

Tiding over: On north India and its annual air quality inflection point in November

India's States should ensure greater **compliance** on air pollution

Delhi and parts of the **surrounding** States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh **encounter** their annual air quality inflection point. This is the time when the southwest monsoon has **receded** and with it, the great **drafts** in the upper atmosphere that normally **flush out pollutants** from the **gamut** of **anthropogenic** activities such as construction, driving, power generation and the burning of agricultural **residue**. Through the years, there have been studies **commissioned** and **executive** action initiated to study, **acknowledge** and **address** the crisis. The science is also fairly clear on the relative contribution of pollutants and the limits of corrective **intervention in the face of adverse meteorology** and the disruption to economic life that this can **entail**. The consequence of this is that the air pollution crisis has now **devolved** into a **stalemate**. The **Commission** for Air Quality Management (CAQM), which is **tasked** with addressing the causes of air pollution in Delhi and the **adjoining** States, **is** now a body **packed** with **expertise** but whose powers are limited to **evoking** and recommending grades of measures depending on the degree of **deterioration** in air quality.

While the CAQM **pointed out**, as recently as October 31, that the daily average air quality in Delhi from January to October of this year was the best in the last six years, it **elides** the fact that the **number** of days in November when air quality becomes 'severe' (over 450 AQI) **has** remained roughly the same. Thus, in 2022, the AQI was in the **severe** category in the first **fortnight** of November for three days, the same as in 2021, 2020 and 2019. While there is greater awareness and action to **curb** the sources of pollution, **November**, which has in recent years emerged as the critical month for pollution, **remains** to be **tamed**. **Incidents** of stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh this year **have** been roughly half that when compared to previous years, though the weeks ahead are expected to see more such activity. While the measures earlier have seen an **institutionalised** response to tackle air pollution, it is now time for a **concerted** approach to address these challenges of November. Beyond **stubble** burning, this means addressing the more **daunting** challenges of vehicular pollution and construction dust. While urban Delhi could have always blamed the **distant** farm fires for the pollution crisis, tackling November may mean hard measures and greater **inconvenience**. **Bodies** such as the CAQM **have** to **assert** their independent **credentials** and ensure greater **coordination** and compliance within Delhi and the surrounding States to address the challenge.

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'
- **Institutionalised** (adjective) – established in practice or custom स्थापित हुआ

Vocabulary

1. **Tide over** (phrasal verb) – Surmount, overcome, get through, withstand, weather
पार पाना
2. **Inflection point** (noun) – A moment of significant change or reversal एक महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन या उलटफेर का क्षण
3. **Compliance** (noun) – Adherence, conformity, obedience, acquiescence, agreement अनुपालन
4. **Surrounding** (adjective) – Adjacent, neighboring, encircling, encompassing, abutting आसपास का
5. **Encounter** (verb) – Face, confront, meet, come across, run into सामना करना
6. **Recede** (verb) – Retreat, go back, ebb, subside, withdraw पीछे जाना
7. **Draft** (noun) – a current of cool air in a room or other confined space. ठंडी हवा का झोंका
8. **Flush out** (phrasal verb) – Cleanse, clear out, expel, purge, wash out निकाल फेंकना
9. **Pollutant** (noun) – Contaminant, impurity, toxin, poison, pollutant प्रदूषक
10. **Gamut** (noun) – Range, spectrum, scope, breadth, span विस्तार
11. **Anthropogenic** (adjective) – Human-induced, man-made, human-caused मानव निर्मित
12. **Residue** (noun) – Remainder, remnant, leftover, residue, sediment अवशेष
13. **Commission** (verb) – Appoint, charge, empower, authorize, delegate शामिल करना
14. **Executive** (noun) – Administrator, manager, director, leader, executive अधिकारी
15. **Acknowledge** (verb) – Recognize, admit, accept, concede, note स्वीकार करना
16. **Address** (verb) – Tackle, deal with, attend to, confront, handle निपटाना
17. **Intervention** (noun) – Interference, involvement, intercession, mediation, intrusion हस्तक्षेप
18. **In the face of** (phrase) – When confronted with सामना करते हुए
19. **Adverse** (adjective) – Unfavorable, harmful, detrimental, deleterious, inimical प्रतिकूल
20. **Meteorology** (noun) – The science of the atmosphere मौसम विज्ञान
21. **Entail** (verb) – Involve, necessitate, require, demand, imply आवश्यक होना
22. **Devolve** (verb) – Delegate, transfer, pass on, hand down, bequeath सौंपना

23. **Stalemate** (noun) – Deadlock, impasse, standoff, draw, halt गतिरोध
24. **Task** (with) (verb) – Assign, charge, entrust, appoint, delegate सौंपना
25. **Adjoining** (adjective) – Adjacent, next to, abutting, contiguous, neighboring सटा हुआ
26. **Packed** (with) (adjective) – Full, jammed, loaded, filled, chock-full भरा हुआ
27. **Expertise** (noun) – Skill, proficiency, mastery, knowledge, competence विशेषज्ञता
28. **Evoke** (verb) – Summon, elicit, induce, provoke, kindle पैदा करना
29. **Deterioration** (noun) – Decline, degeneration, decay, degradation, worsening गिरावट
30. **Point out** (phrasal verb) – Indicate, identify, highlight, specify, mention संकेत करना
31. **Elide** (verb) – leave out, exclude, fail to include, except, shut out, छिपाना
32. **Severe** (adjective) – Harsh, extreme, acute, drastic, stringent कठोर
33. **Fortnight** (noun) – a period of two weeks दो सप्ताह का समय
34. **Curb** (verb) – Restrain, check, contain, suppress, inhibit रोकना
35. **Tame** (verb) – Subdue, domesticate, moderate, soften, master वश में करना
36. **Concerted** (adjective) – strenuous, vigorous; collective, combined, ठोस
37. **Stubble** (noun) – The stumps of wheat, rye, barley, oats or buckwheat, left in the ground पराली
38. **Daunting** (adjective) – Intimidating, discouraging, formidable, disconcerting, daunting डरावना
39. **Distant** (adjective) – Far away, remote, far-flung, far-off, removed दूर
40. **Inconvenience** (noun) – Disturbance, bother, trouble, hassle, discomfort असुविधा
41. **Assert** (verb) – Declare, affirm, proclaim, state, aver जोर देना
42. **Credential** (noun) – A qualification, achievement, quality, or aspect of a person's background, especially when used to indicate their suitability for something
43. **Coordination** (noun) – Synchronization, cooperation, collaboration, arrangement, orchestration समन्वय

Summary of the Editorial

1. Delhi and nearby regions face annual air quality crisis in November post-monsoon.
2. Pollutants accumulate due to reduced atmospheric flushing and increased human activities.
3. Studies and executive actions have been taken to understand and mitigate the crisis.
4. There is a clear understanding of pollutants' contributions and the limits of interventions.
5. Air pollution has become a persistent issue with little progress in resolution.
6. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) recommends actions based on air quality.
7. CAQM reports improvement in Delhi's air quality in 2023 compared to the past six years.
8. Despite improvements, the number of severe air quality days in November remains constant.
9. Awareness and actions against pollution sources have increased, but November remains critical.
10. Stubble burning incidents have decreased but are expected to rise in the coming weeks.
11. A concerted effort is needed to tackle the unique challenges of November air pollution.
12. Addressing vehicular pollution and construction dust is crucial beyond stubble burning.
13. Urban centers can no longer solely blame distant agricultural fires for pollution.
14. Hard measures and potential inconveniences are required to tackle November pollution.
15. The CAQM needs to enforce its authority for better coordination and compliance in tackling pollution.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what is a significant factor contributing to the air quality inflection point in north India during November?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The complete cessation of anthropogenic activities
 - B. The receding southwest monsoon and subsequent stagnation of upper atmosphere drafts
 - C. Enhanced power generation surpassing pollution limits
 - D. The increase in agricultural production and efficiency
2. **What is the role of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) as discussed in the passage?**
 - A. To enforce strict laws to completely stop the burning of agricultural residue
 - B. To regulate the economic activities strictly during the month of November
 - C. To undertake and implement major executive actions without the need for state compliance
 - D. To address the causes of air pollution and recommend measures based on air quality levels
3. **What inference can be drawn from the passage regarding the air quality in Delhi during November?**
 - A. Despite improvements in the daily average air quality from January to October, the severity of pollution in November remains unchanged.
 - B. The air quality in November has improved significantly due to the decrease in stubble burning incidents.
 - C. Air quality issues in November are primarily due to increased vehicular pollution and construction dust rather than stubble burning.
 - D. The CAQM has been highly effective in reducing the number of severe air quality days in November each year.
4. **Which of the following best describes the structure of the argument presented in the passage?**
 - A. A cause-and-effect narrative, detailing the factors leading to severe air pollution and the resulting consequences.
 - B. A chronological sequence that outlines the history of air quality in Delhi over the past six years.
 - C. A problem-solution model that presents the issue of air pollution and a range of measures taken to address it.
 - D. An evaluative critique that assesses the performance of the CAQM in dealing with November's air pollution crisis.
5. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Optimistic
 - B. Indifferent
 - C. Critical
 - D. Celebratory
6. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. The annual cultural festivals of Delhi and neighboring states
 - B. The improvement in air quality management techniques over six years

- C. The challenge of addressing severe air pollution in Delhi and surrounding areas
D. The impact of urbanization on the farming practices in Northern India
7. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. The educated youth engaged in or aiming for salaried placements have borne the brunt of job losses and contraction of the economy.
Q. The huge number of overqualified youths seeking this comparatively low-level government job further reflects the desperate state of affairs.
R. Unfortunately, Punjab has been in the throes of an employment crisis for some years now, but, gravely, the severe blow dealt by the pandemic-induced lockdown seems to have aggravated the situation.
S. This is apparent from the fact that 1,152 posts of patwari recently thrown open have drawn as many as 2.33 lakh aspirants.
- A. RSPQ B.RPSQ C.SQPR D.RQSP
8. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. This is an acknowledgment of India's encouraging economic recovery, even as the country is battling the second wave of the pandemic. Citing the revival of private consumption and investment, the World Bank recently scaled up its projections for India's GDP growth to 10.1 per cent for 2021-22, considerably up from 5.4 per cent that it had forecast in its January report.
Q. World Bank president David Malpass has named India among the three nations — the others being the US and China — which are setting the pace for faster global growth on the back of strong rebounds.
R. However, the international financial institution hastened to add that in view of the uncertainty caused by the resurgence of Covid cases in the country, the real GDP growth for this financial year could range from 7.5 to 12.5 per cent.
S. Malpass has made it clear that faster approval and rollout of vaccines are vital for safeguarding national as well as global interests.
- A. QPRS B.QSRP C.RSPQ D.SPRQ
9. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**
- P. These middlemen have also been lending money to them for buying inputs, albeit at stiff interest rates. Punjab has around 47,000 registered arhtiyas who make about Rs 1,500 crore annually as commission for their services, including passing on the payments to the farmers. Punjab is insisting on doing it the roundabout way.
Q. For decades, arhtiyas or commission agents have been helping farmers at every stage, right from the crop's arrival in the mandi to its purchase by government or private agencies.
R. The state fears that the switchover would herald the end of its time-tested arhtiya system and impact its agriculture-based economy.
S. The Centre and the Punjab Government are at loggerheads over implementing the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system for making payments directly to the farmers for their produce.
- A. SRPQ B.QRSP C.SRQP D.SPRQ
10. Select the most appropriate **idiom** to fill in the blank.

The play I saw last night was a _____.

- A. hit the road
- B. hit the hay
- C. smash hit
- D. hit the roof

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

He is _____ of many chain snatching cases in Dariyaganj.

- A. ackused
- B. acused
- C. akused
- D. Accused

12. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

Despite the setbacks and obstacles we faced, / our team rallied together and achieved our goals, / which teach us the importance of / teamwork, resilience, and determination.

- A. Despite the setbacks and obstacles we faced,
- B. teamwork, resilience, and determination
- C. which teach us the importance of
- D. our team rallied together and achieved our goals,

13. **Select the option that correctly rectifies the spelling error that is underlined.**

The questionaire used by the researcher was of top quality.

- A. quesstionnaire
- B. questionnaire
- C. questionairre
- D. questionairee

14. **The given sentence contains an error. Select the option that correctly rectifies the error.**

That career competition was the difficultest exam he had ever given.

- A. That career competition was the difficultest exam than any he had ever given.
- B. That career competition was the most difficult exam than any he had ever given.
- C. That career competition was the most difficultest exam he had ever given.
- D. That career competition was the most difficult exam he had ever given

15. **Select the most appropriate idiom for the following sentence.**

Shweta organises the sale of handmade pottery at a cheap rate

- A. Hush money
- B. Go for a song
- C. Having one's cake and eating it too
- D. Making a fuss out of something

16. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Guilty

- A. Responsible
- B. Innocent
- C. Criminal

- D. Patient
17. Identify the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word in the following sentence and select its correct spelling from the given options.
The colours of the rainbow seemed to shine through the triangular prism as the sun hit the object
- A. rainbouw
B. son
C. triangular
D. object
18. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
The intrepid group of adventurers climbed the mountain despite of bad weather and road closures.
- A. despite
B. in spite
C. in view of
D. due to
19. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
The airplane flowed over the mountains, offering the passengers a breath-taking view of the majestic peaks below
- A. flew beyond
B. flew over
C. flowed above
D. flowed beyond
20. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Ecstasy
- A. Euphoria
B. Coarse
C. Natural
D. Despair

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

As a boy, I was always exploring lonely places—neglected gardens and orchards, unoccupied houses, patches of scrub or wasteland, the fields outside the town, the fringes of the forest. On one of my rambles (1) _____ the bungalow, I pushed my way through a thicket of lantana bushes and stumbled over a thick stone slab, twisting my ankle slightly as I fell. For some time, I sat on the grass massaging my foot. When the pain eased, I looked more (2) _____ at the stone slab and was surprised to find that it was a gravestone. It was almost entirely covered by ivy; obviously no one had been near it for years. I tugged at the ivy and some of it came away in my hands. There was some (3) _____ lettering on the grave, half-

obscured by grass and moss. I could make out a name—Rose—but little more. I sat there for some time, (4) _____ over my discovery. I was wondering why 'Rose' should have been buried at so lonely a spot when there was a (5) _____ not far away.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. before
 - B. behind
 - C. by dint of
 - D. Below
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. closely
 - B. emptily
 - C. frankly
 - D. Lawfully
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. idiotic
 - B. sturdy
 - C. blurred
 - D. Nomadic
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. sleeping
 - B. pondering
 - C. being
 - D. Pulling
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. dormitory
 - B. kennel
 - C. sanctuary
 - D. cemetery

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Answers

1. B 2.D 3. A 4.C 5. C 6. C 7. B 8.A 9. C 10. C 11.D 12.C
13. B 14.D 15.B 16.B 17.C 18.A 19.B 20.D 21.B 22.A 23.C 24.B
25. D

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- 1. B) The receding southwest monsoon and subsequent stagnation of upper atmosphere drafts**
The passage states that the annual air quality inflection point occurs when the southwest monsoon has receded, which results in the stagnation of the great drafts in the upper atmosphere. These drafts normally help to flush out pollutants. Therefore, it's the absence of these drafts, rather than a complete cessation of anthropogenic activities, enhanced power generation, or an increase in agricultural productivity, that contributes to the deteriorating air quality.
- 2. D) To address the causes of air pollution and recommend measures based on air quality levels**
The passage indicates that the Commission for Air Quality Management is tasked with addressing the causes of air pollution and has the power to evoke and recommend measures depending on the severity of the air quality deterioration. There is no mention of enforcing laws to stop agricultural residue burning or regulating economic activities in a particular month. It also suggests that the CAQM has limited powers, so it cannot undertake major executive actions without state compliance.
- 3. A) The passage states that while there has been the best daily average air quality in the last six years from January to October, the number of 'severe' air quality days in November has not changed. This implies that despite overall improvements, the specific period in November remains problematic.**
- 4. C) The passage outlines the problem of air pollution, particularly in November, and mentions the efforts that have been made to improve air quality, such as reducing incidents of stubble burning. It also suggests that more needs to be done, pointing towards a problem-solution structure within the argument presented.**
- 5. C) Critical**
The tone of the passage is critical. This is evident from the way the author discusses the persistent air quality issues and the inefficacy of measures taken to date. Words like "crisis," "stalemate," and "severe" suggest a tone that is far from optimistic or celebratory. The author does not show indifference but rather a critical engagement with the subject, highlighting the shortcomings of the current measures and the urgent need for more effective action. Despite mentioning some progress, the overall tone remains one of critical analysis.
- 6. C) The challenge of addressing severe air pollution in Delhi and surrounding areas**
The main theme of the passage revolves around the ongoing challenge of managing and improving severe air pollution in Delhi and the adjoining states. The passage discusses the

environmental conditions that lead to the air quality crisis, the relative contribution of different pollutants, the role and limitations of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), and the need for a concerted approach to tackle the pollution problem, especially in the month of November. Other options, such as cultural festivals, improvement in air quality management techniques, and urbanization's impact on farming, are not the central focus of the passage.

7. B) **RPSQ**

R: (R) sets up the general issue: the employment crisis in Punjab.

P: (P) expands on the impact of the issue, specifically on the educated youth

S: (S) provides an example to illustrate the severity of the problem, as it introduces a specific situation where an overwhelming number of aspirants apply for a limited number of posts.

Q: (Q) serves as a conclusion, making a remark on the large number of overqualified youths seeking low-level jobs, summarizing the desperate state of affairs.

8. A) **QPRS**

Q: Q sets the context: World Bank president David Malpass has named India as one of the three nations leading the global economic recovery.

P: P further elaborates on the specific context for India, providing more information about the World Bank's optimism towards its economic growth.

R: R introduces a note of caution from the World Bank, discussing the uncertainty around the exact growth rate due to the resurgence of Covid cases.

S: Finally, sentence S brings the discussion back to the broader context, highlighting the importance of vaccines to maintain this economic recovery both nationally and globally.

9. C) **SRQP**

S: This sentence gives an introduction to the problem being discussed. It explains the contention between the Punjab Government and the Centre over implementing a new payment system.

R: This sentence explains why Punjab is resisting the implementation of the DBT system, suggesting the fear of losing the traditional arhtiya system.

Q: This sentence gives more context about what the arhtiya system is and why it's important to the farming process in Punjab, thereby strengthening the point made in sentence R.

P: Finally, this sentence further explains the role of the arhtiyas in the farming process and provides specific details about their numbers and the amount they earn. It also reiterates Punjab's stance on the issue, effectively wrapping up the paragraph

10. C) **Smash hit** (idiom) - Refers to a play, movie, song, or other production that is extremely successful or popular.

- **Hit the road** (idiom) – To depart or leave, especially to start a journey. सड़क पर जाना
- **Hit the hay** (idiom) – To go to bed; to go to sleep. गहरी नींद सोना
- **Hit the roof** (idiom) – To become extremely angry. छत पर चढ़ जाना

11. D) **Accused**' का use होगा क्योंकि "accused" का अर्थ होता है आरोपित होना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि वह कई chain snatching cases का आरोपी है जो Dariyaganj में हुए हैं, इसलिए 'Accused' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'ackused', 'acxused', और 'akused' गलत spelling हैं और इस context में सही नहीं हैं।
- '**Accused**' should be used because it means to be charged with a crime or wrongdoing. The sentence mentions that he is implicated in many chain snatching cases that happened in Dariyaganj, making 'Accused' the correct choice. Whereas, 'ackused', 'acxused', and 'akused' are incorrect spellings and don't fit in this context.
12. C) **'teach'** के बदले 'taught' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'achieved our goals' Past Tense में है, अतः Relative Clause में भी Verb Past Tense में होगा; जैसे— "which taught us the importance of teamwork, resilience, and determination."
- 'taught' will be used instead of 'teach' because in the main clause 'achieved our goals' is in Past Tense, so in the Relative Clause the verb should also be in Past Tense; Like— "which taught us the importance of teamwork, resilience, and determination."
13. B) The correct spelling of '**questionnaire**' is 'questionnaire प्रश्नावली, सर्वेक्षण पत्र।
14. D) That career competition was the most difficult exam he had ever given
15. B) **Go for a song** (idiom) – To be sold at a very low price **बहुत कम कीमत पर बेचा जाना है**
- **Hush money** (noun) – Money paid to someone to keep them quiet about something, typically to keep them from disclosing information. चुप रहने के लिए दी गई रकम
 - **Having one's cake and eating it too** (Idiom) – To have or do two good things at the same time that are mutually exclusive. दोनों हाथों में लड्डू होना
 - **Making a fuss out of something** (Idiom) – To give too much attention or worry to something that is not important. छोटी बात पर शोर मचाना
16. B) **Guilty** (adjective) – Responsible for a specified wrongdoing, culpable, at fault. **अपराधी**
Antonym: Innocent (adjective) – Not guilty of a crime or offense, blameless, not responsible for harm or wrongdoing. **मासूम**
- **Responsible** (adjective) – Being the primary cause of something and so able to be blamed or credited for it. **जिम्मेदार**
 - **Criminal** (adjective) – Relating to crime, illegal, unlawful. **अपराधी**
 - **Patient** (adjective) – Able to accept or tolerate delays, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious. **धैर्यशील**

17. C) The incorrectly spelled word in the sentence is '**triangler**'. The correct spelling is '**triangular**'. त्रिकोण
18. A) despite of' के बदले '**despite**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'despite' के साथ 'of' का प्रयोग आमतौर पर गलत माना जाता है; जैसे— The intrepid group of adventurers climbed the mountain despite bad weather and road closures.
- '**despite**' will be used instead of 'despite of' because using 'of' with 'despite' is generally considered incorrect; Like— The intrepid group of adventurers climbed the mountain despite bad weather and road closures.
19. B) 'flowed over' के बदले '**flew over**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि विमान 'बहता' नहीं है, वह 'उड़ता' है। सही शब्दकोश का चयन 'flew over' होगा, जिससे अभिप्राय होता है कि विमान पहाड़ियों के ऊपर से उड़ रहा था। जैसे— The airplane flew over the mountains, offering the passengers a breath-taking view of the majestic peaks below
- '**flew over**' will be used instead of 'flowed over' because an airplane doesn't 'flow', it 'flies'. The correct vocabulary selection would be 'flew over', implying the airplane was flying above the mountains. Like— The airplane flew over the mountains, offering the passengers a breath-taking view of the majestic peaks below.
20. D) **Ecstasy** (noun) – Overwhelming happiness, rapture, elation, euphoria. परमानंद, उत्साह
Antonym: Despair (noun) – Loss of hope, hopelessness, dejection, discouragement. निराशा
- **Euphoria** (noun) – Intense happiness, elation, joy. परमानंद
 - **Coarse** (adjective) – Rough, crude, unrefined. असभ्य
 - **Natural** (adjective) – Existing in nature, innate, inborn. प्राकृतिक
21. B) Behind' का use होगा क्योंकि "behind" का अर्थ होता है किसी विषय या स्थान के पीछे। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि लड़का भंगले के पीछे घूम रहा था, इसलिए 'behind' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Before' का अर्थ है पहले, 'by dint of' का अर्थ है किसी विशेष कारण से, और 'Below' का अर्थ है नीचे, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Behind' should be used because it means at the back of a subject or place. The sentence mentions that the boy was wandering behind the bungalow, making 'behind' the most fitting choice here. Whereas, 'Before' means prior to, 'by dint of' means because of a particular reason or method, and 'Below' means beneath, which don't fit in this context.
22. A) **closely**' का use होगा क्योंकि "closely" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज को ध्यान से देखना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि जब उसके पैर का दर्द ठीक हुआ, तो उसने पत्थर की

स्लैब को और ध्यान से देखा और पाया कि वह एक कब्र का पत्थर है। इसलिए 'closely' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'emptily' का अर्थ है बिना भावना के, 'frankly' का अर्थ है स्पष्टता से, और 'Lawfully' का अर्थ है कानूनी तरीके से, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'closely'** should be used because it means to observe something with attention. The sentence describes that after his pain subsided, he looked more attentively at the stone slab and discovered it to be a gravestone. This makes 'closely' the appropriate choice here. Whereas, 'emptily' means without feeling, 'frankly' implies openly, and 'Lawfully' suggests in a legal manner, which don't fit in this context.

23. C) **'Blurred'** का use होगा क्योंकि "blurred" का अर्थ होता है अस्पष्ट या धुंधला होना। जैसा कि passage में mention किया गया है कि lettering को मोस और घास ने आधा छुपा लिया था, इसका मतलब है कि lettering अस्पष्ट था। इसलिए 'blurred' यहाँ सही है। 'Idiotic' का अर्थ होता है मूर्खता, 'Sturdy' का अर्थ होता है मज़बूत, और 'Nomadic' का अर्थ होता है खानाबदोश, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Blurred'** should be used because it means unclear or vague. As mentioned in the passage, the lettering was half-covered by grass and moss, implying it was not clear. Thus, 'blurred' is appropriate here. Whereas, 'Idiotic' implies foolishness, 'Sturdy' means strong and robust, and 'Nomadic' means wandering, which don't fit in this context.

24. B) **'Pondering'** का अर्थ होता है विचार करना या सोचना। इस context में लड़का 'Rose' के ग्रेव को देखकर उसके बारे में सोच रहा था, इसलिए 'pondering' यहाँ सही है। 'Sleeping' का अर्थ होता है सोना, 'Being' का अर्थ है अस्तित्व में होना और 'Pulling' का अर्थ होता है खींचना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Pondering'** should be used because it means thinking deeply or considering something carefully. In this context, the boy was reflecting on his discovery of 'Rose's' grave, making 'pondering' the most fitting choice here. 'Sleeping' means to be in a state of rest, 'Being' implies existence, and 'Pulling' means to draw or tug at something, none of which fit appropriately in this scenario.

25. D) **'Cemetery'** को चुना जाना चाहिए क्योंकि "cemetery" का अर्थ होता है कब्रिस्तान। Passage में mention किया गया है कि 'Rose' का गाड़ा हुआ एक अकेले स्थान पर था, तो सवाल उठता है क्यों जब पास ही एक 'cemetery' है। इसलिए 'cemetery' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Dormitory' का अर्थ होता है छात्रावास, 'Kennel' का अर्थ है कुत्ता का घर, और 'Sanctuary' का अर्थ है अभयारण्य या पनाह, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **'Cemetery'** should be used because it refers to a burial ground. The passage mentions that 'Rose' was buried in a secluded location, raising the question of why when there's a 'cemetery' nearby. Hence, 'cemetery' fits here. Whereas, 'Dormitory' means a place of residence for students, 'Kennel' refers to a dog's house, and 'Sanctuary' implies a refuge or a nature reserve, which don't fit in this context.