

Sample Paper

VERBAL SKILLS-ENGLISH

Directions (1-4): Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error, if any, will be in the underlined part of the sentence. The number of that part is the answer. (Ignore errors of punctuation, if any).

1. Vishal may not be a qualified architect but don't forget that he is the one among us who has little experience in the field.
(a) may not be (b) but (c) among us (d) little experience
2. Although I have worked in this office for over two years, I am yet to find a person with who I feel comfortable.
(a) although (b) for (c) yet (d) who
3. Visiting the Honda's motorbike manufacturing unit in Japan was an once-in-a-lifetime experience for the management students of my college.
(a) Visiting (b) an (c) once-in-a-lifetime (d) the
4. Neither the hospital staff members nor the doctor were able to calm the distressed family members of the diseased patient.
(a) nor (b) were (c) to calm (d) distressed

Directions (5-6): Choose the set of prepositions whose meaning and sequence best fits the two given sentences.

5.
 - He was leaning the door to his room when he saw a dark shade coming towards him.
 - The matter in fine print the bottom of page 12 of the document startled him.
 (A) against (B) at (C) from (D) on (E) towards
(a) AB (b) AD (c) CA (d) ED
6.
 - I was not aware the rough weather of the place when I made these plans.
 - One should not put doing something until the last minute.
 (A) from (B) of (C) off (D) on (E) out
(a) AC (b) AE (c) BC (d) DC

Directions (7-9): Choose the correct option to fill the blank for correct grammatical use.

7. Angry Birds is a new game, it has quickly become very popular.
(a) Although (b) But (c) Just like (d) Similarly
8. Lost in thought, he on the couch with a vacant look in his eyes.
(a) laid (b) lain (c) lay (d) lied
9.you apologise for your rude behaviour, we will take legal action against you.
(a) As long as (b) Either (c) Till (d) Unless

Directions (10-13): Each sentence given below contains an underlined part which may or may not be grammatically correct. You have to replace that underlined part with one of the suggested

alternatives labelled (a), (b), (c). If you feel that no improvement is necessary and the sentence is correct as it is, mark (d) as your answer.

10. I am broke. Will you lend me few hundred rupees?
 (a) borrow me few hundred rupees?
 (b) lend me a few hundred rupees?
 (c) lend me few hundred?
 (d) No improvement
11. Since I am living in Ahmedabad since my childhood, I am not very keen to move to another city.
 (a) Since I had been living (b) Since I have been living
 (c) Since I was living (d) No improvement
12. Being in a small metal box, the thief's hand couldn't reach the gold ring.
 (a) He being in a small metal box, (b) His being in a small metal box,
 (c) It being in a small metal box, (d) No improvement
13. No sooner she resigned than she started getting threats.
 (a) No sooner did she resigned than (b) No sooner had she resigned than
 (c) She no sooner had resigned than (d) No improvement

Directions (14-16): In each of these questions four words are given denoted by (A), (B), (C) and (D). Two of these words may be either synonyms or antonyms. Find out the correct pair in each question.

14. (A) Temporary (B) Tormentor (C) Transient (D) Treacherous
 (a) AB (b) AC (c) BC (d) BD
15. (A) Infuriate (B) Inhibit (C) Soothe (D) Trigger
 (a) AB (b) AC (c) AD (d) BD
16. (A) Cantankerous (B) Grouchy (C) Obstinate (D) Zealous
 (a) AB (b) AC (c) BC (d) CD

Directions (17-18): Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiomatic phrase.

17. I was supposed to give a speech at the event, but I got cold feet and I dropped my plan.
 (a) I couldn't prepare (b) I got nervous
 (c) I injured my leg (d) I suffered from cold
18. Poor Jagjit has been down in the dumps since he came to know of his result.
 (a) depressed (b) elated (c) furious (d) ill-tempered

Directions (19-21): In the following passage, there are three numbered blanks. For each number, four words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.

Psychiatric disorders are the only kind of1..... that we as a society regularly respond to not with2..... but with handcuffs. In the jail, mentally-ill prisoners can be seen lost in their delusions and oblivious to their surroundings. The first person to admit that this system is3..... is their jailer.

19. (a) crime (b) patients (c) prisoners (d) sickness
 20. (a) scorn (b) sorrow (c) sympathy (d) torture
 21. (a) ancient (b) barbaric (c) complex (d) superficial

Directions (22-23): Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate pair of words.

22. Development of a nation will be as long as women remain second-class citizens, uneducated, voiceless and of any legal or economic status.
 (a) handicapped, devoid (b) inspiring, bereft
 (c) insufficient, ignorant (d) minimal, incapable
23. In a world of distractions, the person who can maintain a approach towards a single goal will obviously have worth.
 (a) definite, majestic (b) disciplined, significant
 (c) dominant, illustrious (d) formidable, truly

Direction (24-25): From the options below, choose the word with the incorrect spelling.

24. (a) Camouflage (b) Colloquial (c) Fledgling (d) Vacuum
 25. (a) Cemetery (b) Hierarchy (c) Minuscule (d) Privilege

Directions (26-28): Choose the word or pair of words that best completes the relationship to the given pair:

26. Pastoral: Rural :::
 (a) Agriculture: Industry (b) Metropolitan: Urban
 (c) Prosperity: Happiness (d) Struggle: Goal
27. Breeze : Cyclone :: Drizzle :
 (a) Flood (b) Downpour (c) Earthquake (d) Storm
28. Embarrassed: Humiliation :: Terrified :
 (a) Agitation (b) Boredom (c) Desperation (d) Threat

Directions (29-31): Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Vadnagar is famous for its torans and Hatkeshwar Temple. Torans, a pair of 12th century columns supporting an arch, about 40 feet tall built in red and yellow sandstone, just north of the walled town. They stand majestically on the bank of Sharmistha Talav, on a road going down from Arjun Bari. They are among the few surviving examples of the entrance gates, once a regular feature of the architecture of Gujarat in Solanki period. The carving style is similar to the Rudra mahalaya at Sidhpur.

Perhaps erected after a war victory, the architecture is embellished with carvings of battle and hunting scenes. The one to the east is in better condition and has been used as a symbol of Gujarat in recent times. The torans might have served as an entrance to a large temple complex, but there are no remains found here.

The Hatkeshwar temple is a 17th Century carved temple at the entrance of the town. The temple is the abode of the family deity of Nagar Brahmins, who were once a prominent community in Vadnagar. The temple's inner sanctum houses a Shiva linga said to have self-emerged (swayambhu). From the roof of the sanctum a massive Shikhar soars high into the sky. Facing east, the temple is enclosed by a high wall topped by three circular domes interspersed with flat stretches in the Indo-Saracenic tradition. The exterior of the temple is exquisitely ornamented with figures of the nine planets, musicians, evocative dancing apsaras, regent deities, the chief gods of the Hindu pantheon, scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata, and varied animal and floral motifs. The premises also have an ancient Kashivishveshvara Shiva temple, a Swaminarayan temple and two Jain temples.

29. Ornamental carvings of the Hatkeshwar temple will possibly represent each of the following except:

- (a) Lord Ram going in exile
- (b) The Sun
- (c) Lord Hanuman
- (d) Swelling ocean in a cyclone

30. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- (a) Nagar Brahmins constituted the most influential community in Vadnagar in the past.
- (b) There are no similar Torans anywhere in Gujarat.
- (c) Vadnagar was the theatre of battle many times in history.
- (d) None of this.

31. The passage is most probably an extract from a book

- (a) Showcasing glorious history of Solanki period
- (b) Narrating emergence of modern Gujarat
- (c) Coffee Table Book featuring potential tourist attractions in Gujarat
- (d) Describing dominant architectural style of Solanki period.

Directions (32-35): Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

We all need vitamins to live a healthy life. The vitamins can be either fat-soluble or water-soluble.

Fat-soluble vitamins are found in foods such as animal fats including butter, vegetable oils, dairy foods, liver and oily fish. While our body needs these vitamins every day to function properly, we do not need to eat foods containing them every day. This is because, if body does not need these vitamins immediately, it stores them in liver and fatty tissues for future use. However, fat-soluble vitamins in excess can be harmful.

Water-soluble vitamins are available in fruits, vegetables and grains. Unlike fat-soluble vitamins, they are not stored in the body, so we need to take them more frequently. If we have more than we need, our body gets rid of the extra vitamins when we urinate. Because body cannot store water-soluble vitamins, they are generally not harmful.

Eating a variety of foods could be the best way to get adequate quantities of the vitamins and minerals we need. Our body can also make some vitamins like D and K. Vitamins may also be synthetically manufactured. Though it may be necessary for some to take a vitamin supplement, they should be beware of false promises and consult their doctor before taking any nutrition supplement.

Each vitamin has a unique role to play in maintaining our health. Too little of one vitamin may disturb the body's balance and cause health problems. However, taking too many vitamins can also be dangerous.

32. Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the passage?
- (a) Most of us who take a healthful diet don't need to take vitamin supplements.
 - (b) Pregnant women and elderly people need extra vitamins and minerals to prevent certain conditions.
 - (c) Vitamins have specialized duties in the body, but many share similar types of functions.
 - (d) We need to take vitamins more frequently as they are readily destroyed by cooking and food preparation methods.
33. Based on the information in the passage, what can be inferred about water-soluble vitamins?
- (a) As our bodies cannot store them, we need to take them frequently.
 - (b) Excess amounts of some of the water-soluble vitamins can have undesirable effects.
 - (c) They are generally not harmful as they can easily be absorbed in the body.
 - (d) Water-soluble vitamins are easily washed out during food storage or preparation.
34. According to the passage, the author most likely agrees with the statement:
- (a) A doctor may recommend that you take vitamin supplements if you take a vegetarian diet.
 - (b) As body can get rid of excess amounts of vitamins, nutrition supplements can be taken without any fear
 - (c) Because fat-soluble are stored in our body, they are not needed every day in our diet.
 - (d) We can fulfil most of our vitamin requirement by eating a variety of foods.
35. According to the passage, the author most likely agrees with all of the following statements except:
- (a) Lower intake of vitamins can be more harmful than their intake in excess
 - (b) Our body gets rid of the excessive doses of water-soluble vitamins when we urinate.
 - (c) Vitamins can also be made synthetically.
 - (d) Vitamin supplements should be taken only on the advice of a health professional.

Directions (36-37): Read the following paired passages and answer the questions that follow.

Passage 1

Those who commit murder, because they have taken the life of another, have forfeited their own right to life. Capital punishment is a just form of retribution, expressing and reinforcing the

moral indignation not only of the victim's relatives but of law-abiding citizens in general. Moreover, it has a uniquely potent deterrent effect on potentially violent offenders for whom the threat of imprisonment is not a sufficient restraint.

Passage 2

Capital punishment violates the condemned person's right to life and is fundamentally inhuman and degrading. By legitimizing the very behaviour that the law seeks to repress—killing—capital punishment is counterproductive in the moral message it conveys. Moreover, when it is used for lesser crimes, capital punishment is immoral because it is wholly disproportionate to the harm done. Research has also indicated that the death penalty is not a more effective deterrent than the alternative sanction of life or long-term imprisonment.

36. With which of the following statements author of the Passage 2 would categorically disagree?
- (a) All guilty persons deserve to be punished.
 - (b) Because of flaws in the system it is inevitable that innocent people will be convicted of crimes.
 - (c) Death penalty prevents would-be murderers from killing people.
 - (d) Everyone has an inalienable human right to life, even those who commit murder.
37. Which of the following views is likely to be supported by the author of Passage 2 but not from the author of Passage 1?
- (a) Capital punishment is vengeance and, as such, is a morally dubious concept.
 - (b) Death penalty reinforces the belief that bad things happen to those who deserve it.
 - (c) Life imprisonment without parole causes more suffering than a death penalty.
 - (d) Murderers forfeit their right to life.

Directions (38-40): The sentences given in each question are labelled with a letter. Choose the most logical order of the sentences from among the given choices to construct a coherent paragraph:

38. A. Similarly, some people who are poor at languages are excellent at computer sciences.
 B. Many areas of human excellence, however, cannot easily be measured—such as artistic creativity, emotional maturity, and inventiveness.
 C. IQ tests only measure things that can be measured.
 D. Some people may excel in these areas and yet perform poorly in tests that are language-based.
 (a) ABCD (b) BCDA (c) CBDA (d) CDBA
39. A. First, there are laws that tell us how the universe changes with time.
 B. However, the approach most scientists take is to separate the problem into two parts.
 C. They also analyze the initial start of the universe.
 D. The eventual goal of science is to provide a single theory that describes the whole universe.
 (a) ABCD (b) ADBC (c) DABC (d) DBAC
40. A. No matter which way they are eaten, potatoes are good for health.
 B. Interestingly, people in different countries have a different way of cooking them.
 C. Potatoes are a staple food for people all around the world.

- D. The French like to eat 'french fries' and in England roast potatoes are popular.
(a) ABDC (b) ACBD (c) CBDA (d) DBAC

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Answer Key: Sample Paper**Verbal Skills: English**

1	d	11	b	21	b	31	c
2	d	12	c	22	a	32	a
3	b	13	b	23	b	33	a
4	b	14	b	24	b	34	d
5	a	15	b	25	d	35	a
6	c	16	a	26	b	36	c
7	a	17	b	27	b	37	a
8	c	18	a	28	d	38	c
9	d	19	a	29	d	39	d
10	c	20	c	30	d	40	c

Answers and Solutions: Sample Paper Verbal Skills: English

1. The sentence suggests means that Vishal is not a qualified architect but he has 'some experience' (positive sense). For this purpose the right phrase is 'a little experience'. The phrase without article a (little experience) is negative.
2. The objective case (whom) is used when the pronoun is the direct object of a preposition (with).
3. The noun "once" though begins with a vowel syllable (o), its pronunciation is "w" and hence will carry indefinite article "a".
4. If two subjects are joined by 'or' or 'nor', the verb should agree with the subject that is near to it. Here, the subject near the verb is 'doctor', a singular, so the verb should be 'was'.
5. "Against" is used to mean close to, touching or hitting somebody/something. "At" is used to mean used to say where something is.
6. "Of" is used with regard to concerning or showing somebody/something. "Off" is used to say something is no longer going to happen; cancelled.
7. We can rule out options (c) and (d) as the sentence needs a transition word that indicates contrast or exception. "Although" is more appropriate than "But" for use in the start of the sentence.
8. To lie means to rest and its past tense is lay.
9. Unless means except on the condition that (except under the circumstances that).
10. "Few" has a negative meaning. It means hardly any. "A few" means some.
11. To indicate a situation that started in the past and has continued up to the present, we use the present perfect continuous tense.
12. Let's analyze this question. It is a combination of two sentences: The gold ring was in a small metal box. The thief's hand couldn't reach the gold ring. When we combine the two, it will become: The gold ring being in a small metal box, the thief's hand couldn't reach it. We can replace "The gold ring" with "it" without changing the meaning.
13. When a negative expression such as "No sooner" begins a sentence, we use an inverted word order. That means the auxiliary verb such as "did" or "had" will go before the subject. Moreover, as "No sooner" is a comparative structure, it will be followed by "than".
14. Temporary and Transient are synonyms; they mean "lasting only for a short time".
15. Infuriate and Soothe are antonyms. Infuriate means to make someone extremely angry and impatient, and Soothe means to calm or pacify someone.
16. Cantankerous and Grouchy are synonyms. They both mean ill-tempered person who tend to complain.
17. The idiom "to get cold feet" means to lose courage and become nervous.
18. The idiomatic phrase "to be down in the dump" means dejected, unhappy.
19. Sickness is the answer as we are talking of a problem, a disorder, and not any person.
20. Usually, society feels sad and sympathetic to those who are suffering from some disease.
21. The word 'admit' indicates that the jailer finds the system inhumane, barbaric.
22. Development of a nation will remain inadequate (handicapped) if its women do not enjoy (are devoid of) legal or economic status.

23. Because of distractions, a person needs to exhibit discipline in his life and such approach can only make him/her a person of great (significant) value or worth.
24. Correct spelling is colloquial
25. Correct spelling is privilege
26. Pastoral describes rural areas; metropolitan describes urban areas.
27. The relationship between the words in the first pair is of degree. Drizzle is light rain; downpour is heavy rain.
28. The relationship between the words in the first pair is of cause and effect: A person is embarrassed because of humiliation. Similarly, a person is terrified because of a threat.
29. Only (d) is not harmonious with the description of the passage. All other items are expected. Hence (d)
30. Recognize that each of the statements (a), (b), and (c) goes far beyond the description in the passage and as such cannot be inferred. Hence (d)
31. Notice the word most in the question. The answer choices (a), (c) and (d) are probable. However noticing the very lucid style, and absence of emphasis on Solanki period as such it can be concluded that this passage is taken from a coffee table book intended for a reader who might not have visited Vadnagar or any Toran in Gujarat. Hence (c)
32. Refer to Para 4 (Eating a variety....)
33. Refer to Para 3 (Water-soluble vitamins are)
34. Refer to Para 4 (Eating a variety....)
35. Author agrees with B: Para 3 (If we have when we urinate). He also agrees with C: Para 4 (Vitamins manufactured) and also with D: Para 4 (Though it may be supplement)
36. Options (a), (b) and (d) can be ruled out as they are not discussed in these paragraphs. Option (c) is the answer as according to the author of Passage 2, research has not proved that fear of death penalty can stop murders.
37. It can be implied from Passage 2 that death penalty is inhuman and that it deprives a person from exercising his right to life and hence it is morally dubious. Whereas, according to the author of Passage 1, murders do not have right to life. To this author, death penalty is a just form of punishment. Hence, option (a) is the answer.
38. Sentence C can be identified as a starting sentence, providing us with the ideal introduction for what is to follow. Sentences B, D and A take forward the issue on discussion. The linking/transition words such as “however” in B, “in these areas” in D and “similarly” in sentence A help us find the proper sequence.
39. Sentence D can be identified as the theme of the paragraph. The word “however” in B is the transition word that connects the sentence with the theme. The word “two” in B makes it easy for us to look for two aspects of the issue in the remaining sentences. With the help of clues such as “First” in A and “similarly” in C we can identify the sequence of the remaining two sentences.
40. C makes a starting statement. B takes it further with a twist (the clue: interestingly). D stretches further the point started in B (through examples) and A closes the discussion.