## Winners and losers: On Pakistan democracy, Imran Khan and Nawaz Sharif

 Elections in Pakistan go according to the script written by the ArmyThe back-to-back jail sentences former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was handed out in two different cases just a week before the February 8 parliamentary elections, show how roles have been reversed in Pakistan's convoluted political space dominated by the shadow hands of the establishment. In 2018, when Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was elected to power, the Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party had accused the military of electoral rigging in favour of the former cricket star, who was the preferred choice of the generals. A year earlier, Nawaz Sharif, the PML-N leader, had to resign as Prime Minister over the Panama Papers allegations and later go into exile after his conviction and disqualification. Today, Mr. Khan has been disqualified and is serving lengthy sentences, while Mr. Sharif is back, leading the PMLN . Given the way how the military and other state institutions went after Mr. Khan and his party, there was little surprise in the court proceedings and the verdicts. On Tuesday, he was sentenced to 10 years by a special court in what is commonly called the 'Cipher case', on charges that he leaked state secrets, while on Wednesday, another court sentenced him and his wife to 14 years in the Toshakhana case, for keeping some of the gifts they had received while he was in power.

Mr. Khan was forced out of power in April 2022 after falling out with the military establishment. He accused the military and the United States of conspiring to oust him and, at a rally, waved a paper, purportedly a diplomatic cable sent by the then Pakistani Ambassador to the U.S. in 2022, as evidence, which came back to hit him as a violation of the Official Secrets Act. His lawyers complain that they were replaced by state attorneys in the middle of the case and that Mr. Khan was not allowed to give a proper defence in the 'Cipher' trial, which took place inside a jail. His arrest in May led to large-scale protests. But since then, the authorities have unleashed a systematic campaign to weaken the PTI - many of its leaders are in jail, while several others have left under pressure or are on the run. Recently, a court barred the party from using its iconic cricket bat symbol in ballots. Many PTI workers are contesting as independents. While Mr. Khan is in jail and his party is in tatters under state repression, Mr. Sharif seems to be enjoying the support of the invisible power centre in the electoral arena, which makes the elections look like a fixed match. Mr. Sharif might make a political comeback, but the real winner in the unfolding developments in Pakistan, which is grappling with enormous economic challenges, is the military and the real loser, the country's democracy.

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'. [Practice Exercise]


## Vocabulary

1. Sentence (noun) - Verdict, ruling, decree, judgment, condemnation, punishment सजा
2. Hand out (phrasal verb) - impose or inflict a penalty or misfortune on someone. थोपना, लगाना
3. Convoluted (adjective) - Complex, intricate, complicated, tangled, involved जटिल
4. Shadow hand (noun) - Hidden influence, unseen force, clandestine power, covert control, surreptitious authority गुप्त प्रभाव
5. Establishment (noun) - Authority, power that be, the ruling class, the system व्यवस्था
6. Accuse (verb) - Charge, indict, allege, impeach, arraign आरोप लगाना
7. Rig (verb) - Manipulate, fix, tamper, falsify, doctor हेरफेर करना
8. Exile (noun) - Banishment, expulsion, deportation, ostracism, relegation निर्वासन
9. Conviction (noun) - Verdict, judgment, sentence, ruling, decision दोषसिद्धि
10. Given (preposition) - Considering, taking into account, in view of, with regard to, owing to देखते हुए
11. Go after (phrasal verb) - Pursue, chase, follow, seek, target के पीछे पड़ना
12. Proceedings (noun) - Actions, activities, process, operations, transactions कार्यवाही
13. Verdict (noun) - Decision, judgment, ruling, conclusion, determination निर्णय
14. Cipher case (noun) - A specific legal case involving code or secret communication गुप्त संचार मामला
15. Fall out (phrasal verb) - Disagree, quarrel, clash, conflict, differ मतभेद होना
16. Conspire (verb) - Plot, scheme, collude, connive, machinate साजिश करना
17. Oust (verb) - Expel, remove, eject, displace, depose निकाल फेंकना
18. Purportedly (adverb) - Allegedly, supposedly, ostensibly, apparently, seemingly कथित रूप से
19. Diplomatic cable (noun) - An official communication sent between diplomats or embassies राजनयिक केबल
20. Ambassador (noun) - Envoy, diplomat, emissary, representative, delegate राजदूत
21. Violation (noun) - Breach, infringement, contravention, transgression, offense उल्लंघन
22. Attorney (noun) - Lawyer, counsel, solicitor, barrister, legal representative वकील
23. Take place (phrasal verb) - Occur, happen, transpire, unfold, come about घटित होना
24. Lead (to) (verb) - Cause, result in, bring about, give rise to, contribute to कारण बनना
25. Large-scale (adjective) - Extensive, widespread, broad, expansive, massive व्यापक
26. Unleash (verb) - Release, let loose, set free, unleash, liberate शुरू करना
27. On the run (phrase) - trying to avoid being captured भाग रहे है
28. Bar (verb) - Prohibit, forbid, block, ban, prevent रोकना
29. Ballot (noun) - the piece of paper used to record a person's vote मतदान पर्ची
30. Contest (verb) - a competition for a political position. चुनाव लड़ना
31. In tatters (phrase) - In disrepair, shattered, broken, ruined, damaged तहस-नहस होना
32. Repression (noun) - Suppression, oppression, subjugation, quashing, stifling दमन
33. Arena (noun) - Sphere, field, domain, stage, forum अखाड़ा
34. Unfolding (adjective) - Developing, evolving, emerging, unraveling, progressing प्रकट होता
35. Development (noun) - Event, happening, occurrence, change, incident, घटनाक्रम
36. Grapple with (phrasal verb) - Struggle, wrestle, deal with, confront, tackle से जूझना
37. Enormous (adjective) - Huge, immense, vast, colossal, massive विशाल

## Summary of the Editorial

1. Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan received consecutive jail sentences in two cases, just before the February 8 parliamentary elections, highlighting the influence of the establishment in Pakistan's political landscape.
2. In 2018, Imran Khan's PTI was elected amid accusations of military-backed electoral rigging, favoring Khan, who was then the military's preferred choice.
3. Nawaz Sharif, leader of the PML-N, had to resign in 2017 due to Panama Papers allegations and later went into exile after being convicted and disqualified.
4. Now, the roles have reversed: Khan has been disqualified and imprisoned, while Sharif has returned to lead the PML-N.
5. The military's pursuit of Khan and his party led to predictable court verdicts, with Khan recently receiving a 10-year sentence in the 'Cipher case' and a 14-year sentence in the Toshakhana case.
6. Khan was ousted from power in April 2022 after a fallout with the military and allegedly the U.S., showcasing a purported diplomatic cable as evidence, which later backfired.
7. His legal defense was compromised in the 'Cipher' trial, leading to widespread protests after his arrest in May.
8. The PTI faces significant repression: many leaders are jailed or have fled, and the party has been barred from using its cricket bat symbol, leading many members to contest elections as independents.
9. While Khan is in jail and his party is fragmented, Sharif appears to be gaining support from the "invisible power center" (the military), rendering the upcoming elections seemingly predetermined.
10. The military is emerging as the real winner amid these political shifts, while Pakistan's democracy appears to be the real loser, especially in the context of the nation's significant economic challenges.
11. The systematic campaign to weaken PTI involves jailing leaders, pressuring others to leave, and restricting the party's election symbols and activities.
12. The manipulation and control exerted by the military and establishment cast doubt on the fairness and integrity of the electoral process.
13. The political turmoil and power struggles are occurring against a backdrop of substantial economic difficulties, complicating the nation's path to stability and growth.
14. The repeated pattern of political leaders being elevated and then targeted by the establishment reveals a cycle of manipulation and control that undermines democratic principles.
15. The situation underscores a critical juncture for Pakistan, where the balance of power, the role of the military, and the resilience of democratic institutions are all being tested.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. What is the main theme of the passage?
[Editorial page]
A. The military's role in Pakistan's cricket.
B. Economic challenges faced by Pakistan.
C. The fluctuating political fortunes of Imran Khan and Nawaz Sharif influenced by the military.
D. The judicial process in Pakistani courts.
2. Which statement is incorrect regarding the passage?
A. Imran Khan was ousted from power due to his conflict with the military establishment.
B. The military and state institutions were indifferent to the legal proceedings against Imran Khan.
C. Nawaz Sharif returned to lead PML-N after Imran Khan was disqualified and sentenced.
D. The PTI party faced repression, with many leaders jailed or pressured to leave.
3. Why does the passage suggest that the upcoming elections appear to be a "fixed match"?
A. Because Imran Khan and Nawaz Sharif are collaborating.
B. Because the PTI party is contesting with its iconic cricket bat symbol.
C. Because of the economic challenges Pakistan is facing.
D. Because of the systematic campaign against PTI and the support Nawaz Sharif receives from the military.
4. What is the tone of the second paragraph of the passage?
A. Optimistic and hopeful.
B. Neutral and unbiased.
C. Critical and disapproving.
D. Sympathetic and supportive.
5. In the passage, what is a synonym for the word "unleashed" as used in the context "the authorities have unleashed a systematic campaign to weaken the PTI"?
A. Restrained
B. Initiated
C. Prevented
D. Concluded
6. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

Generic
A. Definite
B. Universal
C. Precise
D. Specific
7. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Raise the bar
A. To raise the price
B. To grow taller
C. To set higher goals
D. To win a competition
8. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.
Had you / not reached in time, / we will have / lost our lives.
A. not reached in time
B. Had you
C. we will have
D. lost our lives
9. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

Bang for the buck
A. More value for money
B. Less value for money
C. Dash against something
D. A sorrowful heart
10. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution'.
The toy drummer plays the drum if you press the button at the back
A. playing the drum if you pressed
B. will play the drum if you will press
C. played the drum if you are pressing
D. No substitution
11. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution'.
While washing your hands, rub them together for 20 seconds to remove the microbes on them.
A. No substitution
B. the microbes on their
C. the microbes on they
D. the microbes on those
12. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.

A group of three novels or plays, each complete in itself
A. Trivet
B. Trilogy
C. Triplet
D. Triumvir
13. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.
"Everything is going to be alright," said the doctor.
A. The doctor said that everything will be alright.
B. The doctor said that everything was going to be alright.
C. The doctor said that everything is going to be alright.
D. The doctor said that everything are going to be alright
14. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

India is formally moving ahead to $\qquad$ 21 MIG-29 and 12 Sukhoi-30MKI fighters from Russia along with upgrades of their existing fleets.
A. procure
B. achieve
C. accomplish
D. Advance
15. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the right order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.
A. When we got near, we saw it was the steam rising from hot springs.
B. We saw in the distance a great column of smoke.
C. We wondered if it came from a chimney or a burning house.
D. We thought of taking a bath in the hot water.
A. BCAD
B. ACDB
C. BCDA
D. ABCD
16. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

Work and domestic $\qquad$ made Kajal short-tempered.
A. gravities
B. weights
C. forces
D. Pressures
17. Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the right order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.
A. But the eagle, in wrath, gave the beetle a flap of his wing, and straightaway seized upon the hare and devoured him.
B. The beetle therefore interceded with the eagle, begging of him not to kill the poor suppliant, and pleaded with him not to kill so small an animal.
C. When the eagle flew away, the beetle flew after him, to learn where his nest was.
D. A hare, being pursued by an eagle, took himself for refuge to the nest of a beetle, whom he begged to save him.
A. DBAC
B. ACDB
C. CBAD
D. DCAB
18. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words. A herd or flock of animals being driven in a body
A. Drove
B. Cluster
C. Throng
D. Crowd
19. The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them contains an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options.
You must avoid riding in a crowded bus / or travelling in a metro / during rush hour / as both are quiet unpleasant experiences.
A. or travelling in a metro
B. You must avoid riding in a crowded bus
C. as both are quiet unpleasant experiences
D. during rush hour
20. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.
A. Exterminated
B. Voilence
C. Wildernesses
D. Unmanageable

## 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.
What every tourist must take back from Bhutan is pure honey, especially Putka,
"Antibiotic" honey produced (1) $\qquad$ Melipona Bees (stingless bees) a breed found in protected areas
(2) $\qquad$ 700 to 1,500 metres above sea level. Due (3) $\qquad$ their small size, they can get larger nutrients (4) $\qquad$ regular honeybees. It has a tangy/sour taste and can (5)
$\qquad$ your sore throat in a matter of minutes
21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.
A. with
B. by
C. through
D. Of
22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.
A. after
B. between
C. among
D. Midst
23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.
A. for
B. to
C. of
D. At
24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.
A. and
B. then
C. though
D. Than
25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.
A. appease
B. pacify
C. calm
D. soothe

## Answers

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

## Explanation

1. C) The passage primarily discusses the political dynamics in Pakistan, particularly focusing on the changing situations of former Prime Ministers Imran Khan and Nawaz Sharif, and how these changes are influenced by the military establishment.
2. B) The passage indicates that the military and other state institutions actively pursued legal action against Mr. Khan, showing that they were far from indifferent. It talks about the systematic campaign against PTI and how state attorneys replaced Mr. Khan's lawyers, suggesting significant involvement rather than indifference.
3. D) The passage implies that the elections seem predetermined due to the state's oppressive actions against PTI (like jailing leaders, barring the party's symbol, and replacing Mr. Khan's lawyers) and the apparent backing Mr. Sharif receives from the military, indicating an uneven playing field influenced by the military establishment.
4. C) The second paragraph adopts a tone of criticism and disapproval towards the way the military and the state have handled Imran Khan's case. This is evident from the descriptions of the systematic campaign against PTI, the replacement of Khan's lawyers, the lack of proper defence in the 'Cipher' trial, and the overall portrayal of an unfair and biased political and judicial process.
5. B) In the given context, "unleashed" refers to the authorities starting or launching a systematic campaign against PTI. The closest synonym here is "initiated," which means to begin or start something. The other options - restrained, prevented, and concluded - have meanings that are opposite to or different from the intended use of "unleashed" in the passage.
6. B) Generic (adjective) - Characteristic of or relating to a class or group; not specific, general. सामान्य
Synonym: Universal (adjective) - Applicable to all cases, general, omnipresent. सार्वभौमिक

- Definite (adjective) - Clearly stated or decided, certain, unambiguous. स्पष्ट
- Precise (adjective) - Marked by exactness and accuracy of expression or detail. सटीक
- Specific (adjective) - Clearly defined or identified, particular, distinct. विशिष्ट

7. C) Raise the bar (idiom) - To set higher goals or standards उच्च मानक तय करना
8. C) we will have' के बदले 'we would have' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ Conditional Past Tense का प्रयोग किया गया है, और इसे यथासम्भव सही रूप में रखना चाहिए; जैसे — If he had studied, he would have passed.

- 'we would have' will be used instead of 'we will have' because Conditional Past Tense is used here, and it should be maintained correctly; Like - If he had studied, he would have passed.

9. A) Bang for the buck (idiom) - More value for money धन की पूरी कीमत
10. D) No substitution
11. A) No substitution
12. B) Trilogy (noun) - A group of three novels or plays, each complete in itself ग्रैतीयक

- Trivet (noun) - a three-legged stand for supporting a hot dish or pot. तीन पायों वाला स्टैंड
- Triplet (noun) - one of three children or animals born at the same time from the same pregnancy तिड़वाँ (शिशु)
- Triumvir (noun) - one of three rulers who share power, especially in ancient Rome. त्रैतीयक (शासक)

13. B) The doctor said that everything was going to be alright.
14. 'A) Procure' का use होगा क्योंकि "procure" का अर्थ होता है प्राप्त करना या खरीदना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि भारत अधिकारिक रूप से Russia से MIG-29 और Sukhoi-30MKI लड़ाकू विमानों को प्राप्त कर रहा है, इसलिए 'procure' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Achieve' का अर्थ है प्राप्त करना (मुकाम के रूप में), 'Accomplish' का अर्थ है पूरा करना, और 'Advance' का अर्थ है आगे बढ़ना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- Procure' should be used because it means to obtain or purchase. The sentence indicates that India is formally moving ahead to obtain MIG-29 and Sukhoi-30MKI fighters from Russia, making 'procure' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Achieve' implies reaching a goal, 'Accomplish' means to complete, and 'Advance' means to move forward, which don't fit in this context.

15. A) BCAD

We saw in the distance a great column of smoke. We wondered if it came from a chimney or a burning house When we got near, we saw it was the steam rising from hot springs. We thought of taking a bath in the hot water.
16. D) 'Pressures' का use होगा क्योंकि "pressures" का अर्थ होता है दबाव या तनाव, जिससे किसी को परेशानी हो सकती है। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि काजल को काम और घर की वजह से

चिड़चिड़ापन आ गया था, इसलिए 'pressures' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'gravities' का अर्थ होता है गुरुत्वाकर्षण, 'weights' का अर्थ है भार और 'forces' का अर्थ है बल जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Pressures' should be used because it signifies stress or tension that can lead to someone feeling irritable. The sentence mentions that Kajal became short-tempered due to work and domestic responsibilities, making 'pressures' appropriate here. Whereas, 'gravities' refers to gravitational pull, 'weights' means heaviness, and 'forces' means strength or power, which don't fit in this context.

17. A) DBAC

A hare, being pursued by an eagle, took himself for refuge to the nest of a beetle, whom he begged to save him. The beetle therefore interceded with the eagle, begging of him not to kill the poor suppliant, and pleaded with him not to kill so small an animal. . But the eagle, in wrath, gave the beetle a flap of his wing, and straightaway seized upon the hare and devoured him. . When the eagle flew away, the beetle flew after him, to learn where his nest was.
18. A) Drove (noun) - A herd or flock of animals being driven in a body जानवरों की टोली

- Cluster (noun) - A group of similar things or people positioned or occurring closely together समूह
- Throng (noun) - A large, densely packed crowd of people or animals भीड़
- Crowd (noun) - A large number of people gathered together मानव समूह

19. C) 'quiet' के बदले 'quite' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'quiet' का अर्थ होता है 'शांत' जबकि 'quite' का अर्थ होता है 'काफी' और यहाँ पर संदर्भ 'अप्रिय अनुभवों' की तीव्रता को बढ़ाने के लिए है। जैसे- यात्रा थकाऊ थी परंतु दश्यावली बहुत सुंदर थी।

- 'quite' will be used instead of 'quiet' because 'quiet' means 'silent' while 'quite' means 'very' or 'to a considerable extent', and here the context is to intensify the unpleasantness of the experiences. Like- The journey was exhausting but the scenery was quite beautiful.

20. B) The incorrect spelling among the given options is 'Voilence'. The correct spelling is 'violence' हिंसात्मकता, हिंसा.
21. B) 'By' का use होगा क्योंकि honey का production Melipona Bees द्वारा होता है। 'By' का use किसी कार्य को करने वाले का संदर्भ में होता है, जैसे कि यहाँ पर Melipona Bees होते हैं। 'With' का अर्थ होता है 'साथ में', 'Through' का अर्थ होता है 'के माध्यम से', और 'Of' का अर्थ होता है 'का', जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'By' should be used because the honey is produced by Melipona Bees. 'By' is used in the context of who is performing the action, as in Melipona Bees in this case. Whereas, 'With' means 'along with', 'Through' means 'by means of', and 'Of' means 'belonging to', which don't fit in this context.

22. 'B) Between' का use होगा क्योंकि "between" का अर्थ होता है किसी दो सीमाओं के बीच में। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि यह मधुमक्खियाँ 700 से 1500 मीटर की ऊँचाई के बीच पाई जाती हैं, इसलिए 'between' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'After' का अर्थ है बाद में, 'Among' का अर्थ है किसी समूह में, और 'Midst' का अर्थ है बीच या मध्य में, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- 'Between' should be used because it denotes a range within two limits. The sentence indicates that these bees are found within an altitude of 700 to 1,500 meters, making 'between' appropriate here. Whereas, 'After' implies a sequence, 'Among' means within a group, and 'Midst' means in the middle of, which don't fit in this context.

23. B) 'To' का use होगा क्योंकि "due to" एक common phrase है जिसका अर्थ होता है "के कारण"। Sentence में बताया गया है कि Melipona Bees के छोटे आकार के कारण वे अधिक nutrients प्राप्त कर सकते हैं तुलना में नियमित honeybees से, इसलिए 'to' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'For', 'Of', और 'At' इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- To' should be used as the phrase "due to" means "because of". The sentence describes that due to the small size of the Melipona Bees, they can obtain more nutrients compared to regular honeybees, making 'to' appropriate here. Whereas, 'For', 'Of', and 'At' do not fit in this context.

24. D) Than' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर comparison किया जा रहा है। "Larger nutrients" की तुलना 'regular honeybees' से की जा रही है, इसलिए 'than' यहाँ पर सही है। 'And' का अर्थ होता है 'और', 'Then' का अर्थ है 'फिर' या 'तब', और 'Though' का अर्थ है 'हालांकि', जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Than' should be used because a comparison is being made here. "Larger nutrients" are being compared to 'regular honeybees', making 'than' the correct choice. 'And' means 'additionally', 'Then' indicates a sequence or time, and 'Though' means 'however', which don't fit in this context.

25. 'D) Soothe' का use होगा क्योंकि "soothe" का अर्थ होता है दर्द या असहजता को कम करना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि यह honey तुरंत sore throat को ठीक कर सकता है, इसलिए 'soothe' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Appease' का अर्थ है संतुष्ट करना, 'Pacify' का अर्थ है शांत करना, और 'Calm' का अर्थ है शांत रखना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- Soothe' should be used because it means to relieve pain or discomfort. The sentence mentions that this honey can address a sore throat instantly, making 'soothe' fitting here. Whereas, 'Appease' means to satisfy, 'Pacify' means to quieten, and 'Calm' means to make tranquil, which don't fit in this context.

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