

# IES

## General Ability

**General  
English**

**General  
Studies**

**Previous Year  
Question Paper  
With Solutions**

**(2010-2015)**

## General Ability Test (Set - A)

### Part – A

#### SPOTTING ERRORS

**Directions:** Each question in this section has a sentence with three underlined parts labeled (a), (b) and (c). Read each sentence carefully to find out whether there is any error in any underlined part and indicate your response in the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter i.e., (a) or (b) or (c). If you find no error, your response should be indicated as (d).

1. The notice reads: “ Beware off this monkey, he has sudden bouts of anger.”  
(A) (B) (C)  
No error.  
(D)

**Answer: A**

2. The police entered into the house and questioned the head of the family  
(A) (B)  
about the theft No error.  
(C) (D)

**Answer: A**

3. “ Have you seen any good films lately?” “ Not since the last few months.”  
(A) (B) (C)  
No error.  
(D)

**Answer: C**

4. Despite all the information I had gathered I soon found that  
(A) (B)  
very little was known about the Palk Strait No error  
(C) (D)

**Answer: D**

5. He had tied the knot so lose that it gave way very soon No error  
(A) (B) (C) (D)

**Answer: B**

6. I wasn't really surprising that we got lost because I knew that our guide was  
(A) (B)  
as ignorant of the city lanes as we were No error  
C D

**Answer: A**

7. I wondered why did they not ordered everyone to leave the building  
A B  
till the fire was extinguished No error  
C D

**Answer: D**

### SENTENCE IMPROVEMENT

**Directions:** 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 responses on the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter (a), (b) or (c). If none of the substitutions improves the sentence, indicate (d) as your response on the Answer sheet. Thus a "No improvement" response will be signified by the letter (d).

8. She did not attend to the party.  
(A) did not attend for (B) has not attended to  
(C) did not attend (C) No improvement

**Answer: C**

9. I assure you, I will always remember you  
(A) I will ever (B) I will any time  
(C) I will for ever (D) No Improvement

**Answer: D**

10. She told that she would be late.  
(A) She told to me that (B) She told me  
(C) She told me and said that (D) No improvement

**Answer: B**

11. Suddenly I listened a strange noise  
(A) I listen (B) I heard  
(C) I was hearing (D) No improvement

**Answer: B**

12. I have less books than you have  
(A) lesser books (B) fewer books  
(C) a few books (D) No improvement

**Answer: B**

13. We shall not wait for anyone who arrived late.  
(A) will arrive (B) may arrive  
(C) arrives (D) No improvement

**Answer: C**

### COMPREHENSION

**Directions:** In this section you have four short passages. After each passage, you will find some questions based on the passage, First, read a passage and answer the questions based on it. You are required to select your response based on the contents of the passage and opinion of the author only.

#### Passage-1

Nature has so designed us that we are compelled to spend at least eight hours out of twenty four with eyes shut in sleep or in an attempt to sleep. It is a compensatory arrangement, perhaps for the strain the visual faculty undergoes during our waking hours, owing to the glut of images impinging upon it from morning till night. One who seeks serenity should, I suppose, voluntarily restrict one's range of vision. For it is mostly through the eye that the mind is strained or distributed. Man sees more than what is necessary or good for him. If one does not control one's vision, nature will do it for one sooner or later.

14. The main theme of the passage is  
(A) the need to sleep eight hours a day  
(B) ways to reduce mental strain  
(C) the connection between visual images and strain  
(D) the necessity of controlling one's range

**Answer: C**

15. One should voluntarily restrict one's range of vision  
(A) to seek calmness of mind  
(B) to prolong life  
(C) to enjoy nature  
(D) to avoid seeing undesirable things

**Answer: A**

16. 'Glut of images impinging upon it' means
- (A) excess of images striking our eyes
  - (B) a series of bright images troubling our minds
  - (C) images making almost to impact on our eyes
  - (D) images weakening the visual faculty

**Answer: A**

### Passage – 2

At last the bomb was made. The site chosen for the test explosion was the desert region two hundred miles from Los Alamos. Ten seconds before Zero hour, a green flare warned the spectators to keep down. Then came the blinding flash. The whole area was suddenly brighter than the brightest daylight, and the bomb was a ball of fire. Then came the tremendous roar and the heavy pressure wave, which knocked down two men outside the control center. And then came the cloud – the mushroom cloud, all the colours of the rainbow, ironically beautiful, surging up to over 40,000 feet—over 10,000 feet higher than Everest.

17. Which of the following best helps to bring out the precise meaning of “Zero hour??
- (A) twelve O'clock at night
  - (B) twelve O' clock in the middle of the day
  - (C) exact time at which operations are to begin
  - (D) time for spectators to keep quiet

**Answer: C**

18. The writer uses the phrase “ironically beautiful” to describe the mushroom cloud because.
- (A) he knew that mushroom would not have the colour of rainbow
  - (B) he is aware of the sinister nature of the explosion that took place
  - (C) he believes that something that is higher than the Mt. Everest cannot be described as beautiful
  - (D) he wants to convey his sympathy for the two men who were knocked down

**Answer: B**

19. Which of the following statements would you consider to be correct?
- (A) The writer is delighted at the explosion
  - (B) The writer is detached in his observation
  - (C) The writer is conscious of the evil this particular event releases
  - (D) The writer is trying to give a dramatic account of the events.

**Answer: C**

20. The passage uses many words and phrases dealing with colour and light. This is because the writer wants to
- (A) suggest that the event took place at night
  - (B) convey to us his own sense of satisfaction
  - (C) indicate that humanity has achieved something really great
  - (D) make us see vividly the entire cycle of events

**Answer: C**

### Passage – 3

Every time I hear a noise outside that cold February night, I found myself at the kitchen window, peering out into the dark. May be it was once of them. Five men had escaped from the state prison, less than 40 kilometers north of us. The men were armed, desperate and dangerous. Their crimes ranged from robbery to rape and murder. The police thought a few of them were hiding in the low land in the south-west part of the state, right where we live.

The leaves resulted again. No, it was just the winter wind, or may be a rabbit or two.

“Nathan,” I said to my husband, “What would we do if those men came here?”

“Darling,” Nathan replied, “we’d do what they said.”

I didn’t like the ideal at all-people hanging around outside my house. “Nathan, pull down that shade in the bathroom,” I said. We hadn’t done that for as long as I could remember. We didn’t have to, living so far out as we did. But tonight was different.

21. Nathan’s wife looked through the window because she was
- (A) Waiting for the convicts to enter her garden
  - (B) Waiting for her husband and the children
  - (C) Suffering from acute sleeplessness
  - (D) Afraid that a convict was hiding in the trees

**Answer: D**

22. Nathan’s reply shows that he
- (A) did not know who the five men were
  - (B) was sure that the men would not come to their house
  - (C) was not much worried about the prisoners
  - (D) did not know how dangerous the men were

**Answer: C**

23. Until now Nathan and his wife never pulled down the shade in the bathroom because
- (A) they did not like a dark bathroom
  - (B) they were no advised by the police to do so
  - (C) they lived in a totally isolated and remote area
  - (D) they maintained friendly relations with their neighbours

**Answer: C**

24. Through this passage, the writer is mainly trying to convey the
- (A) dangers of living near a prison
  - (B) the fear in the mind of a woman
  - (C) the threat that criminals pose to the society
  - (D) the ineffectiveness of the police force

**Answer: B**

#### Passage – 4

Though a mediocre student, I took Science after passing the Matriculation Examination. My choice was not backed by any fascination or liking for the subject but was made simply to oblige my deceased father who had wanted me to go in for medicine. One of my friends also advised me to honour the wish of my father. I had an aptitude for the Arts. The result was that Wordsworth, Shelley and Keats were much better understood by me than Euclid, Newton and Dalton. In spite of my deficiency I was successful in passing the Intermediate Science Examination.

25. The author was a
- (A) brilliant student
  - (B) dull student
  - (C) student neither bright nor dull
  - (D) laborious student

**Answer: C**

26. The author took science because
- (A) he had a taste for science
  - (B) he had a peculiar fascination for the subject
  - (C) he had to honour his father's wish
  - (D) he was forced by his friend

**Answer: C**

27. The author could appreciate
- (A) Geometry
  - (B) Poetry
  - (C) Physics
  - (D) Chemistry

**Answer: B**

28. The author's friend advised him to become a doctor because
- (A) Medicine is a lucrative profession
  - (B) he wanted his friend to act in accordance with his father's wish
  - (C) he was afraid of the author's father
  - (D) he was a hypochondriac and wanted a doctor for a friend

**Answer: B**

## ORDERING OF SENTENCES

**Directions:** In the following items, each passage consists of six sentences. The first and the sixth sentence are given in the beginning as  $S_1$  and  $S_6$ . The middle four sentences in each have been removed and jumbled up. These are labeled P, Q, R and S. You are required to find out the proper sequence of the four sentences and mark accordingly on the Answer Sheet.

- 29.**  $S_1$ : If you want to do well in your examinations you need to be able to think of yourself which means not just following the guide-books but write what you think yourself.  
 $S_6$ : If however you turn these ideas over in your mind accepting those which you agree with and fitting them into your stock of knowledge and rejecting the others you may get somewhere.  
P: That will not help much  
Q: Few if any students do this  
R: By discussing things with other students, with your teachers, and with any intelligent people you meet you will find you can pick up a lot of new ideas but it is no good first accepting these ideas, swallowing them undigested and then repeating them in the examination.  
S: At first you will find it difficult but if you go on trying you will find clear independent thought becomes easier.  
The proper sequences should be:  
(A) SRQP                      (B) RSQP                      (C) PSQR                      (D) QSRP

**Answer: D**

- 30.**  $S_1$ : One of the greatest difficulties in answering a question like this arises from language.  
 $S_6$ : We say that it is the same wave now as five minutes ago, but the particles of water in it are quite different.  
P: Now some nouns stand for things; for example, bricks, water and coal-gas are things.  
Q: We use words and are inclined to think that a thing must correspond to every noun.  
R: For example, a wave moves over the sea.  
S: Other nouns are more doubtful.  
The proper sequence should be:  
(A) QPSR                      (B) RSPQ                      (C) SRPQ                      (D) QRSP

**Answer: A**

- 31.**  $S_1$ : Mr. Ford, it is commonly reported, once declared that history was “bunk”.  
 $S_6$ : And the American’s conception of his own country as the representative of freedom and of democracy is the product of history as popularly taught and conceived over there.  
P: Yet the American, generally speaking, is by no means ignorant of history or

uninfluenced by his knowledge of it.

Q: This remarkable utterance of his, if indeed he made it, was in itself an outcome of history.

R: The Americans know more about our history than we know about theirs, though I hope

that will soon be remedied.

S: Such contempt for all things past, and such engaging frankness in expressing it were themselves the outcome of the social history of the United States in the nineteenth century.

The proper sequence should be:

- (A) QSPR                      (B) SPRQ                      (C) RPSQ                      (D) SQRP

**Answer: A**

**32.** S<sub>1</sub>: But why should the girls be thinking of morality?

S<sub>6</sub>: But, who needs Plato among the nursery babble?

P: They see the excitement of the wedding, of setting up housekeeping, and of the busy happy years of raising a family.

Q: They have better things to foresee.

R: It seems an eternity, and it is not

S: It seems a paradise, and it is.

The proper sequence should be:

- (A) SRPQ                      (B) PRQS                      (C) RQPS                      (D) QPSR

**Answer: D**

**33.** S<sub>1</sub>: But how does a new word get into the dictionary?

S<sub>6</sub>: He sorts them according to their grammatical function, and carefully writes a definition.

P: When a new dictionary is being edited, a lexicographer collects all the alphabetically arranged citation slips for a particular word.

Q: The dictionary makers notice it and make a note of it on a citation slip.

R: The moment a new word is coined, it usually enters the spoken language.

S: The word then passes from the realm of hearing to the realm of writing

The proper sequence should be:

- (A) PQRS                      (B) PRSQ                      (C) RQPS                      (D) RSQP

**Answer: D**

**34.** S<sub>1</sub>: Hungary, with a population of about ten million, lies between Czechoslovakia to the North and Yugoslavia to the south.

S<sub>6</sub>: The new industries derive mainly from agricultural production.

P: Here a great deal of grain is grown

Q: In recent years, however, progress has been made also in the field of industrialization.

R: Most of this country consists of an extremely fertile plain, through which the river

Danube flows.

S: In addition to grain, the plain produces potatoes, sugar, wine and livestock.

The proper sequence should be:

- (A) QRSP                      (B) RPSQ                      (C) PRSQ                      (D) RQSP

**Answer: B**

35. S<sub>1</sub>: There is only one monkey we can thoroughly recommend as an indoor pet.  
S<sub>6</sub>: Finally, let me say that no other monkey has a better temper or more winning ways.  
P: They quickly die from colds and coughs after the first winter fogs.  
Q: It is the beautiful and intelligent Capuchin monkey.  
R: The lively little Capuchins, however, may be left for years in an English house without the least danger to their health.

S: The Marmosets, it is true, are more beautiful than the Capuchins and just as pleasing, but they are too delicate for the English climate.

The proper sequence should be:

- (A) PQRS                      (B) QRPS                      (C) QSPR                      (D) RPSQ

**Answer: C**

36. S<sub>1</sub>: There is a touching story of Professor Hardy visiting Ramanujan as he lay desperately ill in hospital at Putney.  
S<sub>6</sub>: It is the lowest number that can be expressed in two different ways as the sum of two cubes.  
P: "No, Hardy, that is not a dull number in the very least.  
Q: Hardy, who was a very shy man, could not find the words for his distress.  
R: It was 1729  
S: The best he could do, as he got to the beside was : "I say, Ramanujan, I though the number of the taxi I came down in was a very dull number.

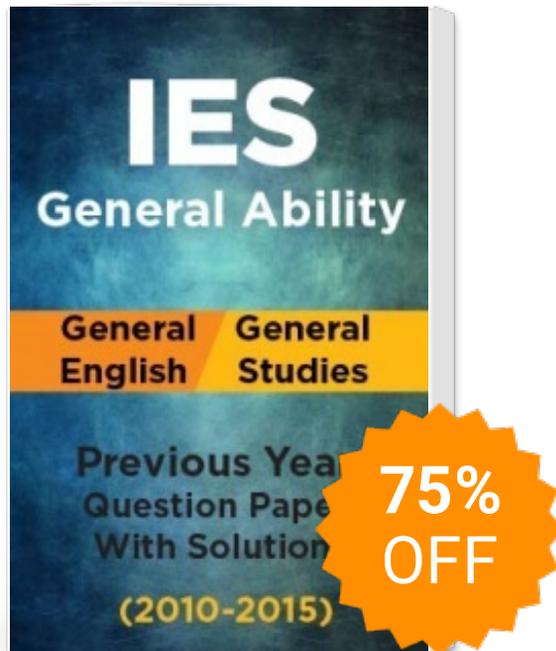
The proper sequence should be:

- (A) RPSQ                      (B) QSRP                      (C) QSPR                      (D) SQRP

**Answer: B**

37. S<sub>1</sub>: Growing up means not only getting larger, but also using our senses and our brains to become more aware of the things around us.  
S<sub>6</sub>: In other words, we must develop and use our ability to reason, because the destruction or the preservation of the places in which we live depends on us.  
P: Not only does he have a memory but he is able to think and reason.  
Q: In this, man differs from all other animals.  
R: Before we spray our roadside plants or turn sewage into our rivers, we should pause to think what the results of our actions are likely to be.  
S: That is to say, he is able to plan what he is going to do in the light of his experience

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