Big boost in India-Bangladesh trade

THANKS to improved regional connectivity and growing **bilateral** interest, the **volume** of trade between India's North-Eastern States and Bangladesh **has** gone up significantly in recent years. Present trends are positive enough to generate **optimism** among analysts about medium term **prospects** of North East India-Bangladesh bilateral trade: they feel that the **foundation** of a new trade/business **hub dominated** by imports and exports, **has** finally been **laid**.

The present phase of growth is the **outcome** of **consistent** efforts made by both Indian and Bangladeshi authorities during the past **decade** to **explore** new ways for **expanding** bilateral trade. The exercise fitted in well with India's own regional LookEast initiative, **seeking** to extend its diplomatic/economic **outreach**. While welcoming the growth in Indo-Bangla bilateral trade, Chambers of Commerce sources are hopeful that growing economic **ties** between the two countries **could** well ensure the success of the LookEast programme: by way of comparison. It can be seen **Indo-Myanmar bilateral business**, largely because of the **volatility** of Myanmar's domestic politics, **has** not **progressed** smoothly in recent years.

Broadly speaking, Bangladesh imports more finished products and value-added items from India, whereas the bigger country imports comparatively goods less processed and raw materials. This naturally **results in** a negative **balance of trade** for the smaller country. Both countries have over the years tried to reduce the gap **to the extent** possible, through **periodic negotiations** and rearrangements of existing **terms** of trade.

By reducing **levies**/withdrawing **tariff** on some Bangladeshi goods, India has tried to **accommodate** Bangladesh as far as possible. **Occasionally** this has **evoked** protests within India from sections of entrepreneurs, especially in the textile sector, who complained of losing their domestic markets. **On the other hand**, **Bangladesh**, faced with growing **trade imbalance**, **feels** India could be more helpful. However, with industry and manufacture picking up in Bangladesh in recent years, its exports have grown gradually more **sophisticated**.

Recent Assam-based media reports indicate that the North-Eastern States imported from Bangladesh taka 367 crore worth if items during 2019-20, a sharp increase from the year before, when the figure was taka 40 crore! (One Bangladeshi taka equals about 85/90 paise of the Indian rupee). The N-E States exported taka 472 crore worth of goods in 2018-19 and good worth taka 390 crore during 2019-20.

During bilateral negotiations, it was generally agreed that there was a rising demand in both countries to **step up** trade and business. The seven N-E States sold to Bangladesh large quantities of coal, engineering items and products, auto equipment, besides coal, stones, eggs and onions, etc. There was a special demand in Bangladesh for tea produced in Assam, along with cotton and products,

petroleum goods as well as glass items and ores from Meghalaya. Fruits and corn grown in Arunachal Pradesh and handicrafts from Manipur too, were popular in Bangladesh.

Similarly, in the N-E region, there was good demand for cement, plastic items and packaged foods from Bangladesh, as well as for different varieties of fish-- especially the Hilsa! With India granting Bangladesh transit rights to access Nepal and Bhutan through its territory, experts are hopeful that the volume of regional trade as a whole would expand gradually. As both India and Bangladesh have agreed to use rivers, roads and railways linking both countries mutually, travel and easier movement of goods, involving the saving of both travel time and costs, have become possible.

Moving through Bangladesh territory, the distance from Agartala to Kolkata has been reduced from about 1600 kilometres through the long Assam **detour**, to about 600 kms only - - and time taken has been cut from about 48 hours earlier to about 32 hours at present.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Mrs Sheikh Hasina during her meetings with Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi, had suggested that N-E-based industrialists/entrepreneurs could use the Chittagong and Mongla ports for their export trade, which were geographically much nearer than the Kolkata port. The use of Mongla port could ease the congestion and delays often experienced at Chittagong. Mongla port could earn more revenues, while Indian users could profit by saving travel time and costs, not to mention the occasional congestion at Kolkata port.

India has started dispatching engineering goods and foodgrains to Agartala from Kolkata port, using the river routes within Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, efforts are on among entrepreneurs to ascertain the possibilities of expanding trade with Nepal and Bhutan. Travel operators and agencies are confident of a rapid expansion in tourism and related activities. Bangladesh is also keen to import power from both Nepal and Bhutan, to meet its growing domestic demand. At present, the country receives fuel supplies through a pipeline from Bongaigaon refinery complex running through North Bengal. [Practice Exercise]

- Balance of trade (noun) the difference in value between a country's imports and exports
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

- Thanks to (phrase) owing to, as a result of, because of के कारण से
- Bilateral (adjective) Involving two parties, especially countries. दविपक्षीय
- 3. **Optimism** (noun) hope, hopefulness, confidence, expectation आशावाद
- 4. **Prospect** (noun) possibilities, potential, expectations, outlook संभावनाएं
- Lay the foundation (phrase) establish, institute नींव रखना
- 6. Hub (noun) Centre केंद्र
- 7. **Dominate** (verb) Control, rule, lead, govern, direct, हावी होना, प्रभुत्व रखना, श्रेष्ठ होना
- 8. **Outcome** (noun) result, end result, consequence, conclusion परिणाम
- 9. **Consistent** (adjective) persistent, steady, constant, stable लगातार
- 10. Decade (noun) A period of 10 years दशक
- 11. **Explore** (verb) to search and discover (about something) पता लगाना, खोजना
- 12. **Expand** (verb) extend, increase, enlarge, grow, broaden विस्तार करना
- 13. **Seek** (verb) try, attempt, endeavour, strive प्रयास करना

- 14. **Outreach** (noun) The act or process of reaching out. पहुँच
- 15. **Ties** (noun) connection, relations, link, bond, association संबंध
- 16. **Volatility** (noun) instability, fickleness, unpredictability, variability अस्थिरता/ उतार-चढ़ाव
- 17. **Progress** (verb) Advance, proceed, develop, make progress आगे बढ़ना
- 18. **Broadly** (adverb) in general and without considering minor details. मोटे तौर पर
- 19. **Result in** (phrasal verb) To be the cause of: परिणाम होना
- 20. **To the extent** (phrase) the degree to which a subject or other thing extends इस हद तक
- 21. **Periodic** (adjective) regular, periodical, at fixed intervals, recurrent समय-समय पर(नियमित)
- 22. **Negotiation** (noun) discussions, talks, consultation बातचीत
- 23. **Term** (noun) conditions, stipulations, specifications, provisions शर्त
- 24. **Levy** (noun) charge, duty, tariff, impose, toll कर

- 25. Tariff (noun) tax, duty, toll, excise कर
- 26. **Accommodate** (verb) help, assist, aid सहायता देना
- 27. **Occasionally** (adverb) sometimes, from time to time, irregularly कभी-कभी
- 28. **Evoke** (verb) Evoke or provoke to appear or occur; provoke, call forth पैदा करना
- 29. **On the other hand** (phrase) Used to introduce a contrasting point of view, fact, or situation. वहीं दूसरी ओर
- 30. **Trade imbalance** (noun) occurs when a country's imports exceed its exports during a given time period.
- 31. **Sophisticated** (adjective) Complex, Highlevel, Hi-tech, Erudite जटिल/ परिष्कृत
- 32. Taka (noun) currency of Bangladesh टका
- 33. **Step up** (phrasal verb) Increase, intensify, improve, maximize, accelerate, boost बढ़ाना
- 34. **Handicraft** (noun) the making decorative domestic or other objects made by hand. हस्तशिल्प

- 35. **The Hilsa** (noun) a breed of fish
- 36. **Transit right** (noun) Right of carrying of goods or people by vehicle from one place to another
- 37. **Detour** (noun) bypass, indirect route, long way around चक्करदार रास्ता
- 38. **Ease** (verb) alleviate, relieve, comfort, mitigate, soothe; reduce कम करना
- 39. **Congestion** (noun) Blockage, clogging, obstruction, jam, भीड़
- 40. **Occasional** (adjective) Infrequent, rare, irregular कभी-कभार
- 41. **Dispatch** (verb) send, forward, transmit, ship भेजना
- 42. **Ascertain** (verb) Determine, establish, discover, find out पता लगाना
- 43. **Expansion** (noun) growth, increase, extension, enlargement विस्तार
- 44. **Keen** (adjective) eager, acute, enthusiastic, penetrating इच्छुक/उत्सुक

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Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words

[Editorial page]

1. VOLATILITY

- A. Ramification
- B. Patent
- C. Wanton
- D. Instability

2. **DETOUR**

- A. Obsequious
- B. Diversion
- C. Incorrigible
- D. Extricate

3. ASCERTAIN

- A. Coup
- B. Dormant
- C. Anomaly
- D. Discover

4. Idioms & Phrase

Did it take you long to *find your feet* when you started your new job?

- A. Become confident or successful in a particular field or activity
- B. Begin/continue an activity, discussion, etc
- C. To achieve something at the loss of something
- D. To be considered important enough to influence other people
- 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. One of the most significant commitments of the Narendra Modi government is to ensure piped water to every rural household by 2024.
 - **P**. This, the Government claims, is a 37-percentage point rise from 2019 when the scheme was announced,
 - **Q.** where its stated aim is to ensure at least 55 litres per person per day of potable water to every rural household which implies a mere connection does not suffice.
 - **R.** The Government commissions annual surveys to evaluate the success of the scheme.
 - **S.** Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, led by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, 10.2 crore rural households, or about 53% of the eligible population, now have tap water access.
 - **T**. A recent audit, by a private agency, found that around 62% of rural households in India had fully functional tap water connections within their premises.
 - **U**. A report of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources in March, based on numbers provided by the nodal Jal Shakti Ministry, stated that 46% households had such fully functional tap water connections.

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Which among the following will be the Third sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement? A. U B.S C.T D.Q E.R

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

- 6. Although we reached his house in time, (A)/ he was left (B)/ for the airport (C)/ No Error (D)
- 7. The two last (A)/ chapters of the book (B)/ are very interesting. (C)/ No Error. (D)
- 8. The statement made by the writer (A)/ appears to be incorrect (B)/ as Dr Zakir Hussain was not born in Allahabad. (C)/ No Error (D)
- 9. A brave man should (A)/ always be loyal for (B)/ his own country. (C)/ No Error(D)
- 10. Find out the misspelt word
 - A. Inadequacy
 - B. Antebelum
 - C. Minuscule
 - D. Exhilarate

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

(The Hindu Editorial: A travesty of justice – Oct 20, 2022)

The report that was submitted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday found fault with Javalalithaa's aide V.K. Sasikala, former Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar, two IAS officers, and three doctors, and recommended further investigation against them. (1)/ Did the Arumughaswamy Commission of Inquiry's final report clarify the circumstances that led to the death of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, as mandated by the terms of reference or did it rest with a conclusion that followed a preset diabolical script, accentuating conspiracy theories hatched within a context of political opportunism? (2)/ An investigation report is not a clean slate on which the investigator can record his whimsy that flies in the face of facts. (3)/ However, it falls perplexingly short of explaining where the fault lay with those it found culpable, or tracing a damning trail of evidence to their doorstep. (4)/ Justice Arumughaswamy, trained as a lawyer and not in medicine, makes post-facto judgments about the medical procedures (angio/surgery for a heart condition) that must have been followed in treating Jayalalithaa during her 75-day stint at Apollo hospital, and goes further out of line to make allegations against qualified medical professionals in charge of treatment, based on these conjectures. In a glaring(A) lapse, he completely diagnosis(B) the AIIMS medical experts' committee's (constituted(C) by the Supreme Court of India) report released earlier, agreeing with the treatment course, and the final **sidesteps(D)** by the hospital.

The report cherry picks elements from the range of options provided by a panel of doctors, and partphrases from _____11____ that suit a seemingly pre-determined narrative to arrive at conclusions. Worse, it peddles lies to heap ______12____ on respondents and witnesses, particularly obvious when it asks why Jayalalithaa was not taken abroad for treatment after she had agreed to it, ignoring documentation enclosed as part of the report recording that she categorically refused to be shifted out of the country for treatment. The report itself encloses elaborate documentation on treatment from the hospital and yet, unfathomably, accuses it of not providing contra-evidence or documents (on the surgery aspect). Coming five years after the commission of

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inquiry was13, and nearly six years after the death of Jayalalithaa, the report makes no attempt to render any justice, but steps out of line in making unqualified calls on medicine, and reeks of14 The Tamil Nadu government has done its duty by presenting the report in the Assembly, and seeking legal opinion on it.
It is now obligated to render true justice (A)/ in the matter by ensuring that (B)/ this long-drawn-out issue is good and truly buried, (C)/ along with the report. (D)
Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 – Q14)
 11. The report cherry picks elements from the range of options provided by a panel of doctors, and part-phrases from that suit a seemingly pre-determined narrative to arrive at conclusions. A. Vicissitude B. Artful C. Dissipate
D. Depositions 12. Worse, it peddles lies to heap12 on respondents and witnesses, particularly obvious when it asks why Jayalalithaa was not taken abroad for treatment after she had agreed to it A. Charlatan B. Calumny
C. Verbose D. Abysmal 13. Coming five years after the commission of inquiry was13, and nearly six years after the death of Jayalalithaa A. Adage B. Constituted
C. Malinger D. Innate 14. The report makes no attempt to render any justice, but steps out of line in making unqualified calls on medicine, and reeks of14 A. Disinterested B. Charisma
 C. Malfeasance D. Allusion 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. It is now obligated to render true justice (A)/ in the matter by ensuring that (B)/ this long-drawn-out issue is good and truly buried, (C)/ along with the report. (D) A. (A)
B. (B) C. (C)

- D. (D)
- E. No Error
- 16. Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.

The report that was submitted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday found fault with Jayalalithaa's aide V.K. Sasikala, former Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar, two IAS officers, and three doctors, and recommended further investigation against them. (1)/ Did the Arumughaswamy Commission of Inquiry's final report clarify the circumstances that led to the death of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, as mandated by the terms of reference or did it rest with a conclusion that followed a preset diabolical script, accentuating conspiracy theories hatched within a context of political opportunism? (2)/ An investigation report is not a clean slate on which the investigator can record his whimsy that flies in the face of facts. (3)/ However, it falls perplexingly short of explaining where the fault lay with those it found culpable, or tracing a damning trail of evidence to their doorstep.(4)/

- A. 2341
- B. 1234
- C. 2134
- D. 3214
- E. 4321
- 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

ACCENTUATE

- (i) Her dress was tightly belted, accentuating the slimness of her waist
- (ii) The new policy only serves to accentuate the inadequacy of help for the homeless.
- (iii) While the virtues of country life were still stressed, the differences between town and country became less accentuated.
 - A. Only (i)
 - B. Only (ii)
 - C. Only (iii)
 - D. (i), (ii)
 - E. (i), (iii),(ii)
- 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.
 - In a glaring(A) lapse, he completely diagnosis(B) the AIIMS medical experts' committee's (constituted(C) by the Supreme Court of India) report released earlier, agreeing with the treatment course, and the final **sidesteps(D)** by the hospital.
 - A. A D
 - B. B A
 - C. B-D

- D. A C
- E. No arrangement
- 19. Select the phrase/ connector/ word-pair from the given three options to form a single sentence from the two-sentence given, implying the same meaning as expected in the original sentences. The phrase/ connector must appear at the beginning of the final sentence.
 - The deaths came as fighting in north-west Syria between Turkish-backed rebels and (i) Russian-backed Syrian government forces escalated.
 - (ii) The risk of the two regional powers being brought into direct confrontation.
 - A. Raising
 - B. Though
 - C. Yet
 - D. Forcing
 - E. None of these
- 20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

He is suffering _____ Cancer and is not likely to survive long.

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

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Answers

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

Explanations

4. **Find one's feet** (Phrase) – become confident or successful in a particular field or activity. अपने कृदमों पर खड़ा कर देना

5. **SPQRTU**

One of the most significant commitments of the Narendra Modi government is to ensure piped water to every rural household by 2024. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, led by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, 10.2 crore rural households, or about 53% of the eligible population, now have tap water access. This, the Government claims, is a 37-percentage point rise from 2019 when the scheme was announced, where its stated aim is to ensure at least 55 litres per person per day of potable water to every rural household — which implies a mere connection does not suffice. The Government commissions annual surveys to evaluate the success of the scheme. A recent audit, by a private agency, found that around 62% of rural households in India had fully functional tap water connections within their premises. A report of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources in March, based on numbers provided by the nodal Jal Shakti Ministry, stated that 46% households had such fully functional tap water connections.

- 6. (B) 'was left' के बदले 'had left' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'we' के घर पहुँचने (reach) की घटना past की है जबिक 'he' के 'airport' के लिए 'रवाना होने' (leave for) की घटना past of the past की है और past of the past की घटना के लिए Past Perfect का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे
 - i. Although she failed, she had worked very hard to pass.
 - 'had left' will be used instead of 'was left' because 'we' have reached home in the past' while 'he' has 'leave' for 'airport' is of the past of the past and Past Perfect is used for an event of the past of past; As
 - i. Although she failed, she had worked very hard to pass.
- 7. (A) 'The two last' के बदले 'The last two' का प्रयोग होगा 'if one, two, three, etc.' Cardinal Adjectives हैं जबिक 'first, second.... next, last, etc.' Ordinal Adjectives हैं, और एक Cardinal Adjective तथा एक Ordinal Adjective का प्रयोग यदि एक साथ करना हो, तो पहले Ordinal Adjective को रखा जाता है तथा बाद में Cardinal Adjective को; जैसे
 - i. The first two chapters of this book are very interesting.
 - ii. I have not read the last three chapters of this novel.
 - 'The last two' will be used instead of 'The two last' 'if one, two, three, etc.' are Cardinal Adjectives while 'first, second.... next, last, etc.' are Ordinal Adjectives, and if a Cardinal Adjective and an Ordinal Adjective are to be used together, then the first Ordinal Adjective is placed and the latter To the Cardinal Adjective; As-

- The first two chapters of this book are very interesting.
- ii. I have not read the last three chapters of this novel.
- 8. 'in' के बदले 'at' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'मैं' के अर्थ में छोटे स्थानों के नामों के पहले 'at' का प्रयोग होता है जबिक किसी राज्य, देश, महादेश के नाम के पहले 'in' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे
 - i. He was born at Patna
 - He was born in Bihar.
 - 'at' will be used instead of 'in' because 'at' is used before the names of small place whereas 'in' is used before the name of any state, country, continent; As-
 - He was born at Patna
 - He was born in Bihar.
- 9. 'for' के बदले 'to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'loval/faithful/ obedient/ kind' के बाद Preposition 'to' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे
 - i. She is not loyal to you.
 - We should be kind to animals.
 - 'to' will be used instead of 'for' because the preposition 'to' is used after 'loyal/faithful/ obedient/kind'; As-
 - She is not loyal to you. i.
 - We should be kind to animals.
- 10. Antebellum (noun) occurring or existing before a particular war, especially the US Civil War. युद्ध से पहले
- 11. Deposition (noun) statement, evidence, confession बयान
- 12. Calumny (noun) defamation, slander, denigration, libel, misrepresentation কর্নক, মৃত্য अभियोग
- 13. Constitute (verb) form, establish, make, compose गठित करना
- 14. Malfeasance (noun) wrongdoing, crime, misconduct, malefaction भ्रष्टाचार
- 15. 'Good' के बदले 'well' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि verb 'bury' कि विशेषता, बताने के लिए एक adverb की जरूरत है! ध्यान रखे की good एक adjective है, जबकि well एक adverb.
- 16. (D) 3214

An investigation report is not a clean slate on which the investigator can record his whimsy that flies in the face of facts. Did the Arumughaswamy Commission of Inquiry's final report clarify the circumstances that led to the death of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, as mandated by the terms of reference or did it rest with a conclusion that followed a preset diabolical script, accentuating conspiracy theories hatched within a context of political opportunism? The report that was submitted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday found fault with Jayalalithaa's aide V.K. Sasikala, former Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar, two IAS officers, and three doctors, and recommended further investigation against them. However, it

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falls perplexingly short of explaining where the fault lay with those it found culpable, or tracing a damning trail of evidence to their doorstep.

- 17. **Accentuate** (verb) emphasize, stress, lay the stress on, place the stress on ज़ोर देना According to the given options all options are contextually correct
- 18. In a glaring lapse, he completely sidesteps the AIIMS medical experts' committee's (constituted by the Supreme Court of India) report released earlier, agreeing with the treatment course, and the final diagnosis by the hospital.
- 19. The deaths came as fighting in north-west Syria between Turkish-backed rebels and Russian-backed Syrian government forces escalated, **raising** the risk of the two regional powers being brought into direct confrontation.'.

Explanation of other important words

0.310				
Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Ramification	noun	A consequences; a branching out	शाखा विस्तार
	Patent	adjective	Obvious	प्रत्यक्ष
	Wanton	adjective	Malicious; unjustifiable; unprovoked; egregious	प्रचंड, अकारण;
				प्रबल
Q2	Obsequious	adjective	Fawning; subservient; sucking up to	चापलूस, गुलामाना
	Incorrigible	adjective	Incapable of being reformed	असंशोधनीय
	Extricate	verb	To free from a difficulty	हल करना, समाधान
				करना
Q3	Coup	noun	A brilliant victory or accomplishment; the	तख्तापलट
			violent overthrow of a government by a small internal group	
	Dormant	adjective	Inactive; as though asleep; asleep	निष्क्रिय
	Anomaly	noun	An aberration; an irregularity; a deviation	असंगति,
				नियमहीनता
Q11	Vicissitude	noun	Upheaval; natural change; change in fortune	भाग्य-परिवर्तन
	Artful	adjective	Crafty; wily; sly	धूर्त, कपटी
	Dissipate	verb	To thin out, drift away, or dissolve; to cause to thin out, drift away, or dissolve; to waste or squander.	नष्ट करना
Q12	Charlatan	noun	Fraud; Quack; con man	मायावी, झूठा,
				धोखेबाज़
	Verbose	adjective	Using too many words; not succinct; circumlocutory	वाचाल
	Abysmal	adjective	Extremely hopeless or wretched; bottomless	अथाह, अति-गहन
Q13	Adage	noun	An old saying; a familiar bit of wisdom	कहावत
	Malinger	verb	To pretend to be sick to avoid doing work	रोग का बहाना करना
	Innate	adjective	Existing since birth; inborn; inherent	जन्मजात
Q14	Disinterested	adjective	Not taking sides; unbiased	उदासीन, स्वार्थरहित
	Charisma	noun	A magical seeming ability to attract followers or inspire loyalty	प्रतिभा
	Allusion	noun	An indirect reference (often to a literary work); a hint	संकेत, इशारा



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