Young and fast: on F1's youngest champion

As F1's youngest champion, Kimi Antonelli can attract a new generation of fans

Andrea Kimi Antonelli **etched** his name **in** motorsport history by becoming the youngest driver to win a Formula One World Championship. The 20-year-old has **secured** his **maiden** title with four races to **spare** after finishing third at the Mexico Grand Prix on Sunday. The Italian's **feat** is **remarkable**, for he has **claimed** the crown in his **sophomore** campaign, becoming only the fifth driver in history to do so in the first or second season. Mercedes signed Antonelli for its junior driver programme when he was just 12. Since then, the Italian's step towards F1 has been **meticulously** managed. After acing the F4 championships, Antonelli skipped one level to **transition** to F2. And when the opportunity arose to fill a seat **vacated** by seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton, Mercedes boss Toto Wolff took a **bold gamble** by drafting in the youngster. Antonelli's rookie campaign in 2025 was **baptism by fire**, and he was **outclassed** by teammate George Russell. For 2026, F1 **ushered in** **drastic** changes with new engine and **aerodynamic** regulations, dramatically **altering** the dynamics of the cars. Though **conventional wisdom** suggested that the experienced Russell would be the favourite, the Italian prodigy embraced the challenge **astonishingly** well. This was best **exemplified** by how he won five **consecutive** races starting from the second round of the season.

One of the hardest things in F1 is handling the **nerves associated with** protecting the lead, especially when it is the driver's first attempt at a Championship **bid**. Antonelli, though, was **incredibly consistent throughout** the year, and **hardly** made any errors. Titles are **often** decided by how a driver minimises his losses on bad days, and Antonelli showed great **temperament** **in this regard**. At the same time, he was **ruthless** on the track and made **decisive overtaking manoeuvres**. The defining race was in Monza, Italy, in September, where Antonelli charged from 19th on the **grid** to win his home Grand Prix, finishing ahead of Russell who started second. It was **a statement of intent**, and **strengthened** his grip on the trophy. Drivers often raise their games **following** a world title, **more so** when success comes early in their career. **Considering** the giant leap Antonelli made to become F1's first champion to be born in the 21st century, he will **undoubtedly** attract a new generation of fans. The **charm** of the sport **lies** in its iconic driver rivalries such as Ayrton Senna versus Alain Prost, and Michael Schumacher versus Mika Hakkinen. With four-time champion Max Verstappen widely considered the gold standard of the present **era**, Antonelli could well be the perfect candidate to battle the Dutchman in F1's next great **rivalry**.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Baptism by fire** (phrase) – a very difficult, intense, or stressful first experience with something new अग्नि परीक्षा

Vocabulary

1. **Etch in** (phrase) - to firmly establish or imprint something in the mind or history हमेशा के लिए अंकित होना
2. **Secure** (verb) - obtain, acquire, gain, achieve, attain हासिल करना
3. **Maiden** (adjective) - first, initial, inaugural, introductory, original पहला
4. **Spare** (verb) - save, keep, reserve, leave, afford बचाना
5. **Feat** (noun) - achievement, accomplishment, deed, exploit, triumph उपलब्धि
6. **Remarkable** (adjective) - extraordinary, outstanding, exceptional, notable, incredible उल्लेखनीय
7. **Claim** (verb) - assert, demand, secure, acquire, win दावा करना
8. **Sophomore** (adjective) - second, middle, intermediate, recurring, successive दूसरा
9. **Meticulously** (adverb) - carefully, thoroughly, diligently, accurately, scrupulously बारीकी से
10. **Transition** (verb) - change, shift, move, transform, convert बदलाव करना
11. **Vacate** (verb) - empty, leave, abandon, evacuate, resign खाली करना
12. **Bold** (adjective) - daring, courageous, brave, fearless, audacious साहसिक
13. **Gamble** (noun) - risk, chance, speculation, venture, bet जोखिम
14. **Outclass** (verb) - surpass, beat, eclipse, outshine, outdo पीछे छोड़ना
15. **Usher in** (phrasal verb) - to mark or cause the beginning of something new शुरुआत करना
16. **Drastic** (adjective) - extreme, severe, radical, harsh, intense कठोर
17. **Aerodynamic** (adjective) - streamlined, sleek, smooth, flowing, slick वायुगतिकीय
18. **Alter** (verb) - change, modify, adjust, amend, revise बदलना
19. **Conventional** (adjective) - traditional, standard, ordinary, orthodox, normal पारंपरिक
20. **Wisdom** (noun) - knowledge, sagacity, understanding, insight, intelligence बुद्धिमत्ता
21. **Astonishingly** (adverb) - amazingly, surprisingly, astoundingly, incredibly, staggeringly आश्चर्यजनक रूप से
22. **Exemplify** (verb) - illustrate, demonstrate, represent, symbolize, epitomize उदाहरण देना
23. **Consecutive** (adjective) - successive, continuous, sequential, uninterrupted, running लगातार
24. **Nerve** (noun) - anxiety, tension, stress, worry, apprehension घबराहट
25. **Associated with** (phrasal verb) - connected or related to something के साथ जुड़ा हुआ
26. **Bid** (noun) - attempt, effort, endeavor, try, push प्रयास

27. **Incredibly** (adverb) - unbelievably, extremely, exceptionally, exceedingly, highly अविश्वसनीय रूप से
28. **Consistent** (adjective) - steady, constant, stable, uniform, dependable लगातार
29. **Throughout** (preposition) - across, entirely, everywhere, completely, universally शुरू से अंत तक
30. **Hardly** (adverb) - barely, scarcely, rarely, faintly, slightly मुश्किल से
31. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, regularly, repeatedly, habitually, commonly अक्सर
32. **Temperament** (noun) - character, nature, disposition, personality, attitude स्वभाव
33. **In this regard** (phrase) - concerning what has just been mentioned इस संबंध में
34. **Ruthless** (adjective) - merciless, cruel, pitiless, unrelenting, fierce निर्मम
35. **Decisive** (adjective) - resolute, firm, conclusive, determined, strong निर्णायक
36. **Overtake** (verb) - pass, outstrip, surpass, outdo, beat आगे निकलना
37. **Manoeuvre** (noun) - operation, move, tactic, trick, strategy पैंतरेबाज़ी
38. **Grid** (noun) - network, layout, framework, matrix, structure जाल
39. **A statement of intent** (noun) - an action that clearly shows what someone plans to do इरादे का बयान
40. **Strengthen** (verb) - reinforce, fortify, consolidate, boost, enhance मजबूत करना
41. **Following** (preposition) - after, subsequent, succeeding, post, behind के बाद
42. **More so** (phrase) - to an even greater degree और भी अधिक
43. **Considering** (preposition) - given, assuming, presuming, seeing, knowing को देखते हुए
44. **Undoubtedly** (adverb) - certainly, surely, definitely, undeniably, unquestionably निस्संदेह
45. **Charm** (noun) - appeal, attraction, fascination, allure, magnetism आकर्षण
46. **Lie** (verb) - consist, exist, reside, dwell, rest निहित होना
47. **Era** (noun) - period, age, epoch, time, generation युग
48. **Rivalry** (noun) - competition, conflict, opposition, contention, feud प्रतिद्वंद्विता

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Youngest F1 Champion**: Andrea Kimi Antonelli made motorsport history by becoming Formula One's youngest-ever World Champion at 20 years old.
2. **Title Sealed in Mexico**: Antonelli secured his maiden title with four races remaining in the season after finishing third at the Mexico Grand Prix.
3. **Rapid Sophomore Triumph**: The Italian driver claimed the drivers' championship in just his second season, becoming only the fifth driver in history to win the crown within their first two years.
4. **Early Mercedes Mentorship**: Mercedes signed Antonelli to its junior driver programme when he was 12 years old, meticulously managing his career path ever since.
5. **Accelerated Development**: Antonelli skipped Formula 3 entirely after dominating F4 championships, transitioning straight to Formula 2.
6. **Bold Gamble by Toto Wolff**: Mercedes Team Principal Toto Wolff took a high-stakes gamble by promoting the youngster directly to fill Lewis Hamilton's vacant seat.
7. **Rookie Season Learning Curve**: Antonelli endured a difficult "baptism by fire" during his 2025 rookie season, where he was initially outclassed by teammate George Russell.
8. **Adapting to 2026 Regulations**: Following major engine and aerodynamic rule changes in 2026, Antonelli adapted rapidly to the new car dynamics despite expectations favoring the more experienced Russell.
9. **Dominant Five-Race Streak**: Demonstrating his immense potential, Antonelli won five consecutive Grand Prix races starting from the second round of the 2026 season.
10. **Composure Under Pressure**: Despite driving in his first title battle, Antonelli displayed remarkable nerve control, high consistency, and minimal errors throughout the year.
11. **Superb Loss Minimization**: Antonelli showed maturity and strong temperament by effectively minimizing damage and salvaging vital points on off-peak race days.
12. **Defining Monza Victory**: The turning point of his season came at Monza, where he drove aggressively from 19th on the grid to win his home Grand Prix ahead of Russell, who started second.
13. **First 21st-Century Champion**: As the first F1 World Champion born in the 21st century, Antonelli holds massive appeal to attract a newer, younger generation of fans to the sport.
14. **Potential for Great Rivalries**: F1 thrives on iconic driver rivalries, and Antonelli's historic breakthrough sets the stage for the sport's next major era of competition.
15. **Verstappen Challenge Ahead**: The young champion is poised to become the ultimate rival to four-time champion Max Verstappen, currently considered the gold standard of modern F1.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What does the passage suggest regarding Andrea Kimi Antonelli's performance during his rookie season in 2025?** [Editorial Page]
   A. He dominated the midfield battle by securing five consecutive podium finishes during the opening rounds.
   B. He experienced an arduous introduction to Formula One and was comfortably outperformed by his teammate.
   C. He clinched the championship trophy with multiple races to spare despite driving an uncompetitive chassis.
   D. He struggled with aerodynamic regulation adjustments after transitioning directly from regional fourth-tier formula categories.
2. **What does the phrase "baptism by fire" in the passage most nearly convey?**
   A. A formal mechanical testing session conducted under extreme high-temperature track conditions
   B. An abrupt promotion into senior executive management within an international racing team
   C. A prestigious ceremonial induction into an established motorsport hall of fame institution
   D. A severe, difficult, and demanding initial trial or painful learning experience
3. **Why does the author argue that Andrea Kimi Antonelli will attract a new generation of fans to Formula One?**
   A. Because he represents the first 21st-century-born champion whose youth, daring racecraft, and rapid rise capture popular imagination.
   B. Because he established an official digital streaming partnership with international sports broadcasters across European and American markets.
   C. Because he replaced seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton as the sole ambassador for international junior driver academy programmes.
   D. Because he persuaded motorsport governing authorities to introduce standardized chassis specifications across all competitive formula racing categories.
4. **In the context of the passage, the word "SOPHOMORE" most nearly means:**
   "...for he has claimed the crown in his sophomore campaign, becoming only the fifth driver in history to do so..."
   A. Maiden
   B. Second-year
   C. Rookie
   D. Junior
5. **The author's tone toward Andrea Kimi Antonelli's title-winning achievements and future career trajectory is best described as:**
   A. Effusive and uncritical
   B. Laudatory and expectant
   C. Analytical and cautious
   D. Vindicatory and guarded
6. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word Withstand.**
   A. Weather
   B. Embrace

C. Harness
D. Undergo

7. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word "Delegate."**
   A. Undercurrent
   B. Ambiguity
   C. Emissary
   D. Impairment
8. **Choose the alternative which gives the correct meaning of the given idiom or phrase.Cold feet**
   A. To enjoy winter weather
   B. To have a physical ailment
   C. To feel nervous or hesitant
   D. To have poor blood circulation
9. **Select the word that is OPPOSITE in meaning to the underlined word in the given sentence.**
   His **haughty** attitude angered everyone present at the meeting.
   A. Conceited
   B. Subservient
   C. Humble
   D. Casual
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
    Prudent
    A. Caution
    B. Unprudent
    C. Imprudent
    D. Intuition
11. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the underlined words.**
    It was his **love and goodwill to humanity** that was recognised by the state government.
    A. affection
    B. misanthropy
    C. philanthropy
    D. humanism
12. **Which of the following is the correct spelling of the word?**
    A. Indefatigable
    B. Indefatiguable
    C. Indeffatigable
    D. Indefatigible
13. **Identify the incorrectly spelt word in the following sentence:**
    He felt a bit baffeled by the strange request from his classmate.
    A. Baffeled
    B. Strange
    C. Request
    D. Classmate
14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
    The data was not analysed by the researchers carefully.

A. The researchers did not analyse the data carefully.
B. The researchers had not analysed the data carefully.
C. The researchers have not analysed the data carefully.
D. The researchers do not analyse the data carefully.

15. **Choose the correct direct speech form of the following sentence.**
Sobhit said that he could speak more fluently than Rahul.
A. Sobhit said, "I can speak most fluently than Rahul."
B. Sobhit said, "I can speak more fluentlier than Rahul".
C. Sobhit said, "I can speak more fluently than Rahul."
D. Sobhit said, "I can speak more fluent than Rahul."

16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
There was utter _____ after the explosion.
A. mayhem
B. belting
C. force
D. pacifism

17. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
He looked at me **happly** when I interrupted him.
A. hardly
B. angrily
C. suddenly
D. surprisingly

18. **Direction: Read the sentence to find the grammatical error. The sentence has been split into four parts: (A), (B), (C), and (D). Select the option that contains the error.**
Much as the department acknowledged that the revised classification system (A) / had created uncertainty among field officers, but it refused to defer implementation (B) / until the ambiguous categories had been clarified (C) / through binding operational guidelines. (D)
A. Much as the department acknowledged that the revised classification system
B. had created uncertainty among field officers, but it refused to defer implementation
C. until the ambiguous categories had been clarified
D. through binding operational guidelines

19. **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 numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
S1. Cristiano Ronaldo announced his intention to retire from the Portuguese national team on Thursday (November 5, 2026) in a social media post.
1. Ronaldo has made 234 appearances for Portugal and scored 146 goals.
2. He captained the team to their first major trophy at Euro 2016 and helped them win the 2019 and 2025 Nations Leagues.
3. The 41-year-old said that he would 'hand back the number 7 shirt' after the November international break.
4. He holds the all-time record for international appearances and for international goals.

S6. It was a sad ending to a lauded career that began more than two decades ago before Euro 2004 and finished with him walking out on the national team after falling out with coach Jorge Jesus.

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

20. **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 numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**

S1. Barcelona, Dublin, and Kozhikode have come to dominate the geography of my memories over the past several months.

1. Distanced by thousands of kilometres, these cities are united by a literary soul; all three proudly bear the distinction of being UNESCO Cities of Literature.
2. Barcelona is usually celebrated for the legendary architect Antoni Gaudí, yet literature is equally woven into its identity.
3. Though my roots are in Hyderabad, I live in Barcelona, worked in Dublin, and sometimes find myself immersed in Kozhikode.
4. Dublin wears its literary heritage proudly.

S6. It was through a public exhibition in Barcelona that I discovered Mercè Rodoreda, and through her, the depth of Catalan thought.

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

Directions: Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words from the options given below.

In a painting by the late Colombian artist Fernando Botero, a woman wearing a green dress stares directly at the (1)___. In the background is a natural landscape, and a (4) sheer veil covers her dark, curly hair. Paired with her barely visible eyebrows, the portrait is clearly referencing Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa. Yet it (2)___ all the hallmarks that make it unmistakably Botero: the figure has a round body, large head and small facial features.

Mona Lisa (1978) is one of several works by the painter and sculptor that reimagines some of the world's most famous artworks and (3)___ in his signature style, known as "Boterismo". Botero's (5) voluptuous figures and objects have made him one of the most instantly identifiable artists in Latin America. "Some artists have a very personal language, and one of them is Botero – you will always recognise a piece by him," says Belén Herrera Ottino, director of Opera Gallery Madrid. The gallery's London branch is currently presenting Fernando Botero: in Praise of an Amplified World until the end of November.

Botero's singular style has brought him international recognition. His painting Mona Lisa, Age Twelve (1959) was acquired by the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in 1961, his bronze sculptures have been displayed in high-profile public spaces including Park Avenue in New York and the Champs-Élysées in Paris, and his painting The Musicians (1979) fetched a $5.1m (£3.9m) auction price at Christie's New York in November 2023, two months after his death.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):**
    A. viewer
    B. sitter
    C. panorama
    D. observe
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):**
    A. evident
    B. forgoes
    C. bears
    D. parodies
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**
    A. forgeries
    B. provenance
    C. iconic
    D. motifs
24. **The word "sheer" (4) in the passage is closest in meaning to:**
    A. opaque
    B. utter
    C. diaphanous
    D. precipitous
25. **Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "voluptuous" (5) as used in the passage:**
    A. corpulent
    B. attenuated
    C. rotund
    D. sumptuous

Answers

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

Explanations

1. B) **He experienced an arduous introduction to Formula One and was comfortably outperformed by his teammate.**
   The passage says "Antonelli's rookie campaign in 2025 was baptism by fire, and he was outclassed by teammate George Russell." Baptism by fire means a very difficult start, and outclassed means clearly beaten. Option B says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says he dominated the midfield with five straight podium finishes in his rookie season, but the passage says he was outclassed by Russell in 2025, and the five consecutive wins came in 2026 from the second round onwards, hence incorrect.
   - Option C: Incorrect. The option says he won the championship with races to spare while driving an uncompetitive chassis in his rookie season, but the passage says he won his maiden title in 2026, his second season, and never mentions an uncompetitive car in 2025, hence incorrect.
   - Option D: Incorrect. The option says he struggled with aerodynamic changes after moving directly from fourth-tier categories, but the passage says the new aerodynamic rules came in 2026, that he "embraced the challenge astonishingly well", and that he skipped one level from F4 to F2, hence incorrect.
2. D) **A severe, difficult, and demanding initial trial or painful learning experience.**
   The passage says "Antonelli's rookie campaign in 2025 was baptism by fire, and he was outclassed by teammate George Russell." The phrase means a very hard first experience in a new role, where one learns by facing tough conditions. His first season was difficult and he was clearly beaten by his teammate, so option D fits, and it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says it is a formal mechanical test in extreme heat, but the passage uses the phrase for his whole rookie season, where he was outclassed by Russell. It is a figure of speech and not a literal test of the car, hence incorrect.
   - Option B: Incorrect. The option says it is a sudden promotion into senior management, but the passage says he was drafted as a driver to fill Hamilton's seat, and the phrase describes how hard the season was. There is no mention of management roles, hence incorrect.
   - Option C: Incorrect. The option says it is a ceremonial induction into a hall of fame, but the passage says he was outclassed in 2025, which shows a struggle and not an honour. The hall of fame is not mentioned, hence incorrect.
3. B) **Because he represents the first 21st-century-born champion whose youth, daring racecraft, and rapid rise capture popular imagination.**
   Passage: "Considering the giant leap Antonelli made to become F1's first champion to be born in the 21st century, he will undoubtedly attract a new generation of fans."---The author links the new fans to his being the first champion born in the 21st century. The passage also shows

his youth (youngest champion at 20), his bold racing (charging from 19th on the grid to win at Monza) and his rapid rise (title in his second season). Option A says the same thing.

- Option B is incorrect because the option says he set up a digital streaming partnership with international broadcasters, but the passage never mentions streaming or broadcasters. The reason given is his age and his achievements.
- Option C is incorrect because the option says he replaced Hamilton as the sole ambassador for junior academy programmes, but the passage says he filled the seat vacated by Hamilton as a driver at Mercedes. No ambassador role is mentioned.
- Option D is incorrect because the option says he persuaded governing authorities to introduce standardized chassis specifications, but the passage says F1 itself brought in new engine and aerodynamic rules for 2026. It does not say he influenced them.

4. B) **Second-year**
"Sophomore" means belonging to the second year. The passage describes his rookie campaign in 2025 and the title win in 2026, so the campaign in which he won the crown was his second season. The words "first or second season" in the same sentence also confirm this. Option B says the same thing.
    - Option A is incorrect because "maiden" means first or earlier than any other of its kind. The passage uses it for his "maiden title", but his campaign was not his first, since 2025 was his rookie year.
    - Option C is incorrect because "rookie" means a first-year participant. The passage says his rookie campaign was in 2025, and the title came in 2026, so the sophomore campaign is not the rookie one.
    - Option D is incorrect because "junior" refers to a lower rank or younger level, such as Mercedes' junior driver programme. It does not mean the second year of a career.
5. B) **Laudatory and expectant**
"Laudatory" means expressing praise, and "expectant" means looking ahead with hope. The author praises his achievements throughout, calling the feat "remarkable", noting his consistency, temperament and ruthless overtaking, and describing the Monza win as a "statement of intent". The author also looks ahead with hope, saying he will attract new fans and could start the next great rivalry with Verstappen. Praise for the present and hopeful expectation for the future make the tone laudatory and expectant. Option B says the same thing.
    - Option A is incorrect because "effusive" means expressing praise in an excessive, overflowing way, and "uncritical" means not judging or questioning at all. The author's praise is measured and backed by facts, and the passage does mention his difficult rookie season ("baptism by fire", "outclassed by teammate George Russell") and the pressure of protecting a lead. So the tone is not uncritical.
    - Option C is incorrect because "analytical" means examining something in detail with reasons, and "cautious" means careful and wary about what may happen. The author does give some reasons, but is not cautious about his future. The passage says he "will undoubtedly" attract new fans and "could well be the perfect candidate" for a great rivalry. There is no warning or hesitation.
    - Option D is incorrect because "vindicatory" means defending someone or proving them right against criticism, and "guarded" means careful and reserved in what one says.

Nothing in the passage defends Antonelli against critics, and the author is not reserved, since the outlook for his career is openly optimistic.

6. A) **Withstand** (verb) – endure, resist, survive, tolerate, weather. (सहन करना)
   Synonym: **Weather** (verb) – to come safely through a difficult period or instrument; to endure. (सहन करना / झेलना)
   - **Embrace** (verb) – adopt, welcome, accept. (अपनाना)
   - **Harness** (verb) – utilize, exploit, employ. (उपयोग में लाना)
   - **Undergo** (verb) – experience, go through, face. (से गुजरना)
7. C) **Delegate** (noun) – representative, envoy, agent, emissary, deputy. (प्रतिनिधि)
   Synonym: **Emissary** (noun) – a person sent on a special mission, usually as a diplomatic representative. (दूत / प्रतिनिधि)
   - **Undercurrent** (noun) – an underlying feeling or influence that is contrary to the prevailing atmosphere. (छुपा हुआ प्रभाव)
   - **Ambiguity** (noun) – the quality of being open to more than one interpretation; inexactness. (अस्पष्टता)
   - **Impairment** (noun) – the state or fact of being impaired, especially in a specified faculty. (बाधा / क्षति)
8. C) **Cold feet** (idiom) – To feel nervous or hesitant (especially before an important event) घबरा जाना, हिचकिचाना
9. C) **Haughty** (adjective) – Arrogantly superior and disdainful, proud, snobbish, scornful. अहंकारी
   Antonym: **Humble** (adjective) – Having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's own importance, unpretentious, respectful, lowly. विनम्र
   - **Conceited** (adjective) – Excessively proud of oneself, vain, self-centered. अहंकारी
   - **Subservient** (adjective) – Prepared to obey others unquestioningly, submissive, compliant, deferential. पराधीन
   - **Casual** (adjective) – Relaxed and unconcerned, nonchalant, informal, laid-back. आकस्मिक
10. C) **Prudent** (adjective) – Acting with or showing care and thought for the future, wise, judicious, sagacious. सजग
    Antonym: **Imprudent** (adjective) – Not showing care for the consequences of an action; rash, unwise. असजग
    - **Caution** (noun) – Care taken to avoid danger or mistakes, wariness, carefulness. सतर्कता
    - **Unprudent** (adjective) – This is not a standard English word. Typically, the antonym of "prudent" is "imprudent".
    - **Intuition** (noun) – The ability to understand something instinctively, without the need for conscious reasoning, insight. अंतर्ज्ञान
11. C) **Philanthropy** (noun) – The desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes. लोकोपकार
    - **Affection** (noun) – A gentle feeling of fondness or liking. स्नेह
    - **Misanthropy** (noun) – A dislike of humankind. मानव द्वेष

- **Humanism** (noun) – A rationalist outlook or system of thought attaching prime importance to human rather than divine or supernatural matters. मानवतावाद

12. A) The correct spelling is 'Indefatigable', which means "persisting tirelessly" — अथक।
13. A) The correct spelling of 'Baffeled' is 'Baffled', which means "confused or puzzled" — हैरान, उलझन में।
14. A) **The researchers did not analyse the data carefully.**
    Passive से Active में बदलने के लिए "by the researchers" का "The researchers" Subject बनता है और "the data" Object बनता है। Passive में "was not analysed" Past Simple Negative है, इसलिए Active में "did not + V1 (analyse)" का प्रयोग होगा।
    To change Passive into Active, "The researchers" becomes the Subject and "the data" becomes the Object. "Was not analysed" is Past Simple Negative, so the active form uses "did not + V1 (analyse)".
15. C) **Sobhit said, "I can speak more fluently than Rahul."**
    Indirect Speech से Direct Speech में बदलते समय tense को original form में वापस लाया जाता है। यहाँ Indirect Speech में "could speak" प्रयोग हुआ है, इसलिए Direct Speech में यह "can speak" बनेगा। साथ ही comparative degree के साथ adverb "fluently" का सही प्रयोग "more fluently" होगा। इसलिए सही sentence होगा — "Sobhit said, 'I can speak more fluently than Rahul.'"
    To change Indirect Speech into Direct Speech, the tense is restored to its original form. Here, "could speak" in Indirect Speech changes back to "can speak" in Direct Speech. Also, with a comparative degree, the adverb "fluently" is correctly used as "more fluently." Therefore, the correct sentence is — "Sobhit said, 'I can speak more fluently than Rahul.'"
16. A) 'Mayhem' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "utter mayhem" एक सही collocation है; mayhem का अर्थ है भारी अराजकता या अव्यवस्था, जो विस्फोट के बाद की स्थिति को दर्शाता है। जबकि belting (पीटना), force (बल) और pacifism (शांतिवाद) का अर्थ इस context में सही नहीं बैठता।
    'Mayhem' should be used because "utter mayhem" is a correct collocation; mayhem means violent disorder or chaos, which suits the situation after an explosion. Whereas, 'belting' means hitting, 'force' means strength and 'pacifism' means opposition to war, which do not fit this context.
17. B)'happily' के बदले 'angrily' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "when I interrupted him" से पता चलता है कि टोकने पर उसकी प्रतिक्रिया गुस्से की होगी, जबकि 'happily' संदर्भ के विपरीत है। hardly (मुश्किल से), suddenly (अचानक) और surprisingly (हैरानी से) भी यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं हैं।
    'Angrily' will be used instead of 'happily' because "when I interrupted him" suggests an angry reaction, whereas 'happily' goes against the context. 'Hardly', 'suddenly' and 'surprisingly' are also not suitable here.
18. B) इस sentence में "much as" से शुरू होने वाली concessive construction की error है। "Much as" का अर्थ पहले से ही "although" या "even though" होता है और यह subordinate clause को introduce करता है। इसके बाद main clause सीधे subject और verb से शुरू होना चाहिए। "But" जोड़ने से double conjunction बन जाता है, ठीक वैसे ही जैसे "although...but" गलत होता है। इसलिए "but it refused" को "it refused" करना चाहिए।
    The sentence contains an error in a concessive construction beginning with "much as". The expression "much as" already means "although" or "even though" and introduces a subordinate concessive clause. The following main clause must therefore begin directly with its

subject and verb. Adding “but” creates an unnecessary double conjunction, just as “although...but” would. Hence, “but it refused” must be corrected to “it refused”.

19. A) **Correct Answer: A. 3-1-2-4**

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

Sentence 3 S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा और S1-3 का सीधा link बनाएगा। S1 में संन्यास की घोषणा (social media post) की बात है; Sentence 3 "The 41-year-old" वाक्यांश से रोनाल्डो की घोषणा के तुरंत बाद का फैसला बताता है कि वह नवंबर इंटरनेशनल ब्रेक के बाद '7 नंबर की जर्सी' वापस सौंप देंगे।

Sentence 1 Sentence 3 को follow करेगा और 3-1 का pair बनाएगा। जर्सी लौटाने की बात के बाद Sentence 1 पुर्तगाल के लिए उनके कुल मैचों (234 appearances) और कुल गोलों (146 goals) का प्राथमिक आंकड़ा प्रस्तुत करता है।

Sentence 2 Sentence 1 के ठीक बाद आएगा और 1-2 का connection बनाएगा। मैचों और गोलों की संख्या के बाद Sentence 2 उनकी कप्तानी की बड़ी उपलब्धियों—Euro 2016 की पहली बड़ी ट्रॉफी और 2019 तथा 2025 Nations Leagues की जीतों को जोड़ता है।

Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा। जीतों के बाद Sentence 4 इन आंकड़ों के शिखर को स्थापित करता है कि वह अंतरराष्ट्रीय मैचों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय गोलों, दोनों के लिए "all-time record" रखते हैं। इसके तुरंत बाद S6 दो दशक लंबे इस शानदार सफर के दुखद अंत (कोच जॉर्ज जीसस के साथ विवाद के बाद टीम छोड़ना) के साथ परिच्छेद को पूरा करता है।

English Explanation:

Sentence 3 directly follows S1 (S1-3). S1 states his retirement announcement; Sentence 3 immediately follows with "The 41-year-old said that he would 'hand back the number 7 shirt' after the November international break."

Sentence 1 follows Sentence 3 (3-1), providing the immediate statistical foundation of his international journey: 234 appearances and 146 goals for Portugal.

Sentence 2 follows Sentence 1 (1-2), linking his individual numbers to his major tournament trophies: captaining Portugal to Euro 2016 and lifting the 2019 and 2025 Nations Leagues.

Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 (2-4), summarizing his ultimate stature by stating that he holds the all-time world record for both international appearances and goals. Finally, S6 logically completes the passage by detailing the bitter conclusion to his two-decade-long career following a clash with manager Jorge Jesus.

20. A) **Correct Answer: A. 3-1-4-2**

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

Sentence 3 S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा और S1-3 का सीधा link बनाएगा। S1 में बताया गया है कि Barcelona, Dublin और Kozhikode लेखक की स्मृतियों पर छाए हुए हैं; Sentence 3 इसका व्यक्तिगत कारण स्पष्ट करता है—"Though my roots are in Hyderabad, I live in Barcelona, worked in Dublin, and sometimes find myself immersed in Kozhikode.

Sentence 1 Sentence 3 को follow करेगा और 3-1 का mandatory pair बनाएगा। Sentence 3 में तीनों शहरों के उल्लेख के बाद Sentence 1 demonstrative phrase "these cities" और "all three" का प्रयोग करके उनकी साझा पहचान को जोड़ता है कि वे UNESCO Cities of Literature के रूप में एक साहित्यिक आत्मा से जुड़े हैं।

Sentence 4 Sentence 1 के ठीक बाद आएगा। UNESCO Cities of Literature की सामूहिक पहचान के बाद Sentence 4 व्यक्तिगत शहरों का विवरण शुरू करते हुए Dublin की बात करता है—"Dublin wears its literary heritage proudly."
Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा और 4-2 का transition link बनाएगा। Dublin के बाद Sentence 2 अगले शहर Barcelona की ओर रुख करता है—"Barcelona is usually celebrated for the legendary architect Antoni Gaudí, yet literature is equally woven into its identity." इसके तुरंत बाद S6 Barcelona में आयोजित एक प्रदर्शनी के माध्यम से कैटलन साहित्य (Mercè Rodoreda) को जानने के व्यक्तिगत अनुभव के साथ परिच्छेद को तार्किक रूप से पूर्ण करता है।
English Explanation:
Sentence 3 directly follows S1 (S1-3). S1 introduces the three cities dominating the narrator's memories; Sentence 3 provides the immediate autobiographical explanation for why they do so (living in Barcelona, having worked in Dublin, and visiting Kozhikode).
Sentence 1 forms an immediate referential link with Sentence 3 (3-1). The demonstrative phrase "these cities" and the quantifier "all three" refer directly back to Barcelona, Dublin, and Kozhikode, establishing their collective identity as UNESCO Cities of Literature.
Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 (1-4), moving from the overarching UNESCO designation to examine the cities individually, beginning with the observation that Dublin wears its literary heritage proudly.
Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 (4-2), transitioning geographically from Dublin to the second city, noting that while Barcelona is famed for Antoni Gaudí, literature is equally integral to its identity. Finally, S6 connects seamlessly to Sentence 2 by recounting the author's direct encounter with Barcelona's literary world through Mercè Rodoreda.

21. A) **viewer**
Blank (1) needs a noun for the person looking at the painting, since the woman "stares directly at" whoever stands before the canvas. This is the famous outward gaze Botero borrows from da Vinci's Mona Lisa. a) viewer: means a person who looks at a work of art, matching the woman's direct gaze out at whoever looks at the painting. b) sitter: means the person who poses for a portrait, which makes it a tempting art term, but violates the requirement since the woman herself is the sitter; she cannot stare at herself. c) panorama: means a wide view of a landscape, violating the requirement since the landscape lies "in the background," behind her, while her stare goes straight out of the picture. d) observe: is a verb meaning to watch, close in sense, violating the requirement since "the" must be followed by a noun, not a verb.
Hindi:
Blank (1) में painting को देखने वाले व्यक्ति के लिए noun चाहिए, क्योंकि woman सीधे उस व्यक्ति को देखती है ("stares directly at") जो canvas के सामने खड़ा है। यह da Vinci की Mona Lisa वाली famous gaze है, जिसे Botero ने अपनाया है। a) viewer: इसका meaning है art को देखने वाला व्यक्ति, जो painting देखने वाले की ओर woman की सीधी gaze से match करता है। b) sitter: इसका meaning है portrait के लिए pose करने वाला व्यक्ति, जो art का word होने से tempting है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि woman ही sitter है; वह अपने आप को stare नहीं कर सकती। c) panorama: इसका meaning है किसी landscape का चौड़ा view, जो violate करता है क्योंकि landscape "in the background" में, उसके पीछे है, जबकि उसकी gaze सीधे picture से बाहर जाती है। d) observe: यह verb है जिसका meaning है देखना, sense मिलता-जुलता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "the" के बाद noun चाहिए, verb नहीं।

22. C) **bears**

Blank (2) needs a singular present-tense verb that forms the set phrase "bear the hallmarks," meaning to show the typical features of something. Here those features are listed after the colon: "a round body, large head and small facial features." a) evident: is an adjective meaning clearly visible, close in sense, violating the requirement since the sentence needs a verb after "it," and "it evident all the hallmarks" has none. b) forgoes: means goes without something, violating the requirement since the colon goes on to list the very features the painting has. c) bears: forms "bears all the hallmarks," meaning clearly shows the typical features, matching a portrait that is "unmistakably Botero." d) parodies: means imitates in order to mock, which tempts because the work plays on da Vinci's Mona Lisa, but violates the requirement since its object here is Botero's own hallmarks, which the painting genuinely shows rather than mocks.

Hindi:

Blank (2) में ऐसा singular present-tense verb चाहिए जो set phrase "bear the hallmarks" बनाए, जिसका meaning है किसी artist या style की typical features दिखाना। यहाँ वे features colon के बाद दी गई हैं: "a round body, large head and small facial features।" a) evident: यह adjective है जिसका meaning है clearly दिखने वाला, sense मिलता-जुलता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "it" के बाद verb चाहिए, और "it evident all the hallmarks" में कोई verb नहीं है। b) forgoes: इसका meaning है किसी बात को छोड़ देना या उसके बिना रहना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि colon के बाद वही features गिनाई गई हैं जो painting में हैं। c) bears: यह "bears all the hallmarks" बनाता है, जिसका meaning है typical features को clearly दिखाना, जो "unmistakably Botero" portrait से match करता है। d) parodies: इसका meaning है हँसी उड़ाने के लिए copy करना, जो tempting है क्योंकि यह work da Vinci की Mona Lisa से जुड़ा है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि यहाँ object Botero के अपने hallmarks हैं, जिन्हें painting सच में दिखाती है, उनकी हँसी नहीं उड़ाती।

23. D) **motifs**

Blank (3) needs a plural noun, parallel to "artworks," for recurring images or themes in art that Botero reworks "in his signature style." a) forgeries: means fake copies passed off as originals, which may tempt since Botero repaints famous works, but violates the requirement since his versions are open reinterpretations in his own unmistakable style, and the works he reimagines, like the Mona Lisa, are celebrated originals, not fakes. b) provenance: means the record of a work's ownership history, an art-market term that may tempt, but violates the requirement since a record of owners cannot be reimagined in a painting style. c) iconic: is an adjective meaning widely known and admired, close in sense to "famous," violating the requirement since "artworks and ___" needs a noun to pair with "artworks," not an adjective. d) motifs: means recurring images or themes in art, matching the familiar subjects Botero reworks alongside famous artworks in his own style.

Hindi:

Blank (3) में "artworks" के parallel एक plural noun चाहिए, जो art में बार-बार आने वाली images या themes को बताए, जिन्हें Botero "in his signature style" फिर से बनाते हैं। a) forgeries: इसका meaning है original बताकर बेची गई fake copies, जो tempting है क्योंकि Botero famous works को फिर से paint करते हैं, पर violate करता है क्योंकि उनके versions खुलकर, उनकी अपनी पहचानी जाने वाली style में बने reinterpretations हैं, और जिन works को वे reimagine करते हैं, जैसे Mona Lisa, वे famous originals हैं, fake नहीं। b) provenance: इसका meaning है किसी artwork के owners

का record, जो art market का word होने से tempting है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि owners के record को किसी painting style में reimagine नहीं किया जा सकता। c) iconic: यह adjective है जिसका meaning है बहुत famous और सराहा गया, "famous" से मिलता-जुलता, पर violate करता है क्योंकि "artworks and ___" में "artworks" के साथ जुड़ने के लिए noun चाहिए, adjective नहीं। d) motifs: इसका meaning है art में बार-बार आने वाली images या themes, जो उन familiar subjects से match करता है जिन्हें Botero famous artworks के साथ अपनी style में फिर से बनाते हैं।

24. C) **diaphanous**

In "a sheer veil covers her dark, curly hair," "sheer" describes very thin, see-through fabric, since her hair stays visible beneath the veil. a) opaque: means not letting light through, violating the requirement since it is the opposite; an opaque veil would hide her "dark, curly hair." b) utter: means complete or total, the sense of "sheer" in "sheer luck," violating the requirement since it describes degree, not fabric. c) diaphanous: means light, delicate and almost transparent, matching a veil through which her hair can still be seen. d) precipitous: means extremely steep, the sense of "sheer" in "a sheer cliff," violating the requirement since a veil has no slope; that is a different meaning of the word.

Hindi:

"a sheer veil covers her dark, curly hair" में "sheer" बहुत पतले, आर-पार दिखने वाले कपड़े को बताता है, क्योंकि veil के नीचे उसके बाल फिर भी दिखते हैं। a) opaque: इसका meaning है जिसके आर-पार light न जा सके, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह उल्टा है; opaque veil उसके "dark, curly hair" को छिपा देता। b) utter: इसका meaning है पूरा या total, जो "sheer luck" वाले "sheer" का sense है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह degree बताता है, कपड़ा नहीं। c) diaphanous: इसका meaning है हल्का, कोमल और लगभग transparent, जो उस veil से match करता है जिसके आर-पार उसके बाल अब भी दिखते हैं। d) precipitous: इसका meaning है बहुत खड़ी ढलान वाला, जो "a sheer cliff" वाले "sheer" का sense है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि veil की कोई ढलान नहीं होती; यह word का दूसरा meaning है।

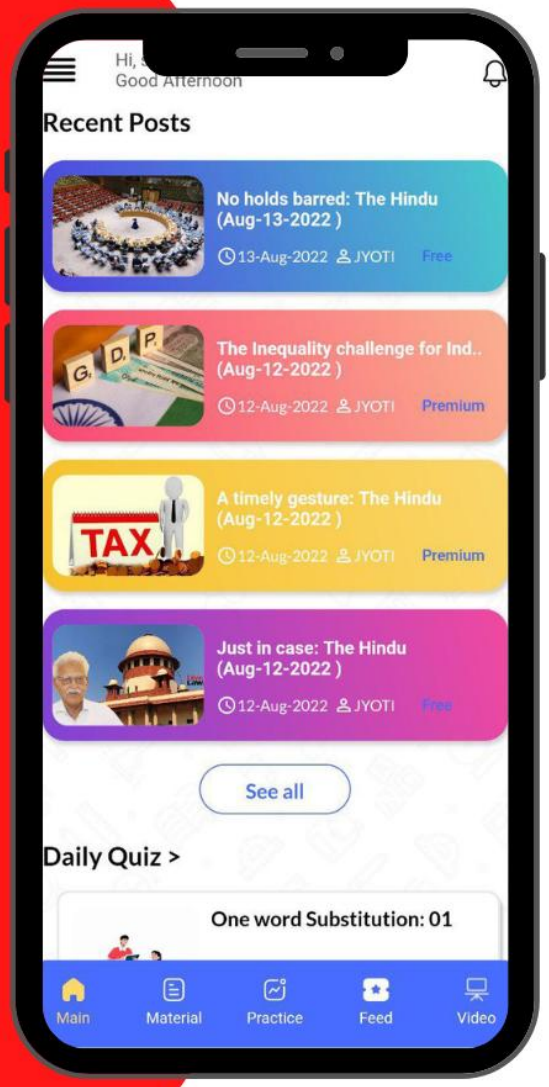
25. B) **attenuated**

"Voluptuous" describes Botero's figures and objects as full, rounded and generously curved, so the antonym must mean thin and slender. a) corpulent: means fat and bulky, violating the requirement since it too describes a heavy, full body, not a thin one. b) attenuated: means unnaturally thin and drawn out, like the elongated figures of Giacometti, matching the opposite of Botero's swelling forms. c) rotund: means plump and round, violating the requirement since it is a near-synonym; the passage itself mentions the figure's "round body." d) sumptuous: means lavish and luxurious, a look-alike of "voluptuous" that shares its sense of richness, violating the requirement since it is not an opposite at all.

Hindi:

- "Voluptuous" Botero के figures और objects को भरा-पूरा, गोल और curves वाला बताता है, इसलिए antonym का meaning पतला और slender होना चाहिए। a) corpulent: इसका meaning है मोटा और भारी-भरकम, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह भी भारी, भरे-पूरे शरीर को बताता है, पतले को नहीं। b) attenuated: इसका meaning है unnaturally पतला और खिंचा हुआ, जैसे Giacometti के लंबे figures, जो Botero के फूले हुए forms के उल्टे भाव से match करता है। c) rotund: इसका meaning है मोटा और गोल, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह लगभग synonym है;

passage में ही figure के "round body" की बात है। d) sumptuous: इसका meaning है lavish और luxurious, जो "voluptuous" जैसा दिखता है और उसकी richness वाला भाव share करता है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि यह किसी भी रूप में opposite नहीं है।



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