

Beyond forms: On the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature

The **Nobel** for Anne Carson **celebrates** experimentation and imagination

Every year, before the announcement of the Nobel Prize in Literature, there is strong **speculation** among literary **critics** about the possible **contenders**. The **Swedish Academy**, which keeps its nominations secret for 50 years, **has often sprung surprises**. But this year, it has chosen a bookmaker's favourite in Anne Carson, the 76-year-old Canadian poet, essayist, translator, and **dramatist**. It has also **kept in tune with** its decade-old trend of recognising women writers every two or three years — Carson is the 19th woman among the 123 Nobel **laureates** in literature. The Academy **praised** her “**bold and inventive oeuvre** that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for **contemporary literature**”. Known for continually **dismantling** the boundaries between poetry, **prose**, and scholarship, Carson **seamlessly** brings the classical in conversation with the contemporary and personal, often through **strange juxtapositions**. She has also frequently collaborated with theatre directors, choreographers, and visual artists, expanding our understanding of what **constitutes** literature.

A scholar of classics and ancient Greek, Carson's works explore love, desire, **mysticism**, **antiquity**, and despair. Her first **book**, *Eros the Bittersweet* (1986), a reworked version of her PhD **thesis** on Sappho, **examines** the pleasure and pain of desire through the Greek idea of lack. *Short Talks* (1992) is a series of brief, lyric prose poems, each **approaching** its subject through fragments and shifts in voice. In *Autobiography of Red* (1998), **perhaps** her best-known work, she reimagines the ancient Greek **myth** of Geryon and Heracles as a **queer** coming-of-age story, combining poetry and prose. *The Beauty of the Husband* (2001), a semi-autobiographical work of **narrative verse** about the painful **disintegration** of a marriage, **borrow**s its imagery from **tango** while opening its sections with lines from John Keats; she became the first woman to win the T.S. Eliot Prize for it. Her later works — *Nox* (2010), which is at once a book, an **elegy**, and an art object; *Red Doc* (2013), a **sequel** to *Autobiography of Red*; and *Float* (2016), which takes the form of 22 chapbooks housed in an **acetate** case — all **resist** easy **categorisation**. The Prize is thus not just a **recognition** of an **outstanding** poet or **classicist**, but also a celebration of literary experimentation and a reminder of the **limitless** possibilities of human imagination and **creativity** at a time of AI **slop**. In an age of **polarised** debates, her writing never simplifies the **complexities** of human experience or forces them into **neat conclusions**. By reworking classical traditions in unexpected ways, she makes the ancient feel **startlingly** contemporary while retaining a sense of its historical **specificity**. The Academy has chosen a writer who belongs in no category **in particular**, and everywhere at once.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Speculation** (noun) - conjecture, supposition, theory, guess, hypothesis
अटकलें
2. **Critic** (noun) - reviewer, commentator, evaluator, analyst, judge आलोचक
3. **Contender** (noun) - challenger, competitor, candidate, rival, applicant दावेदार
4. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, regularly, repeatedly, generally, commonly अक्सर
5. **Spring a surprise** (phrase) - to do something unexpected that surprises people अचानक चौंका देना
6. **Dramatist** (noun) - playwright, scriptwriter, writer, author, tragedian नाटककार
7. **Keep in tune with** (phrase) - to remain in agreement or harmony with something के अनुरूप रहना
8. **Laureate** (noun) - winner, victor, recipient, champion, honouree पुरस्कार विजेता
9. **Praise** (verb) - commend, applaud, eulogize, extol, compliment प्रशंसा करना
10. **Bold** (adjective) - fearless, courageous, brave, daring, intrepid साहसी
11. **Inventive** (adjective) - creative, original, innovative, imaginative, ingenious रचनात्मक
12. **Oeuvre** (noun) - work, output, creation, portfolio, repertoire संपूर्ण कृतियां
13. **Contemporary** (adjective) - modern, present-day, current, latest, recent समकालीन
14. **Dismantle** (verb) - deconstruct, demolish, destroy, dismantle, overturn खत्म करना
15. **Prose** (noun) - writing, text, composition, essay, narrative गद्य
16. **Seamlessly** (adverb) - smoothly, flawlessly, effortlessly, perfectly, continuously सुचारू रूप से
17. **Strange** (adjective) - unusual, weird, bizarre, peculiar, odd अजीब
18. **Juxtaposition** (noun) - comparison, contrast, proximity, collocation, adjacency तुलना
19. **Constitute** (verb) - comprise, compose, form, represent, embody गठित करना
20. **Mysticism** (noun) - spirituality, spiritualism, occultism, transcendentalism, metaphysics रहस्यवाद
21. **Antiquity** (noun) - ancient times, past, history, olden days, yore प्राचीन काल
22. **Thesis** (noun) - dissertation, paper, treatise, essay, composition शोध प्रबंध
23. **Approach** (verb) - tackle, address, handle, manage, undertake दृष्टिकोण अपनाना
24. **Perhaps** (adverb) - maybe, possibly, conceivably, probably, perchance शायद
25. **Myth** (noun) - legend, fable, folklore, tale, story पौराणिक कथा
26. **Narrative** (noun) - account, story, tale, chronicle, description कथा
27. **Verse** (noun) - poetry, rhyme, stanza, lyric, meter कविता

28. **Disintegration** (noun) - collapse, breakdown, fragmentation, crumbling, dissolution विघटन
29. **Borrow** (verb) - adopt, take, use, appropriate, derive लेना
30. **Tango** (noun) - a ballroom dance originating in south america टैंगो (एक प्रकार का नृत्य)
31. **Elegy** (noun) - lament, requiem, dirge, poem, tribute शोकगीत
32. **Sequel** (noun) - continuation, follow-up, development, consequence, succession अगली कड़ी
33. **Acetate** (noun) - a type of clear plastic material एसीटेट
34. **Resist** (verb) - defy, oppose, withstand, refuse, reject विरोध करना
35. **Categorisation** (noun) - classification, grouping, sorting, taxonomy, indexing वर्गीकरण
36. **Recognition** (noun) - acknowledgment, appreciation, identification, validation, credit मान्यता
37. **Outstanding** (adjective) - excellent, exceptional, magnificent, remarkable, stellar उत्कृष्ट
38. **Classicist** (noun) - a scholar of ancient greek and roman culture शास्त्रीय विद्वान
39. **Limitless** (adjective) - infinite, boundless, endless, inexhaustible, vast असीमित
40. **Creativity** (noun) - inventiveness, imagination, originality, inspiration, ingenuity रचनात्मकता
41. **Slop** (noun) - rubbish, garbage, nonsense, drivel, trash कचरा
42. **Polarised** (adjective) - divided, split, separated, fractured, opposed ध्रुवीकृत
43. **Complexity** (noun) - complication, intricacy, difficulty, entanglement, convolution जटिलता
44. **Neat** (adjective) - tidy, orderly, simplistic, clear-cut, absolute स्पष्ट
45. **Conclusion** (noun) - deduction, inference, verdict, decision, outcome निष्कर्ष
46. **Startlingly** (adverb) - surprisingly, astonishingly, remarkably, shockingly, unexpectedly आश्चर्यजनक रूप से
47. **Specificity** (noun) - distinctness, particularity, precision, accuracy, exactness विशिष्टता
48. **In particular** (phrase) - specifically or especially विशेष रूप से

Summary of the Editorial

1. Nobel Prize Winner: Anne Carson, a 76-year-old Canadian poet, essayist, translator, and dramatist, was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature.
2. Swedish Academy's Decision: The Swedish Academy, which keeps its nominations secret for 50 years, often surprises literary critics, but Carson was already a favourite among the predicted contenders.
3. Recognition of Women Writers: Carson became the 19th woman among 123 Nobel laureates in literature, continuing the Academy's trend of recognising women writers every two or three years.
4. Reason for the Award: The Academy praised Carson's bold and inventive body of work, which creatively connects classical traditions with contemporary literature.
5. Experimental Writing Style: Carson challenges the boundaries between poetry, prose, and academic scholarship, creating innovative literary forms.
6. Classical and Contemporary Elements: Her writing combines ancient Greek literature and mythology with modern experiences, personal emotions, and contemporary concerns.
7. Major Themes: Her works explore love, desire, mysticism, antiquity, despair, and the complexities of human relationships.
8. First Major Work: Her book *Eros the Bittersweet* (1986), developed from her doctoral research on Sappho, examines the pleasure and pain of desire through the Greek concept of lack.
9. Experimental Prose Poetry: *Short Talks* (1992) consists of brief lyric prose poems that explore different subjects through fragments and changing narrative voices.
10. Best-Known Work: *Autobiography of Red* (1998) reimagines the Greek myth of Geryon and Heracles as a queer coming-of-age story, blending poetry and prose.
11. Literary Achievement: *The Beauty of the Husband* (2001), a semi-autobiographical narrative in verse about the breakdown of a marriage, draws on tango imagery and the poetry of John Keats. Carson became the first woman to win the T.S. Eliot Prize for this work.
12. Unconventional Later Works: Her later publications, including *Nox* (2010), *Red Doc* (2013), and *Float* (2016), combine literary writing with artistic experimentation and resist conventional categorisation.
13. Collaboration Across Art Forms: Carson has collaborated with theatre directors, choreographers, and visual artists, expanding the traditional understanding of literature.
14. Relevance in the AI Age: Her Nobel Prize celebrates human imagination, creativity, and literary experimentation at a time when AI-generated content is becoming increasingly common.
15. Central Message: Carson's writing embraces the complexities of human experience without forcing simple conclusions. By reinterpreting classical traditions in innovative ways, she makes ancient ideas relevant to modern readers. Her award celebrates literature that transcends conventional categories and demonstrates the limitless possibilities of creativity.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why did the Swedish Academy select Anne Carson for the literature prize according to the passage ?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. For writing disciplined verse that keeps classical scholarship separate from personal experiences.
 - B. For developing inventive literary modes through dynamic engagement with ancient traditions.
 - C. For translating Greek dramatic works into mainstream scripts intended for commercial stage directors.
 - D. For establishing formal guidelines that restrict modern storytelling to ancient mythological themes.
2. **What does the passage suggest regarding the design of *Autobiography of Red* and *The Beauty of the Husband*?**
 - A. Both works weave classical references into modern personal storylines across experimental verse structures.
 - B. Both volumes provide literal academic renderings of ancient Greek drama without personal reflections.
 - C. Both collections gather brief lyrical reflections that examine romantic longing through shifting narrators.
 - D. Both titles avoid narrative momentum to exist as loose artistic folios housed in protective containers.
3. **Which of the following statements best captures the central theme of the passage?**
 - A. The Swedish Academy altered its selection procedures to favor prominent bookmaker choices over obscure classicists.
 - B. Cross-disciplinary partnerships between writers and performing artists have become the required standard for modern literature.
 - C. Deep classical expertise historically protected female authors from structural biases within international prize bodies.
 - D. Carson's award celebrates daring creative hybridity that revitalizes ancient antiquity in an era of mechanical output.
4. **Choose the word which is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage.**
POLARISED
 - A. Integrated
 - B. dogmatic
 - C. Contentious
 - D. Segmented
5. **What does the phrase "dismantling the boundaries" imply in the context of the passage?**
 - A. Omitting references to ancient mythological frameworks to make literature relevant to contemporary secular readers.
 - B. Ending creative collaborations between classical authors and contemporary visual choreographers on public stages
 - C. Blending separate genres so that poetic composition, critical analysis, and prose narrative enrich one another.

- D. Disregarding critical speculation to ensure that working translators obtain parity with original fiction writers.
6. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in Direct to Indirect Speech.**
She said, "I used to live in Delhi."
A. She said that she used to live in Delhi.
B. She said that she was living in Delhi.
C. She said that she had lived in Delhi.
D. She said that she has lived in Delhi.
7. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option:**
The leader's speech was deliberately _____, allowing different groups to interpret it in their own way.
A. precise
B. ambiguous
C. decisive
D. explicit
8. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution'.**
Rita will never have changed her job if she would have been promoted
A. shall never have
B. would never have
C. No substitution
D. should never have
9. **Direction: In the following question, the first sentence is given in its correct position, followed by four sentences marked A, B, C, and D. Rearrange the four sentences in the correct order to form a coherent paragraph.**
After nine years, I can still vividly recall the day I took my three-year-old son to be admitted to an elite school on the outskirts of a prominent town in Tamil Nadu.
A. Another reason could be to rub shoulders with that colleague who is proud of his child's school and a third reason could be that the Indian yardstick of a good school is where children wear smart jackets and speak fluent English (irrespective of what is being spoken).
B. On the day of admission, the principal, who could read my hesitation, directed her assistant to take me on a campus tour.
C. My reason for choosing a premium school reflected the thoughts of most of the middle- and upper-middle-class lot in the country: to provide everything to our offspring that we think we missed out on during our school days.
D. It began with the play area for pre-KG kids.
A. C A B D
B. C B A D
C. A C B D
D. B D C A
10. **Identify the grammatical error in the sentence below.**
The news that the plane had crashed will be coming as a terrible shock.
A. news that
B. had crashed

- C. will be coming
D. a terrible shock
11. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
The itinerant labourers moved from farm to farm as the seasons changed, following the harvest across hundreds of miles and rarely settling in any one place long enough to establish the kind of community ties that more settled workers took for granted.
A. Nomadic
B. Sedentary
C. Stationary
D. Fixed
12. **Choose the alternative which gives the correct meaning of the given idiom or phrase.** Through thick and thin
A. Across a varied and difficult terrain
B. Between two very different options
C. Through a fast and sudden physical change
D. Under all conditions, both good and bad
13. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
After months of consultation with engineers, economists, and environmental scientists, the committee concluded that the proposed tunnel project was technically and financially viable, provided that sufficient funding could be secured from both public and private sources before the planning deadline.
A. Impractical
B. Feasible
C. Workable
D. Sustainable
14. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Having or showing an excessively high opinion of one's appearance, abilities, or worth
A. Vain
B. Domineering
C. Otiose
D. Superior
15. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**
The scientist was determined to refute the widely accepted theory that had dominated her field for thirty years, presenting a series of carefully controlled experiments whose results were entirely inconsistent with its central predictions and demanded a new explanatory framework.
A. Affirm
B. Disprove
C. Confirm
D. Validate
16. **Direction: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named A, B, C, and D. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**

- S1. Shobha, 46, lives in a makeshift home along a road in Old Delhi's Yamuna Bazar.
- A. She brought her five children; one of them went missing as a baby and another died, she believes, of a drug overdose.
 - B. She came here two decades ago, from Kanpur, in Uttar Pradesh, after she separated from her husband and found no support from her family.
 - C. She started selling stickers, earning ₹100-150 a day.
 - D. Initially, she begged for survival, but soon realised it was not enough to feed her children.
- S6. "I dream of my daughters living their lives without having to beg for safety and freedom."
- A. A-D-B-C
 - B. C-B-A-D
 - C. D-C-B-A
 - D. B-A-D-C
17. Find the correctly spelled word.
- A. Oprationalise
 - B. Operationalise
 - C. Operationelize
 - D. Operatinalise
18. Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.
- The peace agreement was jeopardized when a local _____ refused to surrender their weapons to the international observers.
- A. Milishia
 - B. Militea
 - C. Militia
 - D. Melitia
19. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word in the given sentence.
- The committee called for tangible evidence of improvement before any further funding would be released, making clear that it would no longer accept verbal assurances or aspirational targets without concrete data demonstrating measurable progress against the agreed performance indicators.
- A. Palpable
 - B. Concrete
 - C. Material
 - D. Intangible
20. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.
- My mother will bake two dozen cookies for the bake sale.
- A. Two dozen cookies shall be baked by my mother for the bake sale.
 - B. Two dozen cookies will be baked by my mother for the bake sale.
 - C. Two dozen cookies will baked by my mother for the bake sale.
 - D. Two dozen cookies will have been baked by my mother for the bake sale.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions based on the passage.

Life is full of surprises. Mine, this time, is a green one. And it has a lot to do with the adage 'One generation plants a tree, and another enjoys its shade'. My maternal grandfather, a bishop, possessed a green thumb, as (1) manifested through a majority of the trees in my garden.

Some of these, including the guava trees, the mulberry trees, the fig trees, and the mango tree, still exist and produce fruit in due season. Others, however, succumbed to time. This is also true of one of the many lemon trees that he planted in his lifetime.

This particular variety was known for enormous fruit, only one of which could be held in one hand at a time. It would hardly fit into the squeezer and had to be cut up into small pieces.

One lemon could churn out three or four glasses of yummy lemonade.

These trees, too, withered over the years, leaving us with sweet and sour memories. However, the roots of the righteous revive again even after staying (2) dormant for centuries — a belief rooted in the Holy Bible. “The root of the righteous yieldeth fruit,” says the Book of Proverbs 12:12. I know this is true as I _____ (3) seen it unfold.

Having lain dormant for more than a decade, the roots of this lemon tree revived a couple _____ (5) years ago. We rarely anticipated that what we had lost _____ (4) someday reappear unexpectedly.

While initially we dismissed it as a ‘useless weed’, and would have removed it, the appearance of flowers and luscious fruit made us pause and think.

21. The word “manifested” in the passage is closest in meaning to:

- A. obscured
- B. exemplified
- C. dissembled
- D. negated

22. Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of “dormant” as used in the passage:

- A. latent
- B. quiescent
- C. torpid
- D. active

23. Choose the correct auxiliary verb to fill in the blank: (3)

- A. have
- B. has
- C. had
- D. having

24. Choose the correct modal auxiliary to fill in the blank: (4)

- A. will
- B. shall
- C. would
- D. must

25. Select the correct preposition to complete the sentence: (5)

- A. for
- B. of
- C. with
- D. in

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. B) **For developing inventive literary modes through dynamic engagement with ancient traditions.**

Passage: "The Academy praised her 'bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature'."----The Academy says Carson's work is bold and inventive. It talks with old classical writing in a playful way. It also creates new forms for modern literature.

- The passage says Carson breaks the lines between poetry, prose and scholarship. She does not keep them separate.
- The passage does not say she wrote commercial scripts. It only says she worked with theatre directors, choreographers and visual artists.
- The passage says her writing resists neat categories. It does not say she limited storytelling to ancient myths.

2. A) **Both works weave classical references into modern personal storylines across experimental verse structures.**

passage: "In Autobiography of Red (1998)... she reimagines the ancient Greek myth of Geryon and Heracles as a queer coming-of-age story, combining poetry and prose. The Beauty of the Husband (2001), a semi-autobiographical work of narrative verse about the painful disintegration of a marriage, borrows its imagery from tango while opening its sections with lines from John Keats."----Autobiography of Red takes an old Greek myth and turns it into a modern coming-of-age story, mixing poetry and prose. The Beauty of the Husband tells a personal story of a marriage breaking down, in verse, and uses tango imagery and lines from Keats. So both books mix older, classical material with modern, personal stories in unusual poetic forms. This matches option A.

Option B — Incorrect. The passage says Autobiography of Red "reimagines" a myth, which is not a literal translation. The Beauty of the Husband is semi-autobiographical, so it is full of personal reflection. Neither is a plain academic version of Greek drama.

Option C — Incorrect. Brief lyric pieces with shifting voices describe Short Talks (1992), not these two books. Autobiography of Red and The Beauty of the Husband are longer narrative works.

Option D — Incorrect. The "acetate case" belongs to Float (2016), and the "art object" belongs to Nox. These two books do have story movement: a coming-of-age story and the breakdown of a marriage.

3. D) **Carson's award celebrates daring creative hybridity that revitalizes ancient antiquity in an era of mechanical output.**

passage: "The Prize is thus not just a recognition of an outstanding poet or classicist, but also a celebration of literary experimentation and a reminder of the limitless possibilities of human imagination and creativity at a time of AI slop... By reworking classical traditions in unexpected ways, she makes the ancient feel startlingly contemporary."---The passage is about why Carson

won. She mixes poetry, prose and scholarship, and she brings old Greek ideas into modern life. The author says the prize celebrates this kind of experiment and creativity, especially at a time of "AI slop" (machine-made content). This matches option D.

Option A — Incorrect. The passage only says Carson was the bookmakers' favourite this year. It never says the Academy changed its selection rules to follow bookmakers.

Option B — Incorrect. The passage says Carson often works with theatre directors, choreographers and artists. But it never says this is a required standard for modern literature. It is only one detail about her.

Option C — Incorrect. The passage says the Academy has recognised women writers every two or three years. It never says classical knowledge protected women from bias in prize bodies.

4. A) **Integrated**

passage: "In an age of polarised debates, her writing never simplifies the complexities of human experience or forces them into neat conclusions."---"Polarised" means split into two sharply opposed sides with no meeting point. "Integrated" means brought together and joined into one whole. Being split apart is the opposite of being joined together, so this is the correct antonym.

Option B (Dogmatic) — Incorrect. "Dogmatic" means stubbornly sure that your own view is the only right one. People in polarised debates often behave this way, so it is related to "polarised," not opposite.

Option C (Contentious) — Incorrect. "Contentious" means causing or involving heated argument. Polarised debates are exactly this kind of argument, so it is similar in meaning, not opposite.

Option 4 (Segmented) — Incorrect. "Segmented" means divided into parts or sections. This shows division, so it is a similar word, not an opposite.

5. C) **Blending separate genres so that poetic composition, critical analysis, and prose narrative enrich one another.**

passage: "Known for continually dismantling the boundaries between poetry, prose, and scholarship, Carson seamlessly brings the classical in conversation with the contemporary and personal, often through strange juxtapositions."---- "Dismantling the boundaries" means breaking down the walls between different types of writing. The passage names the types: poetry, prose and scholarship. Carson mixes them in one work, like Autobiography of Red, which combines poetry and prose. So the phrase means she blends separate genres together. This matches option C.

Option A — Incorrect. The passage says the opposite. Carson does not leave out ancient myths. She uses them and brings them into conversation with modern life.

Option B — Incorrect. The passage says she "frequently collaborated" with theatre directors, choreographers and visual artists. Her collaborations continue, so nothing is being ended.

Option D — Incorrect. The phrase is about mixing types of writing, not about critics or translators. The passage never talks about translators getting equal status with fiction writers.

6. A) **She said that she used to live in Delhi.**

Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reporting Verb "said" (Past) के अनुसार Reported Speech के Tense को Backshift किया जाता है, परंतु "used to" एक विशेष Structure है जो पहले से ही Past Habitual Action को दर्शाता है, इसलिए यह Indirect Speech में अपरिवर्तित (Unchanged) रहता है। Direct वाक्य में Reporting Verb "said" (Past) है, "I" Pronoun है और "used to live" (Past

Habitual Structure) है। Indirect में बदलने पर "I" को "she" में बदला गया है, जबकि "used to live" वैसा ही बना रहा है, और उद्धरण चिन्ह हटाकर "that" द्वारा Clause जोड़ा गया है।

To change Direct Speech into Indirect Speech, the reported speech's tense is backshifted according to the past reporting verb "said," but "used to" is a special structure that already denotes a past habitual action, so it remains unchanged in indirect speech. In this sentence, "I" (Pronoun) has been transformed into "she," while "used to live" (Past Habitual Structure) stays the same, and the quotation marks are removed with the clause joined by "that"

7. B) '**Ambiguous**' का use होगा क्योंकि "ambiguous" का अर्थ होता है अस्पष्ट या जिसके एक से अधिक अर्थ निकल सकें। sentence में कहा गया है कि भाषण जानबूझकर ऐसा था कि अलग-अलग समूह उसे अपने तरीके से समझ सकें, इसलिए 'ambiguous' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Precise' का अर्थ है सटीक, 'Decisive' का अर्थ है निर्णायक, और 'Explicit' का अर्थ है स्पष्ट, जो अलग-अलग व्याख्या की गुंजाइश नहीं देते।

- 'Ambiguous' will be used because it means open to more than one interpretation. The sentence says the speech allowed different groups to interpret it in their own way, making 'ambiguous' fitting here. Whereas, 'Precise' means exact, 'Decisive' means conclusive, and 'Explicit' means clearly stated, which leave no room for different interpretations.

8. B) '**would never have**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर conditional sentence का दूसरा भाग (if clause) 'would have' के साथ past conditional के रूप में है, इसलिए main clause में भी 'would never have' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए जो कि past conditional को दर्शाता है; जैसे— She would never have changed her job if she had been promoted.

- 'would never have' will be used instead of 'will never have' because the second part of the conditional sentence (if clause) uses 'would have' in the form of past conditional, hence in the main clause, 'would never have' should also be used to reflect the past conditional; Like— She would never have changed her job if she had been promoted.

9. A) **C A B D**

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence C starting sentence के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि opening sentence 'elite school' में बेटे के admission की बात करता है, और Sentence C उसी decision के main reason को explain करता है—"My reason for choosing a premium school..."।
- Sentence A Sentence C के साथ mandatory pair (C-A) बनाता है। Sentence C में लेखक ने अपना पहला reason बताया, और Sentence A बचे हुए reasons को list करता है—"Another reason could be..." और "a third reason could be..."।
- Sentence B Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि reasons बताने के बाद context वापस admission के दिन की घटना पर लौटता है, जहाँ principal hesitation देखकर assistant को "campus tour" कराने के लिए कहती हैं।
- Sentence D Sentence B को follow करेगा और paragraph को end करेगा। Sentence D में use हुआ pronoun "It" सीधे Sentence B के "campus tour" को point करता है कि tour play area से शुरू हुआ ("It began with the play area...")। इसलिए B-D दूसरा mandatory pair है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence C follows the given opening sentence directly: while the lead sentence introduces admitting the child into an elite school, Sentence C explains the personal motivation behind picking a premium institution ("My reason for choosing a premium school...").
 - Sentence A forms an unbreakable mandatory pair with Sentence C (C-A). Sentence C identifies the primary motive, while Sentence A systematically adds the secondary motives using clear structural markers: "Another reason could be..." and "a third reason could be..."
 - Sentence B follows Sentence A by shifting focus back to the physical events of the day ("On the day of admission..."), where the principal notices the parent's hesitation and arranges a "campus tour".
 - Sentence D forms a mandatory pair with Sentence B (B-D). The pronoun "It" refers directly back to the newly introduced "campus tour", detailing where it commenced ("It began with the play area for pre-KG kids").
10. C) 'will be coming' के बदले 'will come' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ भविष्य में होने वाली एक निश्चित प्रतिक्रिया (समाचार का सदमे के रूप में आना) बताई गई है, जो Simple Future से व्यक्त होती है; Future Continuous (will be + V-ing) किसी निश्चित समय पर चल रही क्रिया के लिए होता है; जैसे— The result will come as a surprise to everyone.
- 'will come' will be used instead of 'will be coming' because the sentence expresses a simple future reaction (the news coming as a shock), which takes the Simple Future; the Future Continuous is used for an action in progress at a particular future time; Like— The result will come as a surprise to everyone.
11. A) **Itinerant** (adjective) – Travelling from place to place, especially for work; not settled in one location; moving around rather than being based in one area. चलनेवाला, घुमक्कड़
 Synonym: **Nomadic** (adjective) – Living the life of a nomad; wandering from place to place; having no fixed home. खानाबदोश, यायावर
- **Sedentary** (adjective) – Tending to spend much time seated; settled in one place; an antonym of itinerant. स्थिर, एक जगह बैठे रहने वाला
 - **Stationary** (adjective) – Not moving or changing; fixed in one place; an antonym of itinerant. स्थिर, अचल
 - **Fixed** (adjective) – Fastened securely in position; not moving; an antonym of itinerant. स्थिर, निश्चित
12. D) **Through** thick and thin (idiom) – Under all conditions, both good and bad हर परिस्थिति में, सुख-दुःख में साथ
13. A) **Viable** (adjective) – Capable of working successfully; feasible; able to live or exist independently; practicable. व्यवहार्य, संभव
 Antonym: **Impractical** (adjective) – Not sensible or realistic; not feasible in practice; unable to be implemented successfully. अव्यवहार्य, अव्यावहारिक
- **Feasible** (adjective) – Possible to do easily or conveniently; achievable. व्यवहार्य, संभव
 - **Workable** (adjective) – Able to be put into practice successfully; practicable. व्यावहारिक, कार्यसाध्य

- **Sustainable** (adjective) – Able to be maintained at a certain rate or level over time; enduring. टिकाऊ, संधारणीय
14. A) **Vain** (adjective) – Having or showing an excessively high opinion of one's appearance, abilities, or worth. अहंकारी
- **Domineering** (adjective) – Asserting one's will over another in an arrogant way. आधिपत्य जमानेवाला
 - **Otiose** (adjective) – Serving no practical purpose or result; idle or ineffective. निष्क्रिय
 - **Superior** (adjective) – Higher in rank, status, or quality. उच्चतर
15. B) **Refute** (verb) – To prove a statement or theory to be wrong or false; to disprove; to show by argument or evidence that something is incorrect or mistaken. झूठा ठहराना, खंडन करना
Synonym: Disprove (verb) – To prove that something is false; to show by evidence or argument that something is not true. खंडन करना, गलत साबित करना
- **Affirm** (verb) – To state as a fact; to assert strongly and publicly; an antonym of refute. पुष्टि करना, दृढ़ता से कहना
 - **Confirm** (verb) – To establish the truth of; to validate; an antonym of refute. पुष्टि करना, सत्यापित करना
 - **Validate** (verb) – To check or prove the validity of; to confirm correctness; an antonym of refute. मान्य करना, सत्यापित करना

16. D) B-A-D-C

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence B S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 में पुरानी दिल्ली के यमुना बाजार में शोभा के रहने का परिचय दिया गया है, और Sentence B में प्रयुक्त adverb "here" ("She came here two decades ago...") सीधे उसी स्थान को संदर्भित करता है और कानपुर से दिल्ली आने की पृष्ठभूमि स्पष्ट करता है।
- Sentence A Sentence B को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह कानपुर से प्रवास के समय उसके परिवार की स्थिति का विवरण जोड़ता है कि वह अपने पाँच बच्चों को साथ लाई थी, जिनमें से एक बचपन में लापता हो गया और दूसरे की नशे की अधिक मात्रा से मृत्यु हो गई।
- Sentence D Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि बच्चों के भरण-पोषण की आवश्यकता के आधार पर यह उसकी आजीविका के शुरुआती संघर्ष को दर्शाता है ("Initially, she begged for survival, but soon realised it was not enough to feed her children")।
- Sentence C Sentence D के बाद आएगा और S6 से ठीक पहले जुड़ेगा। यह भीख मांगने से आगे बढ़कर उसके अगले कदम को दर्शाता है कि उसने स्टिकर बेचना शुरू किया और प्रतिदिन ₹100-150 कमाने लगी। अंत में, S6 अपनी बेटियों के बेहतर भविष्य के लिए उसके सपने और शब्दों ("I dream of my daughters...") के साथ प्रसंग को पूरा करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence B follows S1 directly because S1 establishes Shobha's current location in Yamuna Bazar, and Sentence B uses the locational adverb "here" ("She came here two decades ago...") to explain her historical relocation from Kanpur following marital separation.

- Sentence A follows Sentence B chronologically by detailing her family composition during that relocation—bringing her five children along, of whom one went missing in infancy and another succumbed to a drug overdose.
- Sentence D follows Sentence A by shifting from family tragedy to the immediate economic struggle of feeding the surviving children, marked by the sequential transition "Initially, she begged for survival..."
- Sentence C follows Sentence D and links directly before S6 as the direct resolution to begging, stating that she transitioned to selling stickers to generate daily wages of ₹100-150. Finally, S6 leads directly into her quoted personal aspiration and reflections regarding her daughters' freedom and security.

i. B) **Operationalise**

17. Correct Spelling: Operationalise (verb) – to put something into operation or use; implement. (लागू करना)

Spelling Breakdown: इसमें 'Operation' (ओपरेशन) के बाद 'al' और फिर 'ise' आता है (O-p-e-r-a-t-i-o-n-a-l-i-s-e)।

18. C) **The correct spelling to fill in the blank is Militia.**

- Correct Sentence: The peace agreement was jeopardized when a local militia refused to surrender their weapons to the international observers.
- Militia (noun) – a military force that is raised from the civil population to supplement a regular army in an emergency, or a rebel/insurgent group of armed civilians. (नागरिक सेना / लड़ाकू दस्ता)

19. D) **Tangible** (adjective) – Perceptible by touch; able to be touched or grasped; real and concrete rather than abstract or imaginary. मूर्त, स्पर्शनीय, वास्तविक

Antonym: **Intangible** (adjective) – Unable to be touched or grasped; not having a physical presence; abstract rather than concrete; the opposite of tangible. अमूर्त, अस्पर्शनीय, अप्रत्यक्ष

- **Palpable** (adjective) – Able to be touched or felt; easily perceived by the senses; a synonym of tangible. स्पर्शनीय, स्पष्ट
- **Concrete** (adjective) – Existing in material form; specific rather than general or abstract; a synonym of tangible. मूर्त, ठोस
- **Material** (adjective) – Relating to physical rather than spiritual matters; consisting of matter; a synonym of tangible. भौतिक, मूर्त

20. B) Two dozen cookies will be baked by my mother for the bake sale.

21. B) **exemplified**

The passage describes the grandfather's gardening skill ("green thumb") being clearly shown, demonstrated, or illustrated through the survival and growth of the trees in the garden. The question asks for the word closest in meaning to "manifested" (meaning displayed or shown plainly). a) obscured: means concealed or hidden (antonym). b) exemplified: means to show or illustrate by example, serving as the closest synonym to how his skill was made manifest. c) dissembled: means concealed one's true motives or beliefs. d) negated: means nullified or made ineffective.

- यह sentence दादाजी के बागवानी कौशल (green thumb) के बगीचे के पेड़ों के माध्यम से स्पष्ट रूप से दिखने या प्रदर्शित होने ("manifested") को describe करता है। Question में "manifested" (प्रकट होना/दिखाई देना) का सबसे सटीक synonym पूछा गया है। a) obscured:

इसका meaning छिपा हुआ (antonym) होता है। b) exemplified: इसका meaning 'उदाहरण के रूप में प्रस्तुत होना या स्पष्ट रूप से प्रदर्शित होना' (illustrated/demonstrated) होता है, जो "manifested" के अर्थ से closely match करता है। c) dissembled: इसका meaning छिपाना होता है। d) negated: इसका meaning नकारना होता है।

22. D) active

The passage refers to the roots remaining inactive, resting, or asleep for a long period ("staying dormant for centuries") before reviving. The question asks for the antonym of "dormant" (meaning temporarily inactive). a) latent: means existing but not yet developed or manifest (synonym). b) quiescent: means in a state or period of inactivity (synonym). c) torpid: means mentally or physically inactive; lethargic (synonym). d) active: means engaging or ready to engage in physically energetic pursuits or functioning, serving as the direct antonym of "dormant".

- यह sentence जड़ों के लंबे समय तक निष्क्रिय या सुप्त अवस्था ("dormant") में रहने के बाद फिर से जीवित होने को describe करता है। Question में "dormant" (निष्क्रिय/सुप्त) का direct antonym पूछा गया है। a) latent: इसका meaning गुप्त या सुप्त (synonym) होता है। b) quiescent: इसका meaning निष्क्रिय (synonym) होता है। c) torpid: इसका meaning सुस्त (synonym) होता है। d) active: इसका meaning 'सक्रिय या क्रियाशील' होता है, जो "dormant" का direct antonym है।

23. A) have

The sentence describes a completed action connected to a present realization ("I know this is true as I _____ seen it unfold"). The first-person singular pronoun "I" paired with the past participle verb "seen" strictly requires the present perfect auxiliary "have". a) have: correctly pairs with "I" to form the present perfect tense (I have seen). b) has: is used only for third-person singular subjects (he, she, it). c) had: forms the past perfect, which clashes with the present tense introductory clause "I know this is true". d) having: is a participle, not a finite auxiliary verb.

- यह sentence लेखक द्वारा उस घटना को अपनी आँखों से देखने के अनुभव को वर्तमान से जोड़ते हुए (present perfect tense) describe करता है। Subject "I" और V3 ("seen") के बीच सही auxiliary verb की आवश्यकता है। a) have: यह first-person auxiliary verb है जो "I have seen" की संरचना में perfectly fit होता है। b) has: यह singular third-person subject के लिए आता है। c) had: यह past perfect बनाता है जो वर्तमान संदर्भ ("I know") के साथ गलत है। d) having: यह participle है जो बिना auxiliary के finite verb नहीं बना सकता।

24. C) would

The sentence describes a past expectation regarding a potential future event ("We rarely anticipated that what we had lost _____ someday reappear"). Since the main reporting verb "anticipated" is in the past tense, the subordinate clause requires the "future in the past" modal auxiliary. a) will: is the standard present/future modal, which violates the sequence of tenses rule when the main verb is in the past. b) shall: is a present/future modal. c) would: is the past form of "will", correctly maintaining the past narrative sequence (anticipated... would reappear). d) must: indicates present/future necessity.

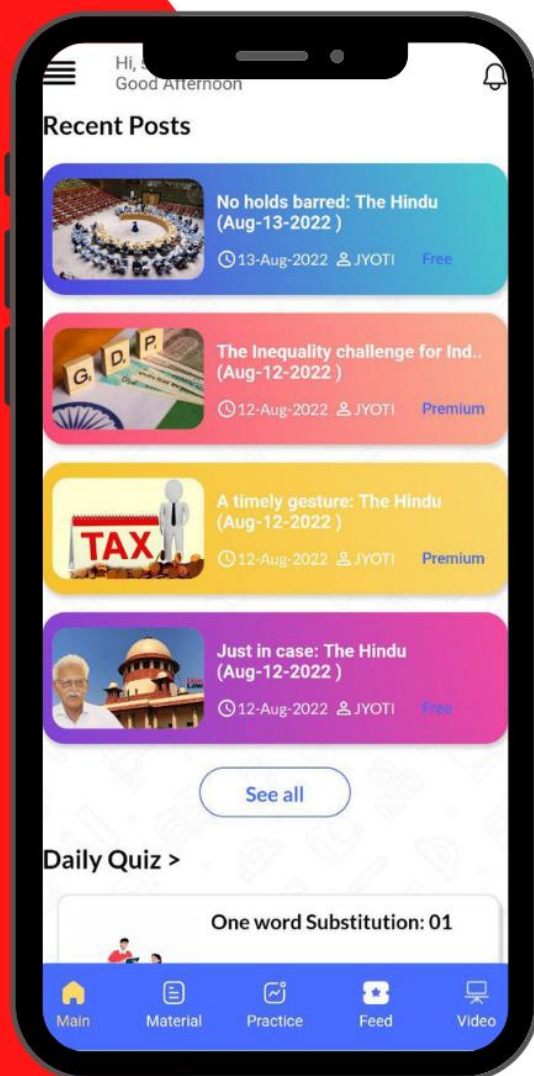
- यह sentence भूतकाल की एक उम्मीद या आशंका को describe करता है कि जो खो गया था वह भविष्य में वापस आएगा ("anticipated that..."). Past tense की मुख्य क्रिया (anticipated) के

बाद 'भविष्य' दर्शाने वाले modal verb (future in the past) की आवश्यकता है। a) will: यह present/future tense में आता है, जो past sequence में गलत है। b) shall: यह भी present/future में आता है। c) would: यह "will" का past form है, जो past tense के sequence को बनाए रखने के लिए "would reappear" में grammatically perfectly fit होता है। d) must: यह अनिवार्यता दर्शाता है।

25. B) **of**

The sentence indicates a time period of roughly two years ago ("revived a couple ____ years ago"). Blank (5) requires the preposition that correctly completes the standard English quantifier phrase. a) for: indicates duration, but is not used inside this specific phrase. b) of: correctly forms the fixed quantitative expression "a couple of" (meaning two or a few). c) with: denotes accompaniment. d) in: denotes location or time within boundaries.

- यह sentence कुछ साल पहले नींबू के पेड़ की जड़ों के फिर से जीवित होने को describe करता है। अंग्रेजी व्याकरण में 'कुछ' या 'दो' की संख्या दर्शाने के लिए निश्चित expression "a couple of" का प्रयोग किया जाता है। a) for: यह समयावधि के लिए आता है। b) of: यह मानक मुहावरेदार अभिव्यक्ति "a couple of" (कुछ/दो) को पूर्ण करता है, जो context में perfectly fit होता है। c) with: यह साथ दर्शाता है। d) in: यह में/भीतर दर्शाता है।



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