

General English Previous Years Question & Answers

Question 1. In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

CUPIDITY

- a. FEAR
- b. FRIENDSHIP
- c. GREED
- d. LOVE

Ans. GREED

Explanation: 'Cupidity' is used for showing 'greed for money or possessions'. Hence, option(c.) is the correct answer.

Question 2. In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which is opposite in meaning to the given word.

CAPTIVATE

- a. DISTRACT
- b. OBSCURE
- c. IMPRISON
- d. RELEASE

Ans. DISTRACT

Explanation: 'Captive' stands for 'attract and hold the interest and attention of'. Hence, Its opposite word will be 'Distract' appropriately.

Question 3. Four words are given, out of which only one word is spelt correctly. Choose the correctly spelt word.

- a. Clandistine
- b. Clandestine
- c. Clandistene
- d. Clandestene

Ans. Clandestine

Explanation: 'Clandestine' stands for 'keeping secret or done secretly', while others do not have any meaning in English dictionary.

Question 4. In the following questions, one part of the sentence may have an error. Find out which part of the sentence has an error. If the sentence is free from error, click the "No error" option.

Can I have (A) / a loaf of bread (B) / and a jam jar? (C) / No error (D)

- a. A
- b. B
- c. C
- d. D

Ans. C

Explanation: The correct sentence formation will be—"Can I have a loaf of bread and a jar of jam."

Question 5.In the following questions, one part of the sentence may have an error. Find out which part of the sentence has an error. If the sentence is free from error, click the “No error” option.

Now that I am back at work, (A) / I have beginning (B) / to feel much better. (C) / No error (D)

a. A

b. B

c. C

d. D

Ans. B

Explanation: the correct sentence formation will be-“Now that I am back at work I am beginning to feel much better.”

Question 6.In the following questions, one part of the sentence may have an error. Find out which part of the sentence has an error. If the sentence is free from error, click the “No error” option.

The artist, plainly a better critic (A) / than painter, destroyed what (B) / he made over for ten years. (C) / No error (D)

a. A

b. B

c. C

d. D

Ans. C

Explanation: The correct sentence formation for the above stated problem will be-“The artist, plainly a better critic than painter, destroyed what he had made for over ten years.”

Question 7.The sentences given with blanks are to be filled with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. For each question, choose the correct alternative.

Never give your friends _____ .

- a. the cold arm
- b. the cold elbow
- c. the cold shoulder
- d. the cold hand

Ans. the cold shoulder

Explanation: ‘The cold shoulder’ is used to show of intentional unfriendliness. Hence, it will be the appropriate word to be used here.

Question 8.The sentences given with blanks are to be filled with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. For each question, choose the correct alternative.

My mother upset the kettle of boiling water and _____ her hand.

- a. scalded
- b. scolded
- c. scorched
- d. wounded

Ans. scalded

Explanation: 'Scald' is used for expressing injury with very hot liquid or steam. Hence, it will be the most suitable word to be used here.

Question 9. The sentences given with blanks are to be filled with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. For each question, choose the correct alternative.

His writings are _____ mistakes.

- a. brooded with**
- b. burst into**
- c. replete with**
- d. boasted of**

Ans. replete with

Explanation: 'Replete' stands for 'filling or well-supplied with something'. Hence, it will be the most suitable word to be used here in the sentence.

Question 10. In each of the questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

Cut a sorry figure

- a. Did not stand straight**
- b. Apologised for his remarks**
- c. Created a wrong impression**
- d. Made a poor impression**

Ans. Made a poor impression

Explanation: The meaning of 'Cut a sorry figure' is 'to be ashamed'. Hence, option(d.) represents the most appropriate meaning of this idiom.

Question 11.In each of the questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

To take to task

- a. Forgave him
- b. Slapped him
- c. Gave him extra work
- d. Reprimanded him

Ans. Reprimanded him

Explanation: 'To take to task' is to chew someone out for something they have done wrong.

Question 12.In each of the questions, four alternatives are given for the Idiom/Phrase. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

Bring to light

- a. Introduced
- b. Revealed
- c. Seen
- d. Brought to life

Ans. Revealed

Explanation: “bright to light’ is used to reveal something. Hence, the most matching word to it is ‘revealed’.

Question 13.Out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentences.

A job carrying no salary

- a. Honorary
- b. Memento
- c. Honorarium
- d. Memorandum

Ans. Honorary

Explanation: ‘Honorary’ is used to address such adjectives.

Question 14.Out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentences.

Act of stealing something in small quantities

- a. Pillage
- b. Plagiarise
- c. Proliferate
- d. Pilferage

Ans. Pilferage

Explanation: ‘Pilferage’ word is used to represent an act of stealing small things.

Question 15.Out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentences.

Pertaining to the west

- a. Celestial**
- b. Occidental**
- c. Oriental**
- d. Terrestrial**

Ans. Occidental

Explanation: ‘Occidental’ word is relating to the countries of the Occident/west.

Question 16.A sentence/a part of the sentence is underlined. Four alternatives are given to the underlined part which will improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, click the button corresponding to “No improvement”.

As soon as I arrived in home, I knew that something was wrong.

- a. arrived by home**
- b. arrived home**
- c. arrived my home**
- d. No improvement**

Ans. arrived home

Explanation: The correct sentence for the above stated problem will be-“ As soon as I arrived home, I knew that something was wrong.”

Question 17.A sentence/a part of the sentence is underlined. Four alternatives are given to the underlined part, which will improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, click the button corresponding to “No improvement”.

Unfortunately I did not pass in the examination.

- a. I did not pass over**
- b. I did not overcome**
- c. I did not pass**
- d. No improvement**

Ans. I did not pass

Explanation: The correct sentence for the given problem will be-“ Unfortunately I did not pass the examination.”

Question 18.A sentence/a part of the sentence is underlined. Four alternatives are given to the underlined part which will improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, click the button corresponding to “No improvement”.

His powerful desire brought about his downfall.

- a. His wishful desire**
- b. His desire for power**
- c. His eager desire**
- d. No improvement**

Ans. His desire for power

Explanation: The correct sentence for the given problem will be-“His desire for power brought about his downfall.” Powerful desire has different meaning in any context.

Question 19.A sentence/a part of the sentence is underlined. Four alternatives are given to the underlined part which will improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, click the button corresponding to “No improvement”.

Ramesh laid in the shade of a tree before he could walk further.

- a. lied
- b. lay
- c. lain
- d. No improvement

Ans. lay

Explanation: The correct sentence for the given problem will be-“Ramesh lay in the shade of a tree before he could walk further.”

Question 20.A sentence/a part of the sentence is underlined. Four alternatives are given to the underlined part which will improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, click the button corresponding to “No improvement”.

An education in handling money would imply the ability to oversee the consequences of over - spending or over-borrowing.

- a. foresee
- b. overlook

c. overvalue

d. No improvement

Ans. foresee

Explanation: 'Oversee' means 'to supervise (a person or work)'. While, 'foresee' means 'to predict'. Hence, oversee should be replaced with foresee.

Question 21. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to the question out of the four alternatives.

A knowledge of grammar is essential for good speaking and writing, by which one's mind is judged. Studying grammar means hard work: it must be learned as a whole, with no part omitted, and it demands much thought and patience. But, once acquired, it can give a life-time's pleasure and profit. Its study requires no physical hardship, no special room or expenses. If people spent only their leisure time studying grammar they could master it in one year. The author learned it in less than a year. As a private soldier earning sixpence a day, he sat on his bed and studied. Unable to afford candle or oil, he read in winter by firelight (when it was his turn). If he could manage it thus, and with no outside encouragement, then any youth, however poor or busy, could do the same.

Why should we learn grammar?

a. To develop speaking skills

b. To develop writing skills

c. To have a mastery over language

d. To acquire good speaking and writing skills

Ans. To acquire good speaking and writing skills

Explanation: The supporting lines to the above answer is – “A knowledge of grammar is essential for good speaking and writing, by which one's mind is judged. Studying grammar means hard work: it must be learned as a whole.”

Question 22. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to the question out of the four alternatives.

A knowledge of grammar is essential for good speaking and writing, by which one's mind is judged. Studying grammar means hard work: it must be learned as a whole, with no part omitted, and it demands much thought and patience. But, once acquired, it can give a life-time's pleasure and profit. Its study requires no physical hardship, no special room or expenses. If people spent only their leisure time studying grammar they could master it in one year. The author learned it in less than a year. As a private soldier earning sixpence a day, he sat on his bed and studied. Unable to afford candle or oil, he read in winter by firelight (when it was his turn). If he could manage it thus, and with no outside encouragement, then any youth, however poor or busy, could do the same.

How does the world judge a man's mind?

- a. By his dress
- b. By his manners
- c. By his appearance
- d. By his speech and writing

Ans. By his speech and writing

Explanation: the supporting lines to this answer is-“ A knowledge of grammar is essential for good speaking and writing, by which one's mind is judged.”

Question 23. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to the question out of the four alternatives.

A knowledge of grammar is essential for good speaking and writing, by which one's mind is judged. Studying grammar means hard work: it must be learned as a whole, with no part omitted, and it demands much thought and patience. But, once acquired, it can give a life-time's pleasure and profit. Its study requires no physical hardship, no special room or expenses. If people spent only their leisure time studying grammar they could master it in one year. The author learned it in less than a year. As a private soldier earning sixpence a day, he sat on his bed and studied. Unable to afford candle or oil, he read in winter by firelight (when it was his turn). If he could manage it thus, and with no outside encouragement, then any youth, however poor or busy, could do the same.

How long would it take to gain mastery over grammar?

- a. One year**
- b. Six months**
- c. Two years**
- d. Ten months**

Ans. One year

Explanation: the supported lines for the said answer is-“If people spent only their leisure time studying grammar they could master it in one year.”

Question 24. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to the question out of the four alternatives.

A knowledge of grammar is essential for good speaking and writing, by which one's mind is judged. Studying grammar means hard work: it must be learned as a whole, with no part omitted, and it demands much thought and patience. But, once acquired, it can give a life-time's pleasure and profit. Its study requires no physical hardship, no special room or expenses. If people spent only their leisure time studying grammar they could master it in one year. The author learned it in less than a year. As a private soldier earning sixpence a day, he sat on his bed and studied. Unable to afford candle or oil, he read in winter by firelight (when it was his turn). If he could manage it thus, and with no outside encouragement, then any youth, however poor or busy, could do the same.

What is the occupation of the writer?

- a. Teacher
- b. Soldier
- c. Artist
- d. Clerk

Ans. Soldier

Explanation: The supporting lines for the given answer are as following-“The author learned it in less than a year. As a private soldier earning sixpence a day, he sat on his bed and studied.”

Question 25. Read the passage carefully and choose the best answer to the question out of the four alternatives.

A knowledge of grammar is essential for good speaking and writing, by which one's mind is judged. Studying grammar means hard work: it must be learned as a whole, with no part omitted, and it demands much thought and patience. But,

once acquired, it can give a life-time's pleasure and profit. Its study requires no physical hardship, no special room or expenses. If people spent only their leisure time studying grammar they could master it in one year. The author learned it in less than a year. As a private soldier earning sixpence a day, he sat on his bed and studied. Unable to afford candle or oil, he read in winter by firelight (when it was his turn). If he could manage it thus, and with no outside encouragement, then any youth, however poor or busy, could do the same.

The learning of grammar should be

- a. patient, thoughtful and holistic
- b. thoughtful, patient and piecemeal
- c. holistic, thoughtful and rapid
- d. thoughtful, rapid and piecemeal

Ans. patient, thoughtful and holistic

Explanation: The answer can be given with the following supporting lines-“Studying grammar means hard work: it must be learned as a whole, with no part omitted, and it demands much thought and patience.”