

## The OSM disaster: How students were let down

CBSE's **fascination** with OSM, without adequate **preparedness**, **has** left millions of students in tears

India's education **establishment** has a **peculiar** relationship with reform: it announces it loudly, implements it **hastily**, and then **retreats** into silence when things go wrong. The CBSE OSM controversy of 2026 is only the latest — and **perhaps** the most damaging — example of this pattern.

When CBSE introduced On-Screen Marking for Class 12 board examinations this year, it presented it as a **leap** into **transparency** and **modernity**. Answer scripts would be scanned, uploaded to a secure portal, and evaluated digitally by teachers from their own schools — no more physical transport, no totalling errors, no delays. The pitch was **impeccable**. The **execution** was not. What **unfolded** after results were declared on May 13 was, by any measure, a crisis. Students reported shockingly low marks that bore no **resemblance** to their preparation or performance. Many answer sheets had been scanned with **blurred** or **illegible** images, making fair **evaluation** almost impossible. The re-evaluation portal **malfunctioned** under load. **Teachers**, already struggling with a system they had **barely** trained on — in some cases for just one week — **reported** screen **fatigue**, repeated corrections, and **mounting** anxiety during the **high-stakes** evaluation period.

The **rot**, it **turns out**, **ran** deeper. The OSM contract was reportedly awarded to Hyderabad-based Coempt Edu Teck — the lowest **bidder** — over more **established** players. A 19-year-old cybersecurity researcher then publicly disclosed multiple **critical vulnerabilities** in the OSM portal, including the **potential** for unauthorised access to examiner accounts and modification of marks. He had reported these to CERT-In in February; most remained **unpatched** by May. **Meanwhile**, teachers in Delhi were issued **show-cause notices** when Class 12 results **slumped** at the national level — effectively **penalising** educators for failures that were structural.

**To compound matters**, CBSE had simultaneously **abolished** post-result verification of marks for Class 12 — the very safety net that would have allowed **aggrieved** students a formal **recourse**. **The way out** demands more than an **apology**. First, CBSE must immediately restore the right to post-result verification and process all pending re-evaluation requests free of cost, **given** that the **fiasco** was institutional rather than student-driven. Second, an independent technical **audit** of the entire OSM process — from scanning hubs to examiner interfaces to data security — must be commissioned and **made public**. Third, **accountability** must reach the decision-makers who **overrode** teacher warnings, not just the vendor. And fourth, any further expansion of OSM must follow genuine piloting, **rigorous** teacher training, and independent security certification. The **implications** for children are not **abstract**. Class 12 scores determine college admissions, scholarship eligibility, and in many Indian families, the entire **arc** of a young person's life. A wrongly awarded **mark** — whether too low due to a **blurred** scan or **tampered** by a security breach — **is** not a statistical error. It is a stolen opportunity. CBSE **owes** its 1.8 million Class 12 students not just answers, but justice. [Practice Exercise]

## Vocabulary

1. **Let down** (phrasal verb) - to disappoint someone by failing to do what you agreed to do. निराश करना
2. **Fascination** (noun) - interest, obsession, allure, attraction, preoccupation. आकर्षण
3. **Preparedness** (noun) - readiness, preparation, fitness, equipment, alert status. तैयारी
4. **Left in tears** (phrase) - to make someone feel very sad, distressed, or upset. रुला देना / दुखी कर देना
5. **Establishment** (noun) - institution, organization, foundation, body, agency. स्थापना / संस्था
6. **Peculiar** (adjective) - strange, odd, unusual, unique, distinctive. अजीब
7. **Hastily** (adverb) - quickly, hurriedly, rapidly, impulsively, rashly. जल्दबाजी में
8. **Retreat** (verb) - withdraw, pull back, recede, back away, retire. पीछे हट जाना
9. **Perhaps** (adverb) - maybe, possibly, potentially, conceivably, perchance. शायद
10. **Leap** (noun) - jump, advance, progression, breakthrough, transition. छलांग / प्रगति
11. **Transparency** (noun) - openness, clarity, candidness, frankness, accessibility. पारदर्शिता
12. **Modernity** (noun) - contemporaneity, modernism, novelty, newness, advancement. आधुनिकता
13. **Impeccable** (adjective) - flawless, perfect, faultless, exemplary, stainless. त्रुटिहीन
14. **Execution** (noun) - implementation, performance, carrying out, completion, achievement. क्रियान्वयन
15. **Unfold** (verb) - reveal, develop, happen, disclose, evolve. सामने आना
16. **Resemblance** (noun) - similarity, likeness, affinity, correspondence, comparability. समानता
17. **Blurred** (adjective) - fuzzy, hazy, indistinct, smeared, unfocused. धुंधला
18. **Illegible** (adjective) - unreadable, indecipherable, scribbled, unclear, faint. अपठनीय
19. **Evaluation** (noun) - assessment, appraisal, rating, judgment, estimation. मूल्यांकन
20. **Malfunction** (verb) - fail, break down, err, misoperate, collapse. खराब हो जाना
21. **Barely** (adverb) - hardly, scarcely, just, minimally, narrowly. बमुश्किल
22. **Fatigue** (noun) - tiredness, exhaustion, weariness, languor, lethargy. थकान
23. **Mounting** (adjective) - increasing, growing, rising, escalating, accumulating. बढ़ता हुआ
24. **High-stakes** (adjective) - risky, critical, important, momentous, precarious. जोखिम भरा
25. **Rot** (noun) - decay, corruption, decline, degeneration, breakdown. भ्रष्टाचार / पतन
26. **Turn out** (phrasal verb) - to be discovered to be or prove to be. निकलना / साबित होना
27. **Bidder** (noun) - tenderer, offerer, buyer, contender, applicant. बोली लगाने वाला

28. **Established** (adjective) - recognized, accepted, traditional, firm, secure. स्थापित
29. **Critical** (adjective) - crucial, serious, vital, urgent, pivotal. महत्वपूर्ण
30. **Vulnerability** (noun) - weakness, susceptibility, fragility, loophole, defect. कमजोरी
31. **Potential** (noun) - possibility, capability, capacity, promise, prospect. क्षमता / संभावना
32. **Unpatched** (adjective) - unfixed, unrepaired, unprotected, vulnerable, exposed. बिना मरम्मत वाला
33. **Meanwhile** (adverb) - simultaneously, concurrently, in the meantime, at the same time. इस बीच
34. **Show-cause notice** (noun) - a formal demand for an explanation for a particular action or failure. स्पष्टीकरण मांगना
35. **Slump** (verb) - drop, decline, fall, plummet, decrease. गिरावट आना
36. **Penalise** (verb) - punish, sanction, fine, discipline, chastise. दंडित करना
37. **To compound matters** (phrase) - to make a difficult situation even worse. स्थिति को और बिगाड़ना
38. **Abolish** (verb) - end, scrap, repeal, terminate, invalidate. समाप्त करना
39. **Aggrieved** (adjective) - resentful, distressed, wronged, disgruntled, unhappy. पीड़ित
40. **Recourse** (noun) - option, remedy, alternative, resort, possibility. सहारा / उपाय
41. **The way out** (noun) - solution, remedy, answer, exit, escape. समाधान
42. **Apology** (noun) - expression of regret, confession, plea, excuse, acknowledgement. माफी
43. **Given** (preposition) - considering, provided, in view of. देखते हुए
44. **Fiasco** (noun) - failure, catastrophe, disaster, debacle, mess. विफलता
45. **Audit** (noun) - inspection, examination, check, review, analysis. लेखापरीक्षा / निरीक्षण
46. **Make public** (phrase) - to reveal, disclose, publish, or release information. सार्वजनिक करना
47. **Accountability** (noun) - responsibility, liability, answerability, blame, duty जवाबदेही
48. **Override** (verb) - overrule, disregard, ignore, supersede, trample अनदेखा करना / प्रभावहीन करना
49. **Rigorous** (adjective) - thorough, strict, meticulous, precise, intensive कठोर / सूक्ष्म
50. **Implication** (noun) - consequence, ramification, effect, result, significance निहितार्थ / प्रभाव
51. **Abstract** (adjective) - theoretical, conceptual, academic, intangible, unreal अमूर्त
52. **Arc** (noun) - trajectory, curve, course, path, progression पथ / वक्र
53. **Tamper** (verb) - manipulate, interfere, meddle, doctor, alter छेड़छाड़ करना
54. **Owe** (verb) - be indebted, be beholden, be obligated, carry a debt ऋणी होना / आभारी होना

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial criticises the implementation of **On-Screen Marking (OSM)** by **CBSE** in 2026, calling it an example of poorly executed educational reform.
2. CBSE introduced OSM for Class 12 board examinations to increase **transparency, speed, and efficiency** in evaluation.
3. Under OSM, answer sheets were digitally scanned and uploaded to a secure portal for teachers to evaluate remotely.
4. Although the idea appeared modern and promising, the implementation created serious operational problems.
5. After results were declared on **May 13, 2026**, many students reported **unexpectedly low marks** that did not match their preparation or exam performance.
6. Several answer scripts were allegedly scanned with **blurred or unclear images**, making proper evaluation difficult.
7. The **re-evaluation portal** reportedly failed under heavy traffic, preventing smooth grievance redressal.
8. Teachers faced challenges because they received **minimal training**, in some cases only one week before evaluation.
9. Evaluators also experienced **screen fatigue, repeated corrections, and stress**, reducing efficiency during marking.
10. The editorial claims that the OSM contract was awarded to **Coempt Edu Teck**, reportedly as the lowest bidder.
11. A 19-year-old cybersecurity researcher allegedly identified **serious security vulnerabilities** in the portal, including risks of unauthorised access and mark manipulation.
12. The researcher reportedly informed **Indian Computer Emergency Response Team**, but many vulnerabilities remained unresolved.
13. Teachers in **Delhi** reportedly received show-cause notices after poor results, despite the editorial arguing that failures were systemic.
14. CBSE's decision to remove **post-result verification of marks** reduced students' ability to challenge possible evaluation errors.
15. The editorial concludes that CBSE should restore verification rights, provide free re-evaluation, conduct an independent technical audit, ensure accountability, and introduce future reforms only after proper testing, teacher training, and security certification to protect students' futures.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **None of the following statements can be inferred from the passage EXCEPT that:** [Editorial]
  - A. the administrative body prioritized financial economy over technical robustness during the procurement process.
  - B. the transition to digital marking was initiated after conducting multiple pilot projects in diverse regions.
  - C. the technical glitches in the portal were unforeseen as no warnings were issued prior to the results.
  - D. teachers were provided with extensive psychological support to deal with the fatigue of high-stakes marking.
2. **"A wrongly awarded mark... is not a statistical error. It is a stolen opportunity." What is the purpose of this statement?**
  - A. To argue that numerical discrepancies in large-scale examinations are inevitable and should be expected by students.
  - B. To suggest that the reason for the decline in academic standards is the lack of proper scanning equipment.
  - C. To emphasize that the students should have been more proactive in checking the portal for potential security breaches.
  - D. To highlight that administrative negligence has irreversible consequences on the life trajectories of young individuals.
3. **Which of the following statements can be TRUE about the OSM crisis, as expressed in the above passage?**
  - a. The governing body dismantled existing grievance redressal mechanisms while introducing an unverified system.
  - b. The blame for the decline in academic performance was shifted from the systemic level to the individual educators.
  - c. The vulnerabilities in the digital infrastructure were identified but remained unaddressed before the evaluation began.
  - A. Only a and b
  - B. Only a and c
  - C. Only b and c
  - D. All a, b and c
4. **Which of the following pairs of words are SYNONYMOUS with the words 'impeccable' and 'structural' respectively, as expressed in the passage?**
  - a. Unblemished, systemic
  - b. streamlined, traditional
  - A. only a
  - B. only b
  - C. both a and b
  - D. neither a nor b
5. **Which of the following best identifies the grammatical role of the phrase "the very safety net that would have allowed aggrieved students a formal recourse" in the sentence:**

"To compound matters, CBSE had simultaneously abolished post-result verification of marks for Class 12 — the very safety net that would have allowed aggrieved students a formal recourse."

- A. A dependent relative clause functioning as the direct object of the principal verb "abolished".
- B. An appositive phrase identifying and expanding upon the preceding nominal head "post-result verification of marks."
- C. An absolute construction providing specific circumstantial detail to the main verb "compound" used earlier in the sentence.
- D. A predicative nominative modifying the subject "CBSE" and clarifying the chronological timing of the described action.
6. **Directions: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named P, Q, R, and S. These four parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentences and find out which of the four combinations gives the logically correct order.**

S1: The maiden flight of SpaceX's Starship rocket in April 2023 pushed the boundaries of modern engineering, yet its explosive mid-air detonation was paradoxically celebrated by the company as a highly valuable, successful testing milestone.

P: According to independent environmental audits, this unexpected physical devastation stems primarily from the hyper-velocity ballistic trajectory of structural debris triggered when the rocket's 33 engines literally excavated a massive crater beneath the launcher.

Q: These severe ecological fragmentation hurdles imply that regulatory bodies must now closely monitor the fallout zone to determine the long-term impact of pulverized concrete and soil on the regional migratory wildlife populations.

R: Surprisingly, despite such an ostensibly triumphant engineering outcome in the skies, a post-flight examination of the Boca Chica facility revealed that the liftoff had compromised the structural integrity of the surrounding ecosystem far more severely than anticipated.

S: Furthermore, compounding that unexpected pad destruction, the platform's geographical location within an essential national wildlife refuge introduces a fresh wave of conservation anxiety regarding localized industrial pollution.

S6: Ultimately, when these unprecedented environmental contamination constraints are coupled with recent catastrophic test failures from other aerospace giants like Blue Origin, the uncharacteristically calculated regulatory scrutiny observed across the space industry becomes entirely comprehensible.

- A. P S R Q
- B. R P S Q
- C. S Q P R
- D. R S P Q
7. **Directions: The sentences given below, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labeled with a letter (A, B, C, D). Choose the most logical order from among the four given options.**

A: Driven by this obsessive focus on physical self-preservation, my logistical preparation expanded into digital sourcing for mandatory technical apparel like specialized wilderness merino wool.

B: Confronting a severe case of mid-life burnout at the end of 2025, I impulsively accepted an old friend's invitation to embark on a demanding four-day wilderness trek.

C: Furthermore, compounding that intense gear procurement anxiety, my exhaustive internet search history quickly devolved into tracking down affordable, plus-size layers to survive the notorious Tasmanian climate.

D: However, as an absolute adult rookie attempting a multi-day hike for the first time, I instantly realized that surviving this grueling physical ordeal with my dignity intact would require rigorous, systematic preparation.

A. B-D-A-C

B. B-A-C-D

C. D-A-C-B

D. B-D-C-A

8. **Which of the following idiom given in the alternatives has the meaning?**

Slightly unwell or in low spirits.

A. Keep a weather eye out

B. Weather the storm

C. Break in the weather

D. Under the weather

9. **From the alternatives given below, select the correct meaning of the idiom.**

Wear out one's welcome.

A. To greet someone very happily and eagerly; to give someone a very warm, enthusiastic welcome

B. To remain a guest in a place, especially someone's home, for too long, to the point where the host no longer wishes one to stay

C. To welcome one with an extensive or elaborate display of friendliness and hospitality

D. An expression of glib commiseration used when one shares some unpleasant condition or situation with one or more other people

10. **Choose the correctly spelt word from the given options.**

A. Existance

B. Existense

C. Existence

D. Existanse

11. **Select the option with the correct spelling that can replace the underlined word in the given sentence.**

If the spelling in the given sentence is already correct, choose Option "No replacement required". Her ostentateous jewellery drew attention at the party, though it lacked genuine elegance.

A. ostentatius

B. ostentatious

C. ostentious

D. No replacement required

12. **There are four underlined words in the sentence given below. One of them is misspelt.**

Choose the option with the misspelt word. The Royal Academy urges governence for data centres to report energy, water use, and carbon emissions, ensuring accountable AI deployments.

- A. emissions
- B. accountable
- C. governence
- D. deployments

13. Choose the misspelt word from the given options.

- A. Credible
- B. Inevitable
- C. Invisible
- D. Plausible

14. Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to “delicious”.

- A. Tasty
- B. Delectable
- C. Distasteful
- D. Savory

15. Choose the word that is the antonym of Hardly ever.

- A. Occasionally
- B. Rarely
- C. Seldom
- D. Frequently

16. In the given question, a sentence is divided into four parts and given in the alternatives (A), (B), (C), and (D). There is an error in one part. Choose the alternative containing that part of the sentence that has the error. Choosing the alternative with the error will be the answer.

Let’s move all the books kept on this shelf on the upper one and make space for the new books purchased from the market today.

- A. Let's move all the books kept on this
- B. shelf on the upper one and
- C. make space for the new books
- D. purchased from the market today.

17. Given below are six sentences taken from a paragraph. The first and the last sentences are numbered S1 and S2 and are placed in the first and last positions respectively and are fixed in their positions. The other four sentences between the first and last sentences are jumbled up and are numbered A, B, C, and D. Rearrange the jumbled sentences in a logical sequence keeping the unity and coherence of the paragraph intact. Choose the correct alternative that best describes the sequence.

S1. Do you see that man with the scarlet cloak, the white plume in his hat, and the gold-embroidered vest?

- A. Well, that is the Marquis of Mascoso, lover of the widow, the Countess of Villapineda.
- B. They say that before he began paying court to her, he had sought the hand of a very wealthy man’s daughter, but the girl’s father, who they say is a trifle close-fisted—but hush! Speaking of the devil—do you see that man closely wrapped in his cloak coming on foot under the arch of San Felipet?

- C. Well, he is the father in question.  
 D. I mean the one just getting out of his litter and going to greet that lady—the one coming along after those four pages who are carrying torches?
- S2. Everybody in Seville knows him on account of his immense fortune.  
 A. DBAC  
 B. CBDA  
 C. DCBA  
 D. DABC
18. **A part of the following sentence is underlined. Choose the option that can replace the underlined part to improve the sentence. If you feel Options A, B, or C do not improve the sentence, then choose Option D: "No improvement required."**  
 We must take the bull by the head and resolve all pending issues if we want progress.  
 A. take the bull by the tail  
 B. pull the bull by its ears  
 C. take the bull by the horns  
 D. No improvement required
19. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into Passive Voice?**  
 Did the Romans defeat the Greeks?  
 A. Was the Greeks defeated by the Romans?  
 B. Did the Greeks defeated by the Romans?  
 C. Are the Greeks defeated by the Romans?  
 D. Were the Greeks defeated by the Romans?
20. **Choose the correct indirect narration of the following statement from the given alternatives:**  
 Rocky said to his playmates, "Let's go for a break now as we are very tired playing."  
 A. Rocky told his playmates to go for a break then as they were very tired playing.  
 B. Rocky suggested his playmates to go for a break then as they were very tired playing.  
 C. Rocky suggested his playmates to go for a break now as they were very tired playing.  
 D. Rocky suggested his playmates went for a break then as they had been very tired playing.

### Comprehension

When trailers for Steven Spielberg's Disclosure Day confirmed that it deals with extraterrestrials, the internet exploded with (1)\_\_\_\_\_ that it was a sequel (2)\_\_\_\_\_ his 1977 classic, Close Encounters of the Third Kind. The guesswork became so (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that the press notes for the new film cheekily announce it is "not a sequel to Close Encounters (sorry, internet)".

But it does have very direct ties. Emily Blunt, one of Disclosure Day's stars, has described it as resembling "a third act" along with Close Encounters and ET The Extra-Terrestrial (1982). Spielberg himself linked the films in one of the trailers, saying, "I'm even more inclined now than I was when I made Close Encounters to really believe that we're not the only intelligent civilisation in the Universe." Some of the echoes are obvious, with friendly creatures from other planets arriving here. But there is a less obvious connection between Close Encounters and Disclosure Day, as both (4)\_\_\_\_\_ into conspiracy theories about the US government hiding evidence of UFOs – or, to use the updated term, UAPs, for Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena.

Those theories go back to the legendary supposed crash of a UFO in Roswell, New Mexico in 1947, and over the years have only intensified, making their way into the mainstream. Today they resonate in light of the Pentagon's recent underwhelming release of information about reported UAP sightings. Timelier than ever, *Close Encounters* is a key to Disclosure Day, which is all about revealing the truth about UAPs. With its bold, expansive visuals, themes of family distress and the awesome visit of beings from some other planet, *Close Encounters* holds up as one of Spielberg's most ambitious and dazzling films. Most viewers are likely to remember at least a few (5) \_\_\_\_\_ images. Richard Dreyfuss as Roy Neary, an ordinary family man who sees a UFO, sits at the dinner table building mashed potatoes into the shape of a giant rock.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number (1)?**

- A. prognostication
- B. speculation
- C. verisimilitude
- D. corroboration

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number (2).**

- A. of
- B. on
- C. through
- D. to

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number (3).**

- A. systemic
- B. endemic
- C. rampant
- D. localized

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number (4).**

- A. tap
- B. look
- C. run
- D. burst

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number (5).**

- A. ethereal
- B. visceral
- C. indelible
- D. sublime

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

1. A) **the administrative body prioritized financial economy over technical robustness during the procurement process.**

Line from passage: "The OSM contract was reportedly awarded to Hyderabad-based Coempt Edu Teck — the lowest bidder — over more established players." Correct. The passage states the contract went to the "lowest bidder" over "more established players," directly showing that saving money (financial economy) was prioritized over proven technical reliability (robustness).

Option B: Incorrect. The passage calls for "genuine piloting" as a future requirement, meaning proper regional pilots were not conducted before this rollout.

Option C: Line from passage: "A 19-year-old cybersecurity researcher then publicly disclosed multiple critical vulnerabilities. Incorrect. The flaws were not unforeseen. Warnings and reports about the portal's security vulnerabilities were explicitly issued months before the results in May.

Option D: The passage states teachers suffered from anxiety and fatigue due to a lack of support and training, and were instead punished with "show-cause notices."

2. D) **To highlight that administrative negligence has irreversible consequences on the life trajectories of young individuals.**

Line from passage: "The implications for children are not abstract. Class 12 scores determine college admissions, scholarship eligibility, and in many Indian families, the entire arc of a young person's life." Correct. The author frames a single wrong mark as a "stolen opportunity" to emphasize that a wrong mark alters "the entire arc of a young person's life," meaning administrative errors cause permanent, life-changing damage (irreversible consequences) rather than just minor numerical mistakes.

Option A: Line from passage: "...is not a statistical error. It is a stolen opportunity." Incorrect. The passage explicitly rejects the idea that errors should be written off as mere "statistical errors" or expected standard deviations.

Option B: Incorrect. The passage blames broader institutional, structural, and procurement failures driven by poor decision-making, not just a simple lack of hardware or equipment.

Option C: "CBSE owes its 1.8 million Class 12 students not just answers, but justice." Incorrect. The passage explicitly places the entire burden of accountability on the administrative body (CBSE) and the vendor, never on the students.

3. D) **All a, b and c**

Statement A: Correct. The board removed the existing verification options [abolished post-result verification... the very safety net]. Furthermore, the system was fundamentally unverified because it lacked standard safety checks—a fact confirmed when the author dictates that future rollouts must finally include verification processes [must follow genuine piloting... and independent security certification].

Statement B: Line from passage: "Meanwhile, teachers in Delhi were issued show-cause notices when Class 12 results slumped at the national level — effectively penalising educators for failures that were structural." Correct. Issuing "show-cause notices" and penalising individual teachers for a national slump in results proves that management shifted the blame to educators instead of taking responsibility for "structural" (systemic) failures.

Statement C: Line from passage: "A 19-year-old cybersecurity researcher then publicly disclosed multiple critical vulnerabilities in the OSM portal... He had reported these to CERT-In in February; most remained unpatched by May." Correct. The vulnerabilities were officially identified/reported in February but left "unpatched" (unaddressed) all the way through the May evaluation cycle.

4. A) **only a**

Impeccable means perfect, flawless, or without fault. In this context, unblemished is a valid synonym as it means free from marks, flaws, or faults

Structural refers to flaws built directly into the framework of the entire framework or organization. Systemic is a precise synonym meaning relating to a whole system rather than just individual parts.

5. B) **An appositive phrase identifying and expanding upon the preceding nominal head "post-result verification of marks."**

The phrase "the very safety net..." connects to the noun phrase "post-result verification of marks." It functions as an appositive. An appositive is a noun or noun phrase that sits next to another noun to rename, define, or explain it. It identifies what the "post-result verification" represented to the students (a safety net).

Option A: Incorrect. A sentence cannot have two separate noun phrases as a direct object without a conjunction like "and." This phrase doesn't receive the action; it describes the object

Option C: Incorrect. This phrase is a pure noun phrase that specifically renames the "verification" system, not the general action of "compounding" matters.

Option D: Incorrect. There is no linking verb here. Furthermore, the "safety net" refers to the marks verification, not to the board (CBSE) itself.

6. B) **R P S Q**

Sentence R, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "such an ostensibly triumphant engineering outcome" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में बताए गए 'celebrated by the company as a successful testing milestone' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक विरोधाभास पेश करता है कि यह सफल परीक्षण लॉन्चपैड और आसपास के पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को बहुत अधिक नुकसान (compromised the ecosystem far more severely than anticipated) पहुंचा गया।

Sentence P, Sentence R के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this unexpected physical devastation" शब्द सीधे तौर पर R में बताई गई पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की क्षति (compromised the structural integrity) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक बनाता है जो स्पष्ट करता है कि इस तबाही का मुख्य कारण 33 इंजनों द्वारा लॉन्चपैड के नीचे एक विशाल गड्ढा बनाना था।

Sentence S, Sentence P के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "that unexpected pad destruction" शब्द सीधे तौर पर P में बताए गए मलबे की मार और इंजनों द्वारा खोदे गए गड्ढे (excavated a massive crater beneath the launcher) से जुड़ा है। यह बताता है कि इस विनाश के अलावा, साइट के एक वन्यजीव अभयारण्य (national wildlife refuge) के भीतर होने के कारण संरक्षण संबंधी चिंता पैदा हो गई है।

Sentence Q, Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "These severe ecological fragmentation hurdles" शब्द सीधे तौर पर S में बताए गए 'national wildlife refuge' और उससे उत्पन्न पर्यावरण संबंधी चिंताओं से जुड़ता है। यह बताकर तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है कि इसके कारण कंक्रीट और मिट्टी के मलबे से होने वाले नुकसान पर निगरानी रखनी होगी, जो अंततः S6 के 'environmental contamination constraints' के साथ बिल्कुल सही बैठता है।

- Sentence R comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrase "such an ostensibly triumphant engineering outcome" creates an ironclad mandatory link pointing directly back to the celebrated "successful testing milestone" introduced in S1. It sets up the central conflict: despite the successful flight, the liftoff "compromised the structural integrity of the surrounding ecosystem far more severely than anticipated."
- Sentence P follows R because the phrase "this unexpected physical devastation" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the compromised launch environment ("compromised the structural integrity") mentioned in R. It gives the primary physical reason: the 33 engines creating an explosive plume and a massive crater.
- Sentence S follows P as it uses the phrase "that unexpected pad destruction" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to the structural cratering and launchpad excavation discussed in P. It introduces the second major complication: the platform's sensitive location within a "national wildlife refuge."
- Sentence Q follows S as the final step before S6. It uses the phrase "These severe ecological fragmentation hurdles" to create an unbreakable mandatory link directly back to the ecological sensitivities of the "national wildlife refuge" described in S. It explains the practical effect (the need to monitor migratory wildlife impact), seamlessly bridging into S6's concluding summary about "environmental contamination constraints."

#### 7. A) B-D-A-C

Sentence B पूरे पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (Opening Sentence) करेगा क्योंकि यह मुख्य विषय—लेखक की उम्र (43), 2025 के अंत में बर्नआउट और उसके दोस्त द्वारा दिए गए चार दिनों के ट्रेक (four-day wilderness trek) के आमंत्रण को सबसे पहले पेश करता है।

Sentence D, Sentence B के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this grueling physical ordeal" (यह कठिन शारीरिक परीक्षा) शब्द सीधे तौर पर B में बताए गए चार दिनों के कठिन ट्रेक की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह लेखक के एक नौसिखिया (adult rookie) होने और उसके लिए आवश्यक तैयारी का परिचय देता है।

Sentence A, Sentence D के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this obsessive focus on physical self-preservation" (शारीरिक आत्म-संरक्षण पर यह जुनूनी ध्यान) शब्द सीधे तौर पर D में बताई गई तैयारी की आवश्यकता (rigorous, systematic preparation) से जुड़ता है। यह तैयारी के अगले चरण यानी कपड़ों की खरीददारी (merino wool) को पेश करता है।

Sentence C, Sentence A के बाद आकर पैराग्राफ को समाप्त करेगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "that intense gear procurement anxiety" (गियर खरीद की तीव्र चिंता) शब्द सीधे तौर पर A में बताए गए कपड़ों की खोज (sourcing for mandatory technical apparel) से जुड़ता है। यह तार्किक रूप से समझाता है कि इस चिंता के कारण इंटरनेट पर प्लस-साइज़ मटीरियल ढूँढने के लिए क्या-क्या सर्च करना पड़ा।

- Sentence B acts as the opening sentence because it introduces the baseline narrative context: the protagonist facing burnout at the end of 2025 and accepting an invitation for a four-day wilderness trek.
  - Sentence D follows B because the phrase "this grueling physical ordeal" creates an absolute pointer link targeting the four-day trek introduced in B. It establishes the conflict of being an "adult rookie" who suddenly needs systemic preparation.
  - Sentence A follows D because the transition "this obsessive focus on physical self-preservation" hooks directly onto the survival and preparation goals detailed at the end of D. It shifts the narrative into the physical logistics of buying gear ("technical apparel like specialized wilderness merino wool").
  - Sentence C follows A as the final step because the phrase "that intense gear procurement anxiety" creates an unbreakable mandatory link pointing directly back to the apparel sourcing described in A. It finishes the thought by showing the frantic nature of the internet searches required to locate those specific items.
8. D) **Under the weather** (idiom) – Slightly unwell or in low spirits थोड़ा अस्वस्थ या उदास महसूस करना
9. B) **Wear out one's welcome** (idiom) – To remain a guest for too long so that the host no longer wishes one to stay किसी के यहाँ ज़्यादा समय तक रुककर बोझ बन जाना
10. C) The correct spelling of 'Existance / Existense / Existanse' is '**Existence**', which means "the state of being alive or real" अस्तित्व, मौजूदगी।
11. B) The correct spelling of 'ostentateous' is '**ostentatious**', which means "showy or designed to impress others" दिखावटी, आडंबरपूर्ण।
12. C) The correct spelling of 'governence' is '**governance**', which means "the system or process of governing or managing" शासन व्यवस्था, प्रबंधन प्रणाली।
13. B) The correct spelling of 'Inevitable' is '**Inevitable**', which means "certain to happen; unavoidable" अनिवार्य, टालना असंभव।
14. C) **Delicious** (adjective) – Tasty, delectable, savory, appetizing, flavorful स्वादिष्ट  
Antonym: **Distasteful** (adjective) – Unpleasant, unappetizing, disagreeable, nasty, flavorless बेस्वाद / अरुचिकर
- **Tasty** (adjective) – Delicious, flavorful, appetizing स्वादिष्ट
  - **Delectable** (adjective) – Delicious, delightful, savory स्वादिष्ट
  - **Savory** (adjective) – Tasty, flavorful, appetizing स्वादिष्ट
15. D) **Hardly ever** (adverb) – Rarely, seldom, almost never, scarcely ever बहुत कम / शायद ही कभी  
Antonym: **Frequently** (adverb) – Often, regularly, repeatedly, commonly अक्सर / बार-बार
- **Occasionally** (adverb) – Sometimes, now and then, at times कभी-कभी
  - **Rarely** (adverb) – Seldom, hardly ever, infrequently बहुत कम
  - **Seldom** (adverb) – Rarely, scarcely, infrequently शायद ही कभी
16. B) **shelf on the upper one and**  
on the upper one' के बदले 'to the upper one' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'move' क्रिया के साथ दिशा (movement) दिखाने के लिए सही preposition 'to' आता है, न कि 'on'; जैसे— Move the chair to the corner.

- 'to the upper one' will be used instead of 'on the upper one' because with the verb 'move', the correct preposition for direction is 'to', not 'on'; Like— Move the chair to the corner.

#### 17. D) DABC

DABC का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, पहले उस व्यक्ति को स्पष्ट करना ज़रूरी है जिसके बारे में S1 में बात हो रही है। Sentence D में "I mean the one..." के माध्यम से उसी व्यक्ति को pinpoint किया गया है, इसलिए यह S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा।

इसके बाद Sentence A आता है क्योंकि इसमें उस व्यक्ति की पहचान बताई जाती है—"that is the Marquis of Mascoso...". यह D में बताए गए व्यक्ति का परिचय देता है।

Sentence B इसके बाद आता है क्योंकि यह Marquis के past की जानकारी देता है—"before he began paying court...". यानी A में बताए गए व्यक्ति के बारे में अतिरिक्त विवरण मिलता है।

Sentence C अंत में आता है क्योंकि यह B में बताए गए "father" को identify करता है—"he is the father in question." और यही आगे S2 से जुड़ता है, जहाँ उसकी immense fortune का उल्लेख है।

- DABC will be used because in the given context, it is first necessary to clearly identify the man mentioned in S1. Sentence D specifies him—"I mean the one...", so it logically follows S1.
- Sentence A comes next because it reveals his identity—"that is the Marquis of Mascoso...", which directly explains the person pointed out in D.
- Sentence B follows as it provides background information about the Marquis—"before he began paying court...".
- Sentence C comes last because it identifies the "father" mentioned in B—"he is the father in question." This connects smoothly with S2, which refers to his immense fortune.

18. C) 'take the bull by the head' के बदले 'take the bull by the horns' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह एक सही और प्रचलित idiom है, जिसका अर्थ होता है किसी समस्या का साहसपूर्वक और सीधे सामना करना। वाक्य में "resolve all pending issues" दिया गया है, जो सीधे समस्या का सामना करने का भाव देता है, इसलिए यही idiom उपयुक्त है।

- 'take the bull by the horns' will be used instead of 'take the bull by the head' because it is the correct idiomatic expression meaning to deal with a problem boldly and directly; Like— We must take the bull by the horns to solve this crisis.

#### 19. D) Were the Greeks defeated by the Romans?

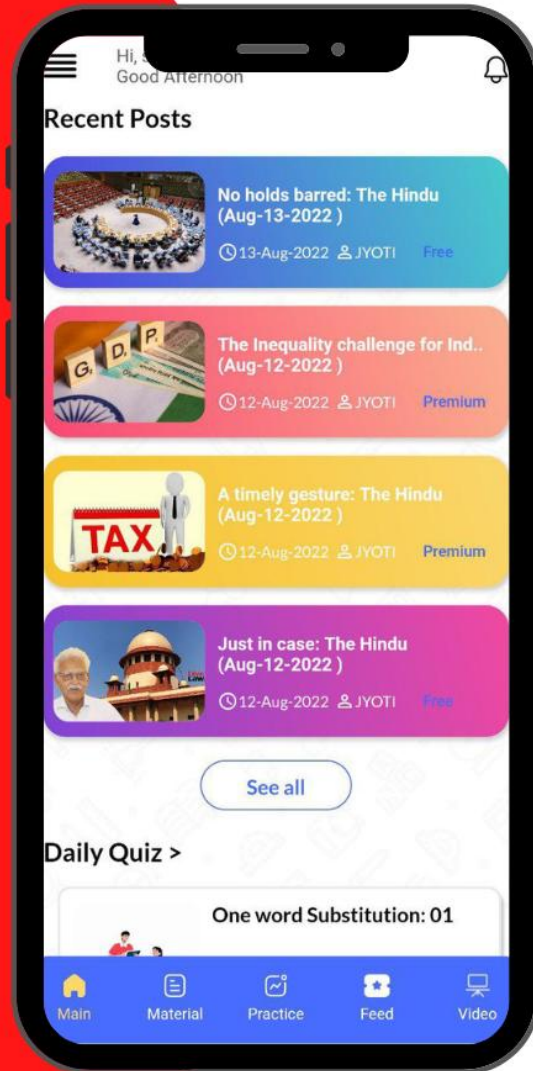
Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ "the Romans" Subject है, "did defeat" (Past Simple, interrogative form) Verb है और "the Greeks" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "the Greeks" Subject बन जाता है, Verb को "were defeated" (Past Simple Passive) में बदला जाता है और "by the Romans" जोड़ा जाता है। साथ ही, प्रश्नवाचक संरचना बनाए रखने के लिए "Were" से वाक्य शुरू होता है। इसलिए सही वाक्य है — "Were the Greeks defeated by the Romans?"

- 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 Romans" (Subject), "did defeat" (Verb in Past Simple interrogative form), and "the Greeks" (Object) are transformed into "the

Greeks" (Subject), "were defeated" (Passive Verb in Past Simple), and "by the Romans". The interrogative structure is maintained by starting with "Were". Hence, the correct answer is — "Were the Greeks defeated by the Romans?" (Option 4)

20. B) Rocky suggested his playmates to go for a break then as they were very tired playing Direct Speech से Indirect Speech में बदलते समय "Let's" वाले sentence को suggestion/proposal माना जाता है। इसलिए reporting verb "said to" को "suggested" में बदला जाता है। Time expression "now" बदलकर "then" होगा और "we are" बदलकर "they were" बनेगा। इसलिए सही sentence होगा — "Rocky suggested his playmates to go for a break then as they were very tired playing."
- To change Direct Speech into Indirect Speech, sentences beginning with "Let's" are treated as suggestions or proposals. Therefore, the reporting verb "said to" changes into "suggested." The time expression "now" changes into "then," and "we are" changes into "they were." Therefore, the correct sentence is — "Rocky suggested his playmates to go for a break then as they were very tired playing."
21. B) Passage में फिल्म के बारे में internet पर लोगों द्वारा लगाए जा रहे unconfirmed अंदाजों और guesses की बात हो रही है। "speculation" का प्रयोग बिल्कुल सही है क्योंकि यह एक abstract noun है जिसका meaning "बिना किसी solid evidence के केवल अनुमान लगाना" होता है। Text में आगे इसे "guesswork" कहकर स्पष्ट किया गया है। इसके विपरीत, बाकी options गलत हैं: prognostication का meaning 'भविष्यवाणी' (prediction of future events) होता है; verisimilitude का meaning 'सत्यता का आभास' (appearance of truth) होता है; और corroboration का meaning 'पुष्टि करना' (confirmation) होता है।
- English: The correct answer is "speculation" because it denotes forming theories or conjectures without firm evidence, which perfectly mirrors the direct contextual clue in the very next sentence: "The guesswork." Conversely, the alternatives fail contextually: "prognostication" refers strictly to a prophecy or prediction of future events; "verisimilitude" means the appearance of being true or real; and "corroboration" means evidence that confirms or supports a statement, which contradicts the unverified nature of internet rumors.
22. D) यह एक pure grammar test है। फिल्म जगत में जब किसी पुरानी फिल्म के अगले भाग (sequel) की बात की जाती है, तो "sequel" के साथ हमेशा fixed preposition "to" का प्रयोग होता है (जैसे, a sequel to his 1977 classic)। इसके विपरीत, बाकी options (of, on, through) यहाँ grammatically गलत और अमान्य (incorrect) हैं।
- English: The correct answer is "to" because of structural grammatical constraints. In standard English syntax, the noun "sequel" strictly demands the fixed preposition "to" when establishing a relationship with the original work. While distractors like "of" or "on" might sound plausible in casual speech, they violate formal English collocation rules in this context.
23. C) Passage में internet पर rumors और guesses के बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर चारों तरफ फैलने की बात हो रही है। "rampant" का प्रयोग बिल्कुल सही है क्योंकि यह एक adjective है जिसका meaning "किसी अनचाही या नकारात्मक चीज़ का unchecked या widespread तरीके से फैल जाना" होता है। इसके विपरीत, बाकी options गलत हैं: systemic का meaning 'पूरे system से जुड़ा हुआ' होता है; endemic का meaning 'किसी specific area या group तक सीमित' होता है; और localized का meaning 'किसी एक सीमित जगह पर केंद्रित होना' होता है।

- English: The correct answer is "rampant" because it is an adjective specifically used to describe something unwelcome, unchecked, or wild (like rumors and guesswork) spreading uncontrollably. Conversely, the alternatives fail contextually: "systemic" refers to something embedded deep within an organizational system or structure; "endemic" describes a condition regularly found among particular people or in a specific area; and "localized" means restricted to a particular place, none of which fit the widespread nature of global internet trends.
24. A) यह blank phrasal verbs और सही (collocation) का test करता है। "tap" का प्रयोग बिल्कुल सही है क्योंकि "tap into" एक phrasal verb है जिसका अर्थ होता है "किसी पहले से मौजूद लोकप्रिय विचार, भावना या थ्योरी का लाभ उठाना या उससे जुड़ना"। इसके विपरीत, बाकी options गलत phrasal verbs बनाते हैं: look into का अर्थ जांच (investigate) करना होता है; run into का अर्थ अचानक टकराना (encounter) होता है; और burst into का अर्थ अचानक से कोई तीव्र क्रिया शुरू करना होता है।
- English: The correct answer is "tap" because it forms the exact phrasal verb "tap into," which means to draw upon, exploit, or connect successfully with a pre-existing pool of cultural ideas or feelings (in this case, conspiracy theories). Conversely, the alternatives form completely different phrasal verbs that fail contextually: "look into" means to investigate; "run into" means to collide with or encounter by chance; and "burst into" means to suddenly begin doing something actively (like crying or laughing).
25. C) यह option (cinematic vocabulary) पर आधारित है। "indelible" का प्रयोग बिल्कुल सही है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ "ऐसी छाप या याद जिसे कभी मिटाया या भुलाया न जा सके" (permanent/unforgettable) होता है, जो कि दशकों बाद भी दर्शकों द्वारा specific scenes और images को याद रखने (remember) के संदर्भ को पूरा करता है। इसके विपरीत, बाकी options गलत हैं: visceral का अर्थ "गहरी आंतरिक या शारीरिक भावना" होता है; sublime का अर्थ "अत्यंत भव्य या आध्यात्मिक रूप से सुंदर" होता है; और ethereal का अर्थ "अत्यंत नाजुक और अलौकिक" होता है। ये शब्द movie visuals की विशेषता बता सकते हैं, लेकिन "याद रखने" की क्षमता को केवल indelible ही दर्शाता है।
- The correct answer is "indelible" because it means making marks that cannot be removed or memories that are permanently ingrained and impossible to forget. This perfectly coordinates with the sentence's premise that "Most viewers are likely to remember" these images decades later. Conversely, the alternatives fail contextually: "visceral" refers to deep, instinctive emotional reactions; "sublime" means inspiring awe through grandeur; and "ethereal" means extremely delicate and light in a heavenly way. While a movie scene can be visceral or sublime, it is the indelible nature of an image that ensures it remains memorable over time.



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

**English Madhyam**