

The difference between a job and a vocation is love

What happens to winners of the rat race? Athletes offer the **starkest** example: Most reach the **pinnacle** of their career when they are young, and the rest of life can, if they aren't careful, become a mere **reminiscence of** the **glory days**. Then there are the tech bros, with their billions, discovering MMA and bodybuilding, focusing on space and Mars, while the source of their wealth **erodes** people and nature. Most people accept retirement, hoping **merely** to rest after a lifetime of labour. For each, though, there is something to learn from Yoshihiko Noda's quiet **devotion** to his work.

Noda, finance minister of Japan and prime minister in 2011-12, **spends** a few hours every morning **handing out** pamphlets at Minami-Funabashi Station in Chiba. They cover issues such as disaster insurance and **governance** reform. Noda got his start in Chiba's local politics and it is a routine that, despite scaling the heights of the political ladder in Tokyo, he has returned to. Visible in his **gesture** is the difference between a job and a vocation.



The **trappings** of success can **obscure** what **led to** it in the first place. A **writer**, playing a part in **literary** salons, **forgets** the **misery** and joy of writing. The musician forgets the **harmonies** and **discord** that made her great, and the politician forgets the need to make things better. **Noda**, it seems, **has** not forgotten what made him choose the career he did. **Perhaps** the tech bros will take inspiration and **stick to** building apps.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Starkest** (adjective) - clearest, sharpest, distinct, striking, obvious सबसे स्पष्ट
2. **Pinnacle** (noun) - peak, summit, zenith, apex, climax शिखर
3. **Reminiscence** of (phrase) - a memory or act of recalling past experiences की याद
4. **Glory days** (noun) - a period in the past when someone was very successful सुनहरे दिन
5. **Erode** (verb) - destroy, deteriorate, weaken, diminish, consume नष्ट करना
6. **Merely** (adverb) - only, simply, solely, purely, just केवल
7. **Devotion** (noun) - dedication, commitment, loyalty, allegiance, faithfulness निष्ठा
8. **Hand out** (phrasal verb) - to distribute or give something to people बांटना
9. **Governance** (noun) - administration, management, regulation, rule, direction शासन
10. **Gesture** (noun) - action, motion, signal, indication, expression इशारा
11. **Trapping** (noun) - accessory, trimming, ornament, decoration, accoutrement दिखावा
12. **Obscure** (verb) - hide, conceal, cover, blur, mask छिपाना
13. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) - to cause something to happen or exist का कारण बनना
14. **Literary** (adjective) - scholarly, intellectual, bookish, learned, academic साहित्यिक
15. **Misery** (noun) - distress, suffering, hardship, sorrow, agony दुख
16. **Harmony** (noun) - agreement, accord, concord, unity, consensus तालमेल
17. **Discord** (noun) - conflict, disagreement, dispute, friction, hostility विवाद
18. **Perhaps** (adverb) - maybe, possibly, conceivably, probably, feasibly शायद
19. **Stick to** (phrasal verb) - to continue doing something without changing it डटे रहना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial explores the difference between a job and a vocation, arguing that genuine love for one's work gives it deeper meaning.
2. Athletes are used as an example of people who may struggle after reaching the pinnacle of their careers at a young age.
3. After their professional peak, athletes may spend the rest of their lives merely looking back at their glory days.
4. Similarly, wealthy tech entrepreneurs may achieve enormous financial success but later search for new interests such as MMA, bodybuilding, space exploration and Mars.
5. The editorial suggests that financial success alone does not necessarily provide a lasting sense of purpose or fulfilment.
6. Many ordinary workers view retirement as a chance to finally rest after spending a lifetime working.
7. Against this idea, the editorial presents Yoshihiko Noda, Japan's former Finance Minister and Prime Minister, as an example of continued devotion to work.
8. Despite having reached the highest levels of Japanese politics, Noda spends several hours each morning handing out pamphlets at Minami-Funabashi Station in Chiba.
9. His pamphlets address public issues such as disaster insurance and governance reform, showing his continued connection with ordinary citizens.
10. Noda originally began his political career in local politics in Chiba, and he has returned to the same kind of grassroots activity despite his national political career.
11. His actions demonstrate the difference between simply having a job and having a vocation driven by commitment and purpose.
12. The trappings of success can sometimes make people forget the original passion or purpose that motivated them.
13. The editorial gives examples of a writer, musician, and politician who may become disconnected from the passion that initially inspired their careers.
14. Noda appears not to have forgotten the reason he entered politics: the desire to improve people's lives and serve society.
15. The editorial concludes that people should remain connected to the love and purpose behind their work, suggesting that even successful tech entrepreneurs could learn from this principle rather than constantly seeking unrelated pursuits.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. What does the phrase "the source of their wealth erodes people and nature" most likely refer to? [Editorial Page]
 - A. The environmental and social degradation caused by the industries that enriched technology entrepreneurs.
 - B. The requirement for retired athletes to focus on bodybuilding as a way to preserve their physical health.
 - C. The belief that governance reform is the only method to prevent the erosion of political reputations.
 - D. The transition of political ministers from national policy-making to local pamphlet distribution roles.
2. Choose the word which is **MOST OPPOSITE** in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage: **STARKEST**
 - A. MANIFEST
 - B. SUBTLEST
 - C. ERUDITE
 - D. COMPLIANT
3. According to the author, what is the defining characteristic of Noda's morning routine?
 - A. It demonstrates the necessity for former prime ministers to seek rest after their labor.
 - B. It highlights the misery that writers and musicians face when they achieve global fame.
 - C. It represents a return to the foundational roots of his career after reaching the top.
 - D. It proves that handing out pamphlets is the way to secure a billions in wealth.
4. Why does the author argue that success can "obscure what led to it in the first place"?
 - A. Because the accumulation of prestige often distances a professional from their foundational purpose.
 - B. Because the biological limitations of physical careers necessitate a transition into the tech sector.
 - C. Because the pursuit of governance reform requires an abandonment of one's previous career joy.
 - D. Because the erosion of the natural environment is a prerequisite for achieving global financial peaks.
5. The tone of the passage is best described as:
 - A. Skeptical
 - B. Reflective
 - C. Promotional
 - D. Sarcastic
6. Direction: Rearrange the following four parts (1, 2, 3, 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.
 1. Judges of the award whittled down the 13 semifinalists announced in July to six on Tuesday (September 22) and said the shortlisted books are "moving, pacey, funny, violent, intriguing, horrifying and hopeful."

2. The Booker Prize celebrates the best works of long-form fiction by writers of any nationality, written in English and published in the U.K. and/or Ireland between October 2025 and September 2026.
3. Marlon James and Douglas Stuart have a chance to become only the fifth authors to win the Booker Prize twice after both were named Tuesday (September 22, 2026) on the shortlist for arguably the U.K.'s most prestigious fiction accolade.
4. They were selected from an original 163 submissions.
 - A. 3-2-1-4
 - B. 3-1-4-2
 - C. 1-4-3-2
 - D. 3-4-1-2
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following four parts (1, 2, 3, 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**
 1. These delicate strands would go into her much-loved dessert, meethi (sweet) seviyan.
 2. Growing up, I vividly recall my paternal grandmother making seviyan by hand.
 3. In a matter of minutes, the simple dough made with refined flour and water would turn into fine, thread-like strands of vermicelli, and she would fill paraats (large, shallow steel platters) with them and lay them across the hall, left to dry under the slow turn of the fan.
 4. Years after she passed, my mother preserved a few boxes of these handmade treasures in the freezer, then used them to recreate her dish one last time, as no one in the family had learnt the art from her, and thus we have never eaten meethi seviyan with handmade vermicelli again.
 - A. 2-1-3-4
 - B. 3-2-1-4
 - C. 2-3-4-1
 - D. 2-3-1-4
8. **Choose the one word substitute for the below sentence.**

John asked his neighbor, a person who repairs and maintains machines called?

 - A. Mechanic
 - B. Technician
 - C. Engineer
 - D. Operator
9. **Select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of idioms/phrases.**

A white elephant

 - A. An extinct species
 - B. A useless possession which is extremely expensive to keep
 - C. Someone belonging to a royal family
 - D. An endangered species
10. **Choose the option that has an error in the sentence.**

How important is non-verbal communication, such as facial expressions and gestures, when speaking?

 - A. How important is non-verbal communication,
 - B. such as facial expressions and gestures,
 - C. when speaking?

D. No correction required

11. Find the grammatically correct sentence from below options.

- A. Scarcely had he arrived when the meeting started.
- B. Scarcely he had arrived than the meeting started.
- C. Scarcely had he arrived than the meeting started.
- D. Scarcely he arrived when the meeting started.

12. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:

The delegates conferred _____ the issue for several hours before reaching consensus.

- A. and
- B. for
- C. on
- D. above

13. Pick the correctly used homonym.

- A. She was born in the barn.
- B. She was borne in the barn.
- C. He born the weight easily.
- D. The weight was barn by him.

14. Choose the correctly spelt word:

- A. Accessories
- B. Accesories
- C. Accories
- D. Acceseries

15. Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution'.

She put on all his paintings in the attic.

- A. put off
- B. put away
- C. put by
- D. No substitution

16. Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Active Voice.

The ancient ruins are being preserved by the archaeologists.

- A. The archaeologists preserve the ancient ruins.
- B. The archaeologists are preserving the ancient ruins.
- C. The archaeologists were preserving the ancient ruins.
- D. The archaeologists have preserved the ancient ruins.

17. Choose the correct indirect narration of the following statement from the given alternatives:

The culprit said to the judge, "I am innocent as I did not commit the crime at all."

- A. The culprit told the judge that he is innocent as I had not committed the crime at all.
- B. The culprit told the judge that he was innocent as I did not commit the crime at all.
- C. The culprit told the judge that he is innocent as I did not commit the crime at all.
- D. The culprit told the judge that he was innocent as I had not committed the crime at all.

18. Choose the correct passive voice transformation of the sentence:

Did Sanya pay the dinner bills?

- A. The dinner bills did get paid by Sanya?
- B. The dinner bills were paid by Sanya?
- C. Did the dinner bills be paid by Sanya?
- D. Were the dinner bills paid by Sanya?

19. What is the antonym of "Apathy"?

- A. Indifference
- B. Enthusiasm
- C. Laziness
- D. Carelessness

20. What is the antonym of "Reprobate"?

- A. Rogue
- B. Virtuous
- C. Unprincipled
- D. Rakish

Directions: Five words in the passage below have been replaced with blanks. Choose the option that best completes each one.

The Israeli-occupied West Bank has been divided into Areas A, B, and C, as part of the Oslo Accords. The Palestinian Authority, based in Ramallah, has some security and civil administration powers in Area A, and civil authority in Area B, while the Israelis have full civil and military control over Area C, which covers 62% of the West Bank. Area C is home to some 3 lakh Palestinians and roughly 4.9 lakh Jewish settlers.

Modern Jewish settlements in the West Bank started soon after the 1967 war when Israel captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan and the Gaza Strip from Egypt. Today, some 7.5 lakh Jewish settlers live in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Over the years, the settler community has become politically powerful — they have their own parties and ministers. The extremist, far-right sections of the settlers want to (1)___ the Palestinians from their villages and grab their land. Israeli politicians have repeatedly (2)___ annexing the settlements. In recent years, settlers in the West Bank have (3)___ attacks against local Palestinians, seizing their land, torching their homes, and unleashing physical attacks on them. It (4)___ these stories of terror and horror that David Shulman (5)___ to us from the South Hebron Hills, a rural area at the southern tip of the West Bank, which is part of Area C, in his book, Freedom and Despair: Notes from the West Bank.

21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):

- A. evict
- B. expel
- C. displace
- D. banish

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

- A. called for
- B. calls upon
- C. called on
- D. called off

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

- A. stepped up
- B. stepped into
- C. step out
- D. step down

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

- A. are
- B. is
- C. has been
- D. were

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

- A. brought
- B. brings
- C. is bringing
- D. has brought

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **The environmental and social degradation caused by the industries that enriched technology entrepreneurs.**

passage: "Then there are the tech bros, with their billions, discovering MMA and bodybuilding, focusing on space and Mars, while the source of their wealth erodes people and nature."---The passage says these tech billionaires spend their time and money on things like MMA, bodybuilding, and space travel, while the very businesses that made them rich are actually harming people and the environment. So "the source of their wealth" means the companies/industries that created their fortune, and "erodes people and nature" means these same industries are damaging society and the planet. This matches option A exactly.

Option B — Incorrect. This line is about tech billionaires, not retired athletes. Bodybuilding is mentioned as something tech bros do for fun, not as something required for athletes' health.

Option C — Incorrect. "Governance reform" is mentioned later in the passage, but only as a topic Noda hands out pamphlets about — it has nothing to do with this specific line about tech billionaires and their wealth harming people and nature.

Option D — Incorrect. This line is about tech billionaires and the harm caused by their businesses, not about politicians moving from big roles to small ones. The pamphlet distribution detail belongs to a different part of the passage, about Noda, not this sentence about tech bros.

2. B) **SUBTLEST**

Starkest: Means the most sharply defined, obvious, blunt, or brutally clear (e.g., "a stark contrast"). Subtlest: Means the most delicate, precise, faint, or difficult to perceive.

passage: "Athletes offer the starkest example." In this context, "starkest" means the most clear, obvious, and stark (harsh/unmistakable) example — athletes make the point very plainly and directly visible. "Subtlest" means the least obvious, the most understated or hard-to-notice version of something — this is the direct opposite of being the most obvious/clear example, making it the correct antonym.

Manifest means clear or obvious, which is a synonym, not an antonym.

Erudite means having or showing great knowledge or learning.

Compliant means yielding or ready to conform to rules.

3. C) **It represents a return to the foundational roots of his career after reaching the top.**

passage: "Noda got his start in Chiba's local politics and it is a routine that, despite scaling the heights of the political ladder in Tokyo, he has returned to."--The passage states that Noda began his political career in Chiba's local politics, and even after rising to the highest levels (finance minister, prime minister) in Tokyo, he has returned to this same grassroots routine. This shows his morning activity is a return to where he started — his career's roots — matching Option C exactly.

Option A — Incorrect. The passage does not say Noda's routine reflects a "necessity" for former PMs to rest. In fact, it contrasts Noda's active, ongoing work ethic with "most people" who

"accept retirement, hoping merely to rest" — Noda is shown as different from this resting pattern, not as an example of it.

Option B — Incorrect. The passage mentions writers and musicians forgetting their original passion due to fame, but this is a separate point illustrating a general pattern — it is not describing Noda's routine itself, nor does the passage say Noda's actions "highlight" their misery.

Option D — Incorrect. The passage never says pamphlet distribution is "the only way" to secure billions in wealth. In fact, "billions" is mentioned only in connection with tech billionaires in an earlier, separate part of the passage — this is unrelated to Noda's pamphlet activity, which is about routine and purpose, not wealth accumulation.

4. A) Because the accumulation of prestige often distances a professional from their foundational purpose.

passage: "The trappings of success can obscure what led to it in the first place. A writer, playing a part in literary salons, forgets the misery and joy of writing. The musician forgets the harmonies and discord that made her great, and the politician forgets the need to make things better."---The passage gives three examples — a writer caught up in literary salons, a musician distracted from her craft, and a politician losing sight of their purpose — all showing how the status and prestige that come with success ("trappings") pull people away from what originally drove them (their "foundational purpose"). This directly matches Option A — success and its accompanying prestige create distance from the core passion or purpose that led to that success in the first place.

Option B — Incorrect. The passage never mentions "biological limitations" forcing athletes into tech careers. Athletes and tech billionaires are discussed as two separate, unconnected examples in the passage — there is no claim that one group transitions into the other due to physical limits.

Option C — Incorrect. The passage does not say governance reform "requires" abandoning career joy. Governance reform is only mentioned as a topic in Noda's pamphlets — it is not connected to this broader idea about success obscuring original purpose, and no such requirement is stated.

Option D — Incorrect. The passage does not say environmental harm is a "prerequisite" for reaching financial success. It only criticizes tech billionaires for causing environmental harm through their industries — this is presented as a negative consequence, not as something necessarily required to achieve success.

5. B) Reflective

passage: "What happens to winners of the rat race?... For each, though, there is something to learn from Yoshihiko Noda's quiet devotion to his work... The trappings of success can obscure what led to it in the first place."--The author thoughtfully considers different examples (athletes, tech billionaires, writers, musicians, politicians) and draws quiet, considered lessons from them, especially through Noda's example. The passage moves through observation, comparison, and gentle insight about success and purpose — this calm, thoughtful examination of a broader life question is what makes the tone reflective.

Option A — Incorrect. Skeptical would mean doubting or questioning the truth of something. The author does not doubt or question whether these examples are true — he simply presents them as observations and draws lessons from them, without expressing disbelief or suspicion.

Option C — Incorrect. Promotional would mean actively trying to sell or advertise something positively. While the author does show admiration for Noda, the passage overall is more thoughtful and exploratory (weighing different examples, drawing quiet lessons) rather than trying to promote or advertise anything specific.

Option D — Incorrect. Sarcasm involves saying something ironically, meaning the opposite of what is said, usually with mockery. While there is mild critique of tech billionaires ("Perhaps the tech bros will take inspiration"), this is gentle and hopeful rather than mocking or ironic — the overall tone remains thoughtful, not sarcastic.

6. B) 3-1-4-2

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 3 अनुच्छेद की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के मुख्य समाचार प्रस्तुत करता है कि मार्लन जेम्स और डगलस स्टुअर्ट को यूके के सबसे प्रतिष्ठित फिक्शन पुरस्कार (Booker Prize) की शॉर्टलिस्ट में शामिल किया गया है और उनके पास इसे दूसरी बार जीतने वाले केवल पांचवें लेखक बनने का मौका है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 3 को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त पदबंध "Judges of the award" सीधे Sentence 3 में उल्लिखित बुकर प्राइज के जजों को संदर्भित करता है और शॉर्टलिस्टिंग की प्रक्रिया बताता है कि कैसे जुलाई में घोषित 13 सेमीफाइनलिस्टों में से छह को चुना गया।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त सर्वनाम "They" सीधे Sentence 1 की छह चुनी गई पुस्तकों (shortlisted books) को संदर्भित करता है और बताता है कि उनका चयन कुल 163 प्रविष्टियों (submissions) में से किया गया था।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा और गद्यांश का conclusion बनेगा। यह शॉर्टलिस्ट के विशिष्ट विवरणों से आगे बढ़कर स्वयं The Booker Prize के वैश्विक दायरे, पात्रता नियमों (अक्टूबर 2025 से सितंबर 2026 के बीच यूके/आयरलैंड में अंग्रेजी में प्रकाशित कृतियाँ) को स्पष्ट करते हुए अनुच्छेद को तार्किक रूप से पूर्ण करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 3 serves as the standalone introductory sentence, delivering the primary news hook: past winners Marlon James and Douglas Stuart securing nominations on the shortlist for the Booker Prize, giving them an opportunity to become only the fifth double laureates.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 directly because the phrase "Judges of the award" ties back to the Booker Prize accolade introduced in Sentence 3, detailing the judging panel's process of narrowing down 13 semifinalists to a shortlist of six.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 because the pronoun "They" refers directly to the six shortlisted books, specifying that they were chosen from a wider field of 163 original submissions.

- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 as the macro conclusion, expanding from the current shortlist selection to define the foundational charter and eligibility window of the Booker Prize itself.

7. D) 2-3-1-4

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 2 अनुच्छेद की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के लेखक की बचपन की स्मृति प्रस्तुत करता है कि उनकी दादी अपने हाथों से सेवइयां बनाया करती थीं ("Growing up, I vividly recall my paternal grandmother making seviyan by hand.")।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 2 को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह दादी द्वारा सेवइयां बनाने की तत्काल विधि का विस्तार करता है कि कैसे मैदा और पानी की साधारण लोई मिनटों में महीन धागों जैसी सेवइयों में बदल जाती थी और उन्हें सुखाने के लिए परातों में हॉल में फैला दिया जाता था।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त पदबंध "These delicate strands" सीधे Sentence 3 में सुखाए गए सेवइयों के महीन धागों को संदर्भित करता है और बताता है कि इनसे दादी की बहुचर्चित मिठाई—मीठी सेवइयां बनाई जाती थीं।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा और गद्यांश का conclusion बनेगा। यह दादी के देहांत के वर्षों बाद की घटना का उल्लेख करता है कि कैसे मां ने बची हुई सेवइयों से अंतिम बार वह व्यंजन बनाया और चूंकि परिवार में किसी ने यह कला नहीं सीखी थी, इसलिए उसके बाद कभी हाथ से बनी सेवइयों का स्वाद चखने को नहीं मिला।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 2 functions as the standalone introductory sentence, establishing the narrator's childhood memory of their paternal grandmother handcrafting vermicelli (seviyan).
- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 2 directly by detailing the tactile preparation process: transforming refined flour dough into thread-like strands and setting them out to dry on large steel platters under the fan.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 because the demonstrative phrase "These delicate strands" connects directly back to the freshly dried vermicelli strands described in Sentence 3, explaining their purpose in making the grandmother's beloved sweet dish (meethi seviyan).
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 as the chronological conclusion, transitioning to the years following the grandmother's passing, when the preserved remnants were cooked one last time, marking the permanent loss of an uninherited culinary heirloom.

8. A) **Mechanic** (noun) – a person who repairs and maintains machines or engines मशीनों की मरम्मत करने वाला व्यक्ति

- **Technician** (noun) – a person skilled in the technical aspects of a job, especially involving equipment or technology तकनीशियन
- **Engineer** (noun) – a professional who designs, builds, or maintains engines, machines, or structures अभियंता

- **Operator** (noun) – a person who controls or runs a machine or system संचालक
9. B) **A white elephant** (idiom) – A useless possession which is extremely expensive to keep बेकार लेकिन रख-रखाव में बहुत महँगी वस्तु
10. D) **No correction required**
 ‘How important is non-verbal communication, such as facial expressions and gestures, when speaking?’ – यह वाक्य व्याकरण की दृष्टि से पूर्णतः सही है। इसमें Subject-Verb agreement, sentence structure, और usage of phrases सभी सही हैं, इसलिए किसी भी भाग में सुधार की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- No correction is required because the sentence is grammatically correct.
 The interrogative structure is proper, the verb ‘is’ correctly agrees with the singular subject ‘communication’, and the phrase ‘such as facial expressions and gestures’ is correctly used for giving examples.
11. A) **Scarcely had he arrived when the meeting started.**
 ‘Scarcely’ के साथ Inversion (auxiliary + subject) का प्रयोग होता है और इसका सही correlative ‘when’ होता है, ‘than’ नहीं। इसलिए “Scarcely had he arrived when the meeting started.” व्याकरण की दृष्टि से सही है।
- With ‘Scarcely’, inversion (auxiliary before subject) is mandatory and it is correctly followed by ‘when’, not ‘than’. Hence, Scarcely had he arrived when the meeting started is grammatically correct.
12. C) **‘on’** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि confer क्रिया के साथ जब किसी विषय / मुद्दे पर चर्चा की जाती है, तो उसके बाद preposition ‘on’ का ही प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ “the issue” चर्चा का विषय है, इसलिए conferred on the issue व्याकरणिक और अर्थ दोनों दृष्टि से सही है।
- ‘On’ should be used because the verb confer takes the preposition ‘on’ when it means to discuss or deliberate about a particular matter. Since “the issue” is the subject of discussion here, “conferred on the issue” is the most appropriate and grammatically correct choice.
13. A) **She was born in the barn.**
 यहाँ born का अर्थ है – जन्म लिया हुआ।
 विकल्प 1 में born का प्रयोग सही है।
 borne का अर्थ होता है – उठाया/सहन किया हुआ, जो जन्म के लिए प्रयोग नहीं होता।
 बाकी वाक्यों में born / barn का प्रयोग गलत है।
 born is correctly used to mean came into life.
 Sentence 1 uses born properly.
 borne means carried or endured, not given birth to.
 The other sentences contain incorrect usage – hence the first sentence is correct.
14. A) The correct spelling of ‘Accessories’ is **‘Accessories’**, which means additional items that complement or add to something – सहायक वस्तुएँ, सजावटी सामान.
15. B) ‘put on’ के बदले **‘put away’** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि put away का अर्थ होता है किसी वस्तु को सुरक्षित रखने या संग्रहित करना, और attic (अटारी) में paintings को रखने के संदर्भ में यही सही phrasal verb है।

- 'put away' will be used instead of 'put on' because put away means to store or keep something in a proper place, which fits the context of keeping paintings in the attic.

16. B) The archaeologists are preserving the ancient ruins.

Passive से Active Voice में बदलते समय Passive वाक्य का Subject, Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है और by + agent को Active वाक्य का Subject बनाया जाता है। Verb को Passive से Active में बदलते समय वही Tense रखा जाता है।

दिए गए वाक्य में "The ancient ruins" Subject है, "are being preserved" Verb (Present Continuous Passive) है और "by the archaeologists" Agent है। Active में बदलने पर "The archaeologists" Subject बन गया है, Verb "are preserving" (Present Continuous Active) का प्रयोग किया गया है और "the ancient ruins" Object बन गया है।

To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the agent of the passive sentence becomes the subject of the active sentence, and the verb is converted into its active form while keeping the same tense.

Here, "The ancient ruins" is the subject, "are being preserved" is the verb in Present Continuous Passive, and "by the archaeologists" is the agent. In the active form, "The archaeologists" becomes the subject, the verb changes to "are preserving" (Present Continuous Active), and "the ancient ruins" becomes the object.

17. D) The culprit told the judge that he was innocent as he had not committed the crime at all.

Direct से Indirect Narration में बदलते समय Reporting Verb, Pronoun और Tense में परिवर्तन किया जाता है।

Direct वाक्य में "The culprit said to the judge" Reporting Verb है, "I am innocent" Present Tense है और "did not commit" Simple Past Tense है।

Indirect में बदलने पर said to → told, Pronoun I → he, Tense am → was और did not commit → had not committed (Past Perfect) में बदल जाता है, ताकि sequence of tense बना रहे।

While converting Direct to Indirect Narration, changes are made in the reporting verb, pronouns, and tense. Here, "said to" changes to "told", the pronoun "I" changes to "he", the present tense "am innocent" changes to "was innocent", and the simple past "did not commit" changes to past perfect "had not committed" to maintain proper sequence of tense.

18. D) Were the dinner bills paid by Sanya?

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb को उसके Passive रूप में बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में "Did" का प्रयोग होने से यह Simple Past Interrogative Tense में है। Active वाक्य में "Sanya" Subject है, "pay" Verb है और "the dinner bills" Object है। Passive में Object "the dinner bills" Subject बन जाता है, Verb को "were paid" (Simple Past Passive) में बदला जाता है और Interrogative बनाए रखने के लिए Auxiliary Verb "were" को वाक्य की शुरुआत में रखा जाता है।

To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence, and the verb is transformed into the passive form while retaining the tense. Here, the presence of "Did" indicates a Simple Past Interrogative sentence. In the active voice, "Sanya" is the subject, "pay" is the verb, and "the dinner bills" is the object.

In the passive form, "the dinner bills" becomes the subject, the verb changes to "were paid," and the auxiliary "were" is placed at the beginning to maintain the interrogative structure.

19. B) **Apathy** (noun) – Lack of interest, feeling, or concern; indifference उदासीनता

Antonym: **Enthusiasm** (noun) – Intense interest, eagerness, passion, zeal उत्साह

- **Indifference** (noun) – Lack of interest or concern; apathy itself उदासीनता
- **Laziness** (noun) – Unwillingness to work or make effort; idleness आलस्य
- **Carelessness** (noun) – Lack of attention or caution; negligence लापरवाही

20. B) **Reprobate** (adjective / noun) – Morally unprincipled person; wicked, depraved, immoral दुराचारी

Antonym: **Virtuous** (adjective) – Having high moral standards; righteous, ethical, morally good सदाचारी

- **Rogue** (noun) – A dishonest or unprincipled person; scoundrel बदमाश
- **Unprincipled** (adjective) – Lacking moral principles; unscrupulous अनैतिक
- **Rakish** (adjective) – Having immoral or disreputable habits; debauched चरित्रहीन

21. B) **expel**

Blank (1) needs a base-form verb after "want to," for driving people out of their own villages by force. a) evict: is a base-form verb meaning legally removing a tenant from a property under a formal process, violating the requirement since it implies a lawful procedure through courts or notices, whereas extremist settlers acting outside the law is exactly what the passage describes. b) expel: is a base-form verb meaning forcing people out of a place, often with hostility, matching the violent, land-grabbing intent described, and echoed later by "torching their homes" and "unleashing physical attacks." c) displace: is a base-form verb meaning causing people to leave their homes, often as an indirect consequence of circumstances, violating the requirement since it suits describing an effect (as in war or disaster), not a deliberate, hostile aim someone "wants" to carry out. d) banish: is a base-form verb meaning officially sending someone away from a country or region, usually by state authority, violating the requirement since it implies a sovereign or legal power issuing the order, whereas extremist settlers hold no such official authority.

Hindi:

- Blank (1) में "want to" के बाद ऐसा base-form verb चाहिए जो लोगों को उनके ही गाँवों से ज़बरदस्ती निकाल बाहर करने को बताए। a) evict: इसका meaning है कानूनी प्रक्रिया से किसी किरायेदार को संपत्ति से हटाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसमें अदालत या notice वाली वैध प्रक्रिया का भाव है, जबकि extremist settlers कानून से बाहर जाकर यही कर रहे हैं, जो passage बताता है। b) expel: इसका meaning है लोगों को ज़बरदस्ती, अक्सर दुश्मनी के साथ, बाहर निकालना, जो हिंसक, ज़मीन हड़पने वाले इरादे से match करता है, और आगे "torching their homes" और "unleashing physical attacks" इसे दोहराते हैं। c) displace: इसका meaning है हालात की वजह से लोगों का अपने घर छोड़ना, अक्सर अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह किसी नतीजे (जैसे युद्ध या आपदा) को बताने पर फिट बैठता है, किसी की जानबूझकर की गई दुश्मनी भरी चाहत को नहीं। d) banish: इसका meaning है किसी को किसी देश या इलाके से

आधिकारिक तौर पर निकाल देना, आमतौर पर राज्य की सत्ता से, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसमें कोई संप्रभु या कानूनी सत्ता का आदेश चाहिए, जो extremist settlers के पास नहीं है।

22. A) called for

Blank (2) needs a past-tense phrasal verb agreeing with "politicians," for publicly demanding a course of action. a) called for: is a phrasal verb meaning publicly demanded or urged that something be done, matching politicians repeatedly demanding a policy — annexation — be carried out. b) calls upon: is a phrasal verb carrying the singular "-s" ending, violating the requirement on two counts — the plural subject "politicians" needs "called" without "-s," and this verb also needs a person as its object, as in "called upon the government," not an action like "annexing." c) called on: is a phrasal verb meaning formally appealed to someone to act, violating the requirement since it takes a person or body as its object, not a gerund naming the action itself. d) called off: is a phrasal verb meaning cancelled something previously planned, violating the requirement since it means stopping an action, the opposite of demanding one.

Hindi:

- Blank (2) में "politicians" से agree करने वाला past-tense phrasal verb चाहिए, जो सार्वजनिक रूप से किसी काम की माँग करने को बताए। a) called for: इसका meaning है सार्वजनिक रूप से किसी काम की माँग या ज़िद करना, जो politicians द्वारा बार-बार annexation की नीति माँगने से match करता है। b) calls upon: इसमें singular वाली "-s" ending है, जो दो वजहों से violate करता है — plural subject "politicians" के साथ बिना "-s" वाला "called" चाहिए, और इस verb के साथ भी कोई व्यक्ति चाहिए, जैसे "called upon the government", "annexing" जैसा काम नहीं। c) called on: इसका meaning है किसी से औपचारिक रूप से अपील करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसके साथ व्यक्ति या संस्था आती है, काम बताने वाला gerund नहीं। d) called off: इसका meaning है पहले से तय किसी काम को रद्द करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह किसी काम को रोकने की बात है, माँगने के बिल्कुल उलट।

23. A) stepped up

Blank (3) needs a past participle after "have," for intensifying an ongoing activity. a) stepped up: is a past participle meaning increased in intensity or frequency, matching "In recent years... attacks," describing a rise in the scale of violence over time. b) stepped into: is a past participle meaning entering a role, situation, or place, violating the requirement since it fits taking on a new position or physically entering somewhere, not intensifying something already happening. c) step out: is the base form of the verb, violating the requirement since "have" must be followed by a past participle, giving "have stepped out," and even that meaning — briefly leaving a place — is unrelated to escalating violence. d) step down: is the base form of the verb, violating the requirement since "have" must be followed by a past participle, and the meaning itself — resigning from a position of authority — is the opposite of ramping up hostile acts.

Hindi:

- Blank (3) में "have" के बाद ऐसा past participle चाहिए जो चल रही किसी गतिविधि के बढ़ जाने को बताए। a) stepped up: इसका meaning है तीव्रता या बारंबारता में बढ़ जाना, जो "In recent years... attacks" से match करता है, जो समय के साथ हिंसा के बढ़ते पैमाने को बताता है। b) stepped into: इसका meaning है किसी भूमिका, स्थिति, या जगह में प्रवेश करना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह नई भूमिका लेने या किसी जगह में physically घुसने पर फिट बैठता है, पहले से चल रही चीज़ के बढ़ने पर नहीं। c) step out: यह verb का base form है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "have" के बाद past participle चाहिए, यानी "have stepped out", और इसका meaning भी — कुछ देर के लिए जगह छोड़ना — हिंसा के बढ़ने से इसका कोई नाता नहीं। d) step down: यह भी base form है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "have" के बाद past participle चाहिए, और इसका meaning भी — किसी अधिकार वाले पद से इस्तीफ़ा देना — दुश्मनी भरे कामों को बढ़ाने के बिल्कुल उलट है।

24. B) is

Blank (4) needs a singular present-tense verb, since the passage's final paragraph moves into the present tense to introduce Shulman's book to the reader now, in a cleft structure ("It is... that..."). a) are: is a plural present-tense verb, violating the requirement since the subject "It" is singular — a trap for anyone who lets the nearby plural "stories" pull the agreement instead. b) is: is a singular present-tense verb, matching the present-tense frame of this sentence and pairing naturally with "brings" later in the same structure. c) has been: is present perfect, violating the requirement since it suggests an action started in the past and continuing, whereas the cleft sentence "It is... that..." simply identifies what the book presents, without needing a duration. d) were: is a plural past-tense verb, violating the requirement on two counts — the subject "It" is singular, and the sentence is in the present tense throughout.

Hindi:

- Blank (4) में singular present-tense verb चाहिए, क्योंकि passage का आखिरी paragraph present tense में आ जाता है ताकि आज के पाठक के सामने Shulman की किताब को पेश करे, एक cleft structure में ("It is... that...")। a) are: यह plural present-tense verb है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि subject "It" singular है — यह उन लोगों के लिए trap है जो पास वाले plural "stories" से agreement खींच लेते हैं। b) is: यह singular present-tense verb है, जो इस sentence के present-tense ढाँचे से match करता है, और उसी structure में आगे आए "brings" के साथ स्वाभाविक रूप से जुड़ता है। c) has been: यह present perfect है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसमें कोई ऐसा काम बताया जाता है जो अतीत में शुरू होकर अब तक चल रहा हो, जबकि "It is... that..." वाला cleft sentence सिर्फ यह बताता है कि किताब क्या पेश करती है। d) were: यह plural past-tense verb है, जो दो वजहों से violate करता है — subject "It" singular है, और पूरा sentence present tense में है।

25. B) brings

Blank (5) needs a singular present-tense verb agreeing with "David Shulman," matching the present-tense frame set up by "It is" earlier in the same sentence. a) brought: is a singular past-tense verb, violating the requirement since it breaks the present-tense frame the sentence has

already established with "is," presenting the book as a past act rather than a current offering to readers. b) brings: is a singular present-tense verb meaning presents or conveys something to an audience, matching both the singular subject "David Shulman" and the present tense of "It is these stories... that." c) is bringing: is present continuous, violating the requirement since it suggests an action unfolding at this exact moment, whereas the sentence describes what the book, as a finished work, does for readers in general — a simple present fits, not an ongoing action. d) has brought: is present perfect, violating the requirement since it implies an action completed with present relevance framed around a result, whereas the cleft structure "It is... that he brings" calls for the plain present tense to match "is."

Hindi:

- Blank (5) में singular present-tense verb चाहिए जो "David Shulman" से agree करे, और उसी sentence में पहले आए "It is" वाले present-tense ढाँचे से मेल खाए। a) brought: यह singular past-tense verb है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह sentence के "is" वाले present-tense ढाँचे को तोड़ता है, और किताब को पाठकों के लिए एक मौजूदा पेशकश के बजाय अतीत की क्रिया बना देता है। b) brings: यह singular present-tense verb है जिसका meaning है किसी दर्शक या पाठक तक कुछ पहुँचाना, जो singular subject "David Shulman" और "It is these stories... that" के present tense दोनों से match करता है। c) is bringing: यह present continuous है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह इसी पल चल रही किसी क्रिया का भाव देता है, जबकि sentence बता रहा है कि किताब, एक पूरी बन चुकी रचना के तौर पर, पाठकों के लिए आमतौर पर क्या करती है। d) has brought: यह present perfect है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसमें एक पूरा हो चुका काम है जिसका present में असर दिखाया जा रहा हो, जबकि "It is... that he brings" वाला cleft ढाँचा "is" से मेल खाने के लिए plain present tense माँगता है।