

Parched again: On Bengaluru's drinking water woes

Bengaluru is treating water supply as infinitely **expandable**

While Karnataka as a whole is improving its water security, Bengaluru is **dealing with** extreme groundwater **withdrawal**. The State **drew** 66% of the groundwater that it could **sustainably extract** in 2025, but Bengaluru East Taluka drew 378%. The **sustainably extractable volume** of groundwater **is** based on how much withdrawal will **deplete the aquifer**, so while 378% does not mean Bengaluru East has depleted its groundwater, it is **reminiscent of** an ongoing crisis that has, once again, turned **acute**. The Bengaluru region **lies** on crystalline rock that already stores little water and recharges slowly. The city further **concentrates** demand in areas with higher population density and per-capita consumption, including 'tech parks' and apartment **complexes**. The built-up **area** of such urban infrastructure also **suppresses** recharge by **percolating** rainwater. A growing **fraction** of the population **depends** on water from the Cauvery, which comes with a high expansion cost. Thus, the problem has a natural basis but has been **compounded** over the years by **inconsiderate urbanisation**, where the **costs** — **monetary** and, increasingly, **existential** — **are** being passed on to the **populace**.

In 2024, a weak monsoon left nearly half of Bengaluru's 14,000 borewells dry. The government launched a project to supply 775 million litres per day to 110 villages and lower groundwater stress. **But to date**, the project has achieved only **midway** coverage, leaving many residents still **banking on** tankers. A 2026 study found that the crisis has since moved to Koramangala and Hebbal. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board has also been using treated sewage water to **recharge** lakes. It seems Bengaluru is treating supply as infinitely expandable when it is not. Its **preference** for **grey over green infrastructure** **has sealed** the ground against **replenishment** while the increasing demand **liquidates** **ecological capital**. The city does not manage its pipeline supply, groundwater, and wastewater together, allowing consumers to default to the most **convenient** solution: tankers. Authorities need to **minimise** distribution losses and penalise overextraction and **mandate** 100% **decentralised** wastewater recycling for all non-potable uses. The ideal long-term solution remains unchanged: Bengaluru needs to become a 'sponge city'. This includes restoring the connections between lakes and wells to capture monsoon **runoff**, thus **aligning** land-use planning **with** the recharge capacity of each taluka, and overall sealing the ground less and increasing **absorption** on the surface.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Parched** (adjective) - dry, arid, scorched, dehydrated, thirsty सूखा या प्यासा
2. **Woes** (noun) - misery, distress, misfortune, adversity, hardship मुसीबतें या दुख
3. **Expandable** (adjective) - extendable, stretchable, inflatable, amplifiable, elastic विस्तार योग्य
4. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) - to take action to solve a problem or direct an activity निपटना या सामना करना
5. **Withdrawal** (noun) - extraction, removal, taking, deduction, drawing निकासी
6. **Draw** (verb) - extract, pull, drain, pump, siphon निकालना
7. **Sustainably** (adverb) - viably, feasibly, durably, renewably, maintainably निरंतरता के साथ
8. **Extract** (verb) - remove, withdraw, pull, elicit, derive निकालना
9. **Extractable** (adjective) - removable, withdrawable, derivable, obtainable, reachable निकालने योग्य
10. **Deplete** (verb) - exhaust, drain, empty, diminish, reduce खाली करना या कम करना
11. **The aquifer** (noun) - reservoir, watercourse, spring, well, waterbed भूजल स्तर या जलभृत
12. **Reminiscent of (something)** (phrase) - reminding you of something or similar to something की याद दिलाने वाला
13. **Acute** (adjective) - severe, critical, drastic, dire, intense गंभीर या विकट
14. **Lie** (verb) - situate, locate, dwell, rest, remain स्थित होना
15. **Concentrate** (verb) - centralise, condense, cluster, focus, gather केंद्रित करना
16. **Complexes** (noun) - structure, building, block, center, establishment परिसर
17. **Suppress** (verb) - curb, restrain, stifle, inhibit, quell दबाना या रोकना
18. **Percolate** (verb) - filter, seep, ooze, drain, leach रिसना या छनना
19. **Fraction** (noun) - portion, fragment, segment, part, bit अंश या छोटा हिस्सा
20. **Compound** (verb) - aggravate, worsen, intensify, magnify, augment जटिल बनाना या बढ़ाना
21. **Inconsiderate** (adjective) - thoughtless, careless, unheeding, heedless, indifferent विचारहीन या लापरवाह
22. **Urbanisation** (noun) - development, citification, expansion, growth, sprawling शहरीकरण
23. **Monetary** (adjective) - financial, fiscal, pecuniary, economic, budgetary मौद्रिक या वित्तीय
24. **Existential** (adjective) - ontological, experiential, actual, real, factual अस्तित्व संबंधी
25. **Populace** (noun) - population, public, masses, inhabitants, residents जनसाधारण
26. **But to date** (phrase) - up until the present time but not necessarily including the future अब तक

27. **Midway** (adverb) - halfway, middle, center, intermediate, equidistant बीच में या आधा
28. **Bank on** (phrasal verb) - to rely on or trust someone or something भरोसा करना या निर्भर होना
29. **Recharge** (verb) - refill, replenish, restore, renew, refresh पुनर्भरण
30. **Grey** (adjective) - dull, industrial, artificial, concrete, somber कृत्रिम (कंक्रीट से संबंधित)
31. **Green infrastructure** (noun) - a network of natural and semi-natural systems (like parks, trees, wetlands) used to manage environmental issues and improve urban life. प्राकृतिक बुनियादी ढांचा
32. **Sealed** (adjective) - closed, shut, secured, locked, airtight बंद या सील किया हुआ
33. **Replenishment** (noun) - restoration, renewal, refill, replacement, revival पुनः पूर्ति
34. **Liquidate** (verb) - to convert assets into cash or to close down a business by selling its assets समाप्त करना या चुकाना
35. **Ecological capital** (noun) - the value of natural resources and ecosystems that support life and provide benefits like clean air, water, and biodiversity पारिस्थितिक पूंजी
36. **Convenient** (adjective) - suitable, handy, favorable, opportune, advantageous सुविधाजनक
37. **Minimise** (verb) - reduce, curtail, diminish, decrease, lessen कम करना
38. **Mandate** (verb) - order, command, decree, authorize, require अनिवार्य करना या आदेश देना
39. **Decentralised** (adjective) - distributed, dispersed, scattered, spread, non-centralized विकेंद्रीकृत
40. **Runoff** (noun) - overflow, discharge, drainage, surplus, excess जल निकासी या बहाव
41. **Align with** (phrasal verb) - to agree with or support a person, group, or idea के अनुरूप होना
42. **Absorption** (noun) - soaking, suction, assimilation, intake, consumption सोखने की प्रक्रिया

Summary of the Editorial

1. Bengaluru is facing a **severe and recurring water crisis**, mainly due to overdependence on groundwater.
2. While Karnataka overall is improving water security, **Bengaluru is over-extracting groundwater unsustainably**.
3. Bengaluru East Taluka extracted **378% of its sustainable groundwater limit**, indicating serious stress.
4. The city lies on **crystalline rock**, which stores very little water and has slow recharge rates.
5. Rapid urbanisation has increased **water demand in densely populated areas**, especially tech parks and apartments.
6. Expansion of built-up areas has **reduced natural groundwater recharge** by blocking rainwater percolation.
7. A growing population depends on **Cauvery water**, which is expensive and difficult to expand further.
8. The crisis is partly natural but largely worsened by **poor urban planning and mismanagement**.
9. The **weak monsoon of 2024** led to nearly half of Bengaluru's borewells drying up.
10. Government efforts to supply **775 million litres per day** have achieved only partial success.
11. Many residents still depend on **water tankers**, indicating system inefficiency.
12. The crisis has now **spread to areas like Koramangala and Hebbal**, showing its expansion.
13. Authorities rely heavily on **grey infrastructure (pipes, tankers)** instead of sustainable green solutions.
14. There is a lack of **integrated water management** (pipeline supply, groundwater, wastewater).
15. The long-term solution is to develop Bengaluru into a '**sponge city**', focusing on lake restoration, rainwater absorption, reduced surface sealing, and sustainable urban planning.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Consider the following statements regarding Bengaluru's groundwater situation:**

1. Bengaluru East Taluka drew 378% of its sustainably extractable groundwater in 2025.
2. The city's crystalline rock foundation is ideal for storing large volumes of water.
3. Urban tech parks and apartment complexes contribute to the city's high water demand.
4. Over half of the city's 14,000 borewells remained functional during the 2024 monsoon.

Which of the statements given above are CORRECT?

- A. Only 1 and 2
 - B. Only 1 and 3
 - C. Only 2 and 4
 - D. All are correct
2. **Why is the Cauvery river not considered a simple solution to the city's water crisis?**
- A. It requires a very high expansion cost to reach the growing population.
 - B. It has been entirely diverted to the 110 villages in the 2024 project.
 - C. It cannot be used for non-potable purposes like industrial tech parks.
 - D. It is currently being replaced by treated sewage water in all the lakes.
3. **What does the author mean by the city's preference for "grey over green" infrastructure?**
- A. The authorities prefer building concrete structures over natural recharge.
 - B. The city uses grey pipeline water rather than the green rainwater tanks.
 - C. The government focuses on tech parks instead of building sewage systems.
 - D. The populace prefers using private tankers over the public water supply.
4. **According to the 2026 study mentioned, how has the water crisis recently evolved?**
- A. It has reduced the extraction rate in Bengaluru East to exactly 66 percent.
 - B. It has been completely resolved in the villages through tanker supplies.
 - C. It has led to a 100% recycling rate for all non-potable water in cities.
 - D. It has moved into new residential areas like Koramangala and also Hebbal.
5. **What is the core requirement for Bengaluru to transition into a "sponge city"?**
- A. Restoring the connections between lakes and wells to capture the runoff.
 - B. Increasing the number of private tankers to meet the household demands.
 - C. Expanding the crystalline rock layers to store more monsoon rainwater.
 - D. Building more tech parks to fund the expansion of the Cauvery pipeline.
6. **The sentences given below are in a jumbled order. Arrange them in the most logical order to form a coherent paragraph.**
- S1: While modern English uses "we" for any group, more than 1,000 years ago, a specific word existed for just two people.
- P: This dual form included other terms like "uncer" and "git," but the entire category vanished from the language around the 13th Century.
- Q: This term, "wit," was used affectionately to describe the closeness between two individuals before the English language became simplified.
- R: According to Professor Tom Birkett, the loss of these pronouns reflects a history of shifting norms and the impact of foreign invasions.
- S: Derived from Old English, "wit" literally meant "we two" and belonged to an extinct group of pronouns used specifically for pairs.

- S6: The disappearance of these distinct forms has at times left gaps in our vocabulary, leading to the confusion we experience today.
- A. Q-S-P-R
B. S-Q-R-P
C. Q-R-S-P
D. S-P-Q-R
7. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into active voice?**
Will the final decision be announced by the committee tomorrow afternoon?
A. Does the committee announce the final decision tomorrow afternoon?
B. Is the committee announcing the final decision tomorrow afternoon?
C. Has the committee announced the final decision tomorrow afternoon?
D. Will the committee announce the final decision tomorrow afternoon?
8. **Choose the option that best expresses the same sentence in indirect speech.**
I said to him, "Does your sister know French?"
A. I asked him whether his sister knows French.
B. I asked him whether his sister knew French.
C. I asked to him whether his sister knew French.
D. I asked him that does his sister know French.
9. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence:**
There are not lessing than a hundred students in this school.
A. no less
B. no fewer
C. not less
D. only less
10. **Which of the following is the correct spelling of the word?**
A. Easthetic
B. Aesthetic
C. Aesthatic
D. Aesthettic
11. **Fill in the blank with the appropriate article.**
The committee deliberated extensively over whether _____ increase in tuition fees was justifiable given the prevailing economic climate.
A. a
B. an
C. the
D. no article
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Adore."**
A. Abominate
B. Abrogate
C. Abscond
D. Abstruse

13. Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into **Passive Voice**?

The teacher had praised the hardworking students.

- A. The hardworking students had praised the teacher.
 - B. The hardworking students had been praised by the teacher.
 - C. The hardworking students were praised by the teacher.
 - D. The hardworking students have been praised by the teacher.
14. Which of the following is the correct indirect speech conversion of the given sentence?

Purna said, "Bravo! I have passed the entrance test."

- A. Purna happily announced that she have had passed the entrance test.
- B. Purna joyfully exclaimed that she had passed the entrance test.
- C. Purna expressed with excitement that she had passed the entrance test.
- D. Purna said with joy that she had passed the entrance test.

15. Select the most appropriate **SYNONYM** of the word "Deteriorate."

- A. Deliberate
- B. Delineate
- C. Dissuade
- D. Degenerate

16. What is the correct meaning of the idiom "Man of means"?

- A. Poor person
- B. Average person
- C. Honest person
- D. Wealthy person

17. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:

The consultant suggested that the firm (1)/ discontinues the outdated product line (2)/ so as to focus more resources (3)/ on innovation. (4)

- A. (1)
- B. (2)
- C. (3)
- D. (4)

18. Change the following sentence into the **Active form**.

The award will be given to the winner.

- A. They will give the award to the winner.
 - B. The winner will be given the award.
 - C. The award is given to the winner.
 - D. The award is given to winner.
19. Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?
- The special _____ members decided to seek legal _____ before taking the final decision.
- A. council, council
 - B. counsel, counsel
 - C. council, counsel
 - D. counsel, council

20. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the word "Redress."

- A. Exasperation

- B. Exacerbation
- C. Exculpation
- D. Excoriation

Comprehension

People (1) ___ at video games should consider taking jobs as air traffic controllers, the US government has said, as it tries to address a shortage of workers in the sector. In a new ad campaign, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is (2) ___ calling for gamers to apply for jobs in air traffic control when its hiring window opens next week.

The Xbox one logo appears at the start of the video before dissolving into a (3) ___ that cuts between images of men playing various online computer games and people, including women, in air traffic control towers looking at their own computers. "You've been training for this," the ad says. The ad also highlights the salary on offer to controllers, saying it is \$155,000 (£115,000) after three years of work. US Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy said in a statement that the FAA had to (4) ___ in order to reach the next generation of air traffic controllers. The new strategy tapped into "a growing demographic of young adults who have many of the hard skills it takes to be a successful controller", he said. The campaign (5) ___ one launched in 2021 under the Biden administration, called "level up", a phrase used to describe making progress in electronic games.

21. **What should come in the place of blank number (1)?**
 - A. agile
 - B. savvy
 - C. dexterous
 - D. adept
22. **What should come in the place of blank number (2)?**
 - A. blatantly
 - B. explicitly
 - C. overtly
 - D. verbally
23. **What should come in the place of blank number (3)?**
 - A. sequence
 - B. collage
 - C. panorama
 - D. montage
24. **What should come in the place of blank number (4)?**
 - A. adept
 - B. adapt
 - C. upgrade
 - D. adopt
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
 - A. mimicry
 - B. echoes
 - C. repeats
 - D. reflect

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Only 1 and 3.

Statement 1 is CORRECT: The passage states that while the state drew 66%, "Bengaluru East Taluka drew 378%" in 2025.

Statement 3 is CORRECT: The passage notes the city concentrates demand in areas with "higher population density... including 'tech parks' and apartment complexes."

Statement 2 is INCORRECT: The passage says the region "lies on crystalline rock that already stores little water and recharges slowly."

Statement 4 is INCORRECT: The passage specifies that a weak monsoon "left nearly half of Bengaluru's 14,000 borewells dry," implying the other half remained functional, but it doesn't say "over half" were functional.

2. A) It requires a very high expansion cost to reach the growing population.

The passage mentions a growing fraction depends on the Cauvery, "which comes with a high expansion cost."

(B) : The passage says a project was launched for these villages, but doesn't say all Cauvery water was diverted there.

(C) : The passage discusses the cost and dependence, not a prohibition on its use for specific sectors.

(D) : The passage says the Board is using treated sewage to "recharge lakes," not to replace the Cauvery supply.

3. A) The authorities prefer building concrete structures over natural recharge.

The passage states this preference "has sealed the ground against replenishment," referring to built-up urban infrastructure.

(B) : "Grey infrastructure" in the passage refers to built surfaces/pipes that prevent ground absorption, not the color of water.

(C) : The passage mentions that urban infrastructure (like tech parks) is the grey infrastructure suppressing recharge.

(D) : Tankers are described as a "convenient solution" for consumers, but not as the definition of "grey infrastructure."

4. D) It has moved into new residential areas like Koramangala and also Hebbal.

The passage explicitly states: "A 2026 study found that the crisis has since moved to Koramangala and Hebbal."

(B) : The passage says the project achieved "only midway coverage," so it is not completely resolved.

(C) : The passage says authorities "need to... mandate" this, implying it has not happened yet.

(A) : The passage says the state drew 66%, but Bengaluru East drew 378%; there is no mention of it dropping.

5. A) Restoring the connections between lakes and wells to capture the runoff.

The passage defines the sponge city long-term solution as "restoring the connections between lakes and wells to capture monsoon runoff."

(B) : Tankers are a default "convenient solution" that avoids managing water properly; they are not part of a "sponge city."

(C) : Crystalline rock is a natural geological feature; it cannot be "expanded" by human intervention.

(D) : The passage notes that built-up areas of urban infrastructure (like tech parks) actually "suppress recharge."

6. A) Correct Answer: A (Q-S-P-R)

Sentence Q, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह उस विशिष्ट शब्द "wit" की पहचान करता है जिसका जिक्र S1 में किया गया है। यह रिपोर्ट को एक ठोस आधार (factual ground) प्रदान करता है कि प्राचीन समय में दो लोगों के लिए किस शब्द का इस्तेमाल होता था।

Sentence S, Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह "Why" (क्यों) पेश करता है। यह "wit" शब्द को उसके भाषाई मूल (Old English) से जोड़ता है और यह स्पष्ट करता है कि यह एक "dual form" समूह का हिस्सा था। यह भाषा के इतिहास को समझने के लिए एक बड़ा परीक्षण (test) है।

Sentence P, Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह उस "परीक्षण" या dual form समूह का विस्तार (elaboration) करता है। जहाँ S में "wit" की बात की गई है, वहीं Sentence P विशिष्ट विवरण (specific details) देता है कि इस समूह में "uncer" और "git" जैसे अन्य शब्द भी शामिल थे जो 13वीं शताब्दी में गायब हो गए।

Sentence R, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे परिदृश्य को एक निष्कर्ष (conclusion) की ओर ले जाता है। इन शब्दों के लुप्त होने के तकनीकी विवरण के बाद, R प्रोफेसर टॉम बिरकेट के हवाले से इस भाषाई बदलाव के पीछे के ऐतिहासिक कारणों (Invasions and social change) को स्पष्ट करता है।

- Sentence Q comes at the beginning because it identifies the specific word "wit" alluded to in S1. It provides the essential factual ground by establishing what the word was and its original affectionate usage.
- Sentence S follows Sentence Q because it introduces the "Why." It directly links the word "wit" to its linguistic roots in Old English and defines it as part of the "dual form" category. This serves as a critical test of the subject's historical context.
- Sentence P follows Sentence S because it elaborates on the nature of that "test" or the dual form category. While S introduces the concept, Sentence P provides specific details regarding other lost pronouns like "uncer" and "git," and marks the timeline of their extinction.
- Sentence R follows Sentence P because it serves as the logical conclusion for the narrative. After detailing the technical loss of the words, it provides a wrap-up by citing Professor Tom Birkett to explain the broader historical and social reasons behind these linguistic shifts.

7. D) Will the committee announce the final decision tomorrow afternoon?

Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Subject Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है और "by + doer" Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Passive से Active में बदलते समय सही Tense का ध्यान रखा जाता है। यहाँ "the final decision" Subject है, "will be announced" (Future Simple Passive) Verb है और "by the committee" doer है। Active में

बदलने पर "the committee" Subject बन जाता है, Verb "will announce" (Future Simple) हो जाता है और "the final decision" Object बन जाता है। साथ ही, प्रश्नवाचक संरचना बनाए रखने के लिए "Will" से वाक्य शुरू होता है। इसलिए सही वाक्य है — "Will the committee announce the final decision tomorrow afternoon?"

- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object, and the doer (introduced by "by") becomes the subject. The verb is converted into the correct active tense. In this case, "the final decision" (Subject), "will be announced" (Future Simple Passive), and "by the committee" are transformed into "the committee" (Subject), "will announce" (Active Verb in Future Simple), and "the final decision" (Object). The interrogative structure is maintained by starting with "Will". Hence, the correct answer is — "Will the committee announce the final decision tomorrow afternoon?" (Option 4)
8. B) 'I said to him, "Does your sister know French?"' का Indirect Speech होगा 'I asked him whether his sister knew French.' क्योंकि Yes/No questions में 'whether/if' का प्रयोग होता है; Simple Present 'knows' → Simple Past 'knew' बनता है; और 'your' → 'his' (pronoun change)।
- Rule: Yes/No question → 'asked + whether/if'; present tense → past tense; question word order → statement word order.
A is incorrect – 'knows' should shift to past tense 'knew' in indirect speech.
C is incorrect – 'asked to him' is grammatically incorrect; the correct form is 'asked him'.
D is incorrect – 'that does his sister know French' retains question word order which is wrong in indirect speech; 'whether/if' must be used.
9. A) 'not lessing' के बदले 'no less' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'no less than' एक fixed idiomatic expression है, जिसका अर्थ है "कम से कम"। यह expression संख्या के साथ प्रयोग होती है और countable noun (students) के बावजूद standard और exam-oriented English में स्वीकार्य है।
In English
Explanation:
"No less than" is a fixed idiomatic expression meaning at least / as many as.
It is commonly used with numbers, even when the following noun is countable (like students).
In standard and exam-oriented English, "no less than + number" is fully acceptable and widely used.
Correct sentence:
There are no less than a hundred students in this school.
Other Option Analysis
- 2) no fewer → grammatically precise for countable nouns, but not the expected idiomatic answer here
 - 3) not less → incorrect and non-idiomatic
 - 4) only less → grammatically incorrect
10. B) The correct spelling is 'Aesthetic', which means "concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty" — सौंदर्यबोध / सौंदर्य-सम्बन्धी।

11. B) 'an' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "an increase" एक सही expression है; 'increase' एक vowel sound से शुरू होने वाला शब्द है (/ɪ/), इसलिए indefinite article 'an' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे — There has been an increase in the price of vegetables this month.
- 'an' should be used because 'increase' begins with a vowel sound (/ɪ/), requiring the article 'an' before it.
 - 'a' – Incorrect; 'a' is used before consonant sounds, but 'increase' starts with a vowel sound.
 - 'the' – Incorrect; the definite article is used for specific things already known to the listener, but here the increase is referred to in a general sense.
 - 'no article' – Incorrect; a singular countable noun like 'increase' requires an article.
12. A) **Adore** (verb) – To love and respect someone deeply; to worship. (अधिक प्रेम करना)
Antonym: **Abominate** (verb) – To detest; to loathe; to hate intensely. (नफरत करना / घृणा करना)
- **Abrogate** (verb): To repeal or do away with (a law, right, or formal agreement). (रद्द करना)
 - **Abscond** (verb): To leave hurriedly and secretly, typically to avoid detection or arrest. (फरार होना)
 - **Abstruse** (adjective): Difficult to understand; obscure. (जटिल / अव्यक्त)
13. B) **The hardworking students had been praised by the teacher.**
Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ "The teacher" Subject है, "had praised" (Past Perfect) Verb है और "the hardworking students" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The hardworking students" Subject बन जाता है, Verb को "had been praised" (Past Perfect Passive) में बदला जाता है और "by the teacher" जोड़ा जाता है। इसलिए सही वाक्य है — "The hardworking students had been praised by the teacher."
- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is changed into the passive form with the correct tense. In this case, "The teacher" (Subject), "had praised" (Verb in Past Perfect), and "the hardworking students" (Object) are transformed into "The hardworking students" (Subject), "had been praised" (Passive Verb in Past Perfect), and "by the teacher". Hence, the correct answer is — "The hardworking students had been praised by the teacher." (Option 2)
14. B) 'Purna said, "Bravo! I have passed the entrance test.'" का Indirect Speech होगा 'Purna joyfully exclaimed that she had passed the entrance test.' क्योंकि exclamation of joy (Bravo!) के लिए reporting verb 'exclaimed' + adverb 'joyfully' का प्रयोग होता है; Present Perfect 'have passed' → Past Perfect 'had passed' बनता है।
- Rule: Exclamation of joy → 'exclaimed joyfully/happily that'; Present Perfect → Past Perfect in indirect speech.
 - A is incorrect – 'she have had passed' is grammatically wrong; the correct form is 'she had passed'.

- C is incorrect – ‘expressed with excitement’ is not a standard reporting structure for exclamations of joy.
 - D is incorrect – ‘said with joy’ is grammatically awkward; the correct reporting verb for ‘Bravo!’ is ‘exclaimed joyfully’.
15. D) **Deteriorate** (verb) – To become progressively worse; to decline or decay.
(बिगड़ना/खराब होना)
Synonym: **Degenerate** (verb) – To decline or deteriorate physically, mentally, or morally.
(पतन होना/बिगड़ना)
- **Deliberate** (verb/adj): To engage in long and careful consideration; done consciously. (विचार-विमर्श करना)
 - **Delineate** (verb): To describe or portray something precisely. (चित्रित करना/वर्णन करना)
 - **Dissuade** (verb): To persuade someone not to take a particular course of action. (रोकना)
16. D) “Man of means” means धनी व्यक्ति
17. B) ‘discontinues’ के स्थान पर ‘**discontinue**’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि suggested that के बाद आने वाली that-clause में subjunctive mood का प्रयोग किया जाता है, जिसमें verb का base form आता है, न कि third person singular form।
- Verbs like suggest, recommend, propose, demand, insist take the subjunctive mood in the that-clause.
 - In the subjunctive mood, the verb is used in its base form (V₁), regardless of the subject.
 - Therefore, “discontinues” (simple present, third person singular) is incorrect here.
 - Correct Sentence: The consultant suggested that the firm discontinue the outdated product line so as to focus more resources on innovation.
18. A) **They will give the award to the winner.**
Active से Passive Voice के नियम के अनुसार Passive से Active में बदलते समय Receiver (Object) को Active में Object रखा जाता है और Doer (Agent) को Subject बनाया जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में Passive संरचना “will be given” (Simple Future Passive) है। यहाँ “the award” Receiver है और “the winner” Indirect Object है। Active में सामान्य Agent they का प्रयोग किया जाता है और Verb को will give (Simple Future Active) में बदला जाता है।
- To convert a Passive sentence into Active Voice, the receiver of the action becomes the object and a suitable subject (agent) is introduced. The passive verb “will be given” changes to the active verb will give, keeping the same future tense and meaning.
19. C) ‘council, counsel’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पहली जगह उन सदस्यों की बात हो रही है जो निर्णय लेने वाले निकाय का हिस्सा हैं – यह council होता है। दूसरी जगह कानूनी सलाह लेने की बात है – यह counsel होता है। इसलिए यह जोड़ी संदर्भ के अनुसार सबसे उपयुक्त है।
- ‘council, counsel’ should be used because the first blank refers to a committee or decision-making body, which is council, while the second refers to legal advice, which is counsel. Hence, option C is correct.

20. B) **Redress** (noun) – Remedy or compensation for a wrong or grievance. (निवारण/सुधार)
 Antonym: **Exacerbation** (noun) – The process of making a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling worse. (बिगाड़ना/वृद्धि)
- **Exasperation** (noun): A feeling of intense irritation or annoyance. (खीझ)
 - **Exculpation** (noun): The act of showing or declaring that someone is not guilty of wrongdoing. (दोषमुक्ति)
 - **Excoriation** (noun): The act of censuring or criticizing someone severely. (कड़ी निंदा)
21. D) [**adept**] सही है क्योंकि grammar के हिसाब से इसके बाद "at" (adept at) लगता है और इसका मतलब किसी task में बहुत skilled या expert होना होता है। Passage यह imply करता है कि video games खेलने से दिमाग इतना तेज़ हो जाता है कि वो skills air traffic control जैसे high-stress jobs में काम आ सकते हैं। Savvy के साथ "with" लगता है (savvy with tech)। Agile और dexterous का मतलब physical फुर्ती या हाथों की तेज़ी होता है, दिमाग की proficiency नहीं।
- [adept] is correct because grammatically it takes the preposition "at" (adept at) and means highly skilled or proficient in a particular task. The passage implies that playing video games develops specific mental and technical proficiencies that are directly transferable to high-stress aviation jobs. Savvy is usually followed by "with" or used as a compound (tech-savvy). Agile and dexterous refer strictly to physical speed or hand coordination, lacking the broad mental proficiency implied here.
22. B) [**explicitly**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी बात को बहुत clearly और directly कहना होता है (ताकि कोई confusion न रहे)। Passage यह imply करता है कि FAA इशारों में बात नहीं कर रही, बल्कि वो direct "gamers" का नाम लेकर उन्हें target कर रही है। Blatantly का मतलब बेशरमी से या खुलेआम (negative way में) होता है। Overtly का मतलब छुपकर नहीं, बल्कि सबके सामने करना होता है। Verbally का मतलब सिर्फ मुंह से बोलना होता है।
- [explicitly] is correct because it means stating something very clearly and directly, leaving no room for doubt or hidden meaning. The passage implies that the FAA isn't just dropping hints; they are directly naming and targeting "gamers" for recruitment. Blatantly has a negative connotation (shameless or offensively obvious). Overtly means done openly instead of secretly, but doesn't mean clearly stated. Verbally means spoken aloud, which doesn't capture the directness of an ad campaign targeting a specific group.
23. D) [**montage**] सही है क्योंकि यह video editing का एक specific term है जहाँ अलग-अलग shots या क्लिप्स को तेज़ी से काटकर (cut करके) एक साथ जोड़ा जाता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि FAA युवाओं को attract करने के लिए fast-paced और modern video style का इस्तेमाल कर रही है। Collage का इस्तेमाल static (रुकी हुई) photos को चिपकाकर बनाने के लिए होता है, video के लिए नहीं। Sequence का मतलब सिर्फ एक order होता है। Panorama एक बहुत चौड़ा नज़ारा (wide view) होता है।
- [montage] is correct because it is a specific video editing term referring to a rapid succession of different shots or images cut together. The passage literally describes a video doing exactly this ("cuts between images..."), implying the FAA is using a fast-paced, modern ad style to appeal to a younger demographic. Collage refers to

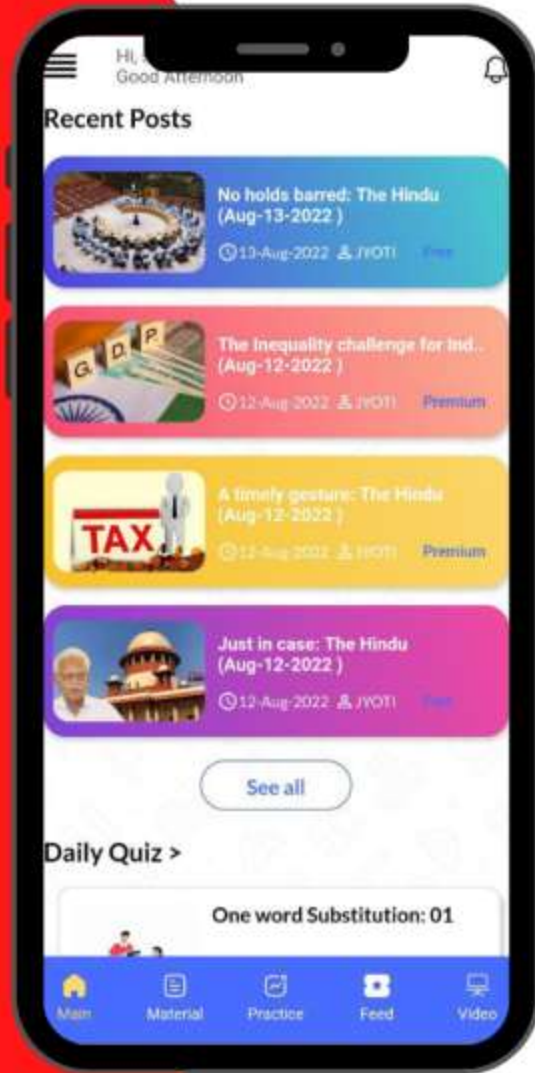
static, physical pictures glued together on a board, not a moving video. Sequence is just a general order of events. Panorama is a wide, unbroken view of a landscape.

24. B) [**adapt**] सही है क्योंकि यह एक verb है जिसका मतलब नए हालात या नई generation के हिसाब से खुद को ढालना (modify करना) होता है। Passage यह imply करता है कि सरकार के पुराने तरीके अब काम नहीं आ रहे, इसलिए FAA को modern युवाओं तक पहुंचने के लिए अपने तरीकों को बदलना पड़ा। Adept एक adjective है जिसका मतलब skilled होता है (यहाँ verb चाहिए)। Upgrade machines या software के लिए यूज़ होता है। Adopt का मतलब अपनाना होता है, लेकिन माहौल के हिसाब से खुद को बदलने के लिए 'adapt' ही सबसे perfect word है।

- [adapt] is correct because it is a verb meaning to modify one's approach or behavior to suit new conditions or a new environment. The passage implies that traditional government hiring methods are outdated, forcing the FAA to change its strategies to connect with modern youth. Adept is an adjective meaning skilled (wrong part of speech here). Upgrade usually applies to software or machinery. Adopt means to take up or choose to follow a new rule, but "adapt" perfectly captures the necessity of changing to survive or reach a new goal.

25. B) [**echoes**] सही है क्योंकि एक verb के रूप में इसका मतलब किसी पुरानी चीज़ की याद दिलाना या उससे मिलता-जुलता होना होता है। Passage यह imply करता है कि यह नया campaign 2021 के "level up" campaign की याद दिलाता है। Mimicry grammatically गलत है क्योंकि यह एक noun है, जबकि sentence में verb की ज़रूरत है। Repeats का मतलब exact वही चीज़ दोबारा करना होता है। Reflect ग्रामर के हिसाब से गलत है क्योंकि "campaign" singular (एकवचन) है, इसलिए verb में 's' लगाना चाहिए था (reflects)।

- [echoes] is correct because, as a verb, it means to be reminiscent of or share characteristics with a past event. The passage implies that this new ad naturally reminds people of a very similar campaign from 2021 without being a cheap, exact copy. Mimicry is grammatically incorrect here because it is a noun, and the sentence requires a verb. Repeats means doing the exact same thing again. Reflect is grammatically incorrect because the singular subject "campaign" requires the verb to end in 's' (reflects).



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