

Problems and solutions

There are very few people in the world who can see the problem, while there are many who are ready to give solutions. Everyone thinks he knows the solution, but it should be remembered that yesterday's solutions are not helpful today. As times change, solutions must be absolutely new. No matter how ancient the **essence** of a solution may be, the solution itself must always be new....

Some people think the problems are political: they think searching for a political solution will end the problems. But they are wrong. The **problems** of **mankind** **are** basically not political. Some people think the problems are **economic**. They think if those problems can be resolved, the world will be filled with peace and **prosperity**. They are also under an **illusion**.



People's fundamental problem today is **spiritual**: it is somewhere in depths, connected with their innermost being. We are lacking the deeper vision that is needed to see the problem. We see very **superficially** and **on the surface**, and don't enter deeply. **Perhaps** we don't want to see deeply because, for that, **courage** is needed. And not only is courage needed, but you need to accept the possibility there may be no solution.

We keep repeating old **learned** solutions, afraid of a situation that is **incomprehensible** to us. In this way, people's solutions are always borrowed from the past, while the problems are of the present. That is why no understanding is possible. **People** whose thinking is based on the past **are** never capable of solving any problems of the present.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Essence** (noun) – core, heart, soul, crux, nucleus सार
2. **Mankind** (noun) – humanity, human race, people, humankind मानव जाति
3. **Economic** (adjective) – financial, monetary, fiscal, commercial आर्थिक
4. **Prosperity** (noun) – wealth, success, affluence, well-being, fortune समृद्धि
5. **Illusion** (noun) – delusion, misconception, false belief, fantasy, mirage भ्रम
6. **Spiritual** (adjective) – relating to the soul, inner, religious, metaphysical आध्यात्मिक
7. **Superficially** (adverb) – on the surface, shallowly, outwardly, lightly सतही तौर पर
8. **On the surface** (phrase) – outwardly, apparently, at first glance, seemingly. ऊपरी तौर पर
9. **Perhaps** (adverb) – maybe, possibly, conceivably, perchance शायद
10. **Courage** (noun) – bravery, fearlessness, valour, fortitude, daring साहस
11. **Learned** (adjective) – acquired, gained, absorbed, ingrained सीखा हुआ
12. **Incomprehensible** (adjective) – unintelligible, unfathomable, baffling, puzzling समझ से बाहर

Summary of the Editorial

1. The world has an abundance of people offering solutions but a scarcity of those who truly understand the problems.
2. Many people mistakenly believe they already know the solutions to the world's issues.
3. A key mistake is relying on solutions from the past to solve present-day problems.
4. As times change, solutions must be new and contemporary to be effective.
5. While the core essence of a solution might be ancient, its application must be fresh and modern.
6. Some people incorrectly identify the root of human problems as being political.
7. Therefore, they mistakenly believe that political solutions will resolve our fundamental issues.
8. Others incorrectly believe that the problems are primarily economic in nature.
9. They operate under the illusion that solving economic problems alone will bring universal peace and prosperity.
10. The editorial argues that the fundamental problem facing humanity is not political or economic, but spiritual.
11. This core problem is deep within, connected to our innermost being.
12. We lack the deep vision required to see the true problem, viewing issues only on a superficial level.
13. We avoid looking deeply because doing so requires significant courage.
14. A further barrier is the need to accept the unsettling possibility that a solution may not even exist.
15. Our thinking is trapped in the past, making us incapable of solving the unique problems of the present.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **According to the passage, what does the author identify as the core reason people fail to understand real problems?** [Editorial page]
 - A. Their continuous reliance on traditional interpretive frameworks
 - B. Their persistent belief in economic ideological remedies
 - C. Their repeated adoption of institutional regulatory mechanisms
 - D. Their excessive dependence on advanced technological reasoning
2. **What does the author believe people must possess in order to look deeply into their inner problems?**
 - A. The readiness to confront unsettling existential uncertainties
 - B. The willingness to pursue elaborate philosophical doctrines
 - C. The ability to memorize extensive sociopolitical histories
 - D. The tendency to prefer conventional cognitive procedures
3. **What can be inferred about the author's attitude toward past solutions?**
 - A. They offer comprehensive clarity that surpasses modern insights
 - B. They must guide present decisions without reinterpretation
 - C. They contain rigorous principles adequate for modern issues
 - D. They may hold wisdom in essence but fail when applied unchanged
4. **What is the passage implying about political and economic explanations for global problems?**
 - A. They remain effective because they employ analytical global frameworks
 - B. They offer temporary relief by addressing inevitable systemic failures
 - C. They misdiagnose symptoms because they ignore deeper spiritual causes
 - D. They succeed partially by resolving recurrent institutional tensions
5. **Choose the most appropriate word to complete the sentence based on the passage's argument:**

"Humanity repeatedly fails to address present-day challenges because its thinking remains _____ in outdated inherited assumptions."

 - A. Entrenched rigidly and traditionally immersed
 - B. Rejuvenated freshly and progressively inspired
 - C. Liberated freely and spontaneously transformed
 - D. Neutralized slowly and uniformly diminished
6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Benign

 - A. Beneficiary
 - B. Boisterous
 - C. Benevolent
 - D. Boring
7. **Select the option that correctly expresses the following sentence in direct speech.**

She told me that she had already finished the project.

 - A. She told me, "He had already finished the project."
 - B. She said to me, "I have already finished the project."
 - C. She said, "She will have finished the project."

- D. She said to her, "I already finished the project
8. **Select the sentence that best uses the phrasal verb "flesh out."**
- A. The committee will flesh out the animals for scientific testing.
B. The committee will flesh out the proposal before final approval.
C. The committee will flesh out the stones for building walls.
D. The committee will flesh out the wires for installation.
9. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Madness or obsession with males
- A. Polygamy
B. Loquacious
C. Misandrist
D. Andromania
10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the phrase "A far cry from."**
- A. Nearly identical to
B. Secretly dependent on
C. Slightly improved over
D. Very different from
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
DEVIOUS
- A. Deceitful
B. shrewd
C. straight
D. calculating
12. **Choose the correct meaning of the phrase "Splitting hairs."**
- A. Overthinking problems
B. Solving complex issues
C. Making fine or petty distinctions
D. Discussing deep philosophy
13. **Identify the option that contains the incorrect spelling.**
- A. Incidence
B. Disparitty
C. Vigour
D. Looming
14. **In the given sentence, identify the segment which contains a grammatical error.**
Despite of being a close friend he did not help me in any way.
- A. Despite of being
B. a close friend
C. he did not help me
D. in any way
15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank and make a grammatically correct sentence.**
The driver of the car probably holds the key to _____ the crime.
- A. solving

- B. solves
C. solved
D. solution
16. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
Most hotels / offer for their guests / complimentary breakfast / during their stay there.
A. during their stay there
B. offer for their guests
C. Most hotels
D. complimentary breakfast
17. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
AFFINITY
A. inclination
B. weakness
C. attraction
D. aversion
18. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Deception
A. Cruelty
B. Cunning
C. Reliability
D. Exception
19. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
The teacher was very _____ in his subject.
A. top
B. master
C. proficient
D. best
20. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment. If there is no need to substitute it, select No improvement.**
I will not be able to leave for home until my boss arrived in the office.
A. until my boss arrives at the office
B. No improvement
C. until my boss has arrive to the office
D. until my boss is arrived in the office

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.

Presently, a soprano voice of richness and depth floated from the open windows of the parlour, resonating (1) _____ the darkening greenery. All at once it was as if the entire scene before them was (2) _____ by that voice, infused with unexpected life: the western sky, streaked with bands of pale gold and purple; the two houses, standing grey and disconsolate against that sky; the (3) _____ of trees casting deep black shadow

shere and there across the ground. The same voice that (4) _____ everything suddenly to life also drew them into another, much deeper world: a world that was normally hidden, a world that (5) _____ into eternity.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
- A. but
 - B. aside
 - C. besides
 - D. over
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
- A. lapsed
 - B. awakened
 - C. belated
 - D. untried
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
- A. Branches
 - B. Transition
 - C. Material
 - D. Pack
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
- A. lightened
 - B. chiselled
 - C. brought
 - D. transacted
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
- A. handed over
 - B. asked for
 - C. stretched out
 - D. pleaded for

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **Their continuous reliance on traditional interpretive frameworks**

The passage says people repeat old learned solutions and rely on the past, preventing real understanding.

- B – Economic remedies are mentioned, but not as the reason for failing to understand problems.
- C – The passage never discusses regulatory mechanisms.
- D – Technological reasoning is not mentioned anywhere.

2. A) **The readiness to confront unsettling existential uncertainties**

The passage says deeper vision requires courage, and one must accept the possibility of no solution—i.e., confronting unsettling uncertainties.

- B – Philosophical doctrines are not suggested as a requirement.
- C – Memorizing history is irrelevant to spiritual insight.
- D – Preferring conventional thinking is what the author criticizes.

3. D) **They may hold wisdom in essence but fail when applied unchanged**

The author states the essence may be ancient, but solutions must be new, meaning old solutions fail when applied directly.

- B – The author rejects blind reliance on past solutions.
- C – He says past solutions are not helpful for present issues.
- D – He never claims past solutions are more comprehensive

4. C) **They misdiagnose symptoms because they ignore deeper spiritual causes**

The author says people wrongly believe problems are political or economic; real issues are spiritual.

- A – It denies their effectiveness, not endorses it.
- B – The passage does not say they offer relief.
- D – No partial success is mentioned.

5. A) **Entrenched rigidly and traditionally immersed**

The passage stresses that people keep repeating past solutions and stay stuck in inherited thinking.

- B – Opposite meaning; nothing is described as rejuvenated.
- C – Opposite of the passage; thinking is not liberated.
- D – “Neutralized” does not fit the idea of being stuck in old assumptions.

6. C) **Benign** (adjective) – Gentle, kind, not harmful, or having a mild and favorable effect.

अनुकूल

Synonym: **Benevolent** (adjective) – Well-meaning, kindly, and characterized by doing good.

उदार

- **Beneficiary** (noun) – A person who gains or benefits from something, especially a will, insurance policy, or other financial arrangement. लाभार्थी
 - **Boisterous** (adjective) – Energetic, noisy, and slightly uncontrollable. हुड़दंगी
 - **Boring** (adjective) – Not interesting; tedious. उबाऊ
7. B) **She said to me, "I have already finished the project."**
 Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए वाक्य के Tense और Pronouns को बदलने का नियम लागू होता है। यह वाक्य Indirect Speech में है: "She told me that she had already finished the project." Indirect Speech में "had already finished" (Past Perfect) का use किया गया है। Direct Speech में इसका मूल स्वरूप "have already finished" (Present Perfect) होगा क्योंकि Reporting Verb "told" का समय Reporting Clause के Present से जुड़ा हुआ है। Indirect Speech में "she" का use किया गया है। Direct Speech में यह "I" में बदल जाएगा, क्योंकि First-Person Pronoun हमेशा Speaker (She) को दर्शाता है। Reporting Verb "told me" Direct Speech में "said to me" में बदलेगा।
- To convert from Indirect to Direct Speech, rules for transforming Tense and Pronouns are applied. The given sentence in Indirect Speech is: "She told me that she had already finished the project." In Indirect Speech, "had already finished" (Past Perfect) is used. In Direct Speech, it reverts to its original form, "have already finished" (Present Perfect), as the reporting verb "told" implies a connection to the time of speaking. In Indirect Speech, "she" is used. In Direct Speech, it changes to "I," as it represents the first-person perspective of the speaker (She). The reporting verb "told me" changes to "said to me" in Direct Speech.
8. B) **Flesh out** – To add detail or substance; elaborate. विस्तार से बताना
9. D) **Andromania** (noun) – Madness or obsession with males पुरुषों के प्रति पागलपन या जुनून
- **Polygamy** (noun) – the practice or custom of having more than one wife or husband at the same time. बहुपत्नी प्रथा
 - **Loquacious** (adjective) – tending to talk a great deal; talkative. बातूनी
 - **Misandrist** (noun) – a person who dislikes, despises, or is strongly prejudiced against men. पुरुष विरोधी
10. D) **A far cry from** – very different from, unlike, distant from. से बहुत अलग
11. C) **DEVIOUS** (adjective) – Showing a skilful use of underhand tactics to achieve goals, cunning, crafty, wily. कपटी
- Antonym: **Straight** (adjective) – Direct, honest, straightforward, frank. सीधा
- **Deceitful** (adjective) – Intended to deceive, misleading, dishonest, fraudulent. धोखेबाज
 - **Shrewd** (adjective) – Having or showing sharp powers of judgment, astute, clever, intelligent. चालाक
 - **Calculating** (adjective) – Acting in a scheming and ruthlessly determined way, cunning, crafty, shrewd. गणना करना
12. C) **Splitting hairs** (phrase) – Making trivial distinctions, quibbling, nitpicking, being pedantic. बेमतलब की बहस करना / छोटी-छोटी बातों पर झगड़ना
13. B) **Disparitty**
 Correct spelling: Disparity

14. A) 'Despite of being' के बदले **'Despite being'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Despite' के साथ 'of' का प्रयोग नहीं होता है; अतः यहाँ Preposition का प्रयोग गलत है। 'Despite' का मतलब होता है 'के बावजूद', और इसके साथ 'of' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है। जैसे— Despite being a close friend, he did not help me in any way.
- 'Despite being' will be used instead of 'Despite of being' because 'of' is not used with 'Despite'; hence, the use of Preposition here is incorrect. 'Despite' means 'in spite of', and using 'of' with it is unnecessary. Like— Despite being a close friend, he did not help me in any way.
15. A) **Solving** का use होगा क्योंकि "solving" का अर्थ होता है किसी समस्या या पहेली का हल निकालना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि कार के ड्राइवर के पास अपराध को सुलझाने की कुंजी हो सकती है, इसलिए 'solving' यहाँ सही है। 'Solves' और 'solved' दोनों verb के forms हैं जो यहाँ अनुचित हैं क्योंकि इनका प्रयोग किसी क्रिया के रूप में होता है, न कि gerund (verb+ing) के रूप में। 'Solution' एक noun है जो इस context में अनुचित है।
- 'Solving' should be used because it means to find a solution to a problem or puzzle. The sentence suggests that the driver of the car might hold the key to solving the crime, making 'solving' fitting here. 'Solves' and 'solved' are both verb forms which are inappropriate here as they act as actions, not as a gerund (verb+ing). 'Solution' is a noun, which is not suitable in this context.
16. B) offer for their guests' के बदले **'offer their guests'** होगा क्योंकि यहां 'for' का प्रयोग गलत है; 'offer' के बाद सीधे Object आता है।
- 'offer for their guests' will be replaced with 'offer their guests' because the use of 'for' is incorrect here; after 'offer', the object comes directly.
17. D) **Affinity** (noun) – A natural liking for and understanding of someone or something, sympathy, empathy, attraction. सहानुभूति
Antonym: **Aversion** (noun) – A strong dislike or disinclination, antipathy, opposition. विरोध
- **Inclination** (noun) – A person's natural tendency or urge to act or feel in a particular way, a disposition. प्रवृत्ति
 - **Weakness** (noun) – The state or condition of lacking strength, frailty, vulnerability. दुर्बलता
 - **Attraction** (noun) – The action or power of evoking interest in or liking for someone or something, allure, appeal. आकर्षण
18. B) **Deception** (noun) – The act of deceiving someone, trickery, fraud, dishonesty, duplicity. धोखा
Synonym: **Cunning** (noun) – Having or showing skill in achieving one's ends by deceit or evasion, sly, crafty, wily. चालाकी
- **Deception** (noun) – The act of deceiving someone, trickery, fraud, dishonesty, duplicity. धोखा
 - **Cruelty** (noun) – Behavior that causes pain or suffering to others, brutality, savagery. क्रूरता
 - **Reliability** (noun) – The quality of being trustworthy and performing consistently well, dependability, trustworthiness. विश्वसनीयता

19. C) **Proficient** का use होगा क्योंकि "proficient" का अर्थ होता है किसी विषय में दक्ष या कुशल होना। Sentence में कहा गया है कि शिक्षक अपने विषय में बहुत अच्छे थे, इसलिए 'proficient' यहाँ सही है। 'Top' का अर्थ है सबसे ऊपर या सर्वोच्च, 'Master' का अर्थ है मास्टर या गुरु, और 'Best' का अर्थ है सर्वश्रेष्ठ, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Proficient' should be used because it means skilled or competent in a subject. The sentence says the teacher was very good in his subject, making 'proficient' fitting here. 'Top' means highest or supreme, 'Master' means expert or guru, and 'Best' means the most excellent, which don't fit in this context
20. A) 'arrived' के बदले 'arrives' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि मुख्य क्रिया 'will not be able to leave' भविष्य काल में है, अतः सहायक क्रिया भी साधारण वर्तमान काल में होनी चाहिए; जैसे— I will wait until she arrives.
- 'arrives' will be used instead of 'arrived' because the main verb 'will not be able to leave' is in Future Tense, so the auxiliary verb should also be in Simple Present Tense; Like— I will wait until she arrives.
21. D) **Over** का use होगा क्योंकि "over" का अर्थ है किसी स्थान या क्षेत्र के ऊपर या उस पर फैलना। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि सोप्राનો आवाज अंधेरे होती हरियाली में गूँज रही है, जो "over" के उपयोग को सही ठहराता है। जबकि: 'But' का अर्थ है "हालांकि" या "सिवाय," जो यहाँ सही नहीं है। 'Aside' का अर्थ है "एक तरफ" या "दूर," जो आवाज के फैलाव को दर्शाने में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Besides' का अर्थ है "इसके अलावा," जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता।
- 'Over' will be used because it means "spreading across or above a place or area." The sentence describes the soprano voice resonating through the darkening greenery, making 'over' the most appropriate choice. Whereas: 'But' means "however" or "except," which is irrelevant here. 'Aside' means "to one side" or "away," which doesn't fit the imagery of the voice spreading. 'Besides' means "in addition to," which is contextually incorrect.
22. B) **Awakened** का use होगा क्योंकि "awakened" का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को जीवंत या सक्रिय करना। passage में बताया गया है कि आवाज़ ने पूरे दृश्य को जीवंत कर दिया, इसे अप्रत्याशित जीवन से भर दिया। इसलिए 'awakened' यहाँ सही उत्तर है। जबकि 'Lapsed' का अर्थ है समाप्त हो जाना या निष्क्रिय होना, 'Belated' का अर्थ है देर से हुआ, और 'Untried' का अर्थ है बिना प्रयास किया गया, जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होते।
- 'Awakened' will be used because it means to bring something to life or make it active. The passage mentions that the voice infused the scene with unexpected life, making 'awakened' the correct answer. Whereas, 'Lapsed' means to become inactive or cease, 'Belated' means delayed, and 'Untried' means not attempted, which don't fit in this context.
23. A) **Branches** का use यहाँ सही है क्योंकि यह दर्शाता है कि पेड़ों की शाखाएँ जमीन पर गहरी काली छायाएँ डाल रही हैं। यहाँ context दृश्य का वर्णन कर रहा है जिसमें "trees casting deep black shadows" कहा गया है। 'Transition' का अर्थ होता है परिवर्तन या बदलाव, 'Material' का अर्थ होता है सामग्री, और 'Pack' का अर्थ होता है समूह या झुंड। ये तीनों इस sentence के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं हैं क्योंकि वे shadows के साथ contextually मेल नहीं खाते हैं।

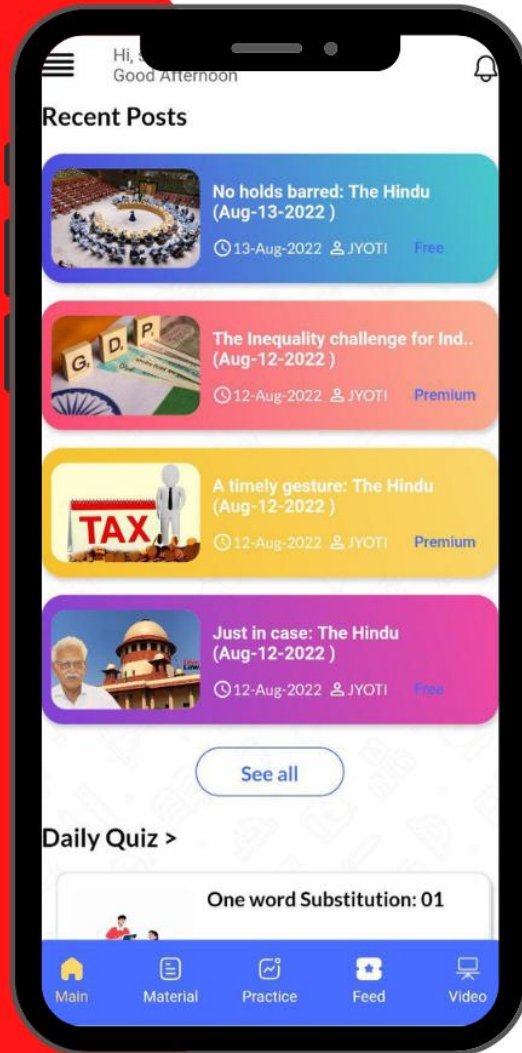
- 'Branches' will be used because it refers to the parts of trees casting deep black shadows on the ground, which aligns with the visual description of the scene. 'Transition' means a change or process, 'Material' refers to a substance or matter, and 'Pack' implies a group or bundle. These do not fit contextually with the imagery of shadows cast by trees.

24. C) '**Brought**' का उपयोग यहाँ उपयुक्त है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "किसी चीज़ को जीवन या ध्यान में लाना।" वाक्य में यह बताया गया है कि वही आवाज़ सब चीज़ों को अचानक से जीवन में ले आई। इसलिए 'brought' यहाँ सबसे सही है। जबकि: 'Lightened' का अर्थ है हल्का करना या भार कम करना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'Chiselled' का अर्थ है "मूर्तिकला करना" या "नक्काशी करना," जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Transacted' का अर्थ है "कोई व्यापार या लेन-देन करना," जो वाक्य के भाव से मेल नहीं खाता।

- '**Brought**' is appropriate here because it means "to bring something to life or attention." The sentence describes how the voice suddenly brought everything to life, making 'brought' the most fitting choice. Whereas: 'Lightened' means to make something lighter or less heavy, which doesn't fit in this context. 'Chiselled' means "to carve or shape something," which is irrelevant here 'Transacted' means "to carry out a business deal or transaction," which doesn't match the tone of the sentence.

25. C) '**Stretched out**' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है 'फैल जाना' या 'फैलाना,' जो इस वाक्य के संदर्भ में बिल्कुल उपयुक्त है। वाक्य में उल्लेख किया गया है कि यह दुनिया आमतौर पर छिपी हुई थी और अनंत तक फैली हुई थी। 'Handed over' का अर्थ है 'सौंप देना,' जो यहाँ संदर्भ में गलत है। 'Asked for' का अर्थ है 'मांगना,' जो इस वाक्य के संदर्भ में अनावश्यक है। 'Pleaded for' का अर्थ है 'याचना करना' या 'गुहार लगाना,' जो इस संदर्भ में अनुचित है।

- '**Stretched out**' will be used because it means to 'extend' or 'spread over,' which fits the context perfectly. The sentence mentions a world hidden and extending into eternity, making 'stretched out' the most suitable choice. 'Handed over' means 'to give control,' which is incorrect in this context. 'Asked for' implies 'requesting something,' which does not align with the sentence. 'Pleaded for' means 'to beg or implore,' which is inappropriate here.



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam