

## The mystery of life on Earth is sweet

Sugar, it has become a **cliché** to say, **is** the new tobacco. There are certainly **parallels** between the two products — both were **linchpins** of **colonial** expansion, are addictive health **hazards** and their harms were long hidden by big business. But sugar isn't just a **delicious** villain, a **dietary decadence**, or an **indulgence**. Before it became the chief cause of **obesity**, it was a building block of life. Sugars are essential components of DNA and RNA, building blocks of cells and the primary source of energy, even in the simplest and earliest life forms. Till recently, though, their origins on Earth were a mystery.

A **research paper** published in Nature Astronomy earlier this week **strengthens** the case that **life** on Earth **was** made possible by travellers from space. Researchers used two powerful radio telescopes to study the Milky Way's Interstellar Medium — all the dust and molecules outside of solar systems — and detected four-carbon sugars. The **saccharine** deep-space travellers likely **hitched a ride to** this planet on **asteroids** that crashed onto the surface, and became the **fuel** for the spark of life.

In some ways, there is a **delightful irony** to the **interstellar** origins of sugar. Too many **people**, too often, **are weighed down** — sometimes literally — by the calories in their sweet treats, by the **creeping** numbers on an annual blood test. To know, in some small way, that the dietary **villain** of the 21st century **is** an **unsung alien** hero at the root of all life, **floating** through space, without weight, is comforting. And, **perhaps**, the odd **dessert** can now be seen not just as **indulgence** but **homage** to all that sugar **has** given this planet.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Dessert** (noun) – Something sweet that is eaten after the main part of a meal मिठाई

## Vocabulary

1. **Cliché** (noun) - an idea or expression that has been overused and has lost its originality. घिसी-पिटी बात
2. **Parallel** (noun) - similarity, likeness, resemblance, match, counterpart. समानता
3. **Linchpin** (noun) - key element, cornerstone, centerpiece, anchor, foundation. मुख्य आधार
4. **Colonial** (adjective) - imperial, expansionist, settlement-related, state-building, overseas-governance. औपनिवेशिक
5. **Hazard** (noun) - danger, risk, peril, threat, menace. खतरा
6. **Delicious** (adjective) - tasty, palatable, scrumptious, yummy, delectable. स्वादिष्ट
7. **Dietary** (adjective) - nutritional, alimentary, food-related, eating-based, nourishment. आहार संबंधी
8. **Decadence** (noun) - luxury, self-indulgence, moral decline, hedonism, excess. विलासिता
9. **Indulgence** (noun) - luxury, treat, gratification, pleasure, excess. भोग या आनंद
10. **Obesity** (noun) - overweight, corpulence, plumpness, heaviness, fatness. मोटापा
11. **Strengthen** (verb) - reinforce, bolster, fortify, support, solidify. मजबूत करना
12. **Saccharine** (adjective) - sugary, sweet, sickly-sweet, honeyed. मीठा
13. **Hitch a ride** (to) (verb) - to travel by getting a lift; to accompany something on its journey. सवारी करना या सहारा लेकर आना
14. **Asteroid** (noun) - minor planet, space rock, celestial body, comet-like object. क्षुद्रग्रह
15. **Fuel** (noun) - source of energy, power, propellant, sustenance. ईंधन या ऊर्जा स्रोत
16. **Delightful** (adjective) - charming, pleasant, wonderful, lovely, pleasing. आनंददायक
17. **Irony** (noun) - sarcasm, paradox, mockery, twist, absurdity. विडंबना
18. **Interstellar** (adjective) - between stars, cosmic, space-based, galactic. अंतरतारकीय
19. **Weigh down** (phrasal verb) - to burden, encumber, depress, load, oppress. बोझ डालना
20. **Creeping** (adjective) - slow-moving, gradual, advancing, increasing. धीरे-धीरे बढ़ने वाला
21. **Unsung** (adjective) - unacknowledged, unrecognized, unknown, unpraised, hidden. गुमनाम
22. **Alien** (noun) - extraterrestrial, foreign, cosmic, strange, non-native. परगही या विदेशी
23. **Float** (verb) - drift, hover, suspend, glide, buoyant. तैरना
24. **Perhaps** (adverb) - maybe, possibly, potentially, conceivably. शायद
25. **Homage** (noun) - tribute, respect, honor, reverence, adoration. श्रद्धांजलि या सम्मान

### Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial highlights that **sugar is often compared to tobacco** because both have colonial histories, addictive qualities, and harmful health effects.
2. Despite its negative reputation today, **sugar is a fundamental component of life** on Earth.
3. Sugars are essential building blocks of **DNA and RNA**, the molecules that carry genetic information.
4. They also form part of **cells** and serve as the **primary source of energy** for living organisms.
5. Until recently, scientists were uncertain about **how sugars first originated on Earth**.
6. A new research paper published in **Nature Astronomy** provides fresh evidence regarding the origin of sugars.
7. Researchers used **two powerful radio telescopes** to study the **Interstellar Medium**—the dust and molecules that exist between star systems in the Milky Way.
8. The study detected **four-carbon sugar molecules** in deep space.
9. These sugar molecules may have reached Earth by **travelling on asteroids** that collided with the planet billions of years ago.
10. The findings strengthen the theory that **key ingredients for life came from outer space**, supporting the idea of extraterrestrial contributions to Earth's earliest life.
11. The discovery suggests that these space-borne sugars may have **provided the chemical foundation** for the emergence of life.
12. The editorial notes the **irony** that sugar, now associated with obesity and diabetes, may have once been essential for the creation of life itself.
13. While excessive sugar consumption remains harmful, its **scientific and biological importance** should not be overlooked.
14. The discovery deepens our understanding of **the origins of life** and demonstrates how modern astronomy continues to answer fundamental scientific questions.
15. The editorial concludes on a light-hearted note, suggesting that while sugar should still be consumed in moderation, its cosmic origins make it worthy of a little appreciation rather than being viewed only as a dietary villain.

**Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**

1. **In the sentence, "In some ways, there is a delightful irony to the interstellar origins of sugar" (third paragraph), what two contrasting roles of sugar is the author referring to?**
  - A. Its historical significance in driving colonial empire-building versus its modern identity as a highly regulated corporate commodity.
  - B. Its status as a heavy, disease-causing modern dietary villain versus its weightless role as an ancient, extraterrestrial catalyst for all biological life.
  - C. Its structural necessity as a fundamental component of human genetic material versus its chemical synthesis on deep-space asteroids.
  - D. Its classification as an addictive health hazard akin to tobacco versus its potential therapeutic benefits discovered by deep-space radio telescopes.
2. **Which of the following views is taken by the author?**
  - A. The more destructive a modern corporate product is to human health, the more vital its historical role in colonial expansion.
  - B. The more complex the genetic structure of an organism, the greater its reliance on interstellar saccharine molecules.
  - C. The more we are weighed down by the physical hazards of sugar on Earth, the less comforting its extraterrestrial origin story becomes.
  - D. The more we understand sugar's primordial, weightless cosmic role, the less its modern consumption must be viewed as mere guilty indulgence.
3. **The sentence which concludes the first paragraph, "Till recently, though, their origins on Earth were a mystery", implies that:**
  - A. scientists had previously doubted that sugars were present in the earliest and simplest terrestrial life forms
  - B. before the recent study, it was unknown whether Earth's life-giving sugars originated locally or came from outer space
  - C. researchers had confirmed that sugars were alien in origin but could not locate them in the Milky Way
  - D. the role of big business in hiding the chemical nature of sugar had prevented scientific investigation into its origins
4. **The main subject of the passage is:**
  - A. the political history of sugar
  - B. the discovery of alien life forms
  - C. the dual identity of sugar
  - D. the dangers of modern obesity
5. **Which of the following best identifies the grammatical role of the parenthetical phrase "it has become a cliché to say" in the opening sentence: "Sugar, it has become a cliché to say, is the new tobacco."?**
  - A. Adverbial comment clause modifying the entire assertion
  - B. Adjectival participle phrase modifying the noun "Sugar"
  - C. Noun phrase functioning as the direct object of "is"
  - D. Appositive phrase redefining the meaning of "tobacco"
6. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: Every nook and cranny**

- A. Every small corner or hidden part
  - B. Every important detail
  - C. Every visible place
  - D. Every large space or open area
7. **One of these words is spelled incorrectly. Which one is it?**
- A. Torpor
  - B. Penury
  - C. Zealot
  - D. rancoros
8. **Identify the error in the given sentence:**  
“He denied to attend the meeting citing personal reasons.”
- A. He denied
  - B. to attend
  - C. the meeting
  - D. citing personal reasons
9. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Intimate**
- A. Distant
  - B. Close
  - C. Familiar
  - D. Personal
10. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate verb:**  
After months of silence, the author finally \_\_\_\_\_ the controversy in a detailed blog post.
- A. addressed
  - B. suppressed
  - C. diverted
  - D. evaded
11. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (A, B, C, D) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
- A. The infection, cyclosporiasis, caused by the Cyclospora parasite, occurs when people consume food or water that contains the parasite.
  - B. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it has received reports of 1,645 confirmed domestic cases of cyclosporiasis since May 1, substantially higher than the 249 cases reported in the country by this same time last year.
  - C. A widespread outbreak of a gastrointestinal illness has been reported in the United States.
  - D. Because cyclosporiasis is often underdiagnosed and underreported, the true number of illnesses is likely higher than what has been reported, it noted.
- A. C-A-B-D
  - B. A-C-D-B
  - C. C-B-A-D
  - D. B-D-C-A
12. **Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?**  
The negotiator managed to \_\_\_\_ the tension in the room before it could \_\_\_\_ into a full-blown conflict.
- A. diffuse, defuse

- B. alleviate, elevate  
C. elevate, alleviate  
D. defuse, diffuse
13. **Choose the correct passive voice transformation of the sentence:**  
He claimed to have seen a rare species of bird during his expedition to the Amazon rainforest.  
A. It was claimed by him that he had seen a rare species of bird during his expedition to the Amazon rainforest.  
B. A rare species of bird was claimed to have been seen by him during his expedition to the Amazon rainforest.  
C. A rare species of bird was seen by him during his expedition, it was claimed.  
D. He claimed that a rare species of bird was seen by him during his expedition.
14. **Choose the correct passive voice transformation of the sentence:**  
My grandmother tells us stories.  
A. We are told stories by my grandmother  
B. We were told stories by my grandmother.  
C. We have been told stories by my grandmother.  
D. Stories are told to us by my grandmother.
15. **One of these words is spelled incorrectly. Which one is it?**  
A. Connoisseur  
B. Priviledge  
C. Surveillance  
D. Endeavour
16. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: PALIMPSESTIC**  
A. Simplistic  
B. Erased  
C. Layered  
D. Empty
17. **Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?**  
The teacher's decision was guided by the core \_\_\_\_\_ of fairness, even though the \_\_\_\_\_ disagreed with her approach.  
A. principle, principal  
B. principal, principle  
C. principle, principle  
D. principal, principal
18. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Chicanery**  
A. Deceit  
B. Honesty  
C. Trickery  
D. Subterfuge
19. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**  
1. Mr. Menon joined SpaceX in 2018, where he started the company's medical programme, helped prepare for its first human space flights and worked closely in the development of

Starship, the super heavy rocket and spacecraft for undertaking missions to the moon, Mars and beyond.

2. He was selected as a NASA astronaut in December 2021 and joined the two-year training programme the following month.
3. Born in Minneapolis to Ukrainian and Indian immigrants, Anil Menon is an emergency medicine physician and a U.S. Space Force colonel.
4. He began his career at NASA as a flight surgeon in 2014 and worked with astronauts living and working on the International Space Station.

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

**20. Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: Turgid**

- A. Concise
- B. Inflated
- C. Simple
- D. Plain

**Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:**

On April 14, 1988, the U.S.S. Samuel B. Roberts struck an Iranian mine in the Persian Gulf. The mine \_\_\_\_\_(1) severe damage to the ship, breaking her keel and blowing a 21-foot-hole in the port side, flooding the ship with 2,000 tons of water in two main spaces and starting a major fire. Three of the four diesel generators \_\_\_\_\_(2), and the ship lost power for five minutes. Ordinary sailors, cross trained in electrical, mechanical and damage control methods, rose to the occasion in the absence of the incapacitated primary engineering team. Fireman Mike Tilley, trapped below decks, managed to suicide-start the fourth diesel generator, restoring enough power for pumps and firefighting. A cross-trained team of sailors—ranging from cooks and radiomen to sonar technicians—rigged emergency power in just 22 minutes to save the warship.

The warship had a crew of 220 sailors from different backgrounds and places of origin, with varying levels of education and very \_\_\_\_\_(3) experience; 67% of the crew had never been out to sea and another 20 had only one tour under their belts. Yet their intense training kicked in automatically, like a reflex built from countless drills. In the chaos, they \_\_\_\_\_(4) what their bodies and minds had rehearsed a hundred times before, a pattern that mirrors how forward-deployed engineering teams must operate when \_\_\_\_\_(5) from headquarters and forced to stand up, configure, and integrate complex systems under fire.

**21. Select the most appropriate option for (1):**

- A. sustainable
- B. sustaineable
- C. inflicted
- D. endured

**22. Select the most appropriate option for (2):**

- A. damage
- B. had damaged
- C. damaged

D. were damaged

23. **Select the most appropriate option for (3):**

- A. scarce
- B. short
- C. minimal
- D. restricted

24. **Select the most appropriate option for (4):**

- A. executive
- B. executives
- C. executing
- D. executed

25. **Select the most appropriate option for (5):**

- A. cut out
- B. cut off
- C. cut down
- D. cut away

## Answers

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

**[Practice Exercise]**

## Explanations

1. B) **Its status as a heavy, disease-causing modern dietary villain versus its weightless role as an ancient, extraterrestrial catalyst for all biological life.**

The author explicitly sets up this contrast in the final paragraph. The "irony" lies in the juxtaposition between how sugar affects us today on Earth—making people feel "weighed down" by "calories" and "creeping numbers" as a "dietary villain"—versus its cosmic origin story as an "unsung alien hero" that is "floating through space, without weight" and served as the very "fuel for the spark of life." The irony lies in the fact that a substance causing so much physical and medical burden to modern humans is the exact same weightless, outer-space compound that sparked all terrestrial life in the first place.

(a) is incorrect: While colonial expansion is mentioned in paragraph 1, it is unrelated to the specific "delightful irony" of paragraph 3. Additionally, the passage never mentions sugar being a "highly regulated commodity."

(c) is incorrect: The telescopes merely detected natural molecules in space; they were not "chemically synthesized." Furthermore, this option misses the essential "dietary villain" contrast that creates the irony.

(d) is incorrect: The tobacco analogy is from paragraph 1, not part of the cosmic irony in paragraph 3. Additionally, the telescopes were tracing the origins of life, not discovering medical "therapeutic benefits."

2. D) **The more we understand sugar's primordial, weightless cosmic role, the less its modern consumption must be viewed as mere guilty indulgence.**

In the final paragraph, the author directly connects our understanding of sugar's history to how we should feel when consuming it today. The text notes that despite sugar being a modern "dietary villain," learning about its weightless, life-giving cosmic journey is "comforting." Because of this cosmic perspective, the author concludes that "the odd dessert can now be seen not just as indulgence but homage to all that sugar has given this planet." Therefore, the more we appreciate its ancient, primordial role, the less we have to view eating it as a simple, shameful act of guilty indulgence—it becomes an act of tribute instead.

(a) is incorrect because while the passage notes that both sugar and tobacco were addictive colonial linchpins, it never claims that a product's level of health destructiveness determines or increases its historical importance.

(c) is incorrect because it reverses the author's logic. The author states that even when we are "weighed down" by calories and poor blood tests, sugar's cosmic origin remains "comforting," not less comforting.

(b) is incorrect because the passage states that sugars are essential components of DNA "even in the simplest and earliest life forms." It never suggests that more complex organisms rely on these molecules any more than simple ones.

3. B) **before the recent study, it was unknown whether Earth's life-giving sugars originated locally or came from outer space**

In the first paragraph, the author establishes that sugars are vital to life on Earth. In the second paragraph, the author resolves the mystery by introducing the new Nature Astronomy study, which "strengthens the case that life on Earth was made possible by travellers from space" (sugars carried on asteroids). Therefore, stating that their origins were a mystery "till recently" directly implies that while scientists understood sugars were essential for terrestrial life, the source of these sugars (whether Earth-bound or interstellar) remained an unresolved scientific question until the recent space-telescope discoveries.

(a) is incorrect: The biological presence and necessity of sugars in early terrestrial life was already a well-established scientific fact, not a subject of doubt.

(c) is incorrect: Researchers had not "confirmed" the alien origin of sugar; the recent detection of four-carbon sugars in the Milky Way's Interstellar Medium is what finally provided the strong evidence for this theory.

(d) is incorrect: The passage states that big business hid the harms (health hazards) of sugar, not its chemical composition or scientific origins.

#### 4. C) **the dual identity of sugar**

The passage hinges on the contrast between sugar's two contrasting roles. The author deliberately sets up this duality: on one side, sugar is a grounded, modern "dietary villain" causing obesity and health scares; on the other side, it is an "unsung alien hero" that arrived via deep space to act as the foundational fuel for all biological life. The passage concludes by reflecting on this "delightful irony," proving that the core theme is this twin nature.

(a) is incorrect: The political history of sugar (its role as a "linchpin of colonial expansion") is only briefly mentioned in a single sentence in the first paragraph to establish a parallel with tobacco. It is not the main subject of the passage.

(b) is incorrect: The passage discusses the detection of sugar molecules (chemical compounds) in space, not the discovery of active, living "alien life forms."

(d) is incorrect: While modern obesity and health issues ("creeping numbers on an annual blood test") are referenced, they are used as a contrast to highlight the irony of sugar's origins, rather than being the main focus of the passage.

#### 5. A) **Adverbial comment clause modifying the entire assertion**

a comment clause is a short, parenthetical clause that expresses the speaker's or writer's attitude, perspective, or a meta-comment on the information being presented. It is called "adverbial" because, like an adverb, it modifies the content of the sentence. However, instead of modifying a specific verb or an adjective, it modifies the entire assertion.

In the sentence "Sugar is the new tobacco," the phrase "it has become a cliché to say" does not change the meaning of "sugar" or "tobacco." Instead, it tells the reader about the status of the statement itself—that the comparison is frequently made and well-known.

#### 6. A) **Every nook and cranny** (idiom) -Every small corner or hidden part हर छोटा-सा कोना / छिपी जगह तक

#### 7. D) The correct spelling of 'rancoros' is '**rancorous**' which means "characterized by bitterness or resentment" कटु, द्वेषपूर्ण.

#### 8. B) 'to attend' की जगह '**attending**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Verb deny के बाद हमेशा gerund (-ing form) आता है; जैसे — He denied knowing the facts.

- 'attending' will be used instead of 'to attend' because the verb deny is always followed by a gerund (-ing form); as in — He denied knowing the facts

9. A) **Intimate** (adjective) – close, familiar, personal, deeply connected निकट / घनिष्ठ

Antonym: **Distant** (adjective) – far away, reserved, not emotionally close दूर / औपचारिक

- **Close** (adjective) – near, intimate, friendly पास / घनिष्ठ
- **Familiar** (adjective) – well-known, acquainted परिचित
- **Personal** (adjective) – relating to private life or individual matters व्यक्तिगत

10. A) **addressed** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में बताया गया है कि लंबे समय तक चुप रहने के बाद लेखक ने अंततः उस विवाद पर खुलकर बात की। यहाँ संदर्भ "issue को उठाने/बात करने" का है, इसलिए 'addressed' सबसे उपयुक्त है।

- 'addressed' should be used because the context states that after months of silence, the author finally talked about or responded to the controversy. The idea is about taking up the issue and discussing it, which makes 'addressed' the most fitting option.

11. A) **C-A-B-D**

Explanation:

- Sentence C paragraph की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह United States में 'gastrointestinal illness' के outbreak के main topic को बिना किसी confusion के पूरी तरह से introduce करता है।
- Sentence A Sentence C के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence C में बताई गई 'illness' को identify करता है कि यह infection 'cyclosporiasis' है, और यह समझाता है कि यह कैसे फैलता है।
- Sentence B Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह outbreak की गंभीरता को expand करते हुए CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) द्वारा report किए गए confirmed cases के आंकड़े (statistics) प्रस्तुत करता है।
- Sentence D Sentence B के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ word "it noted" सीधे तौर पर Sentence B के "CDC" को point करता है, और यह conclusion देता है कि असल cases की संख्या report किए गए आंकड़ों से अधिक हो सकती है।
- Sentence C starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, independently introducing the overarching main topic of a widespread gastrointestinal illness outbreak in the United States.
- Sentence A follows Sentence C because it acts as a logical progression, directly identifying the unnamed "illness" from Sentence C as the infection "cyclosporiasis" and defining its cause.
- Sentence B follows Sentence A because it expands on the current state of the outbreak, providing specific statistical evidence and case numbers reported by the CDC.

- Sentence D concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis. The phrase "it noted" serves as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to the "CDC" mentioned in Sentence B, adding the final caveat that the true number of cases is likely higher than the reported figures.

12. D) **defuse, diffuse** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में पहला blank तनाव को शांत/कम करने की क्रिया दर्शा रहा है, जबकि दूसरा blank तनाव के फैलने/फैलाव की स्थिति को दर्शा रहा है। यहाँ "managed to \_\_\_\_ the tension" में defuse का अर्थ है तनाव को शांत करना, और "before it could \_\_\_\_ into a full-blown conflict" में diffuse का अर्थ है फैल जाना। इसलिए यह जोड़ी सबसे उपयुक्त है।

- 'Defuse' should be used in the first blank because it means to reduce tension or make a situation less dangerous. In the second blank, 'Diffuse' fits because it means to spread or scatter. The sentence indicates that the negotiator calmed the tension before it could spread into a larger conflict. Thus, defuse, diffuse is the most appropriate choice.

13. B) **A rare species of bird was claimed to have been seen by him during his expedition to the Amazon rainforest.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। "claimed to have seen" जैसे structure में Passive बनाने हेतु "was claimed to have been seen" का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "He" Subject है और "a rare species of bird" Object है। Passive में Object "A rare species of bird" Subject बन गया है और Verb structure "was claimed to have been seen" (Passive construction) बना है। Agent "by him" के रूप में प्रयुक्त हुआ है।

- To change the sentence into Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. With the structure "claimed to have seen," the passive transformation requires "was claimed to have been seen." In the active sentence, "He" (Subject) and "a rare species of bird" (Object) become "A rare species of bird" (Subject) and "was claimed to have been seen" (Passive Verb), with "by him" as the agent. Therefore, option B is correct.

14. A) **We are told stories by my grandmother**

यह option सही है क्योंकि यह original sentence का tense और meaning दोनों same रखता है। Original sentence है: "My grandmother tells us stories." यह simple present tense में है। Passive बनाते समय "tells" को "are told" किया गया है, जो simple present passive का सही form है। Original sentence में "us" indirect object है, और passive में उसी को subject बनाया गया है — us → we. "My grandmother" doer है, इसलिए उसे by my grandmother के रूप में sentence के अंत में रखा गया है।  
In English

- Option A is correct because it keeps the sentence in the simple present tense and does not change the meaning. The object "us" becomes the subject "we", and the verb "tells" correctly changes to "are told". This is the most direct and standard passive form, which is why it is accepted as the correct answer.

15. B) The correct spelling of "Priviledge" is "**Privilege**" which means a special right, advantage, or immunity granted to a person or group विशेष अधिकार / विशेष सुविधा।

16. C) **Palimpsestic** (adjective) – having multiple layers of writing, meaning, or history built upon earlier traces परतदार / बहु-स्तरीय

Synonym: **Layered** (adjective) – having levels or strata arranged on top of each other परतों वाला

- **Simplistic** (adjective) – oversimplified, lacking complexity अत्यधिक सरल
- **Erased** (adjective) – removed or wiped out मिटाया हुआ
- **Empty** (adjective) – without contents, vacant खाली

17. A) **principle, principal** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में पहला blank किसी नैतिक/आदर्श मूल्य (moral value) की ओर संकेत कर रहा है और दूसरा blank किसी पद/व्यक्ति (authority figure) की ओर। Sentence में “core \_\_\_\_\_ of fairness” नैतिक सिद्धांत की बात कर रहा है इसलिए principle सही होगा, जबकि “even though the \_\_\_\_\_ disagreed” में विद्यालय/संस्था के प्रमुख की असहमति की बात है इसलिए principal उपयुक्त है।

- ‘Principle’ should be used in the first blank because the context refers to a moral rule or value (“core principle of fairness”). In the second blank, ‘Principal’ fits because it denotes the head/authority of an institution who disagreed with the teacher’s approach. Thus, the pair principle, principal is the most appropriate choice.

18. B) **Chicanery** (noun) – deception, trickery, fraud, use of clever but dishonest tactics छल / कपट

Antonym: **Honesty** (noun) – truthfulness, fairness, integrity, moral uprightness ईमानदारी

- **Deceit** (noun) – dishonesty, fraud, deception धोखा
- **Trickery** (noun) – use of tricks to deceive, guile चालबाज़ी
- **Subterfuge** (noun) – a deceptive device or strategy to hide something कपटयुक्त युक्ति

19. D) **3-4-1-2**

Explanation:

- Sentence 3 paragraph की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह Anil Menon के background और profession को बिना किसी dangling pronoun (missing reference) के पूरी तरह से introduce करता है।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह chronological order (समय-क्रम) में उनके aerospace career की शुरुआत को स्थापित करता है, जब वे 2014 में NASA से जुड़े थे।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह timeline को आगे (2018) बढ़ाता है और detail में बताता है कि NASA के बाद वे SpaceX से कैसे जुड़े और वहाँ क्या काम किया।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। यह timeline को उनके career के climax (December 2021) तक लाता है, जहाँ उन्हें अंततः एक NASA astronaut के रूप में चुना गया, जिससे पूरा passage समाप्त होता है।

- Sentence 3 starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, independently introducing Anil Menon, his background, and his primary professions without relying on any prior references.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 3 because it establishes the beginning of the chronological progression of his aerospace career, detailing his start as a flight surgeon at NASA in 2014.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because it acts as a logical timeline progression, moving forward to 2018 to explain his transition to the private sector (SpaceX) and his major contributions there.
- Sentence 2 concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis of his career journey. It brings the timeline to its climax (December 2021), wrapping up the narrative by explaining how he was finally selected as a NASA astronaut.

20. B) **Turgid** (adjective) – bombastic, swollen, inflated in style or language आडंबरपूर्ण / फूला हुआ  
Synonym: **Inflated** (adjective) – exaggerated, overblown, puffed up बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर

- **Concise** (adjective) – brief and to the point संक्षिप्त
- **Simple** (adjective) – easy, plain, not complicated सरल
- **Plain** (adjective) – clear, straightforward, unadorned साधारण

21. C) **inflicted**

Inflicted is used because it means to cause something unpleasant or painful (like damage or injury). The mine caused the damage, making it the correct action word. Sustainable means able to be maintained, which makes no sense here. Imposed is usually used for putting rules or taxes on someone. Endured means to tolerate or survive something difficult.

- यहाँ Inflicted का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका meaning किसी को नुकसान या दर्द पहुँचाना (cause damage) होता है। Mine ने ship को damage पहुँचाया। Sustainable का meaning बनाए रखने योग्य होता है। Imposed का use rules या tax लगाने के लिए होता है। Endured का meaning सहना (tolerate) होता है, जो यहाँ गलत है।

22. D) **were damaged**

Were damaged is used because the subject "Three" (referring to the generators) is plural, requiring a plural verb, and the sentence requires passive voice in the past tense (the generators received the damage; they did not damage something else). Damage is a present tense action or a noun. Had damaged and Damaged are active voice words (meaning the generators damaged something else), which is incorrect.

- यहाँ Were damaged का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि subject "Three" plural है, जिसके साथ past tense में passive voice (उन्हें damage हुआ) की verb आनी चाहिए। Damage present tense या noun है। Had damaged और Damaged active voice हैं (मतलब generators ने किसी और चीज़ को damage किया), जो गलत है।

23. C) **minimal**

Minimal is used because it means an extremely small amount or degree, which perfectly pairs with an abstract noun like "experience" to show the crew had almost no practice at sea. Scarce

is used for physical resources that are hard to find in a given area (like food or water), not for personal skills. Short refers to physical length or time, not a degree of experience. Restricted means limited by rules or boundaries, which makes no sense here.

- यहाँ Minimal का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका meaning 'बहुत कम मात्रा' होता है, जो "experience" के साथ बिल्कुल सही बैठता है। Scarce का use अक्सर physical resources (जैसे पानी, खाना) की कमी के लिए होता है, skills के लिए नहीं। Short का use लंबाई या समय के लिए होता है। Restricted का meaning 'नियमों से बंधा हुआ' होता है, जो यहाँ गलत है।

#### 24. D) **executed**

Executed is used because the sentence requires a past tense action verb to describe what the sailors did in the chaos. It means to carry out a plan, order, or course of action. Executive and Executives are nouns used for people in management roles. Executing is an "-ing" form that cannot be used without a helping verb like "were".

- यहाँ Executed का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि sentence past tense में है और हमें एक past tense action verb चाहिए। इसका meaning किसी plan या action को पूरा करना होता है। Sailors ने वही action किया जिसकी उन्होंने practice की थी। Executive और Executives nouns हैं (management वाले लोग)। Executing के साथ helping verb की ज़रूरत होती है।

#### 25. B) **cut off**

Cut off is used because it means to isolate or separate someone from communication or support, exactly describing the situation of being disconnected from headquarters. Cut out means to remove something or stop doing a habit. Cut down means to reduce the amount of something. Cut away means to remove by slicing.

- यहाँ Cut off का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका meaning किसी से connection या communication टूट जाना (isolate होना) होता है, जो headquarters से अलग होने (disconnect होने) के लिए बिल्कुल सही है। Cut out का meaning हटा देना या कोई आदत बंद करना होता है। Cut down का meaning reduce (कम) करना होता है। Cut away का meaning काटकर अलग करना होता है, जो यहाँ गलत है।