

Sentence Completion

1. Complete Concept Explanation

1.1 Definition

Sentence Completion is the art and science of choosing the most appropriate word or phrase to fill a blank in a sentence such that the resulting sentence is grammatically correct, logically coherent, contextually consistent, and stylistically precise. It tests vocabulary range, reading comprehension, grammatical awareness, and the ability to detect contextual tone and logical relationships within a sentence or a short passage.

Unlike simple vocabulary recall, sentence completion demands that the solver evaluate multiple potential answers against four interlocking filters:

- Grammatical correctness — does the word fit the syntactic slot (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition)?
 - Semantic accuracy — does the word carry the precise meaning the context requires?
 - Logical coherence — does the completed sentence make logical sense?
 - Contextual tone — does the word match the register, mood, or attitude of the passage?
-

1.2 Categories and Subtypes of Sentence Completion

Type A — Vocabulary-Based Completion

A single blank tests knowledge of a precise word. One of the four options fits both grammatically and semantically; the others are either grammatically valid but semantically wrong, or grammatically wrong, or contextually inappropriate.

Example: "Her _____ manner made everyone feel instantly comfortable." → Options: (a) abrasive (b) affable (c) ambiguous (d) auspicious → Answer: (b) affable (meaning friendly and pleasant in social interaction)

Type B — Logical Connector / Transition Completion

The blank requires a conjunction, adverb, or transitional phrase that correctly captures the logical relationship (contrast, cause-effect, concession, addition, result, illustration) between two clauses.

Example: "She studied all night; _____, she failed the exam." → (a) therefore (b) nonetheless (c) similarly (d) furthermore → Answer: (b) nonetheless (contrast relationship)

Type C — Grammatical Form Completion

The blank tests whether the solver can identify the correct grammatical form — tense, voice, infinitive vs gerund, subject-verb agreement, correct pronoun case, article usage, or the right preposition.

Example: "The committee _____ its decision by tomorrow." → (a) will announce (b) will have announced (c) would announce (d) announces → Answer: (b) will have announced (future perfect for action completed before a future point)

Type D — Double Blank Completion

Two blanks must be filled simultaneously. The correct pair must satisfy both grammar and meaning for the whole sentence. An important strategy: eliminate options where either word fails — if one word is wrong, the entire option is wrong regardless of the other word.

Example: "Her speech was so _____ that it _____ even the staunchest critics." → (a) inspiring / alienated (b) compelling / convinced (c) tedious / impressed (d) vague / persuaded → Answer: (b) compelling / convinced

Type E — Cloze / Passage Completion

A passage has multiple blanks. Each answer depends not only on the immediate sentence but also on the broader context of the passage — theme, argument, tone, and narrative flow. Errors in early blanks may compound, so reading the full passage before answering is essential.

1.3 Rules — The Core Framework

RULE 1: Read the entire sentence before attempting to fill the blank. Context clues appear before AND after the blank.

Ex. 1: The scientist's theory was _____ when new data contradicted it entirely. → Clues: 'contradicted' and 'entirely' signal the theory was disproved → discredited.

Ex. 2: Although the government promised _____, unemployment continued to rise. → 'Although' signals contrast: a positive promise against a negative reality → prosperity / relief.

RULE 2: Identify the logical relationship: contrast (but/although/yet), cause-effect (because/therefore), concession (despite/even though), or continuation (moreover/furthermore).

Ex. 1: The plan was bold; _____, it lacked the financial backing to succeed. → semicolon + contrast → 'however' or 'nevertheless'.

Ex. 2: She was exhausted, _____ she pushed herself to complete the marathon. → cause against outcome (perseverance) → 'yet' / 'but'.

RULE 3: Match the grammatical slot: a blank after a linking verb requires a predicate adjective; after 'a/an/the' a noun; after 'to' usually an infinitive verb base.

Ex. 1: 'The manager was _____ by the team's output.' → After 'was' + 'by', the slot requires a past participle (passive) → 'impressed' / 'disappointed'.

Ex. 2: 'She agreed _____ the proposal without reading it.' → After 'agreed' + 'to' → base verb → 'sign'.

RULE 4: Use the tone of the sentence to filter options. Academic/formal contexts reject slang; negative tone rejects positive words; sarcasm changes the expected meaning.

Ex. 1: 'The diplomat's _____ remarks caused an international incident.' → Diplomatic context + 'caused an incident' → negative tone → 'incendiary' / 'provocative', not 'tactful'.

Ex. 2: 'He called his employer a genius — _____, of course.' → The dash introduces qualification; sarcasm → 'sarcastically' / 'ironically'.

RULE 5: For double blanks, test both words together. Eliminate any option where one word fails the sentence — never pick based on only one blank.

Ex. 1: 'Her argument was _____ but her delivery was _____.' → Need contrasting or complementary pair: 'sound but unconvincing' or 'flawed but passionate' — not 'sound but excellent' (no contrast).

Ex. 2: 'The economy was _____ even as the stock market reached _____ highs.' → Paradox: economy struggling while market soars → 'faltering / unprecedented' or 'stagnant / record'.

RULE 6: Distinguish near-synonyms precisely. Words like affect/effect, imply/infer, convince/persuade, disinterested/uninterested are commonly confused in options.

Ex. 1: 'The judge remained _____ throughout the trial.' → 'disinterested' (impartial) not 'uninterested' (not interested) → 'disinterested'.

Ex. 2: 'The data _____ that the treatment is effective.' → 'implies/suggests' (data hints) vs 'infers' (a person deduces) → 'implies'.

RULE 7: Watch for parallel structure. If the sentence lists items, the blank must match the grammatical form of the other listed elements (noun with noun, gerund with gerund, etc.).

Ex. 1: 'She enjoyed reading, writing, and _____.' → Third item must be a gerund → 'painting' / 'travelling' (not 'to travel' or 'painted').

Ex. 2: 'The report was thorough, balanced, and _____.' → Adjective series → 'comprehensive' / 'insightful' (not 'clarified').

RULE 8: Check subject-verb agreement when the blank contains a verb. Intervening phrases between subject and verb do not change the number agreement.

Ex. 1: 'The quality of the reports _____ been questioned.' → Subject = 'quality' (singular) → 'has' (not 'have').

Ex. 2: 'Each of the students _____ required to submit a form.' → 'Each' is singular → 'is' (not 'are').

RULE 9: For tense-based blanks, look for time markers. Words like 'since', 'by the time', 'already', 'yet', 'when', 'after' signal specific tenses.

Ex. 1: 'By the time he arrived, she _____ the report.' → 'By the time' + past point → past perfect → 'had finished'.

Ex. 2: 'She _____ here since 2015.' → 'since' + ongoing to present → present perfect → 'has worked'.

RULE 10: In cloze passages, maintain thematic consistency. Each blank must align with the central argument or narrative — an outlier word breaks the passage's coherent flow.

Ex. 1: In a passage about environmental degradation, a blank calling for an effect-word → 'devastation' / 'erosion' — not 'prosperity'.

Ex. 2: In a passage about corporate ethics violations, a tone word must be negative or analytical — not celebratory.

1.4 Common Errors — Incorrect vs. Correct

✗ Incorrect	✓ Correct	Why It's Wrong
He is one of those leaders who give inspirational speeches.	He is one of those leaders who gives inspirational speeches.	'Who' refers to 'leaders' (plural) in this structure → verb is 'give'; however common exam trap uses singular subject focus.
She convinced him to not go.	She persuaded him not to go.	'Convince' is followed by 'of/that'; 'persuade' is followed by infinitive. Also, split infinitive avoided.
The data suggests the findings are wrong.	The data suggest the findings are wrong.	'Data' is technically plural (singular: datum); in formal/academic usage → 'data suggest'.
He was disinterested in the game.	He was uninterested in the game.	'Disinterested' = impartial; 'uninterested' = not interested. Meaning changes the sentence completely.

Despite of the rain, they continued.	Despite the rain, they continued.	'Despite' is a preposition and is never followed by 'of'; use 'in spite of' if you need 'of'.
She not only sings but also to dance.	She not only sings but also dances.	Correlative conjunction 'not only...but also' requires parallel grammatical form.
The manager along with his team are responsible.	The manager along with his team is responsible.	Phrases like 'along with', 'as well as', 'together with' do not change the singular subject.

1.5 Transition Words — Quick Comparison

Relationship	Connector Words	Example Use
Contrast	but, yet, however, nevertheless, nonetheless, on the contrary, conversely	She trained hard; nonetheless, she lost.
Cause-Effect	because, since, therefore, hence, consequently, as a result, thus	He lied; consequently, he lost trust.
Concession	although, though, even though, despite, in spite of, while	Although tired, she finished the work.
Addition	moreover, furthermore, in addition, besides, also, not only...but also	He is talented; moreover, he works hard.

Illustration	for example, for instance, such as, namely, to illustrate	She has many hobbies, such as reading.
Condition	if, unless, provided that, as long as, on condition that	Unless you try, you will never succeed.
Time / Sequence	after, before, once, when, by the time, as soon as, since	By the time he arrived, she had left.

1.6 Memory Tricks and Mnemonics

- **GSLCT Framework:** Grammar → Slot → Logic → Context → Tone. Run every option through this checklist.
- **CONTRAST CLUE:** Words like 'but', 'yet', 'although', 'however', 'despite' always signal that the blank meaning must **OPPOSE** the rest of the sentence.
- **CAUSE-EFFECT CLUE:** 'therefore', 'thus', 'hence', 'consequently' signal the blank **RESULTS FROM** what was stated.
- **DOUBLE BLANK RULE:** 'Kill one, kill both' — if one word fails, the entire option is eliminated. Test the easier blank first to quickly narrow options.
- **PARALLEL RULE:** Count the grammatical form of the series (gerund? adjective? noun?). The blank must match. If you see '-ing, -ing, ____' → fill with '-ing'.
- **NEAR-SYNONYM TRAP:** When two options seem almost identical in meaning, ask which is more precise for **THIS** context. 'Affect' vs 'effect', 'imply' vs 'infer', 'convince' vs 'persuade'.
- **TONE TEST:** Before answering, ask: is this sentence formal/informal? Positive/negative? Sarcastic/sincere? This eliminates at least one option in most questions.

2. Rules Summary — Quick Revision Reference

Rule	Statement	Quick Example
Rule 1	Read the entire sentence first — context clues appear both before and after the blank.	<i>The scientist's theory was _____ when new data emerged. → 'contradicted' later → discredited.</i>
Rule 2	Identify the logical relationship (contrast, cause-effect, concession) between clauses.	<i>The plan was bold; _____, it lacked funding. → contrast → 'however'.</i>
Rule 3	Match the grammatical slot — predicate adjective, noun, verb form, or preposition.	<i>She agreed _____ the proposal. → after 'to' → base verb → 'sign'.</i>
Rule 4	Match the tone — formal/informal, positive/negative, literal/sarcastic.	<i>'Incendiary remarks caused an incident.' → negative tone, not 'tactful'.</i>
Rule 5	Double blanks: test both words together; eliminate if either word fails.	<i>'sound but unconvincing' ✓ vs 'sound but excellent' ✗ (no contrast).</i>
Rule 6	Near-synonyms: choose the contextually precise word, not the familiar-sounding one.	<i>'disinterested' (impartial) vs 'uninterested' (not interested).</i>
Rule 7	Parallel structure: the blank must match the grammatical form of listed elements.	<i>'reading, writing, and _____.' → gerund → 'painting'.</i>
Rule 8	Subject-verb agreement: intervening phrases don't change the number of the subject.	<i>'The quality of the reports _____ been questioned.' → singular → 'has'.</i>

Rule 9	Tense markers: 'since' → present perfect; 'by the time' → past perfect; 'when' → simple past.	<i>'By the time he arrived, she _____ the report.' → 'had finished'.</i>
Rule 10	Cloze passages: maintain thematic and tonal consistency throughout all blanks.	<i>In a degradation passage, effect-words must be negative — not 'prosperity'.</i>

3. Practice Questions — Part 1: All 60 Questions

Instructions: Answer all 60 questions. Detailed answers with explanations are provided in Part 2. No answers appear in this section.

Category 1 — Spot the Mistake (Q1–Q15)

What this demands: Identify the word or phrase that makes the sentence grammatically or semantically incorrect and provide the correction with a reason.

- Q1.** Despite of her extensive experience, the interviewer did not shortlist her.
- Q2.** The committee have reached a unanimous decision after three days of deliberation.
- Q3.** She not only excels at music but also at to paint landscapes.
- Q4.** The data clearly suggests that the intervention was unsuccessful.
- Q5.** Each of the participants were asked to submit their individual reports.
- Q6.** He convinced her to not accept the offer without reading the terms.
- Q7.** The manager, along with his entire team, are attending the conference.

- Q8.** By the time the rescue team arrived, three survivors have been found.
- Q9.** She has been living in this city for the last decade since she moved from abroad.
- Q10.** The number of applicants applying for the post are increasing every year.
- Q11.** He is one of the few politicians who remains uncorrupted by power.
- Q12.** Her disinterest in the proceedings was evident; she kept checking her watch.
- Q13.** The report, which the committee had reviewed and which they eventually approved, were submitted to the board.
- Q14.** Neither the director nor the producers was available for comment last evening.
- Q15.** The results of the experiment, conducted under strictly controlled conditions, has been replicated three times.

Category 2 — Fill in the Right Word (Q16–Q30)

What this demands: Choose the most grammatically precise and contextually accurate word from four options. More than one option may appear plausible — precision matters.

- Q16.** The negotiators tried to _____ a settlement before the deadline expired.
- (a) effect
 - (b) affect
 - (c) inflict
 - (d) evoke
- Q17.** Her success was _____ to years of relentless practice and unwavering focus.
- (a) attributed
 - (b) contributed

- (c) allotted
- (d) donated

Q18. The witness's testimony was _____ with numerous inconsistencies that weakened the prosecution's case.

- (a) replete
- (b) redundant
- (c) saturated
- (d) excessive

Q19. The professor was known for _____ complex theories in a manner that even novices could understand.

- (a) articulating
- (b) fabricating
- (c) demonstrating
- (d) eradicating

Q20. His constant interruptions were a source of great _____ to everyone in the meeting.

- (a) irritation
- (b) exasperation
- (c) nuisance
- (d) disturbance

Q21. The policy had a _____ effect on small businesses, forcing many to shut down permanently.

- (a) detrimental
- (b) debilitating
- (c) devastating
- (d) disruptive

Q22. After years of conflict, the two nations finally reached a _____ agreement on border demarcation.

- (a) cordial
- (b) bilateral
- (c) tentative
- (d) mutual

Q23. The board was _____ that the merger would increase shareholder value in the long term.

- (a) convinced
- (b) confident
- (c) assured
- (d) persuaded

Q24. Her argument, though _____, failed to address the central objection raised by the opposition.

- (a) cogent
- (b) plausible
- (c) lucid
- (d) articulate

Q25. The new legislation was _____ to bring about sweeping changes to the taxation system.

- (a) designed
- (b) intended
- (c) constructed
- (d) aimed

Q26. He was _____ by the sheer volume of paperwork that had accumulated during his absence.

- (a) overwhelmed

- (b) inundated
- (c) swamped
- (d) buried

Q27. The ambassador's remarks, delivered with _____ precision, left no room for misinterpretation.

- (a) surgical
- (b) deliberate
- (c) calculated
- (d) forensic

Q28. The ancient manuscript was so _____ that scholars disagreed on its date and authorship for decades.

- (a) ambiguous
- (b) cryptic
- (c) obscure
- (d) enigmatic

Q29. The activist's speech _____ the crowd into demanding immediate legislative action.

- (a) galvanised
- (b) persuaded
- (c) coerced
- (d) manipulated

Q30. The chairman's _____ comments at the press conference caused immediate damage to the company's share price.

- (a) incendiary
- (b) controversial
- (c) inflammatory

(d) provocative

Category 3 — Choose the Correct Sentence (Q31–Q45)

What this demands: Only one of the four sentences is grammatically and contextually correct. Identify it and prepare to explain why the other three are wrong.

Q31. Choose the grammatically and contextually correct sentence.

- (a) She is one of those rare leaders who inspires trust in everyone she meets.
- (b) She is one of those rare leaders who inspire trust in everyone she meets.
- (c) She is one of those rare leader who inspire trust in everyone she meets.
- (d) She is one of those rare leaders who inspiring trust in everyone she meets.

Q32. Choose the sentence with the correct use of 'despite'.

- (a) Despite of the heavy rain, the match continued as scheduled.
- (b) Despite the heavy raining, the match continued as scheduled.
- (c) Despite the heavy rain, the match continued as scheduled.
- (d) Despite heavy raining, the match continued as scheduled.

Q33. Choose the sentence that uses the correct tense.

- (a) She worked in this department since she joined the company.
- (b) She has been working in this department since she joined the company.
- (c) She is working in this department since she joined the company.
- (d) She had been working in this department since she joined the company.

- Q34.** Choose the sentence with correct parallel structure.
- (a) The project requires planning, to execute, and evaluation.
 - (b) The project requires to plan, executing, and evaluation.
 - (c) The project requires planning, execution, and evaluation.
 - (d) The project requires planning, to execute, and to evaluate.
- Q35.** Choose the correct sentence regarding subject-verb agreement.
- (a) The bouquet of roses were placed on the table.
 - (b) The bouquet of roses was placed on the table.
 - (c) The bouquet of roses are placed on the table.
 - (d) The bouquet of roses have been placed on the table.
- Q36.** Choose the sentence that correctly uses 'convince' or 'persuade'.
- (a) She convinced him to accept the offer.
 - (b) She persuaded him to accept the offer.
 - (c) She convinced him that he should to accept the offer.
 - (d) She persuaded him that accepting the offer.
- Q37.** Choose the correctly constructed conditional sentence.
- (a) If she would have studied harder, she would pass the exam.
 - (b) If she had studied harder, she would have passed the exam.
 - (c) If she had study harder, she would passed the exam.
 - (d) If she studied harder, she would have passed the exam.
- Q38.** Choose the sentence with the correct use of relative clauses.
- (a) The report, which the board reviewed it, was approved.
 - (b) The report that the board reviewed was approved.

- (c) The report, that the board reviewed, was approved.
- (d) The report which the board reviewed it was approved.

Q39. Choose the sentence with the correct article usage.

- (a) He is an university professor who specialises in linguistics.
- (b) She became a honest politician after years in public service.
- (c) The committee reached an unanimous decision yesterday.
- (d) She is a university professor who returned from abroad.

Q40. Choose the sentence that correctly uses the correlative conjunction.

- (a) He neither respected the rules nor following the procedures.
- (b) He neither respected the rules nor did he follow the procedures.
- (c) He neither respected the rules nor he followed the procedures.
- (d) Neither he respected the rules nor followed the procedures.

Q41. Choose the sentence with correct use of the passive voice.

- (a) The new policy is being implemented by the government currently.
- (b) The new policy is being currently implementing by the government.
- (c) The new policy currently implemented by the government.
- (d) The new policy being implemented currently by the government.

Q42. Choose the sentence with the correct logical connector.

- (a) She was thoroughly prepared; furthermore, she failed the interview.
- (b) She was thoroughly prepared; however, she failed the interview.
- (c) She was thoroughly prepared; similarly, she failed the interview.
- (d) She was thoroughly prepared; consequently, she failed the interview.

Q43. Choose the sentence with the correct use of an infinitive versus a gerund.

- (a) She avoided to go to the market after dark.
- (b) She avoided going to the market after dark.
- (c) She avoided go to the market after dark.
- (d) She avoided to going to the market after dark.

Q44. Choose the sentence that uses 'which' and 'that' correctly.

- (a) The laptop that I bought last year, which has a blue cover, is very fast.
- (b) The laptop which I bought last year, that has a blue cover, is very fast.
- (c) The laptop which I bought last year which has a blue cover is very fast.
- (d) The laptop, that I bought last year and which has a blue cover, is very fast.

Q45. Choose the sentence with the correctly positioned modifier.

- (a) Running quickly, the bus was missed by the student.
- (b) The student, running quickly, missed the bus.
- (c) The student missed the bus running quickly.
- (d) Running quickly the student, the bus was missed.

Category 4 — Analyse, Rewrite & Explain (Q46–Q60)

What this demands: Deep grammatical analysis, clause identification, paragraph correction, sentence rewriting, and engaging with competing grammatical rules.

Q46. Rewrite the following sentence in passive voice without changing its meaning: 'The board has approved the new budget allocation.'

Q47. Identify and name the clause in the following sentence, then explain the grammatical role it plays: 'What she said at the meeting surprised everyone in the room.'

Q48. The following sentence contains two errors. Identify both, name the grammatical rule violated, and rewrite the corrected version: 'Each of the managers have submitted their individual plan by yesterday.'

Q49. Combine the following two sentences using an appropriate subordinating conjunction and explain the logical relationship: Sentence 1: 'The company made record profits.' Sentence 2: 'Employee salaries remained stagnant.'

Q50. Analyse the following double-blank sentence and explain why only one option is correct: 'Her approach was _____ in theory but _____ in practice.' Options: (a) sound / impractical (b) flawed / excellent (c) innovative / redundant (d) bold / similar

Q51. Rewrite the following sentence to correct the dangling modifier and explain the error: 'Having read the report, the decision seemed straightforward.'

Q52. The following cloze passage has four blanks. Fill each blank with the most appropriate word and justify each choice with a grammatical or contextual reason. Passage: 'The industrial revolution brought (1)_____ changes to society. Workers (2)_____ from rural areas to cities in enormous numbers. While productivity rose, living conditions for the urban poor remained (3)_____. Critics argued that progress had come at a significant human (4)_____.'

Q53. Identify the error in the following sentence, explain why it is an error, and provide two correctly rewritten alternatives: 'The committee are confident that they will announce their decision by tomorrow, they have enough evidence.'

Q54. Analyse the following sentence for correct tense usage and explain whether it is correct or incorrect and why: 'By next month, she will complete fifteen years in this organisation.'

Q55. Rewrite the following wordy sentence to make it concise without losing any essential meaning. Then identify the specific redundancies you removed: 'Due to the fact that the weather conditions outside were quite unfavourable and inclement, the organizers of the outdoor event decided to make a final decision to postpone the event.'

Q56. Explain the difference between 'imply' and 'infer' and then complete the following two sentences correctly, one with each word: Sentence A: 'The report _____ that safety procedures were ignored.' Sentence B: 'From the evidence, investigators _____ that the accident was preventable.'

Q57. The following sentence uses 'which' where 'that' should be used or vice versa. Identify the error, explain the rule, and rewrite the sentence: 'The guidelines which are mandatory for all employees must be followed without exception.'

Q58. Rewrite the following pair of sentences as a single complex sentence using a relative clause, and explain the clause type you have used: Sentence 1: 'The scientist published a groundbreaking study.' Sentence 2: 'The study challenged decades of accepted theory.'

Q59. Analyse the following sentence for subject-verb agreement and logical consistency, identify all errors, and rewrite it in its fully corrected form: 'The findings of the three-year study, conducted by a team of internationally recognised researchers, clearly demonstrates that regular exercise reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease significantly.'

Q60. Examine the following two sentences and explain which sentence is grammatically superior and why, discussing any competing grammatical conventions: Sentence A: 'It is I who am responsible for the error.' Sentence B: 'It is me who is responsible for the error.'

4. Practice Questions — Part 2: All 60 Answers with Explanations

Category 1 — Spot the Mistake: Answers (Q1–Q15)

Ans (Q1): Error: 'Despite of' → Correction: 'Despite the rain...'

'Despite' is a preposition that does not take 'of'. The correct preposition phrase is 'in spite of'. Since the sentence uses 'despite', 'of' must be removed entirely. Rewritten: 'Despite her extensive experience, the interviewer did not shortlist her.'

Ans (Q2): Error: 'committee have' → Correction: 'committee has'

'Committee' is a collective noun and is treated as singular in formal British and standard Indian English when acting as a unified body. Since the committee reached a unanimous decision (acting as one unit), the verb must be singular: 'The committee has reached a unanimous decision.'

Ans (Q3): Error: 'to paint' → Correction: 'painting'

The correlative conjunction 'not only...but also' requires strict parallel grammatical structure. 'Excels at music' uses 'at + gerund/noun', so the second element must also use 'at + gerund': 'not only excels at music but also at painting landscapes.'

Ans (Q4): Error: 'data suggests' → Correction: 'data suggest'

'Data' is the plural form of 'datum'. In formal and academic usage, 'data' takes a plural verb: 'The data clearly suggest...'. Note: In informal/conversational registers, 'data suggests' is accepted, but formal writing demands 'data suggest'.

Ans (Q5): Error: 'were asked' → Correction: 'was asked'

'Each' is always singular regardless of the noun phrase that follows it. The sentence structure 'Each of the [plural noun]' still takes a singular verb. Corrected: 'Each of the participants was asked to submit their individual report.'

Ans (Q6): Error: 'convinced her to not accept' → Correction: 'persuaded her not to accept'

Two errors: (1) 'Convince' is followed by 'of/that', not 'to + infinitive'; it is 'persuade' that takes 'to + infinitive'. (2) The split infinitive 'to not accept' is stylistically weak; 'not to accept' is preferred. Corrected: 'He persuaded her not to accept the offer without reading the terms.'

Ans (Q7): Error: 'are attending' → Correction: 'is attending'

Phrases like 'along with', 'as well as', 'together with', and 'in addition to' do not form a compound subject. The main subject remains 'manager' (singular), so the verb must be singular: 'The manager, along with his entire team, is attending the conference.'

Ans (Q8): Error: 'have been found' → Correction: 'had been found'

'By the time' followed by a past-tense verb ('arrived') requires the past perfect in the main clause. The discovery of survivors happened before the arrival of the rescue team — a sequence in the past demands past perfect. Corrected: 'By the time the rescue team arrived, three survivors had been found.'

Ans (Q9): Error: Tautology — 'since' and 'for the last decade' together create redundancy.

'For the last decade' already implies duration from a past point to the present. Adding 'since she moved from abroad' further quantifies the same period, making the sentence redundant. Corrected: 'She has been living in this city since she moved from abroad.' OR 'She has been living in this city for the last decade.'

Ans (Q10): Error: 'are increasing' → Correction: 'is increasing'

'The number of' is always singular. Compare with 'A number of' (= many) which takes a plural verb. Here: 'The number of applicants applying for the post is increasing every year.' Note: 'A number of applicants are applying' would be correct because 'a number of' = several.

Ans (Q11): Error: 'remains' → Correction: 'remain'

In the structure 'one of those [plural noun] who [verb]', the relative pronoun 'who' refers to the plural noun ('politicians'), not to 'one'. Therefore the verb must be plural: 'He is one of the few politicians who remain uncorrupted by power.'

Ans (Q12): Error: 'disinterest' → Correction: 'lack of interest' or 'uninterest'

'Disinterested' means impartial or unbiased — a positive quality for a judge or mediator. The intended meaning here is that she had no interest in the proceedings, which requires 'uninterested'. Corrected: 'Her lack of interest in the proceedings was evident...'

Ans (Q13): Error: 'were submitted' → Correction: 'was submitted'

The subject of the sentence is 'The report' (singular). The relative clauses ('which the committee had reviewed' and 'which they eventually approved') are parenthetical and do not affect the subject. The main verb must agree with 'report': 'The report...was submitted to the board.'

Ans (Q14): Error: 'was available' → Correction: 'were available'

With 'neither...nor', the verb agrees with the subject closest to it (the rule of proximity). The subject closest to the verb is 'the producers' (plural), so the verb must be plural: 'Neither the director nor the producers were available for comment.'

Ans (Q15): Error: 'has been replicated' → Correction: 'have been replicated'

The subject is 'The results' (plural). The participial phrase 'conducted under strictly controlled conditions' is a modifier that does not change the number of the subject. Corrected: 'The results of the experiment...have been replicated three times.'

Category 2 — Fill in the Right Word: Answers (Q16–Q30)

Ans (Q16): (a) effect

Here 'effect' is used as a verb meaning 'to bring about or produce' (e.g., 'effect a change'). This is a rare but correct usage. 'Affect' (b) is a verb meaning 'to influence', not to produce. 'Inflict' (c) means to impose something harmful. 'Evoke' (d) means to bring a feeling to mind — none of these fit 'settle a settlement'.

Ans (Q17): (a) attributed

'Attributed to' means credited or assigned as a cause — exactly what the sentence requires (success credited to practice). 'Contributed to' (b) means she added to a cause, not that success was caused by it. 'Allotted' (c) and 'donated' (d) have entirely different semantic domains.

Ans (Q18): (a) replete

'Replete with' means filled or abundantly supplied with — the most precise fit for inconsistencies filling the testimony. 'Redundant' (b) means unnecessarily repetitive. 'Saturated' (c) is correct in meaning but collocates

with liquids/markets, not statements. 'Excessive' (d) is an adjective and cannot follow 'was' + 'with' in this structure.

Ans (Q19): (a) articulating

'Articulating complex theories' means expressing them clearly — precisely what the sentence describes.

'Fabricating' (b) means inventing falsely. 'Demonstrating' (c) is possible but implies showing/proving, not just expressing clearly. 'Eradicating' (d) means eliminating — entirely wrong.

Ans (Q20): (b) exasperation

All four options are negative reactions, but precision matters. 'Exasperation' is the most intense — deep frustration caused by repeated, unreasonable behaviour like constant interruption. 'Irritation' (a) is milder.

'Nuisance' (c) refers to the person or behaviour causing the problem, not the feeling it causes. 'Disturbance' (d) is more neutral and physical.

Ans (Q21): (c) devastating

'Devastating' indicates the most severe and permanent harm — 'forcing many to shut down permanently' confirms this severity. 'Detrimental' (a) = harmful but not necessarily irreparable. 'Debilitating' (b) = weakening, more medical in register. 'Disruptive' (d) = causing disorder, not necessarily permanent harm.

Ans (Q22): (b) bilateral

A border demarcation agreement between two nations is specifically called a 'bilateral agreement' (involving two parties). 'Cordial' (a) describes tone. 'Tentative' (c) means provisional — would contradict 'finally reached'. 'Mutual' (d) is close but is an adjective of shared benefit, not the technical term for a two-party arrangement.

Ans (Q23): (b) confident

'Confident that' is the correct collocation when expressing certainty about a proposition. 'Convinced that' (a) is grammatically possible but implies someone persuaded them — the board reached this view independently. 'Assured' (c) usually takes 'of' not 'that'. 'Persuaded' (d) implies external pressure changed their view.

Ans (Q24): (a) cogent

'Cogent' means powerfully convincing and logical — the best fit for an argument that is structurally strong but still fails to address a specific objection. 'Plausible' (b) = believable but not necessarily logical. 'Lucid' (c) = clearly expressed. 'Articulate' (d) = well-spoken. Only 'cogent' captures logical strength.

Ans (Q25): (b) intended

'Intended to bring about' correctly expresses purpose — the legislation's purpose is to produce changes. 'Designed to' (a) is also correct and very close, but 'intended' more naturally collocates with legislation and policy. 'Constructed to' (c) is engineering language. 'Aimed to' (d) requires 'at' not 'to': 'aimed at bringing'.

Ans (Q26): (a) overwhelmed

All four options suggest being unable to cope with volume, but 'overwhelmed by' is the most precise and formal for the context. 'Inundated' (b) usually collocates with communication (calls, emails). 'Swamped' (c) is informal. 'Buried' (d) is metaphorical and informal. The formal register of the sentence demands 'overwhelmed'.

Ans (Q27): (a) surgical

'Surgical precision' is a fixed, widely accepted collocation meaning exact, careful, and targeted — perfectly capturing precision that prevents misinterpretation. 'Deliberate' (b) = intentional, not precise. 'Calculated' (c) = planned, often with a slightly negative connotation. 'Forensic' (d) = analytical and investigative, not precise in delivery.

Ans (Q28): (d) enigmatic

'Enigmatic' means mysterious and puzzling in a way that resists full explanation — explaining why scholars disagreed for decades on authorship and date. 'Ambiguous' (a) = having multiple meanings. 'Cryptic' (b) = hidden or coded. 'Obscure' (c) = unknown or unclear. 'Enigmatic' captures the quality of being intriguingly difficult to understand.

Ans (Q29): (a) galvanised

'Galvanised' means shocked or stimulated into taking action — the crowd was moved from passivity to active demand. 'Persuaded' (b) = convinced through reasoning, too gentle for a crowd's collective action. 'Coerced' (c) = forced through threats — negative. 'Manipulated' (d) = influenced through deception — also negative.

Ans (Q30): (c) inflammatory

All four options describe speech that causes strong reactions, but the key is degree and register. 'Inflammatory' specifically means designed to arouse anger and controversy in a public/media context — exactly what causes share price damage. 'Incendiary' (a) is more extreme (war/violence register). 'Controversial' (b) = debatable, not necessarily damaging. 'Provocative' (d) = challenging, not necessarily harmful.

Category 3 — Choose the Correct Sentence: Answers (Q31–Q45)

Ans (Q31): Correct: (b)

In the structure 'one of those [plural noun] who [verb]', the relative pronoun 'who' refers to the plural noun 'leaders', not to 'one'. Therefore the verb must be plural: 'inspire'. (a) uses singular 'inspires' — wrong verb agreement. (c) incorrectly uses singular 'leader'. (d) uses the present participle 'inspiring' instead of a finite verb.

Ans (Q32): Correct: (c)

'Despite' is a preposition followed directly by a noun or noun phrase — never by 'of'. (a) incorrectly adds 'of'. (b) and (d) use 'raining' (a gerund/present participle) after 'despite', but 'rain' as a noun is what is required here — 'raining' makes the construction informal and imprecise. (c) is the only fully correct option.

Ans (Q33): Correct: (b)

'Since' indicates an action that began in the past and continues to the present, requiring the present perfect continuous: 'has been working'. (a) uses simple past 'worked' — incorrect with 'since' in the present-continuing sense. (c) uses present continuous 'is working' — cannot be used with 'since'. (d) past perfect continuous is used for an action before another past point, not for ongoing present relevance.

Ans (Q34): Correct: (c)

'planning, execution, and evaluation' — all three items are nouns, forming a perfectly parallel list. (a) breaks parallelism: noun, infinitive, noun. (b) breaks it: infinitive, gerund, noun. (d) has two forms: noun + two infinitives — inconsistent with the first noun.

Ans (Q35): Correct: (b)

The subject is 'bouquet' (singular noun); 'of roses' is a prepositional phrase modifying 'bouquet'. The verb must be singular: 'was'. (a) 'were' and (c) 'are' are plural — incorrect. (d) 'have been' is plural and uses the wrong time reference (the sentence is in simple past context, not perfect aspect).

Ans (Q36): Correct: (b)

'Persuaded him to accept' is correct. 'Persuade' takes 'to + infinitive'. 'Convince' takes 'of' or 'that'. (a) uses 'convinced him to' — grammatically non-standard in formal usage. (c) 'convinced him that he should to accept' has the double error of wrong verb + 'should to'. (d) 'persuaded him that accepting' is a gerund construction that lacks a predicate.

Ans (Q37): Correct: (b)

Third conditional: 'If [past perfect], [would have + past participle]'. (a) incorrectly uses 'would have' in the if-clause — a classic error. (c) uses the base form 'study' and 'would passed' — both wrong. (d) uses simple past in the if-clause but past perfect in the main clause — mixing second and third conditional.

Ans (Q38): Correct: (b)

'The report that the board reviewed was approved' — restrictive relative clause using 'that' with no commas, correctly identifying which report. (a) incorrectly adds 'it' after 'reviewed' (double object). (c) uses 'that' inside commas — 'that' cannot introduce a non-restrictive clause; 'which' must be used with commas. (d) again has 'it' creating a double object error.

Ans (Q39): Correct: (d)

Article rule: 'a' before consonant sounds; 'an' before vowel sounds. 'University' begins with the /j/ sound (consonant) → 'a university'. (a) 'an university' — wrong, /j/ is a consonant sound. (b) 'a honest' — 'honest' begins with silent 'h' → vowel sound /ɒ/ → requires 'an'. (c) 'an unanimous' — 'unanimous' begins with /j/ → requires 'a'.

Ans (Q40): Correct: (b)

'Neither...nor' requires the same grammatical form on both sides and correct inversion when in question-like structure. (b) correctly uses 'neither respected...nor did he follow' with parallel structure. (a) breaks parallelism: 'respected' (verb) vs 'following' (gerund). (c) incorrectly omits 'did he'. (d) incorrectly front-loads 'neither' before the subject.

Ans (Q41): Correct: (a)

'Is being implemented' = present passive continuous, correctly conveying ongoing action. (b) uses 'implementing' after 'being' — wrong; past participle needed in passive. (c) omits the auxiliary verb entirely: 'currently implemented' is a reduced participial phrase, not a main clause. (d) omits the main auxiliary 'is': 'being implemented' alone cannot function as the predicate.

Ans (Q42): Correct: (b)

The relationship is unexpected contrast (prepared but still failed). 'However' correctly signals this contrast. (a) 'furthermore' signals addition — wrong logic. (c) 'similarly' signals comparison — wrong. (d) 'consequently' signals result — the opposite of what happened (being prepared would normally lead to success, not failure, so 'consequently' is logically incoherent).

Ans (Q43): Correct: (b)

Verbs like 'avoid', 'admit', 'consider', 'enjoy', 'deny', and 'practise' are followed by gerunds, not infinitives. 'Avoided going' is correct. (a) 'avoided to go' — wrong, infinitive after 'avoid' is not accepted. (c) 'avoided go' — missing 'to' and using base form. (d) 'avoided to going' — double error: wrong form + 'to' + gerund.

Ans (Q44): Correct: (a)

'That' introduces restrictive relative clauses (no commas); 'which' introduces non-restrictive relative clauses (with commas). (a) correctly uses 'that' (restrictive: identifying the specific laptop) AND 'which' inside commas (non-restrictive: adding information about the blue cover). (b) reverses the usage. (c) uses 'which' twice without commas — inconsistent. (d) incorrectly uses 'that' inside a comma-separated clause.

Ans (Q45): Correct: (b)

A participial phrase (modifier) must have the same subject as the main clause. 'Running quickly, the student missed the bus' — the student ran; the student missed the bus. Both actions share the same subject. (a) has a dangling modifier: 'Running quickly' refers to the bus, which cannot run. (c) creates a misplaced modifier: 'quickly' could modify 'missed', changing meaning. (d) is syntactically incoherent.

Category 4 — Analyse, Rewrite & Explain: Answers (Q46–Q60)

Ans (Q46): Passive Voice Conversion

Rewritten: 'The new budget allocation has been approved by the board.' Explanation: Active subject 'the board' moves to an agent phrase after 'by'. Active object 'the new budget allocation' becomes the passive subject. The tense 'has approved' (present perfect active) becomes 'has been approved' (present perfect passive). The past participle 'approved' is retained; the auxiliary changes from 'has' to 'has been'.

Ans (Q47): Clause Identification: Nominal (Noun) Clause

'What she said at the meeting' is a nominal clause (also called a noun clause). It functions as the subject of the main verb 'surprised'. It is introduced by the relative/interrogative 'what' (meaning 'the thing that') and contains its own subject ('she') and verb ('said'). It cannot be removed without destroying the sentence, which confirms its essential (not optional) role as the subject.

Ans (Q48): Two Errors Identified

Error 1: 'have submitted' → 'had submitted' — The time marker 'by yesterday' indicates a completed action before a past reference point, requiring the past perfect: 'had submitted'. Error 2: 'their individual plan' → 'their individual plans' OR agreement issue: 'Each' is singular and grammatically takes a singular verb: 'has submitted' (not 'have submitted'). Fully corrected: 'Each of the managers had submitted his or her individual plan by yesterday.'

Ans (Q49): Combined Sentence with Subordinating Conjunction

Combined: 'Although the company made record profits, employee salaries remained stagnant.' The logical relationship is concession or contrast — a positive outcome (profits) exists simultaneously with an unexpected negative reality (stagnant salaries). 'Although' correctly signals this: the first clause concedes a positive fact, the second introduces the surprising contrasting reality. Alternatives: 'Despite making record profits, the company kept employee salaries stagnant.'

Ans (Q50): Correct Option: (a) sound / impractical

The sentence structure 'in theory but _____ in practice' demands a contrast pair. Option (a) — 'sound in theory' (logically correct) but 'impractical in practice' (fails in reality) — is a perfect logical contrast. (b) 'flawed / excellent' reverses the usual logic (if flawed in theory, it should not be excellent in practice). (c) 'innovative / redundant' — an innovative approach cannot simultaneously be redundant in practice. (d) 'bold / similar' — 'similar' is not a meaningful contrast to 'bold'.

Ans (Q51): Dangling Modifier Correction

Original error: 'Having read the report' implies the subject read the report, but the grammatical subject of the main clause is 'the decision' — a decision cannot read a report. This is a classic dangling modifier. Corrected version 1: 'Having read the report, I found the decision seemed straightforward.' Corrected version 2: 'After reading the report, the committee found the decision straightforward.' Rule: The participial phrase and main clause must share the same logical subject.

Ans (Q52): Cloze Passage Answers: (1) sweeping (2) migrated (3) dire / deplorable (4) cost

Justifications: (1) 'sweeping changes' — the collocation 'sweeping changes' is standard for large-scale societal transformation; 'significant' would work but is less precise. (2) 'migrated' — workers moving from rural to urban areas = internal migration; 'moved' works too but 'migrated' carries the necessary directional scale. (3) 'dire / deplorable' — the passage's negative tone ('Critics argued') and the contrast with rising productivity demands a strongly negative descriptor for living conditions. (4) 'cost' — 'came at a significant human cost' is a fixed collocation meaning sacrifice or price paid in human terms.

Ans (Q53): Errors Identified: Comma Splice + Subject-Verb Agreement Error

Error 1 (Comma splice): 'The committee are confident...' and 'they have enough evidence' are two independent clauses joined only by a comma — this is a comma splice. Correction: Use a semicolon, a conjunction, or separate into two sentences. Error 2 (Agreement): 'The committee are confident' —

'committee' as a unified body takes a singular verb: 'The committee is confident'. Corrected version: 'The committee is confident that it will announce its decision by tomorrow, as it has gathered sufficient evidence.'

Ans (Q54): Tense Analysis — Incorrect: Should use Future Perfect

The sentence 'By next month, she will complete fifteen years' is incorrect. 'By next month' indicates that the action will be completed before a specific future point — this requires the future perfect tense. Correct version: 'By next month, she will have completed fifteen years in this organisation.' 'Will complete' (simple future) describes an action that will happen at or around next month, not one that will be finished before it. The future perfect 'will have completed' correctly captures the completed-before-a-future-point meaning.

Ans (Q55): Concise Rewrite

Concise version: 'Because the weather was unfavourable, the organisers decided to postpone the outdoor event.' Redundancies removed: (1) 'Due to the fact that' → 'Because' (five words reduced to one). (2) 'quite unfavourable and inclement' → 'unfavourable' ('inclement' means the same as 'unfavourable weather' — tautology; 'quite' adds nothing). (3) 'made a final decision to postpone' → 'decided to postpone' ('final' is implied by deciding; 'make a decision' is wordy for 'decide').

Ans (Q56): 'Imply' vs 'Infer': Sentence A → 'implies'; Sentence B → 'inferred'

'Imply' is used by the speaker or source: to suggest something without stating it directly. The subject is the communicator. 'Infer' is used by the listener or reader: to draw a conclusion from evidence. The subject is the receiver. Sentence A: 'The report implies that safety procedures were ignored.' — The report (source) is suggesting/hinting. Sentence B: 'From the evidence, investigators inferred that the accident was preventable.' — Investigators (receivers of evidence) drew a conclusion.

Ans (Q57): Error: 'which' should be 'that'

Rule: Restrictive relative clauses — those that define or limit the noun and are essential to the meaning — use 'that' (no commas). Non-restrictive relative clauses — those that add optional extra information — use 'which' (with commas). 'Which are mandatory for all employees' defines and restricts which guidelines must

be followed — it is essential information, so 'that' is required. Corrected: 'The guidelines that are mandatory for all employees must be followed without exception.'

Ans (Q58): Combined Sentence using a Restrictive Relative Clause

Combined: 'The scientist published a groundbreaking study that challenged decades of accepted theory.'
Clause type used: Restrictive relative clause, introduced by 'that'. It is restrictive because it defines and identifies which specific study is being discussed — without it, the sentence would be incomplete in meaning. No commas are used because the clause is essential. If the clause were non-restrictive (adding extra, optional information), 'which' and commas would be used instead.

Ans (Q59): Errors: Two subject-verb agreement violations

Error 1: 'clearly demonstrates' → 'clearly demonstrate'. The subject is 'findings' (plural). The long intervening phrase 'of the three-year study, conducted by a team of internationally recognised researchers' modifies 'findings' but does not change its number. Error 2: 'reduce' is actually correct here — 'exercise reduce' should remain 'exercise reduces' since 'regular exercise' is an uncountable singular noun acting as subject. Corrected: 'The findings of the three-year study...clearly demonstrate that regular exercise reduces the risk of cardiovascular disease significantly.'

Ans (Q60): Analysis: Sentence A is grammatically superior in formal usage

Sentence A: 'It is I who am responsible for the error.' This follows the formal prescriptive rule: in formal English, the complement of 'be' (the part after 'it is') should be in the nominative (subject) case — hence 'I', not 'me'. The verb 'am' then correctly agrees with 'I'. Sentence B: 'It is me who is responsible' uses 'me' (object case) — technically incorrect by prescriptive grammar, but widely used in informal spoken English, where 'me' functions as a predicate pronoun. In most contexts, Sentence B sounds more natural but is considered informal. For formal writing, legal documents, or high-precision usage, Sentence A is correct. This reflects the ongoing tension between prescriptive grammar and descriptive reality in modern English.