

Ageing regime: On Iran's hijab protests

Iran's **failure** to **usher in** political and social reforms **is triggering** violent protests

The **death** of a young Iranian-Kurdish woman while in the custody of **the morality police** **has** triggered **nationwide** protests in the Islamic Republic, bringing the **clerical** regime under public pressure yet again. Twenty-two-year-old Mahsa Amini had been **detained** earlier this month for **allegedly** wearing the hijab (**headscarf**) in an “improper” way. The authorities **attributed** her death three days later to a heart attack while being trained on hijab rules, but her parents and **activists** say she was beaten to death. The incident triggered **widespread** anger in a country where state **suppression** of women's rights and **resistance** has always been a big political issue. **Several cities**, including Tehran, the capital, and Mashhad, a **conservative** city that **hosts** one of Shia Islam's **holiest shrines**, **saw demonstrators chanting** slogans against the clerical **establishment** and women publicly burning hijabs. Rights groups say **some 36 people**, including security personnel, **have** been killed in seven days. These are the most **notable** mass protests since the 2019 **agitations sparked** by a rise in fuel prices, and a key political challenge for President Ebrahim Raisi, who took office last year. As in the past, the regime has **made it clear** that it would use force to **quell** the protests, with the Revolutionary Guard Corps **terming** the protesters “**traitors**” and **urging** the authorities to “crush” them.

The mandatory hijab rules were introduced in 1981, two years after the **revolution** that saw the **fall** of the Pahlavi **monarchy** and the **seizure** of power by the Shia **clergy**. While the Mullahs have since built a system of clerical **dictatorship** with limited democratic **practices**, two things have remained constant — **state-sponsored conservatism** and social **repression**. This model also produced constant tensions between the rulers and **the ruled**; those tensions have become more **prominent** in recent years as **the political experiments** to reform the system from within **failed** and economic **miseries mounted** because of American **sanctions**. In the last 25 years, Iranians elected two **reformist** Presidents for two terms — Mohammad Khatami in 1997 and Hassan Rouhani in 2013. But they failed to make any **substantial** reforms in the political system, which is tightly controlled by the clerical establishment. **The lack** of reforms and **ballooning** economic and political pressure often **triggered** large-scale protests and violent repression — in 2009, 2019, and now in 2022. Protests are part of the political culture in democracies. But in a dictatorship that claims the **legacy** of a politico-religious revolution, repeated protests chanting slogans such as “death to the dictator” are signs that the Islamic revolution is ageing. Iran's clergy should learn from the social **strife** and be ready to **address** the larger problems that its state and society face.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’

Vocabulary

1. **Ageing** (adjective) – to become or look old
पुराना हो जाना
2. **Regime** (noun) – Government, administration, management, system
शासन
3. **Usher in** (phrasal verb) – to be at the start of a new period
शुरुआत होना
4. **Trigger** (verb) – Cause, start, prompt, produce, initiate, spark, set off
शुरू करना
5. **Morality police** (noun) – any policy that seeks to use the coercive power of government to impose or legitimize one set of fundamental values or norms over a competing set (or sets) of values or norms.
6. **Nationwide** (adjective) – Countrywide, national
देशव्यापी
7. **Clerical** (adjective) – Priestly, religious, ecclesiastical, church
पुरोहितवत्
8. **Detain** (verb) – Arrest, hold, capture, confine, control, restrain
गिरफ्तार करना
9. **Allegedly** (adverb) – supposedly, purportedly, ostensibly, apparently
कथित तौर पर
10. **Headscarf** (noun) – a piece of cloth which some women wear around their heads
स्कार्फ
11. **Attribute** (verb) – to believe that something was caused or done by somebody/something
कारण ठहरना
12. **Widespread** (adjective) – extensive, prevalent, general, common, pervasive
व्यापक रूप से
13. **Suppression** (noun) – repression, crushing, oppression
दमन
14. **Resistance** (noun) – Opposition, Defiance, challenge
विरोध
15. **Conservative** (adjective) – Traditional, conventional, conformist, traditionalist
रूढ़िवादी
16. **Host** (verb) – be the host of or for; hold, present, introduce, accommodate
17. **Holy** (adjective) – consecrated, sanctified, blessed, divine, sacred
पवित्र
18. **Shrine** (noun) – Temple, memorial, holy place, place of pilgrimage
मंदिर
19. **Demonstrator** (noun) – Protestor, supporter, activist, campaigner, lobbyist
प्रदर्शक
20. **Chant** (verb) – Recite, intone, repeat, vocalize
गाना
21. **Establishment** (noun) – Authorities, Powers that be, the ruling class, government
शासक-वर्ग

22. **Notable** (adjective) – Distinguished, prominent, famous, noteworthy, outstanding, remarkable उल्लेखनीय
23. **Agitation** (noun) – Campaigning, activism, demonstration, protest, stir, confrontation आंदोलन
24. **Spark** (verb) – Generate, produce, create, incite, trigger, set off पैदा करना
25. **Make clear** (phrase) – explain, elucidate, spell out, clarify, make obvious स्पष्ट करना
26. **Quell** (verb) – Suppress, subdue, crush, repress शांत करना, कुचलना
27. **Term** (verb) – call, name, cite, designate, characterize पुकारना
28. **Traitor** (noun) – conspirator, turncoat, defector, deserter, spy देशद्रोही
29. **Urge** (verb) – appeal, ask, recommend, implore, advise, plead अनुरोध करना
30. **Revolution** (noun) – rebellion, revolt, uprising, upheaval, insurgency क्रान्ति
31. **Fall** (noun) – a (political) defeat; a failure (राजनीतिक) पराजय; विफलता
32. **Monarchy** (noun) – Realm, kingdom, dominion, domain, empire राजतंत्र
33. **Seizure** (noun) – capture, arrest कब्जा
34. **Clergy** (noun) – Priesthood, ministry, ordained priest पुरोहित-वर्ग
35. **Dictatorship** (noun) – Despotism, autocracy, totalitarianism, authoritarianism, tyranny तानाशाही
36. **Practice** (noun) – Habit, custom, tradition प्रथा, कार्य
37. **State-sponsored** (adjective) – Government supported
38. **Conservatism** (noun) – Obscurantism, traditionalism, dogmatism, reaction रूढ़िवाद
39. **Repression** (noun) – suppression, subjugation, domination, authoritarianism, tyranny दमन
40. **The ruled** (noun) – People of country who ruled over by the ruler
41. **Prominent** (adjective) – Noticeable, conspicuous, obvious, blatant, pronounced प्रमुख
42. **Misery** (noun) – Suffering, deprivation, privation, destitution, poverty कष्ट, दुर्गति, मुसीबत
43. **Mount** (verb) – Increase, accumulate, grow, swell, escalate, multiply, intensify बढ़ना
44. **Sanction** (noun) – restriction, penalty, ban, punishment, injunction प्रतिबंध
45. **Reformist** (noun) – Improver, corrector, campaigner, activist, crusader, agitator सुधारवादी

46. **Substantial** (adjective) – Considerable, large, extensive, significant, important
काफी
47. **Ballooning** (adjective) – Swelling, inflating, expanding, rising, increasing, getting bigger
बढ़ती
48. **Legacy** (noun) – something that is a result of events in the past
49. **Strife** (noun) – Trouble, conflict, discord, contention, fighting लडाई
50. **Address** (verb) – tackle, deal with, attend to निपटाना

Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words [Editorial page]

1. Iran's clergy should learn from the social strife and be ready to address the larger problems that its state and society face.
 - A. Innocuous
 - B. Proletariat
 - C. Periphery
 - D. Discord
2. The political experiments to reform the system from within failed and economic miserias mounted because of American sanctions.
 - A. Vacillate
 - B. Misfortune
 - C. Maverick
 - D. Astute
3. As in the past, the regime has made it clear that it would use force to quell the protests, with the Revolutionary Guard Corps terming the protesters "traitors" and urging the authorities to "crush" them.
 - A. Agrarian
 - B. Ostensible
 - C. Suppress
 - D. Orthodox
4. **Idioms & Phrase**
 I was given a million-dollar project to manage in my first month - it was a real baptism of fire.
 - A. Pay attention
 - B. To have a very strong hope that something will happen
 - C. To take a decision
 - D. A very difficult first experience of something
5. **Direction: Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**
As irate protesters gathered near the house of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in a desperate bid to highlight their suffering, the worsening economic crisis in Sri Lanka has possibly reached its crescendo.
 - P. The Rajapaksas did inherit some economic problems, while the pandemic cast a greater burden.
 - Q. The Rajapaksas, who have dominated the political and electoral scene, face an unprecedented decline in their popularity, as the people struggle for want of adequate money, fuel and food.

R. However, the current administration is indeed responsible for some ill-advised populist measures such as a huge raise in the threshold for income taxes and VAT registration, leading to revenue loss.

S. while his party, the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna, won a landslide in parliamentary elections a year later.

T. The roots of the crisis may not lie wholly in the policies of Mr. Gotabaya, who was swept to power in 2019 as President on a platform of strong leadership and decisive action,

U. And there was a questionable order to move to fertilizer-free farming overnight, which led to loss of yield and drew sharp criticism.

Which among the following will be the **Third** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

- A. P B.T C.S D.Q E.R

Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. A. While I was driving home I heard some shocking news on the radio.
B. The old man is too weak to walk.
C. Every one of us has to be very vigilant to safeguard our hard won liberty.
D. Gaurav, an early riser and a nature-lover goes to morning walk at Shyam Sarovar lake before dawn.
E. All are correct
7. A. Yesterday, I met the man who was blind in the right eye.
B. The first two chapters of the book are very interesting, the remaining ones are boring.
C. The manager has his problems but we have ours as well.
D. The large balloons I bought for Christmas are very nice.
E. All are correct
8. When she knocked the door (A)/ I said to her (B)/ Come in. (C)/ No Error(D)
9. She said (A)/ that she will meet me (B)/ at the restaurant. (C)/ No Error(D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
A. Bewilderingly
B. Vardant
C. Insatiable
D. Ruminative

Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: Slow improvement – Sep 2, 2022)

The latest official GDP estimates (A)/ would in normal circumstances be a cause for cheer, (B)/ pointing as they ostensibly (C)/ do to a double-digit expansion in economic output in the first quarter.(D)

The NSO's projection of 13.5% growth in gross domestic product from the year-earlier April-June period, however, is disconcertingly slower than the 16.2% pace that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

had projected just last month and points to an economy that is still in search of a firmer footing. Faced with **headwinds (A)** — signs of a global **recession (B)** and the Ukraine war — the first-quarter's underwhelming momentum may **shallower (C)** the economy into a far **pitch (D)** growth trajectory even as faster-than-acceptable inflation erodes consumer confidence.

The major employment-providing sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, construction and the contact-intensive trade, hotels and transport services sector suffered quarter-on-quarter contractions of 13.3%, 10.5%, 22.3% and 24.6%, respectively. **(1)**/ Only two services sectors — electricity, gas, water and other utility services, and financial and professional services — logged expansions from the January-March quarter, growing by 12.6% and 23.7%, respectively. **(2)**/ Output in the eight broad sectors that combine to provide the Gross Value Added (GVA) shows that while year-on-year all sectors expanded, with public administration, defence and other services growing 26.3%, six of these sectors posted sequential contractions. **(3)**/

The demand side has flattered to deceive. Private final consumption expenditure, the essential _____ **11** _____ of the economy, appeared to have revived with a year-on-year expansion of 25.9% lifting its share in the GDP to just shy of 60%. However, when viewed sequentially, the estimated ₹22.08 lakh crore of private consumption spending in April-June 2022 was a not insignificant ₹54,000 crore, or 2.4%, less than what was spent in the preceding quarter. And both government spending and gross fixed capital formation, which is viewed as a proxy for private investment, shrank quarter-on-quarter by 10.4% and 6.8%, respectively, undermining overall output. That GDP, in fact, contracted 9.6% sequentially should be a cause for concern among policymakers. Given that this year's monsoon has distributed rains in an **erratic** _____ **12** _____ pattern that has caused disruptive flooding in some parts while leaving key paddy and pulses growing areas in northern and eastern India moisture deficient, both farm output and consumer spending in the rural hinterland are likely to take a hit. And with global trade also _____ **13** _____ amid the sharp slowdown in advanced economies, India's merchandise exports are sure to weaken in momentum, any benefits from the rupee's depreciation against the dollar notwithstanding. With the RBI needing to stay laser focused on _____ **14** _____ inflation, the onus is on fiscal authorities to spur consumption and investment.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 – Q14)

11. Private final consumption expenditure, the essential _____ **11** _____ of the economy, appeared to have revived with a year-on-year expansion of 25.9% lifting its share in the GDP to just shy of 60%.
 - A. Belligerent
 - B. Heresy
 - C. Blatant
 - D. Bulwark
12. Given that this year's monsoon has distributed rains in an erratic _____ **12** _____ pattern that has caused disruptive flooding in some parts.
 - A. Provincial
 - B. Scattershot
 - C. Espouse

- D. Aggregate
13. And with global trade also _____13_____ amid the sharp slowdown in advanced economies, India's merchandise exports are sure to weaken in momentum, any benefits from the rupee's depreciation against the dollar notwithstanding.
- A. Clique
B. Flaunting
C. Becalmed
D. Ascendancy
14. With the RBI needing to stay laser focused on _____14_____ inflation, the onus is on fiscal authorities to spur consumption and investment.
- A. Taming
B. Juxtaposing
C. Infatuated
D. Vitiating
15. **The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**
The latest official GDP estimates (A)/ would in normal circumstances be a cause for cheer, (B)/ pointing as they ostensibly (C)/ do to a double-digit expansion in economic output in the first quarter. (D)
- A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**
The major employment-providing sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, construction and the contact-intensive trade, hotels and transport services sector suffered quarter-on-quarter contractions of 13.3%, 10.5%, 22.3% and 24.6%, respectively. (1)/ Only two services sectors — electricity, gas, water and other utility services, and financial and professional services — logged expansions from the January-March quarter, growing by 12.6% and 23.7%, respectively. (2)/ Output in the eight broad sectors that combine to provide the Gross Value Added (GVA) shows that while year-on-year all sectors expanded, with public administration, defence and other services growing 26.3%, six of these sectors posted sequential contractions. (3)/
- A. 213
B. 123
C. 321
D. 231
E. 312
17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

ERRATIC

- (i) He drove in an **erratic** course down the road.
- (ii) Stocks closed up slightly after an **erratic** day of trading.
- (iii) The **erratic** behaviour of the stock market is making investors nervous.
- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (i), (ii)
- E. (i), (ii), (iii)
18. **In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.**
- Faced with **headwinds (A)** — signs of a global **recession (B)** and the Ukraine war — the first-quarter's underwhelming momentum may **shallower (C)** the economy into a far **pitch (D)** growth trajectory even as faster-than-acceptable inflation erodes consumer confidence.
- A. A – C
- B. A – D
- C. B – C
- D. C – D
- E. No arrangement
19. **Select the connector from the given options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same as expressed in the statement sentence.**
- (i) The only reasonable aim was to shorten those marches.
- (ii) All the artful maneuvers suggested by our generals meant fresh movements of the army and a lengthening of its marches.
- A. Whereas
- B. Although
- C. Due to
- D. Unless
- E. Nonetheless
20. **Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks**
- India is beset _____ many problems these days.
- A. With
- B. From
- C. By
- D. For
- E. None of the above

Answers

1. D 2. B 3. C 4. D 5. C 6. D 7. E 8. A 9. B 10. B 11. D 12. B
 13. C 14. A 15. E 16. C 17. E 18. D 19. A 20. A

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

4. **A baptism of/by fire** (phrase) – a very difficult first experience of something
 5. **QTSPRU**

As irate protesters gathered near the house of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in a desperate bid to highlight their suffering, the worsening economic crisis in Sri Lanka has possibly reached its crescendo. The Rajapaksas, who have dominated the political and electoral scene, face an unprecedented decline in their popularity, as the people struggle for want of adequate money, fuel and food. The roots of the crisis may not lie wholly in the policies of Mr. Gotabaya, who was swept to power in 2019 as President on a platform of strong leadership and decisive action, while his party, the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna, won a landslide in parliamentary elections a year later. The Rajapaksas did inherit some economic problems, while the pandemic cast a greater burden. However, the current administration is indeed responsible for some ill-advised populist measures such as a huge raise in the threshold for income taxes and VAT registration, leading to revenue loss. And there was a questionable order to move to fertilizer-free farming overnight, which led to loss of yield and drew sharp criticism.

6. 'a' का प्रयोग 'nature-lover' के पहले नहीं होगा क्योंकि दो Singular Nouns यदि 'and' से जुड़े हों और Article का प्रयोग यदि केवल पहला Noun के पहले हो, तो उन दोनों Nouns से एक ही व्यक्ति या वस्तु का बोध होता है; जैसे-

- i. A singer and musician is coming here today.
- ii. Rahman is a singer and musician.

किन्तु यदि दो Singular Nouns 'and' से जुड़े हों और Article का प्रयोग दोनों Nouns के पहले हो, तो उन दोनों Nouns से दो व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं का बोध होता है; जैसे-

- i. A singer and a musician are coming here today.
- ii. The Principal and the Secretary are coming here today.

➤ 'a' shall not be used before 'nature-lover' because if two Singular Nouns are joined by 'and' and Article is used only before the first Noun, then both the Nouns are of the same person. or the object is perceived; As-

- i. A singer and musician is coming here today.
- ii. Rahman is a singer and musician.

But if two Singular Nouns are joined by 'and' and Article is used before both the Nouns, then both those Nouns denote two persons or things; As-

- i. A singer and a musician are coming here today.
- ii. The Principal and the Secretary are coming here today.

8. 'knocked' के बाद Preposition 'at' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'knock at the door' का प्रयोग होता है किन्तु 'knock on the window' का। देखें:-

i. Someone is knocking at the door/ on the window.

➤ After 'knocked' the preposition 'at' will be used because 'knock at the door' is used but 'knock on the window'. see;-

i. Someone is knocking at the door/ on the window.

9. 'will' के बदले 'would' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Indirect Narration में यदि Reporting Verb Past Tense में हो, तो Reported Speech में 'will' के बदले 'would' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

i. She said that she would not go to Delhi.

➤ 'would' will be used instead of 'will' because in Indirect Narration if Reporting Verb is in Past Tense, then 'would' is used instead of 'will' in Reported Speech; As-

i. She said that she would not go to Delhi

10. **Verdant** (adjective) – green, leafy, grassy, grass-covered हरा भरा

11. **Bulwark** (noun) – Safeguard, Protection, Defense, Buttress सुरक्षा, हिफाजती बांध

12. **Scattershot** (adjective) – disorganized, random, slapdash, haphazard, chaotic बेतरतीब

13. **Becalm** (verb) – steady, still, settle स्थिर रहना

14. **Tame** (verb) – Control, Curb, Repress, Suppress, Overcome नियंत्रण करना

15.

16. (C) **321**

Output in the eight broad sectors that combine to provide the Gross Value Added (GVA) shows that while year-on-year all sectors expanded, with public administration, defence and other services growing 26.3%, six of these sectors posted sequential contractions. Only two services sectors — electricity, gas, water and other utility services, and financial and professional services — logged expansions from the January-March quarter, growing by 12.6% and 23.7%, respectively. The major employment-providing sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, construction and the contact-intensive trade, hotels and transport services sector suffered quarter-on-quarter contractions of 13.3%, 10.5%, 22.3% and 24.6%, respectively.

17. **Erratic** (adjective) – unpredictable, irregular, fickle, changeable, inconstant अनिश्चित

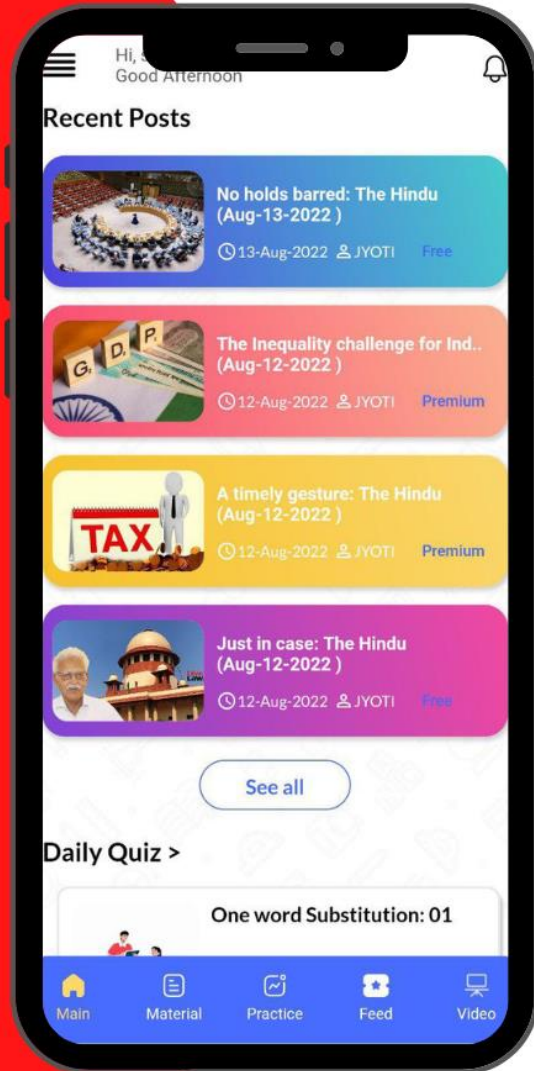
According to the given options all options are contextually correct.

18. Faced with headwinds — signs of a global recession and the Ukraine war — the first-quarter's underwhelming momentum may pitch the economy into a far shallower growth trajectory even as faster-than-acceptable inflation erodes consumer confidence.

19. All the artful maneuvers suggested by our generals meant fresh movements of the army and a lengthening of its marches, **whereas** the only reasonable aim was to shorten those marches.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Innocuous	adjective	Harmless; banal	अहानिकर
	Proletariat	noun	The industrial working class	सर्वहारा
	Periphery	noun	The outside edge of something	उपनगर
Q2	Vacillate	verb	to be indecisive; to waver	डगमगाना, हिचकना
	Maverick	noun	A nonconformist; a rebel	आवारा
	Astute	adjective	Shrewd; keen in judgment	चतुर
Q3	Agrarian	adjective	Relating to land; relating to the management or farming of land	कृषि संबंधी, भूमि-संबंधी
	Ostensible	adjective	Apparent; professed	दृश्यमान
	Orthodox	adjective	Conventional; adhering to established principles or doctrines, especially in religion; by the book	रूढ़िवादी
Q11	Belligerent	adjective	Combative; Quarrelsome; waging war	लड़ाकू, युद्धकारी
	Heresy	noun	Any belief that is strongly opposed to established belief.	विरुद्ध मत, मतान्तर
	Blatant	adjective	Unpleasantly or offensively noisy; glaring	शोरगुल से भरा, ज़बरदस्त, प्रबल
Q12	Provincial	adjective	Limited in outlook to one's own small corner of the world; narrow	प्रांतीय
	Provisional	adjective	Conditional; temporary; tentative	अस्थायी
	Espouse	verb	To support; to advocate	समर्थन करना, सहायता देना
Q13	Clique	noun	An exclusive group bound together by some shared quality or interest	गुट
	Flaunt	verb	To show off; to display ostentiously	इठलाना, शान दिखाना
	Ascendancy	noun	Supremacy; domination	प्रभुत्व, प्रधानता
Q14	Juxtapose	verb	To place side by side	मिलाना
	Infatuated	adjective	Foolish; foolishly passionate or attracted; made foolish; foolishly in love.	मुखता
	Vitiate	verb	To make impure; to pollute	भ्रष्ट करना



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

