

Testing times: On the need to mend the National Testing Agency

The National Testing Agency needs an **overhaul** to regain **credibility**

The **cancellation** of the UGC-NET examination on Wednesday, just a day after its supposed “successful conduct” by the National Testing Agency (NTA), **is** one more **load of straw threatening** to break the agency’s **creaking** reputation. Coming as it did after irregularities in this year’s NEET-UG (medicine), and complaints about the JEE (engineering), the NTA is under **intense** pressure. In some ways, the Education Ministry’s actions are **in stark contrast to** its response to the ongoing NEET **fiasco**, and seem to indicate that it has learnt some lessons. It took **suo motu** action on the basis of the Home Ministry’s cybercrime team’s inputs, even without any formal complaints from candidates, **unlike** in the NEET case where it has **dragged its feet** through committees and court cases despite multiple **allegations** and police complaints of paper leaks. The Ministry immediately cancelled the UGC-NET and promised a fresh examination. It has asked the CBI to **probe** the case, while not **heeding** the **persistent** demand of NEET aspirants for a similar probe. However, for the over nine lakh UGC-NET candidates who studied for months, and then travelled long distances to their examination centres, some taking loans to cover their costs, this is little **consolation**.

These young people deserve answers, and right now, most of the questions are still unanswered. For one, no one in the government’s education **establishment** has explained why the NET was an offline exam conducted by the CBSE till 2018, when it was taken over by the NTA and became an online exam, only to **revert** this year to an offline, pen-and-paper exam, which is potentially more **vulnerable** to paper leaks. As the investigation is **carried out**, full **transparency** is key to any hopes that the NTA can regain **trustworthiness** in the eyes of candidates. The second is **accountability** and punishment of the guilty. The government would also do well to consider a **rehaul** of the NTA’s systems and personnel to ensure that the technical **glitches**, cheating scams, paper leaks, and **proxy** candidates that have **plagued** the exams this year are not allowed to happen again. With the **fate** of lakhs of India’s educated youth and youngest voters **at stake**, it is not surprising that the testing agency’s **woes** have become a political **hot potato**. Some Opposition leaders have demanded that the NTA be **dismantled** and the **responsibility** for entrance examinations **be handed over** to the States instead. This may well **curb** the Union government’s **centralising tendencies leading to** examinations of **enormous** scale that are harder to manage in a **far-flung** nation. However, some all-India examinations will always remain, and the need is for the States to join the Centre in recovering the **integrity** of the **beleaguered** examination system. **[Practice Exercise]**

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where ‘red’ denotes ‘subject’ and ‘blue’ denotes ‘verb’.

Vocabulary

1. **Testing** (adjective) – Challenging, demanding, difficult, tough, strenuous
कठिन
2. **Mend** (verb) – Repair, fix, improve, rectify, correct
सुधारना
3. **Overhaul** (noun) – Revamp, renovation, reorganization, refurbishment, restructuring
सुधार
4. **Credibility** (noun) – Trustworthiness, reliability, believability, integrity, authenticity
विश्वसनीयता
5. **Load of straw** (phrase) – a further difficulty or annoyance
कठिनाई
6. **Threaten** (verb) – Endanger, menace, jeopardize, put at risk, imperil
जोखिम में डालना
7. **Creaking** (adjective) – Straining, struggling, deteriorating, weakening
चरमराती
8. **Intense** (adjective) – Severe, extreme, fierce, strong, powerful
तीव्र
9. **In a contrast to** (phrase) – Compared to, unlike, differing from, as opposed to
इसके विपरीत
10. **Stark** (adjective) – Clear, distinct, sharp, evident, striking
स्पष्ट
11. **Fiasco** (noun) – Disaster, failure, debacle, catastrophe, blunder
विफलता
12. **Suo motu** (noun) – On its own motion, on its own initiative, voluntarily
स्वप्रेरणा से
13. **Unlike** (preposition) – Different from, in contrast to, dissimilar to, not like
के विपरीत
14. **Drag one's feet** (phrase) – to do something slowly or not start it because you do not want to do it:
अपना पैर खींचना
15. **Allegation** (noun) – Accusation, claim, charge, assertion, indictment
आरोप
16. **Probe** (verb) – Investigate, examine, scrutinize, inspect, explore
जांच करना
17. **Heed** (verb) – Pay attention to, listen to, follow, consider, observe
ध्यान देना
18. **Persistent** (adjective) – Continuous, relentless, enduring, constant, unceasing
लगातार
19. **Consolation** (noun) – Comfort, solace, relief, reassurance, support
सांत्वना
20. **Establishment** (noun) – Organization, institution, entity, setup, body
संस्था
21. **Revert** (verb) – Return, go back, relapse, resume, regress
लौटना
22. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – Susceptible, exposed, at risk, defenseless, fragile
संवेदनशील

23. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) – Execute, perform, conduct, implement, accomplish
करना
24. **Transparency** (noun) – Openness, clarity, honesty, accountability, visibility पारदर्शिता
25. **Trustworthiness** (noun) – Reliability, dependability, credibility, integrity, honesty विश्वसनीयता
26. **Accountability** (noun) – Responsibility, answerability, liability, obligation, duty जिम्मेदारी
27. **Rehaul** (noun) – Overhaul, revamp, renovation, restructuring, reorganization पुनर्निर्माण
28. **Glitch** (noun) – Malfunction, error, fault, bug, hiccup गड़बड़
29. **Proxy** (adjective) – Substitute, stand-in, representative, surrogate, delegate प्रतिनिधि
30. **Plague** (verb) – Trouble, afflict, torment, harass, bother परेशान करना
31. **Fate** (noun) – Destiny, outcome, fortune, future, circumstance भाग्य
32. **At stake** (phrase) – At risk, in danger, on the line, at risk of loss दांव पर
33. **Woes** (noun) – Problems, troubles, difficulties, miseries, hardships समस्याएं
34. **Hot potato** (noun) – Controversial issue, sensitive topic, contentious matter, delicate issue विवादास्पद मुद्दा
35. **Dismantle** (verb) – Disassemble, take apart, break up, deconstruct, tear down विघटित करना
36. **Hand over** (phrasal verb) – Transfer, deliver, give, pass, relinquish सौंपना
37. **Curb** (verb) – Restrain, control, limit, check, restrict रोकना
38. **Centralising** (adjective) – Concentrating, consolidating, unifying, centralizing, focusing केंद्रीकरण
39. **Tendency** (noun) – Inclination, propensity, habit, trend, predisposition प्रवृत्ति
40. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Result in, cause, bring about, contribute to, produce कारण बनना
41. **Enormous** (adjective) – Huge, massive, vast, immense, colossal विशाल
42. **Far-flung** (adjective) – Distant, remote, widespread, extensive, far-reaching दूरदराज
43. **Integrity** (noun) – Honesty, truthfulness, uprightness, principle, morality अखंडता
44. **Beleaguered** (adjective) – Troubled, besieged, plagued, harassed, in difficulties संकटग्रस्त

Summary of the Editorial

1. The National Testing Agency (NTA) is facing a crisis of credibility following the cancellation of the UGC-NET examination.
2. The UGC-NET exam was cancelled a day after its supposed successful conduct by the NTA.
3. This incident follows irregularities in this year's NEET-UG and complaints about the JEE.
4. The Education Ministry's response to the UGC-NET issue contrasts with its handling of the ongoing NEET problems.
5. The Ministry acted on inputs from the Home Ministry's cybercrime team without waiting for formal complaints from candidates.
6. Unlike in the NEET case, the Ministry quickly cancelled the UGC-NET and promised a fresh examination.
7. The Ministry has asked the CBI to probe the UGC-NET case, ignoring similar demands from NEET aspirants.
8. Over nine lakh UGC-NET candidates, some of whom took loans to cover their costs, are left without answers.
9. There is no explanation for why the NET switched from an online to an offline exam format, making it more vulnerable to leaks.
10. Transparency in the investigation is crucial for the NTA to regain trust.
11. Accountability and punishment of the guilty are essential for restoring faith in the system.
12. The government needs to overhaul the NTA's systems and personnel to prevent future issues.
13. The testing agency's problems have become a political issue, with Opposition leaders demanding the NTA's dismantling.
14. Some suggest handing over the responsibility for entrance exams to the States to curb centralizing tendencies.
15. Despite the challenges, some all-India examinations will remain, necessitating cooperation between the Centre and States to restore the integrity of the examination system.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

- What action did the Education Ministry take following the irregularities in the UGC-NET examination?** [Practice Exercise]
 - Ordered a reevaluation of all candidates' answer sheets.
 - Ignored the issues and continued with scheduled exams.
 - Formed a committee to investigate the irregularities.
 - Promised a fresh examination and requested a CBI probe.
- Why did the Education Ministry cancel the UGC-NET examination?**
 - Due to the successful conduct reported by the National Testing Agency.
 - Because of a high number of candidate complaints about the exam process.
 - Based on inputs from the Home Ministry's cybercrime team, without formal complaints.
 - Lack of sufficient security measures at the exam venues.
- What prompted the call from some opposition leaders for the dismantling of the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the decentralization of entrance examinations to the states?**
 - The NTA's consistent performance in efficiently managing examinations.
 - Widespread technical glitches, cheating scams, paper leaks, and the use of proxy candidates in the examinations.
 - An increase in the number of students participating in the examinations.
 - The successful transition of the NET from an offline to an online exam format by the NTA.
- Why did the NET revert to an offline exam format in the current year, according to the passage?**
 - Because the online format was more susceptible to technical issues.
 - To prevent the risk of paper leaks which are less prevalent in online exams.
 - As part of a routine rotation between online and offline formats.
 - The passage does not explicitly state the reason for the reversion to an offline format.
- Which of the following words is a synonym for "**beleaguered**" as used in the context of the passage?
 - Enhanced
 - Troubled
 - Streamlined
 - Consolidated

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.

Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I've never written anything before, _____1_____ because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the _____2_____ of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. Oh well, it doesn't matter. I feel like writing, and I have an even greater need to get all kinds of things off my chest. 'Paper has more patience than people.' I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was,

brooding: Yes, paper does have more patience, and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this ____3____ notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary', ____4____ I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference. Now I'm back to the point that prompted me to keep a diary in the first place: I don't have a friend. Let me put it more clearly, since no one will believe that a thirteen-year-old girl is completely alone in the world. And I'm not. I have loving parents and a sixteen-year-old sister, and there are about thirty people I can call friends. I have a family, loving aunts and a good home. No, on the surface I seem to have everything, except my one true friend. All I think about when I'm with friends is having a good time. I can't bring myself to talk about anything but ordinary everyday things. We don't seem to be able to get any closer, and that's the problem. Maybe it's my fault that we don't ____5____ in each other. In any case, that's just how things are, and unfortunately they're not liable to change.

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

- A. hardly
- B. but also
- C. in case
- D. also

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

- A. abiding
- B. leaker
- C. strings
- D. musings

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

- A. backed
- B. back off
- C. stiff-backed
- D. backer

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

- A. Still
- B. Until
- C. Unless
- D. Whether

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

- A. Confide
- B. Aide
- C. Collide
- D. Consider

11. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the following sentence.**

With the harsh words of the boss, Srujan felt sad, but his colleague's words created insult to injury.

- A. attached insult to injury

- B. provoked insult to injury
C. added injury to insult
D. added insult to injury
12. **Select the option that correctly expresses the following sentence in passive voice.**
The child will recite the poem.
A. By child poem will be recited.
B. The poem will be recited by the child.
C. The poem is recited by the child.
D. The poem will recite by the child.
13. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**
You need to acknowledge the itinary and accommodation details of your journey as per the given calendar.
A. calendar
B. accommodation
C. acknowledge
D. Itinary
14. **Choose the correct meaning of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
When I was in Class 5, I won the first prize in extempore at my school.
A. A short piece of writing on a subject
B. A sports event
C. A speech delivered without prior preparation or rehearsal
D. A dramatic performance on stage
15. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
A. fell before me
B. a carcass of an animal
C. when suddenly
D. my heart skipped a beat
A. BACD
B. CDBA
C. ABCD
D. DCBA
16. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
A) So then why are not Silicon Valley entrepreneurs clamouring to decode the ancient wisdom?
B) The failure rate in finding a new drug is as high as 95%.
C) Because these once-thriving cultures are now reduced to an endangered tribe.
D) According to industry data, it takes \$2.6 billion and, on average, fourteen years to develop a new drug.

- A. BADC
B. DCBA
C. DBAC
D. ACDB
17. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
Resentment
A. Calmness
B. Happiness
C. Anger
D. Relaxation
18. **Select the option with the correct spelling that can replace the underlined word in the given sentence.**
Kasturi acts as a liason between patients and staff.
A. liaision
B. laision
C. liaison
D. Liaison
19. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Meagre
A. Regional
B. Racial
C. Stupid
D. Generous
20. Select the most appropriate **synonym** for the underlined word in the following sentence.
The politician's pompous rhetoric during the campaign failed to garner much support from the public.
A. Conciliatory
B. Benign
C. Supercilious
D. Diplomatic
21. **Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that arranges the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.**
A. In accordance with hierarchical status
B. Of the services rendered
C. Rewards are given
D. And are not related to the economic value
A. A, B, D, C
B. A, D, B, C
C. C, A, D, B
D. C, B, A, D
22. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in positive degree of comparison.**

- She is the dullest child in the class.
- A. She is very duller in the class.
 - B. Dullest child in the class is she.
 - C. No other child in the class is as dull as she.
 - D. In the class of all she is dull.
23. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.
Wealthier countries are obligated to fulfil a commitment made in the Paris Agreement to provide \$100 billion a year in international climate finance.
- A. feeble
 - B. drape
 - C. breach
 - D. Hale
24. Select the most appropriate **idiom** for the underlined segment in the following sentence.
Brave people never hide at the moment of decision.
- A. When the crunch comes
 - B. Beat the clock
 - C. A hell of time
 - D. Turn back the hands of time
25. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
French is taught to us by Miss Glenn.
- A. Miss Glenn taught us French.
 - B. Miss Glenn teach us French.
 - C. Miss Glenn teaches us French.
 - D. Miss Glenn is teaching us French.

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **D) Promised a fresh examination and requested a CBI probe.**

A: Incorrect because there was no mention of reevaluating the answer sheets; the focus was on cancelling the examination and conducting a fresh one.

D: Correct as the Ministry responded by cancelling the UGC-NET and promising a new examination date, while also requesting a CBI investigation.

C: Incorrect because, unlike in the NEET case, the Education Ministry did not form a committee but took direct action.

B: Incorrect as the Ministry took immediate action by cancelling the exam, rather than ignoring the issues.

2. **C) Based on inputs from the Home Ministry's cybercrime team, without formal complaints.**

A: Incorrect because the examination was initially deemed successful, but later issues prompted cancellation.

B: Incorrect as the passage specifies that the action was taken without any formal complaints from candidates.

C: Correct, as the decision was made following inputs from the Home Ministry's cybercrime team, highlighting proactive measures.

D: Incorrect because there is no mention of security measures at venues being a factor in the decision to cancel the exam.

3. **B) Widespread technical glitches, cheating scams, paper leaks, and the use of proxy candidates in the examinations.**

A is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that the NTA has been efficient; rather, it implies the opposite.

B is correct as it directly reflects the issues mentioned in the passage, highlighting the problems that have led to demands for dismantling the NTA.

C is incorrect because there is no mention of an increase in the number of students affecting the call for decentralization.

D is incorrect as the passage notes a reversal to an offline format and does not commend the transition to online exams.

4. **D) The passage does not explicitly state the reason for the reversion to an offline format.**

A is incorrect because the passage does not mention that the online format was more susceptible to technical issues; it discusses issues with both formats.

B is incorrect as paper leaks are actually potentially more vulnerable in an offline format, contrary to the option's suggestion.

C is incorrect because there is no mention of a routine rotation policy between formats in the passage.

D is correct because the passage explicitly states that the reasons for reverting to an offline format have not been explained by the government's education establishment.

5. **B) Troubled**

Here, "beleaguered" refers to the examination system being in a state of difficulty or distress, similar to being troubled.

"Enhanced" means improved or made better, which is contrary to "beleaguered," indicating a system facing challenges or pressures, not improvements.

"Streamlined" suggests making something efficient and straightforward, which does not match with "beleaguered," which implies complications and struggles.

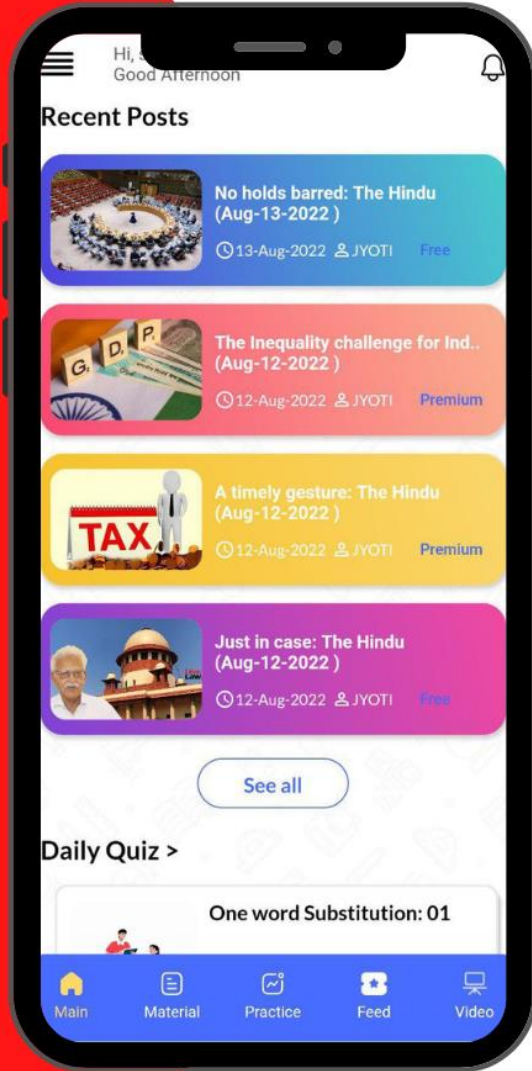
"Consolidated" implies making something stronger or more solid, which is opposite to the context in which "beleaguered" is used, indicating a situation of weakness or being under attack.

6. B) 'but also' का use होगा क्योंकि "but also" का अर्थ होता है किसी अतिरिक्त बात को जोर देकर कहना। वाक्य में 'Not only' का उपयोग पहले से किया गया है, जो एक correlating conjunction है और इसे हमेशा 'but also' के साथ जोड़ा जाता है। sentence में mention है कि उसने पहले कभी कुछ नहीं लिखा था और उसे ऐसा लगता है कि बाद में न तो उसे और न ही किसी और को तेरह वर्षीय स्कूली लड़की की कहानियों में दिलचस्पी होगी। इसलिए, 'but also' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'hardly' का अर्थ है मुश्किल से, 'in case' का अर्थ है अगर, और 'also' का अर्थ है भी, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'but also' will be used because it emphasizes an additional point. The sentence mentions 'Not only' which is a correlating conjunction and is always paired with 'but also'. The sentence mentions that the writer has never written anything before and feels that later neither she nor anyone else will be interested in the stories of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. Hence, 'but also' is fitting here. Whereas, 'hardly' means barely, 'in case' means if, and 'also' means too, which don't fit in this context.
7. D) 'musings' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "musings" का अर्थ होता है विचार या चिंतन। वाक्य में एक तेरह वर्षीय स्कूली लड़की के विचारों की बात की जा रही है, और 'musings' यहाँ सही बैठता है। जबकि 'abiding' का अर्थ होता है स्थायी, 'leaker' का अर्थ होता है रिसाव करने वाला, और 'strings' का अर्थ होता है तार, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं। 'musings' will be used because it means thoughts or reflections. The sentence talks about the thoughts of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl, and 'musings' fits well here. Whereas, 'abiding' means lasting, 'leaker' means someone who leaks, and 'strings' means threads, which don't fit in this context.
8. C) 'stiff-backed' का use होगा क्योंकि "stiff-backed" एक adjective है जो किसी चीज को मजबूती या औपचारिकता का बोध कराता है। sentence में लेखिका अपनी डायरी को "notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary'" कहकर संबोधित करती हैं, जो कि डायरी की महत्वपूर्णता और उसकी गंभीरता को दिखाता है, इसलिए 'stiff-backed' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'backed' का अर्थ है समर्थित होना, 'back off' का अर्थ है पीछे हटना, और 'backer' का अर्थ है समर्थक, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं। 'stiff-backed' will be used because "stiff-backed" is an adjective that conveys a sense of rigidity or formality. The sentence describes the diary as a "notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary'," emphasizing the seriousness and the grandeur of the diary, making 'stiff-backed' appropriate here. Whereas, 'backed' means supported, 'back off' means to retreat, and 'backer' means a supporter, which don't fit in this context.
9. C) 'Unless' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "unless" का अर्थ होता है 'यदि नहीं'। वाक्य में कहा गया है कि जब तक लेखक को कोई सच्चा दोस्त नहीं मिल जाता, तब तक यह कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ेगा। इसलिए 'unless' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Still' का अर्थ है फिर भी, 'Until' का अर्थ है जब तक नहीं, और 'Whether' का अर्थ है कि या नहीं, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

'Unless' will be used because it means 'if not'. The sentence mentions that until the writer finds a real friend, it probably won't make a difference. Hence, 'unless' is fitting here. Whereas, 'Still' means yet, 'Until' means up to the time when, and 'Whether' means if or not, which don't fit in this context.

10. A) 'Confide' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "confide" का अर्थ होता है किसी पर विश्वास करना और अपने निजी विचारों को साझा करना। वाक्य में कहा गया है कि शायद यह उसकी गलती है कि वे एक दूसरे पर विश्वास नहीं कर सकते। इसलिए 'confide' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Aide' का अर्थ है सहायक, 'Collide' का अर्थ है टकराना, और 'Consider' का अर्थ है विचार करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
- 'Confide' will be used because it means to trust someone and share personal thoughts. The sentence mentions that maybe it's her fault that they can't trust each other. Hence, 'confide' is fitting here. Whereas, 'Aide' means assistant, 'Collide' means to crash, and 'Consider' means to think about, which don't fit in this context.
11. D) '**created insult to injury**' के बदले 'added insult to injury' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह एक सामान्यतः used idiom है, जिसे बुरी स्थिति को और अधिक बुरा बनाने के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है। जैसे— After losing my job, the car accident just added insult to injury.
- 'added insult to injury' will be used instead of 'created insult to injury' because it is a commonly used idiom to describe making a bad situation worse. Like— After losing my job, the car accident just added insult to injury.
12. B) The poem will be recited by the child.
13. D) '**Itinary**' को 'itinerary' के रूप में सुधारा जाएगा क्योंकि 'Itinary' गलत spelling है और सही spelling 'itinerary' है।
- 'Itinary' will be corrected to 'itinerary' because 'Itinary' is a spelling error and the correct spelling is 'itinerary'.
14. C) The correct meaning of the underlined word 'extempore' in the given sentence is a speech delivered without prior preparation or rehearsal.
15. D) **DCBA**
My heart skipped a beat when suddenly a carcass of an animal fell before me
16. C) **DBAC**
According to industry data, it takes \$2.6 billion and, on average, fourteen years to develop a new drug. The failure rate in finding a new drug is as high as 95%. So then why are not Silicon Valley entrepreneurs clamouring to decode the ancient wisdom? Because these once-thriving cultures are now reduced to an endangered tribe.
17. C) **Resentment** (noun) – The feeling of displeasure or indignation at some act, remark, person, etc., regarded as causing injury or insult. **नाराज़गी**
Synonym: **Anger** (noun) – A strong feeling of displeasure and belligerence aroused by a wrong; wrath. **क्रोध**
- Calmness** (noun) – A state of peace and quiet; tranquillity; serenity. **शांति**
 - Happiness** (noun) – The state of being happy; contentment; joy. **सुख**
 - Relaxation** (noun) – The state of being free from tension or anxiety; ease. **आराम**
18. C) The correct spelling of '**liason**' is 'liaison' **मेल जोल**

19. D) **Meagre** (adjective) – Lacking in quantity or quality, paltry, small, insufficient. **अल्प**
Antonym: **Generous** (adjective) – Showing a readiness to give more of something, abundant, ample, plentiful. **उदार**
- **Regional** (adjective) – Relating to a particular region, local, zonal. **प्रदेशिक**
 - **Racial** (adjective) – Relating to race or the races of humankind. **नस्लीय**
 - **Stupid** (adjective) – Lacking intelligence, senseless, unintelligent. **मूर्ख**
20. C) **Pompous** (adjective) – Self-important, arrogant, haughty, presumptuous, conceited. **घमंडी**
Synonym: **Supercilious** (adjective) – Behaving or looking as though one thinks one is superior to others, arrogant, haughty. **अभिमानी**
- **Conciliatory** (adjective) – Intended or likely to placate or pacify, appeasing, soothing, mollifying. **सांत्वना देनेवाला**
 - **Benign** (adjective) – Gentle, kindly, friendly, gracious. **दयालु**
 - **Diplomatic** (adjective) – Skilled in dealing with sensitive matters or people, tactful, subtle, delicate. **कूटनीतिज्ञ**
21. C) **C, A, D, B**
Rewards are given in accordance with hierarchical status and are not related to the economic value of the services rendered
22. C) No other child in the class is as dull as she
23. C) **Commitment** (noun) – The state or quality of being dedicated to a cause or activity, pledge, promise. **प्रतिज्ञा**
Antonym: **Breach** (noun) – An act of breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct. **उल्लंघन**
- **Feeble** (adjective) – Lacking physical strength, especially as a result of age or illness. **कमज़ोर**
 - **Drape** (noun) – A curtain or piece of cloth fastened so that it hangs in a decorative way. **पर्दा**
 - **Hale** (adjective) – Strong and healthy. **स्वस्थ**
24. A) When the crunch comes (idiom) – At the moment of decision **समय के संकट में**.
25. C) Miss Glenn teaches us French.



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