

The real pollution: When the mind poisons the earth

Today, globally, every country is facing the consequences of pollution, **contamination**, or abuse of air, water, food, and even space on a very large scale, yet they are unable to find a foolproof solution to this dangerous threat to **humanity**. **Environmental pollution**, having been the focus of public attention during the last couple of years, **is** now increasingly being recognised as the result of **humanity's wanton** and **often cruel** treatment of planet Earth, **leading to** the **ravaging** and **ruin** of the atmosphere. The **denudation** of forests, the poisoning of lakes and rivers with **pesticides** and industrial waste, the **pollution** of the atmosphere with smoke from automobiles and factory chimneys, and the **overuse** of chlorofluorocarbons **resulting in** ozone **depletion** **have** brought the world **to the brink of** environmental disaster. Environmental scientists now warn that the **accumulation** of CO₂ in the atmosphere **will** not only lead to **the greenhouse effect** but also increase the planet's average temperature by 3°F to 9°F. This, in turn, could cause sea levels to rise by several feet, flooding coastal areas, destroying **vast tracts** of farmland, and **triggering** further **calamities**. It is therefore being suggested that industries must re-examine their production processes so that industrial waste and emissions are reduced, waste products are recycled, and mass transport systems are encouraged **in place** of private automobiles.

If we look up the dictionary meaning of the word "pollution", we may find something like "to destroy the purity of; to **contaminate**". However, we as humans are largely aware only of material pollution the branches of the polluted tree while **disregarding** the root cause: thought pollution. Without **addressing** this root, the source can never truly be purified. It would not be an **exaggeration** to say that environmental pollution is, **in essence**, a **reflection** of the pollution of the human mind, which is often filled with **selfishness**, jealousy, **greed**, and anger. The **problem** of ecological imbalance **stems from** mental imbalance, and the **disequilibrium** in nature **mirrors** the disequilibrium within human **consciousness**.

Secondly, the problem of pollution is closely linked to **rapid** population growth. To **meet** the demands of an expanding population, there is an increasing need for electricity, fuel, energy, automobiles, wood, water, paper, and industrial output all of which **exert** significant pressure on the environment. Additionally, modern lifestyles have **intensified** the demand for energy and consumer goods. As a result, forests are cleared, farmlands are replaced by expanding urban spaces, and industrial waste and emissions of CO₂, SO₂, and other pollutants continue to rise. Without addressing population growth and transforming lifestyles and attitudes, the **problem** of environmental pollution **cannot** be effectively **resolved**. In this context, spiritual thought plays a crucial role. The solution **lies** not only in technology or policy but also in self-realisation and understanding our relationship with others and nature. Without moral and spiritual values, no problem can be resolved **sustainably**.

It is therefore essential to recognise our true nature beyond the physical self. Without this shift, **scientific progress** without **spirituality** **could** lead to serious global crises. Thus, we must combine

scientific advancement with spiritual wisdom to **cleanse** thought pollution and live in **harmony** with nature.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Contamination** (noun) - pollution, adulteration, impurity, taint, defilement
दूषण
2. **Humanity** (noun) - humankind, mankind, people, society, mortals मानवता
3. **Wanton** (adjective) - reckless, deliberate, unjustified, malicious, spiteful स्वच्छंद या उच्छृंखल
4. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, repeatedly, regularly, habitually, many times अक्सर
5. **Cruel** (adjective) - brutal, harsh, heartless, merciless, ruthless क्रूर
6. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) - to result in or cause a particular situation or event का कारण बनना
7. **Ravaging** (noun) - destruction, devastation, damage, ruin, havoc विनाशकारी प्रभाव
8. **Ruin** (noun) - downfall, destruction, collapse, wreckage, decay बर्बादी
9. **Denudation** (noun) - stripping, exposure, uncovering, erosion, baring नग्न करना या कटाव
10. **Pesticide** (noun) - insecticide, herbicide, fungicide, chemical, repellent कीटनाशक
11. **Result in** (phrasal verb) - to cause a particular situation to happen के रूप में परिणत होना
12. **Depletion** (noun) - reduction, exhaustion, decrease, diminution, drain कमी या रिक्तीकरण
13. **To the brink of** (phrase) - very close to a point where something very bad or very good will happen के कगार पर
14. **The greenhouse effect** (noun) - the trapping of the sun's warmth in a planet's lower atmosphere due to the greater transparency of the atmosphere to visible radiation from the sun than to infrared radiation emitted from the planet's surface ग्रीनहाउस प्रभाव
15. **Vast tracts** (noun) - very large areas of land भूमि के विशाल क्षेत्र
16. **Trigger** (verb) - activate, spark, initiate, provoke, cause सक्रिय करना या शुरू करना
17. **Calamity** (noun) - disaster, catastrophe, tragedy, mishap, adversity आपदा
18. **In place** (phrase) - instead of or as a substitute for something else के स्थान पर
19. **Contaminate** (verb) - pollute, infect, foul, spoil, taint दूषित करना
20. **Disregard** (verb) - ignore, neglect, overlook, dismiss, bypass उपेक्षा करना
21. **Address** (verb) - tackle, handle, confront, attend to, manage समाधान करना या ध्यान देना
22. **Exaggeration** (noun) - overstatement, hyperbole, amplification, excess, embroidery अतिशयोक्ति
23. **In essence** (phrase) - fundamentally, basically, primarily, essentially, at heart अनिवार्य रूप से
24. **Reflection** (noun) - manifestation, indication, expression, image प्रतिबिंब

25. **Selfishness** (noun) - egocentrism, greed, self-interest, narcissism, vanity स्वार्थ
26. **Greed** (noun) - avarice, cupidity, acquisitiveness, rapacity, gluttony लालच
27. **Stem from** (phrasal verb) - to be caused by something or to originate from something से उत्पन्न होना
28. **Disequilibrium** (noun) - imbalance, instability, unevenness, disparity, fluctuation असंतुलन
29. **Mirror** (verb) - reflect, echo, mimic, imitate, repeat प्रतिबिंबित करना
30. **Consciousness** (noun) - awareness, mindfulness, perception, cognition, sentience चेतना
31. **Rapid** (adjective) - quick, swift, fast, speedy, brisk तीव्र
32. **Meet** (verb) - satisfy, fulfill, answer, match, achieve पूरा करना या संतुष्ट करना
33. **Exert** (verb) - apply, exercise, wield, employ, utilize दबाव डालना या उपयोग करना
34. **Intensify** (verb) - escalate, increase, sharpen, boost, heighten तीव्र करना
35. **Resolve** (verb) - settle, solve, fix, rectify, reconcile हल करना
36. **Sustainably** (adverb) - continuously, viably, durably, renewably, maintainably स्थायी रूप से
37. **Spirituality** (noun) - holiness, divinity, piety, sanctity, religiousness आध्यात्मिकता
38. **Cleanse** (verb) - purify, sanitize, disinfect, wash, scrub स्वच्छ करना
39. **Harmony** (noun) - concord, unity, balance, peace, rapport सामंजस्य या तालमेल

Summary of the Editorial

1. Environmental pollution is a global crisis affecting air, water, food, and even space.
2. Despite awareness, countries have not found a complete or foolproof solution.
3. Pollution results from humanity's careless and destructive treatment of Earth.
4. Activities like deforestation, industrial waste dumping, and excessive emissions are major causes.
5. Overuse of chemicals like chlorofluorocarbons has led to ozone depletion.
6. Rising CO₂ levels are causing the greenhouse effect and global warming.
7. Temperature rise may lead to melting ice, rising sea levels, and flooding of coastal areas.
8. These changes can destroy farmland and trigger further environmental disasters.
9. Industries must adopt cleaner production, reduce waste, and promote recycling.
10. Public transport should be encouraged to reduce pollution from private vehicles.
11. Pollution is not just physical but also mental—rooted in human thoughts and attitudes.
12. Negative emotions like greed, selfishness, and anger contribute to environmental destruction.
13. Population growth and modern lifestyles increase demand for resources, worsening pollution.
14. Technological solutions alone are insufficient without changes in human values and thinking.
15. A balance of scientific progress and spiritual wisdom is necessary for sustainable environmental harmony.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements regarding the physical consequences of pollution is CORRECT according to the passage?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. The rise in average global temperature is expected to reach 10°F to 15°F due to ozone depletion alone.
 - B. Scientists warn that CO₂ accumulation will cause sea levels to rise by several feet, potentially flooding coastal farmlands.
 - C. Dictionary definitions of pollution focus exclusively on "thought pollution" rather than material contamination.
 - D. Modern lifestyles have successfully reduced the demand for energy by replacing farmlands with expanding urban spaces.
2. **Based on the passage, identify whether the following evaluations are True (T) or False (F):**
 1. The author identifies "thought pollution" as the root cause of material environmental pollution.
 2. The passage suggests that industrial waste should be increased to meet the demands of a growing population.
 3. The problem of ecological imbalance is described as a mirror of the disequilibrium within human consciousness.
 - A. 1-T, 2-T, 3-F
 - B. 1-F, 2-F, 3-T
 - C. 1-T, 2-F, 3-T
 - D. 1-F, 2-T, 3-F
3. **Which of the following best describes the "Tone" of the author in this passage?**
 - A. Cynical and hopeless regarding the future of humanity and the planet.
 - B. Purely technical and scientific, focusing solely on chemical emissions.
 - C. Reflective and holistic, linking physical problems to mental and spiritual values.
 - D. Indifferent and apathetic toward the rise in CO₂ levels and global temperatures.
4. **According to the author's understanding, how is population growth linked to environmental pressure?**
 - A. Larger populations naturally lead to a decrease in the demand for wood, paper, and fuel.
 - B. Population growth is a separate issue that has no direct correlation with the accumulation of CO₂.
 - C. Increased population density helps in the natural restoration of forests and farmlands.
 - D. Expanding populations necessitate higher industrial output and energy use, which ravage the atmosphere.
5. **Complete the following statement based on the passage: "Scientific progress without _____ could lead to _____."**
 - A. industrial recycling; a 3°F temperature rise.
 - B. private automobiles; an increase in mass transport.
 - C. spiritual wisdom; serious global crises.
 - D. urban expansion; the denudation of forests.
6. **Choose the correctly spelt word from the given options.**
 - A. Confictionary
 - B. Confectionry

- C. Confectionary
D. Confectionery
7. **Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning (antonym) to the given word.**
disgusting
A. Revolting
B. Repulsive
C. Delightful
D. Nauseating
8. **Choose the word that is the antonym of Improvement.**
A. Progress
B. Advancement
C. Betterment
D. Deterioration
9. **Choose the correct word from the following to complete the sentence.**
He was _____ for breaking the traffic rules.
A. find
B. fined
C. fine
D. fund
10. **There are four underlined words in the sentence given below. One of them is misspelt. Choose the option with the misspelt word.**
Farmers face a dire season as prolonged droughts slash yields—from cereals to brassicas—promting many to explore diversified income streams like renewables.
A. prolonged
B. cereals
C. promting
D. diversified
11. **Direction: The sentences given below are in a jumbled order. Arrange them (1, 2, 3, 4) in the most logical order to form a coherent paragraph.**
1. This "cognitive offloading" has raised alarms among researchers who fear that outsourcing mental tasks to AI could have a corrosive effect on human intelligence.
2. At MIT, research scientist Nataliya Kosmyrna noticed that students were forgetting course content more easily than in previous years.
3. She linked this trend to an increasing reliance on Large Language Models (LLMs) for tasks like writing cover letters and completing assignments.
4. If this reliance continues, it may lead to a decline in basic cognitive abilities and even long-term mental deterioration.
A. 2-3-1-4
B. 2-1-3-4
C. 1-2-3-4
D. 2-3-4-1
12. **Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**
A person who is an expert in the study of human behaviour.
A. Psychologist

- B. Sociologist
C. Anthropologist
D. Biologist
13. **Choose the most suitable one-word substitution for the following.**
The category to which a film or series belongs.
A. Family
B. Genre
C. Phylum
D. Genus
14. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into active voice?**
Which type of vehicles have been driven by you?
A. Which type of vehicles are you driven?
B. Which type of vehicles has you driven?
C. Which type of vehicles have you driven?
D. Which type of vehicles had you driven?
15. **Choose the word that is the most appropriate synonym of the word "vulnerable".**
A. Strong
B. Defenseless
C. Secure
D. Protected
16. **Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition in the following sentence.**
The country is teeming _____ prodigies in almost every state.
A. by
B. along
C. with
D. through
17. **The following sentence is divided into four parts and are given in the alternatives A, B, C, and D. Select that alternative which contains that part of the sentence which has an error. Selecting the part with the error is the answer.**
Our bicycles are fully equipped, with head and tail lights, gear shifts, a bell, and even a air pump.
A. Our bicycles are fully
B. equipped, with head and
C. tail lights, gear shifts, a bell,
D. and even a air pump.
18. **Select the correct alternative to fill in the blank with the correct preposition/prepositional phrase in the following sentence.**
_____ a guess, there were 200 persons in the meeting.
A. By
B. Over
C. In
D. At

19. A part of the following sentence is underlined. Choose the option that can replace the underlined part to improve the sentence. In case Options A, B and C are not found suitable, choose Option D: "No improvement required."

He aspires to become the more influential leader in the country representing marginalised communities.

- A. a most influential leader
 - B. the most influential leader
 - C. most influential leader
 - D. No improvement required
20. Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Nudge."
- A. Encourage
 - B. Enervated
 - C. Elucidate
 - D. Explicate

Comprehension

The first volunteers in the UK have been immunised (1) ___ a vaccine to protect against a potential bird flu pandemic. The vaccine targets the H5N1 flu (2) ___ which has caused devastating infections in bird populations worldwide and has spread to some (3) ___. The threat to humans is currently low, says the UK Health Protection Agency, with almost all human cases linked to close contact with infected animals. The vaccine uses the same mRNA technology used in current Covid (4) ___, with scientists saying this enables the vaccine to be created quickly and at scale, in the event of a pandemic. The trial is hoping to (5) ___ people who work in the poultry industry or are over the age of 65 - the two most at-risk groups. Clare Howard, from Hampshire, who has kept chickens for years, was one of the first volunteers to receive the vaccine on this new H5N1 trial, at a clinic in Southampton.

21. What should come in the place of blank number (1)?
- A. via
 - B. against
 - C. through
 - D. with
22. What should come in the place of blank number (2)?
- A. mutation
 - B. derivative
 - C. strain
 - D. variant
23. What should come in the place of blank number (3)?
- A. marsupials
 - B. primate
 - C. vertebrate
 - D. mammals
24. What should come in the place of blank number (4)?
- A. serums
 - B. antidote
 - C. jabs

- D. placebo
25. **What should come in the place of blank number (5)?**
- A. solicit
 - B. recruit
 - C. draft
 - D. conscript

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- B) Scientists warn that CO2 accumulation will cause sea levels to rise by several feet, potentially flooding coastal farmlands.**

The passage explicitly states: "accumulation of CO2... could cause sea levels to rise by several feet, flooding coastal areas, destroying vast tracts of farmland."

(A) : The passage cites a temperature increase of "3°F to 9°F" and attributes the greenhouse effect to CO2, not just ozone.

(C) : The passage says the dictionary definition is "to destroy the purity of; to contaminate," and humans are largely aware only of material pollution.

(D) : The passage states modern lifestyles have "intensified the demand for energy" and that expanding urban spaces replaces farmland (a negative impact).
- C) 1-T, 2-F, 3-**

Statement 1 (True): The passage explicitly calls thought pollution the "root cause" and the source that must be purified

Statement 2 (False): The passage suggests the exact opposite. It states that "industrial waste and emissions [must be] reduced," not increased to meet population needs.

Statement 3 (True): The passage uses the word "mirrors." .the disequilibrium in nature mirrors the disequilibrium within human consciousness."
- C) Reflective and holistic, linking physical problems to mental and spiritual values.**

A "holistic" tone looks at the whole system. The author connects scientific data (CO2, CFCs, urban expansion) with internal states (jealousy, greed, spiritual thought)

(A) is INCORRECT: The author is not hopeless. The passage provides actionable solutions like recycling, mass transport, and spiritual wisdom, which implies there is a way forward.

(B) is INCORRECT: The passage is not purely technical. A technical paper would not discuss "selfishness" or "self-realisation." These elements make the tone Reflective.

(D) is INCORRECT: The author is far from indifferent. The use of words like "dangerous threat," "wanton," and "disaster" shows a high level of concern.
- D) Expanding populations necessitate higher industrial output and energy use, which ravage the atmosphere.**

This follows the author's logic that more people = more needs = more pollution. "To meet the demands of an expanding population, there is an increasing need for... industrial output—all of which exert significant pressure on the environment."

(A) is INCORRECT: This is logically the opposite of the passage. More people lead to an "increasing need" for fuel, paper, and energy, not a decrease.

(B) is INCORRECT: The passage says "...the problem of pollution is closely linked to rapid population growth."

(C) is INCORRECT: This is factually reversed. The passage states that because of population and urban expansion, "forests are cleared" and "farmlands are replaced."
- C) spiritual wisdom; serious global crises.**

The passage explicitly warns: "scientific progress without spirituality could lead to serious global crises." It later concludes that we must combine advancement with "spiritual wisdom.

6. D) The correct spelling of 'Confictionary / Confectionry / Confectionnary' is '**Confectionery**', which means "sweet foods like candies and chocolates" मिठाइयाँ, मिष्ठान।
7. C) **Disgusting** (adjective) – Revolting, repulsive, nauseating, offensive, foul घिनौना
Antonym: **Delightful** (adjective) – Pleasing, charming, enjoyable, lovely, attractive आनंददायक / मनोहर
- **Revolting** (adjective) – Disgusting, repulsive, offensive घिनौना
 - **Repulsive** (adjective) – Disgusting, unpleasant, offensive घिनौना
 - **Nauseating** (adjective) – Disgusting, sickening, revolting मतली उत्पन्न करने वाला
8. D) **Improvement** (noun) – Progress, advancement, betterment, enhancement, विकास / सुधार
Antonym: **Deterioration** (noun) – Decline, worsening, degradation, decay, गिरावट / खराब होना
- **Progress** (noun) – Improvement, development, advancement प्रगति
 - **Advancement** (noun) – Improvement, progress, promotion उन्नति
 - **Betterment** (noun) – Improvement, enhancement, progress सुधार
9. B) **Fined** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में "breaking the traffic rules" (traffic नियम तोड़ने) के लिए दंड मिलने की बात हो रही है। "Fined" का अर्थ होता है किसी को जुर्माना लगाना। इसलिए, "He was fined for breaking the traffic rules" सही और पूर्ण वाक्य बनेगा।
- 'Fined' should be used because the sentence talks about punishment for breaking traffic rules. "Fined" means to impose a monetary penalty. Thus, "He was fined for breaking the traffic rules" is the correct and complete sentence.
10. C) The correct spelling of 'promting' is '**prompting**', which means "causing or bringing about an action" प्रेरित करना, उत्पन्न करना।
11. A) Sentence 2, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह समस्या की पहली पहचान (observation) करता है। यह रिपोर्ट को एक factual ground प्रदान करता है कि MIT में छात्रों की याददाश्त कमज़ोर होने के लक्षण देखे गए हैं।
- Sentence 3, Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह "Why" पेश करता है। यह छात्रों के भूलने की आदत को सीधे AI और LLMs के बढ़ते इस्तेमाल से जोड़ता है। यह स्थिति के पीछे के कारण को समझने के लिए एक big test है।
- Sentence 1, Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह उस "test" या स्थिति का विस्तार (elaboration) करता है। यह इस पूरी प्रक्रिया को "cognitive offloading" का नाम देता है और बताता है कि वैज्ञानिक इसे दिमाग के लिए हानिकारक (corrosive) क्यों मान रहे हैं। यह specific detail देता है।
- Sentence 4, Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे परिदृश्य को एक conclusion (निष्कर्ष) देता है। यह भविष्य के खतरे की ओर इशारा करता है कि कैसे यह निर्भरता हमें मानसिक रूप से कमज़ोर (cognitive decline) बना सकती है
- Sentence 2 comes at the beginning because it identifies the initial observation—students at MIT forgetting content more easily. It provides the essential factual ground by establishing the real-world evidence of a change in cognitive performance.

- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 2 because it introduces the "Why." It directly links the decline in memory to the frequent use of LLMs for academic and professional tasks. This serves as a critical test of the relationship between behavior and brain function.
 - Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 because it provides an elaboration on the scientific perspective. It labels the phenomenon as "cognitive offloading" and adds specific details regarding how this mental outsourcing might corrode intelligence.
 - Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 because it serves as the logical conclusion. It wraps up the narrative by warning of the long-term consequences, such as permanent cognitive decline, completing the logical flow of the argument.
12. A) **Psychologist** (noun) – An expert in the study of human behaviour मनोवैज्ञानिक
- **Sociologist** (noun) – A person who studies society and social behaviour समाजशास्त्री
 - **Anthropologist** (noun) – A person who studies human societies and cultures मानवविज्ञानी
 - **Biologist** (noun) – A person who studies living organisms जीवविज्ञानी
13. B) **Genre** (noun) – The category or type to which a film, series, or literary work belongs शैली / वर्ग
- **Family** (noun) – A group of related people परिवार
 - **Phylum** (noun) – A biological classification category जैविक वर्गीकरण की श्रेणी
 - **Genus** (noun) – A rank in biological taxonomy वंश (जीव विज्ञान)
14. C) **Which type of vehicles have you driven?**
 Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Subject (agent) Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Passive का Subject Active का Object बन जाता है। Interrogative sentence में helping verb पहले आता है और tense वही रखा जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में "Which type of vehicles" Passive Subject है, "have been driven" Verb (Present Perfect Passive) है और "by you" agent है। Active में बदलने पर "you" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "have driven" (Present Perfect) में बदला गया है और "which type of vehicles" Object के रूप में प्रयोग हुआ है। इसलिए सही वाक्य होगा – "Which type of vehicles have you driven?"
- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the agent becomes the subject and the passive subject becomes the object, while keeping the same tense and interrogative structure. Here, "Which type of vehicles" (Passive Subject), "have been driven" (Present Perfect Passive), and "by you" (agent) are transformed into "you" (Subject), "have driven" (Active Verb in Present Perfect), and "which type of vehicles" (Object). Therefore, the correct sentence is – "Which type of vehicles have you driven?"
15. B) **Vulnerable** (adjective) – Defenseless, weak, exposed, unprotected, susceptible असुरक्षित / कमजोर
 Synonym: **Defenseless** (adjective) – Vulnerable, unprotected, exposed, helpless असहाय / असुरक्षित
- **Strong** (adjective) – Powerful, sturdy, tough मजबूत
 - **Secure** (adjective) – Safe, protected, stable सुरक्षित
 - **Protected** (adjective) – Guarded, safe, sheltered सुरक्षित

16. C) **With** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि सही phrase “teeming with” होता है, जिसका अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ से भरा हुआ होना या बहुतायत में होना। sentence “The country is teeming _____ prodigies” में देश में प्रतिभाशाली लोगों की अधिकता दर्शाई जा रही है, इसलिए “with” सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
- ‘With’ should be used because the correct phrase is “teeming with,” which means full of or abundant in something. The sentence indicates that the country has a large number of prodigies, so “with” is the most appropriate choice.
17. D) ‘a air pump’ के बदले **an air pump** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि air का उच्चारण vowel sound से शुरू होता है, इसलिए उसके पहले an आएगा, न कि a।
- ‘an air pump’ will be used instead of ‘a air pump’ because before a word starting with a vowel sound, the correct article is “an”, not “a”.
18. D) At का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि सही prepositional phrase “at a guess” होता है, जिसका अर्थ होता है अनुमान के आधार पर। sentence “_____ a guess, there were 200 persons in the meeting” में अनुमान व्यक्त किया जा रहा है, इसलिए “at” सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
- ‘At’ should be used because the correct phrase is “at a guess,” which means based on an estimate or rough calculation. In the sentence, an approximate number is being stated, so “at” is the most appropriate choice.
19. B) ‘the more influential leader’ के बदले **the most influential leader** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ सर्वोच्च स्तर (highest degree) की बात हो रही है, इसलिए superlative degree का प्रयोग आवश्यक है।
- ‘the most influential leader’ will be used instead of ‘the more influential leader’ because “more” is used for comparison between two, whereas “most” is used for the highest degree among many, which fits the context here.
20. A) **Nudge** (verb) – To prod gently; to give a slight push to someone to draw attention or persuade. (प्रोत्साहित करना)
Synonym: Encourage (verb) – To give support, confidence, or hope; to persuade someone to take a specific action. (प्रोत्साहित करना)
- **Enervated** (verb/adj): To feel drained of energy or vitality; to be weakened or exhausted. (थका हुआ)
 - **Elucidate** (verb): To make something clear; to explain something complex in an understandable way. (स्पष्ट करना)
 - **Explicate** (verb): To analyze and develop an idea or principle in detail; to explain minutely. (व्याख्या करना)
21. D) [with] सही है क्योंकि जब हम बताते हैं कि शरीर में कौन सी दवा या substance डाला गया है, तो “immunised with” (के साथ टीकाकरण) का इस्तेमाल होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि volunteers को यह नई बनी हुई vaccine दी गई है। Against का इस्तेमाल बीमारी के नाम के लिए होता है (immunised against flu)। Via का मतलब किस रास्ते से दिया गया (जैसे via injection) होता है। Through का इस्तेमाल किसी process के लिए होता है।
- [with] is correct because “immunised with” is the standard grammatical collocation when referring to the specific substance, tool, or formulation used for the medical procedure. The passage implies that the volunteers physically received this specific new liquid vaccine into their bodies. Against is used for the disease itself (e.g., immunised against the flu). Via indicates the route of administration (e.g., via injection). Through indicates a process or medium, not the substance itself.

22. C) [**strain**] सही है क्योंकि biology और virology में किसी वायरस की खास genetic नस्ल या प्रकार (जैसे H5N1) को वैज्ञानिक भाषा में 'strain' ही कहा जाता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि यह वैक्सीन flu के एक बहुत ही खतरनाक और खास हिस्से को target करती है। Mutation का मतलब DNA बदलने की प्रक्रिया (process) होता है, वायरस का प्रकार नहीं। Variant का मतलब बदला हुआ रूप होता है, लेकिन flu के साथ 'strain' शब्द ही fix है। Derivative का मतलब किसी चीज़ की copy होना होता है।

- [**strain**] is correct because in virology and biology, it is the exact scientific term for a specific genetic variant or subtype of a microorganism (like the H5N1 flu virus). The passage implies that researchers are targeting one very specific, highly dangerous branch of the flu family tree. Mutation refers to the actual biological process of genetic change, not the resulting virus itself. Variant is close, but "flu strain" is the universally established collocation. Derivative means something copied or adapted from a base model, which isn't used for wild viruses.

23. D) [**mammals**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब स्तनधारी जीव (warm-blooded जानवर जैसे गाय, बिल्ली, इंसान) होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि यह बीमारी पक्षियों (birds) की दुनिया से निकलकर अब दूसरे जानवरों (mammals) में भी खतरनाक तरीके से फैल रही है। Vertebrate (रीढ़ की हड्डी वाले जीव) गलत है क्योंकि पक्षी भी इसी category में आते हैं। Primate सिर्फ बंदरों और इंसानों की प्रजाति होती है। Marsupials कंगारू जैसे जानवरों को कहते हैं।

- [**mammals**] is correct because it refers to the broad biological class of warm-blooded animals (like cows, cats, and humans) that the bird virus is shockingly jumping into. The passage implies a dangerous cross-species spillover from avian (birds) to completely different biological creatures. Vertebrate is scientifically true but illogical here, because birds are already vertebrates, so spreading to them wouldn't be a new jump. Primate is too specific (only monkeys/apes/humans). Marsupials are pouched mammals (like kangaroos), which does not fit the global context of H5N1 spread.

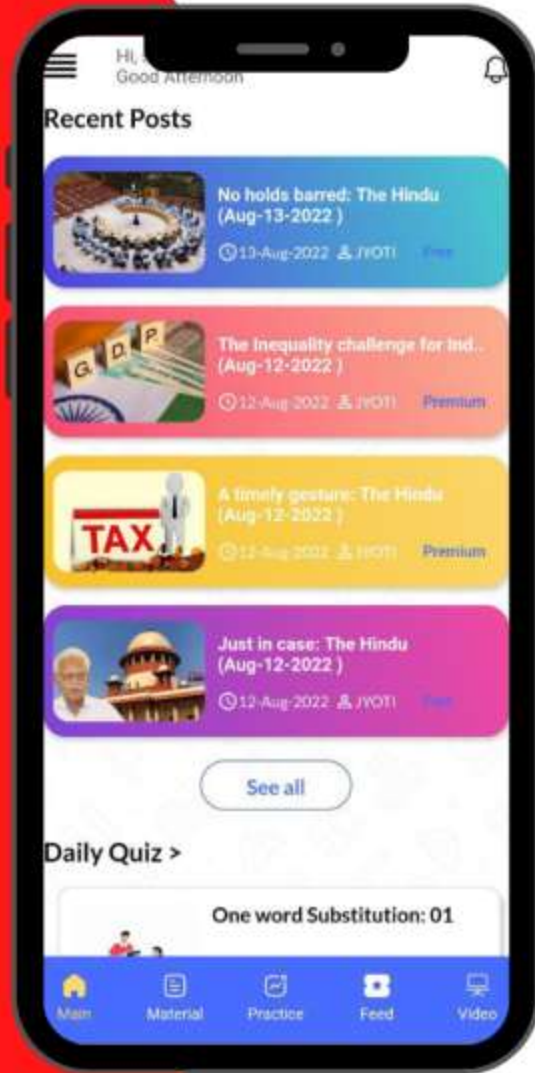
24. C) [**jabs**] सही है क्योंकि UK (Britain) की बोलचाल की भाषा में injection या vaccine के लिए 'jabs' शब्द का ही सबसे ज़्यादा इस्तेमाल होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि यह नई वैक्सीन बिल्कुल उसी mRNA technology से बनी है जिससे Covid के टीके (shots/jabs) बने थे। Serums खून का हिस्सा होता है, mRNA वैक्सीन नहीं। Antidote ज़हर का असर काटने वाली दवा होती है। Placebo testing में इस्तेमाल होने वाली नकली दवा (fake medicine) होती है।

- [**jabs**] is correct because it is a widely accepted, colloquial UK English term specifically meaning a hypodermic injection or vaccination. The passage implies a direct comparison to the everyday physical shots people received during the Covid-19 era. Serums refer to the clear liquid part of blood used in some specific treatments, not modern mRNA vaccines. Antidote is a specific medicine given to counteract a poison. Placebo is a fake, inactive pill or shot used in testing to compare against the real drug.

25. B) [**recruit**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी काम, study या trial के लिए लोगों को ढूँढकर अपनी मर्ज़ी से शामिल (enlist) करना होता है। Passage यह imply कर रहा है कि scientists को अपनी testing के लिए ऐसे लोगों की तलाश है जो पोल्ट्री में काम करते हैं या जिनकी उम्र 65 से ज़्यादा है। Draft और conscript का मतलब कानून के ज़रिए ज़बरदस्ती भर्ती करना होता है (जैसे सेना में), medical trial हमेशा voluntary होता है। Solicit का मतलब पैसे या business मांगना होता है।

- [**recruit**] is correct because it means to actively enlist or persuade people to voluntarily join an organization, study, or trial. The passage implies that the scientists need a

specific group of high-risk volunteers and are actively searching for willing participants. Draft and conscript both mean to forcibly enroll people by law (usually for military service), which is impossible for a voluntary medical trial. Solicit means to ask for money, business, or sometimes illegal services, which has a very negative or commercial tone.



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam