Caste and class: On OBC reservation

Exclusion of creamy layer is **essential**, but must be done consistently

If public resources are to **dismantle** both caste **hierarchy** and class inequality, OBC reservation should **resist** the **notion** that caste disadvantage makes economic differences among OBC families irrelevant. The 'creamy layer' rules are responsible for identifying those OBC members who have advanced sufficiently to no longer require **affirmative action**. However, the government has implemented them **inconsistently**. The Supreme Court in March corrected one **inconsistency**, that the government cannot hold the salary alone of an OBC candidate's parent as evidence of social **advancement**. In *Indra Sawhney* (1992), the Court **upheld** the government's 27% reservation for OBC candidates in central government services if it also excluded economically advanced sections, i.e., the creamy layer, among OBCs. **Following** the **equivalence** requirement issued in 1993, the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) issued a "clarification" in 2004 that the government used, from around 2015, to deny dozens of OBC candidates who had cleared the Civil Services Examination their benefits because their parents' salaries exceeded the official **threshold** due to pay revisions that did not always **reflect** changes in occupational status. The Cabinet also approved equivalence guidelines in 2017 but a parliamentary committee **criticised** it over a number of issues.

In *Rohith Nathan* (2026), the Court rightly rejected the government's use of the 2004 "clarification" to **arbitrarily** exclude OBC candidates based on their parents' salaries alone. However, the government **stalled** service allocations following the 2025 examination and **appealed** that **retrospectively** applying the **ruling** would create administrative **chaos**. On November 6, the Court **conceded** that it had not asked the government to reopen completed selections, as it could **set** workers **against** one another while leaving government **misapplication unaddressed**. A **proactive** policy is **essential** now as the government must create **supernumerary** posts for **legitimate claimants** and apply the 1993 rules to pending allocations without **vouchsafing** these **remedies** for only those who can afford **litigation**. Access to public employment continues to be **grossly** unequal: per the 2024-25 DoPT Annual Report, OBC representation in central government employment was 26.3% but declined **steadily** towards higher positions. As the Justice G. Rohini Commission also indicated, the benefits of reservation are distributed **unevenly** among OBC communities. However, the report, submitted in 2023, is still not in the public **domain**. The coming Census includes caste **enumeration** but **policymakers** also need data on each caste's education, occupations, assets, and **landholdings**. Defending **redistribution** among caste groups while ignoring major inequalities within them, and **constraining** OBC reservation **assuming** relatively more high-income families capture the benefits without first **establishing** the **extent** and the causes are equally difficult to justify. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Essential** (adjective) - crucial, vital, necessary, important, indispensable आवश्यक
2. **Dismantle** (verb) - deconstruct, demolish, destroy, disassemble, break समाप्त करना
3. **Hierarchy** (noun) - ranking, order, grading, scale, stratification पदानुक्रम
4. **Resist** (verb) - oppose, withstand, defy, combat, confront विरोध करना
5. **Notion** (noun) - idea, belief, concept, thought, perception धारणा
6. **Affirmative action** (noun) - a policy favoring those who tend to suffer from discrimination सकारात्मक कार्रवाई
7. **Inconsistently** (adverb) - erratically, irregularly, unpredictably, unevenly, variably असंगत रूप से
8. **Inconsistency** (noun) - disparity, variance, unpredictability, instability, paradox विसंगति
9. **Advancement** (noun) - progress, development, growth, improvement, promotion प्रगति
10. **Uphold** (verb) - support, sustain, endorse, defend, maintain बनाए रखना
11. **Following** (preposition) - after, subsequent, succeeding, post, behind के बाद
12. **Equivalence** (noun) - equality, parity, similarity, correspondence, uniformity समानता
13. **Threshold** (noun) - limit, boundary, verge, brink, margin सीमा
14. **Reflect** (verb) - indicate, show, display, demonstrate, reveal दर्शाना
15. **Criticise** (verb) - condemn, denounce, censure, blame, fault आलोचना करना
16. **Arbitrarily** (adverb) - randomly, capriciously, whimsically, erratically, subjectively मनमाने ढंग से
17. **Stall** (verb) - halt, delay, obstruct, impede, pause रोकना
18. **Appeal** (verb) - request, implore, beg, entreat, plead अपील करना
19. **Retrospectively** (adverb) - backwardly, retroactively, subsequently, previously, historically पूर्वव्यापी प्रभाव से
20. **Ruling** (noun) - judgment, decision, verdict, decree, order फैसला
21. **Chaos** (noun) - disorder, confusion, turmoil, pandemonium, havoc अराजकता
22. **Concede** (verb) - admit, acknowledge, accept, yield, grant स्वीकार करना
23. **Set against** (phrasal verb) - to cause someone to oppose or fight another person के खिलाफ करना
24. **Misapplication** (noun) - misuse, mishandling, abuse, misappropriation, error गलत इस्तेमाल
25. **Unaddressed** (adjective) - ignored, overlooked, unresolved, neglected, unanswered अनसुलझा

26. **Proactive** (adjective) - anticipatory, preventive, preemptive, enterprising, eager सक्रिय
27. **Essential** (adjective) - crucial, vital, necessary, important, indispensable आवश्यक
28. **Supernumerary** (adjective) - extra, additional, surplus, redundant, excess अतिरिक्त
29. **Legitimate** (adjective) - valid, lawful, legal, authentic, rightful वैध
30. **Claimant** (noun) - applicant, candidate, petitioner, seeker, appellant दावेदार
31. **Vouchsafe** (verb) - grant, bestow, give, confer, award प्रदान करना
32. **Remedy** (noun) - solution, cure, treatment, redress, corrective उपाय
33. **Litigation** (noun) - lawsuit, case, proceeding, dispute, action कानूनी विवाद
34. **Grossly** (adverb) - extremely, excessively, severely, glaringly, highly अत्यधिक
35. **Steadily** (adverb) - continuously, gradually, progressively, consistently, constantly लगातार
36. **Unevenly** (adverb) - unequally, asymmetrically, disproportionately, irregularly, variably असमान रूप से
37. **Domain** (noun) - area, field, sphere, realm, sector क्षेत्र
38. **Enumeration** (noun) - counting, listing, census, calculation, tallying गणना
39. **Policymaker** (noun) - legislator, planner, administrator, strategist, lawmaker नीति निर्माता
40. **Landholding** (noun) - estate, property, land, territory, acreage भूमि संपत्ति
41. **Redistribution** (noun) - reallocation, reassignment, redivision, reallotment, reshuffling पुनर्वितरण
42. **Constrain** (verb) - restrict, limit, curb, restrain, confine सीमित करना
43. **Assume** (verb) - presume, suppose, guess, believe, deduce मान लेना
44. **Establish** (verb) - prove, verify, demonstrate, confirm, determine स्थापित करना
45. **Extent** (noun) - degree, scale, level, magnitude, scope सीमा

Summary of the Editorial

1. OBC reservation must dismantle both caste hierarchy and class inequality without assuming economic differences within OBC families are irrelevant.
2. The "creamy layer" criteria exist to identify advanced OBC members who no longer require affirmative action, but implementation has been inconsistent.
3. The Supreme Court established in *Indra Sawhney* (1992) that 27% OBC reservation in central services requires excluding the economically advanced creamy layer.
4. From around 2015, the DoPT used a 2004 "clarification" to deny Civil Services benefits to OBC candidates whose parents' salaries exceeded thresholds due to pay revisions.
5. In 2017, the Cabinet approved equivalence guidelines, though a parliamentary committee subsequently criticized several aspects of the proposal.
6. In *Rohith Nathan* (2026), the Supreme Court rejected using the 2004 clarification to exclude candidates based solely on parental salary.
7. Following the ruling, the government stalled 2025 service allocations and appealed, arguing retrospective application would cause administrative chaos.
8. On November 6, the Court acknowledged it had not ordered the reopening of past completed selections to avoid worker disputes.
9. To address past misapplications, the government needs a proactive policy that creates supernumerary posts for legitimate, affected claimants.
10. The 1993 equivalence rules must be applied systematically to pending allocations rather than restricting relief to candidates who can afford litigation.
11. Public employment remains unequal; the 2024–25 DoPT Annual Report indicates OBC representation drops significantly in higher-tier central government posts.
12. The Justice G. Rohini Commission highlighted that OBC reservation benefits are distributed unevenly among sub-communities.
13. Despite being submitted in 2023, the Justice G. Rohini Commission report has not yet been made public.
14. Effective policymaking alongside the upcoming caste census requires comprehensive data on education, occupations, assets, and landholdings across castes.
15. Restricting OBC benefits by assuming high-income families monopolize them—without first collecting empirical data on the causes—is unjustifiable.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Why did the Supreme Court in Rohith Nathan (2026) invalidate the government's application of the 2004 DoPT "clarification"?** [Editorial page]
   A. Because pay revisions elevated parental earnings past financial thresholds without confirming genuine advancement in occupational standing.
   B. Because the Cabinet equivalence guidelines approved in 2017 were rejected by a parliamentary committee investigating public employment.
   C. Because retrospective application of equivalence rules would disrupt completed civil service allocations and set public employees against one another.
   D. Because the Justice G. Rohini Commission established that affirmative action benefits were distributed unevenly across regional communities.
2. **What is the author's primary goal in citing the 2024-25 DoPT Annual Report data on OBC representation?**
   A. To prove that public sector employment patterns reflect uniform distribution of affirmative action across all backward communities.
   B. To demonstrate that backward class presence diminishes at senior administrative ranks despite reaching the statutory threshold overall.
   C. To argue that parliamentary committees should formulate fresh equivalence guidelines for public sector service examinations.
   D. To show that parental salary revisions have enabled backward class candidates to secure senior executive central appointments.
3. **According to the passage, which official document concerning backward class reservation dynamics remains withheld from the public domain?**
   A. The ministerial equivalence requirements for backward classes formulated pursuant to the 1992 Indra Sawhney ruling
   B. The Department of Personnel and Training administrative clarification issued to evaluate parental salary thresholds in 2004
   C. The Department of Personnel and Training Annual Report detailing central government employment statistics for 2024-25
   D. The sub-categorisation study on affirmative action distribution finalized by the Justice G. Rohini Commission in 2023
4. **In the context of the passage, the word "GROSSLY" most nearly means:**
   "Access to public employment continues to be grossly unequal..."
   A. Marginally
   B. Retrospectively
   C. Glaringly
   D. Proactively
5. **In the sentence, "The Court corrected one inconsistency in March," the phrase "in March" functions as:**
   A. Adverbial phrase
   B. Noun phrase
   C. Participle phrase
   D. Absolute phrase

6. **Direction: In the following question, 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 paragraph.**
   1. With cooler weather making outdoor excursions more comfortable, November to February is particularly appealing for travellers who want to experience more than the familiar desert landscape.
   2. The 2026-27 edition at Dhordo is scheduled to run from November 1, 2026, to March 7, 2027.
   3. Winter is an ideal time to explore Kutch, Gujarat's vast, culturally diverse district, where salt flats stretch to the horizon, craft traditions thrive in village workshops, and historic sites offer glimpses into the region's past.
   4. The season also brings back Rann Utsav, a celebration of Kutchi music, dance, food, and craftsmanship.
   A. 3-1-4-2
   B. 1-3-4-2
   C. 3-4-1-2
   D. 4-2-3-1
7. **Direction: In the following question, 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 paragraph.**
   1. Most travellers look for comfort, beautiful views and a memorable setting when choosing a hotel.
   2. But what if your accommodation was once a place of confinement?
   3. Across the world, historic prisons have been repurposed as hotels, giving old cellblocks, courtyards and imposing stone buildings a new lease of life.
   4. While modern amenities have transformed the guest experience, many properties retain architectural details that offer a glimpse into their past.
   A. 1-2-3-4
   B. 3-4-1-2
   C. 1-3-2-4
   D. 2-3-4-1
8. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**
   Herald
   A. Repudiate
   B. Proclaim
   C. Ameliorate
   D. Sensitise
9. **What is the synonym of "Melancholy"?**
   A. Happy
   B. Cheerful
   C. Sad
   D. Joyful
10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
    To keep a stiff upper lip
    A. To cry easily
    B. To remain stoic and unemotional in adversity

C. To smile broadly
D. To talk loudly

11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
When William gets angry, he starts to act like an imbecile.
A. Pleasing
B. Cheerful
C. Intelligent
D. Fierce

12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Ruthless
A. Hostile
B. Lenient
C. Affluent
D. Resolute

13. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A piece of a living tissue or plant that is transplanted surgically
A. Gratis
B. Gourmet
C. Gracious
D. Graft

14. **Which part of the following sentence contains a spelling error?**
The liaison (1) between the two departments ensured effeciency (2) and eliminated unnecessary bureaucracy (3) in the approval process (4).
A. (3)
B. (1)
C. (4)
D. (2)

15. **Select the correctly spelt word.**
A. Analize
B. Anual
C. Anoyed
D. Answer

16. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
The driver was taken to the nearest dispensary by the beggars.
A. The beggars took the driver to dispensary.
B. The beggars took the driver to the nearest dispensary.
C. To the nearest dispensary, the beggars took the driver.
D. The beggars take the driver to the nearest dispensary

17. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect speech.**
She said to me, “I was thinking of going out for dinner but had changed my mind later on.”
A. She said me that she was thinking of going out for dinner but changed her mind later on.
B. She said that she thought of going out for dinner but changed her mind later on.
C. She told me that I was thinking of going out for dinner but changed my mind later on.

D. She told me that she had been thinking of going out for dinner but changed her mind later on.

18. **Select the appropriate word form:**
The policy's lack of clarity led to widespread ____.
A. confuse
B. confusing
C. confusion
D. confused

19. **Select the most appropriate option to improve the bold part of the sentence.**
You must refrain to smoke.
A. quit from smoke
B. stop to smoke
C. stop of smoking
D. refrain from smoking

20. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**
Yesterday, I went to the store and buy some groceries.
A. Yesterday
B. I went
C. buy some groceries
D. to the store and

Complete the passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words.
Where are the role models who help youngsters _____ A _____ (imbibe) values? The brain has an enormous capacity for imitation. It is through imitation much learning takes place. Children pick up language and skills through imitation. There is an old saying, "See good; hear good; speak good." Whatever good we see, hear, and speak will be stored in the brain, even _____ B _____ (subliminally). But gone are the days when people were surrounded only _____ C _____ those who possess good values, behaviour, and character.There were excellent teachers who not only preached values but also lived them. There were political leaders with social responsibility who were role models through their words and deeds. There were truthful national leaders whose actions brought laurels to the nation. They offered themselves as models.But today, the situation has changed and there is not many persons for youngsters to imitate. Everything, including education, is commercialised and values have _____ D _____ (eroded). Youngsters are considered as machines to mug up, store everything in their memory, and expected to score marks rather than practise values. Character-building is given least importance both at home and in school.Unless they are exposed _____ E _____ good role models, youngsters won't merely listen and follow the advice of their elders. They should be channelled in the right direction. For that they need good 'role models'. They expect their parents and teachers to be better than anybody else. Very few good role models are available to them.

21. **Choose the most appropriate synonym for the word in (A): (imbibe).**
A. eschew
B. assimilate
C. exude

D. repudiate

22. **Choose the most appropriate synonym for the word in (B): (subliminally).**
    A. overtly
    B. consciously
    C. subconsciously
    D. saliently
23. **Fill in blank (C) with the correct preposition to complete the phrase.**
    A. with
    B. from
    C. among
    D. by
24. **Choose the antonym of the word in (D): (eroded).**
    A. vitiated
    B. degenerated
    C. flourished
    D. abated
25. **Fill in blank (E) with the correct preposition to complete the sentence.**
    A. for
    B. to
    C. upon
    D. with

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. **A) Because pay revisions elevated parental earnings past financial thresholds without confirming genuine advancement in occupational standing.**
   Passage: "The Supreme Court in March corrected one inconsistency, that the government cannot hold the salary alone of an OBC candidate's parent as evidence of social advancement." Also: "...their parents' salaries exceeded the official threshold due to pay revisions that did not always reflect changes in occupational status." And: "the Court rightly rejected the government's use of the 2004 'clarification' to arbitrarily exclude OBC candidates based on their parents' salaries alone."------The Court rejected the 2004 "clarification" because it excluded OBC candidates only on the basis of their parents' salaries. Pay revisions had pushed those salaries above the limit, even though the parents' actual job status had not improved. Salary alone does not prove social advancement, so the exclusion was arbitrary. Option A says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option 2: Incorrect. The option says the Court acted because a parliamentary committee rejected the 2017 Cabinet guidelines, but the passage only says the committee "criticised" those guidelines on several issues. It never gives this as the Court's reason for striking down the 2004 clarification, hence incorrect.
   - Option 3: Incorrect. The option says the Court acted because retrospective application would cause chaos among employees. The passage says this was the government's argument against applying the ruling retrospectively, and the Court said it never asked the government to reopen completed selections. It is not the reason for invalidating the clarification, hence incorrect.
   - Option 4: Incorrect. The option says the Court relied on the Rohini Commission's finding of uneven distribution of benefits. The passage mentions the Commission separately, in the context of unequal benefits among OBC communities, and its report is still not public. It is not linked to the Court's ruling, hence incorrect.
2. **B) To demonstrate that backward class presence diminishes at senior administrative ranks despite reaching the statutory threshold overall.**
   Passage: "Access to public employment continues to be grossly unequal: per the 2024-25 DoPT Annual Report, OBC representation in central government employment was 26.3% but declined steadily towards higher positions."-----The author gives the 26.3% figure to prove that access to public jobs is still "grossly unequal." Overall OBC representation (26.3%) is close to the 27% reservation level, but it keeps falling as one moves to higher posts. So the number shows that the overall figure hides a lack of OBC presence at senior levels. Option B says exactly this, so it is correct.
   - Option A: Incorrect. The option says the data proves benefits are spread uniformly across all backward communities, but the passage says the opposite. The author says representation "declined steadily towards higher positions," and the Rohini Commission found that benefits are distributed unevenly among OBC communities.

- Option C: Incorrect. The option says the data is used to argue that parliamentary committees should write new equivalence guidelines, but the passage never says this. The committee is mentioned only because it criticised the 2017 guidelines, and the data is about unequal access to jobs.
- Option D: Incorrect. The option says parental salary revisions helped OBC candidates get senior executive posts, but the passage says pay revisions caused candidates to be wrongly denied benefits. The data shows representation falling at higher levels, so it does not show candidates reaching senior posts.

3. **D) The sub-categorisation study on affirmative action distribution finalized by the Justice G. Rohini Commission in 2023**
   Passage: "As the Justice G. Rohini Commission also indicated, the benefits of reservation are distributed unevenly among OBC communities. However, the report, submitted in 2023, is still not in the public domain."---The passage says the Rohini Commission's report was submitted in 2023 but has still not been made public. It is the only document the passage describes as withheld. Option D refers to this report, so it is correct.
   - Option 1: Incorrect. The option says the equivalence requirements from the Indra Sawhney ruling are withheld, but the passage says the equivalence requirement was issued in 1993 and the Cabinet approved guidelines in 2017. These were issued and discussed openly, and the passage never says they are hidden, hence incorrect.
   - Option 2: Incorrect. The option says the 2004 DoPT clarification is withheld, but the passage says the government actually used this clarification to deny OBC candidates their benefits, and the Court ruled on it. It was clearly in use and known, hence incorrect.
   - Option 3: Incorrect. The option says the 2024-25 DoPT Annual Report is withheld, but the passage quotes figures from it (26.3% OBC representation). A report that is being cited is not withheld, hence incorrect.
4. **C) Glaringly**
   Based on the context of the passage, the word "grossly" most nearly means C) Glaringly. The word "grossly" here means to a very obvious and serious degree. The author says the inequality in access to public jobs is not small. It is clear and severe, because OBC representation keeps falling at higher posts. "Glaringly" means in a very obvious way, so it matches the meaning. This is correct.
   - Marginally means slightly, which contradicts the passage's emphasis on a massive gap.
   - Retrospectively means looking back at past events.
   - Proactively means taking anticipatory action.
5. **A) Adverbial phrase**
   Sentence: "The Court corrected one inconsistency in March." Option (a): Adverbial phrase means a group of words that tells us when, where, why or how an action happened. "In March" starts with the preposition "in" and tells us when the Court corrected the inconsistency. It adds time information about the verb "corrected," so this is correct.
   - Option (b): Noun phrase means a group of words that works as a noun, such as a subject or an object. "In March" is not the subject or the object here. The object is "one inconsistency," so this is incorrect.

- Option (c): Participle phrase means a phrase that starts with a verb form ending in -ing or -ed, such as “corrected in March by the Court.” “In March” starts with a preposition, not a verb form, so this is incorrect.
- Option (d): Absolute phrase means a noun plus a participle that is not joined to the sentence by a preposition, such as “the ruling done, the Court rose.” “In March” begins with a preposition and has no participle, so this is incorrect.

6. A) **Correct Answer: A. 3-1-4-2**
Explanation:
Hindi Explanation:
Sentence 3 पूरे परिच्छेद का स्वतंत्र परिचयात्मक वाक्य (independent opening sentence) है। यह मुख्य विषय को स्थापित करता है कि गुजरात के विशाल और सांस्कृतिक रूप से समृद्ध जिले कच्छ (Kutch) को देखने के लिए सर्दियों का मौसम ("Winter is an ideal time...") सबसे उपयुक्त है।
Sentence 1 Sentence 3 के तुरंत बाद आएगा और 3-1 का सीधा link बनाएगा। सर्दियों के मौसम (Winter) के उल्लेख के बाद Sentence 1 ठंडे मौसम के फायदों और अनुकूल महीनों ("November to February") को स्पष्ट करते हुए बताता है कि सुहावने मौसम के कारण यह यात्रियों के लिए विशेष रूप से आकर्षक है।
Sentence 4 Sentence 1 को follow करेगा और 1-4 का additive link बनाएगा। Sentence 4 connector "The season also brings back..." का प्रयोग करते हुए सर्दियों के मौसम के एक और बड़े आकर्षण---कच्छी संगीत, नृत्य, भोजन और शिल्प कौशल के उत्सव "Rann Utsav"---को सामने लाता है।
Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के ठीक बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा (4-2)। Sentence 4 में रण उत्सव (Rann Utsav) के परिचय के बाद Sentence 2 इसके विशेष आयोजन स्थल और समय-सीमा ("The 2026-27 edition at Dhordo is scheduled to run from November 1, 2026, to March 7, 2027.") का ठोस विवरण देकर परिच्छेद को तार्किक रूप से समाप्त करता है।
English Explanation:
Sentence 3 serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, introducing the central subject and setting by stating that winter is the ideal period to explore Gujarat's vast and culturally rich district of Kutch.
Sentence 1 directly follows Sentence 3 (3-1), elaborating on the winter premise by defining the peak seasonal window ("November to February") when cooler temperatures facilitate comfortable outdoor exploration.
Sentence 4 follows Sentence 1 (1-4), using the additive transition phrase "The season also brings back..." to introduce another key winter highlight: the cultural spectacle of Rann Utsav.
Sentence 2 concludes the sequence (4-2), providing the specific logistical and temporal details of the festival introduced in 4: noting that the 2026-27 edition at Dhordo runs from November 1, 2026, to March 7, 2027.

7. A) **Correct Answer: A. 1-2-3-4**
Explanation:
Hindi Explanation:
Sentence 1 पूरे परिच्छेद का स्वतंत्र परिचयात्मक वाक्य (independent opening sentence) है। यह होटल चुनते समय यात्रियों की सामान्य प्राथमिकताओं---आराम, सुंदर दृश्य और यादगार माहौल ("comfort, beautiful views and a memorable setting")---को प्रस्तुत करता है।
Sentence 2 Sentence 1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा और 1-2 का अनिवार्य विरोधाभासी युग्म (mandatory contrast pair) बनाएगा। Sentence 1 में सामान्य अपेक्षाओं के बाद Sentence 2 विपरीत संयोजक "But" के

साथ एक विचारोत्तेजक प्रश्न पूछता है---"But what if your accommodation was once a place of confinement?"
Sentence 3 Sentence 2 को follow करेगा और 2-3 का direct question-to-answer link बनाएगा। Sentence 2 के प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए Sentence 3 दुनिया भर में ऐतिहासिक जेलों को होटलों में बदले जाने ("historic prisons have been repurposed as hotels...") का तथ्य सामने लाता है।
Sentence 4 Sentence 3 के ठीक बाद आकर क्रम को पूर्ण करेगा (3-4)। Sentence 3 में जेलों के होटल बनने के बाद Sentence 4 आधुनिक सुविधाओं ("modern amenities") और उनके ऐतिहासिक अतीत की झलक देने वाली वास्तुकला ("architectural details that offer a glimpse into their past") के संतुलन को स्पष्ट करके परिच्छेद को समाप्त करता है।
English Explanation:
Sentence 1 serves as the standalone opening topic sentence, introducing conventional traveler expectations when selecting a hotel---seeking comfort, scenic views, and a memorable setting.
Sentence 2 directly follows Sentence 1 (1-2), using the contrastive conjunction "But" to disrupt conventional expectations with a provocative rhetorical question: "But what if your accommodation was once a place of confinement?"
Sentence 3 follows Sentence 2 (2-3), forming a direct question-and-answer pair by revealing that historic prisons across the globe have indeed been repurposed into functioning hotels.
Sentence 4 concludes the sequence (3-4), elaborating on the guest experience in these unique hotels by balancing modern amenities against preserved architectural features that evoke their historical past.

8. B) **Herald** (verb) – announce, proclaim, signal, usher, indicate. (घोषणा करना)
Synonym: **Proclaim** (verb) – announce officially or publicly. (घोषणा करना / सार्वजनिक रूप से कहना)
    - **Repudiate** (verb) – reject, renounce, abandon. (खंडन करना / त्यागना)
    - **Ameliorate** (verb) – improve, better, enhance. (सुधारना)
    - **Sensitise** (verb) – make sensitive or aware. (संवेदनशील बनाना)
9. C) **Melancholy** (noun) – A feeling of deep, long-lasting sadness; gloom. उदासी, विषाद
Synonym: **Sad** (adjective) – Feeling sorrow; unhappy, gloomy. दुखी, उदास
    - **Happy** (adjective) – Feeling pleasure or contentment. खुश
    - **Cheerful** (adjective) – Noticeably happy and optimistic. प्रसन्नचित्त
    - **Joyful** (adjective) – Full of joy. आनंदित
10. B) **To keep a stiff upper lip** (idiom) – To remain stoic and unemotional in adversity कठिनाई में भी भावनाओं पर नियंत्रण रखना
11. C) **Imbecile** (noun) – A stupid person, fool. मूर्ख
Antonym: **Intelligent** (adjective) – Clever, bright, sensible. बुद्धिमान
    - **Pleasing** (adjective) – Giving pleasure. सुखद
    - **Cheerful** (adjective) – Happy, bright. प्रसन्न
    - **Fierce** (adjective) – Aggressive, intense. उग्र
12. B) **Ruthless** (adjective) – Merciless, cruel, harsh, pitiless. निर्दयी
Antonym: **Lenient** (adjective) – Merciful, tolerant, gentle, forgiving. उदार
    - **Hostile** (adjective) – Unfriendly, antagonistic, aggressive. शत्रुतापूर्ण

- **Affluent** (adjective) – Wealthy, rich, prosperous. धनी
- **Resolute** (adjective) – Determined, firm, steadfast. दृढ़ निश्चयी

13. D) **Graft** (noun) – A piece of living tissue that is transplanted surgically. प्रत्यारोपण
    - **Gratis** (adverb) – without charge; free. नि:शुल्क
    - **Gourmet** (noun) – a connoisseur of fine food and drink; a person with a discerning palate. विशिष्ट भोजन का जानकार
    - **Gracious** (adjective) – courteous, kind, and pleasant. कृपालु
14. D) The correct spelling of 'effeciency' (part 2) is 'efficiency' which means "the state of achieving maximum productivity with minimum wasted effort" दक्षता, कार्यकुशलता।
15. D) The correct spelling is 'Answer' which means "a reply to a question" उत्तर।
    - Analize – correct spelling: Analyse/Analyze.
    - Anual – correct: Annual.
    - Anoyed – correct: Annoyed.
16. **B) The beggars took the driver to the nearest dispensary.**
    Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Subject Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है और "by" के बाद आने वाला शब्द Active वाक्य का Subject बनता है। Verb को Passive से Active में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Passive वाक्य में "The driver" Subject है, "was taken" Verb (Past Simple Passive) है और "by the beggars" Agent है। Active में बदलने पर Agent "The beggars" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "took" (Past Simple Active) में बदला गया है और "the driver to the nearest dispensary" Object के रूप में प्रयोग किया गया है।
    To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the agent (after "by") of the passive sentence becomes the subject of the active sentence, and the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object. The verb is transformed from the passive form to the active form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "The driver" (Subject), "was taken" (Verb in Past Simple Passive), and "by the beggars" (Agent) from the passive voice have been transformed into "The beggars" (Subject), "took" (Active Verb in Past Simple), and "the driver to the nearest dispensary" (Object).
17. **D) She told me that she had been thinking of going out for dinner but changed her mind later on.**
    Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए Reporting Verb "said to" को "told" में बदला जाता है, inverted commas हटाकर "that" लगाया जाता है और Reported Speech के Tense तथा Pronoun में आवश्यक बदलाव किए जाते हैं। Reported Speech का पहला हिस्सा "I was thinking" Past Continuous है, जो Indirect Speech में Past Perfect Continuous (had been thinking) बन जाता है। Pronoun "I" का मतलब बोलने वाली "She" है, इसलिए "I" की जगह "she" और "my" की जगह "her" आएगा। इसलिए सही रूप "She told me that she had been thinking ... but changed her mind later on" है। "said me" में Reporting Verb का प्रयोग गलत है, "said that" में "me" छूट गया है और "that I was thinking" में Pronoun नहीं बदले गए हैं, इसलिए ये गलत हैं।
    To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, the reporting verb "said to" is changed to "told", the inverted commas are removed and "that" is added, and the tense and pronouns of the reported speech are adjusted as required. The first part of the reported speech, "I was thinking", is in the Past Continuous, which changes to Past Perfect Continuous (had been thinking) in Indirect Speech. The pronoun "I" refers to the speaker, "She", so "I" changes to

"she" and "my" changes to "her". Hence, the correct form is "She told me that she had been thinking ... but changed her mind later on". "Said me" uses the reporting verb incorrectly, "said that" omits "me", and "that I was thinking" does not change the pronouns, so these options are incorrect.

18. C) 'Confusion' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ वाक्य में "The policy's lack of clarity" (नीति की अस्पष्टता) के कारण उत्पन्न परिणाम या अवस्था की बात की जा रही है। "Confusion" (noun) उस स्थिति को दर्शाता है जिसमें लोग उलझन या असमंजस में होते हैं।
'Confusion' should be used because the sentence refers to the result or state caused by "the policy's lack of clarity." The word "confusion" (noun) appropriately expresses the condition of being puzzled or uncertain. Hence, "confusion" is the most suitable option.
19. D) refrain to smoke' के बदले 'refrain from smoking' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'refrain' के बाद हमेशा Preposition 'from' तथा Verb की '-ing' form का प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे— Please refrain from making noise.
    - 'refrain from smoking' will be used instead of 'refrain to smoke' because 'refrain' is always followed by the Preposition 'from' and the '-ing' form of the Verb; Like— Please refrain from making noise.
20. 'C) buy' के बदले 'bought' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि संदर्भ 'Yesterday' के अनुसार Verb Past Tense में होना चाहिए; जैसे— Yesterday, I went to the store and bought some groceries.
    - 'bought' will be used instead of 'buy' because the context 'Yesterday' indicates that the verb should be in Past Tense; Like— Yesterday, I went to the store and bought some groceries.
21. **(B) assimilate**
    The sentence describes role models helping youngsters absorb or learn values ("imbibe"). The question asks for the most appropriate synonym for "imbibe" (meaning to absorb or take in ideas or knowledge).
    - a) eschew: means to deliberately avoid or abstain from something (antonym).
    - b) assimilate: means to take in and understand fully (information or ideas), serving as the perfect high-register synonym for "imbibe".
    - c) exude: means to discharge or display an emotion or quality strongly (to give out, not take in).
    - d) repudiate: means to refuse to accept or reject (antonym).

    In Hindi:
    यह sentence युवाओं द्वारा अच्छे संस्कारों को ग्रहण करने या आत्मसात करने ("imbibe") को describe करता है. Question में "imbibe" (ग्रहण करना / सीखना) का synonym पूछा गया है.
    - a) eschew: इसका meaning जानबूझकर बचना या त्यागना (antonym) होता है.
    - b) assimilate: इसका meaning 'जानकारी या विचारों को पूरी तरह से अपनाना या आत्मसात करना' (absorb) होता है, जो "imbibe" के meaning से perfectly match करता है.
    - c) exude: इसका meaning बाहर निकालना या प्रदर्शित करना होता है.
    - d) repudiate: इसका meaning अस्वीकार करना (antonym) होता है.
22. **C) subconsciously**
    The passage notes that things we see and hear get stored in the brain without our active awareness ("subliminally"). The question asks for the synonym of "subliminally" (meaning below the threshold of conscious perception).

- a) overtly: means openly or plainly (antonym).
- b) consciously: means in a deliberate and awake manner (antonym).
- c) subconsciously: means acting or existing without one's active awareness, serving as the direct synonym for "subliminally".
- d) saliently: means most noticeably or prominently (antonym).

In Hindi:

यह sentence हमारे मस्तिष्क में बातों के बिना हमारी पूरी जागरूकता के या अवचेतन रूप से ("subliminally") store हो जाने को describe करता है. Question में "subliminally" (अवचेतन रूप से) का synonym पूछा गया है.

- a) overtly, b) consciously, और d) saliently: इन सभी का meaning पूरी जागरूकता के साथ या स्पष्ट रूप से (antonym) होता है.
- c) subconsciously: इसका meaning 'अवचेतन मन से या बिना पूरी जागरूकता के' (without active awareness) होता है, जो "subliminally" के meaning से perfectly match करता है.

23. **D) by**

The sentence explains that people used to be encircled or accompanied by good individuals (surrounded only _____ those who possess good values). Blank (C) requires the correct preposition to follow the passive verb "surrounded".

- a) with: can sometimes be used when surrounded by objects, but is less standard for people/agents.
- b) from, c) among: are incorrect prepositions for this specific verb.
- d) by: is the standard preposition used after "surrounded" to introduce the people or agents doing the surrounding, making it grammatically perfect here.

In Hindi:

यह sentence लोगों के अच्छे संस्कार वाले व्यक्तियों से घिरे होने ("surrounded") को describe करता है. English grammar में, विशेष रूप से passive voice में, लोगों (agents) द्वारा घिरे होने को दर्शाने के लिए verb "surrounded" के साथ हमेशा preposition "by" का प्रयोग किया जाता है.

- a) with, b) from, और c) among: ये यहाँ grammatically गलत या कम सटीक हैं.
- d) by: यह निश्चित phrase "surrounded by" (के द्वारा घिरे होना) को पूर्ण करता है, जो context में perfectly fit होता है.

24. **C) flourished**

The passage states that today, everything is commercialized and values have been gradually destroyed or reduced ("eroded"). The question asks for the antonym (opposite) of "eroded".

- a) vitiated: means spoiled or impaired in quality (synonym).
- b) degenerated: means declined or deteriorated physically or morally (synonym).
- c) flourished: means grew or developed in a healthy or vigorous way, serving as the exact antonym for "eroded".
- d) abated: means became less intense or widespread.

In Hindi:

यह sentence आज के समय में मूल्यों या संस्कारों के नष्ट होने या कम होने ("eroded") को describe करता है. Question में "eroded" (नष्ट होना / पतन होना) का antonym (विलोम) पूछा गया है.

- a) vitiated और b) degenerated: इनका meaning खराब होना या पतन होना (synonym) होता है.
- d) abated: इसका meaning कम होना होता है.

- c) flourished: इसका meaning 'फलना-फूलना या विकसित होना' (grew / thrived) होता है, जो "eroded" का direct antonym है.

25. **B) to**

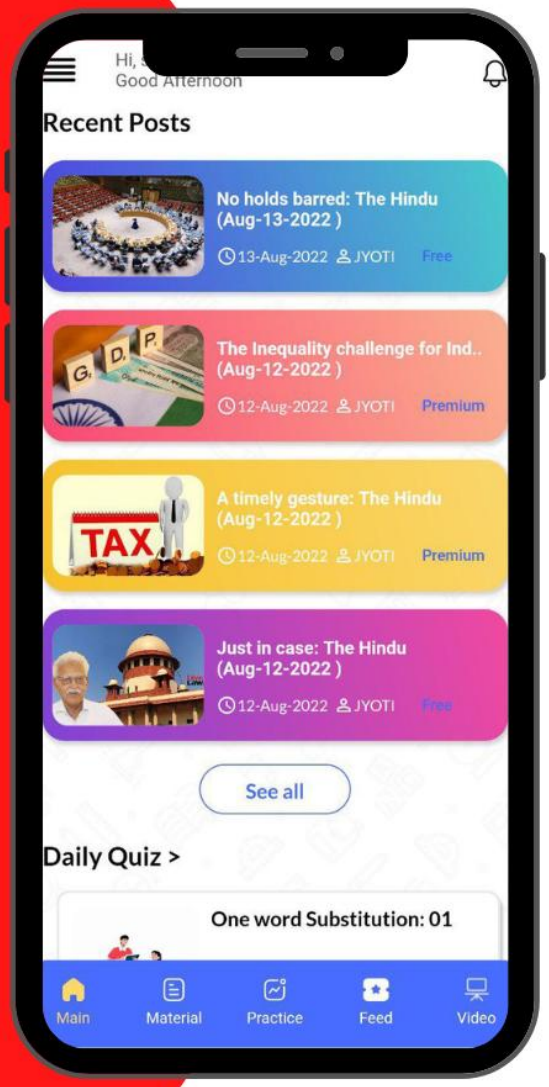
The sentence argues that youngsters need to be brought into contact with good examples (Unless they are exposed _____ good role models). Blank (E) requires the preposition that standardly follows the verb "exposed".

- a) for, c) upon, d) with: are incorrect prepositions for this word.
- b) to: correctly forms the fixed English expression "exposed to" (meaning to be introduced to or brought into contact with something), which fits the context perfectly.

In Hindi:

यह sentence युवाओं का अच्छे role models से सामना होने या उनके संपर्क में आने को describe करता है. English grammar में किसी चीज़ के 'संपर्क में आने' या 'सामना होने' को दर्शाने के लिए "exposed" के साथ हमेशा preposition "to" का प्रयोग किया जाता है.

- a) for, c) upon, और d) with: ये इस शब्द के साथ grammatically गलत हैं.
- b) to: यह मानक अभिव्यक्ति "exposed to" को पूर्ण करता है, जो context में perfectly fit होता है.



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