

CUET 2025 May 26 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 option that best completes the sentence:

“Hardly had the train arrived _____ the passengers rushed to board.”

- (A) when
- (B) then
- (C) after
- (D) that

Correct Answer: (A) when

Solution:

The sentence uses the inversion structure “Hardly had...” which is typically followed by “when” to indicate that one event occurs immediately after another. Here, “Hardly had the train arrived when the passengers rushed to board” means the passengers rushed as soon as the train arrived. “Then” is used for sequential actions without inversion, “after” implies a delay, and “that” is grammatically incorrect in this context. Thus, the correct answer is:

when

Quick Tip

For sentences starting with “Hardly had,” use “when” to connect the immediate subsequent event in inverted constructions.

2.

Identify the synonym of the word ‘abstain’ as used in the sentence:

“Doctors advise people to abstain from smoking.”

- (A) Indulge
- (B) Avoid
- (C) Support
- (D) Delay

Correct Answer: (B) Avoid

Solution:

In the sentence, “abstain” means to refrain or hold back from doing something, specifically smoking. Among the options, “avoid” means to keep away from or not engage in, which closely matches the meaning of “abstain.” “Indulge” means to partake freely, the opposite of abstain. “Support” implies endorsing, and “delay” suggests postponing, neither of which fit. Thus, the correct answer is:

Avoid

Quick Tip

For synonym questions, consider the context of the word in the sentence to choose the option with the closest meaning.

3.

Find the correctly punctuated sentence:

- (A) My sister who lives in Mumbai is coming to visit.
- (B) My sister, who lives in Mumbai, is coming to visit.
- (C) My sister who lives in Mumbai, is coming to visit.
- (D) My sister, who lives in Mumbai is coming to visit.

Correct Answer: (B) My sister, who lives in Mumbai, is coming to visit.

Solution:

The phrase “who lives in Mumbai” is a non-restrictive relative clause, providing additional information about “my sister” and requiring commas to separate it from the main clause. Option (B) correctly places commas before and after the clause: “My sister, who lives in Mumbai, is coming to visit.” Option (A) lacks commas, making it restrictive (implying multiple sisters). Option (C) has an incorrect comma placement, and (D) misses a comma after “Mumbai.” Thus, the correct answer is:

My sister, who lives in Mumbai, is coming to visit.

Quick Tip

Use commas to enclose non-restrictive clauses (extra information) introduced by “who” or “which,” but omit them for restrictive clauses essential to the sentence’s meaning.

4.

Rearrange the following sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful paragraph:

(P) He started to explore the forest nearby.

(Q) Rahul was fond of adventures.

(R) One day, he found a strange cave.

(S) He lived on the edge of a large town.

(A) Q S P R

(B) S Q R P

(C) S Q P R

(D) Q P R S

Correct Answer: (C) S Q P R

Solution:

To form a coherent paragraph, start with (S), which sets the context by describing where Rahul lived. Next, (Q) introduces Rahul’s character as fond of adventures, providing motivation. Then, (P) describes his action of exploring the forest, a logical outcome of his adventurous nature. Finally, (R) concludes with the event of finding a strange cave. The sequence S, Q, P, R forms a logical narrative:

S: He lived on the edge of a large town. **Q:** Rahul was fond of adventures. **P:** He started to explore the forest nearby. **R:** One day, he found a strange cave.

Thus, the correct order is:

S, Q, P, R

Quick Tip

In sentence rearrangement, start with a sentence that sets the scene or introduces the subject, then follow with motivation, actions, and outcomes.

5.

Select the word closest in meaning to ‘Benevolent’:

- (A) Cruel
- (B) Kind
- (C) Wealthy
- (D) Cunning

Correct Answer: (B) Kind

Solution:

The word “benevolent” means showing kindness or goodwill, often in a charitable sense. Among the options, “kind” directly aligns with this meaning, as it denotes being friendly and considerate. “Cruel” is an antonym, meaning harsh or unkind. “Wealthy” relates to riches, and “cunning” implies deceit, neither of which match “benevolent.” Thus, the correct answer is:

Kind

Quick Tip

For synonym questions, choose the word that matches the given word’s meaning and tone, ruling out antonyms or unrelated terms.

6.

Select the word closest in meaning to ‘Benevolent’:

- (A) Cruel
- (B) Kind
- (C) Wealthy

(D) Cunning

Correct Answer: (B) Kind

Solution:

The word “benevolent” refers to being kind, generous, or showing goodwill, often in a charitable context. Among the options, “kind” directly aligns with this meaning, as it denotes being friendly, considerate, or compassionate. “Cruel” is an antonym, meaning harsh or unkind. “Wealthy” pertains to financial status, and “cunning” implies deceit, neither of which match “benevolent.” Thus, the correct answer is:

Kind

Quick Tip

For synonym questions, select the word that matches the meaning and tone of the given word, ruling out antonyms or unrelated terms.

7.

Complete the sentence:

“The proposal was accepted _____ reluctance.”

- (A) at
- (B) by
- (C) with
- (D) in

Correct Answer: (C) with

Solution:

The sentence requires a preposition that appropriately describes the manner in which the proposal was accepted. “Reluctance” is a noun indicating unwillingness or hesitation. The preposition “with” is commonly used to express the manner or attitude accompanying an action, as in “accepted with reluctance,” meaning the acceptance was hesitant. “At” and “in”

are typically used for time or place, and “by” indicates agency or means, none of which fit the context. Thus, the correct answer is:

with

Quick Tip

Choose prepositions based on the context; “with” is often used to indicate the manner or emotion accompanying an action.

8.

Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: “To turn over a new leaf”:

- (A) To plant a garden
- (B) To change for the better
- (C) To write a book
- (D) To change one’s job

Correct Answer: (B) To change for the better

Solution:

The idiom “to turn over a new leaf” means to make a fresh start or improve one’s behavior or habits for the better. Among the options, “to change for the better” directly captures this meaning. “To plant a garden” is literal and unrelated, “to write a book” does not reflect the idiom’s meaning, and “to change one’s job” is too specific. Thus, the correct answer is:

To change for the better

Quick Tip

For idiom questions, understand the figurative meaning and choose the option that best captures the intended sense, avoiding literal interpretations.

9.

Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph:

- (P) They can learn a lot from their mistakes.
(Q) Students should not be afraid of making mistakes.
(R) Mistakes are often the best teachers.
(S) Accepting errors positively is a sign of growth.
(A) QPSR
(B) QRSP
(C) QPRS
(D) QSRP

Correct Answer: (B) QRSP

Solution:

To form a coherent paragraph, start with (Q), which introduces the main idea that students should not fear mistakes. Next, (R) explains why, stating that mistakes are the best teachers, providing a reason. Then, (S) elaborates that accepting errors positively indicates growth, building on the idea of learning from mistakes. Finally, (P) concludes by reinforcing that students can learn a lot from their mistakes, completing the logical flow. The sequence Q, R, S, P forms a coherent paragraph:

Q: Students should not be afraid of making mistakes. **R:** Mistakes are often the best teachers. **S:** Accepting errors positively is a sign of growth. **P:** They can learn a lot from their mistakes.

Thus, the correct order is:

Q, R, S, P

Quick Tip

In sentence rearrangement, begin with a general statement, follow with reasons or explanations, and conclude with outcomes or reinforcement.

10.

Select the word closest in meaning to ‘Impeccable’:

- (A) Flawless
- (B) Ordinary
- (C) Doubtful
- (D) Dull

Correct Answer: (A) Flawless

Solution:

The word “impeccable” means without fault or error, indicating perfection. Among the options, “flawless” directly aligns with this meaning, as it also denotes being perfect or without defects. “Ordinary” suggests something common, “doubtful” implies uncertainty, and “dull” means lacking interest, none of which match “impeccable.” Thus, the correct answer is:

Flawless

Quick Tip

For synonym questions, choose the word that matches both the meaning and the positive or negative connotation of the given word.

11.

Select the word closest in meaning to ‘Candid’:

- (A) Deceptive
- (B) Honest
- (C) Reserved
- (D) Hesitant

Correct Answer: (B) Honest

Solution:

The word “candid” means being truthful, straightforward, or frank in expression. Among the options, “honest” closely aligns with this meaning, as it denotes truthfulness and sincerity. “Deceptive” implies misleading, an antonym of candid. “Reserved” suggests being

restrained or shy, and “hesitant” indicates indecision, neither of which match “candid.” Thus, the correct answer is:

Honest

Quick Tip

For synonym questions, choose the word that matches the given word’s meaning and tone, ensuring it fits the context of straightforward expression.

12.

Select the word most nearly opposite in meaning to ‘Obscure’:

- (A) Hidden
- (B) Vague
- (C) Clear
- (D) Mysterious

Correct Answer: (C) Clear

Solution:

The word “obscure” means unclear, hidden, or difficult to understand. An antonym would mean easily understood or visible. Among the options, “clear” directly opposes “obscure” by indicating clarity or transparency. “Hidden” and “mysterious” are synonyms, reinforcing obscurity, and “vague” is similar in meaning to obscure. Thus, the correct answer is:

Clear

Quick Tip

For antonym questions, identify the opposite meaning of the given word, ensuring the chosen word matches in context and part of speech.

13.

Complete the sentence:

“Her ____ approach to solving problems impressed her colleagues.”

- (A) Hasty
- (B) Methodical
- (C) Careless
- (D) Reluctant

Correct Answer: (B) Methodical

Solution:

The sentence suggests that the approach led to a positive outcome, as it impressed colleagues. “Methodical” means systematic and organized, fitting the context of an impressive problem-solving approach. “Hasty” implies rushing and potential errors, “careless” suggests negligence, and “reluctant” indicates unwillingness, none of which align with impressing others. Thus, the correct answer is:

Methodical

Quick Tip

In fill-in-the-blank questions, choose a word that aligns with the sentence’s tone and context, ensuring grammatical and logical fit.

14.

Complete the sentence:

“The team faced the challenge ____ confidence, leading to their success.”

- (A) with
- (B) by
- (C) in
- (D) at

Correct Answer: (A) with

Solution:

The sentence requires a preposition to describe how the team faced the challenge, leading to success. “With” is used to indicate the manner or attitude accompanying an action, as in “faced with confidence,” meaning confidently. “By” suggests agency or means, “in” is used for states or locations, and “at” typically denotes a point or target, none of which fit as well. Thus, the correct answer is:

with

Quick Tip

Choose prepositions based on the sentence’s context; “with” often describes the manner or emotion accompanying an action.

15.

Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph:

- (P) She began practicing yoga to improve her health.
 - (Q) Over time, she became a certified yoga instructor.
 - (R) Anjali was inspired by her friend’s fitness journey.
 - (S) Her dedication led to significant physical and mental benefits.
- (A) R, P, S, Q
 - (B) P, R, S, Q
 - (C) R, S, P, Q
 - (D) P, S, R, Q

Correct Answer: (A) R, P, S, Q

Solution:

To form a coherent paragraph, start with (R), which introduces Anjali’s inspiration from her friend’s fitness journey, setting the context. Next, (P) describes her action of practicing yoga to improve her health, a direct response to the inspiration. Then, (S) outlines the benefits of her dedication, showing the outcome. Finally, (Q) concludes with her achievement of becoming a certified yoga instructor. The sequence R, P, S, Q forms a logical narrative:

R: Anjali was inspired by her friend’s fitness journey. **P:** She began practicing yoga to improve her health. **S:** Her dedication led to significant physical and mental benefits. **Q:** Over time, she became a certified yoga instructor.

Thus, the correct order is:

R, P, S, Q

Quick Tip

In sentence rearrangement, identify the sentence that introduces the context or motivation, then follow with actions, outcomes, and conclusions.

16.

Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph:

- (P) It provides access to vast amounts of information instantly.
(Q) The rise of the internet has transformed education.
(R) Students can now learn from online courses and resources.
(S) However, it requires responsible use to avoid distractions.
(A) Q, P, R, S
(B) P, Q, R, S
(C) Q, R, P, S
(D) R, Q, P, S

Correct Answer: (A) Q, P, R, S

Solution:

To form a coherent paragraph, start with (Q), which introduces the main idea of the internet’s impact on education. Next, (P) elaborates by explaining how it provides instant access to information. Then, (R) specifies how students benefit through online courses and resources. Finally, (S) concludes with a caution about responsible use to avoid distractions, using “however” to signal a shift. The sequence Q, P, R, S forms a coherent paragraph:

Q: The rise of the internet has transformed education. **P:** It provides access to vast amounts of information instantly. **R:** Students can now learn from online courses and resources. **S:**

However, it requires responsible use to avoid distractions.

Thus, the correct order is:

Q, P, R, S

Quick Tip

Look for transition words like “however” to guide sentence order and start with a general statement, followed by details and concluding remarks.
