

Force of ideas: On the New Orleans truck attack

The Islamic State must not be allowed to regain **foothold** in West Asia

The truck **attack** in the French Quarter of New Orleans, on New Year's Day, killing at least 15 people and **wounding** 30, **suggests** that the **threat** of **low-tech, lone wolf attacks** **has** not gone away. The **attacker**, identified as 42-year-old Shamsud-Din Jabbar, an American citizen who had served in the military, **was** killed in a shoot-out. Police found an Islamic State (IS) flag and explosives in his truck. Just hours earlier, Jabbar had posted videos on social media, indicating that he was inspired by the IS. In recent months, the IS, a terrorist organisation founded in Iraq and Syria, and now present across geographies, has released propaganda videos asking its "soldiers" to **strike** during celebrations in western cities in the holiday season. A few hours after the New Orleans attack, a Tesla Cybertruck exploded in front of the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas, killing at least one person and injuring several. Police later said **Jabbar**, the **suspected** New Orleans attacker, **did** not act alone, and are investigating any **potential** link between the truck attack and the cybertruck explosion.

The IS, which lost its physical **Caliphate** in Iraq and Syria, **has** been trying to revive its lost **fortunes**. The terror group survived as an **insurgency**, shifted its centre of operations to Afghanistan (Islamic State-Khorasan), where it **carries out** attacks, targeting the country's Shia minority, and opened new networks in Africa. When the IS was at its **peak** in 2014-15, it had successfully **globalised** terror — any **sympathiser** could hold the IS flag, declare loyalty to the '**Caliph**' and **unleash** attacks against the "**infidels**". **World cities**, from Dhaka to Orlando and Istanbul to Belgium, **witnessed** dozens of IS-inspired attacks. These have **ebbed**, partly due to the destruction of the IS 'caliphate' and partly due to enhanced security measures and **deradicalisation** programmes. But now that Syria is in **transition** **following** the **fall** of the Bashar al-Assad **regime**, the IS is trying to rebuild itself. Kurdish **fighters** in Syria's east, who played a **pivotal** role in defeating the Islamists in 2015-16, **say** IS militants have **looted** government weapons' **depots** and are preparing for a comeback. The New Orleans attack should serve as a warning signal for the U.S. The IS should not be allowed to regain a foothold in **conflict-ridden** West Asia. Besides, the U.S. should also get to the roots of the **radicalisation** of American citizens and **counter** it. **Organisations** such as the IS **should** be fought with both force and ideas.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Gain a Foothold** (noun) – Establish oneself, find a place, secure a position पैर जमाना
2. **Wound** (verb) – Injure, harm, hurt, maim, damage घायल करना
3. **Low-tech** (adjective) – Simple, unsophisticated, basic, primitive कम तकनीकी
4. **Lone wolf attack** (noun) – Solo terrorist act, individual assault, single-handed strike अकेला हमला
5. **Strike** (verb) – Attack, hit, assault, act, blow हमला करना
6. **Suspected** (adjective) – Alleged, presumed, accused, supposed संदिग्ध
7. **Potential** (adjective) – Possible, likely, probable, conceivable संभावित
8. **Caliphate** (noun) – the rule or reign of a caliph or chief Muslim ruler. खलीफा राज्य
9. **Fortune** (noun) – Success, fate, destiny, luck, wealth भाग्य
10. **Insurgency** (noun) – Rebellion, uprising, revolt, mutiny विद्रोह
11. **Carry out** (phrasal verb) – Execute, perform, implement, conduct अमल करना
12. **Peak** (noun) – Summit, height, climax, pinnacle चरम
13. **Globalise** (verb) – Internationalise, expand worldwide, universalise वैश्वीकरण करना
14. **Sympathiser** (noun) – Supporter, advocate, ally, backer समर्थक
15. **Caliph** (noun) – Islamic leader, ruler, sovereign, spiritual head खलीफा
16. **Unleash** (verb) – release, free, let loose; to let happen or begin something powerful that, once begun, cannot be controlled शुरू करना, खोल देना
17. **Infidel** (noun) – Non-believer, heretic, atheist, heathen अविश्वासी
18. **Witness** (verb) – Observe, see, behold, view, watch देखना
19. **Ebb** (verb) – Decline, diminish, wane, fade कम होना
20. **Deradicalisation** (noun) – Counter-extremism, rehabilitation, deprogramming कट्टरता समाप्ति
21. **Transition** (noun) – Change, shift, transformation, conversion परिवर्तन
22. **Following** (preposition) – After, subsequent to, ensuing के बाद
23. **Fall** (noun) – Collapse, defeat, decline, downfall पतन

24. **Regime** (noun) – Government, administration, leadership, authority शासन
25. **Pivotal** (adjective) – Crucial, key, essential, central महत्वपूर्ण
26. **Loot** (verb) – Rob, plunder, pillage, ransack लूटना
27. **Depot** (noun) – Warehouse, storage facility, station, terminal भंडारगृह
28. **Conflict-ridden** (adjective) – War-torn, violence-stricken, strife-filled, unstable संघर्षग्रस्त
29. **Radicalisation** (noun) – Extremism, militancy, fundamentalism, indoctrination कट्टरपंथीकरण
30. **Counter** (verb) – Oppose, combat, resist, neutralize विरोध करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **New Orleans Attack:** A truck attack on New Year's Day in the French Quarter of New Orleans killed at least 15 people and injured 30, highlighting the persisting threat of low-tech, lone-wolf attacks.
2. **Attacker Profile:** The perpetrator, Shamsud-Din Jabbar, a 42-year-old American citizen and former military member, was killed in a shootout.
3. **IS Link:** Police found an Islamic State (IS) flag and explosives in the attacker's truck. Jabbar had posted IS-inspired videos on social media before the attack.
4. **IS Propaganda:** Recent IS propaganda urged its followers to carry out attacks in Western cities during holiday celebrations.
5. **Las Vegas Incident:** A Tesla Cybertruck exploded outside the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas shortly after the New Orleans attack, raising suspicions of a coordinated plan.
6. **IS Resurgence:** The IS, having lost its physical caliphate in Iraq and Syria, is trying to revive itself as an insurgency in regions like Afghanistan (IS-Khorasan) and Africa.
7. **Shift in Strategy:** IS has transitioned from holding territory to operating as a decentralized network that inspires attacks worldwide.
8. **Global Impact of IS:** At its peak in 2014-15, the IS globalized terror, inspiring attacks from Dhaka to Orlando and Istanbul to Belgium.
9. **Counterterrorism Success:** IS attacks have reduced due to the destruction of its caliphate, enhanced global security measures, and deradicalization programs.
10. **Syria's Role:** The political transition in Syria after Bashar al-Assad's fall has created a vacuum that IS is trying to exploit to rebuild itself.
11. **Kurdish Concerns:** Kurdish fighters in eastern Syria, instrumental in defeating IS, report that IS militants are looting weapons and preparing for a comeback.
12. **Warning for the U.S.:** The New Orleans attack underscores the need for vigilance to prevent IS from regaining a foothold in West Asia.
13. **Radicalization in the U.S.:** The attack highlights the need for the U.S. to address the radicalization of its citizens, as exemplified by Jabbar's actions.
14. **Multifaceted Approach Needed:** Combating IS requires a combination of military force and ideological efforts to counter radicalization.
15. **Global Responsibility:** The international community must ensure that IS does not exploit political instability in conflict zones like Syria and West Asia to stage a resurgence.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Analytical
 - B. Alarmist
 - C. Optimistic
 - D. Indifferent
2. **According to the passage, how many people were killed in the New Orleans truck attack on New Year's Day?**
 - A. 10
 - B. 15
 - C. 5
 - D. 20
3. **Based on the passage, which of the following can be inferred about the potential connection between the New Orleans truck attack and the Tesla Cybertruck explosion in Las Vegas?**
 - A. Police have officially confirmed both attacks were planned by the same group.
 - B. Authorities suspect a link and are investigating further, but no definitive connection is confirmed yet.
 - C. The New Orleans attacker single-handedly orchestrated both incidents.
 - D. The Tesla Cybertruck explosion was purely accidental and unrelated to any terror activity.
4. **Which region has become the new centre of operations for the Islamic State (IS) after losing its physical Caliphate in Iraq and Syria, as mentioned in the passage?**
 - A. Turkey
 - B. Afghanistan (Islamic State-Khorasan)
 - C. Bangladesh
 - D. Saudi Arabia
5. **Which of the following words is the best antonym for "enhanced" as used in the passage?**
 - A. Enriched
 - B. Strengthened
 - C. Upgraded
 - D. Reduced
6. **Select the correct spelling of the underlined word.**

She has a magnificent personality.

 - A. Magnificent
 - B. Megnificent
 - C. Magnifecient
 - D. Megnifecent
7. **Select the option that rectifies the spelling of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

The children were excited to ride the carusel.

 - A. Carousell

- B. Carousel
C. Carrousel
D. Karusel
8. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment without changing its meaning in the given sentence.**
Family planning programs play a crucial role in promoting reproductive health and empowering individuals to make informed choices, contributing to sustainable population growth and a healthier society.
- A. promoting a viable population increase
B. fostering an unbalanced population growth
C. discouraging a sustainable population upswing
D. supporting sustainable population explosion
9. **The given sentence is divided into four segments. Select the option that has the segment with a grammatical error.**
I left my / coat in the / hospital when I / had visit Alex
- A. hospital when I
B. I left my
C. coat in the
D. had visit Alex
10. **Select the sentence that contains a spelling error.**
- A. He has made significant improvement in the last few weeks.
B. They had been disgrantled with the company due to various reasons.
C. Despite his formidable appearance, he possesses a kind heart.
D. We saw a pride of lions nonchalantly roaming in the forest
11. **Change the following sentence into positive degree.**
Yash is not better than Harsh
- A. Yash is as good as Harsh.
B. Yash is not good than Harsh.
C. Yash is best than Harsh.
D. Yash and Harsh both are good
12. **Based on the situation in the given sentence, select the most appropriate idiom for the underlined segment.**
Having known to the facts, the manager disregarded the arguments of the customer.
- A. Turned a deaf ear
B. Bite the Bullet
C. Turned against
D. Turned out
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Haste
- A. Quick
B. Speed

- C. Twist
D. Delay
14. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blanks.**
If 2023 was ___ year consumers helped stave off a recession with an unexpected surge in spending, many economists _____ 2024 will be the time shoppers finally tighten their belts.
- A. an, thought
B. a, wanted
C. a, see
D. the, predict
15. **In the following sentence the underlined part contains an error. Alternatives to the underlined part are given as options. Select the correct alternative.**
Playing 'hide-n-seek' is the one of the fond memories of my childhood
- A. more fonder
B. most fondest
C. fonder
D. fondest
16. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Clear as mud
- A. A dirty surrounding
B. Very easy to understand
C. Very difficult to understand
D. A clean surface
17. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined words in the given sentence.**
The walls of the marriage hall were covered by beautiful purple curtains
- A. covered with
B. covered of
C. covered upon
D. covered on
18. **Select the grammatically correct sentence**
- A. The teacher from an South explained a theory in a detailed manner.
B. The teacher from a South explained the theory in the detailed manner.
C. The teacher from the South explained the theory in a detailed manner.
D. A teacher from South explained the theory in the detailed manners.
19. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Vigorous
- A. Energetic
B. Guarded
C. Furious
D. Academic

20. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the word '**Pamper**' from the given sentence.
I always feel that nuclear families always mollycoddle their kids without directing them to the correct path or denying their unrealistic demands
- A. Demands
 - B. Nuclear
 - C. Path
 - D. Mollycoddle

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.

We should remember that all religions (1)_____ good conduct in life, the foundation of which should rest on (2)_____. Without the basis of morality, philosophy would remain mere polemics, and religion would be (3)_____ and vain. Nobody can say that he is religious unless he is (4)_____ and unselfish. It is realised that by constant endeavour through thought, word and deed, one could (5)_____ absolute peace of mind

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
- A. refrain
 - B. depart
 - C. preach
 - D. abandon
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. ethics
 - B. boundaries
 - C. unconscientiousness
 - D. evil
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. rational
 - B. popular
 - C. useful
 - D. meaningless
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
- A. lethargic
 - B. insensitive
 - C. truthful
 - D. grotesque
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
- A. forfeit
 - B. divide
 - C. scatter
 - D. acquire

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) Analytical

A: Correct because the passage evaluates the causes, implications, and potential actions regarding the IS resurgence.

B: Incorrect because the passage is not exaggerating the threat but is presenting facts and analysis in a measured tone.

C: Incorrect because the tone does not convey hope or positivity; it focuses on the challenges and threats.

D: Incorrect because the passage demonstrates concern and urgency about the IS threat, not apathy.

2. B) 15

15: is correct because the passage explicitly states that “at least 15 people” were killed in the New Orleans truck attack.

A: 10 is incorrect because it does not match the number of fatalities mentioned in the passage.

C: 5 is incorrect because it underestimates the casualties reported in the passage.

D: 20 is incorrect because it exceeds the recorded fatalities in the passage.

3. B) Authorities suspect a link and are investigating further, but no definitive connection is confirmed yet.

B is correct because the passage states that the police “are investigating any potential link” between the two incidents, implying suspicion without confirmation.

A is incorrect because the passage does not say there is an official confirmation; it only indicates an ongoing investigation.

C is incorrect because the passage suggests the attacker may not have acted alone, and there is no evidence he orchestrated both incidents alone.

D is incorrect because the passage mentions a potential terror link rather than calling it an accident.

4. B) Afghanistan (Islamic State-Khorasan)

The passage explicitly states that after losing its territorial strongholds in Iraq and Syria, the IS “shifted its centre of operations to Afghanistan (Islamic State-Khorasan).”

A: Although Turkey has experienced IS-related attacks, the group’s centre of operations has not shifted there.

C: While there have been IS-inspired incidents in Bangladesh, the group’s main operational hub is not there.

D: There is no indication in the passage that IS’s principal operations have moved to Saudi Arabia.

5. D) **Reduced**

"Enhanced" means "increased" or "made better." Its opposite is "reduced," which means "decreased" or "made less."

6. A) The correct spelling of the underlined word '**magnificent**' is '**magnificent**', which means "extremely beautiful, elaborate, or impressive" (अत्यंत सुंदर, शानदार, भव्य).7. B) The correct spelling of the underlined word '**carousel**' is '**carusel**', which means "a merry-go-round, typically found at amusement parks." झूला8. A) **promoting a viable population increase**

'contributing to sustainable population growth' के बदले 'promoting a viable population increase' का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में "contributing to sustainable population growth and a healthier society" का अर्थ है संतुलित (sustainable) जनसंख्या वृद्धि को प्रोत्साहित करना। 'explosion' शब्द असंतुलित और अनियंत्रित वृद्धि को दर्शाता है, जो वाक्य के विपरीत है; अतः सही option 'promoting a viable population increase' होगा।

'promoting a viable population increase' will be used instead of 'contributing to sustainable population growth' because the sentence emphasizes "contributing to sustainable population growth and a healthier society," which implies balanced (sustainable) population growth. The word 'explosion' suggests unbalanced and uncontrolled growth, contrary to the intended meaning. Therefore, the correct option is 'promoting a viable population increase.'

9. D) 'had visit' के बदले '**had visited**' का प्रयोग होगा। Past Perfect Tense में 'had' के बाद verb का तीसरा रूप (past participle) होता है। वाक्य का सही रूप होगा "I left my coat in the hospital when I had visited Alex."

'had visit' should be replaced with '**had visited**'. In Past Perfect Tense, the verb is used in its third form (past participle) after 'had'. The correct sentence would be - "I left my coat in the hospital when I had visited Alex."

10. B) They had been **disgranted** with the company due to various reasons.

The correct spelling of the word is "**disgruntled**", which means "angry or dissatisfied" (गुस्सैल या असंतुष्ट).

11. A) "**Yash is as good as Harsh.**" होगा क्योंकि वाक्य को सकारात्मक डिग्री (positive degree) में बदलने की आवश्यकता है। Positive degree में तुलना के लिए "as + adjective + as" का use किया जाता है। वाक्य में "not better than" का अर्थ है कि यश और हर्ष समान रूप से अच्छे हैं।

The correct answer is "Yash is as good as Harsh." because the sentence needs to be changed into positive degree. In positive degree comparisons, the structure "as + adjective + as" is used. The phrase "not better than" implies that Yash and Harsh are equally good.

12. A) **Turned a deaf ear** (idiom) – disregarded and arguments (अनसुनी करना)

13. D) **Haste** (noun) – The act of doing something quickly, sometimes with urgency or lack of care.
तेज़ी, शीघ्रता

Antonym: Delay (noun) – The act of postponing or slowing down, a period of waiting or deferring an action. विलंब, देरी

- **Quick** (adjective) – Done or occurring with great speed; fast. तेज़
- **Speed** (noun) – The rate at which someone or something moves or operates. गति
- **Twist** (verb/noun) – To bend or turn into a particular shape; an act of turning something. मोड़ना, मोड़

14. D) **'The predict'** का Use होगा क्योंकि "the" का उपयोग एक विशेष (specific) वर्ष के संदर्भ में किया गया है, जो "2023" है। sentence में "2023" को पहले ही स्पष्ट रूप से संदर्भित किया गया है, इसलिए 'the' सही उत्तर है। जबकि 'An' और 'A' अनिश्चित (non-specific) चीजों के लिए उपयोग किए जाते हैं, जो इस वाक्य में फिट नहीं होता। **'Predict'** का use होगा क्योंकि यह भविष्य (future) की ओर इशारा करता है। वाक्य का दूसरा भाग यह दर्शाता है कि अर्थशास्त्री अनुमान लगा रहे हैं कि 2024 में क्या होगा, इसलिए 'predict' उपयुक्त है। **'Thought'** भूतकाल (past tense) में है, जबकि यहाँ भविष्य की बात की जा रही है। **'Wanted'** इच्छा का संकेत देता है, जो संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। **'See'** वर्तमान (present tense) में है, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता।

'The predict' will be used because it refers to a specific year, "2023," already mentioned in the sentence. It specifies "2023," making 'the' correct. 'An' and 'A' are used for non-specific references, which do not suit this context. 'Predict' will be used as it refers to a forecast about the future, aligning with the idea that economists are speculating about 2024. 'Thought' is in the past tense, but the sentence discusses future speculation. 'Wanted' indicates desire, which is irrelevant here. 'See' is in the present tense and does not fit the context of prediction about 2024

15. D) **'fond'** का Superlative Degree **'fondest'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में 'the one of' दिया गया है।

'The one of' के बाद हमेशा Superlative Degree का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— This is the one of the most beautiful paintings I have ever seen.

'Fondest' will be used instead of 'fond' because the sentence contains 'the one of,' and after 'the one of,' a superlative degree is always used; like— This is the one of the most beautiful paintings I have ever seen.

16. C) **Clear as mud** (idiom) – Very difficult to understand बहुत कठिन समझना

17. A) 'covered by' के स्थान पर 'covered with' का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि जब किसी वस्तु को किसी अन्य वस्तु से ढका गया हो या उसकी सतह पर कोई सामग्री हो, तो 'covered with' का उपयोग सही होता है।

'covered by' should be replaced with 'covered with' because when something is physically covered or wrapped with another material, 'covered with' is the correct phrase to use.

18. C) **The teacher from the South explained the theory in a detailed manner.**

'South' एक निश्चित स्थान है, इसलिए इसके पहले 'the' का प्रयोग सही है। 'theory' को 'a theory' की बजाय 'the theory' कहना सही है क्योंकि यह एक विशिष्ट सिद्धांत को इंगित करता है। 'a detailed manner' व्याकरण और अर्थ दोनों दृष्टि से सही है।

The article "A" is less appropriate than "The" because the teacher being referred to is specific. The absence of the article "the" before "South" makes the phrase incorrect; "South" is a specific region requiring the definite article "the." The phrase "in the detailed manners" is grammatically incorrect; "manner" should be singular, and "a detailed manner" is the correct form.

19. A) **Vigorous** (adjective): Strong, healthy, and full of energy; robust, forceful. उत्साही, ताकतवर, जोशपूर्ण

Synonym: Energetic (adjective) – Showing or involving great activity or vitality; lively, dynamic, vigorous. ऊर्जावान, जोशीला

- **Guarded** (adjective) – Cautious, restrained, reserved, careful. सावधान, सतर्क
- **Furious** (adjective) – Extremely angry; intense, fierce, wild. क्रोधित, उग्र
- **Academic** (adjective) – Relating to education, scholarly, intellectual. शैक्षणिक, विद्वत्तापूर्ण

20. D) **Pamper** (verb): To treat someone with excessive indulgence, care, or attention, often spoiling them. अत्यधिक ध्यान और प्यार देना, लाड़-प्यार करना।

Synonym: Mollycoddle (verb) – To overprotect or indulge someone excessively. लाड़-प्यार करना।

- **Demands** (noun): Meaning: A strong request, need, or requirement. मांग।
- **Nuclear** (adjective): Relating to the nucleus or a family unit consisting of parents and children. परमाणु या माता-पिता और बच्चों का परिवार।
- **Path** (noun): Meaning: A way or track designed for walking or a course of action. रास्ता या मार्ग।

21. C) 'Preach' का अर्थ है उपदेश देना या किसी चीज़ को प्रोत्साहित करना। sentence में mention है कि सभी धर्म जीवन में अच्छे आचरण का समर्थन करते हैं, इसलिए "preach" यहां सही option है। 'Refrain' (संयम रखना) का मतलब है खुद को रोकना, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता। 'Depart' (छोड़ना) का मतलब है छोड़कर जाना, जो यहां के अर्थ से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Abandon' (त्यागना) का मतलब है पूरी तरह से त्याग देना, जो धर्म के अच्छे आचरण को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य के विपरीत है।

'Preach' perfectly fits the context of the sentence because it describes the act of promoting good conduct, aligning with the role of religions. Other options fail contextually and grammatically. 'Refrain' This means to stop oneself from doing something. It does not fit the context of teaching or promoting good conduct. 'Depart' This means to leave or move away, which does not align with the context of religions advocating good behavior. 'Abandon' This means to give up or leave something entirely. It contradicts the intended meaning, as religions do not abandon good conduct but advocate for it.

22. A) 'Ethics' का अर्थ है नैतिकता या नैतिक सिद्धांत, जो अच्छे आचरण की नींव के लिए उपयुक्त है। passage में कहा गया है कि जीवन में अच्छे आचरण का आधार नैतिकता पर आधारित होना चाहिए। इसलिए, 'ethics' contextually और grammatically सही विकल्प है। 'Boundaries' का अर्थ है सीमाएं या परिधि। यह नैतिकता या आचरण की नींव के संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'Unconscientiousness' का अर्थ है बेपरवाही या नैतिकता की कमी। यह शब्द अच्छे आचरण के लिए विपरीत है और इसलिए गलत है। 'Evil' का अर्थ है बुराई या अनैतिकता। यह अच्छे आचरण के आधार के लिए बिल्कुल भी उपयुक्त नहीं है।

'Ethics' means moral principles, which are the foundation of good conduct in life. The passage emphasizes that the basis of good conduct should rest on morality, making 'ethics' the most suitable choice. 'Boundaries' means limits or edges, which do not align with the context of the passage discussing morality. 'Unconscientiousness' refers to a lack of morality or carelessness, which is opposite to the concept of a foundation for good conduct. 'Evil' implies immorality or wickedness, which cannot be the basis for good conduct.

23. D) 'Meaningless' का use होगा क्योंकि "Meaningless" का अर्थ है "बिना किसी महत्व या उद्देश्य के।" वाक्य में बताया गया है कि नैतिकता के बिना धर्म महत्वहीन और निरर्थक हो जाएगा। यह संदर्भ में सही बैठता है क्योंकि यहां धर्म की नैतिकता पर निर्भरता पर जोर दिया गया है। 'Rational', जिसका अर्थ है तार्किक, यहां सही नहीं है क्योंकि वाक्य धर्म की तर्कसंगतता पर चर्चा नहीं कर रहा है। 'Popular', जिसका अर्थ है लोकप्रिय, यहां फिट नहीं बैठता क्योंकि यह धर्म की लोकप्रियता पर चर्चा नहीं कर रहा है। 'Useful', जिसका अर्थ है उपयोगी, भी गलत है क्योंकि वाक्य धर्म की उपयोगिता के बजाय इसके महत्व की बात कर रहा है।

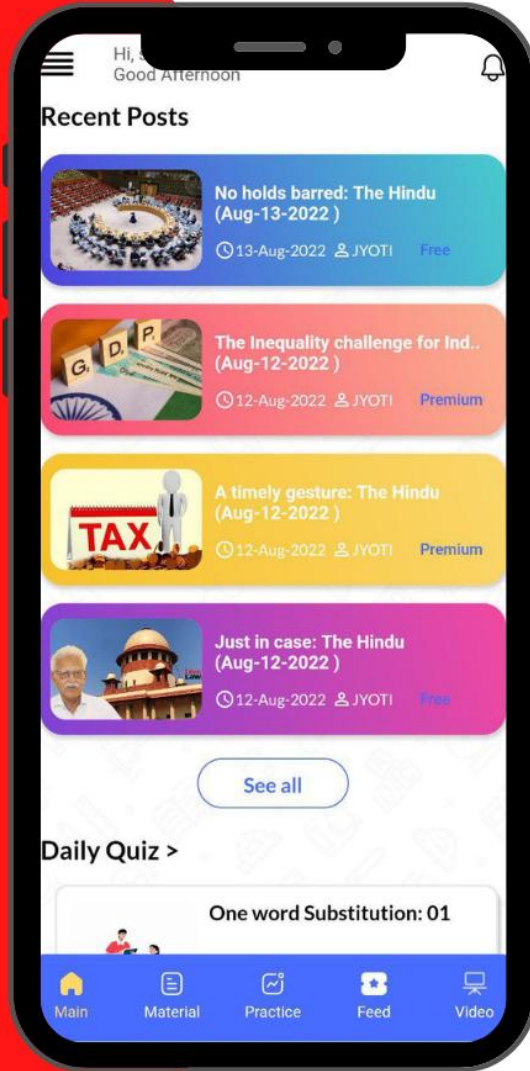
Meaningless' will be used because it means "without importance or purpose." The sentence emphasizes that without morality as its foundation, religion would lose its essence and become insignificant, making "Meaningless" appropriate. 'Rational' means logical or reasonable, which is not discussed in the sentence. 'Popular' means widely liked or accepted, but the sentence focuses on significance, not popularity. 'Useful' implies practicality, which does not fit because the context is about meaning, not utility.

24. C) **'Truthful'** का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में धार्मिकता की बात हो रही है और यह बताया गया है कि कोई भी व्यक्ति तब तक धार्मिक नहीं हो सकता जब तक वह ईमानदार (truthful) और निस्वार्थ (unselfish) न हो। 'Lethargic' (आलसी), 'Insensitive' (असंवेदनशील), और 'Grotesque' (विचित्र या विकृत) का इस context में कोई अर्थ नहीं बनता क्योंकि ये धार्मिकता या सद्गुणों से संबंधित नहीं हैं।

'Truthful' is correct because the sentence talks about religiosity and states that no one can be considered religious unless they are truthful and unselfish. 'Lethargic' (lazy), 'Insensitive' (unfeeling), and 'Grotesque' (distorted or bizarre) are irrelevant in this context as they do not relate to religious or moral virtues.

25. D) **'Acquire'** का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में mention है कि निरंतर प्रयास के माध्यम से कोई absolute peace of mind प्राप्त कर सकता है। यहाँ "acquire" शब्द का अर्थ है "प्राप्त करना," जो इस संदर्भ में एक सकारात्मक और उचित विकल्प है। Forfeit' (खो देना) गलत है क्योंकि यह "प्राप्त करना" के विपरीत है। 'Divide' (विभाजित करना) और 'Scatter' (छितराना) का अर्थ भी इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता क्योंकि ये "शांति" के संदर्भ में उपयोग नहीं किए जा सकते।

'Acquire' is the correct choice because the sentence explains that through constant endeavour, one can "**acquire absolute peace of mind.**" The word "acquire" means "to obtain or achieve," which fits perfectly with the context as it implies gaining peace of mind through persistent effort. Forfeit' (to lose) is incorrect as it is the opposite of acquiring. 'Divide' (to separate) and 'Scatter' (to disperse) do not fit in this context as they cannot be associated with "peace of mind."



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