

CUET 2025 MAY 31 English Question Paper With Solutions

Time Allowed :1 Hours	Maximum Marks :250	Total questions :50
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The test is of 1 hour duration.
2. The question paper consists of 50 questions. The maximum marks are 250.
3. 5 marks are awarded for every correct answer, and 1 mark is deducted for every wrong answer.

1. Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: "Break the ice."

- (1) To start a conversation
- (2) To shatter something
- (3) To cool down
- (4) To end a meeting

Correct Answer: (1) To start a conversation

Solution: Step 1: Understanding the idiom.

The idiom "break the ice" is commonly used when someone initiates a conversation in a social setting where people may feel awkward or unfamiliar.

Step 2: Applying contextual meaning.

It metaphorically refers to making people feel more comfortable and relaxed, often at the beginning of a social interaction or meeting.

Quick Tip

Idioms are phrases where the meaning isn't literal. It's important to understand their figurative usage rather than translating them word-for-word.

2. Select the option that best completes the sentence: "Had I known about the meeting earlier, I _____ attended it."

- (1) would have
- (2) will have
- (3) had
- (4) would be

Correct Answer: (1) would have

Solution: Step 1: Identify the sentence type.

This is a Type-3 conditional sentence (unreal past condition) used to express regret or hypothetical situations in the past.

Step 2: Applying the correct structure.

The correct structure is:

"If + past perfect, then + would have + past participle."

Here, "Had I known" is the inverted form of "If I had known", so the second clause should be:

"I **would have** attended it."

Quick Tip

Type-3 conditionals describe imaginary situations in the past. They follow the pattern:
"If + past perfect, then + would have + V3."

3. Identify the option where the underlined phrase is used incorrectly: "She is interested on learning new languages."

- (1) interested in
- (2) interested on
- (3) interested at
- (4) interested about

Correct Answer: (2) interested on

Solution: Step 1: Recognize correct prepositional usage.

The correct preposition that follows "interested" is in, not "on", "at", or "about".

Step 2: Correct the sentence.

The corrected sentence should be:

"She is interested **in** learning new languages."

Quick Tip

Common collocations are essential in English. "Interested" is always followed by "in" when indicating curiosity or engagement.

4. Pick the sentence that best conveys the meaning of the phrase "To kill two birds with one stone."

- (1) To cause trouble for many people
- (2) To achieve two goals with a single action
- (3) To waste time on unnecessary things

(4) To be unable to decide between two options

Correct Answer: (2) To achieve two goals with a single action

Solution: Step 1: Understand the idiom.

The phrase "to kill two birds with one stone" means accomplishing two objectives by performing a single action.

Step 2: Apply meaning contextually.

Example: "By cycling to work, I get exercise and save on fuel — I kill two birds with one stone."

Quick Tip

This idiom is used to highlight efficiency — achieving more with less effort or time.

5. Choose the correct meaning of the phrase "Throw down the gauntlet."

(1) To challenge someone

(2) To give up

(3) To apologize sincerely

(4) To celebrate victory

Correct Answer: (1) To challenge someone

Solution: Step 1: Understanding historical context.

"Throw down the gauntlet" originates from medieval times, where throwing down a glove (gauntlet) was a way to issue a challenge.

Step 2: Apply the phrase.

It now means to confront or challenge someone openly and decisively.

Quick Tip

Many idioms have historical origins. Knowing their background helps understand their figurative meaning better.

6. Rearrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence: A) despite the heavy rain B) the match continued C) and the players showed great determination D)

yesterday

(1) ADBC

(2) DABC

(3) DBAC

(4) BCAD

Correct Answer: (1) ADBC

Solution: Step 1: Look for the introductory phrase.

“Despite the heavy rain” is a dependent clause and is the logical opening.

Step 2: Arrange logically.

A) despite the heavy rain

D) yesterday

B) the match continued

C) and the players showed great determination

Final sentence: “Despite the heavy rain yesterday, the match continued and the players showed great determination.”

Quick Tip

When rearranging sentences, start with phrases that establish time or condition and follow with the main clause.

7. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word: The politician’s speech was full _____ of designed to win over the crowd without saying much of substance.

(1) rhetoric

(2) candor

(3) brevity

(4) neutrality

Correct Answer: (1) rhetoric

Solution: Step 1: Understand the tone and implication.

The phrase “win over the crowd without saying much of substance” suggests the use of persuasive but shallow language.

Step 2: Word meanings.

Rhetoric: Persuasive speaking often lacking in meaningful content — fits perfectly.

Candor: Honesty — doesn't fit.

Brevity: Shortness — unrelated.

Neutrality: Lack of bias — irrelevant.

Quick Tip

Context clues like "without substance" indicate the need for a word related to persuasive but empty language — such as "rhetoric."

8. Rearrange the parts to form a logical sentence:

A) the city's new policy B) has significantly improved C) air quality D) over the past year

(1) ABCD

(2) BCAD

(3) ACBD

(4) BACD

Correct Answer: (3) ACBD

Solution: Step 1: Identify the subject.

A) "The city's new policy" is the subject.

Step 2: Connect verb and object.

B) "has significantly improved" + C) "air quality" D) "over the past year" is the time reference.

Final sentence:

"The city's new policy has significantly improved air quality over the past year."

Quick Tip

Start with the subject, follow with verb and object, then add any time or manner modifiers at the end.

9. Identify the option that best replaces the underlined word:

Her argument was specious, convincing but false.

- (1) Genuine
- (2) Misleading
- (3) Clear
- (4) Obvious

Correct Answer: (2) Misleading

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the meaning of "specious."

A "specious" argument appears to be true or logical, but is actually wrong or deceptive.

Step 2: Eliminate choices that do not match.

- (1) Genuine: opposite in meaning.
- (3) Clear: irrelevant to the idea of truth or deception.
- (4) Obvious: similar to clear, doesn't imply deception.

Only (2) "Misleading" fits well.

Quick Tip

The word "specious" often describes arguments or reasoning that are superficially plausible but actually wrong. Think: "seems true but isn't."

10. Select the synonym of "Pernicious."

- (1) Harmless
- (2) Beneficial
- (3) Harmful
- (4) Trivial

Correct Answer: (3) Harmful

Solution:

Step 1: Know the meaning of "Pernicious."

"Pernicious" means causing great harm, often in a subtle or gradual way.

Step 2: Match the correct synonym.

- (1) Harmless: opposite in meaning.

- (2) Beneficial: also the opposite.
- (4) Trivial: unrelated in intensity.
- (3) Harmful: best synonym.

Quick Tip

"Pernicious" is a strong negative word, so always look for a synonym that implies danger or harm.
