

## Section – A (Language Conventions)

Note: this Section of the question paper contains 24 questions in the English Language. A student is required to attempt all the 24 questions.

(Questions 1 to 8) : Read the following passage carefully and select the most suitable option from each list according to the corresponding number in the passage.

1. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, couples around the world celebrate
2. Valentine's Day. Traditionally, the day comemoraitis
3. the death of Saint Valentine, who was ordered
4. to be put to death many centuries ago.
5. Legend has it that the Emperor at the time
6. banned young men from marrying so that they
7. would perform better as soldiers in his army.
8. St Valentine defied this law and secretly continued
9. to marry couples. Today the day is a chance for
10. people to declare their love; most often by exchanging
11. gifts or caring words.

1. Which of these options is closest in meaning to 'ordered' as used in line 3?
  - 1) told
  - 2) directed
  - 3) required
  - 4) arranged

**Solution:** (2) directed

2. Which of these options is closest in meaning to 'celebrate' as used in line 1?
  - 1) honour
  - 2) have fun on
  - 3) have a holiday on
  - 4) praise the origins of

**Solution:** (2) have fun on

3. Which of these options is closest in meaning to 'traditionally' as used in line 2?
  - 1) actually
  - 2) most often
  - 3) previously
  - 4) historically

**Solution:** (4) historically

4. Which of these options is closest in meaning to 'defied' as used in line 8?
- 1) ignored
  - 2) resisted
  - 3) disobeyed
  - 4) challenged

**Solution:** (3) disobeyed

5. Which of these options is closest in meaning to 'perform better' as used in line 7?
- 1) achieve more
  - 2) develop better
  - 3) work together
  - 4) obey more often

**Solution:** (1) achieve more

6. Which of these options is closest in meaning to 'declare' as used in line 10?
- 1) state
  - 2) share
  - 3) expose
  - 4) broadcast

**Solution:** (1) State

7. Which of the following opposite in meaning to the word 'banned' as it is used in line 6 above?
- 1) allowed
  - 2) tolerated
  - 3) reassured
  - 4) persuaded

**Solution:** (1) allowed

8. Which word is the correct spelling of the word 'comemorait's'?
- 1) comemorates
  - 2) commemorats
  - 3) commemorates
  - 4) comemmorates

**Solution:** (3) commemorates

**(Questions 9 – 12) : Complete this passage by selecting the most suitable word/phrase from each list to fill the corresponding gap.**

My friend is someone \_\_\_ 9\_\_\_ loves animals. She says, "I want to make up \_\_\_ 10\_\_\_ the mistreatment of animals that we humans are involved in." \_\_\_ 11\_\_\_ her, "The reason

environmental activists sail their small boats around the large whaling ships is \_\_ 12\_\_ they want people to know about the wrongful killing of whales.”

9. Which of these fits gap 12?  
1) that  
2) since  
3) when  
4) so that

**Solution:** (1) that

10. Which of these fits gap 9?  
1) that  
2) who  
3) which  
4) whom

**Solution:** (2) who

11. Which of these fits gap 10?  
1) by  
2) for  
3) through  
4) because of

**Solution:** (2) for

12. Which of these fits gap 11?  
1) Instead of  
2) In view of  
3) apart from  
4) According to

**Solution:** (4) According to

**(Questions 13 – 16) : Read the passage and select the correct form of the missing word/phrase to complete it.**

The landslide had caused significant disruption to traffic. \_\_ 13\_\_ the road through the mountains. Some of the drives affected by this event had unsuccessfully attempted to move aside one of the huge rocks. \_\_ 14\_\_ members of the emergency team arrived, \_\_ 15\_\_ managed to get the road cleared quickly using heavy machinery. The chief engineer told the drives, ‘Even if you \_\_ 16\_\_ harder this large rock would have been impossible to move without special equipment.’

13. Which of these fits gap 16?  
1) can try  
2) could try  
3) had tried  
4) have tried

**Solution:** (3) had tried

14. Which of these fits gap 13?  
1) onto  
2) along  
3) across  
4) on top of

**Solution:** (3) across

15. Which of these fits gap 14?  
1) As  
2) Once  
3) Before  
4) Although

**Solution:** (2) Once

16. Which of these fits gap 15?  
1) who  
2) they  
3) these  
4) which

**Solution:** (2) they

**(Questions 17 – 20) : Complete this passage by selecting the most suitable word/phrase from each list to fill the corresponding gap.**

For years researchers have \_\_\_17\_\_\_ about why zebras have stripes. Reasons for the unusual pattern of black and white stripes have included confusing predators, camouflaging in grasslands, and allowing zebras to \_\_\_18\_\_\_ each other in their herds. But no one has tested these hypotheses. It now seems that a new study has found the answer. Zebra stripes disrupt light patterns that tsetse flies and horseflies use to find food and water. These insects are \_\_\_19\_\_\_ pests that feed on the blood of animals, \_\_\_20\_\_\_ lead to the transmission of serious illnesses.

17. Which of these fits gap 20?
- 1) that can
  - 2) and they
  - 3) which can
  - 4) those which

**Solution:** (3) which can

18. Which of these fits gap 17?
- 1) realised
  - 2) guessed
  - 3) considered
  - 4) speculated

**Solution:** (4) speculated

19. Which of these fits gap 18?
- 1) meet
  - 2) witness
  - 3) recognise
  - 4) acknowledge

**Solution:** (3) recognise

20. Which of these fits gap 19?
- 1) shameful
  - 2) notorious
  - 3) considerate
  - 4) scandalous

**Solution:** (2) notorious

**(Questions 21 – 24) : Complete this passage by selecting the most suitable word from each list to fill the corresponding gap.**

At the break of dawn the chatter of birds was replaced \_\_\_21\_\_\_ an eerie silence. The temperature dropped and the moon \_\_\_22\_\_\_ the sun, creating an image of an invisible dragon devouring the Sun. A shadow was cast that was so large that it \_\_\_23\_\_\_ the land into darkness. Without warning a commotion of drummers drumming and archers shooting \_\_\_24\_\_\_ arrows into the sky began. The dragon was frightened away and daylight was restored.

21. Which of these fits gap 24?
- 1) my
  - 2) our
  - 3) your
  - 4) their

**Solution:** (4) their

22. Which of these fits gap 21?
- 1) in
  - 2) by
  - 3) after
  - 4) despite

**Solution:** (2) by

23. Which of these fits gap 22?
- 1) overcast
  - 2) obscured
  - 3) overtakes
  - 4) overexposed

**Solution:** (2) obscured

24. Which of these fits gap 23?
- 1) divided
  - 2) plunged
  - 3) lowered
  - 4) collapsed

**Solution:** (2) plunged