

CUET 2024 English Question Paper (Set-B) with Solutions

Read the given passage and answer the six questions that follow.

Coffee's genetic make-up is no trivial concern; 10 million tonnes of the crop were grown and sold in 2022–23. The coffee that we drink comes from two species: *Coffea Canephora*, which is also known as Robusta and *Coffea Arabica*, known as Arabica. In many cases, beans from the two species are blended to make a brew. But the beans of single species are also roasted and sold. Overall, Arabica beans represent around 56% of the world's coffee production. Most genetic variation in living organisms comes from hybridization with other species. However, this is a relatively rare event for *Coffea Arabica* because it has more than two copies of each chromosome — a phenomenon called polyploidy. *Coffea Canephora* has two copies of each chromosome, but *Coffea Arabica* contains multiple copies. This makes it much more difficult for Arabica to interbreed with other species. As a result, *Coffea Arabica*'s main source of single nucleotide variation is mutation, which occurs at a steady rate over time. However, the species is also relatively young, having formed as a hybrid of Robusta and *Coffea Eugenoides* — another coffee species that is not widely cultivated — within the past 50,000 years. From that single plant, which has basically no variation, you create the whole species, and then the variation is only the novel mutations that have occurred since that event. Despite this, there is substantial variation in the physical characteristics of the Arabica coffee plant, including different flavour profiles in the beans and variations in disease resistance, says emeritus geneticist Juan Medrano at the UC Davis Coffee Center at the University of California, Davis. “We’re always talking about low variability at the DNA level, but there is variability at the structural level, at the chromosomal level, at the level of deletions ... and insertions,” Medrano says.

Question 1: Which of the following statements is true about *Coffea Arabica*?

- (a) Hybridization is the main source of its genetic variation.
- (b) It has only two copies of each chromosome.
- (c) It displays the phenomenon of polyploidy.
- (d) It is easily interbred with other species.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) It displays the phenomenon of polyploidy.** *Coffea Arabica* is a polyploid species, which is a rare trait that contributes to its genetic diversity and unique flavor.

Quick Tip

Polyploidy refers to the presence of more than two sets of chromosomes, which is a distinguishing feature of *Coffea Arabica*.

Question 2: Which of the following varieties of coffee is the most sold in the world?

- (a) *Coffea Canephora*
- (b) *Coffea Arabica*
- (c) *Coffea Eugenoides*
- (d) A blend of *Coffea Canephora* and *Coffea Arabica*

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(2) *Coffea Arabica***. *Coffea Arabica* is the most popular variety of coffee sold worldwide due to its smooth flavor and lower caffeine content compared to other varieties.

Quick Tip

Arabica coffee is known for its mild and sweet flavor, making it the most preferred and widely sold coffee variety globally.

Question 3: Which of the following species of coffee has more than two copies of each chromosome?

- (a) Arabica
- (b) Robusta
- (c) *Coffea Eugenoides*
- (d) A blend of Arabica and Robusta

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) Arabica**. *Coffea Arabica* is a polyploid species, meaning it has more than two sets of chromosomes, making it genetically distinct from other coffee species.

Quick Tip

Arabica coffee is unique due to its polyploid nature, which contributes to its complex flavor profile.

Question 4: Which of the following species of coffee developed only in the last 50,000 years?

- (a) Coffea Canephora
- (b) Coffea Eugenoides
- (c) Arabica
- (d) Robusta

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) Arabica**. Coffea Arabica is a relatively recent species that developed through natural hybridization within the last 50,000 years.

Quick Tip

Coffea Arabica is believed to have originated from a hybridization event between two other species, making it a unique and newer species in evolutionary terms.

Question 5: Which of the following types of variability is not very high for Coffea Arabica?

- (a) Variability at the structural level.
- (b) Variability at the chromosomal level.
- (c) Variability at the level of deletions and insertions.
- (d) Variability at the DNA level.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(4) Variability at the DNA level**. Coffea Arabica is known for its low genetic variability at the DNA level, despite its polyploid nature.

Quick Tip

Although Coffea Arabica is genetically complex, its DNA variability is relatively low, which can affect its adaptability.

Question 6: Choose the statement that is factually incorrect from the options given below.

- (a) It is possible to roast the beans of a single species of coffee.
- (b) Two species of coffee can be blended to make a brew.

- (c) Due to its genetic make-up, novel mutations do not occur in the species *Coffea Arabica*.
- (d) Variations in disease resistance can be seen in the Arabica coffee plant.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) Due to its genetic make-up, novel mutations do not occur in the species *Coffea Arabica*.** This statement is incorrect because, while *Coffea Arabica* may have lower DNA variability, mutations can still occur in the species.

Quick Tip

Mutations can occur in any species, including *Coffea Arabica*, even if the overall genetic variability is low.

Question 7: Re-arrange the following phrases in the correct sequence to form a meaningful sentence.

- (A) created by human
- (B) collective cultural heritage
- (C) all languages
- (D) communities are our

- (a) (A), (B), (D), (C)
- (b) (B), (A), (D), (C)
- (c) (C), (A), (D), (B)
- (d) (D), (B), (C), (A)

Solution:

The correct sequence is: **(3) (C), (A), (D), (B).** The full sentence is: "All languages created by human communities are our collective cultural heritage."

Quick Tip

Look for the subject of the sentence first (in this case, "All languages") to guide the logical flow of the sentence.

Question 8: Fill in the blank with the correct option to form a meaningful sentence.

The Principal addressed us in the assembly and _____ the rumors of an early summer break.

- (a) defended
- (b) quashed
- (c) cleared
- (d) rebuked

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(2) quashed**. The Principal "quashed" the rumors, meaning he put an end to or dismissed the false information about an early summer break.

Quick Tip

"Quash" is commonly used when dismissing or putting an end to rumors or incorrect information.

Question 9: Complete the sentences given in List-I with the appropriate phrasal verbs given in List-II.

List-I (Sentences):

- (A) She was very _____ with him for his offensive remarks on women in politics.
- (B) I have plenty of interesting books to _____ to book lovers.
- (C) Strange that people easily _____ to temptation and ruin their reputation!
- (D) Rahul is trying to _____ on his smoking.

List-II (Phrasal Verbs):

- (I) give away
- (II) cut down
- (III) cut up
- (IV) give in

- (a) (A) - (III), (B) - (I), (C) - (IV), (D) - (II)
- (b) (A) - (II), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (III)
- (c) (A) - (I), (B) - (II), (C) - (IV), (D) - (III)
- (d) (A) - (III), (B) - (I), (C) - (IV), (D) - (II)

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) (A) - (III), (B) - (I), (C) - (IV), (D) - (II)**. - (A) "Cut up" means to be deeply upset or angry. - (B) "Give away" means to share or distribute freely. - (C) "Give in" means to surrender to something, such as temptation. - (D) "Cut down" means to reduce something, like smoking.

Quick Tip

Understanding phrasal verbs is important as they often have meanings different from the individual words. Practice using them in context.

Question 10: Complete the sentences given in List-I with the appropriate adverbs given in List-II.

List-I (Sentences):

- (A) I thought the restaurant would be expensive but it was _____ affordable.
- (B) It was a serious accident. But the car was _____ damaged.
- (C) The meeting was a disaster as it was very _____ organized.
- (D) Mira is gifted; she has the ability to learn any language _____.

List-II (Adverbs):

- (I) badly
- (II) reasonably
- (III) quickly
- (IV) hardly

- (a) (A) - (II), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (III)
- (b) (A) - (IV), (B) - (II), (C) - (III), (D) - (I)
- (c) (A) - (I), (B) - (II), (C) - (IV), (D) - (III)
- (d) (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II)

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) (A) - (II), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (III).** - (A) "Reasonably" means fairly affordable. - (B) "Hardly" means barely damaged. - (C) "Badly" indicates poor organization. - (D) "Quickly" describes fast learning.

Quick Tip

Adverbs help modify actions or conditions and are key in making sentences more descriptive.

Question 11: Choose the appropriate word pair to complete the sentence.

I didn't know Rahul was in the hospital. If I _____, I would _____ him.

- (a) knew, go

- (b) had known, have visited
- (c) have known, be going
- (d) know, had gone

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(2) had known, have visited**. The past perfect tense "had known" and "would have visited" form the correct conditional sentence.

Quick Tip

In conditional sentences, the past perfect ("had known") is followed by "would have" for events that did not happen in the past.

Question 12: Identify the option closest in meaning to the underlined word.

The movie star's biography is a glossy, sycophantic portrayal.

- (a) cowardly
- (b) domineering
- (c) flattering
- (d) insolent

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) flattering**. "Sycophantic" means excessively flattering or submissive, often to gain favor.

Quick Tip

"Sycophantic" is often used negatively to describe someone who flatters others to gain an advantage.

Question 13: Choose the correct antonym of the underlined word.

The Minister unleashed a compliment against the newspaper for its biased editorial on illiteracy among women in his constituency.

- (a) denunciation
- (b) endorsement
- (c) regulation
- (d) speculation

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) denunciation**. A "denunciation" is the opposite of a "compliment," as it means public condemnation of something.

Quick Tip

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings. In this case, "compliment" and "denunciation" are opposites.

Question 14: Choose the correct synonym for "redoubtable" from the options given below.

- (a) flimsy
- (b) perplexing
- (c) formidable
- (d) voluble

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) formidable**. "Redoubtable" means inspiring fear or respect, often due to being formidable.

Quick Tip

"Redoubtable" is a formal word often used to describe something or someone who commands respect due to strength or capability.

Question 15: Choose the correct antonym for "sullen" from the options given below.

- (a) morose
- (b) reticent
- (c) timid
- (d) genial

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(4) genial**. "Sullen" means gloomy or sulky, and the opposite of this is "genial," which means cheerful and friendly.

Quick Tip

"Genial" is a positive word often used to describe someone who is warm and friendly, the opposite of "sullen."

Question 16: Rearrange the following parts in the correct sequence to make a meaningful sentence.

- (A) are inborn but our
- (B) constituents of flavor, are learned
- (C) our responses to basic tastes
- (D) perceptions of smells, the main

- (a) (B), (D), (A), (C)
- (b) (A), (C), (B), (D)
- (c) (C), (A), (D), (B)
- (d) (C), (B), (D), (A)

Solution:

The correct sequence is: **(3) (C), (A), (D), (B)**. The sentence is: "Our responses to basic tastes are inborn, but our perceptions of smells, the main constituents of flavor, are learned."

Quick Tip

Start with the main idea or subject (in this case, "Our responses to basic tastes") to identify the correct sequence for sentence rearrangement.

Question 17: Match the words in List-I with their definitions in List-II.

List-I (Words):

- (a) (A) Theocracy
- (b) (B) Megalomania
- (c) (C) Apothecary
- (d) (D) Antiquarian

List-II (Definitions):

- (a) (I) One who keeps drugs for sale and puts up prescriptions
 - (b) (II) One who collects and studies objects or artistic works from the distant past
 - (c) (III) A government by divine guidance or religious leaders
 - (d) (IV) A morbid delusion of one's power, importance, or godliness
- (a) (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II)

- (b) (A) - (IV), (B) - (III), (C) - (II), (D) - (I)
(c) (A) - (I), (B) - (III), (C) - (IV), (D) - (II)
(d) (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (II), (D) - (I)

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II).** - (A) Theocracy: A government ruled by divine guidance or religious leaders. - (B) Megalomania: A morbid delusion of one's power or importance. - (C) Apothecary: A person who prepares and sells medicines. - (D) Antiquarian: A person who studies or collects objects from the distant past.

Quick Tip

When matching words, focus on key characteristics. For example, "Theocracy" refers to rule by religious leaders, and "Antiquarian" relates to ancient or old objects.

Question 18: Fill in the blank with the correct option.

A small _____ between two children ended up as a group fight.

- (a) altercation
(b) match
(c) contest
(d) race

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) altercation.** An "altercation" is a heated argument or disagreement, which makes sense in the context of a group fight. The other options are not suitable for this context.

Quick Tip

Use the word "altercation" when referring to a serious argument or verbal fight.

Question 19: Re-arrange the following phrases in the right sequence to form a meaningful sentence.

- (A) for seven hours but was hardly
(B) because of the absence of any motivation
(C) able to decide who the murderer was
(D) she worked on the case

- (a) (A), (C), (D), (B)
- (b) (D), (A), (C), (B)
- (c) (D), (C), (B), (A)
- (d) (A), (B), (C), (D)

Solution:

The correct sequence is: (D), (A), (C), (B). The sentence would be: "She worked on the case for seven hours but was hardly able to decide who the murderer was because of the absence of any motivation." This sentence makes the most logical sense.

Quick Tip

To solve sentence rearrangement questions, identify the subject and the main clause first. In this case, "She worked on the case" is the starting point.

Question 20: Fill in the blank with the correct option.

The candidate assured the interviewers that the dip in her grades during her second semester was an _____ since she had always been a top scorer in the first semester.

- (a) anomaly
- (b) allay
- (c) adage
- (d) abatement

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) anomaly**. "Anomaly" means something that deviates from the norm. The candidate is explaining that the dip in her grades was an unusual occurrence, as she had previously been a top scorer.

Quick Tip

Use the word "anomaly" to describe something irregular or out of the ordinary.

Question 21: Replace the underlined word with the most appropriate SYNONYM.

For some time now, we've been toying with the idea of transferring all our business from physical to online sales only.

- (a) launch
- (b) showing
- (c) considering
- (d) careful

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) considering**. "Toying with" in this context means thinking or considering an idea. The word "launch" means to start something, and "showing" and "careful" do not fit in this context.

Quick Tip

When replacing synonyms, always ensure that the word fits naturally into the context of the sentence.

Question 22: Select the word opposite in meaning to the underlined word.

At first the workers were agreeable to the proposals of their Manager, but later they were reconciled to the new proposals.

- (a) resistant
- (b) estranged
- (c) cooperate
- (d) agreed

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) resistant**. "Agreeable" means willing to agree or accept something. The opposite of this would be "resistant," meaning unwilling to accept.

Quick Tip

When looking for antonyms (opposites), consider the root meaning of the word to find the best contrast.

Question 23: Complete the sentences given in List-I with the appropriate words given in List-II.

List-I (Sentences):

(A) She was able to give a _____ explanation in the court for her presence near the crime scene.

- (B) The Rockland Hospital _____ with AIIMS to conduct a free cancer screening camp.
- (C) Though she has shown only 4% improvement in achieving her target yet her efforts are _____.
- (D) The doctors give the prognosis by _____ their diagnosis with several tests.

List-II (Words):

- (I) collaborated
(II) corroborated
(III) credible
(IV) creditable

- (a) (A) - (III), (B) - (I), (C) - (IV), (D) - (II)
(b) (A) - (I), (B) - (II), (C) - (III), (D) - (IV)
(c) (A) - (III), (B) - (II), (C) - (IV), (D) - (I)
(d) (A) - (II), (B) - (III), (C) - (I), (D) - (IV)

Solution:

The correct matching is: **(1) (A) - (III), (B) - (I), (C) - (IV), (D) - (II).** - (A) "Credible" refers to an explanation that is believable. - (B) "Collaborated" means worked together with AIIMS. - (C) "Creditable" refers to an effort that deserves praise. - (D) "Corroborated" refers to confirming the diagnosis with tests.

Quick Tip

For sentence completion, always focus on the meaning of the words in the context of the sentence.

Question 24: Fill in the blank with the correct option.

Most of the guests arrived for the concert _____ bus.

- (a) by
(b) with
(c) from
(d) through

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) by.** The preposition "by" is used to indicate the means of transportation. Therefore, "by bus" is the correct phrasing.

Quick Tip

Use "by" when referring to modes of transportation, such as "by car," "by train," etc.

Question 25: Choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined word.

Why did you make that flippant remark about her choice of clothes?

- (a) sarcastic
- (b) disrespectful
- (c) casual
- (d) indifferent

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(2) disrespectful**. "Flippant" refers to a remark that shows a lack of respect or seriousness. While "casual" and "indifferent" might seem similar, "disrespectful" best matches the tone implied by "flippant."

Quick Tip

"Flippant" is often used to describe comments or remarks that are dismissive or lacking in respect.

Question 26: Select the word opposite in meaning to the underlined word.

The thief showed his disbelief when informed that his partner had been arrested.

- (a) displayed
- (b) concealed
- (c) battled
- (d) marked

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(2) concealed**. "Disbelief" means expressing doubt or surprise, and the opposite would be "concealed," which means hiding one's emotions.

Quick Tip

When searching for antonyms, think about the context and how the meaning of the word changes in relation to the situation.

Question 27: Fill in the blank with the correct option.

The President finally had to _____ the demands of the public for his resignation.

- (a) ignore
- (b) initiate
- (c) accede to
- (d) condone

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) accede to**. "Accede to" means to give in to or accept something, often after resistance. The President eventually had to agree to the public's demands for his resignation.

Quick Tip

"Accede to" is typically used in formal contexts when someone finally agrees to a demand or request after initial resistance.

Question 28: Re-arrange the following parts of a sentence in their correct sequence to form a meaningful sentence.

- (A) for organizations which provide
- (B) services to customers on a face-to-face basis,
- (C) employees with whom they deal is very important
- (D) the quality of the relationship between customers and

- (a) (A), (B), (D), (C)
- (b) (C), (A), (B), (D)
- (c) (B), (D), (A), (C)
- (d) (D), (A), (C), (B)

Solution:

The correct order is: **(D), (A), (C), (B)**. The complete sentence is: "The quality of the relationship between customers and employees with whom they deal is very important for organizations which provide services to customers on a face-to-face basis."

Quick Tip

When rearranging sentences, try identifying the subject first to find the logical starting point.

Question 29: Re-arrange the following parts of a sentence in their correct sequence to form a meaningful sentence.

- (A) as a concept fundamental to
- (B) especially with the injunction to treat equals equally
- (C) justice is associated with the notion of equity and equality,
- (D) ethical theory and political philosophy,

- (a) (D), (B), (C), (A)
- (b) (C), (A), (B), (D)
- (c) (B), (A), (D), (C)
- (d) (A), (D), (C), (B)

Solution:

The correct sequence is: **(C), (A), (B), (D)**. The sentence would be: "Justice is associated with the notion of equity and equality, especially with the injunction to treat equals equally as a concept fundamental to ethical theory and political philosophy."

Quick Tip

Start with the subject and then arrange the remaining parts based on their logical flow to form a coherent sentence.

Question 30: Match the idioms in List-I with their meanings in List-II.

- List-I (Idioms):** (A) blow the gaff
(B) at the end of your tether
(C) be full of beans
(D) want to curl up and die

- List-II (Meanings):** (I) feel unable to deal with something
(II) feel terribly ashamed and embarrassed
(III) divulge a secret
(IV) be full of energy

- (a) (A) - (III), (B) - (I), (C) - (IV), (D) - (II)
 (b) (A) - (II), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (III)
 (c) (A) - (IV), (B) - (I), (C) - (II), (D) - (III)
 (d) (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II)

Solution:

The correct matching is: (1) (A) - (III), (B) - (I), (C) - (IV), (D) - (II). - (A) "Blow the gaff" means to reveal a secret. - (B) "At the end of your tether" means feeling unable to cope anymore. - (C) "Be full of beans" means to be full of energy. - (D) "Want to curl up and die" means feeling extreme embarrassment or shame.

Quick Tip

Focus on the common meaning of each idiom. For example, "full of beans" always implies energy, while "blow the gaff" relates to revealing something.

Question 31: Match the blanks in List-I with the prepositions in List-II.

List-I (Sentences):

- (A) The edited version of her article is indistinguishable _____ her first version.
 (B) I just don't feel any affinity _____ his prose style. It's too caustic.
 (C) Her ideas are not all that dissimilar _____ mine.
 (D) It would be wrong to mistake his diffidence _____ his arrogance or coldness.

List-II (Prepositions): (I) with

- (II) to
 (III) for
 (IV) from

- (a) (A) - (IV), (B) - (II), (C) - (I), (D) - (III)
 (b) (A) - (I), (B) - (III), (C) - (II), (D) - (IV)
 (c) (A) - (IV), (B) - (I), (C) - (III), (D) - (II)
 (d) (A) - (III), (B) - (IV), (C) - (I), (D) - (II)

Solution:

The correct matching is: (1) (A) - (IV), (B) - (II), (C) - (I), (D) - (III). - (A) "Indistinguishable from" means it is hard to tell the difference between two

things. - (B) "Affinity to" refers to a connection or attraction towards something. - (C) "Dissimilar with" refers to a lack of similarity between two things. - (D) "Mistake for" means to incorrectly assume something.

Quick Tip

Prepositions are tricky but essential. Learn common phrases such as "mistake for" and "indistinguishable from" to remember correct usage.

Question 32: Re-arrange the parts in their correct sequence to form a meaningful sentence.

- (A) students with tools for critical thinking
- (B) cooperative learning is an
- (C) that enhances creativity and provides
- (D) eclectic and unique teaching method

- (a) (A), (C), (B), (D)
- (b) (B), (D), (C), (A)
- (c) (B), (A), (D), (C)
- (d) (C), (B), (D), (A)

Solution:

The correct sequence is: **(2) (B), (D), (C), (A)**. The full sentence is: "Cooperative learning is an eclectic and unique teaching method that enhances creativity and provides students with tools for critical thinking."

Quick Tip

When re-arranging, look for the main subject (in this case, "cooperative learning") and follow the sentence logically from there.

Read the given passage and answer the six questions that follow.

When I was in my late teens and still undecided about which language I should write in, he told me that the language one is born into, one's mother tongue, can be the only possible medium of creative expression. For most of his life, my father, Sripat Rai, had been a Hindi editor and critic. Off and on, he translated writings into English from Hindi. He was fond of saying that a failed writer becomes a critic. The weight of his literary expectation came, eventually, to rest on me. He seemed happy that I was showing an inclination for writing. "She will go far," he told my mother after reading the first story that I sent him from Melbourne. My father's pronouncement on the mother tongue stayed with me when I later started

writing fiction in Hindi. Another thing that I barely acknowledged even to myself was that I felt something like shame whenever I thought of writing in English. It seemed wrong for a granddaughter of Premchand even to be thinking so. Our family had a certain linguistic pride. I knew that Premchand was famous, but I had not at that time realised the extent of his popularity. The fact that I was the granddaughter of Premchand, followed me everywhere. Everyone had a story to tell about their personal engagement with his fiction — the shopkeeper, the long time cook in my father's Delhi house, a tea vendor, etc. The list was long, for there was practically no one who had not read something by him that had moved them. However, it was this very ubiquity, the reverence and love that he inspired in people, that made of him something too large for me to comprehend in the early years of my life. It led also to the strange feeling that, without having read him and just by being related to him, I had somehow inhaled his writing. The reading happened much later.

Question 33: The author grew up with the expectation that she would take up _____.

- (a) editorship of a magazine
- (b) translation of literary pieces
- (c) creative writing
- (d) the job of a critic

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) creative writing**. The context of the passage suggests that the author had familial and cultural expectations pushing her toward creative writing.

Quick Tip

Look for clues in the passage that highlight what expectations were set for the author to infer the correct answer.

Question 34: When her father said, “She will go far,” he meant that _____.

- (a) she will travel widely
- (b) she will achieve great heights in life
- (c) she will go too far, one of these days
- (d) she will settle in a far-off place

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(2) she will achieve great heights in life.** The phrase "go far" in this context is a metaphor for achieving success and greatness.

Quick Tip

Phrases like "go far" are often idiomatic and refer to achievements rather than literal distance.

Question 35: Choose a statement which is not true with respect to the passage:

- (a) The author felt pressurized to write in Hindi because of her father.
- (b) She felt obligated to carry on the legacy of Premchand.
- (c) Her family was chauvinistic about the English language.
- (d) She was in awe of the extensive reach of her grandfather's writings.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) Her family was chauvinistic about the English language.** There is no indication in the passage that her family was chauvinistic about English. The passage focuses on her struggle with Hindi and carrying on the family legacy.

Quick Tip

When answering questions about a passage, focus on direct statements made in the text. Eliminate any options that are not explicitly mentioned.

Question 36: Premchand became too large for her to understand mainly because of _____.

- (a) the societal expectations around his legacy.
- (b) the complex language in his works.
- (c) his far-reaching influence and impact.
- (d) her emotional connection to his work.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) his far-reaching influence and impact.** The passage describes how Premchand's wide influence made it difficult for the author to fully grasp his significance.

Quick Tip

Focus on key ideas mentioned in the passage, such as the "far-reaching influence," to select the correct option.

Question 37: "Inhaled his writing" refers to _____.

- (a) imbibing his style subconsciously
- (b) being compelled to write like him
- (c) being influenced by what people said about him
- (d) her father's expectation from her

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) imbibing his style subconsciously**. "Inhaled his writing" is a metaphorical way of saying that the author absorbed her grandfather's style of writing naturally.

Quick Tip

Metaphorical phrases like "inhaled his writing" are best understood in terms of their symbolic meaning, not literally.

Question 38: Choose the correct meaning of the word "Ubiquity" as it appears in the passage:

- (a) Occasional
- (b) Restricted
- (c) Omnipresence
- (d) Unwanted

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) Omnipresence**. "Ubiquity" refers to the state of being everywhere or widespread, which is how the word is used in the passage.

Quick Tip

The word "ubiquity" is commonly used to describe something that is present everywhere, such as technology in the modern world.

Read the given passage and answer the six questions that follow.

Free will is the ability to decide and act free from any influence of past events or environment. It implies complete freedom to make any choice absolutely. We clearly don't have free will. Our decisions and actions are never divorced from our past. We have a conditioned mind. Our memories, past impressions and experiences bias and shape our thoughts and actions in the present. It is our karmic imprint. Not just what we are born with, but also what we accumulate while living. We can consider it as the result of our genetic code, upbringing and environment. It's our backstory. The only way to experience free will is to get rid of all such conditioning; to neutralise our karmic imprint; to be independent of our psychological coding. That's possible only if we can purify our mind by letting go of all our ego, attachments and fixed beliefs. Then we can reside in the truth of our being.

The above is an exacting definition of free will. What we commonly mean by free will is that we have a choice in most situations like, who you choose to marry, what profession you pursue or how you react to someone's aggression. Sounds reasonable. But here's the catch. Our ability to make that choice too is significantly restricted, dictated by our predispositions. This applies even to our ability to bring about change within ourselves. Despite a strong resolve to be calmer, kinder or less anxious, our ability to manifest that change depends, partly on our emotional and mental wiring. That's why some people succeed in such efforts more than the others. If you wish to expand the scope of your agency, explore ways to engage in sustained inner work, deepen your self-awareness, examine and reform your conditioned beliefs. But then, I wonder if your inclination to embark on that journey too depends on your current karmic coding

Question 39: The author argues that humans don't have "free will" because _____.

- (a) our decisions are shaped by past events and environmental influences.
- (b) we are born with pre-determined choices that we are forced to make.
- (c) we are always dictated by our mind to make irrational choices.
- (d) human beings are born slaves of social constructs and expectations.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) our decisions are shaped by past events and environmental influences.** The author explains that free will is limited because our actions are influenced by prior experiences and the environment around us.

Quick Tip

"Free will" refers to the ability to make choices independently, but the passage argues that influences beyond our control often limit it.

Question 40: “Karmic imprint” referred to in the passage implies _____.

- (a) the ability to bring about change in oneself.
- (b) our genetic code, upbringing, and environment.
- (c) the truth of our being, our individuality.
- (d) the wrongdoings and vices of our past lives.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(2) our genetic code, upbringing, and environment.** The “karmic imprint” in the passage refers to the influences that shape who we are, including genetics and upbringing.

Quick Tip

The term “karmic” often refers to the consequences of past actions, but in this context, it relates to the factors that shape a person’s life.

Question 41: “Free will” can be experienced if _____.

- (a) we embrace our past experiences and conditioning.
- (b) we make choices without considering the consequences.
- (c) we let go of our ego, attachments, and fixed beliefs.
- (d) we accumulate more and more karmic imprints.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) we let go of our ego, attachments, and fixed beliefs.** According to the passage, free will can only be experienced when one detaches from external influences and internal biases.

Quick Tip

To experience true “free will,” the passage suggests that one must let go of preconceptions and emotional attachments.

Question 42: The author proves that the idea of “free will” is a myth by suggesting that _____.

- (a) our ability to make a choice is restricted by our predispositions.

- (b) we are unable to bring a change in ourselves.
- (c) our choices are solely guided by the current environment.
- (d) our choices are completely independent of past events and our genetic code.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) our ability to make a choice is restricted by our predispositions.** The author argues that free will is limited because people are guided by their past experiences, genetics, and environment.

Quick Tip

The concept of free will being a "myth" stems from the idea that external and internal influences predetermine our choices.

Question 43: What does the author propose as a means to expand the scope of one's agency?

- (a) Making choices frequently and impulsively.
- (b) Engaging in sustained inner work and self-awareness.
- (c) Holding on to fixed beliefs and stringent mindsets.
- (d) Ignoring one's past experiences and dispositions.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(2) Engaging in sustained inner work and self-awareness.** The passage suggests that self-awareness and introspection allow individuals to expand their sense of agency.

Quick Tip

Self-awareness and mindfulness are highlighted as key practices for expanding free will in this passage.

Question 44: What do you think could be a suitable title for this passage?

- (a) Definition of "Free Will".
- (b) Our backstory – key to a successful life.
- (c) Do human beings really have "Free Will"?
- (d) Making Choices – Every Man's Prerogative!

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) Do human beings really have “Free Will”?** This title reflects the main theme of the passage, which questions the existence of true free will.

Quick Tip

When choosing a title for a passage, focus on the central argument or question the passage addresses.

Read the given passage and answer the six questions that follow.

On a chilly winter evening, nothing warms you up better than a cup of hot cocoa. Chocolate was first consumed in liquid form by the Olmec people of northwestern Central America around 1500 BCE. It was even enjoyed by the Aztec Emperor Montezuma, and the Aztec word for it (xocolatl, pronounced shoh-kwah-tl) evolved into the English word Chocolate. But the Aztecs didn't serve their cocoa hot. And since sugar had not yet arrived from Europe, back then, the drink was often flavoured with peppers and spices. It may not have been quite as indulgent as today's version, but it was more palatable if you believed, as the Aztecs did, that chocolate was a gift from the Gods and had healing properties. After the Spanish arrived in the Americas in the 1500s, liquid chocolate made its way across the pond, where wealthy Europeans added sugar and drank it warm. In *Chocolate: History, Culture and Heritage*, author Bertram Gordon says hot chocolate became “the beverage of the aristocracy,” as sugar was still a luxury. Soon enough, though, hot chocolate caught on with the masses. Chocolate houses — a cross between cafes and casinos — started popping up around 17th-century Europe. In these lively places, hot chocolate was poured from gilded pots into elegant cups (for a posh experience, one can still find it today at the famed Parisian tearoom Angelina's, which is also in New York City). But by the end of the 18th century, chocolate houses had mostly died off, partly because the cost of chocolate was much higher than that of coffee or tea. Taking a tour of international cups of cocoa, Italians serve it like a thick pudding. Colombians serve it with a dollop of soft cheese while Mexicans punch it up with vanilla, chilli powder and cinnamon. And Filipinos serve it with mango chunks.

Question 45: Cocoa was first introduced by the _____.

- (a) American people.
- (b) Olmec people.
- (c) Aztec people.
- (d) Spanish people.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(2) Olmec people**. Cocoa was first introduced by the Olmec civilization, who are considered the first to cultivate the cacao plant.

Quick Tip

The Olmec were one of the earliest Mesoamerican civilizations, known for their significant contributions to agriculture, including the cultivation of cacao.

Question 46: The Aztec people made their cocoa palatable by _____.

- (a) serving it cold.
- (b) adding sugar to the drink.
- (c) spiking it with spices.
- (d) drinking it as a medicine.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) spiking it with spices**. The Aztec people made their cocoa drink more flavorful by adding various spices, including chili, to make it more palatable.

Quick Tip

Cocoa was a sacred drink for the Aztecs, and it was often spiced with chili peppers and other local ingredients, making it a savory beverage.

Question 47: Why did hot chocolate become “the beverage of the aristocracy” in Europe?

- (a) The essential ingredient was out of reach of the commoners.
- (b) The Queen had a marked chocolate maker.
- (c) Only wealthy Europeans could buy it.
- (d) It was being consumed by the pharma companies.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(1) The essential ingredient was out of reach of the commoners**. Cocoa was expensive and difficult to acquire, making hot chocolate a luxury item that was only available to the wealthy elite in Europe.

Quick Tip

Luxury items such as chocolate, tea, and coffee were often reserved for the upper classes in Europe due to their high cost and limited availability.

Question 48: The Chocolate Houses didn't survive past the 18th century as _____.

- (a) people preferred tea/coffee to hot chocolate.
- (b) it catered to the not-so-elite of society.
- (c) chocolate was costlier than tea or coffee.
- (d) the supply of cocoa dwindled over the years.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) chocolate was costlier than tea or coffee.** The high cost of chocolate, compared to other beverages like tea or coffee, contributed to the decline of Chocolate Houses.

Quick Tip

Tea and coffee eventually became more affordable and popular than chocolate, leading to the decline of establishments that primarily served hot chocolate.

Question 49: Choose the correct statement from the following.

- (a) Italians serve hot chocolate flavored with spices.
- (b) Mexicans serve hot chocolate topped with a dollop of cream.
- (c) Colombians serve hot chocolate topped with a dollop of cheese.
- (d) Filipinos serve hot chocolate flavored with peppers.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(3) Colombians serve hot chocolate topped with a dollop of cheese.** In Colombia, it is common to serve hot chocolate with cheese, which melts into the drink for a unique flavor combination.

Quick Tip

Different cultures have unique ways of preparing hot chocolate. In Colombia, adding cheese to hot chocolate is a traditional practice.

Question 50: Choose the correct meaning of the underlined expression in the following sentence:

“Soon enough, though, hot chocolate caught on with the masses.”

- (a) was readily available in cafes.
- (b) became popular among the commoners.
- (c) hot chocolate did not appeal to people.
- (d) masses got attracted to the rich experience of drinking hot chocolate.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(2) became popular among the commoners.** The phrase “caught on” means that hot chocolate became popular, especially among people who previously could not afford it.

Quick Tip

The phrase “caught on” refers to something becoming popular or widely accepted.