

West Asia on fire: On the Israeli–American war against Iran

India should oppose the U.S.'s attempt to **widen** the war to the Indian Ocean

Six days after the **unprovoked**, illegal Israeli–American war against Iran began, West Asia has **descended** into **chaos**. When U.S. President Donald Trump launched the war, killing Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, other leaders and at least 160 schoolchildren, he **called on** Iranians to **overthrow** the Islamic Republic and **take over** state institutions. That did not happen. Iran **retaliated** by targeting Israel as well as American bases, assets and missions in the Persian Gulf region. Satellite image–based analyses suggest that Iran has **struck** communication and radar structures at seven U.S. military sites. **Hezbollah**, the Lebanese militant group, also **joined** the war with rocket attacks on northern Israel. In Iraq, pro–Iran **militias** have struck American assets in Erbil and other areas. The U.S. has confirmed that at least six service personnel were killed and three fighter jets were lost in Kuwaiti “friendly fire”, according to the Pentagon. On March 4, the U.S. expanded the theatre of war to the Indian Ocean by **torpedoing** an Iranian warship, IRIS Dena, off Sri Lanka, killing at least 83 personnel. The ship was in the region for last week's International Fleet Review off Visakhapatnam. If Mr. Trump and his **ally** Benjamin Netanyahu believed that Khamenei's killing would **lead to** a **collapse** of Iran's government, the result has instead been an **all–out** regional war.

Neither side has shown any **willingness** to **step back**. U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said on Wednesday that the conflict could **last** up to eight weeks. **Ali Larijani**, Iran's security chief, **has ruled out** talks with the U.S. and American media have reported that Washington is considering **arming ethnic** Kurdish militias in Iran's northwest to **provoke** internal **unrest**. This is a dangerous game. It appears that Mr. Trump launched the war without an exit strategy. As the Iranian state and its institutions show no signs of **cracking**, the U.S. has turned to massive **bombardment** and the **prospect** of **fuelling** civil **strife** in a country that it promised to “**liberate**” from **clerical** rule only days ago. If the war **drags on**, Mr. Trump is **likely** to face growing domestic **resistance**, with sections of his far–right base already calling it “Israel's war”. For India, rising oil and gas prices will add to the burden on its economy, while a widening war could threaten the economic and physical security of the millions of Indians living in the region. **New Delhi**, which initially did not **condemn** the **assassination** of Khamenei, the leader of a friendly country, **should** take a more **emphatic** stand against the war and work with other powers to **de–escalate** the conflict. India should also strongly oppose U.S. attempts to **bring the war to its backyard**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Widen** (verb) – broaden, expand, enlarge, extend, amplify – विस्तार करना
2. **Unprovoked** (adjective) – unjustified, wanton, gratuitous, groundless, uncalled-for – बिना उकसावे के
3. **Descend** (verb) – plummet, sink, plunge, slide, deteriorate – नीचे गिरना/अवनति होना
4. **Chaos** (noun) – turmoil, pandemonium, anarchy, disorder, bedlam – अराजकता
5. **Call on** (phrasal verb) – to formally ask or appeal to someone to do something – आह्वान करना
6. **Overthrow** (verb) – oust, topple, unseat, depose, displace – तख्तापलट करना
7. **Take over** (phrasal verb) – to assume control or possession of something – नियंत्रण में लेना
8. **Retaliate** (verb) – reciprocate, avenge, counter, requite, react – जवाबी कार्रवाई करना
9. **Strike** (verb) – hit, attack, assault, smite, bombard – हमला करना
10. **Militia** (noun) – paramilitary, insurgents, partisans, mercenaries, armed group – नागरिक सेना
11. **Torpedo** (verb) – sabotage, ruin, wreck, destroy, undermine – नष्ट करना/तारपीडो से उड़ाना
12. **Ally** (noun) – partner, associate, confederate, collaborator, colleague – मित्र/सहयोगी
13. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) – to result in or cause a particular situation – कारण बनना
14. **Collapse** (verb) – crumble, disintegrate, fail, founder, yield – ढह जाना/विफल होना
15. **All-out** (adjective) – total, complete, thorough, vigorous, exhaustive – पूर्ण/चौतरफा
16. **Willingness** (noun) – readiness, inclination, eagerness, alacrity, volition – इच्छा/तत्परता
17. **Step back** (phrasal verb) – to withdraw from a commitment or a conflict – पीछे हटना
18. **Last** (verb) – endure, persist, continue, survive, remain – टिके रहना/जारी रहना
19. **Rule out** (phrasal verb) – to exclude or dismiss a possibility – खारिज करना

20. **Arm** (verb) – equip, fortify, provide, furnish, supply – हथियारों से लैस करना
21. **Ethnic** (adjective) – racial, cultural, tribal, national, ancestral – जातीय
22. **Provoke** (verb) – incite, instigate, trigger, goad, kindle – उकसाना
23. **Unrest** (noun) – agitation, turmoil, strife, turbulence, rebellion – अशांति
24. **Crack** (verb) – fracture, rupture, break, collapse, yield – टूटना/कमजोर पड़ना
25. **Bombardment** (noun) – shelling, blitz, assault, battery, barrage – बमबारी
26. **Prospect** (noun) – possibility, likelihood, chance, expectation, outlook – संभावना
27. **Fuel** (verb) – stoke, kindle, incite, stimulate, encourage – बढ़ावा देना/ईंधन देना
28. **Strife** (noun) – conflict, friction, discord, contention, dissension – कलह/संघर्ष
29. **Liberate** (verb) – emancipate, release, free, deliver, unchain – मुक्त करना
30. **Clerical** (adjective) – religious, ecclesiastical, priestly, canonical, spiritual – पादरी या धर्मगुरु संबंधी
31. **Drag** (on) (verb) – to continue for longer than is necessary or desired – खींचना/लंबा चलना
32. **Likely** (adjective) – probable, plausible, prospective, expected, liable – संभावित
33. **Resistance** (noun) – opposition, defiance, confrontation, struggle, refusal – प्रतिरोध
34. **Condemn** (verb) – denounce, criticize, censure, decry, reprehend – निंदा करना
35. **Assassination** (noun) – murder, killing, execution, slaying, homicide – राजनीतिक हत्या
36. **Emphatic** (adjective) – forceful, vigorous, assertive, categorical, vehement – जोरदार
37. **De-escalate** (verb) – diminish, reduce, lessen, abate, dwindle – तीव्रता कम करना
38. **Bring something to its backyard** (phrase) – to involve a region or country in a conflict that is very close to its own borders – किसी के क्षेत्र के करीब खतरा पैदा करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial argues that the Israeli–American attack on Iran has pushed West Asia into chaos and triggered a dangerous regional conflict.
2. The war reportedly began with a U.S. strike that killed Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, along with other officials and civilians.
3. U.S. President Donald Trump urged Iranians to overthrow the Islamic Republic, but such an uprising did not occur.
4. Instead, Iran retaliated militarily, targeting Israel and U.S. bases, missions, and assets across the Persian Gulf region.
5. Satellite analyses suggest Iran struck communication and radar systems at several U.S. military installations.
6. The conflict expanded when Hezbollah in Lebanon launched rocket attacks on northern Israel, supporting Iran.
7. In Iraq, pro–Iran militias also attacked American facilities in places such as Erbil.
8. The Pentagon confirmed casualties, including U.S. service personnel deaths and the loss of fighter jets due to friendly fire.
9. The war further widened when the U.S. torpedoed an Iranian warship, IRIS Dena, in the Indian Ocean near Sri Lanka, killing dozens of sailors.
10. The Iranian ship had recently participated in the International Fleet Review near Visakhapatnam, highlighting how close the conflict has come to India’s region.
11. Instead of weakening Iran’s regime, the killing of its leader has strengthened resistance and escalated the conflict into a wider regional war.
12. Both sides appear unwilling to de–escalate, and U.S. officials have warned the war could continue for several weeks.
13. Reports suggest the U.S. may arm Kurdish militias in Iran, which could provoke internal unrest and further destabilise the country.
14. The editorial criticises the U.S. for launching the war without a clear exit strategy, risking prolonged conflict and instability.
15. For India, the war could lead to higher oil and gas prices and threaten the safety of millions of Indians in West Asia, so India should strongly oppose the expansion of the conflict and work for de–escalation.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What was a confirmed result of the military conflict for the United States?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The U.S. military successfully captured all pro-Iran militias located in Iraq.
 - B. The U.S. lost at least six service personnel to Kuwaiti friendly fire.
 - C. The U.S. military successfully avoided any damage to its communication structures.
 - D. The U.S. Navy successfully protected the IRIS Dena from a torpedo attack.
2. **According to the passage, how did the Iranian public react to the war?**
 - A. The Iranians immediately overthrew the Islamic Republic as Trump requested.
 - B. The Iranian people successfully took over all major state institutions quickly.
 - C. The Iranian state and its institutions showed no signs of breaking down.
 - D. The Iranian citizens fled to neighboring countries to avoid the heavy bombing.
3. **What is the current status of diplomatic talks between the two nations?**
 - A. Both sides are currently meeting in Sri Lanka to discuss peace.
 - B. Ali Larijani has officially ruled out any talks with the Americans.
 - C. Pete Hegseth has invited the Iranian leadership to Washington for negotiations.
 - D. Both countries have agreed to a ceasefire lasting for eight weeks.
4. **How has the war affected the geographical area around India?**
 - A. The war has been strictly confined to the borders of Israel.
 - B. The Indian Ocean has been declared a safe zone for all vessels.
 - C. India has invited the U.S. military to use Visakhapatnam as a base.
 - D. The U.S. torpedoed an Iranian ship located off the Sri Lankan coast.
5. **What is the expected impact of the conflict on India's interests?**
 - A. The Indian economy will benefit from the falling global gas prices.
 - B. The millions of Indians living in West Asia may face security threats.
 - C. New Delhi immediately condemned the assassination of the Iranian Supreme Leader.
 - D. The Indian government has fully supported the U.S. strategy of liberation.
6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
TRENCHANT
 - A. Blurry
 - B. Weak
 - C. Incisive
 - D. Vague
7. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Nugatory
 - A. Worthless
 - B. Futile
 - C. Significant
 - D. Trivial
8. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
Mad as a hatter
 - A. Poor but honest
 - B. Overly focused
 - C. Completely insane or eccentric
 - D. Fashionable and bold

9. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**

By the skin of one's teeth

- A. With deceptive appearance
- B. With the barest possible margin
- C. Through inherited privilege
- D. With false humility

10. **Select the correct spelling of a word meaning 'complex administrative system'.**

- A. Bureaucracy
- B. Bureacracy
- C. Bureaucrasy
- D. Bureaucrazy

11. **Choose the correct spelling of a word meaning 'harmless'**

- A. Innocuous
- B. Inocuous
- C. Innocous
- D. Innocuouss

12. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**

The chant ended with a resounding **trisagion**

- A. The choir practiced the ancient trisagion before vespers.
- B. The mystic whispered the trisagion under candlelight.
- C. The geologist identified a trisagion layer in the strata.
- D. The monk led the congregation through the trisagion.

13. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**

'The study of human races, origins, and societies'.

- A. Anthropology
- B. Archaeology
- C. Ethnology
- D. Sociology

14. **Choose the correct one-word substitution for:**

'A praising speech made when someone dies'.

- A. Eulogy
- B. Obituary
- C. Elegy
- D. Tribute

15. **Choose the correct comparison structure:**

Few solutions were ____ promising as this one.

- A. so
- B. as
- C. that
- D. too

16. **Select the correct option:**

Not until the auditors had submitted their exhaustive report ____ the full extent of procedural lapses become evident.

- A. did

- B. had
C. was
D. has
17. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**
He objected to the new policy (1)/ on the grounds that (2)/ it violated the principle rights (3)/ of the employees. (4)/
A. (1)
B. (2)
C. (3)
D. (4)
18. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
He asked me **where do I live**.
A. where I live
B. where did I live
C. where I lived
D. where do I lived
19. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
The teacher insisted that the student **to be honest**.
A. be honest
B. is honest
C. should honest
D. should be honest
20. **Rearrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph:**
1. Molecular structure is a fundamental concept in chemistry that describes the three-dimensional arrangement of atoms in a molecule.
 2. These differences can significantly alter the physical and chemical properties of the substance, a concept known as isomerism.
 3. It is typically represented by structural formulas, which illustrate the connectivity between atoms.
 4. However, molecules with the same chemical formula can have different arrangements of atoms in space.
- A. 3, 1, 2, 4
B. 2, 4, 3, 1
C. 1, 3, 4, 2
D. 1, 4, 3, 2

Comprehension

Buy now, pay later (BNPL) is a form of credit that lets you (1) _____ payments for everything from clothes, jewellery and white goods to concert tickets, hotel rooms and takeaway meals. Typically the cost is (2) _____ into three or four instalments that you (3) _____ over a few weeks or months, and if you keep up with your repayment plan, you won't pay interest or charges, so it can be completely free to use. BNPL is offered by a vast (4) _____ of retailers, usually at the checkout of online stores. It is also available at some physical shops. Three brands – Klarna, Clearpay and Paypal – dominate the UK market. Many BNPL providers have their own app, and sometimes these offer “exclusive” deals. Some retailers offer just one BNPL

option, while others have two or more. At least 11 million people in the UK use BNPL, but regulators and consumer bodies have voiced worries that some will end up borrowing money they cannot afford to pay back on time, thereby (5) _____ charges, getting into debt and damaging their credit score. provides free money and debt advice, says: "BNPL can be a really helpful way to spread the cost of bigger purchases, but it only works if it's treated like a short-term loan rather than free money. We often see people thinking it's harmless, but missing even one payment can lead to fees and unnecessary stress."

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1).**
 - A. spread
 - B. tergiversate
 - C. vaticinate
 - D. extrapolate
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2).**
 - A. suborned
 - B. split
 - C. vituperated
 - D. ossified
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).**
 - A. pay off
 - B. pay back
 - C. pay for
 - D. pay into
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4).**
 - A. panegyric
 - B. opprobrium
 - C. array
 - D. solecism
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5).**
 - A. incurring
 - B. reprobate
 - C. adumbrating
 - D. maligned

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **B) The U.S. lost at least six service personnel to Kuwaiti friendly fire.**

Option B: says → Six personnel died due to accidental friendly fire. passage says → The U.S. confirmed "at least six service personnel were killed... in Kuwaiti 'friendly fire'." So, Correct.

Option A: says → Pro-Iran militias in Iraq were captured by the U.S. passage says → Pro-Iran militias "struck American assets in Erbil," but there is no mention of them being captured. So, Incorrect.

Option C: says → U.S. communication structures were not damaged. passage says → Satellite analyses suggest Iran "struck communication and radar structures at seven U.S. military sites." So, Incorrect.

Option D: says → The U.S. Navy protected an Iranian ship. passage says → The U.S. "expanded the theatre of war... by torpedoing an Iranian warship, IRIS Dena." So, Incorrect.

2. **C) The Iranian state and its institutions showed no signs of breaking down.**

Option C: says → The government and its institutions remained stable. passage says → "the Iranian state and its institutions show no signs of cracking." So, Correct.

Option A: says → The public overthrew the government. What passage says → Trump called for an overthrow, but "That did not happen." So, Incorrect.

Option B: says → Citizens took over state institutions. What passage says → Trump called on them to take over institutions, but "That did not happen." So, Incorrect.

Option D: says → Citizens fled to other countries. What passage says → The passage does not mention citizens fleeing to other countries. So, Incorrect.

3. **B) Ali Larijani has officially ruled out any talks with the Americans.**

Option B: says → Iran's security chief refused to talk. What passage says → Ali Larijani "has ruled out talks with the U.S." So, Correct.

Option A: says → Both sides are meeting for peace. What passage says → Neither side has shown "any willingness to step back." So, Incorrect.

Option C: says → Hegseth invited Iran for negotiations. What passage says → Hegseth only stated the conflict "could last up to eight weeks." So, Incorrect.

Option D: says → A ceasefire was agreed upon. What passage says → There is no mention of a ceasefire; rather, an "all-out regional war" is happening. So, Incorrect.

4. **D) The U.S. torpedoed an Iranian ship located off the Sri Lankan coast.**

Option D: says → A ship was torpedoed near Sri Lanka. What passage says → The U.S. torpedoed the IRIS Dena "off Sri Lanka, killing at least 83 personnel." So, Correct.

Option A: says → The war is only in Israel. What passage says → The U.S. "expanded the theatre of war to the Indian Ocean." So, Incorrect.

Option B: says → The Indian Ocean is a safe zone. What passage says → The U.S. "expanded the theatre of war to the Indian Ocean." So, Incorrect.

Option C: says → India invited the U.S. to use its bases. What passage says → India should "strongly oppose U.S. attempts to bring the war to its backyard." So, Incorrect.

5. **B) The millions of Indians living in West Asia may face security threats.**

Option B: says → Indians in the region are at risk. What passage says → A widening war "could threaten the economic and physical security of the millions of Indians." So, Correct.

Option A: says → India benefits from low gas prices. What passage says → "rising oil and gas prices will add to the burden on its economy." So, Incorrect.

Option C: says → India condemned the killing immediately. What passage says → New Delhi "initially did not condemn the assassination." So, Incorrect.

Option D: says → India supports the U.S. strategy. What passage says → India "should take a more emphatic stand against the war." So, Incorrect.

6. **C) Trenchant** (adjective) – Incisive, sharp, penetrating, clear-cut, forceful धारदार, तीक्ष्ण

Synonym: **Incisive** (adjective) – Analytical, sharp, keen, penetrating. तीक्ष्ण, प्रभावशाली

- **Blurry** (adjective) – Unclear, hazy, indistinct. धुंधला
- **Weak** (adjective) – Feeble, fragile, powerless. कमजोर
- **Vague** (adjective) – Indefinite, unclear, hazy. अस्पष्ट

7. **C) Nugatory** (adjective) – Useless, worthless, futile, trivial, insignificant नगण्य, तुच्छ

Antonym: **Significant** (adjective) – Important, meaningful, substantial, notable. महत्वपूर्ण

- **Worthless** (adjective) – Valueless, useless, insignificant. बेकार
- **Futile** (adjective) – Pointless, ineffective, useless. निष्फल
- **Trivial** (adjective) – Minor, insignificant, unimportant. मामूली

8. **C) Mad as a hatter** (idiom) – Completely insane or eccentric पूरी तरह पागल या सनकी9. **B) By the skin of one's teeth** (idiom) – With the barest possible margin बहुत ही कम अंतर से / बाल-बाल बचना10. **A) The correct spelling of the word meaning "complex administrative system" is Bureaucracy** which means "a system of government or management with many complicated rules and procedures" जटिल प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था।11. **A) The correct spelling of the word meaning 'harmless' is 'Innocuous'** which means "not harmful or offensive" हानिरहित, निर्दोष।12. **C) . The geologist identified a trisagion layer in the strata.**

वाक्य में 'trisagion' का अर्थ है — ईसाई परंपरा में प्रयुक्त एक पवित्र स्तुति/भजन (a holy hymn: "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal")।

अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य ढूँढना है जिसमें 'trisagion' का समान उच्चारण वाला लेकिन पूरी तरह भिन्न अर्थ वाला शब्द (homonym) प्रयोग हुआ हो।

विकल्प C में 'trisagion' को भूविज्ञान (geology) में एक काल्पनिक परत या संरचना के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है — यह धार्मिक भजन से बिल्कुल अलग अर्थ रखता है।

दोनों के उच्चारण समान हैं, लेकिन अर्थ पूरी तरह भिन्न, इसलिए यह homonym का उदाहरण है।

- In the highlighted sentence, trisagion refers to a sacred Christian hymn ("Thrice Holy").
- Option C uses trisagion in an entirely different sense — as a geological layer or formation, unrelated to religion.
- Same pronunciation/spelling, different meanings → homonym.

13. **C) Ethnology** (noun) – The study of human races, their origins, cultures, and societies मानव जातियों, उनकी उत्पत्ति और संस्कृतियों का अध्ययन

- **Anthropology** (noun) – the scientific study of humans, human behaviour, and societies in the past and present मानव और उसके विकास का अध्ययन
 - **Archaeology** (noun) – the study of human history through excavation of sites and analysis of artefacts पुरातत्व
 - **Sociology** (noun) – the study of society, social relationships, and institutions समाजशास्त्र
14. A) **Eulogy** (noun) – A speech or piece of writing that praises someone highly, especially given after their death. प्रशंसात्मक शोक-भाषण
- **Obituary** (noun) – A notice of a person’s death, usually published in a newspaper with a brief biography. मृत्यु-सूचना
 - **Elegy** (noun) – A poem of serious reflection, typically a lament for the dead. शोक-गीत / विलाप-काव्य
 - **Tribute** (noun) – An act, statement, or gift intended to show gratitude, respect, or admiration. श्रद्धांजलि / सम्मान
15. B)) 'as' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि comparison structure में “as ... as” सबसे सही और पूर्ण रूप है। वाक्य “Few solutions were ___ promising as this one” में सही तुलना तभी बनेगी जब पहले 'as' और बाद में भी 'as' आए। इसलिए पहले खाली स्थान में भी “as” ही आएगा, जिससे वाक्य बनेगा: Few solutions were as promising as this one.
 'as' should be used because the correct comparison structure is “as ... as.”
 In the sentence “Few solutions were ___ promising as this one,” the comparison is completed only when the first blank also takes “as,” forming the correct structure: Few solutions were as promising as this one.
16. A) **did** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि “Not until” एक negative adverbial opener है, जिसके बाद आने वाले main clause में inversion (उल्टा क्रम) आवश्यक होता है। यहाँ sentence का अर्थ है कि जैसे ही auditors ने अपनी report जमा की, तभी जाकर procedural lapses पूरी तरह स्पष्ट हुए। इस संरचना में auxiliary verb (did) subject से पहले आता है। इसलिए “did the full extent...” सही उत्तर है।
 In English:
 “Not until” is a negative/time adverbial phrase that triggers subject–auxiliary inversion in the main clause.
 After such phrases (e.g., Not until, Rarely, Hardly, Never), the auxiliary verb comes before the subject to form the correct question-like inversion structure.
 The main clause here is:
 the full extent of procedural lapses become evident.
 Since the verb is in simple past tense, the auxiliary needed is “did.”
 So the correct inverted form is:
 ... did the full extent of procedural lapses become evident.
 Correct Sentence:
 Not until the auditors had submitted their exhaustive report did the full extent of procedural lapses become evident.
17. C) 'principle rights' के बदले '**principal rights**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'principal' का अर्थ है 'मुख्य/प्राथमिक', जबकि 'principle' का अर्थ होता है 'सिद्धांत'। अधिकारों के लिए 'principal rights' सही प्रयोग है।

- Principal (adjective) means main, primary, or most important — appropriate to describe rights
- Principle (noun) means a fundamental rule, law, or doctrine — not used to describe rights.
- The phrase “principal rights” refers to the most important rights of employees.
- Using “principle rights” is a common confusion but grammatically incorrect here.
- Correct Sentence: He objected to the new policy on the grounds that it violated the principal rights of the employees.

18. C) ‘**where I lived**’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Reported Speech में (He asked me) Question का रूप हट जाता है और Sentence ‘Assertive’ बन जाता है। साथ ही Reporting Verb ‘asked’ Past Tense में है, इसलिए Indirect Question में Verb भी Past Tense में होगा।

In English:

In reported speech (indirect questions), the question word order changes to statement order (no auxiliary “do”).

The verb tense shifts back because the reporting verb “asked” is in the past tense.

Correct form:

Use “where I lived” — subject + verb (past tense), no auxiliary “do

.”The indirect question is embedded inside the main sentence.

19. A) **be honest** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि insist that के बाद सामान्यतः bare infinitive (V₁) का प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ to be honest गलत है क्योंकि insisted that + subject + V₁ सही संरचना है।

In English:

Error in the sentence:

“The teacher insisted that the student to be honest.”

Correct structure after verbs like “insist” (in that type of clause):

Use subjunctive mood, which is subject + bare infinitive (base form of verb without “to”).

So, it should be:

insisted that the student be honest.

Other Options Analysis:

is honest — Incorrect because after “insisted that,” we don’t use normal indicative verbs.

should honest — Grammatically incorrect; modal “should” must be followed by base verb.

should be honest — Possible in some contexts, but the most formal and preferred structure after “insist that” is the bare infinitive without “should.”

20. D) **4, 1, 4, 3, 2**

1 starts the paragraph by introducing the fundamental concept of molecular structure and its definition.

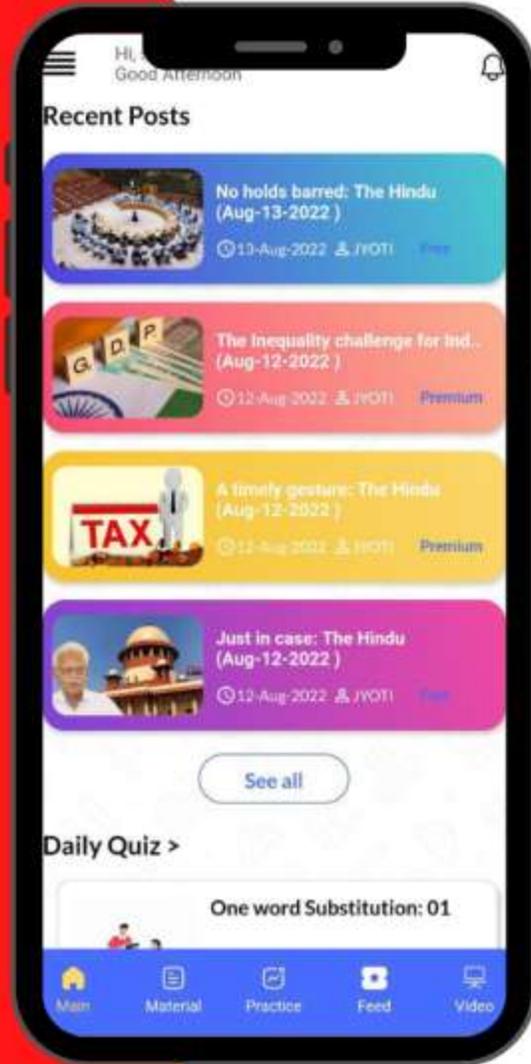
4 follows by explaining that molecules with the same chemical formula can have different spatial arrangements.

3 comes next, describing how molecular structures are typically represented using structural formulas that show atomic connectivity.

2 concludes the paragraph by stating that these differences in arrangement lead to variations in physical and chemical properties, known as isomerism.

- 1 पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत करता है जो आणविक संरचना की मूल अवधारणा और उसकी परिभाषा बताता है।
 - 4 इसके बाद आता है जो समझाता है कि समान रासायनिक सूत्र वाले अणुओं में परमाणुओं की विभिन्न स्थानिक व्यवस्थाएँ हो सकती हैं।
 - 3 फिर आता है जो बताता है कि आणविक संरचनाओं को आमतौर पर संरचनात्मक सूत्रों द्वारा दर्शाया जाता है, जो परमाणुओं के जुड़ाव को दिखाते हैं।
 - 2 अंत में आता है जो बताता है कि इन व्यवस्थाओं के अंतर से पदार्थ के भौतिक और रासायनिक गुण बदल जाते हैं, जिसे समस्थानिकता (isomerism) कहा जाता है।
21. A) **spread** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी चीज़ को एक समय सीमा में बांटना या फैलाना होता है। BNPL में आप एक साथ पैसे नहीं देते, बल्कि पेमेंट्स को महीनों में बांट (spread) देते हैं। Tergiversate का मतलब सच से बचने के लिए घुमा-फिरा कर बात करना होता है। Vaticinate का मतलब भविष्यवाणी करना होता है। Extrapolate का मतलब मौजूदा जानकारी के आधार पर अनुमान लगाना होता है।
- 'spread' is used because it means to divide or stretch something over a period of time. In BNPL, you don't pay all at once; you "spread payments" over weeks or months. Grammatically, it is a simple verb that fits perfectly here. 'Tergiversate' means to make confusing statements to avoid telling the truth. 'Vaticinate' means to predict the future. 'Extrapolate' means to estimate something based on existing facts.
22. B) **split** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी चीज़ को हिस्सों में बांटना होता है। Passage में बताया गया है कि कुल कीमत को तीन या चार किश्तों में बांट (split) दिया जाता है। Suborned का मतलब किसी को गलत काम के लिए रिश्वत देना होता है। Vituperated का मतलब किसी का बहुत ज़्यादा अपमान करना होता है। Ossified का मतलब हड्डी की तरह सख्त हो जाना या पुरानी आदतों में बंध जाना होता है।
- 'split' is used because it means to divide something into smaller parts. The passage explains that the total cost of an item is divided or "split into three or four instalments". 'Suborned' means to secretly bribe someone to do an illegal act. 'Vituperated' means to insult or blame someone aggressively. 'Ossified' means to become hard like bone or stuck in old, rigid habits.
23. B) **pay off** सही है क्योंकि यह एक phrasal verb है जिसका मतलब किसी कर्ज़ या उधार को समय के साथ पूरी तरह चुकाना होता है। आप BNPL के उधार को किश्तों में चुकाते (pay off) हैं। Pay back का मतलब पैसे वापस करना होता है, लेकिन किश्तों वाले कर्ज़ को चुकाने के लिए "pay off" ज़्यादा सटीक है। Pay for का मतलब किसी चीज़ को खरीदना होता है। Pay into का मतलब बैंक अकाउंट में पैसे जमा करना होता है।
- 'pay off' is used because it is a standard phrasal verb that means to finish paying a debt completely over a period of time. You "pay off" the installments to clear your BNPL loan. 'Pay back' means to simply return borrowed money, but "pay off" is the most accurate term for clearing a structured debt in parts. 'Pay for' means to buy an item. 'Pay into' means to deposit money into a bank account.
24. C) **array** सही है क्योंकि "a vast array of" एक बहुत आम phrase है जिसका मतलब बहुत बड़ी संख्या या कई तरह की चीज़ें (यहाँ दुकानदार) होता है। Panegyric का मतलब किसी की बहुत ज़्यादा तारीफ़ करने वाला भाषण होता है। Opprobrium का मतलब कड़ी सार्वजनिक आलोचना या बदनामी होता है। Solecism का मतलब ग़्रामर की गलती या खराब व्यवहार होता है।

- 'array' is used because the phrase "a vast array of" is a very common English expression meaning a large variety or number of things (in this case, online stores and retailers). 'Panegyric' is a formal public speech praising someone highly. 'Opprobrium' means harsh public criticism or disgrace. 'Solecism' means a grammatical mistake or a mistake in good manners.
25. A) '**incurring**' सही है क्योंकि "incurring charges" या "incurring fees" वित्तीय (financial) दुनिया का बिल्कुल सही शब्द है जिसका मतलब खुद पर कोई जुर्माना या चार्ज लगाना होता है (जैसे लेट फीस का लगाना)। Reprobate का मतलब एक बुरा इंसान होता है। Adumbrating का मतलब किसी चीज़ की हल्की सी रूपरेखा (outline) बनाना होता है। Maligning का मतलब किसी के बारे में बहुत बुरा या झूठा बोलना होता है।
- 'incurring' is used because the phrase "incurring charges" or "incurring fees" is the correct financial term for bringing a cost or penalty upon yourself (like a late fee for missing a payment). 'Reprobate' means a bad or unprincipled person. 'Adumbrating' means to sketch out or outline something faintly. 'Maligning' means to speak badly and unfairly about someone.



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