

Why not turn false ego into positive ego?

“Why is that teacher saying ‘ $v = u + at$ ’?” asked a young girl to her mother. She had come to take admission to this very school when they happened to **pass by** a science class of senior students. She continued, “Mama, but ‘v’ is for van, ‘u’ for umbrella, ‘a’ for apple and ‘t’ for tomato. So, how is a van equal to an umbrella plus an apple/tomato?”

The mother could not answer immediately, but when her daughter **persisted**, she said, “This is for senior students.” But the child could not be **cajoled**. Later, the mother explained to her, “You have to pass the first class and then the second and so on and reach Class 10, then you will understand what ‘ $v = u + at$ ’ means.” The child was not satisfied and wanted to argue. However, when she saw her mother’s **stern** face, she kept quiet. Why was a child not satisfied? That’s because neither was she allowed to win the argument nor did she receive an answer from her mother as per her expectations.

As a child, she was supposed to accept what her mother was saying, because she loved her mother and knew that her mother loved her too. **Likewise**, her mother **adored** her daughter but was quite **fed up** with **persistent** questioning, which she probably thought was an irrelevant question.

So, for an instant love **vanished** and something else **took over**, which was **alien** to both. None of them realised this change in them. We **often come across** such **instances** in our daily lives when love, caring and affection **take a backseat** and we are **driven** by some other force, which is satisfied only when it gets what we want, to win, **irrespective of** what is lost in the broader **aspect**.



Our **scriptures** say that besides the five elements – air, water, earth, space, and fire – we also have three more, namely, the mind, intelligence and ego. Though we all have **considerable** experience of the first seven elements, ‘ego’ is an element we are usually unable to relate with. Where is this ego located? What does it do?

Ego is something that makes us selfish, something that makes us want to win by all means, irrespective of the **havoc** that our win might create. We are often told, remove this ego, become egoless. But, how to remove this ego? As per our **scriptures**, we cannot remove the ego because it is part of our **subtle** body which consists of three elements – mind, intelligence and ego. Removal of ego means removal of the subtle body; removal of the subtle body will **lead to** death.

We all know how much destruction and tension this ego, also known as false ego, can cause. Scriptures say that since it is impossible to remove it, the best way is to convert this ego into positive

ego. Instead of relating yourself with the **material** world, begin to relate yourself with the **ever-blissful** Supreme Lord, then you will begin to understand everything. Like that girl who will understand the equation ' $v = u + at$ ' when she reaches Class X, we too can understand the benefits of converting false ego into positive ego when we become **learned** in scriptural science. [\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Pass by** (phrasal verb) – to pass something as you're moving forward के पास से निकलना

Vocabulary

1. **Persist** (verb) – Continue, endure, persevere, remain, maintain जारी रहना
2. **Cajole** (verb) – Persuade, coax, wheedle, entice, sweet-talk फुसलाना
3. **Stern** (adjective) – Strict, harsh, severe, firm, rigid सख्त
4. **Likewise** (adverb) – Similarly, correspondingly, in the same way, equally, in a similar manner उसी प्रकार
5. **Adore** (verb) – Love, cherish, admire, worship, idolize अधिक प्रेम करना
6. **Fed up** (phrasal verb) – Annoyed, irritated, tired, frustrated, exasperated तंग आ जाना
7. **Persistent** (adjective) – Continuous, unrelenting, insistent, determined, stubborn लगातार
8. **Vanish** (verb) – Disappear, fade, dissolve, evaporate, flee गायब हो जाना
9. **Take over** (phrasal verb) – Control, dominate, assume, conquer, seize काबू करना
10. **Alien** (to) (adjective) – Foreign, strange, unfamiliar, unrecognizable, unusual अजीब
11. **Often** (adverb) – Frequently, regularly, repeatedly, commonly, habitually अक्सर
12. **Come across** (phrasal verb) – Encounter, meet, stumble upon, discover, find सामना होना
13. **Instance** (noun) – Example, occurrence, case, illustration, event उदाहरण
14. **Take a backseat** (phrase) – Recede, withdraw, relinquish control, step back, let go पीछे हटना
15. **Drive** (verb) – Propel, motivate, urge, compel, push प्रेरित करना
16. **Irrespective of** (phrase) – Regardless of, without considering, notwithstanding, despite, ignoring बावजूद
17. **Aspect** (noun) – Feature, element, facet, side, component पहलू
18. **Scripture** (noun) – Sacred text, holy book, religious writings, doctrine, scripture पवित्र शास्त्र
19. **Considerable** (adjective) – Significant, substantial, important, noteworthy, large महत्वपूर्ण
20. **Havoc** (noun) – Chaos, destruction, disorder, confusion, devastation तबाही
21. **Subtle** (adjective) – Delicate, fine, nuanced, understated, faint सूक्ष्म
22. **Lead** (to) (verb) – Result in, cause, bring about, induce, produce कारण बनना

23. **Material world** (noun) – Physical world, tangible reality, earthly life, worldly realm, corporeal existence भौतिक संसार

consistently serene, infinitely peaceful सदा आनंदमय

24. **Ever-blissful** (adjective) – Eternally joyful, always happy, perpetually content,

25. **Learned** (adjective) – Knowledgeable, scholarly, well-educated, wise, erudite विद्वान

Summary of the Editorial

1. A young girl questions her mother about the equation ' $v = u + at$ ', misunderstanding it based on her basic knowledge of letters.
2. The mother, initially unable to explain, later tells her daughter that she must progress through education to understand such concepts.
3. The child is dissatisfied because her expectations were unmet and she wasn't allowed to argue further.
4. The story illustrates how children are often expected to accept answers from adults without full understanding.
5. Both the mother and daughter experience a temporary disruption in their loving relationship due to the child's persistent questioning.
6. This shift in emotions is a common occurrence when love and care give way to the need to win or assert dominance in a situation.
7. The editorial ties this behavior to the concept of ego, which is one of the three subtle elements (mind, intelligence, and ego) in our body according to scriptures.
8. Ego is the force that drives selfishness and the need to win at any cost, often causing tension and destruction.
9. While the five physical elements (air, water, earth, space, fire) are easily understood, ego is more abstract and harder to grasp.
10. Removing ego is often advised, but scriptures state that it cannot be removed as it is integral to the subtle body.
11. Removing the subtle body, which includes the ego, mind, and intelligence, would lead to death.
12. The false ego leads to selfish desires and conflicts, while a positive ego can lead to spiritual growth.
13. Scriptures suggest that instead of trying to eliminate ego, we should convert false ego into positive ego.
14. This transformation occurs when we stop identifying with materialism and begin to relate to the Supreme Lord.
15. Like the girl who will understand advanced concepts with more education, we too can grasp the benefits of positive ego with deeper scriptural knowledge

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**[Editorial Page]**

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Humorous
 - B. Reflective
 - C. Sarcastic
 - D. Critical
2. **Why did the child not feel satisfied with her mother's response?**
 - A. The child did not understand the scientific equation.
 - B. The child did not want to study science.
 - C. The child did not get an answer that matched her expectations.
 - D. The child wanted to go to a different school.
3. **What can be inferred about the mother's reaction to the child's persistent questioning?**
 - A. She was pleased with her daughter's curiosity.
 - B. She was annoyed by the child's repeated questions.
 - C. She found the child's questions irrelevant but answered them calmly.
 - D. She did not care about the child's question.
4. **Which of the following statements from the passage is incorrect?**
 - A. The mother explained that the child would understand the equation in Class 10.
 - B. The mother loved her daughter, but felt fed up with her persistent questioning.
 - C. The child thought the equation didn't make sense based on her prior knowledge.
 - D. The child felt satisfied after her mother explained the equation.
5. **Which of the following statements is true based on the passage?**
 - i. Ego is part of the subtle body along with mind and intelligence.
 - ii. Ego can be removed if we follow certain spiritual practices.
 - iii. The subtle body consists of the five elements: air, water, earth, space, and fire.
 - A. Only i is true
 - B. Only ii is true
 - C. Both i and ii are true
 - D. Both ii and iii are true
6. **Which of the following words is closest in meaning to "havoc" as used in the passage?**
 - (i) Confusion
 - (ii) Peace
 - (iii) Destruction
 - A. Only i
 - B. Both i and ii
 - C. Both i and iii
 - D. Only iii

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.

Once, when King Sagara was performing the Ashvamedha yajna, Indra came ____1____ as a monster and stole the sacrificial horse. King Sagara sent his 60,000 sons in search of the horse. They did not return for a long time, so he sent his grandson Amshuman in search of his uncles. Amshuman ____2____ a sight similar to what we saw on the railway tracks. He saw each and

every of them turned to ashes. The anger of Sage Kapila had reduced them to this lifeless stage. Amshuman was beside himself with sorrow. He ____3____ that these great and daring princes had died so ____4____ and sought to at least perform their last rites, so they found their way to release. But he was told that only the pure waters of the Ganga could bring this effect. He, his son Dilip and his grandson Bhagirath performed severe ____5____, one after another, to finally bring the Ganga to the earth.

7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. Disguised
 - B. Raised
 - C. Praised
 - D. Revised
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. held
 - B. Beheld
 - C. Yield
 - D. Forfeit
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. Lamented
 - B. Sophisticated
 - C. Unprecedented
 - D. Strengthened
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**
 - A. Ominously
 - B. severity
 - C. Inauspiciously
 - D. Ignominiously
11. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5**
 - A. Ordinance
 - B. Penance
 - C. Appearance
 - D. Experience
12. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.**
 - A. By the time we returned home, the colour of the shoes will turn brown and most important, they won't be on our feet.
 - B. The wear and tear was faster and much quicker for me and my brother.
 - C. At the time of the reopening of school after the summer holidays, it was an annual ritual to purchase a new pair of white shoes as part of the school uniform.
 - D. We ran in the dusty playgrounds and slid on the mosaic floors of the verandah of the classrooms.
 - E. White canvas shoes were not as sturdy as the black leather ones.
 - A. DECAB
 - B. CBDEA
 - C. ABEDC

- D. CEBDA
13. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- P. With creatively doctored content and brand collaborations, anyone can amass huge followings and enormous cultural and economic influence.
- Q. But beneath that glossy surface lies a truly complex, and at times, unnerving landscape of the pressure to maintain relevance, authenticity, and engagement.
- R. Over the past couple of years, influencer culture has been among the defining features of the digital age, responsible for the formation of aspirations, consumer behaviour and social norms.
- S. It is through platforms such as Instagram and YouTube that new celebrities have been able to emerge.
- A. RSPQ
B. QPRS
C. QRPS
D. RQPS
14. **Choose the word that means the same as "Tremble".**
- A. Quiver
B. Infatuation
C. Grandeur
D. Paradox
15. **Choose the correct synonym for the word 'quarrel'**
- A. Barrel
B. Feud
C. Attack
D. Delusion
16. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
Throw one's hat into the ring
- A. Resign from a position
B. Announce one's candidacy or challenge
C. Declare outright defeat
D. Bet recklessly
17. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom: To bite one's thumb at someone**
- A. To mock one's own pride
B. To insult someone contemptuously
C. To offer false flattery
D. To express internal fear
18. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
The arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence
- A. Plutocracy
B. Allegory
C. Topography
D. Chronology
19. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**

- A person who investigates, reports on, and helps settle complaints
- A. Spokesman
 - B. Superhuman
 - C. Ombudsman
 - D. Bildungsroman
20. **Select the CORRECTLY SPELLED word from the options below.**
- A. Appeasement
 - B. Apeasement
 - C. Appeasment
 - D. Apeezment
21. **Select the CORRECTLY spelled word**
- A. Vulnerability
 - B. Volnerability
 - C. Vulnerabilitey
 - D. Vallnerability
22. **Select the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.**
- "The medical association's decision to _____ the new clinical guidelines served as a crucial catalyst for their nationwide adoption by healthcare providers."
- A. Emasculate
 - B. Endorse
 - C. Exacerbate
 - D. Efface
23. **(Fill in the Blanks)**
- The regional branch was granted full _____ to sanction small-scale industrial loans, effectively bypassing the lengthy approval process of the head office.
- A. Austerity
 - B. Attrition
 - C. Aspersion
 - D. Autonomy
24. **Find the incorrect part of the sentence:**
- Neither Ram nor his brothers is reliable.
- A. is reliable.
 - B. Neither Ram
 - C. nor his brothers
 - D. No error
25. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**
- One of the guest speakers who addressed the seminar (1) and interacted with students (2) were praised widely for their clarity and enthusiasm (3) during the closing ceremony. (4)
- A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Reflective

The tone of the passage is reflective as the author contemplates the nature of ego and suggests a shift from false ego to positive ego based on scriptural guidance. It involves deep thinking about human nature and how one should handle ego in life.

- A is incorrect because the passage does not aim to amuse the reader. It is serious in tone and intent.
- C is incorrect because sarcasm involves mockery or biting remarks, and the passage does not use such a tone.
- D is incorrect because the passage is not criticizing anyone but rather offering thoughtful reflections on human behavior and ego.

2. C) The child did not get an answer that matched her expectations.

The passage clearly states that the child was not satisfied because her mother's response did not meet her expectations. The child wanted an explanation that addressed her confusion but was only told she would understand it later.

- A is incorrect because the focus is on the dissatisfaction caused by not receiving the expected answer, not the understanding of the equation itself.
- B is incorrect as there is no indication in the passage that the child dislikes science.
- D is incorrect as the school itself is not a point of contention in the passage.

3. B) She was annoyed by the child's repeated questions.

The passage states that the mother was "fed up with persistent questioning," indicating that she was annoyed. This inference is supported by the mother's stern response, which eventually silenced the child.

- A is incorrect because the passage suggests frustration, not pleasure, on the mother's part.
- C is incorrect as the mother was annoyed and did not answer calmly; her stern face quieted the child.
- D is incorrect because the mother clearly cared about the situation but was irritated rather than indifferent.

4. D) The child felt satisfied after her mother explained the equation.

- The statement is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that the child was not satisfied with the explanation provided by her mother. The child wanted to argue further but stopped only because of her mother's stern expression.
- A is correct because the mother indeed said that the child would understand the equation by the time she reached Class 10.
- C is correct because the child initially thought the equation didn't make sense based on her understanding of letters as objects like a van, umbrella, etc.
- B is correct as the passage mentions the mother's love for her daughter but also her frustration with persistent questioning.

5. A) **Only i is true**

- The passage explicitly states that ego is part of the subtle body, along with mind and intelligence. The removal of ego is not possible as per the scriptures; instead, it should be converted into positive ego. The subtle body is distinct from the five physical elements, which means statement iii is incorrect.
- B is incorrect because ego cannot be removed, in the passage.

6. D) **Only iii**

The word "havoc" in the context of the passage means widespread destruction or chaos.

- A is incorrect because while confusion might seem similar, havoc implies a more intense level of chaos and destruction.
- B is incorrect because "peace" is the opposite of havoc.
- C is incorrect because "confusion" does not fully capture the severity of havoc, while "destruction" does.

7. A) **'Disguised'** का use होगा क्योंकि "disguised" का अर्थ होता है अपनी असली पहचान छुपाना। sentence में mention है कि इंद्र एक राक्षस के रूप में आए थे और यज्ञ का घोड़ा चुरा लिया था, इसलिए 'disguised' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Raised' का अर्थ है उठाना, 'Praised' का अर्थ है प्रशंसा करना, और 'Revised' का अर्थ है पुनः संशोधित करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Disguised' will be used because it means to hide one's real identity. The sentence mentions that Indra came as a monster and stole the sacrificial horse, making 'disguised' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Raised' means to lift, 'Praised' means to appreciate, and 'Revised' means to modify, which do not fit in this context.

8. B) **'Beheld'** का use होगा क्योंकि "beheld" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज को देखना या ध्यान से देखना। sentence में अमशुमन ने अपने चाचाओं को राख में बदलते हुए देखा था, इसलिए 'beheld' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'held' का अर्थ है पकड़ना, 'yield' का अर्थ है समर्पण करना या रास्ता देना, और 'forfeit' का अर्थ है कुछ खो देना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Beheld' will be used because it means to see or observe something. The sentence states that Amshuman saw his uncles turned to ashes, making 'beheld' the correct choice. Whereas, 'held' means to hold, 'yield' means to give up or surrender, and 'forfeit' means to lose something, which do not fit in this context.

9. A) **'Lamented'** का use होगा क्योंकि "lamented" का अर्थ होता है शोक व्यक्त करना या किसी चीज़ पर दुखी होना। sentence में अमशुमन ने शोक व्यक्त किया कि ये महान और साहसी राजकुमार इतनी दुःखद तरीके से मर गए थे, इसलिए 'lamented' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'sophisticated' का अर्थ है परिष्कृत, 'unprecedented' का अर्थ है अभूतपूर्व, और 'strengthened' का अर्थ है मज़बूत करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Lamented' will be used because it means to express sorrow or grief. The sentence mentions that Amshuman was mourning the tragic deaths of the princes, making 'lamented' appropriate here. Whereas, 'sophisticated' means refined, 'unprecedented' means never done before, and 'strengthened' means to make stronger, which do not fit in this context.

10. D) **'Ignominiously'** का use होगा क्योंकि "ignominiously" का अर्थ होता है अपमानजनक या शर्मनाक तरीके से। sentence में अमशुमन ने शोक किया कि महान राजकुमार इतने

अपमानजनक और दुःखद तरीके से मरे थे, इसलिए 'ignominiously' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'ominously' का अर्थ होता है किसी अशुभ संकेत का होना, 'inauspiciously' का अर्थ होता है अशुभ तरीके से, और दोनों options इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Ignominiously' will be used because it means in a shameful or disgraceful manner. The sentence mentions that Amshuman mourned the fact that these great princes had died in such a disgraceful way, making 'ignominiously' appropriate here. Whereas, 'ominously' refers to a bad omen, and 'inauspiciously' means in an unlucky manner, which do not fit in this context.

11. B) 'Penance' का use होगा क्योंकि "penance" का अर्थ होता है तपस्या या किसी गलती के लिए प्रायश्चित्त करना। sentence में बताया गया है कि अम्शुमन, उनके पुत्र दिलीप और उनके पोते भगीरथ ने गंगा को पृथ्वी पर लाने के लिए कठोर तपस्या की, इसलिए 'penance' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'ordinance' का अर्थ है आदेश या नियम, 'appearance' का अर्थ है दिखाई देना, और 'experience' का अर्थ है अनुभव, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Penance' will be used because it means acts of self-punishment or devotion to make amends. The sentence describes how Amshuman, Dilip, and Bhagirath performed severe penance to bring the Ganga to earth, making 'penance' the appropriate choice. Whereas, 'ordinance' means a law or regulation, 'appearance' means the act of coming into view, and 'experience' means the process of gaining knowledge, which do not fit in this context.

12. D) **CEBDA**

- C: C (At the time of the reopening of school...) is the starting sentence because it introduces the context of the paragraph: the purchase of new white shoes as part of the school uniform.
- E: This sentence gives a comparison and connects directly to the type of shoes (white canvas) mentioned in sentence C.
- B: B comes after E, as it describes the consequences of wearing the less sturdy shoes, specifically for the narrator and their brother. This logically follows the comparison in E. The subject ("wear and tear") and verb ("was") describe the condition of the shoes, linking it directly to the topic introduced earlier.
- D: This sentence gives further details about the activities that caused the wear and tear described in B, using past tense actions to indicate what the narrator and their brother did.
- A: A (By the time we returned home...) is the concluding sentence, providing the result of all the previous actions. It uses a future perfect tense ("will turn"), indicating what will happen to the shoes after all the described activities.

13. A) **RSPQ**

- R: R comes first because it introduces the topic (influencer culture) with a clear subject and broad overview.
- S: S follows R as it narrows down to specific platforms like Instagram and YouTube, creating a connection between the general topic in R and specific examples.
- P: P follows S because it adds a deeper explanation of the influencer's power (with content and collaborations), logically following how they emerge on platforms mentioned in S.

- Q: Q comes last because it contrasts and concludes the discussion with "But," signaling a shift in tone and introducing the complexities of maintaining influence.
14. A) **Tremble** (verb) – To shake slightly, usually from fear, excitement, or weakness; shiver, quiver.
काँपना
Synonym: **Quiver** (verb) – To shake or vibrate with rapid movement.
काँपना
- **Infatuation** (noun) – An intense but short-lived passion. आसक्ति
 - **Grandeur** (noun) – Splendid greatness or magnificence. भव्यता
 - **Paradox** (noun) – A statement that seems contradictory but may be true. विरोधाभास
15. B) **Quarrel** (noun/verb) – An angry dispute or disagreement; argument, fight, feud.
झगड़ा, विवाद
Synonym: **Feud** (noun/verb) – A prolonged or bitter quarrel; ongoing dispute.
पुराना या लंबे समय तक चलने वाला झगड़ा
- **Barrel** (noun) – A cylindrical container. पीपा
 - **Attack** (verb/noun) – An act of aggression. हमला
 - **Delusion** (noun) – A false belief or misconception. भ्रम
16. B) Throw one's hat into the ring (idiom) – Announce one's candidacy or challenge उम्मीदवारी पेश करना / चुनौती देना
17. B) **To insult someone contemptuously** – To bite one's thumb at someone (idiom) – To insult someone scornfully, show contempt, disrespect, affront, provoke धृष्टतापूर्वक अपमान करना / किसी का तिरस्कार करना
18. D) **Chronology** (noun) – The arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence
कालक्रम
- **Plutocracy** (noun) – A society or system ruled by the wealthy धनिकतंत्र
 - **Allegory** (noun) – A story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one रूपक
 - **Topography** (noun) – The arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area स्थलाकृति
19. C) **Ombudsman** (noun) – A person who investigates, reports on, and helps settle complaints
लोकायुक्त
- **Spokesman** (noun) – A person who speaks on behalf of a group or an organization प्रवक्ता
 - **Superhuman** (noun) – A being with powers and abilities beyond those of a normal human अतिमानव
 - **Bildungsroman** (noun) – A novel dealing with one person's formative years or spiritual education आत्मकथात्मक उपन्यास
20. A) **Appeasement** (noun) – The action or process of pacifying or placating someone by acceding to their demands. (तुष्टीकरण)
21. A) **Vulnerability** (noun) – The quality or state of being exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally. (संवेदनशीलता या कमजोरी)

22. B) **Endorse** (verb) – To give public approval or support to something; to officially sanction or back a proposal or set of rules. (समर्थन करना / समर्थन देना)

Context: In the sentence, the medical association is giving its official "stamp of approval" to guidelines, which directly matches the meaning of Endorse.

23. D) **Autonomy** (noun) – The right or condition of self-government; independence or freedom of will. (स्वायत्तता)

This perfectly fits the context of a regional branch being granted the freedom to sanction loans without head office approval.

- **Austerity** (noun): Difficult economic conditions created by government measures to reduce public expenditure. (किफ़ायत/कठोरता)
- **Attrition** (noun): The process of reducing something's strength or effectiveness through sustained attack or pressure; also, the gradual reduction of a workforce. (क्षय/घिसाव)
- **Aspersions** (noun): An attack on the reputation or integrity of someone or something. (कलंक/लांछन)

24. A) 'is' के बदले 'are' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'neither...nor' में verb हमेशा nearest subject के अनुसार आती है, और यहाँ 'brothers' plural है; जैसे— Neither the teacher nor the students are present.

- 'are' will be used instead of 'is' because under the proximity rule the verb agrees with the nearest subject, which is plural; like— Neither he nor his friends are coming.

25. C) 'were praised' के बदले '**was praised**' होगा क्योंकि subject "One of the guest speakers" singular है, भले ही relative clause plural हो; जैसे— One of the players was injured.

- '**was praised**' will replace 'were praised' because the subject "One of the guest speakers" is singular, even though the clause describes many; Like— One of the players was injured.



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