

## Historic hearing: On the preliminary hearing at the Hague on Israel

A **provisional order** by ICJ on Israel **will cast shadow on legitimacy** of its war

Whatever the outcome of the preliminary hearing at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague, South Africa's **case** against Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza **has garnered** global attention in a way no **proceeding** at this **elite inter-state forum** may have done before. As the 15-member court **assembled**, along with two **ad hoc** judges representing South Africa and Israel, **quite a bit** of history must have **weighed on** the parties. Of the two countries on either side of this dispute over whether the Gaza war is aimed at **wiping out** the people, one has left behind its **apartheid** past, but believes that the other is practising 75 years of 'apartheid' against the Palestinian people since 1948; one **firm** in its belief that it is acting in the interest of justice and humanity, the other equally **firm** in its belief it can never be **accused of genocide**, a crime that was **sought** to be prevented by the Genocide Convention of 1948, a **treaty** to prevent **the sort of Holocaust** the Jewish people **had** suffered. Both countries spent many years in the last century in diplomatic **isolation**, as countries and sporting bodies **boycotted** them, but both had the support of their western **allies**. Today, save for those few allies, the entire world supports a **ceasefire** in Gaza to end the epic **suffering** of its people.

At this preliminary stage, South Africa **sought** to **demonstrate** that some of Israel's acts were capable of falling within the **terms** of the Genocide Convention and that there was '**genocidal intent**' behind its acts. It **relied on** data on deaths and **destruction** and the **collapse** of civilian life and health **infrastructure** in Gaza. It **drew upon** statements **attributed** to key Israeli government figures to **underscore** what it called 'genocidal intent'. The provisional measures sought include a suspension of military operations and steps by the parties to prevent the occurrence of genocide. Israel described the South African case as '**blood libel**' before the hearing, but sought to make a case that its Gaza operations were a **legitimate** response to the terrorist attack on October 7 last year. It **played down** the **relevance** of its leaders' statements, calling them **mere rhetoric**. It attributed the civilian **casualties** to Hamas using civilians as **shields** and hospitals as storage for explosives and launching pads for attacks. The **issue** before the court **is** quite **straightforward**, but the larger concern is whether Israel will **abide by** any provisional measure. Russia ignored an ICJ order to suspend its operations in Ukraine in March 2022. However, there is little doubt that any provisional measure will cast a shadow on the legitimacy of Israel's Gaza war. [Practice Exercise]

- **Quite a bit of** (phrase) – a considerable amount. काफी
- **Weigh on** (phrasal verb) – burden, bear hard upon, oppress भार पड़ना/ असर पड़ना
- **Blood libel** (noun) – an accusation that Jewish people used the blood of Christians in religious rituals, especially in the preparation of Passover bread, that was perpetrated throughout the Middle Ages and (sporadically) until the early 20th century. अपवाद, बदनामी
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'

## Vocabulary

1. **Hearing** (noun) – Session, tribunal, inquiry, review, examination सुनवाई
2. **Provisional** (adjective) – Temporary, interim, conditional, tentative, provisional अस्थायी
3. **Cast shadow on** (phrase) – to spoil a good situation with something unpleasant असर डालना
4. **Legitimacy** (noun) – Validity, lawfulness, authenticity, legality, rightfulness वैधता; औचित्यपूर्णता
5. **Garner** (verb) – Accumulate, collect, gather, amass, assemble इकट्ठा करना
6. **Proceeding** (noun) – Action, litigation, procedure, conduct, transaction कार्यवाही
7. **Elite** (adjective) – Superior, premier, select, exclusive, distinguished उत्कृष्ट
8. **Inter-state** (adjective) – Between states, cross-state, interregional, intergovernmental, trans-state अंतर-राज्य
9. **Forum** (noun) – Platform, stage, setting, arena, venue मंच
10. **Assemble** (verb) – Gather, convene, congregate, muster, rally एकत्रित करना
11. **Ad hoc** (noun) – Temporary, for this, improvised, makeshift, provisional अस्थायी
12. **Wipe out** (phrasal verb) – Eradicate, eliminate, exterminate, annihilate, obliterate मिटा देना
13. **Apartheid** (noun) – Segregation, discrimination, separatism, racism, prejudice जातिवाद
14. **Firm** (adjective) – unyielding, hard, resolute, stable, strong दृढ़
15. **Accuse** (of) (verb) – Charge, indict, impeach, incriminate, arraign आरोप लगाना
16. **Genocide** (noun) – Massacre, annihilation, extermination, slaughter, holocaust नरसंहार
17. **Seek** (verb) – call for, solicit on, demand, ask for, मांगना
18. **The sort of** (phrase) – The kind of, the type of, such as, in the manner of, similar to इस प्रकार का
19. **Holocaust** (noun) – Catastrophe, massacre, genocide, devastation, disaster संहार/विध्वंस
20. **Isolation** (noun) – Segregation, separation, quarantine, solitude, seclusion पृथक्करण/अलग रखना
21. **Boycott** (verb) – Shun, avoid, abstain from, eschew, reject बहिष्कार करना

22. **Ally** (noun) – Partner, confederate, supporter, colleague, associate सहयोगी
23. **Ceasefire** (noun) – Truce, armistice, suspension, halt, moratorium युद्धविराम
24. **Suffering** (noun) – Pain, distress, hardship, misery, agony पीड़ा
25. **Seek** (verb) – Attempt, try, endeavor, aim, aspire प्रयास करना
26. **Demonstrate** (verb) – Show, reveal, exhibit, display, manifest प्रदर्शित करना
27. **Terms** (noun) – Conditions, stipulations, provisions, clauses, prerequisites शर्तें
28. **Genocidal** (adjective) – Destructive, annihilative, murderous, lethal, deadly नरसंहारक
29. **Intent** (noun) – Intention, purpose, aim, objective, plan इरादा
30. **Rely** (on) (verb) – Depend on, count on, bank on, trust, lean on निर्भर करना
31. **Destruction** (noun) – Demolition, ruin, devastation, wreck, obliteration विनाश
32. **Collapse** (noun) – Breakdown, failure, disintegration, fall, ruin पतन
33. **Infrastructure** (noun) – Framework, base, structure, system, network बुनियादी संरचना
34. **Draw on/upon** (phrasal verb) – Utilize, employ, use, harness, exploit इस्तेमाल करना
35. **Attribute** (to) (verb) – Ascribe, assign, credit, impute, refer जिम्मेदार ठहराना
36. **Underscore** (verb) – Emphasize, highlight, underline, stress, accentuate जोर देना
37. **Legitimate** (adjective) – Legal, lawful, rightful, authorized, valid वैध
38. **Play down** (phrasal verb) – Understate, minimize, trivialize, diminish, downplay कम महत्व देना
39. **Relevance** (noun) – Pertinence, applicability, importance, significance, connection प्रासंगिकता
40. **Mere** (adjective) – Only, just, sheer, simple, pure केवल
41. **Rhetoric** (noun) – a way of speaking or writing that is intended to impress or influence people but is not always sincere लफ्फाजी, बयानबाजी
42. **Casualty** (noun) – Victim, fatality, loss, injury, martyr हताहत
43. **Shield** (noun) – Protector, guard, defense, buffer, screen ढाल
44. **Straightforward** (adjective) – Simple, easy, uncomplicated, direct, clear सरल, स्पष्ट
45. **Abide by** (phrasal verb) – Comply with, adhere to, conform to, follow, obey पालन करना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague is holding a preliminary hearing on South Africa's case against Israel's military campaign in Gaza.
2. The case has gained unprecedented global attention, marking a significant moment in the history of this elite inter-state forum.
3. South Africa and Israel, both represented by ad hoc judges, have had complex historical journeys, with South Africa moving away from its apartheid past and accusing Israel of practicing apartheid against Palestinians for 75 years since 1948.
4. Both nations, historically diplomatically isolated and supported mainly by their western allies, advocate strongly for their positions – South Africa for justice and humanity, Israel defending against accusations of genocide.
5. The core of the dispute revolves around whether the Gaza war is an act of genocide, as defined by the 1948 Genocide Convention, established to prevent atrocities like the Holocaust.
6. South Africa's argument hinges on the assertion that Israel's actions in Gaza could constitute violations of the Genocide Convention, demonstrating this with data on casualties and the devastation of civilian infrastructure.
7. The country also points to statements from Israeli officials, which it interprets as indicative of genocidal intent.
8. As provisional measures, South Africa seeks a suspension of military operations and actions to prevent genocide.
9. Israel counters, labeling the South African case as 'blood libel', and argues that its actions in Gaza are legitimate responses to terrorist attacks, specifically referring to an incident on October 7 of the previous year.
10. It downplays the significance of its leaders' statements, dismissing them as rhetoric, and attributes civilian casualties to Hamas's strategies, like using civilians as shields and hospitals for storing explosives.
11. The core issue before the court is straightforward, focusing on the legitimacy and consequences of Israel's actions in Gaza.
12. The broader concern is whether Israel will comply with any provisional measures the ICJ might impose, especially in light of precedents like Russia's disregard of an ICJ order in 2022.
13. Any provisional measure by the ICJ is expected to significantly impact the perceived legitimacy of Israel's military actions in Gaza.
14. The hearing is a historical moment, reflecting the complex interplay of law, diplomacy, and international relations.
15. The outcome of the hearing, regardless of the direction, is poised to have far-reaching implications for international law, the involved nations, and the global perception of justice and conflict resolution.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the significance of the preliminary hearing at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding South Africa's case against Israel's military campaign in Gaza?** Editorial page
  - A. It is a routine procedure that has not attracted much global attention.
  - B. It signifies the first time such a hearing has garnered widespread global attention, highlighting the severity of the issue.
  - C. It is focused solely on determining the legitimacy of Israel's western allies.
  - D. The hearing is a diplomatic formality with no real impact on international relations.
2. **What historical context is shared between South Africa and Israel as mentioned in the passage?**
  - A. Both countries have a history of uninterrupted peaceful relations and mutual support in international forums.
  - B. Both nations have experienced diplomatic isolation in the past and had the support of their western allies during those times.
  - C. The passage suggests that both countries have a shared history of practicing apartheid without facing any global repercussions.
  - D. Both countries are newly formed nations with no significant history prior to the 20th century.
3. **What approach did Israel take in response to the allegations made by South Africa at the Hague's preliminary hearing?**
  - A. Israel acknowledged the genocidal intent behind its actions but justified them as necessary responses to terrorist threats.
  - B. Israel completely agreed with South Africa's allegations and consented to the suspension of military operations.
  - C. Israel denied the allegations of 'genocidal intent', attributing the civilian casualties to Hamas's tactics, and described its Gaza operations as a legitimate response to terrorism.
  - D. Israel admitted to the collapse of civilian life and health infrastructure in Gaza but blamed it on external factors beyond its control.
4. **What was the primary argument presented by South Africa at the preliminary hearing at the Hague regarding Israel's actions?**
  - A. South Africa argued that Israel's Gaza operations were a legitimate response to terrorist attacks.
  - B. South Africa claimed that Israel's actions in Gaza could be categorized under the terms of the Genocide Convention, showing evidence of 'genocidal intent'.
  - C. South Africa supported Israel's stance, agreeing that the civilian casualties were a result of Hamas using civilians as shields.
  - D. South Africa demanded immediate military intervention against Israel's actions in Gaza.
5. **What is the tone of the passage regarding the preliminary hearing at the International Court of Justice on Israel's military campaign in Gaza?**
  - A. Neutral and Objective
  - B. Optimistic and Hopeful

- C. Critical and Skeptical
- D. Indifferent and Unconcerned

6. **Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.**

The farmer is ploughing the fields.

- A. The fields have been ploughed by the farmer.
- B. The fields are being ploughed by the farmer.
- C. The fields were ploughed by the farmer.
- D. The fields are ploughed by the farmer.

**Comprehension:**

**In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each blank.**

Atlas was made to hold the sky up on his shoulders as a punishment. Once, Hercules (1)\_\_\_\_\_ to hold it for Atlas while the latter went looking (2)\_\_\_\_\_ golden apples. When Atlas returned, he saw Hercules (3)\_\_\_\_\_ hard to hold the sky. The weight of the sky (4)\_\_\_\_\_ Hercules sweat and groan. Now Atlas did not want to (5)\_\_\_\_\_ a job as arduous as that!

7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1.**

- A. afforded
- B. offered
- C. extended
- D. Ordered

8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2.**

- A. at
- B. for
- C. on
- D. After

9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3.**

- A. tackling
- B. struggling
- C. seeking
- D. Coping

10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4.**

- A. make
- B. were making
- C. was making
- D. has made

11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5.**

- A. take out
- B. take in
- C. take away
- D. take back

12. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

- Chicken-hearted
- A. Cowardly
  - B. Generous
  - C. Miserly
  - D. Selfish
13. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**
- A. The mountain range was covered with snow.
  - B. Napoleon had to cross the Alps in winter.
  - C. Napoleon replied that the word 'impossible' did not exist for him.
  - D. So, someone told Napoleon that the task was impossible.
- A. DBCA
  - B. BADC
  - C. ADBC
  - D. BDCA
14. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.  
Preferred
- A. Adored
  - B. Favoured
  - C. Feared
  - D. Compared
15. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.  
Ovation
- A. Creation
  - B. Applause
  - C. Preparation
  - D. Censure
16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**  
She \_\_\_\_\_ how the magician had performed the rope trick.
- A. puzzled
  - B. bewildered
  - C. suspected
  - D. wondered
17. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select No improvement.**  
When it started raining, I ran to the nearer house for shelter.
- A. the nearest house
  - B. a near house
  - C. the near house
  - D. No improvement
18. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
- A. Abandon

- B. Acquaintance  
C. Alliance  
D. Acquisition
19. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.**
- A. Much of this war had taken place along the Western Front.  
B. Both sides had dug in deep and each lost many men over little ground.  
C. This front was a line of trenches across which the two sides faced each other.  
D. Andre Maginot had fought a war with the French against the Germans.
- A. BCDA  
B. ACDB  
C. DACB  
D. DBCA
20. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given **idiom**.  
By and by
- A. Suddenly  
B. Gradually  
C. On the whole  
D. By any means
21. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.  
Glee
- A. Bliss  
B. Joy  
C. Fun  
D. Woe
22. **Identify the segment in the sentence which contains the grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'**  
Everyone except she have travelled by air.
- A. travelled by air  
B. she have  
C. No error  
D. Everyone except
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**  
The roof of the old building \_\_\_\_\_ during the storm.
- A. collapsed  
B. scratched  
C. destroyed  
D. Demolished
24. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words/phrase.  
A group of ships
- A. fleet



- B. squad
  - C. colony
  - D. Swarm
25. Select the **wrongly** spelt word.
- A. Piece
  - B. Fierce
  - C. Sieze
  - D. Grief

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

1. **B) It signifies the first time such a hearing has garnered widespread global attention, highlighting the severity of the issue.**

The passage describes the preliminary hearing at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as an event that has garnered global attention in a way no proceeding at this elite inter-state forum may have done before. This indicates that the hearing is of significant importance and has attracted widespread attention, highlighting the severity and global concern regarding South Africa's case against Israel's military campaign in Gaza.

2. **B) Both nations have experienced diplomatic isolation in the past and had the support of their western allies during those times.**

The passage explicitly mentions that both South Africa and Israel spent many years in the last century in diplomatic isolation, with countries and sporting bodies boycotting them, but both had the support of their western allies. This historical context illustrates the similarities in their past, particularly concerning their diplomatic relations and the support they received from western allies during times of isolation. Option A is incorrect as it contradicts the historical context of diplomatic isolation mentioned in the passage. Option C is misleading and does not accurately represent the historical nuances of each country's past, particularly misrepresenting the apartheid context. Option D is incorrect as it overlooks the rich and complex histories of both nations as detailed in the passage.

3. **C) Israel denied the allegations of 'genocidal intent', attributing the civilian casualties to Hamas's tactics, and described its Gaza operations as a legitimate response to terrorism.**

Israel's response to South Africa's allegations was multifaceted. It labeled the South African case as 'blood libel' and argued that its Gaza operations were a legitimate response to terrorist attacks. Israel downplayed the relevance of its leaders' statements, referring to them as mere rhetoric, and attributed civilian casualties to Hamas using civilians as shields and hospitals for storing explosives and launching attacks. This response shows a denial of the 'genocidal intent' alleged by South Africa and a framing of its actions as a legitimate response to terrorism, making option C the correct answer. Options A, B, and D do not accurately capture Israel's response as described in the passage.

4. **B) South Africa claimed that Israel's actions in Gaza could be categorized under the terms of the Genocide Convention, showing evidence of 'genocidal intent'.**

South Africa sought to demonstrate that some of Israel's acts fell within the terms of the Genocide Convention. They presented evidence of 'genocidal intent' behind Israel's actions, relying on data about deaths, destruction, and the collapse of civilian life and health infrastructure in Gaza. This indicates that South Africa's primary argument was that Israel's

actions could be categorized under the terms of the Genocide Convention due to the presence of 'genocidal intent', making option B the correct answer. Options A, C, and D do not accurately represent South Africa's stance as described in the passage.

5. **C) Critical and Skeptical**

The tone of the passage is critical and skeptical, reflecting a serious and questioning attitude towards the actions and statements of both South Africa and Israel in the context of the Gaza conflict and the preliminary hearing at the ICJ. The passage scrutinizes the claims and counterclaims made by both nations, highlighting the complexities and historical weight of the accusations, such as 'genocidal intent' and 'blood libel'. It also points out the gravity of the situation by mentioning the failure of other nations, like Russia, to comply with ICJ orders, casting doubt on the potential effectiveness of any provisional measure taken against Israel.

6. B) The fields are being ploughed by the farmer

7. B) '**Offered**' का use होगा क्योंकि "offered" का अर्थ होता है प्रस्तावित करना या सहायता करने की पेशकश करना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि Hercules ने Atlas की मदद की थी जब वह सोने के सेव खोजने गया था, इसलिए 'offered' यहाँ सही है। 'Afforded' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज की कीमत चुकाना, 'Extended' का अर्थ है विस्तार करना, और 'Ordered' का अर्थ है आदेश देना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- '**Offered**' should be used because it means to propose or to present for acceptance. In the sentence, it is mentioned that Hercules had proposed to assist Atlas while he went looking for golden apples, making 'offered' the correct choice. Whereas, 'Afforded' means to be able to pay for, 'Extended' means to make larger, and 'Ordered' means to command, which don't fit in this context.

8. B) **for**' का use होगा क्योंकि "for" का अर्थ होता है "के लिए". Atlas गोल्डन एप्पल्स की तलाश में गए थे, इसलिए 'for' यहाँ सही है। 'at' का अर्थ होता है "पर", 'on' का अर्थ होता है "पर" और 'After' का अर्थ होता है "के बाद", जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **for**' should be used because it means "in search of" or "in order to obtain". Atlas went looking for golden apples, making 'for' the correct choice here. 'A. at' means "directed at or in", 'C. on' is used to indicate position or occurrence, and 'D. After' means "following in time", which are not suitable in this context.

9. B) **struggling**' का use होगा क्योंकि "struggling" का अर्थ होता है किसी मुश्किल या चुनौती से जूझना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि Hercules आकाश को उठाने में कठिनाई से जूझ रहा था, इसलिए 'struggling' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'tackling' का अर्थ है सामना करना या निपटना, 'seeking' का अर्थ है खोजना, और 'coping' का अर्थ है निपटना या सामना करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **struggling'** should be used because it means to grapple with a difficulty or challenge. The sentence mentions that Hercules was having a hard time holding up the sky, making 'struggling' fitting here. Whereas, 'tackling' means confronting or dealing with, 'seeking' means to look for, and 'coping' implies managing or dealing, which don't fit in this context

10. C) **was making'** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि यह एक continuous action को व्यक्त करता है।

Hercules को आकाश का भार उठाते हुए दिखाया गया है, जिसका मतलब है कि वह पसीना और कराह रहा था, इसलिए 'was making' यहाँ सही है।

- 'Was making' would be used here as it expresses a continuous action. Hercules is depicted as being in the process of holding up the sky, meaning he was continuously sweating and groaning, making 'was making' appropriate here.

11. D) **take back'** का use होगा क्योंकि "take back" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को वापस लेना।

Sentence में mention किया गया है कि Atlas ने sky को Hercules के कंधों पर छोड़ दिया था और वह वापस नहीं लेना चाहता था, इसलिए 'take back' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'take out' का अर्थ होता है हटाना या बाहर निकालना, 'take in' का अर्थ है समझना या ग्रहण करना, और 'take away' का अर्थ है हटा लेना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'take back' should be used because it means to reclaim something. The sentence mentions that Atlas did not want to reclaim the job of holding the sky, making 'take back' fitting here. Whereas, 'take out' means to remove or extract, 'take in' means to understand or absorb, and 'take away' implies removing or taking possession of something, which don't fit in this context.

12. A) **Chicken-hearted** (idiom) – Cowardly **डरपोक**

13. B) **BADC**

Napoleon had to cross the Alps in winter. The mountain range was covered with snow So, someone told Napoleon that the task was impossible. Napoleon replied that the word 'impossible' did not exist for him

14. B) **Preferred** (adjective) – Liked better, favored, chosen, selected. **पसंदीदा**

Synonym: **Favoured** (adjective) – Approved, supported, preferred, endorsed. **पसंदीदा**

- **Adored** (adjective) – Loved intensely, worshipped, venerated, esteemed. **प्यार किया**
- **Feared** (adjective) – Regarded with fear, scary, frightful, alarming. **डरा हुआ**
- **Compared** (verb) – Estimate, measure, or note the similarity or dissimilarity between. **तुलना की**

15. B) **Ovation** (noun) – A sustained and enthusiastic show of appreciation from an audience, especially by means of applause. अभिनंदन

Synonym: **Applause** (noun) – Approval or praise expressed by clapping, acclamation, cheering, commendation. साधुवाद तालियाँ

- **Creation** (noun) – The action or process of bringing something into existence, formation, origination, invention. रचना
- **Preparation** (noun) – The action or process of making ready or being made ready for use or consideration, readiness, arrangement. तैयारी
- **Censure** (noun) – Express severe disapproval of (someone or something), typically in a formal statement, criticism, condemnation, reproof. निन्दा

16. D) **Wondered'** का use होगा क्योंकि "wondered" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज के बारे में सोचना या विचार करना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि वह कैसे समझ नहीं पा रही है कि जादूगर ने रस्सी का जादू कैसे किया, इसलिए 'wondered' यहाँ सही है। 'Puzzled' और 'bewildered' का अर्थ होता है भ्रान्त होना या उलझन में होना, और 'suspected' का अर्थ होता है संदेह करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Wondered'** should be used because it means to think or speculate curiously. The sentence mentions that she is not able to understand how the magician had performed the rope trick, making 'wondered' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Puzzled' and 'Bewildered' imply being confused or perplexed, and 'Suspected' means to doubt, which don't fit in this context.

17. A) **'the nearer house'** की जगह 'the nearest house' होना चाहिए क्योंकि यहां पर दो या दो से अधिक विकल्पों में से सबसे पास के घर की बात हो रही है। इसलिए, 'nearest' का सही उपयोग होगा; जैसे— I always go to the nearest grocery store.

- 'the nearest house' should be used instead of 'the nearer house' because it is referring to the closest house among two or more options. Hence, 'nearest' is the appropriate use; Like— I always go to the nearest grocery store.

18. B) The incorrect spelling among the options is 'Acquaintence.' The correct spelling is **'Acquaintance,' जान-पहचान**

19. C) **DACB**

Andre Maginot had fought a war with the French against the Germans. Much of this war had taken place along the Western Front This front was a line of trenches across which the two sides faced each other. Both sides had dug in deep and each lost many men over little ground.

20. B) **By and by** (idiom) – Gradually **धीरे धीरे**

21. D) **Glee** (noun) – Great delight, joy, pleasure, happiness. **प्रसन्नता**

Antonym: **Woe** (noun) – Great sorrow or distress, misery, sadness, unhappiness. **दुःख**

- **Bliss** (noun) – Perfect happiness, joy, pleasure. **आनंद**
- **Joy** (noun) – A feeling of great pleasure and happiness. **खुशी**
- **Fun** (noun) – Enjoyment, amusement, or lighthearted pleasure. **मज़ा**

22. B) **she have** की जगह 'she has' होना चाहिए, क्योंकि 'everyone except she' एक single entity को refer करता है, और इसलिए singular verb 'has' का उपयोग होना चाहिए; जैसे— Every boy except John has completed his homework.

- 'she have' should be replaced with 'she has' because 'everyone except she' refers to a single entity, and therefore, the singular verb 'has' should be used; Like— Every boy except John has completed his homework.

23. A) **'Collapsed'** का use होगा क्योंकि "collapsed" का अर्थ होता है अचानक गिर पड़ना या ढह जाना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि पुरानी इमारत की छत तूफान के दौरान \_\_\_\_\_, इसलिए 'collapsed' यहाँ सही है क्योंकि तूफान के दौरान छत अचानक ढह सकती है। जबकि 'Scatched' का अर्थ है खरोचना, 'Destroyed' का अर्थ है नष्ट कर देना और 'Demolished' का अर्थ है गिरा देना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

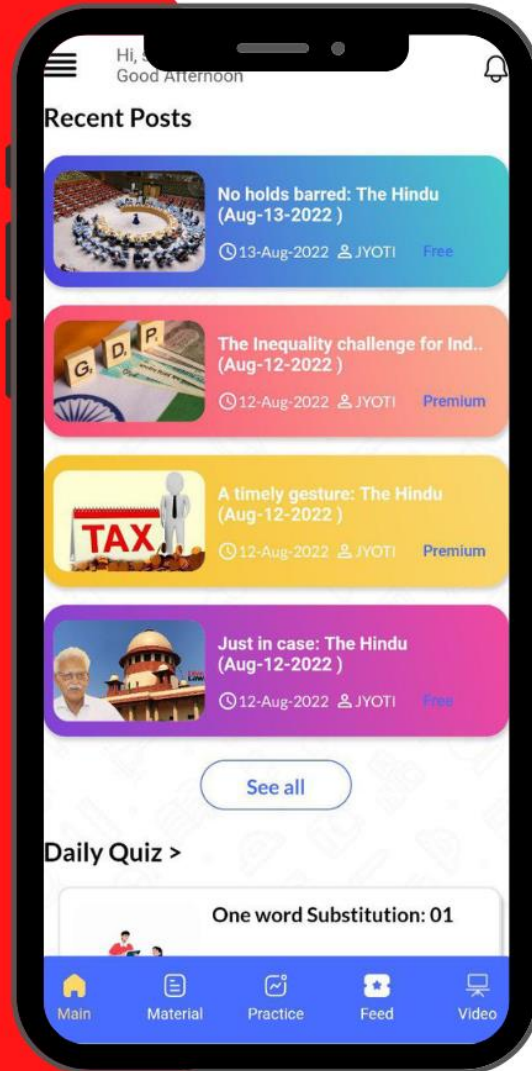
- **Collapsed** should be used because it means to suddenly fall down or cave in. The sentence mentions that the roof of the old building \_\_\_\_\_ during the storm, making 'collapsed' fitting here as a roof can suddenly cave in during a storm. Whereas, 'Scatched' means to scrape or damage the surface, 'Destroyed' means to ruin completely, and 'Demolished' means to pull or knock down, which don't fit in this context.

24. A) **Fleet** (noun) – A group of ships or vessels that are together for a particular purpose or task.

**जहाज़ों की टोली**

- **Squad** (noun) – A small group of people organized for a specific purpose, often in the military or police force. **दल**
- **Colony** (noun) – A group of people or animals living closely together, often for mutual benefit, or an area inhabited by a specific group of people or animals.  
**उपनिवेश**
- **Swarm** (noun) – A large number of insects or other small creatures moving together. **भीड़**

25. C) The wrongly spelt word is 'Sieze'. The correct spelling is 'Seize'. जब्त करना



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