
(c) 3-4-2-1 (d) 2-1-3-4

110 1. This enhances their engagement and productivity.
2. Employee recognition programs are highly beneficial.
3. They acknowledge hard work and foster a positive work environment.
4. Companies often implement various reward systems.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 2-1-3-4 (b) 2-3-1-4
(c) 2-4-1-3 (d) 3-4-2-1

111 1. Therefore, critical thinking skills are increasingly valued.
2. In the modern information age, data is abundant.
3. However, discerning reliable information from misinformation is challenging.
4. Education systems are adapting to cultivate these abilities.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2-1-3-4 (b) 2-4-1-3
(c) 3-4-2-1 (d) 2-3-1-4

Directions (Q. 112–127): *Four parts of a sentence are given below in a jumbled order. When arranged correctly, they form a complete and meaningful sentence. While multiple combinations may appear grammatically correct, choose the one that best conveys the intended meaning as per the given options.*

112 A) affordable medicines
B) through Jan Aushadhi Kendras
C) are being made available
D) to the public

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) D-B-C-A (b) B-A-D-C
(c) A-D-C-B (d) A-C-D-B

113 A) in Tamil Nadu
B) was inaugurated
C) a new desalination plant
D) by the Prime Minister

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) B-D-C-A (b) D-C-B-A
(c) C-B-D-A (d) C-D-B-A

114 A) due to better crop prices
B) rural consumption

C) in recent years
D) has seen steady growth

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) C-B-D-A (b) B-D-C-A
(c) A-D-B-C (d) D-A-B-C

115 A) to ensure faster delivery
B) across departments
C) services are being digitised
D) through the Digital India program

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) D-B-C-A (b) C-B-D-A
(c) B-D-A-C (d) A-C-B-D

116 A) in digital transactions
B) through UPI platforms
C) there has been exponential growth
D) in the last five years

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) B-D-A-C (b) A-C-D-B
(c) C-A-B-D (d) D-B-C-A

117 A) government welfare schemes
B) fail to avail
C) many beneficiaries
D) due to lack of awareness

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) B-C-A-D (b) A-B-C-D
(c) C-B-A-D (d) D-A-B-C

118 A) of the National Education Policy
B) multilingual education
C) is a key feature
D) to enhance inclusivity

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) D-A-C-B (b) A-B-C-D
(c) B-C-A-D (d) C-A-B-D

119 A) aims to position
B) the country as a global leader
C) on artificial intelligence
D) India's National Strategy

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A-D-C-B (b) C-B-D-A
(c) B-D-C-A (d) D-A-B-C

120 A) to support artisans
B) the Ministry of Textiles
C) launched a scheme
D) in traditional handloom clusters

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A-D-B-C (b) C-B-A-D
(c) B-C-A-D (d) B-A-C-D

121 A) continues to face challenges
B) in post-harvest storage
C) India
D) despite increased grain production

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) B-C-A-D (b) D-B-C-A
(c) C-D-A-B (d) C-A-D-B

122 A) for climate adaptation
B) are being taken
C) several initiatives
D) by Indian cities

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A-B-C-D (b) C-B-D-A
(c) D-C-B-A (d) B-C-D-A

123 A) to track delivery
B) of government schemes
C) a real-time dashboard
D) has been introduced

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) D-C-A-B (b) A-B-C-D
(c) C-D-A-B (d) B-D-C-A

124 A) during the festival season
B) traffic congestion
C) is a common sight
D) in metropolitan cities

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) C-B-D-A (b) A-B-C-D
(c) D-A-B-C (d) B-D-A-C

125 A) under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme
B) improvement in gender ratio
C) several districts
D) have shown

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) C-D-B-A (b) D-B-C-A
(c) A-B-C-D (d) B-D-C-A

126 A) basic banking habits
B) financial literacy camps

C) promote awareness of
D) in rural areas

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) B-C-A-D (b) C-A-D-B
(c) A-B-C-D (d) D-B-C-A

127 A) at district headquarters
B) to streamline service delivery
C) citizen facilitation centres
D) have been established

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) D-C-B-A (b) C-D-A-B
(c) C-A-D-B (d) A-C-D-B

Directions (Q. 128–130): *There are four jumbled sentences given below. Your task is to rearrange them into a logically coherent and meaningful paragraph and choose the correct sequence from the given options.*

128 1. Students are encouraged to work on real-life problem-solving.
2. The Atal Innovation Mission promotes start-up culture in schools and colleges.
3. It provides funding and mentoring for innovation labs.
4. This has led to student-led projects in rural technology and healthcare.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 2-1-3-4 (b) 1-3-2-4
(c) 2-3-1-4 (d) 1-3-4-2

129 1. Several studies show increased enrolment due to this scheme.
2. It also incentivises attendance in government schools.
3. However, hygiene in food preparation needs stricter monitoring.
4. The midday meal scheme aims to improve nutrition among schoolchildren.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 3-1-2-4 (b) 2-1-3-4
(c) 1-3-2-4 (d) 4-2-1-3

130 1. It blends entertainment, sports, and business.
2. The Indian Premier League (IPL) has transformed cricket into a festival.
3. The league generates massive viewership and revenues.
4. Players from around the world participate each season.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 4-1-3-2 (b) 1-3-2-4
(c) 1-2-4-3 (d) 2-1-4-3

Directions (Q. 131–132): *Rearrange the following sentences in correct order to make a meaningful passage.*

131 1. Final version was published online.
2. Experts were consulted for feedback.
3. A preliminary draft was circulated.
4. Comments were incorporated and edits were made.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1-2-3-4 (b) 4-1-2-3
(c) 4-2-1-3 (d) 3-2-4-1

132 1. Next, the patient is given a mild sedative.
2. First, the doctor checks vital signs.
3. After the procedure, the patient is monitored for side effects.
4. Then, the injection is administered.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2-1-4-3 (b) 2-3-1-4
(c) 1-2-4-3 (d) 1-2-3-4

Directions (Q. 133): *Rearrange the following sentences in correct order to make a meaningful passage*

133 1. A new cohort of civil officers is inducted through lateral recruitment streams.
2. Training schedules are personalized via role-specific benchmarks.
3. Induction records are submitted for background standardization.
4. Cross-department placements are finalized.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 4-3-2-1 (b) 3-2-1-4
(c) 2-1-4-3 (d) 1-3-2-4

Directions (Q. 134–149): *Rearrange the following sentences in correct order to make a meaningful passage.*

134 1. Garbage trucks collect waste from residential zones.
2. Waste is taken to a segregation unit.
3. Non-biodegradable items are sent for recycling.
4. Biodegradable waste is moved to compost pits.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 2-1-3-4 (b) 1-2-4-3
(c) 1-3-2-4 (d) 4-1-2-3

135 1. The blood sample is centrifuged to separate plasma.
2. It is collected from the vein using a sterile needle.
3. Plasma is extracted into a fresh container.
4. It is labeled and sent for testing.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 2-1-3-4 (b) 1-2-3-4
(c) 2-3-1-4 (d) 3-2-1-4

136 1. The sample is then placed for testing.
2. A detailed report is generated after analysis.
3. The test begins after the equipment is confirmed ready.
4. The technician calibrates the instrument using standard samples.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1-4-3-2 (b) 4-1-3-2
(c) 3-4-2-1 (d) 2-1-4-3

137 1. The Panchayat submits its annual development plan as per the bottom-up planning mandate.
2. Delays in fund release from the state treasury lead to stalled work mid-cycle.
3. The District Planning Committee forwards the plan to the state department.
4. Budget approvals are issued after prolonged scrutiny and conditionalities.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1-3-4-2 (b) 2-4-3-1
(c) 3-1-2-4 (d) 4-1-3-2

138 1. A barcode is scanned at the billing counter.
2. Items are bagged after successful payment.
3. The system generates an itemized receipt.
4. The customer proceeds to exit with the purchase.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 2-1-3-4 (b) 1-3-2-4
(c) 3-2-1-4 (d) 1-2-3-4

139 1. A list of shortlisted candidates is published.
2. Applications are screened.
3. Interviews are scheduled.
4. Selected candidates are emailed.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 2-4-3-1 (b) 1-2-3-4
(c) 3-1-2-4 (d) 2-1-3-4

140 1. The request is routed to the IT department.
2. A ticket is raised by the user.
3. A technician is assigned based on availability.
4. The issue is resolved and marked closed.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2-1-3-4 (b) 2-3-1-4
(c) 3-2-1-4 (d) 1-2-3-4

141 1. Final budget was uploaded to the department portal.
2. Initial estimates were gathered from field officers.
3. Proposals were revised based on input.
4. The finance team consolidated the entries.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 2-3-4-1 (b) 2-4-3-1
(c) 1-3-4-2 (d) 3-2-4-1

142 1. The router allocates a dynamic IP address.
2. A device connects to the Wi-Fi network.
3. Connection is authenticated using stored credentials.
4. Internet access is enabled upon approval.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1-2-3-4 (b) 2-3-1-4
(c) 2-1-3-4 (d) 3-2-1-4

143 1. After encoding, the video file is compressed.
2. Compression reduces file size for web streaming.
3. The original video is first trimmed and edited.
4. It is then encoded into a preferred format.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 3-1-4-2 (b) 1-2-3-4
(c) 4-3-1-2 (d) 3-4-1-2

144 1. The software is compiled and checked for bugs.
2. The client requirements are discussed and documented.
3. Once approved, development of features begins.
4. Final deployment is carried out on the live server.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 2-1-3-4 (b) 1-2-3-4
(c) 3-2-1-4 (d) 2-3-1-4

145 1. The package is labelled and handed over to the delivery service.
2. The items are carefully packed using protective materials.
3. A confirmation is sent to the buyer with tracking details.
4. The payment is verified before packaging.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 4-2-1-3 (b) 1-2-4-3
(c) 4-1-2-3 (d) 2-4-1-3

146 1. All drawings are submitted to the design review committee.
2. Clients finalize the space utilization plan.
3. The architect prepares preliminary layout drawings.
4. Suggestions are incorporated before final approval.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 2-1-3-4 (b) 1-3-2-4
(c) 3-2-4-1 (d) 2-3-1-4

147 1. The crew loaded the cargo onto the ship.
2. The departure was cleared by the harbor master.
3. Navigation paths were confirmed.
4. The engines were powered up.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1-4-3-2 (b) 3-4-2-1
(c) 4-2-1-3 (d) 2-3-1-4

148 1. Results are compiled into dashboards.
2. Data is fetched from sources.
3. It is cleaned and standardized.
4. Analysis is performed.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 2-3-4-1 (b) 1-3-4-2
(c) 3-2-4-1 (d) 4-3-2-1

149 1. Visitors are required to register at the reception desk.
2. They are provided with temporary ID badges.
3. Security personnel verify their details.
4. Access to the premises is then granted.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1-3-2-4 (b) 3-1-2-4
(c) 1-2-3-4 (d) 2-1-3-4

Directions (Q. 150–152): *In the following question, the first and last parts of the sentence (1 and 6) are given. The rest of the sentence is split into four parts and named A, B, C, and D. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentence and find out which of the four combinations is correct.*

150 **1. The global fashion industry**
A. shifting toward sustainable fabrics
B. is undergoing a transformation
C. to reduce their massive
D. as more brands are
6. environmental footprint and waste.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) BDAC (b) DCAB
(c) ACBD (d) BACD

151 1. Modern architects are increasingly
A. to combat rising pollution
B. designing vertical forests that
C. integrate lush vegetation into
D. high-rise residential buildings
6. and improve the local biodiversity.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) ACDB (b) BCDA
(c) DACB (d) BADC

152 1. Explorers venture into the
A. to study unique organisms
B. that thrive in extreme
C. depths of the Mariana Trench
D. pressure and complete darkness
6. where no sunlight can penetrate.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) CABD (b) DCAB
(c) BCAD (d) CBAD

Directions (Q. 153–158): *Rearrange the following sentences in correct order to make a logical sentence*

153 P: under digital precarity Q: Informal gig workers R: face algorithmic control S: without collective bargaining

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) QRPS (b) QPRS
(c) QPSR (d) PRSQ

154 P: against linguistic imperialism Q: Indigenous language movements R: reassert cultural sovereignty S: via grassroots mobilisation

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) QRSP (b) PRSQ
(c) PQRS (d) QPRS

155 P: within colonial land tenure frameworks
Q: Agrarian dispossession
R: was systemically legitimised
S: through cadastral mapping

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) QRSP (b) QPRS
(c) PQRS (d) PRSQ

156 P: reveals the paradox
Q: in contemporary economic reforms
R: The exclusion of marginal voices
S: of inclusive rhetoric

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) RPSQ (b) PRSQ
(c) RSQP (d) RQSP

157 P: as proxies for social legitimacy Q: Educational credentials R: operate S: in stratified economies

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) QRSP (b) PQRS
(c) QPSR (d) QRPS

158 P: in trans-border water negotiations Q: Hydro-political asymmetries R: continue to shape S: regional cooperation outcomes

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) RQSP (b) QSPR
(c) QRSP (d) PQRS

Directions (Q. 159–166): *The following sentence has been divided into four parts (P, Q, R, and S). The last part (S5) is fixed. Rearrange the remaining parts to form a grammatically correct and meaningful sentence, and choose the correct sequence.*

159 P: been able on more than one occasion to verify Professor Clark's observations in regard to
Q: nerve-tissue is found in all animals above and including Hydrozoa according to Romanes, but
R: I am inclined to believe that it is present in animals even lower than Hydrozoa because I have
S: the protozoan “Stentor Polymorphus”, which has a well-developed nervous system, and I have
S5: moreover seen unquestionable acts of conscious determination enacted by this little creature.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) RPQS (b) PSRQ
(c) SQPR (d) QRPS

160 P: especially as we ascend the scale and discover that certain animals are capable of remembering other animals
Q: the recognition of enemies can be noticed in animals quite low in the scale of life, and although this
R: after a hostile encounter with them, as shown quite plainly by the white mouse, that he had not forgotten the pet crow
S: psychical phase is almost universally instinctive, it carries with it certain elements of consciousness
S5: from whose clutches he had been rescued, even after three years had passed by.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) RQSP (b) QSPR
(c) PSQR (d) SQRP

161 S1: The colossal statues of Egypt are wonderful on account of their vast weight and size, with
P: the most famous being two forty-seven-foot-high colossi standing on the west bank of the Nile at Thebes, each occupying
Q: a third statue representing King Rameses II, which is still larger, weighing eight hundred and eighty-seven tons, made from a single stone that
R: was moved a distance of one hundred and thirty-eight miles from Assouan to Thebes, making it wonderful to consider moving

S: eleven thousand five hundred cubic feet and made from single blocks of stone not found within several days' journey of their location, and
S5: such a mass over that great distance and raising the question as to how the sculptors could work on such statues.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) RQSP (b) QSPR
(c) PSQR (d) SQRP

162 S1: The number of Assyrian statues that have been found is small, with one of Sardanapalus I
P: about forty-two inches high, whereas the statuettes of the Assyrians are less artistic than the statues, made
Q: of a grotesque appearance and usually representing gods or genii that combine human and animal forms
R: from a clay which turned red on baking and coloured so as to resemble Greek pottery, almost always
S: being in the best state of preservation of any of them, despite being smaller than life size at
S5: in a less noble and artistic way than was done in the Egyptian representation of the Sphinx.

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QRSP (b) RSQP
(c) PQRS (d) SPRQ

163 S1: There is in the British Museum a monument which was discovered
P: in 1838 called "The Harpy Monument," which is thought to have been made
Q: in 500 B.C. and consists of a tower where a white marble frieze is let into the
R: sandstone frieze running round all four sides at a height of about twenty-one feet
S: from the ground, a design reflecting that the Lycians, in whose country it was found
S5: were accustomed to bury their dead at the top of such towers.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) QRSP (b) RSQP
(c) PQRS (d) SPRQ

164 S1: The gods of the Greeks were not all-wise, all-powerful, and all-good, as we believe our God to be
P: are sometimes represented as depending upon mortals for information, and all these religious views tended to make the human form far more noble
Q: or omnipresent and was himself subject to the decrees of Fate, as when he could not save his loved Sarpedon from death, meaning that not knowing all things, even the gods
R: because if you read their mythology, you will find that with the power of the god, much imperfection and weakness were mingled, since
S: they did not believe that Zeus had been the greatest god from the beginning, but that there was a time when he had no power, nor was he omniscient
S5: to the Greek than it can be to the Christian, with his different views of the relations of God and man.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) QRSP (b) RSQP
(c) PQRS (d) SPRQ

165 S1: Close to the royal dwelling was the fore-court, which was as often dressed out with flowers and lawn as with tiles and flags
P: tennis-courts came to be a regularly installed accessory, and the basins and "mirrors" of water were frequently supplemented
Q: and from it radiated long alleys and avenues stretching out almost to infinity at a time when the grass-plots were developed
R: by cascades, with some of the canals being so large that barges of state floated thereon under bridges
S: to high order and featured groves, rest-houses, bowers, and theatres de verdure at each turning, while
S5: built as fantastic in design as those of the Japanese, and again others as monumental as the Pont Neuf.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RQSP (b) QSPR
(c) PSQR (d) SQRP

166 S1: The earliest works of Egyptian sculpture are the bas-reliefs found in the chambers of the tombs, where the walls are covered
P: with them and painted with colours still bright and fresh, though more than four thousand years have passed, representing
Q: on the stone and cutting it away between the figures, though the mode of arrangement does not satisfy our modern ideas, because

R: it seems the artists had no finished plan in mind, on the contrary, impressing us as if the sculptors simply added figures to tell a fact
S: subjects taken from the life, possessions, and occupations of the buried individuals, which were made by tracing the designs
S5: without attention to the beauty of the whole, resulting in disjointed parts which lack unity and have no relation to each other.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RQSP (b) QSPR
(c) PSQR (d) SQRP

Directions (Q. 167): *In the following question, the first and last parts of a sentence are fixed as S1 and S5. The remaining parts, P, Q, R, and S, are given in jumbled order. Rearrange these parts to form a grammatically correct and logically meaningful sentence. Choose the correct sequence from the given options.*

167 S1: It is possible that Claude Mollet, who began his career under Henri III
P: and wrote his elaborate work "Theatre des Plans et Jardinage" in 1612, which
Q: was only published half a century later, was the creator of the parterres and broderies
R: and plant forms resembling oriental embroideries in design, while making equal use of the labyrinth
S: so largely used in his time and after because his formula was derived chiefly from flower
S5: and the sunken garden, with the idea to develop the simple parquet into the elaborate parterre.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) QSRP (b) SPQR
(c) PQSR (d) RSPQ

Directions (Q. 168): *In this question, five sentence fragments – P, Q, R, S, T – are provided in a jumbled manner. While four of these fragments can be rearranged to construct a single grammatically and logically coherent sentence, one of the fragments does not fit into the logic or structure of the sentence. Ignoring the irrelevant fragment, rearrange the other parts to form a grammatically and logically coherent sentence. Choose the correct sequence from the options provided*

168 P: mapping odour molecules requires a much bigger and more diverse data set, one that includes data from non-expert noses, to better reflect
Q: because if it does not move fast enough, it risks the more dangerous outcome of death by necrosis, which is an explosive and
R: when a hazard such as ultraviolet light, ionising radiation, or certain chemicals damages DNA, the cell needs to respond at breakneck speed
S: uncontrolled death that damages its neighbours, or passing mutated DNA to its descendants, which could develop into cancer
T: to ideally either repair the damage to its genomic information repository or sacrifice itself through a controlled cell death process

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) PSQR (b) QTRS
(c) RTQS (d) SPQT

Directions (Q. 169–170): *Choose the correct option to rearrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph*

169 B. They were calling out to him loudly.
A. He lowered his legs to land on the green sea.
C. His parents, brothers, and sister had landed ahead on the green surface.
D. But his legs sank into the water.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) CBAD (b) CBDA
(c) ADCB (d) ABCD

170 D. At last, we have gained our political freedom.
C. We make a strong promise to our people.
B. We will fight against poverty and suffering.
A. We will also end gender and all other discrimination.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) DCBA (b) ABDC
(c) CABD (d) DACB

Directions (Q. 171): *In this question, the closing fragment of a sentence is fixed and labelled as S5. The remainder of the sentence has been split into four parts – P, Q, R, S – which are not in the proper order. Rearrange these parts to form the most*

grammatically and logically coherent sentence ending with S5. Choose the correct sequence from the options provided.

171 P: simultaneously charged with triangular grains of starch, I observed some Actinophorous rhizopods creeping about them that had similar shaped
Q: on one occasion, while investigating the nature of some large, transparent, spore-like elliptical cells whose protoplasm was rotating while being
R: grains of starch in their interior, and after determining the nature of these grains by the addition of iodine, I cleansed the glasses and placed under the
S: microscope a new portion of the sediment from the basin containing these cells and Actinophryans for further examination, at which point I observed
S5: that one of the spore-like cells had become ruptured and that a portion of its protoplasm, charged with the triangular starch grains, was slightly protruding through the crevice.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) SRQP (b) QPRS
(c) RQPS (d) PRSQ

Directions (Q. 172): *Five sentence fragments—P, Q, R, S, and T—are given in a jumbled order. Four of these fragments can be arranged to form a single grammatically and logically coherent sentence, while one fragment does not fit the meaning or structure. Identify the correct sequence of the four relevant fragments, ignoring the irrelevant one, and select the correct option from the given choices.*

172 P: in the summer of 1991, Pinatubo, a volcano in the Philippines, started erupting on June 12 and culminated in a tremendous
Q: those scientists saved countless lives, but their forecast of the eruption was more of an educated guess than
R: while killing more than 800 people, when their roofs, weighed down by rain-saturated ash, collapsed
S: explosion three days later, and by the time pyroclastic flows, which are incandescent avalanches of molten rock and gas
T: tumbled down its sterilised slopes, Pinatubo's peak had been obliterated and replaced by a 2.5-kilometre-wide chasm

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) PSTR (b) TQRS
(c) QRPS (d) PRQS

Answer Key

Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation

01	02	03	04	05	36	37	38	39	40
(d)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(d)	(b)	(b)	(d)	(c)	(b)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**	**41**	**42**	**43**	**44**	**45**
(b)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(c)	(b)	(d)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**46**	**47**	**48**	**49**	**50**
(c)	(c)	(d)	(b)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(d)	(d)	(b)
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**51**	**52**	**53**	**54**	**55**
(b)	(a)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(a)	(d)
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**56**	**57**	**58**	**59**	**60**
(b)	(a)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(d)	(b)	(d)	(b)	(c)
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**61**	**62**	**63**	**64**	**65**
(b)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(a)	(d)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(b)
31	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**	**66**	**67**	**68**	**69**	**70**
(d)	(a)	**(d)**	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)

71	72	73	74	75
(b)	(c)	(a)	(d)	(a)
76	**77**	**78**	**79**	**80**
(d)	(a)	(c)	(d)	(a)
81	**82**	**83**	**84**	**85**
(c)	(c)	(a)	(a)	(a)
86	**87**	**88**	**89**	**90**
(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(a)
91	**92**	**93**	**94**	**95**
(a)	**(a)**	(a)	(a)	(b)
96	**97**	**98**	**99**	**100**
(c)	(c)	(b)	**(a/c)**	(a)
101	**102**	**103**	**104**	**105**
(c)	(a)	(b)	(a)	**(b/d)**
106	**107**	**108**	**109**	**110**
(c)	(a)	(d)	(d)	(b)
111	**112**	**113**	**114**	**115**
(d)	(d)	(c)	(b)	(b)
116	**117**	**118**	**119**	**120**
(c)	(c)	(c)	(d)	(c)
121	**122**	**123**	**124**	**125**
(c)	(b)	(c)	**(b/d)**	(a)

126	127	128	129	130
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(d)
131	**132**	**133**	**134**	**135**
(d)	(a)	(d)	(b)	(a)
136	**137**	**138**	**139**	**140**
(b)	(a)	**(b)**	(d)	(a)
141	**142**	**143**	**144**	**145**
(b)	(b)	(d)	(d)	(a)
146	**147**	**148**	**149**	**150**
(d)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
151	**152**	**153**	**154**	**155**
(b)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
156	**157**	**158**	**159**	**160**
(a)	(d)	(c)	(d)	(b)
161	**162**	**163**	**164**	**165**
(c)	(d)	(c)	(b)	(b)
166	**167**	**168**	**169**	**170**
(c)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(a)
171	**172**			
(b)	(a)			

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 ANSWER (d) QSPR

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts: Subject then Verb) After the opening phrase we need a subject, which is Q (global geopolitical tensions); its verb follows in S (cast a shadow over...). P then adds the result through the participle "raising concerns...", and R, beginning with "while", closes the sentence with the contrasting effort of the IOC.

✓ Correct sentence As the 2024 Paris Olympics approached, global geopolitical tensions, including conflicts in Eastern Europe and trade disputes among superpowers, **cast a shadow** over the event's spirit of international unity and sportsmanship, raising concerns over diplomatic boycotts and the potential exclusion of certain nations, while the International Olympic Committee attempted to maintain neutrality and ensure an inclusive competition.

02 ANSWER (b) QSRP

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts: Main Clause First) After the opening phrase the main clause must follow, and that is Q (restrictive monetary policies were implemented). The participle in S (forcing central banks to balance economic growth) comes next, R explains how that balance was sought (by raising interest rates...), and P (against the risk of prolonged stagnation) completes the sentence.

✓ Correct sentence In response to persistent inflationary pressures, restrictive monetary policies were implemented, forcing central banks to balance economic growth by raising interest

rates and reducing liquidity against the risk of prolonged stagnation.

03 ANSWER (c) RPQS

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Parts: Subject and Verb) After the opening phrase comes the subject-verb part, R (the James Webb Space Telescope detected...). P and Q are both participle phrases stating the consequences of the discovery (offering..., raising...), and S, beginning with "while", ends the sentence with a cautionary contrast.

✓ Correct sentence In a landmark moment for space exploration, the James Webb Space Telescope detected the presence of complex organic molecules in the atmosphere of an exoplanet, offering unprecedented insights into planetary formation and the conditions necessary for life, raising the possibility of habitable worlds beyond our solar system, while astronomers cautioned that further studies were required to confirm the findings.

04 ANSWER (a) QPRS

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Parts: Participle Flow) The subject "The escalating climate crisis" takes its verb from Q (has intensified global efforts towards mitigation). P (with rising sea levels...) describes the crisis, R (urging industries...) describes the form the efforts take, and S, with "while", adds one more aspect to the same effort.

✓ Correct sentence The escalating climate crisis has intensified global efforts towards mitigation, with rising sea levels and extreme weather patterns, urging industries to adopt sustainable practices while reinforcing commitments to international climate accords.

05 ANSWER (d) PSRQ

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts: Relative Clause) After the subject comes its verb, P. The "which" clause in S then describes the same discovery, the participle R gives the result, and Q states the method, completing the sentence.

✓ Correct sentence A groundbreaking medical discovery has been developed by scientists, which enhances the body's immune response, paving the way for more effective vaccines using innovative genetic engineering techniques.

06 ANSWER (b) PSRQ

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Parts: As Clause Last) After the subject comes the verb part P, then the participle S, then R, and the "as" clause Q, which gives the reason, comes at the end.

✓ Correct sentence The expansion of space programs has led to discussions on regulatory frameworks, ensuring peaceful exploration and equitable resource distribution among major spacefaring nations and private entities as technological capabilities advance at an unprecedented pace.

07 ANSWER (a) QRSP

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Parts: Subject and Verb) After the opening phrase comes the subject-verb part Q (the VAR system faced intense scrutiny). The "as" clause in R gives the reason, the participle in S (raising concerns...) states its effect, and P, with "while", adds a further opposing view at the end.

✓ Correct sentence Following a series of controversial decisions in major football tournaments, the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system faced intense scrutiny from players, coaches, and fans, as governing bodies struggled to standardize its usage across different leagues, raising concerns about the subjectivity of interpretations despite the promise of technological precision, while some argued that its inconsistent application undermined the integrity of the sport.

08 ANSWER (a) PRQS

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts: Opening Phrase) After the opening phrase "With the awarding of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics", P (for their pioneering work in quantum materials) fits most naturally. The subject-

verb part R follows, then the "as" clause Q giving the reason, and finally S, which adds an opposing view with "while".

✓ Correct sentence With the awarding of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics, for their pioneering work in quantum materials, the recipients sparked renewed interest in the study of exotic electronic properties, as scientists hailed the breakthrough for its potential applications in next-generation computing and renewable energy while debates emerged over the accessibility of high-cost experimental setups required for further research.

09 ANSWER (a) QPRS

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts: Result, Cause, Purpose) After the subject "The geopolitical landscape" comes the verb part Q (has been reshaped by emerging superpowers). P states its result (necessitating...), R the cause (as nations navigate...), and S the purpose (to maintain regional stability...).

✓ Correct sentence The geopolitical landscape has been reshaped by emerging superpowers, necessitating strategic alliances and diplomatic interventions as nations navigate complex economic and military rivalries to maintain regional stability and global influence.

10 ANSWER (b) RQSP

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Participle Chain in Jumbles) After the subject comes the verb part R (have been driven by international collaborations). The participle "unlocking..." in Q states its result, S (focused on developing sustainable lunar habitats) elaborates the same effort, and P ("and paving the way...") completes the sentence.

✓ Correct sentence The recent advancements in space exploration have been driven by international collaborations, unlocking new possibilities for interplanetary travel, focused on developing sustainable lunar habitats and paving the way for future Mars colonization.

11 ANSWER (c) QSPR

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (d) · Correct answer (c)

Concept (Cause Clause in Jumbles) SSC gives D (QPSR) as the key, but the correct order is C (QSPR). S ("as early trials demonstrated unprecedented success...") gives the reason why the oncologists praised the innovation, so it must come straight after Q. In QPSR this reason is pushed behind the sceptics' warning, which distorts the meaning.

✓ Correct sentence Following the approval of a groundbreaking cancer therapy, oncologists and researchers hailed the innovation as a paradigm shift in cancer treatment, as early trials demonstrated unprecedented success in eliminating aggressive tumors, while skeptics warned of the long-term side effects and limited accessibility for low-income patients, leading to global discussions on the affordability and regulatory challenges of the new treatment.

Examiner's Trap In SSC's key D (QPSR), S comes after P and so ties the reason for the praise to the sceptics' warning, which is illogical.

12 ANSWER (c) PRQS

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Verb, Reason Clause, Participle in Jumbles) After the subject comes the verb P (have sparked ongoing debates among scholars), and then the "as" clause in R gives the reason. Q (concerning genetic modifications and bioengineering) names the subject of the debate, and the participle in S (raising concerns...) completes the sentence with its consequence.

✓ Correct sentence The ethical dilemmas in scientific research have sparked ongoing debates among scholars, as technological advancements outpace regulatory frameworks, concerning genetic modifications and bioengineering, raising concerns about moral boundaries and unintended consequences.

13 ANSWER (d) SQRP

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Opening Phrase and Main Clause in Jumbles) After the opening phrase comes the subject-verb part S

(governments worldwide bolstered their cybersecurity frameworks). Q describes the cyberattacks, R gives the method (by investing heavily...), and P, with "while also", adds a further step at the end.

✓ Correct sentence Amid the rising threat of state-sponsored cyberattacks, governments worldwide bolstered their cybersecurity frameworks, targeting critical infrastructure such as power grids, financial institutions, and defense systems, by investing heavily in advanced threat detection and response mechanisms, while also collaborating with private sector firms to safeguard national digital assets.

14 ANSWER (b) QPRS

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Purpose Infinitive in Jumbles) After the subject comes the verb Q, then the purpose P, then the provisions R, and finally their extension S.

✓ Correct sentence The constitutional amendment was introduced in the parliament to ensure greater fiscal transparency, with provisions mandating periodic audits of government expenditure across all departments.

15 ANSWER (b) RPQS

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Clause Order) After the opening phrase comes the verb-and-object part R (fundamentally altered our understanding of gravitation). P and Q explain the same point with "by postulating... rather than...", and the main clause S (it remained incomplete...) comes at the end.

✓ Correct sentence Although the emergence of general relativity, **R → P → Q → S**: fundamentally altered our understanding of gravitation by postulating that gravity arises from spacetime curvature rather than being a Newtonian force acting at a distance, it remained incomplete without a quantum-theoretic formulation.

16 ANSWER (b) QPSR

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Participle Phrases) After the subject comes the verb part Q (has been intensified by alarming environmental shifts). P states its result (necessitating...), S the policy frameworks (leading to...), and R the shift towards renewable energy (and fostering...).

✓ Correct sentence The global push for sustainability **has been intensified by alarming environmental shifts, necessitating urgent collaboration among nations, leading to policy frameworks aimed at reducing carbon emissions and fostering the transition towards renewable energy sources.**

17 ANSWER (a) SQPR

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Contrast Linkers) After the opening phrase comes the subject-verb part S (football federations debated...). Q ("with critics arguing...") gives the critics' view, P ("despite concerns...") mentions the obstacles, and R, with "while", completes the sentence by contrasting the commercial side.

✓ Correct sentence With FIFA's decision to expand the 2026 World Cup to 48 teams, **football federations worldwide debated the impact of this expansion on competitiveness, with critics arguing that the dilution of quality... could diminish the tournament's prestige, despite concerns over player fatigue..., while commercial stakeholders welcomed the move...**

18 ANSWER (c) RQPS

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Passive Verb) The given part "has" is followed by "been linked" (R), and after "among" comes its object Q. Then comes the participle P, and finally the reason S.

✓ Correct sentence Excessive use of social media has **been linked to mental health issues among teenagers and young adults, affecting self-esteem and emotional well-being due to unrealistic portrayals of success and beauty.**

19 ANSWER (c) RPQS

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Participle Result) After the opening phrase comes the subject-verb part R (both nations engaged in aggressive economic retaliatory measures). P describes those measures (which included...), the participle in Q gives the result, and S adds a further effect of it.

✓ Correct sentence Amid the escalating trade war between the United States and China, **both nations engaged in aggressive economic retaliatory measures, which included extensive tariffs, regulatory restrictions, and sanctions on key industries, disrupting global supply chains and triggering price volatility across financial markets, forcing multinational corporations to diversify their production hubs to mitigate risks.**

20 ANSWER (a) QPSR

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Relative Clause) After the verb Q come P, then S joined by "and", and finally the relative clause R, which modifies "misinformation campaigns".

✓ Correct sentence The code of digital ethics **was proposed to regulate online behavior in response to rising cyberbullying cases and misinformation campaigns that disrupt democratic processes.**

21 ANSWER (b) QRSP

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Infinitive of Purpose) After the subject comes the verb part Q (has faced obstacles due to political resistance). R (despite...) and S (and the complexities...) elaborate on the obstacles, and the infinitive in P (to hold violators accountable...) completes the sentence by stating the purpose.

✓ Correct sentence The enforcement of international human rights laws **has faced obstacles due to political resistance, despite the establishment of global courts and legal frameworks and the complexities of diplomatic immunity in sovereign states to hold violators accountable for war crimes and genocide.**

22 ANSWER (a) PRQS

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Subject, Verb, Object) After the opening phrase comes the subject P, then its verb R, then the infinitive of purpose Q, and finally "about..." (S).

✓ Correct sentence Despite the abstract nature of quantum mechanics, **mathematical formulations such as Hilbert spaces and wave functions provide a rigorous framework to make remarkably accurate predictions about the behaviour of subatomic particles.**

23 ANSWER (b) RPQS

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement – Cause and Result) Part R is the main statement: traditional alliances came under strain. P gives the cause, that emerging economies sought more influence, and Q ('leading to...') states the result of that cause, so Q must follow P directly. S then adds, with 'while', a parallel development: institutions faced calls for reform. The order is therefore RPQS. Hence option B is correct.

✓ Correct sentence As geopolitical tensions reshaped international diplomacy, **traditional alliances among major world powers faced significant strain, as emerging economies sought to assert greater influence in global decision-making, leading to the realignment of trade agreements and defense partnerships while long-standing institutions like the United Nations and G7 faced calls for reform.**

24 ANSWER (b) RQSP

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Relative Clause) After the subject comes the verb R, then the relative clause Q attached to the object, then S giving the method, and finally P.

✓ Correct sentence The transboundary conservation program **protects migratory species that**

traverse national borders by creating safe corridors through joint international efforts.

25 ANSWER (b) RSPQ

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Long Sentence Jumbles: Participles) After the opening phrase comes the subject-verb part R (machine learning algorithms have successfully deciphered ancient texts...). The participle in S (enabling scholars...) states its benefit, P raises a debate, and Q adds the researchers' concern with "while".

✓ **Correct sentence** With the integration of artificial intelligence in historical research, **machine learning algorithms have successfully deciphered ancient texts previously considered unreadable, enabling scholars to reconstruct lost fragments of knowledge from damaged manuscripts, sparking debates on whether AI-driven interpretations maintain the authenticity of the original scripts, while some researchers expressed concerns about the reliability of automated translations in understanding linguistic nuances**

26 ANSWER (b) RPQS

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Infinitive) After the subject comes the verb R, then the infinitive of purpose P, Q attached to it, and finally S.

✓ **Correct sentence** The dietary guidelines **promote locally sourced ingredients to reduce dependence on imports and encourage balanced nutrition in both urban and rural populations.**

27 ANSWER (c) QRSP

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Participle) After the subject comes the verb Q, then the "while" part R, then the participle S, and finally P, joined by "and".

✓ **Correct sentence** The recent diplomatic summit **witnessed discussions on security concerns while addressing climate change policies, aimed at strengthening bilateral trade and fostering regional cooperation.**

28 ANSWER (b) QRSP

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement by Structure) After the subject "The Nobel Prize in Literature" comes the verb part Q. Next comes R, linked by "whose", then S, and finally P, which gives the reason.

✓ **Correct sentence** The Nobel Prize in Literature **was awarded to the renowned author whose latest novel explores human resilience in the face of adversity and historical struggles for its powerful storytelling and deep philosophical insights.**

29 ANSWER (b) SPRQ

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement by Participles) After the subject comes the verb part S, then the participle P, then "with..." (R), and finally "dating back..." (Q).

✓ **Correct sentence** The recent excavation **unearthed inscriptions and artifacts, shedding light on lost civilizations, with unique linguistic patterns, dating back over two thousand years.**

30 ANSWER (a) SPRQ

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement by Participles) The subject of the stem is Traditional folk music, so a verb must follow it immediately. S contains the verb phrase 'continues to evolve', so S comes first. P ('reflecting...') is then a participle phrase modifying the music, followed by R ('while preserving...'), and Q ('shaping the cultural identity...') comes last.

✓ **Correct sentence** Traditional folk music **continues to evolve in response to contemporary influences, reflecting historical narratives and local traditions while preserving indigenous languages and artistic expressions shaping the cultural identity of diverse communities.**

31 ANSWER (d) QSPR

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Clause Order in a Long Sentence) After the stem 'As global debt levels reached an all-time high,' a main clause is needed. Q has both subject and verb, so it comes first. The 'prompting' in S states the result of that situation, the 'raising concerns' in P carries it further, and R ('while major economies...') adds a contrast to complete the sentence.

✓ **Correct sentence** As global debt levels reached an all-time high, developing nations struggled to service their loans due to rising interest rates, prompting international financial institutions to consider restructuring debt repayment plans, raising concerns over potential defaults and economic downturns, while major economies implemented austerity measures to curb fiscal imbalances.

32 ANSWER (a) SRQP

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Modifier Before the Verb) The subject of the stem is 'Recent medical trials'. S ('involving mRNA technology') modifies trials directly, and R then supplies the verb 'have yielded promising results'. Q tells us the field in which the results appear, and P completes the sentence by describing the disorders.

✓ **Correct sentence** Recent medical trials, involving mRNA technology, have yielded promising results in targeting rare genetic disorders previously considered untreatable.

33 ANSWER (d) PQRS

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (c) · Correct answer (d)

Concept (Sentence Parts (Key Wrong)) SSC has taken C (RSPQ) as the key, but the correct answer is D (PQRS). The stem 'While Gödel's incompleteness theorems,' ends in a comma, so a parenthetical phrase must follow; a comma does not separate a subject from its verb. That phrase is P+Q. R then supplies the main verb and S completes the sentence. In RSPQ, 'demonstrating...' wrongly attaches itself to 'reinforced its internal consistency'.

✓ **Correct sentence** While Gödel's incompleteness theorems, **demonstrating that in any sufficiently powerful formal system unprovable statements must necessarily exist, shattered the foundational ambitions of mathematical logic, they also paradoxically reinforced its internal consistency**

Examiner's Trap The key's order puts the verb right after the subject, which seems natural, but the participle phrase then attaches to the wrong verb.

34 ANSWER (a) SPQR

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Parts Arrangement) The subject is 'The record-breaking performance'. S ('by the young athlete at the championship'), naming the performer and the place, follows at once. P then supplies the verb, Q gives the time and background, and R ('and was hailed...') adds a second verb.

✓ **Correct sentence** **The record-breaking performance by the young athlete at the championship established a new world record after years of rigorous training and was hailed as a historic achievement.**

35 ANSWER (b) RPSQ

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts Arrangement) After the stem 'With the rapid expansion of the cryptocurrency market,' comes the main event: R ('concerns over financial stability...escalated'), which has both subject and verb. P ('prompting governments...') follows as its consequence, then S ('leading to increased scrutiny...'), and finally Q ('while investors faced...') adds a parallel situation.

✓ **Correct sentence** With the rapid expansion of the cryptocurrency market, **concerns over financial stability and illicit transactions escalated, prompting governments to establish strict regulatory frameworks, leading to increased scrutiny on decentralized finance platforms, while investors faced heightened market volatility due to regulatory uncertainties.**

36 ANSWER (b) RPQS

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Passive Sentence Arrangement) The subject is 'The prestigious innovation award', and its passive

verb is R ('was presented to the young engineer'). P ('for developing a revolutionary energy-efficient device') then gives the reason, Q ('that significantly reduces carbon emissions') modifies the device, and S ('at an international technology summit') completes the sentence with the place.

✓ Correct sentence **The prestigious innovation award was presented to the young engineer for developing a revolutionary energy-efficient device that significantly reduces carbon emissions at an international technology summit.**

37 ANSWER (b) SQRP

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement after the Stem) After the stem 'Following the geopolitical crisis ...,' the main clause is S ('severe disruptions in energy supplies sent natural gas prices soaring'), which has a subject and a verb. Q ('while industries struggled ...') then adds the effect on industry, R ('forcing governments ...') gives the governments' response, and P ('compelling European nations ...') states the final long-term result. The order is **SQRP**.

✓ Correct sentence Following the geopolitical crisis triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war, **severe disruptions in energy supplies sent natural gas prices soaring, while industries struggled to maintain production levels amid skyrocketing operational costs, forcing governments to implement emergency measures such as energy rationing, compelling European nations to accelerate their transition towards renewable energy.**

Examiner's Trap P or R seems attractive as the opening because they state results in '-ing' form, but they contain no subject and verb, so the main clause S must come first.

38 ANSWER (d) RPQS

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Participle Chain) The subject is 'The legacy of colonialism', and its verb is R ('continues to shape global political dynamics,'). P ('contributing to persistent economic and social inequalities') then states the result, Q ('as former colonies navigate issues ...') gives the context, and S ('while striving for reparations ...') carries the same situation further. The order is **RPQS**.

✓ Correct sentence The legacy of colonialism **continues to shape global political dynamics, contributing to persistent economic and social inequalities as former colonies navigate issues of national identity and sovereignty while striving for reparations and historical accountability.**

39 ANSWER (c) RPQS

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement after the Stem) After the stem 'As women's sports gained increasing global recognition,' the first response is R ('broadcasting networks and corporate sponsors started investing heavily'), which has both subject and verb. P ('sparking discussions ...') follows as its consequence, Q ('while governing bodies introduced policies ...') adds another change, and S ('despite ongoing disparities ...') completes the sentence by showing a contrast with 'despite'. The order is **RPQS**.

✓ Correct sentence As women's sports gained increasing global recognition, **major broadcasting networks and corporate sponsors started investing heavily in female athletes, sparking discussions on the long-term impact of these changes on gender equality in athletics, while governing bodies introduced policies to ensure equal prize money in certain competitions, despite ongoing disparities in media coverage and sponsorship deals compared to men's sports.**

40 ANSWER (b) PRSQ

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Participle Ending) The subject is 'The nature of consciousness', and its verb phrase is P ('has long been a subject of philosophical inquiry,'). R ('as scholars attempt to decipher its origins') then gives the reason or context, S ('while exploring the boundaries between cognition and perception') carries the same effort further, and Q ('integrating perspectives from neuroscience and

artificial intelligence') adds the final extension. The order is **PRSQ**.

✓ Correct sentence The nature of consciousness **has long been a subject of philosophical inquiry, as scholars attempt to decipher its origins and mechanisms while exploring the boundaries between cognition and perception, integrating perspectives from neuroscience and artificial intelligence.**

41 ANSWER (a) 2-4-1-3-5

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Logical Sequence: Classical to Quantum) Sentence 2 opens the topic with the failure of classical mechanics. Sentence 4 offers the solution in the ideas of Planck and Einstein, and Sentence 1 ("This led to...") names the theories that followed. Sentence 3 gives their technological applications, and Sentence 5 ("Despite its success") concludes.

✓ Correct sentence In the early 20th century, physicists realized that classical mechanics could not explain certain atomic and subatomic phenomena. Scientists like Max Planck and Albert Einstein introduced the idea that energy is quantized, laying the foundation for quantum mechanics. This led to the development of groundbreaking theories such as Heisenberg's uncertainty principle and Schrödinger's wave equation. Quantum mechanics revolutionized technology, enabling advancements in semiconductors, lasers, and quantum computing. Despite its success, the theory remains counterintuitive, challenging our understanding of reality at the fundamental level.

42 ANSWER (c) 3-1-5-4-2

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Logical Sequence: History to Research) Sentence 3 begins with the evolutionary history of jellyfish, and Sentence 1 ("Despite their seemingly simple form") describes their special feature. Sentence 5 ("Their ability") follows from it, Sentence 4 gives an example of a particular species, and Sentence 2 ("Scientists continue to study") concludes.

✓ Correct sentence The evolutionary history of jellyfish dates back over 500 million years, making them one of the oldest living creatures on Earth. Despite their seemingly simple form, jellyfish possess specialized cells called nematocysts that deliver venomous stings to their prey. Their ability to thrive in diverse marine environments has made them a key subject of research in evolutionary biology. Some species, like the Turritopsis dohrnii, exhibit biological immortality by reverting to their juvenile state after reaching maturity. Scientists continue to study jellyfish to understand their unique regenerative abilities and their potential applications in medicine.

43 ANSWER (c) 2-1-3-4-5

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Logical Sequence: General to Specific) Sentence 2 gives a general introduction to the development of language. Sentence 1 offers a theory about it, Sentence 3 adds archaeological evidence, Sentence 4 describes the effects of the emergence of language, and Sentence 5 closes with further research ("continue to study").

✓ Correct sentence The development of complex language is considered one of the most defining traits of Homo sapiens. Some theories suggest that language evolved as a tool for social bonding, replacing grooming behavior seen in primates. Archaeological evidence shows that early humans created symbolic representations, such as cave paintings, which indicate the ability to communicate abstract ideas. The emergence of language enabled cooperation, cultural transmission, and the rapid expansion of human societies. Scientists continue to study the origins of language using genetics, neurology, and comparative studies of primates.

44 ANSWER (b) 2-1-4-3-5

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Logical Sequence: Two Views) Sentence 2 introduces the Neanderthals, and Sentence 1 gives one cause of their decline (competition). Sentence 4 ("Others argue") gives the second cause (climate change), Sentence 3 adds genetic evidence, and Sentence 5 ("Despite their disappearance") concludes.

✓ Correct sentence Neanderthals, an extinct species of hominins, lived in Eurasia for thousands of years before disappearing around 40,000 years ago. Some researchers believe that the decline of the Neanderthals was due to competition with early Homo sapiens, who had superior tools and social structures. Others argue that climate change played a crucial role in their extinction by reducing food sources and altering their habitats. Genetic studies reveal that modern humans share a small percentage of DNA with Neanderthals, indicating interbreeding between the two species. Despite their disappearance, the legacy of Neanderthals lives on through genetic traces found in modern human populations.

45 ANSWER (d) 5-1-2-4-3

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Logical Sequence: Ancestors to Conclusion)

Sentence 5 introduces the ancestors of whales, Sentence 1 supports this with fossil evidence, and Sentence 2 describes the physical changes. Sentence 4 gives the evidence of transitional fossils, and Sentence 3 ("This transformation") concludes.

✓ Correct sentence The ancestors of modern whales were hoofed mammals that once roamed the land before returning to the sea. Fossil evidence suggests that whales evolved from land-dwelling ancestors that gradually adapted to aquatic life. Over millions of years, their limbs transformed into flippers, and their nostrils shifted to the top of their heads, forming blowholes. The discovery of transitional fossils, such as Ambulocetus, provides crucial insights into this evolutionary shift. This transformation is considered one of the most remarkable examples of evolutionary adaptation in the animal kingdom.

46 ANSWER (c) 4-2-1-3-5

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Logical Sequence: General to Problem to Solution)

Sentence 4 gives a general introduction to coral reefs, and Sentence 2 describes the benefits of their relationship with algae. Sentence 1 ("However") presents the threat of bleaching in contrast to those benefits, Sentence 3 explains the process, and Sentence 5 ends with conservation measures.

✓ Correct sentence Coral reefs are among the most biodiverse ecosystems, providing habitat for thousands of marine species. Corals have a symbiotic relationship with algae, which provide them with nutrients and vibrant colors. However, rising ocean temperatures and acidification are causing coral bleaching, threatening reef survival. When stressed by environmental changes, corals expel the algae, leading to their pale, bleached appearance. Scientists are exploring conservation strategies, including artificial reefs and selective breeding of heat-resistant coral species.

47 ANSWER (b) 2-4-1-3-5

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Logical Sequence: General to Specific to Conclusion)

Sentence 2 gives a general introduction to epistemology and Sentence 4 explains it. Sentence 1 describes the philosophers' debate, Sentence 3 gives the two sides of that debate, and Sentence 5 ("Ultimately") concludes.

✓ Correct sentence The nature of knowledge is a central concern in philosophy, particularly in the field of epistemology. Epistemology explores the sources, limits and validity of knowledge, asking questions like “What can we know?” Philosophers debate the role of experience, reason and perception in the acquisition of knowledge. Some argue that knowledge comes from sensory experiences, while others believe in the primacy of reason or innate ideas. Ultimately, understanding knowledge involves examining the relationship between the knower, the known and the process of knowing.

48 ANSWER (d) 4-1-3-2-5

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Logical Sequence: Action and Response) Sentence 4 defines the evolutionary arms race. Sentence 1 gives the predators' side, and Sentence 3 ("In response") gives the prey's counter-response. Sentence 2 ("This cycle") sums up the whole cycle, and Sentence 5 ends with examples.

✓ Correct sentence The concept of an evolutionary arms race describes the ongoing adaptations between predators and prey. Predators evolve sharper claws, faster speeds, or enhanced hunting techniques to catch prey more effectively. In response, prey species develop defensive adaptations such as camouflage, speed, or toxic chemicals. This cycle of adaptation and counter-adaptation drives the continuous evolution of both groups. Such evolutionary arms races are seen in species like cheetahs and gazelles or venomous snakes and resistant prey.

49 ANSWER (d) 3-2-4-5-1

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Logical Sequence: Challenge to Adaptation)
Sentence 3 states the challenge of surviving the Ice Age, Sentence 2 gives the remedy of clothing and shelter, and Sentence 4 adds the control of fire. Sentence 5 ("These adaptations") states the result of all this, and Sentence 1 ("Over generations") ends with the long-term effect.

✓ Correct sentence Early humans living during the Ice Age had to develop survival strategies to endure harsh conditions. They created insulated clothing from animal skins and built durable shelters to retain heat. The ability to control fire allowed them to cook food, stay warm, and protect themselves from predators. These adaptations enabled human populations to spread across colder regions and establish new settlements. Over generations, cultural and genetic adaptations improved their resilience to extreme environments.

50 ANSWER (b) 1-3-4-2

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Logical Sequence: Topic to Contrast) Sentence 1 introduces mass media and Sentence 3 describes the areas of its influence. Sentence 4 ("While") gives both the good and the bad sides, and Sentence 2 concludes by stating the need for media literacy.

✓ Correct sentence Mass media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and cultural norms. The influence of media extends to politics, social behavior, and consumer choices. While it can educate and inform, media can also spread misinformation and biases. Understanding media literacy is essential to critically analyze and interpret information.

51 ANSWER (b) 3-1-4-5-2

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Para Jumbles: Logical Flow) Sentence 3 introduces the discovery of mycorrhizal networks. Sentence 1 ("Their research") links to those same scientists, Sentence 4 gives the function of the networks, and Sentence 5 gives an example of it. Sentence 2 ("Understanding these fungal connections") concludes.

✓ Correct sentence **3 → 1 → 4 → 5 → 2**: In recent years, scientists have discovered vast underground fungal networks known as mycorrhizal networks. Their research revealed that fungi play a crucial role in nutrient cycling... These networks allow trees and plants to share nutrients... Some species of fungi can even warn trees about insect attacks... Understanding these fungal connections has transformed ecological studies.

52 ANSWER (c) 1-5-2-3-4

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Para Jumbles: Reference Words) Sentence 1 states the discovery of the first exoplanet, and Sentence 5 ("These planets") gets its meaning from it. Sentence 2 then speaks of recent discoveries, Sentence 3 of classification, and Sentence 4 ends with planets having Earth-like features.

✓ Correct sentence **1 → 5 → 2 → 3 → 4**: The first confirmed exoplanet was discovered in 1992... These planets orbit stars beyond our solar system... In recent decades, advanced telescopes like Kepler and TESS have identified thousands of exoplanets. Astronomers classify exoplanets based on size... Some exoplanets exhibit Earth-like characteristics...

53 ANSWER (d) 3-1-2-4

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Para Jumbles: Cause and Effect) Sentence 3 states the role of women, Sentence 1 gives an example of it, and Sentence 2 ("Despite") notes that their rights

were ignored. Sentence 4 ("This struggle") ends with its long-term effect.

✓ Correct sentence **3 → 1 → 2 → 4**: Women played a significant role in the French Revolution... Groups like the Society of Revolutionary Republican Women demanded equal rights... Despite their contributions, women's rights were largely ignored... This struggle laid the foundation for later feminist movements in Europe.

54 ANSWER (a) 2-1-4-3-5

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Paragraph Jumbles: Topic to Detail) Sentence 2 introduces the Great Rift Valley, and Sentence 1 ("It was formed") speaks of its formation. Sentence 4 describes the impact on human evolution, Sentence 3 adds the fossil evidence, and Sentence 5 ("Today") ends with current studies.

✓ Correct sentence The Great Rift Valley in East Africa is one of the most significant geological formations on Earth. It was formed due to tectonic activity, where the Earth's crust is slowly pulling apart, creating deep fissures and valleys. Over time, the valley has influenced the course of human evolution, as early hominins adapted to its diverse environments. The valley is home to some of the richest fossil sites, including discoveries of Australopithecus fossils that provide insights into early human ancestors. **Today**, the region continues to be studied by geologists and anthropologists to understand both Earth's history and the origins of humankind.

55 ANSWER (d) 1-3-5-2-4

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Paragraph Jumbles: Definition to Role) Sentence 1 defines socialization, Sentence 3 states its importance, and Sentence 5 ("Through socialization") links it to roles. Sentence 2 brings in role theory, and Sentence 4 ends with the expectations attached to roles.

✓ Correct sentence Socialization is the process by which individuals learn and internalize the values, beliefs, and norms of their society. The process of socialization is critical for an individual's development and is influenced by various agents like family, peers, and media. Through socialization, individuals learn to perform specific social roles within their community. Role theory explains how individuals occupy different roles in society and how their behavior is shaped by these roles. The roles people play, such as being a student, parent, or worker, come with expectations that guide their actions and interactions.

56 ANSWER (d) 1-3-4-2

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Paragraph Jumbles: General to Specific) Sentence 1 states the role of mythology. Sentence 3 gives examples, Sentence 4 ("These myths") describes how those same myths spread, and Sentence 2 ("Over time") ends with later developments.

✓ Correct sentence Mythology played a vital role in early societies by explaining natural events and human existence. Many ancient civilizations, such as the Greeks and Egyptians, used myths to explain the origins of the world. These myths were often passed down orally, shaping cultural traditions and religious beliefs. **Over time**, mythology evolved, influencing literature, art and philosophy.

57 ANSWER (b) 1-3-2-4-5

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Logical Sequence of Paragraph) Sentence 1 introduces bird migration. Sentence 3 ("This behavior") gives its causes, and Sentence 2 gives the methods of navigation. Sentence 4 offers an example, and Sentence 5 ends with the importance of conservation.

✓ Correct sentence **1-3-2-4-5**: Many birds migrate seasonally... This behavior is often triggered by changes in daylight... Scientists have discovered that birds use... Some species, such as the Arctic Tern... Understanding bird migration patterns is crucial for conservation efforts...

Examiner's Trap Taking Sentence 2 as the opening is a trap, because a reference phrase such as "This behavior" cannot stand without a preceding sentence.

58 ANSWER (d) 2-4-3-5-1

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Logical Sequence of Paragraph) Sentence 2 introduces the excavation at Göbekli Tepe, Sentence 4 states the earlier belief, and Sentence 3 challenges it with the new discovery. Sentence 5 ("The site") gives the antiquity of the site, and Sentence 1 ("This groundbreaking finding") concludes.

✓ **Correct sentence** **2-4-3-5-1**: Recent excavations at Göbekli Tepe... Previously, scholars believed... The discovery of massive, intricately carved stone pillars... The site, dating back over 11,000 years... This groundbreaking finding...

Examiner's Trap Sentence 3 states the discovery directly, which tempts one to open with it, but without the earlier belief its contrast is not clear.

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59 ANSWER (b) 2-1-4-3

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Logical Sequence of Paragraph) Sentence 2 defines carbon dating, and Sentence 1 ("It relies on") gives its method. Sentence 4 ("this technique") states its uses, and Sentence 3 ("Despite its accuracy") ends with the limitations.

✓ **Correct sentence** **2-1-4-3**: Carbon dating is a scientific method... It relies on measuring the decay of carbon-14... Archaeologists use this technique... Despite its accuracy, carbon dating has limitations...

Examiner's Trap Sentence 1 contains "It", so it cannot be placed before the definition.

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60 ANSWER (c) 5-2-3-1-4

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Paragraph: Stages in Order) The paragraph opens with a general statement: sentence 5 says that Piaget divided cognitive development into four stages. The stages then follow in order: sensorimotor (2), preoperational (3), concrete operational (1) and formal operational (4). This order is built into the theory itself.

✓ **Correct sentence** 5. Jean Piaget proposed that cognitive development occurs in four distinct stages. 2. In the sensorimotor stage ... 3. In the preoperational stage ... 1. The concrete operational stage ... 4. In the formal operational stage ...

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61 ANSWER (d) 4-2-1-3-5

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Paragraph: Introduction to Conclusion) The introduction of the subject comes first: sentence 4 gives the central idea of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Sentence 2, 'It helps individuals...', describes how it works, sentence 1 describes the cooperation between therapist and client, sentence 3 states the goal with 'The goal', and sentence 5, 'This method has been shown to be effective', gives the conclusion.

✓ **Correct sentence** 4. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy focuses on the relationship between thoughts, feelings and behaviours. 2. It helps individuals identify and challenge negative thought patterns that lead to emotional distress. 1. The therapist and client work together to replace maladaptive thinking with healthier, more rational thought processes. 3. The goal is to teach clients coping strategies to manage their emotions and behaviours effectively. 5. This method has been shown to be effective in treating a wide range of mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression.

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62 ANSWER (b) 1-3-2-4-5

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Paragraph Order: Definition First) Sentence 1 defines social stratification, so it comes first. Sentence 3 lists its forms (caste, class, race), and sentence 2 then describes its effect with 'This stratification system'. Sentence 4 elaborates on social mobility, and sentence 5 concludes with the importance of the study. The order is **1-3-2-4-5**.

✓ **Correct sentence** Social stratification refers to the hierarchical arrangement of individuals in a society based on factors such as wealth, power and prestige. Sociologists have identified various forms of social stratification, including caste, class and race. This stratification system shapes individuals' access to resources and opportunities in society. Social mobility, the ability to move between different strata, varies across societies and can be influenced by education and employment opportunities. The study of social stratification is crucial in understanding inequality and its impact on individuals and communities.

Examiner's Trap Sentence 2 contains 'This stratification system', so students are tempted to place it early; but 'This' refers to something already mentioned in an earlier sentence.

63 ANSWER (d) 4-5-2-3-1

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Paragraph Order: Define, Purpose, Example) Sentence 4 defines the separation of powers, so it comes first. Sentence 5, 'This system prevents any one branch ...', gives its purpose, sentence 2 clarifies the functions of the three branches, sentence 3 says that the principle underlies many democracies, and sentence 1, 'It helps safeguard individual freedoms', ends by stating the benefit. The order is **4-5-2-3-1**.

✓ Correct sentence The separation of powers is a model for governance in which the functions of government are divided into distinct branches. This system prevents any one branch from gaining too much power and ensures checks and balances. The executive branch implements laws, while the legislative branch makes laws, and the judiciary interprets them. The separation of powers is a core principle in many democratic systems, such as the United States. It helps safeguard individual freedoms and maintain the rule of law in the country.

Examiner's Trap Sentences 3 and 4 both begin with 'The separation of powers', so students skip the defining sentence 4 and place 3 first.

64 ANSWER (a) 3-2-4-1-5

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Paragraph Order: Introduction to Conclusion) Sentence 3 introduces Kant's theory and the Categorical Imperative, so it comes first. Sentence 2 defines the Imperative, sentence 4 says that, according to Kant, morality rests on principle and not on consequences, and sentence 1 gives an example of the same idea (treating people as ends). Sentence 5, with 'Thus', is the conclusion. The order is **3-2-4-1-5**.

✓ Correct sentence Immanuel Kant's ethical theory is based on the idea of the Categorical Imperative, which dictates that actions must be universally applicable. The Categorical Imperative is a moral law that commands individuals to act in ways that could be made a universal law. Kant believed that morality is not based on the consequences of actions, but on the principle behind them. According to Kant, individuals must treat others as ends in themselves, not merely as means to an end. Thus, the Categorical Imperative is a key component of Kant's deontological ethics, which emphasizes duty over outcomes.

Examiner's Trap Sentence 2 defines the Categorical Imperative, so placing it first is tempting; but sentence 3, which introduces Kant, is the proper opening.

65 ANSWER (b) 4-2-5-1-3

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Paragraph Order: Narrative Sequence) Sentence 4 introduces the Hero's Journey, so it comes first. Sentence 2 begins the journey with the call to adventure, sentence 5 describes the major ordeal, sentence 1 gives its resolution with 'conquers the ordeal', and sentence 3 closes the journey with the 'return'. The order is **4-2-5-1-3**.

✓ Correct sentence The Hero's Journey is a narrative pattern that involves a hero who goes on an adventure, faces a crisis, and returns home transformed. The hero receives a call to adventure, often from a mentor or supernatural source, prompting them to leave their ordinary world. After a series of challenges, the hero faces a major ordeal, often involving life or death situations. With the help of allies and through personal growth, the hero ultimately conquers the ordeal and returns home with a gift or knowledge. The hero's return marks the completion of their transformation and reintegration into society.

66 ANSWER (c) QSRP

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Not Only ... But Also) The sentence builds the correlative pair "not only ... but also". Q (not only impairs) is therefore followed by its object S (cognitive functions), and then R (but also weakens) and P (and negatively affects) are joined on.

✓ Correct sentence Lack of sleep **not only** impairs cognitive functions **but also** weakens and negatively affects the immune system.

67 ANSWER (a) QSPR

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Parts: Verb after If we do not) "If we do not" must be followed by a verb, which is Q (take immediate steps). Next comes "for the conservation" (S), followed by "of our natural resources" (P), since "conservation" takes the preposition "of". R (then future generations) finally begins the main clause.

✓ Correct sentence If we do not take immediate steps for the conservation of our natural resources, then future generations will have to face severe crises.

68 ANSWER (a) RQSP

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts: Relative Clause) "The fundamental right" is followed by "to freedom of speech" (R), then the verb part Q, then S, and finally the "which" clause P, which links up with the closing part "can express...".

✓ Correct sentence The fundamental right to freedom of speech is a cornerstone of modern democracy which ensures that every citizen can express their opinions without fear.

69 ANSWER (a) RPSQ

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Not Only ... But Also Inversion) "Not only did" creates an inversion, so the subject (the revolution) and the verb (improve) must follow it immediately. Then comes the object "the socio-economic conditions of the working class", and finally "but it also highlighted".

✓ Correct sentence Not only did the revolution improve the socio-economic conditions of the working class but it also highlighted the inherent flaws of the monarchy.

70 ANSWER (a) QRSP

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Relative Clause in Jumbles) "Increase" is followed by "in the production of", then "goods and services", and the relative clause "that improves" then links up with P.

✓ Correct sentence Economic growth is a sustained increase in the production of goods and services that improves the standard of living for the entire population.

71 ANSWER (b) RPSQ

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Purpose Infinitive and While-Clause) After the subject comes the verb part R, then the purpose phrase P, S joined to it, and finally Q with "while ensuring", which links up with the closing part "of the vast marine...".

✓ Correct sentence The concept of the Blue Economy seeks to harness ocean resources to promote economic growth and improved social inclusion while ensuring the environmental sustainability of the vast marine and coastal ecosystems.

72 ANSWER (c) RQPS

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Participle) The opening part is followed by "a vast arid region" (R) and then "characterised by extremely low" (Q). After "extremely low" only "rainfall" can follow (P), and "which results in a" (S) links up with the closing part "landscape...".

✓ Correct sentence The Thar Desert constitutes **a vast arid region characterised by extremely low rainfall and high evaporation which results in a** landscape dominated by shifting sand dunes.

73 ANSWER (a) RQSP

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Participle) "A" is followed by "magnificent peak" (R), then "and serves as a sacred" (Q), then "destination" (S), and finally the participle phrase P.

✓ Correct sentence Mount Kailash stands as a **magnificent peak in the Himalayas and serves as a sacred destination for several religious pilgrimages, reaching a height that remains** largely unchallenged by modern mountaineering expeditions.

74 ANSWER (d) RQPS

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement by Structure)

"Understand" (R) and "feel" (Q) are both linked to the infinitive, their shared object is "of others" (P), and "is what makes us truly" (S) follows.

✓ Correct sentence Our ability to **understand the perspectives and feel the emotions of others is what makes us truly** compassionate human beings.

75 ANSWER (a) QSRP

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement by Structure) After "that the" comes the subject "use of plastic bags" (S), then the verb R, and after "threat" comes "to the environment" (P).

✓ Correct sentence It is widely believed that the **use of plastic bags poses a serious threat to the environment** and our marine life.

76 ANSWER (d) SPRQ

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement by Structure) After the subject comes the verb S, then the "as" clause of reason P, its object R, and finally Q, which gives the place.

✓ Correct sentence Moisturisers for the face **should be chosen carefully as oily ones may block the oil glands found in greater concentration on the face** and cause pimple/acne to break out.

77 ANSWER (a) QSRP

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Fixed First and Last Parts) After 'The Harappan culture was' comes Q ('known for its advanced'), and 'advanced' needs a noun, which S ('town planning and is') provides. R follows 'is', then P, and part 6 finally completes the sentence.

✓ Correct sentence The Harappan culture was known for its advanced town planning and is distinguished by being the first to have developed a sophisticated system of standardised weights.

78 ANSWER (c) 1-2-4-3

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Logical Sequence: Introduction to Conclusion)

Sentence 1 introduces the topic and Sentence 2 explains how the system worked. "However" in Sentence 4 states its limitation, and Sentence 3 ("This model") concludes with its wider influence.

✓ Correct sentence Ancient Greek democracy laid the foundation for civic participation. Citizens debated laws in public assemblies. However, rights were limited to free adult males. This model influenced later republics worldwide.

79 ANSWER (d) 1-3-2-4

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Logical Sequence of Ideas) Sentence 1 introduces and defines AR, so it opens the paragraph. Sentence 3 then says which devices AR works on, and sentence 2 gives its applications. Sentence 4, beginning with 'However', presents a contrast and therefore comes last.

✓ Correct sentence 1. Augmented reality (AR) enhances user interaction by overlaying digital elements onto the physical world. 3. AR uses devices like smartphones and AR glasses to deliver experiences. 2. It has applications in gaming, education, and training. 4. However, widespread adoption is limited due to the cost of AR hardware.

80 ANSWER (a) 2, 3, 1, 4

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Logical Sequence: Definition First) Sentence 2 defines food processing, so it comes first. Sentence 3 ("These methods") describes the methods, Sentence 1 ("This process") gives the safety benefit, and Sentence 4 adds further benefits with "Furthermore".

✓ Correct sentence Food processing is a series of methods used to transform raw ingredients into consumable products. These methods can range from simple actions like cutting and grinding to more complex procedures such as pasteurization and fermentation. This process ensures that the food we eat is safe and does not contain harmful bacteria or other contaminants. Furthermore, it also helps to preserve food, extend its shelf life, and enhance its nutritional value.

81 ANSWER (c) 1, 3, 4, 2

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Para Jumbles: Reference Words) Sentence 1 begins the discussion of documentation and peer review. Sentence 3 ("This process") elaborates on documentation, Sentence 4 ("These documents") follows from it, and Sentence 2 ("This systematic approach") sums up the overall result.

✓ Correct sentence **1 → 3 → 4 → 2**: The integrity of scientific research is maintained through a rigorous process of documentation and peer review. This process creates a detailed paper trail of experiments, data analysis, and conclusions. These documents are then subjected to scrutiny by other experts in the field to identify potential errors or biases. This systematic approach ensures the reproducibility of findings and builds a body of reliable knowledge.

82 ANSWER (c) 1, 3, 4, 2

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Para Jumbles: Cause and Effect) Sentence 1 first states the problem, the erosion of trust. Sentence 3 ("This crisis") gives its historical cause, Sentence 4 states the result of the breakdown of that same social contract, and Sentence 2 ("Consequently") comes last as the remedy.

✓ Correct sentence The erosion of trust in public institutions is a defining feature of contemporary political discourse, influencing voter behavior and policy outcomes. This crisis can be traced to a historical understanding of the "social contract" where the public grants authority in exchange for protection and well-being. The breakdown of this unwritten agreement has led to widespread disillusionment and a perception of institutional failure, with significant social consequences. **Consequently**, robust and transparent governance mechanisms are essential to rebuilding public confidence and ensuring the legitimacy of a democratic system.

83 ANSWER (a) 4, 2, 1, 3

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Paragraph Jumbles: Concept to Example) Sentence 4 introduces the concept of latent heat, and Sentence 2 gives the example of melting ice. Sentence 1 ("This phenomenon") explains that same example, and Sentence 3 ("This energy") gives the reason for it.

✓ Correct sentence The concept of latent heat is crucial for understanding phase transitions in thermodynamics. When a solid, such as ice, melts, its temperature remains constant at 0°C until all of the ice has turned to water. This phenomenon, where the physical state of a substance changes without a change in temperature, is a result of the absorption or release of latent heat. This energy is used to break the molecular bonds of the solid, rather than increasing the kinetic energy of the molecules.

84 ANSWER (a) 2, 1, 3, 4

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Paragraph: General to Specific) The paragraph begins with a general statement: sentence 2 says that the integrity of scientific publications is protected by several checks. Sentence 1, 'The most prevalent of these', singles out peer review among those checks, sentence 3 gives the purpose of the process, and sentence 4, with 'This external scrutiny', states its result.

✓ Correct sentence 2. The integrity of scientific publications is upheld by a series of rigorous checks and balances. 1. The most prevalent of these is the peer review process, where a manuscript is evaluated by other experts in the same field. 3. The goal of this process is to validate the methodology, findings, and conclusions of the research before it is made public. 4. This external scrutiny helps to ensure that only high-quality, credible research is disseminated to the scientific community.

Examiner's Trap A sentence with a reference word such as 'The most prevalent of these' cannot come first, because 'these' points to an earlier statement.

85 ANSWER (a) QRSP

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Parts: Preposition with Rooted) After the subject Q comes the verb R, then S, which carries the preposition "in" that goes with "rooted", and finally P, joined by "and".

✓ **Correct sentence** India’s democratic fabric is deeply rooted in historical dialogues and cultural pluralism.

86 ANSWER (b) RSPQ

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Subject-Verb Proximity in Jumbles) R ('regular screening camps') is the subject and S ('were conducted in remote and underserved areas') is its verb, so the sentence opens with R and moves directly to S. P then gives the context ('as part of a nationwide public health intervention') and Q closes with the means ('through mobile diagnostic units'). The order is therefore RSPQ. Hence option B is correct.

✓ **Correct sentence** Regular screening camps **were conducted in remote and underserved areas as part of a nationwide public health intervention through mobile diagnostic units.**

87 ANSWER (a) RSPQ

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Subject, Verb, by + V-ing, Infinitive) After the subject R comes the verb S, then the "by + V-ing" phrase of method (P), and finally the infinitive of purpose (Q).

✓ **Correct sentence** The AI-powered screening tool has significantly improved early disease detection by integrating machine learning diagnostics to minimize false negatives.

88 ANSWER (b) QRSP

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Participle Phrase at Sentence End) After the subject Q comes the verb R, then the "for" phrase S, and at the end the participle phrase P, which adds the result or elaboration of the whole statement.

✓ **Correct sentence** The recent Supreme Court judgment on mining activities in forest regions has set a legal precedent for all future industrial clearance protocols, reflecting the precarious balance between economic development and environmental conservation.

89 ANSWER (a) QRSP

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Subject Verb Order) The order is subject Q, passive verb R, reason S, and finally the time reference P.

✓ **Correct sentence** **The procurement policy was suspended indefinitely due to procedural inconsistencies and budgetary overreach following a joint recommendation from the audit and ethics committees.**

90 ANSWER (a) QRSP

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Subject Verb Order) After the subject comes the verb R, then the infinitive of purpose S, and finally the phrase P giving the circumstances.

✓ **Correct sentence** **The central bank's monetary interventions were cautiously adjusted to manage inflation without stalling growth amid global economic instability.**

91 ANSWER (a) RQSP

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Comparative with Than) "More extractive" is a comparative, so the "than" phrase of comparison, P, comes at the end.

✓ **Correct sentence** **The dominance of Eurocentric paradigms is more extractive in indigenous research contexts than decolonial methods of inquiry.**

92 ANSWER (a) Defective question

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

SSC Key (a) · Defective question — no option is fully correct

Concept (Para Jumbles: No Correct Option) SSC gives RPSQ as correct, but the sentence it forms, "the ideal of universal access remains elusive to healthcare entitlements in fragmented welfare systems", is meaningless, because the preposition "to" is separated from "access". The correct order is R-S-P-Q, which is not among the options, so the question is flawed and no option is correct.

✓ **Correct sentence** The ideal of universal access **to healthcare entitlements remains elusive in fragmented welfare systems.** (क्रम: R-S-P-Q)

Examiner's Trap In option A (RPSQ), "access" is cut off from its preposition "to", which makes the sentence meaningless.

93 ANSWER (a) QRSP

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts in Order) The subject is 'media literacy' (Q), and 'must be integrated' (R) forms its passive verb. S gives the direction of the integration, and P completes the sentence by naming the place.

✓ **Correct sentence** Media literacy must be integrated into school curricula in emerging democracies.

94 ANSWER (a) RQPS

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts in Order) The subject is R ('the dispute over land ownership') and its verb is in Q. P then gives the time and circumstances, and S ends the sentence by stating in whose favour the decision was made.

✓ **Correct sentence** The dispute over land ownership was conclusively settled by the supreme adjudicating body after a decade of legal deliberations and forensic analysis in favour of the indigenous claimants.

95 ANSWER (b) QPRS

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Parts in Order) The subject is Q ('biometric attendance systems') and its passive verb is P. R then states the purpose, and S completes the sentence by giving the area.

✓ **Correct sentence** Biometric attendance systems were introduced as part of the digital governance reform to reduce proxy attendance and data manipulation across all urban local bodies.

96 ANSWER (c) RPSQ

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

SSC Key (d) · Correct answer (c)

Concept (Disputed Key: Natural Word Order) SSC has taken D (RQPS) as the key, but the correct answer is C. In RQPS the phrase giving the reason comes between the subject and the verb, which is unnatural English. RPSQ is correct in both grammar and meaning.

✓ **Correct sentence** Senior administrative officers were subjected to scrutiny by audit authorities across multiple state departments for inconsistencies in declared financial holdings.

Examiner's Trap In SSC's key D, 'for inconsistencies...' follows the subject immediately; a sentence is formed, but it remains unnatural.

97 ANSWER (c) QRSP

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Parts in Order) The subject is Q ('modern legal systems') and its verb is R. The verb needs an object, which S supplies, and P modifies that object.

✓ **Correct sentence** Modern legal systems often marginalise the embedded practices of community-oriented justice.

98 ANSWER (b) RSQP

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Parts in Order) The subject is R ('the abstraction of rule of law'), and the verb S follows immediately. Q tells us under what conditions this happens, and P completes the sentence by stating the nature of the function.

✓ Correct sentence The abstraction of rule of law often functions under regimes of legal formalism in legitimising state violence.

99 ANSWER (a)/(c) QPRS / QSRP

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (c) · More than one correct option: (a), (c)

Concept (Sentence Arrangement (Two Keys)) SSC has taken C (QSRP) as the key. It gives 'The national disaster response protocols to streamline rescue operations under the supervision of the central emergency council were finalized after months of inter-agency deliberations', which is grammatically correct, though a long modifier separates the subject from its verb. A (QPRS) gives 'The protocols were finalized after months of deliberations under the supervision of the council to streamline rescue operations', which is equally correct and more natural. Hence both A and C are acceptable.

✓ Correct sentence A (QPRS): The national disaster response protocols **were finalized** after months of inter-agency deliberations under the supervision of the central emergency council to streamline rescue operations. C (QSRP): The national disaster response protocols to streamline rescue operations under the supervision of the central emergency council were finalized after months of inter-agency deliberations.

100 ANSWER (a) SQRP

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Parts Arrangement) The subject is S ('institutional support') and its verb is Q ('plays a critical role'). R ('across interdisciplinary fields') then names the area, and P ('in fostering innovation and collaboration') completes the sentence by stating the nature of the role.

✓ Correct sentence **Institutional support plays a critical role across interdisciplinary fields in fostering innovation and collaboration.**

101 ANSWER (c) RSQP

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement – Means before Purpose) In R the subject is 'a nationwide safety audit mechanism' and in S its verb is 'has been deployed by the Ministry of Transport', so S follows R directly. Q then states the means ('using AI-driven sensors...') and P ends with the purpose ('to detect...'). The order RSQP therefore keeps the subject and verb together and places the means before the purpose. Hence option C is correct.

✓ Correct sentence A nationwide safety audit mechanism **has been deployed by the Ministry of Transport using AI-driven sensors and real-time analytics to detect early-stage structural vulnerabilities in bridges.**

102 ANSWER (a) RPSQ

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Parts Arrangement) The subject is R ('the legacy of colonial jurisprudence') and its verb is P ('continues to shape legal consciousness'). S ('in subtle but significant ways') then gives the manner of shaping, and Q ('within postcolonial judicial reasoning') completes the sentence by naming its field.

✓ Correct sentence **The legacy of colonial jurisprudence continues to shape legal consciousness in subtle but significant ways within postcolonial judicial reasoning.**

103 ANSWER (b) QRSP

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Passive Sentence Arrangement) The subject is Q ('the vulnerability of Dalit women') and its passive verb is R ('is compounded'). S ('by systemic exclusions') then gives the cause, and P ('at the intersection of caste and gender') completes the sentence by supplying the context.

✓ Correct sentence **The vulnerability of Dalit women is compounded by systemic exclusions at the intersection of caste and gender.**

104 ANSWER (a) QRSP

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Passive Sentence) The subject is Q ('cyclone warnings') and its passive verb is R ('are now issued with greater lead time'). S ('by the national weather bureau') then gives the agent, and P ('using advanced meteorological models')

completes the sentence by stating the means. The order is **QRSP**.

✓ Correct sentence **Cyclone warnings are now issued with greater lead time by the national weather bureau using advanced meteorological models.**

105 ANSWER (b)/(d) QRSP / QRPS

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

SSC Key (b) · More than one correct option: (b), (d)

Concept (Disputed Key: Two Valid Orders) SSC has taken B (QRSP) as the key: 'Migration patterns during economic downturns were mapped by the analytics cell for targeted policy interventions using the real-time demographic dashboard', which is correct. D (QRPS) is equally correct and clearer, because it is the analytics cell that uses the dashboard, not the policy interventions. Hence both B and D are acceptable.

✓ Correct sentence B: Migration patterns during economic downturns were mapped by the analytics cell **for targeted policy interventions using the real-time demographic dashboard.** D: Migration patterns during economic downturns were mapped by the analytics cell **using the real-time demographic dashboard for targeted policy interventions.**

Examiner's Trap Both orders are grammatically correct here, so the student's marks depend on whichever one he happens to choose, which is the weakness of the question.

106 ANSWER (c) RQPS

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Passive Subject) The subject is R ('funds mobilized from the January 2023 issuance') and its passive verb is Q ('were allocated to renewable energy infrastructure'). P ('under the sovereign green bonds framework') then gives the framework, and S ('after alignment with climate action goals') completes the sentence by stating the condition. The order is **RQPS**.

✓ Correct sentence **Funds mobilized from the January 2023 issuance were allocated to renewable energy infrastructure under the sovereign green bonds framework after alignment with climate action goals.**

107 ANSWER (a) RSPQ

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement – Subject, Verb, Purpose, Setting) R ('judicial discretion') is the subject and S ('remains a contentious variable') is its predicate, so the two stay together. P then says in what respect it is contentious ('in producing ethical legal judgments'), and Q finally adds the setting ('within adversarial frameworks'). The order RSPQ moves from the subject to its predicate and then to the modifiers in sequence. Hence option A is correct.

✓ Correct sentence Judicial discretion **remains a contentious variable in producing ethical legal judgments within adversarial frameworks.**

108 ANSWER (d) 2-3-4-1

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Logical Sequence: Therefore Last) Sentence 2 raises the idea of change, Sentence 3 ("They now offer") gives the details, and Sentence 4 ("This adaptation") states its significance. Sentence 1, with "Therefore", states the result, so it comes last.

✓ Correct sentence The role of traditional libraries is changing. They now offer more than just books, including digital resources and workshops. This adaptation ensures their continued relevance in the digital age. Therefore, libraries are evolving into community learning hubs.

109 ANSWER (d) 2-1-3-4

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Para Jumbles – Process Sequence) Sentence 2 introduces the subject: the recruitment process is vital for any organization. Sentence 1 then names the first stage, and sentence 3 describes the later steps as 'Subsequent steps'. Sentence 4 closes by stating the goal of the whole process. The order is therefore 2-1-3-4. Hence option D is correct.

✓ Correct sentence **2 → 1 → 3 → 4**: The recruitment process is vital for any organization. The first stage involves identifying suitable candidates. Subsequent steps include interviews and

background checks. The goal is to find the best fit for the company culture.

110 ANSWER (b) 2-3-1-4

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Paragraph Jumbles: Topic and Benefit) Sentence 2 states the topic, and Sentence 3 ("They acknowledge") explains those same recognition programs. Sentence 1 ("This enhances") states their benefit, and Sentence 4 ends with companies implementing reward systems.

✓ Correct sentence Employee recognition programs are highly beneficial. They acknowledge hard work and foster a positive work environment. This enhances their engagement and productivity. Companies often implement various reward systems.

111 ANSWER (d) 2-3-1-4

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Connector and Logical Sequence) A paragraph opens with background: sentence 2 says that data is abundant today. Sentence 3, beginning with 'However', sets a challenge against that. Sentence 1, with 'Therefore', gives the consequence of that challenge, and sentence 4 closes with the effort to develop the skill.

✓ Correct sentence 2. In the modern information age, data is abundant. 3. However, discerning reliable information from misinformation is challenging. 1. Therefore, critical thinking skills are increasingly valued. 4. Education systems are adapting to cultivate these abilities.

112 ANSWER (d) A-C-D-B

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Passive Voice Sentence Order) The sentence is built in the order subject, passive verb, then the object-related phrase, and lastly the means. After the subject (affordable medicines) comes the passive verb (are being made available), then "to the public", and finally "through Jan Aushadhi Kendras".

✓ Correct sentence Affordable medicines are being made available to the public through Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

113 ANSWER (c) C-B-D-A

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Passive Voice Sentence Order) The sentence is in the passive voice: subject (a new desalination plant), verb (was inaugurated), agent (by the Prime Minister), and finally the place (in Tamil Nadu).

✓ Correct sentence A new desalination plant was inaugurated by the Prime Minister in Tamil Nadu.

114 ANSWER (b) B-D-C-A

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Subject, Verb, Time, Reason Order) After the subject (rural consumption) comes the verb, then the phrase of time, and finally the reason (due to...).

✓ Correct sentence Rural consumption has seen steady growth in recent years due to better crop prices.

115 ANSWER (b) C-B-D-A

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Parts in Order) The subject and verb of the sentence are 'services are being digitised' (C), so it comes first. B then says where the digitisation is taking place, D gives the means, and A completes the sentence with the purpose.

✓ Correct sentence Services are being digitised across departments through the Digital India program to ensure faster delivery.

116 ANSWER (c) C-A-B-D

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts in Order) The main part of the sentence is 'there has been exponential growth' (C), so it comes first. A then says in what the growth occurred, B gives the medium, and D completes the sentence with the time span.

✓ Correct sentence There has been exponential growth in digital transactions through UPI platforms in the last five years.

117 ANSWER (c) C-B-A-D

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Parts in Order) The subject is 'many beneficiaries' (C) and its verb is 'fail to avail' (B). A is the object of 'avail', and D completes the sentence by giving the reason.

✓ Correct sentence Many beneficiaries fail to avail government welfare schemes due to lack of awareness.

118 ANSWER (c) B-C-A-D

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Parts in Order) The subject is B ('multilingual education') and its verb phrase is C. 'Feature of' links with A, and D states the purpose.

✓ Correct sentence Multilingual education is a key feature of the National Education Policy to enhance inclusivity.

119 ANSWER (d) D-A-B-C

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts Arrangement) The subject is D ('India's National Strategy') and its verb is A ('aims to position'). The object of 'position' is B ('the country as a global leader'), and C ('on artificial intelligence') names the field of that leadership. Among the options, only D-A-B-C gives a meaningful sentence.

✓ Correct sentence **India's National Strategy aims to position the country as a global leader on artificial intelligence.**

Examiner's Trap Seeing the link 'Strategy on artificial intelligence', students are drawn towards placing C straight after D, but among the options that order does not give a meaningful sentence.

120 ANSWER (c) B-C-A-D

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Parts Arrangement) The subject is B ('the Ministry of Textiles') and its verb phrase is C ('launched a scheme'). A ('to support artisans') then gives the purpose of the scheme, and D ('in traditional handloom clusters') tells us where the artisans are located.

✓ Correct sentence **The Ministry of Textiles launched a scheme to support artisans in traditional handloom clusters.**

121 ANSWER (c) C-D-A-B

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

SSC Key (d) · Correct answer (c)

Concept (Misplaced Modifier (Key Wrong)) SSC has taken D (C-A-D-B) as the key, but the correct answer is C (C-D-A-B). In the D order we get 'despite increased grain production in post-harvest storage', where 'in post-harvest storage' wrongly modifies production, though production does not take place in storage. This is a misplaced modifier. In the correct sentence, 'in post-harvest storage' follows 'challenges' directly.

✓ Correct sentence **India, despite increased grain production, continues to face challenges in post-harvest storage.**

Examiner's Trap The key's order reads smoothly, but 'in post-harvest storage' attaches itself to the wrong word.

122 ANSWER (b) C-B-D-A

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts: Passive Order) The subject is C ('several initiatives') and its passive verb is B ('are being taken'). D ('by Indian cities') then gives the agent, and A ('for climate adaptation') completes the sentence with the purpose. In a passive, 'by + agent' follows the verb.

✓ Correct sentence **Several initiatives are being taken by Indian cities for climate adaptation.**

123 ANSWER (c) C-D-A-B

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts Arrangement) The subject is C ('a real-time dashboard') and its verb is D ('has been introduced'). A ('to track delivery') then states the purpose, and B ('of government schemes') clarifies what the delivery relates to.

✓ Correct sentence **A real-time dashboard has been introduced to track delivery of government schemes.**

124 ANSWER (b)/(d) A-B-C-D / B-D-A-C

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

SSC Key (b) · More than one correct option: (b), (d)

Concept (Sentence Arrangement (Two Keys)) SSC has taken B (A-B-C-D) as the key, and it is correct. D (B-D-A-C) is equally grammatical and has the same meaning. Since both options are available, both B and D are acceptable.

✓ Correct sentence B: During the festival season **traffic congestion is a common sight in metropolitan cities**. D: Traffic congestion in metropolitan cities during the festival season is a common sight.

125 ANSWER (a) C-D-B-A

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Parts Arrangement) The subject is C ('several districts') and its verb is D ('have shown'). The object of 'show' is B ('improvement in gender ratio'), and A ('under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme') tells us under which scheme the improvement occurred.

✓ Correct sentence **Several districts have shown improvement in gender ratio under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme.**

126 ANSWER (a) B-C-A-D

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Phrase Order: Subject, Verb, Object) The subject is B ('financial literacy camps') and its verb is C ('promote awareness of'). The object of 'awareness of' is A ('basic banking habits'), and D ('in rural areas') completes the sentence by giving the place.

✓ Correct sentence **Financial literacy camps promote awareness of basic banking habits in rural areas.**

127 ANSWER (b) C-D-A-B

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Phrase Order: Passive Sentence) The subject is C ('citizen facilitation centres') and its passive verb is D ('have been established'). A ('at district headquarters') then gives the place, and B ('to streamline service delivery') completes the sentence with the purpose. The order is **C-D-A-B**.

✓ Correct sentence **Citizen facilitation centres have been established at district headquarters to streamline service delivery.**

128 ANSWER (c) 2-3-1-4

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Logical Sequence: Introduction to Result) Sentence 2 introduces the Atal Innovation Mission. Sentence 3, with "It", refers to that same Mission, so it must follow immediately. Sentence 1 speaks of student participation, and Sentence 4 ("This has led to") states the result.

✓ Correct sentence The Atal Innovation Mission promotes start-up culture in schools and colleges. It provides funding and mentoring for innovation labs. Students are encouraged to work on real-life problem-solving. This has led to student-led projects in rural technology and healthcare.

129 ANSWER (d) 4-2-1-3

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Paragraph Order: Topic then Support) The paragraph begins with an introduction of the subject: sentence 4 states the aim of the midday meal scheme. Sentence 2, 'It also incentivises attendance', adds a second benefit, sentence 1, 'Several studies show increased enrolment due to this scheme', offers evidence, and sentence 3, 'However', ends by pointing out a shortcoming. The order is **4-2-1-3**.

✓ Correct sentence The midday meal scheme aims to improve nutrition among schoolchildren. It also incentivises attendance in government schools. Several studies show increased enrolment due to this scheme. However, hygiene in food preparation needs stricter monitoring.

130 ANSWER (d) 2-1-4-3

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Paragraph Order: Statement then Explanation) The paragraph begins with the main statement: sentence 2 says that the IPL has turned cricket into a festival. Sentence 1, 'It blends entertainment, sports, and business', explains that statement, sentence 4 mentions players from around the world, and sentence 3, 'The league generates massive viewership', ends with the result. The order is **2-1-4-3**.

✓ **Correct sentence** The Indian Premier League (IPL) has transformed cricket into a festival. It blends entertainment, sports, and business. Players from around the world participate each season. The league generates massive viewership and revenues.

Examiner's Trap Sentence 1 contains 'It', which refers to the IPL; placed first, the pronoun has no antecedent.

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131 ANSWER (d) 3-2-4-1

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Process Sequence) In preparing a document, a draft is made first (3), then feedback is taken from experts (2), then edits are made according to the suggestions (4), and finally the final version is published (1).

✓ **Correct sentence** A preliminary draft was circulated. Experts were consulted for feedback. Comments were incorporated and edits were made. Final version was published online.

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132 ANSWER (a) 2-1-4-3

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Process Sequence with Signal Words) Sequence words such as First, Next, Then and After the procedure fix the order: the vital signs are checked first (2), then the sedative is given (1), then the injection (4), and finally the patient is monitored (3).

✓ **Correct sentence** First, the doctor checks vital signs. Next, the patient is given a mild sedative. Then, the injection is administered. After the procedure, the patient is monitored for side effects.

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133 ANSWER (d) 1-3-2-4

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Process Sequence: Recruitment to Placement) The officers are recruited first (1), and then their induction records are submitted (3). After that the training schedules are drawn up (2), and finally the departmental placements are decided (4).

✓ **Correct sentence** A new cohort of civil officers is inducted through lateral recruitment streams. Induction records are submitted for background standardization. Training schedules are personalized via role-specific benchmarks. Cross-department placements are finalized.

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134 ANSWER (b) 1-2-4-3

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Para Jumbles: Process Sequence) The waste is collected first (1) and then taken to the segregation unit (2). After that the segregated waste is disposed of: biodegradable waste goes to the compost pits (4) and non-biodegradable waste to recycling (3).

✓ **Correct sentence** **1 → 2 → 4 → 3**: Garbage trucks collect waste from residential zones. Waste is taken to a segregation unit. Biodegradable waste is moved to compost pits. Non-biodegradable items are sent for recycling.

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135 ANSWER (a) 2-1-3-4

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Para Jumbles: Process Sequence) The sample is first drawn from the vein (2) and then centrifuged (1). After that the plasma is extracted (3), and finally it is labelled and sent for testing (4).

✓ **Correct sentence** **2 → 1 → 3 → 4**: It is collected from the vein using a sterile needle. The blood sample is centrifuged to separate plasma. Plasma is extracted into a fresh container. It is labeled and sent for testing.

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136 ANSWER (b) 4-1-3-2

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Logical Order of a Process) This is a process, so the order is fixed by its steps. First the technician calibrates the instrument (4), then the sample is placed for testing (1, where 'The sample' is a new subject), then the test begins once the equipment is

ready (3), and finally a report is generated after analysis (2).

✓ Correct sentence 4. The technician calibrates the instrument using standard samples. 1. The sample is then placed for testing. 3. The test begins after the equipment is confirmed ready. 2. A detailed report is generated after analysis.

137 ANSWER (a) 1-3-4-2

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Logical Order of a Process) Governance proceeds from the bottom upwards. The Panchayat first submits its plan (1), the District Planning Committee then forwards it to the state department (3), budget approvals follow (4), and the consequence of delayed fund release comes last (2).

✓ Correct sentence 1. The Panchayat submits its annual development plan as per the bottom-up planning mandate. 3. The District Planning Committee forwards the plan to the state department. 4. Budget approvals are issued after prolonged scrutiny and conditionalities. 2. Delays in fund release from the state treasury lead to stalled work mid-cycle.

138 ANSWER (b) 1-3-2-4

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (b) · Disputed question

Concept (Logical Order of a Process) The natural order of a billing process is as follows: the barcode is scanned (1), the system generates the receipt (3), the items are bagged (2), and the customer finally exits (4). The question has a weakness: no sentence mentions payment, so 1-2-3-4 is also a practically possible order. Even so, the SSC key is to be treated as the answer.

✓ Correct sentence 1. A barcode is scanned at the billing counter. 3. The system generates an itemized receipt. 2. Items are bagged after successful payment. 4. The customer proceeds to exit with the purchase.

Examiner's Trap 1-2-3-4 also seems natural because sentence 2 mentions payment; this is precisely the weakness of the question.

139 ANSWER (d) 2-1-3-4

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Logical Order of a Process) The order of a selection process is settled by logic. Applications are screened first (2), then the list of shortlisted candidates is published (1), interviews are scheduled next (3), and finally the selected candidates are emailed (4).

✓ Correct sentence 2. Applications are screened. 1. A list of shortlisted candidates is published. 3. Interviews are scheduled. 4. Selected candidates are emailed.

140 ANSWER (a) 2-1-3-4

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Process Sequence (IT Support)) The order of the IT support process is as follows: the user raises a ticket (2), the request is routed to the IT department (1, where 'The request' refers to the ticket), a technician is assigned on the basis of availability (3), and finally the issue is resolved and the ticket closed (4).

✓ Correct sentence 2. A ticket is raised by the user. 1. The request is routed to the IT department. 3. A technician is assigned based on availability. 4. The issue is resolved and marked closed.

Examiner's Trap Sentence 1, beginning with 'The request', looks like the opening, but it is possible only after the ticket has been raised.

141 ANSWER (b) 2-4-3-1

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Process Sequence) Initial estimates were first gathered from field officers (2). The finance team then consolidated 'the entries' (4); the definite article points back to the estimates already mentioned, so 4 follows 2. Proposals were then revised on the basis of input on the consolidated material (3), and the final budget was uploaded last (1). The order is therefore 2-4-3-1. Hence option B is correct.

✓ Correct sentence 2. Initial estimates were gathered from field officers. 4. The finance team consolidated the entries. 3. Proposals were revised

based on input. 1. Final budget was uploaded to the department portal.

142 ANSWER (b) 2-3-1-4

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Process Sequence (Wi-Fi)) The order of a Wi-Fi connection is as follows: the device connects to the network (2), the connection is authenticated using stored credentials (3), the router then allocates a dynamic IP address (1), and finally internet access is enabled on approval (4).

✓ Correct sentence 2. A device connects to the Wi-Fi network. 3. Connection is authenticated using stored credentials. 1. The router allocates a dynamic IP address. 4. Internet access is enabled upon approval.

143 ANSWER (d) 3-4-1-2

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Process Sequence (Video)) This is the process of making a video. The original video is first trimmed and edited (3), then encoded into a preferred format (4, where 'It' stands for the video), compressed after encoding (1), and finally sentence 2 states the benefit of compression.

✓ Correct sentence 3. The original video is first trimmed and edited. 4. It is then encoded into a preferred format. 1. After encoding, the video file is compressed. 2. Compression reduces file size for web streaming.

144 ANSWER (d) 2-3-1-4

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Process Sequence (Software)) The order of software development is settled by logic. The client requirements are first discussed and documented (2), development of features begins after approval (3, where 'Once approved' links to the previous sentence), the software is then compiled and checked for bugs (1), and finally it is deployed (4).

✓ Correct sentence 2. The client requirements are discussed and documented. 3. Once approved, development of features begins. 1. The software is compiled and checked for bugs. 4. Final deployment is carried out on the live server.

145 ANSWER (a) 4-2-1-3

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Process Sequence (Delivery)) The order of the delivery process is as follows: the payment is first verified (4), the items are carefully packed (2), the package is then labelled and handed to the delivery service (1), and finally a confirmation with tracking details is sent to the buyer (3).

✓ Correct sentence 4. The payment is verified before packaging. 2. The items are carefully packed using protective materials. 1. The package is labelled and handed over to the delivery service. 3. A confirmation is sent to the buyer with tracking details.

146 ANSWER (d) 2-3-1-4

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Process Order in a Paragraph) The order of the architectural process is as follows: the clients first finalize the space utilization plan (2), the architect then prepares the preliminary layout drawings (3), all the drawings are submitted to the design review committee (1), and finally the suggestions are incorporated before the final approval (4). The order is **2-3-1-4**.

✓ Correct sentence Clients finalize the space utilization plan. The architect prepares preliminary layout drawings. All drawings are submitted to the design review committee. Suggestions are incorporated before final approval.

Examiner's Trap Sentence 1 contains 'All drawings', which points to drawings already prepared; placing it first reverses the order.

147 ANSWER (a) 1-4-3-2

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Process Order in a Paragraph) The logical order of a ship's departure is as follows: the crew first loads the cargo (1), the engines are then powered up (4), the navigation paths are confirmed (3), and finally the harbor master clears the departure (2). The order is **1-4-3-2**.

✓ Correct sentence The crew loaded the cargo onto the ship. The engines were powered up. Navigation paths were confirmed. The departure was cleared by the harbor master.

148 ANSWER (a) 2-3-4-1

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Pronoun Reference in a Paragraph) The order of data processing is as follows: data is first fetched from sources (2), and 'It' in sentence 3 then refers to that very data, which is cleaned and standardized. Analysis is performed next (4), and finally the results are compiled into dashboards (1). The order is **2-3-4-1**.

✓ Correct sentence Data is fetched from sources. It is cleaned and standardized. Analysis is performed. Results are compiled into dashboards.

Examiner's Trap In sentence 3, 'It' is unclear without a noun (data) before it, so the sentence must come after sentence 2.

149 ANSWER (a) 1-3-2-4

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Process Order in a Paragraph) The order of the visitor entry process is as follows: visitors first register at the reception (1), security personnel verify their details (3), they are then given temporary ID badges (2), and finally access to the premises is granted (4). The order is **1-3-2-4**.

✓ Correct sentence Visitors are required to register at the reception desk. Security personnel verify their details. They are provided with temporary ID badges. Access to the premises is then granted.

Examiner's Trap Sentence 2 contains 'They', so students place it straight after sentence 1; but the badge is issued only after verification.

150 ANSWER (a) BDAC

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Fixed Ends) After the verb B comes the "as" clause D giving the reason, then A, and finally the infinitive of purpose C.

✓ Correct sentence The global fashion industry **is undergoing a transformation as more brands are shifting toward sustainable fabrics to reduce their massive** environmental footprint and waste.

151 ANSWER (b) BCDA

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement by Structure) "Are increasingly" is followed by the V-ing form "designing" (B), then the relative clause C, then D, and finally the infinitive of purpose A.

✓ Correct sentence Modern architects are increasingly **designing vertical forests that integrate lush vegetation into high-rise residential buildings to combat rising pollution** and improve the local biodiversity.

152 ANSWER (a) CABD

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Fixed First and Last Parts) The first part, 'Explorers venture into the', needs a noun next, and C ('depths of the Mariana Trench') fits. A then states the purpose, B modifies organisms, and D completes the phrase beginning with 'extreme'. Finally, 'where no sunlight can penetrate' is attached.

✓ Correct sentence Explorers venture into the depths of the Mariana Trench to study unique organisms that thrive in extreme pressure and complete darkness, where no sunlight can penetrate.

153 ANSWER (a) QRPS

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Prepositional Phrases) After the subject Q come the verb and object R, then "under digital precarity" (P), and finally "without collective bargaining" (S).

✓ Correct sentence **Informal gig workers face algorithmic control under digital precarity without collective bargaining.**

154 ANSWER (a) QRSP

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Prepositional Phrases) The order is subject Q, verb and object R, means S, and finally "against linguistic imperialism" (P).

✓ Correct sentence **Indigenous language movements reassert cultural sovereignty via grassroots mobilisation against linguistic imperialism.**

155 ANSWER (a) QRSP

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Passive) The sentence begins with the subject Q, followed by the passive verb R, then S, which gives the means, and finally P, which gives the place or framework.

✓ Correct sentence **Agrarian dispossession was systemically legitimised through cadastral mapping within colonial land tenure frameworks.**

156 ANSWER (a) RPSQ

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement: Subject Verb) Starting with the subject R, the verb and object P follow, then the "of" phrase S, and finally Q, which gives the place.

✓ Correct sentence **The exclusion of marginal voices reveals the paradox of inclusive rhetoric in contemporary economic reforms.**

157 ANSWER (d) QRPS

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement by Structure) After the subject Q comes the verb R, then "as proxies..." (P), and finally S, which gives the setting.

✓ Correct sentence **Educational credentials operate as proxies for social legitimacy in stratified economies.**

158 ANSWER (c) QRSP

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement by Structure) After the subject Q comes the verb R, then its object S, and finally P.

✓ Correct sentence **Hydro-political asymmetries continue to shape regional cooperation outcomes in trans-border water negotiations.**

159 ANSWER (d) QRPS

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Long Sentence Jumbles: Connectors) The last part S5 is fixed. Q gives Romanes's view; R then gives the author's own opinion (I am inclined to believe... because I have), and P completes that same "I have" with "been able... to verify... observations in regard to". S follows with "the protozoan Stentor Polymorphus", and its "and I have" links up with "moreover seen..." in S5.

✓ Correct sentence Nerve-tissue is found in all animals above and including Hydrozoa according to Romanes, but I am inclined to believe that it is present in animals even lower than Hydrozoa because I have been able on more than one occasion to verify Professor Clark's observations in regard to the protozoan “Stentor Polymorphus”, which has a well-developed nervous system, and I have **moreover seen** unquestionable acts of conscious determination enacted by this little creature.

160 ANSWER (b) QSPR

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement by Connectors) The sentence begins with Q, "the recognition of enemies can be noticed in animals quite low in the scale of life, and although this", whose continuation is "psychical phase... is almost universally instinctive" (S). P then carries the point forward with "especially as we ascend the scale...", and R gives the example (the white mouse) and links up with S5.

✓ Correct sentence **Q-S-P-R**: The recognition of enemies can be noticed in animals quite low in the scale of life, and although this psychical phase is almost universally instinctive, it carries with it certain elements of consciousness, especially as we ascend the scale and discover that certain animals are capable of remembering other animals after a hostile encounter with them, as shown quite plainly by the white mouse, that he had not

forgotten the pet crow from whose clutches he had been rescued, even after three years had passed by.

161 ANSWER (c) PSQR

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Long Sentence Jumble with a Fixed Part) S1 ends with 'with', so the next part must be the phrase saying 'the most famous being...', that is, P. The 'each occupying' in P demands an object, which S supplies. Q then describes the third and larger statue, and R, which speaks of moving it to Thebes, links up with S5.

✓ Correct sentence The colossal statues of Egypt are wonderful on account of their vast weight and size, with the most famous being two forty-seven-foot-high colossi standing on the west bank of the Nile at Thebes, each occupying eleven thousand five hundred cubic feet and made from single blocks of stone not found within several days' journey of their location, and a third statue representing King Rameses II, which is still larger, weighing eight hundred and eighty-seven tons, made from a single stone that was moved a distance of one hundred and thirty-eight miles from Assouan to Thebes, making it wonderful to consider moving such a mass over that great distance and raising the question as to how the sculptors could work on such statues.

162 ANSWER (d) SPRQ

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Parts with a Fixed Last Part) S1 ends with 'with one of Sardanapalus I', so S ('being in the best state of preservation of any of them...at'), which concerns this very statue, follows. After 'at', P ('about forty-two inches high') gives the height, and the discussion of 'statuettes' begins in the same part. R ('from a clay which turned red...') and Q ('of a grotesque appearance...') then complete the description of the statuettes.

✓ Correct sentence The number of Assyrian statues that have been found is small, with one of Sardanapalus I **being in the best state of preservation of any of them, despite being smaller than life size at about forty-two inches high, whereas the statuettes of the Assyrians are less artistic than the statues, made from a clay which turned red on baking and coloured so as to resemble Greek pottery, almost always of a grotesque appearance and usually representing gods or genii that combine human and animal forms** in a less noble and artistic way than was done in the Egyptian representation of the Sphinx.

163 ANSWER (c) PQRS

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Sentence Parts with a Fixed Last Part) S1 ends with 'a monument which was discovered', so P ('in 1838 called The Harpy Monument...') joins it directly. Q then gives its date of construction along with 'a white marble frieze is let into the', which R ('sandstone frieze running round all four sides') completes. S ('from the ground...') then finishes the sentence about the height and links with S5.

✓ Correct sentence There is in the British Museum a monument which was discovered **in 1838 called "The Harpy Monument," which is thought to have been made in 500 B.C. and consists of a tower where a white marble frieze is let into the sandstone frieze running round all four sides at a height of about twenty-one feet from the ground, a design reflecting that the Lycians, in whose country it was found**, were accustomed to bury their dead at the top of such towers.

164 ANSWER (b) RSQP

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement with a Fixed End) After S1, the 'because' clause of reason begins with R ('because if you read their mythology ... since'), and the reason is completed in S after 'since'. In the same context of Zeus, Q ('or omnipresent and was himself subject to the decrees of Fate') follows, and P ('all these religious views tended to make the human form far more noble') then gives the conclusion and joins S5 ('to the Greek than it can be to the Christian'). The order is **RSQP**.

✓ Correct sentence The gods of the Greeks were not all-wise, all-powerful, and all-good, as we believe our God to be **because if you read their mythology, you will find that with the power of the god, much imperfection and weakness were mingled, since they did not believe that Zeus**

had been the greatest god from the beginning, but that there was a time when he had no power, nor was he omniscient or omnipresent and was himself subject to the decrees of Fate, as when he could not save his loved Sarpedon from death, meaning that not knowing all things, even the gods are sometimes represented as depending upon mortals for information, and all these religious views tended to make the human form far more noble to the Greek than it can be to the Christian, with his different views of the relations of God and man.

Examiner's Trap Connectors such as 'since', 'nor' and 'or' join the phrases together; if they are ignored and the order is built from the topic alone, a wrong option is chosen.

165 ANSWER (b) QSPR

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement with a Fixed End) After S1 ('Close to the royal dwelling was the fore-court ...') comes Q, which begins 'and from it radiated long alleys' and so connects with the fore-court. Its 'when the grass-plots were developed' is completed by S ('to high order and featured groves ...'). After 'while', P describes the tennis-courts and water basins, R ('by cascades, with some of the canals ...') completes the same sentence, and S5 then joins. The order is **QSPR**.

✓ Correct sentence Close to the royal dwelling was the fore-court, which was as often dressed out with flowers and lawn as with tiles and flags **and from it radiated long alleys and avenues stretching out almost to infinity at a time when the grass-plots were developed to high order and featured groves, rest-houses, bowers, and theatres de verdure at each turning, while tennis-courts came to be a regularly installed accessory, and the basins and "mirrors" of water were frequently supplemented by cascades, with some of the canals being so large that barges of state floated thereon under bridges** built as fantastic in design as those of the Japanese, and again others as monumental as the Pont Neuf.

166 ANSWER (c) PSQR

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Sentence Rearrangement with a Fixed End) S1 ends with 'the walls are covered', so P ('with them and painted with colours ... representing') joins it directly. The object of 'representing' is S ('subjects taken from the life ..., which were made by tracing the designs'). Q ('on the stone and cutting it away ... because') follows, and R ('it seems the artists had no finished plan') completes its reason and links with S5. The order is **PSQR**.

✓ Correct sentence The earliest works of Egyptian sculpture are the bas-reliefs found in the chambers of the tombs, where the walls are covered **with them and painted with colours still bright and fresh, though more than four thousand years have passed, representing subjects taken from the life, possessions, and occupations of the buried individuals, which were made by tracing the designs on the stone and cutting it away between the figures, though the mode of arrangement does not satisfy our modern ideas, because it seems the artists had no finished plan in mind, on the contrary, impressing us as if the sculptors simply added figures to tell a fact** without attention to the beauty of the whole, resulting in disjointed parts which lack unity and have no relation to each other.

167 ANSWER (c) PQSR

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Sentence Arrangement by Relative Clause) After S1, P mentions Mollet's work, and Q joins it through "which" (was only published half a century later, was the creator of the parterres and broderies). Then comes S, "so largely used in his time... because his formula was derived chiefly from flower", and R, "and plant forms... while making equal use of the labyrinth", completes it and links up with S5.

✓ Correct sentence **P-Q-S-R**: It is possible that Claude Mollet, who began his career under Henri III and wrote his elaborate work “Theatre des Plans et Jardinage” in 1612, which was only published half a century later, was the creator of the parterres and broderies so largely used in his time and after because his formula was derived chiefly from flower and plant forms resembling oriental embroideries in design, while making equal use of the labyrinth and the sunken garden, with the idea

to develop the simple parquet into the elaborate parterre.

168 ANSWER (c) RTQS

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Odd Fragment Out) One fragment in this question is redundant. P is about mapping odour molecules, which has nothing to do with DNA and cells, so P is the irrelevant one. R begins the sentence, T states the purpose, Q gives the reason, and S completes the description of the same danger.

✓ Correct sentence When a hazard such as ultraviolet light, ionising radiation, or certain chemicals damages DNA, the cell needs to respond at breakneck speed to ideally either repair the damage to its genomic information repository or sacrifice itself through a controlled cell death process because if it does not move fast enough, it risks the more dangerous outcome of death by necrosis, which is an explosive and uncontrolled death that damages its neighbours, or passing mutated DNA to its descendants, which could develop into cancer.

Examiner's Trap Trying to fit all five fragments together makes students lose their way, whereas P lies entirely outside the topic.

169 ANSWER (a) CBAD

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Pronoun Reference in Sequence) The background comes first: the rest of the family had already landed (C). They were calling out to him loudly (B, where 'They' refers to the people in C), he then lowered his legs (A), and D, with 'But', gives the outcome: his legs sank into the water.

✓ Correct sentence His parents, brothers, and sister had landed ahead on the green surface. They were calling out to him loudly. He lowered his legs to land on the green sea. But his legs sank into the water.

Examiner's Trap If B is placed first, 'They' has no antecedent; only the order CB makes the pronoun clear.

170 ANSWER (a) DCBA

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Paragraph: Declaration then Promise) The paragraph opens with the declaration of freedom: D says that political freedom has at last been gained. C introduces the promise that rests on it, B states the first part of the promise (the fight against poverty), and A adds the second part (the end of discrimination) with 'also'.

✓ Correct sentence D. At last, we have gained our political freedom. C. We make a strong promise to our people. B. We will fight against poverty and suffering. A. We will also end gender and all other discrimination.

Examiner's Trap A, containing 'also', cannot come first, because it adds to a point already made.

171 ANSWER (b) QPRS

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Long Sentence with a Fixed Last Part) The sentence begins with 'on one occasion, while investigating...', which is in Q. Its 'while being' is incomplete, and P ('simultaneously charged with triangular grains of starch') completes it; P also mentions the rhizopods. R describes the grains of starch in their interior and their testing with iodine, and S then introduces a new portion of sediment and 'at which point I observed', which links with S5.

✓ Correct sentence On one occasion, while investigating the nature of some large, transparent, spore-like elliptical cells whose protoplasm was rotating while being simultaneously charged with triangular grains of starch, I observed some Actinophorous rhizopods creeping about them that had similar shaped grains of starch in their interior, and after determining the nature of these grains by the addition of iodine, I cleansed the glasses and placed under the microscope a new portion of the sediment from the basin containing these cells and Actinophryans for further examination, at which point I observed **that** one of the spore-like cells had become ruptured and that a portion of its protoplasm, charged with the triangular starch grains, was slightly protruding through the crevice.

172 **ANSWER (a)** PSTR

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Odd Fragment in Sentence Rearrangement)

Fragment Q ('those scientists saved countless lives ... forecast was an educated guess') speaks of the scientists' prediction, which is separate from the chain of events in the eruption, so it is the redundant one. P stops at 'culminated in a tremendous', which S ('explosion three days later') completes. 'By the time pyroclastic flows ...' is then completed by T ('tumbled down its sterilised slopes ...'), and R ('while killing more than 800 people ...') is attached at the end. The order is **PSTR**.

✔ Correct sentence In the summer of 1991, Pinatubo, a volcano in the Philippines, started erupting on June 12 and culminated in a tremendous **explosion** three days later, and by the time pyroclastic flows, which are incandescent avalanches of molten rock and gas **tumbled** down its sterilised slopes, Pinatubo's peak had been obliterated and replaced by a 2.5-kilometre-wide chasm while killing more than 800 people, when their roofs, weighed down by rain-saturated ash, collapsed.

Examiner's Trap Fragment Q also seems to belong to the same event, but it drifts to the scientists' forecast, and including it breaks the sequence of the sentence.



13
CHAPTER

Cloze Test

Questions *140 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01–05): *Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words or phrases from the options given below.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

The global transition toward renewable energy has become both an environmental and economic necessity. Nations investing in solar, wind, and green hydrogen technologies can reduce carbon emissions and strengthen energy security. However, the pace of transition varies because governments must balance environmental goals with financial realities. Policymakers are often required to (A) _____ substantial public investment against immediate fiscal constraints, a task that demands both political resolve and economic foresight.

Technological innovation has improved the efficiency of renewable systems; (B) _____, the intermittent nature of sunlight and wind continues to pose operational challenges for power grids. Energy storage solutions are promising, but their large-scale deployment depends on sustained research and affordable manufacturing. Experts also argue that renewable projects should not be evaluated solely on short-term costs but on the broader economic benefits they (C) _____ over several decades.

Public enthusiasm alone cannot guarantee success. Effective implementation requires governments, industries, researchers, and citizens to (D) _____ their efforts rather than pursuing isolated initiatives. Without such cooperation, even well-designed policies may fail to achieve their intended objectives. Ultimately, the renewable energy revolution will succeed only if societies remain committed to innovation while refusing to (E) _____ complacency in the face of evolving environmental challenges.

01 Fill in the blank (A) with the most appropriate word.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) weigh
(b) estimate
(c) measure
(d) fathom

02 Fill in the blank (B) with the most appropriate word.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) therefore
(b) moreover
(c) nevertheless
(d) consequently

03 Fill in the blank (C) with the most appropriate word.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) incur
(b) yield
(c) derive
(d) consume

04 Fill in the blank (D) with the most appropriate word.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) pool
(b) scatter
(c) divide
(d) withdraw

05 Fill in the blank (E) with the most appropriate phrase.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) succumb to
(b) aspire to
(c) adhere to
(d) resort to

Directions (Q. 06–10): *In the following question, a sentence with a blank is given, followed by five words labeled (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5). Choose the word that*

fills the blank appropriately in the context of the passage.

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Once a revered ritual, letter writing has steadily **(1)** ___ into a relic of bygone eras, displaced by the relentless immediacy of digital communication. There was a time when a single envelope, ink-smudged and weatherworn, **(2)** ___ profound intimacies across continents, preserving sentiments too sacred to entrust to fleeting conversations. Today's sterile texts and hastily composed emails seldom replicate the tactility that imbued handwritten letters with gravitas; every flourish, every hesitant stroke, bore the **(3) vestiges** of a soul laid bare. It is not merely nostalgia that compels some to cling to this endangered practice, but recognition that certain articulations of the heart **(4)** ___ better when filtered through the slowness of ink and parchment. Indeed, the act of penning a letter demands a kind of **(5) deliberateness** rare in an age characterized by impulsivity and ephemerality. Though the world races ever forward, perhaps in the margins of our modern lives, the art of letter-writing will preserve a fragile thread tethering us to a slower, richer past.

06 Choose correct tense.(1)

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) diminish
(b) diminished
(c) diminishing
(d) had diminished

07 Choose correct verb form.(2)

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) convey
(b) conveying
(c) conveyed
(d) had conveying

08 The word "vestiges" most nearly means: (3)

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Polished embellishments
(b) Remaining traces
(c) Heavy burdens
(d) Concealed meanings

09 Choose correct tense.(4)

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) transpires
(b) have transpired
(c) transpire
(d) transpired

10 The word "deliberateness" most nearly means: (5)

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Spontaneity
(b) Careful intention
(c) Rapid decision
(d) Emotional outburst

Directions (Q. 11–15): *In the given passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage intently and choose the most appropriate option to fill in each blank*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The archive, far from a passive container of memory, functions as an apparatus of epistemic engineering—structuring the legibility of the past through regimes of visibility and institutional (1)___. It performs not merely as custodian, but as an authorial surrogate, retrofitting historical fragments into a narratological grammar that flattens the contours of state teleology. What escapes its rubric is not lost, but rendered (2)___—denied syntactic viability within the lexicon of national legitimacy. This architecture does not conceal so much as calibrate. Through procedural neutrality, the archive creates the illusion of factual autonomy, even as its categories enforce ontological obedience. Items included are not only preserved but (3)___, endowed with rhetorical inertia that naturalizes their interpretive authority. What remains uncatalogued is condemned to historiographic latency—neither denied nor debated, but suspended in bureaucratic limbo. Hence, archiving becomes not an act of recall, but of inscription: it encodes memory into a topology of relevance. In doing so, it (4)___ affective possibility—dictating not only what can be known, but what may be mourned, commemorated, or forgotten. To critique this system is not to impugn documentation, but to unmask its metaphysical scaffolding: the unseen grammar that adjudicates between datum and debris, artifact and aberration, history and noise.The scholar's task, then, is not simply retrieval, but ontological sabotage: to (5)___ the archive's predicate assumptions before entering its doors.

11 What should come in the place of blank number (1)?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) elaboration (b) homogenous
(c) protocol (d) pretext

12 What should come in the place of blank number (2)?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) anachronistic (b) inarticulable
(c) heretical (d) peripheral

13 What should come in the place of blank number (3)?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) contextualized (b) indexed
(c) canonized (d) diluted

14 What should come in the place of blank number (4)?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) differentiate (b) regulates
(c) fabricates (d) memorializes

15 What should come in the place of blank number (5)?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) integrate (b) destabilize
(c) invoke (d) mimic

Directions (Q. 16–20): *In the passage below, certain words have been removed. Read the passage thoroughly and choose the most suitable option to complete each blank appropriately.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The domain of outer space, once a sublime expanse emblematic of universal aspiration, has morphed into a (1)____ terrain, rife with techno-nationalistic rivalries and juridical lacunae. As states and non-state actors alike pursue orbital hegemony, the narrative has shifted from exploration to securitization. The proliferation of constellations, kinetic kill vehicles, and cyber-vulnerable architectures has (2)____ erstwhile doctrinal separations between civilian and military enterprises. Multilateral compacts, such as the Outer Space Treaty, now appear (3)____ in the face of unilateral adventurism and semantic exploitation of treaty ambiguities. The ethos of cooperative multilateralism is steadily eclipsed by strategic opacity and regime fragmentation. Resource extraction from asteroids and prospective Mars colonization introduce a lexicon of planetary commodification, propelling a new phase of (4)____ governance, where legitimacy is brokered not by consensus but by technological primacy. Increasingly, legal constructs are subordinated to hardware capability, and soft power is reconstituted through launch cadence, orbital coverage, and downstream data monopolies. In this milieu, techno-diplomacy must evolve beyond hortatory platitudes to a (5)____ apparatus for strategic calibration, deterrence, and geopolitical signaling in an emergent multipolar cosmodynamic order.

16 What should come in the place of blank number 1?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) sanctified (b) labyrinthine
(c) terrestrial (d) homogenized

17 What should come in the place of blank number 2?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) elided (b) accentuated
(c) punctuated (d) amalgamated

18 What should come in the place of blank number 3?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) inviolate (b) vestigial
(c) implacable (d) fungible

19 What should come in the place of blank number 4?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) extractivist (b) fiduciary
(c) anachronistic (d) restitutive

20 What should come in the place of blank number 5?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) palliative (b) perfunctory
(c) prophylactic (d) prosaic

Directions (Q. 21–25): *Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most*

appropriate words or phrases from the options given below.

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Urban farming has emerged as a practical response to growing concerns about food security, environmental degradation, and rapid urbanisation. Once regarded as a marginal activity, it is now increasingly recognised as a sustainable means of supplementing food supplies while promoting ecological awareness. (A)_____, many city dwellers have transformed vacant rooftops, balconies, and community spaces into productive gardens that contribute to local biodiversity. These initiatives not only reduce dependence on long-distance transportation but also foster a stronger sense of community responsibility. (B)_____ urban farming cannot entirely replace conventional agriculture, it serves as a valuable complement by encouraging responsible consumption and minimising food waste. In addition to producing fresh vegetables, urban gardens often (C)_____ social barriers by bringing together people from diverse economic and cultural backgrounds. Such interactions encourage cooperation and the exchange of practical knowledge, thereby strengthening neighbourhood ties. Moreover, the movement has generated widespread interest among policymakers and environmentalists, who regard it as an effective means of enhancing urban (D)_____. As cities continue to expand, the integration of green spaces into residential areas is increasingly viewed as a necessity rather than a luxury.

Consequently, the long-term success of urban farming depends not only on individual enthusiasm but also (E)_____ supportive public policies, technological innovation, and sustained community participation. If managed effectively, urban farming may become an indispensable element of future city planning, helping to balance economic development with environmental responsibility.

21 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (A).

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Encouraged by growing environmental awareness
(b) Encourage growing environmental awareness
(c) Having encourage environmental awareness
(d) Environmental awareness encouraging

22 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (B).

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Unless
(b) Therefore
(c) Although
(d) Likewise

23 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (C).

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) bring over
(b) break down
(c) call off
(d) put aside

24 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (D).

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) resilience
(b) hesitation
(c) extravagance
(d) fragility

25 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (E).

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) on
(b) regarding
(c) at
(d) toward

Directions (Q. 26–30): *In the given passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage intently and choose the most appropriate option to fill in each blank*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

To regard competitive examinations as neutral arbiters of merit is to mistake calibration for fairness. These trials, draped in metrics and flanked by syllabi, often merely echo the (1)_____ of systemic inequities rather than resolving them. What appears to be an open arena is, upon closer scrutiny, a scaffolded labyrinth—its paths more navigable to the already initiated. In this theatre, memory masquerades as intellect, and swiftness is crowned over (2)_____. Coaching bazaars thrive, not on illumination but on algorithmic mimicry. One does not so much learn as rehearse patterned responses, choreographed to match opaque

rubrics. That which resists formula—intuition, ambiguity, ethical judgment—is too often filtered out as noise. Yet the deeper toll is not pedagogical but psychic. Prolonged exposure to anticipatory failure creates a cognitive sediment, an internalized narrowing. Dreams don't shatter; they (3)_____, calcifying into compliance. In time, the examinee becomes fluent in performance, but foreign to inquiry. To call for reform is insufficient. We must interrogate the architecture itself—its values, its exclusions, its gods. Until the grammar of merit is (4)_____, not rebranded, no revision will suffice. The danger is not that we aim too high, but that the scaffolding remains unseen, and the climb is mistaken for (5)_____.

26 What should come in the place of blank number **(1)**?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) legacies (b) ruptures
(c) inversions (d) echoes

27 What should come in the place of blank number **(2)**?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) urgency (b) depth
(c) compliance (d) abstraction

28 What should come in the place of blank number **(3)**?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) intensify (b) dissolve
(c) fossilize (d) scatter

29 What should come in the place of blank number **(4)**?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) unlearned (b) dismantled
(c) alphabetized (d) glorified

30 What should come in the place of blank number **(5)**?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) progress (b) destination
(c) transformation (d) justice

Directions (Q. 31–35): *In the following question, a sentence with a blank is given, followed by five words labeled (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5). Choose the word that fills the blank appropriately in the context of the passage.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In the modern zeitgeist, the ascendancy of technology (1)___ an aura of inexorability, fostering the notion that human agency is increasingly subordinate to algorithmic architectures. Proponents of technological determinism posit that innovation unfolds according to an autonomous trajectory, largely immune to ethical, cultural, or political intervention.

This perspective, however, often (2)___ the complexity of human intentionality, reducing societies to passive recipients of innovation rather than active co-creators. Conversely, advocates for humanistic autonomy assert that technology's deployment is invariably mediated through socio-political frameworks, reflecting collective choices rather than immutable laws of progress.

The crux of the debate hinges upon whether innovation possesses an inherent teleology or whether it is a malleable construct subject to deliberate modulation.

Indeed, to view technological development as (3) **ineluctable** is to diminish the scope of human volition.
Moreover, the asymmetry of technological access across socio-economic strata complicates the deterministic narrative, suggesting that technologies evolve not merely through technical ingenuity but through contested arenas of power, privilege, and ideology.

As artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, and quantum computing advance, the ethical imperative to assert governance and restraint (4) ___ ever more salient. In the absence of such stewardship, humanity risks enacting a form of (5) **autopoiesis**, wherein systems self-perpetuate without conscious human oversight or ethical anchoring.

Thus, the resolution of this tension will critically influence not merely the architecture of future technologies but the very ontology of what it means to be human.

31 Choose correct tense. (1)

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) has conferred (b) had conferred
(c) confers (d) was conferring

32 Choose correct verb form.(2)

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) obscures (b) obscure
(c) obscuring (d) obscured

33 The word 'ineluctable' most nearly means: (3)

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Easily avoided (b) Impossible to evade
(c) Arbitrarily designed (d) Dynamically unstable

34 Choose correct verb form(4)

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) become (b) becomes
(c) became (d) becoming

35 The word 'autopoiesis' most nearly refers to: (5)

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) External regulation
(b) Self-creation and self-maintenance
(c) Hierarchical governance
(d) Spontaneous degradation

Directions (Q. 36–40): *In the passage below, certain words have been removed. Read the passage thoroughly and choose the most suitable option to complete each blank appropriately.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The judiciary, in a constitutional democracy, occupies a space that is both exalted and ambiguous. It is exalted because it claims to stand apart from the immediacies of electoral calculation; it is ambiguous because the boundary between interpretation and invention is often blurred. Judicial review, by its nature, is a **(1)**____ exercise — it does not merely apply the law, it reshapes the very terrain on which law stands. Yet, courts often cloak their transformative role in a language of restraint. They invoke the need to defer to legislative wisdom, even when that deference veers into **(2)**____. In such moments, constitutional morality becomes not a guide but a rhetorical artefact — cited, but rarely contested. The risk is not judicial activism, but judicial **(3)**____: the quiet sanctioning of inertia under the guise of neutrality. To remedy this, one must reframe legitimacy not as insulation from scrutiny, but as **(4)**____ within plural constitutional visions. Only then can jurisprudence become dialogic, rather than doctrinal — a space where dissent is not anomaly, but architecture. The Constitution, after all, is not a monolith but a palimpsest — layered, overwritten, and constantly in the process of **(5)**____.

36 What should come in the place of blank number 1?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) ceremonial (b) pragmatic
(c) hermeneutic (d) adversarial

37 What should come in the place of blank number 2?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) abdication (b) submission
(c) reciprocity (d) entitlement

38 What should come in the place of blank number 3?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) deference (b) minimalism
(c) complicity (d) adventurism

39 What should come in the place of blank number 4?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) anchoring (b) immersion
(c) entrenchment (d) accountability

40 What should come in the place of blank number 5?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) ossification (b) reconstitution
(c) adjudication (d) derivation

Directions (Q. 41–45): *In the following question, a sentence with a blank is given, followed by five words labeled (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5). Choose the word that fills the blank appropriately in the context of the passage.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Art therapy, a modality that merges creative expression with psychotherapeutic principles, **(1)** _____ increasing recognition in clinical and non-clinical settings alike. Unlike traditional verbal therapies, art therapy **(2)** _____an alternative conduit for articulating experiences that may be difficult to verbalize. Through mediums such as painting, sculpture, and collage, individuals externalize internal conflicts, thereby facilitating catharsis and promoting **(3) affective regulation**. Recent neurobiological research substantiates that creative engagement activates regions of the brain associated with reward processing and emotional resilience. Furthermore, engaging in artistic activities **(4)** _____ positively correlated with reduced cortisol levels, implying diminished physiological stress responses. In therapeutic contexts, art becomes a **(5) palliative** instrument, not merely for symptomatic relief but also for facilitating profound personal transformation. Thus, art therapy transcends the realm of mere creative pastime, emerging as a vital psychosocial tool for emotional healing and integrative wellbeing.

41 Choose the correct tense/form. **(1)**

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) is gaining
(b) has gained
(c) gained
(d) had been gaining

42 Focus on tense and subject-verb.**(2)**

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) provides
(b) providing
(c) has providing
(d) provided

43 In this context, 'affective regulation' most nearly refers to: **(3)**

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Suppression of physical symptoms
(b) Manipulation of external behavior
(c) Control of emotional responses
(d) Elimination of thought processes

44 Focus on complex subject agreement.**(4)**

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) are
(b) is
(c) have been
(d) being

45 The word 'palliative' most nearly means: **(5)**

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Curative and permanent
(b) Soothing without curing
(c) Aggravating or worsening
(d) Preventive by nature

Directions (Q. 46–50): *In the given passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage intently and choose the most appropriate option to fill in each blank*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Urbanity, once emblematic of civic vitality and democratic congregation, has been increasingly reframed as a matrix of commodified experiences. The aesthetic uniformity of gentrified spaces, lauded for efficiency, often **(1)** _____ the organic disorder essential to pluralistic expression. Where public squares once served as theaters of dissent, we now find algorithmically curated silence—noise filtered, identities streamlined. Technocratic governance, under the guise of neutrality, embeds surveillance into the mundane. Benches are subtly shortened to deter loitering, foliage is pruned not for shade but for visibility, and cameras peer from minimalist lampposts. These are not incidental choices but deliberate gestures in a choreography of control, wherein the citizen is **(2)** _____ into passive compliance. Paradoxically, connectivity multiplies isolation. Inhabitants become nodes in a network, visible yet unheard, quantified but unrepresented. The language of "smart" infrastructure conceals a deeper estrangement—between place and person, inhabitant and city. Without contestation, the commons may be transmuted into a theatre of managed appearance, and freedom reduced to **(3)** _____ within programmed boundaries. What masquerades as urban renewal might, in truth, be an erasure—a calculated **(4)** _____ of messiness, unpredictability, and resistance. In this theatre of optimization, dissent must either be re-scripted or **(5)** _____.

46 What should come in the place of blank number **[1]**?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) masks
(b) heightens
(c) reclaims
(d) energizes

47 What should come in the place of blank number **[2]**?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) galvanized (b) domesticated
(c) inducted (d) stimulated

48 What should come in the place of blank number **[3]**?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) iteration (b) containment
(c) freedom (d) circulation

49 What should come in the place of blank number **[4]**?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) celebration (b) aggression
(c) purification (d) exile

50 What should come in the place of blank number **[5]**?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) expunged (b) dramatized
(c) validated (d) softened

Directions (Q. 51–55): *In the following question, a sentence with a blank is given, followed by five words labeled (1), (2), (3), and (4). Choose the word that fills the blank appropriately in the context of the passage.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Throughout history, the evolution of women's clothing has mirrored broader societal shifts, **(1)**____ values, technologies, and power structures. In ancient civilizations, garments often **(2)** ___ not only status and wealth but also cultural affiliations, with fabrics and dyes reserved for the privileged classes. The Middle Ages introduced rigid dress codes; women's attire, elaborate and weighty, served as both an ornament and a restraint, subtly **(3) entrenching** gender hierarchies. Fast-forwarding to the 20th century, movements like suffrage and feminism **(4) catalyzed** seismic transformations in fashion, promoting practicality, autonomy, and self-expression. Even today, the politics of women's clothing **(5)** __ a battleground for debates on identity, freedom, and societal expectations.

51 Choose the correct tense/form (1)

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) reflecting (b) reflected
(c) having reflected (d) reflects

52 Tense carefully!(2)

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) signify (b) has signified
(c) signified (d) signifying

53 In this context, 'entrenching' most nearly means: (3)

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Strengthening (b) Questioning
(c) Obliterating (d) Simplifying

54 What does 'catalyzed' most nearly mean here? (4)

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Hindered (b) Stimulated
(c) Disguised (d) Delayed

55 Choose the best tense form of the verb.(5)

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) remains (b) has remained
(c) remain (d) had remained

Directions (Q. 56–60): *In the following question, a sentence with a blank is given, followed by five words labeled (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5). Choose the word that fills the blank appropriately in the context of the passage.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In a world increasingly dominated by constant connectivity, the practice of deliberate solitude (1)____ a counterbalance to the cognitive overload many experience daily. Contrary to the pervasive notion that being alone equates to loneliness, solitude (2)____ a fertile ground for introspection, creativity, and emotional recalibration. Engaging in solitary reflection enables individuals to disentangle themselves from external validation, thereby fostering a more (3) **autonomous** sense of self.

Neurological studies have revealed that periods of intentional solitude stimulate the brain's default mode network — a system linked to memory consolidation, future planning, and self-referential thought. However, the benefits of solitude are contingent upon mindset; when chosen voluntarily, it (4)____ restorative, but when

imposed, it can exacerbate feelings of isolation. Moreover, solitude encourages metacognition, the ability to think about one's own thinking, thereby enhancing problem-solving skills and emotional regulation.
In broader philosophical discourse, solitude is often celebrated as a medium for existential (5) **rumination**.
Thus, rather than being perceived as a void, solitude should be embraced as an opportunity for profound personal growth and inner clarity.

56 Choose correct verb to complete tense.(1)

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) provides
(b) is providing
(c) provided
(d) had provided

57 Focus on article + verb agreement. (2)

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) offer
(b) offers
(c) offered
(d) offering

58 In this context, '**autonomous**' most nearly means: (3)

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Dependent on others
(b) Self-governing and independent
(c) Socially driven
(d) Emotionally unstable

59 Choose best pronoun consistency/verb form. (4)

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) is being
(b) has been
(c) is
(d) would have been

60 The word '**rumination**' most nearly means: (5)

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Casual amusement
(b) Rapid decision-making
(c) Deep, prolonged thought
(d) Immediate physical reaction

Directions (Q. 61–65): *Complete the following passage by choosing the most appropriate word or phrase for each blank.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Community gardens have become valuable urban initiatives that promote environmental awareness, food security, and social cooperation.
In many cities, local authorities and residents have begun to (A)____ abandoned plots into productive green spaces, transforming neglected areas into centres of sustainability and community interaction. However, participation often varies according to socioeconomic conditions and institutional support.
Despite practical difficulties, community gardens have (B)____ as effective instruments of environmental education, particularly in areas where access to fresh produce is limited. Their success depends on sustained public involvement, without which even well-planned projects may (C)____ over time because of poor maintenance and weak organisation.
Such gardens also influence behavioural change. As participants become more conscious of consumption patterns and ecological responsibilities, this awareness gradually (D)____ across the wider urban population.
Ultimately, the long-term survival of these projects depends not only on supportive policies but also on the ability of communities to (E)____ collaborative networks that remain active despite changes in leadership and funding.

61 Choose the most appropriate option to fill in blank (A).

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) convert
(b) preserve
(c) withdraw
(d) scatter

62 Choose the most appropriate word to fill in blank (B).

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) declined
(b) retreated
(c) emerged
(d) dissolved

63 Identify the most suitable phrasal verb for blank (C).

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) carry forward
(b) take after
(c) set aside
(d) break down

64 Select the most suitable verb form for blank (D).

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) spread (b) spreads
(c) spreading (d) has spreading

65 Choose the most appropriate phrasal verb for blank (E).

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) build up (b) put off
(c) run into (d) look over

Directions (Q. 66–70): *In the following question, a sentence with a blank is given, followed by five words labeled (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5). Choose the word that fills the blank appropriately in the context of the passage.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In an era marked by global interconnectedness, emerging infectious diseases (1)____ an unprecedented threat to public health infrastructures worldwide. Pathogens such as novel coronaviruses, antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and zoonotic viruses exploit the vulnerabilities of human mobility, urban overcrowding, and ecological disruption.

Although medical science has made formidable strides, the unpredictable nature of outbreaks (2)____ persistent difficulties in preparedness and response mechanisms. Adding to the complexity, misinformation proliferated through digital platforms (3)____ the efficacy of public health interventions, sometimes undermining vaccination campaigns and quarantine measures. Efforts to combat emerging diseases must therefore be interdisciplinary, blending epidemiology, behavioral science, and policy innovation.
One key concept in disease containment is herd immunity, a state wherein a significant portion of a population becomes immune, thereby indirectly shielding vulnerable individuals.

However, achieving (4) **herd immunity,** whether via vaccination or natural exposure, entails considerable ethical and logistical challenges. Beyond infectious diseases, the surge in non-communicable illnesses such as diabetes and cardiovascular disorders further strains public health systems. An effective response to emerging health threats must prioritize resilience, adaptability, and above all, (5) **prophylaxis.** In the absence of robust, coordinated efforts, humanity risks facing pandemics of greater magnitude and complexity than ever previously recorded.

66 Choose correct tense/subject-verb.(1)

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) poses (b) pose
(c) had posed (d) posing

67 Focus on tense and agreement.(2)

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) present (b) presents
(c) presented (d) presenting

68 Choose correct word to get appropriate construction.(3)

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) impede (b) impedes
(c) has impeding (d) impeding

69 In this context, '**herd immunity**' most nearly refers to: (4)

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Immunity achieved only through natural infection
(b) Collective immunity reducing disease transmission
(c) Forced immunity via coercive measures
(d) Immunity affecting only animals

70 The word '**prophylaxis**' most nearly means: (5)

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Treatment after illness
(b) Preventive action against disease
(c) Diagnosis of unknown conditions
(d) Rehabilitation and therapy

Directions (Q. 71–75): *Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the options given below.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The growing use of virtual reality (VR) in education reflects a shift in how knowledge is constructed and internalised. Unlike conventional media, immersive environments allow learners to engage directly with abstract concepts. Educational psychologists argue that such experiences help learners build mental models

that are more readily (A)_____ into long-term memory than information gained through lectures or textbooks.
However, immersion alone does not ensure intellectual progress. A visually impressive simulation may attract attention without promoting conceptual understanding. Thus, VR depends on technological sophistication and pedagogical frameworks that (B)_____ learners' cognitive limitations while encouraging analytical reflection. Realistic simulations may improve motivation, but excessive sensory information can overwhelm learners. Researchers therefore recommend structured pauses for reflection, (C)_____ students confuse vivid experiences with durable understanding.
VR raises concerns about access. Wealthier institutions are more likely to adopt advanced technologies than those with limited budgets. (D)_____ technological capability continues to expand, disparities in educational access remain persistent. Ultimately, VR will fulfil its educational promise only through thoughtful design and equitable implementation. Otherwise, its initial appeal may gradually (E)_____, leaving impressive technology but limited educational transformation.

71 Which word most appropriately fills blank (A) to convey the process by which newly acquired knowledge becomes deeply integrated into a learner's long-term cognitive framework?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) assimilated
(b) fabricated
(c) accumulated
(d) inherited

72 Which verb best fills blank (B), reflecting the idea that effective instructional design must take learners' mental capacities into careful consideration rather than ignore them?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) undermine
(b) intensify
(c) accommodate
(d) surpass

73 Which conjunction most effectively fills blank (C) to express the preventive purpose behind providing opportunities for reflective thinking after immersive experiences?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) whereas
(b) lest
(c) whereby
(d) notwithstanding

74 Which connector best fills blank (D) to highlight the contrast between rapid technological advancement and the continued persistence of unequal educational opportunities?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Since
(b) Although
(c) Therefore
(d) Because

75 Which verb most accurately fills blank (E) to describe the gradual decline of public enthusiasm if educational innovation fails to produce meaningful outcomes?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) proliferate
(b) culminate
(c) subside
(d) intensify

Directions (Q. 76–80): *Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the options given below.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In contemporary cognitive psychology, attention is regarded as the gateway of perception, _____ (A) the selection and filtering of sensory information before it reaches conscious awareness. This mechanism determines how individuals construct their subjective reality in complex environments, thereby underpinning adaptive behavior and learning efficiency in everyday functioning. _____ (B) researchers have long debated its limitations, recent experimental findings suggest that attention is far more dynamic than previously assumed, particularly under conditions of high cognitive load and environmental uncertainty, which carries significant implications for designing effective cognitive training interventions. Psychologists often _____ (C) elaborate experiments involving divided attention tasks to examine how individuals allocate mental resources under varying conditions, especially when competing stimuli demand simultaneous processing, in both laboratory and real-world multitasking scenarios. Such studies reveal that cognitive overload can distort the mental _____ (D) of decision-making, leading to systematic errors in judgment and memory recall, thereby challenging earlier models of rational cognition within both clinical and educational assessments.

Moreover, the role of attention is increasingly examined _____ (E) emotional regulation, highlighting its influence not only on perception but also on affective states, stress response, and interpersonal behaviour in both clinical psychology and applied neurocognitive research.

76 The correct option to fill in blank (A) is:

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) governing (b) governed
(c) to govern (d) governs

77 The correct connector for the blank (B) is:

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Since (b) Because
(c) Unless (d) While

78 The correct phrasal verb for the blank (C) is:

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) bring up (b) carry out
(c) set off (d) take over

79 The most appropriate word for the blank (D) is:

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) architecture (b) apparatus
(c) spectrum (d) momentum

80 The correct prepositional phrase for the blank (E) is:

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) in relation to (b) in contrast to
(c) in addition to (d) on behalf of

Directions (Q. 81–85): *Complete the passage by choosing the most appropriate words for the blanks.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Responsible tourism has emerged as an essential principle in an era when travel has become more accessible than ever before. While tourism generates employment, strengthens local economies, and encourages cultural exchange, it can also impose significant pressure on fragile ecosystems and traditional communities. _____ (A), policymakers, businesses, and travellers must collectively ensure that economic benefits do not come at the expense of environmental sustainability or cultural integrity. Responsible tourism is not merely about reducing waste or avoiding plastic; it also requires visitors to understand the social and historical contexts of the destinations they explore. Such awareness encourages tourists to make _____ (B) decisions that support local artisans, conserve natural resources, and respect indigenous customs. If tourism authorities _____ (C) stricter sustainability standards and monitored their implementation consistently, many ecological challenges associated with mass tourism could be substantially reduced. Equally important is the need for tourism operators to _____ (D) between commercial profitability and ecological responsibility. Long-term prosperity depends not only on attracting more visitors but also on preserving the very landscapes and traditions that make destinations distinctive. Travellers, too, must recognise that every journey carries ethical implications. Choosing locally owned accommodations, minimising resource consumption, and engaging respectfully _____ (E) host communities contribute to a tourism model that benefits both present and future generations. Ultimately, responsible tourism is less about restricting movement than about cultivating thoughtful habits that transform travel into a mutually enriching experience for visitors and residents alike.

81 Identify the correct discourse marker for blank (A).

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Nevertheless (b) Therefore
(c) Likewise (d) Meanwhile

82 Identify the correct word for blank (B).

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) informed (b) impulsive
(c) arbitrary (d) reluctant

83 Identify the correct word/phrase for blank (C).

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) enforce (b) have enforced
(c) had enforced (d) enforced

84 Identify the correct phrase for blank (D).

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) draw a balance (b) strike a balance
(c) build a balance (d) create a balance

85 Identify the correct word for blank (E).

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) to (b) for
(c) at (d) with

Directions (Q. 86–90): *Complete the following passage by selecting the most appropriate option for each blank.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Climate policy is often presented as a contest between economic development and environmental restraint. This framing is misleading because unchecked warming itself threatens productivity, infrastructure, food security, and fiscal stability. _____(A), decarbonisation should be understood not as an impediment to economic progress but as a means of protecting its long-term foundations. The apparent conflict between growth and climate action arises largely from the unequal distribution of transitional costs.

Governments frequently hesitate to regulate carbon-intensive industries because such measures may provoke resistance from affected workers, businesses, and consumers. Yet postponement does not eliminate the burden; it merely _____(B) it, often transferring greater costs to younger generations and economically vulnerable communities. Had major economies begun restructuring their energy systems when scientific evidence became sufficiently clear, they _____(C) less exposed today to volatile fuel prices and climate-related disruption.

A credible transition therefore requires not only technological innovation but also a _____(D) that compensates affected workers, ensures transparent consultation, and distributes public investment fairly. Without such safeguards, climate policy may appear detached from the circumstances of communities least able to absorb sudden economic changes. Political leaders must therefore reckon _____(E) the social repercussions of reform rather than assuming that scientific urgency alone will secure public consent.

86 Choose the most appropriate option to fill in Blank (A).

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Nevertheless (b) In other words
(c) Meanwhile (d) By comparison

87 Choose the most appropriate option to fill in Blank (B).

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) defers (b) disperses
(c) diminishes (d) disclaims

88 Choose the most appropriate option to fill in Blank (C).

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) would have been (b) were
(c) had been (d) would be

89 Choose the most appropriate option to fill in Blank (D).

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) distributive framework (b) procedural formality
(c) rhetorical convention (d) speculative arrangement

90 Choose the most appropriate option to fill in Blank (E).

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) for (b) upon
(c) with (d) against

Directions (Q. 91–95): *In the following question, a sentence with a blank is given, followed by five words labeled (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5). Choose the word that fills the blank appropriately in the context of the passage.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The rapid proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies **(1)** ___ profound ethical quandaries, necessitating an urgent reevaluation of longstanding moral frameworks. While AI has demonstrably enhanced efficiency across industries, its deployment **(2)** ___ contentious debates surrounding privacy, accountability, and autonomy. One critical concern is the opacity of algorithmic decision-making, wherein even developers may be unable to fully elucidate how outcomes are generated.

This phenomenon, often termed the "black box" problem, undermines **(3)** **transparency**, a

principle integral to ethical governance. Moreover, AI systems trained on biased datasets risk perpetuating and even exacerbating systemic inequalities.
Compounding these challenges is the issue of agency: when machines perform autonomous actions, determining liability **(4)** ____ complex and ambiguous. Beyond technical considerations, the ethical dilemmas posed by AI interrogate deeper philosophical questions about what it means to be human, to choose freely, and to coexist responsibly with non-human intelligences.

Thus, a multidisciplinary approach, encompassing philosophy, computer science, law, and sociology, is imperative to ensure that technological advancement remains **(5) benign** in its societal impact. Unless proactive governance mechanisms are implemented, humanity risks ceding essential elements of moral agency to entities whose operations it neither fully understands nor adequately controls.

91 Choose correct tense.(1)

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) have posed
(b) poses
(c) posed
(d) had posed

92 Choose correct subject-verb agreement.(2)

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) is sparking
(b) are sparking
(c) sparked
(d) sparking

93 In this context, 'transparency' most nearly refers to: (3)

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Maintaining secrecy
(b) Complete openness and clarity
(c) Computational complexity
(d) Unpredictable variability

94 Choose correct verb form.(4)

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) become
(b) becoming
(c) becomes
(d) has become

95 The word 'benign' most nearly means: (5)

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Harmful and destructive
(b) Beneficial and gentle
(c) Overly complex
(d) Artificially constructed

Directions (Q. 96–100): *Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The spread of misinformation in the digital age has made critical thinking more (1)____ than ever before. Without the ability to (2)____ facts from falsehoods, citizens cannot make informed decisions about public affairs or hold their elected representatives accountable. Political leaders who rely on emotional (3)____ rather than rational argument may succeed in the short term, but they gradually erode the quality of public discourse and weaken democratic institutions. Educational systems must therefore (4)____ analytical skills in students from the earliest stages of their schooling. A democracy deprived of critical thinkers becomes progressively (5)____ to manipulation and division, ultimately threatening the very foundations of free and fair governance.

96 (1)

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Optional
(b) Trivial
(c) Imperative
(d) Redundant

97 (2)

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Discern
(b) Conceal
(c) Embellish
(d) Dismiss

98 (3)

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Empathy
(b) Guidance
(c) Restraint
(d) Rhetoric

99 (4)

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Suppress
(b) Cultivate
(c) Simplify
(d) Eliminate

100 (5)

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Immune (b) Indifferent
(c) Vulnerable (d) Resilient

Directions (Q. 101–105): *Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

As the proportion of elderly citizens in India's population gradually increases, the pressure on the country's healthcare and social support systems will become increasingly (1)____. Many older individuals, particularly those in rural areas, lack access to (2)____ pension arrangements or formal employment benefits capable of providing them financial security in old age. The burden of elder care continues to fall (3)____ on families and particularly on women whose own professional opportunities may be significantly curtailed as a result. Governments must develop (4)____ policies that acknowledge the dignity of the elderly while creating affordable and accessible care options across diverse income levels. Without proactive planning, rapid demographic change risks (5)____ social and economic systems that are insufficiently prepared to meet its escalating demands.

101 (1)

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Minimal (b) Manageable
(c) Acute (d) Irrelevant

102 (2)

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Excessive (b) Adequate
(c) Complicated (d) Experimental

103 (3)

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Insignificantly (b) Temporarily
(c) Voluntarily (d) Disproportionately

104 (4)

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Comprehensive (b) Simplistic
(c) Temporary (d) Reactionary

105 (5)

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Strengthening (b) Simplifying
(c) Overwhelming (d) Bypassing

Directions (Q. 106–110): *Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the options given below.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The modern digital economy moves at an unprecedented pace, driven by consumerism and planned obsolescence. _____ (A), our insatiable appetite for the latest technological innovations has created a serious crisis: the exponential accumulation of electronic waste, or e-waste. Discarded electronic devices contain hazardous materials that threaten the environment and public health. Addressing this crisis requires a shift from the linear take-make-dispose model to a circular economy in which materials are reclaimed and reused. If governments _____ (B) more stringent extended producer responsibility frameworks two decades ago, the present logistical nightmare of urban mining might have been averted.

A significant proportion of global e-waste is shipped to developing nations under the guise of second-hand goods. In these regions, informal recycling sectors dismantle devices without even the most _____ (C) safety equipment or environmental oversight. This practice exposes vulnerable communities to pollution and damages local water sources and agricultural soils. To combat this growing planetary threat, international regulatory bodies must work _____ (D) with local enforcement agencies to eliminate illegal transboundary shipments. Manufacturers must also be held accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products. Ultimately, transitioning to sustainable consumption is no longer a choice; it is an absolute imperative that we can no longer afford to put _____ (E).

106 Choose the most appropriate discourse marker to fill blank (A).

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Similarly (b) Likewise
(c) Ironically (d) Alternatively

107 Identify the correct verb form for blank (B) to ensure grammatical consistency.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) instituted (b) have instituted
(c) had instituted (d) would institute

108 Which of the following words best fits the contextual meaning of blank (C)?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) rudimentary (b) unmatched
(c) superficial (d) primary

109 Select the most appropriate expression to fill in blank (D).

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) in deep water (b) in tandem
(c) out of hand (d) at first hand

110 Choose the correct particle to complete the phrasal verb in blank (E).

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) out (b) off
(c) away (d) down

Directions (Q. 111–115): *In the passage below, certain words have been removed. Read the passage thoroughly and choose the most suitable option to complete each blank appropriately.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

In the aftermath of collective trauma, societies instinctively reach for narrative closure, mistaking coherence for truth. This need to structure experience often leads to the (1)____ of complex realities into simplified myths. While such narratives may offer solace, they frequently occlude the structural forces that made the crisis possible. Memory, in these moments, is less an archive than a battleground—a terrain where meaning is not discovered but contested. Cultural institutions, instead of resisting this flattening, often become its architects, prioritizing commemorative spectacle over analytical excavation. The result is a politics of memory shaped more by utility than by integrity. What emerges is not a history, but a curated (2)____, designed to domesticate discomfort. In this framework, dissent is not persecuted, but anesthetized—absorbed and neutralized through symbolic inclusion. Such strategies manufacture a sense of reconciliation while leaving the epistemic violence untouched. To resist this drift requires an (3)____ commitment to confronting discomfort without prematurely resolving it. Societies must learn to inhabit ambiguity without succumbing to paralysis. Otherwise, public memory will continue to be governed by what is palatable, not what is (4)____, and truth will become a function not of verification but of narrative (5)____.

111 What should come in the place of blank number 1?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) ossification (b) distillation
(c) subversion (d) transposition

112 What should come in the place of blank number 2?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) mnemonic (b) palimpsest
(c) artifact (d) dramaturgy

113 What should come in the place of blank number 3?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) ascetic (b) unflinching
(c) forensic (d) dogmatic

114 What should come in the place of blank number 4?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) methodical (b) subaltern
(c) dissonant (d) indispensable

115 What should come in the place of blank number 5?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) circulation (b) coherence
(c) repetition (d) curation

Directions (Q. 116–120): *Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the options given below.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The concept of Smart Cities has emerged as a strategic response to the challenges of rapid urbanization. These cities integrate digital technologies with urban infrastructure to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and citizen welfare. (1)____, the deployment of sensors, data analytics, and artificial intelligence enables real-time

monitoring of traffic, energy consumption, and waste management. The ultimate objective is not merely technological sophistication but the creation of inclusive and resilient urban ecosystems. (2)____, critics argue that excessive reliance on technology may marginalize communities lacking digital literacy or access.

The governance of Smart Cities requires a delicate balance between innovation and equity. Transparent data policies are essential;

(3)____, concerns about privacy and surveillance remain unresolved. Moreover, the financial burden of establishing such infrastructure is considerable, and many developing nations face resource constraints. (4)____, international collaborations and public-private partnerships have become crucial in bridging these gaps.

Smart cities are often portrayed as futuristic utopias, yet their success depends on pragmatic implementation. They must prioritize human-centric design, ensuring that technology serves social needs rather than dictating them. (5)____, the vision of Smart Cities will remain aspirational unless grounded in participatory governance and sustainable planning.

116 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1).

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Nevertheless
(b) For instance
(c) Conversely
(d) Meanwhile

117 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2).

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Therefore
(b) However
(c) Moreover
(d) Consequently

118 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) since
(b) similarly
(c) indeed
(d) yet

119 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4).

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Notwithstanding
(b) Otherwise
(c) Instead
(d) Nevertheless

120 Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5).

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) In contrast
(b) Without doubt
(c) After all
(d) Otherwise

Directions (Q. 121–125): *In the passage below, certain words have been removed. Read the passage thoroughly and choose the most suitable option to complete each blank appropriately.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Technological advancement has long promised liberation—from drudgery, error, and even mortality. Yet, the deeper paradox of the digital era is that while it expands capacity, it often contracts (1)_____. Algorithms increasingly make decisions once reserved for deliberate humans: from loan approvals to parole assessments. Though marketed as neutral, such systems inevitably inherit the biases of their makers, disguising human judgments as computational objectivity. In this sense, technology becomes less a tool than a (2)_____, shaping choices rather than merely executing them. The problem is not intelligence, but (3)_____—where efficiency is privileged over transparency, and speed over scrutiny. Once outcomes are automated, dissent is harder to formulate, not because it's unwelcome, but because it becomes (4)_____. Citizens may sense unfairness but lack the language or access to challenge opaque systems. The solution is not to reject automation, but to embed in its design the capacity for critique. What society requires is not more data, but a deeper ethics—an insistence that technological systems remain (5)_____ to those they claim to serve.

121 What should come in the place of blank number 1?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) autonomy
(b) productivity
(c) anonymity
(d) intelligence

122 What should come in the place of blank number 2?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) mirror
(b) gatekeeper
(c) prosthetic
(d) amplifier

123 What should come in the place of blank number 3?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) delegation (b) underestimated
(c) optimization (d) humanization

124 What should come in the place of blank number 4?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) articulate (b) tenacious
(c) redundant (d) invisible

125 What should come in the place of blank number 5?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) accountable (b) responsive
(c) legible (d) restrictive

Directions (Q. 126–130): *Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the options given below.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Ocean exploration, once confined to myth and imagination, has evolved into a disciplined scientific pursuit that reshapes our understanding of Earth's final frontier, particularly in the context of climate change and resource scarcity, where the oceans are increasingly viewed as both a frontier and a reservoir of critical knowledge.

Modern expeditions, driven by advanced submersibles and satellite-linked technologies, (A)_____ reveal previously inaccessible marine ecosystems that challenge conventional biological theories, thereby expanding the boundaries of contemporary oceanography and interdisciplinary research.

In recent decades, oceanographers have achieved remarkable breakthroughs in mapping the seabed; (B)_____, the vastness and pressure of the deep ocean continue to hinder comprehensive data collection and slow the pace of scientific validation.

Ongoing deep-sea missions often (C)_____ previously held assumptions about marine biodiversity, compelling scientists to revise established classifications within modern marine taxonomy.

The discovery of hydrothermal vents has added a new dimension to marine science, highlighting the _____ (D) nature of life forms thriving in extreme conditions and reshaping prevailing notions of biological adaptability in the abyssal zone.

These insights underscore the importance of sustained investment in oceanic research (E)_____ global environmental sustainability and the long-term preservation of marine ecosystems.

126 In the context of the passage, choose the correct option to fill in blank (A).

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) continually (b) distinctively
(c) subsequently (d) enthusiastically

127 Choose the most appropriate connector for blank (B).

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) moreover (b) therefore
(c) similarly (d) however

128 Identify the correct phrasal verb/idiom for blank (C).

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) call into question (b) bring forward
(c) set up (d) look after

129 Select the most suitable word for blank (D).

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) superficial (b) irrelevant
(c) resilient (d) volatile

130 Choose the correct prepositional phrase for blank (E).

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) in pursuit of (b) in spite of
(c) in accordance with (d) at the cost of

Directions (Q. 131–135): *In the passage below, certain words have been removed. Read the passage thoroughly and choose the most suitable option to complete each blank appropriately.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Throughout history, the survival of civilizations has hinged less on conquest and more on the ability to preserve and transmit memory. Archives, oral traditions, and artifacts function not merely as records, but as (1) _____ of continuity across time. When these are disrupted—through war, colonization, or willful neglect—societies

experience not just cultural loss but a rupture in identity. Ironically, modern societies, despite unprecedented access to information, are often more susceptible to (2) _____. The speed at which data is consumed renders it disposable; immediacy replaces reflection. In such climates, memory is not erased but drowned—buried under layers of reaction and novelty. Consequently, knowledge ceases to be a cumulative process and becomes a (3) _____ one, shaped by urgency rather than inquiry. Institutions meant to safeguard knowledge increasingly function as repositories rather than interlocutors, housing facts without cultivating understanding. The true crisis, then, is not ignorance but a kind of curated (4) _____, where forgetting is not accidental but engineered—subtle, continuous, and strategic. Reclaiming memory in such a context requires not nostalgia, but an (5) _____ commitment to intergenerational truth-telling.

131 What should come in the place of blank number 1?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) scaffolds (b) frameworks
(c) templates (d) vessels

132 What should come in the place of blank number 2?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) amnesia (b) relativism
(c) novelty (d) distraction

133 What should come in the place of blank number 3?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) archival (b) reactive
(c) parallel (d) empirical

134 What should come in the place of blank number 4?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) abstraction (b) omission
(c) forgetting (d) obscurity

135 What should come in the place of blank number 5?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) adversarial (b) unflinching
(c) affective (d) longitudinal

Directions (Q. 136–140): *Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.*

Cloze Test · [SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the options given below.

Modern organisations increasingly rely on algorithmic systems to analyse large volumes of data and improve decision-making. Although these systems can identify patterns more quickly than human analysts, their reliability is (A)____ questioned when the data used to train them are incomplete or inaccurate. Therefore, organisations must evaluate automated recommendations carefully rather than accept them without verification.

The implementation of algorithmic systems usually evolves through repeated feedback, during which technical adjustments and human supervision become (B)____ intertwined. A change in the system may affect employee decisions, while human responses may require further modification of the technology. This process demonstrates that automation cannot function effectively without appropriate human oversight.

The credibility of such systems is often contingent (C)____ transparent evaluation procedures. Regular audits can identify errors, reveal hidden biases, and improve confidence in automated decisions. Organisations must also clearly explain how important conclusions are reached.

(D)____, employees should receive proper training before using algorithmic tools. Without sufficient knowledge, they may misunderstand the results or rely on recommendations that are unsuitable for a particular situation.

Ultimately, the successful use of algorithmic systems will depend on whether organisations can (E)____ technological efficiency with responsible human supervision. Such a balance can help ensure that automation supports sound judgement instead of replacing it entirely.

136 Which adverb most appropriately fills blank (A)?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) frequently (b) accidentally
(c) mechanically (d) silently

137 Which adverb best fills blank (B)?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) independently (b) temporarily
(c) superficially (d) inextricably

138 Which preposition correctly fills blank (C)?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) across (b) among
(c) beside (d) upon

139 Which connector most appropriately fills blank (D)?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Consequently (b) Conversely
(c) Moreover (d) Otherwise

140 Which verb most appropriately fills blank (E)?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) postpone (b) isolate
(c) discard (d) reconcile

Answer Key *Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation*

01	02	03	04	05	71	72	73	74	75
(a)	(c)	(b)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(c)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**	**76**	**77**	**78**	**79**	**80**
(b)	(c)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(a)	(d)	(b)	(a)	(a)
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**81**	**82**	**83**	**84**	**85**
(c)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(a)	(d)	(b)	(d)
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**86**	**87**	**88**	**89**	**90**
(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(a)	(d)	(a)	(c)
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**91**	**92**	**93**	**94**	**95**
(a)	(c)	(b)	(a)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	**(c)**	(b)
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**96**	**97**	**98**	**99**	**100**
(a)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(a)	(c)	(a)	(d)	(b)	(c)
31	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**	**101**	**102**	**103**	**104**	**105**
(a)	(a)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(d)	(a)	(c)
36	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**	**106**	**107**	**108**	**109**	**110**
(c)	(a)	(c)	(d)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(b)	(b)
41	**42**	**43**	**44**	**45**	**111**	**112**	**113**	**114**	**115**
(a)	(a)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(d)	(b)	(c)	(b)
46	**47**	**48**	**49**	**50**	**116**	**117**	**118**	**119**	**120**
(a)	(b)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(b)	(b)	(d)	(d)	(d)
51	**52**	**53**	**54**	**55**	**121**	**122**	**123**	**124**	**125**
(a)	(c)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(a)
56	**57**	**58**	**59**	**60**	**126**	**127**	**128**	**129**	**130**
(a)	(b)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(a)	(d)	(a)	(c)	(a)
61	**62**	**63**	**64**	**65**	**131**	**132**	**133**	**134**	**135**
(a)	(c)	(d)	(b)	(a)	(d)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(b)
66	**67**	**68**	**69**	**70**	**136**	**137**	**138**	**139**	**140**
(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(a)	(d)	(d)	(c)	(d)

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 ANSWER (a) weigh

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Collocation: Weigh Against) The sentence speaks of comparing two things before reaching a decision. **Weigh A against B** means to balance one against the other; here policymakers must weigh public investment against fiscal constraints. **Estimate** and **measure** do not take 'against' in this sense, and **fathom** means to understand something deeply.

02 ANSWER (c) nevertheless

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Contrast Connector) The first part says that technology has improved efficiency, while the second part names a problem: the unpredictability of sunlight and wind remains a challenge. The two parts pull in opposite directions, so a connector of contrast, **nevertheless** (even so), is needed.

Examiner's Trap **Therefore** and **consequently** introduce a result, and **moreover** adds a further point; none of the three signals contrast.

03 ANSWER (b) yield

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Verb Collocation: Yield Benefits) 'Benefits they ____ over several decades' needs a verb meaning 'to produce benefits'. **Yield** means to give or produce a return or benefit.

Examiner's Trap The subject of **derive** is the one who receives the benefit, not the project that produces it, so it does not fit here.

04 ANSWER (a) pool

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Collocation: Pool Efforts) The sentence says that everyone should combine their efforts instead of working through 'isolated initiatives'. **Pool their efforts** is a standard collocation meaning to put efforts together and share them.

Examiner's Trap **Scatter**, **divide** and **withdraw** all run against the idea of cooperation.

05 ANSWER (a) succumb to

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Succumb To) The sense is that society should refuse to give in to 'complacency'. **Succumb to** means to yield to pressure or temptation, which fits complacency well.

Examiner's Trap **Adhere to** means to follow or stick to, which reverses the meaning here, and **resort to** complacency (to turn to it as a remedy) makes little sense.

06 ANSWER (b) diminished

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Present Perfect Verb Form) The sentence has 'has steadily ____', so the Present Perfect needs the third form (past participle) of the verb: **diminished**. After 'has', neither the base form (diminish) nor the -ing form can be used, and 'had diminished' cannot be combined with 'has'.

> **✓ Correct sentence** Once a revered ritual, letter writing has steadily **diminished** into a relic of bygone eras, displaced by the relentless immediacy of digital communication.

07 ANSWER (c) conveyed

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Simple Past After Past Time) 'There was a time when' makes it clear that the statement is about the past, so the main verb must be in the Simple Past: **conveyed**. The base form 'convey' does not agree with the singular subject 'envelope', while 'conveying' and 'had conveying' cannot form a finite verb.

> **✓ Correct sentence** There was a time when a single envelope, ink-smudged and weatherworn, **conveyed** profound intimacies across continents, preserving sentiments too sacred to entrust to fleeting conversations.

08 ANSWER (b) Remaining traces

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Vocabulary: Vestiges) **Vestiges** are the remaining traces of something that has passed away.

The sentence says that every handwritten stroke carried traces of the writer's soul. **Polished embellishments** means refined decorations, **heavy burdens** means weighty loads, and **concealed meanings** means hidden senses.

✓ Correct sentence Today's sterile texts and hastily composed emails seldom replicate the tactility that imbued handwritten letters with gravitas; every flourish, every hesitant stroke, bore the **Remaining traces** vestiges of a soul laid bare.

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09 ANSWER (c) transpire

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Present Simple With a Plural Subject) The subject 'certain articulations of the heart' is plural and the statement is a general truth, so the plural Present Simple verb **transpire** is needed.

✓ Correct sentence It is not merely nostalgia that compels some to cling to this endangered practice, but recognition that certain articulations of the heart **transpire** better when filtered through the slowness of ink and parchment.

Examiner's Trap 'Transpires' is singular, 'have transpired' is Present Perfect and does not suit a general statement, and 'transpired' is past.

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10 ANSWER (b) Careful intention

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Vocabulary: Deliberateness) **Deliberateness** means doing something thoughtfully and with care. The passage sets it against 'impulsivity'. **Spontaneity** means acting naturally without thinking, **rapid decision** is a quick choice, and **emotional outburst** is a sudden show of feeling.

✓ Correct sentence Indeed, the act of penning a letter demands a kind of **Careful intention** deliberateness rare in an age characterized by impulsivity and ephemerality.

Examiner's Trap **Spontaneity** is the opposite in meaning, though it may look close at first glance.

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11 ANSWER (c) protocol

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Vocabulary: Protocol (Noun)) 'Regimes of visibility and institutional ____' calls for a word describing an institutional framework. **Protocol** means an established set of rules and procedures, which matches the structure of the archive and the context of 'procedural neutrality'. **Elaboration** means detailed expansion, and **pretext** means an excuse.

✓ Correct sentence The archive, far from a passive container of memory, functions as an apparatus of epistemic engineering—structuring the legibility of the past through regimes of visibility and institutional **protocol** .

Examiner's Trap **Homogenous** (uniform) is an adjective, whereas a noun is needed here.

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12 ANSWER (b) inarticulable

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Vocabulary: Inarticulable) Whatever falls outside the category of the archive is denied 'syntactic viability', that is, it cannot be spoken of or expressed at all. **Inarticulable** means that which cannot be put into words. **Anachronistic** means out of its proper time, and **heretical** means contrary to accepted belief.

✓ Correct sentence What escapes its rubric is not lost, but rendered **inarticulable** —denied syntactic viability within the lexicon of national legitimacy.

Examiner's Trap **Peripheral** (marginal) seems close, but it does not carry the idea of being denied 'syntactic viability'.

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13 ANSWER (c) canonized

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Vocabulary: Canonized) The next clause says the included items are 'endowed with rhetorical inertia that naturalizes their interpretive authority', that is, they have been given authoritative recognition. **Canonized** means officially accepted or declared authoritative. **Contextualized** means placed in context, **indexed** means listed, and **diluted** means thinned or weakened.

✓ Correct sentence Items included are not only preserved but **canonized** , endowed with

rhetorical inertia that naturalizes their interpretive authority.

14 ANSWER (b) regulates

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Vocabulary: Regulates) The subject is 'it' (the archive), so the verb must be singular; this rules out **differentiate**. The following phrase, 'dictating not only what can be known...', conveys control, so **regulates** (controls) fits. **Fabricates** means invents, and **memorializes** means commemorates.

✓ **Correct sentence** In doing so, it **regulates** affective possibility—dictating not only what can be known, but what may be mourned, commemorated, or forgotten.

Examiner's Trap **Differentiate** is a plural form and cannot go with the singular subject 'it'.

15 ANSWER (b) destabilize

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Vocabulary: Destabilize) The passage argues that the scholar's task is not merely to extract information but to commit 'ontological sabotage'. It is therefore logical to **destabilize** (unsettle, shake) the archive's 'predicate assumptions'. **Integrate**, **invoke** and **mimic** all run against the idea of sabotage.

✓ **Correct sentence** To critique this system is not to impugn documentation, but to unmask its metaphysical scaffolding: the unseen grammar that adjudicates between datum and debris, artifact and aberration, history and noise.The scholar's task, then, is not simply retrieval, but ontological sabotage: to **destabilize** the archive's predicate assumptions before entering its doors.

16 ANSWER (b) labyrinthine

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Context Clue: Labyrinthine) According to the passage, outer space is now full of 'rivalries' and 'juridical lacunae', that is, it is tangled and complicated. **Labyrinthine** means as complex as a maze. **Sanctified** (made holy), **terrestrial** (of the earth) and **homogenized** (made uniform) all contradict this sense of complexity.

✓ **Correct sentence** The domain of outer space, once a sublime expanse emblematic of universal aspiration, has morphed into a **labyrinthine** terrain, rife with techno-nationalistic rivalries and juridical lacunae.

17 ANSWER (a) elided

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Elided) The 'erstwhile doctrinal separations between civilian and military enterprises' are described as having disappeared. **Elided** means omitted or erased. **Accentuated** means emphasised, which gives the opposite sense.

✓ **Correct sentence** The proliferation of constellations, kinetic kill vehicles, and cyber-vulnerable architectures has **elided** erstwhile doctrinal separations between civilian and military enterprises.

Examiner's Trap **Amalgamated** seems close, but separations are not 'merged'; they are wiped out.

18 ANSWER (b) vestigial

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Vestigial) Agreements such as the Outer Space Treaty now look irrelevant in the face of 'unilateral adventurism'. **Vestigial** means surviving only as a remnant that has lost its function. **Inviolate** (not to be violated) gives the opposite sense.

✓ **Correct sentence** Multilateral compacts, such as the Outer Space Treaty, now appear **vestigial** in the face of unilateral adventurism and semantic exploitation of treaty ambiguities.

Examiner's Trap **Inviolate** suggests that the agreements are strong, whereas the sentence speaks of their weakening.

19 ANSWER (a) extractivist

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Extractivist) The sentence speaks of resource extraction from asteroids and 'planetary commodification', so the word describing this new phase must be **extractivist** (based on exploiting natural resources). **Fiduciary**,

anachronistic and **restitutive** do not match the context.

✓ Correct sentence Resource extraction from asteroids and prospective Mars colonization introduce a lexicon of planetary commodification, propelling a new phase of **extractivist** governance, where legitimacy is brokered not by consensus but by technological primacy.

20 ANSWER (c) prophylactic

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Prophylactic) Techno-diplomacy is expected to serve as an instrument of 'deterrence' and 'strategic calibration', that is, to stop a threat before it arises. **Prophylactic** means preventive. **Palliative** (merely giving relief), **perfunctory** (done without interest) and **prosaic** (dull) carry no sense of prevention.

✓ Correct sentence In this milieu, techno-diplomacy must evolve beyond hortatory platitudes to a **prophylactic** apparatus for strategic calibration, deterrence, and geopolitical signaling in an emergent multipolar cosmodynamic order.

21 ANSWER (a) Encouraged by growing environmental awareness

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Participial Phrase as Opener) The blank is followed by a comma and a complete clause, so a participial phrase is needed. 'Encouraged by growing environmental awareness' uses a past participle with a passive sense: citizens create gardens because they are encouraged by growing awareness.

Examiner's Trap Options such as 'Having encourage' have the verb in the wrong form, and option D is an incomplete construction.

22 ANSWER (c) Although

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Concessive Conjunction: Although) The sentence holds two contrasting ideas: urban farming cannot replace traditional farming, yet it complements it. A concessive conjunction, **although**, is needed to express this contrast.

Examiner's Trap **Unless**, **therefore** and **likewise** do not express contrast.

23 ANSWER (b) break down

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Collocation: Break Down Barriers) **Break down** is a standard collocation with 'social barriers', meaning to demolish them. The gardens bring together people from different backgrounds, so this is the sense required.

24 ANSWER (a) resilience

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Collocation: Urban Resilience) Policymakers regard urban farming as a way of strengthening cities, so a positive word is needed. **Resilience** means the capacity to recover from difficulties, and 'urban resilience' is a common collocation.

25 ANSWER (a) on

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Fixed Preposition: Depend On) **Depend on** is a fixed phrase, and the sentence has the parallel structure 'depends not only on individual enthusiasm but also on supportive public policies'. Hence **on** is correct.

26 ANSWER (a) legacies

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Legacies) The passage says that examinations repeat the inheritance of systemic inequities. **Legacies** means what is handed down from the past, and it pairs naturally with 'inequities'. **Ruptures** means breaks, and **inversions** means reversals.

✓ Correct sentence These trials, draped in metrics and flanked by syllabi, often merely echo the **legacies** of systemic inequities rather than resolving them.

Examiner's Trap **Echoes** would clash with the verb 'echo' already in the sentence, producing the repetition 'echo the echoes'.

27 ANSWER (b) depth

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Contrast Pair: Swiftness and Depth) Parallel to 'memory masquerades as intellect', the sentence says that 'swiftness' is placed above **depth**. Speed and depth are opposites, which completes the logic of the sentence. **Compliance** means obedience, and **abstraction** means a lack of concreteness.

✓ **Correct sentence** In this theatre, memory masquerades as intellect, and swiftness is crowned over **depth** .

Examiner's Trap **Urgency** is close to swiftness rather than opposed to it, so the contrast with swiftness does not work.

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28 ANSWER (c) fossilize

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Fossilize) In 'Dreams don't shatter; they ____, calcifying into compliance', the word must agree with 'calcifying' (hardening). **Fossilize** means to set and harden like stone. **Intensify**, **dissolve** and **scatter** do not match the sense of 'calcifying'.

✓ **Correct sentence** Dreams don't shatter; they **fossilize** , calcifying into compliance.

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29 ANSWER (b) dismantled

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Dismantled) 'Until the grammar of merit is ____, not rebranded' needs the opposite of rebranding, namely taking the structure itself apart. **Dismantled** means broken down and removed. The earlier phrase 'interrogate the architecture itself' supports the same sense.

✓ **Correct sentence** Until the grammar of merit is **dismantled** , not rebranded, no revision will suffice.

Examiner's Trap **Unlearned** seems somewhat close, but the idea of tearing down the structure, set against 'not rebranded', belongs only to **dismantled**.

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30 ANSWER (a) progress

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Progress) The last line says that people mistake the climb up the ladder for **progress**, while the structure itself stays invisible. 'The climb is mistaken for progress' conveys an illusion of advancement and fits the critical tone of the whole passage.

✓ **Correct sentence** The danger is not that we aim too high, but that the scaffolding remains unseen, and the climb is mistaken for **progress** .

Examiner's Trap **Destination**, **transformation** and **justice** are positive words, but none has the sense of illusion that 'mistaken for progress' carries.

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31 ANSWER (a) has conferred

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Present Perfect in Context) The ascendancy of technology has grown over time, and its aura persists even now. For a situation that began in the past and is connected with the present, the Present Perfect **has conferred** is suitable. Hence option A is correct.

✓ **Correct sentence** In the modern zeitgeist, the ascendancy of technology **has conferred** an aura of inexorability, fostering the notion that human agency is increasingly subordinate to algorithmic architectures.

Examiner's Trap **Had conferred** and **was conferring** are past forms and do not fit 'In the modern zeitgeist'; 'confers' lacks the sense of a state carried over from earlier times.

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32 ANSWER (a) obscures

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Subject-Verb Agreement in Simple Present) The subject 'This perspective' is singular and the passage runs in the Simple Present, so the verb must be **obscures**. The adverb 'often' also points to a habitual or general statement.

✓ **Correct sentence** This perspective, however, often **obscures** the complexity of human intentionality, reducing societies to passive recipients of innovation rather than active co-creators.

Examiner's Trap **Obscure** is a plural verb, and **obscuring** and **obscured** cannot serve alone as the main verb.

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33 ANSWER (b) Impossible to evade

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Ineluctable) **Ineluctable** means impossible to avoid, inevitable. The sentence says that treating technological development as inevitable underestimates human agency.

✓ **Correct sentence** Indeed, to view technological development as **Impossible to evade** ineluctable is to diminish the scope of human volition.

Examiner's Trap **Easily avoided** is the direct opposite in meaning.

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34 ANSWER (b) becomes

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Subject-Verb Agreement With an Infinitive Phrase) The subject 'the ethical imperative' is singular, and 'to assert governance and restraint' is an infinitive phrase that describes it. A present state is being described, so the singular present verb **becomes** is correct.

✓ **Correct sentence** As artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, and quantum computing advance, the ethical imperative to assert governance and restraint **becomes** ever more salient.

Examiner's Trap The plural nouns 'restraint' and 'advance' near the subject lead students to choose plural 'become'; **became** is past, and **becoming** cannot be a finite verb on its own.

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35 ANSWER (b) Self-creation and self-maintenance

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Vocabulary in Context: Autopoiesis) **Autopoiesis** refers to a system that creates and maintains itself. The sentence itself explains the term: 'systems self-perpetuate without human oversight'.

✓ **Correct sentence** In the absence of such stewardship, humanity risks enacting a form of **Self-creation and self-maintenance** autopoiesis, wherein systems self-perpetuate without conscious human oversight or ethical anchoring.

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36 ANSWER (c) hermeneutic

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Word in Context) Judicial review is said not merely to apply the law but to interpret it and so alter its ground. **Hermeneutic** means relating to interpretation. **Ceremonial** means formal, **pragmatic** means practical, and **adversarial** means opposing.

✓ **Correct sentence** Judicial review, by its nature, is a **hermeneutic** exercise — it does not merely apply the law, it reshapes the very terrain on which law stands.

Examiner's Trap **Pragmatic** seems close, but the passage is concerned with interpretation, not practicality.

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37 ANSWER (a) abdication

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Word in Context) When 'deference' goes too far, it becomes a surrender of duty. **Abdication** means giving up one's responsibility, which suits the negative sense of 'veers into'.

✓ **Correct sentence** They invoke the need to defer to legislative wisdom, even when that deference veers into **abdication** .

Examiner's Trap **Submission**, **reciprocity** and **entitlement** do not carry the idea of the judiciary giving up its role.

---

38 ANSWER (c) complicity

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Word in Context) According to the passage, the danger lies not in judicial activism but in the 'quiet sanctioning of inertia', that is, silently approving inaction. **Complicity** means silent participation in wrongdoing, which expresses this exactly.

✓ **Correct sentence** The risk is not judicial activism, but judicial **complicity** : the quiet sanctioning of inertia under the guise of neutrality.

Examiner's Trap **Adventurism** is close to activism, which the sentence has already dismissed.

---

39 ANSWER (d) accountability

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Word in Context) The sentence says legitimacy should be seen not as 'insulation from scrutiny' but as being answerable to examination.

Accountability means answerability, the direct opposite of 'insulation'.

✓ Correct sentence To remedy this, one must reframe legitimacy not as insulation from scrutiny, but as **accountability** within plural constitutional visions.

Examiner's Trap **Entrenchment** is close in sense to insulation, so it does not fit a sentence that states the opposite idea.

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40 ANSWER (b) reconstitution

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Word in Context) A palimpsest is a manuscript that has been written over again and again. In 'layered, overwritten, and constantly in the process of ____', the idea is of continually taking a new form, so **reconstitution** (re-forming) is apt.

✓ Correct sentence The Constitution, after all, is not a monolith but a palimpsest — layered, overwritten, and constantly in the process of **reconstitution** .

Examiner's Trap **Ossification** (hardening like bone) is the exact opposite of continual change.

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41 ANSWER (a) is gaining

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Cloze – Present Continuous for an Ongoing Trend) 'Increasing recognition' describes an ongoing process in which acceptance keeps growing, and the Present Continuous **is gaining** conveys this continuity. 'Has gained' presents the gain as a completed result, whereas the word 'increasing' shows that the process is still going on; 'gained' and 'had been gaining' are past forms. Hence option A is correct.

✓ Correct sentence Art therapy, a modality that merges creative expression with psychotherapeutic principles, **is gaining** increasing recognition in clinical and non-clinical settings alike.

Examiner's Trap 'Has gained' makes the action seem complete, whereas 'increasing' shows that the process is still continuing.

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42 ANSWER (a) provides

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Subject-Verb Agreement: Present Simple) The subject 'art therapy' is singular and the sentence states a general feature in the present ('Unlike traditional verbal therapies...'), so the singular Simple Present verb **provides** is correct.

✓ Correct sentence Unlike traditional verbal therapies, art therapy **provides** an alternative conduit for articulating experiences that may be difficult to verbalize.

Examiner's Trap **Providing** and **provided** cannot form a main verb, and 'has providing' is an incorrect form.

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43 ANSWER (c) Control of emotional responses

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Cloze: Meaning of a Phrase) **Affective** means relating to emotions, and **regulation** means control. Hence **affective regulation** means control over emotional responses.

✓ Correct sentence Through mediums such as painting, sculpture, and collage, individuals externalize internal conflicts, thereby facilitating catharsis and promoting **Control of emotional responses** affective regulation.

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44 ANSWER (b) is

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Subject-Verb Agreement: Gerund Subject) The real subject is the gerund phrase 'engaging in artistic activities', which is treated as singular; the noun 'activities' is not the subject. The singular verb **is** is therefore needed.

✓ Correct sentence Furthermore, engaging in artistic activities **is** positively correlated with reduced cortisol levels, implying diminished physiological stress responses.

Examiner's Trap The plural 'activities' makes **are** tempting, but the subject is a gerund phrase, so the verb stays singular.

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45 ANSWER (b) Soothing without curing

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Vocabulary: Palliative) **Palliative** describes a measure that relieves symptoms without curing the

disease. The passage points the same way with 'not merely for symptomatic relief'.

✓ Correct sentence In therapeutic contexts, art becomes a **Soothing without curing** palliative instrument, not merely for symptomatic relief but also for facilitating profound personal transformation.

46 ANSWER (a) masks

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Cloze: Word in Context) The sentence says that uniform aesthetics cover up the 'organic disorder' that pluralistic expression needs. **Masks** means hides or covers. **Heightens** means increases, **reclaims** means takes back, and **energizes** means gives energy to.

✓ Correct sentence The aesthetic uniformity of gentrified spaces, lauded for efficiency, often **masks** the organic disorder essential to pluralistic expression.

Examiner's Trap The other three options are positive in meaning, whereas in the passage's critique, uniformity reduces disorder.

47 ANSWER (b) domesticated

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Cloze: Word in Context) The next words are 'passive compliance', so the citizen is being made docile. **Domesticated** means tamed or brought under control, which fits the 'choreography of control'.

✓ Correct sentence These are not incidental choices but deliberate gestures in a choreography of control, wherein the citizen is **domesticated** into passive compliance.

Examiner's Trap **Galvanized**, **inducted** and **stimulated** carry no sense of making someone passive.

48 ANSWER (b) containment

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Cloze – Word in Context) The passage is about control and surveillance, and the sentence says that freedom is reduced to **containment**, a state of being confined, within programmed boundaries.

'Circulation' means free movement, which does not convey a reduction of freedom, and 'freedom' has already appeared, so C would be a repetition. 'Iteration' means repetition and does not fit the context. Hence option B is correct.

✓ Correct sentence Without contestation, the commons may be transmuted into a theatre of managed appearance, and freedom reduced to **containment** within programmed boundaries.

49 ANSWER (c) purification

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Cloze: Word in Context) The sentence presents urban renewal as a planned clearing away of 'messiness, unpredictability, and resistance'. **Purification** means cleansing by removing whatever is considered impure.

✓ Correct sentence What masquerades as urban renewal might, in truth, be an erasure—a calculated **purification** of messiness, unpredictability, and resistance.

Examiner's Trap **Exile** seems close, but an abstract thing like 'messiness' is not exiled; it is removed so that the place may be 'purified'.

50 ANSWER (a) expunged

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Cloze: Word in Context) The sentence gives dissent two fates: either it is 're-scripted' or it is removed. **Expunged** means erased completely. **Dramatized** means made theatrical, **validated** means given recognition, and **softened** means made gentler.

✓ Correct sentence In this theatre of optimization, dissent must either be re-scripted or **expunged** .

Examiner's Trap **Dramatized**, **validated** and **softened** do not fit the theme of 'erasure'.

51 ANSWER (a) reflecting

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Participle Phrase) A comma precedes the blank and the main clause is complete, so a participle phrase is needed to show an accompanying action of the same subject (evolution). 'Reflecting values, technologies...' uses the present participle.

✓ Correct sentence Throughout history, the evolution of women's clothing has mirrored broader societal shifts, **reflecting** values, technologies, and power structures.

Examiner's Trap **Reflected** and **reflects** would create a separate clause with no connector, and **having reflected** indicates an action already completed.

52 ANSWER (c) signified

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Simple Past With a Past Time Marker) 'In ancient civilizations' clearly indicates the past, so the Simple Past **signified** is needed.

✓ Correct sentence In ancient civilizations, garments often **signified** not only status and wealth but also cultural affiliations, with fabrics and dyes reserved for the privileged classes.

Examiner's Trap **Signify** is a plural form, 'has signified' is linked to the present, and **signifying** cannot form a finite verb.

53 ANSWER (a) Strengthening

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Meaning of a Word) **Entrenching** means establishing something firmly. The sentence says that strict dress codes further reinforced gender hierarchies.

✓ Correct sentence The Middle Ages introduced rigid dress codes; women's attire, elaborate and weighty, served as both an ornament and a restraint, subtly **Strengthening** entrenching gender hierarchies.

54 ANSWER (b) Stimulated

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Meaning of a Word) **Catalyzed** means speeded up or set off a process. The suffrage and feminist movements spurred major change in fashion.

✓ Correct sentence Fast-forwarding to the 20th century, movements like suffrage and feminism **Stimulated** catalyzed seismic transformations in fashion, promoting practicality, autonomy, and self-expression.

55 ANSWER (a) remains

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Simple Present With 'Even Today') 'Even today' points to the present state, and the subject 'the politics' is singular, so the singular Simple Present verb **remains** is correct.

✓ Correct sentence Even today, the politics of women's clothing **remains** a battleground for debates on identity, freedom, and societal expectations.

Examiner's Trap **Remain** is plural; 'has remained' and 'had remained' add a sense of completion that this statement does not need.

56 ANSWER (a) provides

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Cloze: Simple Present Verb) The head word of the subject 'the practice of deliberate solitude' is 'practice', which is singular. To state a general truth, the Simple Present **provides** is suitable. 'Is providing' suggests a temporary action, whereas this is a permanent feature; 'provided' and 'had provided' are past.

✓ Correct sentence In a world increasingly dominated by constant connectivity, the practice of deliberate solitude **provides** a counterbalance to the cognitive overload many experience daily.

Examiner's Trap After 'deliberate solitude', students are pulled by the nearby noun towards a plural verb, but the head word of the subject is the singular 'practice'.

57 ANSWER (b) offers

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Cloze: Singular Subject-Verb) The subject 'solitude' is singular and the passage states a general truth, so the singular Simple Present verb **offers** is correct. 'Offer' is plural, 'offered' is past, and 'offering' cannot form a finite verb.

✓ Correct sentence Contrary to the pervasive notion that being alone equates to loneliness, solitude **offers** a fertile ground for introspection, creativity, and emotional recalibration.

58 **ANSWER (b)** Self-governing and independent

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Cloze: Vocabulary in Context) **Autonomous** means making one's own decisions independently. According to the sentence, once detached from external validation, self-perception becomes more self-reliant. Hence **Self-governing and independent** is correct, while **Dependent on others** is its opposite.

✓ **Correct sentence** Engaging in solitary reflection enables individuals to disentangle themselves from external validation, thereby fostering a more **Self-governing and independent** autonomous sense of self.

Examiner's Trap Option A is the direct opposite in meaning, and students reading in a hurry sometimes pick an opposite.

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59 **ANSWER (c)** is

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Cloze: Simple Present of 'be') The sentence 'when chosen voluntarily, it ____ restorative' states a general truth, so the Simple Present **is** is suitable, and the pronoun 'it' (solitude) needs a singular verb. 'Is being' indicates a temporary action, while 'has been' and 'would have been' do not match the tense of a general statement.

✓ **Correct sentence** However, the benefits of solitude are contingent upon mindset; when chosen voluntarily, it **is** restorative, but when imposed, it can exacerbate feelings of isolation.

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60 **ANSWER (c)** Deep, prolonged thought

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Cloze: Vocabulary in Context) **Rumination** means thinking deeply about a subject for a long time. 'Existential rumination' refers to intense reflection on questions of existence.

✓ **Correct sentence** In broader philosophical discourse, solitude is often celebrated as a medium for existential **Deep, prolonged thought** rumination.

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61 **ANSWER (a)** convert

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Convert Into) In 'Abandoned plots into productive green spaces', 'into' marks a transformation. Hence **convert** A into B (to change A into B) is correct. **Preserve** means to protect, **withdraw** means to take back, and **scatter** means to throw about.

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62 **ANSWER (c)** emerged

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Emerge As) The sentence reads 'have ____ as effective instruments', and **emerge as** means to come into view in a particular role. **Declined** means decreased, **retreated** means withdrew, and **dissolved** means melted away; none of these makes sense with 'as effective instruments'.

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63 **ANSWER (d)** break down

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Phrasal Verb 'Break Down') 'Even well-planned projects may ____ over time because of poor maintenance' expresses failure or deterioration. **Break down** means to stop working or to fail. **Carry forward** means to continue, **take after** means to resemble, and **set aside** means to keep separate.

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64 **ANSWER (b)** spreads

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Singular Verb) The subject 'this awareness' is singular and the sentence describes a present process ('gradually'), so the singular Simple Present verb **spreads** is correct. 'Spread' here would be a plural form, 'spreading' cannot form a finite verb, and 'has spreading' is an incorrect form.

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65 **ANSWER (a)** build up

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Phrasal Verb 'Build Up') 'Ability of communities to ____ collaborative networks' expresses setting up and strengthening networks. **Build up** means to develop gradually. **Put off** means to postpone, **run into** means to meet by chance, and **look over** means to examine quickly.

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66 ANSWER (b) pose

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Cloze: Plural Subject-Verb) The subject 'emerging infectious diseases' is plural and the statement is in the present, so the plural verb **pose** is needed. 'Poses' is singular and does not agree with the subject; 'had posed' is past, and 'posing' cannot be the main verb alone.

✓ Correct sentence In an era marked by global interconnectedness, emerging infectious diseases **pose** an unprecedented threat to public health infrastructures worldwide.

Examiner's Trap Because 'diseases' has no singular-looking word beside it, students still take the verb ending in 's', **poses**, to be correct.

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67 ANSWER (b) presents

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Cloze: Subject-Verb Agreement) In the subject 'the unpredictable nature of outbreaks', the head word 'nature' is singular ('of outbreaks' only modifies it). Hence the singular present verb **presents** is correct. 'Present' is plural; 'presented' and 'presenting' are unsuitable as the main verb here.

✓ Correct sentence Although medical science has made formidable strides, the unpredictable nature of outbreaks **presents** persistent difficulties in preparedness and response mechanisms.

Examiner's Trap The nearby plural 'outbreaks' leads students to choose the plural verb 'present', although the head word of the subject is 'nature'.

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68 ANSWER (b) impedes

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Cloze: Verb With an Uncountable Noun) The subject 'misinformation' is an uncountable noun and is therefore treated as singular. 'Proliferated through digital platforms' is a reduced relative clause describing it, so the main verb must be singular present: misinformation **impedes** the efficacy. 'Impede' is plural, 'has impeding' is an incorrect form, and 'impeding' cannot form a finite verb.

✓ Correct sentence Adding to the complexity, misinformation proliferated through digital platforms **impedes** the efficacy of public health interventions, sometimes undermining vaccination campaigns and quarantine measures.

Examiner's Trap Under the influence of the plural 'digital platforms', students choose the plural verb 'impede'.

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69 ANSWER (b) Collective immunity reducing disease transmission

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Cloze: Vocabulary in Context) The passage defines herd immunity: when a large part of the population becomes immune, even vulnerable people are indirectly protected. This is **Collective immunity reducing disease transmission**. The passage says 'whether via vaccination or natural exposure' (so A is wrong), mentions no coercion (so C is wrong), and speaks of human populations (so D is wrong).

✓ Correct sentence However, achieving **Collective immunity reducing disease transmission** herd immunity, whether via vaccination or natural exposure, entails considerable ethical and logistical challenges.

Examiner's Trap In option D the word 'herd' suggests animals, but the passage is about human populations.

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70 ANSWER (b) Preventive action against disease

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Cloze: Vocabulary in Context) **Prophylaxis** means measures taken to prevent a disease before it occurs. The passage likewise speaks of preparing in advance for 'emerging health threats'.

✓ Correct sentence An effective response to emerging health threats must prioritize resilience, adaptability, and above all, **Preventive action against disease** prophylaxis.

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71 ANSWER (a) assimilated

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Vocabulary in Context) The sentence describes mental models being fully absorbed into 'long-term memory'. **Assimilated** means taken in and made part of one's understanding, which fits 'into long-term memory'. **Fabricated** means made up,

accumulated means gathered, and **inherited** means received from an ancestor.

Examiner's Trap **Accumulated** suggests a pile-up and tempts students, but it lacks the sense of being deeply absorbed that 'into' requires.

72 ANSWER (c) accommodate

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Verb Meaning in Context) The question states that pedagogical frameworks must take learners' cognitive limits into account. **Accommodate** means to adjust to someone's needs or limitations. **Undermine** means to weaken, **intensify** means to make stronger, and **surpass** means to go beyond.

Examiner's Trap None of **undermine**, **intensify** or **surpass** means 'taking limits into account', yet their difficulty makes students stray towards them.

73 ANSWER (b) lest

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Conjunction of Preventive Purpose) The blank is followed by 'students confuse...', and the purpose is to prevent that from happening. **Lest** conveys 'so that it may not happen'. **Whereas** means while, **whereby** means by which, and **notwithstanding** means despite.

Examiner's Trap **Whereby** also looks like a conjunction, but it indicates a means, not a preventive purpose.

74 ANSWER (b) Although

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Concessive Conjunction) The sentence holds two opposed situations: technological capability is growing, yet inequality in educational access persists. A concessive conjunction, **although**, is needed for this contrast. **Since** and **because** give reasons, while **therefore** gives a result.

Examiner's Trap None of **since**, **because** and **therefore** shows contrast; students pick them as ordinary connectors.

75 ANSWER (c) subside

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Verb Showing Decline) The passage says that if the design is not thoughtful, the initial appeal of VR will fade 'gradually'. **Subside** means to die down or decrease slowly. **Proliferate**, **culminate** and **intensify** all mean growing or reaching a peak, whereas the context is one of decline.

Examiner's Trap Words of growth such as **proliferate** and **intensify** run against the context, yet they attract students because they are difficult vocabulary.

76 ANSWER (a) governing

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Participle Phrase of Result) A comma precedes the blank, and 'attention is regarded as the gateway of perception' is a complete clause. The present participle **governing** is suitable to show an accompanying action of the same subject. 'Governed' is wrong because attention itself controls selection. 'Governs' would need a connector, and 'to govern' changes the meaning.

Examiner's Trap **Governs** is a simple present tense and so looks right, but two finite verbs cannot be joined without a connector.

77 ANSWER (d) While

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Contrast Connector: While) The two parts of the sentence are opposed: researchers have debated the limits for years, whereas recent findings show attention to be far more dynamic. A contrast connector, **while** (whereas), is needed; it can also be used in the sense of 'although'. **Since** and **because** give reasons, and **unless** states a condition.

Examiner's Trap Students treat **while** only as a marker of time and forget its use for contrast.

78 ANSWER (b) carry out

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Carry Out) With 'elaborate experiments', **carry out** (to conduct, to perform) is the standard phrasal verb. **Bring up** means to raise or rear, **set off** means to start a journey or trigger, and **take over** means to assume control.

Examiner's Trap **Set off** carries the sense of 'starting', so it seems to suit starting experiments, but the standard phrasal verb with experiments is **carry out**.

79 ANSWER (a) architecture

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Noun Meaning in Context) 'The mental ____ of decision-making' refers to the underlying structure of a decision. **Architecture** means the basic structure of a system, and 'mental architecture' is a common expression. **Apparatus** means equipment, **spectrum** means a range, and **momentum** means forward drive.

Examiner's Trap **Apparatus** also sounds like a 'system', but it refers to physical equipment.

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80 ANSWER (a) in relation to

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Prepositional Phrase: In Relation To) The sentence examines the role of attention in connection with emotional regulation. **In relation to** means 'with regard to', which suits 'examined'. **In contrast to** means as opposed to, **in addition to** means besides, and **on behalf of** means representing.

Examiner's Trap **In addition to** also suggests adding something, but the sense needed here is 'connection', not 'addition'.

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81 ANSWER (b) Therefore

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Discourse Marker of Conclusion) The previous sentence describes the problem of tourism pressure, and this sentence gives the conclusion that everyone must work together to ensure the outcome. A discourse marker of result, **therefore**, is needed. **Nevertheless** means even so, **likewise** means in the same way, and **meanwhile** means in the meantime.

Examiner's Trap **Nevertheless** signals contrast, but students choose it because it follows a problem.

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82 ANSWER (a) informed

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adjective Meaning in Context) The next line speaks of decisions that support local artisans and save resources. Such decisions are made with knowledge and understanding, so **informed** (well-considered, based on information) is apt. **Impulsive** means done on a whim, **arbitrary** means random, and **reluctant** means unwilling.

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83 ANSWER (d) enforced

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Second Conditional If-Clause) The sentence has 'monitored' (past) and 'could... be reduced' (conditional). This is a Second Conditional, whose if-clause takes the Simple Past, so **enforced** is correct. 'Enforce' and 'have enforced' are present forms, and 'had enforced' is a Third Conditional form that does not go with 'could be reduced'.

Examiner's Trap **Had enforced** seems right because it is a past form, but the main clause 'could be reduced' calls for the Second Conditional.

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84 ANSWER (b) strike a balance

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Collocation: Strike a Balance) With 'a balance between commercial profitability and ecological responsibility', **strike a balance** is a fixed collocation meaning to find a fair middle course between two opposing things. **Draw**, **build** and **create** do not form a natural collocation with 'balance'.

Examiner's Trap **Create a balance** and **build a balance** sound like literal translations from other languages, which makes them tempting.

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85 ANSWER (d) with

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Preposition With 'Engage') **Engage with** is a fixed phrase meaning to interact or connect with someone. The sentence speaks of 'engaging respectfully with host communities'. **To**, **at** and **for** are not used in this sense.

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86 ANSWER (b) In other words

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Discourse Marker: In Other Words) The previous sentence says that the clash between climate policy and economic growth is misleading. The next sentence restates the same idea in different terms: decarbonisation is not an obstacle but a safeguard of the foundation. **In other words** is therefore apt. **Nevertheless** means even so, **meanwhile** means in the meantime, and **by comparison** introduces a comparison.

Examiner's Trap **Nevertheless** sounds difficult and formal, so it seems to suit a serious sentence, but here there is restatement, not contrast.

87 ANSWER (a) defers

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Verb Meaning: Defer) In 'postponement does not eliminate the burden; it merely ____ it', the burden is put off to a later time. **Defers** means postpones. **Disperses** means scatters, **diminishes** means reduces (which contradicts 'does not eliminate'), and **disclaims** means disowns.

Examiner's Trap **Diminishes** goes naturally with 'burden', but it clashes with the logic of 'does not eliminate'.

88 ANSWER (d) would be

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Mixed Conditional) The sentence begins 'Had major economies begun...', an inverted Third Conditional (If they had begun...). But the word 'today' shows that the result concerns the present. This is a Mixed Conditional, whose main clause takes 'would + base form'. 'Would have been' describes a result wholly in the past.

Examiner's Trap Seeing the usual Third Conditional pattern, students choose 'would have been' and miss the signal of 'today'.

89 ANSWER (a) distributive framework

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Noun Phrase Meaning in Context) The sentence describes a structure that compensates affected workers and distributes public investment fairly. In view of the verb 'distributes', **distributive framework** is correct. **Procedural formality**, **rhetorical convention** and **speculative arrangement** cannot perform the functions listed in the sentence.

90 ANSWER (c) with

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Reckon With) **Reckon with** is a phrasal verb meaning to face and take account of a problem or consequence. Hence 'reckon **with** the social repercussions' is correct. 'Reckon on' means to expect, which does not fit here.

Examiner's Trap **Upon** seems to go with 'reckon on', but that means to expect, not to face.

91 ANSWER (b) poses

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Subject-Verb Agreement in Cloze) The subject is 'the rapid proliferation', whose head word 'proliferation' is singular ('of artificial intelligence technologies' only modifies it). To state the general present situation, the singular present verb **poses** is needed. 'Have posed' is plural, and 'posed' and 'had posed' are past forms.

✓ Correct sentence The rapid proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies **poses** profound ethical quandaries, necessitating an urgent reevaluation of longstanding moral frameworks.

Examiner's Trap The plural 'technologies' beside the verb pulls students towards a plural verb.

92 ANSWER (a) is sparking

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Singular Subject With Present Continuous) The subject 'its deployment' is singular, so the singular auxiliary 'is' is needed. The present continuous **is sparking** suits the sentence because the debate is still going on. 'Are sparking' is plural; 'sparked' and 'sparking' do not work alone as the main verb here.

✓ Correct sentence While AI has demonstrably enhanced efficiency across industries, its deployment **is sparking** contentious debates surrounding privacy, accountability, and autonomy.

93 ANSWER (b) Complete openness and clarity

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Vocabulary: Transparency) **Transparency** means openness and clarity. The 'black box' problem in the passage undermines it, since it is unclear how decisions were reached. **Maintaining secrecy** is the opposite; **Computational complexity** and **Unpredictable variability** have no bearing on its meaning.

✓ Correct sentence This phenomenon, often termed the "black box" problem, undermines **Complete openness and clarity** transparency, a principle integral to ethical governance.

Examiner's Trap **Computational complexity** seems linked to the 'black box' context, but it is not the meaning of transparency.

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94 ANSWER (c) becomes

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (d) · Correct answer (c)

Concept (Simple Present in a General Truth (SSC Key Disputed)) The SSC has accepted D (has become), but the correct answer is actually C. 'When machines perform autonomous actions' is a when-clause stating a general truth, and it is in the Simple Present. The main clause of such a general statement also takes the Simple Present: determining liability **becomes** complex and ambiguous. The Present Perfect 'has become' shows a change that has been completed up to now, which does not suit a timeless when-clause.

✓ Correct sentence Compounding these challenges is the issue of agency: when machines perform autonomous actions, determining liability **becomes** complex and ambiguous.

Examiner's Trap Because the SSC key is D, students choose the Present Perfect with the idea of 'change up to now', whereas here a general truth is being stated.

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95 ANSWER (b) Beneficial and gentle

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Vocabulary: Benign) **Benign** means harmless, gentle and beneficial. The sentence says that the social impact of technological progress should remain beneficial rather than harmful. **Harmful and destructive** is the opposite; **Overly complex** and **Artificially constructed** have no bearing on the word.

✓ Correct sentence Thus, a multidisciplinary approach, encompassing philosophy, computer science, law, and sociology, is imperative to ensure that technological advancement remains **Beneficial and gentle** benign in its societal impact.

Examiner's Trap Confusing 'benign' with 'malignant', students pick the opposite meaning.

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96 ANSWER (c) Imperative

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adjective Fitting the Context) The sentence says that, because of misinformation, critical thinking has become **imperative** (essential) more than ever before. The phrase 'more ... than ever before' signals that the need has grown.

✓ Correct sentence The spread of misinformation in the digital age has made critical thinking more **Imperative** than ever before.

Examiner's Trap Optional, Trivial and Redundant carry negative or dismissive meanings, which run against the context.

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97 ANSWER (a) Discern

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Verb with 'from' – Discern) 'Without the ability to ... facts from falsehoods' speaks of the ability to tell truth from untruth. **Discern** means 'to recognise by distinguishing', and it fits naturally with 'from'.

✓ Correct sentence Without the ability to **Discern** facts from falsehoods, citizens cannot make informed decisions about public affairs or hold their elected representatives accountable.

Examiner's Trap Conceal, Embellish and Dismiss do not carry the sense of distinguishing, so they sit awkwardly with 'facts from falsehoods'.

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98 ANSWER (d) Rhetoric

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Rhetoric vs Rational Argument) 'Emotional ___ rather than rational argument' contrasts reason with language meant to stir feelings. **Rhetoric** means speech crafted to impress, often hollow, which suits the context exactly.

✓ Correct sentence Political leaders who rely on emotional **Rhetoric** rather than rational argument may succeed in the short term, but they gradually erode the quality of public discourse and weaken democratic institutions.

Examiner's Trap Empathy and Guidance are positive words and Restraint means self-control; none of them conveys the emotional propaganda that is set against rational argument.

99 ANSWER (b) Cultivate

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cultivate Analytical Skills) Educational systems are expected to develop analytical skills in students. **Cultivate** means 'to develop through careful nurturing'.

✓ Correct sentence Educational systems must therefore **Cultivate** analytical skills in students from the earliest stages of their schooling.

Examiner's Trap Suppress and Eliminate mean to hold down or to remove, which is the opposite of what the sentence intends.

100 ANSWER (c) Vulnerable

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Vulnerable to Manipulation) The sentence describes the result of 'a democracy deprived of critical thinkers' and goes on to mention 'manipulation and division'. A democracy without thinking citizens would be **vulnerable** (exposed) to manipulation.

✓ Correct sentence A democracy deprived of critical thinkers becomes progressively **Vulnerable** to manipulation and division, ultimately threatening the very foundations of free and fair governance.

Examiner's Trap Immune and Resilient mean the reverse, suggesting safety, whereas the sentence speaks of danger.

101 ANSWER (c) Acute

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Adjective Fitting the Context) The sentence describes the strain on healthcare and social support systems as the elderly population grows; **acute** (severe, intense) fits this.

✓ Correct sentence As the proportion of elderly citizens in India's population gradually increases, the pressure on the country's healthcare and social support systems will become increasingly **Acute** .

Examiner's Trap With 'pressure ... increasingly', Minimal and Irrelevant make no sense, and Manageable clashes with the worried tone that follows.

102 ANSWER (b) Adequate

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Adequate Pension Arrangements) 'Lack access to ___ pension arrangements' means the elderly do not get sufficient pension cover, which links to the later mention of 'financial security'. Hence **Adequate** is correct.

✓ Correct sentence Many older individuals, particularly those in rural areas, lack access to **Adequate** pension arrangements or formal employment benefits capable of providing them financial security in old age.

Examiner's Trap Excessive means 'too much', which does not agree with the idea of a shortage.

103 ANSWER (d) Disproportionately

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Adverb – Disproportionately) The burden of elder care falls unevenly on families, particularly on women, so the adverb **Disproportionately** (out of proportion) is correct; 'particularly on women' confirms it.

✓ Correct sentence The burden of elder care continues to fall **Disproportionately** on families and particularly on women whose own professional opportunities may be significantly curtailed as a result.

Examiner's Trap Voluntarily and Temporarily carry no sense of an unfair sharing of the burden, and Insignificantly contradicts the seriousness of a 'burden'.

104 ANSWER (a) Comprehensive

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Comprehensive Policies) 'Develop ___ policies that acknowledge the dignity ... while creating affordable and accessible care options across diverse income levels' calls for policies covering every aspect. **Comprehensive** (all-embracing) fits best.

✓ Correct sentence Governments must develop **Comprehensive** policies that acknowledge the dignity of the elderly while creating affordable and accessible care options across diverse income levels.

Examiner's Trap Simplistic, Temporary and Reactionary describe policies that cannot match the broad aim of reaching 'diverse income levels'.

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105 ANSWER (c) Overwhelming

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Concept (Risks Overwhelming Systems) After 'risks', a negative consequence must follow. **Overwhelming** means 'crushing completely', and it connects with 'escalating demands'.

✓ Correct sentence Without proactive planning, rapid demographic change risks **Overwhelming** social and economic systems that are insufficiently prepared to meet its escalating demands.

Examiner's Trap Positive words such as Strengthening and Simplifying do not go with 'risks'.

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106 ANSWER (c) Ironically

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Discourse Marker – Ironically) The previous sentence says the digital economy is growing rapidly, while the next describes a crisis created by that very growth. There is an ironic contrast here, so **Ironically** is correct.

Examiner's Trap Similarly and Likewise show similarity and Alternatively offers another option, so none of them is suitable.

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107 ANSWER (c) had instituted

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Third Conditional – If Clause) In 'If governments ___ ... two decades ago, the present ... might have been averted', the phrase 'might have been averted' shows a Third Conditional. In this concept the if-clause takes the Past Perfect (**had instituted**).

Examiner's Trap Using the Simple Past or 'would institute' breaks the Third Conditional pairing of if-clause and main clause.

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108 ANSWER (a) rudimentary

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Rudimentary Safety Equipment) After 'without even the most ___', a word for the most basic level is needed. **Rudimentary** means 'basic, elementary'. Superficial means 'on the surface' and is not used for equipment.

Examiner's Trap Unmatched and Primary do not convey the lowest level after 'even the most', so the sentence becomes meaningless.

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109 ANSWER (b) in tandem

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Idiom – In Tandem) 'Work ___ with local enforcement agencies' speaks of working together. **In tandem** means 'together, in coordination'.

Examiner's Trap In deep water (in trouble) and out of hand (out of control) are negative idioms that do not suit the sense of cooperation.

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110 ANSWER (b) off

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Phrasal Verb – Put Off) **Put off** is a phrasal verb meaning 'to postpone'. The sentence says we can no longer delay this necessity. Put out means to extinguish, put away means to store, and put down means to set down or to humiliate.

Examiner's Trap All three other particles also form genuine phrasal verbs with 'put', so students may pick any of them without checking the meaning.

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111 ANSWER (b) distillation

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Distillation of Complexity) The passage says 'complex realities' turn into 'simplified myths', that is, complexity is reduced to its essence. That is what **distillation** means. Ossification means hardening, subversion means overturning, and transposition means changing place or order.

✓ Correct sentence This need to structure experience often leads to the **distillation** of complex realities into simplified myths.

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112 **ANSWER (d)** dramaturgy

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Dramaturgy – Staged Presentation) 'Not a history, but a curated ___, designed to domesticate discomfort' suggests a presentation staged like theatre, which the earlier 'commemorative spectacle' also hints at. **Dramaturgy** means dramatic composition and the art of staging.

✓ Correct sentence What emerges is not a history, but a curated **dramaturgy** , designed to domesticate discomfort.

Examiner's Trap A palimpsest is a manuscript written over in layers, and it does not match 'designed to domesticate'.

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113 **ANSWER (b)** unflinching

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Unflinching Commitment) 'Confronting discomfort without prematurely resolving it' needs a commitment that does not shrink from uncomfortable truth. **Unflinching** means 'steadfast, without hesitation'.

✓ Correct sentence To resist this drift requires an **unflinching** commitment to confronting discomfort without prematurely resolving it.

Examiner's Trap Ascetic means self-denying, forensic means investigative, and dogmatic means rigidly opinionated.

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114 **ANSWER (c)** dissonant

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Dissonant vs Palatable) 'Governed by what is palatable, not what is ___' needs the opposite of 'palatable' (pleasant, acceptable). The passage deals with uncomfortable truth, so **dissonant** (jarring, unsettling) fits.

✓ Correct sentence Otherwise, public memory will continue to be governed by what is palatable, not what is **dissonant** , and truth will become a function not of verification but of narrative (5)____.

Examiner's Trap Indispensable means essential, but it is not the direct opposite of palatable.

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115 **ANSWER (b)** coherence

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Coherence vs Truth) The last sentence says truth will become a function not of 'verification' but of the narrative's ___. The passage as a whole deals with 'narrative closure' and 'mistaking coherence for truth', so **coherence** (consistency) is correct.

✓ Correct sentence Otherwise, public memory will continue to be governed by what is palatable, not what is (4)____, and truth will become a function not of verification but of narrative **coherence** .

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116 **ANSWER (b)** For instance

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Connector: For instance) Before blank (1) there is a general statement about smart cities, and after it a concrete example involving sensors, analytics and AI. **For instance** introduces an example; Nevertheless and Conversely express contrast, which is absent here.

✓ Correct sentence **For instance** , the deployment of sensors, data analytics, and artificial intelligence enables real-time monitoring of traffic, energy consumption, and waste management.

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117 **ANSWER (b)** However

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Connector: However) The first sentence lists the benefits of smart cities, while the next gives the critics' objection. A connector of contrast is needed to join two opposing ideas, so **However** is correct. Therefore and Consequently show result, and Moreover adds information.

✓ Correct sentence **However** , critics argue that excessive reliance on technology may marginalize communities lacking digital literacy or access.

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118 **ANSWER (d)** yet

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Connector: yet) 'Transparent data policies are essential; ___, concerns about privacy ... remain unresolved' sets a necessity against unresolved concerns. After a semicolon, **yet** ('still, even so') expresses the contrast. Since gives a reason and Similarly shows likeness.

✓ Correct sentence Transparent data policies are essential; **yet** , concerns about privacy and surveillance remain unresolved.

119 ANSWER (d) Nevertheless

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Connector: Nevertheless) The previous sentence says the financial burden is heavy and developing countries have few resources. Even so, international cooperation has become important, so **Nevertheless**, which marks contrast, is apt. Notwithstanding usually works as a preposition, so it does not sit comfortably as a stand-alone connector before a full sentence.

✓ Correct sentence **Nevertheless** , international collaborations and public-private partnerships have become crucial in bridging these gaps.

Examiner's Trap Notwithstanding means much the same as Nevertheless, so students choose it, but it is a preposition and does not work alone as a connector.

120 ANSWER (d) Otherwise

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Concept (Connector: Otherwise) The sentence before the blank says that smart cities must prioritise human-centric design so that technology serves social needs. The next sentence states what follows if this is not done: their vision will remain merely aspirational. **Otherwise** expresses exactly this consequence of the opposite condition. 'In contrast' signals comparison, 'Without doubt' signals certainty, and 'After all' signals a reason, none of which fits here. Hence option D is correct.

✓ Correct sentence **Otherwise** , the vision of Smart Cities will remain aspirational unless grounded in participatory governance and sustainable planning.

121 ANSWER (a) autonomy

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Vocabulary (autonomy)) 'It expands capacity, it often contracts ___' speaks of something shrinking while capacity grows. The passage goes on to mention algorithms making human decisions, which means human independence is reduced. Hence **autonomy** (self-governance) is correct.

productivity – output per effort
anonymity – namelessness
intelligence – mental ability

✓ Correct sentence Yet, the deeper paradox of the digital era is that while it expands capacity, it often contracts **autonomy** .

122 ANSWER (b) gatekeeper

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Vocabulary (gatekeeper)) 'Shaping choices rather than merely executing them' makes it clear that technology controls the options and is no longer a mere tool. A **gatekeeper** decides what passes through, so it is the exact fit.
mirror – reflecting surface
prosthetic – artificial limb
amplifier – a device that magnifies

✓ Correct sentence In this sense, technology becomes less a tool than a **gatekeeper** , shaping choices rather than merely executing them.

123 ANSWER (c) optimization

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Noun Form (optimization)) 'Efficiency is privileged over transparency, and speed over scrutiny' explains the very problem that the blank names. A tendency to place efficiency and speed above all else is called **optimization**. Since the passage begins 'The problem is not intelligence, but', a noun is needed, and 'underestimated' cannot stand in a noun's place.

✓ Correct sentence The problem is not intelligence, but **optimization** —where efficiency is privileged over transparency, and speed over scrutiny.

Examiner's Trap 'Delegation' is also a noun, but the explanation that follows, about efficiency and speed, matches only optimization.

124 ANSWER (d) invisible

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Context Clue (invisible)) 'Citizens may sense unfairness but lack the language or access to challenge' shows that objecting becomes difficult because the system cannot be seen. In the context of 'opaque systems', **invisible** fits best. Articulate means

able to speak clearly, which is the reverse of 'harder to formulate'.

✓ Correct sentence Once outcomes are automated, dissent is harder to formulate, not because it's unwelcome, but because it becomes **invisible** .

125 ANSWER (a) accountable

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Vocabulary (accountable)) The last sentence expresses the hope that technological systems stay **accountable** to the people they claim to serve. The earlier mentions of 'ethics', 'critique' and 'opaque' also reinforce the demand for accountability. Responsive means merely reacting, which does not complete the sense of ethics.

✓ Correct sentence What society requires is not more data, but a deeper ethics—an insistence that technological systems remain **accountable** to those they claim to serve.

Examiner's Trap 'Responsive' also seems linked to the idea of service, but it only describes reaction, not accountability.

126 ANSWER (a) continually

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adverb of Frequency in Cloze) 'Modern expeditions ... continually reveal previously inaccessible marine ecosystems' speaks of discoveries that happen again and again. Hence the adverb **continually** is correct. Subsequently means 'afterwards', and no sequence is indicated here.

Examiner's Trap Subsequently looks formal and suitable, but the sentence needs the idea of continuity, not sequence.

127 ANSWER (d) however

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Contrast Connector in Cloze) Before the semicolon, success in mapping the seabed is stated; after it, the difficulties of the deep sea are described. The two parts contrast, so **however** is correct. Moreover and Similarly add or compare, which does not fit.

Examiner's Trap Therefore, moreover and similarly feel natural after a positive statement, but here the contrast between the two parts is decisive.

128 ANSWER (a) call into question

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Phrasal Verb: Call into Question) After 'Ongoing deep-sea missions often ___ previously held assumptions', scientists have to revise classifications. This means old assumptions are being doubted, which is the sense of **call into question** (to cast doubt on).
bring forward – to move earlier or to propose
set up – to establish
look after – to take care of

Examiner's Trap Bring forward and set up can also go with 'assumptions', but they do not convey challenging them.

129 ANSWER (c) resilient

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adjective in Cloze: Resilient) 'The ___ nature of life forms thriving in extreme conditions' concerns organisms surviving in harsh conditions, and the passage ends by mentioning 'biological adaptability'. Hence **resilient** (able to withstand hardship) is correct.
superficial – shallow
irrelevant – not pertinent
volatile – unstable

Examiner's Trap Volatile seems apt for extreme conditions, but 'thriving' and 'adaptability' point to the endurance of the organisms, not to instability.

130 ANSWER (a) in pursuit of

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Prepositional Phrase of Purpose) 'Sustained investment in oceanic research ___ global environmental sustainability' states the purpose of the investment. **In pursuit of** means 'in order to achieve a goal', which fits here. In spite of means 'despite' and at the cost of means 'at the expense of'; neither expresses purpose.

131 ANSWER (d) vessels

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Metaphorical Noun – Vessels) The passage says that archives, oral traditions and artefacts are the means that carry memory from one generation to the next. **Vessels** (containers, carriers) is the best word for this. Scaffolds, frameworks and templates suggest structure, but only vessels carries the idea of 'transmitting', that is, bearing something across.

✓ **Correct sentence** Archives, oral traditions, and artifacts function not merely as records, but as **vessels** of continuity across time.

Examiner's Trap Frameworks and scaffolds are familiar academic words and so look attractive, but they only provide a structure; they do not carry memory.

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132 ANSWER (a) amnesia

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Abstract Noun – Amnesia) 'Ironically, modern societies, despite unprecedented access to information, are often more susceptible to ___' points to the irony of memory being lost despite excess information. The later phrase 'memory is not erased but drowned' also makes this clear, so **amnesia** (loss of memory) is correct.

✓ **Correct sentence** Ironically, modern societies, despite unprecedented access to information, are often more susceptible to **amnesia** .

Examiner's Trap Distraction is naturally linked with information overload, but 'memory is drowned' points to loss of memory.

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133 ANSWER (b) reactive

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Adjective – Reactive) 'Knowledge ceases to be a cumulative process and becomes a ___ one, shaped by urgency rather than inquiry' contrasts accumulation with mere immediate response. In the context of 'reaction and novelty', **reactive** is correct.
archival – relating to records
parallel – running alongside
empirical – based on observation

✓ **Correct sentence** Consequently, knowledge ceases to be a cumulative process and becomes a **reactive** one, shaped by urgency rather than inquiry.

Examiner's Trap Empirical looks tempting because it stands near 'inquiry', but the sentence speaks of urgency in place of inquiry.

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134 ANSWER (c) forgetting

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Noun Echoed by Explanation) 'Curated ___, where forgetting is not accidental but engineered' is followed at once by an explanation using the word 'forgetting'. Hence **forgetting** is correct, since the sense is of deliberately manufactured forgetting. Omission means leaving out and obscurity means vagueness, but neither conveys the full idea of engineered loss of memory.

✓ **Correct sentence** The true crisis, then, is not ignorance but a kind of curated **forgetting** , where forgetting is not accidental but engineered—subtle, continuous, and strategic.

Examiner's Trap Omission sounds suitable, but the explanation after the blank uses the word forgetting itself, which acts as the clue.

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135 ANSWER (b) unflinching

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Cloze: Adjective – Unflinching) 'Requires not nostalgia, but an ___ commitment to intergenerational truth-telling' needs a commitment to speaking hard truths without hesitation. **Unflinching** means 'steadfast, fearless', so it is correct. Adversarial means hostile, which is unsuitable for truth-telling.

✓ **Correct sentence** Reclaiming memory in such a context requires not nostalgia, but an **unflinching** commitment to intergenerational truth-telling.

Examiner's Trap Adversarial also seems to suggest 'harshness', but it carries hostility, which does not match a commitment to telling the truth.

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136 ANSWER (a) frequently

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adverb of Frequency in Cloze) 'Their reliability is ___ questioned when the data ... are incomplete or inaccurate' says that reliability is questioned again and again when data is incomplete. Hence the adverb

frequently is correct. Accidentally, mechanically and silently make no logical sense with 'questioned'.

137 ANSWER (d) inextricably

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Adverb in Cloze: Inextricably) 'Technical adjustments and human supervision become ___ intertwined' speaks of the two being bound so closely that they cannot be separated. The example that follows also shows that a change in one affects the other, so **inextricably** (in a way that cannot be separated) is correct. Independently means separately, which is the opposite of 'intertwined'.

138 ANSWER (d) upon

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Preposition: Contingent Upon) The correct preposition with 'contingent' is **upon** (or on); 'contingent upon something' means 'dependent on something'. Hence 'contingent upon transparent evaluation procedures' is the right collocation.

139 ANSWER (c) Moreover

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Additive Connector in Cloze) The previous paragraph suggests audits and clarifications, and this paragraph adds one more suggestion, about training. To add a new point, the connector **Moreover** is correct. Conversely and Otherwise express contrast or condition, which is absent here.

Examiner's Trap Consequently shows result, and students mistake it for an additive connector, but there is no cause-and-effect link here.

140 ANSWER (d) reconcile

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Concept (Verb in Cloze: Reconcile) 'Whether organisations can ___ technological efficiency with responsible human supervision' is about balancing the two, as the next line's 'a balance' also makes clear. **Reconcile** means 'to bring two differing things into harmony', so it is exact.
postpone – to delay
isolate – to separate
discard – to throw away



14
CHAPTER

Reading Comprehension

Questions *123 questions · 53 shifts*

Directions (Q. 01–05): *Read the passage and answer the questions*

Passage · [SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

In contemporary professional environments, workplace stress has emerged as a pervasive and insidious phenomenon, often undermining both organizational efficiency and employee well-being. Far from being a mere by product of demanding schedules, chronic occupational stress is frequently rooted in deeper systemic issues such as unrealistic expectations, inadequate support structures, and a pervasive culture of constant connectivity. The relentless pursuit of productivity, amplified by technological advancements that blur the boundaries between personal and professional spheres, has exacerbated employees' sense of perpetual obligation.

Left unchecked, prolonged exposure to high-stress environments can precipitate a range of deleterious outcomes, including burnout, diminished cognitive functioning, and even serious physical health conditions like hypertension and cardiovascular disease. Organizations that fail to recognize and address the underlying causes of stress not only risk elevated turnover rates but also compromise innovation, morale, and overall competitiveness.

Counteracting workplace stress demands a multi-faceted approach that transcends superficial interventions such as temporary wellness programs or occasional mindfulness workshops. Instead, it requires a fundamental re-evaluation of work design, leadership styles, and organizational priorities. Encouraging open dialogue about mental health, instituting flexible work arrangements, and fostering a culture that genuinely values work-life balance are pivotal steps toward cultivating a more sustainable and humane professional landscape.

01 **Which of the following is the correct tense used in the sentence:**
"Left unchecked, prolonged exposure to high-stress environments can precipitate a range of deleterious outcomes..."?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Past Perfect
(b) Present Simple
(c) Future Perfect
(d) Present Conditional

02 Identify the grammatical function of the phrase **"Far from being a mere by product of demanding schedules"** in the first paragraph.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It is the main subject of the sentence.
(b) It is an introductory phrase modifying the main clause.
(c) It is a dependent clause providing a condition.
(d) It is a direct object of the verb.

03 What is the meaning of the word **"insidious"** as used in the passage?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Open and obvious
(b) Harmless and fleeting
(c) Gradually harmful and subtle
(d) Quickly destructive and visible

04 The word **"deleterious"** most nearly means.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Advantageous
(b) Harmful
(c) Temporary
(d) Curious

05 According to the passage, what is a key failure of organizations when addressing workplace stress?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) They overly emphasize work-life balance.
(b) They rely on short-term or surface-level solutions.
(c) They provide excessive flexibility, causing laziness.
(d) They hire too many inexperienced employees.

Directions (Q. 06–10): *Read the passage and answer the questions*

Passage · [SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Obesity, a complex and multifactorial health issue, has reached epidemic proportions globally. Characterized by an excessive accumulation of body fat, obesity is far more than a mere aesthetic concern—it significantly elevates the risk of numerous chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, and certain cancers. While sedentary lifestyles and high-calorie diets are commonly cited as primary causes, the reality is nuanced. Genetic predispositions, environmental factors, psychological conditions, and socio-economic status collectively influence an individual's propensity to gain weight.

Moreover, modern urban environments often exacerbate the issue, offering limited access to nutritious food options while promoting a culture of convenience and inactivity. Children growing up in such settings are particularly vulnerable, setting the stage for lifelong health struggles. Although public health campaigns have emphasized diet and exercise, long-term success remains elusive for many individuals. This suggests that sustainable solutions must transcend personal responsibility and address systemic barriers.

Medical interventions, such as pharmacotherapy and bariatric surgery, have offered relief for some, but they are not without risks and are often financially inaccessible. Ultimately, combating obesity requires a multifaceted strategy that integrates education, urban planning, policy reform, and community-based initiatives. Without a comprehensive and empathetic approach, the human and economic costs of the obesity epidemic will continue to escalate, undermining global health systems and shortening life expectancy for millions.

06 Identify the correct tense used in the sentence:
"Medical interventions, such as pharmacotherapy and bariatric surgery, have offered relief for some, but they are not without risks."

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Past Perfect
(b) Present perfect
(c) Simple Past
(d) Present Continuous

07 Which voice is used in the sentence:
"Children growing up in such settings are particulary vulnerable."

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Active Voice
(b) Passive Voice
(c) Causative Voice
(d) Interrogative Voice

08 What is the closest meaning of **"propensity"** as used in the passage?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Hesitation
(b) Tendency
(c) Resistance
(d) Disinterest

09 Choose the synonym of **"exacerbate"** from the options below.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Worsen
(b) Alleviate
(c) Initiate
(d) Neutralize

10 According to the passage, why are children particularly vulnerable to obesity?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Because children naturally prefer high-calorie foods.
(b) Because urban environments often promote unhealthy habits early in life.
(c) Because genetic factors are stronger in childhood than adulthood.
(d) Because schools are solely responsible for promoting nutrition.

Directions (Q. 11–15): *Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

Passage · [SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Hughie Erskine was charming and generous, but had little money and no successful profession. He wished to marry Laura, yet her father insisted that Hughie must first obtain a respectable income. One day, Hughie visited his friend Alan Trevor, a painter who was completing a portrait of an elderly beggar dressed in torn clothes. The model appeared so weak and miserable that Hughie felt immediate sympathy for him.

While Alan briefly left the room, Hughie searched his pockets and found a single gold coin. Although he could scarcely afford to lose it, he placed the coin in the beggar's hand. The old man thanked him with unusual courtesy. Later, Alan informed Hughie that the supposed beggar was Baron Hausberg, one of the wealthiest men in Europe. The baron had deliberately posed as a poor man for the painting.

Hughie was deeply embarrassed. He imagined that the millionaire would laugh at his foolish attempt to offer charity. The following morning, however, a representative of the baron arrived with an envelope. It contained a substantial sum of money described as a wedding gift from "an old beggar."

The incident reveals the difference between wealth and generosity. Hughie possessed very little, yet he was prepared to share it without expecting recognition or reward. The baron, though rich, valued the sincerity of the act because it had been performed under the belief that he was helpless. Charity offered for public approval may flatter the giver, but compassion shown in private reveals character.

11 Why did Laura's father hesitate to approve her marriage to Hughie?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) He doubted Hughie's ability to remain generous after marriage.
(b) He disliked Hughie's friendship with the painter Alan Trevor.
(c) He expected Hughie to establish a respectable source of income.
(d) He believed Hughie lacked sufficient affection and concern for Laura.

12 What prompted Hughie to give the gold coin to the elderly model?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The model's apparent suffering immediately awakened Hughie's compassion.
(b) The model's courteous behaviour suggested that he deserved assistance.
(c) Alan had asked Hughie to reward the model for posing patiently.
(d) The model's silence made Hughie believe that payment was expected.

13 Why did Hughie feel embarrassed after learning the model's true identity?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) He feared Alan would accuse him of interrupting the portrait session.
(b) He realised that Laura's father might hear about his impulsive behaviour.
(c) He regretted giving away money that he urgently needed for marriage.
(d) He thought the wealthy baron might ridicule his misplaced act of charity.

14 What made Hughie's gift especially meaningful to Baron Hausberg?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Hughie offered it despite knowing that the baron was testing him.
(b) Hughie intended it to strengthen his friendship with Alan Trevor.
(c) Hughie gave it privately while believing the recipient was helpless.
(d) Hughie expected the recipient to repay him after recovering financially.

15 Which inference best explains the contrast between Hughie's coin and the baron's wedding gift?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The coin represents financial carelessness, whereas the gift represents calculated generosity.
(b) The coin is given in ignorance, whereas the gift is given to display the baron's wealth.
(c) The coin exposes Hughie's poor judgment, whereas the gift corrects his misunderstanding.
(d) The coin reveals generosity through sacrifice, whereas the gift recognises that moral quality.

Directions (Q. 16–20): *Read the passage and answer the questions*

Passage · [SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

"Normal science, the activity in which most scientists inevitably spend almost all their time, is based on the assumption that the scientific community knows what the world is like. Scientists take great pains to defend that assumption, often restricting their vision to the phenomena that the existing paradigm has defined as relevant. When research proceeds in this fashion, findings tend to be incremental, reinforcing the established framework rather than challenging it. Yet, over time, anomalies—empirical observations that cannot be explained within the current paradigm—accumulate. Initially, these anomalies are dismissed as errors or as problems to be solved within the existing theoretical structure. However, as these anomalies grow in number and significance, they begin to erode confidence in the prevailing paradigm.

The resolution of such crises is not a straightforward process of falsification, as Popper might suggest, but rather a transformation in the very way scientists see the world. Scientific revolutions occur when a new paradigm emerges—one that is not merely an extension of the old but a fundamental reconceptualization of reality. This shift is not purely logical or empirical; it involves a radical change in perspective, akin to a gestalt switch. The Copernican Revolution, for example, did not merely adjust astronomical calculations; it redefined the very framework through which celestial motion was understood. Similarly, Einstein's theory of relativity did not just modify Newtonian mechanics but replaced its foundational assumptions about space and time.

16 What is the best synonym for **"incommensurable"** in the sentence:

"What makes these revolutions particularly striking is that competing paradigms are often incommensurable."

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Comparable
(b) Parallel
(c) Disjointed
(d) Irreconcilable

17 What does the word **"gestalt switch"** imply in this context?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A subtle expansion of an existing model
(b) A shift from general to specific thinking
(c) A fundamental change in perception
(d) A reversal in cause-effect reasoning

18 According to the passage, why do scientific revolutions represent a rupture rather than a continuation of prior science?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Because scientists abandon objectivity and turn to speculation
(b) Because new paradigms invalidate all previous findings
(c) Because competing paradigms redefine questions and methods, making continuity impossible
(d) Because scientists stop collecting empirical data

19 Identify the voice used in the sentence:

"Anomalies are dismissed as errors or as problems to be solved within the existing theoretical structure."

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Active voice
(b) Passive voice
(c) Middle voice
(d) Reflexive voice

20 What type of clause is used in the sentence:

"Yet, over time, anomalies that cannot be explained within the current paradigm accumulate."

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Noun clause
(b) Adverbial clause
(c) Relative clause
(d) Independent clause

Directions (Q. 21–25): *Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

Passage · [SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Few people truly understand the hidden life of the street. Even when we enter it, we often fail to recognise the unique individuals who belong to it—the wanderers and nomads who have preserved their secrets through generations. We understand even less about the street at night, when it resembles a great house whose doors are locked. Charles Dickens, however, understood the street

deeply. He seemed to possess the key to its hidden world. The street lamps were his stars, and the ordinary person on the street was his hero. He could reveal its innermost character and enter its secret passages, lined with houses and roofed with stars.

Facts that are merely observed do not remain permanently fixed in memory. To remember a place forever, one must experience it completely and become so deeply absorbed in it that one temporarily forgets oneself as a separate observer.

For Dickens, the streets remained deeply romantic because they were associated with the powerful experiences and tragedies of his youth. They were also filled with memories of sunsets that could never return. This emotional connection explains the unusual realism with which he brought the dark and ordinary corners of London to life. In his descriptions, even minor details—a window, a railing or the keyhole of a door—acquire an intense and lifelike vitality. Through his imagination, ordinary objects appear more vivid and real than they normally do.

21 According to the passage, what distinguished Dickens's understanding of the street?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) He studied the architectural features of London in great detail.
(b) He viewed the street mainly as a setting for dramatic events.
(c) He observed street life from a safe and emotional distance.
(d) He understood the hidden life and character of the street deeply.

22 What does the comparison of the street at night to "a great house whose doors are locked" suggest?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The street becomes physically inaccessible after sunset.
(b) The buildings appear safer and more impressive at night.
(c) The hidden life of the street becomes mysterious and difficult to understand.
(d) The residents deliberately prevent strangers from entering the street.

23 According to the author, how can a person remember a place permanently?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) By recording all its visible features accurately.
(b) By visiting it repeatedly at different times of the day.
(c) By comparing it with other familiar surroundings.
(d) By becoming completely absorbed in the experience of the place.

24 What is implied by the association of the streets with the powerful experiences and tragedies of Dickens's youth?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Dickens's emotional experiences gave the streets lasting personal and romantic significance.
(b) The streets were decorated with colours commonly associated with youthful celebrations.
(c) Dickens regarded the streets as symbols of political and social decline.
(d) The appearance of the streets changed mainly because of the setting sun.

25 Which statement best explains the unusual realism in Dickens's descriptions?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) He exaggerated the unpleasant features of London to criticise society.
(b) He gave ordinary physical details an intense and lifelike vitality.
(c) He replaced realistic locations with imaginary and mysterious landscapes.
(d) He focused only on factual accuracy and avoided emotional associations.

Directions (Q. 26–30): *Read the passage and answer the questions*

Passage · [SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In the landscape of modern education, the choice between Arts, Commerce, and Science is not merely academic; it profoundly influences professional trajectories. Each stream offers a spectrum of career opportunities, responding to the evolving demands of the global economy.

The Arts stream, traditionally associated with creativity and critical thinking, leads to professions in journalism, law, international relations, and public policy. Graduates often

assume roles such as content strategists, political analysts, legal advisors, and communication specialists. With interdisciplinary skills, Arts students increasingly permeate sectors once reserved for technical expertise, such as business consulting and digital marketing.

Commerce, characterized by its focus on trade, finance, and business management, offers access to careers in banking, corporate law, investment analysis, and entrepreneurship. Posts like chartered accountants, financial advisors, auditors, and marketing managers are quintessential to this domain. In an age of globalization, commerce graduates are pivotal to driving economic innovation and regulatory compliance.

Meanwhile, the Science stream remains the cornerstone of technological advancement and empirical research. From engineering and medicine to data science and biotechnology, science graduates occupy posts like research scientists, software developers, environmental consultants, and healthcare practitioners. Moreover, interdisciplinary branches such as AI and environmental engineering illustrate how scientific expertise continually adapts to societal needs.

While each field traditionally attracted distinct student profiles, contemporary career landscapes increasingly value hybrid skill sets. Thus, a student's ability to integrate analytical rigor with creative and managerial acumen often defines success, blurring the once rigid lines between Arts, Commerce, and Science.

26 **Identify the correct transformation of this sentence into passive voice:**

"Commerce offers access to careers in banking, corporate law, investment analysis, and entrepreneurship."

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Careers are accessed in banking, corporate law, investment analysis, and entrepreneurship by Commerce.
(b) Careers in banking, corporate law, investment analysis, and entrepreneurship are offered by Commerce.
(c) Careers are banking, corporate law, investment analysis, and entrepreneurship are offered by Commerce.
(d) Careers are offering commerce access in banking, corporate law, investment analysis, and entrepreneurship.

27 Choose the option where the use of the relative pronoun is grammatically incorrect.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Graduates who pursue interdisciplinary skills are highly valued.
(b) Posts which involve financial planning require precision.
(c) Students whom excel at both analysis and creativity are rare.
(d) Professionals whose expertise spans multiple domains are in demand.

28 Choose the word that is closest in meaning to "permeate" as used in the passage.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Exclude
(b) Spread
(c) Conceal
(d) Defeat

29 In the phrase "interdisciplinary branches," what does "interdisciplinary" most nearly mean?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Related to one subject only
(b) Combining multiple areas of study
(c) Opposing different disciplines
(d) Excluding sciences and arts

30 Which of the following best reflects the main idea of the passage?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Science students have better career options than Arts students.
(b) Arts, Commerce, and Science fields are now overlapping, and hybrid skills are becoming important.
(c) Commerce dominates the modern economy.
(d) Career paths have remained rigidly tied to educational streams.

Directions (Q. 31–34): *Read the passage and answer the questions*

Passage · [SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The menstrual cycle, frequently distilled into reductive explanations within mainstream discourse, constitutes a complex, finely-tuned hormonal symphony that underpins female reproductive viability. Typically spanning around 28 days—though significant interindividual variability persists—the cycle is anatomically and biochemically demarcated into four sequential phases: menstruation, the follicular phase, ovulation, and the luteal phase.

Menstruation initiates with the systematic desquamation of the functional layer of the endometrium, an event precipitated by the precipitous decline in circulating levels of estrogen and progesterone following an unfertilized ovulatory event. Thereafter, during the follicular phase, anterior pituitary secretion of follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) catalyses the recruitment and maturation of ovarian follicles. A single dominant follicle subsequently prevails, secreting escalating quantities of estrogen to promote proliferative thickening of the endometrial lining in anticipation of potential zygote implantation.

Mid-cycle, ovulation ensues, triggered by an acute surge of luteinizing hormone (LH), culminating in the release of an oocyte into the fallopian tube — a transient but critical window of maximal fertility. In the absence of fertilization, the luteal phase commences: the residual follicular structure, now termed the corpus luteum, secretes progesterone to stabilize the endometrial architecture. Without embryonic implantation, corpus luteum regression ensues, hormonal concentrations diminish sharply, and the cyclical endometrial shedding recommences.

Despite the endogenous predictability of this sequence, the menstrual cycle exhibits considerable vulnerability to extrinsic perturbations — including psychosocial stressors, systemic illnesses, and environmental variables — underscoring the intricate interplay between endocrine function and broader homeostatic mechanisms.

31 **Identify the correct transformation of the sentence.**
"**Menstruation initiates with the systematic desquamation of the functional layer of the endometrium.**"
" Which option correctly transforms it into a **passive voice** without changing the meaning?
[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The functional layer of the endometrium is systematically desquamated, initiating menstruation.
(b) Menstruation is initiating by the desquamation of the functional layer.
(c) The systematic endometrium desquamates itself to initiate menstruation.
(d) The menstruation systematically desquamates the functional layer of the endometrium.

32 According to the passage, what is the **primary** function of the **corpus luteum** during the luteal phase?
[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To trigger menstruation by lowering progesterone.
(b) To secrete hormones that maintain endometrial integrity.
(c) To stimulate another round of follicle maturation.
(d) To dissolve immediately after ovulation.

33 What does **"desquamation"** most closely mean in the context of the passage?
[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Thickening of the uterine lining
(b) Shedding of the surface layer
(c) Hormone secretion
(d) Cell multiplication

34 What is the closest synonym for the word **"precipitous"** as used in the passage?
[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Abrupt (b) Gradual
(c) Moderate (d) Predictable

Directions (Q. 35–39): *Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

Passage · [SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

High above the city, on a tall column, stood the statue of the Happy Prince. The statue was covered with thin leaves of fine gold. It had two bright sapphires for eyes, and a large red ruby shone on the hilt of its sword.

The people of the city greatly admired the statue. "It is as beautiful as a weathercock," remarked a Town Councillor who wished to be known for his artistic taste. "However, it is not quite as useful," he added, fearing that others might consider him impractical.

A sensible mother pointed towards the statue and said to her little boy, who was crying for the moon, "Why can't you behave like the Happy Prince? The Happy Prince never cries for anything."

"I am glad that someone in the world is completely happy," muttered a disappointed man as he looked at the magnificent statue.

The Charity Children, dressed in bright scarlet cloaks and clean white pinafores, saw the statue while leaving the cathedral. "The Happy Prince looks just like an angel," they said.

"How do you know what an angel looks like?" asked the Mathematical Master. "You have never seen one."

"We have seen angels in our dreams," replied the children. The Mathematical Master frowned because he did not approve of children dreaming.

One night, a little Swallow flew over the city. His friends had already left for Egypt, but he had stayed behind because he was in love with a beautiful Reed. He had met the Reed in the spring while chasing a yellow moth along the river and stopped to speak to her.

35 Why did the Town Councillor add that the statue was "not quite as useful" as a weathercock?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) He feared that people might regard him as an impractical person.
(b) He believed that public statues should always serve a practical purpose.
(c) He considered the statue less attractive than an ordinary weathercock.
(d) He wanted the statue to be removed from the tall column.

36 What does the disappointed man's remark about the Happy Prince reveal?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) He believed that the Prince had overcome every personal difficulty.
(b) He wished to possess the wealth displayed upon the golden statue.
(c) He assumed that the Prince represented happiness absent from his own life.
(d) He doubted whether complete happiness could exist anywhere in the world.

37 Why did the Mathematical Master frown at the Charity Children's reply?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) He thought that their comparison of the statue with an angel was disrespectful.
(b) He believed that children should describe only what they saw in the cathedral.
(c) He suspected that the children were inventing stories to impress their teacher.
(d) He disapproved of children accepting dreams as a source of knowledge.

38 Which of the following best describes the irony in the mother's statement to her child?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) She expects a young child to understand the artistic value of a golden statue.
(b) She holds up an unfeeling, inanimate object as a model of perfect emotional behaviour.
(c) She praises the Prince's behaviour while ignoring his immense material wealth.
(d) She scolds her child for crying while she herself is acting impatiently.

39 Which inference can most reasonably be drawn from the Swallow's decision to remain behind?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) He had been separated from his companions while searching for food near the river.
(b) He intended to remain in the city permanently because he disliked travelling to Egypt.
(c) His pursuit of the yellow moth prevented him from learning when his friends departed.
(d) His emotional attachment caused him to postpone joining his friends on their journey.

Directions (Q. 40–44): *Read the passage and answer the questions: Identify the correct tense used in the sentence*

Passage · [SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The evolution of computers is typically divided into generations, each characterized by significant technological breakthroughs. The **First Generation (1940–1956)** operated on vacuum tubes, devices that were large, inefficient, and prone to overheating. Programming was tedious, requiring direct interaction with machine language, limiting user accessibility.

With the **Second Generation (1956–1963)** came transistors, replacing vacuum tubes and greatly enhancing reliability while reducing size and cost. High-level programming languages like COBOL and FORTRAN appeared, making computers more versatile.

The **Third Generation (1964–1971)** introduced integrated circuits, allowing thousands of electronic components to fit onto a single chip. Computers became smaller, faster, and more powerful. Operating systems began to emerge, enabling machines to run multiple applications simultaneously.

The **Fourth Generation (1971–present)** saw the invention of the microprocessor, condensing the central processing unit onto a single chip. This innovation ushered in the era of personal computers, making technology widely accessible to businesses and households alike.
Now, in the **Fifth Generation**, research focuses on artificial intelligence, machine learning, and quantum computing. These developments aim not only to enhance computational speed and storage but also to enable machines to mimic human reasoning and decision-making processes. As technology evolves, the boundary between human capabilities and machine intelligence continues to blur, promising both unprecedented opportunities and profound ethical challenges.

40 "With the Second Generation (1956–1963) came transistors, replacing vacuum tubes and greatly enhancing reliability."

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Simple Present
(b) Present Perfect
(c) Simple Past
(d) Past Perfect

41 According to the passage, why is the fifth generation of computers considered especially significant?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It reduced the cost of machines drastically.
(b) It focuses on personal entertainment applications.
(c) It aims to create machines that mimic human reasoning.
(d) It made computers physically larger but faster.

42 Identify the function of the phrase "ushered in the first generation of computers" in the sentence:

"The invention of vacuum tubes in the 1940s ushered in the first generation of computers."

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Subject
(b) Object
(c) Adverbial Phrase
(d) Predicate

43 What is the meaning of the word "ushered in" as used in the passage?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ignored
(b) Delayed
(c) Introduced
(d) Removed

44 Which word from the passage best conveys the idea of "enhancing performance through gradual evolution rather than sudden invention"?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Revolutionized
(b) Blur
(c) Evolved
(d) Ushered

Directions (Q. 45–49): *Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

Passage · [SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In a narrow street inhabited by struggling artists, two young artists, Sue and Johnsy, lived together

in a modest apartment. During a severe winter, Johnsy contracted pneumonia and gradually lost both her strength and her desire to recover. From her bed, she could see an old ivy vine clinging to the wall of a neighbouring building. As the cold wind tore away its leaves, she developed the strange belief that her life would end when the final leaf fell.

Sue tried to dismiss this belief as irrational, but Johnsy continued to watch the vine with increasing despair. An elderly painter named Behrman lived downstairs. Although he had spoken for years about producing a masterpiece, he had never created anything that fulfilled his ambition. When Sue told him about Johnsy's condition, he appeared angry at her superstition but was deeply concerned.

That night, a violent storm swept through the city. By morning, Johnsy expected the vine to be completely bare. Yet one leaf remained firmly attached to the wall. It survived another day of wind and rain. Its apparent endurance stirred something within her. She began to feel ashamed that a fragile leaf could resist the storm while she had surrendered hope.

Johnsy slowly recovered. Sue later revealed that the leaf was not real. Behrman had painted it on the wall during the storm and had died of pneumonia soon afterwards. His masterpiece was never displayed in a gallery, but it restored a human being's will to live.

45 What does Johnsy's belief about the falling ivy leaves reveal about her mental condition?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) She had become indifferent to Sue's concern.
(b) She had linked her survival to an irrational belief.
(c) She had misunderstood the cause of her illness.
(d) She had lost confidence in medical treatment.

46 Which factor most seriously obstructed Johnsy's recovery?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Her psychological surrender to a morbid superstition
(b) Her inability to receive continuous medical attention
(c) Her prolonged exposure to severe winter weather
(d) Her dissatisfaction with her life as a struggling artist

47 How does the passage redefine Behrman's idea of a "masterpiece"?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It presents artistic greatness as the result of technical perfection.
(b) It suggests that public recognition is essential to establish artistic value.
(c) It shows that artistic success depends on faithfully imitating nature.
(d) It associates artistic greatness with the power to restore human hope.

48 What psychological change does the apparent survival of the last ivy leaf bring about in Johnsy?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) She begins to believe that nature controls the course of human life.
(b) She becomes suspicious that the leaf has been deliberately preserved.
(c) She feels ashamed of her defeatism and regains the will to survive.
(d) She concludes that her illness is less serious than she had assumed.

49 What central irony is associated with Behrman's final artistic act?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The work he considered temporary later brought him artistic fame.
(b) The painting he created in secrecy was later displayed publicly.
(c) The leaf appeared lifeless but became his most realistic creation.
(d) The illusion that saved Johnsy's life ultimately cost Behrman his own.

Directions (Q. 50–54): *Read the passage and answer the questions*

Passage · [SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The Big Bang Theory, far from being a mere speculative construct, stands as the most widely endorsed cosmological model explaining the origin and evolution of the universe. Approximately 13.8 billion years ago, the universe emerged from an unimaginably dense and hot singularity — a state where conventional physics collapses under extreme conditions. Within fractions of a second, an exponential inflationary expansion occurred, smoothing out initial irregularities and setting the stage for cosmic structure formation.

As the universe expanded, it cooled, permitting the formation of subatomic particles and, eventually, simple atomic nuclei during the epoch of nucleosynthesis. Several hundred thousand years later, the universe cooled enough for electrons and nuclei to combine into neutral atoms, an event known as recombination, thereby rendering the universe transparent to radiation. The residual glow from this era, observable today as the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation, offers profound empirical support for the Big Bang model.

However, the theory does not escape philosophical and scientific quandaries. It leaves unanswered the very genesis of the singularity itself and cannot yet reconcile quantum mechanics with general relativity at cosmic scales. Furthermore, anomalies within the CMB, the existence of dark matter and dark energy, and the precise rate of cosmic expansion (Hubble tension) continue to perplex scientists.

In essence, while the Big Bang Theory illuminates the universe's evolution post-singularity with remarkable coherence, it simultaneously unveils deep epistemological and empirical mysteries, suggesting that humanity's understanding of cosmic origins remains tantalizingly incomplete.

50 In the sentence **"The Big Bang Theory, far from being a mere speculative construct, stands as the most widely endorsed cosmological model...",**

Identify the grammatical role of the phrase **"far from being a mere speculative construct."**

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Adverbial phrase modifying "stands"
(b) Adjective phrase modifying "Theory"
(c) Noun phrase acting as the subject
(d) Adverbial phrase modifying "construct"

51 What does the word **"epistemological"** most nearly mean as used in the passage?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Related to the structure of matter
(b) Pertaining to theories of knowledge
(c) Concerned with physical laws
(d) Connected to temporal events

52 Choose the correct form to complete the sentence from the passage:

"As the universe expanded, it _____ cooler, allowing atomic structures to form."

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) becomes
(b) became
(c) become
(d) had become

53 What is the best synonym for **"anomalies"** as used in the passage?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Patterns
(b) Deviations
(c) Explanations
(d) Confirmations

54 Which of the following best encapsulates the **central limitation** of the Big Bang Theory according to the passage?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Its inability to explain chemical evolution
(b) Its dependence solely on mathematical modeling
(c) Its failure to explain the singularity and reconcile major physical theories
(d) Its disregard for observational evidence like the CMB

Directions (Q. 55–59): *Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.*

Passage · [SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

As Dorothy and her companions approached the Emerald City, admiration was tempered by uneasiness. From afar, its towers gleamed like precious stones, creating an impression of extraordinary wealth. At the gate, however, every

visitor was compelled to wear green spectacles. The Guardian claimed that the glasses protected the eyes from the city's dazzling brilliance, but the travellers suspected a subtler purpose: the lenses might manipulate perception and make the city appear more magnificent than it actually was.
Within the walls, green dominated every aspect of life. Buildings seemed to be made of green marble, emeralds glittered on the walls, citizens wore green garments, and even the goods in the shops conformed to the same carefully maintained colour scheme. The uniformity suggested not merely decoration, but deliberate control over appearances.
Yet the splendour failed to quiet the travellers' anxiety. Dorothy wished to return home, the Scarecrow sought intelligence, the Tin Woodman desired a heart, and the Lion longed for courage. Their private deficiencies mattered more than the city's outward grandeur. Their hopes rested on the mysterious Wizard, although no citizen could clearly describe him. When informed that they would meet him separately, they felt increasingly vulnerable, for they had expected to draw courage from one another's presence.

55 What did the compulsory use of green spectacles lead the travellers to suspect?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The city was genuinely too bright for ordinary vision.
(b) Visitors were required to follow local customs unquestioningly.
(c) The Guardian intended to manipulate visitors' perception of the city.
(d) The Guardian wanted to distinguish citizens from outsiders.

56 The phrase “admiration was tempered by uneasiness” means that the travellers' admiration was:

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) completely replaced by fear.
(b) reduced or restrained by anxiety.
(c) strengthened by uncertainty.
(d) concealed from the citizens.

57 What can be inferred from the uniform use of green throughout the city?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Other colours were unavailable to the citizens.
(b) The city depended mainly on the emerald trade.
(c) The city promoted individuality among its citizens.
(d) The uniformity suggested deliberate control over appearances.

58 Why did the travellers feel vulnerable when asked to meet the Wizard separately?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) They believed that the Wizard would reject individual requests.
(b) They feared that the Guardian had deceived them.
(c) They would lose the emotional support of their companions.
(d) They had forgotten how to explain their personal needs.

59 Which statement best expresses the central idea of the passage?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) External magnificence may conceal uncertainty and manipulation.
(b) Friendship is valuable only in dangerous situations.
(c) Personal desires prevent people from appreciating beauty.
(d) Wealth and authority always produce fear among visitors.

Directions (Q. 60–63): *Read the passage and answer the questions*

Passage · [SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The menstrual cycle, frequently distilled into reductive explanations within mainstream discourse, constitutes a complex, finely-tuned hormonal symphony that underpins female reproductive viability. Typically spanning around 28 days—though significant interindividual variability persists—the cycle is anatomically and biochemically demarcated into four sequential phases: menstruation, the follicular phase, ovulation, and the luteal phase.

Menstruation initiates with the systematic desquamation of the functional layer of the endometrium, an event precipitated by the precipitous decline in circulating levels of

estrogen and progesterone following an unfertilized ovulatory event. Thereafter, during the follicular phase, anterior pituitary secretion of follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) catalyses the recruitment and maturation of ovarian follicles. A single dominant follicle subsequently prevails, secreting escalating quantities of estrogen to promote proliferative thickening of the endometrial lining in anticipation of potential zygote implantation.

Mid-cycle, ovulation ensues, triggered by an acute surge of luteinizing hormone (LH), culminating in the release of an oocyte into the fallopian tube — a transient but critical window of maximal fertility. In the absence of fertilization, the luteal phase commences: the residual follicular structure, now termed the corpus luteum, secretes progesterone to stabilize the endometrial architecture. Without embryonic implantation, corpus luteum regression ensues, hormonal concentrations diminish sharply, and the cyclical endometrial shedding recommences.

Despite the endogenous predictability of this sequence, the menstrual cycle exhibits considerable vulnerability to extrinsic perturbations — including psychosocial stressors, systemic illnesses, and environmental variables — underscoring the intricate interplay between endocrine function and broader homeostatic mechanisms.

60 What is the closest synonym for the word **"precipitous"** as used in the passage?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Gradual
(b) Abrupt
(c) Moderate
(d) Predictable

61 According to the passage, what is the **primary** function of the **corpus luteum** during the luteal phase?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To trigger menstruation by lowering progesterone.
(b) To secrete hormones that maintain endometrial integrity.
(c) To stimulate another round of follicle maturation.
(d) To dissolve immediately after ovulation.

62 Choose the correct form of the **verb** for the blank:

"Despite the endogenous predictability of this sequence, the menstrual cycle _____ considerable vulnerability to extrinsic perturbations."

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) exhibits
(b) exhibit
(c) exhibiting
(d) exhibited

63 What does **"desquamation"** most closely mean in the context of the passage?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Thickening of the uterine lining
(b) Shedding of the surface layer
(c) Hormone secretion
(d) Cell multiplication

Directions (Q. 64–68): *Read the passage and answer the questions*

Passage · [SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The pyramids, most famously epitomized by the colossal structures at Giza, remain one of humanity's most astonishing architectural feats. Constructed over 4,500 years ago, these geometric marvels continue to baffle engineers, historians, and archaeologists alike. Despite centuries of scrutiny, the exact methodologies employed in their construction elude definitive explanation.

The prevailing theories suggest that a combination of ingenuity, rudimentary tools, and sheer human determination enabled the transportation and placement of multi-ton limestone blocks with astonishing precision. However, emerging hypotheses propose that the ancient Egyptians may have leveraged techniques far more sophisticated than previously acknowledged, including the potential use of water to reduce friction on desert sands or the employment of lost materials like early forms of concrete.

Beyond the mechanics of their assembly, the pyramids encapsulate profound cultural and religious significance. They were not merely tombs, but cosmic monuments designed to ensure the pharaohs' transcendence into the afterlife, aligning meticulously with celestial bodies to reflect a deeper metaphysical order. The internal labyrinths, adorned with cryptic hieroglyphs and

symbolic chambers, further attest to a civilization whose understanding of mathematics, astronomy, and theology was remarkably advanced.

Today, while modern technology such as satellite imaging and muon radiography peels back some layers of mystery, the pyramids still guard many of their secrets. They stand not merely as relics of a bygone era, but as enduring testaments to humanity's timeless pursuit of greatness, ingenuity, and the eternal enigma of existence itself.

64 **Identify the correct form of the verb that should fill the blank:**
"The pyramids, most famously epitomized by the colossal structures at Giza, __ one of humanity's most astonishing architectural feats."

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) is
(b) was
(c) are
(d) were

65 **Choose the correct conjunction to complete the sentence:**
"The pyramids were not merely tombs, __ cosmic monuments designed to ensure the pharaohs' transcendence."

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) but
(b) and
(c) or
(d) for

66 What is the meaning of "**transcendence**" as used in the passage?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Fall from power
(b) Rising above normal limits
(c) Physical transformation
(d) Intellectual decline

67 Which word in the passage is closest in meaning to "**hypotheses**"?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Proofs
(b) Theories
(c) Facts
(d) Questions

68 According to the passage, which of the following best describes the primary cultural significance of the pyramids?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) They symbolized military power.
(b) They represent spiritual power.
(c) They represented a metaphysical journey linked to celestial alignment.
(d) They were primarily built to showcase wealth to rival civilizations.

Directions (Q. 69–73): *Read the following passage and answer the questions based on the passage*

Passage · [SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In an era of saturation with new media, the dissemination of counterfeit information in the media has become an irreversible threat to social cohesion. Though disinformation in the past was at least contained by geography and language, fabricated fiction in the present sweeps around the world in a matter of seconds—presenting themselves as respectful journalism, falsified photos, or taken-out-of-context morsels of fact. The pervasiveness of social media has made fact-checking more of a reactive than a proactive role and generally permits distortions to become established before correction can occur.

The effects extend far beyond simple confusion. Manipulated media drive political action, fuel communal tensions, and erode trust in democratic institutions. If citizens cannot tell good sources of information from bad, democratic processes suffer, as public opinion is shaped by vetted facts rather than viral disinformation. In worst-case scenarios, disinformation has even prompted violence or destroyed health initiatives, as witnessed around the global pandemic.

Added to this problem is also the emergence of algorithm-fed aggregation of content, which further enriches echo chambers. The user is constantly given information that will most likely reinforce their current beliefs, creating a loop of feedback that legitimates falsity and bars dissonant truths. In the meantime, deepfakes and AI-generated content introduced an aspect of novelty in the crisis wherein fabrication is basically rendered indistinguishable from truth.

To combat this threat, however, calls for more than simply technical counter-response; it calls for media literacy, institutional disclosure, and a recasting of how truth is built and presented in a post-truth world. Without profound systemic change, the distinction between information and

manipulation will always be blurry, threatening the very foundations of informed citizenship.

69 According to the passage, what has made fake media a uniquely modern threat?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) State-imposed censorship
(b) Restricted TV access
(c) Instant global digital diffusion
(d) Misuse of print journalism

70 What does the author suggest is the greatest danger if fake media continues unchecked?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Decline of entertainment media
(b) Increase in fake literature
(c) Erosion of informed citizenship
(d) Loss of academic freedom

71 The author uses the term "post-truth world" to highlight:

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A decline in reading habits
(b) A preference for emotion over fact
(c) A total collapse of media
(d) An age without news

72 What is meant by "recasting how truth is built and presented"?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Creating new media outlets
(b) Promoting independent journalism only
(c) Rethinking media systems and knowledge legitimacy
(d) Encouraging AI journalism

73 How do algorithm-driven platforms exacerbate the fake media problem?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) They flag offensive content
(b) They ignore political content
(c) They reinforce user biases via echo chambers
(d) They encourage random viewpoints

Directions (Q. 74–78): *Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions that follow. Each question is based on the information provided in the passage. Ensure that you answer according to the content of the passage.*

Passage · [SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Climate change is beginning to impact Indian agriculture in visible ways. Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, and extreme weather events are affecting crop yields across states like Punjab, Maharashtra, and West Bengal. Traditional farming calendars are becoming unreliable, forcing farmers to adapt by switching to shorter-duration or drought-resistant crops. Government initiatives like PM Fasal Bima Yojana provide crop insurance, but awareness and timely claim settlements remain a concern. Experts suggest combining modern weather forecasting with traditional knowledge to help farmers make informed decisions. Without timely interventions, food security and farmer livelihoods may face long-term risks.

74 How is climate change affecting Indian farmers?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Increasing profits
(b) Shortening work hours
(c) Reducing crop yields
(d) Making weather more predictable

75 Which crops are farmers switching to?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) High-sugar crops
(b) Drought-resistant and short-duration crops
(c) Cotton and jute only
(d) Export-quality crops

76 What is PM Fasal Bima Yojana?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Pension scheme
(b) Free loan waiver
(c) Educational policy
(d) Crop insurance initiative

77 What is a challenge in PMFBY's implementation?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Delay in claim settlement and awareness
(b) Too many online applications
(c) Lack of seeds
(d) Cold storage shortage

78 What combination is suggested for better adaptation?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Chemical pesticides + tractors
(b) Traditional knowledge + weather forecasting
(c) Foreign investments + subsidies
(d) Only mobile apps

Directions (Q. 79–83): *Read the following passage and answer the questions based on the passage*

Passage · [SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Over the past few years, Indian destination weddings have grown into a thriving economic trend, pushing the traditional boundaries between festivals and enterprises. Exclusive domain of royal dynasties and Bollywood royalty earlier, today, such grand affairs are aspiring to be undertaken by a new generation of prosperous businesspeople and NRIs. Udaipur, Jaipur, and Kovalam have become top locations, providing a carefully designed synthesis of history, hospitality, and spectacle.

The ripple effect of such weddings on the economy is profound. A single lavish wedding can create a supply chain from hotels to caterers to artisans to transportation providers and even bouquet sellers in the neighbourhood. Industry estimates place the Indian wedding industry's contribution at close to ₹3.7 lakh crore each year, with destination weddings making up a large portion of it.

But there are conditions. Local infrastructure gets strained during peak season, especially in small towns that have not been designed for high-density tourism. Furthermore, environmental issues—such as over-exploitation of resources, waste, and energy use—are not addressed adequately. State governments are keen on the economic boost, but regulatory frameworks do not keep pace, being set more to facilitate business than ensure sustainability.

Essentially, Indian destination weddings walk the tightrope between cultural spectacle and business venture. The economic impetus that they generate in the short term is certain, but concerns regarding their ecological impact as well as their inclusivity persist to command policy scrutiny.

79 What does the passage primarily emphasize about destination weddings in India?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) They are losing popularity
(b) They burden urban spaces
(c) They are eco-friendly
(d) They combine culture and commerce

80 Which of the following best describes the tone of the author in the passage?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Sarcastic
(b) Analytical
(c) Indifferent
(d) Euphoric

81 Which of the following best illustrates the paradox of destination weddings, as discussed in the passage?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) They are economically beneficial but culturally irrelevant
(b) They promote tradition but discourage tourism
(c) They boost the economy but strain local resources
(d) They reduce employment but raise income levels

82 Why does the author mention regulatory mechanisms in the context of destination weddings?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To highlight efficient government intervention
(b) To show the decline of legal oversight
(c) To critique the lack of sustainability focus
(d) To explain GST complications

83 What is the author's central recommendation regarding destination weddings and public policy?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Encourage more private investment
(b) Limit weddings to off-season only
(c) Integrate sustainability into regulation
(d) Promote international venues instead

Directions (Q. 84–88): *Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions that follow. Each question is based on the information provided in the passage. Ensure that you answer according to the content of the passage.*

Passage · [SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) is a social security

scheme guaranteeing 100 days of paid work annually to rural households. It is a lifeline during agricultural off-seasons and in times of economic stress. MNREGA work typically includes land development, irrigation, and road repair. The program is demand-driven, meaning jobs are provided when people request them. In states like Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, MNREGA has helped reduce migration to cities. Critics, however, raise concerns over delayed wage payments and corruption in fund disbursal. To enhance transparency, digital attendance systems and direct bank transfers have been introduced.

84 What does MNREGA guarantee?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Free ration
(b) 100 days of paid rural work
(c) Free education for all
(d) Loans for farming

85 In which states has MNREGA helped reduce migration?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Kerala and Goa
(b) Gujarat and Maharashtra
(c) Sikkim and Meghalaya
(d) Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh

86 What is a criticism of MNREGA?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) It supports only cities
(b) Low enrolment of women
(c) Delayed payments and corruption
(d) High internet usage

87 What technology has been introduced to improve MNREGA?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Digital attendance and bank transfers
(b) Blockchain farming
(c) Artificial Intelligence robots
(d) Smartwatch distribution

88 What type of work is done under MNREGA?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Office-based IT work
(b) Software coding
(c) Land development and road repair
(d) Teaching in private schools

Directions (Q. 89–93): *Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions that follow. Each question is based on the information provided in the passage. Ensure that you answer according to the content of the passage.*

Passage · [SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In India's rapidly urbanising economy, the gig workforce has emerged as a significant player. This workforce comprises freelancers, delivery personnel, ride-share drivers, and others working on a task-by-task basis. The flexibility offered by the gig economy appeals to the youth, especially those with limited formal education or who are unable to find full-time employment. Platforms like Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, and Urban Company have played a major role in creating gig-based opportunities. However, there is concern about job security, absence of social security benefits, and fluctuating income. Despite these challenges, gig work often serves as a stopgap for individuals between traditional jobs. Policymakers are beginning to explore frameworks for social protection of gig workers, acknowledging their contribution to the urban economy.

89 Who are considered part of the gig workforce?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Government employees
(b) Full-time corporate staff
(c) Freelancers and delivery workers
(d) Factory workers with pensions

90 What is one appealing aspect of gig work?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Job security
(b) Flexible work arrangements
(c) Fixed salary and security
(d) Guaranteed government employment

91 What problem is associated with gig work?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) No job security and inconsistent income
(b) Overstaffing in offices
(c) Too many holidays
(d) High retirement benefits

92 How do policymakers plan to address gig workers' issues?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Offering private jobs
(b) Ignoring their demands
(c) Cutting platform access
(d) Exploring social protection frameworks

93 Which of these platforms is NOT mentioned as part of the gig economy in the passage?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ola
(b) Zomato
(c) Urban Company
(d) Flipkart

Directions (Q. 94–98): *Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions that follow. Each question is based on the information provided in the passage. Ensure that you answer according to the content of the passage.*

Passage · [SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In recent years, India has witnessed a steady rise in the number of self-help groups (SHGs), particularly among rural women. These groups, usually comprising 10–20 women, function as collectives that provide mutual support and financial interdependence. Most SHGs are involved in small-scale economic activities such as tailoring, pickling, and handicrafts, and many receive support from government schemes and microfinance institutions. The objective is not only economic empowerment but also social inclusion. SHGs often become platforms for discussing issues such as health, sanitation, and gender equality. In states like Tamil Nadu and Odisha, SHGs have played a crucial role in community-level decision-making, especially during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. However, challenges like limited market access and lack of digital literacy continue to impede their growth. With the right support, SHGs could become powerful agents of transformation in India's rural landscape.

94 What is the primary objective of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as mentioned in the passage?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Economic empowerment and social inclusion
(b) Ensuring social media access
(c) Providing loans to large-scale industries
(d) Promoting tourism in rural areas

95 According to the passage, how many women typically form an SHG?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) '2–5
(b) '10–20
(c) '50–100
(d) '30–40

96 In which areas have SHGs contributed besides economic activities?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only infrastructure development
(b) Political campaigning
(c) Social issues like health and sanitation
(d) Tax policy changes

97 What major challenge faced by SHGs is highlighted in the passage?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Excessive government regulation
(b) Overstaffing
(c) High taxation
(d) Lack of digital literacy and market access

98 How did SHGs contribute during the COVID-19 pandemic, as per the passage?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) They offered community-level decision-making
(b) They moved operations online
(c) They distributed vaccines door-to-door
(d) They suspended all activities

Directions (Q. 99–103): *Read the passage and answer the questions*

Passage · [SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Dinosaurs, the magnificent archosaurs that dominated terrestrial ecosystems for over 160 million years, continue to captivate both scientific inquiry and popular imagination. Emerging during the Triassic Period approximately 230 million years ago, dinosaurs diversified rapidly, exploiting ecological niches ranging from apex predation to herbivorous grazing.

Paleontological evidence reveals that dinosaurs were not monolithic; they represented an

extraordinary array of morphologies, behaviours, and metabolic strategies. Contrary to the once-prevailing image of sluggish, cold-blooded reptiles, current research suggests that many species, particularly theropods, exhibited endothermic traits and dynamic activity levels. Feathers, once considered exclusive to modern birds, have been identified in numerous non-avian dinosaur fossils, suggesting evolutionary continuity rather than abrupt transformation.

The Cretaceous-Palaeogene (K-Pg.) extinction event, approximately 66 million years ago, precipitated the demise of non-avian dinosaurs, plausibly triggered by an asteroid impact combined with extensive volcanic activity. This cataclysmic shift not only eradicated dominant dinosaurian lineages but also catalysed mammalian diversification, reshaping evolutionary trajectories.

Yet, despite monumental advances in technology — from CT-scanning fossilized bones to analysing isotopic signatures — critical enigmas persist. Questions concerning precise dinosaurian physiology, social behaviour, and even the nuances of their extinction dynamics remain partially speculative. Moreover, the fossil record itself is inherently incomplete, biased toward preservation-friendly environments, thereby skewing interpretations.

Ultimately, the study of dinosaurs transcends mere historical reconstruction; it probes the intricate processes of evolution, adaptation, and extinction — processes that remain profoundly relevant in an era of accelerating environmental change.

99 In the sentence
"Dinosaurs, the magnificent archosaurs that dominated terrestrial ecosystems for over 160 million years, continue to captivate both scientific inquiry and popular imagination,"
What is the grammatical function of the clause "that dominated terrestrial ecosystems"?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Adverbial Clause
(b) Noun Clause
(c) Relative Clause
(d) Prepositional Clause

100 The word "precipitated" most nearly means:

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Delayed
(b) Caused suddenly
(c) Questioned
(d) Neutralized

101 Choose the best synonym for "enigma" as used in the passage.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Certainty
(b) Mystery
(c) Debate
(d) Explanation

102 According to the passage, why is the study of dinosaurs considered relevant today?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It helps predict asteroid impacts.
(b) It enhances fossil preservation techniques.
(c) It reveals processes vital for understanding current environmental changes.
(d) It proves that mammals evolved before dinosaurs.

103 In the sentence
"Yet, despite monumental advances in technology — from CT-scanning fossilized bones to analyzing isotopic signatures — critical enigmas persist,"
What is the function of the phrase "despite monumental advances in technology"?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Main Clause
(b) Adjective phrase
(c) Adverbial phrase of contrast
(d) Noun phrase functioning as subject

Directions (Q. 104–108): *Read the passage and answer the questions*

Passage · [SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to redefine industries and professions, the indispensability of uniquely human skills has become increasingly pronounced. In an era where algorithms can perform routine tasks with unerring precision and speed, individuals must cultivate abilities that machines cannot easily replicate — namely critical thinking, creativity, emotional intelligence, and adaptability.

The 21st-century workforce demands more than technical literacy; it necessitates a dynamic synergy between hard skills and soft skills. Technical prowess alone, once sufficient, now risks obsolescence unless it is paired with

problem-solving capacities and an innovative mind set. Employers increasingly value candidates who can not only interpret data but also infer nuanced insights, which can not only program software but also envision novel applications beyond conventional frameworks.

Moreover, resilience and the ability to unlearn and relearn swiftly are no longer optional traits but survival mechanisms. As AI accelerates change, static knowledge bases decay at an unprecedented pace. Workers who cling rigidly to out-dated competencies inevitably find themselves outpaced, while those who embrace lifelong learning carve niches even amidst automation's relentless advance.

Ultimately, it is not a competition between humans and machines, but between adaptive and static mind sets. In this fluid landscape, mastering uniquely human attributes is not merely advantageous; it is existentially imperative.

104 Identify the sentence with the correct use of the semicolon:

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The 21st-century workforce demands more than technical literacy, it necessitates a dynamic synergy between hard and soft skills.
(b) The 21st-century workforce demands more than technical literacy; it necessitates a dynamic synergy between hard and soft skills.
(c) The 21st-century workforce demands more than technical literacy: it necessitates a dynamic synergy between hard and soft skills.
(d) The 21st-century workforce demands more than technical literacy; necessitating a dynamic synergy between hard and soft skills.

105 Which choice correctly maintains parallel structure?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Individuals must cultivate critical thinking, being creative, emotional intelligence, and adapt.
(b) Individuals must cultivate critical thinking, creativity, emotional intelligence, and adaptability.
(c) Individuals must cultivate critically thinking, creativity, emotional intelligence, and adapt.
(d) Individuals must cultivate critical thinking, creating, emotional intelligence, and adapting.

106 What is the closest synonym for "indispensability" as used in the passage?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Optionality
(b) Necessity
(c) Uncertainty
(d) Difficulty

107 What is the meaning of "static" in the phrase "static knowledge bases decay"?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Constant and unchanging
(b) Rapidly growing
(c) Highly dynamic
(d) Specialized and complex

108 According to the passage, why is lifelong learning crucial in the age of AI?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Because machines can be easily programmed to adapt emotions.
(b) Because human knowledge remains unchanged over decades.
(c) Because static knowledge becomes obsolete quickly and adaptability ensures relevance.
(d) Because creativity is no longer valued in technical fields.

Directions (Q. 109–113): *Read the following passage and answer the questions based on the passage*

Passage · [SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In today's corporate environment, dysfunctional behavior—taken in the form of manipulation, exclusion, harassment, or passive aggression—is a pervasive undertone. Typically hidden behind professional demeanour or performance targets, such behavior erodes organizational trust and destroys psychological safety. It does not necessarily start from open hostility; instead, it is

often system-based—rooted in workplace hierarchies, incentive schemes, and tacit cultural norms.
Evidence demonstrates that organizations plagued by toxic dynamics experience higher attrition rates, lower employee participation, and higher mental illness. In contrast to conventional management presumptions, productivity is not enhanced by pressure or fear; instead, productivity quietly declines as workers disengage, do a poor job, or abandon work altogether. Toxic cultures also stifle innovation, as fear of retaliation deters dissension and exploration—both essential in competitive markets.
Leaders tend to misread short-term deliverables as long-term effectiveness, failing to notice that constant exposure to toxicity undermines an organization's strength and overall efficacy. Exacerbating the situation is the tendency to heroize "difficult geniuses"—individual workers who excel on their own but undermine team morale. This glamorization creates a vicious cycle where toxicity is overlooked if it is combined with profitability.
Abating such conduct is beyond the reach of compliance training or loose ethical guidelines. It necessitates structural change, open accountability, and a culture shift that emphasizes shared well-being as well as monetary profit. Without these, the corporate poison will still disguise itself as greatness, leaving a trail of burnout, turnover, and reduced institutional integrity. "generate 10 hard mcq on this passage with solution and description".

109 .According to the passage, how does toxic behavior primarily manifest in modern corporate settings?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Through obvious rule-breaking
(b) Through casual office jokes
(c) Through hidden patterns and performance pressure
(d) Through legal misconduct

110 How does the author suggest toxic behavior is institutionally maintained?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Deficient dialogue structures
(b) Interpersonal frictions
(c) Systemic normalization and incentives
(d) Exogenous economic constraints

111 What is the vicious cycle referred to in the passage?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Targets erode output quality
(b) Strikes disrupt workflow
(c) Praising toxicity sustains dysfunction
(d) Ranks enhance team efficiency

112 What can be inferred about "psychological safety" in the workplace?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It depends solely on job security
(b) It increases through stricter regulation
(c) It is eroded by manipulation and passive aggression
(d) It thrives under pressure

113 What is the author's critique of standard leadership evaluation practices?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Overweighting of short-term deliverables
(b) Dependence on employee self-assessment
(c) Emphasis on procedural uniformity
(d) Undervaluing symbolic leadership

Directions (Q. 114–118): *Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.*

Passage · [SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Read the following passage and answer the questions based on the passage:
In the 21st century, outer space has evolved from a scientific frontier into a geopolitical theatre where diplomacy, commerce, and national security intersect. The concept of space diplomacy—using cooperation and negotiation in outer space affairs as tools of statecraft—has become central to the foreign policy strategies of both emerging and established powers. It is no longer sufficient for nations to launch satellites; they must now navigate orbital politics. The strategic importance of space assets—from communication satellites to Earth observation systems—has redefined the contours of sovereignty and surveillance. Increasingly, countries are

leveraging space-based capabilities for soft power projection, offering satellite data to developing nations, sharing launch infrastructure, and even co-developing space missions. Such cooperation enhances diplomatic goodwill while simultaneously extending geopolitical influence. India's space diplomacy, for instance, has matured from technological self-reliance to regional leadership. The South Asia Satellite, launched by ISRO in 2017, was a watershed moment—offering communication and meteorological services to neighbouring countries as a "gift." However, even as such projects are framed as acts of regional solidarity, they reinforce India's leadership narrative in the subcontinent. Yet, this domain is not without contest. The increasing militarization of space, signaled by the creation of dedicated space forces and the testing of anti-satellite weapons (ASATs), adds a layer of strategic mistrust. The absence of updated, binding international treaties governing weaponization and satellite security further complicates multilateral coordination. At the same time, the entry of private players into the space ecosystem introduces commercial diplomacy. Tech giants and start-ups now collaborate with governments in dual-use ventures—civilian technologies with potential military applications. As regulatory frameworks struggle to keep pace, diplomacy must adapt not only to intergovernmental negotiations but also to corporate interests. In essence, space diplomacy is about managing cooperation amid competition. As Low Earth Orbit becomes increasingly crowded and lunar exploration re-emerges as a theatre of contest, future diplomacy must balance ambition with restraint. Nations that excel in this balance will shape not just the future of outer space—but also the geopolitical alignments back on Earth.

114 According to the passage, why is space no longer a purely scientific domain?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It has become fully commercialized
(b) It involves geopolitical, strategic, and economic stakes
(c) Nations have stopped funding basic research
(d) Only private companies now operate in space

115 What does the passage imply about projects like India's South Asia Satellite?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) They are entirely altruistic and non-strategic
(b) They are technical exercises with no diplomatic implications
(c) They serve regional cooperation while advancing soft power
(d) They breach international norms

116 The entry of private players in space has introduced which new diplomatic challenge?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Decline in government-funded research
(b) Obsolescence of multilateral organizations
(c) Need to negotiate with non-state entities
(d) Violation of arms control treaties

117 Why does the passage suggest that space diplomacy must balance ambition with restraint?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To maintain technological superiority
(b) Because LEO is becoming unsafe
(c) To avoid breaching the Outer Space Treaty
(d) To ensure sustainable cooperation amid strategic competition

118 Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Space weaponization is regulated effectively
(b) Corporate players have no role in diplomacy
(c) Space diplomacy now includes non-traditional actors and dual-use dilemmas
(d) Nations avoid using space for strategic purposes

Directions (Q. 119–123): *Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.*

Passage · [SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Read the passage and answer the questions:

The Big Bang Theory, far from being a mere speculative construct, stands as the most widely endorsed cosmological model explaining the origin and evolution of the universe. Approximately 13.8 billion years ago, the universe emerged from an unimaginably dense and hot singularity — a state where conventional physics collapses under extreme conditions. Within fractions of a second, an exponential inflationary expansion occurred, smoothing out initial

irregularities and setting the stage for cosmic structure formation.

As the universe expanded, it cooled, permitting the formation of subatomic particles and, eventually, simple atomic nuclei during the epoch of nucleosynthesis. Several hundred thousand years later, the universe cooled enough for electrons and nuclei to combine into neutral atoms, an event known as recombination, thereby rendering the universe transparent to radiation. The residual glow from this era, observable today as the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation, offers profound empirical support for the Big Bang model.

However, the theory does not escape philosophical and scientific quandaries. It leaves unanswered the very genesis of the singularity itself and cannot yet reconcile quantum mechanics with general relativity at cosmic scales. Furthermore, anomalies within the CMB, the existence of dark matter and dark energy, and the precise rate of cosmic expansion (Hubble tension) continue to perplex scientists.

In essence, while the Big Bang Theory illuminates the universe's evolution post-singularity with remarkable coherence, it simultaneously unveils deep epistemological and empirical mysteries, suggesting that humanity's understanding of cosmic origins remains tantalizingly incomplete.

119 In the sentence "The Big Bang Theory, far from being a mere speculative construct, stands as the most widely endorsed cosmological model...", identify the grammatical role of the phrase "far from being a mere speculative construct."

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Adverbial phrase modifying "stands"
(b) Adjective phrase modifying "Theory"
(c) Noun phrase acting as the subject
(d) Adverbial phrase modifying "construct"

120 Which of the following best encapsulates the **central limitation** of the Big Bang Theory according to the passage?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Its inability to explain chemical evolution
(b) Its dependence solely on mathematical modeling
(c) Its failure to explain the singularity and reconcile major physical theories
(d) Its disregard for observational evidence like the CMB

121 What does the word **"epistemological"** most nearly mean as used in the passage?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Concerned with physical laws
(b) Pertaining to theories of knowledge
(c) Related to the structure of matter
(d) Connected to temporal events

122 Choose the correct form to complete the sentence from the passage:
"As the universe expanded, it _____ cooler, allowing atomic structures to form."

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) becomes
(b) became
(c) become
(d) had become

123 What is the best synonym for **"anomalies"** as used in the passage?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Patterns
(b) Deviations
(c) Explanations
(d) Confirmations

Answer Key

Red = note on the SSC key in the explanation

01	02	03	04	05	11	12	13	14	15
(b)	(b)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(c)	(a)	(d)	(c)	(d)
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(d)	(c)	(c)	(b)	(c)

21	22	23	24	25
(d)	(c)	(d)	(a)	(b)
26	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
(b)	(c)	(b)	(b)	(b)
31	**32**	**33**	**34**	**35**
(a)	(b)	(b)	(a)	(a)
36	**37**	**38**	**39**	**40**
(c)	(d)	(b)	(d)	(c)
41	**42**	**43**	**44**	**45**
(c)	(d)	(c)	(c)	(b)
46	**47**	**48**	**49**	**50**
(a)	(d)	(c)	(d)	**(a)**
51	**52**	**53**	**54**	**55**
(b)	(b)	(b)	(c)	(c)
56	**57**	**58**	**59**	**60**
(b)	(d)	(c)	(a)	(b)
61	**62**	**63**	**64**	**65**
(b)	(a)	(b)	(c)	(a)
66	**67**	**68**	**69**	**70**
(b)	(b)	(c)	(c)	(c)
71	**72**	**73**	**74**	**75**
(b)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(b)

76	77	78	79	80
(d)	(a)	(b)	(d)	(b)
81	**82**	**83**	**84**	**85**
(c)	(c)	(c)	(b)	(d)
86	**87**	**88**	**89**	**90**
(c)	(a)	(c)	(c)	(b)
91	**92**	**93**	**94**	**95**
(a)	(d)	(d)	(a)	(b)
96	**97**	**98**	**99**	**100**
(c)	(d)	(a)	(c)	(b)
101	**102**	**103**	**104**	**105**
(b)	(c)	(c)	(b)	(b)
106	**107**	**108**	**109**	**110**
(b)	(a)	(c)	(c)	(c)
111	**112**	**113**	**114**	**115**
(c)	(c)	(a)	(b)	(c)
116	**117**	**118**	**119**	**120**
(c)	(d)	(c)	(a)	(c)
121	**122**	**123**		
(b)	(b)	(b)		

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

01 **ANSWER (b)** Present Simple

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

The verb group in the quoted phrase is **can precipitate**: the modal 'can' is a present form and is followed by the base form of the verb. The sentence states a general truth, so **Present Simple** is the suitable option. Past Perfect needs 'had + V3' and Future Perfect needs 'will have + V3', neither of which appears, and 'Present Conditional' is not a tense in standard grammar. Hence the answer is B.

02 **ANSWER (b)** It is an introductory phrase modifying the main clause.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

'Far from being a mere by product of demanding schedules' has no finite verb, so it is a phrase, not a clause. It opens the sentence and sets up a contrast with the main clause 'chronic occupational stress is frequently rooted in deeper systemic issues', so it is an **introductory phrase**. It is not the subject (the subject is 'chronic occupational stress'), not an object, and not a dependent clause expressing a condition.

03 **ANSWER (c)** Gradually harmful and subtle

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

'Insidious' means harmful in a gradual, hidden way (treacherous, secretly dangerous). The passage likewise presents workplace stress as a problem that quietly damages organisations and employees.

- Open and obvious — clear and plain
- Harmless and fleeting — not damaging and short-lived
- Gradually harmful and subtle — slowly damaging and hard to notice

- Quickly destructive and visible — fast-acting and easy to see

04 ANSWER (b) Harmful

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

'Deleterious' means harmful or damaging. The passage goes on to list burnout, weakened cognitive functioning and hypertension as outcomes, which confirms this meaning.

- Advantageous — beneficial (opposite meaning)
- Harmful — damaging
- Temporary — lasting only a short time
- Curious — eager to know; also strange

05 ANSWER (b) They rely on short-term or surface-level solutions.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

The last paragraph says that the solution to stress goes beyond 'superficial interventions such as temporary wellness programs or occasional mindfulness workshops'. This directly means that organisations rely on short-term, surface-level measures. The passage itself treats work-life balance as a necessary step, so A is wrong; C and D are not mentioned in the passage.

06 ANSWER (b) Present perfect

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The first verb group is 'have offered', which has the structure 'have + V3' and is therefore **Present Perfect**: it links an action begun in the past to the present (relief has been given and its effect continues). The second part, 'are not', is in the Present Simple, but the question asks about the main verb. Past Perfect would need 'had offered' and Present Continuous would need 'are offering'.

07 ANSWER (a) Active Voice

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Here 'are' is followed by 'vulnerable', which is an adjective, not a past participle. So this is not a 'be + V3' passive; the subject 'Children' itself is described as being in a state, and the sentence is in the **Active Voice**. 'Growing up in such settings' is merely a participial phrase describing 'Children'. A causative would need 'have/get + object + V3', and an interrogative would need a question form.

08 ANSWER (b) Tendency

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

'Propensity' means a natural inclination or tendency. In the passage, 'propensity to gain weight' refers to how likely a person is to put on weight.

- Hesitation — reluctance to act
- Tendency — inclination
- Resistance — opposition
- Disinterest — lack of interest

09 ANSWER (a) Worsen

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

'Exacerbate' means to make a bad situation worse, i.e. to worsen.

- Worsen — to make worse
- Alleviate — to reduce or relieve (opposite meaning)
- Initiate — to begin
- Neutralize — to cancel the effect of

Trick: Exacerbate = make worse; Alleviate is its antonym.

10 ANSWER (b) Because urban environments often promote unhealthy habits early in ...

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

According to the passage, the modern urban environment limits access to nutritious food and promotes a culture of convenience and inactivity, and children raised in such settings are 'particularly vulnerable'. The reason is therefore that urban environments instil unhealthy habits from an early age. A and C are not stated in the passage, and in D the word 'solely' is an exaggeration contrary to the passage.

11 ANSWER (c) He expected Hughie to establish a respectable source of income.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The second line of the passage clearly says that Laura's father insisted that Hughie first acquire 'a respectable income'. His hesitation was therefore due to Hughie's lack of income. Hughie is described as 'charming and generous', so A and D find no support,

and his friendship with Alan has no bearing on the marriage.

12 ANSWER (a) The model's apparent suffering immediately awakened Hughie's ...

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The passage says the model 'appeared so weak and miserable that Hughie felt immediate sympathy for him'. This sympathy led to the gift of the coin. The model's courtesy appears only after the coin is given (he thanked Hughie with 'unusual courtesy'), so B cannot be the cause; Alan's request and the model's silence are not mentioned anywhere in the passage.

13 ANSWER (d) He thought the wealthy baron might ridicule his misplaced act of ...

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

According to the passage, Hughie imagined the millionaire laughing at his 'foolish attempt to offer charity'. In other words, he feared that the baron would ridicule his misplaced act of charity. The worries in A, B and C have no basis in the passage.

14 ANSWER (c) Hughie gave it privately while believing the recipient was helpless.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The last paragraph says the baron valued the 'sincerity' of the act, since it was done in the belief that he was helpless, and without show or expectation of reward. What made the gift meaningful, then, was that it was given privately to someone believed to be helpless. A is wrong because Hughie learnt the truth only later; D is wrong because he expected no reward.

15 ANSWER (d) The coin reveals generosity through sacrifice, whereas the gift ...

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Hughie had very little, yet he gave away part of it, so his generosity involved sacrifice. The baron's wedding gift recognises and honours that moral quality. The passage's conclusion, too, is that private compassion 'reveals character'. Options A, B and C describe the act as carelessness, display or poor judgment, which runs against the spirit of the passage.

16 ANSWER (d) Irreconcilable

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

'Incommensurable' means having no common standard of comparison or measurement; here it means that two paradigms cannot be reconciled with each other (irreconcilable). That is why one paradigm is not an extension of the other but a complete change.

- Comparable — capable of being compared (opposite meaning)
- Parallel — running side by side
- Disjointed — broken up, unconnected
- Irreconcilable — impossible to bring into agreement

17 ANSWER (c) A fundamental change in perception

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

'Gestalt' refers to seeing a thing as a whole rather than in pieces. In a 'gestalt switch' the same scene is seen in a completely different way. The passage calls it 'a radical change in perspective' and 'a transformation in the very way scientists see the world', so the meaning is a **fundamental change in perception**. 'Subtle expansion' contradicts the passage, because a new paradigm is not an extension of the old one.

18 ANSWER (c) Because competing paradigms redefine questions and methods, making ...

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The passage says a new paradigm is not an 'extension' of the old but 'a fundamental reconceptualization of reality', and the examples of Copernicus and Einstein show the whole framework changing. Questions and methods are therefore redefined, and continuity becomes impossible. In B, 'all previous findings' is an exaggeration, and A and D find no support in the passage.

19 ANSWER (b) Passive voice

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The sentence contains 'are dismissed', which has the structure 'be + V3', and the subject 'Anomalies' receives the action (someone dismisses them as errors). It is therefore in the **Passive Voice**. In middle

and reflexive voice the subject acts on itself or within itself, which is not the case here.

20 **ANSWER (c)** Relative clause

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

'That cannot be explained within the current paradigm' is a **relative clause**: it begins with the relative pronoun 'that' and describes the noun 'anomalies'. A noun clause takes the place of a noun, and an adverbial clause tells the circumstances of the action (time, reason, etc.); neither applies here. An independent clause is the main part of a sentence, whereas the question asks about the particular clause used within it.

21 **ANSWER (d)** He understood the hidden life and character of the street deeply.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage plainly says that 'Dickens understood the street deeply' and that he held the key to its hidden world. What distinguished him, then, was a deep understanding of the street's hidden life and character. Studying architecture, treating it merely as a dramatic setting, or observing from a distance are not in the passage; on the contrary, it speaks of his complete absorption in the street.

22 **ANSWER (c)** The hidden life of the street becomes mysterious and difficult to ...

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The street at night is compared to 'a great house whose doors are locked', and the line just before says we know even less about the street at night. Just as the inner life of a house with locked doors stays hidden from us, the street's hidden life becomes mysterious and hard to understand. The comparison is figurative, so literal readings such as A and D are wrong.

23 **ANSWER (d)** By becoming completely absorbed in the experience of the place.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

According to the third paragraph, to remember a place for ever one must experience it fully and become so absorbed in it that one forgets oneself as a separate spectator. The answer is therefore D. Facts merely observed do not stay in the memory permanently, so A is wrong.

24 **ANSWER (a)** Dickens's emotional experiences gave the streets lasting personal ...

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The streets were bound up with the intense experiences and tragedies of Dickens's youth, which is why, according to the passage, they remained 'deeply romantic' for him. His emotions thus gave the streets a lasting personal and romantic significance. B, C and D mention things that appear nowhere in the passage.

25 **ANSWER (b)** He gave ordinary physical details an intense and lifelike vitality.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The closing part of the passage says that even small details in his descriptions, such as a window, a railing or a keyhole, acquire 'an intense and lifelike vitality'. This is the source of his unusual realism. A, C and D contradict the passage: Dickens brought real corners of London to life, and the passage attributes this to his emotional association with them.

26 **ANSWER (b)** Careers in banking, corporate law, investment analysis, and ...

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In the active sentence the subject is 'Commerce' and the object is 'access to careers'. In the passive the object moves to the front, 'offers' becomes 'are offered', and the old subject follows as 'by Commerce'. B is correct and keeps the meaning. In A, 'accessed' replaces 'offers' and changes the meaning; in C the extra 'are' makes the sentence ungrammatical; D does not form a passive at all.

27 **ANSWER (c)** Students whom excel at both analysis and creativity are rare.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In 'Students whom excel...', 'excel' needs a subject, and the relative pronoun for a subject is **who**. 'Whom' is the object form, used for the object of a verb, so it is wrong here. The correct sentence is: Students **who** excel at both analysis and creativity are rare. In the other options 'who' (for persons), 'which' (for things) and 'whose' (possession) are used correctly.

28 ANSWER (b) Spread

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

'Permeate' means to spread through or penetrate something completely; here it describes Arts students spreading into technical fields.

- Exclude — to keep out (opposite meaning)
- Spread — to extend widely
- Conceal — to hide
- Defeat — to beat

29 ANSWER (b) Combining multiple areas of study

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

In 'interdisciplinary', the prefix 'inter-' means 'between, among' and 'disciplinary' relates to a field of study, so the whole word means combining several subjects. The passage's example of AI and Environmental Engineering shows exactly this blending.

- Related to one subject only — confined to a single field (opposite meaning)
- Combining multiple areas of study — drawing on several fields
- Opposing different disciplines — hostile to other fields
- Excluding sciences and arts — keeping both apart

30 ANSWER (b) Arts, Commerce, and Science fields are now overlapping, and hybrid ...

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The last paragraph says that 'hybrid skill sets' are increasingly valued and that the old rigid boundaries between Arts, Commerce and Science are blurring. This is the main idea of the whole passage. A and C elevate a single stream, which the passage does not do, and D is the exact opposite of the last paragraph.

31 ANSWER (a) The functional layer of the endometrium is systematically ...

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

In the active sentence the subject is 'Menstruation', and 'desquamation of the functional layer' follows 'initiates with', so in the passive that layer becomes the subject with 'is desquamated'. A is the only grammatically correct passive that also preserves the meaning. In B, 'is initiating by' wrongly mixes continuous and passive; C is a reflexive construction; D is still active and changes the meaning.

32 ANSWER (b) To secrete hormones that maintain endometrial integrity.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage says 'the corpus luteum secretes progesterone to stabilize the endometrial architecture', so its main function is to secrete hormones that keep the endometrium stable. A is reversed: it is when the corpus luteum regresses that hormone levels fall and shedding occurs. C is a function of the follicular phase, and D is wrong because the corpus luteum remains active during the luteal phase.

33 ANSWER (b) Shedding of the surface layer

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

'Desquamation' means the shedding or peeling of the surface layer of a tissue. The passage uses it for the shedding of the functional layer of the endometrium, and later also uses the phrase 'endometrial shedding'.

- Thickening of the uterine lining — thickening of the womb lining (as in the follicular phase)
- Shedding of the surface layer — peeling off of the outer layer
- Hormone secretion — release of hormones
- Cell multiplication — increase in the number of cells

34 ANSWER (a) Abrupt

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

'Precipitous' means sudden and sharp (abrupt, steep). Here it refers to the sudden fall in oestrogen and progesterone levels.

- Abrupt — sudden
- Gradual — slow and steady (opposite meaning)

• Moderate — average, not extreme
• Predictable — able to be foreseen

35 ANSWER (a) He feared that people might regard him as an impractical person.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The Town Councillor wanted to be known for his artistic taste, but the passage plainly says he added 'not quite as useful' because he feared people might think him impractical. His aim was to protect his image. He did not call the statue less beautiful (he said it was as beautiful as a weathercock), so C is wrong.

36 ANSWER (c) He assumed that the Prince represented happiness absent from his ...

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The disappointed man said he was glad that somebody in the world was completely happy, and he said it with disappointment. This shows that he saw the Prince as a symbol of the happiness missing from his own life. He is not doubting that complete happiness exists, so D is wrong.

37 ANSWER (d) He disapproved of children accepting dreams as a source of knowledge.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The children said they had seen angels in their dreams, and the passage states that the Master 'did not approve of children dreaming'. His displeasure was therefore at children treating dreams as a source of knowledge. The passage does not say that the comparison with the statue was disrespectful or that the children were inventing stories.

38 ANSWER (b) She holds up an unfeeling, inanimate object as a model of perfect ...

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Irony arises when what is said stands in contrast with reality. The mother tells her child to be like a golden statue that cannot even cry, thereby holding up a lifeless object as the model of emotional behaviour. B is therefore correct. A, C and D create no such contradiction on the basis of the passage.

39 ANSWER (d) His emotional attachment caused him to postpone joining his friends ...

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage says his friends had already gone to Egypt, but he stayed behind because he loved the beautiful Reed. His emotional attachment therefore kept him from joining the journey, which is the most reasonable inference. A, B and C have no basis in the passage; the chase after the moth took place in spring, and nothing says it made him lose his companions.

40 ANSWER (c) Simple Past

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The verb in the sentence is 'came', the past form of 'come', so the tense is **Simple Past**. The sentence is also inverted: the normal order is 'Transistors came with the Second Generation', but in 'With the Second Generation came transistors' the subject 'transistors' follows the verb. 'Replacing' and 'enhancing' are only participles, so the tense is decided by 'came'.

41 ANSWER (c) It aims to create machines that mimic human reasoning.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The last paragraph says of the fifth generation that these developments aim to enable machines to 'mimic human reasoning and decision-making processes'. That is its special significance. Reduced cost is associated with the Second Generation, and the passage does not speak of machines being made larger; size is a problem mentioned in connection with the first generation.

42 ANSWER (d) Predicate

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The subject of the sentence is 'The invention of vacuum tubes in the 1940s'. Everything that follows it, 'ushered in the first generation of computers', is the **predicate**, containing the verb 'ushered in' and its object 'the first generation of computers'. The question asks about the whole phrase, not just the object, so B is wrong.

43 ANSWER (c) Introduced

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

'Usher in' means to bring in or begin a new era or period, i.e. to introduce.

- Ignored — paid no attention to
- Delayed — put off
- Introduced — brought in, began
- Removed — took away

44 **ANSWER (c)** Evolved

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The question asks for a word that conveys gradual development. The passage's idea of technology 'evolving', and its whole theme of evolution, gives this sense, so **Evolved** is correct.

- Revolutionized — changed completely (sudden and major change)
- Blur — to make unclear
- Evolved — developed gradually
- Ushered — brought in (to a new era)

45 **ANSWER (b)** She had linked her survival to an irrational belief.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Johnsy formed the strange belief that her life would end when the last leaf fell, so she had tied her survival to an irrational belief; Sue herself calls it 'irrational'. Johnsy was not indifferent to Sue's concern, and the passage says nothing about her losing faith in medicine or misunderstanding the cause of her illness.

46 **ANSWER (a)** Her psychological surrender to a morbid superstition

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage says that along with pneumonia Johnsy had lost the will to live, and that she had sunk into despair by linking the falling leaves to her own end. The biggest obstacle to recovery was therefore her mental surrender to this superstition. The cold weather caused the illness, but the passage does not name it as the chief obstacle to recovery.

47 **ANSWER (d)** It associates artistic greatness with the power to restore human hope.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

Behrman talked all his life of a great masterpiece, yet in the end his work (the leaf) was never displayed in any gallery. Even so, the passage says it restored 'a human being's will to live'. Artistic greatness is thus linked to the power to restore human hope. B contradicts the passage, since no public recognition came.

48 **ANSWER (c)** She feels ashamed of her defeatism and regains the will to survive.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

According to the passage, the leaf's endurance shamed Johnsy: a fragile leaf could withstand the storm while she had given up hope. After this shame she gradually recovered. The psychological change is thus shame at her defeatism and the return of the will to live. A, B and D have no basis in the passage.

49 **ANSWER (d)** The illusion that saved Johnsy's life ultimately cost Behrman his own.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The irony is that the illusion (the painted leaf) that saved Johnsy's life led to Behrman's death: he caught pneumonia from being drenched in the storm while painting it. The passage makes clear that his work never hung in any gallery, so A and B are wrong.

50 **ANSWER (a)** Adverbial phrase modifying "stands"

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

SSC Key (a) · Disputed question

SSC has marked A, and that is the answer. 'Far from being a mere speculative construct' tells us in what manner the Theory stands: it is not mere conjecture but the most widely accepted model. It is therefore an adverbial phrase relating to the verb 'stands'. Because it comes in commas straight after the subject, it could also be argued to be an adjective phrase describing 'Theory' (B), so the question is open to objection, but the key A is the accepted answer. C is wrong because the subject is 'The Big Bang Theory', and there is no case for D, as the phrase does not modify 'construct'.

51 **ANSWER (b)** Pertaining to theories of knowledge

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

'Epistemological' comes from 'epistemology', the study of the nature, sources and limits of knowledge, so it means pertaining to theories of knowledge. In the passage, 'epistemological and empirical mysteries'

means that questions also arise about how complete our knowledge is.

- Related to the structure of matter — concerning how matter is built
- Pertaining to theories of knowledge — concerning the theory of knowledge
- Concerned with physical laws — concerning the laws of physics
- Connected to temporal events — concerning events in time

52 ANSWER (b) became

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The first clause, 'As the universe expanded', is in the past tense, so the second clause also takes the past to describe the same period: 'it **became** cooler'. Here 'became' is a linking verb and 'cooler' is its complement. 'Becomes' and 'become' are present forms, and 'had become' would be used only if the event were completed before another past event, which is not the case here.

53 ANSWER (b) Deviations

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

An 'anomaly' is something that departs from the normal rule or expectation, i.e. a deviation.

- Patterns — regular forms (opposite sense)
- Deviations — departures from the norm
- Explanations — accounts that make something clear
- Confirmations — acts of verifying

54 ANSWER (c) Its failure to explain the singularity and reconcile major physical ...

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The third paragraph says the theory leaves the origin of the 'singularity' unanswered and cannot reconcile quantum mechanics with general relativity. This is its central limitation. A and B are not mentioned in the passage, and D is wrong because the passage presents the CMB as strong evidence for the theory.

55 ANSWER (c) The Guardian intended to manipulate visitors' perception of the city.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The Guardian argued that the spectacles protect the eyes from the glare, but the travellers suspected they 'might manipulate perception and make the city appear more magnificent than it actually was'. They therefore felt the Guardian wanted to influence visitors' perception. A is the claim the Guardian made, not the travellers' suspicion.

56 ANSWER (b) reduced or restrained by anxiety.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

'To temper' means to moderate or make less intense. 'Admiration was tempered by uneasiness' means their admiration was held in check by anxiety, that is, reduced or restrained. 'Completely replaced' is an exaggeration, and 'strengthened' is the opposite of 'tempered'. The idea of admiration being hidden from the citizens is not in the sentence either.

57 ANSWER (d) The uniformity suggested deliberate control over appearances.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage itself says, 'The uniformity suggested not merely decoration, but deliberate control over appearances', that is, the uniform use of green points to deliberate control over how things look. The passage does not establish that other colours were unavailable, that the city depended on the emerald trade, or that citizens enjoyed individual freedom.

58 ANSWER (c) They would lose the emotional support of their companions.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The last sentence says that on being told to meet the Wizard separately they felt vulnerable, 'for they had expected to draw courage from one another's presence'. The reason, then, was the loss of their companions' emotional support. A, B and D have no basis in the passage.

59 ANSWER (a) External magnificence may conceal uncertainty and manipulation.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage shows that the Emerald City looks magnificent from outside, but the spectacles and the uniform colour point to 'deliberate control over appearances', while the travellers are inwardly

uneasy. The central idea is that outward splendour may conceal uncertainty and manipulation. Statements B, C and D contain exaggerations such as 'only' and 'always', which do not match the passage.

60 ANSWER (b) Abrupt

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

'Precipitous' means sudden and sharp (abrupt). The passage uses it for the steep fall in oestrogen and progesterone levels.

- Gradual — slow and steady (opposite meaning)
- Abrupt — sudden
- Moderate — average, not extreme
- Predictable — able to be foreseen

61 ANSWER (b) To secrete hormones that maintain endometrial integrity.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage says 'the corpus luteum secretes progesterone to stabilize the endometrial architecture', so its main function is to secrete hormones that keep the endometrium stable. A is reversed: it is when the corpus luteum regresses that hormone levels fall and shedding occurs. C is a function of the follicular phase, and D is wrong because the corpus luteum remains active during the luteal phase.

62 ANSWER (a) exhibits

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The subject, 'the menstrual cycle', is singular, so a singular verb is needed. 'Despite the endogenous predictability of this sequence' is only a prepositional phrase, not the subject. The passage uses the present tense for general truths, so the correct form is **exhibits**. 'Exhibit' would go with a plural subject, 'exhibiting' cannot serve alone as a finite verb, and 'exhibited' does not fit the present tense of the passage.

63 ANSWER (b) Shedding of the surface layer

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

'Desquamation' means the shedding or peeling of the surface layer of a tissue. The passage uses it for the shedding of the functional layer of the endometrium, and later also uses the phrase 'endometrial shedding'.

- Thickening of the uterine lining — thickening of the womb lining (as in the follicular phase)
- Shedding of the surface layer — peeling off of the outer layer
- Hormone secretion — release of hormones
- Cell multiplication — increase in the number of cells

64 ANSWER (c) are

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The subject, 'The pyramids', is plural. The part between the two commas, 'most famously epitomized by the colossal structures at Giza', is merely extra information and does not decide the verb. The passage also uses 'remain' in the present, and the pyramids still exist today, so the correct form is **are**. 'Is' is for a singular subject, and 'was' and 'were' are past forms.

65 ANSWER (a) but

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

'Not merely X, but Y' is a correlative structure in which the first part is negated and the second is emphasised. Here 'not merely tombs, **but** cosmic monuments' means they were more than just tombs. 'And' does not create this contrast, 'or' offers an alternative, and 'for' means 'because', which does not fit.

66 ANSWER (b) Rising above normal limits

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

'Transcendence' means rising above ordinary limits. In the passage, the pharaohs' 'transcendence' in the afterlife means that they would pass beyond the limits of earthly existence.

- Fall from power — loss of authority (opposite sense)
- Rising above normal limits — going beyond the ordinary
- Physical transformation — a change in bodily form
- Intellectual decline — decay of mental ability

67 ANSWER (b) Theories

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A 'hypothesis' is a proposed explanation of a phenomenon that is yet to be tested, and among the options the closest in meaning is 'theories'. The passage uses 'prevailing theories' and 'emerging hypotheses' together.

- Proofs — evidence that settles a matter
- Theories — systems of ideas explaining something
- Facts — established truths
- Questions — matters put forward for answer

68 **ANSWER (c)** They represented a metaphysical journey linked to celestial alignment.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

According to the passage, the pyramids were not merely tombs but 'cosmic monuments' built for the pharaohs' passage to the afterlife and aligned with celestial bodies to reflect a deeper 'metaphysical order'. Their chief cultural significance is thus a spiritual journey linked to celestial alignment. A and D are not mentioned in the passage; B is incomplete and vague.

69 **ANSWER (c)** Instant global digital diffusion

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The passage says that disinformation used to be confined by geography and language, but now 'sweeps around the world in a matter of seconds'. What makes fake media a uniquely modern threat is therefore its instant, global digital spread. Censorship, television and print journalism are not mentioned in this connection.

70 **ANSWER (c)** Erosion of informed citizenship

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The closing line warns that without deep systemic change the line between information and deception will keep blurring, endangering 'the very foundations of informed citizenship'. The greatest danger is thus the erosion of informed citizenship. Entertainment, literature and academic freedom are not discussed in the passage.

71 **ANSWER (b)** A preference for emotion over fact

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

'Post-truth' describes a situation in which emotion and personal belief shape public opinion more than objective fact. The passage likewise says public opinion is being formed by 'viral disinformation', not by verified facts. A decline in reading, a total collapse of media or an absence of news is not stated in the passage.

72 **ANSWER (c)** Rethinking media systems and knowledge legitimacy

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

'Recasting how truth is built and presented' means rethinking the processes by which truth is formed and the institutions through which it is presented. The answer is therefore rethinking media systems and knowledge legitimacy. The passage does not recommend creating new outlets, promoting only independent journalism or encouraging AI journalism; it speaks of going beyond technical fixes.

73 **ANSWER (c)** They reinforce user biases via echo chambers

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The third paragraph says algorithm-driven aggregation enriches echo chambers, so that users receive only the information that confirms their existing beliefs. Such platforms thus reinforce users' biases through echo chambers. A, B and D contradict the passage or are unrelated to it.

74 **ANSWER (c)** Reducing crop yields

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage begins by saying that rising temperatures, erratic rainfall and extreme weather events are 'affecting crop yields'. The answer is therefore reducing crop yields. Higher profits or more predictable weather contradict the passage, which calls farming calendars unreliable.

75 **ANSWER (b)** Drought-resistant and short-duration crops

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage says farmers are moving towards 'shorter-duration or drought-resistant crops', so B is correct. High-sugar crops, cotton and jute only, and export-quality crops are not mentioned.

76 **ANSWER (d)** Crop insurance initiative

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage states, 'Government initiatives like PM Fasal Bima Yojana provide crop insurance'. It is therefore a crop insurance initiative. The passage links it neither to pensions nor to loan waivers or education policy.

77 **ANSWER (a)** Delay in claim settlement and awareness

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

According to the passage, with the crop insurance scheme 'awareness and timely claim settlements remain a concern'. The implementation challenge is therefore a lack of awareness and delays in settling claims. Online applications, seeds and cold storage are not mentioned.

78 **ANSWER (b)** Traditional knowledge + weather forecasting

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage records experts suggesting that modern weather forecasting be combined with traditional knowledge to help farmers make informed decisions. The answer is therefore traditional knowledge plus weather forecasting. The combinations in the other options do not appear in the passage.

79 **ANSWER (d)** They combine culture and commerce

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The passage describes destination weddings as a blend of history, hospitality and spectacle that also gives the economy a major boost; the last paragraph says they balance 'cultural spectacle and business venture'. The main emphasis is therefore on the combination of culture and commerce. The claim that they are losing popularity is wrong, and 'eco-friendly' contradicts the passage, which raises environmental concerns.

80 **ANSWER (b)** Analytical

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The author is neither carried away by excitement, nor sarcastic, nor indifferent. The economic benefits, strain on infrastructure, environment and regulation are examined in a balanced and fact-based way, so the tone is **analytical**. 'Euphoric' means extremely joyful and 'indifferent' means uninterested, while 'sarcastic' implies mockery, which is nowhere in the passage.

81 **ANSWER (c)** They boost the economy but strain local resources

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The paradox is that the events which give the economy a big boost also strain local resources and infrastructure. The passage says that local infrastructure is burdened and resources over-exploited during the festive season. The points in the other options, such as cultural irrelevance or reduced employment, are not in the passage.

82 **ANSWER (c)** To critique the lack of sustainability focus

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The author says state governments want economic growth, yet regulatory frameworks are not keeping pace and are geared more to ease of doing business than to ensuring sustainability. The mention of regulation therefore criticises the lack of focus on sustainability. A is the opposite, and GST is not mentioned in the passage.

83 **ANSWER (c)** Integrate sustainability into regulation

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

At the end the passage notes continuing 'policy scrutiny' over ecological impact and inclusivity, and the earlier paragraph says regulatory frameworks favour ease of business over sustainability. The author's central recommendation is therefore to integrate sustainability into regulation. More private investment, an off-season limit and foreign venues are not suggested.

84 **ANSWER (b)** 100 days of paid rural work

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

According to the first sentence of the passage, MNREGA guarantees rural households 100 days of paid work a year, so B is correct. Free ration, free education and farm loans are not mentioned.

85 ANSWER (d) Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The passage states plainly, 'In states like Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, MNREGA has helped reduce migration to cities.' The answer is D. The other states do not appear in the passage.

86 ANSWER (c) Delayed payments and corruption

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

Critics, according to the passage, raise concerns about 'delayed wage payments and corruption in fund disbursal'. The criticism is thus delayed payments and corruption. Support for cities only, low participation of women and heavy internet use are not mentioned; the scheme is a rural one.

87 ANSWER (a) Digital attendance and bank transfers

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

To increase transparency, the passage says, 'digital attendance systems and direct bank transfers' have been introduced, so A is correct. Blockchain, AI robots and smartwatches are not mentioned.

88 ANSWER (c) Land development and road repair

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

The passage says MNREGA typically involves work such as 'land development, irrigation, and road repair', so the answer is land development and road repair. Office-based IT work, software coding and teaching in private schools are not part of this rural employment scheme.

89 ANSWER (c) Freelancers and delivery workers

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

According to the passage, the gig workforce includes 'freelancers, delivery personnel, ride-share drivers' and others who work on a task-by-task basis. The answer is freelancers and delivery workers. Government employees, full-time staff and factory workers with pensions hold permanent jobs and so do not belong to this category.

90 ANSWER (b) Flexible work arrangements

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The passage says that 'the flexibility offered by the gig economy appeals to the youth'. The appealing aspect is therefore flexible work arrangements. Job security and a fixed salary are, according to the passage, problems of gig work, so A and C are wrong.

91 ANSWER (a) No job security and inconsistent income

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The passage voices concern about the lack of 'job security, absence of social security benefits, and fluctuating income'. The problem linked to gig work is therefore job insecurity and an unstable income. Overstaffing, too many holidays and high retirement benefits are not mentioned.

92 ANSWER (d) Exploring social protection frameworks

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

At the end, the passage says policymakers have begun exploring 'frameworks for social protection' for gig workers. The answer is exploring social protection frameworks. Ignoring their demands or cutting platform access is not mentioned.

93 ANSWER (d) Flipkart

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The passage names Swiggy, Zomato, Ola and Urban Company, but Flipkart is not mentioned anywhere. Since the question asks which is NOT mentioned, the answer is Flipkart. In such questions, the safest method is to match each option against the names in the passage one by one.

94 ANSWER (a) Economic empowerment and social inclusion

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage states clearly, 'The objective is not only economic empowerment but also social inclusion.'

The primary objective of SHGs is therefore economic empowerment and social inclusion. Social media, loans to large industries and rural tourism are not mentioned.

95 ANSWER (b) '10–20

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

According to the passage, these groups are 'usually comprising 10–20 women', so the answer is 10–20. The other numbers do not appear in the passage.

96 ANSWER (c) Social issues like health and sanitation

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage says SHGs often become forums where issues such as health, sanitation and gender equality are discussed. Besides economic activities, their contribution is thus in social issues. Political campaigning, tax policy and infrastructure development alone are not mentioned.

97 ANSWER (d) Lack of digital literacy and market access

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The end of the passage says that challenges such as 'limited market access and lack of digital literacy' hinder their growth. The answer is lack of digital literacy and market access. Excessive government regulation, overstaffing and high taxation are not mentioned.

98 ANSWER (a) They offered community-level decision-making

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

According to the passage, in states such as Tamil Nadu and Odisha, SHGs played an important role in 'community-level decision-making', especially in a crisis like COVID-19. A is therefore correct. Moving online, vaccinating door to door and suspending activities are not mentioned.

99 ANSWER (c) Relative Clause

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The clause **that dominated terrestrial ecosystems** is a relative clause: it begins with the relative pronoun "that" and gives additional information about the noun "archosaurs". It modifies the noun just as an adjective does, which is why it is also called an adjective clause. It is not an adverbial clause, because it does not express time, reason or condition; nor is it a noun clause, because it does not function as the subject or object of the sentence.

100 ANSWER (b) Caused suddenly

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The passage says that the K-Pg extinction event "precipitated" the destruction of the non-avian dinosaurs, that is, it brought it about suddenly and sharply. **Precipitate** means to cause an event to happen abruptly.

- Delayed — put off until later
- Caused suddenly — brought about abruptly
- Questioned — raised a doubt about
- Neutralized — made ineffective

101 ANSWER (b) Mystery

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The passage says "critical enigmas persist", that is, puzzling questions that still remain unanswered. **Enigma** – a riddle or mystery (a puzzling or mysterious matter).

- Certainty — the state of being sure
- Mystery — something hard to explain or understand
- Debate — a formal discussion of opposing views
- Explanation — a statement that makes something clear

An enigma denotes something unresolved, so Explanation and Certainty run contrary to it.

102 ANSWER (c) It reveals processes vital for understanding current environmental ...

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The last paragraph says that the study of dinosaurs explains the processes of evolution, adaptation and extinction, which remain highly relevant "in an era of accelerating environmental change". This is exactly what option C says. Options A and B are never mentioned in the passage, and D is factually wrong, because according to the passage mammals diversified after the dinosaurs disappeared.

103 ANSWER (c) Adverbial phrase of contrast

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

"Despite monumental advances in technology" is a prepositional phrase beginning with "despite"; it expresses concession, setting itself against the main clause "critical enigmas persist". It is therefore an adverbial phrase of contrast. It has no subject and finite verb of its own, so it cannot be a main clause; and it neither modifies a noun nor serves as the subject of the sentence.

104 ANSWER (b) The 21st-century workforce demands more than technical literacy; it ...

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

A semicolon (;) joins two independent clauses that are closely related in meaning. Here "The workforce demands more than technical literacy" and "it necessitates a dynamic synergy" are both complete clauses, so option B is correct. Option A uses only a comma, which is a comma splice. In option D, "necessitating..." after the semicolon is a participial phrase, not an independent clause, so the semicolon is misplaced. Option C uses a colon, not a semicolon, whereas the question asks about the correct use of the semicolon.

105 ANSWER (b) Individuals must cultivate critical thinking, creativity, emotional ...

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The concept of parallel structure is that all the items in a list must have the same grammatical form. After "must cultivate", all four items should be nouns: **critical thinking, creativity, emotional intelligence, and adaptability**. Options A, C and D mix nouns with gerunds (being, creating, adapting) or a verb (adapt), which breaks the parallelism. Option C is also wrong because "critically thinking" uses an adverb.

106 ANSWER (b) Necessity

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

- **Indispensability** — the quality of being so essential that one cannot do without it. Its closest meaning is Necessity.
- Optionality — being a matter of choice
- Necessity — the state of being required
- Uncertainty — lack of certainty
- Difficulty — the quality of being hard

Optionality is the direct opposite of Indispensability.

107 ANSWER (a) Constant and unchanging

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

"Static knowledge bases" means knowledge that does not change and therefore becomes outdated with time. **Static** – fixed, unchanging.

- Constant and unchanging — staying the same
- Rapidly growing — increasing quickly
- Highly dynamic — very active and changing
- Specialized and complex — technical and intricate

The passage contrasts "adaptive" and "static" mindsets, so Static must mean the opposite of dynamic.

108 ANSWER (c) Because static knowledge becomes obsolete quickly and adaptability ...

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The third paragraph says that AI is accelerating change and that "static knowledge bases decay at an unprecedented pace"; those who embrace lifelong learning keep their place. This is what option C states. Options A and D have no basis in the passage, and option B contradicts it, since the whole argument is that knowledge changes rapidly.

109 ANSWER (c) Through hidden patterns and performance pressure

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

According to the first paragraph, toxic behaviour is often "hidden behind professional demeanour or performance targets". It therefore appears not openly but through concealed patterns and performance pressure. Option A is wrong because the passage says it does not begin with open hostility. Options B and D are not mentioned in the passage at all.

110 ANSWER (c) Systemic normalization and incentives

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The passage describes toxic behaviour as "system-based", rooted in "workplace hierarchies, incentive schemes, and tacit cultural norms". Incentives and entrenched norms amount to systemic normalization and incentives. Option B speaks of personal clashes,

whereas the passage points to structural causes; options A and D have no basis in the passage.

111 ANSWER (c) Praising toxicity sustains dysfunction

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The third paragraph calls the glamorization of "difficult geniuses" a "vicious cycle", in which toxicity is overlooked because it is linked to profitability. In other words, praising or ignoring toxicity keeps the dysfunction alive. None of options A, B and D describes this cycle.

112 ANSWER (c) It is eroded by manipulation and passive aggression

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The first paragraph says that such behaviour (manipulation, exclusion, harassment, passive aggression) "erodes organizational trust and destroys psychological safety". The inference, therefore, is that psychological safety is eroded by these. Against options B and D, the passage says that pressure or fear does not raise productivity, and the extreme word "solely" in option A does not fit the passage.

113 ANSWER (a) Overweighting of short-term deliverables

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The third paragraph says that leaders "misread short-term deliverables as long-term effectiveness". This is the criticism of their evaluation: it gives excessive weight to short-term results. Options B, C and D are not mentioned anywhere in the passage.

114 ANSWER (b) It involves geopolitical, strategic, and economic stakes

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The very first sentence says that outer space has become a "geopolitical theatre" where diplomacy, commerce and national security meet. Geopolitical, strategic and economic interests are therefore all involved, as option B states. Options A and D contain extreme words such as "fully" and "only", whereas the passage shows that governments remain active; option C has no basis.

115 ANSWER (c) They serve regional cooperation while advancing soft power

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

According to the passage, the South Asia Satellite offers services to neighbouring countries as a "gift", yet such efforts also strengthen India's leadership narrative alongside "regional solidarity". They thus promote cooperation and also build soft power. Options A and B are one-sided, and the passage gives no hint of D.

116 ANSWER (c) Need to negotiate with non-state entities

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage says that the arrival of private players has brought "commercial diplomacy", and that diplomacy must now adapt to "corporate interests" as well as "intergovernmental negotiations". This means that states now have to negotiate with non-state entities too. The passage says nothing about options A, B and D.

117 ANSWER (d) To ensure sustainable cooperation amid strategic competition

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The gist of the last paragraph is that space diplomacy is "managing cooperation amid competition", and that the countries that balance ambition with restraint will shape the future. The purpose of the balance, then, is to sustain cooperation even amid competition. The reasons given in options B and C are not clearly stated in the passage, and A speaks of technological superiority, which does not fit the logic of restraint.

118 ANSWER (c) Space diplomacy now includes non-traditional actors and dual-use ...

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

The passage says that private players and start-ups now work with governments in "dual-use ventures", so diplomacy has acquired non-traditional actors and dual-use dilemmas. Option A is wrong because the passage notes the "absence of updated, binding international treaties". Options B and D also directly contradict the passage.

119 **ANSWER (a)** Adverbial phrase modifying "stands"

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

The phrase 'far from being a mere speculative construct' is a prepositional phrase (far from + gerund) which, set off by commas, acts as an adjunct. It attaches a contrast or circumstance to the statement made by the verb 'stands as the most widely endorsed cosmological model', and is therefore treated as an **adverbial phrase modifying 'stands'**. Option C is wrong because it is not the subject; in B an adjective phrase would attach directly to the noun to restrict it, whereas this is a supplementary remark set apart by commas; and D is wrong because it does not modify 'construct'. Hence the answer is A.

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120 **ANSWER (c)** Its failure to explain the singularity and reconcile major physical ...

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

According to the last two paragraphs, the theory's main limitation is that it leaves the origin of the singularity unanswered and cannot reconcile quantum mechanics with general relativity. This is option C. Option A is not mentioned in the passage, option B is wrong, and, contrary to option D, the passage describes the CMB as "profound empirical support" for the theory.

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121 **ANSWER (b)** Pertaining to theories of knowledge

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Epistemological derives from epistemology, the study of the nature, sources and limits of knowledge. In the passage, "deep epistemological... mysteries" refers to mysteries about what, and how much, we can know about the universe.

- Concerned with physical laws — relating to the laws of physics
- Pertaining to theories of knowledge — relating to the study of knowledge
- Related to the structure of matter — relating to how matter is built
- Connected to temporal events — relating to events in time

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122 **ANSWER (b)** became

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

"Expanded" in the first part of the sentence is in the simple past, so the second verb must also be in the simple past to describe an event of the same time: it **became** cooler. Options A and C are present-tense forms and do not agree here. Option D (past perfect) would be used if the cooling had been completed before another past event, but here the two actions went on together.

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123 **ANSWER (b)** Deviations

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

Anomalies – irregularities; things that depart from the usual rule or expectation. "Anomalies within the CMB" in the passage refers to just such irregularities.

- Patterns — regular, repeated arrangements
- Deviations — departures from the norm
- Explanations — statements that make something clear
- Confirmations — statements that verify something

Patterns, by contrast, suggests regularity, and the other two words have nothing to do with irregularity.


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SSC Answer Key Review *40 questions*

The SSC answer key can be challenged in these questions. Each explanation gives the correct answer with the reason.

Question	Shift	SSC Key	Status
Error Detection — Q. 36	[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(d)	SSC key is wrong
Direct & Indirect Speech — Q. 15	[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(c)	SSC key is wrong
Direct & Indirect Speech — Q. 85	[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(b)	SSC key is wrong
Fill in the Blanks — Q. 37	[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(b)	SSC key is wrong
Fill in the Blanks — Q. 65	[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(d)	SSC key is wrong
Para Jumbles — Q. 11	[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(d)	SSC key is wrong
Para Jumbles — Q. 33	[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(c)	SSC key is wrong
Para Jumbles — Q. 96	[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]	(d)	SSC key is wrong
Para Jumbles — Q. 121	[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]	(d)	SSC key is wrong
Cloze Test — Q. 94	[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(d)	SSC key is wrong
Sentence Improvement — Q. 48	[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]	(c)	More than one correct
Sentence Improvement — Q. 78	[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(b)	More than one correct
Direct & Indirect Speech — Q. 06	[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(d)	More than one correct
Direct & Indirect Speech — Q. 67	[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(a)	More than one correct
Fill in the Blanks — Q. 12	[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]	(b)	More than one correct
Fill in the Blanks — Q. 87	[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]	(b)	More than one correct
Spelling — Q. 82	[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(a)	More than one correct
Spelling — Q. 91	[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(b)	More than one correct
Para Jumbles — Q. 99	[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(c)	More than one correct
Para Jumbles — Q. 105	[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]	(b)	More than one correct
Para Jumbles — Q. 124	[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(b)	More than one correct
Sentence Improvement — Q. 44	[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(c)	No correct option
Active & Passive Voice — Q. 50	[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(a)	No correct option
Active & Passive Voice — Q. 51	[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(c)	No correct option
Active & Passive Voice — Q. 53	[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(a)	No correct option
Active & Passive Voice — Q. 55	[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(a)	No correct option
Active & Passive Voice — Q. 59	[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(a)	No correct option
Para Jumbles — Q. 92	[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]	(a)	No correct option
Error Detection — Q. 47	[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(a)	Debatable key

Sentence Improvement — Q. 76	[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(c)	Debatable key
Sentence Improvement — Q. 77	[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(b)	Debatable key
Sentence Improvement — Q. 83	[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(c)	Debatable key
Active & Passive Voice — Q. 56	[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(a)	Debatable key
Active & Passive Voice — Q. 58	[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(b)	Debatable key
Fill in the Blanks — Q. 60	[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]	(a)	Debatable key
Homonyms — Q. 30	[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(d)	Debatable key
Idioms & Phrases — Q. 66	[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(b)	Debatable key
Spelling — Q. 95	[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]	(b)	Debatable key
Para Jumbles — Q. 138	[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(b)	Debatable key
Reading Comprehension — Q. 50	[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]	(a)	Debatable key

