

UPSC NDA & NA (II) 2026 EXAMINATION

Paper II: General Ability Test (GAT) — Set A | Part-A: English (Q1 – Q50)

Subject: English Language & Grammar

Total Items: 50 Questions

Format: Question, Options, Answer & In-depth Analysis

I. ANTONYMS (Q1 – Q10)

1. During the trial, the witness's deposition was equivocal.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| (a) ambiguous | (b) evasive |
| (c) explicit | (d) guarded |

Correct Answer: (c) explicit

Core Meaning: *Equivocal* means ambiguous, open to multiple interpretations, or intentionally misleading.

- (a) **ambiguous:** Synonym; having a double or uncertain meaning.
- (b) **evasive:** Synonym; tending to avoid direct commitment or revelation.
- (c) **explicit:** **Antonym;** stated clearly and directly in precise detail, leaving no doubt.
- (d) **guarded:** Cautious and uncommunicative; shares the sense of being reserved.

2. The professor is known for his characteristic reticence.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| (a) restrained | (b) reserve |
| (c) communicativeness | (d) diffidence |

Correct Answer: (c) communicativeness

Core Meaning: *Reticence* is the state of being taciturn, introverted, or unwilling to speak freely.

- (a) **restrained:** Controlled and moderate; synonymous in tone.
- (b) **reserve:** Direct synonym; reluctance to show feelings or speak.
- (c) **communicativeness:** **Antonym;** willingness to talk openly and exchange thoughts.
- (d) **diffidence:** Shyness or lack of self-confidence; closely aligned with reticence.

3. Observers noted the official's increasingly capricious approach to administrative reforms.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| (a) erratic | (b) whimsical |
| (c) ceremonial | (d) steadfast |

Correct Answer: (d) steadfast

Core Meaning: *Capricious* indicates sudden, unpredictable, and erratic shifts in attitude or decisions.

- (a) **erratic:** Synonym; inconsistent, unpredictable, or unstable.
- (b) **whimsical:** Synonym; determined by impulsive notions rather than reasoned judgments.
- (c) **ceremonial:** Pertaining to formalities and rituals.
- (d) **steadfast:** **Antonym;** firm, unwavering, dependable, and constant.

4. The novel presents an idealistic view of the ongoing political reform.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| (a) visionary | (b) utopian |
| (c) pragmatic | (d) romantic |

Correct Answer: (c) pragmatic

Core Meaning: *Idealistic* involves imagining or striving for an unrealistic standard of perfection.

- (a) **visionary:** Synonym; thinking about or planning the future with lofty imagination.
- (b) **utopian:** Synonym; modeled on an unrealistically ideal society or outcome.
- (c) **pragmatic:** **Antonym;** sensible, realistic, and grounded in practical realities.
- (d) **romantic:** Idealized or impractical; similar in perspective.

5. The speaker's tone became increasingly caustic during the debate.

- (a) sarcastic
- (b) conciliatory
- (c) acerbic
- (d) acrimonious

Correct Answer: (b) conciliatory

Core Meaning: *Caustic* describes biting, sarcastic, and bitterly sharp remarks.

- (a) **sarcastic**: Synonym; mocking or contemptuous in tone.
- (b) **conciliatory**: **Antonym**; peace-making, pacifying, and intended to ease tension.
- (c) **acerbic**: Synonym; sharp, harsh, or cutting in expression.
- (d) **acrimonious**: Synonym; ill-tempered, bitter, and rancorous.

6. The note drew attention to the fallacious assumptions underlying the proposals.

- (a) veracious
- (b) misleading
- (c) procedural
- (d) erroneous

Correct Answer: (a) veracious

Core Meaning: *Fallacious* denotes unsound logic, deceptive notions, or errors in fact.

- (a) **veracious**: **Antonym**; truthful, accurate, and completely verifiable.
- (b) **misleading**: Synonym; giving a deceptive impression.
- (c) **procedural**: Pertaining strictly to administrative steps/rules.
- (d) **erroneous**: Synonym; false or fundamentally mistaken.

7. The activist was sceptical with regard to the antecedents of the newly discovered documents.

- (a) restrained
- (b) credulous
- (c) circumlocutory
- (d) guarded

Correct Answer: (b) credulous

Core Meaning: *Sceptical* (skeptical) means questioning, doubtful, and not easily persuaded.

- (a) **restrained**: Reserved, moderate, or kept in check.
- (b) **credulous**: **Antonym**; easily convinced, unsuspicious, or gullible.
- (c) **circumlocutory**: Using indirect, roundabout language.
- (d) **guarded**: Prudent and cautious; aligns with skepticism.

8. The panel found the conclusion somewhat speculative.

- (a) conjectural
- (b) hypothetical
- (c) substantiated
- (d) interpretive

Correct Answer: (c) substantiated

Core Meaning: *Speculative* relies on theory, guesswork, or conjecture without hard empirical evidence.

- (a) **conjectural**: Synonym; based purely on assumptions or guesswork.
- (b) **hypothetical**: Synonym; based on an unverified theoretical premise.
- (c) **substantiated**: **Antonym**; firmly proven with verified data and facts.
- (d) **interpretive**: Providing explanatory insight.

9. After the mishap, the mood was sombre among the survivors.

- (a) shady
- (b) dingy
- (c) restrained
- (d) buoyant

Correct Answer: (d) buoyant

Core Meaning: *Sombre* indicates deep sorrow, gloom, solemnity, and melancholy.

- (a) **shady**: Shadowed or questionable in character.
- (b) **dingy**: Discolored, gloomy, and dirty.
- (c) **restrained**: Muted or subdued.
- (d) **buoyant**: **Antonym**; joyful, cheerful, lighthearted, and optimistic.

10. He is a professional artist.

- (a) apprentice (b) dilettante
(c) amateur (d) aspirant

Correct Answer: (c) amateur

Core Meaning: A *professional* practices a craft or profession as a livelihood and primary occupation.

- (a) **apprentice:** A novice learning a trade from a skilled supervisor.
- (b) **dilettante:** A superficial, casual dabbler in art/knowledge.
- (c) **amateur:** **Antonym;** an individual pursuing an activity for personal pleasure without payment.
- (d) **aspirant:** A candidate striving to achieve a certain position.

II. SYNONYMS (Q11 – Q15)

11. The controversial policy received the committee's imprimatur.

- (a) criticism (b) approval
(c) rejection (d) appraisal

Correct Answer: (b) approval

Etymology & Meaning: Latin *imprimatur* ("let it be printed"); in modern usage, it denotes formal sanction, authoritative approval, or license.

- (a) **criticism:** Expression of disapproval; antonym.
- (b) **approval:** **Synonym;** official endorsement or acceptance.
- (c) **rejection:** Dismissal; antonym.
- (d) **appraisal:** Valuation or qualitative evaluation.

12. The archaeologist was fascinated by the annular design of the ancient monument.

- (a) circular (b) vertical
(c) triangular (d) funicular

Correct Answer: (a) circular

Etymology & Meaning: From Latin *annulus* (ring); denotes a ring-shaped or concentric circular layout (e.g., an annular solar eclipse).

- (a) **circular:** **Synonym;** round or ring-shaped.
- (b) **vertical:** Perpendicular to the horizontal plane.
- (c) **triangular:** Three-sided.
- (d) **funicular:** Pertaining to a cable or rope mechanism.

13. The nobility is not known for its munificence.

- (a) reluctance (b) valour
(c) generosity (d) graciousness

Correct Answer: (c) generosity

Etymology & Meaning: Latin *munus* (gift) + *facere* (to make); indicates lavish liberality and great generosity in giving.

- (a) **reluctance:** Hesitancy or unwillingness.
- (b) **valour:** Bravery and courage in battle.
- (c) **generosity:** **Synonym;** readiness to bestow bounties and gifts.
- (d) **graciousness:** Elegance, courteous manners, and kindness.

14. The goods kept in the storage facility were declared to be contraband.

- (a) prohibited (b) taxable
(c) foreign (d) adulterated

Correct Answer: (a) prohibited

Meaning: Items imported, exported, or held illegally in defiance of the law.

- (a) **prohibited:** **Synonym;** banned, illicit, and illegal.
- (b) **taxable:** Liable to assessment of duty.
- (c) **foreign:** Originating from an external nation.
- (d) **adulterated:** Impure due to the addition of inferior substances.

15. The judge ruled on the egregious violations of human rights by the authorities.

- (a) subtle (b) flagrant
(c) inadvertent (d) concealed

Correct Answer: (b) flagrant

Etymology & Meaning: Latin *ex* (out of) + *grex* (flock); shockingly bad, outrageous, and glaringly noticeable.

- (a) **subtle**: Unobtrusive, understated; antonym.
- (b) **flagrant**: **Synonym**; blatantly and scandalously offensive.
- (c) **inadvertent**: Accidental or unintentional.
- (d) **concealed**: Hidden from observation.

III. FOREIGN PHRASES (Q16 – Q20)

16. Ipso facto

- (a) After the fact (b) In fact
(c) By the fact itself (d) The primary factor

Correct Answer: (c) By the fact itself

Latin legal phrase signifying an inevitable consequence stemming directly from the action or fact itself.

- (a) **After the fact**: Refers to *ex post facto*.
- (b) **In fact**: Refers to *de facto*.
- (c) **By the fact itself**: Literal and grammatical translation of *ipso facto*.
- (d) **The primary factor**: Distractor.

17. Via media

- (a) Through newspapers (b) Through diplomacy
(c) In secrecy (d) A middle way

Correct Answer: (d) A middle way

Latin idiom translating to "the middle road" — a moderate path balancing two extreme alternatives.

- (a) **Through newspapers**: Erroneous conflation with modern press/media.
- (b) **Through diplomacy**: Diplomatic methods may aim for this, but not the phrase's definition.
- (c) **In secrecy**: Translates *sub rosa*.
- (d) **A middle way**: Direct and exact translation.

18. Quid pro quo

- (a) The existing state of affairs (b) Therefore or consequently
(c) Something given in exchange for something else (d) Done for public good without compensation

Correct Answer: (c) Something given in exchange for something else

Literally "something for something"; a mutual, reciprocal concession or exchange.

- (a) **The existing state of affairs**: Refers to *status quo*.
- (b) **Therefore or consequently**: Refers to *ergo*.
- (c) **Something given in exchange for something else**: True definition.
- (d) **Done for public good**: Refers to *pro bono*.

19. A posteriori

- (a) At the very beginning (b) Based on reasoning from known facts or empirical evidence
(c) Military campaign leading to swift victory (d) A person with a sociable and expansive lifestyle

Correct Answer: (b) Based on reasoning from known facts or empirical evidence

Epistemological concept denoting knowledge reached inductively from observation and experience (posterior to evidence).

- (a) **At the very beginning**: Aligns with *ab initio*.
- (b) **Empirical / inductive reasoning**: Exact philosophical definition.
- (c) **Swift military campaign**: Defines *blitzkrieg*.
- (d) **Sociable lifestyle**: Defines *bon vivant*.

20. Modus operandi

- (a) The most appropriate word
- (b) Method of operating
- (c) The violation of a rule
- (d) Successful operation

Correct Answer: (b) Method of operating

Commonly abbreviated as M.O.; denotes someone's characteristic habit or standard operating method.

- **(a) Most appropriate word:** Refers to *le mot juste*.
- **(b) Method of operating:** Exact translation and definition.
- **(c) Violation of a rule:** Refers to infraction / contravention.
- **(d) Successful operation:** Distractor.

IV. IDIOMS & PHRASES (Q21 – Q25)

21. 'Burn your bridges'

- (a) Ending one's life
- (b) To make a decision you cannot change
- (c) To ignore danger
- (d) To settle an argument

Correct Answer: (b) To make a decision you cannot change

Derived from historical military commanders burning bridges behind their army to prevent retreat, meaning to commit unalterably to a course.

- **(a):** Extreme, incorrect literal reading.
- **(b):** Captures the irreversible nature of the decision.
- **(c):** Expressed by *courting disaster*.
- **(d):** Expressed by *burying the hatchet*.

22. 'Make no bones about something'

- (a) To do your own thing
- (b) To make no money
- (c) To not try to hide one's feelings
- (d) To not come right to the point

Correct Answer: (c) To not try to hide one's feelings

Originated from soup without bones causing no hesitation to swallow; idiomatically means to be completely frank, transparent, and direct.

- **(a):** Means being independent.
- **(b):** Misinterpretation of bones as currency.
- **(c):** Expresses being candid and unhesitating with one's opinions.
- **(d):** The opposite idiom is *to beat about the bush*.

23. 'A blot on the landscape'

- (a) A painting that has turned out wrong
- (b) A bald patch in a meadow
- (c) A black sheep in an office
- (d) Something ugly that spoils the appearance of a place

Correct Answer: (d) Something ugly that spoils the appearance of a place

Refers to any unsightly visual nuisance or eyesore that ruins the aesthetic harmony of the environment.

- **(a) & (b):** Overly literal distortions.
- **(c):** Metaphor for an odd or disreputable member.
- **(d):** Accurate idiomatic interpretation.

24. 'A bone of contention'

- (a) Source of agreement
- (b) Point of long standing dispute
- (c) A hidden agenda
- (d) Legal obligation

Correct Answer: (b) Point of long standing dispute

Alludes to two dogs quarreling over a single bone; represents an ongoing, unresolved cause of discord.

- **(a):** Opposite concept.
- **(b):** Core definition.
- **(c):** Ulterior motive.
- **(d):** Legal binding.

25. 'Pour oil on troubled waters'

- (a) To mastermind a trick or deception
(b) To produce something that is required as if by magic
(c) To exacerbate a festering situation
(d) To say or do something to stop an argument or calm down a situation

Correct Answer: (d) To say or do something to stop an argument or calm down a situation

Originates from maritime sailors pouring oil to quell stormy waves; means restoring calm and soothing anger during conflict.

- **(a):** Means orchestrating a scam.
- **(b):** Means conjuring like a magician.
- **(c):** Represents the opposite: *adding fuel to the fire*.
- **(d):** Exact idiomatic definition.

V. PARTS OF SPEECH / WORD CLASS (Q26 – Q30)

26. Despite the heavy rain, the match continued as scheduled.

- (a) Conjunction
(b) Adverb
(c) Noun
(d) Preposition

Correct Answer: (d) Preposition

Despite introduces a noun phrase ("the heavy rain") functioning as its complement, establishing contrast. Unlike *although* (conjunction), it does not take a finite clause.

- **(a) Conjunction:** Joins clauses with finite verbs.
- **(b) Adverb:** Modifies actions/adjectives.
- **(d) Preposition:** Accurately categorized.

27. He gave both candidates an equal opportunity to present their case.

- (a) Determiner
(b) Pronoun
(c) Adverb
(d) Adjective

Correct Answer: (a) Determiner

Both modifies and quantifies the noun phrase "candidates", sitting in the determiner/predeterminer slot.

- **(a) Determiner:** Precise functional classification in modern linguistics.
- **(b) Pronoun:** Acts independently without a head noun (e.g., *Both were happy*).
- **(d) Adjective:** Traditional classification, but superseded by Determiner when distinguishing word classes.

28. The old woman sat on the bench, knitting in silence.

- (a) Verb
(b) Adjective
(c) Adverb
(d) Noun

Correct Answer: (d) Noun

The underlined word *silence* is an abstract noun functioning as the complement/object of the preposition *in* (the whole phrase "in silence" behaves adverbially).

- **(a) Verb:** Would be *to silence*.
- **(b) Adjective:** Form is *silent*.
- **(c) Adverb:** Form is *silently*.
- **(d) Noun:** Correct word class of the isolated token.

29. The injured soldier crawled forward in spite of debilitating pain.

- (a) Noun
(b) Adverb
(c) Adjective
(d) Preposition

Correct Answer: (c) Adjective

Debilitating is a present participial adjective qualifying the noun "pain".

- **(a) Noun:** The head noun is *pain*.
- **(b) Adverb:** Would be *debilitatingly*.
- **(c) Adjective:** Correct functional class describing quality.
- **(d) Preposition:** Handled by *in spite of*.

30. The results were beyond everyone's expectation.

- (a) Preposition (b) Conjunction
(c) Adjective (d) Adverb

Correct Answer: (a) Preposition

Beyond takes the noun phrase complement "everyone's expectation", demonstrating its function as a preposition of extent.

- **(a) Preposition:** Correct classification.
- **(b) Conjunction:** Does not link clauses.
- **(d) Adverb:** Would stand without an object complement.

VI. ORDERING OF WORDS IN A SENTENCE / PQRS (Q31 – Q35)

31. The findings were

P: that had long been accepted
Q: because they fundamentally challenged the assumptions
R: met with considerable resistance at first
S: by the mainstream scientific community

- (a) RQPS (b) RSPQ
(c) PQSR (d) RSQP

Correct Answer: (d) RSQP

Coherent Reconstruction: "The findings were **met with considerable resistance at first (R)** **by the mainstream scientific community (S)** **because they fundamentally challenged the assumptions (Q)** **that had long been accepted (P).**"

Logic: R supplies the passive participle; S names the agent ("by the..."); Q states the causal clause; P is the defining relative clause modifying "assumptions".

32. It is often argued that

P: are not the result of innate talent alone
Q: but rather the product of
R: extraordinary achievements
S: sustained effort and deliberate practice

- (a) PRSQ (b) PSQR
(c) RPQS (d) QRSP

Correct Answer: (c) RPQS

Coherent Reconstruction: "It is often argued that **extraordinary achievements (R)** **are not the result of innate talent alone (P)** **but rather the product of (Q)** **sustained effort and deliberate practice (S).**"

Logic: After "that", R acts as subject; P forms the verb phrase; Q introduces the contrast ("not... but rather"); S completes the prepositional object.

33. The historian noted that

P: had been systematically erased
Q: the memory of certain communities
R: and replaced with a sanitized narrative
S: from the official records of the colonial period

- (a) PQRS (b) QPSR
(c) RQSP (d) QSPR

Correct Answer: (d) QSPR

Coherent Reconstruction: "The historian noted that **the memory of certain communities (Q)** **from the official records of the colonial period (S)** **had been systematically erased (P)** **and replaced with a sanitized narrative (R).**"

Logic: Q is the subject clause; S clarifies the scope/domain; P and R form compound passive predicates joined by "and".

34. Critics have long maintained that

P: literature's true power lies in its
Q: assumptions and not in the mere
R: ability to disturb comfortable
S: reproduction of social reality

- (a) PQRS (b) PRQS
(c) SPQR (d) QRSP

Correct Answer: (b) PRQS

Coherent Reconstruction: "Critics have long maintained that literature's true power lies in its (P) ability to disturb comfortable (R) assumptions and not in the mere (Q) reproduction of social reality (S)."

Logic: P opens the subordinate clause; R follows the possessive "its"; Q continues with the modified noun "assumptions"; S completes the comparison.

35. The movie

P: it was hardly possible
Q: were so humorous that
R: to keep a straight face
S: had many scenes which

- (a) SQPR (b) SPRQ
(c) QPRS (d) SQRP

Correct Answer: (a) SQPR

Coherent Reconstruction: "The movie had many scenes which (S) were so humorous that (Q) it was hardly possible (P) to keep a straight face (R)."

Logic: S provides the main verb ("had"); Q qualifies "scenes" with the result marker "so... that"; P begins the clause with dummy subject "it"; R finishes with the infinitive.

VII. SENTENCE IMPROVEMENT & SYNTAX (Q36 – Q40)

36. Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (a) She insisted that he apologises immediately. (b) She insisted that he apologise immediately.
(c) She insisted that he apologised immediately. (d) She insisted that he may apologise immediately.

Correct Answer: (b) She insisted that he apologise immediately.

Rule of Subjunctive Mood: Verbs of command, insistence, or mandate (*insist, require, urge, command*) require a *that*-clause in the **mandative subjunctive**, which uses the base form of the verb (bare infinitive) without inflection.

- (a) **apologises:** Incorrect indicative 3rd person singular.
- (b) **apologise:** Correct uninflected base verb.
- (c) **apologised:** Incorrect past tense.
- (d) **may apologise:** Superfluous modal verb.

37. Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (a) The police has arrested the accused last night. (b) The police have arrested the accused last night.
(c) The police arrested the accused last night. (d) The police had arrested the accused last night.

Correct Answer: (c) The police arrested the accused last night.

Tense Rule: When an adverbial of finished past time (such as *last night, yesterday, in 2020*) is present, the **Simple Past Tense** must be used instead of the Present Perfect.

- (a) **has arrested:** Error; present perfect cannot accompany "last night", plus "police" takes a plural verb.
- (b) **have arrested:** Error; violates the same rule on past time markers.
- (c) **arrested:** Correct simple past.
- (d) **had arrested:** Past perfect is reserved for the earlier of two sequential past events.

38. Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (a) The teacher made the students to rewrite the essay. (b) The teacher has the students to rewrite the essay.
(c) The teacher got the students rewriting the essay. (d) The teacher had the students rewrite the essay.

Correct Answer: (d) The teacher had the students rewrite the essay.

Causative Verbs: • *Make* + object + bare infinitive (without *to*). • *Have* + object + bare infinitive. • *Get* + object + *to*-infinitive.

- (a): Incorrect inclusion of "to".
- (b): Incorrect inclusion of "to".
- (c): Unidiomatic present participle.
- (d): Flawless use of causative *had* + bare infinitive *rewrite*.

39. Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (a) I shall base my decision on how much free time can I manage. (b) I shall base my decision about how much free time I can manage.
(c) I shall base my decision on how much free time I can manage. (d) I shall base my decision to how much free time I can manage.

Correct Answer: (c) I shall base my decision on how much free time I can manage.

Rules Applied: 1. Fixed preposition: The verb *base* collocates with **on** (*base on*). 2. Embedded Clause: In subordinate noun clauses, word order is affirmative (**Subject + Auxiliary/Verb**), avoiding inverted question order.

- (a): Incorrect inverted question order ("can I manage").
- (b): Wrong preposition ("about").
- (c): Correct preposition ("on") and normal clause order ("I can manage").
- (d): Wrong preposition ("to").

40. Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (a) Do not panic because the situation is under control. (b) Do not panic because a situation is under control.
(c) Do not panic because situation under control. (d) Do not panic however a situation is under control.

Correct Answer: (a) Do not panic because the situation is under control.

Refers to a specific crisis at hand, necessitating the definite article **the** and the causal conjunction **because**.

- (a): Fully grammatical and logical.
- (b): Indefinite article "a" mischaracterizes a specific scenario.
- (c): Lacks the verb "is" and article.
- (d): Misuses "however" in place of a causal conjunction.

VIII. SPOTTING ERRORS (Q41 – Q42)

41. Spot the error part:

- (a) He is a honest man (b) who has served
(c) this institution for twenty years (d) No error

Correct Answer: (a) He is a honest man

Phonetic Rule: *Honest* begins with an unvoiced silent 'h', opening with the vowel phoneme /ɒ/. Thus, it takes the indefinite article **an**, not *a* ("He is **an** honest man").

42. Spot the error part:

- (a) The jury has delivered (b) its verdict after
(c) long and careful deliberations (d) No error

Correct Answer: (d) No error

The jury operates as a collective singular unit delivering a unanimous verdict, correctly taking the singular auxiliary *has* and singular neuter possessive *its*. The sentence is free of grammatical errors.

IX. ACTIVE & PASSIVE VOICE (Q43 – Q44)

43. Read the pairs of Active and Passive Voice:

I. Active: *These grapes taste sour.* | Passive: *These grapes are sour when they are tasted.*

II. Active: *Forget the past.* | Passive: *Let the past be forgotten.*

- (a) I only (b) II only
(c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

Correct Answer: (c) Both I and II

- **Pair I:** Sensory quasi-passive verbs transform via: *Subject + be + adjective + when + pronoun + be + past participle*. Valid.
- **Pair II:** Imperatives transform via: *Let + Object + be + past participle*. Valid.

44. Read the pairs of Active and Passive Voice:

I. Active: *They asked me my name.* | Passive: *My name was asked by them.*

II. Active: *They found him guilty.* | Passive: *He found them guilty.*

- (a) I only (b) II only
(c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

Correct Answer: (d) Neither I nor II

- **Pair I:** Ditransitive verb (*ask me my name*). The personal indirect object *me* should form the subject: *"I was asked my name (by them)"*. The given conversion discards *me* entirely without required prepositional marking (*asked of me*), rendering it defective.
- **Pair II:** Reverses roles in active voice rather than creating a passive construction: correct passive is *"He was found guilty (by them)"*.

X. DIRECT & INDIRECT SPEECH (Q45 – Q46)

45. Read the pairs of Direct and Indirect Speech:

I. Direct: *He said, "Bravo! You have written the best answer."*

Indirect: *He applauded him saying that he had written the best answer.*

II. Direct: *"The sun rises in the East," said the teacher.*

Indirect: *The teacher said that the sun rose in the East.*

- (a) I only (b) II only
(c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

Correct Answer: (a) I only

- **Pair I:** "Bravo!" accurately converts to *applauded + object + saying that* with past perfect backshift.
- **Pair II:** "The sun rises in the East" represents a universal astronomical truth. Tense backshift must NOT occur. Correct form is: *"...the sun rises in the East"*.

46. Read the pairs of Direct and Indirect Speech:

I. Direct: *He said to him, "Wait here until I return."*

Indirect: *He ordered him to wait here until he returned.*

II. Direct: *He said, "Alas! I am undone."*

Indirect: *He exclaimed sadly that he was undone.*

- (a) I only (b) II only
(c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

Correct Answer: (b) II only

- **Pair I:** In indirect narration, proximals shift to distals: *here* must convert to **there**. Leaving it as *here* makes it incorrect.
- **Pair II:** "Alas!" transforms correctly into *exclaimed sadly that*, with *am* backshifting to *was*.

XI. ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION (Q47 – Q48)

47. Identify the pairs correctly stated:

- I. One who studies handwriting — *Graphologist*
II. One who draws maps — *Cartographer*
III. One who studies flags — *Vexillologist*

- (a) I and II only
(b) II and III only
(c) I and III only
(d) I, II and III

Correct Answer: (d) I, II and III

- **I. Graphologist:** Greek *grapho* (write) + *logos* (study). Accurately denotes handwriting analysis.
- **II. Cartographer:** French *carte* (map) + *grapher* (maker). Accurately denotes a mapmaker.
- **III. Vexillologist:** Latin *vexillum* (flag) + *logos*. Accurately denotes the study of flags.

48. Identify the pairs correctly stated:

- I. One who knows everything — *Omnipotent*
II. One who is all powerful — *Omniscient*
III. One who abandons religious faith — *Apostate*

- (a) I only
(b) II only
(c) III only
(d) I, II and III

Correct Answer: (c) III only

- **I:** Knowing everything is **Omniscient** (not Omnipotent).
- **II:** All-powerful is **Omnipotent** (not Omniscient). Pairs I and II are inverted.
- **III:** Renouncing or defecting from one's religion/principles is correctly termed an **Apostate**.

XII. PHRASAL VERBS (Q49 – Q50)

49. The car tended to _____ every time the rains decided to _____.

- (a) act out; come in
(b) act up; come down
(c) act out; come down
(d) act up; come in

Correct Answer: (b) act up; come down

- **Act up:** To malfunction or behave erratically (standard idiom applied to machines and engines).
- **Come down:** Idiomatic expression for rain/precipitation falling heavily.

50. He was eager to _____ after having resigned his position, but was advised to _____ his next move given the prevailing market situation.

- (a) move on; hold on
(b) move off; hold off
(c) move on; hold off
(d) move off; hold on

Correct Answer: (c) move on; hold off

- **Move on:** To transition forward from a past circumstance or former employment.
- **Hold off:** To delay, defer, or postpone an intended action or decision.