#### **Express view: A matter of skills**

The **inaugural** QS World Future Skills Index has ranked India's job market as second only to the US in terms of **readiness** to recruit for advanced digital and green technologies. But the report also frames the country's challenges on the knowledge-economy **front**. Despite its near-perfect score – 99.1 per cent – in market **preparedness**, India is placed 25th overall in terms of capacity to **harness** the opportunities opened up by new technologies. In other words, while job advertisements analysed by QS show that Indian companies are **seeking competencies** in advanced technologies, the country's education system has not **kept pace with** these demands. A **score** of 59.1 per cent in the "skill-fit" parameter, the lowest among 30 countries, **points to** a **deficit** long **underlined** by industry bodies. As the QS report also **points out**, "Employers across India are **highlighting** a critical gap in the workforce's ability to **meet** the demands of a rapidly changing economic **landscape**".

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)'s latest data also **illustrates** the system's failure to **embrace** advanced knowledge. The **fact** that nearly two out of three post-graduate seats in India's engineering colleges were vacant last year **shows** that M-tech courses provide little value addition. The AICTE's **criteria** for **setting up** engineering colleges largely <u>pertain to</u> **infrastructure** such as classrooms, laboratories and libraries and human resources such as teacher-student ratio. The agency does frame model **curricula**. Its latest **mandate** to institutes to start courses in new technologies — AI, robotics, data sciences and cyber security — **is in line with** NEP's vision of turning engineering colleges into nurseries for industry. However, keeping curricula **in tune with** rapid technological advancements is a formidable challenge, especially for middle- and **lower-rung** colleges which do not always attract the best faculty. The country needs to find ways to **add to** its pool of educators and also keep teachers updated with **state-of-the-art** knowledge. NEP **underlines** the need to set up teachers' training colleges. That might take some time. For starters, smaller colleges could **tap into** the **expertise** of top institutes such as the IITs to train their faculty.

Part of the problem <u>stems from</u> the low investment in research and development. At 0.65 per cent, India's R&D expenditure to GDP is very low compared to the global average of 1.79 per cent. In their elation over the country's high score in one section of the QS index, India's **policymakers** should not miss the larger message: Aligning the educational **ecosystem with** the rapidly changing knowledge economy will require action on multiple. [Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- In tune with (phrase) having a good understanding of someone or something के स्संगत

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# Vocabulary

- Inaugural (adjective) First, initial, introductory, opening, maiden प्रारंभिक
- 2. Readiness (noun) Preparedness, willingness, capability, ability, eagerness तत्परता
- 3. Front (noun) Aspect, field, sector, area, domain क्षेत्र
- Preparedness (noun) Readiness, preparation, planning, capability, organization तैयारी
- 5. Harness (verb) Utilize, employ, exploit, capitalize on, channel उपयोग करना
- Seek (verb) Search for, look for, pursue, aim for, strive for खोज करना
- 7. **Competency** (noun) Skill, ability, expertise, proficiency, qualification दक्षता
- Keep pace with (phrase) Match, stay updated, keep up with, follow, adapt बराबरी करना
- 9. **Point to** (phrasal verb) Indicate, suggest, highlight, show, imply इंगित करना
- 10. **Deficit** (noun) Shortfall, shortage, lack, insufficiency, gap कमी
- 11. **Underline** (verb) Emphasize, stress, highlight, reinforce, accentuate बल देना

- 12. **Point out** (phrasal verb) Indicate, mention, highlight, remark, observe उल्लेख करना
- 13. Highlight (verb) Emphasize, showcase, underline, stress, draw attention to प्रमुखता देना
- 14. **Meet** (verb) Fulfill, satisfy, address, comply with, achieve पूरा करना
- 15. Landscape (noun) Field, domain, scenario, terrain, environment परिदृश्य
- 16. **Illustrate** (verb) Explain, demonstrate, depict, exemplify, highlight स्पष्ट करना
- 17. Embrace (verb) Accept, adopt, welcome, include, integrate अपनाना
- 18. **Set up** (phrasal verb) Establish, create, organize, initiate, institute स्थापित करना
- 19. **Pertain** (to) (verb) Relate to, concern, apply to, refer to, be relevant संबंधित होना
- 20. Infrastructure (noun) Framework, facilities, resources, foundation, structure आधारभृत संरचना
- 21. **Curricula** (noun) Syllabi, educational programs, courses, academic frameworks पाठ्यक्रम
- 22. **Mandate** (noun) Directive, order, requirement, instruction, authorization आदेश/निर्देश

# 23. In line with (phrase) – In accordance with, consistent with, in conformity with, aligned with, as per के अनुरूप

- 24. **Rung** (noun) Level, step, tier, position, rank स्तर
- 25. Add to (phrasal verb) Increase, enhance, augment, contribute to, supplement बढ़ाना
- 26. **State-of-the-art** (adjective) Advanced, cutting-edge, innovative, top-notch, modern अत्याधूनिक
- 27. **Tap into** (phrasal verb) Access, utilize, draw upon, exploit, harness उपयोग करना
- 28. **Expertise** (noun) Skill, knowledge, proficiency, specialization, competence विशेषज्ञता

- 29. **Stem from** (phrasal verb) Originate from, arise from, result from, derive from, come from उत्पन्न होना
- 30. Elation (noun) Joy, happiness, delight, excitement, exhilaration उत्साह
- 31. **Policymaker** (noun) Decision-maker, legislator, strategist, administrator, authority नीति निर्धारक
- 32. Align (with) (verb) Match, coordinate, synchronize, integrate, harmonize संरेखित करना
- 33. **Ecosystem** (noun) System, framework, environment, network, infrastructure पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र

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# **Summary of the Editorial**

India's second-place ranking in the **QS World Future Skills Index** for job market readiness is commendable, but it also highlights critical challenges in aligning the country's education system with its knowledge economy.

- 1. **Impressive Market Readiness but Limited Capacity**: While Indian industries are eager to recruit for advanced digital and green technologies, the country ranks 25th in leveraging these opportunities due to a lack of skilled talent.
- 2. **Skill Mismatch**: With a "skill-fit" score of 59.1%—the lowest among 30 nations—India faces a significant gap in equipping its workforce with the skills demanded by rapidly evolving technologies.
- 3. **Challenges in Engineering Education**: AICTE data reveals systemic issues, including nearly twothirds of M-Tech seats remaining vacant, signaling that advanced engineering programs lack relevance and appeal.
- 4. **Focus on Infrastructure Over Quality**: AICTE's emphasis on infrastructure, such as classrooms and labs, overlooks the urgent need to update curricula and attract quality faculty.
- 5. **Curriculum Modernization**: Introducing courses in emerging fields like AI, robotics, and data sciences aligns with NEP's vision, but sustaining this effort, especially in under-resourced colleges, remains a formidable task.
- 6. **Faculty Development as a Bottleneck**: A shortage of qualified educators hinders the ability of colleges, especially smaller ones, to keep pace with technological advancements.
- 7. Leveraging Expertise of Premier Institutes: Partnerships with institutions like IITs can help upskill faculty in smaller colleges, bridging the skill gap in the short term.
- 8. Low R&D Investment: At just 0.65% of GDP, India's investment in research and development is far below the global average, stifling innovation and advanced knowledge creation.
- 9. **Need for Teacher Training Institutes**: Establishing dedicated training colleges for educators, as suggested in NEP, is essential but requires time and commitment to implement effectively.
- 10. **Policymakers' Dual Responsibility**: The high QS index score must not overshadow the larger challenge of reforming the educational ecosystem to address the demands of the knowledge economy.
- 11. **Industry-Academia Collaboration**: Stronger collaboration is needed to ensure that academic programs remain relevant and responsive to industry needs.
- 12. **Short-Term and Long-Term Measures**: Immediate efforts like faculty exchange programs, online training, and R&D funding should complement long-term reforms such as curriculum overhaul and infrastructure development.
- 13. Holistic Reforms Needed: The alignment of education with the demands of a globalized, technology-driven economy requires action across multiple fronts, including policy, investment, and implementation.

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# **Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**

1. Complete the sentence with the most suitable word from the passage:

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"At 0.65 per cent, India's R&D \_\_\_\_\_\_ to GDP is very low compared to the global average of 1.79 per cent."

- A. capacity
- B. expenditure
- C. priority
- D. policy
- 2. In the line: "...keeping curricula in tune with rapid technological advancements is a formidable challenge..." which of the following words is the best synonym for "**formidable**" as used in the passage?
  - A. daunting
  - B. trivial
  - C. intangible
  - D. fascinating
- 3. Based on the QS World Future Skills Index, which of the following best describes the disparity between India's job market preparedness and its ability to utilize advanced technologies?

i. India ranks second globally in job market readiness but 25th overall in capacity to harness opportunities in advanced technologies.

ii. Indian companies are actively seeking advanced technology competencies, but the education system has not kept pace with the demand.

iii. India's "skill-fit" score is the lowest among 30 countries analyzed in the QS index.

- A. Only i and ii
- B. Only ii and iii
- C. Only i and iii
- D. All of the above
- 4. Based on the challenges described in the passage, which of the following is the most critical inference regarding the reforms needed in India's technical education system?

i. Increasing investment in research and development is essential to align with the global knowledge economy.

ii. The NEP's vision of transforming engineering colleges into industry-supportive institutions will only succeed with faculty training.

iii. Infrastructure improvement in engineering colleges is sufficient to bridge the skill gap in advanced technologies.

- A. Only i and ii
- B. Only ii and iii
- C. Only i and iii
- D. All of the above

#### 5. What is the tone of the passage?

- A. Humorous
- B. Analytical
- C. Aggressive
- D. Descriptive

#### 6. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

- Go down in flames
- A. To fail spectacularly
- B. To destroy completely
- C. To crash and burn
- D. To burn down completely
- 7. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom in the given sentence. Only those having <u>blue blood</u> can dethrone the evil autocrat and restore equilibrium
  - A. Political ideology
  - B. Vigilant nature
  - C. Aristocratic lineage
  - D. Bitter relations
- 8. Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.

We were driving home when suddenly a deer runs across the road.

- A. home
- B. We were driving
- C. a deer runs across the road
- D. when suddenly
- 9. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

Condemn

- A. Uphold
- B. Elevate
- C. Tolerate
- D. Denounce

#### 10. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the underlined group of

words.

Rahul has done a study of statistics that contributed to the research

- A. Demography
- B. Choreography
- C. Cartography
- D. Cinematography
- 11. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.
  - A. Disseminate
  - B. Enterpreneur

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- C. Dilemma
- D. Accommodate
- 12. The following sentence has been divided into four segments. Identify the segment that has a grammatical error.

His energetic attitude / showed that he had / soundly slept / the previous night

- A. His energetic attitude
- B. showed that he had
- C. the previous night.
- D. soundly slept

#### 13. Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the given sentence. The <u>Cacophony</u> in the theatre was too much for us.

- A. silence
- B. smell
- C. noise
- D. laughter
- 14. In the question four alternatives are given for the underlined word in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the opposite meaning of the word.

"Well, what if it is? You are not afraid of anything, you know," returned the boy, looking

#### <u>Wicked</u>

- A. Clean
- B. Evil
- C. Righteous
- D. Improper
- 15. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

Though Kalpana listened to Sheetal carefully, she knew that she should **<u>take it with a grain of</u>** salt

- A. accept it as really useful and worthy
- B. move according to the trend
- C. regard it as exaggerated and not completely true
- D. be do it meticulously as taking salt
- 16. Identify the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the given sentence and select the option that rectifies the spelling error.

Many promote bamboo planting for erosion prevention and to riverse the effects of global warming.

- A. Reverse
- B. Bambboo
- C. Efeccts
- D. Prevension
- 17. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.

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The doctor who deals with the female reproductive system

- A. Ophthalmologist
- B. Orthodontist
- C. Cardiologist
- D. Gynaecologist

#### 18. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.

An open space usually rectangular and enclosed in a building

- A. Quadruped
- B. Quinton
- C. Quadrangle
- D. Quintessential

#### 19. Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the given sentence.

Mr. Satterthwaite was **<u>shrewd</u>** enough to penetrate her meaning.

- A. Aged
- B. Funny
- C. Innocent
- D. Smart

#### 20. Choose the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

At the drop of a hat

- A. Consecutively
- B. Eventually
- C. Certainly
- D. Immediately

#### 21. Identify the meaning of the idiom in the given situation.

I will always stand by my friend

- A. Be in a queue
- B. Stand next to
- C. Support in difficult situation
- D. Work together

# 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.

My father, the most \_\_\_\_\_1 \_\_\_\_father I've ever seen, \_\_\_\_\_2 \_\_\_\_ marry my mother until he was thirty-six and she was twenty-five. My sister, Margot, was born in Frankfurt in Germany in 1926. I was born on 12 June 1929. I lived in Frankfurt until I was four. My father emigrated to Holland in 1933. My mother, Edith Hollander Frank, went with him to Holland in September, while Margot and I were sent to Aachen to stay with our grandmother. Margot went to Holland in December, and I followed in February, when I was \_\_\_\_3 \_\_\_\_ on the table as a birthday present for Margot. I started right away at the Montessori nursery school. I stayed there \_\_\_\_\_4 \_\_\_\_\_ I was six, at which time I started in the first form. In the sixth form my teacher

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was Mrs Kuperus, the headmistress. At the end of the year we were both in tears as we said a heartbreaking farewell.

#### 22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.

- A. Adorable
- B. Susceptible
- C. Vulnerable
- D. Available

#### 23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.

- A. did
- B. does
- C. have
- D. didn't

#### 24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.

- A. Putting down
- B. put down
- C. plunked down
- D. toned down

#### 25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4

- A. until
- B. still
- C. too
- D. unless

#### Answers

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

# **Explanations**

#### 1. B) expenditure

The passage explicitly states: "At 0.65 per cent, India's R&D expenditure to GDP is very low..." A. capacity – Refers to the ability or potential, not the actual spending.

C. priority – Suggests importance or focus, but does not relate to the specific financial outlay. D. policy – Implies a plan or course of action, not the amount of money allocated.

#### 2. A) daunting

"daunting" closely matches "formidable," indicating something that is challenging or intimidating to overcome.

B. trivial - Means unimportant or insignificant, the opposite of "formidable."

C. intangible - Means not perceptible by touch; does not convey difficulty or challenge.

D. fascinating - Means extremely interesting or captivating, which does not capture the sense of difficulty implied by "formidable."

# 3. D) All of the above

i is correct as the passage states that India ranks second in market preparedness (99.1%) but 25th overall in leveraging advanced technology opportunities.

ii is correct as it highlights that companies are seeking advanced skills, but the education system lags.

iii is correct because the passage mentions that India has the lowest "skill-fit" score (59.1%) among 30 countries.

# 4. A) Only i and ii

i is correct because the passage highlights India's low R&D expenditure (0.65% of GDP) as a barrier to aligning with the knowledge economy.

ii is correct as the NEP suggests the need for training educators and utilizing top institutes like IITs to upskill faculty.

iii is incorrect as the passage emphasizes that infrastructure improvement alone is not enough; faculty expertise and curriculum relevance are more critical.

# 5. B) Analytical

The passage carefully examines India's position in the QS World Future Skills Index, highlights the mismatch between market demands and educational standards, and proposes ways to address these challenges.

A: The passage does not use any comedic or light-hearted elements; it is serious.

C: The language is not confrontational or hostile; it critiques but does so in a measured, factual manner.

D: While there is descriptive information, the core is more about analysis and solutions rather than mere description.

- 6. A) Go down in flames (idiom) To fail spectacularly बड़ी असफलता
- 7. C) Blue blood (idiom) Aristocratic lineage शाही वंशावली
- 8. C) 'runs' के बदले 'ran' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि मुख्य Clause 'We were driving' Past Continuous Tense में है अत :Subordinate Clause में भी Verb Past Tense में होगा; जैसे— We were driving home when suddenly a deer ran across the road.
  - ran' will be used instead of 'runs' because the main clause 'We were driving' is in Past Continuous Tense, so in the Subordinate Clause, the Verb will also be in Past Tense; Like— We were driving home when suddenly a deer ran across the road.
- 9. **D) Condemn** (verb) Express complete disapproval of, typically in public; censure. निंदा करना Synonym: **Denounce** (verb) – Publicly declare to be wrong or evil; to criticize harshly and publicly. निंदा करना
  - Uphold (verb) To support or defend, typically in an official context. समर्थन करना
  - Elevate (verb) Raise to a higher position or level; to lift up. उन्नत करना
  - Tolerate (verb) To allow the existence or occurrence of something without interference; to endure. सहन करना

10. A) **Demography** (noun) – The study of statistics such as births, deaths, income, or the incidence of disease, which illustrate the changing structure of human populations जनसांख्यिकी

- Choreography (noun) the sequence of steps and movements in dance or figure skating, especially in a ballet or other staged dance. नृत्य रचना
- Cartography (noun) the science or practice of drawing maps. मानचित्रण
- Cinematography (noun) the art of making motion pictures. चलचित्रण
- 11. **B)** The correct spelling of '**Enterpreneur'** is 'Entrepreneur' which means "a person who sets up a business or businesses, taking on financial risks in the hope of profit" व्यवसायी, उद्यमी.
- 12. **D) soundly slept'** के बदले 'slept soundly' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि English में adverb 'soundly' का प्रयोग हमेशा verb 'slept' के बाद होता है; जैसे— He slept soundly the previous night.

Note: The word 'soundly' is an adverb which means the following:

in a way that is secure and reliable.

For eg.- Their houses were soundly built.

with reference to sleep - deeply and without disturbance.
For eg.- I slept soundly for the first time since I've been here.

in a thorough or decisive manner.

For eg.- Jim was soundly defeated by his old opponent.

- > in a way that is based on a valid reason or good judgement.
  - For eg.- There is soundly based reason for optimism.
  - 'slept soundly' will be used instead of 'soundly slept' because in English, the adverb 'soundly' always comes after the verb 'slept'; Like— He slept soundly the previous night.

13. C) **Cacophony** (noun) – A harsh, discordant mixture of sounds, uproar, din, racket. कर्कश ध्वनि Synonym: **Noise** (noun) – A sound, especially one that is loud or unpleasant or that causes disturbance, clamor, racket, din. शोर

- Silence (noun) The absence of sound. शांति
- Smell (noun) The sense or sensation of something that comes through the nose. गंध
- Laughter (noun) The sound or act of laughing. हँसी
- 14. C) Wicked (adjective) Evil, immoral, sinful, malicious. नीच

Antonym: Righteous (adjective) - Morally right, virtuous, ethical, good. धर्मिक

- Clean (adjective) Free from dirt, marks, or stains. स्वच्छ
- Evil (adjective) Profoundly immoral and wicked. दुष्ट
- Improper (adjective) Not in accordance with accepted standards, incorrect. अन्चित
- 15. C) **take it with a grain of salt** regard it as exaggerated and not completely true बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर और पूरी तरह से सत्य नहीं समझना
- 16. A) The correct spelling of 'riverse' is 'reverse' which means "to turn in the opposite direction" उलटना, उलट देना.
- 17. D) **Gynaecologist** (noun) The doctor who deals with the female reproductive system. स्त्री रोग विशेषज्ञ
  - Ophthalmologist (noun) a specialist in medical and surgical eye problems. नेत्र रोग विशेषज्ञ
  - Orthodontist (noun) a dentist specializing in the correction of irregularities of the teeth. दंत विशेषज्ञ
  - Cardiologist (noun) a doctor who specializes in the study or treatment of heart diseases and heart abnormalities. हृदय रोग विशेषज्ञ
- 18. C) Quadrangle (noun) An open space usually rectangular and enclosed in a building चत्र्भ्ज
  - Quadruped (noun) an animal that has four feet. चार पैर वाला जानवर

- Quinton (noun) (not commonly used in this context, likely a distractor in this case).
- Quintessential (adjective) representing the most perfect or typical example of a quality or class. उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण

19. *D) Shrewd* (adjective) – Having or showing sharp powers of judgment; astute, clever, perceptive.

चतुर

Synonym: Smart (adjective) – Intelligent, astute, clever, bright, perceptive. होशियार

- Aged (adjective) Old, elderly, senior. बूढ़ा
- Funny (adjective) Amusing, humorous, comical. मजेदार
- Innocent (adjective) Pure, naive, guiltless. मासूम
- 20. D) At the drop of a hat (idiom) Immediately तुरंत
- 21. C) Support in difficult situation "I will always stand by my friend" means to support them in difficult situations. सहायता करना मुश्किल परिस्थितियों में
- 22. A) 'Adorable' का use होगा क्योंकि "adorable" का अर्थ होता है बहुत प्यारा या आकर्षक। passage में बच्चों की बात की गई है और फादर का discusses करते समय यह शब्द उनके स्नेही स्वभाव को दर्शाता है। 'Susceptible', 'Vulnerable', और 'Available' का अर्थ होता है संवेदनशील, आसानी से चोट पहुँचने वाला और उपलब्ध होना, जो कि इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।

'Adorable' will be used because it means very lovable or endearing. The passage discusses the father in a familial context where this word aptly reflects his affectionate nature. The words 'Susceptible', 'Vulnerable', and 'Available' mean prone to being influenced, easily hurt, and available respectively, which do not fit the context here.

23. D) 'did not' का use होगा क्योंकि "did not" का अर्थ होता है किसी कार्य को नहीं करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही है। पैसेज में कहा गया है कि पिता ने उस उम्र तक शादी नहीं की थी, इसलिए 'did not' यहाँ फिट बैठता है। 'did', 'does', और 'have' का अर्थ है किया, करता है, और है, जो इस context में उपयुक्त नहीं है।

'did not' will be used because it means not performing an action, which is correct in this context. The passage mentions that the father did not marry until a certain age, so 'did not' fits here. The other options 'did', 'does', and 'have' imply completed action, present action, and possession, respectively, which are not suitable here.

24. C) plunked down' का use होगा क्योंकि "plunked down" का अर्थ होता है ज़ोर से रखना या बैठाना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि मैं बर्थडे प्रेजेंट के रूप में टेबल पर रखी गई थी, जिसका अर्थ है कि मेरी मौजूदगी अचानक और उत्सव के रूप में थी, इसलिए 'plunked down' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Putting down' का अर्थ है नीचे रखना, 'put down' भी इसी तरह का अर्थ रखता है लेकिन यहाँ ज़ोर की कमी है, और 'toned down' का अर्थ है शांत करना या कम करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

plunked down' will be used because it means to put down with force or suddenly. The sentence describes being presented on the table as a birthday gift, suggesting a sudden and celebratory manner of arrival, making 'plunked down' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Putting down' means to place something down, 'put down' conveys a similar meaning but lacks emphasis needed here, and 'toned down' means to reduce in intensity or importance, which doesn't fit in this context.

25. A) 'Until' का use होगा क्योंकि "until" का अर्थ होता है किसी विशेष समय तक। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि मैंने नर्सरी स्कूल में उस समय तक रहना जारी रखा जब तक मैं छह वर्ष का नहीं हो गया, इसलिए 'until' यहाँ सही है। 'Still' का अर्थ होता है अभी भी, 'Too' का अर्थ होता है भी, और 'Unless' का अर्थ है जब तक नहीं, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

'Until' will be used because it means up to a certain time. The sentence states that I continued at the Montessori nursery school until I was six, making 'until' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Still' implies ongoing action, 'Too' means also, and 'Unless' means unless a condition is met, which do not fit in this context

#### 20 Jan 2025



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