

CUET 2025 May 28 English Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed : 1 Hours

Maximum Marks : 250

Total questions : 50

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 word that best completes the analogy: Ephemeral : Transient ::

Immutable : ?

- (A) Temporary
- (B) Rigid
- (C) Unchangeable
- (D) Fleeting

Correct Answer: (C) Unchangeable

Solution: To solve the analogy "Ephemeral : Transient :: Immutable : ?", we need to identify the relationship between "Ephemeral" and "Transient" and apply the same relationship to "Immutable" to find the correct word among the options.

• **Step 1: Determine the relationship between Ephemeral and Transient.**

- **Ephemeral:** Means lasting for a short time, often used to describe something fleeting or temporary (e.g., an ephemeral flower that blooms briefly).
- **Transient:** Also means short-lived or passing quickly (e.g., a transient moment).

Both words are synonyms, as they share the same core meaning of being temporary or brief. Thus, the relationship in the analogy is one of synonymy.

- **Step 2: Apply the same relationship to Immutable.**
 - **Immutable:** Means unchangeable, fixed, or permanent (e.g., immutable laws of nature).
 - We need a word that is a synonym for "Immutable," meaning it also conveys the idea of being unchangeable or permanent.
- **Step 3: Evaluate the options.**
 - **(A) Temporary:** Means short-lived or not permanent, which is the opposite of immutable. This does not fit.
 - **(B) Rigid:** Means stiff or inflexible, which can imply resistance to change in some contexts (e.g., rigid rules), but it primarily describes physical or structural inflexibility, not a direct synonym for unchangeable.
 - **(C) Unchangeable:** Means not able to be changed, which directly aligns with the meaning of immutable. This is a clear synonym.
 - **(D) Fleeting:** Means passing quickly, similar to ephemeral or transient, and is the opposite of immutable. This does not fit.
- **Step 4: Confirm the analogy.** The analogy structure is $A : B :: C : D$, where A (Ephemeral) is synonymous with B (Transient), and C (Immutable) is synonymous with D (Unchangeable). Thus, "Unchangeable" completes the analogy.
- **Step 5: Double-check for other relationships.** Analogies sometimes involve antonyms or other relationships, but since Ephemeral and Transient are synonyms, and Unchangeable is a synonym for Immutable, the synonym relationship is consistent. No other option fits as closely.

Thus, the word that completes the analogy is "Unchangeable."

Quick Tip

For analogy problems, identify the relationship between the first pair of words (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, part-whole, cause-effect). Apply the same relationship to the second pair to find the matching word. Use precise meanings of words, and eliminate options that don't maintain the exact relationship. If unsure, test each option by substituting it into the analogy to check consistency.

2. Identify the figure of speech in the sentence: "The silence was so profound, it screamed in my ears."

- (A) Oxymoron
- (B) Metaphor
- (C) Irony
- (D) Personification

Correct Answer: (D) Personification

Solution: To identify the figure of speech in the sentence "The silence was so profound, it screamed in my ears," we need to analyze the sentence and match it to the definitions of the given options.

- **Step 1: Break down the sentence.** The sentence describes silence as "profound" (deep or intense) and says it "screamed in my ears." Silence is the absence of sound, so it cannot literally scream, which suggests a figurative expression.
- **Step 2: Define the figures of speech.**
 - **Oxymoron:** A figure of speech combining contradictory terms (e.g., "deafening silence").
 - **Metaphor:** A comparison between two unlike things without using "like" or "as" (e.g., "Time is a thief").
 - **Irony:** A contrast between expectation and reality (e.g., saying "Great weather!" during a storm).

- **Personification:** Giving human characteristics to non-human entities (e.g., "The wind whispered").
- **Step 3: Analyze the sentence.** The key phrase is "silence... screame(D)" Silence, an abstract and non-human concept, is given the human action of screaming. This matches the definition of personification, as a non-human entity (silence) is described with a human trait (screaming).
- **Step 4: Evaluate the options.**
 - **(A) Oxymoron:** The sentence doesn't combine contradictory terms directly (e.g., "profound silence" is intense but not contradictory). An oxymoron like "deafening silence" is close but not exact here, as "screamed" implies an action, not a contradiction.
 - **(B) Metaphor:** The sentence doesn't compare silence to something else (e.g., "silence is a scream"). It describes silence performing an action, which is personification, not a metaphor.
 - **(C) Irony:** There's no contrast between expectation and reality; the sentence emphasizes the intensity of silence, not a contradiction with expectations.
 - **(D) Personification:** Silence screaming is a clear example of attributing a human action to a non-human concept, fitting personification perfectly.
- **Step 5: Confirm the choice.** The phrase "screamed in my ears" vividly gives silence a human-like ability, reinforcing personification. No other figure of speech fits as precisely.

Thus, the figure of speech is personification.

Quick Tip

To identify figures of speech, focus on the key phrase and its effect. For personification, look for non-human entities (e.g., objects, concepts) given human traits (e.g., actions, emotions). Compare against definitions of other figures like metaphors (comparisons), oxymorons (contradictory terms), or irony (expectation vs. reality) to eliminate incorrect options. Practice by listing examples of each figure to build familiarity.

3. Choose the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) Neither of the answers are correct.
- (B) Each of the boys have their own books.
- (C) The jury were divided in their opinions.
- (D) It is I who am responsible for the mistake.

Correct Answer: (D) It is I who am responsible for the mistake.

Solution: To determine the grammatically correct sentence, we need to evaluate each option for proper subject-verb agreement, pronoun case, and grammatical structure.

- **Step 1: Analyze Option A: “Neither of the answers are correct.”**

- **Subject-verb agreement:** “Neither” is a singular indefinite pronoun, meaning “not one” of two. It requires a singular verb.
- **Error:** “Are” is plural, but “Neither” needs “is.”
- **Correct form:** “Neither of the answers is correct.”
- **Conclusion:** Option A is incorrect due to incorrect verb agreement.

- **Step 2: Analyze Option B: “Each of the boys have their own books.”**

- **Subject-verb agreement:** “Each” is a singular indefinite pronoun, referring to one boy at a time, requiring a singular verb.
- **Error:** “Have” is plural, but “Each” needs “has.”
- **Pronoun agreement:** “Their” is plural, but since “Each” is singular, the pronoun should be singular (e.g., “his” if boys are male).
- **Correct form:** “Each of the boys has his own book.” (Assuming male boys; otherwise, “their” could be acceptable in modern usage for gender neutrality, but “have” remains incorrect.)
- **Conclusion:** Option B is incorrect due to verb and potential pronoun agreement errors.

- **Step 3: Analyze Option C: “The jury were divided in their opinions.”**

- **Subject-verb agreement:** "Jury" is a collective noun, typically singular when acting as a unit (e.g., "The jury has decided"). However, when emphasizing individual members, a plural verb can be used, especially in British English or when the context highlights individual actions (e.g., "divided in their opinions").
 - **Pronoun agreement:** "Their" is consistent with a plural interpretation of "jury" as individuals.
 - **Context:** In American English, "jury" typically takes a singular verb ("The jury was divided in its opinions"). In British English or specific contexts, "were" is acceptable. Without explicit context, singular is standard in formal American English.
 - **Conclusion:** Option C is potentially correct in some contexts but questionable in strict formal grammar, as "was" is preferred for a jury as a unit.
- **Step 4: Analyze Option D: "It is I who am responsible for the mistake."**
 - **Pronoun case:** In the structure "It is I," "I" is the predicate nominative, correctly using the subjective case after a linking verb ("is").
 - **Subject-verb agreement in relative clause:** The relative pronoun "who" refers to "I," which is singular and first person. The verb "am" agrees with "I."
 - **Structure:** The sentence is a cleft construction emphasizing "I" as the one responsible. It is grammatically correct, though formal ("It is I" is often replaced by "It is me" in informal speech, but "I" is correct in formal grammar).
 - **Conclusion:** Option D is grammatically correct.
 - **Step 5: Compare and select.** Options A and B have clear subject-verb agreement errors. Option C is contextually debatable due to the collective noun "jury" typically taking a singular verb in formal American English. Option D is fully correct with proper pronoun case and verb agreement. Thus, D is the best choice.

Thus, the grammatically correct sentence is "It is I who am responsible for the mistake."

Quick Tip

For grammar problems, check subject-verb agreement, especially with indefinite pronouns (e.g., "neither," "each" are singular) and collective nouns (e.g., "jury" is usually singular in American English). Verify pronoun case (e.g., subjective "I" after linking verbs like "is"). Read each option carefully, and consider formal grammar rules unless the context specifies otherwise.

4. Read the sentence and answer the question: "Not only did he forget my birthday, but he also ignored my calls the next day." Which of the following best describes the tone?

- (A) Indifferent
- (B) Appreciative
- (C) Resentful
- (D) Jubilant

Correct Answer: (C) Resentful

Solution: To determine the tone of the sentence, we analyze the emotions conveyed by the words and context.

- **Step 1: Understand the sentence.** The sentence states, "Not only did he forget my birthday, but he also ignored my calls the next day." It describes two negative actions: forgetting a birthday (a significant personal event) and ignoring calls (a further slight). The phrase "not only... but also" emphasizes the accumulation of these negative behaviors, suggesting emotional weight.
- **Step 2: Define tone.** Tone reflects the speaker's attitude or feelings toward the subject. Possible tones include emotions like anger, sadness, joy, or indifference. We need to identify which emotion aligns with the sentence.
- **Step 3: Analyze the emotional impact.** Forgetting a birthday is likely to cause hurt or disappointment, as it implies neglect of an important occasion. Ignoring calls the next day compounds this by suggesting deliberate avoidance. The speaker is likely upset or frustrated, pointing to a negative emotional tone.

- **Step 4: Evaluate the options.**

- **(A) Indifferent:** Implies a lack of concern or emotion. The sentence’s focus on negative actions suggests the speaker cares, ruling out indifference.
- **(B) Appreciative:** Implies gratitude or positivity, which doesn’t fit the negative context of forgetting and ignoring.
- **(C) Resentful:** Implies bitterness or anger due to perceived wrongs, which aligns with the hurt and frustration of being forgotten and ignored.
- **(D) Jubilant:** Implies joy or celebration, which is the opposite of the sentence’s negative tone.

- **Step 5: Confirm the tone.** The use of “not only... but also” highlights the speaker’s grievance, suggesting resentment—a feeling of being wronged or slighted. The tone is not overtly angry but carries a sense of bitterness, making “resentful” the best fit.

Thus, the tone of the sentence is resentful.

Quick Tip

To identify tone, focus on the emotional impact of the words and context. Look for clues like negative or positive language, emphasis (e.g., “not only... but also”), or specific actions that suggest feelings like anger, joy, or disappointment. Eliminate options that don’t match the emotional context, and choose the tone that best captures the speaker’s attitude. Practice by analyzing sentences for implied emotions.

5. Rearrange the following parts to form a coherent sentence:

P. leading to better decision-making

Q. Emotional intelligence

R. is crucial in professional environments

S. as it helps in understanding others

(A) Q-R-S-P

(B) Q-S-P-R

(C) R-Q-S-P

(D) Q-R-P-S

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

Solution: To form a coherent sentence, we need to arrange the parts (P, Q, R, S) logically to ensure grammatical correctness and clear meaning.

- **Step 1: Identify the parts.**

- P: leading to better decision-making (a participial phrase, likely a result or consequence).
- Q: Emotional intelligence (a noun phrase, likely the subject).
- R: is crucial in professional environments (a predicate with a verb and context).
- S: as it helps in understanding others (a subordinate clause explaining a reason).

- **Step 2: Determine the subject and predicate.** Q ("Emotional intelligence") is a noun phrase, suitable as the subject. R ("is crucial in professional environments") contains the verb "is" and completes the main clause, suggesting Q-R forms the core sentence: "Emotional intelligence is crucial in professional environments."

- **Step 3: Place the subordinate clause.** S ("as it helps in understanding others") starts with "as," indicating a reason or cause. It logically follows Q-R to explain why emotional intelligence is crucial, forming: "Emotional intelligence is crucial in professional environments as it helps in understanding others."

- **Step 4: Place the participial phrase.** P ("leading to better decision-making") describes a result. It fits logically after S, as understanding others (S) can lead to better decision-making (P). The full sentence becomes: "Emotional intelligence is crucial in professional environments as it helps in understanding others, leading to better decision-making."

- **Step 5: Match with options.** The order Q-R-S-P corresponds to option (A) Let's test other options:

- **(B) Q-S-P-R:** "Emotional intelligence as it helps in understanding others leading to better decision-making is crucial..." This is incoherent, as the verb "is" comes too late.

- (C) **R-Q-S-P**: Starts with "is crucial...", lacking a subject, making it ungrammatical.
- (D) **Q-R-P-S**: "Emotional intelligence is crucial in professional environments leading to better decision-making as it helps in understanding others." This is less logical, as the reason (S) should precede the result (P).
- **Step 6: Verify coherence.** The sentence "Emotional intelligence is crucial in professional environments as it helps in understanding others, leading to better decision-making" is grammatically correct and logically flows: Q (subject), R (predicate), S (reason), P (result).

Thus, the correct arrangement is Q-R-S-P, forming the sentence "Emotional intelligence is crucial in professional environments as it helps in understanding others, leading to better decision-making."

Quick Tip

For sentence rearrangement, identify the subject (noun phrase) and predicate (verb phrase) to form the main clause. Look for subordinate clauses (e.g., starting with "as" or "because") or phrases that provide reasons or results, and place them logically. Ensure the sentence flows naturally by testing the arrangement for grammatical and semantic coherence. Practice by breaking down complex sentences into parts and rebuilding them.

6. Rearrange the following parts to form a meaningful sentence:

P. when heated

Q. expands

R. like most other materials

S. metal

(A) S-R-Q-P

(B) R-S-P-Q

(C) S-Q-R-P

(D) S-R-Q-P

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

Solution: To form a meaningful sentence, we need to arrange the parts (P, Q, R, S) to ensure grammatical correctness and logical sense.

- **Step 1: Identify the parts.**
 - P: when heated (an adverbial clause indicating condition or time).
 - Q: expands (a verb, likely the main action).
 - R: like most other materials (a prepositional phrase, likely a modifier).
 - S: metal (a noun, likely the subject).
- **Step 2: Determine the subject and predicate.** S ("metal") is a noun, suitable as the subject. Q ("expands") is a verb, forming the predicate. Combining S and Q gives: "Metal expands," a simple main clause.
- **Step 3: Place the modifier.** R ("like most other materials") is a comparative phrase that modifies the subject "metal." It logically fits after "metal" to clarify that metal behaves similarly to other materials: "Metal, like most other materials, expands."
- **Step 4: Place the conditional clause.** P ("when heated") is an adverbial clause that specifies when the action (expands) occurs. It fits at the end of the sentence to complete the meaning: "Metal, like most other materials, expands when heated"
- **Step 5: Match with options.** The order S-R-Q-P corresponds to option (A) Let's test other options:
 - **(B) R-S-P-Q:** "Like most other materials metal when heated expands." This is ungrammatical, as it lacks proper punctuation and structure.
 - **(C) S-Q-R-P:** "Metal expands like most other materials when heated" This is possible but less natural, as "like most other materials" modifies "metal" and is better placed closer to it.
 - **(D) S-R-Q-P:** Identical to A, suggesting a possible typo in the original options (D should differ). Assuming D is a duplicate, A is correct.

- **Step 6: Verify coherence.** The sentence "Metal, like most other materials, expands when heated" is grammatically correct and logical: S (subject), R (modifier), Q (verb), P (condition). The commas around "like most other materials" clarify it as a non-essential phrase.

Thus, the correct arrangement is S-R-Q-P, forming the sentence "Metal, like most other materials, expands when heated"

Quick Tip

For sentence rearrangement, start with the subject (noun) and verb to form the main clause. Add modifiers (e.g., prepositional phrases) close to what they describe, and place conditional or temporal clauses (e.g., "when...") at the end unless they start the sentence. Test the arrangement for clarity and grammatical correctness, and use commas for non-essential phrases. Practice by rearranging similar sentences.

7. Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: "Beat around the bush"

- (A) To be direct and clear
- (B) To avoid the main topic
- (C) To encourage someone
- (D) To speak rudely

Correct Answer: (B) To avoid the main topic

Solution: To find the meaning of the idiom "beat around the bush," we need to understand its figurative use and match it to the options.

- **Step 1: Define the idiom.** "Beat around the bush" is a common idiom meaning to avoid addressing the main issue directly, often by talking about unrelated or less important matters. For example, if someone hesitates to give a direct answer and discusses side topics, they are "beating around the bush."
- **Step 2: Evaluate the options.**

- **(A) To be direct and clear:** This is the opposite of the idiom, which implies indirectness.
 - **(B) To avoid the main topic:** This matches the idiom’s meaning, as it describes evading the central point.
 - **(C) To encourage someone:** The idiom has no connotation of encouragement; it’s about avoidance.
 - **(D) To speak rudely:** The idiom doesn’t imply rudeness, only indirectness.
- **Step 3: Confirm with context.** Consider a sentence: ”Stop beating around the bush and tell me your decision.” This urges directness, confirming that the idiom means avoiding the main topic(C)
 - **Step 4: Eliminate incorrect options.** Options A, C, and D do not align with the idiom’s meaning, leaving B as the clear choice.

Thus, ”beat around the bush” means to avoid the main topic(C)

Quick Tip

Idioms have figurative meanings that differ from their literal words. To identify the correct meaning, recall common usage or context (e.g., “beat around the bush” implies dodging a topic). If unfamiliar, eliminate options that don’t fit the context of communication or behavior. Practice by learning common idioms and their meanings through examples.

8. What does the idiom “Bite the bullet” mean?

- (A) To face a difficult situation bravely
- (B) To give up under pressure
- (C) To criticize someone harshly
- (D) To act without thinking

Correct Answer: (A) To face a difficult situation bravely

Solution: To determine the meaning of the idiom "bite the bullet," we analyze its figurative use and match it to the options.

- **Step 1: Define the idiom.** "Bite the bullet" means to confront a difficult or unpleasant situation with courage and determination. It originates from historical contexts where soldiers might bite a bullet to endure pain during surgery without anesthesia(A) For example, "She bit the bullet and apologized despite her pride."
- **Step 2: Evaluate the options.**
 - (A) **To face a difficult situation bravely:** This matches the idiom's meaning of enduring hardship with courage.
 - (B) **To give up under pressure:** This is the opposite, as the idiom implies perseverance, not surrender.
 - (C) **To criticize someone harshly:** The idiom relates to personal endurance, not criticism.
 - (D) **To act without thinking:** The idiom suggests deliberate courage, not impulsive action.
- **Step 3: Confirm with context.** Consider a sentence: "He bit the bullet and took the challenging job(B)" This implies bravery in facing difficulty, supporting option (A)
- **Step 4: Eliminate incorrect options.** Options B, C, and D do not reflect the idiom's focus on courageously facing challenges, making A the correct choice.

Thus, "bite the bullet" means to face a difficult situation bravely.

Quick Tip

For idiom questions, understand the figurative meaning by recalling common usage or historical context. Test the idiom in a sentence to see which option aligns with its sense (e.g., courage, avoidance). Eliminate options unrelated to the idiom's theme, and practice by using idioms in sentences to reinforce their meanings.

9. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to: "Pernicious"

- (A) Innocent
- (B) Harmful
- (C) Temporary
- (D) Curious

Correct Answer: (B) Harmful

Solution: To find the word closest in meaning to "pernicious," we need to define it and compare it to the options.

- **Step 1: Define "pernicious."** "Pernicious" means having a harmful or destructive effect, often in a subtle or gradual way (e.g., "pernicious habits" that slowly damage health). It carries a strong negative connotation.
- **Step 2: Evaluate the options.**
 - (A) **Innocent:** Means harmless or free of guilt, the opposite of pernicious.
 - (B) **Harmful:** Means causing damage or injury, directly aligning with pernicious.
 - (C) **Temporary:** Refers to something short-lived, unrelated to harm or destruction.
 - (D) **Curious:** Means eager to know or inquisitive, unrelated to harm.
- **Step 3: Confirm with context.** Consider a sentence: "The pernicious influence of misinformation spread gradually." Replacing "pernicious" with "harmful" maintains the meaning, while other options (innocent, temporary, curious) do not fit.
- **Step 4: Check for nuances.** "Pernicious" often implies subtle or insidious harm, but "harmful" is the closest general synonym among the options. No other option conveys a similar negative impact.

Thus, the word closest in meaning to "pernicious" is "harmful."

Quick Tip

For vocabulary questions, define the word precisely, noting its connotation (positive, negative) and context. Test synonyms in a sentence to ensure they fit the original meaning. Eliminate options with unrelated meanings, and consider nuances (e.g., pernicious implies subtle harm). Build vocabulary by learning synonyms and antonyms for common words.

10. Identify the correct sentence structure:

- (A) Scarcely had she reached the station when the train was leaving.
- (B) Scarcely had she reached the station than the train was leaving.
- (C) Scarcely she had reached the station when the train left.
- (D) Scarcely had she reached the station when the train left.

Correct Answer: (D) Scarcely had she reached the station when the train left.

Solution: To identify the correct sentence structure, we need to evaluate each option for proper grammar, focusing on the use of "scarcely" and verb tense consistency.

- **Step 1: Understand the structure of "scarcely."** "Scarcely" is an adverb meaning "barely" or "just as." When it starts a sentence, it triggers inversion (verb before subject) and is typically followed by "when" to indicate a subsequent event. The correct structure is: "Scarcely had [subject] [past participle] when [event]."
- **Step 2: Analyze Option A: "Scarcely had she reached the station when the train was leaving."**
 - **Inversion:** "Scarcely had she reached" correctly uses inversion (had + subject + past participle).
 - **Conjunction:** "When" is appropriate to connect the events.
 - **Tense:** "Had reached" (past perfect) indicates an action completed before another past action, "was leaving" (past continuous). This suggests the train was in the process of leaving, which is possible but slightly less precise for a completed action.
 - **Conclusion:** Grammatically correct but potentially less precise in tense.

- **Step 3: Analyze Option B: "Scarcely had she reached the station than the train was leaving."**
 - **Conjunction:** "Scarcely" is followed by "when," not "than." "Than" is used with comparatives (e.g., "more than").
 - **Conclusion:** Incorrect due to wrong conjunction.
- **Step 4: Analyze Option C: "Scarcely she had reached the station when the train left."**
 - **Inversion:** "Scarcely she had reached" lacks inversion; it should be "Scarcely had she reached(D)"
 - **Conclusion:** Incorrect due to improper word order.
- **Step 5: Analyze Option D: "Scarcely had she reached the station when the train left."**
 - **Inversion:** "Scarcely had she reached" correctly uses inversion.
 - **Conjunction:** "When" is correct.
 - **Tense:** "Had reached" (past perfect) and "left" (simple past) indicate she reached the station just before the train departed, which is precise and logical.
 - **Conclusion:** Grammatically correct and precise in tense.
- **Step 6: Compare and select.** Option A is grammatically correct but uses "was leaving," which implies an ongoing action. Option D uses "left," suggesting a completed action, which better fits the context of missing the train. Options B and C have structural errors. Thus, D is the most correct.

Thus, the correct sentence is "Scarcely had she reached the station when the train left."

Quick Tip

For sentences starting with "scarcely," use the structure "Scarcely had [subject] [past participle] when [event]." Ensure inversion (verb before subject) and use "when" (not "than") to connect events. Check verb tenses for logical sequence (past perfect for the earlier action, simple past for the later). Practice similar structures with "hardly" or "no sooner."

11. Choose the best replacement for the underlined phrase: "He denied to have stolen the money."

- (A) denied having stole
- (B) denied having stolen
- (C) denied to stealing
- (D) denied he has stolen

Correct Answer: (B) denied having stolen

Solution: To find the best replacement for the underlined phrase "to have stolen" in "He denied to have stolen the money," we need to ensure proper verb form and grammar.

- **Step 1: Analyze the verb "deny."** The verb "deny" is typically followed by a gerund (verb + -ing) when referring to denying an action (e.g., "He denied stealing"). Alternatively, it can be followed by a noun or clause (e.g., "He denied the accusation"). The phrase "to have stolen" (infinitive) is incorrect after "deny."
- **Step 2: Evaluate the options.**
 - **(A) denied having stole:** "Having" is a gerund form, which is correct after "deny." However, "stole" is the simple past, while the perfect gerund requires the past participle "stolen" (having + past participle). This is incorrect.
 - **(B) denied having stolen:** "Having stolen" is the perfect gerund (having + past participle), correctly indicating a past action. This fits after "deny."
 - **(C) denied to stealing:** "To stealing" uses an infinitive structure, which is incorrect after "deny."

- **(D) denied he has stolen:** This uses a clause, which is possible (e.g., "He denied that he had stolen"). However, "has stolen" (present perfect) is incorrect for a past action; "had stolen" (past perfect) would be better. This option is less precise than (B)
- **Step 3: Confirm with the sentence.** Replacing with "having stolen" gives: "He denied having stolen the money," which is grammatically correct and means he denied the act of stealing. Testing B: "having stolen" uses the correct gerund form and past participle.
- **Step 4: Check for nuances.** The perfect gerund "having stolen" emphasizes the action occurred before the denial, which aligns with the context. Option B is the most precise and grammatically correct.

Thus, the best replacement is "having stolen."

Quick Tip

For verb usage questions, check the verb's required form (e.g., "deny" takes a gerund like "stealing" or "having stolen"). Use the perfect gerund (having + past participle) for past actions. Test each option in the sentence for grammatical fit, and eliminate incorrect verb forms (e.g., infinitive after "deny"). Practice identifying verbs that take gerunds vs. infinitives.

12. Read the sentence and infer the writer's tone: "The politician's speech was filled with lofty promises and little substance, a performance repeated every election season."

- (A) Optimistic
- (B) Satirical
- (C) Neutral
- (D) Euphemistic

Correct Answer: (B) Satirical

Solution: To determine the writer's tone, we analyze the emotional attitude conveyed by the sentence's word choice and context.

- **Step 1: Break down the sentence.** The sentence states, "The politician's speech was filled with lofty promises and little substance, a performance repeated every election season." Key phrases include:
 - "Lofty promises and little substance": Suggests the promises are grand but empty.
 - "A performance": Implies the speech is theatrical or insincere.
 - "Repeated every election season": Suggests a pattern of predictable, insincere behavior.
- **Step 2: Define tone.** Tone reflects the writer's attitude, such as approval, criticism, or neutrality. The negative phrasing suggests a critical or mocking attitude.
- **Step 3: Evaluate the options.**
 - **(A) Optimistic:** Implies hope or positivity, which doesn't fit the critical description of empty promises.
 - **(B) Satirical:** Involves irony or sarcasm to criticize or mock. The use of "lofty promises," "little substance," and "performance" suggests the writer is ridiculing the politician's insincerity, fitting satire.
 - **(C) Neutral:** Implies an objective, unemotional tone. The negative and judgmental language rules this out.
 - **(D) Euphemistic:** Involves mild or indirect language to soften a harsh truth. The sentence is direct in its criticism, not euphemistic.
- **Step 4: Confirm the tone.** The sentence uses irony (calling empty promises "lofty" and speeches a "performance") to mock a recurring political behavior, characteristic of satire. The tone is critical with a sarcastic edge, aligning with (B)

Thus, the writer's tone is satirical.

Quick Tip

To identify tone, analyze word choice and context for emotional cues (e.g., negative, positive, mocking). Satirical tone often uses irony or sarcasm to criticize. Compare options to the sentence's attitude, eliminating those that don't match (e.g., positive or neutral for critical sentences). Practice by identifying tones in opinion pieces or editorials.
