

Split over hijab: On the Supreme Court verdict

The Supreme Court of India's verdict on the head-scarf case should not **lead to denial** of education rights

A two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has been unable to **resolve** the **conflict** between a girl student's freedom to wear a head-scarf and the **state's** interest in keeping schools a place of equality and **secularism**. It is **unfortunate** that a clear verdict did not **emerge** from the **elaborate** arguments **advanced** before the Court **for** and against the Karnataka government's **bar** on the wearing of the hijab. The split verdict **perhaps reflects** the division in the wider society on issues **concerning** secularism and the minorities. **Justice Hemant Gupta**, rejecting the idea that hijab could be worn **in addition to** the uniform, **has held** that **permitting** one community to wear religious symbols to **class will** be the **antithesis** of secularism. **Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia**, **on the other hand**, **has ruled** that **asking** to remove the head-scarf at an institution's gates **is** an **invasion** of their privacy and **dignity**. The issue is why a head-scarf that does not **interfere** with the uniform cannot be a matter of choice without being a target of **hostile** discrimination; and whether the hijab is going to be used to deny girl students their right to education. Justice Dhulia represents this **viewpoint** when he **asserts** that discipline should not be **at the cost of** freedom, when he **wonders** why a girl child wearing a hijab should be a **public order** problem and declares that '**reasonable accommodation**' of this practice will be a sign of a mature society. He also **empathises** with the position of girl students who have to **overcome** greater **odds** than boys to get an education.

Justice Gupta, on the other hand, **has foregrounded** equality and discipline as the essential **hallmarks** of a **secular** institution in a **diverse** country, and **rules** that the Government **violates** no constitutional principle when **enforcing** a prescribed uniform. He goes to the **extent** of saying the constitutional goal of **fraternity** would be defeated if students are permitted to carry their **apparent** religious symbols with them to the classroom. The split verdict has **given rise to** the question of whether **matters** on which opinions could be sharply divided and have significant political **implications** **should** be placed before Division Benches of even number. In the **prevailing** political climate, the Karnataka government **mandating** either a prescribed uniform or any dress that was "in the interest of unity, equality and public order" was seen as **majoritarian assertion** in the **garb** of enforcing secular norms, equality and discipline in educational institutions. A **verdict** that **legitimises** this non-inclusive approach to education and a policy that may lead to denial of opportunity to Muslim women **will** not be in the country's interest. Reasonable accommodation should be the **course** as long as **the hijab or any wear**, religious or otherwise, **does** not **detract from** the uniform. **[Practice Exercise]**

- **A split verdict** (noun) – it is passed when the Bench cannot decide one way or the other in a case, either by a unanimous decision or by a majority verdict.
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'Subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Split** (noun) – Difference of Opinion
विभाजन
2. **Verdict** (noun) – judgement, adjudication, adjudgement, decision
निर्णय
3. **Lead** (to) (verb) – cause, give rise to, result in, bring about वजह बनना
4. **Denial** (noun) – refusal, rejection, repudiation, disavowal, negation इन्कार
5. **Resolve** (verb) – Solve settle, come to a decision समाधान करना
6. **Conflict** (verb) – Battle, fight, war, struggle, skirmish, clash, encounter संघर्ष
7. **State** (noun) – country, nation, land, sovereign state, nation state; government
8. **Secularism** (noun) – the belief that religion should not influence or be involved in the organization of society, education, government, etc.
धर्मनिरपेक्षता
9. **Unfortunate** (adjective) – unlucky, hapless, out of luck, down on one's luck
दुर्भाग्य
10. **Emerge** (verb) – appear, arise, come out, surface, develop उभरना, बाहर आना
11. **Elaborate** (adjective) – detailed विस्तृत
12. **Advance** (verb) – to suggest an idea or theory
13. **For** (preposition) – in support of, in favour of
14. **Bar** (noun) – Restriction, impediment, barrier, block, hindrance रोक
15. **Perhaps** (adverb) – maybe, for all I know, for all you know शायद
16. **Reflect** (verb) – indicate, show, display, demonstrate, प्रदर्शित करना
17. **Concerning** (preposition) – about; on the subject of के विषय में; के विषय पर
18. **In addition to** (phrase) – besides, as well as, apart from, furthermore, together with के अलावा
19. **Hold** (verb) – adjudge, declare, decide निर्णय करना
20. **Permit** (verb) – allow, license, authorize, enable, sanction अनुमति देना
21. **Class** (verb) – categorize, classify, श्रेणी देना
22. **Antithesis** (noun) – A person or thing that is the direct opposite of someone or something else प्रतिपक्षता
23. **On the other hand** (phrase) – Used to introduce a contrasting point of view, fact, or situation वहीं दूसरी ओर

24. **Rule** (verb) – decree, order, direct, pronounce, make a judgement निर्णय करना
25. **Invasion** (noun) – attack, incursion, offensive, assailing हमला
26. **Dignity** (noun) – self-esteem, self-worth, self-respect, pride, morale गरिमा, गौरव
27. **Interfere** (with) (verb) – intervene, meddle, interrupt, intrude, hinder हस्तक्षेप करना
28. **Hostile** (adjective) – not agreeing with something; opposed to, against, disinclined to विरोधी
29. **Viewpoint** (noun) – standpoint, perspective, point of view, position, opinion दृष्टिकोण
30. **Assert** (verb) – declare, affirm, state, claim, aver दृढ़ता से कहना
31. **At the cost of** (phrase) – by giving up or hurting (something else) की कीमत पर, इसके बदले में
32. **Wonder** (verb) – think about, reflect on, deliberate about, speculate about सोचना, आश्चर्य होना
33. **Public order** (noun) – Public Order means the state of normality and security that is needed in a society and that should be pursued by the state in order to exercise constitutional rights
- and to thus benefit a harmonious development of society सार्वजनिक व्यवस्था
34. **Reasonable accommodation** (noun) – ‘Reasonable accommodation’ is a philosophy that promotes equality, allows positive rights to be granted, and prevents discrimination based on disability, health, or personal beliefs. Its primary application is in the field of disability rights.
35. **Empathise** (verb) – to be able to understand how someone else feels सहानुभूति रखना
36. **Overcome** (verb) – Succeed in dealing with (a problem or difficulty) दूर करना
37. **Odds** (noun) – something that makes it seem impossible to do or achieve something बाधाओं
38. **Foreground** (verb) – to give the most importance to a particular subject, etc.:
39. **Hallmark** (noun) – a feature or quality that is typical of somebody/something कसौटी, नमूना
40. **Secular** (adjective) – non-religious, lay, non-church, temporal, worldly धर्मनिरपेक्ष
41. **Diverse** (adjective) – varied, varying, miscellaneous, assorted, mixed, diversified विविध

42. **Violate** (verb) – breach, infringe, rape, break, transgress उल्लंघन करना
43. **Enforce** (verb) – impose, apply, carry out, administer, implement, लागू करना
44. **Extent** (noun) – Degree, amount, range, scope करना
45. **Fraternity** (noun) – The state or quality of being fraternal or brotherly; brotherhood. भाईचारा
46. **Apparent** (adjective) – obvious, evident, clear, manifest, plain स्पष्ट
47. **Give rise to** (phrase) – cause, lead to, generate, result in, bring about उत्पन्न करना
48. **Implication** (noun) – Consequence, repercussion, effect, outcome परिणाम/प्रभाव
49. **Prevailing** (adjective) – current, existing, prevalent, usual, common मौजूदा
50. **Mandate** (verb) – Require (something) to be done; make mandatory. अनिवार्य करना
51. **Majoritarian** (adjective) – Of, relating to, or advocating/supporting majority rule, especially as a political principle: बहुसंख्यकवादी
52. **Assertion** (noun) – declaration, statement, claim, affirmation, Contention दावा
53. **In the garb of** (phrase) – in the name of, for the sake of की आड़ में
54. **Legitimise** (verb) – Make legal वैध करना
55. **Course** (noun) – a procedure adopted to deal with a situation कार्यप्रणाली
56. **Detract from** (phrasal verb) – to make something seem less valuable or less deserving of admiration than it really is

Practice Exercise

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

1. The issue is why a head-scarf that does not interfere with the uniform cannot be a matter of choice without being a target of hostile discrimination
 - A. Deduce
 - B. Sycophant
 - C. Urbane
 - D. Antagonistic
2. Justice Gupta, on the other hand, has foregrounded equality and discipline as the essential hallmarks of a secular institution in a diverse country
 - A. Replete
 - B. Soporific
 - C. Characteristics
 - D. Extraneous
3. He goes to the extent of saying the constitutional goal of fraternity would be defeated
 - A. Ignominy
 - B. Conducive
 - C. Cognizant
 - D. Brotherhood

4. **Idioms & Phrase**

Mary was found wanting in basic social etiquette by her peers.

- A. Be discovered or found not good enough
 - B. To garner attention and be the topic of conversation.
 - C. No foreseeable end or conclusion to something
 - D. To gradually start to experience an unpleasant or difficult situation
5. **Direction: Five 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.**

India's retail inflation print for July came in at 6.7 per cent.

P. While this is considerably higher than the Reserve Bank of India's target inflation rate of 4 per cent and even outside its comfort zone (2 per cent to 6 per cent),

Q. the July number brings relief.

R. That's because retail inflation has shown a steady deceleration

S. since it hit an eight-year high of almost 8 per cent in April;

T. it grew at 7 per cent in May and June.

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

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

Direction (Q6 – Q7): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. The professor tried (A)/ his best to clear all (B)/ their doubts in the subject(C)/ after his lecturing. (D)/No Error. (E)
7. George had already (A)/ submitted his the document (B)/even before(C)/ you asked for it. (D)/ No Error. (E)

Directions (8-9): In the following questions two columns are given containing three Sentences/phrases each. In first column, sentences/phrases are A, B and C and in the second column the sentences/phrases are D, E and F. A sentence/phrase from the first column may or may not connect with another sentence/phrase from the second column to make a grammatically and contextually correct sentence. Each question has five options, four of which display the sequence(s) in which the sentences/phrases can be joined to form a grammatically and contextually correct sentence. If none of the options given forms a correct sentence after combination, mark option (E), i.e. "None of these" as your answer.

8.

Column (1)	Column (2)
A. A committee will be set up to explore the pros and cons of a common fee structure,	D. and will take a final decision on it within a week.
B. The infection which causes gums to bleed and teeth to fall out	E. results from the build-up of a particular bacterium that is common to most mouths.
C. More than half the food products targeted at babies and toddlers have	F. a high sugar content and are excessive sweet

- A. A-E B.B-D, C-E C.A-D, B-E D.B-D E. None of these

9.

Column (1)	Column (2)
A. The foreign company has so far declined to directly comment on the Indian company's move,	D. unidentified jacket-clad men while taking a morning walk in the park
B. A property dealer was shoot dead by four	E. which analysts say is a sign the company wants to fight for its presence in the market
C. After forty years of trying to understand why asbestos	F. causes cancer, researchers have finally unravelled the mystery

- A. A-D, C-F B.A-E, B-D C.A-E, C-D D.B-F E. None of these

10. Find out the misspelt word

- A. Comprehensive
- B. Conventional
- C. Override
- D. Ambivalence

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

(The Hindu Editorial: Crisis in Caucasus – Sep 19, 2022)

The countries had fought a disastrous **(A)**/ weeks-long war in 2020 **(B)**/ over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region in which **(C)**/ Azerbaijan made gains before Russia forced a ceasefire. **(D)**

(1)/ The violent border clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan have raised fears of another war in the Caucasus. (2)/ Tensions remained with the occasional flare-ups, but Tuesday's clashes were the deadliest since 2020. (3)/ Armenia and Azerbaijan have accused each other of provocation, but the fighting, as per initial reports, took place on the Armenian side and Armenia took heavier casualties. (4)/ It may not be a coincidence that the crisis broke out at a time when Russia, Armenia's security ally, has been struggling to hold its gains in Ukraine. Armenia is a member of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation, whose NATO-like charter **stipulates** that an attack against one member could be treated as an attack against all. Armenia had turned to Russia for help, but Moscow's response was rather cautious — it called for de-escalation and claimed that it had brokered another ceasefire.

The dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh goes back to the pre-Soviet era. When the Soviet Union was formed, the Armenian majority enclave became part of the Azerbaijan Soviet Republic. When the Soviet Union **resurfaced (A)** and Armenia and Azerbaijan became independent republics, the clashes **collapsed (B)**. Armenian **rebels(C)** in Nagorno-Karabakh fought **off(D)** the Azeri forces and joined Armenia. But Azerbaijan never gave up its claims; nor did the two countries reach any peace agreement over the enclave. Unlike in the 1990s, Azerbaijan now looks economically and politically stronger. In the 2020 conflict, it got military and diplomatic assistance from Turkey while Russia was _____ **11** _____ to get dragged into the conflict on behalf of Armenia. Now, Russia's ability to project power in its neighbourhood appears to be further limited on account of Ukraine. On the other side, gas-rich Azerbaijan, which still has the _____ **12** _____ of Turkey, is being courted by the EU for increased gas supplies. These regional developments seem to have _____ **13** _____ Azerbaijan. But its ambition could be costly for everyone. Russia will find it difficult to retain its influence in Central Asia and Caucasus if it continues to ignore Armenia. At the same time, getting dragged _____ **13** _____ another battlefield would be challenging. A conflict in the Caucasus would further destabilise the global energy markets, hurting all economies, particularly energy-starved Europe. For Turkey, which is trying to balance between Russia and the West over Ukraine, another war in its neighbourhood would further complicate its foreign policy choices. The last thing the world needs now is another war. So, all sides should enforce a lasting ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan and ensure calm in the troubled mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh.

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

11. In the 2020 conflict, it got military and diplomatic assistance from Turkey while Russia was _____ to get dragged into the conflict on behalf of Armenia.

- A. Hyperbole
B. Reluctant
C. Categorical
D. Demagogue
12. On the other side, gas-rich Azerbaijan, which still has the _____ of Turkey, is being courted by the EU for increased gas supplies.
A. Backing
B. Gravity
C. Marshalling
D. Foible
13. These regional developments seem to have _____ Azerbaijan.
A. Zealous
B. Redolent
C. Extraneous
D. Emboldened
14. At the same time, getting dragged _____ another battlefield would be challenging.
A. to
B. for
C. Into
D. up
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 countries had fought a disastrous (A)/ weeks-long war in 2020 (B)/ over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region in which (C)/ Azerbaijan made gains before Russia forced a ceasefire. (D)
A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**
The countries had fought a disastrous weeks-long war in 2020 over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region in which Azerbaijan made gains before Russia forced a ceasefire. (1)/ The violent border clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan have raised fears of another war in the Caucasus. (2)/ Tensions remained with the occasional flare-ups, but Tuesday's clashes were the deadliest since 2020. (3)/ Armenia and Azerbaijan have accused each other of provocation, but the fighting, as per initial reports, took place on the Armenian side and Armenia took heavier casualties. (4)/
A. 1234
B. 2134
C. 2341

- D. 1432
E. 4231
17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentences that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best expresses (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentences.

STIPULATE

- (i) She agreed to buy the car, but **stipulated** racing tyres and a turbo-powered engine.
(ii) We **stipulate** everywhere that type statements are correct, as per the definition of type statements above.
(iii) The agreement **stipulated** that new elections were to be held and monitored by international observer groups.
- A. Only (i)
B. Only (ii)
C. Only (iii)
D. (i), (ii), (iii)
E. (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.

When the Soviet Union **resurfaced** (A) and Armenia and Azerbaijan became independent republics, the clashes **collapsed** (B). Armenian **rebels** (C) in Nagorno-Karabakh fought **off** (D) the Azeri forces and joined Armenia.

- A. A– B
B. A – D
C. B – C
D. D – C
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) You didn't tell me you wanted to come.
(ii) we won't be taking you with us.
- A. Then
B. But
C. Thus
D. Unless
E. Anyhow

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

The court has absolved him _____ the crime.

- A. By
B. From

- C. With
- D. To

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

4. **Be found wanting** (phrase) – be discovered or found not good enough **नाकाम पाया जाना**
5. **PQRST**
 India's retail inflation print for July came in at 6.7 per cent. While this is considerably higher than the Reserve Bank of India's target inflation rate of 4 per cent and even outside its comfort zone (2 per cent to 6 per cent), the July number brings relief. That's because retail inflation has shown a steady deceleration since it hit an eight-year high of almost 8 per cent in April; it grew at 7 per cent in May and June.
6. 'lecturing' के बदले 'lecture' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'lecture'(व्याख्यान) एक Noun है और किसी Possessive Adjective (my ,our, his, her, its, their) के साथ Noun का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-
- After his arrival. [Not: arriving]
 - Before his visit. [Not: visiting]
- 'lecture' will be used instead of 'lecturing' because 'lecture' is a Noun and Noun is used with any Possessive Adjective (my,our, his, her, its, their) ; like-
- After his arrival. [Not: arriving]
 - Before his visit. [Not: visiting]
7. 'the' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है और इसे हटाना पड़ेगा क्योंकि किसी Noun के पहले किसी Possessive Adjective का प्रयोग हो तो उस Noun के पहले किसी Article का प्रयोग नहीं होता है; जैसे-
- My house, your pen, her life, their plan
- The use of 'the' is unnecessary and it has to be removed because if a Possessive Adjective is used before a Noun, then no Article is used before that Noun; like-
- My house, your pen, her life, their plan
8. **Correct Option: C**
A committee will be set up to explore the pros and cons of a common fee structure, and will take a final decision on it within a week.
 Fragment A of column 1 is matched with fragment D of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct.
The infection which causes gums to bleed and teeth to fall out results from the build-up of a particular bacterium that is common to most mouths.
 Fragment B of column 1 is matched with fragment E of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct
More than half the food products targeted at babies and toddlers have a high sugar content and are excessive sweet
 Fragment C of column 1 is not matched with fragment F of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

Correct is: More than half the food products targeted at babies and toddlers have a high sugar content and are excessively sweet.

- 'excessive' के बदले 'excessively' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'sweet' एक Adjective है जिसकी विशेषता Adverb 'excessively' बताएगा, न कि Adjective 'excessive'.

9. **Correct Option: B**

The foreign company has so far declined to directly comment on the Indian company's move, which analysts say is a sign the company wants to fight for its presence in the market

Fragment A of column 1 is matched with fragment E of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

A property dealer was shoot dead by four unidentified jacket-clad men while taking a morning walk in the park.

Fragment B of column 1 is not matched with fragment D of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

Correct is: A property dealer was shot dead by four unidentified jacket-clad men while taking a morning walk in the park.

- 'shoot' के बदले 'shot' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Passive Voice में 'Be' क्रिया के साथ V3 का प्रयोग होता है और 'shoot' (गोली मारना) का V2 तथा V3 रूप में 'shot' होता है।

After forty years of trying to understand why asbestos causes cancer, researchers have finally unravelled the mystery

Fragment C of column 1 is matched with fragment F of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

10. **Override** (verb) – disregard, pay no heed to, take no account of, अवहेलना करना
11. **Reluctant** (adjective) – unwilling, disinclined, hesitant अनिच्छुक
12. **Backing** (noun) – support, assistance, patronage, समर्थन
13. **Embolden** (verb) – Give encouragement to हौसला बढ़ाना
14. **Drag into** (phrasal verb) – to force someone to become involved in an unpleasant or difficult situation
15. 'Fighted' के बदले 'fought' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि third form of Fight is 'Fought' but not fighted and there is no word like Fighted.
16. (B) **2134**

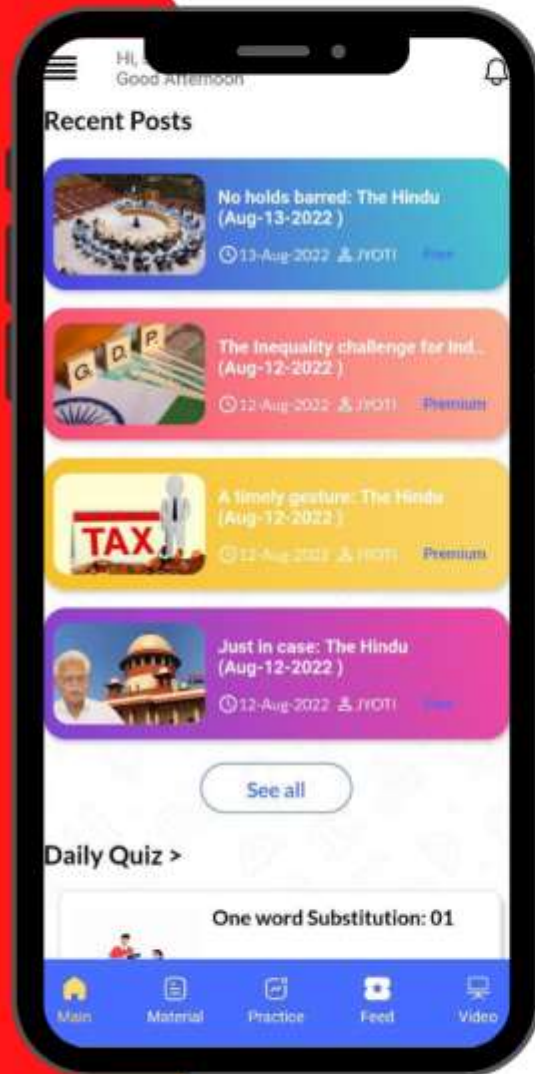
The violent border clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan have raised fears of another war in the Caucasus. The countries had fought a disastrous weeks-long war in 2020 over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region in which Azerbaijan made gains before Russia forced a ceasefire. Tensions remained with the occasional flare-ups, but Tuesday's clashes were the deadliest since 2020. Armenia and Azerbaijan have accused each other of provocation, but the

fighting, as per initial reports, took place on the Armenian side and Armenia took heavier casualties.

17. **Stipulate** (verb) – specify, condition, provide, require, शर्त लगाना, निर्दिष्ट करना
According to the given options only all options are contextually correct.
18. When the Soviet Union collapsed and Armenia and Azerbaijan became independent republics, the clashes resurfaced. Armenian rebels in Nagorno-Karabakh fought off the Azeri forces and joined Armenia.
19. You didn't tell me you wanted to come. **Thus**, we won't be taking you with us.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Deduce	verb	To conclude from the evidence; to infer	परिणाम निकालना
	Sycophant	noun	One who sucks up to other	चापलूस
	Urbane	adjective	Poised; sophisticated; refined	परिष्कृत
Q2	Replete	adjective	Completely filled; abounding	परिपूर्ण
	Soporific	adjective	Sleep inducing; extremely boring; very sleepy	बेहद उबाऊ
	Extraneous	adjective	Unnecessary; irrelevant; extra	असंगत, बाह्य, अनावश्यक
Q3	Ignominy	noun	Deep disgrace	बदनामी, कलंक
	Conducive	adjective	Promoting	सहायक, प्रेरक
	Cognizant	adjective	Aware; conscious	जानकार, परिचित
Q11	Hyperbole	noun	An exaggeration used as a figure of speech; exaggeration	अतिशयोक्ति
	Categorical	adjective	Unconditional; absolute	स्पष्ट, श्रेणीगत, निरपेक्ष
	Demagogue	noun	A leader of the people, but more a rabble rouser	दुर्जनों का नेता
Q12	Gravity	noun	Seriousness	गंभीरता
	Marshal	verb	To Arrange in order; to gather together for the purpose of doing something	सुव्यवस्थित करना
	Foible	noun	A minor character flaw	दोष, चरित्र की दुर्बलता
Q13	Zealous	adjective	Enthusiastically devoted to something fervent.	उत्साही
	Redolent	adjective	Fragrant	सुगंधित
	Extraneous	adjective	Unnecessary; irrelevant; extra	असंगत, बाह्य, अनावश्यक



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