

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- ❑ Types of questions asked
- ❑ Skills tested—reasoning and vocabulary
- ❑ How to eliminate the options in reference to the context

Fill in the blanks (FIB) questions have been regularly asked in the CAT and other examinations. Purpose of asking these questions is to check how much a student is comfortable with Vocabulary, and whether she/he possess the reasoning ability required to check the compatibility between/among the words to be filled in the blanks.

There are different types of FIB questions asked in the CAT. We will see it one by one:

Type 1: Single Blank Questions

Mostly, these questions are asked to test the student's vocabulary or usage of preposition. Usage of Vocabulary can be tested in two ways: (a) Meaning of word, (b) Appropriate usage of the word in the given context.

Example 1 He deals _____ vegetables these days.

- (a) out
- (b) to
- (c) for
- (d) in

Solution This question requires the student to fill in the blanks the appropriate preposition. "Deals in" is the right usage. Hence, option (d) is the answer.

Example 2 Police _____ the thief red-handed.

- (a) Apprehended
- (b) Reprehended
- (c) Comprehended
- (d) Secluded

Solution Students can solve this question either by selection of the right option or by eliminating the unlikely options. In any case, student is required to know the meaning of the words given.

Apprehension means "An act of seizure" (among other meanings of apprehension)

Reprehension means "find fault with" or "blame"

Comprehension means "understand the meaning of"

Seclusion means "isolation".

Option (a) is most appropriate in this case. Hence, option (a) is the answer.

Example 3 Not wanting to present an unwarranted optimistic picture in the board meeting, the CEO estimated the sales growth _____. *(CAT 2012)*

- (a) Strictly
- (b) Liberally
- (c) Fancifully
- (d) Pessimistically
- (e) Conservatively

Solution This question is testing you upon the appropriateness of the word in the given context. You may also observe that the options given are quite day-to-day usage words.

Let us understand the tone of the statement – CEO does not want to present an unwarranted optimistic picture. So the estimates of sales growth should be explained by a word having not-so-positive connotation.

Options (b) and (c) can be ruled out on this ground. Option (a) can be ruled out because it is inappropriate. Estimates are conservative or optimistic or pessimistic. Conservative estimation is cautious estimation – not going overboard – this is what CEO wanted to do. Hence, option (e) is the answer.

Type 2: Double Blank Questions

Consider the following question:

There are two blanks in the following statement, and options are given in the next line. Choose the options that fills in the blanks appropriately.

When I went to meet him on ____ (a) ____, he was playing ____ (b) ____.

- (a) Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
- (b) Chess, Tennis, Football, Cricket.

What would be your answer?

This question can have any of the possible combinations as the answer as the two blanks are not logically related.

CAT and other B-school examinations will ask you questions to test either your vocabulary or reasoning ability to connect the theme.

HOW TO APPROACH THE QUESTIONS

Every sentence contains hints that will help you select the correct answer. Each of the following strategies will help you decipher those hints, but remember that any given question might require you to use more than one approach:

1. Predict the best fit for the sentence
2. Identify the indicators
3. Use connotation
4. Select an answer

1. Predict the Best Fit for the Sentence

Before you look at the answer choices, think of a word that “Fits” the sentence. CAT sentence completion questions usually test the standard meaning of a word. Pay attention to the logic and context of the sentence. Try to predict a word to insert in the blank or blanks as you read the sentence, and then look for your word or a *synonym* of your word among the answer choices. A synonym is a word with the same or a similar meaning. You should also look for *antonyms*, which are words that have the opposite meaning of your predicted word. If you locate any words among the answer choices that have a meaning opposite to the word that you would like to insert in the blank, eliminate those answer choices.

Example 4 Crestfallen by having done poorly in the CAT, Gaurav Karanwal began to question his abilities. His self-confidence was _____.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| (a) appeased | (b) destroyed |
| (c) placated | (d) elevated |
| (e) sustained | |

Solution If somebody is crestfallen (despairing) and has begun to question herself, then his self-confidence would be destroyed. Hence, option (b) is the answer.

2. Identify the Indicators

Indicators tell you what is coming up. They indicate that the question setter is now moving to draw a contrast with something stated previously, or support something stated previously.

A. Contrast Indicators

Why do we contrast two things? We contrast two things to point out how they differ. In this type of questions, we look for a word that has the opposite meaning of key word or phrase in the sentence. Following are some of the most common contrast indicators:

But	Yet
Despite	Although
However	Nevertheless

Example Although the warring parties had settled a number of disputes, past experience made them _____ to express optimism that the talks would be a success.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| (a) rash | (b) ambivalent |
| (c) scornful | (d) overjoyed |
| (e) reticent | |

“Although” sets up a contrast between what has occurred—success on some issues—and what can be expected to occur—success for the whole talks. Hence, the parties are reluctant to express optimism. The common word “reluctant” is not offered as an answer-choice, but a synonym—reticent—is. Hence, option (e) is the answer.

B. Support Indicators

Supporting words support or further explain what has already been said. These words often introduce synonyms for words elsewhere in the sentence. Following are some common supporting words:

And	Also
Furthermore	Likewise
In Addition	For

Example 5 Neha is an opprobrious and _____ speaker, equally caustic toward friend or foe—a true curmudgeon.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| (a) lofty | (b) vituperative |
| (c) unstinting | (d) retiring |
| (e) laudatory | |

Solution “And” in the sentence indicates that the missing adjective is similar in meaning to “opprobrious,” which is very negative. Now, vituperative—the only negative word—means “abusive.” Hence, option (b) is the answer.

C. Cause and Effect Indicators

These words indicate that one thing causes another to occur. Some of the most common cause and effect indicators are:

Because	For
Thus	Hence
Therefore	If, Then

Example 6 Because the House has the votes to override a presidential veto, the President has no choice but to _____.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| (a) object | (b) abdicate |
| (c) abstain | (d) capitulate |
| (e) compromise | |

Solution Since the House has the votes to pass the bill or motion, the President would be wise to compromise and make the best of the situation. Hence, option (e) is the answer.

Example 7 Man has no choice but to seek truth, he is made uncomfortable and frustrated without truth—thus, the quest for truth is part of what makes us _____.

- (a) noble
- (b) different
- (c) human
- (d) intelligent
- (e) aggressive

Solution If man has no choice but to seek truth, then this is an essential characteristic of man. In other words, it is part of what makes us human. Hence, option (c) is the answer.

Example 8 Though he claimed the business was _____, his irritability _____ that claim.

- (a) sound, belied
- (b) expanding, supported
- (c) downsizing, vindicated
- (d) static, contradicted
- (e) booming, affirmed

Solution If the business was not sound, his irritability would belie (contradict) his claim that the business was sound. Hence, option (a) is the answer.

3. Use Connotation

Each word expresses two things: a *definition* and a *connotation*. A *connotation* is a positive, negative, or neutral feeling that is implied by or associated with a word. Although context is the part of a sentence that surrounds a particular word or passage and determines its meaning, *connotation* refers to the emotion that is suggested by the word itself. For example, the adjective “thrifty” implies a positive connotation, whereas the adjective “cheap” implies a negative connotation. Both words have similar definitions, but very different connotations.

Using connotations can help you determine the correct answer or at least eliminate a few wrong answers.

Example 9 Because of his _____, Rahul’s guests felt very welcome and comfortable staying at his house for the weekend.

- (a) animosity
- (b) hospitality
- (c) determination
- (d) wittiness
- (e) severity

Solution The sentence has a positive connotation—Rahul’s guests feel welcome and comfortable. In addition, the transition “because” indicates that something that belongs to Rahul has caused his guests to feel welcome and comfortable. “Animosity” and “severity” have a negative connotation and “determination” has a neutral connotation. “Hospitality” and “wittiness” both have positive connotations, but “hospitality” best fits the context of the sentence. Hence, option (b) is the answer.

4. Select an Answer

Analyze the tone of the statements—look at the answer choices—and then try to predict an answer. Though you must consider all of the choices before you confirm your answer, even if your predicted answer is among the choices. The difference between the best answer and the second best answer is sometimes very subtle. When you think that you have the correct answer, read the entire sentence to yourself, using your choice(s).

PRACTICE EXERCISES

PRACTICE EXERCISE 1

Direction: *Pick out the most effective pair of words from the given pair of words to make the sentence/sentences meaningfully complete.*

- Q.1** The teacher must _____ the unique style of a learner in order to _____ it to the desired knowledge.
 (a) advocate, direct
 (b) perpetuate, develop
 (c) appreciate, focus
 (d) absorb, maintain
- Q.2** Not all countries benefit _____ from liberalization. The benefits tend to _____ first to the advantaged and to those with the right education to be able to benefit from the opportunities presented.
 (a) equally, generate
 (b) richly, downgrade
 (c) suitably, ascribe
 (d) uniformly, percolate
- Q.3** He has _____ sense of words. Therefore, the sentence he constructs are always _____ with rich meaning.
 (a) profound, pregnant
 (b) distinguished, loaded
 (c) terrific, tempted
 (d) meaningful, full
- Q.4** He was an _____ Musician, had been awarded the George Medal during the second world war and _____ with the title of Rai Bhadur.
 (a) outstanding, popularize
 (b) underestimated, declared
 (c) accomplished, honoured
 (d) impressive, assigned
- Q.5** Whether it be shallow or not, commitment is the _____ the bedrock of any _____ loving relationship.
 (a) expression, perfunctory
 (b) foundation, genuinely
 (c) manifestation, deep
 (d) key, alarmingly
- Q.6** Many people take spirituality very seriously and _____ about those who do not worrying about them and _____ them to believe.
 (a) think, criticizing
 (b) pride, appraising
 (c) rationalize, enabling
 (d) wonder, prodding
- Q.7** Unless new reserves are found soon, the world's supply of coal is being _____ in such a way that with demand continuing to grow at present rates reserves will be _____ by the year 2050.
 (a) consumed, completed
 (b) depleted, exhausted
 (c) reduced, argument
 (d) brunt, destroyed
- Q.8** If you are a _____ you tend to respond to stressful situations, in a calm secure, steady and _____ way.
 (a) resilient, rational
 (b) obdurate, manageable
 (c) propitious, stable
 (d) delectable, flexible
- Q.9** Management can be defined as the process of _____ organizational goals and non-human resources to _____ Improve value added to the world.
 (a) getting, deliberately
 (b) managing, purposefully
 (c) targeting, critically
 (d) reaching, continuously
- Q.10** If you are an introvert, you _____ to prefer working alone and, if possible, will _____ towards projects where you can work by yourself or with as few people as possible.
 (a) like, depart
 (b) advocate, move
 (c) tend, gravitate
 (d) express, attract
- Q.11** The _____ playing of loud music has led the angry residents of this vicinity to file a police complaint and move court against the organiser's lack of _____ for the people's need for a peaceful neighbourhood.
 (a) peaceful, thought
 (b) abrupt, hope
 (c) incessant, consideration
 (d) fashionable, friendliness
- Q.12** The _____ of the chronic balance of payments deficit which has _____ the Finance Ministry under three Prime Ministers is very real.
 (a) temptation, reviled
 (b) understanding, menaced
 (c) impact, underestimated
 (d) dilemma, plagued
- Q.13** Britain for the present, is deeply _____ in economic troubles, and the economic future, heavily _____ looks uncertain.

- (a) engrossed, responsive
- (b) ingrained, skeptical
- (c) saturate, enveloped
- (d) mired, mortgaged

Q.14 Our Constitution was based on the belief that the free _____ of ideas people and cultures is essential to the _____ of a democratic society.

- (a) selection, concurrence
- (b) interchange, preservation
- (c) reversal, upholding
- (d) dissemination, congruence

Q.15 As this country has become more _____ industrial and internationalized, it has like all Western democracies in the _____ of the executive.

- (a) urbanized, role
- (b) objective, wealth
- (c) synthesized, efficiency
- (d) civilized, convenience

Q.16 More is _____ of conditions of the tribals in Maharashtra than _____ conditions of those in the other parts of the country.

- (a) certain, the
- (b) known, of
- (c) aware, of
- (d) favourable, those

Q.17 Although _____ is not a very desirable feeling we need a certain amount of it to _____ well.

- (a) anxiety, exist
- (b) grief, enjoy
- (c) impatience, preach
- (d) anger, define

Q.18 Although he is a _____ person, he occasionally loses his _____.

- (a) quiet, power
- (b) cheerful, grief
- (c) balanced, temper
- (d) thoughtful, anxiety

Q.19 In a _____ tone, the leader made a powerful _____ to the mob.

- (a) realistic, zeal
- (b) lower, conviction
- (c) loud, argument
- (d) soft, appeal

Q.20 The tunnel was so _____ and congested, that we became _____.

- (a) long, enthusiastic
- (b) deep, cautious
- (c) dark, frightened
- (d) crowded, isolated

PRACTICE EXERCISE 2

Direction: *Pick out the most effective pair of words from the given pair of words to make the sentence/sentences meaningfully complete.*

Q.1 _____ the activities of moneylenders could have an adverse impact on those who _____ access to bank credit.

- (a) Encouraging, enjoying
- (b) Permitting, denied
- (c) Confining, entitled
- (d) Curbing, lack

Q.2 The government has decided not to make any _____ changes in the country's tax _____.

- (a) sweeping, regime
- (b) transparent, hike
- (c) drastic, net
- (d) constitutional, revenue

Q.3 The RBI has _____ a statement that the implementation of KYC forms should not lead to the denial of banking _____ to customers.

- (a) released, asset
- (b) issued, services
- (c) drafted, clearing
- (d) made, tariff

Q.4 The new scheme _____ all persons with disabilities defined _____ the Disabilities Act.

- (a) discriminates, according
- (b) recognizes, beneath
- (c) profits, within
- (d) covers, under

Q.5 A good management will decide not only the _____ for equipment but also its _____ for deciding priorities.

- (a) need, urgency
- (b) usefulness, utility
- (c) cost, value
- (d) requirement, necessities

Q.6 _____ appears to be a small error in the beginning may turn out to be a _____ in the long run.

- (a) It, disaster
- (b) What, blunder
- (c) That, debacle
- (d) It, slip

Q.7 Being very _____ in nature, he always uses his _____ skills.

- (a) adamant, soft
- (b) polite, basic

- (c) humble, experimental
(d) mild, aggressive
- Q.8** Demand and supply do not _____ the same relationship as the one that _____ between height and weight.
(a) possess, has
(b) incur, is
(c) defend, volunteers
(d) bear, borne
- Q.9** If the system _____ to yield the desired result, try to _____ the whole procedure in the given sequence.
(a) entitles, dump
(b) ignores, reproduce
(c) fails, reoperate
(d) imitates, generate
- Q.10** He is so _____ in his approach that not a single point ever _____ his attention.
(a) meticulous, escapes
(b) casual, erodes
(c) fanatic, brings
(d) deliberate, attracts
- Q.11** Generally, _____ students _____ those who are mediocre.
(a) humble, surmount
(b) meritorious, surpass
(c) bright, overestimate
(d) studious, respect
- Q.12** _____ and _____ should not be tolerated in our country which boasts of 'Ahimsa' as its way of life.
(a) Politicking, elections
(b) Dishonour, efficiency
(c) Lethargy, procrastination
(d) Hatred, violence
- Q.13** He _____ a wrong act because it was _____ for him to do so due to circumstantial forces.
(a) compelled, necessary
(b) refused, dangerous
(c) did, avoidable
(d) committed, inevitable
- Q.14** Many teachers _____ they lack _____ for leaving the job.
(a) cited, reason
(b) explained, force
(c) claimed, understanding
(d) argued, culprit
- Q.15** Skeptics would not _____ that the earth actually moves, let alone that it _____ around the sun.
(a) permit, orbits
(b) accept, revolves
(c) experience, circles
(d) assume, went
- Q.16** Unpredictable _____ of the child could not lead the consultants to any _____.
(a) performance, setting
(b) belief, judgment
(c) operation, purpose
(d) behaviour, conclusion
- Q.17** A public servant who is guilty will not _____ punishment and no _____ person will be punished.
(a) be, sincere
(b) flee, guilty
(c) defend, common
(d) escape, innocent
- Q.18** Few professions can _____ the sheer variety and constant _____ of being a doctor.
(a) like, struggle
(b) share, enthusiast
(c) match, challenge
(d) draw, workload
- Q.19** The organization _____ to popularize Indian classical music among the youth which has lost _____ with its cultural roots.
(a) endeavours, touch
(b) wishes, interest
(c) efforts, experience
(d) exerts, intrigue
- Q.20** One of the major critiques of the examination system is that it _____ to a spirit of _____ competition among the students.
(a) results, defective
(b) accompanies, adequate
(c) develops, intense
(d) leads, unhealthy

PRACTICE EXERCISE 3

Direction: *Pick out the most effective pair of words from the given pair of words to make the sentence/sentences meaningfully complete.*

- Q.1** Auroras are natural light displays in the sky, usually _____ at night, _____ in the Polar regions.
(a) watch, upward
(b) noticed, peculiar
(c) observed, only
(d) found, most
- Q.2** After the board examinations, students are _____ up for the various entrance examinations _____ for next month.
(a) ready, timed
(b) gearing, scheduled
(c) prepared, programmed
(d) set, duration

- Q.3** The governmental _____ spurred dramatic improvements in the way waste management is _____ out in many hospitals.
 (a) rule, thrown
 (b) plans, conduct
 (c) crusade, done
 (d) efforts, carried
- Q.4** The petitioner had _____ an immediate stay from the Court on allotment of the flats till _____ of investigation into the alleged irregularities.
 (a) asked, process
 (b) sought, completion
 (c) propagated, finish
 (d) demanded, course
- Q.5** Opportunities _____ when they are seized and _____ when they are not.
 (a) gather, evade (b) needed, reflect
 (c) create, disperse (d) multiply, die
- Q.6** At the sound of the bell we are _____ to pause, relax our body and become gently _____ of our in-breath and out-breath.
 (a) asked, thoughtless
 (b) requested, wishful
 (c) invited, aware
 (d) forced, meaningful
- Q.7** _____ to listen to the sounds of nature, we find that we can afterwards carry on with whatever we were doing in a more _____ and loving way.
 (a) Feeling, helpful
 (b) Waiting, rough
 (c) Dreaming, dramatic
 (d) Pausing, attentive
- Q.8** My inward petition was instantly _____. First, a delightful cold wave descended over my back and under my feet, _____ all discomfort.
 (a) acknowledged, banishing
 (b) repudiated, infuriating
 (c) acceded, exacerbating
 (d) decimated, assuaging
- Q.9** Aruna _____ her team with a lot of skill and the _____ increase in the sales by the team is a measure of her success.
 (a) dominates, poor
 (b) condemns, sudden
 (c) manages, significant
 (d) directs, worthless
- Q.10** On being asked for the passport, he _____ to his dismay that he had _____ to bring it along with him to the airport.
 (a) shocked, failed
 (b) realized, forgotten
 (c) pleaded, neglected
 (d) understood, stood
- Q.11** Helen quickly _____ the career ladder and is now the _____ managing director, the company has ever appointed.
 (a) jumped, shortest
 (b) entered, oldest
 (c) started, juniormost
 (d) climbed, youngest
- Q.12** A famous economist says that the government should do more to _____ jobs in the area in order to curb the _____ rate of unemployment.
 (a) create, rising (b) need, increasing
 (c) employ, high (d) invent, growing
- Q.13** After _____ payrolls and tightening perks to cope with the economic slowdown last year, software companies are finding that management graduates are transferring their _____ to vocations such as manufacturing and banking.
 (a) trimming, loyalties
 (b) reducing, accounts
 (c) hiking, services
 (d) increased, affections
- Q.14** It is very important to _____ that when the swine flu virus enters a human body, it takes a minimum of one day to a maximum of eight days for the disease to develop _____.
 (a) gauge, extensively
 (b) ascertain, further
 (c) understand, fully
 (d) verify, remarkably
- Q.15** Scientists, working to save the earth, have _____ dry water that soaks carbon three times better than water, and hence, helps _____ global warming.
 (a) aided, cut
 (b) created, combat
 (c) built, stop
 (d) produced, increase
- Q.16** The first round of the contest had the students _____ themselves and _____ about their hobbies.
 (a) introducing, talking
 (b) sensitizing, sketching
 (c) showcasing, planning
 (d) acclimatizing, mentioning
- Q.17** The varsity's poll process for _____ of new candidates has _____ poor response with only ten thousand applications being received till date.
 (a) entrusting, seen
 (b) registration, evoked
 (c) entrance, made
 (d) admission, made
- Q.18** The organization takes its cue from the person on the top. I always told our business leaders their personal _____ determined their organization's _____.

- (a) serendipity, faux pas
- (b) predilection, despair
- (c) intensity, success
- (d) oddity, conformity

- Q.19** The Himalayas ran from east to west and cut off the cold winds from the north. This allowed agriculture to prosper and _____ wealth, but it also _____ barbarian invaders from the north.
- (a) attracted, dissipated
 - (b) created, attracted

- (c) created, restricted
- (d) attracted, evicted

- Q.20** Our _____ diversity may also be of some value. Because we have always learned to live with pluralism, it is possible that we may be better prepared to _____ the diversity of global economy.
- (a) stupefying, negotiate
 - (b) plural, alleviate
 - (c) variegated, annihilate
 - (d) dreary, exasperate

PRACTICE EXERCISE 4

Direction for questions 1 to 10: *Each sentence below has one or two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are four lettered words or sets of words. Choose the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.*

- Q.1** While the delegate clearly sought to _____ the optimism that has emerged recently, she stopped short of suggesting that the conference was near collapse and might produce nothing of significance.
- (a) substantiate
 - (b) dampen
 - (c) encourage
 - (d) rekindle
- Q.2** The old man could not have been accused of _____ his affection; his conduct toward the child betrayed his _____ her.
- (a) lavishing, fondness for
 - (b) sparing, tolerance of
 - (c) rationing, antipathy for
 - (d) stinting, adoration of
- Q.3** A leading chemist believes that many scientists have difficulty with stereochemistry because much of the relevant nomenclature is _____, in that it combines concepts that should be kept _____.
- (a) obscure, interrelated
 - (b) specialized, intact
 - (c) subtle, inviolate
 - (d) imprecise, discrete
- Q.4** Among the many _____ of the project, expense cannot be numbered; the goals of the project's promoters can be achieved with impressive _____.
- (a) highlights, efficiency
 - (b) features, savings
 - (c) disadvantages, innovation
 - (d) defects, economy
- Q.5** Social scientists have established fairly clear-cut _____ that describe the appropriate behaviour of children and adults, but there seems to be _____ about what constitutes appropriate behaviour for adolescents.

- (a) functions, rigidity
- (b) estimates, indirectness
- (c) norms, confusion
- (d) regulations, certainty

- Q.6** As long as nations cannot themselves accumulate enough physical power to dominate all others, they must depend on _____.
- (a) allies
 - (b) resources
 - (c) freedom
 - (d) education

- Q.7** Although Mount Saint Helens has been more _____ during the last 4,500 years than any other volcano in the coterminous United States, its long dormancy before its recent eruption _____ its violent nature.
- (a) awe-inspiring, restrained
 - (b) gaseous, confirmed
 - (c) explosive, belied
 - (d) familiar, moderated

- Q.8** Changes of fashion and public taste are often _____ and resistant to analysis, and yet they are among the most _____ gauges of the state of the public's collective consciousness.
- (a) transparent, useful
 - (b) ephemeral, sensitive
 - (c) faddish, underutilized
 - (d) arbitrary, problematic

- Q.9** Heavily perfumed white flowers, such as gardenias, were favourites with collectors in the eighteenth century, when _____ was valued much more highly than it is today.
- (a) scent
 - (b) beauty
 - (c) elegance
 - (d) colour

- Q.10** Dependence on foreign sources of heavy metals, though _____, remains _____ for United States foreign policy.
- (a) deepening, a challenge
 - (b) diminishing, a problem
 - (c) excessive, a dilemma
 - (d) debilitating, an embarrassment

PRACTICE EXERCISE 5

- Q.1** The high incidence of speech articulation disorders amongst young children suggests that such 'disorders' are _____ developmental phenomena, since they generally occur less frequently amongst _____ age groups.
(a) actually normal.....other
(b) relatively rare.....certain
(c) very serious.....most
(d) clinically acceptable..... younger
- Q.2** Paradoxically, industrialist Sunil Mittal gained his reputation for _____ at the expense of his own factory workers, who were oppressed by the _____ steel magnate to an extent that would be considered by today's standards of labour practice to be unconscionable.
(a) efficiency.....affluent
(b) innovation.....benevolent
(c) stinginess.....entrepreneurial
(d) philanthropy.....cost-conscious
- Q.3** The fossil record reveals innumerable instances of environmental _____ by which one can draw an analogy between the evolution of life on Earth and the branches of a bush, a few of which _____ but most of which branch again and again.
(a) calamities.....end abruptly
(b) adaptations.....progress linearly
(c) safeguards.....wither and die
(d) events.....intertwine
- Q.4** In India, the development of the field of sociology was not _____ controversies; rather, it burgeoned from social experience, which explains the relatively _____ approach amongst Indian sociologists to identifying and solving social problems.
(a) impeded by political.....academic
(b) challenged by academic.....theoretical
(c) hindered by petty.....controversial
(d) stimulated by ideological.....empirical
- Q.5** The government's _____ clinical study requirements for approval of new drugs do not _____ pharmaceutical firms when it comes to research and development, chiefly because of the profit potential afforded by patent protection.
(a) official.....permit
(b) onerous.....dissuade
(c) extensive.....motivate
(d) unenforceable.....favour
- Q.6** There is a general _____ in India that our ethics are declining and that our moral standards are _____.
(a) feeling.....normalizing
(b) idea.....futile
(c) optimism.....improving
(d) complaint.....deteriorating
- Q.7** *Homo sapiens*, the proud splitter of the atom, inventor of the electronic computer, _____ of the genetic code may be humbled by a lowly _____ of the sewers and soils—the microbe.
(a) designer.....inhabitant
(b) discoverer.....rodent
(c) writer.....organism
(d) decipherer.....denizen
- Q.8** After centuries of obscurity, this philosopher's thesis is enjoying a surprising _____.
(a) dismissal
(b) remission
(c) decimation
(d) renaissance
- Q.9** The threat of war, far from _____, lay heavily in the air, and the villagers, while _____ going about their normal activities, were unable to shake off the feeling of impending catastrophe.
(a) receding.....ostensibly
(b) diminishing.....contentedly
(c) increasing.....apparently
(d) escalating.....joyfully
- Q.10** People from all over the world are sent by their doctors to breathe the pure, _____ air in this mountain region.
(a) invigorating
(b) soporific
(c) debilitating
(d) insalubrious

ANSWER KEYS

PRACTICE EXERCISE 1

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

PRACTICE EXERCISE 2

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

PRACTICE EXERCISE 3

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

PRACTICE EXERCISE 4

1 (b)	2 (d)	3 (d)	4 (d)	5 (c)	6 (a)	7 (c)	8 (b)	9 (a)	10 (b)
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PRACTICE EXERCISE 5

1. (a)	2. (d)	3. (b)	4. (d)	5. (b)	6. (d)	7. (d)	8. (d)	9. (a)	10. (a)
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HINTS AND EXPLANATIONS

PRACTICE EXERCISE 1

1. Options (a) and (b) are incorrect as the words advocate and perpetuate mean to support or promote which is not the word required here, there is no opposition to the unique style of the learner instead there is a need to develop and appreciate the style, therefore, the correct word is appreciate and focus. Option (d) is incorrect as the teacher does not need to absorb or imbibe a student's unique style.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

2. Equally means in equal proportion, whereas uniformly means consistently, therefore, in this particular sentence, not all countries benefit *equally* from liberalization. Both richly and suitably, are incorrect because suitably indicates that someone or something has the right qualities, whereas richly means elegantly, elaborately, or lavishly therefore, both are incorrect.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. Profound means wise, which is correct and pregnant with rich meaning means full of which is correct. Terrific means excellent, great which can be used, but tempted is incorrect as it means attract or entice. Distinguished means Eminent, great, and important, which is incorrect. Meaningful is incorrect because he has a meaningful sense of words does not make any sense.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

4. Option (a), the second word popularize is incorrect. Option (b), if he was underestimated (is a negative word but the sentence is positive), then he wouldn't have been awarded. Option (d), assigned means to grant but the sentence clearly indicates that it was not just given, the award was a mark of respect.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

5. Perfunctory is incorrect as it means routine or superficial, whereas the word that should be used in the second half of the sentence should be a positive word, on the same lines option (d) is also incorrect. In option (c), manifestation is incorrect as bedrock means a solid support so option (b) is correct.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

6. Option (a), think is correct but criticizing is incorrect as we cannot criticize them to believe. Option (b), pride is incorrect as they cannot take pride in those who do not believe in spirituality. Option (c), rationalize means to justify or reason out is incorrect because if they are able to justify the non-believers then they would not enable them to believe. Therefore, option (d) is correct, as prodding means to urge, which is correct.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

7. Options (a), (b), and (c), the first words are correct but in options (a) and (c) second words are wrong, option (d), the first word brunt is wrong as it means force. Option (b) is thus the right answer.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

8. Options (b) and (d) are incorrect because obdurate means obstinate and delectable means delicious. In option 3, propitious means well-disposed which is correct, but stable is incorrect as it means secure and lasting a better word here is rational which means in a sane and balanced way.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

9. In option (a), deliberately is incorrect, in option (b) managing organizational goals is incorrect as goals are meant to be achieved, in option (c) critically which means crucial is incorrect.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

10. In option 1, like to prefer is incorrect as liking and preferring have the same meaning. In option 2, advocate is incorrect as an introvert does not support or convince others to work alone. In option 4, express to prefer working alone is incorrect. Option 3 is correct as an introvert will tend to prefer working alone, and will also gravitate (be drawn or move) towards projects where you can work by yourself.

11. The peaceful playing of loud music is incorrect, fashionable playing also does not make sense, abrupt playing may be correct but organizer's lack of hope is incorrect. The correct answer is incessant which means constant playing of loud music and the organizer's lack of consideration for the people's need for a peaceful neighbourhood.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

12. Options (a) and (b) are incorrect as temptation means attracting or enticing someone and if understanding is clear then a negative word cannot fill blank 2, hence, both these options are incorrect. Option (c) is incorrect as the second word underestimated is incorrect. The fourth option is correct as dilemma which means predicament, problem, or difficulty is the correct word and plagued which means nuisance, pain, or problem is also correct.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

13. Option (a) is incorrect because although engrossed means lost, absorbed, and ingrained, but responsive is incorrect because if it is responsive which means sensitive then the future would not look uncertain. Option (c), saturate means flooded or overwhelmed, but enveloped which means enclosed or surrounded is

not correct as it does not relate to the word uncertain. Option (d), mired is correct as it means entangled, but the word mortgaged is incorrect as it means convey (a property) to a creditor as security on a loan. Option (b) is correct as ingrained means firmly established and the word skeptical is correct as it means doubtful which means uncertain.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

14. Option (a) is incorrect as selection does not match with the word free as selection means choosing of people according to particular characteristics, secondly, concurrence means occurrence of two or more events at the same time. Reversal word is incorrect as it means change or turnaround. Option (d), dissemination means spreading widely and congruence means harmony or compatibility, congruence is correct but here free dissemination is incorrect as the author means that free interchange (exchange) of ideas, people, and cultures is essential to the preservation (protection, safety, and maintenance) of a democratic society.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

15. Option (a), urbanized means town-like, metropolitan which is in keeping with industrial and internationalized is correct; similarly the word role which means capacity or position is also correct. Option (b) is incorrect as objective means unbiased, factual which does not match with the words industrial and internationalized, similarly synthesized (combined) also does not match with these words. Option (d), civilized is correct but convenience is incorrect.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

16. Option (a) is incorrect as certain means being sure of something, whereas More is of conditions of the tribals in Maharashtra than conditions shows that the knowledge of the tribals is incomplete and a comparison is being drawn. Option (c) is incorrect because only people can be aware (conscious) of

a situation, and favourable is also incorrect as the sentence would be conditions are more favourable.... The correct answer is option (b) which conveys that more is known of the condition of tribals of Maharashtra than of conditions of tribals in other parts of the country.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

17. In this question, two opposite words are required, as an undesirable feeling is being talked about and then it is mentioned that this feeling is necessary so that we can well. So, the correct answer is option (b).

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

18. Option (a) is incorrect because if he is a quiet person he occasionally loses his power does not make sense, again two opposite words are required therefore, answer is option (c), although he is a balanced person yet he sometimes loses his temper (becomes angry).

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

19. Option (a) is incorrect as the leader made a powerful zeal (energy and enthusiasm) to the mob is incorrect. Option (b), a powerful conviction (belief) cannot be conveyed in a lower tone. Option (c), an argument is unlikely to be made to an entire mob, if at all one can raise a question but cannot expect a discussion or an answer to a question from a mob. Option (d) is correct as a soft tone can be used to make an appeal (request) to a mob.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

20. Option (a) is incorrect as a long congested (crowded) tunnel will not make anyone enthusiastic.

Option (b) is incorrect as deep does not match with the sense of congested. Option (d), it is unlikely for someone to feel isolated in a crowded and congested tunnel. Option (c) is the correct answer as since, the tunnel was dark and congested we became frightened.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 2

1. In a normal case, the money lenders provide money to those who **do not have access** to bank credit or bank loan. With the help of '**do not have access**' we can guess that the second blank will have a word with (i) negative tonality and (ii) meaning similar to '**do not have access**'. Only options (b) and (d) carry negative words for the second blank. In terms of meaning, for the second blank both 'denied' and 'lack' are equally suitable. Hence, options (a) and (c) are clearly out. The correct answer is between options (b) and (d).

The sentence has a construction '_____ could have _____'. It means a cause could have an effect. Also, the effect is negative, because the phrase '*an adverse impact*' has a negative tone. Only if the money lenders

are **restricted** (negative) from providing money the result will be adverse for the people who do not have access to bank credit. In option (b), permitting is a positive word. Only option (d) carries a negative word for the first blank.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

2. The sentence has a neutral connotation that there will be **no change** in the existing tax **plan**. So, the second blank can be filled up with the words such as plan, rule, or policy etc. It means, we require a neutral word with the meaning plan. Tax **hike** has a negative meaning from the public's point of view. If tax **hike** has to be correct, the sentence needs to carry a hint that public faces the atrocities due to tax hike. On the other

hand, tax **hike** will be positive from the government's viewpoint. For the government, tax hike will result into more revenue for public services etc. Since there is no mention of atrocities faced or more revenue for public service, we remove option (b), which contains hike. In option (c), tax **net** has a negative connotation. For tax **net** to be true, the sentence requires a mention of corruption. Since sentence does not carry any such information, option (c) is also ruled out. Similarly, tax **revenue** gives a positive meaning, in the sense that tax revenue will result into some development, but there is no mention of development in the sentence. So, option (d) is out. Hence, regime is the best fit for the second blank. Since all the other options have been eliminated, only option (a) is the best choice.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

3. The sentence states that RBI **gave** a forceful message that KYC must not offer denial of **something** for bank customers. The first blank could be filled up with words such as passed, given, ordered, prepared etc. We see all these words in different options. Hence, option (a) will not help us decide the right answer.

Let us try out with the blank 2. What bank offers could be an account, or loan, or ATM Card and PIN etc. All of these words are related to systems or services offered by a bank. So, the second blank can be filled up with the words such as systems or services etc. Only option (b) has the word services.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

4. The sentence talks about a new scheme meant for people with disabilities. It has a **neutral** tone. The blank can be filled up with words such as talks, states, explains, describes, or any other neutral word in the context. Obviously, option (a), which contains **discriminates—a negative word**, is eliminated. On the other hand, options (b) and (c) contain words **recognizes** and **profits—positive word**, are also out. The word **recognizes** can be true only if the sentence further provides some information that the people with disabilities are differently gifted or gifted with some other extraordinary capability, but the sentence has no such clue. Also, there is no situation mentioned for **profit**. We are only left with option (d).

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

5. The sentence states that a management has to purchase a machine. So, a good management will decide (A) the budget available, (B) requirement of the machine, and (C) the time in which the machine has to be procured, etc. I mean, these are the aspects which may logically occur to one's mind by looking at the sentence.

Option (c) has cost for the first blank. The management can decide the cost of items, which it has to sell. Cost here gives a connotation of obtaining money or that of price. For procuring a machine, the management can only decide the budget or the expenditure. Hence,

option (c) is out. Options (b) and (d) have synonyms, usefulness—utility and requirement—necessity, but we wish to accommodate as many notions from A, B, and C as possible. The synonyms here will not help us. So, options (b) and (d) are out. We are left with option (a), which is the best answer.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

6. Before we start, let us understand the word **appear**. The word '**appears**' suggests a contrast. For example, he appears to be fine—means the person currently appears fine, but he might have said earlier that he is unwell. So, appear is occurring with fine and unwell, two opposite words.

Here, appear will occur with something small and big. Something is nothing but an error. A small error and a big error. If we try to solve this question by looking at the second blank, we will not be able to do that. Since all the options for the blank 2 fit well. So, the deciding factor will be option (a). Consider options (a) and (d), the pronoun '**it**' requires an antecedent according to the rules of grammar. So, (a) and (d) are eliminated. Similar to the elimination of (a) and (d), we can eliminate option (c), because the pronoun '**that**' requires an antecedent. The only option we are left with is option (b).

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

7. The sentence states that a person has a certain nature, so he is expected to behave in that certain nature. Practicing that nature will make him adept at skills, which revolve around that nature. Hence, he cannot have skills opposite to his nature. Hence, options (a) and (d) are clearly out. In option (c), being humble will make the person to practice humility. For option (c) to be correct, it should have either a pair humble—humility, or a pair innovative and experimental. Only option left is option (b). So, amongst all the answers, option (b) is the best.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

8. The sentence says that demand and supply have a relationship that is opposite to that of height and weight. For the first blank, we may use words—have, show, or possess, while blank 2 can be filled up with words—exists between, shown by, or possessed by. For option (a), the second blank cannot be filled up with 'has' because 'has' just before the preposition between is awkward—has between—awkward construction. In option (b), we see the word 'incur'. After the word incur we use something unpleasant or a negative word, for example, incur wrath/anger or incur cost/fine/bill/expenses/sufferings. For the first blank 'incur' will be a wrong choice. Option (c) uses 'defend', which does not match with the words we initially planned for the first blank. Hence, option (c) is eliminated. We are left with only option (d).

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

9. The sentence has a construction 'If X happens then do Y'. For example, if problem occurs then try the solution. Another example can be: if the system is good, always follow the system. Let us check the shift in the polarity of the sentences. In the first example 'problem', a negative notion moves to 'solution', positive polarity. In the second example the polarity remains positive. It means, we should **always** do something, which fetches us results. For the second example, the word 'always' plays an important role. Around the second blank, we do not see the word 'always'. So, only the first example will be helpful.

We see around the second blank a phrase—'in the given sequence'. This phrase indicates that a procedure has already been done in a sequence, now it can only be reattempted. So, we can fill the blank with reattempt, re-execute, or re-do. Hence, option (a) is out as it carries 'dump', a negative word. Option (d) only says generate, and not to re-do, it is also out. Again the phrase—'in the given sequence' suggests that the procedure is known and has been attempted once, it means the procedure has not been neglected or ignored. So, option (b), which carries 'ignores' is out. We are only left with option (c).

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

10. The sentence has a construction So X that Y. On the X part, it talks about an 'approach'. If an approach is used, we expect desired results or positive consequences. At the same time, the Y part uses '**not a single point**'. It means, he uses an approach that he does not miss any detail. For the first blank, we require a positive word. Only options (a) and (d) have positive words. Now for the second blank, we require a negative word to neutralize the **not** in '**not a single point**'. In option (d), we see a positive word 'attract', but we require a negative word. Hence, we are only left with option (a).

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

11. '**Generally**' indicates something happening **every now and then or regularly** in life. On the contrary, '**occasionally**' indicates something happening **once in a while or rarely** in life. We will need an understanding of both the indicators to do this question. Let us consider the following examples:

Rarely, morally correct people spend time with goons.

Generally, morally correct persons spend time with morally correct persons.

Generally, goons spend time with goons.

Hence, both the blanks can either be (+)ve together or both can be (–)ve together. In simple words, the polarity of both the blanks is same. Now, let us check the options. Option 1, humble a positive word. Polarity of first blank is positive. Now, humble students can only be humble to mediocre, so they must not surmount. Surmounts change the polarity of the second

blank to a negative one. In option (b), meritorious students, positive polarity will shift to negative if we use surpass in the second blank. In option (c), bright and overestimate also show a shift in polarity from (+) to (–). From the given options, only option (d) maintains the similar polarity on both the blanks. So, option (d) is the best one.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

12. The sentence says 'should not be tolerated in our country'. Obviously, something **negative** cannot be tolerated. Between the blanks, there is use of '**and**', which indicates that the two blanks will require words of similar polarity (which has to be **negative**) and meaning and the words will be opposite of 'Ahimsa'. Let us look at the option (a) for the second blank—election—a neutral word, it is out. Option 2, blank 2—efficiency—a positive word, let us remove it. Option (c), blank 2—procrastination—a negative word but it is not opposite of 'Ahimsa'. Option (d), has words which are negative in tone and carry a meaning which is opposite to that of 'Ahimsa'.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

13. The sentence forces to think of a murder done to safeguard oneself. The word '**because**' indicates a cause and effect relationship in the sentence. Next, '**due to circumstantial forces**' indicates that something happened as it was the **only** escape.

We can fill the first blank with the word '**did**' and the second blank with '**necessary**'. For the second blank, we see necessary or similar words in options (a) and (d). So, options (b) and (c) are out. Further, for the first blank, we see did or similar words in option (d).

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

14. The first blank can be filled with words argue/fight or accept. On one hand, the teachers will **argue/fight** for something wrong done to anyone or to themselves. On the other hand, they will accept the truth. There is no mention of anything wrong happening to anyone, so we remove the word argue. Hence, option (d) is out. Now, option (c) has 'claim' for the first blank. A person claims for his rights etc. So, teachers can claim for resources available to them to teach etc. Again, there is no such hint in the sentence. The words in options (a) and (b) fit well into the first blank.

For the second blank, in option (b), the word 'force' conveys meaning parallel to courage or enthusiasm. But, there is no further indication as to why the teachers may lack enthusiasm or courage for leaving the job. If the sentence further conveys that the teachers have no availability of alternative source of earning or alternative source of upgrading or enriching their knowledge, we may think about force as a good option. But since, there is no such information available, we reject the option (b).

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

15. The role of skeptics is to doubt. They doubt everything; in other words, they do not believe in anything. So, they would not **believe** that the earth moves; according to them, it would not **move** around the sun as well. Hence, the sentence will be—Skeptics would not **believe** that the earth actually moves, let alone that it **moves** around the sun.

For the first blank, option (d) uses ‘assume’. The skeptics can assume the negative so that they can doubt, and they would not believe. Option (d) is out. In option (c), in terms of meaning, the experience is far away from believe. Also, one has to first believe to experience something. Option (c) can also be removed. Option (b), accept, in terms of meaning, it is parallel to believe. So, we keep option (b). Option (a) has the word permit, which means to allow. To allow something, one has to first have faith in it and not the doubt. Also, skeptics do not have supernatural power to permit the earth to move. So, option (a) is illogical. Only option (b) is left, it is the best choice.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

16. The sentence has a construction X could not lead to Y. Can we say a **cause** could not lead to **effect/result/final outcome**? Yes. Let us check the cause part. In the given sentence, the result could not be reached due to unpredictable **nature** of the child. Hence, the sentence will be—Unpredictable **nature** of the child could not lead the consultants to any **result/effect/final outcome**.

Let us check the options for first blank. Only options (a) and (d) carry words which come close to **nature** of the child. So, we remove options (b) and (c). Now, for the second blank, only option (d) carries a word similar to result/effect/final outcome. Setting means a plot, which does not match with result or effect. Hence, option (d) is the best one here.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

17. The sentence ends with ‘no _____ person will be punished’. Observe that there is no before the blank. We have to be especially careful about such NO. Now, who should be punished? Only a **guilty** person. Guilty is a negative word. But the presence of NO before the blank turns the polarity of the blank positive. Obviously, for the second blank, we cannot have guilty, hence option (b) is out. Again, only a **guilty** must be punished, that is, guilty must not **run away** from the punishment. In options (a) and (c), we do not get the

words matching run away. So, let us remove them. In option (d), **escape** punishment means to run away from punishment. Clearly, option (d) is the best choice.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

18. The sentence talks about ‘**sheer variety and constant _____**’. Sheer variety means real variety, which is positive. Doing the same work over and over again sets boredom, while variety at work brings fun, enthusiasm, and deeper involvement because it brings novelty and makes one curious. Further, the ‘**sheer variety**’ will make the profession enjoyable. Hence, we can say—Few professions can **enjoy/live** the sheer variety and constant **variety/fun/excitement** of being a doctor. We see both the blanks maintain positive polarity.

Let us start with the second blank, option (a)—struggle brings (–)ve polarity by combining with constant, that is, constant struggle is negative, therefore we reject it. Option (b), enthusiast, does not fit grammatically, hence out. If it had been enthusiasm, we could have kept it. Option (c), challenge, that is, constant challenge, maintains the positive polarity of second blank. In option (d), constant work-load will again be negative. Hence, just by observing the second blank, we could do this question. Yes, option (c) is the best choice.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

19. The sentence uses a hint word ‘popularize’, a positive word. At the same time before the second blank, a negative word ‘lost’ is used. It means the organization is putting efforts to re-establish classical music. For the first blank, we see words similar to effort, which are in options (a) and (c). For the second blank, losing experience indicates to still recognize but not to lose contact. Something that is still recognized would not have a need ‘to popularize’. On the other hand, losing touch means losing complete contact, and this would have a need ‘to popularize’.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

20. The sentence suggests a negative cause and effect relationship that a poor quality of competition exists. The word defective means imperfect in function. Hence, the positive words in options (b) and (c) for second blank are out. Unhealthy means ‘morally corrupt, not conducive, or harmful in nature’. For the first blank, ‘results’ suggest an immediate effect, while the ‘leads’ suggests a step by step procedure to reach an effect.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 3

1. The 1st blank space should be filled in with a word in the past tense. Thus option (a) is eliminated. Out of only and peculiar, only suits the context of the passage well.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

2. The word ‘up’ after the 1st blank space hints at the elimination of options (a) and (c). ‘Scheduled’ fits well in the 2nd space.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

3. 2nd blank space should be filled in with the past tense form. 'Done' out (option c) does not fit well. Waste management is not 'thrown'; rather, waste is thrown.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

4. 'Completion' of investigation goes better than all the other options.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

5. The 1st blank space should be filled in with a word in the past tense. Thus, options (a) and (c) are eliminated. (When opportunities are not seized) 'Die' appears better than 'reflect' at the 2nd space.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

6. 2nd blank space is the key. 'Aware' of our in-breath and out-breath suits better than all the other options.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

7. 'Pause' appears better with the word listen than the other options. In fact, options (b) and (c) can be outright eliminated, looking at the 2nd blank space.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

8. The keyword here is *delightful* cold wave. Thus, 2nd blank space should be filled in with a positive word. 'Banishing' means 'to get rid of something' (which in this case is – get rid of all the discomfort).

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

9. 2nd blank space should be filled in with a positive word (signifying 'measure of her success').

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

10. Looking at the 2nd blank space, options (c) and (d) can be outrightly eliminated. 'Realized' goes well with the word 'dismay.' Besides, 'forgotten' to bring appears better than 'failed' to bring.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

11. Options (a) and (b) do not fit the 2nd blank space. 'Climbed' the career ladder suits better than 'started' the career ladder.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

12. Looking at the 1st blank space, options (b) and (c) can be outrightly eliminated. 'Creating' jobs appears better than 'inventing' the jobs.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

13. 1st blank space should be filled in with a negative sentiment word (which goes well with the overall sentiment reflected with *tightening* perks). Hence options (c) and (d) are eliminated. Transferring their 'loyalties' appears better than 'accounts.'

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

14. 2nd blank space can be filled only by option (c) fully.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

15. As scientists are working to save the earth, 2nd blank space cannot be filled by option (d) increase. Out of the remaining options, 'create' suits the 1st blank space best.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

16. The 1st blank space should be filled in by either option (a) or (d). 'Mentioning' does not go well with the next word 'about.'

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

17. Only option (b) registration suits well at the 1st blank space.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

18. 2nd blank space should have a positive connotation. Hence options (a) and (b) are ruled out. 'Intensity' appears better at 1st blank space.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

19. 'Created' is the clear choice at the 1st blank space. The use of the word 'but' signifies that the next part of the statement is contrasting in sentiment than the 1st part. Hence 'attracted' (and NOT 'restricted') appears better at the 2nd blank space.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

20. Diversity already signifies 'pluralism,' ruling out option (b). 2nd blank space should be filled in with a positive word. Hence annihilate (meaning destroy) and exasperate (meaning tease or displease) are ruled out. This leaves only option (a) as the answer.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 4

1. The sentence is talking about the conference of delegates which was near collapse and produce nothing significance, option (b) substantiate means to prove which the author does not indicate, option (c) encourage also not fit in the sentence similarly rekindle means revive which is not suited. Option (b) dampen means reduce which fits in the sentence.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. Stinting means restrict amount of someone. Besides, statement given in the question is divided into two parts by semi colon so they are now two different parts. In option (a) lavishing means give someone in generous amount which the sentence does not indicate, also options (b) and (c) both are not going with the sentence.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. Sentence is talking about a chemist who believes that many scientists found difficulty with stereochemistry. In option (a), obscure means not clear which the author does not indicate as the author is talking about difficulty. Option (b) does not match with the sentence at all and in option (c) subtle means ultra-fine which does not go with what the sentence is talking about. Option (d) imprecise means indefinite and is the answer because in other part of the sentence discrete means distinct which clearly defines the sentence.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

4. The sentence is divided into two parts by semicolon so have two different meanings, option (a) highlight for 1st blank don't fit (positive trait) for expense, options (b) and (c) does not fit in the sentence and option (d) defects is fit for 1st blank and economy for 2nd blank fits as it contradicts the expense where economy means cheaply.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

5. Sentence is talking about the social scientists that have established and describe the appropriate behaviour of the children and adults. In option (a), rigidity means quality found in people and objects which the author is not talking about, 'but' in the sentence indicates that the sentence is in negative tone, option (b) also does not match with sentence, similarly option (d).

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

6. In option (a), allies means a state formally cooperating with another for a military or other purpose which the author is indicating about the nations that they cannot accumulate (gather) themselves. Other options (b), (c), (d) do not fit into the context.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

7. Sentence is comparing Mount Saint Helens of last 4,500 years with respect to any other volcano in US. Option (c) is the answer as volcano is explosive which the author indicated in the sentence and belied means contradicting the 'violent nature' fits in the sentence. In case of option (a), both awe inspiring (meaning amazing) and restrained do not fit together. Similarly option (b) gaseous (related to gas) also does not fit in the sentence. Option (d) familiar also cannot be the answer.

Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

8. Sentence is talking about the changes in fashion and public taste, option (b) ephemeral means lasting for a very short time which the author is indicating and 'yet' in the sentence brings the negative tone, so sensitive is best fit. Option (a) transparent is relating to fashion, similarly option (c) faddish means fashionable which is not mentioned the sentence and option (d) is also not fit in the sentence.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

9. Sentence talks about the perfumed white flowers. Option (a) scent means smell which the author indicates. Options (b), (c), (d) do not match with the smell.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

10. Sentence is talking about the dependence on foreign sources of heavy metals. Presence of word though in the sentence indicates the negative tone. Option (a) deepening is not fit for negative word. In case of option (b), diminishing (means declining) fits in the sentence that despite the dependence on foreign resources is declining, still it is a problem for United States foreign policy. Option (c) excessive does not fits into the context. In option (d), debilitating (means to weaken something) may fit at the 1st blank space, but "an embarrassment", does not fit into the 2nd blank space.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 5

1. The first operative word in the sentence is since, which means 'because' here. The fact that the disorders appear frequently only amongst young children would explain the conclusion that these 'disorders' are not disorders at all, but rather normal developmental phenomena that children grow out of. Version (a) conveys this idea. The second operative word is disorders (in quotes). The fact that the word appears in quotes provides a clue that the term might be a misnomer—an inappropriate label. Again, version (a) conveys this idea.

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

2. The operative word in this sentence is paradoxically. A paradox is an apparent contradiction. So the sentence intends to point out two contradictory traits of Mittal. (d) accomplishes this. Philanthropy literally means

'love of humankind' and is usually used to describe generous charitable giving by wealthy individuals. Mittal's cost-cutting business practices and oppressive treatment of his labour force would seem paradoxical, given his reputation as a philanthropist.

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

3. The operative phrase in this sentence is by which. What precedes this key phrase must adequately explain the analogy that follows it. Version (b) fits the bill. In the context of evolution, many organisms have continually adapted to environmental changes, resulting in a large variety of species (in a continual branching manner); in other words, for most organisms evolution is not linear.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

4. The first operative word in the sentence is rather, which sets up a contrast between what precedes it and what follows it. So, the first clause must run contrary to the phrase 'it burgeoned (grew) from social experience'. Only (a), (c), and (d) fit the bill. Of these three choices, (d) establishes the clearest contrast—between ideology and experience. A second operative term in the sentence is which explains. What follows this phrase must be consistent with what precedes it. Version (d) accomplishes just that. The word empirical means 'based on observation or experience (as opposed to theory).'

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

5. The operative word in this sentence is because, which requires that what follows it must explain what precedes it. Profit potential would explain why drug companies persist in developing new drugs despite onerous (burdensome) government regulations. Version (b) expresses this idea (the word dissuade means 'discourage or persuade not to').

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

6. 'and' usually joins things of similar meaning or weight. This suggests that since ethics are declining, moral standards are also declining (deteriorating). Almost any word except 'optimism' would have fit the first blank. (futile = useless, ineffective; escalating = increasing)

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

7. The first blank requires something that conveys what man has done to the genetic code—the only two suitable words are 'discoverer' or 'decipherer'. But since a microbe is not a rodent, we can eliminate that pair.

(rodent = animal like a rat or mouse; decipherer = someone who decodes; denizen = inhabitant)

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

8. The sentence tells us that the thesis has been in obscurity (forgotten or neglected) but now it is being revived. We can say it is undergoing a renaissance (revival).

(remission = temporary cessation of a disease; decimation = destruction; longevity = length of life)

Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

9. 'Far from' indicates that an opposite point is being made. So, since there is a feeling of impending catastrophe the threat of war is far from getting less. This indicates that 'receding', diminishing', or 'subsiding' might be suitable. We can eliminate these last two since their partner words 'contentedly' and 'feliculously' are inappropriate for a feeling of danger. So the villagers are only apparently (ostensibly) behaving normally.

(escalating = increasing; felicitously = happily, suitably)

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.

10. Since the air is described as 'pure' we need a positive word. Also, since doctors recommend it, the air must be good for health. Therefore, we choose invigorating which means energizing.

(soporific = sleep inducing; debilitating = weakening; insalubrious = unhealthy; aromatic = pleasant smelling)

Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.