Momentous ruling: On Israel and the International Court of Justice order

Israel must comply with ICJ's order to prevent genocide, step up aid in Gaza

Despite the absence of an explicit call for a ceasefire, the ruling handed down by the International Court of Justice is a momentous one that binds Israel to its obligation to prevent acts of genocide in its ongoing military operations in Gaza. The UN's highest judicial body has spelt out provisional measures after finding that "at least some of the acts and omissions alleged by South Africa to have been committed by Israel in Gaza appear to be capable of falling within the provisions of the [Genocide] Convention". South Africa, which took on the extraordinary responsibility of making Israel accountable for its violations of humanitarian law, stands vindicated as the ICJ accepted its standing to approach the court and found its preliminary submissions tenable. The ICJ has directed Israel to take effective and immediate measures to ensure humanitarian assistance and basic services to Gaza. While Israel and its allies highlight the absence of an order to stop military action, it cannot be ignored that the order is tailored to achieving the objective of preventing genocide, a term that includes killing members of the targeted group, Palestinians, in this case causing serious bodily and mental harm to them and deliberately inflicting on them conditions of life aimed at bringing about the group's physical destruction. The order is a moral and legal indictment of Israel for bombing health facilities, **designated** safe areas, and densely populated areas.

That most of the provisional measures were favoured by a 15-2 majority shows a high degree of consensus on steps to prevent genocide. A blanket order for cessation of hostilities may have been divisive — not many may agree that there can be no military response to a terrorist attack by nonstate armed actors — and render it easy to ignore. The order makes it difficult for Israel to choose a policy of deliberate non-compliance. The world should goad Israel into complying with the measures, while carrying out legitimate military operations. Its leaders should avoid statements that may be seen as **inciting** genocide. The part of the ruling that asks for a report in one month on steps taken to implement the measures can only mean that Israel has to demonstrate progress on the extent of humanitarian aid it has permitted. An unfortunate development, with a suspicious immediacy after the ICJ order, is the suspension of global aid to the UNRWA, based on an Israeli allegation that 12 staffers were involved in the October 7 attack. This is no time to defund or wind down humanitarian work in Gaza even as a **probe** into their role is necessary. [Practice Exercise]

- Standing (noun) position in an area of activity; Stance स्थिति/ रुख
- Approach (verb) Tackle, handle, manage, संभालना
- Designated (adjective) Chosen, described, defined, निदिष्ट
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

- Momentous (adjective) Significant, important, consequential, historic, pivotal महत्वपूर्ण
- 2. **Ruling** (noun) Decree, judgment, verdict, decision, adjudication निर्णय
- Comply (with) (verb) Obey, adhere to, follow, abide by, conform to पालन करना
- 4. **Genocide** (noun) Massacre, extermination, ethnic cleansing, mass murder, holocaust नरसंहार
- 5. **Step up** (phrasal verb) Increase, escalate, intensify, raise, enhance बढ़ाना
- 6. **Aid** (noun) Assistance, help, support, relief, backing सहायता
- 8. **Call** (for) (noun) Demand, request, appeal, petition, plea आहवान
- 9. **Ceasefire** (noun) Truce, armistice, peace, suspension, moratorium युद्धविराम
- 10. **Hand down** (phrasal verb) Pass on, deliver, pronounce, decree, issue सौंपना
- 11. **Bind** (verb) Obligate, tie, bond, fasten, secure बाध्य करना
- 12. **Spelt out** (phrasal verb) Clarify, explain, elucidate, define, specify स्पष्ट करना

- 13. **Provisional** (adjective) Temporary, interim, provisional, tentative, conditional अस्थायी
- 14. **The acts and omissions** (noun) Actions and neglects, deeds and failures, activities and oversights ঘুক
- 15. **Allege** (verb) Claim, assert, declare, state, contend आरोप लगाना
- 16. **Provision** (noun) Supply, provision, arrangement, preparation, provision ਸ਼ਰधान
- 17. **Accountable** (for) (adjective) Responsible, answerable, liable, subject to, amenable उत्तरदायी
- 18. **Humanitarian** (adjective) Compassionate, benevolent, charitable, altruistic, humane मानवीय
- 19. **Vindicated** (adjective) Justified, warranted, substantiated, validated, confirmed सही साबित
- 20. **Submission** (noun) Proposal, suggestion, presentation, submission, submission प्रस्तुतीकरण
- 21. **Tenable** (adjective) Defensible, justifiable, supportable, reasonable, plausible तर्कसंगत
- 22. **Direct** (verb) Command, guide, control, lead, manage निर्देशित करना

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- 23. **Assistance** (noun) Help, support, aid, assistance, relief सहायता
- 24. **Ally** (noun) Partner, associate, collaborator, confederate, accomplice सहयोगी
- 25. **Highlight** (verb) Emphasize, spotlight, underline, accentuate, underscore प्रमुखता से दिखाना
- 26. **Tailor** (verb) Adapt, customize, modify, shape, fashion अनुक्लित करना
- 27. **Inflict** (on) (verb) Impose, administer, deliver, deal, mete out थोपना
- 28. **Bring about** (phrasal verb) Cause, induce, produce, generate, provoke घटित करना
- 29. **Indictment** (noun) Accusation, charge, allegation, arraignment, prosecution अभियोग
- 30. **Consensus** (noun) Agreement, concord, harmony, unanimity, consensus आम सहमति
- 31. **Blanket** (adjective) Comprehensive, total, complete, all-inclusive, all-encompassing समग्र
- 32. **Cessation** (noun) End, halt, stoppage, discontinuation, termination समाप्ति
- 33. **Hostility** (noun) Aggression, animosity, antagonism, enmity, bitterness शत्रुता

- 34. **Divisive** (adjective) Polarizing, alienating, estranging, separating, disuniting विभाजक
- 35. **Non-state** (adjective) Not official, unofficial, non-governmental, non-public, non-formal गैर-राज्य
- 36. Actor (noun) Participant
- 37. **Render** (verb) Make, cause to be, turn into बनाना
- 38. **Deliberate** (adjective) Intentional, calculated, conscious, planned, purposeful जानबूझकर
- 39. **Non-compliance** (noun) Disobedience, defiance, non-observance, non-conformity, insubordination अनुपालन न करना
- 40. **Goad** (verb) Provoke, spur, prod, egg on, stimulate उकसाना
- 41. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) Execute, perform, accomplish, implement, conduct कार्यान्वित करना
- 42. **Legitimate** (adjective) Legal, lawful, licit, authorized, permitted ਕੈਂध
- 43. **Incite** (verb) Stir up, provoke, instigate, arouse, agitate उकसाना
- 44. **Demonstrate** (verb) Show, illustrate, exhibit, reveal, display दिखाना
- 45. **Development** (noun) event, turn of events, occurrence, happening, circumstance घटनाक्रम

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- 46. **Immediacy** (noun) Urgency, promptness, directness, closeness, proximity तात्कालिकता
- 47. **Allegation** (noun) Accusation, charge, claim, assertion, indictment आरोप
- 48. **Defund** (verb) to stop providing money or as much money to pay for something

- 49. **Wind down** (phrasal verb) Diminish, decrease, reduce, dwindle, taper off घटाना
- 50. **Probe** (noun) Investigation, inquiry, examination, study, analysis जांच

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Summary of the Editorial

- 1. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a momentous ruling requiring Israel to prevent acts of genocide in its military operations in Gaza.
- 2. The UN's highest judicial body took provisional measures after South Africa accused Israel of acts potentially falling under the Genocide Convention.
- 3. South Africa's role in holding Israel accountable for humanitarian law violations was recognized as the ICJ accepted its standing and preliminary submissions.
- 4. The ICJ ordered Israel to immediately ensure humanitarian assistance and basic services in Gaza.
- 5. Despite no explicit call for a ceasefire, the ruling focuses on preventing genocide, which includes stopping the killing of Palestinians and preventing conditions leading to their physical destruction.
- 6. Israel is morally and legally indicted for bombing health facilities, safe areas, and densely populated regions in Gaza.
- 7. The majority of provisional measures (15-2) indicate a strong consensus on preventing genocide.
- 8. The absence of a blanket cessation order acknowledges the complexity of military responses to terrorist attacks but emphasizes the necessity to avoid genocide.
- 9. The ruling makes deliberate non-compliance by Israel challenging, urging the international community to ensure Israel's adherence.
- 10. Israeli leaders are advised to refrain from statements that might incite genocide.
- 11. Israel is required to report within a month the progress on humanitarian aid provision, underlining the necessity for transparency and accountability.
- 12. The suspension of global aid to the UNRWA following the ICJ order, based on Israeli allegations against 12 staffers, is seen as an unfortunate and suspiciously timed action.
- 13. The timing suggests a possible reaction to the ICJ ruling, indicating a complex interplay of legal and political maneuvers post-ruling.
- 14. The editorial emphasizes the importance of not defunding or diminishing humanitarian efforts in Gaza, especially during this critical period.
- 15. A thorough investigation into the allegations against UNRWA staff is deemed necessary, but it should not hinder the ongoing humanitarian assistance in Gaza.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. What is the main theme of the passage?

[Editorial Page]

- A. Israel's military operations in Gaza are fully justified and supported by the international community.
- B. The International Court of Justice has issued a ruling that obligates Israel to prevent acts of genocide in its ongoing military operations in Gaza.
- C. South Africa's involvement in the conflict between Israel and Gaza is unwarranted and has been criticized by the ICJ.
- D. The suspension of global aid to the UNRWA is the most significant outcome of the ICJ ruling.

2. Which of the following statements is incorrect based on the passage?

- A. The ICJ ruling explicitly called for a ceasefire in the military operations in Gaza.
- B. The ICJ has directed Israel to ensure humanitarian assistance and basic services to Gaza.
- C. The world is encouraged to ensure Israel complies with the measures set by the ICJ while carrying out legitimate military operations.
- D. The ICJ ruling has led to a suspension of global aid to the UNRWA based on an Israeli allegation.

3. What kind of question does the part of the ruling that asks for a report in one month on steps taken to implement the measures serve as?

- A. A procedural requirement to ensure the continuation of military operations without interference.
- B. A mechanism to monitor Israel's compliance with the court's directives, particularly in providing humanitarian aid.
- C. A formality that has little impact on the actual situation in Gaza.
- D. A tactic to increase international scrutiny on South Africa's role in the conflict.

4. What is the tone of the passage?

- A. Neutral presenting information without expressing any opinion or emotion.
- B. Condemnatory expressing strong disapproval or censure.
- C. Inquisitive asking questions and showing a desire to understand more about the situation.
- D. Reflective contemplating or considering the implications of the situation thoughtfully.
- 5. Choose the synonym for the word "vindicated" as used in the passage.
 - A. Disproved
 - B. Condemned
 - C. Justified
 - D. Undermined
- 6. 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.

I was sitting at home doing nothing when I had heard that song again

enemy camps.B. The commander was ordered by his soldiers to move forward and attack the enemy camps.

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The commander ordered his soldiers to move forward and attack the enemy camps.

A. His soldiers were ordered by the commander to be moved forward and attacked the

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12. Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.

- C. The soldiers were ordered by their commander to move forward and attack the enemy camps.
- D. The commander ordered his soldiers to be moved forward and attacked the enemy camps.
- 13. In the sentence identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.

Sita has no taste in classical dance.

- A. in
- B. no taste
- C. Sita has
- D. classical dance
- 14. Given below are four jumbled sentences. Out of the given options pick the one that gives their correct order.
 - **A.** Accommodation and food were given free.
 - **B.** This was held in a hostel for poor students built by a philanthropist.
 - **C.** A few years ago, I was the chief guest at a small function.
 - **D.** But the inmates of the hostel had to bear other expenses like clothing and toiletries
 - A. CBAD
 - B. BCAD
 - C. ABCD
 - D. BCDA
- 15. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.

Mellow

- A. Medium
- B. Shiny
- C. Hard
- D. Soft
- 16. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
 - A. Athelete
 - B. Convenience
 - C. Guarantee
 - D. Dilemma
- 17. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.

Exceed

- A. Surpass
- B. Decrease
- C. Improve
- D. Decline
- 18. 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.

One evening, when father was coming home from work, I **played** in the front garden.

- A. play
- B. am playing
- C. No improvement

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19.	Sel	. was playing elect the most appropriate meaning of the follow lind alley	ring idiom .
	A.	. A state of deep thought	
	В.	A person who comes to meet occasionally	
20.	C.	A situation in which no further progress can be	made
	D.	. Taking first step after somebody's approach	
	Sel	elect the most appropriate ANTONYM of the give	en word.
	Em	merge	
	A.	. Announce	

- B. Appear
- C. Surface
- D. Disappear
- 21. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
 - A. Shining
 - B. Beginning
 - C. Guidence
 - D. Soldier
- 22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank

Suzerainty is having political control over a state.

- A. dependent
- B. democratic
- C. unified
- D. Backward
- 23. Select the most appropriate meaning of the following **idiom**.

The acid test

- A. A critical situation or crisis
- B. An unpleasant or offensive test
- C. A fact, event or situation that proves something
- D. Throwing acid on someone's face
- 24. Select the word which means the **same** as the group of words given.

Anger about an unfair situation or about someone's unfair behaviour

- A. Induction
- B. Indigenisation
- C. Indulgence
- D. Indignation
- 25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

My cousin's study on the reading habits of school children across three states has been recognised as a _____ piece of research.

- A. negligent
- B. proud

C. pioneering D. useless

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Answers

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

Explanation

- 1. B) The main theme of the passage revolves around the ruling of the International Court of Justice, which binds Israel to its obligation to prevent acts of genocide in its military operations in Gaza. The passage discusses the implications of this ruling, the role of South Africa in bringing the case to the ICJ, and the broader international response to the court's decision.
- 2. A) The statement that the ICJ ruling explicitly called for a ceasefire in the military operations in Gaza is incorrect. The passage mentions that despite the absence of an explicit call for a ceasefire, the ICJ ruling is momentous and focuses on preventing acts of genocide. The other options (B, C, and D) are supported by the passage.
- 3. B) The question regarding a report on steps taken to implement the measures serves as a mechanism to monitor Israel's compliance with the court's directives, particularly in providing humanitarian aid. This part of the ruling emphasizes the need for Israel to demonstrate progress in ensuring humanitarian assistance and basic services to Gaza, reflecting the court's proactive approach in ensuring that its orders are followed. The other options (A, C, and D) are not supported by the context of the passage.
- 4. B) The tone of the passage is condemnatory. It expresses strong disapproval of Israel's actions in Gaza and critically analyzes the implications of the ICJ ruling. The passage emphasizes the gravity of the situation, the responsibility of Israel to prevent acts of genocide as per the ruling, and the international response to the court's decision, all pointing towards a tone of censure and disapproval.
- 5. C) In the passage, "vindicated" is used in the context of South Africa's role in making Israel accountable for its violations of humanitarian law, where it is mentioned that South Africa stands vindicated as the ICJ accepted its standing to approach the court. Here, "vindicated" implies that South Africa's actions were shown to be right, reasonable, or justified, especially after doubt or suspicion. Therefore, "justified" is the synonym that best fits the context, as it also conveys the idea of being shown to be right or reasonable
- 6. A) 'had heard' के बदले 'heard' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Simple Past Tense का उपयोग उस समय के लिए किया जाता है जब कोई क्रिया अतीत में घटित होती है और उसका कोई वर्तमान या भविष्य के साथ संबंध नहीं होता है; जैसे— I was sitting at home doing nothing when I heard that song again.
 - 'heard' will be used instead of 'had heard' because Simple Past Tense is used for actions
 that happened in the past and are not connected to the present or future; Like I was
 sitting at home doing nothing when I heard that song again.

- 7. C) of' का use होगा क्योंकि adult education गांव के स्कूलों के माध्यम से होता है। 'through the medium' के बाद 'of' सही preposition होता है जब हम किसी विषय या साधन के माध्यम से कुछ प्रस्तुत करते हैं। इसलिए, 'of' यहाँ सही है। 'from' का अर्थ होता है किसी स्थान से, 'by' का अर्थ होता है द्वारा, और 'In' का अर्थ होता है अंदर, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
 - of' should be used because adult education is conducted through the means of village schools. After 'through the medium', 'of' is the appropriate preposition when referring to something being presented through a particular medium or method. Hence, 'of' is the correct choice here. Whereas, 'from' means originating from a location, 'by' means by means of, and 'In' means inside, which don't fit in this context.
- 8. C) Villagers' का use होगा क्योंकि passage में mention किया गया है कि adult education village schools के माध्यम से हो रहा है। इसलिए यह संभावना है कि गांव के लोग शुरुवात में संशय में थे। 'Officers', 'Children', और 'Politicians' इस context में सही नहीं होते।
 - Villagers' should be used because the passage mentions that adult education is happening through village schools. Thus, it is likely that the villagers were the ones initially skeptical. 'Officers', 'Children', and 'Politicians' do not fit in this context.
- 9. D) 'Them' को use किया जाएगा क्योंकि sentence में बताया गया है कि किसी समूह को समझाना था कि उन्हें स्कूल से कुछ अच्छा मिल रहा है। 'Them' third person plural pronoun के रूप में इस्तेमाल होता है जो इस context में सही है। 'They' subject के रूप में इस्तेमाल होता है, 'Him' singular masculine pronoun होता है और 'Us' first person plural pronoun होता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Them' should be used because the sentence is explaining the need to convince a group that they were benefiting from the schools. 'Them' is used as a third person plural pronoun, which fits in this context. 'They' serves as a subject, 'Him' is a singular masculine pronoun, and 'Us' is a first person plural pronoun, which don't fit in this context.
- 10. D) From' का use होगा क्योंकि "from" का अर्थ होता है किसी स्रोत या प्रवृत्ति से प्राप्त करना।

 Sentence में बताया गया है कि लोगों को समझाना मुश्किल था कि वे स्कूल से वास्तव में कुछ प्राप्त कर रहे थे, इसलिए 'from' यहाँ सही है। जबिक 'To' का अर्थ है किसी दिशा में, 'For' का अर्थ है किसी कारण या उद्देश्य के लिए, और 'By' का अर्थ है किसी माध्यम या तरीके से, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
 - **'From'** should be used because it implies obtaining something from a source or origin. The sentence explains that it was challenging to make people realize that they were

genuinely gaining something from the schools, thus 'from' fits correctly here. In contrast, 'To' denotes direction, 'For' stands for a purpose or reason, and 'By' indicates means or method, which don't fit in this context.

- 11. D) Children' का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में mention किया गया है कि उन्हें यह सुनिश्चित नहीं था कि वे चाहते थे कि उनके "बच्चे" उनके घरों से जाएं। जब शिक्षा का जिक्र होता है, तो हम आमतौर पर बच्चों के शिक्षा के संदर्भ में ही बात करते हैं। 'Parents', 'Teachers', और 'Villagers' इस context में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Children' should be used because the sentence mentions that they were uncertain about wanting their "children" to leave their homes. When referring to education, it's typically in the context of children's education. 'Parents', 'Teachers', and 'Villagers' don't fit in this context.
- 12. C) The soldiers were ordered by their commander to move forward and attack the enemy camps.
- 13. A) 'in' के बदले 'for' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब हम किसी विषय या कला के प्रति रुचि या अरुचि की बात करते हैं, हम 'for' का उपयोग करते हैं; जैसे— She has a passion for singing.
 - 'for' will be used instead of 'in' because when we talk about interest or disinterest in a subject or art, we use 'for'; Like— She has a passion for singing.

14. A) **CBAD**

A few years ago, I was the chief guest at a small function. But the inmates of the hostel had to bear other expenses like clothing and toiletries. Accommodation and food were given free. This was held in a hostel for poor students built by a philanthropist.

15. C) Mellow (adjective) – Soft, gentle, smooth, rich, well-matured. मधुर

Antonym: Hard (adjective) – Firm, solid, stiff, unyielding. कठिन

- Medium (adjective) Intermediate in quality, quantity, position, or degree. मध्यम
- Shiny (adjective) Reflecting light, luminous, gleaming, bright. चमकीला
- Soft (adjective) Not hard or firm to the touch, tender, gentle. मुलायम
- 16. A) The incorrect spelling among the given options is 'Athelete'. The correct spelling is 'Athlete' खिलाडी, व्यायामी।
- 17. A) Exceed (verb) To go beyond, overstep, outstrip, transcend. अधिक जाना
 Synonym: Surpass (verb) To exceed, outdo, outstrip, transcend. आगे निकल जाना
 - Decrease (verb) To lessen, reduce, diminish, dwindle. घटना
 - Improve (verb) To make or become better, enhance, ameliorate, refine. सुधारना

- Decline (verb) To diminish, decrease, reduce, fall off. घटना, पतन
- 18. D) 'played' के बदले 'was playing' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'when' के साथ क्रिया का समय का चित्रण करते समय, Past Continuous Tense का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— He was reading when I entered the room.
 - 'was playing' will be used instead of 'played' because while depicting the action with 'when', Past Continuous Tense is used; Like— He was reading when I entered the room.
- 19. C) Blind alley (idiom) A situation in which no further progress can be made जहाँ आगे कोई प्रगति नहीं हो सकती है।
- 20. D) Emerge (verb) Come out into view, come forth, appear, come out. प्रकट होना Antonym: **Disappear** (verb) – Cease to be visible, vanish, fade away, evaporate. **गायब होना**
 - Announce (verb) Make a public and formal declaration, declare, proclaim, broadcast. घोषित करना
 - Appear (verb) Come into view, become visible, emerge, surface. दिखाई देना
 - Surface (verb) Come to the top, come up, emerge, rise. उपर आना
- **21.** C) The INCORRECTLY spelt word among the options is 'Guidence'. The correct spelling is 'Guidance' सलाह, मार्गदर्शन.
- 22. A) Dependent' का use होगा क्योंकि "dependent" का अर्थ होता है आश्रित या निर्भर। 'Suzerainty' का अर्थ होता है राजनीतिक नियंत्रण होना किसी ऐसे राज्य पर जो दुसरे साम्राज्य या राष्ट्र के अधीन हो। इसलिए 'dependent' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Democratic' का अर्थ है प्रजातंत्रिक, 'Unified' का अर्थ है एकजुट, और 'Backward' का अर्थ है पिछड़ा ह्आ, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
 - 'Dependent' should be used because it means reliant or subservient. Suzerainty refers to having political control over a state that is subject to another sovereign entity. Thus, 'dependent' fits best here. Whereas, 'Democratic' means relating to democracy, 'Unified' means coming together as one, and 'Backward' implies being undeveloped or regressive, which don't fit in this context.
- 23. C) The acid test (idiom) A fact, event or situation that proves something सत्यता की परीक्षा
- 24. D) Indignation (noun) Anger about an unfair situation or about someone's unfair behaviour अवमानना
 - **Induction** (noun) The process or action of bringing someone into a position or organization प्रतिष्ठापन

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- Indigenisation (noun) The process of making something more native; adaptation of foreign products and technologies to native cultures स्वदेशीकरण
- Indulgence (noun) The act of satisfying a desire or allowing oneself to have something enjoyable प्रशमन
- 25. C) Pioneering' को चुनना चाहिए क्योंकि "pioneering" का अर्थ होता है कुछ नई और अद्वितीय को पेश करना। Sentence में बताया गया है कि मेरे कज़न का अध्ययन स्कूल बच्चों की पढ़ाई की आदतों पर है, जो तीन राज्यों में किया गया है और इसे मान्यता प्राप्त है। इसलिए, 'pioneering' इस context में सही है। जबिक 'Negligent' का अर्थ है लापरवाह, 'Proud' का अर्थ है गर्वित, और 'Useless' का अर्थ है बेकार, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं। 'Pioneering' should be chosen because it means introducing something new and unique. The sentence tells us that my cousin's study is on the reading habits of school children and it spans across three states, having gained recognition. Thus, 'pioneering' is apt in this context. Whereas, 'Negligent' means careless, 'Proud' implies being filled with pride, and 'Useless' means having no value or function, which are not appropriate in this context.



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