

Remote voting: On postal ballot for NRIs

Shorter term **overseas migrants** should be able to **avail** the postal ballot system

India has the largest **diaspora** population, with nearly 1.35 crore non-resident Indians spread **across the globe**. Many of them leave the country for short-term work and could **miss out** on **exercising** some of their rights such as **registering** their vote in India's Assembly or parliamentary elections. Currently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) allows **enrolled** overseas citizens to vote **in person** at the polling station in the **constituency** where the person is registered as an overseas elector. The **necessity** to vote in person and the **costs have**, for overseas citizens, acted as a **disincentive** for their **wanting** to exercise their **mandate**. This was **evident** in the numbers of such voters in the 2019 Lok Sabha election — 25,606 among the **minuscule** 99,844 registered electors who voted. In 2014, a **committee constituted** by the ECI to **probe** methods to enable overseas voters' mandates **concluded** that **proxy voting** was the most **viable**, though some political parties **objected** to the idea. A Bill was passed in the 16th Lok Sabha (2014-19) to enable this but **lapsed**. In 2020, the ECI **approached** the Government to **permit** NRIs to vote via postal ballots, similar to the system already used by **service voters**, i.e., the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS), which allows registering their mandate on a downloaded ETPB and sending it to the **returning officer** of the constituency.

On the face of it, **allowing postal ballot use should** be a good move for NRIs, even if this does increase the burden on **embassy** or **consular** officials. This is also a more **trustworthy** way of registering mandates rather than appointing **proxies** — which is currently allowed for service personnel who are a limited number in each constituency unlike NRIs who could constitute a more **substantial chunk** among the **electorate** in some States. In the 2014 discussion organised by the ECI, some parties raised the question whether NRIs will get a benefit **denied** to internal migrant workers, but **the higher cost** of travel back to India, **as opposed to** travelling within, **is** a **valid** reason for allowing NRIs the **partially** electronic postal balloting facility. Several democratic countries allow for this option to their overseas citizens, but again, none has to **deal with** anything near the **scale** India has. The more important **question** to be tackled while **extending** the facility of voting to overseas Indians **is** whether longer term migrants should also be allowed to register their mandate as **the idea** behind **limiting** voters to specific constituencies **on account of** their residency **will** become **infructuous**. Therefore, if the postal ballot system is **indeed instituted**, rules must be clearly **framed** for voters' eligibility on the basis of their time spent away from the country. [Practice Exercise]

- **Conclude** (verb) – Decide by reasoning; draw or come to a conclusion परिणाम निकालना
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'

Vocabulary

1. **Remote voting** (noun) – Remote voting is when a voter can vote from anywhere, at any time, during the defined voting period
2. **NRIs** (noun) – Nonresident of India
3. **Overseas** (adjective) – In a foreign country
विदेशी
4. **Migrant** (noun) – a person who moves from place to place looking for work
प्रवासी
5. **Avail** (verb) – Use to one's advantage लाभ उठाना
6. **Postal ballot** (noun) – a system of voting in which people send their votes by post when they cannot be present
7. **Diaspora** (noun) – the movement of people away from their own country
प्रवासी
8. **Across the globe** (phrase) – Throughout the world; all over the world. दुनिया भर में
9. **Miss out** (phrasal verb) – leave out, disregard, miss, exclude, cut out बाहर रखना, छोड़ना
10. **Exercise** (verb) – use, employ, make use of, utilize, avail oneself of प्रयोग करना
11. **Register** (verb) – record, put on record, enter, file दर्ज करना
12. **Enroll** (verb) – Register, join, sign up, put your name down, join up, sign on सूची में नाम लिखना
13. **In person** (phrase) – actually present; In one's physical presence; personally
व्यक्तिगत रूप से
14. **Constituency** (noun) – An area whose voters elect a representative to a legislative body. चुनाव क्षेत्र
15. **Necessity** (noun) – Need, requirement, inevitability, stipulation, compulsion, obligation आवश्यकता
16. **Disincentive** (noun) – Deterrent, discouragement, hindrance, impediment, encumbrance, lack of encouragement
निरुत्साहन
17. **Wanting** (noun) – an act of desiring something to do
18. **Mandate** (noun) – an official order given to somebody to perform a particular task
19. **Evident** (adjective) – obvious, apparent, noticeable, conspicuous, perceptible
प्रत्यक्ष
20. **Minuscule** (adjective) – tiny, small, minute, little मामूली
21. **Constitute** (verb) – form, establish, make, compose, institute बनाना

22. **Probe** (verb) – investigate, examine, scrutinize, inquire into जांच करना
23. **Proxy voting** (noun) – a form of voting whereby a member of a decision-making body may delegate their voting power to a representative, to enable a vote in absence.
24. **Viable** (adjective) – feasible, workable, practicable, possible, achievable व्यवहार्य
25. **Object** (verb) – raise objections, express objections to, raise objections to, express disapproval, आपत्ति उठाना, एतराज़ करना
26. **Lapse** (verb) – expire, become void, become invalid, run out, terminate, बीत जाना, समाप्त होना
27. **Approach** (verb) – Contact, Accost, Speak to, Talk to, Get in touch with, Make contact with पहुँचना
28. **Permit** (verb) – Authorize, Allow, Let, Approve, Sanction, Pass अनुमति देना
29. **Service voter** (noun) – members of Indian Army, Navy and Air Force and personnel of General Reserve Engineer Force (Border Road Organization), Border Security Force, Indo Tibetan Border Police, Assam Rifles, National Security Guards, Central Reserve Police Force, Central Industrial Security Force and Sashastra Seema Bal are eligible to be registered as service voters.
30. **Returning officer** (noun) – the official in each constituency or electorate who conducts an election and announces the result. निर्वाचन अधिकारी
31. **On the face of it** (phrase) – apparently, seemingly, evidently, outwardly, it seems प्रत्यक्ष रूप से
32. **Embassy** (noun) – a group of officials led by an ambassador who represent their government in a foreign country दूतावास
33. **Consular** (adjective) – relating to the consul or consulate in a foreign city
34. **Trustworthy** (adjective) – able to be relied on as honest or truthful भरोसेमंद
35. **Proxy** (noun) – the authority to represent someone else, especially in voting रतिनिधि रूप में वोट
36. **Substantial** (adjective) – sizeable, considerable, significant, large, ample काफी
37. **Chunk** (noun) – a significant amount of something. अंश, भाग, हिस्सा
38. **Electorate** (noun) – Voter मतदाता
39. **Deny** (verb) – Refuse, disallow, block, forbid, prevent, नकारना
40. **As opposed to** (phrase) – rather than, instead of के विरोध में

41. **Valid** (adjective) – Logical, suitable, rational, sound, compelling जायज़, वैध
42. **Partially** (adverb) – only in part; to a limited extent. आंशिक रूप से
43. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) – cope with, handle, manage, attend to, see to संभालना, निपटना
44. **Scale** (noun) – extent, size, scope, magnitude पैमाना
45. **Extend** (verb) – Increase, expand, widen, broaden, develop, add to विस्तार करना, बढ़ाना
46. **Limit** (verb) – restrict, curb, check, place a limit on, cap सीमित करना
47. **On account of** (phrase) – because of, due to, by virtue of के कारण
48. **Infructuous** (adjective) – pointless or unnecessary. निष्फल
49. **Indeed** (adverb) – as expected, to be sure, in fact, in point of fact वास्तव में
50. **Institute** (verb) – introduce, found, start, inaugurate, establish स्थापित करना
51. **Frame** (verb) – formulate, draw up, plan तैयार करना

Practice Exercise

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

1. the idea behind limiting voters to specific constituencies on account of their residency will become **infructuous**
 - A. Condone
 - B. Efface
 - C. Pointless
 - D. Impotent
2. proxy voting was the most **viable**, though some political parties objected to the idea
 - A. Insipid
 - B. Anachronism
 - C. Specious
 - D. Feasible
3. The necessity to vote in person and the costs have, for overseas citizens, acted as a **disincentive** for their wanting to exercise their mandate
 - A. Deterrent
 - B. Hierarchy
 - C. Vindictive
 - D. Morose
4. **Idioms & Phrase**

Though my grandfather was the breadwinner, it was my grandmother who truly **held the reins** in their house.

 - A. To provide information about something
 - B. To return quickly to a normal condition after a difficult situation or event
 - C. To not be involved in something
 - D. To have or be in control
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.**

The shooting down of a Chinese drone by Taiwan's military on September 1 has marked a new phase in the already simmering tensions across the Taiwan Strait, highlighting the growing risks of escalation, even if unintended.

 - P. Taiwan soberly chose not to engage the PLA vessels.
 - Q. In the wake of the drills, the Chinese military has subsequently sought to continue asserting Beijing's territorial claims by sending drones into Taiwan's airspace.
 - R. Photographs taken up close of Taiwan military personnel were subsequently shared on social media, apparently to demonstrate Beijing's capabilities, but in the process raising pressure on Taipei to show a response.
 - S. Over recent weeks, China's military has carried out unprecedented military drills surrounding Taiwan, following the visit last month of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

T. Taiwan's military said it took the decision to shoot down what it called an unidentified civilian drone over its airspace in Shiyu Island after delivering several warnings.

U. Some manoeuvres crossed the median of the Taiwan Strait and were declared by China's military to have also taken place in territorial waters claimed by Taiwan.

Which among the following will be the **last** 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. As our country is (A)/experiencing a recession, banks (B)/ have become very cautious(C)/ about giving loans. (D)/ No Error. (E)
7. Raman puts in a lot (A)/ of efforts to ensure (B)/ that the scheme is (C)/ launched in March(D)/ No Error. (E)

Directions (Q8-Q9): In each of the questions given below, a word is given followed by 3 sentences, each with a blank. Find out which of the sentences the given word or any form of it would fit the blank and mark your answer.

8. **Bulwark**

- (i) My savings were to be a _____ against unemployment.
- (ii) Their special contribution was to act as an ideological _____, not only against outsiders but against the fifth-columnists within.
- (iii) Their works extolled the middleclass consumer as sensible, independent-minded, and the _____ of the nation's democracy.

- A. only i
B. only ii
C. ii and iii
D. i and ii
E. I, ii and iii

9. **Wreak havoc**

- (i) The virus _____ on my compute
- (ii) On the other hand, because the parliamentary majorities of the coalitions have not been large, small regional parties can _____.
- (iii) I argue that, given an infinite number of possible persons, the probability that everyone is transworld _____ is exceedingly low.

- A. only i
B. only ii
C. ii and iii
D. i and ii
E. I, ii and iii

10. **Find out the misspelt word**

- A. Recommend
B. Upholstery

- C. Supersede
- D. Bouyant

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

(The Hindu Editorial: A Dangerous Moment – Sep 22, 2022)

His original plan was to meet his military objectives through a limited war. **(1)**/ He had mobilised more than 1,50,000 troops and ordered a sharp thrust into Ukraine from multiple fronts on February 24, but this plan did not quite work as Ukrainian forces, backed militarily and economically by the U.S. and Europe, slowed down the enemy's advances and made the invasion costly for the Russians. **(2)**/ Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement of a partial troop mobilisation marks an acknowledgement of the limits of his "special military operation" in Ukraine and a readiness to escalate the conflict in response to setbacks. **(3)**/ Earlier, Mr. Putin had to withdraw troops from around Kyiv and Kharkiv and focus on Ukraine's east and south where the Russians made territorial gains. **(4)**/

But Russia suffered its first major battlefield defeats earlier this month in Kharkiv Oblast in the northeast where its troops had to retreat in the face of a _____ **11** _____ Ukrainian counter-offensive. This setback seemed to have quickened Kremlin's move to _____ **12** _____ its positions in captured Ukrainian territories. Pro-Russia separatists in Luhansk, Donetsk in the east and Kherson and Zaporizhzhya in the south are now planning to hold referendums on joining the Russian Federation. As the results are known even before the first ballot is cast, the door is now shutting on the possibility of a negotiated settlement of the conflict based on the pre-war borders. For Mr. Putin, the escalation comes with added risks. He went into Ukraine with limited forces in the first place because he knew that a general mobilisation, which would need nationwide conscription, could be _____ **13** _____. But almost eight months later, his war has not only failed to meet its declared objectives, which includes Ukraine's "demilitarisation", but has also seen a _____ **14** _____ NATO **throwing its collective weight behind** Ukraine and expanding itself further into the Russian borders by taking in Finland and Sweden as its members. Mr. Putin and his Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu acknowledged the challenges on Wednesday.

If Mr. Putin, who dialled up the nuclear threat, said his troops (A)/ are facing the best of "the Western military machine" in Ukraine, (B)/ Mr. Shoigu, whose Ministry till now avoided to call the military operation a war, (C)/ said Russia today "is at war with the collective West". (D)

Faced with battlefield setbacks, sanctions and geopolitical challenges, Mr. Putin believes escalation is the way forward. But there is no certainty that a partial **mobilization(A)** would produce quick results and it could well **trigger(B)** a cycle of **escalation(C)**. All this means that the war is entering a far more dangerous **phase(D)**.

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

11. Russia suffered its first major battlefield defeats earlier this month in Kharkiv Oblast in the northeast where its troops had to retreat in the face of a _____ Ukrainian counter-offensive.
- A. Respite

- B. Martyr
C. Lightning
D. Preeminent
12. This setback seemed to have quickened Kremlin's move to _____ its positions in captured Ukrainian territories.
A. Loquacious
B. Consolidate
C. Fecund
D. Indulgent
13. For Mr. Putin, the escalation comes with added risks. He went into Ukraine with limited forces in the first place because he knew that a general mobilisation, which would need nationwide conscription, could be _____.
A. Patronized
B. Effusion
C. Unpopular
D. Indigent
14. Almost eight months later, his war has not only failed to meet its declared objectives, which includes Ukraine's "demilitarisation", but has also seen a _____ NATO throwing its collective weight behind Ukraine and expanding itself further into the Russian borders by taking in Finland and Sweden as its members
A. Ambivalent
B. Reinvigorated
C. Corollary
D. Impartial
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.**
If Mr. Putin, who dialled up the nuclear threat, said his troops **(A)**/ are facing the best of "the Western military machine" in Ukraine, **(B)**/ Mr. Shoigu, whose Ministry till now avoided to call the military operation a war, **(C)**/ said Russia today "is at war with the collective West". **(D)**
A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**
His original plan was to meet his military objectives through a limited war.**(1)**/ He had mobilised more than 1,50,000 troops and ordered a sharp thrust into Ukraine from multiple fronts on February 24, but this plan did not quite work as Ukrainian forces, backed militarily and economically by the U.S. and Europe, slowed down the enemy's advances and made the invasion costly for the Russians. **(2)**/ Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement of a partial troop mobilisation marks an acknowledgement of the limits of his "special military

operation” in Ukraine and a readiness to escalate the conflict in response to setbacks. (3)/ Earlier, Mr. Putin had to withdraw troops from around Kyiv and Kharkiv and focus on Ukraine’s east and south where the Russians made territorial gains. (4)/

- A. 1234
- B. 3241
- C. 2341
- D. 3124

17. Given below is a phrase, Select the best express (es) the meaning of the phrase.

Throw one’s weight behind

- A. To use one's influence or power to support or promote someone or something
- B. To appear in the news suddenly or receive a lot of attention in news reports
- C. To manage or take care of something
- D. To make someone feel worried or concerned about something

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.

But there is no certainty that a partial **mobilization(A)** would produce quick results and it could well **trigger(B)** a cycle of **escalation(C)**. All this means that the war is entering a far more dangerous **phase(D)**.

- A. C – A
- 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) Shobek didn’t receive a scholarship
 - (ii) He is an excellent student
- A. Whereas
 - B. Though
 - C. Primarily
 - D. Unless
 - E. Rather

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

Those who are abstemious _____ food habits enjoy good health.

- A. Of
- B. In
- C. With
- D. To

Answers

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

Explanations

4. **Hold the reins** (phrase) – to be in control बागडोर संभालना
 5. **SUPQRT**

The shooting down of a Chinese drone by Taiwan's military on September 1 has marked a new phase in the already simmering tensions across the Taiwan Strait, highlighting the growing risks of escalation, even if unintended. Over recent weeks, China's military has carried out unprecedented military drills surrounding Taiwan, following the visit last month of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Some manoeuvres crossed the median of the Taiwan Strait and were declared by China's military to have also taken place in territorial waters claimed by Taiwan. Taiwan soberly chose not to engage the PLA vessels. In the wake of the drills, the Chinese military has subsequently sought to continue asserting Beijing's territorial claims by sending drones into Taiwan's airspace. Photographs taken up close of Taiwan military personnel were subsequently shared on social media, apparently to demonstrate Beijing's capabilities, but in the process raising pressure on Taipei to show a response. Taiwan's military said it took the decision to shoot down what it called an unidentified civilian drone over its airspace in Shiyu Island after delivering several warnings.

6. (C) 'became' के बदले 'become' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'have/has/had' के साथ V³ का होता है और 'Become' का V² रूप 'became' तथा V³ रूप 'become' होता है; अर्थात 'become' का V¹ और V³ रूप समान होता है।

➤ 'become' will be used instead of 'became' because 'have/has/had' is accompanied by V3 and 'become' has V2 form 'became' and V3 form 'become'; That is, V1 and V3 form of 'become' is same.

7. (C) 'was' के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'scheme' के launch होने का काम 'March' में अर्थात future में होने वाला है, और future के किसी fixed programme के लिए Simple Present का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

i. The PM visits Patna on Monday next.

➤ 'is' will be used instead of 'was' because the launch of 'scheme' is going to happen in 'March' i.e. in future, and Simple Present is used for any future fixed program ; like-

i. The PM visits Patna on Monday next.

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

9. **Wreck havoc** (phrase) – to cause great damage कहर बरपाना

Correct is : I argue that, given an infinite number of possible persons, the probability that everyone is transworld depraved is exceedingly low.

➤ **Deprave** (verb) – corrupt, lead astray, warp, subvert, pervert कलुषित करना

10. **Buoyant** (Adjective) – cheerful, happy, cheery, sunny प्रसन्नचित्त

11. **Lightning** (adjective) – Fast, quick, speedy, sudden, whirlwind, precipitous तेज, शीघ्र

12. **Consolidate** (verb) – Strengthen, enhance, secure, firm up मजबूत करना

13. **Unpopular** (adjective) – Disliked, hated, detested, ostracized, not liked, out of favour, not accepted अलोकप्रिय

14. **Reinvigorated** (adjective) – Revived, refreshed, strengthened, bolstered पुनर्जीवित किया गया

15. 'To call' के बदले 'calling' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Avoid is never used with an infinitive. It is followed by a verb in the -ing form.

16. (D) **3124**

Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement of a partial troop mobilisation marks an acknowledgement of the limits of his "special military operation" in Ukraine and a readiness to escalate the conflict in response to setbacks. His original plan was to meet his military objectives through a limited war. He had mobilised more than 1,50,000 troops and ordered a sharp thrust into Ukraine from multiple fronts on February 24, but this plan did not quite work as Ukrainian forces, backed militarily and economically by the U.S. and Europe, slowed down the enemy's advances and made the invasion costly for the Russians. Earlier, Mr. Putin had to withdraw troops from around Kyiv and Kharkiv and focus on Ukraine's east and south where the Russians made territorial gains.

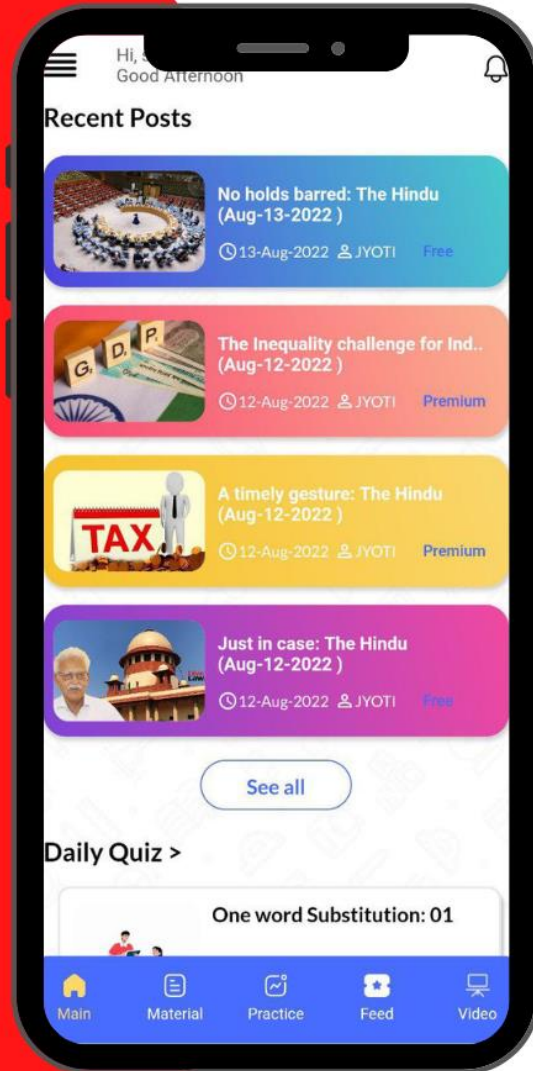
17. **Throw one's weight behind** (phrase) – To use one's influence or power to support or promote someone or something

18. But there is no certainty that a partial mobilisation would produce quick results and it could well trigger a cycle of escalation. All this means that the war is entering a far more dangerous phase.

19. Shobek didn't receive a scholarship **though** he is an excellent student.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Condone	verb	To overlook; to permit to happen	माफ करना, छोड़ देना, ध्यान न देना
	Efface	verb	To erase; to rub away the features of	मिटाना
	Impotent	adjective	Powerless; helpless; unable to perform sexual intercourse.	नपुंसक, शक्तिहीन
Q2	Anachronism	noun	Something out of place in time or history; an incongruity	तिथि व समय की अशुद्धता; बेतुकापन
	Inspid	adjective	Dull; bland; banal	फीका
	Specious	adjective	Deceptively plausible or attractive	दिखावटी
Q3	Hierarchy	noun	An organization based on rank or degree; pecking order	अनुक्रम, पदक्रम
	Vindictive	adjective	Seeking revenge	प्रतिशोधी
	Morose	adjective	Gloomy; sullen	उदास
Q11	Respite	noun	A period of rest or relief	मोहलत
	Martyr	noun	Someone who gives up his or her life in pursuit of a cause, especially a religious one;	शहीद
	Preeminent	adjective	Better than anyone else; outstanding; supreme	उत्तम
Q12	Loquacious	adjective	Talking a lot or too much	बातूनी
	Fecund	adjective	Fertile; productive	उपजाऊ, फलप्रद
	Indulgent	adjective	Lenient; yielding to desire	कृपालु
Q13	Patronize	verb	To treat as an inferior; to condescend to	सहायता देना
	Effusion	noun	A pouring forth	बहाव, रिसाव
	Indigent	adjective	Poor	दरिद्र
Q14	Ambivalent	adjective	Undecided; neutral; wishy-washy	दुविधा में पड़ा हुआ, अनिर्णीत
	Corollary	noun	Something that follows; a natural consequences	स्वाभाविक परिणाम
	Impartial	adjective	Fair; not favoring one side or the other; unbiased	निष्पक्ष



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