

## Express view on variable pay in cricket: An unnecessary sticky wicket

It's a **cliche** in cricket: Numbers are not everything. But they could **turn out to be** everything if the cricket board **ratifies** the **proposed** performance-based pay structure, which was **floated** in the review meeting after India's defeat in Australia. **The number** of zeroes on players' cheques **could correspond** to the number of wickets they **pick up**, or the runs they score. If they don't **meet** the expected standards, they could potentially face a pay cut. The **implied** logic is that the uncertainty of pay **keeps players on their toes**, **sustains** their motivation levels, and **staves off** mid-career **stagnation**. But the variable-pay idea is a non-cricketing solution to a cricketing problem. It is **antithetical** to collective **endeavour** and spirit, the soul of team sports.

**The hour's need** is ideas to **reroute** Indian cricket back to its **glory** days, not to **formulate** algebraic equations for performance metrics. **Unlike** in the corporate world, there are no **set-in-stone** targets to judge a performance. It's the **fascinating complexity** of the game that the same **statistic** could be **interpreted** in multiple ways. A **century** in the second innings on a **flat deck** against **tiring** bowlers **could** be **inferior** to a fourth innings forty on a **rank turner**. A three-wicket **burst** by a **pacer** on a **dead pitch** **could** be more valuable than a six-for on a green-top. How would an umpiring howler leading to a low-score **dismissal** be **tabulated** on the accounts sheet? The game is **bound** by too many variables to be **imprisoned** by numbers. If the recommendation is accepted, the board might **end up** hiring a **retinue** of performance analysts — the **sacred** 5Ws and 1H framework — to **dissect** and grade every performance. Red-ball cricket could become a reality show — the **obsession** with the self could consume the ideals of the team. It risks more cricketers slipping out of the red-ball galaxy and **leaping into** the **franchise** universe. For flexible pay to work, boards will have to sell it by focusing on the greater amount a player could earn if his team is successful. Like it is for several football clubs in Europe or the American Football League.

It's time to ask more game-specific questions. Why are India's batsmen **vulnerable** to even the **modest** spinners? Why did Ravi Ashwin quit **midway** through a series? What happened to the supply-chain of seamers? Is there something fundamentally **flawed** about the domestic system? Do the selectors, the coaching staff and the players have a **concerted** plan forward? There are far too many questions for reviewers to analyse rather than come up with a corporate **gimmick** that shows that their vision forward is **blurred** and their thoughts **cluttered**. [Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Variable** (adjective) – Changeable, fluctuating, inconsistent, shifting  
परिवर्तनीय
2. **Sticky wicket** (phrase) – Difficult situation, tricky position, challenging condition, problematic spot मुश्किल स्थिति
3. **Cliché** (noun) – Overused phrase, commonplace expression, worn-out saying, hackneyed statement घिसी-पिटी उक्ति
4. **Turn out to be** (phrase) – Prove to be, end up being, result in, become साबित होना
5. **Ratify** (verb) – Approve formally, sanction, confirm, validate पुष्टि करना
6. **Proposed** (adjective) – Suggested, put forward, planned, recommended प्रस्तावित
7. **Float** (verb) – Put forth, present, pitch, mooted प्रस्ताव रखना
8. **Correspond** (verb) – Match, align, agree, coincide मेल खाना
9. **Pick up** (phrasal verb) – Take, capture, gather, acquire (in cricket: take wickets)  
प्राप्त करना
10. **Meet** (verb) – Fulfill, satisfy, achieve, comply with पूरा करना
11. **Implied** (adjective) – Indicated, suggested, hinted at, inferred अंतर्निहित
12. **Keep someone on someone's toes** (phrase) – Keep alert, maintain vigilance, remain active, stay sharp सतर्क रखना
13. **Sustain** (verb) – Maintain, continue, uphold, keep going बनाए रखना
14. **Stave off** (phrasal verb) – Prevent, avert, ward off, hold back रोकना
15. **Stagnation** (noun) – Lack of progress, inactivity, sluggishness, inertia ठहराव
16. **Antithetical** (adjective) – Opposite, contradictory, contrary, conflicting विपरीत
17. **Endeavour** (noun) – Effort, attempt, undertaking, pursuit प्रयास
18. **Need of the hour** (phrase) – Urgent requirement, pressing necessity, immediate priority तत्काल आवश्यकता
19. **Reroute** (verb) – Redirect, change course, shift, divert पुनः मार्ग तय करना
20. **Glory** (noun) – Renown, fame, distinction, greatness महिमा
21. **Formulate** (verb) – Devise, conceive, develop, create तैयार करना
22. **Unlike** (preposition) – Different from, in contrast to, dissimilar to, not like के विपरीत
23. **Set-in-stone** (adjective) – Fixed, inflexible, unchangeable, rigid निश्चित

24. **Fascinating** (adjective) – Captivating, intriguing, enthralling, engrossing आकर्षक
25. **Complexity** (noun) – Complication, intricacy, depth, difficulty जटिलता
26. **Statistic** (noun) – Data point, figure, metric, numerical fact आँकड़ा
27. **Interpret** (verb) – Understand, explain, construe, decipher व्याख्या करना
28. **Flat deck pitch** (noun) – Batting-friendly wicket, lifeless surface, low-challenge pitch सपाट पिच
29. **Tiring** (adjective) – Exhausting, draining, wearing, fatiguing थका देने वाला
30. **Inferior** (to) (adjective) – Worse, lesser, lower in quality, not as good कमतर
31. **Rank turner** (noun) – Spin-friendly pitch, turning wicket, spinner's paradise स्पिन मददगार पिच
32. **Burst** (noun) – Sudden spell, quick surge, rapid sequence, short burst तीव्र दौर
33. **Pacer** (noun) – Fast bowler, seam bowler, speedster तेज गेंदबाज
34. **Dead pitch** (noun) – Unresponsive surface, no-life wicket, flat track धीमी/निष्क्रिय पिच
35. **Dismissal** (noun) – Getting out (in cricket), removal, dislodging, exit विकेट गिरना
36. **Tabulated** (adjective) – Recorded, calculated, listed, itemized तालिका में दर्ज
37. **Bound** (adjective) – Restricted, constrained, tied, held सीमित
38. **Imprisoned** (adjective) – Confined, locked in, trapped, captive कैद
39. **End up** (phrasal verb) – Finally be, result in, come to be, conclude होना
40. **Retinue** (noun) – Group of aides, staff, entourage, group of assistants सहचर-मंडली
41. **Sacred** (adjective) – Revered, holy, venerated, sanctified पवित्र
42. **Dissect** (verb) – Analyze thoroughly, break down, scrutinize, examine गहराई से विश्लेषण करना
43. **Leap** (into) (verb) – Jump into, plunge into, move swiftly into, dive in प्रवेश करना
44. **Franchise** (noun) – Team ownership group, commercially owned sports team, league-based outfit फ्रैंचाइज़/खेल संगठन
45. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – Susceptible, exposed, unprotected, defenseless असुरक्षित
46. **Modest** (adjective) – Moderate, average, not extreme, unexceptional साधारण
47. **Midway** (noun) – Halfway point, midpoint, in the midst बीच का दौर

48. **Flawed** (adjective) – Imperfect, faulty, defective, erroneous त्रुटिपूर्ण

49. **Concerted** (adjective) – Joint, coordinated, collaborative, combined सामूहिक

50. **Gimmick** (noun) – Trick, ploy, stunt, contrivance दिखावटी उपाय

51. **Blurred** (adjective) – Unclear, hazy, indistinct, fuzzy धुंधला

52. **Cluttered** (adjective) – Disordered, messy, confused, muddled अव्यवस्थित

## Summary of the Editorial

1. **Non-Cricketing Solution to Cricketing Problems:** The proposed performance-based pay structure is misaligned with the team-based nature of cricket. Cricket thrives on collective effort, and such individual-focused incentives may disrupt team spirit.
2. **Subjective Nature of Cricket Performance:** Unlike corporate roles with quantifiable targets, cricket is too complex for rigid performance metrics. A player's contributions often transcend numerical achievements.
3. **Numbers Cannot Capture Context:** Statistics in cricket can be misleading without context. For example, a challenging 40-run knock in tough conditions may be more valuable than a century on an easy pitch, but a pay structure may fail to account for such nuances.
4. **Risk of Fragmenting Team Cohesion:** Variable pay could promote individualism, diluting the collective ethos that underpins success in cricket, particularly in formats like Test cricket.
5. **Red-Ball Cricket Under Threat:** Players might prioritize formats with better financial incentives, further marginalizing red-ball cricket and potentially accelerating its decline.
6. **Potential for Misuse and Bias:** Relying on performance analysts and grading systems could introduce subjectivity and disputes over evaluation, creating friction within teams.
7. **Corporate Gimmick:** The suggestion mirrors corporate strategies rather than addressing cricket-specific issues, revealing a lack of clarity in addressing the root causes of underperformance.
8. **Risk of Mid-Career Disillusionment:** Instead of motivating players, the uncertainty of pay might create unnecessary pressure, especially for those going through temporary dips in form.
9. **Focus on Structural Problems:** The need of the hour is to address deep-seated issues, such as technical flaws in players, talent pipeline shortcomings, and domestic cricket inefficiencies.
10. **Learning from Successful Models:** Instead of adopting variable pay, lessons could be drawn from structured systems like European football or the NFL, where collective success enhances individual rewards.
11. **Alternative Incentives:** The focus should be on non-monetary incentives such as providing better training facilities, mental health support, and specialized coaching to ensure long-term performance.
12. **Systemic Flaws in Indian Cricket:** Concerns like batsmen's vulnerability to spin, the declining supply of seamers, and the quality of domestic cricket must be prioritized over financial gimmicks.
13. **Clarity of Vision Required:** The current proposal indicates a lack of direction from cricket administrators, who need to align their strategies with the game's nuanced demands.
14. **Preserving Cricket's Integrity:** The game's charm lies in its unpredictable nature and team dynamics, which should not be reduced to transactional pay structures.
15. **Focus on Accountability and Planning:** Instead of creating distractions with variable pay, administrators must ensure accountability among players, selectors, and coaches, and develop a cohesive roadmap for future success.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

- 1. What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Optimistic
  - B. Encouraging
  - C. Neutral
  - D. Critical
- 2. Which of the following best describes the author's view on the proposed performance-based pay structure for cricketers?**
  - A. It is an innovative way to improve performance.
  - B. It prioritizes individual achievements over team spirit.
  - C. It reflects a deeper understanding of cricket's complexity.
  - D. It solves the fundamental issues in Indian cricket.
- 3. According to the passage, which of the following challenges the practicality of implementing a performance-based pay system in cricket?**
  - A. The variability in cricketing conditions and statistics.
  - B. The lack of funds to hire performance analysts.
  - C. The simplicity of corporate-style performance evaluation.
  - D. The success of such systems in other sports leagues.
- 4. According to the passage, why is the performance-based pay structure criticized in cricket?**
  - A. It encourages players to play selfishly rather than as a team.
  - B. It ensures fair pay for players based on individual performances.
  - C. It provides a way to motivate players to perform consistently.
  - D. It helps analyze performance with clear and objective targets.
- 5. What is the antonym of the word "antithetical" as used in the passage?**
  - A. Incongruous
  - B. Compatible
  - C. Opposing
  - D. Divergent
- 6. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

An awkward neither grammatically accurate sentence is the result of centre implanting.

  - A. awkward but grammatically
  - B. awkward either grammatically
  - C. awkward beyond grammatically
  - D. awkward unless grammatically
- 7. Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**

Can we go visit a Statue of Liberty on our trip to the United States?

  - A. on our trip to

- B. Can we go  
C. the United States?  
D. visit a Statue of Liberty
8. **Select the option that is similar in meaning to the underlined word in the following sentence.**  
A good critic should also be a person of great candour  
A. will  
B. resolution  
C. honesty  
D. power
9. **Select the word which means the same as the group of words underlined in the given sentence.**  
These glass windows are so old and one can't even see through them , they need to be replaced.  
A. Opaque  
B. Dirty  
C. Transparent  
D. Black
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a spelling error.**  
The precarious case of juvenile / delinquency against him / was dismissed by the / jury in the first hearing.  
A. The precarious case of juvenile  
B. jury in the first hearing.  
C. delinquency against him  
D. was dismissed by the
11. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**  
By leaps and bounds  
A. Unknowingly  
B. Normally  
C. Slowly  
D. Rapidly
12. **Select the sentence that uses the given idiom correctly.**  
Skating on thin ice  
A. They were on thin ice when they skated on the frozen lake.  
B. She was on thin ice while trying to balance on a tightrope.  
C. He was on thin ice after making a controversial statement.  
D. They were on thin ice due to the icy conditions on the road
13. **Select the most appropriate segment to substitute the underlined words in the given sentence.**  
Youth is the time when the seeds of character is sown  
A. the seeds of character will have been sowing

- B. the seeds of character had been sown  
C. the seeds of character were sown  
D. the seeds of character are sown
14. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word from the following sentence.**  
Confusing  
The stars twinkled in the dark sky, guiding travellers on their journey.
- A. Guiding  
B. Twinkled  
C. Travellers  
D. Journey
15. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**  
I prefer walking than riding
- A. walking to riding  
B. walking above riding  
C. walking from riding  
D. walking with riding
16. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**  
We were grateful for a book they gave us.
- A. they gave us  
B. We were  
C. grateful for  
D. a book
17. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**  
Be in seventh heaven
- A. To be ignored  
B. To start performing better  
C. To be in a state of extreme happiness  
D. To avoid talking about what's important
18. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**  
Shakespeare is great than any other English poet.
- A. was great than  
B. was greater than  
C. is greater than  
D. is greatest than
19. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**  
Reckon
- A. Merit  
B. Assess



- C. Count
- D. Imagine

20. **Identify the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Bread and butter

- A. Comfortable living
- B. Means of livelihood
- C. The breakfast
- D. Money making

**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.**

Superheroes are fictional characters with 1) \_\_\_\_\_ powers who use their powers to fight crime and protect the public. Some popular superheroes include Superman, Batman, Spider-Man and Wonder Woman. Superheroes often have backstories that 2) \_\_\_\_\_ how they have gained their powers, 3) \_\_\_\_\_ being born with special powers, being bitten by a radioactive spider or being exposed to cosmic radiation. They usually have a specific outfit or clothing that they wear to hide their identity and protect 4) \_\_\_\_\_ while fighting crime. Superheroes have been a staple of popular culture 5) \_\_\_\_\_ decades, appearing in comics, movies, television shows, and video games.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 1.**

- A. extraordinary
- B. pragmatic
- C. hereditary
- D. Familiar

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 2.**

- A. explaining
- B. was explain
- C. explain
- D. had explain

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 3.**

- A. therefore
- B. subsequently
- C. instead
- D. such as

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 4.**

- A. themselves
- B. ourselves
- C. herself
- D. Himself

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank no. 5.**

- A. for

- B. on
- C. under
- D. Above

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanation

### 1. D) Critical

A: Incorrect. The passage does not express hope or positivity about the proposed performance-based pay system or Indian cricket's current state.

D: Correct. The author critiques the performance-based pay system, highlighting its flaws and questioning its suitability for cricket.

C: Incorrect. The passage is not impartial; it actively critiques the proposed system and discusses its negative implications.

B: Incorrect. The passage neither motivates nor encourages any particular action but instead focuses on highlighting concerns and issues.

### 2. B) It prioritizes individual achievements over team spirit.

B: The author explicitly criticizes the variable-pay system as being "antithetical to collective endeavour and spirit," indicating that it shifts the focus from teamwork to individual performance.

A (Incorrect): The author does not view the pay structure as innovative but rather as a non-cricketing solution inappropriate for cricket.

C (Incorrect): The passage argues that the pay structure oversimplifies cricket, ignoring its complexities.

D (Incorrect): The author highlights that the structure fails to address the actual problems in Indian cricket, such as the supply chain of seamers and issues with domestic systems.

### 3. A) The variability in cricketing conditions and statistics.

The passage highlights that cricket's complexity, such as varying pitch conditions and umpiring errors, makes it difficult to standardize performance metrics for pay.

B (Incorrect): The passage mentions the need for performance analysts but does not imply that a lack of funds makes implementation impractical.

C (Incorrect): The passage argues against corporate-style evaluation, not because it is simple, but because it is unsuitable for cricket's unique dynamics.

D (Incorrect): While the success of variable pay in football and American Football is noted, the passage stresses that cricket's complexity makes such systems less practical.

### 4. A) It encourages players to play selfishly rather than as a team.

The passage states that the variable-pay idea is "antithetical to collective endeavour and spirit," which highlights how it fosters individualism over team spirit.

B: Incorrect because the passage criticizes the method as a "non-cricketing solution to a cricketing problem," implying it doesn't ensure fairness in pay.

- C: Incorrect because the passage suggests that uncertainty of pay might not sustain long-term motivation but creates undue pressure.
- D: Incorrect because the passage highlights the complexity of cricket and argues there are no fixed targets to measure performance objectively.
5. B) **Compatible**  
"Antithetical" means directly opposed or mutually incompatible. Its antonym, "compatible," means capable of existing or working together in harmony, which is the opposite.
6. A) 'neither' के बदले 'but' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'awkward' और 'grammatically accurate' वाक्य में विरोधाभास को दर्शाने के लिए 'but' उपयुक्त conjunction है; जैसे— An awkward but grammatically accurate sentence is the result of center-implanting.
- 'but' will be used instead of 'neither' because 'awkward' and 'grammatically accurate' in the sentence show a contrast, so 'but' is the appropriate conjunction; Like— An awkward but grammatically accurate sentence is the result of center-implanting.
7. D) a' के बदले 'the' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Statue of Liberty' एक विशिष्ट (specific) वस्तु है, जो एक ही है; जैसे— I want to visit the Taj Mahal.
- 'the' will be used instead of 'a' because 'Statue of Liberty' is a specific object, which is unique; Like— I want to visit the Taj Mahal.
8. C) **Candour** (noun) – The quality of being open and honest; frankness. ईमानदारी  
Synonym: **Honesty** (noun) – The quality of being truthful and sincere. ईमानदारी
- **Will** (noun) – The faculty by which a person decides on and initiates actions. इच्छा शक्ति
  - **Resolution** (noun) – A firm decision to do or not to do something. संकल्प
  - **Power** (noun) – The ability to do something or act in a particular way. शक्ति
9. A) **Opaque** (adjective) – Not able to be seen through; not transparent. अपारदर्शी
- **Dirty** (adjective) – Covered or marked with an unclean substance. गंदा
  - **Transparent** (adjective) – Allowing light to pass through so that objects behind can be distinctly seen. पारदर्शी
  - **Black** (adjective) – Of the very darkest color owing to the absence of or complete absorption of light; the opposite of white. काला
10. C) The correct spelling of 'delinquency' is 'delinquency,' which means "minor crime, especially that committed by young people" बाल अपराध, कुकर्म.
11. D) **By leaps and bounds** (idiom) – **Rapidly** तेज़ी से

12. C) **Skating on thin ice** (idiom) – In a risky or dangerous situation खतरे में होना
13. D) **is** के बदले 'are' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'the seeds' Subject Plural है और इसके साथ Verb भी Plural होगा; जैसे— 'the seeds of character are sown'.
- 'are' will be used instead of 'is' because 'the seeds' is a Plural Subject, so the Verb will also be in Plural form; Like— 'the seeds of character are sown'.
14. A) **Confusing** (adjective) – Lacking clarity, puzzling, bewildering. भ्रमित करने वाला  
Antonym: **Guiding** (adjective) – Directing or showing the way, leading, enlightening. मार्गदर्शन करने वाला
- **Twinkled** (verb) – Shined with a flickering or sparkling light, glimmered. टिमटिमाना
  - **Travellers** (noun) – People who are on a journey, voyagers, explorers. यात्री
  - **Journey** (noun) – An act of traveling from one place to another, trip, voyage. यात्रा
15. A) **than** के बदले 'to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'prefer' के साथ 'to' का प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे— I prefer tea to coffee.
- 'to' will be used instead of 'than' because with 'prefer', 'to' is used; Like— I prefer tea to coffee.
16. D) **'a book'** के बदले 'the book' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ specific book की बात हो रही है जो उन्होंने हमें दी थी; जैसे— We were grateful for the book they gave us.
- 'the book' will be used instead of 'a book' because it refers to a specific book that they gave us; Like— We were grateful for the book they gave us.
17. C) **Be in seventh heaven** (idiom) – To be in a state of extreme happiness अत्यधिक खुशी में होना
18. B) 'is great' के बदले 'was greater' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि तुलना Past Tense में हो रही है; जैसे— Shakespeare was greater than any other English poet.
- 'was greater' will be used instead of 'is great' because the comparison is being made in the Past Tense; Like— Shakespeare was greater than any other English poet.
19. C) **Reckon** (verb) – to calculate, estimate, or regard in a specified way. गणना करना  
Synonym: **Count** (verb) – to determine the total number of a collection of items. गिनना
- **Assess** (verb) – to evaluate or estimate the nature, ability, or quality of something. मूल्यांकन करना
  - **Merit** (noun) – the quality of being particularly good or worthy, especially to deserve praise or reward. योग्यता
  - **Imagine** (verb) – to form a mental image or concept of something. कल्पना करना

20. B) **Bread and butter** (idiom) – Means of livelihood **रोज़ी रोटी**

21. A) **Extraordinary** का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence उन काल्पनिक पात्रों की चर्चा कर रहा है जो असाधारण शक्तियों के साथ आते हैं और अपने इन शक्तियों का उपयोग अपराध से लड़ने और जनता की रक्षा करने के लिए करते हैं। यहाँ "Superheroes are fictional characters with (1) \_\_\_\_\_ powers" के माध्यम से उन विशेष शक्तियों की बात हो रही है, जो सामान्य से परे हैं। इसलिए, "extraordinary" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- **'Extraordinary'** should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing fictional characters who come with exceptional powers and use these powers to fight crime and protect the public. Here, through "Superheroes are fictional characters with (1) \_\_\_\_\_ powers", it refers to those special powers that are beyond ordinary. Thus, "extraordinary" would be the most appropriate choice.

22. C) **Explain** का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence यह बता रहा है कि सुपरहीरोज़ ने अपनी शक्तियाँ कैसे प्राप्त की। यहाँ "Superheroes often have backstories that (2) \_\_\_\_\_ how they have gained their powers" में यह दिखाया गया है कि उनके पास कहानियाँ हैं जो यह समझाती हैं कि उन्होंने अपनी शक्तियाँ कैसे प्राप्त की। इसलिए, "explain" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- **'Explain'** should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing how superheroes gained their powers. Here, through "Superheroes often have backstories that (2) \_\_\_\_\_ how they have gained their powers," it portrays that they have stories that explain how they acquired their powers. Thus, "explain" would be the most appropriate choice.

23. D) **Such as** का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence सुपरहीरो के शक्तियाँ कैसे प्राप्त होती हैं, इसकी विभिन्न संभावनाओं की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "being born with special powers, being bitten by a radioactive spider or being exposed to cosmic radiation" के माध्यम से उन संभावनाओं का उल्लेख किया जा रहा है, जिसमें सुपरहीरो अपनी शक्तियाँ प्राप्त करते हैं। इसलिए, "such as" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- **'Such as'** should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the various possibilities of how superheroes acquire their powers. Here, through "being born with special powers, being bitten by a radioactive spider or being exposed to cosmic radiation," it mentions those possibilities in which superheroes gain their powers. Thus, "such as" would be the most appropriate choice.

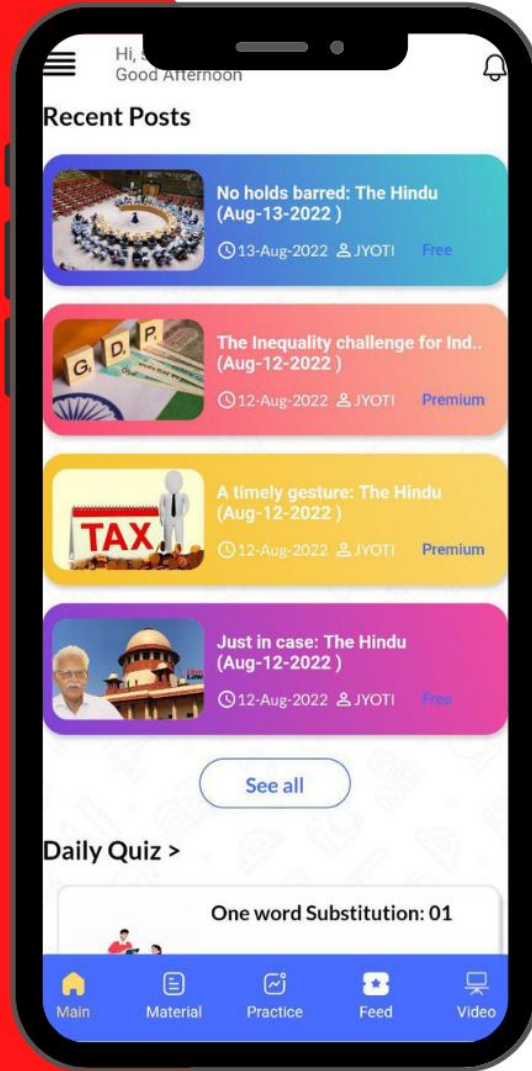
24. A) **themselves** का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence सुपरहीरो की बात कर रहा है जो अपराध से लड़ते समय अपनी पहचान छुपाने और खुद की रक्षा करने के लिए एक विशिष्ट पोशाक या वस्त्र पहनते हैं।

यहाँ "protect 4)\_\_\_\_\_ while fighting crime" के माध्यम से उस सुरक्षा को दर्शाया जा रहा है जो सुपरहीरो अपने आप को प्रदान करते हैं। इसलिए, "themselves" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- 'themselves' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing superheroes who wear specific outfits or clothing to hide their identity and protect themselves while fighting crime. Here, through "protect 4)\_\_\_\_\_ while fighting crime," it portrays that protection which superheroes provide to themselves. Thus, "themselves" would be the most appropriate choice.

25. A) 'For' का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence सुपरहीरोज़ के दशकों से लोकप्रिय संस्कृति में होने की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "Superheroes have been a staple of popular culture (5)\_\_\_\_\_ decades" के माध्यम से उस लंबे समय की अवधि को दर्शाया जा रहा है, जिसमें सुपरहीरोज़ ने कॉमिक्स, मूवीज़, टेलीविजन शो और वीडियो गेम्स में अपनी जगह बनाई है। इसलिए, "for" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

'For' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the presence of superheroes in popular culture for decades. Here, through "Superheroes have been a staple of popular culture (5)\_\_\_\_\_ decades", it portrays that extended period during which superheroes have established their place in comics, movies, television shows, and video games. Thus, "for" would be the most appropriate choice.



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**English Madhyam**