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Combined Defence Services Exam.

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English

Synonyms

Directions—(Q. 1-10) In this section, you find a number of sentences, parts of which are underlined. For each underlined part, four words/phrases are listed below. Choose the word/phrase nearest in meaning to the underlined part and blacken the corresponding space on the Answer Sheet.

1. She is a woman of sterling qualities.
(A) interesting (B) genuine
(C) irritating (D) exciting
2. Although the boys in his class were naughty, he never resorted to corporal punishment.
(A) harsh (B) physical
(C) unjust (D) general
3. He wanted to mitigate his burdens.
(A) lessen (B) increase
(C) postpone (D) leave
4. She adjusted quite well with her husband's idiosyncrasies.
(A) peculiar habits (B) bad habits
(C) weaknesses (D) stupid manners
5. The Deputy Inspector General made a perfunctory inspection of the police station.
(A) thorough and complete
(B) superficial
(C) done as a routine but without interest
(D) intensive
6. The decision to drop the atom bomb on Hiroshima was a grave one.
(A) serious (B) momentous
(C) instinctive (D) impulsive
7. A scientist generally carries out his investigations empirically.
(A) intuitively

- (B) verbally
(C) through written communication
(D) by observation and experiment
8. He is employed in an ordnance factory.
(A) orthodox
(B) arms and ammunition
(C) electrical and electronic
(D) ordinary and common
9. He is sycophant who tries to win over politicians.
(A) a psychologist
(B) an opportunist
(C) an unscrupulous man
(D) a flatterer
10. I cannot believe in the veracity of his statement.
(A) truth (B) usefulness
(C) sincerity (D) falsity

Antonyms

Directions—(Q. 11-20) In this section, each item consists of a word or a phrase which is underlined in the sentence given. It is followed by four words or phrases. Select the word or phrase which is closest to the opposite in meaning of the underlined word or phrase.

11. Kapil's bowling yesterday proved very costly.
(A) economical (B) frugal
(C) thrifty (D) expensive
12. I cannot see much likeness between the two boys.
(A) enmity (B) hatred
(C) difference (D) dislike

13. I am still dubious about that plan.
 (A) certain (B) doubtful
 (C) docile (D) faithful
14. The wise say that life is meant not merely to accumulate wealth but for self realization.
 (A) amass (B) produce
 (C) scatter (D) gather
15. He will never turn down your request.
 (A) turn up (B) turn over
 (C) reject (D) accept
16. Real happiness does not lie in material possessions alone.
 (A) physical (B) essential
 (C) spiritual (D) manual
17. I was upset by his hostile attitude.
 (A) friendly (B) positive
 (C) negative (D) inimical
18. Ashoka was a magnanimous king.
 (A) small (B) petty
 (C) kind (D) majestic
19. Mala is always defiant in her behaviour.
 (A) obedient (B) rebellious
 (C) meek (D) friendly
20. I find his views repugnant.
 (A) amiable (B) repulsive
 (C) amoral (D) apolitical

Comprehension

Directions—(Q. 21-35) Read the following passages and answer the items that follow.

Passage-I

Those responsible for teaching young people have resorted to a variety of means to make their pupils learn. The earliest of these was the threat of punishment. This meant that the pupil who was slow, careless or inattentive risked either physical chastisement or the loss of some expected privilege. Learning was thus associated with fear. At a later period, pupils were encouraged to learn in the hope of some kind of reward. This often took the form of marks awarded for work done and sometimes of prizes given at the end of the year to the best scholar. Such a system appealed to the competitive spirit, but was just as depressing as the older system for the slow pupil.

In the nineteenth century sprang up a new type of teacher, convinced that learning was worthwhile for its own sake and that the young pupil's principal stimulus should neither be anxiety to avoid a penalty nor ambition to win a reward, but sheer desire to learn. Interest, direct or indirect, became the keyword of instruction.

21. The educational system which caused fear in the pupil's mind was based on :
 (A) rewards (B) labour
 (C) punishment (D) competition
22. The system based on rewards satisfied all except :
 (A) the slow pupil
 (B) the very intelligent pupil
 (C) the laborious pupil
 (D) the casual pupil
23. The system which appealed to the competitive spirit in the pupils was largely based on :
 (A) punishment (B) marks
 (C) chastisement (D) cash prizes

Passage-II

On a surface which is free from obstacles, such as a clear road or a path, only two or three species of snakes can hope to catch up with a human being, even if they are foolish to try. A snake seems to move very fast but its movements are deceptive. In spite of the swift, wave-like motions of its body, the snake crawls along the ground at no more than the speed of man's walk. It may, however, have an advantage inside a jungle, where the progress of a man is obstructed by thorny bushes. But in such places, the footsteps of a man are usually more than enough to warn snakes to keep away. Although they have no ears of the usual kind, they can feel slight vibrations of the ground through their bodies, and thus get an early warning of danger.

24. The snake has an advantage over men inside a jungle, because there :
 (A) it can crawl faster
 (B) it gets advance warning
 (C) man's movement is obstructed
 (D) it is dark inside a jungle
25. What helps the snakes to receive advance warning is their sensitivity to :
 (A) obstacles in the path

- (B) smell of other beings
- (C) sounds made by other beings
- (D) movements of other beings

Passage-III

This rule of always trying to do things as well as one can do them has an important bearing upon the problem of ambition. No man or woman should be without ambition, which is the inspiration of activity. But if one allows ambition to drive one to attempt things which are beyond one's own personal capacity, then unhappiness will result. If one imagines that one can do everything better than other people, then envy and jealousy, those twin monsters, will come to sadden one's days. But if one concentrates one's attention upon developing one's own special capacities, the things one is best at, then one does not worry over much if other people are more successful.

26. Which one of the following alternatives brings out the meaning of 'to have a bearing upon' clearly ?
 - (A) to have an effect on
 - (B) to carry the weight on oneself
 - (C) to put up with
 - (D) to decrease friction
27. Which one of the following statements is correct ?
 - (A) There is a close relationship between ambition and activity.
 - (B) Ambition and activity belong to two different areas.
 - (C) Ambition is useless.
 - (D) Activity is responsible for ambition.
28. The statement "if one allows ambition to drive one to attempt things which are beyond one's own personal capacity, then unhappiness will result," means that :
 - (A) One must always try to do less than one's capacity.
 - (B) One must always try to do more than one's capacity.
 - (C) Ambition must be consistent with one's capacity.
 - (D) There should be no ambition at all.
29. Which one of the following statements best reflects the underlying tone of the passage ?
 - (A) One must do everything as well as one can.

- (B) One must try to be better than others.
 - (C) One must continuously worry about others.
 - (D) One must try beyond one's capacity to get results.
30. Which one of the following statements can be assumed to be true ?
- (A) It is good to imagine oneself better than others.
 - (B) One should not imagine oneself always to be better than others.
 - (C) All persons have equal capacity.
 - (D) One should have more ambition than others.

Passage-IV

An earthquake comes like a thief in the night, without warning. It was necessary, therefore, to invent instruments that neither slumbered nor slept. Some devices were quite simple. One, for instance, consisted of rods of various lengths and thicknesses which would stand up on end like ninepins. When a shock came it shook the rigid table upon which these stood. If it were gentle, only the more unstable rods fell. If it were severe, they all fell. Thus the rods by falling and by the direction in which they fell, recorded for the slumbering scientist, the strength of a shock that was too weak to waken him and the direction from which it came.

But, instruments far more delicate than that were needed if any really serious advance was to be made. The ideal to be aimed at was to devise an instrument that could record with a pen on paper the movements, of the ground or of the table, as the quake passed by. While I write my pen moves but the paper keeps still. With practice, no doubt, I could, in time, learn to write by holding the pen still while the paper moved. That sounds a silly suggestion, but that was precisely the idea adopted in some of the early instruments (seismometers) for recording earthquake waves. But when table, penholder and paper are all moving how is it possible to write legibly ? The key to a solution of that problem lay in an everyday observation. Why does a person standing in bus or train tend to fall when a sudden start is made ? It is because his feet move on, but his head stays still.

31. The passage says that early instruments for measuring earthquakes were :
 (A) faulty in design
 (B) expensive
 (C) not sturdy
 (D) not sensitive enough
32. Why was it necessary to invent instruments to observe an earthquake ?
 (A) Because an earthquake comes like a thief in the night.
 (B) To make people alert about earthquakes during their conscious as well as unconscious hours.
 (C) To prove that we are technically advanced.
 (D) To experiment with the control of man over nature.
33. A simple device which consisted of rods that stood up on end like ninepins was replaced by a more sophisticated one because it failed :
 (A) to measure a gentle earthquake
 (B) to measure a severe earthquake
 (C) to record the direction of the earthquake
 (D) to record the facts with a pen on paper
34. The everyday observation referred to in the passage relates to :
 (A) a moving bus or train
 (B) the sudden start of a bus
 (C) the tendency of a standing person to fall when a bus or train moves suddenly
 (D) people standing in a bus or train
35. The early seismometers adopted the idea that in order to record the earthquake, it is :
 (A) the pen that should move just as it moves when we write on paper
 (B) the pen that should stay still and the paper should move
 (C) both pen and paper that should move
 (D) neither pen nor paper that should move

Ordering of Words in a Sentence

Directions—(Q. 36-46) In each of the following items, there is a sentence of which some parts have been jumbled up. You are required to rearrange these parts which are labelled P, Q, R and S, to produce the correct sentence. Choose the correct sequence and mark in your answer sheet accordingly.

36. There must be countries now in which peasants can spend several years in universities
 P
so that a lot of young persons are going
 Q R
without substantial meals
 S
 The proper sequence should be :
 (A) SRQP (B) PQRS
 (C) SQRP (D) QPSR
37. Athens it was also the first democracy in the
 P Q
world was not only an almost perfect demo-
 R S
cracy
 The proper sequence should be :
 (A) RSPQ (B) PQRS
 (C) RQPS (D) QPSR
38. The practice of taking performance-boosting drugs among athletes but checking it is not
 P
going to be easy is generally conceded to be
 Q
unfair of the detection technology for the user
 R
is generally one jump ahead.
 S
 The proper sequence should be :
 (A) RSPQ (B) QPSR
 (C) QPRS (D) PQRS
39. All religions are to advance the cause of peace
 P
in a holy partnership justice and freedom
 Q R
bound together
 S
 The proper sequence should be :
 (A) PRQS (B) PQRS
 (C) SQPR (D) SPQR
40. Seventy-two people reports PTI were affected
 P
by food poisoning including several women
 Q R
and children of the central part of the city.
 S

- The proper sequence should be :
 (A) SPQR (B) PQRS
 (C) RSPQ (D) RSQP
41. The Prime Minister declared that those states
 P
will get all help and aid where family planning
 Q R
is effected very efficiently.
 S
- The proper sequence should be :
 (A) PRSQ (B) PQRS
 (C) RSPQ (D) QPSR
42. Hardly had my brother descended from the plane when the people waved and cheered
 P Q
who had come to receive him from the lounge.
 R S
- The proper sequence should be :
 (A) PRQS (B) PQRS
 (C) SPQR (D) PRSQ
43. My friend when he was going to his office
 P
met with an accident on his scooter due to
 Q R
rash driving.
 S
- The proper sequence should be :
 (A) PQRS (B) PRQS
 (C) SRQP (D) QSRP
44. The boy said I am not going to the school
 P
with my friends in the class room where my
 Q
teacher scolds me when I want to play.
 R S
- The proper sequence should be :
 (A) PQRS (B) PSQR
 (C) SQPR (D) PRSQ
45. Mohan, the son of my friend, gave me a set of
 P
pens which is very precious while working
 Q
in Japan who died in an accident.
 R S
- The proper sequence should be :
 (A) PQRS (B) PSQR
 (C) SQPR (D) PRSQ
46. The clerk on the desk left the money in the
 P Q
safe which he should have locked up.
 R S
- The proper sequence should be :
 (A) PQRS (B) RSPQ
 (C) QPRS (D) QPSR
- Directions—(Q. 47-50)** Each of the following sentences has a blank space and four words given after the sentence. Select whichever word you consider most appropriate for the blank space and indicate your choice on the Answer Sheet.
47. It is necessary to that adequate standards are maintained.
 (A) insure (B) influence
 (C) ensure (D) control
48. Many of the city's narrow streets have been
 (A) distinguished (B) widened
 (C) doubled (D) rehabilitated
49. Only the Chairman to the proposal to build more houses.
 (A) avoided (B) admitted
 (C) prevented (D) objected
50. He hoped to bring the to a satisfactory conclusion.
 (A) quarrel (B) negotiations
 (C) conflicts (D) concession

Spotting Errors

Directions—(Q. 51-70) Each question in this section has a sentence with three underlined parts labelled (A), (B) and (C). Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in any underlined part and indicate your answer in the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter i.e., (A) or (B) or (C). If you find no error, your answer should be indicated as (D).

51. He asked her that whether she knew what had happened last week when she was on leave.
(A) (B) (C) No error
(D)
52. Until you do not go to the station to receive him I can hardly feel at ease. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D)
53. I did not know where they were going nor could I understand why had they left so soon.
(A) (B) (C) No error
(D)
54. The distinguished visitor said that he had great pleasure to be with us for some time and that the pleasure was all the greater because his visit afforded him an opportunity to study the working of an institution of such eminence as ours. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D)
55. Please convey my best wishes back to your parents. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D)
56. The call of the seas have always found an echo in me. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D)
57. Hardly I had left home for Bombay when my son who is settled in Calcutta arrived without any prior information. No error
(A) (B)
(C) (D)
58. Now it can be easily said that the population of this city is greater than any other city in India.
(A) (B) (C) No error
(D)
59. It is difficult to explain why did Rajgopalachari resigned from the Congress in 1940.
(A) (B) (C) No error
(D)
60. The boss reminded them of the old saying that honesty was the best policy and told them that they had better be honest in their work. No error
(A) (B)
(C) (D)
61. “Gulliver’s Travels” are the most fascinating adventure story that I have ever read. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D)
62. The teenager reassured his father at the station “Don’t worry, dad’ I will pull on very nicely at the hostel.” No error
(A) (B) (C)
(D)

Sentence Improvement

Directions—(Q. 71–90) Look at the underlined part of each sentence. Below each sentence are given three possible substitutions for the underlined part. If one of them (A), (B) or (C) is better than the underlined part, indicate your response on the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter (A), (B) or (C). If none of the substitutions improve the sentence, indicate (D) as your response on the Answer Sheet. Thus a ‘No improvement’ response will be signified by the letter (D).

71. There is no rain in our village for the last six months.

(A) has been (B) was
(C) had been (D) No improvement

72. The police investigated into the matter.

(A) with the matter
(B) at the matter
(C) the matter
(D) No improvement

73. Ramachandra Murthy and his family have been in Guyana from 1985.
(A) since (B) about
(C) on (D) No improvement

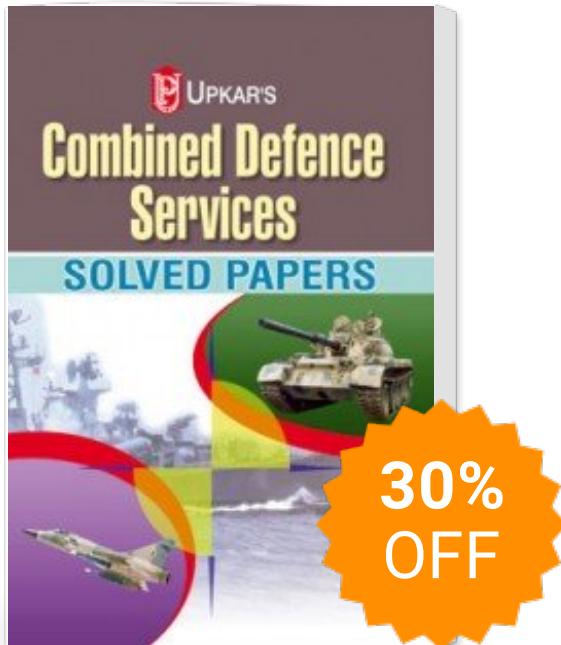
74. I am living in this town since 1980.
(A) was living (B) shall live
(C) have been living (D) No improvement

75. If I was you I should tell him the truth.
(A) am you (B) were you
(C) had been you (D) No improvement

76. He is better than any boy in the class.
(A) any boys (B) all the boys
(C) any other boy (D) No improvement

77. Anil ought not to tell me your secret, but he did.
(A) to be telling
(B) tell
(C) to have told
(D) No improvement

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