

**Directions (Questions 1-10) :** Study the passages below to answer the questions that follow each passage.

### Passage-I

I was standing on the edge of a bungee platform, peering down from the height of a 22-storey (83 m) building at a sliver of a stream meandering through a deep valley. I could hear the jump master faintly over the strong wind. "Do not look down. Here we go... one, two, three... jump!" The next thing I knew, I was in a free fall, hurtling down, heading straight towards the boulders. The wind drowned out my scream and just when it felt like a never-ending descent, there was a sharp pull at my body harness and my fall was broken. As I swung, suspended head down, I let the gurgling stream and the tranquil hills calm me. I had taken my leap of faith. Back at the platform, loud cheers greeted me, even from those I had met only a few minutes earlier. This is what an adventure trip does – strengthens old bonds, creates new ones and helps you challenge yourself! Considered an extreme adventure sport, it requires you to free fall from a high structure with an elastic cord attached to your ankles. There are just a handful of activities or sports that can match the thrill of walking to the edge of a precipice and throwing yourself to the winds, but it is essential that you bungee jump only with a certified professional who meets all standard safety regulations. Says ex-army captain and managing director of Jumpin Heights in Rishikesh, "The biggest challenge of setting up a bungee jumping platform in India is the apprehension that people have about safety". Where bungee-jumping thrills you with a free fall journey through space spelunking leads you to the mystical expanse within, and sometimes even under terra firma! An adventure sport that can double up as a means of scientific and archaeological research, spelunking can transport you to a world within a world, with prehistoric rock formations, hidden streams and waterfalls, and more. Also known as caving, the sport is relatively new to India. Essential equipment includes nylon ropes, climbing harness, ascenders and descenders, ladder, scaling pole and hard hat/helmet with a chinstrap. Contrary to common perception, spelunking can be fairly low-risk, depending on the cave you choose. It is always best to go caving in a group of three or more and not alone, and people with respiratory and/or orthopaedic issues are advised to avoid the sport altogether. It is important to remember that there are various forms of life in a cave – from spiders and bats to rare plants and fish species – and you must be careful not to hamper their natural habitat during your sojourn. One of the most popular adventure sports in the world, scuba diving is all about discovering a new habitat and giving in to the spirit of wonder. It is important to note, however, that scuba certification involves a lot of classroom work and in-water practice before an actual dive. A basic understanding of the equipment, diving safety, air and air pressure, and the physics of the activity is essential. Once you exit the bubble of basic scuba training, a world of different types of diving opens up to you – your next tryst with the sport could see you diving from a dive boat, shore diving from a sandy beach or even an inland lake. There are fixed entry and exit methods for different kinds of diving too – the giant stride entry, controlled seated entry or backward roll entry for boat diving; surf exit and rocky surface exit for shore diving, and so on.

- Which one of the following is true of the narrator's (bungee jumper) 'leap of faith'?  
(1) He had no fear as he went down. ✓  
(2) His scream was subdued by the wind.  
(3) Suspended head down, he could touch the gurgling water.  
(4) His fall was towards the plain terrain.
- Which of the following pair of words are nearest in meaning to 'short stay' and 'peaceful', respectively?  
(1) Sojourn, tryst      (2) Expanse, tranquil      (3) Terra Firma, calm      ✓(4) Sojourn, tranquil
- Bungee jumping is considered an 'extreme adventure sport' because  
✓(1) it is very thrilling and exciting.      (2) one needs to be a fitness freak.  
(3) there is a lot of apprehension about safety.      (4) it involves high degree of risk.

4. Which one of the following is not true of 'spelunking'?
- (1) The sport can sometimes lead one to underground terrains.
  - (2) It offers a tryst with rocks, streams and waterfalls.
  - (3) It has great scope for scientific and archeological research.
  - ✓(4) Since it is a low-risk sport even people with respiratory issues can indulge in this sport.
5. Which of the following is not a basic requirement for scuba diving?
- (1) Classroom work and in-water practice.
  - ✓(2) Spirit of wonder to explore and discover new habitats.
  - (3) Diving equipment with map.
  - (4) Physics of diving

### Passage-II

A strange culture of criticism pervades life these days, where everyone is a critic setting-sights on errors and indiscretions, more than on achievements and triumphs. Time was when you waited for that one movie or restaurant review from an established media reviewer. Today, thanks to social media, self-appointed critics deluge you with opinions and ratings. Everyone has a view on where the PM is going wrong and what his next step should be. A minister or godman just has to open his mouth before media pounces and makes it a matter of national debate, involving wilting insults and shattering downers. With eyes trained on indiscretions, we ignore achievements and recognition. We have become a nation that loves having an opinion, preferably negative; and likes nothing better than sharing it. And so, slowly the limelight has shifted from achievement and proud moments to the side of us best kept under wraps. It is indeed a voyeuristic, sadistic generation that takes pleasure in the downfall and public disgrace of others. In a terrible about-turn of the phrase 'no-news-is-good-news', today, we have come to a stage when 'good-news-is-no news'. Media leads the charge, each TV channel watching out for 'Breaking News' moments – mostly censoring or condemning a perceived wrong move, a misdirected word or action, a wardrobe malfunction or the mouthing of a dirty word on the cricket field. People invariably tweet negative stuff, easily adopting moral grandstands, because that is what catches attention. Egged on by a trigger-happy audio-visual media, which shoots down and ridicules public figures for the slightest gaffe, we are stepping into a well-established culture of the Tall Poppy Syndrome! (A social phenomenon where those with more merit or success are disparaged and pulled down). It is all very well for children to pull each other down under the keen pressure of performance, dismissing achievers as 'nerds' and 'losers'. It is even understandable when professionals do so in a dog-eat-dog world, where pulling down one may spell success for another. But when the habit of condemnation and fault-finding becomes a national pastime, we need to sound the danger bells. Children today tune into news channels not for information, but to guffaw at people pulling each other down. This is a veritable street fight delivered to you through television; and viewers love it! The haranguing newsman, delivering cutting sarcasm and debilitating criticism, has replaced the stereotypical fisherwoman. And we all love the vicarious moral grandstanding. The more vitriolic the content, the higher the TRPs a programme delivers. Forgetting to praise the good work done, bosses pounce on little mistakes. Spouses and friends don't hold back judgment; parents lay it on thick. Experience tells us that positive strokes work far better than ridicule, especially public ridicule. Today, we have the power to make and break people through exposés and sting operations. But we also still retain the power to motivate and galvanise the good amongst us. And in order to indulge one, we must not give up the other! When we criticise, let us also stay attuned to the good in those we deride. A senior colleague said to me one day, "Whenever anyone comes to me with a complaint, I insist on first hearing something good about the person they wish to criticize. For, everyone must have some good in them too."

6. Why does the author say 'a strange culture of criticism has pervaded...'.
- ✓(1) Criticism is done through the social media which is a new channel of communication.
  - (2) The author is averse to criticism and hence calls it 'strange'.
  - (3) Ours has been a different culture in the world for centuries and centuries.
  - (4) Not long ago we used to appreciate many good things and achievements that happened around us; now it is not so.

7. Choose the pair of words from the following which mean the same as "overwhelm" and 'abusive', respectively.  
 (1) deluge, criticise (2) galvanise, condemn (3) deluge, vitriolic (4) expose, invective
8. The move from "no news is good news" to "good news is no news" is led by  
 (1) Tall poppy syndrome (2) The media  
 (3) Diminishing number of achievements (4) Negative tweets
9. According to the author, why do we "need to sound the danger bells" now?  
 (1) Criticising has created rivalry among the media channels hungry for TRPs.  
 (2) The habit of fault finding or ignoring the achievements has become a national hobby.  
 (3) In future records will not be set or broken.  
 (4) Exposés and sting operations should stop.
10. Among the following which one is not the reason for people using the social media to criticize?  
 (1) It is powerful since it reaches many people very quickly.  
 (2) For the new generation is the most popular among the channels of communication.  
 (3) It is based on technology and is changeless.  
 (4) Anyone can use it from anywhere.

**Directions (Questions 11-15) :** In each of these questions, choose the option which best expresses the meaning of the idiom /phrase underlined in the sentence.

11. It was he who put a spoke in the wheel.  
 (1) helped in the execution of the plan (2) thwarted the plan  
 (3) tried to cause an accident (4) tried to cause pain
12. The new Chief Minister stuck his neck out today and promised 10 kg free wheat a month for all rural families.  
 (1) caused embarrassment (2) extended help  
 (3) took a risk (4) took an oath
13. The old man was cut to the quick when his rich son refused to recognise him.  
 (1) hurt intensely (2) surprised (3) annoyed (4) irritated
14. Mohan thanked Ramesh for helping him financially and not leaving him in the lurch.  
 (1) to leave one in difficulty (2) to be supportive  
 (3) to compromise one's position (4) to make fun of
15. All my houseplants are in sorry shape; it is clear that I do not have a green thumb.  
 (1) have the ability to grow plants well (2) have a green tattoo on the thumb  
 (3) have one's nails painted green (4) have artistic mind

**Directions (Questions 16-20) :** In each of these questions, choose the most logical order of sentences from among the four given choices to construct a coherent paragraph.

16. A. Even a farmer can be a knowledge worker despite being illiterate if he understands the soil that he sows in and the nutrients he adds to it.  
B. If he has the benefit of weather forecast, he is using knowledge and he becomes a knowledge worker.  
C. I want to distinguish between being just literate and being knowledgeable.  
D. Essentially, the when and why of it.  
(1) ABDC (2) ACDB (3) CADB (4) CDBA
17. A. Lymphoma can easily spread throughout the body, so patients whose disease appears to be confined to one or a few lymph nodes may have collections of cancerous cells elsewhere in the body that are not big enough to be detected by the tests used in staging the disease.  
B. Treatment of lymphoma is tailored to each individual patient, depending on the type of lymphoma present, how fast it grows, and how far it has spread.  
C. In general, lymphomas that derive from 'T' cells are more difficult to treat than 'B' cell lymphomas, and patients aged over 60 are less likely to be cured than younger patients.  
D. For this reason, the treatment of choice for lymphoma is usually chemotherapy – drugs given by mouth or through the veins to destroy the rapidly proliferating cancer cells throughout the body.  
(1) CBDA (2) BCAD (3) BACD (4) CDAB
18. A. Official records show that the gross enrolment rate in higher education is only 11 per cent while the National Knowledge Commission says that only seven per cent of the population between the age group of 18-24 enters higher education.  
B. Experts acknowledge that the present higher education system in India is not equipped to address the problem of shortage of skilled manpower and requires some changes in the basic structure.  
C. Even those who have access are not ensured of quality.  
D. The shortage of skilled manpower is a cause for concern in most sectors in India.  
(1) CDBA (2) ADBC (3) BCAD (4) DBAC
19. A. One of the main reasons for industrial sickness in our country has been the fact that business and industrial managers have not been able to look beyond the immediate future.  
B. The planning horizon has hardly ever exceeded five years.  
C. A leading Indian industrialist in an article on ways to strengthen India's economy has drawn attention to the problems of inflation and industrial sickness among other things.  
D. They have been too preoccupied with their attempts to report favourable results for the current year - higher profits and larger dividends to the shareholders.  
(1) ABCD (2) CADB (3) ACBD (4) CDAB
20. A. A Standing Committee in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) will oversee the implementation of this order and will further make recommendations to nodal ministries and procuring entities.  
B. The new policy will boost domestic manufacturing and service provision, and enhance income and employment.  
C. The policy aims to maintain the balance between promoting 'Make in India' and ensuring timely supply of good quality and value-for-money products to the procuring government entities.  
D. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval for a national procurement policy that gives preference to 'Make in India' in government procurements.  
(1) BCAD (2) DABC (3) DCBA (4) ABDC

**Directions (Questions 21-25):** Fill in the blanks.

21. With more and more uncommon policies, you can insure anything from your \_\_\_\_\_ to your \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) life, house                      (2) vehicle, house                      (3) pet, toe                      (4) house, car
22. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the job made him do his work \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) boredom, surreptitiously                       (2) nature, ambiguously  
(3) monotony, perfunctorily                      (4) place, indignantly
23. The retired judge was too \_\_\_\_\_ to be taken in by the spurious excuses presented by the \_\_\_\_\_ crook.
- (1) perspicacious, petty                       (2) sagacious, ingenious  
(3) astute, belligerent                      (4) obtuse, paltry
24. The spirit of sportsmanship is, in fact, the \_\_\_\_\_ of all maladies that \_\_\_\_\_ the world today.
- (1) remedy, bother                      (2) solution, trouble  
(3) medicament, persecute                      (4) panacea, afflict
25. In today's public \_\_\_\_\_, scientists are highly respected but not nearly as influential as they should be; their voices are mostly \_\_\_\_\_ in the arena of public policy.
- (1) sphere, absolute                      (2) times, peripheral  
 (3) domain, marginalised                      (4) democracy, superficial

**Directions (Questions 26-30):** Identify the best way of writing the sentence ensuring that the message being conveyed remains the same.

26. (1) Said to be on the verge of extinction, a great deal of attention is attracted by Olive Ridley turtle from conservationists and the media.
- (2) Said to be on the verge of extinction, the conservationists and the media are giving a great deal of attention to Olive Ridley turtle.
- (3) Said to be on the verge of extinction, the Olive Ridley turtle is attracting the conservationists and the media to a great deal of attention.
- (4) Said to be on the verge of extinction, the Olive Ridley turtle attracts a great deal of attention from conservationists and the media.
27. (1) The recent change in the Quarterly's book-review is short-sighted and self-defeating.
- (2) The change of late in the Quarterly's book-review is short-sighted and self-defeating.
- (3) The recent change in the Quarterly's book-review is short-sighted and also is self-deprecating.
- (4) The change that has been made recently in the Quarterly's book-review is short-sighted and self-defeating.
28. (1) Whoever leaves the room last is requested for locking the door after him.
- (2) Whomever leaves the room last is requested to lock the door after him.
- (3) Whoever leaves the room last is requested to lock the door after him.
- (4) Whomever leaves the room last is requested for locking the door after him.

29. (1) His son carried off his business after his demise.  
 (2) His son carried on his business after his demise.  
 (3) His son carried out his business after his demise.  
 (4) His son carried away his business after his demise.
30. (1) He will not pay unless he is compelled to.  
 (2) He will not pay unless he will be compelled.  
 (3) He will not pay unless he is not compelled.  
 (4) He will not pay till he is compelled to.

**Directions (Questions 31-35) :** Each of these questions consists of a sentence which is divided into four parts numbered (1) to (4). Only one part in each sentence is not acceptable in standard written English. Identify the part which contains an error.

31. (1) He was able to  
 (2) complete the book  
 (3) by planning carefully  
 (4) and worked diligently.
32. (1) When the rudder  
 (2) broke off from the boat,  
 (3) the sailor jumped in the bay  
 (4) and swam to the shore.
33. (1) The current edition  
 (2) of the encyclopaedia,  
 (3) which I saw yesterday,  
 (4) said that cloning is possible.
34. (1) The loss of three friends  
 (2) and a job  
 (3) were the price Patel had to pay  
 (4) for his ill tempered outbursts.
35. (1) In the new school,  
 (2) the teachers  
 (3) were more friendly  
 (4) than my old school.

**Directions (Questions 36-40):** In each of these questions, choose the alternative which is closest to opposite in meaning of the underlined word in the sentence.

36. Harold was an excellent husband-tender, thoughtful, proud and affectionate; he was irreproachable.  
 (1) impeachable (2) ~~unstable~~ (3) inaccessible (4) inconsistent
37. Boozy, brawling and bold; he is excoriated by the right wing for his opposition to the Vietnam War.  
 (1) favoured (2) reviled (3) revered (4) commended
38. The boy jumped up and down with alacrity as he inched closer to the candy store.  
 (1) apathy (2) courtesy (3) ardour (4) zeal
39. She had been ready with a flow of wrathful expostulation, but suddenly she burst into tears.  
 (1) kind (2) persuasive (3) calm (4) naive
40. Yet this ungainly exterior sheltered a tender, romantic and idealistic soul.  
 (1) unassuming (2) placid (3) attractive (4) graceful

**Directions (Questions 41-45):** In each of these questions, choose the alternative which can replace the underlined word without changing the meaning of the sentence.

41. The Puritan elders tried to ban levity of all sorts from the community meetings.  
(1) youngsters      ✓(2) frivolity      (3) illiterates      (4) superstition
42. I have my fingers in too many pies, I am completely frazzled.  
✓(1) exhausted      (2) satiated      (3) annoyed      (4) satisfied
43. It is hard to locate the roots of peripatetic gypsies and their borrowed traditions.  
(1) colourful      (2) static      (3) resident      ✓(4) itinerant
44. The audience had no problem understanding the presenter's perspicuous speech.  
(1) baneful      (2) sagacious      ✓(3) avaricious      (4) lucid
45. He acquiesced to his son's decision to go out without an umbrella despite the prediction of rain.  
(1) submitted      (2) disagreed      ✓(3) rejoiced      (4) basked

**Directions (Questions 46-50):** In each of these questions, choose the option which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

46. An extremely confused or complicated situation  
(1) Sodality      ✓(2) Oppugn      (3) Imbroglia      (4) Tiff
47. A formal resignation and renunciation of powers  
(1) Fauna      (2) Regalia      (3) Axiom      ✓(4) Abdication
48. A person who hates reason or discussion  
(1) Misogynist      ✓(2) Misologist      (3) Misanthropist      (4) Bibliophile
49. A child who stays away from school without leave or explanation  
✓(1) Truant      (2) Cynic      (3) Martinet      (4) Acquiescent
50. To express vehement protest  
(1) Invigorate      (2) Fulminate      ✓(3) Exaltation      (4) Languish