

France's youth revolt: A crisis of trust

France's protests **expose** a deeper crisis of public trust. **Political paralysis** risks turning a generation's **grievances** into a wider European revolt

France is facing one of its darkest **nightmares**. A 143-year-old town hall burned in Limoges on Saturday night, its **spire collapsing**. In Marseille, protesters **rammed** their way into the city hall. In Paris, **cobblestones** were **torn up** at Place de la République and shops were looted. By Sunday, at least 1,800 people had been arrested, more than 500 police officers, gendarmes and firefighters had been injured, and one protester had died of **cardiac arrest**.

Most protests were peaceful. The **spark** was small. On September 17, teachers at Lycée Saint-Exupéry in Créteil, a Paris **suburb**, went on strike over unfilled posts, from maths and French teachers to the school nurse and social worker. Students **blockaded** the school in support. **Reinforcements** were sent, and the situation at that school **calmed down**, but the movement did not. It spread to hundreds of schools, carrying a plain list of grievances: overcrowded classrooms, absent teachers and **decaying** buildings. The anger runs deep because the state's **answer** to **squeezed** household budgets and **crumbling** schools **is austerity**. Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu's 2027 budget **seeks** 54 billion in savings; without them, he says, the **deficit** would approach 6.5 per cent of GDP. The arithmetic is **defensible**. The politics are **tone-deaf**: sacrifice is being demanded of a generation whose own classrooms show what the state thinks of it. Then came the policing. A state that is both **heavy-handed** and **indecisive** earns **contempt** from both sides. The political arithmetic is worse. Since the 2024 snap election, France has had a hung National Assembly. Lecornu leads a minority government whose budget debate opened on October 13, and he needs either the Socialists or the National Rally to survive a censure vote. President Emmanuel Macron cannot stand again in next spring's presidential election, and every party is already campaigning. France is the **epicentre**, not the exception. Italian students have occupied schools under the slogan "Let's do as in France"; on Saturday, Milan saw 50 **detentions**, while Turin and Bologna saw **clashes**. Police fought protesters in Liège. Albania, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Germany and Austria have had **demonstrations** of their own. None of it is **coordinated**, and all of it shares a root. Europe borrowed its way through the **pandemic** and the energy shock, and higher fuel prices now meet higher borrowing costs.

France and Belgium run deficits above 5 per cent of GDP, while Austria's is above 4 per cent. The bill lands first on schools, housing and public services, the places the young touch every day. The post-war **bargain** — taxes and patience in return for decent services and a future — **has frayed**. Fragmented parliaments cannot **renegotiate** it, and the **extremes** of the left and right **collect** the **dividend**.

The way forward starts with trust, not force. Paris should open real talks with student and trade unions this week and fund the gaps now: substitute teachers, nurses and repairs, starting in the poorest **suburbs**. France has been here before. Each time, the state restored order faster than it restored trust. A **government** that files a generation's grievance under law and order **will** meet it again, in worse form.

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

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **Expose** (verb) - reveal, uncover, display, unmask, manifest उजागर करना
2. **Political paralysis** (noun) - a situation where a government is unable to function or make decisions राजनीतिक गतिरोध
3. **Grievance** (noun) - complaint, resentment, grudge, objection, dissatisfaction शिकायत
4. **Nightmare** (noun) - ordeal, horror, trial, torment, terror दुःस्वप्न
5. **Spire** (noun) - steeple, peak, pinnacle, tower, crest शिखर
6. **Collapse** (verb) - fall, crumble, tumble, plunge, fail ढहना
7. **Ram** (verb) - force, crash, smash, strike, drive जबरदस्ती घुसना
8. **Cobblestone** (noun) - stone, paver, sett, rock, pebble गोल पत्थर
9. **Tear up** (phrasal verb) - to pull something out of the ground or rip into pieces उखाड़ना
10. **Cardiac arrest** (noun) - a sudden cessation of heart function हृदय गति रुकना
11. **Spark** (noun) - trigger, catalyst, cause, provocation, impetus कारण
12. **Suburb** (noun) - outskirts, precinct, neighborhood, periphery, borderline उपनगर
13. **Blockade** (verb) - barricade, obstruct, seal, block, close नाकाबंदी करना
14. **Reinforcement** (noun) - backup, support, reserve, auxiliary, addition सहायता
15. **Calm down** (phrasal verb) - to become peaceful or less agitated शांत होना
16. **Decay** (verb) - rot, crumble, deteriorate, degenerate, decline सड़ना या जर्जर होना
17. **Squeeze** (verb) - compress, constrain, restrict, cramp, pressure सीमित करना
18. **Crumble** (verb) - decay, disintegrate, collapse, deteriorate, fragment जर्जर होना
19. **Austerity** (noun) - strictness, frugality, thrift, economy, stringency कठोरता
20. **Seek** (verb) - pursue, aim, attempt, request, strive प्रयास करना
21. **Deficit** (noun) - shortfall, shortage, deficiency, debt, arrears घाटा
22. **Defensible** (adjective) - justifiable, logical, valid, reasonable, sound तर्कसंगत या बचाव योग्य
23. **Tone-deaf** (adjective) - insensitive, unaware, oblivious, unheeding, unperceptive संवेदनहीन
24. **Heavy-handed** (adjective) - oppressive, harsh, strict, severe, tyrannical कठोर या अत्याचारी
25. **Indecisive** (adjective) - irresolute, hesitating, wavering, uncertain, unsure अनिर्णायक
26. **Contempt** (noun) - scorn, disdain, disrespect, mockery, derision तिरस्कार
27. **Epicentre** (noun) - core, heart, center, hub, focus केंद्र
28. **Detention** (noun) - custody, imprisonment, confinement, holding, incarceration हिरासत

29. **Clash** (noun) - conflict, confrontation, fight, skirmish, brawl संघर्ष
30. **Demonstration** (noun) - protest, rally, march, picket, strike प्रदर्शन
31. **Coordinate** (verb) - organize, harmonize, synchronize, arrange, manage समन्वित करना
32. **Pandemic** (noun) - disease, plague, outbreak, epidemic, contagion महामारी
33. **Bargain** (noun) - agreement, deal, pact, contract, arrangement समझौता
34. **Fray** (verb) - unravel, wear, strain, deteriorate, chafe कमजोर होना
35. **Renegotiate** (verb) - reevaluate, reassess, reconsider, modify, revise फिर से बातचीत करना
36. **Dividend** (noun) - return, benefit, reward, share, profit फायदा
37. **The way forward** (phrase) - the action or plan that is needed to make progress आगे का रास्ता
38. **Suburb** (noun) - outskirts, precinct, neighborhood, periphery, borderline उपनगर

Summary of the Editorial

1. Violent protests in France: France has witnessed widespread unrest, including attacks on public buildings, looting and clashes with police, resulting in arrests, injuries and one protester's death.
2. The initial trigger: The protests began on September 17 when teachers at Lycée Saint-Exupéry in Créteil went on strike over vacant teaching and support staff positions.
3. Students join the movement: Students supported the teachers by blockading their school, and the protest soon spread to hundreds of schools across France.
4. Problems in education: The protesters are demanding solutions to overcrowded classrooms, teacher shortages, deteriorating school buildings and inadequate educational facilities.
5. Impact of austerity: The government's austerity measures have intensified public anger because spending cuts threaten essential services while households already face financial pressure.
6. Budgetary pressures: Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu's proposed 2027 budget seeks savings of €54 billion to control the fiscal deficit, which could otherwise approach 6.5% of GDP.
7. Generational frustration: Young people feel neglected because the government demands sacrifices from them while failing to provide adequate educational infrastructure and public services.
8. Ineffective policing: The state's combination of heavy-handed policing and indecisive responses has increased public contempt and failed to address the underlying causes of unrest.
9. Political paralysis: Since the 2024 snap election, France has had a hung National Assembly. The minority government faces difficulties securing parliamentary support for its budget.
10. Electoral uncertainty: President Emmanuel Macron cannot seek another term in the next presidential election, while political parties are already preparing for the electoral contest, making consensus more difficult.
11. Spread of protests across Europe: Demonstrations have emerged in Italy, Belgium, Albania, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Germany and Austria. Italian students have even adopted the slogan "Let's do as in France."
12. Common economic pressures: European countries are struggling with the financial consequences of the pandemic and the energy crisis, while higher fuel prices and borrowing costs have added to economic difficulties.
13. Pressure on public services: Large fiscal deficits, including those in France and Belgium, have increased pressure on schools, housing and other essential public services that young people depend on.
14. Declining social trust: The post-war social contract, under which citizens accepted taxation in return for reliable public services and future opportunities, is weakening. Political fragmentation prevents governments from rebuilding this trust, benefiting extremist parties on both the left and right.

15. Way forward: The French government should prioritise dialogue with student and trade unions, recruit substitute teachers and nurses, and repair deteriorating schools, particularly in poorer suburbs. Restoring public trust requires addressing genuine grievances rather than relying solely on law enforcement.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the primary purpose behind citing demonstrations across Italy, Belgium, and Germany?** [Editorial page]
 - A. To demonstrate that fiscal strain and decaying social contracts affect youth across Europe.
 - B. To prove that extremist political factions organized coordinated transnational strikes against European governments.
 - C. To illustrate that external fuel price shocks originated from sovereign industrial policy failures.
 - D. To show that European central authorities mandated identical fiscal deficit limits across states.
2. **In the passage, the word "FRAYED" is used. Which of the following is the most appropriate SYNONYM for "FRAYED" in this context?**
 - A. Bolstered
 - B. Restored
 - C. Strained
 - D. Concealed
3. **What does the phrase "the bill lands first on schools" most nearly convey?**
 - A. Education departments face immediate legal prosecution from creditors
 - B. Deficit reduction burdens disproportionately degrade public youth services
 - C. Regional municipalities demand tuition payments from secondary pupils
 - D. International financial lenders cancel sovereign loans for social housing
4. **Identify the correct passive voice form of the following sentence from the passage:**
"Paris should open real talks with student and trade unions this week."
 - A. Real talks should be opened by Paris with student and trade unions this week.
 - B. Real talks could be opened by Paris with student and trade unions this week.
 - C. Real talks should have been opened by Paris with student unions this week.
 - D. Real talks must be opened by Paris with student and trade unions this week.
5. **Which specific institution was blockaded by students during the initial strike on September 17?**
 - A. City Hall in Marseille
 - B. Town Hall in Limoges
 - C. Lycée Saint-Exupéry in Créteil
 - D. Place de la République
6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
Amplify
 - A. Curtail
 - B. Languish
 - C. Augment
 - D. Resolve
7. **Select the synonym of Amiable.**
 - A. Friendly
 - B. Rude
 - C. Hostile
 - D. Cold

8. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom:**

Go the extra mile

- A. Overwork someone
- B. Try something new
- C. Travel more
- D. Make extra effort

9. **Choose the most appropriate antonym of the underlined word.**

The rebels held a clandestine meeting in the forest to plan their next move.

- A. Overt
- B. Covert
- C. Hidden
- D. Secret

10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Deftness

- A. Ineptitude
- B. Anonymity
- C. Parity
- D. Distortion

11. **Choose the one word substitute for the below sentence.**

The term for something that causes sexual arousal is called:

- A. Antiseptic
- B. Aphrodisiac
- C. Antidote
- D. Antonym

12. **Direction: Rearrange the following four sentences (1, 2, 3, and 4) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph.**

- 1. New neighbourhoods, thriving cultural scenes and improved transport links are already reshaping the visitor experience and making them increasingly interesting places to visit.
- 2. New York, London and Paris have once again topped Oxford Economics' annual ranking of the world's leading cities.
- 3. These cities aren't just growing economically.
- 4. But beyond these familiar names, its 2026 Global Cities Index has identified 28 "cities to watch" – places whose rapid growth and rising fortunes could see them become increasingly influential in the years ahead

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

13. **Select the correctly spelt word.**

- A. Cashierr
- B. Celry
- C. Charactor
- D. Choose

14. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelt word.**

- The scientist used _____ techniques to analyze the molecular structure.
- A. spectroscopy
 - B. spectrascopy
 - C. spectroscopy
 - D. spectrascoppy
15. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.**
Mandeep has repaired the truck.
- A. The truck had been repaired by Mandeep.
 - B. The truck is been repaired by Mandeep.
 - C. The truck has been repaired by Mandeep.
 - D. The truck have been repaired by Mandeep.
16. **Choose the correct indirect speech form of the following sentence.**
He said, "Will you finish your task on time?"
- A. He asked me if I should finish my task on time?
 - B. He asked me if I should have finished my task on time.
 - C. He asked me if I should finish my task on time.
 - D. He asked me if I should finish his task on time.
17. **Choose the best option to fill in the blanks.**
There was ____ robbery in ____ university campus. ____ thief entered ____ boy's hostel and took away ____ laptop. ____ FIR was lodged by ____ Principal.
- A. a, the, a, the, a, an, the
 - B. a, the, the, the, a, a, the
 - C. the, the, the, the, the the, a
 - D. a, a, a, the the, a, the
18. **Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution.'**
The doctor has advised me to cut down in my sugar intake to stay healthy.
- A. Cut off on
 - B. Cut down for
 - C. Cut down on
 - D. No substitution
19. **Spot the error in the below-given sentence.**
"I wish I am taller than my brother".
- A. wish
 - B. I am
 - C. taller
 - D. than my brother
20. **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.**
The tiny translucent jellyfish *Turritopsis dohrnii* is surprisingly hard to kill.
- A. Within one to three days, a structure called a polyp – an early jellyfish life stage – buds off from this ball of cells and then grows into a colony, which will eventually sprout new medusae.

- B. Under duress, they stop in their tracks and fall to the bottom of their tank.
 - C. The marine biologist Maria Miglietta of Texas A&M University at Galveston has cut them, boiled them, starved them, overloaded their tanks with salt or plopped them in fresh water – but the nifty creatures seem to cheat death every time.
 - D. Then something astonishing happens: the animals transform into balls of cells that bear no resemblance to the tentacled umbrella shape of adult jellyfish, known as the medusa.
- A. C D A B
 - B. B D C A
 - C. D A B C
 - D. C B D A

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

It was sometime around 2001, and I was going to Colombo for the first time. It was also my first flight. The flight from Madras was scheduled for 10:30 in the morning. Since it was my first such experience, I travelled by suburban train, reached Tirusulam, and went underground to the other side to enter the international sector. Everything seemed new. I had travelled by train and bus countless times, but an airport was different. People (1)___ suitcases, announcements echoed through the terminal, passengers checked departure boards. I watched everything with the curiosity of someone entering an (4) unfamiliar world. At the check-in counter, I (2)___ my ticket and passport, and was given my boarding pass. Holding it gave me a strange sense of importance. Until then, travelling meant buying a ticket, finding a seat and getting on. Now there were procedures, counters and security checks. I passed through immigration and security and reached the departure area. Shops displayed chocolates and perfumes far more expensive than anything I normally bought. I walked past them, more interested in watching the passengers than in shopping. Then came the announcement for my flight. I followed the other passengers towards the gate. When I finally saw the aircraft through the glass, I stopped for a moment. I had seen aeroplanes in the sky many times, but seeing one I was actually going to (3)___ felt different. Inside, I found my seat and looked out of the window. The people and vehicles on the ground seemed ordinary, but I knew that in a few minutes I would be seeing them from above. As the aircraft began to move, I felt a mixture of excitement and nervousness. The engines grew louder. The plane (5) accelerated along the runway, and suddenly the ground began to fall away. That was the moment it became real. I was flying.

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

- A. jettisoned
- B. luggage
- C. wheeled
- D. rolling

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

- A. handed over
- B. hand out
- C. hands down
- D. handed back

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

- A. pilot

- B. deplane
 - C. embarkation
 - D. board
24. The word "unfamiliar" (4) in the passage is closest in meaning to:
- A. quotidian
 - B. uncharted
 - C. seasoned
 - D. well-trodden
25. Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "accelerated" (5) as used in the passage:
- A. zoom
 - B. hurtled
 - C. slackened
 - D. raced

Answers

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

Explanations

1. A) **To demonstrate that fiscal strain and decaying social contracts affect youth across Europe.**

Passage: "France is the epicentre, not the exception. Italian students have occupied schools under the slogan 'Let's do as in France'... None of it is coordinated, and all of it shares a root. Europe borrowed its way through the pandemic and the energy shock, and higher fuel prices now meet higher borrowing costs."----The author lists protests in Italy, Belgium (Liège), Germany and other countries to show that France is not alone. The passage says these protests share one root: governments borrowed heavily, and now higher costs and deficits are squeezing schools, housing and public services. The author also says the old bargain of "taxes and patience in return for decent services and a future" has frayed. So the examples show that the same money pressure and broken promise to the young are hurting many European countries. Option A says this.

- Option B is incorrect because the option says extremist groups organised coordinated strikes, but the passage says "None of it is coordinated." It also says the extremes only "collect the dividend," meaning they benefit from the anger, not that they organised it.
- Option C is incorrect because the option says fuel price shocks came from failures in industrial policy, but the passage only says higher fuel prices now meet higher borrowing costs. It does not blame industrial policy for the fuel prices.
- Option D is incorrect because the option says European authorities forced the same deficit limits on all states, but the passage only gives different deficit figures for France, Belgium and Austria. It does not mention any shared limit imposed by a central body.

2. C) **Strained**

Passage: "The post-war bargain — taxes and patience in return for decent services and a future — has frayed. Fragmented parliaments cannot renegotiate it, and the extremes of the left and right collect the dividend."----"Frayed" means worn down or weakened, like a rope whose threads are coming apart. The passage says the old deal between the state and its citizens (people pay taxes and are patient, and the state gives good services and a future) is now weakening. People feel the state is not keeping its side. "Strained" means put under pressure and close to breaking, so it is the closest synonym.

- Option A is incorrect because "bolstered" means strengthened or supported. The passage says the bargain is weakening, so this is the opposite.
- Option B is incorrect because "restored" means brought back to a good state. The passage says the bargain is breaking down and that parliaments cannot renegotiate it, so nothing has been restored.
- Option D is incorrect because "concealed" means hidden. The passage says the bargain has weakened, not that it is hidden. The anger is open, with protests and arrests.

3. B) **Deficit reduction burdens disproportionately degrade public youth services**

Passage: "France and Belgium run deficits above 5 per cent of GDP, while Austria's is above 4 per cent. The bill lands first on schools, housing and public services, the places the young touch

every day.”----“The bill” here is the cost of the high government deficits and the savings needed to fix them. The author says this cost hits schools, housing and public services first. These are the services young people use every day. So the phrase means that the pain of cutting the deficit falls first and hardest on services that matter to the young. Option B says this.

- Option A is incorrect because the option says education departments face legal action from creditors, but the passage uses “bill” as a figure of speech for the cost of austerity. It never mentions lawsuits or creditors suing schools.
- Option C is incorrect because the option says municipalities demand tuition from secondary students, but the passage never mentions tuition fees. The students’ complaints are about overcrowded classrooms, absent teachers and decaying buildings.
- Option D is incorrect because the option says international lenders cancel loans for social housing, but the passage never says any lender cancelled a loan. Housing is named only as one of the services that suffers from budget pressure.

4. A) Real talks should be opened by Paris with student and trade unions this week.

Sentence line: “Paris should open real talks with student and trade unions this week.”

To change a sentence into passive voice.

- The object (“real talks”) becomes the new subject.
- The verb changes to “modal + be + past participle.” The modal verb “should” stays the same, so “should open” becomes “should be opened.”
- The doer (“Paris”) moves to the end with “by.”
- All other words (“with student and trade unions this week”) stay the same. So the correct form is: Real talks should be opened by Paris with student and trade unions this week.
- Option (b) is incorrect because the option uses “could,” but the original sentence uses “should.” “Could” changes the meaning from a recommendation to a possibility.
- Option (c) is incorrect because the option uses “should have been opened,” which refers to the past, but the original sentence is about something to do “this week.” It also drops “trade” from “student and trade unions.”
- Option (d) is incorrect because the option uses “must,” but the original sentence uses “should.” “Must” is stronger and changes the meaning from advice to a strict requirement.

5. C) Lycée Saint-Exupéry in Créteil

Passage: “On September 17, teachers at Lycée Saint-Exupéry in Créteil, a Paris suburb, went on strike over unfilled posts... Students blockaded the school in support.”---The passage says the first strike took place at Lycée Saint-Exupéry in Créteil on September 17. Teachers went on strike, and the students then blockaded that same school in support. Option C matches this.

- Option A is incorrect because the option says City Hall in Marseille, but the passage says protesters “rammed their way into” the Marseille city hall. This happened later, during the wider protests, not as a student blockade on September 17.
- Option B is incorrect because the option says the Town Hall in Limoges, but the passage says it was burned on Saturday night, and its spire collapsed. It was not blockaded by students, and it was not part of the initial strike.

- Option D is incorrect because the option says Place de la République, but the passage says cobblestones were torn up there and shops were looted. It was a site of later unrest, not the school that students blockaded.
- 6. C) Amplify (verb) – magnify, intensify, boost, escalate, augment. (बढ़ाना)
Synonym: Augment (verb) – make (something) greater by adding to it; increase. (बढ़ाना)
 - Curtail (verb) – reduce in extent or quantity. (कम करना / घटाना)
 - Languish (verb) – lose or lack vitality; grow weak. (कमजोर होना)
 - Resolve (verb) – settle or find a solution to. (सुलझाना / समाधान करना)
- 7. A) Amiable (adjective) – Pleasant, kind, friendly, good-natured मिलनसार
Synonym: Friendly (adjective) – Warm, affectionate, kind, approachable मित्रवत / दोस्ताना
 - Rude (adjective) – Impolite, disrespectful, discourteous अशिष्ट
 - Hostile (adjective) – Unfriendly, aggressive, antagonistic शत्रुतापूर्ण
 - Cold (adjective) – Unfriendly, emotionless, distant ठंडा / उदासीन
- 8. D) Go the extra mile (idiom) – Make extra effort (to do more than what is expected) अतिरिक्त प्रयास करना
- 9. A) Clandestine (adjective) – kept secret, done in a hidden way. गुप्त
Antonym: Overt (adjective) – done or shown openly, not hidden. प्रकट/खुला
 - Covert (adjective) – secret, not openly acknowledged. छिपा हुआ
 - Hidden (adjective) – kept out of sight. छिपा हुआ
 - Secret (adjective) – kept from the knowledge of others. गोपनीय
- 10. A) Deftness (noun) – skill, agility, dexterity, adroitness. (निपुणता)
Antonym: Ineptitude (noun) – lack of skill or ability; clumsiness. (अयोग्यता / अकुशलता)
 - Distortion (noun) – misrepresentation, falsification, twisting, perversion विकृति
 - Anonymity (noun) – the condition of being anonymous; namelessness. (गुमनामी)
 - Parity (noun) – the state or condition of being equal. (समानता)
- 11. B) Aphrodisiac (noun) – A substance that arouses sexual desire. कामोत्तेजक पदार्थ
 - Antiseptic (noun) – A substance that prevents infection. रोगाणुरोधक
 - Antidote (noun) – A medicine that counteracts a poison. विषनाशक
 - Antonym (noun) – A word opposite in meaning to another. विलोम शब्द
- 12. B) 2-4-3-1
Explanation:
Hindi Explanation:
 - Sentence 2 पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह दिए गए गद्यांश का verbatim पहला वाक्य है, जो ऑक्सफोर्ड इकोनॉमिक्स की वार्षिक रैंकिंग में न्यूयॉर्क, लंदन और पेरिस के शीर्ष पर रहने की जानकारी देता है।
 - Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के तुरंत बाद आएगा और 2-4 का mandatory pair बनाएगा।
Conjunction "But beyond these familiar names" सीधे Sentence 2 के शीर्ष शहरों (New York, London, Paris) को संदर्भित करता है और 2026 ग्लोबल सिटीज इंडेक्स द्वारा चिह्नित 28 "cities to watch" का परिचय देता है।

- Sentence 3 Sentence 4 को follow करेगा और 4-3 का सीधा लिंक बनाएगा। Demonstrative phrase "These cities" सीधे Sentence 4 में उल्लिखित 28 उभरते शहरों की ओर इशारा करता है और उनके आर्थिक विकास की बात करता है।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 3 के ठीक बाद आएगा और 3-1 का अटूट mandatory pair बनाते हुए पैराग्राफ को समाप्त करेगा। Sentence 3 के "aren't just growing economically" का विस्तार करते हुए Sentence 1 बताता है कि नए पड़ोस, समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक माहौल और बेहतर परिवहन लिंक इन शहरों में पर्यटन अनुभव को भी नया आकार दे रहे हैं।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 2 opens the paragraph as the primary introductory sentence, noting that traditional powerhouses—New York, London, and Paris—retained the top positions in Oxford Economics' annual rankings.
- Sentence 4 directly follows Sentence 2 to form an essential mandatory pair (2-4), using the contrastive phrase "But beyond these familiar names" to introduce the 28 emerging "cities to watch" from the 2026 Global Cities Index.
- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 4, with the demonstrative pointer "These cities" anchoring directly back to the 28 identified destinations, noting that their expansion is multifaceted.
- Sentence 1 pairs seamlessly with Sentence 3 (3-1) to conclude the passage, explaining what exists beyond pure economic growth: new neighbourhoods, vibrant culture, and upgraded transit transforming the visitor experience.

13. D) The correct spelling is 'Choose' which means "to select from a number of possibilities" चुनना।

- Cashirr – correct: Cashier. • Celry – correct: Celery. • Charactor – correct: Character.

14. C) The correct spelling is 'spectroscopy' which means "the study of the interaction between matter and electromagnetic radiation, used to analyse substances" स्पेक्ट्रमिकी, वर्णक्रम-विज्ञान।

15. C) The truck has been repaired by Mandeep.

Passive वाक्य में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense के अनुसार "be form + V3" का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "Mandeep" Subject है, "has repaired" Verb (Present Perfect) है और "the truck" Object है। Present Perfect का Passive "has/have been + V3" होता है, इसलिए Passive में "has been repaired" बनेगा और "Mandeep" Agent के रूप में "by Mandeep" आएगा। "truck" एकवचन है, इसलिए "has" आएगा। "had been repaired" Past Perfect है, "is been repaired" में Verb form गलत है और "have been repaired" में Subject-Verb Agreement गलत है, इसलिए ये गलत हैं।

To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is transformed from the active form to the passive form using "be form + V3" according to the correct tense. In this case, "Mandeep" (Subject), "has repaired" (Verb in Present Perfect) and "the truck" (Object) from the active voice have been transformed into "The truck" (Subject), "has been repaired" (Verb in Present Perfect Passive) and "by Mandeep" (Agent). The Passive of Present Perfect is "has/have been + V3", and since "truck" is singular, "has" is used. "Had been repaired" is Past Perfect, "is been repaired" uses a wrong verb form, and "have been repaired" has wrong subject-verb agreement, so these options are incorrect.

16. C) He asked me if I should finish my task on time.

Direct Speech से Indirect Speech में बदलते समय interrogative sentence के लिए "said" को "asked" में बदला जाता है और "if/whether" का प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ sentence एक yes/no question है — "Will you finish your task on time?" Indirect Speech में question form को statement form में बदला जाता है। दिए गए options में "He asked me if I should finish my task on time" सबसे उपयुक्त है।

To change Direct Speech into Indirect Speech, "said" changes into "asked" for interrogative sentences, and "if/whether" is used for yes/no questions. Here, the sentence "Will you finish your task on time?" is a yes/no question. In Indirect Speech, the interrogative structure changes into statement form. Among the given options, "He asked me if I should finish my task on time" is the most appropriate.

17. A) 'a, the, a, the, a, an, the' का प्रयोग होगा। 'a robbery' – पहली बार उल्लेख (singular countable noun); 'the university campus' – विशेष परिसर; 'a thief' – अज्ञात चोर का पहली बार उल्लेख; 'the boys' hostel' – विशेष छात्रावास; 'a laptop' – कोई एक laptop; 'an FIR' – FIR का उच्चारण vowel sound (एफ) से शुरू होता है, इसलिए 'an'; 'the Principal' – उस विश्वविद्यालय का विशेष व्यक्ति।
- 'a, the, a, the, a, an, the' should be used: 'a robbery' – first mention; 'the university campus' – a specific campus; 'a thief' – an unknown thief mentioned for the first time; 'the hostel' – a specific hostel; 'a laptop' – any one laptop; 'an FIR' – FIR begins with a vowel sound (/ef/), so 'an' is used; 'the Principal' – a specific person. Other options wrongly use 'a FIR' or incorrect articles.
18. C) 'cut down in' के बदले 'cut down on' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "cut down on" एक phrasal verb है जिसका अर्थ है "किसी चीज़ की मात्रा कम करना"; जैसे— You should cut down on junk food.
- 'cut down on' will be used instead of 'cut down in' because "cut down on" is a phrasal verb meaning "to reduce the amount of something"; Like— You should cut down on junk food.
19. B) 'I am' के बदले 'I were' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'wish' के बाद वर्तमान की किसी काल्पनिक या अवास्तविक इच्छा को व्यक्त करने के लिए Subjunctive Mood का प्रयोग होता है, जिसमें हर Subject (I, he, she, it आदि) के साथ 'were' आता है, 'am/is/was' नहीं; जैसे— I wish I were a bird.
- 'I were' will be used instead of 'I am' because after 'wish', the Subjunctive Mood is used to express an imaginary or unreal desire about the present, and in it every Subject (I, he, she, it, etc.) takes 'were', not 'am/is/was'; Like— I wish I were a bird.
20. D) C B D A
- Explanation:
- Hindi Explanation:
- Sentence C पहले वाक्य (First Sentence) के तुरंत बाद आएगा। पहले वाक्य में यह बताया गया है कि पारदर्शी जेलीफ़िश Turritopsis dohrnii को मारना बेहद मुश्किल है, और Sentence C तुरंत वैज्ञानिक Maria Miglietta के प्रयोगों (उबालना, काटना, भूखा रखना आदि) का उल्लेख करते हुए इस दावे की पुष्टि करता है।
 - Sentence B Sentence C को follow करेगा और C-B का मजबूत लिंक बनाएगा। Phrase "Under duress" सीधे Sentence C के क्रूर परीक्षणों और तनावपूर्ण परिस्थितियों की ओर इशारा करता है, जहाँ जीव गति रोककर टैंक की तली में गिर जाते हैं।
 - Sentence D Sentence B के ठीक बाद आएगा और B-D का mandatory pair बनाएगा। तली पर बैठने के बाद होने वाले चमत्कार का वर्णन करते हुए Sentence D बताता है— "Then something

astonishing happens..."—जहाँ वयस्क छतरी रूपी जेलीफ़िश कोशिकाओं की एक गेंद ("balls of cells") में बदल जाती है।

- Sentence A Sentence D को follow करेगा और D-A का अटूट लिंक बनाएगा। Sentence D के "balls of cells" से ही "this ball of cells" का संदर्भ लेते हुए Sentence A बताता है कि 1 से 3 दिनों के भीतर पॉलिप संरचना निकलती है और नई कॉलोनी बनाती है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence C directly follows the opening lead sentence, reinforcing the assertion that *Turritopsis dohrnii* is surprisingly resilient by citing Maria Miglietta's extreme laboratory tests.
- Sentence B follows Sentence C, linking the phrase "Under duress" directly back to the physical stress described in C as the jellyfish sink to the bottom of the tank.
- Sentence D forms an essential mandatory pair with Sentence B (B-D), advancing the process chronologically ("Then something astonishing happens...") as the medusae condense into undifferentiated balls of cells.
- Sentence A directly pairs with Sentence D (D-A), picking up the noun phrase "this ball of cells" to describe how it differentiates into a polyp and subsequently develops into a new colony.

21. C) wheeled

Blank (1) needs a past-tense verb for how travellers moved their luggage, matching the other past-tense clauses in the same list — "announcements echoed," "passengers checked." a) jettisoned: means threw something away to lighten a load, as from a ship or aircraft in trouble, violating the requirement since nobody discards their suitcases in a busy terminal; the scene shows people travelling with their luggage. b) luggage: is a noun naming the bags themselves, violating the requirement since the clause needs a verb after "People"; "People luggage suitcases" has no action. c) wheeled: means pushed or pulled something on wheels, matching travellers rolling their suitcases through the terminal, in the same past tense as "echoed" and "checked." d) rolling: is close in meaning but is an -ing form, violating the requirement since the list joins full past-tense clauses, and "People rolling suitcases" has no finite verb to match "echoed" and "checked."

Hindi:

Blank (1) में ऐसा past-tense verb चाहिए जो बताए कि यात्री अपना luggage कैसे ले जा रहे थे, और उसी list के बाकी past-tense clauses — "announcements echoed," "passengers checked" — से मेल खाए। a) jettisoned: इसका meaning है weight हल्का करने के लिए कुछ फेंक देना, जैसे मुश्किल में फँसे ship या aircraft से, जो violate करता है क्योंकि busy terminal में कोई अपने suitcases नहीं फेंकता; scene में लोग अपने luggage के साथ travel कर रहे हैं। b) luggage: यह noun है जो खुद bags का नाम है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "People" के बाद verb चाहिए; "People luggage suitcases" में कोई action ही नहीं है। c) wheeled: इसका meaning है पहियों पर किसी चीज़ को धकेलना या खींचना, जो terminal में suitcases खींचते यात्रियों से match करता है, और "echoed" व "checked" जैसे past tense में है। d) rolling: meaning करीब है, पर यह -ing form है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि list पूरे past-tense clauses जोड़ती है, और "People rolling suitcases" में "echoed" और "checked" से मेल खाता finite verb नहीं है।

22. A) handed over

Blank (2) needs a past-tense "hand" phrasal verb meaning "gave to someone," matching "was given my boarding pass" in the same sentence, since at the check-in counter the writer gave his ticket and passport to the clerk. a) handed over: means gave something to someone who takes charge of it, matching passing the ticket and passport to the check-in clerk, in the past tense the sentence needs. b) hand out: means to distribute things to many people, as in "Flight attendants hand out snacks on every flight," violating the requirement since he gave his documents to one clerk, not to a group, and the present form "hand" clashes with the past-tense "was given." c) hands down: is an idiom meaning "easily" or "without doubt," as in "The window seat was hands down the best part of the flight," violating the requirement since it works as an adverb, not a verb. Even read as the verb "hand down" (pass on to the next generation), "I hands down" is ungrammatical, because the singular "-s" cannot go with "I." d) handed back: means returned something to the person who gave it, violating the requirement since the passenger is giving his own documents for the first time; it is the clerk who would later hand them back.

Hindi:

Blank (2) में "hand" वाला ऐसा past-tense phrasal verb चाहिए जिसका meaning हो "किसी को दे दिया," और जो उसी sentence के "was given my boarding pass" से मेल खाए, क्योंकि check-in counter पर लेखक ने अपना ticket और passport clerk को दिया। a) handed over: इसका meaning है कोई चीज़ ऐसे व्यक्ति को सौंप देना जो उसे संभाले, जो ticket और passport check-in clerk को देने से match करता है, और sentence को जो past tense चाहिए, उसी में है। b) hand out: इसका meaning है कई लोगों में चीज़ें बाँटना, जैसे "Flight attendants hand out snacks on every flight," जो violate करता है क्योंकि उसने अपने documents एक clerk को दिए, किसी group में नहीं बाँटे, और present form "hand" past-tense "was given" से मेल नहीं खाता। c) hands down: यह idiom है जिसका meaning है "आसानी से" या "बिना किसी शक के," जैसे "The window seat was hands down the best part of the flight," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह adverb की तरह काम करता है, verb की तरह नहीं। अगर इसे verb "hand down" (अगली generation को सौंपना) मानें, तब भी "I hands down" grammar के हिसाब से गलत है, क्योंकि singular "-s" "I" के साथ नहीं आता। d) handed back: इसका meaning है कोई चीज़ उसी को लौटाना जिसने दी थी, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यात्री अपने documents पहली बार दे रहा है; बाद में उन्हें लौटाने का काम clerk करेगा।

23. D) board

Blank (3) needs a base verb after "going to," taking "one" (the aeroplane) as its object and meaning "get on as a passenger," since the writer is about to take his first flight. a) pilot: means to fly an aircraft as its pilot, violating the requirement since the writer is a passenger with a boarding pass, not the person flying the plane. b) deplane: means to get off an aircraft, violating the requirement since it is the opposite of what he is about to do, and it cannot take "one" as an object. c) embarkation: is a noun meaning the act of going on board, close in meaning, but violating the requirement since "going to" here needs a verb whose object is "one"; a noun cannot take an object. d) board: means to get on a ship, train or aircraft as a passenger, matching the aeroplane he was "actually going to" travel on.

Hindi:

Blank (3) में "going to" के बाद ऐसा base verb चाहिए जिसका object "one" (aeroplane) हो और जिसका meaning हो passenger के रूप में चढ़ना, क्योंकि लेखक अपनी पहली flight लेने वाला है। a) pilot: इसका meaning है pilot बनकर aircraft उड़ाना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि लेखक boarding

pass वाला passenger है, plane उड़ाने वाला नहीं। b) deplane: इसका meaning है aircraft से उतरना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह उसके करने वाले काम का उल्टा है, और यह "one" को object नहीं ले सकता। c) embarkation: यह noun है जिसका meaning है चढ़ने का process, meaning करीब है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि यहाँ "going to" के बाद ऐसा verb चाहिए जिसका object "one" हो; noun object नहीं ले सकता। d) board: इसका meaning है passenger के रूप में ship, train या aircraft पर चढ़ना, जो उस aeroplane से match करता है जिसमें वो "actually going to" travel करने वाला था।

24. B) uncharted

"Unfamiliar" describes the airport as a world the writer had never known before — new and different from the trains and buses he had used "countless times." a) quotidian: means ordinary and part of everyday life, violating the requirement since it is the opposite — his train and bus journeys were quotidian; the airport was not. b) uncharted: means not yet explored or mapped, and so unknown, matching the writer stepping into the new world of airports for the first time. c) seasoned: means experienced through long practice, as in "a seasoned traveller," violating the requirement since it describes someone well used to something — the opposite of a first-time flyer. d) well-trodden: means much used or often visited, as in "a well-trodden route," violating the requirement since it describes a path or place that is very familiar, the opposite sense.

Hindi:

"Unfamiliar" airport को ऐसी दुनिया बताता है जिसे लेखक ने पहले कभी नहीं जाना था — उन trains और buses से अलग, जिनमें वो "countless times" travel कर चुका था। a) quotidian: इसका meaning है रोज़मर्रा की ज़िंदगी का साधारण हिस्सा, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह उल्टा है — उसकी train और bus यात्राएँ quotidian थीं, airport नहीं। b) uncharted: इसका meaning है जिसे अभी तक explore या map ना किया गया हो, यानी अनजाना, जो airports की नई दुनिया में पहली बार कदम रखते लेखक से match करता है। c) seasoned: इसका meaning है लंबे अभ्यास से experienced, जैसे "a seasoned traveller," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह किसी चीज़ के used to हो चुके person को बताता है — पहली बार उड़ने वाले का उल्टा। d) well-trodden: इसका meaning है बहुत use किया गया या बार-बार जाया गया, जैसे "a well-trodden route," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह बहुत जाने-पहचाने रास्ते या जगह को बताता है, यानी उल्टा भाव।

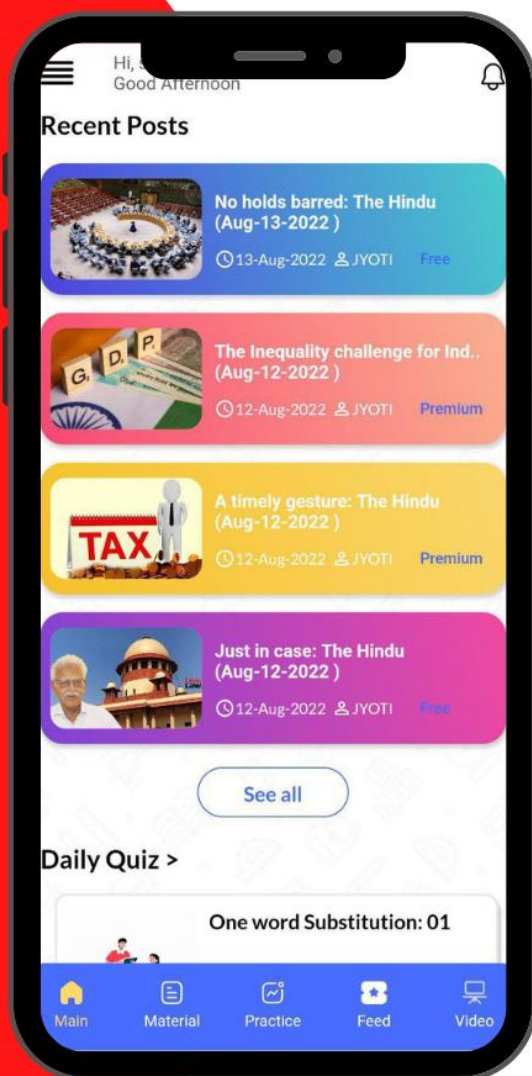
25. C) slackened

"Accelerated" means the plane picked up speed along the runway just before take-off, so the antonym must mean slowing down and should match its past-tense form. a) zoom: means to move very fast, as a jet zooms down a runway, violating the requirement since it shares the sense of speed. It is a near-synonym of "accelerated," not its opposite, and its base form does not even match the past-tense "accelerated." b) hurtled: means moved at great, often uncontrolled speed, as in "the plane hurtled down the runway," violating the requirement since it is a near-synonym. c) slackened: means became slower or less intense, as in "the pace slackened," matching the opposite of a plane gathering speed. d) raced: means moved at top speed, violating the requirement since it too describes going fast, not slowing down.

Hindi:

"Accelerated" का मतलब है कि take-off से ठीक पहले plane runway पर speed पकड़ रहा था, इसलिए antonym का meaning धीमा होना चाहिए, और उसका form भी "accelerated" जैसा past tense होना चाहिए। a) zoom: इसका meaning है बहुत तेज़ी से चलना, जैसे jet runway पर zoom करता है, जो violate

करता है क्योंकि इसमें भी speed का भाव है। यह "accelerated" का लगभग synonym है, उल्टा नहीं, और इसका base form past-tense "accelerated" से मेल भी नहीं खाता। b) hurtled: इसका meaning है बहुत तेज़, अक्सर uncontrolled speed से आगे बढ़ना, जैसे "the plane hurtled down the runway," जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह लगभग synonym है। c) slackened: इसका meaning है धीमा पड़ना या कम होना, जैसे "the pace slackened," जो speed पकड़ते plane के उल्टे भाव से match करता है। d) raced: इसका meaning है पूरी speed से भागना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह भी तेज़ चलने को बताता है, धीमा होने को नहीं।



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