

## Stay with the evidence: On the ban on Fixed Dose Combination drugs

Better **monitoring** of sale of banned drugs **is essential**

The character of science **leans** to openness: to new evidence and emerging facts. Its ability to be **agile** to **pivot** and shift to newer guidelines is therefore **absolutely** crucial. The Health Ministry's recent **ban** on 16 Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs **comes** on the evidence that **these** drug combinations lack **therapeutic** justification, **are** 'deemed irrational or unsafe' and might **pose** risks to patients. The drugs include **dermatological** drugs, **analgesics** and **antispasmodics**, and antibiotic-based formulations. An FDC is a drug containing two or more active pharmacological ingredients, combined in a fixed ratio in a single dosage. These were meant to improve treatment **compliance** in **chronic** conditions (such as Tuberculosis) by reducing the **pill** burden and, sometimes, by improved therapeutic **effectiveness**. However, irrational **combinations**, besides being ineffective, **can** also be **counter-productive** and harmful. As per the latest order, all State Drug Controllers, regulatory authorities, and **enforcement** agencies are to ensure strict implementation and compliance with the recent notification. Instructions must also be sent to manufacturers, importers, distributors, and even individual pharmacies, to stop **stocking** and selling the banned FDCs.

This is not the first time that the Health Ministry is **cracking down on** FDCs. A detailed scientific review is **undertaken** before these **decisions** to ban FDCs **are** taken. In March 2016, the government banned a **whopping** number of over 330 FDC drugs, on the **ground** that they were irrational, **with immediate effect**. While FDCs offer the advantage of a reduction in the number of pills, of certain benefit to certain categories of patients, there are some **innate** issues as well: patients might need different **titrations** of doses, impossible with FDCs; patients might develop allergies, but it will not be clear what particular pharmaceutical ingredient they are reacting to. It is also clear that all patients may not actually need all the drugs in the combination, **exposing them to** unnecessary side effects. A further potential harm exists with FDCs of antibiotics: In 2016, 19% of the 330 FDCs banned were antibiotics; There is enough evidence to show that irrational antibiotic FDC drug usage **leads to** or **exacerbates** the growing antimicrobial **resistance** problem in the country. While the government has taken a positive step with banning these FDCs, its work has just begun. In many **instances** in the past, **stocks** of banned drugs **were** still being sold in pharmacies, because the message had not **percolated down**. While staying **solidly** on the side of evidence-based medicine, the government must also activate its monitoring and **supervision** arm **in order to** ensure that the benefits from the ban reach **the last mile**.

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Vocabulary

1. **Monitoring** (noun) - observing, tracking, supervising, overseeing, checking निगरानी करना
2. **Essential** (adjective) - necessary, vital, crucial, indispensable, fundamental आवश्यक/अनिवार्य
3. **Lean** (verb) - incline, tend, favour, gravitate, be disposed झुकना/प्रवृत्त होना
4. **Agile** (adjective) - nimble, flexible, adaptable, quick, responsive फुर्तीला/चुस्त
5. **Pivot** (verb) - shift, turn, adapt, change direction, reorient दिशा बदलना/मुड़ना
6. **Absolutely** (adverb) - completely, entirely, utterly, wholly, totally बिल्कुल/पूर्णतः
7. **Therapeutic** (adjective) - healing, curative, medicinal, remedial, restorative चिकित्सीय/उपचारात्मक
8. **Deem** (verb) - consider, regard, judge, view, hold समझना/मानना
9. **Irrational** (adjective) - illogical, unreasonable, absurd, senseless, baseless अतार्किक/निराधार
10. **Pose** (verb) - present, create, cause, represent, constitute उत्पन्न करना/पेश करना
11. **Dermatological** (adjective) - skin-related, cutaneous, epidermal, skin-based, topical त्वचा संबंधी
12. **Analgesic** (noun) - painkiller, pain reliever, pain suppressant, anodyne, sedative दर्दनिवारक/पीड़ाहारी
13. **Antispasmodic** (noun) - muscle relaxant, spasm reliever, cramp reliever, relaxant, spasmolytic ऐंठनरोधी दवा
14. **Compliance** (noun) - adherence, conformity, obedience, observance, cooperation अनुपालन/पालन
15. **Chronic** (adjective) - persistent, long-term, lasting, continuous, inveterate दीर्घकालिक/पुराना
16. **Pill** (noun) - tablet, capsule, medicine, medication, dose गोली/दवा
17. **Effectiveness** (noun) - efficacy, potency, efficiency, success, productivity प्रभावशीलता/असरदारता
18. **Counter-productive** (adjective) - harmful, self-defeating, detrimental, backfiring, damaging उल्टा असर करनेवाला/हानिकारक
19. **Enforcement** (noun) - implementation, application, execution, imposition, reinforcement प्रवर्तन/अमल

20. **Stocking** (noun) - storing, stockpiling, keeping, hoarding, supplying भंडारण करना/रखना
21. **Crack down on** (phrase) - clamp down on, take action against, suppress, curb, restrict सख्त कार्रवाई करना
22. **Undertake** (verb) - carry out, conduct, perform, execute, embark on करना/हाथ में लेना
23. **Whopping** (adjective) - enormous, huge, massive, colossal, staggering बहुत बड़ा/विशाल
24. **Ground** (noun) - basis, reason, justification, rationale, cause आधार/कारण
25. **With immediate effect** (phrase) - immediately, at once, instantly, right away, forthwith तत्काल प्रभाव से
26. **Innate** (adjective) - inherent, inborn, natural, intrinsic, built-in जन्मजात/अंतर्निहित
27. **Titration** (noun) - dosage adjustment, calibration, measurement, quantification, regulation मात्रा-समायोजन/अनुमापन
28. **Expose** (to) (verb) - subject, lay open, leave vulnerable, make susceptible, put at risk उजागर करना/जोखिम में डालना
29. **Lead** (to) (verb) - result in, cause, bring about, give rise to, produce लेजाना/कारण बनना
30. **Exacerbate** (verb) - worsen, aggravate, intensify, compound, heighten बढ़ाना/और बुरा करना
31. **Resistance** (noun) - immunity, opposition, defiance, tolerance, imperviousness प्रतिरोध/प्रतिकार
32. **Instance** (noun) - case, example, occasion, occurrence, situation उदाहरण/मामला
33. **Percolate down** (phrasal verb) - filter down, trickle down, spread, disseminate, reach नीचे तक पहुँचना/फैलना
34. **Solidly** (adverb) - firmly, steadfastly, resolutely, unwaveringly, strongly दृढ़ता से/मजबूती से
35. **Supervision** (noun) - oversight, monitoring, control, management, administration निगरानी/पर्यवेक्षण
36. **In order to** (phrase) - so as to, with the aim of, for the purpose of, to, so that के लिए/ताकि
37. **The last mile** (phrase) - final stage, furthest point, remotest reach, end point, grassroots level अंतिम छोर तक/दूरदूराज तक

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial supports the government's decision to ban **16 Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs** based on scientific evidence.
2. Science should remain **open to new evidence and updated guidelines** to protect public health.
3. The banned FDC drugs were found to have **no proper therapeutic justification**.
4. These drug combinations were considered **irrational, unsafe, and potentially harmful** to patients.
5. The banned medicines include **dermatological drugs, painkillers (analgesics), antispasmodics, and antibiotic formulations**.
6. FDC drugs combine **two or more active ingredients in fixed proportions within a single medicine**.
7. Originally, FDCs were introduced to **improve treatment compliance and reduce pill burden**, especially in chronic diseases such as Tuberculosis.
8. Some FDCs may increase convenience and treatment effectiveness, but **irrational combinations can reduce benefits and increase risks**.
9. The Health Ministry directed **State Drug Controllers, regulators, manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies** to stop selling and stocking these banned drugs.
10. This is not the first crackdown — in **2016, the government banned more than 330 irrational FDC drugs**.
11. FDCs create problems because patients often require **different dosage adjustments**, which fixed combinations cannot provide.
12. If allergic reactions occur, it becomes difficult to identify **which ingredient caused the problem**.
13. Many patients may receive **unnecessary medicines**, leading to avoidable side effects.
14. Irrational use of **antibiotic FDCs contributes to antimicrobial resistance**, which is a growing concern in India.
15. The editorial concludes that banning the drugs is only the **first step**; strong **monitoring, enforcement, and prevention of continued sales** are necessary to ensure the ban reaches the last mile and protects patients.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. The author mentions all the following clinical categories or specific examples of drugs affected by or related to the Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) regulations except: **[Editorial]**

- A. analgesics
- B. antispasmodics
- C. dermatological drugs
- D. antipyretics

2. Which of the following statements (1), (2), and/or (3) is/are true in the context of the information given in the passage?

The information in the passage is helpful to:

- (1) understand the scientific, underlying mechanism of how a patient develops a specific allergy to an active pharmaceutical ingredient
- (2) identify a specific chronic health condition where a well-formulated FDC can physically reduce the absolute number of pills a patient must take
- (3) determine the exact total number of antibiotic-based FDC formulations that are included in the Health Ministry's most recent ban of 16 drugs

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. 2 and 3
- D. Only 3

3. The author's primary concern seems to:

- A. outline the therapeutic advantages and precise clinical engineering of rational fixed-dose drug combinations
- B. condemn the government's repetitive historical reliance on sudden regulatory crackdowns without a scientific base
- C. emphasize the necessity of rigorous enforcement and monitoring to fully realize the health benefits of the drug ban
- D. catalog the biological mechanisms by which irrational antibiotic dosages interact with human antibodies

4. Which of the following statements about Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs or their regulation is/are false?

- (1) FDC drug manufactured lack therapeutic justification and inevitably causes adverse health risks.
- (2) State Drug Controllers and regulatory authorities hold the responsibility of ensuring information percolates down to individual pharmacies.

- A. Only 1 is false
- B. Only 2 is false
- C. 1 and 2 are true
- D. 1 and 2 are false

5. Which sentence from the passage contains a relative clause?

- A. Its ability to be agile to pivot and shift to newer guidelines is therefore absolutely crucial.
- B. The drugs include dermatological drugs, analgesics and antispasmodics, and antibiotic-based formulations.

- C. However, irrational combinations, besides being ineffective, can also be counter-productive and harmful.
- D. Patients might develop allergies, but it will not be clear what particular pharmaceutical ingredient they are reacting to.
6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Incur."**
- A. Disseminate  
B. Sustain  
C. Foment  
D. Ameliorate
7. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into Passive Voice?**  
Is the technician installing the security system in the building?
- A. Has the security system been installed by the technician in the building?  
B. Was the security system installed by the technician in the building?  
C. Is the security system being installed by the technician in the building?  
D. The security system is installed by the technician in the building.
8. **Select the option that best describes the meaning of the idiom "Bursting at the seams."**
- A. to prepare for action by dealing with anything that might hinder progress  
B. to eliminate a vast amount of deeply ingrained corruption or inefficiency  
C. to be completely full to the point of breaking or overflowing with items  
D. to alter financial records dishonestly in order to misrepresent net profit
9. **Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful passage:**
1. This upcoming line expands their current portfolio into a new product segment.  
2. Nothing has announced a new 'B' series following the success of its 'A' series.  
3. While numbers represent generations, letters are used to indicate different segments.  
4. The London-based tech company plans to launch the first product under this series in July.
- A. 2-3-1-4  
B. 2-1-4-3  
C. 2-1-3-4  
D. 1-2-3-4
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Sanction."**
- A. Dilemma  
B. Reprieve  
C. Strategy  
D. Playbook
11. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for: 'Cancellation of a penalty or debt.'**
- A. Acquittal  
B. Permission  
C. Reprieve  
D. Partion
12. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**  
His rude behaviour was **repugnent** to everyone.
- A. repugnent  
B. repugnant

- C. repugnat  
D. repugnentt
13. **Select the option that best describes the meaning of the phrasal verb "Fend for."**  
A. To look after oneself without help from others  
B. To perform a task with extreme care and attention  
C. To experience intense discomfort in a new setting  
D. To accept unpleasant results of one's own actions
14. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Scope."**  
A. Enlargement  
B. Capacitance  
C. Restriction  
D. Measurement
15. **Select the correct spelling of the highlighted word in the following sentence.**  
The king's sudden **abdicationn** shocked everyone.  
A. abdiction  
B. abdication  
C. abdikashun  
D. abdiketion
16. **Choose the correct direct sentence of the following sentence.**  
The scientist said that the results had been surprising.  
A. The scientist said, "The results have been surprising."  
B. The scientist said, "The results had been surprising."  
C. The scientist said, "The results are surprising."  
D. The scientist said, "The results were surprising."
17. **Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.**  
The deer ran swiftly across the open \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. plane  
B. plain  
C. plan  
D. plaid
18. **Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'.**  
You must continue your study  
A. No error  
B. You must  
C. continue  
D. your study
19. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Immerse."**  
A. Restrain  
B. Chastise  
C. Submerge  
D. Protract
20. **Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful passage:**  
1. India's agriculture faces a major biomass burning paradox.  
2. This resource waste damages soil health and causes pollution.

3. Biochar emerges as a carbon-negative solution to this crisis.
  4. It restores depleted soils and boosts crop productivity.
- A. 1-4-2-3
  - B. 1-2-3-4
  - C. 2-1-3-4
  - D. 1-2-4-3

**Passage:**

Parents who had spent hours outside the centre rushed forward, scanning faces in the crowd. Students emerged slowly, clutching transparent pouches and admit cards.

Many looked exhausted, the afternoon heat visible in flushed faces and sweat-soaked foreheads. Some wore slight, uncomfortable grins as they stepped out to find themselves greeted not only by anxious parents but also by clusters of television cameras, microphones and reporters waiting for their first reactions.

For the more than 22 lakh students who sat for the re-NEET examination on June 21, the day marked the end of another chapter in a journey that has stretched far beyond preparation and revision. Following allegations of a paper leak in the May 3 examination and its (3) subsequent cancellation, candidates found themselves preparing once again for the country's largest medical entrance test.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) conducted the re-examination at over 5,400 centres across 551 cities. The exam was held from 2:00 p.m. to 5.15 p.m., with an additional 15 minutes to ensure that administrative formalities, such as attendance and verification, did not (4) \_\_\_\_\_ candidates' question-answering time.

Yet for many students, the extra time was (2) \_\_\_\_\_ enough. "The Physics questions were very long, you had to read them twice to understand what they were asking; they felt like JEE Mains questions", said (5) Priyanka Mishra, a second-time candidate. Medical entries (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to be highly competitive across the country, prompting massive student turnouts every year.

**21. Choose the correct verb form: (1)**

- A. Continue
- B. Continued
- C. Continues
- D. Continuing

**22. The word "hardly" in the passage most nearly means: (2)**

- A. thoroughly
- B. completely
- C. barely
- D. entirely

**23. Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "subsequent" as used in the passage: (3)**

- A. consecutive
- B. following
- C. prior
- D. succeeding

**24. Choose the appropriate phrasal verb: (4)**

- A. cut off

- B. cut into
  - C. cut out
  - D. cut down
25. **What does the proper noun "Priyanka Mishra" refer to in the passage? (5)**
- A. A television news anchor reporting on the paper leak allegations.
  - B. An administrator managing verification processes for the NTA. (
  - C. A reporter collecting live feedback from testing centers.
  - D. A second-time medical entrance candidate sharing her exam experience.

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

### 1. D) antipyretics

The author does not mention antipyretics anywhere in the passage as a category affected by or related to the FDC regulations.

(a): Line from passage: "The drugs include dermatological drugs, analgesics and antispasmodics, and antibiotic-based formulations." Incorrect. The passage explicitly lists analgesics as one of the categories affected by the FDC regulation.

(b): Line from passage: "The drugs include dermatological drugs, analgesics and antispasmodics, and antibiotic-based formulations." Incorrect. The passage explicitly lists antispasmodics as one of the categories affected by the FDC regulation.

(c) Line from passage: "The drugs include dermatological drugs, analgesics and antispasmodics, and antibiotic-based formulations." Incorrect. The passage explicitly lists dermatological drugs as one of the categories affected by the FDC regulation.

### 2. B) Only 2

Statement (1) Line from passage: "...patients might develop allergies, but it will not be clear what particular pharmaceutical ingredient they are reacting to." False. The passage only mentions that it is difficult to know which specific ingredient caused an allergy when using an FDC. It does not explain the scientific or biological mechanism of how a patient develops an allergy.

Statement (2) Line from passage: "These were meant to improve treatment compliance in chronic conditions (such as Tuberculosis) by reducing the pill burden..." True. The passage explicitly identifies Tuberculosis as a specific chronic condition where a properly used FDC reduces the pill burden (the absolute number of pills a patient must take).

Statement (3): Line from passage: "The Health Ministry's recent ban on 16 Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs..." and "The drugs include dermatological drugs, analgesics and antispasmodics, and antibiotic-based formulations." False. While the passage states that the recent ban includes 16 drugs and that some are antibiotic-based, it does not give the exact total number of those antibiotic formulations within that 16. (The 19% figure mentioned later in the passage explicitly refers to the older 2016 ban of over 330 drugs, not the recent ban of 16).

### 3. C) emphasize the necessity of rigorous enforcement and monitoring to fully realize the health benefits of the drug ban

Line from passage: "While the government has taken a positive step with banning these FDCs, its work has just begun... the government must also activate its monitoring and supervision arm in order to ensure that the benefits from the ban reach the last mile." Correct. The entire second half of the passage builds up to this main conclusion. The author emphasizes that passing the ban is not enough; rigorous enforcement and ground-level monitoring are absolutely necessary to stop pharmacies from selling banned stocks.

option A: Incorrect. While the author briefly defines FDCs and acknowledges their potential to reduce pill burdens, this is minor background context. The main focus is on addressing the dangers of irrational FDCs and the implementation of the ban.

option B: Incorrect. The author does not condemn the government for lacking a scientific base; in fact, the author explicitly states that a detailed scientific review is conducted before bans are enacted and praises the action as a "positive step."

option D: Incorrect. The author notes that irrational antibiotic FDCs contribute to antimicrobial resistance, but does not provide a biological catalog or detail how they interact with human antibodies.

4. D) **1 and 2 are false**

Statement (1) Line from passage: "These were meant to improve treatment compliance in chronic conditions (such as Tuberculosis) by reducing the pill burden and, sometimes, by improved therapeutic effectiveness." False. The passage states that FDCs can have genuine therapeutic benefits and effectiveness for certain conditions. It is only the irrational combinations that lack justification and cause risks.

Statement (2): Line from passage: "As per the latest order, all State Drug Controllers, regulatory authorities, and enforcement agencies are to ensure strict implementation...

Instructions must also be sent to manufacturers, importers, distributors, and even individual pharmacies..." and "the government must also activate its monitoring and supervision arm..." False. The passage does not grant responsibility to State Drug Controllers and regulatory authorities. It explicitly brings in enforcement agencies, manufacturers, importers, distributors, and the broader central government's monitoring arm to ensure compliance down to individual pharmacies.

5. D) **Patients might develop allergies, but it will not be clear what particular pharmaceutical ingredient they are reacting to.**

a relative clause (which acts as an adjective to describe a noun) often begins with pronouns like who, which, or that. However, when the pronoun is the object of the clause, we often omit it. This is called a "Zero Relative Pronoun."

Full Version: "...ingredient that/which they are reacting to."

Reduced Version (as seen in the passage): "...ingredient they are reacting to."

In this structure, "they are reacting to" is a relative clause modifying the noun "ingredient." It tells us which specific ingredient is being discussed.

6. B) **Incur** (verb) – suffer, sustain, experience, acquire, attract. (उठाना/झेलना)

Synonym: **Sustain** (verb) – To undergo, suffer, or experience something negative like a heavy financial loss or injury. (झेलना)

- **Disseminate** (verb): Spreading information, knowledge, or specialized data widely throughout a population. (प्रसारित करना)
- **Foment** (verb): Instigating or stirring up an undesirable, violent, or completely rebellious sentiment. (भड़काना)
- **Ameliorate** (verb): Making a highly unsatisfactory or bad socioeconomic situation significantly better. (सुधारना)

7. C) **Is the security system being installed by the technician in the building?**

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 technician" Subject है, "is installing" (Present Continuous, interrogative form) Verb है और "the security system" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "the security system" Subject बन जाता है, Verb को "is being installed" (Present Continuous Passive) में बदला जाता है और "by the technician" जोड़ा जाता है। साथ ही, प्रश्नवाचक संरचना बनाए रखने के लिए "Is" से वाक्य शुरू होता है। इसलिए सही वाक्य है — "Is the security system being installed by the technician in the building?" 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 technician" (Subject), "is installing" (Verb in Present Continuous interrogative), and "the security system" (Object) are transformed into "the security system" (Subject), "is being installed" (Passive Verb in Present Continuous), and "by the technician". The interrogative structure is maintained by starting with "Is". Hence, the correct answer is — "Is the security system being installed by the technician in the building?" (Option 3)

8. C) **Bursting at the seams** (phrase) – to be full to the point of breaking or overflowing. (सीमा से बाहर होना या बहुत अधिक भर जाना)

9. C) **2-1-3-4**

Sentence 2 comes first because it introduces the main topic of the passage. The company "Nothing" and its announcement of a new "B" series" are the core subjects, setting the overall context.

Sentence 1 follows Sentence 2 because it elaborates on the purpose of this newly introduced series. The phrase "This upcoming line" directly links back to the 'B' series mentioned in the first sentence.

Sentence 3 comes next to explain the company's underlying strategy. After introducing the new series, it clarifies the naming system, explaining what numbers and letters mean in their product hierarchy.

Sentence 4 comes last because it provides the conclusion and future timeline. After explaining the product line and its naming system, the passage ends by stating the expected launch month for the first product.

- Sentence 2 सबसे पहले आता है क्योंकि यह passage का मुख्य विषय बताता है। इसमें "Nothing" कंपनी और उसकी नई "B" series" की घोषणा की बात की गई है, जिससे पूरा context सेट हो जाता है।
- Sentence 1, sentence 2 के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह उस नई सीरीज़ के उद्देश्य को और विस्तार से समझाता है। इसमें इस्तेमाल किया गया "This upcoming line" शब्द सीधे पहली sentence में बताई गई 'B' सीरीज़ से जुड़ता है।
- Sentence 3 इसके बाद आता है क्योंकि यह कंपनी की नेमिंग स्ट्रेटेजी (naming strategy) को स्पष्ट करता है। नई सीरीज़ की जानकारी देने के बाद, यह बताता है कि उनके प्रोडक्ट पोर्टफोलियो में नंबर और लेटर्स का क्या मतलब है।
- Sentence 4 अंत में आता है क्योंकि यह पूरे passage का निष्कर्ष और भविष्य की टाइमलाइन बताता है। समस्या और सिस्टम को समझाने के बाद, यह वाक्य बताता है कि इस सीरीज़ का पहला प्रोडक्ट जुलाई में लॉन्च होने की उम्मीद है।

10. B) **Sanction** (noun) – penalty, punishment, restriction, embargo, ban. (प्रतिबंध)

Antonym: **Reprieve** (noun) – A cancellation or postponement of a punishment; a temporary relief from a penalty. (राहत / दंडविराम)

- **Dilemma** (noun): A predicament, quandary, plight, difficulty, or complex puzzle. (दुविधा)
- **Strategy** (noun): A plan of action designed to achieve a long-term goal. (रणनीति)
- **Playbook** (noun): A set of rules or methods used by an organization to achieve a specific goal. (कार्ययोजना)

11. C) **Reprieve** (noun) – Cancellation of a penalty or debt दंड/ऋण की समाप्ति या माफी

- **Acquittal** (noun) – a judgement that a person is not guilty of the crime जिसके लिए आरोप लगाया गया था, दोषमुक्ति
- **Permission** (noun) – consent or authorization to do something अनुमति
- **Pardon** (noun) – officially forgiving someone for a crime अपराध की क्षमा

12. B) The correct spelling of 'repugnant' is '**repugnant**' which means "offensive or incompatible" – असंगत, अप्रिय, घृणास्पद.

13. A) **Fend for** (phrasal verb) – to look after oneself without help from others. (अपना ख्याल खुद रखना)

14. C) **Scope** (noun) – extent, range, scale, breadth, capacity. (विस्तार / गुंजाइश)

Antonym: **Restriction** (noun) – A limiting condition or measure; especially a legal one. (सीमा / प्रतिबंध)

- **Enlargement** (noun): The action or state of enlarging or being enlarged. (विस्तार)
- **Capacitance** (noun): The ability of a system to store an electric charge. (धारिता)
- **Measurement** (noun): The action of measuring something. (मापन)

15. B) The correct spelling of 'abdication' is '**abdication**' which means "renunciation, relinquishment, withdrawal, surrender" – त्याग, गद्दी छोड़ना.

16. B) **The scientist said, "The results had been surprising."**

Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reporting Verb और Reported Speech दोनों को ध्यान में रखकर वाक्य को उसी भाव में प्रस्तुत किया जाता है। Indirect वाक्य में "The scientist said" Reporting Verb है और "had been surprising" Past Perfect Tense में है। Direct Speech में इसे उसके Original Tense (Past Perfect) में रखा गया है क्योंकि यह पहले की पूरी हुई घटना को दर्शाता है।

Verb "had been surprising" को Direct Speech में "had been surprising" ही रखा गया और "that" हटा कर वाक्य को inverted commas (" ") में लिखा गया।

In English

To convert Indirect to Direct Speech:

Reporting verb: "said" is in the past tense.

Tense handling: The indirect sentence is in Past Perfect ("had been surprising"). Since it refers to a completed past situation before another past reference, the Past Perfect is retained in direct speech to preserve the exact meaning.

Remove "that" and add quotation marks.

No pronoun or time-word changes are required.

Other Option Analysis:

Option 1: Changes tense to Present Perfect; time reference is altered.

Option 3: Present Simple states a general fact; meaning changes.

Option 4: Past Simple reduces the sense of completion conveyed by Past Perfect.

17. B) 'Plain' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में deer के खुले मैदान में दौड़ने की बात हो रही है। "open plain" का अर्थ होता है खुला, समतल क्षेत्र जहाँ पेड़-पौधे कम होते हैं। इसलिए, "plain" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
- 'Plain' should be used because the sentence describes a deer running across an open field. "Open plain" means a wide, flat land with few trees. Thus, "plain" is the most appropriate choice.
18. D) 'study' के बदले 'studies' का प्रयोग होगा। जब 'study' का अर्थ 'पढ़ाई' (education) या 'अध्ययन' के रूप में हो, तो इसे सामान्यतः plural form 'studies' में प्रयोग किया जाता है। 'Your study' का अर्थ आपके अध्ययन कक्ष से हो सकता है, न कि आपकी पढ़ाई से।
- 'studies' will be used instead of 'study'. When "study" means "education" or "academic pursuit", it is generally used in the plural form "studies". "Your study" could mean your study room, not your education.
- Rule: "Studies" is used to refer to academic pursuits or education.
19. C) **Immerse** (verb) - involve, absorb, sink, bury, submerge. (डूब जाना या तल्लीन होना)  
Synonym: **Submerge** (verb) – Cause to be under water; completely cover or obscure from view. (डूब जाना / जलमग्न करना)
- **Restrain** (verb): Prevent someone or something from doing something; keep under control. (नियंत्रित करना)
  - **Chastise** (verb): Rebuke or reprimand severely; punish someone or something structurally. (दंडित करना)
  - **Protract** (verb): Prolong the time or duration of something; extend completely outwards. (बढ़ाना / लंबा खींचना)
20. B) 1-2-3-4
- Sentence 1 comes first because it introduces the main topic of the passage. "India's agriculture" and the "biomass burning paradox" are the subjects, and this sentence clearly sets the overall context.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 1 because it explains the immediate consequence of that paradox. The phrase "This resource waste" directly links back to the burning of biomass mentioned in the first sentence.
- Sentence 3 comes next as a transition to the remedy. After describing the crisis and its damage, the passage introduces "Biochar" as the carbon-negative solution to fix it.
- Sentence 4 comes last because it provides the conclusion and specific benefits. "It" refers back to Biochar, ending the passage by highlighting its positive impact on soils and crop productivity.
- Sentence 1 सबसे पहले आता है क्योंकि यह passage का मुख्य विषय बताता है। इसमें "India's agriculture" और "biomass burning paradox" की बात की गई है, जिससे पूरा context सेट हो जाता है।
  - Sentence 2, sentence 1 के बाद आता है क्योंकि यह उस paradox का सीधा परिणाम बताता है। इसमें इस्तेमाल किया गया "This resource waste" शब्द सीधे पहली sentence में बताए गए biomass burning से जुड़ता है।

- Sentence 3 इसके बाद आता है क्योंकि यह समस्या के समाधान (remedy) की ओर बढ़ता है। संकट और नुकसान बताने के बाद, संकट को दूर करने के लिए "Biochar" को एक उपाय के रूप में पेश किया गया है।
- Sentence 4 अंत में आता है क्योंकि यह पूरे passage का निष्कर्ष और फायदे बताता है। यहाँ "It" शब्द Biochar के लिए इस्तेमाल हुआ है, और यह वाक्य बताता है कि कैसे यह मिट्टी को सुधारता है और फसल की उत्पादकता बढ़ाता है।

21. A) The subject of the sentence is "entries," which is a plural noun. The sentence is stating a general, ongoing fact about the present situation, so it requires a present tense verb. Therefore, the plural present-tense verb "(Continue)" is correct. "Continued" is past tense. "Continues" is singular. "Continuing" requires a helping verb (like "are continuing").

In Hindi:

- Sentence का subject "entries" है, जो एक plural noun है। यह sentence एक general present situation की बात कर रहा है। इसलिए plural present-tense verb "(Continue)" सही है। "Continued" past tense है। "Continues" singular verb है। "Continuing" के साथ helping verb (जैसे are) की ज़रूरत होती है।

22. C) In the passage, "hardly enough" means that the time was scarcely or only just sufficient. "(barely)" shares this exact meaning. "thoroughly", "completely", and "entirely" all mean fully or wholly, which are the opposite of what the context implies.

In Hindi:

- Passage में "hardly enough" का मतलब है कि समय 'मुश्किल से' ही काफी था। "(barely)" का मतलब भी 'मुश्किल से' या 'ना के बराबर' होता है, जो बिल्कुल सही है। "thoroughly", "completely" और "entirely" का मतलब 'पूरी तरह से' होता है, जो यहाँ के context के opposite हैं।

23. C) The word "subsequent" means happening or coming after something else (in this case, cancellation after the exam). The antonym (opposite word) is "(prior)", which means existing or coming before in time. "consecutive", "following", and "succeeding" are all synonyms of subsequent, meaning coming after.

In Hindi:

- "subsequent" का मतलब किसी चीज़ के 'बाद में आने वाला' (यहाँ exam के बाद cancellation) है। इसका antonym (opposite) "(prior)" है, जिसका मतलब 'पहले का' या 'पूर्व' होता है। "consecutive", "following", और "succeeding" सभी synonyms हैं, जिनका मतलब बाद में आने वाला होता है।

24. C) The sentence discusses administrative formalities taking away from the students' exam time. The phrasal verb "(cut into)" means to encroach upon, take away from, or consume a part of something (like time or resources). "cut off" means to disconnect. "cut out" means to remove. "cut down" means to reduce the overall size or amount of something.

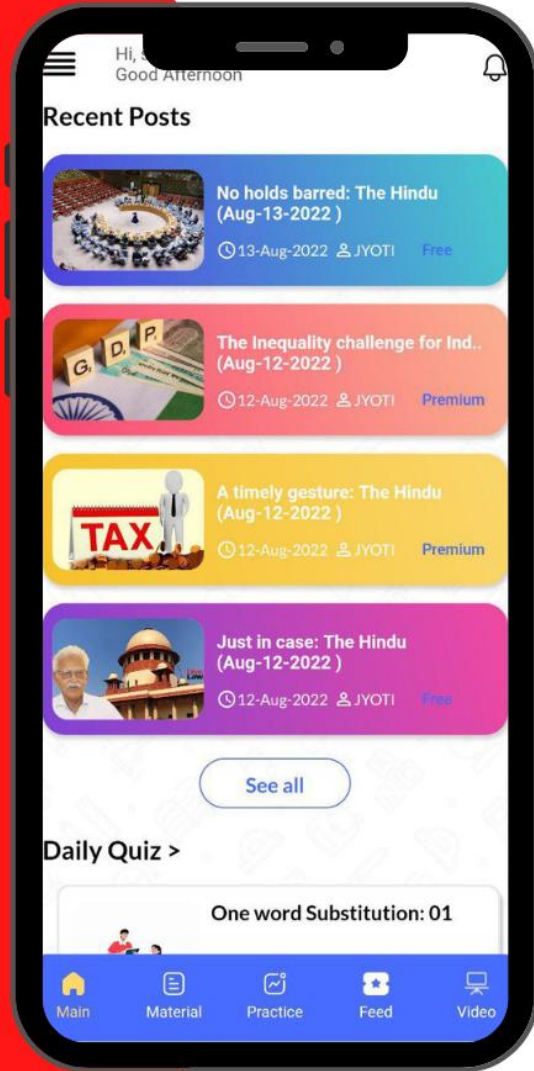
In Hindi:

- Sentence बता रहा है कि administrative formalities बच्चों के exam time को कम न कर दें। "(cut into)" का मतलब किसी चीज़ (जैसे समय या resource) में से कुछ हिस्सा ले लेना या कम करना है। "cut off" का मतलब disconnect करना है। "cut out" का मतलब हटा देना है। "cut down" का मतलब overall quantity कम करना है।

25. D) The passage explicitly identifies her right after her quote: "...said Priyanka Mishra, a second-time candidate." Therefore, "(A second-time medical entrance candidate sharing her exam experience.)" is the direct and factually accurate answer according to the text. The other descriptions do not match the text.

In Hindi:

- Passage में quote के ठीक बाद साफ-साफ बताया गया है: "...said Priyanka Mishra, a second-time candidate." इसलिए, "(A second-time medical entrance candidate sharing her exam experience.)" text के हिसाब से एकदम सही answer है। बाकी descriptions passage से match नहीं करते।



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

**English Madhyam**