

## Rebuilding ties: On India engaging with Turkiye and Azerbaijan

India must approach foreign relations with more **pragmatism**, less emotion

New Delhi's recent **moves** to re-engage diplomatically and hold Foreign Office Consultations with **diplomats** in Turkiye and Azerbaijan **are** a **considerable** shift in the government's policy, especially over the past year. Since the India-Pakistan conflict and Operation Sindoor in May 2025, the government had expressed its anger not just at Pakistan, but at countries that were seen as supportive of Pakistan, diplomatically or militarily during the conflict. **In particular**, the Ministry of External Affairs had expressed its **disappointment** with statements made by Turkiye, Azerbaijan and Malaysia, that **questioned** the government's decision to launch **strikes** on terror sites in Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attacks. During **briefings** about Operation Sindoor, as the 96-hour military conflict from May 7-10 was named, the government left out envoys from countries that it felt had not expressed solidarity with India. In a military briefing in July, the deputy chief of army staff said India had had to **contend with** at least three **adversaries** on its border with Pakistan, including Türkiye. **Azerbaijan** too **was** believed to have helped Pakistan with technological support. **Trade and tourism** to Turkiye and Azerbaijan **dropped** significantly for several months, as calls to **boycott** them **went out** from **influential accounts**. During its **evacuation** of Indians from Iran after US-Israel **airstrikes** on nuclear installations in June 2025, the MEA **pointedly** told those **heading out** by land routes to use Armenia and Turkmenistan, not either Turkiye or Azerbaijan. **In addition**, foreign policy commentary suggested that India was building an **alliance** of India, Armenia, Greece as a **counter** to their age-old **rivals** Pakistan, Azerbaijan and Turkiye, who had already formed a strong **trilateral** grouping. **Given** the **heated rhetoric**, and the **freeze** in diplomatic ties, the **decision** to send Secretary West in the MEA, Sibi George, to Baku to revive Foreign office consultations with Azerbaijani **counterparts** last week, and to invite the Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister to Delhi this week, **is significant** diplomatic moves that indicate that the **governments** in Baku and Ankara too feel that better **bilateral** relations **are** in their interests.

In a world more **fraught with** conflicts that fast **spiral** out of control, it is necessary for New Delhi to pick its diplomatic battles more carefully. The quick **escalation** from government **demarches** to online **outrage** and **calls for boycotts**, have in the past few years had a **detrimental** impact on bilateral ties with close friends and neighbours as well. With countries that are **adversaries**, as both Turkiye and Azerbaijan have been, given their **closeness** to Pakistan, and positions on the Kashmir dispute, New Delhi must consider its options with less emotion and more pragmatism. India has traditionally managed relations between **sparring** rivals without allowing itself to be **hyphenated** with Pakistan, or by falling into multilateral "camps".

[Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Tie** (noun) - bond, connection, link, relation, association संबंध
2. **Pragmatism** (noun) - realism, practicality, expediency, logic, matter-of-factness यथार्थवाद-व्यावहारिकता
3. **Diplomat** (noun) - a person who represents a country in dealing with other countries राजनयिक
4. **Considerable** (adjective) - sizeable, substantial, significant, ample, large काफी ज्यादा
5. **In particular** (phrase) - specifically, especially, particularly, mainly, notably विशेष रूप से
6. **Disappointment** (noun) - dissatisfaction, regret, dismay, letdown, chagrin निराशा
7. **Question** (verb) - challenge, query, dispute, doubt, interrogate सवाल उठाना
8. **Strike** (noun) - attack, assault, raid, onslaught, hit हवाई हमला
9. **Briefing** (noun) - conference, meeting, report, update, summary संक्षिप्त बैठक-जानकारी देना
10. **Contend with** (phrasal verb) - to have to deal with a difficult or unpleasant situation का सामना करना
11. **Adversary** (noun) - opponent, rival, enemy, foe, antagonist विरोधी-प्रतिद्वंद्वी
12. **Boycott** (verb) - shun, spurn, reject, avoid, ban बहिष्कार करना
13. **Go out** (phrasal verb) - to be sent or broadcast to many people जारी होना
14. **Influential** (adjective) - powerful, dominant, impactful, potent, strong प्रभावशाली
15. **Account** (noun) - profile, handle, report, description, record विवरण-खाता
16. **Evacuation** (noun) - removal, clearance, withdrawal, exit, flight निकासी
17. **Airstrike** (noun) - an attack carried out by aircraft against targets on the ground हवाई हमला
18. **Pointedly** (adverb) - sharply, directly, clearly, explicitly, emphatically स्पष्ट रूप से-तीखेपन से

19. **Head out** (phrase) - to leave one place to go to another place बाहर निकलना-प्रस्थान करना
20. **In addition** (phrase) - also or moreover; used to add extra information इसके अलावा
21. **Alliance** (noun) - partnership, union, pact, coalition, league गठबंधन
22. **Counter** (noun) - antithesis, opposite, deterrent, check, retaliation जवाब-मुकाबला
23. **Rival** (noun) - competitor, opponent, adversary, antagonist, contender प्रतिद्वंद्वी
24. **Trilateral** (adjective) - three-sided, tripartite, triangular, triple, three-way त्रिपक्षीय
25. **Given** (preposition) - considering, regarding, noting, because, since देखते हुए
26. **Heated** (adjective) - intense, angry, vehement, passionate, fiery गरमागरम-तीखा
27. **Rhetoric** (noun) - oratory, discourse, speech, expression, language वाकपटुता-भाषणबाजी
28. **Freeze** (noun) - suspension, halt, stoppage, pause, deadlock रोक-ठहराव
29. **Counterpart** (noun) - equivalent, match, peer, colleague, equal समकक्ष
30. **Significant** (adjective) - important, notable, meaningful, major, substantial महत्वपूर्ण
31. **Bilateral** (adjective) - mutual, two-sided, joint, reciprocal, dual द्विपक्षीय
32. **Fraught with something** (phrase) - full of unpleasant things such as problems or dangers से भरा हुआ
33. **Spiral** (verb) - escalate, soar, rocket, mount, increase तेज़ी से बढ़ना
34. **Escalation** (noun) - surge, rise, intensification, growth, expansion वृद्धि-तनाव बढ़ना
35. **Demarche** (noun) - a formal diplomatic request, protest, or move made by one country to another राजनयिक कदम-विरोध
36. **Outrage** (noun) - anger, fury, indignation, shock, resentment भारी गुस्सा
37. **Call for** (phrasal verb) - to publicly ask for something to happen की मांग करना
38. **Boycott** (noun) - rejection, exclusion, ban, embargo, avoidance बहिष्कार

39. **Detrimental** (adjective) - harmful, damaging, injurious, adverse, deleterious  
हानिकारक
40. **Adversary** (noun) - foe, enemy, rival, opponent, antagonist शत्रु
41. **Closeness** (noun) - proximity, intimacy, nearness, affinity, familiarity निकटता
42. **Sparring** (adjective) - quarreling, bickering, fighting, clashing, feuding आपस में भिड़ने वाले
43. **Hyphenated** (adjective) - linked, coupled, joined, associated, connected साथ जोड़कर देखा जाना
44. **Camp** (noun) - faction, group, sect, side, party गुट

## Summary of the Editorial

1. India has recently restarted diplomatic engagement with **Türkiye** and **Azerbaijan**, marking a policy shift.
2. Relations had deteriorated after the **India–Pakistan conflict (May 2025)** and **Operation Sindoor**.
3. India was particularly upset with countries that supported or sympathized with Pakistan during the conflict.
4. Türkiye, Azerbaijan, and Malaysia criticized India's strikes on terror sites after the Pahalgam attack.
5. As a result, India distanced itself diplomatically by excluding their envoys from briefings.
6. Indian military officials even referred to Türkiye as an indirect adversary during the conflict.
7. Azerbaijan was suspected of providing technological support to Pakistan.
8. Public sentiment in India led to boycotts, reducing trade and tourism with these countries.
9. During evacuation operations from Iran, India deliberately avoided routes through Türkiye and Azerbaijan.
10. A geopolitical alignment seemed to emerge: India with Armenia and Greece vs Pakistan with Türkiye and Azerbaijan.
11. Recently, India has resumed talks, including Foreign Office consultations with Azerbaijan and inviting Turkish officials.
12. This indicates mutual recognition that improving bilateral relations is beneficial.
13. The editorial stresses that global conflicts are increasing and can escalate quickly.
14. India should avoid emotional reactions like public outrage and boycotts in foreign policy decisions.
15. Instead, India must adopt a pragmatic, balanced approach, maintaining strategic autonomy without aligning into rigid blocs.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. Consider the following statements based on the passage: [Editorial Page]
1. Operation Sindoor was a 96-hour military conflict occurring in May 2025.
  2. India encouraged its citizens to use Azerbaijan as a land route for evacuation.
  3. Trade and tourism to Turkey and Azerbaijan saw a significant drop for months.
  4. Which of the statements given above are CORRECT?
    - A. Only 1 and 2
    - B. Only 2 and 3
    - C. Only 1 and 3
    - D. All are correct
2. **Why is the recent visit of Secretary West to Baku considered a significant diplomatic move?**
  - A. It marks a shift toward pragmatism after a period of frozen ties.
  - B. It signals that India has joined the trilateral pact with Turkey.
  - C. It confirms that India will no longer use Armenia as a land route.
  - D. It proves that Azerbaijan has ended its support for Pakistan now.
3. **What was the primary reason for India's disappointment with Turkey and Azerbaijan in 2025?**
  - A. Their refusal to participate in the Foreign Office Consultations.
  - B. Their questioning of India's strikes on terror sites in Pakistan.
  - C. Their decision to boycott Indian trade and tourism for one year.
  - D. Their failure to evacuate Indian citizens during the Iran crisis.
4. **Which of the following is CORRECT regarding India's traditional approach to international relations?**
  - A. India prefers to join multilateral camps to ensure military security.
  - B. India avoids being hyphenated with Pakistan in its bilateral ties.
  - C. India usually picks diplomatic battles based on emotional rhetoric
  - D. India relies on online outrage to dictate its foreign policy moves.
5. **In the context of the passage, which word is a SYNONYM for "Detrimental"?**  
Which word from the passage is the most appropriate ANTONYM for "Pragmatism"?
  - i. I. Harmful; II. Emotion
  - ii. I. Helpful; II. Logic
  - iii. I. Trivial; II. Realism
  - iv. I. Diverse; II. Interest
6. **The sentences given below are in a jumbled order. Arrange them in the most logical order to form a coherent paragraph.**
  1. A spokesperson for the AI giant confirmed that the attack occurred at the residence of Sam Altman and noted that the suspect had previously made threats at their headquarters.
  2. An hour after fleeing the crime scene, the individual appeared at an OpenAI office and was arrested after threatening to burn the building down.
  3. San Francisco police have apprehended a 20-year-old man for throwing a Molotov cocktail at the perimeter gate of the OpenAI leader's home.
  4. Although no injuries were reported, the company expressed deep appreciation for the swift response of the SFPD in ensuring the safety of their employees.

A. 3-1-4-2

- B. 3-4-1-2  
C. 1-3-2-4  
D. 4-1-3-2
7. **The sentence below has errors in two parts which are highlighted in bold. Identify the same.**  
Mayfair Cinema is to close at December(A), it was announced yesterday. The owner of the building, Mr Thomas, will have sold it(B) to a firm of builders(C), who are going to build some flats on the site(D).
- A. A B  
B. C D  
C. B D  
D. A C
8. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**  
The committee is not authorized to act \_\_\_\_\_ behalf of the organization in international matters.
- A. in  
B. for  
C. on  
D. upon
9. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: SAGACIOUS**
- A. Foolish  
B. Insightful  
C. Naïve  
D. Confused
10. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
- A. Lieutenant  
B. Lieutennant  
C. Lutennant  
D. Ltuenant
11. **Which of the following sentences uses the word "found" with a different meaning from the others?**
- A. The company was found in 1995.  
B. He found his keys under the couch.  
C. They found a new species of fish.  
D. She found the answer to the difficult question.
12. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: Are on a collision course**
- A. Heading towards an inevitable conflict  
B. Moving towards each other in a peaceful way  
C. Working together on a project  
D. Having different goals but no conflict
13. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: Straight from the horse's mouth**
- A. From an anonymous tip  
B. Hearing it from someone else  
C. Reading it from a book  
D. From a reliable source

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

A place where an army is trained.

- A. Fortress
- B. Cave
- C. Barracks
- D. Residence

**15. Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Monstrous**

- A. Beautiful
- B. Odd
- C. Abnormal
- D. Strange

**16. Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Elucidate**

- A. Clarify
- B. Explain
- C. Obscure
- D. Illuminate

**17. Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Direct Speech.**

They asked whether the meeting was likely to begin soon or be delayed further.

- A. They asked, "Was the meeting likely to begin soon or be delayed further?"
- B. They asked, "Is the meeting likely to begin shortly or be delayed more?"
- C. They asked, "Will the meeting likely begin soon or is it to be delayed further?"
- D. They asked, "Is the meeting likely to begin soon or will it be delayed further?"

**18. Which sentence contains a misspelled word?**

- A. Clear communication is crucial for avoiding misunderstandings in any negotiation.
- B. It is crucial to double-check your work before submitting it.
- C. The manager highlighted the crucial role of teamwork in achieving success.
- D. Meeting the deadline was crucial for securing the contract.

**19. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**

After a long marathon, the woman was out of breathe.

- A. out of breath
- B. out of breathing
- C. out of air
- D. out of breathes

**20. Choose the correct passive voice transformation of the sentence:**

Someone has left the door open.

- A. The door has been left open.
- B. The door was left open.
- C. The door is left open.
- D. The door had been left open.

**Comprehension**

What do you get when you (1) \_\_\_ a mythical creature from (2) \_\_\_ with a medieval torture device? The answer is one of the most intriguing portraits in all of art history: Raphael's Portrait of a Young Woman with a Unicorn – a restless masterpiece that refuses to stay still.

Originally painted by the (3) \_\_\_ Italian master between 1505 and 1506, the work's surface has, over the centuries, repeatedly been painted over, each time to tell a different story. While the true identity of the woman that Raphael depicts remains a mystery to this day, she has been made to (4) \_\_\_ shifting ideals of femininity: from a chaste avatar of marital fidelity to a (5) \_\_\_ saint sitting beside a spiked execution wheel. The painting has, quite literally, struggled to keep its story straight.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**
  - A. fuse
  - B. weave
  - C. mingle
  - D. cross
22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**
  - A. antiquity
  - B. folklore
  - C. scripture
  - D. heritage
23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**
  - A. prolific
  - B. precocious
  - C. seasoned
  - D. ancestral
24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**
  - A. embody
  - B. curate
  - C. sculpt
  - D. choreograph
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
  - A. secular
  - B. heretical
  - C. pious
  - D. aesthetic

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

### 1. C) Only 1 and 3.

- Statement 1 is CORRECT: The passage identifies Operation Sindoor as the "96-hour military conflict from May 7-10" in 2025.
- Statement 3 is CORRECT: The passage confirms "Trade and tourism to Turkiye and Azerbaijan dropped significantly for several months."
- Statement 2 is INCORRECT: The passage says the MEA "pointedly told those heading out... to use Armenia and Turkmenistan, not either Turkiye or Azerbaijan."

### 2. A) It marks a shift toward pragmatism after a period of frozen ties.

The passage describes these as "significant diplomatic moves" that indicate a move away from "heated rhetoric" toward "pragmatism."

- (B) : The passage says Turkey, Pakistan, and Azerbaijan formed the trilateral grouping; India is seen as a counter-alliance.
- (C) : The passage mentions Armenia was used during the June 2025 crisis, but does not say that route is now abandoned.
- (D) : The passage says Azerbaijan was an adversary "given their closeness to Pakistan," but does not say this support has ended.

### 3. B) ) Their questioning of India's strikes on terror sites in Pakistan.

The passage states the MEA expressed disappointment with countries that "questioned the government's decision to launch strikes on terror sites in Pakistan.

(A) : Reviving these consultations is the current move; the disappointment was over their stance during the conflict.

(C) : The boycott and drop in trade were results of the tension, not the initial cause of India's disappointment.

(D) : India directed its own citizens away from these countries; they didn't fail to evacuate them.

### 4. B) India avoids being hyphenated with Pakistan in its bilateral ties.

The final line states India has managed relations "without allowing itself to be hyphenated with Pakistan."

(A) : The passage says India has traditionally managed rivals "without... falling into multilateral 'camps'."

(C) : The author advises New Delhi to consider options with "less emotion and more pragmatism," implying emotion is a pitfall.

(D) : The author notes that online outrage has a "detrimental impact" and should be avoided for better bilateral ties.

### 5. A) I. Harmful; II. Emotion.

**Synonym:** The passage notes the "detrimental impact" of online outrage on ties, meaning it is harmful.

- **Antonym:** The passage contrasts pragmatism (practicality) with acting based on emotion.

6. A) **Correct Answer: (3-1-4-2)**

Sentence 3, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह इस पूरी घटना के मुख्य आरोपी, स्थान (San Francisco) और अपराध (Molotov cocktail) की पहचान करता है। यह रिपोर्ट को एक ठोस आधार (factual ground) प्रदान करता है कि खबर किस बारे में है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह "Why" (क्यों) और "Who" (किसके यहाँ) पेश करता है। यह पिछले वाक्य में बताए गए घर को सीधे OpenAI के लीडर Sam Altman से जोड़ता है। यह इस घटना के महत्व के लिए एक बड़ा परीक्षण (test) है कि हमला साधारण घर पर नहीं, बल्कि एक बड़ी AI कंपनी के प्रमुख पर था।

Sentence 4, Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह उस "परीक्षण" या घटना के बाद के हालात का विस्तार (elaboration) करता है। जहाँ 1 में हमले की पुष्टि की गई है, वहीं Sentence 4 विशिष्ट विवरण (specific details) देता है कि "no one was hurt" और कंपनी ने SFPD की मदद की सराहना की।

Sentence 2, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे परिदृश्य को एक निष्कर्ष (conclusion) देता है। सारी डिटेल्स समझाने के बाद, 2 इस घटना के अंत (arrest) का विवरण देता है और बताता है कि कैसे आरोपी अंततः पकड़ा गया।

- Sentence 3 comes at the beginning because it identifies the primary suspect, the location (San Francisco), and the specific crime (the Molotov cocktail attack). It provides the essential factual ground needed to establish the context of the news report.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 because it introduces the "Who" and the "Why." It directly links the house mentioned in the previous sentence to OpenAI leader Sam Altman. This serves as a critical test of the event's significance, identifying the target as a high-profile figure in the AI industry.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 because it elaborates on the nature of that "test" or incident. While 1 confirms the location, Sentence 4 provides specific details regarding the outcome (no injuries) and the company's official reaction to the police support.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 because it serves as the logical conclusion for the entire scenario. After detailing the attack and the reaction, it provides a wrap-up by explaining the timeline of the suspect's arrest outside the OpenAI office.

7. A) 'at December' के बदले 'in December' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि महीनों के साथ in preposition का प्रयोग किया जाता है, at नहीं; जैसे— The school will reopen in July.

'will have sold it' के बदले 'will sell it / has sold it' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में yesterday (Past time reference) दिया है और Future Perfect Tense यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है; जैसे— It was announced yesterday that the company has sold the land.

'in December' will be used instead of 'at December' because 'in' is used with months, not 'at'.

- 'will sell it / has sold it' will be used instead of 'will have sold it' because the announcement refers to a past or near-fact situation, not a completed future action before another future point.

8. C) 'on' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में "on behalf of" एक स्थिर (fixed) और सही prepositional phrase है, जिसका अर्थ होता है किसी की ओर से / किसी का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हुए। यहाँ समिति संगठन

की ओर से अंतरराष्ट्रीय मामलों में कार्य करने की बात हो रही है, इसलिए “on behalf of the organization” ही व्याकरणिक और अर्थ की दृष्टि से सही है।

- ‘on’ should be used because “on behalf of” is a fixed and correct prepositional phrase meaning representing someone or acting for someone. In the sentence, the committee is referred to as acting as a representative of the organization, so “on behalf of the organization” is the most appropriate choice.
9. B) **Sagacious** (adjective) – Having keen mental discernment and good judgment; wise, shrewd, perceptive बुद्धिमान / दूरदर्शी  
Synonym: **Insightful** (adjective) – Showing deep understanding and clear perception; perceptive, thoughtful सूझबूझ वाला
- **Foolish** (adjective) – Lacking good sense or judgment; silly मूर्ख
  - **Naïve** (adjective) – Innocent or inexperienced; lacking worldly wisdom भोला
  - **Confused** (adjective) – Unable to think clearly; puzzled उलझन में
10. A) The correct spelling is ‘**Lieutenant**’, which means a junior commissioned officer in the army or navy – सेना/नौसेना में एक अधिकारी का पद.
11. A) वाक्य A में found का अर्थ है – स्थापित करना (establish करना)।  
बाकी सभी वाक्यों में found का अर्थ है – खोज निकालना या प्राप्त करना (discover/find)।  
उच्चारण और वर्तनी समान हैं, लेकिन अर्थ अलग – इसलिए अलग अर्थ वाला प्रयोग विकल्प A में है।  
In sentence A, found means to establish or set up.  
In the other sentences, found means to discover or locate something.  
Same spelling and pronunciation, different meaning – hence option A is correct.
12. A) **Are on a collision course** (idiom) – Heading towards an inevitable conflict टकराव की ओर बढ़ना, जहाँ संघर्ष होना तय है
13. D) **Straight from the horse’s mouth** (idiom) – From a reliable source सीधे विश्वसनीय स्रोत से प्राप्त जानकारी
14. C) **Barracks** (noun) – A place where soldiers live and are trained सैनिकों के रहने व प्रशिक्षण का स्थान
- **Fortress** (noun) – A strong, fortified building for defense किला
  - **Cave** (noun) – A natural hollow in the ground or rock गुफा
  - **Residence** (noun) – A place where someone lives निवास स्थान
15. A) **Monstrous** (adjective) – Extremely ugly, cruel, or shocking; horrific, grotesque भयानक / विकृत  
Antonym: **Beautiful** (adjective) – Pleasing to the senses or mind; attractive, lovely सुंदर
- **Odd** (adjective) – Unusual or strange; peculiar अजीब
  - **Abnormal** (adjective) – Not normal; irregular असामान्य
  - **Strange** (adjective) – Unfamiliar or unusual; odd विचित्र
16. C) **Elucidate** (verb) – To make something clear or easy to understand; explain, clarify स्पष्ट करना  
Antonym: **Obscure** (verb) – To make unclear or difficult to understand; conceal, cloud अस्पष्ट करना
- **Clarify** (verb) – To make clear or understandable स्पष्ट करना

- **Explain** (verb) – To make something plain; describe स्पष्ट करना
- **Illuminate** (verb) – To light up or make clear; enlighten प्रकाश डालना

17. D) **They asked, "Is the meeting likely to begin soon or will it be delayed further?"**

Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलते समय whether / if को हटा दिया जाता है और वाक्य को Interrogative form में बदला जाता है। Reporting Verb "asked" यह बताता है कि वाक्य प्रश्नवाचक है। Indirect Speech में प्रयुक्त Past Tense "was likely" को Direct Speech में वापस Present Tense "is likely" में बदला जाता है। साथ ही, विकल्प वाले प्रश्न (or) में दोनों हिस्सों का Tense और structure संतुलित रखा जाता है।

To change a sentence from Indirect to Direct Speech, the conjunction whether is removed, the sentence is framed as a direct question, and the tense is shifted back to its original form. Here, "was likely" changes to "is likely," and the second part is correctly framed with "will it be delayed," maintaining grammatical accuracy and natural usage.

18. B) **It is crucial to double-check your work before submitting it.**

The word 'crucial' is misspelled. The correct spelling is 'crucial', which means extremely important — अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण.

19. A) 'out of breathe' के स्थान पर '**out of breath**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि breath एक noun है, जबकि breathe verb है; जैसे— After running, he was out of breath.

- 'out of breath' is correct because breath is the correct noun form used in this fixed idiomatic expression.

20. A) The door has been left open.

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb को उसी Tense के Passive रूप में बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में Tense Present Perfect है। Active वाक्य में "Someone" Subject है, "has left" Verb (Present Perfect) है और "the door" Object है। Passive में Object "the door" Subject बन जाता है और Verb को has been left (Present Perfect Passive) में बदला जाता है, जबकि Agent को हटाया जा सकता है क्योंकि वह अनिर्दिष्ट है।

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence, and the verb is converted into its passive form while maintaining the same tense. Here, the sentence is in the Present Perfect tense. "Someone" is the subject, "has left" is the verb, and "the door" is the object. In the passive construction, the correct form is "has been left."

21. D) [**cross**] सही है क्योंकि "What do you get when you cross A with B?" English में एक बहुत ही common joke format (मुहावरा) है जिसका यूज़ दो अजीब चीज़ों को मिलाने के लिए होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि इस painting की history इतनी chaotic है कि एक unicorn और एक torture wheel (पहिए) को मिलाना किसी absurd (बेतुके) जोक जैसा लगता है। Fuse, weave और mingle का मतलब भी मिलाना होता है, लेकिन वे इस joke structure में फिट नहीं बैठते।

- [cross] is correct because "What do you get when you cross [A] with [B]?" is a standard, fixed English joke format and idiom used for creating bizarre hybrids. The passage humorously implies that the painting's history is so chaotic and strange that combining a unicorn and a torture wheel sounds like the setup to an absurd joke. Fuse, weave, and mingle are all valid ways to blend things in art, but they do not fit this specific conversational riddle structure.

22. B) **[folklore]** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब लोककथाएं या वो traditional कहानियां होता है जो पीढ़ियों से चली आ रही हैं, और unicorns जैसी mythical चीज़ें यहीं से आती हैं। Passage एक sharp contrast imply कर रहा है—एक तरफ innocent परियों की कहानियां (folklore) हैं और दूसरी तरफ medieval time का brutal torture। Antiquity का मतलब प्राचीन काल (time period) होता है। Scripture का मतलब पवित्र धार्मिक ग्रंथ होता है। Heritage का मतलब विरासत होता है।

- [folklore] is correct because it specifically refers to the traditional, unwritten myths and legends passed down among people, which is exactly where mythical creatures like unicorns originate. The passage implies a sharp contrast between innocent, imaginative fairy tales (folklore) and dark, brutal reality (medieval torture). Antiquity means the ancient past (a time period, not a story genre). Scripture refers strictly to sacred religious texts. Heritage refers to inherited cultural property or traditions.

23. B) **[precocious]** सही है क्योंकि यह उस इंसान के लिए यूज़ होता है जिसमें बहुत कम उम्र में ही genius level का talent आ गया हो (Raphael ने इसे 20-22 साल की उम्र में बनाया था)। Passage यह imply करता है कि बनाने वाला तो बहुत young और talented था, लेकिन उस painting ने सदियों तक बहुत बुरा और confusing वक्त देखा। Seasoned का मतलब older और experienced होता है, जो young age के opposite है। Prolific का मतलब बहुत ज़्यादा काम produce करने वाला होता है। Ancestral का मतलब पूर्वजों से जुड़ा हुआ होता है।

- [precocious] is correct because it describes someone who develops exceptional talent or genius at an unusually young age (Raphael painted this masterpiece in his early 20s). The passage implies that despite the creator's young genius, the artwork itself suffered a very long, tortured, and confusing aging process. Seasoned means older and highly experienced, which contradicts his young age. Prolific means producing a large volume of work, but doesn't capture the specific "young prodigy" angle. Ancestral refers to family lineage.

24. A) **embody** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी abstract idea (जैसे femininity के ideals) को एक physical या जीता-जागता रूप (form) देना होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि उस औरत की अपनी कोई पहचान नहीं बची थी; बाद के painters ने society की सोच के हिसाब से उसे ज़बरदस्ती एक नया रूप दे दिया। Curate का मतलब art gallery में चीज़ों को organize करना होता है। Sculpt का मतलब पत्थर या मिट्टी से 3D मूर्ति बनाना होता है। Choreograph का मतलब डांस स्टेप्स design करना होता है।

- [embody] is correct because it means to be an expression of, or give a tangible physical form to, an abstract idea (like "ideals of femininity"). The passage implies that the painted woman had no agency; later artists forced her image to physically represent whatever society wanted women to be at that time. Curate means to select and organize artwork for a gallery. Sculpt specifically means to carve 3D shapes from stone or clay. Choreograph means to design dance routines.

25. C) **pious** सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब बहुत ज़्यादा धार्मिक या devout (पवित्र) होता है, जो "saint" (संत) शब्द के साथ perfectly match करता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि बाद के conservative लोगों ने painting को alter कर दिया (बदल दिया) ताकि वो औरत normal न लगकर एक बहुत ही religious और innocent संत जैसी दिखे। Secular का मतलब धर्मनिरपेक्ष (non-religious) होता है (जो बिल्कुल opposite है)। Heretical का मतलब धर्म के खिलाफ जाने वाला होता है। Aesthetic का मतलब खूबसूरती (beauty) से जुड़ा हुआ होता है, धर्म से नहीं।

- [pious] is correct because it means deeply religious, devout, and dedicated to God, which perfectly pairs with the word "saint". The passage implies that the painting was heavily censored or altered by later, more conservative owners who wanted the woman to look like an innocent, highly religious figure rather than a worldly woman. Secular means completely non-religious (the exact opposite). Heretical means holding beliefs that violate strict religious rules. Aesthetic relates to the philosophy of visual beauty, not religious devotion.



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