

# Fill in the Blanks (FIB)

**W**e have been solving fill in the blank questions since our school days. This is why, at first sight, they look pretty simple. But beware, they can often get tricky.

FIBs are asked in various exams to test the vocabulary and comprehension skills. SSC, Banking, CDS etc., are just some of the exams that these are a part of. If your vocabulary is good, and you know how to judiciously employ words, this section will be quite straightforward to you.

But fill in the blanks are sometimes asked in a more complex manner: they test not only your vocabulary, but also your grammar. We will look at such questions in more depth later on, along with some different types and approaches.

## TYPES OF FIBs

### (A) Vocabulary Based

These questions will ask you to fill the blank with appropriate words. One or more incomplete sentences will be given to you and your job is to complete those sentences from the given options. These are the most common types of fill in the blank questions and are frequently asked in many exams.

Sometimes there can be more than one blank, and in those cases, you have to pick an option, which will have the words that satisfy all the blanks.

#### How To Solve

- (i) Read the entire statement(s), i.e. the complete and the incomplete ones.
- (ii) Try to understand the context or the subject of the statement.
- (iii) Analyse what word would logically fit in the statement.
- (iv) If you are unable to predict what should be there, have a look at all the options given to you, and if it still looks a bit complicated, then fit in all the options to the statement and see which option seems most appropriate.
- (v) Select the option which is most apt for the given statement. Make sure that option abides the context of the statement. Ensure that the selected option has words that fit all the blanks (in case of multiple blanks).

### (B) Grammar Based

The grammar based fill in the blank questions have grammatical rules at their base and the student is tested for the application of these. The grammar based FIB questions differ from the vocabulary based fill in the blank questions in the essence that the latter are asked more frequently on examinations than the former.

#### Example

If you stumble \_\_\_\_ a new idea, you better write it.

- (a) at                                      (b) upon                                      (c) across                                      (d) on

**Explanation** (b): The correct answer is option (b) which implies that you 'stumble upon' a new idea. It means to discover something.

Most often in grammar FIBs, either you would know the answer, or you wouldn't. There wouldn't be a gray line in the middle of the two. This is because either you would know that rule or usage, or you wouldn't. It is just too hard to make a good guess in grammar.

## COMMON MISTAKES

- (a) Students do not read the entire statement, i.e., they just read till the blank, and start hunting for the right option.
- (b) Understanding the context of the statement/passage is crucial. If you are unable to gauge the context, it might be a good thing to skip the question.

- (c) There are always different shades/degrees of a particular word, and all the degrees might look right, but since we are asked to pick the most appropriate option, you need to grasp the given passage/statement for that and choose the option that fits most with the author's tone; e.g., if the author is ecstatic about something, then he might use words like 'jubilant' (instead of 'happy'), 'incredible' (instead of 'surprising') and so on.
- (d) A slightly more complex version of the fill in the blanks is when you are asked to fill two blanks. Now, if you have only understood one part of the statement, or you are just sure about one of the blanks, then do not base your answer only on that. In an attempt to somehow solve the question, students find or understand one of the blanks and go hunting for that one word-type in the options to select the right one. Options will most definitely be framed in a way to fail this kind of approach. There would be more than one options satisfying one of the blanks, but exactly one option satisfying both the blanks.
- (e) Beware of synonyms: If you think you have found out the right word for a particular blank, and have decided to eliminate other options, then stay on the lookout for synonyms of that word present in the other options. There might be a better combination of words that you happened to overlook.
- (f) You would probably know this, but we have to state it anyway: when the question asks to fill more than one blank, the words in an option are always arranged sequentially, i.e., the second word in an option is never meant for the first blank. So, never try to fit in words like that.

## TIPS

- (1) You can verify the option you have picked by filling it in the blanks, and reading the entire statement/passage again.
- (2) If you have to fill more than one blank, then you may eliminate an option based on one incorrect word.
- (3) Remember! Re-reading is always an option. The test is more about understanding than speed. And even if you are taking a speed based test, the trade-off is minimal.

## FROM BEGINNER TO MASTERY

### Example 1.

Astronomy, it has been said, is the oldest and the noblest of the sciences. (\_\_\_\_\_) it is one of the few sciences for which most present-day educators seem to find little time.

- (a) As (b) Yet (c) But (d) Thereby

**Explanation** (b): There is a mood swing between the two sentences, which is best highlighted by a 'yet' or a 'but'. It is better to use a 'yet' because it links the two sentences in a better fashion.

### Example 2.

Often we (\_\_\_\_\_) ourselves of the pleasure of making friends with the stars and shut our eyes to the glories of the heavens above because we do not realise how simple a matter it is to become acquainted with the various groups of stars as they cross our meridian, one by one, day after day and month after month in the same orderly (\_\_\_\_\_).

- (a) abandon, line (b) deprive, sequence  
(c) fulfil, episode (d) strip, passage

**Explanation** (b): The sentence is talking about the beauty of constellations and how common man has ignored this. Thus, the first blank should have a word that signifies 'not getting, not obtaining, staying away' which is highlighted in 'deprive'. The second blank talks about the movement of stars in a sequence, which makes the correct word: 'sequence'.

### Example 3.

Let us (\_\_\_\_\_) then that the time we choose for our observation of the heavens is the last of the month while our charts are given for the first of the month.

- (a) suppose (b) wonder  
(c) proclaim (d) believe

**Explanation** (a): The tone in the sentence is that of 'opining, or speculating or conjecturing'. The correct word here is then 'suppose'.

### Example 4.

Broadleaf woods are characterised by complex fibre conditions, absence (\_\_\_\_\_) resins, and greater weights.

- (a) because of (b) of  
(c) causing (d) by

**Explanation** (b): With 'absence', we use 'of'.

### Example 5.

Oak trees are (\_\_\_\_\_) by oblong, thin-shelled kernels, protruding from hard scaly cups and called acorns.

- (a) seen (b) found  
(c) characterized (d) differentiated

**Explanation** (c): The part of the sentence that follows the blank identifies characteristics of 'oak trees'. Thus, the correct word is 'characterised'.

**Example 6.**

Since her face was free of ( ) there was no way to ( ) if she appreciated what had happened.

- (a) make-up, realise (b) expression, ascertain  
(c) emotion, diagnose (d) scars, understand

**Explanation** (b): The second word can help us ascertain the correct option. Only 'ascertain' fits correctly there. All other options, viz. 'realize', 'diagnose' and 'understand' are not apt.

**Example 7.**

In this context, the ( ) of the British labour movement is particularly ( ).

- (a) affair, weird (b) activity, moving  
(c) experience, significant (d) atmosphere, gloomy

**Explanation** (d): This one can be solved by finding out the correct fit for the first blank itself. 'Atmosphere' seems an apt fit, whereas 'affair' and 'experience' leave something to be desired. Option (b) is incorrect because of a weak first word.

**Example 8.**

The ( ) regions of Spain all have unique cultures, but the ( ) views within each region make the issue of an acceptable common language of instruction an even more contentious one.

- (a) different, competing (b) divergent, distinct  
(c) distinct, disparate (d) different, discrete

**Explanation** (d): The second word choices are not tough and one can see that the speaker wants to talk about the different views that are not converging or much less, not even overlapping. The apt word for this would be 'discrete'.

**Example 9.**

Early ( ) of maladjustment to college culture is ( ) by the tendency to develop friendship networks outside college which mask signals of maladjustment.

- (a) prevention, helped  
(b) identification, complicated  
(c) detection, facilitated  
(d) treatment, compounded

**Explanation** (b): Clearly, the sentence is trying to say that some people who have problems adjusting to college culture are difficult to identify, because they tend to make friends outside the college, thereby hiding the other problems that are associated with living without friends. This way, it is difficult to isolate them, because the symptoms are masked.

**Example 10.**

The British retailer, M&S, today formally ( ) defeat in its attempt to ( ) King's, its US subsidiary, since no potential purchasers were ready to cough up the necessary cash.

- (a) ratified, auction (b) announced, dispose  
(c) conceded, offload (d) admitted, acquire

**Explanation** (c): A 'subsidiary' is used to imply a company that is owned by some other company. Option (c) is correct because conceding means admitting, and offloading means taking the load off, which would mean giving away or selling the subsidiary and thereby, removing all the controls that M&S has over this subsidiary. Option (a) is wrong because ratified is something which is officially sanctioned or approved and saying that the company 'formally officially approved defeat' is redundant too. An auction is a public selling of something to the highest bidder. This can be the right word for this blank, but ratified is inappropriate for the first blank. Option (b) is wrong, because 'dispose' means 'to get rid of'. Option (c) is wrong, because acquire means capture or gain, but the company is selling or giving away its subsidiary.

**Example 11.**

This simplified ( ) to the decision-making process is a must read for anyone ( ) important real estate, personal, or professional decisions.

- (a) primer, maximizing (b) tract, enacting  
(c) introduction, under (d) guide, facing

**Explanation** (b): The statement refers to something which simplified the process of making a decision, and this is important for someone who is dealing with real estate, personal or professional decisions.

Option (b) is correct, because tract means a brief treatise on a subject of interest; the word enacting would be right, because it means making something happen, which in this case would mean making decisions.

Option (a) is incorrect, because primer just means an introductory book. It cannot reveal an entire simplified approach to make a decision. Also, 'maximizing decisions' does not make sense.

Option (c) is wrong because just an introduction cannot explain the entire decision making progress. Also, 'under' is wrong for the second blank, because 'under decisions' is inappropriate.

Option (d) is wrong, because 'facing' refers to encountering or dealing, and one does not face decisions.

**Example 12.**

Physicians may soon have ( ) to help paralysed people move their limbs by bypassing the ( ) nerves that once controlled their muscles.

- (a) instruments, detrimental
- (b) ways, damaged
- (c) reason, involuntary
- (d) impediments, complex

**Explanation** (b): Option (b) is correct because the sentence means that physicians have found methods to help treat paralyzed people. The right word for second blank is 'damaged', because paralyzed people are those who have lost the ability to move a body part and hence the respective nerves of that part are in a damaged state. Option (a) is wrong because 'detrimental' refers to something which has caused an injury. This cannot refer to muscles.

Option (c) is wrong, because using 'reason' in the sentence would make it illogical, because they are physicians and of course they already have a reason to treat their patients, and anyway the sentence goes on to mention a way of treating them, not a reason. 'Involuntary' is used to describe something which is done without consciousness, control or will.

Option (d) is incorrect, because an 'impediment' is used to describe something which slows or blocks progress; and the word 'complex' is inappropriate, because complex would mean that nerves are complicated in structure.

**Example 13.**

The Internet is a medium where users have nearly ( ) choices and ( ) constraints about where to go and what to do.

- (a) unbalanced, nonexistent
- (b) embarrassing, no
- (c) unlimited, minimal
- (d) choking, shocking

**Explanation** (c): We know that the Internet is a very useful medium in many aspects. It gives us a lot of choices with very few constraints. Evidently, option (c) is the right answer.

**Example 14.**

The best punctuation is that of which the reader is least conscious; for when punctuation, or lack of it, ( ) itself, it is usually because it ( ).

- (a) obtrudes, offends
- (b) enjoins, fails
- (c) conceals, recedes
- (d) effaces, counts

**Explanation** (a): The speaker states that the best punctuation is one that the reader is not conscious about, or the one that goes unnoticed. The next clause refers to something which is contrary to what has been mentioned. Option (a) is correct, because obtrude means 'to force, or impose on someone', and offends refers to 'causing resentment, or anything which is against the \ rules or laws'. So, this clause would then mean that: "when the punctuation imposes itself on the reader, it is generally because it offends."

Option (b) is wrong, because 'to enjoin' is 'to give an order'.

Option (c) is wrong, because conceal means 'to disguise, hold back or hide'. 'Recede' means 'retreating or pulling back'. These words would not help make sense of the sentence.

Option (d) is wrong, because 'effaces' means 'removing or erasing by rubbing'.

**Example 15.**

The Athenians on the whole were peaceful and prosperous; they had ( ) to sit at home and think about the universe and dispute with Socrates, or to travel abroad and ( ) the world.

- (a) leisure, explore
- (b) time, ignore
- (b) ability, suffer
- (d) temerity, understand

**Explanation** (a): Athenians refers to the 'residents or citizens of the Greek city, Athens'. The speaker says that they were peaceful (calm and tranquil) and prosperous (flourishing financially, or in materialistic terms). For the first blank, we have to pick what attribute they had which enabled them to sit at home and think about the universe, dispute with Socrates and travel abroad. 'Time' (option (b)) and leisure (option (a)) would both be appropriate. The Athenians could do all these because they had enough free time for it, but leisure is the more appropriate word here. 'Ability' refers to the quality to be able to do something, but it can be argued that almost everyone has the ability to do such work. 'Temerity' is wrong, because it means audacity, the speaker is just talking about spending time thinking, arguing or travelling. He is not talking about going to a war.

For the second blank now: when they would be travelling abroad, they would be 'exploring' it. 'Ignore' seems logically incorrect and the same can be said about the word 'suffer'. 'Understand' can also be correct, but then 'temerity' as explained earlier is the wrong word. Hence, only option (a) is right.

**Example 16.**

Their achievement in the field of literature is described as (\_\_\_\_\_), sometimes it is even called (\_\_\_\_\_).

- (a) magnificent, irresponsible
- (b) insignificant, influential
- (c) significant, paltry
- (d) unimportant, trivial

**Explanation** (d): The given statement is informing how the achievement of a group of people to literature is described. The second clause refers to something which would be of a higher degree or intensity to what has been mentioned, so for that to be true, both words would be similar, differing only in degree, with the second one being of a higher degree than the other. Only option (d) has such words.

**Example 17.**

From the time she had put her hair up, every man she had met had grovelled before her and she had acquired a mental attitude toward the other sex which was a blend of (\_\_\_\_\_) and (\_\_\_\_\_).

- (a) admiration, tolerance
- (b) indifference, contempt
- (c) impertinence, temperance
- (d) arrogance, fidelity

**Explanation** (b): The speaker is describing a woman in front of whom every man grovelled (showed submission). We can say that she captivated men and they admired her. She would definitely have the opinion that men easily fall for women and that they are superficial.

Option (b) is correct, because indifference means not showing interest. Seeing that she does not have to do anything to impress men, the woman might have developed an indifferent attitude towards them. The other word is contempt (feeling of disrespect and dislike) which could arise from thinking that men are superficial.

Option (a) is wrong, because admiration refers to liking something, and tolerance refers to accepting something or someone even if you do not like or respect it. This word could fit in, but 'admiration' is not the right word for the first blank.

Option (c) is wrong, because 'impertinence' means insolence or cheekiness and temperance means restraint and moderation.

Option (d) is wrong, because arrogance refers to an overbearing pride, which could be right, but the other word is 'fidelity' which is the quality of being faithful and does not fit in the blank.

**Example 18.**

Every human being, after the first few days of his life, is a product of two factors: on the one hand, there is his (\_\_\_\_\_) endowment; and on the other hand, there is the effect of environment, including (\_\_\_\_\_).

- (a) constitutional; weather
- (b) congenital; education
- (c) personal; climate
- (d) economic; learning
- (e) genetic; pedagogy

**Explanation** (b): The given statement is about what affects human beings in the primary years of their lives. 'Endowment' refers to 'natural abilities or qualities', so the word congenital and genetic can fit in. 'Congenital' refers to what is present at the time of birth, but not necessarily inherited, and genetic refers to something that is related to genes or produced by a gene. 'constitutional' refers to something that is related to or is of a constitution; 'personal' means something that one owns and 'economic' is what is related to the economy.

For the second blank, the phrase 'on the other hand' means 'something that will be mentioned ahead will be contrasting to what has been mentioned already'. Education is the right word, because it is what affects an individual. Weather does not make any sense, and similarly climate can be ruled out. 'Learning' can be ruled out too as learning is done by the self, but education is what is taught by others, which has a major effect in shaping an individual. Pedagogy means the principles or methods of instruction, so this may also be a factor, but education is a broader and more appropriate word. Hence, option (b) is correct.

## Practice Exercise

## LEVEL-I

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1 -100) :** Each of the following sentences is followed by four words or group of words. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate word or group of words.

1. One dark night a Darvesh \_\_\_\_\_ passing by a dry well.  
(a) wasn't (b) happened to be  
(c) discovered in (d) found to
2. Nordisk have recently \_\_\_\_\_ a product called Glucometer.  
(a) started (b) commissioned  
(c) launched (d) begun
3. I had already published a novel and it was an unexpected success. I thought my \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) days were up (b) chances were good  
(c) lady luck was happy (d) fortune was made
4. The neighbour grabbed the boy, and rolled him on the road to \_\_\_\_\_ the flames.  
(a) cover (b) kill  
(c) burn out (d) fizz out
5. Sam asked me to keep this secret \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) secret (b) in myself  
(c) amongst us (d) between us
6. Sometimes the greatest inventions \_\_\_\_\_ an idea of startling simplicity.  
(a) stumbles upon (b) hinge upon  
(c) starves without (d) lacks
7. Real friends, genuinely wanting the best for the organisation, \_\_\_\_\_ different garbs.  
(a) come in (b) clad in  
(c) dressed in (d) clothed in
8. There was a major accident. The plane crashed. The pilot \_\_\_\_\_ did not see the tower.  
(a) likely (b) probably  
(c) scarcely (d) hurriedly
9. The car we were travelling in \_\_\_\_\_ a mile from home.  
(a) broke off (b) broke down  
(c) broke into (d) broke up
10. What are you \_\_\_\_\_ in the kitchen cupboard?  
(a) looking in (b) looking on  
(c) looking to (d) looking for
11. I did not see the point of \_\_\_\_\_ waiting for them, so I went home.  
(a) hanging around (b) hanging on  
(c) hang together (d) hanging up
12. He lost confidence and \_\_\_\_\_ of the deal at the last minute.  
(a) backed out (b) backed on  
(c) backed down (d) backed onto
13. The prisoner showed no \_\_\_\_\_ for his crimes.  
(a) hatred (b) obstinacy  
(c) remorse (d) anger
14. It is inconceivable that in many schools children are subjected to physical \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of discipline.  
(a) violation (b) exercise  
(c) violence (d) security
15. We have not yet fully realised the \_\_\_\_\_ consequences of the war.  
(a) happy (b) pleasing  
(c) grim (d) exciting
16. The Romans were \_\_\_\_\_ science.  
(a) bad in (b) bad to  
(c) bad for (d) bad at
17. To \_\_\_\_\_ time, please go \_\_\_\_\_ foot and not by bus.  
(a) spend, with (b) kill, towards  
(c) utilise, on (d) gain, on
18. After a recent mild paralytic attack his movements are \_\_\_\_\_ restricted; otherwise he is still very active.  
(a) entirely (b) slightly  
(c) nowhere (d) frequently
19. Despite his \_\_\_\_\_ he had to suffer.  
(a) punishment (b) fault  
(c) negligence (d) innocence
20. Ravi was always \_\_\_\_\_ of the good fortune of others.  
(a) miserable (b) irritable  
(c) greedy (d) envious
21. Cellular phone service has \_\_\_\_\_ in a new phase of communication.  
(a) called (b) ushered  
(c) resulted (d) started
22. The present \_\_\_\_\_ has not prevented the railway minister from announcing an increasing number of superfast trains.  
(a) crisis (b) syndrome  
(c) generation (d) stability
23. She was a devoted wife and looked \_\_\_\_\_ her husband very well.  
(a) after (b) at  
(c) for (d) upon
24. It is a penal \_\_\_\_\_ to bribe a public servant.  
(a) charge (b) offence  
(c) code (d) tight
25. The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ the boy's comic which he was reading during the Mathematics period.  
(a) possessed (b) procured  
(c) abandoned (d) seized



26. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ translation of the speech.  
 (a) literary (b) literal  
 (c) verbal (d) verbatim
27. She put \_\_\_\_\_ a brief appearance at the end of the party.  
 (a) on (b) in  
 (c) across (d) up
28. Once he has signed the agreement, he won't be able to back \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) up (b) in  
 (a) at (d) out
29. The master dispensed \_\_\_\_\_ the services of his servant.  
 (a) up (b) with  
 (c) from (d) through
30. That charming girl was the \_\_\_\_\_ of all eyes.  
 (a) target (b) cynosure  
 (c) doggerel (d) ambition
31. In spite of her other \_\_\_\_\_, Kasthuri still managed to find time for her hobbies.  
 (a) occupations (b) preoccupations  
 (c) predilections (d) business
32. The journey may be made by sea or \_\_\_\_\_ by road.  
 (a) alternately (b) alteringly  
 (c) conversely (d) alternatively
33. AIDS is not a disease that can be \_\_\_\_\_ through the air or by insects.  
 (a) circulated (b) transferred  
 (c) transmitted (d) conducted
34. The official \_\_\_\_\_ the Chief Minister of the situation in the town.  
 (a) apprised (b) informed  
 (c) appraised (d) asked
35. His residence is on the \_\_\_\_\_ of Hyderabad.  
 (a) rim (b) core  
 (c) periphery (d) outskirts
36. \_\_\_\_\_ at the major ports has led planners to develop satellite ports near them.  
 (a) density (b) containment  
 (c) transportation (d) congestion
37. Success comes to those who are vigilant not to permit \_\_\_\_\_ from the chosen path.  
 (a) distraction (b) deviation  
 (c) alienation (d) diversion
38. The members were \_\_\_\_\_ of the date of the meeting well in advance.  
 (a) communicated (b) conveyed  
 (c) ignorant (d) inform
39. Their \_\_\_\_\_ to scale the mountain peak was an absolute failure.  
 (a) attempt (b) desire  
 (c) anxiety (d) proposal
40. \_\_\_\_\_ between labour and management is inevitable in any industrial society.  
 (a) co-ordination (b) competition  
 (c) friction (d) association
41. The Chairman will come here at 5 p.m. to \_\_\_\_\_ a lecture.  
 (a) attain (b) speak  
 (c) talk (d) deliver
42. Gokhale's patriotic speeches \_\_\_\_\_ people to dedicate their lives to the nation.  
 (a) forced (b) inspired  
 (c) instigated (d) prompted
43. Undoubtedly, English is the most \_\_\_\_\_ spoken language in the world today.  
 (a) elaborately (b) greatly  
 (c) widely (d) broadly
44. He has not attained the age of 18. He was, therefore, no \_\_\_\_\_ to vote in this election.  
 (a) power (b) claim  
 (c) right (d) authority
45. The Defence Minister said today that the Government was determined to \_\_\_\_\_ the accord and fulfil the legitimate aspirations of the people.  
 (a) implement (b) invest  
 (c) practise (d) perform
46. The unprecedented rise in the price of gold in India, contrary to the \_\_\_\_\_ elsewhere in the world, is baffling the experts.  
 (a) outlook (b) trend  
 (c) cost (d) pattern
47. A controversial issue was \_\_\_\_\_ by a member of the Opposition in the Assembly, but there was no time to discuss it.  
 (a) risen (b) raised  
 (c) arose (d) aroused
48. Infant mortality rate in China has \_\_\_\_\_ from 200 per thousand to 14 per thousand.  
 (a) retarded (b) declined  
 (c) contracted (d) minimised
49. A five-year-old boy was \_\_\_\_\_ from his school on Monday last by his servant for a ransom of Rs 8,000.  
 (a) driven (b) arrested  
 (c) escorted (d) kidnapped
50. The car driver was arrested for rash driving and his licence was \_\_\_\_\_ by the police.  
 (a) impounded (b) prescribed  
 (c) suspended (d) penalised
51. When people around you are losing their heads, it is very difficult to remain serene. It needs a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) patience (b) strength  
 (c) courage (d) goodness
52. He has already made up his mind on this issue. Now it is \_\_\_\_\_ to argue with him.  
 (a) sympathetic (b) vague  
 (c) futile (d) contradictory
53. It is not fair to cast \_\_\_\_\_ on honest and innocent persons.  
 (a) aspirations (b) aspersions  
 (c) inspiration (d) adulation

54. The audience\_\_\_\_\_ at the end of drama.  
 (a) applauded (b) appraised  
 (c) exploded (d) appreciated
55. The last\_\_\_\_\_ were performed before the body was cremated.  
 (a) rites (b) writes  
 (c) rights (d) withers
56. Although I was \_\_\_\_\_ of his plans, I encouraged him, because there was no one else who was willing to help.  
 (a) sceptical (b) remorseful  
 (c) fearful (d) excited
57. You have no business to \_\_\_\_\_ pain on a weak and poor person.  
 (a) inflict (b) put  
 (c) direct (d) force
58. Her uncle died in a car accident. He was quite rich. She suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ all her uncle's money.  
 (a) succeeded (b) caught  
 (c) gave (d) inherited
59. Your present statement does not \_\_\_\_\_ what you said last week.  
 (a) accord to (b) accord in  
 (c) accord with (d) accord for
60. I had a vague \_\_\_\_\_ that the lady originally belonged to Scotland.  
 (a) notion (b) expression  
 (c) imagination (d) theory
61. Happiness consists in being \_\_\_\_\_ what we have?  
 (a) contented to (b) contented with  
 (c) contented for (d) contented in
62. His rude behaviour is a \_\_\_\_\_ his organisation.  
 (a) disgrace for (b) disgrace on  
 (c) disgrace upon (d) disgrace to
63. No child is \_\_\_\_\_ understanding. One has to wait and provide proper guidance.  
 (a) dull to (b) dull in  
 (c) dull of (d) dull for
64. I am fully \_\_\_\_\_ the problems facing the industry.  
 (a) alive with (b) alive to  
 (c) alive for (d) alive on
65. Among the factors\_\_\_\_\_ to the low productivity in agriculture, the first place is occupied by irregular water supply.  
 (a) producing (b) showing  
 (c) resulting (d) contributing
66. The two brothers look so\_\_\_\_\_ that it is difficult to tell one from the other.  
 (a) identical (b) same  
 (c) similar (d) resembling
67. His most striking \_\_\_\_\_ is the enthusiasm which he brings to everything he does.  
 (a) factor (b) attitude  
 (c) characteristic (d) character
68. Though fond of many acquaintances, I desire\_\_\_\_\_ only with a few.  
 (a) introduction (b) cordiality  
 (c) intimacy (d) encounter
69. The Director pointed out in favour of the manager that the profitability of the plant had \_\_\_\_\_ since he had taken over.  
 (a) arisen (b) increased  
 (c) developed (d) declined
70. He became the Governor of a Province\_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) by and large  
 (b) in the course of time  
 (c) at times  
 (d) little by little
71. His answer was such\_\_\_\_\_ I expected him to give.  
 (a) that (b) which  
 (c) as (d) like which
72. Opinions concerning him had remained nearly \_\_\_\_\_, his daily habits had presented scarcely any visible change.  
 (a) static (b) biased  
 (c) limpid (d) stationary
73. The speaker did not properly use the time as he went on\_\_\_\_\_ on one point alone.  
 (a) devoting (b) deliberating  
 (c) diluting (d) distributing
74. After a short holiday Rajni came back totally\_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) rejuvenated (b) reborn  
 (c) refurbished (d) revamped
75. I had not expected to meet him; it was quite an \_\_\_\_\_ meeting.  
 (a) organised (b) intentional  
 (c) undesirable (d) accidental
76. The window of our room \_\_\_\_\_ he rear.  
 (a) overlooks (b) opens  
 (c) opposes (d) adjoins
77. The final electoral rolls have been intensively revised through house-to-house\_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) documentation (b) categorisation  
 (c) enumeration (d) investigation
78. Mountaineering institutes\_\_\_\_\_to the young climbers the technical knowledge which has been accumulated over the years.  
 (a) impart (b) indicate  
 (c) apply (d) help
79. In his address to the teachers, the Vice-Chancellor\_\_\_\_\_ certain measures being taken for improving the quality of college education.  
 (a) declined (b) directed  
 (c) advised (d) highlighted
80. The President today\_\_\_\_\_ the committee with the induction of the five new general secretaries in place of those dropped.  
 (a) reconstituted (b) reviewed  
 (c) formed (d) enlarged



81. Traffic problems in Bombay are as serious as in any other city in India; and they are complicated by digging of roads by the corporation on this or that \_\_\_\_.
- (a) aspect (b) pretext  
(c) intention (d) instance
82. Nowadays there exists a spirit of \_\_\_\_ among the various departments of the University. This has led to a number of interdisciplinary research publications due to interaction of various research groups.
- (a) co-operation (b) education  
(c) casteism (d) favouritism
83. The stock market is very \_\_\_\_ at the moment.
- (a) sensible (b) sensitive  
(c) intensive (d) remunerative
84. Man is still a \_\_\_\_ in the labour market.
- (a) guilt (b) possibility  
(c) endemic (d) commodity
85. Survival of mankind itself is in danger due to \_\_\_\_ of atomic weapons.
- (a) perpetuation (b) regularisation  
(c) provocation (d) proliferation
86. His remarks were filled with \_\_\_\_, which sounded lofty but presented nothing new to the audience.
- (a) aphorisms (b) platitudes  
(c) bombast (d) adages
87. When indecision grips a nation, free men feel the need for an \_\_\_\_ ruler and are prepared to throw democracy overboard.
- (a) optimistic (b) autocratic  
(c) eccentric (d) energetic
88. India has the \_\_\_\_ of high saving and low growth rates.
- (a) irony (b) similarity  
(c) difference (d) paradox
89. Few countries can \_\_\_\_ India in variety, colour and richness of dance-forms.
- (a) rival (b) depict  
(c) parallel (d) fight
90. The entire village condoled \_\_\_\_ the jawan's widow in her bereavement.
- (a) in (b) for  
(c) to (d) with
91. The battalion operating from the mountain was able to tie \_\_\_\_ three enemy divisions.
- (a) up (b) down  
(c) on (d) with
92. His attitude to his boss was so \_\_\_\_ that it caused a good deal of repulsion.
- (a) refulgent (b) arrogant  
(c) sycophantic (d) hybrid
93. His fears were explicitly betrayed by his \_\_\_\_ voice.
- (a) phonetic (b) tremulous  
(c) tenuous (d) malodorous
94. The influence of the environment on man is revealed by an \_\_\_\_ study.
- (a) anthropological (b) ecological  
(c) epigraphic (d) numismatic
95. She had a terrible night caused by a(n) \_\_\_\_ during her sleep.
- (a) incubus (b) debility  
(c) obsession (d) delusion
96. Alexander Solzhepitsyn's works will be \_\_\_\_ by every lover of liberal thought and they will bring home to him how restrictive freedom is in the Russian system.
- (a) rejected (b) skimmed  
(c) compiled (d) perused
97. A great literary or artistic work is known as \_\_\_\_.
- (a) par excellence (b) bete noire  
(c) peccadillo (d) magnum opus
98. \_\_\_\_ at the major ports has led planners to develop satellite ports near them.
- (a) density (b) containment  
(c) transportation (d) congestion
99. The carriage foundered in a snowdrift and it took two hours to \_\_\_\_ it.
- (a) exert (b) pillage  
(c) exacerbate (d) extricate
100. Since the British were masters of the seas, no \_\_\_\_ power could venture into Indian waters under British rule.
- (a) territorial (b) continental  
(c) maritime (d) geo-political
- DIRECTIONS (Qs. 101-105) :** Each sentence below has two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the set of words for each blank which best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole. [SBI Clerk 2012]
101. The students \_\_\_\_ not reach on time \_\_\_\_ of the transport strike.
- (a) can, as (b) could, because  
(c) may, account (d) will, despite  
(e) should, for
102. They were \_\_\_\_ to vacate that house as \_\_\_\_ as possible.
- (a) asked, soon (b) ordered, easy  
(c) shown, early (d) told, later  
(e) found, fast
103. The teacher \_\_\_\_ the concept by \_\_\_\_ practical examples.
- (a) showed, telling (b) gave, speaking  
(c) liked, citing (d) found, looking  
(e) explained - quoting
104. The manager told us \_\_\_\_ Ramesh was very anxious \_\_\_\_ the meeting.
- (a) about, in (b) that, before  
(c) like, during (d) the, for  
(e) said, after

105. She did not tell \_\_\_\_\_ that she \_\_\_\_\_ attended the party.  
 (a) someone, have (b) no one, has  
 (c) him, not (d) her, can  
 (e) anyone, had

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 106-110):** Each sentence below has a blank, each blank indicates that something has been omitted. Choose the word that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

[SBI Clerk 2012]

106. Rajeev was upset because he \_\_\_\_\_ forgotten his best friend's birthday?  
 (a) have (b) shall  
 (c) will (d) might  
 (e) had
107. Raj was \_\_\_\_\_ introvert and would prefer to sit in the library rather than go out with friends.  
 (a) the (b) a  
 (c) like (d) for  
 (e) an
108. Shanku was born \_\_\_\_\_ a silver spoon in his mouth and was very proud of his wealth.  
 (a) with (b) along  
 (c) on (d) within  
 (e) wishing
109. Laxmi lost an important file and rather than confessing her \_\_\_\_\_ she blamed Sandra for losing it.  
 (a) respect (b) image  
 (c) attitude (d) default  
 (e) mistake
110. Jacob was a rich old man who lived \_\_\_\_\_ alone in a huge house because his children did not care about him.  
 (a) only (b) all  
 (c) more (d) too  
 (e) little

**DIRECTIONS (111-115):** Pick out the most effective word/phrases from the given alternatives marked (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) given below each sentence to fill in the blank to make the sentence meaningful and grammatically correct.

[IBPS Clerk 2012]

111. By the middle of the 19th Century, the urban population of England \_\_\_\_\_ the rural population.  
 (a) have exceed (b) exceeded  
 (c) was to exceeds (d) exceeds  
 (e) will exceed
112. The house that the actress lives in is beautiful, but the surroundings are \_\_\_\_\_ unpleasant.  
 (a) quite (b) more and more  
 (c) a little quite (d) very little  
 (e) quite few
113. My friend and I decided to watch a play, however \_\_\_\_\_ enjoyed it.  
 (a) hardly of us (b) some few of us  
 (c) we scarcely only (d) neither of us  
 (e) no one of us

114. It is difficult to speak a language fluently unless \_\_\_\_\_ regularly.

(a) it is in practice (b) it is by practising  
 (c) it will be practised (d) it is practised  
 (e) it had been practised.

115. By the time he was eighteen years old, Peter \_\_\_\_\_ to make a living and support his family.

(a) begins (b) began  
 (c) started beginning (d) would begin  
 (e) has just begun

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 116-120) :** Sentences are given with blanks to be filled in with an appropriate word (s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. Choose the correct alternative out of the four.

[SSC Sub Insp. 2012]

116. He will dispense \_\_\_\_\_ your services.  
 (a) of (b) off  
 (c) on (d) with
117. I have given her \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) a work (b) some works  
 (c) a piece of work (d) many works
118. He is a popular teacher. He seems to be \_\_\_\_\_ for that profession.  
 (a) cut down (b) cut off  
 (c) cut in (d) cut out
119. He was \_\_\_\_\_ pertaining his innocence.  
 (a) stridently (b) harshly  
 (c) confidently (d) quickly
120. If you were found guilty of exceeding the speed limit, you \_\_\_\_\_ to pay a fine.  
 (a) would have (b) would had  
 (c) will have (d) have

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 121 - 125) :** Sentences are given with blanks to be filled in with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. Choose the correct alternative out of the four:

[SSC CHSL, 2012]

121. Let us quickly \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) muddle (b) huddle  
 (c) hurdle (d) puddle
122. Rajesh's car wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ Ramesh's, so we were too exhausted by the time we reached home.  
 (a) such comfortable (b) as comfortable as  
 (c) comfortable enough (d) so comfortable that
123. I don't suppose that Pramod will be elected \_\_\_\_\_ how hard he struggles as he is not completely supported by the committee.  
 (a) although (b) seeing as  
 (c) no matter (d) however
124. Regular exercise is conducive \_\_\_\_\_ health.  
 (a) in (b) to  
 (c) for (d) of

125. Can you please \_\_\_\_\_ my web site just before I publish it ?  
 (a) find out (b) go through  
 (c) set out (d) look up

**DIRECTIONS (126-130) :** In the following questions, sentences are given with blanks to be filled with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. Choose the correct alternative out of the four as your answer.

[SSC Sub Insp. 2013]

126. There are not solitary, free-living creatures ; every form of life is \_\_\_\_\_ other forms.  
 (a) dependent on (b) parallel to  
 (c) overshadowed by (d) segregated from
127. I'll take \_\_\_\_\_ now as I have another's appointment some where else.  
 (a) departure (b) my leave  
 (c) permission (d) leave from work
128. A garden knife is \_\_\_\_\_ used for right pruning.  
 (a) generally (b) compulsorily  
 (c) systematically (d) daily
129. Serious threat to our ecology and environment can be \_\_\_\_\_ with organic cultivation.  
 (a) hastened (b) impeded  
 (c) aggravated (d) combated
130. 'My India' by Corbett deals \_\_\_\_\_ the author's familiarity with and love of India.  
 (a) in (b) of  
 (c) at (d) with

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 131 - 140) :** In the following questions, sentences are given with blanks to be filled with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. Choose the correct alternative out of the four.

[SSC Multi tasking 2013]

131. The new government took \_\_\_\_\_ last year.  
 (a) out (b) after  
 (c) over (d) upon
132. Mohan's career has taken some \_\_\_\_\_ twists and turns.  
 (a) incentive (b) interesting  
 (c) interactive (d) intuitive
133. The bus \_\_\_\_\_ fifty passengers fell \_\_\_\_\_ the river.  
 (a) with; into (b) for; upon  
 (c) over; on (d) of; at
134. It is raining \_\_\_\_\_. Do not go out.  
 (a) heavily (b) fast  
 (c) soundly (d) strongly
135. She tries to adjust \_\_\_\_\_ her relations.  
 (a) for (b) at  
 (c) so (d) with
136. She was remarkably \_\_\_\_\_ in singing and dancing.  
 (a) accomplished (b) conducive  
 (c) fluctuating (d) cooperative
137. Sheila gained an advantage \_\_\_\_\_ me.  
 (a) upon (b) from  
 (c) on (d) over

138. Take this medicine regularly and you will get rid \_\_\_\_\_ this disease.

(a) at (b) from  
 (c) of (d) over

139. Statistics \_\_\_\_\_ always my worst subject.

(a) are (b) were  
 (c) is (d) have

140. When she retired, she handed \_\_\_\_\_ the charge to the Vice-President.

(a) over (b) out  
 (c) across (d) off

**DIRECTIONS (141-145):** In these questions, two sentences (I) and (II) are given. Each sentence has a blank in it. Against each five options are suggested. Out of these, only one fits at both the places in the context of each sentence. Mark that option as your answer.

[IBPS Clerk 2013]

141. I. The report ended on a ..... note.  
 II. They must take ..... steps to deal with the problem.  
 (a) criticising (b) huge  
 (c) positive (d) fancy  
 (e) cursory
142. I. In today's world parents usually ..... that their children do not talk to them as they are more involved in electronic gadgets and social media.  
 II. He would ..... about every other child on the playground and his parents would fight with other parents so as to protect him.  
 (a) feel (b) defend  
 (c) fight (d) complain  
 (e) observe
143. I. He was good with Mathematics so he could not fathom why other people cribbed about such an ..... subject.  
 II. In a world so riddled with greed and corruption where every man seems to be out to get another, it is not very ..... to trust others.  
 (a) good (b) exciting  
 (c) wise (d) easy  
 (e) interesting
144. I. The area under our eyes is connected to our kidneys, so any ..... change in the dark circles indicates dehydration or accumulating toxins.  
 II. Many Indian adults are struggling with weight, thus indulging in weight loss programmes that require ..... changes in their current lifestyle.  
 (a) drastic (b) frequent  
 (c) ambiguous (d) severe  
 (e) aggressive
145. I. Usually fund-raising events and charity auctions raise a large amount of money as people from all sections of the society get an opportunity to ..... for a cause.  
 II. Today, a person needs to ..... very hard for surviving in the corporate race.  
 (a) work (b) contribute  
 (c) effort (d) donate  
 (e) dedication

**DIRECTIONS (146-150) :** In following questions, sentences are given with blanks to be filled in with an appropriate word (s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. Choose the correct alternatives. [SSC Sub Insp. 2014]

146. China is a big country, in area it is bigger than any other country \_\_\_\_\_. Russia.  
 (a) accept (b) except  
 (c) expect (d) access
147. The masks worn by the men helped them \_\_\_\_\_ their identity.  
 (a) conceal (b) congeal  
 (c) masquerade (d) cheat
148. On the \_\_\_\_\_ occasion of Laxmi Puja the Mathurs bought a new car.  
 (a) officious (b) auspicious  
 (c) fortuitous (d) prosperous
149. Precautions are to be taken with any one who seems \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) contagious (b) infectious  
 (c) diseased (d) defiled
150. The treasure was hidden \_\_\_\_\_ a big shore.  
 (a) on (b) underneath  
 (c) toward (d) off

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 151-155) :** In the following questions, sentences are given with blanks to be filled in with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. Choose the correct alternative out of the four and indicate it by blackening the appropriate oval ● in the Answer Sheet.

[SSC CHSL, 2013]

151. The human mind seems to have built-in \_\_\_\_\_ against original thought.  
 (a) prejudices (b) ideas  
 (c) interests (d) safeguards

152. A child is the future of a family \_\_\_\_\_ nation.  
 (a) just as (b) as a  
 (c) like a (d) as well as of a
153. If strict security measures were taken, the tragedy might have been \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) restrained (b) averted  
 (c) removed (d) controlled
154. The deceased left \_\_\_\_\_ children.  
 (a) behind (b) for  
 (c) with (d) by
155. The statue \_\_\_\_\_ a global symbol of freedom  
 (a) stands against (b) stands to  
 (c) stands for (d) stands as

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 156-160) :** In some parts of the sentences given with blanks to be filled in with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. Choose the correct alternative out of the four. [SSC CHSL, 2014]

156. Is not learning superior \_\_\_\_\_ wealth ?  
 (a) than (b) from  
 (c) by (d) to
157. A group of agitators \_\_\_\_\_ the mob to break down the Vice-Chancellor's door.  
 (a) wished (b) excited  
 (c) threatened (d) incited
158. Turn the lights \_\_\_\_\_ before you go to bed.  
 (a) on (b) off  
 (c) out (d) down
159. There is no \_\_\_\_\_ evidence to support your assertion.  
 (a) facile (b) fictitious  
 (c) facetious (d) factual
160. Throw a stone \_\_\_\_\_ the fierce dog.  
 (a) at (b) upon  
 (c) on (d) above

## LEVEL- II

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1-80):** Select the most appropriate set of words from the given choices to fill in the blanks.

1. The organization takes its cue from the person on the top. I always told our business leaders their personal \_\_\_\_\_ determined their organization's \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) serendipity, faux pas  
(b) predilection, despair  
(c) intensity, success  
(d) oddity, conformity
2. The Himalayas ran from east to west and cut off the cold winds from the north. This allowed agriculture to prosper and \_\_\_\_\_ wealth, but it also \_\_\_\_\_ barbarian invaders from the north.  
(a) attracted, dissipated (b) created, attracted  
(c) created, restricted (d) attracted, evicted
3. Our \_\_\_\_\_ diversity may also be of some value. Because we have always learned to live with pluralism, it is possible that we may be better prepared to \_\_\_\_\_ the diversity of global economy.  
(a) stupefying, negotiate  
(b) plural, alleviate  
(c) variegated, annihilate  
(d) dreary, exasperate
4. My inward petition was instantly \_\_\_\_\_. First, a delightful cold wave descended over my back and under my feet, \_\_\_\_\_ all discomfort.  
(a) acknowledged, banishing  
(b) repudiated, infuriating  
(c) acceded, exacerbating  
(d) decimated, assuaging
5. Nature is \_\_\_\_\_ and unchangeable, and it is \_\_\_\_\_ as to whether its hidden reasons and \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ to man or not.  
The option that best fill the blanks in the above sentence would be:  
(a) relentless, indifferent, actions, understandable  
(b) persistent, heartless, actions, comprehensible  
(c) inexorable, apathetic, activities, explicable  
(d) inescapable, unconcerned, activities, intelligible
6. Nabeesa was not \_\_\_\_\_ by the criticism and paid no \_\_\_\_\_ even when her best friend talked against her.  
(a) threatened, warning (b) troubled, mind  
(c) deterred, heed (d) bothered, attention
7. He has a \_\_\_\_\_ tongue; his pinching sarcasm has \_\_\_\_\_ everyone who has come into contact with him.  
(a) wanton, immunised  
(b) vitriolic, alienated  
(c) pungent, animated  
(d) recalcitrant, humanised
8. Scientists, working to save the earth, have \_\_\_\_\_ dry water that soaks carbon three times better than water, and hence helps \_\_\_\_\_ global warming.  
(a) aided, cut (b) created, combat  
(c) built, stop (d) produced, increase
9. The first round of the contest had the students \_\_\_\_\_ themselves and \_\_\_\_\_ about their hobbies.  
(a) introducing, talking  
(b) sensitizing, sketching  
(c) showcasing, planning  
(d) acclimatizing, mentioning
10. The varsity's poll process for \_\_\_\_\_ of new candidates has \_\_\_\_\_ poor response with only ten thousand applications being received till date.  
(a) entrusting, seen (b) registration, evoked  
(c) entrance, made (d) admission, made
11. It is time to \_\_\_\_\_ ongoing programmes and \_\_\_\_\_ new horizons.  
(a) value, choose (b) speculate, experiment  
(c) reject, consider (d) assess, seek
12. This approach would \_\_\_\_\_ the enormous illiteracy problem to be \_\_\_\_\_ in a holistic manner.  
(a) enable, tackled (b) focus, viewed  
(c) envision, dealt (d) combine, judged
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ of criminalisation of politics needs to be \_\_\_\_\_ far more seriously.  
(a) lacuna, dealt (b) issue, addressed  
(c) system, broken (d) continuation, suppressed
14. He \_\_\_\_\_ a wrong act because it was \_\_\_\_\_ for him to do so due to circumstantial forces.  
(a) compelled, necessary  
(b) refused, dangerous  
(c) did, avoidable  
(d) committed, inevitable
15. Many teachers \_\_\_\_\_ the lack of \_\_\_\_\_ for leaving the job.  
(a) cited, reason (b) explained, force  
(c) claimed, understanding (d) argued, culprit
16. Skeptics would not \_\_\_\_\_ that the earth actually moves, let alone that it \_\_\_\_\_ around the sun.  
(a) permit, orbits (b) accept, revolves  
(c) experience, circles (d) assume, went
17. Unpredictable \_\_\_\_\_ of the child could not lead the consultants to any \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) performance, setting (b) belief, judgment  
(c) operation, purpose (d) behaviour, conclusion
18. A public, servant who is guilty will not \_\_\_\_\_ punishment and no \_\_\_\_\_ person will be punished.  
(a) be, sincere (b) flee, guilty  
(c) defend, common (d) avoid, uninformed



19. Few professions can \_\_\_\_\_ the sheer variety and constant \_\_\_\_\_ of being a doctor.  
 (a) like, struggle (b) share, enthusiast  
 (c) match, challenge (d) draw, work-load
20. The organisation \_\_\_\_\_ to popularise Indian classical music among the youth which has lost \_\_\_\_\_ with its cultural roots.  
 (a) endeavours, touch (b) wishes, interest  
 (c) efforts, experience (d) exerts, intrigue
21. One of the major critiques of the examination system is that it \_\_\_\_\_ to a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ competition among the students.  
 (a) results, defective (b) accompanies, adequate  
 (c) develops, intense (d) takes, severe
22. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the chronic balance of payments deficit which has \_\_\_\_\_ the Finance Ministry under three Prime Ministers is very real.  
 (a) temptation, reviled  
 (b) understanding, menaced  
 (c) impact, underestimated  
 (d) dilemma, plagued
23. Our Constitution was based on the belief that the free \_\_\_\_\_ of ideas, people and cultures is essential to the \_\_\_\_\_ of a democratic society.  
 (a) selection, concurrence  
 (b) interchange, preservation  
 (c) reversal, upholding  
 (d) dissemination, congruence
24. As this country has become more \_\_\_\_\_ industrial and internationalised, it has like all Western democracies in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the executive.  
 (a) urbanised, role (b) objective, wealth  
 (c) synthesised, efficiency (d) civilized, convenience
25. More is \_\_\_\_\_ of conditions of the tribals in Maharashtra than \_\_\_\_\_ conditions of those in the other parts of the country.  
 (a) certain, the (b) known, of  
 (c) aware, of (d) aware, of
26. Although \_\_\_\_\_ is not a very desirable feeling we need a certain amount of it to \_\_\_\_\_ well.  
 (a) anxiety, exist (b) grief, enjoy  
 (c) pain, bestow (d) impatience, preach
27. Although he is \_\_\_\_\_ person, he occasionally loses his \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) quiet, power (b) cheerful, grief  
 (c) balanced, temper (d) thoughtful, Anxiety
28. In a \_\_\_\_\_ tone, the leader made a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ to the mob.  
 (a) realistic, zeal (b) lower, conviction  
 (c) loud, argument (d) soft, appeal
29. The tunnel was so \_\_\_\_\_ and congested, that we became \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) long, enthusiastic (b) deep, Cautious  
 (c) dark, frightened (d) crowded, isolated
30. Football evokes a \_\_\_\_\_ response in India compared to cricket, that almost \_\_\_\_\_ the nation.  
 (a) tepid, boiling  
 (b) lukewarm, electrifies  
 (c) turbid, fascinating  
 (d) apocryphal, genuinely fascinates
31. Though one eye is kept firmly on the \_\_\_\_\_, the company now also promotes \_\_\_\_\_ contemporary art.  
 (a) present, experimental  
 (b) future, popular  
 (c) present, popular  
 (d) market, popular
32. The law prohibits a person from felling a sandalwood tree, even if it grows on one's own land, without prior permission from the government. As poor people cannot deal with the government, this legal provision leads to a rip-roaring business for \_\_\_\_\_, who care neither for the \_\_\_\_\_, nor for the trees.  
 (a) middlemen, rich (b) the government, poor  
 (c) touts, rich (d) touts, poor
33. It will take some time for many South Koreans to \_\_\_\_\_ the conflicting images of North Korea, let alone to \_\_\_\_\_ what to make of their northern cousins.  
 (a) reconcile, decide (b) understand, clarify  
 (c) make out, decide (d) reconcile, understand
34. The manners and \_\_\_\_\_ of the nouveau riche is a recurrent \_\_\_\_\_ in the literature.  
 (a) style, motif (b) morals, story  
 (c) wealth, theme (d) morals, theme
35. These issues are extremely \_\_\_\_\_ and any knee jerk reaction will ultimately result in a loss of \_\_\_\_\_ for all shareholders  
 (a) Unassociated, curare (b) Ambiguous, plutocracy  
 (c) Nuanced, opportunity (d) Contexted, serendipity
36. Growth under this government has been \_\_\_\_\_ high and remarkably \_\_\_\_\_ even during the worst global economic crisis.  
 (a) Impededly, flippant (b) Relatively, intractable  
 (c) Obstructedly, rigid (d) Sustainedly, resilient
37. There are different and \_\_\_\_\_ versions about what happened in the city, but one thing is certain. It is a dastardly act that must be condemned \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) Dissimilar, concertedly  
 (b) Contrary, obviously  
 (c) Conflicting, unequivocally  
 (d) Unique, without conflict
38. They \_\_\_\_\_ their seats away from the curved wall panels to give themselves more space as the flight attendant brought drinks from the gallery, which was \_\_\_\_\_ with family's favorite snacks and beverages.  
 (a) Swiveled, stocked (b) Hinged, lacquered  
 (c) Pended, embellished (d) Retracted, thronged

39. Cairn cannot \_\_\_\_\_ bring into picture some \_\_\_\_\_ outsider which has little experience and necessary consents to deal in the oil field.  
 (a) Peremptorily, ascribed  
 (b) Complaisantly, endorsed  
 (c) Democratically, aberrant  
 (d) Arbitrarily, unrelated
40. Economic growth is on auto-pilot, unlikely to be derailed by any lapse into \_\_\_\_\_ and controls or to be \_\_\_\_\_ by serious policy reforms.  
 (a) Growth, blowed (b) Boom, berated  
 (c) Recession, reduced (d) Dirigisme, boosted
41. A growing number of these expert professionals \_\_\_\_\_ having to train foreigners as the students end up \_\_\_\_\_ the teachers who have to then unhappily content with no jobs at all or new jobs with drastically reduced pay packets  
 (a) are, supplanting (b) welcome, assisting  
 (c) resist, challenging (d) resent, replacing
42. Women should be paid the same as men-when they do the same job, for surely, what is sauce for the \_\_\_\_\_ is sauce for the \_\_\_\_  
 (a) goose, gander (b) cock, hen  
 (c) fox, vixen (d) buck, doe
43. He has a \_\_\_\_\_ tongue; his pinching sarcasm has \_\_\_\_\_ everyone who has come into contact with him.  
 (a) wanton, immunised  
 (b) vitriolic, alienated  
 (c) pungent, animated  
 (d) recalcitrant, humanised
44. Though one eye is kept firmly on the \_\_\_\_\_, the company now also promotes \_\_\_\_\_ contemporary art.  
 (a) present, experimental (b) future, popular  
 (c) present, popular (d) market, popular
45. The law prohibits a person from felling a sandalwood tree, even if it grows on one's own land, without prior permission from the government. As poor people cannot deal with the government this legal provision leads to a rip-roaring business for \_\_\_\_\_, who care neither for the \_\_\_\_\_, nor for the trees  
 (a) middlemen, rich (b) the government, poor  
 (c) touts, rich (d) touts, poor
46. It will take some time for many South Koreans to \_\_\_\_\_ the conflicting images of North Korea, let alone to \_\_\_\_\_ what to make of their northern cousins  
 (a) reconcile, decide (b) understand, clarify  
 (c) make out, decide (d) reconcile, understand
47. In these bleak and depressing times of \_\_\_\_\_ prices, non-performing governments and \_\_\_\_\_ crime rates, Sourav Ganguly has given us, Indians, a lot to cheer about  
 (a) escalating, increasing (b) spiralling, booming  
 (c) spiralling, soaring (d) ascending, debilitating
48. The genocides in Bosnia and Rwanda, apart from being mis-described in the most sinister and \_\_\_\_\_ manner as 'ethnic cleansing', were also blamed, in further hand-washing rhetoric, on something dark and interior to \_\_\_\_\_ and perpetrators alike.  
 (a) innovative, communicator  
 (b) enchanting, leaders  
 (c) disingenuous, victims  
 (d) exigent, exploiters
49. As navigators, calendar makers, and other \_\_\_\_\_ of the night sky accumulated evidence to the contrary, ancient astronomers were forced to \_\_\_\_\_ that certain bodies might move in circles about points, which in turn moved in circles about the earth.  
 (a) scrutinizers, believe (b) observers, agree  
 (c) scrutinizers, suggest (d) observers, concede
50. Every human being, after the first few days of his life, is a product of two factors: on the one hand, there is his \_\_\_\_\_ endowment; and on the other hand, there is the effect of environment, including \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) constitutional, weather (b) congenital, education  
 (c) personal, climate (d) economic, learning
51. It \_\_\_\_\_ not look like a great deal today, but back then it was a coup: no man before \_\_\_\_\_ to import tea directly into Ireland.  
 The option that will best fill the blanks in the above sentences would be:  
 (a) may, has dared (b) may, had dared  
 (c) might, have dared (d) might, have ever dared
52. The head \_\_\_\_\_ was annoyed to see a \_\_\_\_\_ in the soup.  
 The option that would best fill the blanks in the above sentence would be:  
 (a) chief, house fly (b) chef, housefly  
 (c) chief, house-fly (d) chef, house fly
53. There is much difficulty \_\_\_\_\_ getting \_\_\_\_\_ this place and it is not possible to reach \_\_\_\_\_ without the grace of the lord.  
 The option that best fill the blanks in the above sentence would be:  
 (a) in, to, it (b) to, to, it  
 (c) to, in, it (d) in, in, in
54. When you want to digitalise a city \_\_\_\_\_ with millions, you don't bet \_\_\_\_\_ the odds.  
 (a) proceeding, into (b) teeming, against  
 (c) undergoing, adhere (d) dangling, for
55. The numbers \_\_\_\_\_ by the legitimate online music service providers indicate that a growing number of users are \_\_\_\_\_ to buy music.  
 (a) morphed, ignoring (b) labelled, thriving  
 (c) figured, fanatic (d) touted, willing
56. In India is \_\_\_\_\_ on protecting its resources, international business appears equally \_\_\_\_\_ to safeguard its profit.  
 (a) dreaded, fragile (b) stubborn, weak  
 (c) bent, determined (d) approaching, settled

57. Brands \_\_\_\_\_ decision-simplicity strategies make full use of available information to \_\_\_\_\_ where consumers are on the path of decisions making and direct them to the best market offers.  
 (a) diluting, divulge (b) tempting, maintain  
 (c) imputing, overdrive (d) pursuing, assess
58. Lack of financing options, \_\_\_\_\_ with HR and technological \_\_\_\_\_, make small and medium enterprises sector the most vulnerable component of our economy.  
 (a) except, loophole (b) coupled, challenges  
 (c) armed, benefits (d) registered, strategies
59. The water transport project on the west coast is \_\_\_\_\_ to get a shot in the arm with a new plan in which the Road Development Corporation will build the infrastructure and \_\_\_\_\_ a private party to operate the service.  
 (a) scheduled, let (b) verge, permit  
 (c) set, sanctions (d) bound, task
60. As the weekend finally rolled around, the city folk were only \_\_\_\_\_ happy to settle down and laugh their cares \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) just, afar (b) too, away  
 (c) extremely, off (d) very, up
61. The flood of brilliant ideas has not only \_\_\_\_\_ us, but has also encouraged us to \_\_\_\_\_ the last date for submission of entries.  
 (a) overwhelmed, extend (b) enjoyed, stretch  
 (c) dismayed, decide (d) scared, scrap
62. \_\_\_\_\_ about prolonged power cuts in urban areas, the authorities have decided to \_\_\_\_\_ over to more reliable and eco-friendly systems to run its pumps.  
 (a) Worried, shift (b) Frantic, move  
 (c) Troubled, jump (d) Concerned, switch
63. The high cutoff marks this year have \_\_\_\_\_ college admission-seekers to either \_\_\_\_\_ for lesser known colleges or change their subject preferences.  
 (a) cajoled, ask (b) pressured, sit  
 (c) forced, settle (d) strained, compromise
64. \_\_\_\_\_ of illiteracy from a nation that is set to become the most populated in the world is by no \_\_\_\_\_ easy.  
 (a) Countering, task (b) Driving, measure  
 (c) Curbing, way (d) Eradication, means
65. I am an entertainer, \_\_\_\_\_, I have to keep smiling because in my heart laughter and sorrow have an affinity.  
 (a) even if I have tears in me  
 (b) even though I am depressed inside  
 (c) while entertaining people  
 (d) in the entertainment business
66. Political power is just as permanent as today's newspaper. Ten years down the line, \_\_\_\_\_, who the most powerful man in any state was today.  
 (a) who cares  
 (b) nobody will remember what was written in today's newspaper or  
 (c) few will know, or care about  
 (d) when a lot of water will have passed under the bridge, who will care
67. When we call others dogmatic, what we really object to is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) their giving the dog a bad name  
 (b) their holding dogmas that are different from our own  
 (c) the extremism that goes along with it  
 (d) the subversion of whatever they actually believe in concomitantly
68. Although it has been more than 50 years since Satyajit Ray made Pather Panchali, \_\_\_\_\_ refuse to go away from the mind.  
 (a) the haunting images (b) its haunting images  
 (c) its haunted images (d) the haunt of its images
69. \_\_\_\_\_, the more they remain the same.  
 (a) People all over the world change  
 (b) The more people change  
 (c) The more they are different  
 (d) The less people change
70. The stock markets \_\_\_\_\_. The state they are in right now speaks volumes about this fact.  
 (a) is the barometer of public confidence  
 (b) are the best indicators of public sentiment  
 (c) are used to trade in expensive shares  
 (d) are not used to taking stock of all markets
71. This is about \_\_\_\_\_ a sociological analysis can penetrate.  
 (a) as far as  
 (b) the outer limit that  
 (c) just how far into the subject  
 (d) just the relative distance that
72. I am always the first to admit that I have not accomplished everything that I \_\_\_\_\_ achieve five years ago.  
 (a) set out to (b) went to  
 (c) thought to (d) thought of
73. This is not the first time that the management has done some \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) tough talk (b) tough talking  
 (c) firm talk (d) firm talking
74. The present Constitution will see \_\_\_\_\_ amendments but its basic structure will survive.  
 (a) much more (b) many more  
 (c) too many more (d) quite a few more
75. Education is central because electronic networks and software-driven technologies are beginning to \_\_\_\_\_ the economic barriers between nations.  
 (a) break down (b) break  
 (c) crumble (d) dismantle

76. Science is a sort of news agency comparable \_\_\_\_\_ to other news agencies.  
 (a) principally (b) in principle  
 (c) in principal (d) in spirit and form
77. Most political leaders acquire their position by causing a large number of people to believe that these leaders are \_\_\_\_\_ by altruistic desires.  
 (a) actuated (b) convinced  
 (c) categorized (d) led
78. Every one will admit that swindling one's fellow beings is a necessary practice; upon it, is based really sound commercial success \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) sell what you cannot buy back  
 (b) buy what you will sell to another at a higher price  
 (c) buy cheap and sell dear  
 (d) sell what you can, do not buy from a competitor
79. The petitioner had \_\_\_\_\_ an immediate stay form the court on allotment of the Hats \_\_\_\_\_ of investigation into the alleged irregularities.  
 (a) asked file process (b) sought, completion  
 (c) propagated, finish (d) demanded, course
80. Modern music doesn't king \_\_\_\_\_ to longevity, sometimes it is hard even to remember what the biggest hit from a \_\_\_\_\_ of years ago was.  
 (a) itself, couple (b) much few  
 (c) money some (d) mother, spatter

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 81-85):** Each question below has two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole. [SBI PO 2011]

81. When you want to digitalise a city \_\_\_\_\_ with millions, you don't bet \_\_\_\_\_ the odds.  
 (a) proceeding, into (b) teeming, against  
 (c) undergoing, adhere (d) dangling, for  
 (e) falling, above
82. The numbers \_\_\_\_\_ by the legitimate online music service providers indicate that a growing number of users are \_\_\_\_\_ to buy music.  
 (a) morphed, ignoring (b) labelled, thriving  
 (c) figured, fanatic (d) painted, interested  
 (e) touted, willing
83. In India is \_\_\_\_\_ on protecting its resources, international business appears equally \_\_\_\_\_ to safeguard its profit.  
 (a) dreaded, fragile (b) stubborn, weak  
 (c) bent, determined (d) approaching, settled
84. Brands \_\_\_\_\_ decision-simplicity strategies make full use of available information to \_\_\_\_\_ where consumers are on the path of decisions making and direct them to the best market offers.  
 (a) diluting, divulge (b) tempting, maintain  
 (c) imputing, overdrive (d) pursuing, assess  
 (e) employing, trust

85. Lack of financing options, \_\_\_\_\_ with HR and technological \_\_\_\_\_, make small and medium enterprises sector the most vulnerable component of our economy.  
 (a) except, loophole (b) coupled, challenges  
 (c) armed, benefits (d) registered, strategies

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 86-90) :** The following questions consist of a single sentence with one blank only. You are given six words as answer choices and from the six choices you have to pick up two correct answers, either of which will make the sentence meaningfully complete. [IBPS PO 2011]

86. The ability of a woman to do well does not \_\_\_\_\_ on whether it is a man's world or not, because everyone has his/her own opportunities.  
 (1) trust (2) depend  
 (3) reckon (4) live  
 (5) rest (6) believe  
 (a) (4) and (5) (b) (2) and (3)  
 (c) (1) and (6) (d) (2) and (5)  
 (e) (3) and (4)
87. Drugs worth ` 3 lakhs were ..... from the apartment by the police.  
 (1) manufactured (2) ruptured  
 (3) seized (4) confiscated  
 (5) bought (6) compared  
 (a) (1) and (4) (b) (2) and (3)  
 (c) (3) and (5) (d) (5) and (6)  
 (e) (3) and (4)
88. An organization ..... to the mission of road safety has prepared an action plan for reducing accidents and related injuries and fatalities.  
 (1) specified (2) inaugurated  
 (3) committed (4) kicked off  
 (5) succumbed (6) dedicated  
 (a) (3) and (6) (b) (1) and (5)  
 (c) (3) and (5) (d) (4) and (6)  
 (e) (1) and (3)
89. A man reportedly ..... two passports with the same photograph, but under different names was arrested by the commissioner's Task Force.  
 (1) possessing (2) examining  
 (3) surrendering (4) mastering  
 (5) holding (6) fixating  
 (a) (2) and (3) (b) (3) and (6)  
 (c) (1) and (5) (d) (1) and (4)  
 (e) (4) and (5)
90. The Hollywood star and the Bollywood heroine are being ..... as the next big onscreen couple.  
 (1) labeled (2) explained  
 (3) worshiped (4) touted  
 (5) exclaimed (6) shouted  
 (a) (2) and (4) (b) (1) and (3)  
 (c) (2) and (6) (d) (1) and (4)  
 (e) (3) and (4)



**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 91-95) :** The following questions consist of a single sentence with one blank only. You are given six words denoted by A, B, C, D, E & F as answer choices and from the six choices you have to pick two correct answers, either of which will make the sentence meaningfully complete. [IBPS PO 2012]

91. \_\_\_\_\_ before the clock struck 8 on Saturday night, India Gate was swamped with people wearing black tee-shirts and holding candles.  
 (A) Minutes (B) Time  
 (C) Later (D) Quickly  
 (E) Since (F) Seconds  
 (a) (B) and (E) (b) (A) and (C)  
 (c) (A) and (F) (d) (B) and (D)  
 (e) (C) and (E)
92. The States should take steps \_\_\_\_\_ to the process of teachers' appointments as the Centre has already sanctioned six lakh posts.  
 (A) fasten (B) move  
 (C) hasten (D) speed  
 (E) early (F) quicken  
 (a) (D) and (F) (b) (A) and (C)  
 (c) (C) and (F) (d) (D) and (E)  
 (e) (B) and (D)
93. A senior citizen's son \_\_\_\_\_ threatened her every day and physically harmed her, forcing her to transfer her property to him.  
 (A) superficially (B) mistakenly  
 (C) allegedly (D) miserably  
 (E) doubtfully (F) purportedly  
 (a) (C) and (F) (b) (A) and (E)  
 (c) (C) and (E) (d) (D) and (F)  
 (e) (A) and (C)
94. Medical teachers said that the management had continued to remain \_\_\_\_\_ to their cause leading to the stretching of their strike.  
 (A) unmoved (B) lethargic  
 (C) unconcerned (D) apathetic  
 (E) indifferent (F) bored  
 (a) (B) and (C) (b) (C) and (F)  
 (c) (A) and (E) (d) (A) and (D)  
 (e) (D) and (E)
95. The parents had approached the high court to \_\_\_\_\_ the government order after their children, who passed UKG, were denied admission by a school.  
 (A) void (B) quash  
 (C) annual (D) stay  
 (E) lift (F) post  
 (a) (A) and (D) (b) (B) and (C)  
 (c) (C) and (E) (d) (E) and (F)  
 (e) (C) and (D)

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 96 - 100) :** In the following questions, sentences are given with blanks to be filled in with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. Choose the correct alternative out of the four and indicate it by blackening the appropriate rectangle [■] in the Answer-Sheet.

[SSC CGL 2012]

96. \_\_\_\_\_ pollution control measures are expensive, many industries hesitate to adopt them.  
 (a) Although (b) However  
 (c) Because (d) Despite
97. It is not \_\_\_\_\_ for a man to be confined to the pursuit of wealth.  
 (a) healthy (b) easy  
 (c) possible (d) common
98. \_\_\_\_\_ his being innocent of the crime, the judge sentenced him to one year imprisonment.  
 (a) In spite of (b) In case of  
 (c) On account of (d) In the event of
99. It is a story of two men and a batch of \_\_\_\_\_ armoured cars.  
 (a) deceased (b) diseased  
 (c) decrepit (d) defeated
100. Although there is \_\_\_\_\_ gunfire, there is no stiff resistance to the revolutionary army.  
 (a) bitter (b) meagre  
 (c) continuous (d) sporadic

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 101 - 105) :** In the following questions, sentences are given with blanks to be filled with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. Choose the correct alternative out of the four and indicate it.

[SSC CGL, 2013]

101. Mr. Murugan has been in this college \_\_\_\_\_ 2010.  
 (a) for (b) since  
 (c) after (d) before
102. We attended a \_\_\_\_\_ discourse.  
 (a) spiritual (b) spirituous  
 (c) spirituality (d) spiritually
103. The valley is known for its \_\_\_\_\_ growth of vegetation.  
 (a) luxurious (b) luxury  
 (c) luxuriant (d) luxuriously
104. Satyajitray's films \_\_\_\_\_ all barriers of caste, creed and religion. They are universal.  
 (a) transcend (b) transcends  
 (c) transcend (d) transend
105. I could hardly recognize him \_\_\_\_\_ I saw him.  
 (a) after (b) but  
 (c) and (d) when

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 106-110) :** Each question below has two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

[SBI PO 2013]

106. In an effort to provide \_\_\_\_\_ for higher education to all, most of the universities have been providing education without adequate infrastructure, thus churning out \_\_\_\_\_ graduates every year.  
 (a) chances, fresh  
 (b) platform, capable  
 (c) opportunities, unemployable  
 (d) prospects, eligible  
 (e) policy, incompetent



107. The move to allow dumping of mercury \_\_\_\_\_. An outcry from residents of the area who \_\_\_\_\_ that high levels of mercury will affect their health and destroy ecologically sensitive forest area.  
 (a) resulted, insist (b) provoked, fear  
 (c) incited, determined (d) activated, accept  
 (e) angered, believe
108. Even as the \_\_\_\_\_ elsewhere in the world are struggling to come out of recession, Indian consumers are splurging on consumer goods and to \_\_\_\_\_ this growth, companies are investing heavily in various sectors.  
 (a) economies, meet (b) countries, inhibit  
 (c) governments, measure (d) nations, inflict  
 (e) companies, counter
109. Drawing attention to the pitfalls of \_\_\_\_\_ solely on Uranium as a fuel for nuclear reactors, Indian scientists warned that Uranium will not last for long and thus research on Thorium as its must be revived \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) using, substitute  
 (b) believing, replacement  
 (c) depending, reserve  
 (d) reckoning, option  
 (e) relying, alternative
110. \_\_\_\_\_ has been taken against some wholesale drug dealers for dealing in surgical items without a valid license and maintaining a stock of \_\_\_\_\_ drugs.  
 (a) Note, overwhelming (b) Step, impressive  
 (c) Execution, outdated (d) Action, expired  
 (e) Lawsuit, invalid
- DIRECTIONS (Qs. 111-115) :** Pick out the most effective pair of words from the given pair of words make the sentences meaningfully complete. [SBI PO, 2014]
111. Weather officials have \_\_\_\_ below-normal rains this year. If the predictions come true, farm output could \_\_\_\_ as most of India's farmlands depend on rainwater for irrigation.  
 (a) forecasted-shrank (b) forecast-shrank  
 (c) forecast-shrink (d) predicted-expand  
 (e) predictions-wan
112. It is the role of the state to \_\_\_\_ crime and protect people and property. If the state is unable to prevent a crime it falls upon the state to \_\_\_\_ the victim.  
 (a) prevent-support (b) preventing-encourage  
 (c) prevent-supporting (d) forbid-discourage  
 (e) forbid-discouraging
113. A person who is clean and tidy in how he dresses up commands better \_\_\_\_\_ from those around him than those "who have a—and unkempt appearance \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) respectful - slovenly (b) respect - slovenly  
 (c) respected - untidy (d) respect - tidy  
 (e) respect - careful
114. Today we have achieved a milestone by completing 60 years of independence. It's now the time for everyone or every Indian to undergo \_\_\_\_\_ of the achievements we already made and also those that are to be still \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (a) self-introspection-achiver  
 (b) self-examination-achieve  
 (c) introspection-achieved  
 (d) search-found  
 (e) cross-inspection - made
115. Education is an essential means of \_\_\_\_\_ women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to fully \_\_\_\_\_ in the development process.  
 (a) empower- include  
 (b) empowering - participate  
 (c) empowered - participating  
 (d) empowerment - participate  
 (e) strengthening - participate

## Hints &amp; Solutions

## LEVEL-I

1. (b)
2. (c); Option (c) is correct, because a product is launched. Launch refers to introducing something to the public for the first time. Start means to just begin or set in motion, it is synonymous with 'begun'; whereas, commissioned means 'to give an official approval'.
3. (d); The speaker is saying that his novel was a success, but that is not what he/she expected. Option (d) is correct, because making a fortune means achieving a lot of success, prosperity or making lots of money. So, it refers to achieving success, which is what the context is. Option (a) is wrong, because 'days were up' is an idiom which refers to 'ending' or 'coming to an end', this ending could be of anything, like success, happiness etc. But the author, in fact, got success, so this option is logically incorrect. Option (b) is wrong because chances are not talked about after the result and similarly, option (c) can be ruled out too.
4. (b); The statement probably talks about a situation in which a boy catches fire and the neighbour saves him. The neighbour did that by grabbing and then rolling him on the road to extinguish the fire. We have to pick the right word that describes this action. Option (b) is correct, because to 'kill the flames' would mean extinguishing the fire and this is exactly what is needed here. Option (a) is wrong. Option (c) is wrong, because the flames do not burn out, the fuel does. Option (d) is wrong, because fizz refers to become bubbly or frothy, so it is clearly not the right word here.
5. (d); Option (d) is correct, as the secret was kept between the speaker and Sam. Option (a) is wrong, because then the statement becomes redundant. Option (b) is incorrect. Option (c) is wrong, because amongst is used in the case when more than two people or entities are involved.
6. (b); The speaker is talking about how sometimes the greatest inventions are formed on or depend on simple ideas or basic thoughts. Option (b) is the correct option because it means 'to depend on', which fits in perfectly with the statement as then it would mean that some of the greatest inventions depend on simplistic ideas.
7. (a); The given statement refers that real friends i.e. the ones who really feel for the organization, are witnessed in different forms or appearances. Although, 'garb' refers to clothes, and thereby options (b), (c), and (d) do look probable, but 'come in' refers to 'approaching someone or appear in front of someone' which is what the author means.
8. (b) The word 'probably' means likely (very/most).
9. (b) The word 'broke down' means collapse.
10. (d) The word 'looking for' means in search of.
11. (a) The word 'hanging around' means linger or wait around.
12. (a) The word 'backed out' means go back on or withdraw from.
13. (c) Remorse is an emotion/action/feeling after the crime is done. Hatred is for the other people who saw/hear/ gone through crime but certainly not for the prisoner. Crime is done in anger and a cause. Obstinacy is stubbornness. Only emotion that suits the context is Remorse.
14. (c) If it would have been 'security' then it would have been 'provided' in the statement not 'subjected'. Exercise does not fit. Violation (to breach) is also out of place. Use of 'physical' in statement indicates 'violence'. It fits best in the blank.
15. (c) War is a negative word and it is synonym with mass destruction, death hence certainly has grim consequences. Happy, Pleasing, exciting all have positive sense; so can not be linked with war.
16. (d) Suppose you do not know exact meaning of all the options. Let us try solving it with critical reasoning approach. 'Bad for science' does not look sense full. 'Bad to' does not suit. 'Bad in science' looks convincing but it is slang not the right answers. People usually use - I am bad in mathematics but not in science. This is not right as per Standard English. With subjects 'at' is used as connector.
17. (d) A clever way to tackle this question would be to see the second as a prepositional usage. You go on foot. So, our choices narrow down to (c) and (d). Now, would you be utilising time if you go on foot? Perhaps not. So, (c) is eliminated. If you do something in order to gain time you do it in order to give yourself enough time. For what? To think of an excuse or a way out of a difficult situation.
18. (b) Note that the paralytic attack was mild, which gives us the clue that its effect would be slight. This is further substantiated by the second part of the sentence: "...otherwise he is still very active" means there is some (slight) trouble but not much.
19. (d) As a matter of rule, who should suffer? The guilty?. But the word despite points to the contrary. Hence, innocence.
20. (d) When someone else has good fortune (luck), the general feeling is: "Why is he the favoured one? Why not I?" This is a feeling of envy.
21. (b) Ushered (show or guide somewhere) seems to be the most appropriate in the context of the sentence.
22. (a) Only something negative can prevent a good measure. We have two choices representing negativeness: (a) and (b). But (b) is not applicable: A syndrome is a medical condition that is characterised by a particular group of signs and symptoms.
23. (a) Let us look at the look phrases. If you look after someone, you do what is necessary to keep him healthy, safe, or in good condition. If you look after something, you are responsible for it. It is your duty to see that it functions all right. If you look ahead you think about what is going to happen in the future; you make plans for the future. On the contrary, if you look back you think about things that happened in the past. If A looks down on B, A considers B to be inferior or unimportant. If you look forward to something that is going to happen, you want it to happen because you think you will enjoy it. If you look into a problem you try to find out about it; you examine the facts related to the problem. If you look on while something happens, you watch it happening without taking part yourself. If you look up a fact or a piece of information, you find it out by looking in a reference book, list etc. If you look up to someone, especially someone, older than you, you respect and admire him.

24. (b) The word penal means “punishable by law”. Hence, offence is the correct choice. An offence is a crime that breaks a particular law and requires a particular punishment. A sin, on the other hand, is a moral wrong. If you sin, you break the laws of God.
25. (d) The “comic”: (comics book) changes hands - it goes from the boy to the teacher. Only (b), (c) and (d) give this sense of change of hands. Of these, seized is the most appropriate. If someone in authority (here “the teacher”) seizes your property (here “the boy’s comic”), they take it from you, often by force. Of course, no boy would willingly part with his “comic”
26. (b) A literal translation is one in which you translate each ‘word’ of the original work. Since each language has its own idiom, a literal translation leads to awkward usage. A literal translation is therefore not considered good. A good translation gives the meaning of each expression, sentence or paragraph, using words that sound natural.
27. (b)                      28. (d)                      29. (b)
30. (b) If you are the cynosure of all eyes, you are a centre of attention or interest.
31. (b) Your preoccupations are the activities that take up your attention (or time), leaving little room for other things.
32. (d) What is the difference between alternately and alternatively? Alternatively implies that you have a choice (alternative) — either by sea or by road. In the given question conjunction “or” gives us the clue. When we say alternately it means first by sea then by road, the third time by sea again, the fourth time by road again, and so on. Since both the routes are being used in this case, the conjunction should be “and”.
33. (c) If A transmits a disease to B, A has the disease and causes B to have it. Here, “disease” gives us the clue.
34. (a) Both (a) and (b) are correct but apprised is a formal usage. Such formal usages are preferred when the persons involved include “the Chief Minister” himself - a stately personage.
35. (d) The outskirts of a city (here “Hyderabad”) or town are the part that are farthest away from its centre.
36. (d) If there is congestion in a place, the place is extremely crowded and blocked with traffic or people. The problem of congestion is thus essentially a problem of space. It could be got rid of through addition of space (by developing “satellite ports”). Blockade is slightly different. It is the action that is taken to prevent goods or people from entering or leaving it. The problem here is political - blockades are the creation of strikers or political groups. And the problem could persist even at the newly-developed satellite ports.
37. (b) (a), (b) and (d) are close choices. Distraction happens to your thoughts. When we are talking of ‘path’, it is either deviation or diversion. While diversion is moving away from the main course (road), deviation is moving away from the normal (here “chosen”) path.
38. (d) (e) is rejected because the date became known to the members; the members were not known. Similar is the case with (1) and (2), (3) is rejected because it does not make sense. You can know (be informed) of something in advance. But you can’t be ignorant (not aware) “in advance”
39. (a) (b), (c) and (d) are the pre-action phase. One fails or succeeds only when one does a work. That is, when one tries. Hence, attempt. (e) makes no sense at all.
40. (c) Students of physics must be well aware of friction. Friction is the force that makes it difficult for things to move freely when they are touching each other. It thus shows a lack of co-ordination. If there is friction between people, there is disagreement and argument between them. That is exactly what happens “between labour and management.”
41. (d) Deliver is used in the following senses. If you deliver something somewhere, you take it there. For example: The postman delivers letters at our homes. When you deliver what you have promised to do or make, you do it or make it. For example: The manager promised to get ads but failed to deliver. If you deliver A into B’s care, you give B responsibility for A. For example: 11cr mother delivered her to me before she (her mother) died. If you give a lecture or speech in public, you deliver it. [The given question has this usage.] When you deliver a baby, you help the woman who is giving birth to the baby. If A delivers a blow to B, A hits B. If someone delivers you from something, he rescues or saves you from it.
42. (b)
43. (c) If a language is spoken by many people or throughout a large area, we say that it is widely spoken.
44. (c) If you have a right to do something (here “vote”), you are morally or legally entitled to do it. “The age of 18” is the legal barrier here.
45. (a) If you implement something (here “an accord” - that is, agreement), you ensure that it is brought into practice.
46. (b) The trend shows which way the graph is moving: is it rising or falling? The word “rise” gives us the clue.
47. (b) If you raise a subject (here, “a controversial issue”), an objection, or a question, you mention it or bring it to someone attention (here, to the attention of the members of the “Assembly”).
48. (b) Here, the infant mortality rate (IMR) moves from a higher level (200) to a lower level (14). Hence, declined.
49. (d) The word “ransom” gives us the clue. A ransom is the money (₹ 8, 000) that has to be paid to the kidnapper (here, “servant”) so that he will set free the person kidnapped (here, the “five-year-old boy”).
50. (a) If something (here, the driver’s licence) is impounded by the police, customs officers or other officials, they officially take possession of it because a law or rule has been broken (here, “rash driving”). Impounded thus means seized in a specific context.
51. (a)
52. (c) He has already decided (“made up his mind”). In order that the “argument” might succeed, it should have been done before he “made up his mind”. Now, it is futile.
53. (b) If you cast aspersions on someone, you suggest that he is not very good in some way.
54. (a) When people (here ‘audience’) applaud they clap their hands in order to show approval, for example when they have enjoyed a drama or concert.
55. (a) A rite is a traditional ceremony carried out by a particular group or within a particular society. The last rites are performed when a person dies.
56. (a) The word ‘sceptical’ means suspicious or doubtful.
57. (a) The word ‘inflict’ means burden someone with or impose.
58. (d) The word ‘inherit’ means become heir to or take over.
59. (c) For statements, phrase ‘accord with’ is used. See the use of phrase in one of the judgments of a court - ‘However, the evidence suggests that the administration of complaints does not always accord with established procedures.’ Use of ‘Accord to’ is not right in this sentence.
60. (a) Vague notion is a right choice. Imagination is in itself vague (unclear). While expressions cannot be vague. Theory is out of place for the context. Thoughts can be vague or unclear or unstable.

61. (b) 'With' is used for 'contentment'. All other options are not valid and do not have any sense.
62. (d) 'Disgrace to' is perfect as per Standard English Usage. 'for' can be used with disgrace as - 'His behaviour is a disgrace for all the love showered by society to his acts.' In this type of question it is very important to read and reread the sentence to get the true sense of the situation described in the statement.
63. (b) 'dull of' and 'dull for' can be out rightly rejected as they do not fit well with the word 'understanding'. 'Dull in' is correct. When we understand it enters --- in --- our mind so with understand 'in' is used.
64. (b) The verb 'alive' exclusively takes 'to' with it. Alive to means - 'interested in' /having a lively interest
65. (d) If something contributes to an event or situation, it is one of the causes of it. Here factors has been used in the sense of causes. If you contribute money or resources to something, you give them to help achieve a particular purpose.
66. (a) If two persons are similar, you will point out to certain likenesses. Yet you can easily tell one from the other. In other words, you can differentiate between the two. But the given sentence says differentiation is difficult. Which means the resemblance is to a very high degree. In other words, identical.
67. (c) We are talking of his most striking (remarkable) quality. The characteristics of a person, thing are the qualities or features that belong to them and make them recognisable.
68. (c) The correct choice should have a meaning similar to acquaintances but have a greater intensity. An acquaintance is a person whom one knows, especially through work or business, but who is not a close (intimate) friend.
69. (b) (d) is rejected because the word should suggest that the fact goes "in favour of" the manager. If the profitability declines it would go against the manager. A good manager adds to the profitability. In other words, the profitability increases.
70. (b) If something changes or becomes true in the course of time, it has so become over a long period of time.
71. (c) 'I expected him to give' denotes the kind (category) of the answer; it is not the result of 'his answer'. So use as, not that.
72. (d)
73. (b) If you deliberate on something, you consider it carefully, often in formal meetings with other people.
74. (a) What does a holiday do to you? It makes you fresh (as if you were young) again. (2) is rejected because you do not get a new life. (3), (4) and (5) apply to things, not to persons.
75. (d) There were no expectations of the meeting; it was only "by chance". In other words, the meeting was accidental.
76. (a) If a building or window overlooks a place (here "the rear" - that is, the backyard), you can see the place clearly from the building or the window.
77. (c) Enumeration is the naming of things on a list (here "electoral rolls") one by one.
78. (a)
79. (d) If you highlight a point or problem, you throw greater light on it than on others. That is, you emphasise it or make others think about it.
80. (a) When you review something, it is merely a study, not an action (implementation). But "induction" is an action. So we reject (2). Again, "the committee" already existed, otherwise how could five persons have been "dropped". And you don't form that which already exists. So (3) is rejected. (4) is rejected because "enlarging" would only involve "induction", no "dropping". Similar is the case with supplemented (5). Since it involves both adding ("induction") and "dropping", it is a "reconstitution" — forming it again.
81. (b) A pretext is a reason which you pretend has caused you to do something. That is, you tell people that X is the reason, but in fact it is not.
82. (a) The words "interdisciplinary" and "interaction" point to the working together (co-operation) of the various departments.
83. (b) If something is sensitive to a physical force, it is easily affected by it. A sensitive "stock market" implies that there are chances of big changes in the stock market index due to government changes or certain governmental decisions; etc.
84. (d) A commodity is something that is sold for money. "Man is still a commodity" implies that he is treated as a thing; the human touch is missing.
85. (d) If you are even moderately interested in news, you must have heard of the NPT. It stands for Nuclear non-proliferation Treaty — a treaty which aims at halting the proliferation (increasing in number very quickly) of nuclear (atomic) weapons.
86. (b) An aphorism is a short witty sentence (not lofty) which expresses a general truth or observation. Bombast is the use of long, important sounding words with little meaning in an attempt to impress others. (Note that the definition is silent on presented nothing new".) An adage is something which people often say and which expresses a general truth about some aspect of life. (It need not be lofty.)
87. (b) Autocratic is the adjective from autocracy (autos = self + kratos = power). An autocratic ruler concentrates all power in himself. He makes decisions without asking anyone else's advice.
88. (d) Common sense tells us that high saving rates should lead to (greater investment and therefore) "high" growth rates. But here it is "low". This is a paradox
89. (a) If A rivals B, both A and B are of the same standard or quality. In other words, A matches B. "Few countries can rival India" means there is hardly any country that can match India. India is almost unique.
90. (d) You condole with a person on/over his or her great misfortune.
91. (b) If you tie down someone, you restrict his freedom in some way.
92. (c) Easy
93. (b) "Fear" makes your voice tremble. In other words, it becomes tremulous.
94. (b) Ecology is the pattern of relations of plants, animals and people to each other and their surroundings (environment). Anthropology is the scientific study of the human (Greek anthropos = man) race, including its different types and its beliefs, social habits and organisation, etc. Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions. An inscription is writing carved into something made of Stone or metal, for example, a gravestone, monument, or medal. Numismatics is the study of coins or medals. 'Ecumenical activities, ideas, and movements try to unite different Christian Churches.
95. (a) An incubus is a male devil supposed to have sex with a sleeping woman. Broadly, incubus means a very worrying problem. In literary usages, as in the given sentence, it means a bad dream and is synonymous with incubus.



96. (d) Peruse means to read. A perusal (reading) of "Solzhenitsyn's works" will "bring home to him" (make him understand) the truth about "Freedom" in Russia — that freedom is only nominal; it is, in fact, "restrictive". Note that Russia here is a part of the USSR, not the post-1991 Russia. (c) gives the sense of reading hurriedly".
97. (d) Magnum means 'big' (or great). (Hence a magnifying glass makes things appear big.) Opus means 'work'. (When you operate something, a computer for example, you make it work.) Combining the two, we get magnum opus great work. But it is used only in the sense of "a great literary or artistic work".
98. (d) If there is congestion in a place, the place is extremely crowded and blocked with traffic or people. The problem of congestion is thus essentially a problem of space. It could be got rid of through addition of space (by developing "satellite ports"). Blockade is slightly different. It is the action that is taken to prevent goods or people from entering or leaving it. The problem here is political - blockades are the creation of strikers or political groups. And the problem could persist even at the newly-developed satellite ports.
99. (d) When a ship founders, it fills with water and sinks. Similarly the carriage foundered (that is, sank) in the snowdrift (deep pile of snow formed by the wind). The trapped (sunk) carriage then had to be freed from the snowdrift. In other words, it had to be extricated.
100. (c) Maritime is used to describe things relating to the sea and to ships.
101. (b)
102. (a)
103. (e) Obviously the concept has to be explained and practical examples can only be quoted.
104. (b)
105. (e) She would not have told any one that she had attended the party.
106. (e)      107. (e)      108. (a)      109. (e)      110. (b)
111. (b)      112. (a)      113. (d)      114. (d)      115. (b)
116. (d)      117. (c)      118. (d)      119. (a)      120. (a)
121. (b)      122. (b)      123. (c)      124. (b)      125. (b)
126. (a)      127. (b)      128. (c)      129. (c)      130. (d)
131. (c) over, here it means came into force or effect
132. (b) interesting, exciting or fortunate
133. (a) with; into, here it means consisting of and plunged
134. (a) heavily or massively
135. (d) with
136. (a) accomplished, proficient or skilful
137. (d) over
138. (c) of, here it means cured of
139. (c) is, as it is a subject so it is a singular word
140. (a) over or give the responsibility to other person
141. (c)      142. (d)      143. (d)      144. (a)      145. (a)
146. (b) China is a big country. In area it is bigger than any other country except Russia. [except means other than, accept means consent, expect means to anticipate and access means entrance].
147. (a) the masks worn by the men helped them conceal their identity. Conceal means hide.
148. (b) On the auspicious occasion of Laxmi puja, the Mathurs bought a new car.
149. (b) Precautions are to be taken with anyone who seems infectious. [infectious means likely to transmit or spread in a rapid manner. Contagious and diseased is not used in this context because they refers to already having infection].
150. (d) The treasure was hidden off the shore. When something is hidden "off the shore," it just means that it's hidden somewhere near it.
151. (a)      152. (d)      153. (b)      154. (a)      155. (d)
156. (d) Is not learning superior to wealth?
157. (d) A group of agitators incited the mob to break down the Vice- Chancellor's door. (Incited means encourage or stir up (violent or unlawful behaviour).
158. (b) Turn the lights off before you go to bed.
159. (d) There is no factual evidence to support your assertion.
160. (a) Throw a stone at the fierce dog. [To throw a stone to someone is so that they catch it, though if they do not you might unintentionally hit them with the stone instead! But, To throw a Stone at someone is intentionally to hit them with the stone.

## LEVEL-II

- (c) (a) Serendipity (chance), faux pas (mistake) : inappropriate pair. (b) predilection (liking), despair (loss of hope) : inappropriate pair. (c) intensity (strength of feeling or effort), success : appropriate. (d) oddity (strangeness), conformity (following guidelines) : inappropriate.
- (b) (a) Dissipated (weakened) : inappropriate. (b) created, attracted : appropriate (especially since the conjunction is 'but' indicating a disadvantage following an advantage. (c) inappropriate since 'restricted' or 'limited' would need 'and' in the sentence, not 'but', since both features would be positive. (d) evicted (thrown out) : inappropriate.
- (a) (a) Stupefying (amazing), negotiate (cope with) : appropriate. (b) plural (many), alleviate (reduce something negative) : inappropriate. (c) annihilate (eliminate, wipe out) : inappropriate. (d) dreary (boring), exasperate (annoy) : inappropriate.
- (a) (a) Acknowledged (accepted), banishing (removing) : appropriate. (b) infuriating (angering) : inappropriate. (c) exacerbating (making worse) : inappropriate. (d) decimated (annihilated) : inappropriate.
- (d) c is ruled out as apathetic and indifferent are followed by the preposition 'to' using heartless for nature is erroneous \ (d) is correct, also intelligible is comprehensible.
- (c) (c) and (d) are close choices. Both heed and attention are acceptable for the second blank. Now, on to the first blank. You are bothered with or about something, but you are deterred by it.
- (b) Go for the second blank first. What is sarcasm? It is saying the opposite of what you mean. One gets sarcastic in order to mock or insult others. Take an example of sarcasm: You meet an ugly girl. She asks you to accompany her. Repelled by her ugliness, you tell her sarcastically, "I don't go around with beautiful (obviously, you mean ugly!) girls." Such a statement pinches the girl. A girl whom you have treated with such "pinching sarcasm" will never be friendly or sympathetic to you in future. You have thus alienated her. Those who are



thus “pinchingly sarcastic” have a vitriolic tongue. That is, their words are full of bitterness and hate, and so cause a lot of distress and pain.

8. (b)      9. (a)      10. (b)      11. (d)  
 12. (a)      13. (b)      14. (d)      15. (c)  
 16. (b)      17. (d)      18. (b)      19. (c)  
 20. (b)      21. (d)      22. (d)      23. (b)  
 24. (a)      25. (b)      26. (b)      27. (c)  
 28. (d)      29. (c)
30. (b) We know that in India, cricket is much more popular than football, so how football affects or provokes a reaction amongst Indians should be nothing or very less when compared with cricket's popularity. Option (b) is right, because 'lukewarm' means mild or 'the state of showing less enthusiasm or interest', and electrifies is what 'excites intensely'. These words fit perfectly in the given context.
31. (b) 'One eye is kept' means that some (not full) attention or concern is shown. So, logically, option (b) is correct, because the company has kept an eye on the future. Though they are concerned about the future, yet the company does promote what is popular and liked at the present time. We can easily make out why the other options are wrong.
32. (d) The given statement says that it is illegal to fell or cut down a sandalwood tree without taking permission from the government; then this statement goes onto say that 'as' poor people cannot really comprehend these laws or know about them well, some people take advantage of this (this can be logically inferred from the statement) Option (d) is correct because 'touts' are those people who persuade others, generally in order to do some business; this fits perfectly into the sentence as the 'touts' persuade the innocent poor people, and in this context, these touts do not care about trees or the poor (because if these poor people are caught, they will be in trouble). It is now easily evident why rest of the options are incorrect.
33. (a) The key word in the given statement is 'let alone'. It is synonymous with 'never mind', which is used to indicate that something is far less likely than the one already mentioned. For example, "He cannot even run a kilometre, let alone participate in a marathon." So, the thing which is mentioned before this 'let alone' phrase has to be of a lesser degree or extent. Option (a) is correct, because reconcile means 'solving a matter, or restoring friendly relations' (North and South Korea separated after World War II), so it will take them time to conclude what really went wrong with North Korea. Option (b) is wrong, because 'understanding' just means 'to comprehend' or 'get it' and clarify means 'to make things clear' but does not refer to coming to a conclusion. Option (c) is wrong because 'make out' can mean 'detect with senses'. Option (d) is wrong because, understand is different from deciding.
34. (d) Nouveau riche refers to people who have recently gained wealth. The speaker is describing how these people are a constant theme for literature. Option (d) is right, because 'morals' refers to the principles of what is wrong and right behaviour. This fits well in the sentence, because then the speaker would mean: the manner (way or method in which something is done) and morals (principles of right and wrong behaviour) of the newly rich. Also, 'theme' is a good fit for the second blank.
35. (c) Nuance means a subtle difference in colour, meaning, tone, etc; a shade or gradation  
 knee jerk reaction— impulsive reaction which might not be always appropriate because here decesion/reactions are taken without much thinking .

Since the issue is nuanced so it has to be studied carefully and given proper time to be analysed otherwise it would result in a loss of opportunity. All other choices are irrelevant.

36. (d) Since the given sentence speaks about positive aspects of growth therefore.  
 ∴ Sustainedly (uniformly) is best suited, relatively is irrelevant because there is no comparison made in the sentence. the first word of all other choices are absurd.
37. (c) The sentence to speaks about a bad event that has happened in the city and that it should be strictly condemned without any doubt therefore unequivocally
38. (a) Food items cannot be lacquered, embellished decorated or thronged they can only be stocked (arranged in an orderly manner) therefore choice (a) is correct
39. (d) According of the sentence. An experienced and known person would be right to deal in the oil field. Thus
40. (c) Here unlikely to be derailed means unlikely to be slowed down or unlikely to become off track.  
 ∴ Option (c) is most suited.
41. (a) Expert professionals are having to train, and students supplant (replace) teachers.
42. (a) What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander means what is acceptable for one person in a particular situation should be acceptable for another person in a similar situation.
43. (b) Go for the second blank first. What is sarcasm? It is saying the opposite of what you mean. One gets sarcastic in order to mock or insult others. Take an example of sarcasm: You meet an ugly girl. She asks you to accompany her. Repelled by her ugliness, you tell her sarcastically, "I don't go around with beautiful (obviously, you mean ugly!) girls." Such a statement pinches the girl. A girl whom you have treated with such "pinching sarcasm" will never be friendly or sympathetic to you in future. You have thus alienated her. Those who are thus "pinchingly sarcastic" have a vitriolic tongue. That is, their words are full of bitterness and hate, and so cause a lot of distress and pain.
44. (b) Since the company in the present promotes popular contemporary (of the present time) art it also keeps an eye on the future.
45. (d) The touts persuade the people to sell illegally thereby making a profit, not caring about either the poor or the trees.
46. (a) North and South Korea were divided after IInd World War thus it will take them sometime to reconcile (restore relations) when South Koreans cannot even decide what to do of the North Koreans.
47. (c) Prices are usually called as spiralling up as well as the increasingly soaring crime rates. Soaring means increasing rapidly.
48. (c) The situation due to the genocides is sinister, which means threatening. So the other word which will fill the first blank has to complement sinister. Thus the options which may fit in can be disingenuous (which means lacking in frankness, candor, or sincerity) or tragic. The other three words are positive words. In the last part of the sentence, 'to ..... and perpetrators alike' the contrast between the blank word and perpetrators (to commit: to perpetrate a crime) is quite clear. So the correct option is victims, which is antonym to perpetrators.
49. (d) Students would be a very casual option for the first blank. So we have to choose among scrutinizers and observers. However, the second part of the sentence describes how the ancient astronomers were forced to change their opinion in the

- face of contradictory evidence. When someone is compelled to accept defeat, 'concede' is the best word that can be used.
50. (b) There is a clear-cut contrast in the sentence which is clear from the presence of the phrases 'on the one hand' and 'on the other hand'. The word in the first blank has to be connected with something that is present at the time of birth - thus 'congenital'. However, the "effect of the environment" qualifies 'education'.
51. (b) Sentence is given in two parts first one is given in the present tense and second part is given in the past tense. So options going against this are wrong. These options are (a), (c) and (d). In first blank 'may' fits well and in the second blank 'had dared' is grammatically right.
52. (b) Sentence is about seeing a fly in a soup. This is major concern to a chef. Hence, options (a) and (c) are rejected. The word housefly is not hyphenated and a space in between house and fly changes the meanings of the sentence.
53. (a) There is difficulty "IN" doing something reaching a place is getting to a place.  
"It" pronoun used for place.
54. (b)
55. (d) others do not fit
56. (c)
57. (d)
58. (b)
59. (d) bound - task
60. (a) just - afar
61. (a) overwhelmed - extend
62. (d) Concerned - switch
63. (c) forced - settle
64. (d)
65. (b) The speaker in the given statement, is trying to emphasize his work and what he is supposed to do, irrespective of his emotional state. Options (c) and (d) hence, can be ruled out. The second clause refers to smiling and being happy, so the contrasting thought would be of sadness and (b) sounds more appropriate. Hence, option (b) is the right one.
66. (a)
67. (b) Dogmatic is used to describe someone who has an arrogant attitude based on unproved theories. For example, if you dogmatically try to prove that the world will end in 2014, you will just be considered funny. The statement is about what really makes us say that someone else is dogmatic. Option (b) is correct, because dogmas are a set of beliefs that one has and is pretty firm about them, so when we meet people who go against our ideas, and hold fast to their own, we term them as dogmatic. For example, a non-religious person could say that a religious person is dogmatic. Option (a) is clearly wrong. Option (c) is wrong, because extremism refers to any political theory which favours immoderate uncompromising policies, so it is clearly out of the context. Option (d) is wrong, because it doesn't refer to the point in question. It simply repeats the meaning of being dogmatic.
68. (b) The given statement is probably mentioning a 50-year old movie that was very moving, and the speaker is saying that (s) he hasn't forgotten those horrifying images yet. Option (b) is correct, because 'its' makes the sentence more clear, as the pronoun 'its' refers to the movie and those images are described as 'haunting' which means that the images in the movie were disturbing and disquieting.
- Option (a) is wrong, because 'the' instead of 'its' makes the sentence ambiguous by not relating to the preceding clause.
- Option (c) is wrong, because the images were not 'haunted'. 'Haunted' is used to describe something that is troubled, not what is troubling.
- Option (d) is wrong, because 'haunt' as a noun only means a frequently visited place.
69. (b) The second clause identifies that it is a part of a comparative correlative, so option (a) can be ruled out as it does not make logical sense anyway. Option (b) is correct, because it hints towards an idiom that the more you change, the more you remain the same.
70. (b) First of all, the stock markets' is a plural noun and hence will not take a singular reference. This rules out option (a). From options (b), (c) and (d), we need to choose something that will change the state of the stock markets and make them striking. Only option (b) does it correctly.
71. (c) The given statement is showing the extent or degree to which a sociological analysis can discover or penetrate. Option (c) is correct.
- Option (a) is incorrect, because it does not say anything about what is the analysis penetrating into.
- Option (b) is incorrect, because 'outer limit' is basically a slang, which is used to show the maximum extent.
- Option (d) is wrong, because it is awkward.
72. (a) The given sentence states that the speaker did not succeed in all the aspects or fields that he had planned to, five years ago. Option (a) is correct, because 'set out to' refers to what was planned or specifically decided, so it fits perfectly into the sentence.
- Option (b) is incorrect. Options (c) and (d) are incorrect, because 'thought' means something that was merely considered or contemplated, it does not mean that it was planned or it was the final decision. Also, 'thought to' is a wrong usage of the preposition: 'to'.
73. (a) Option (a) is correct, because 'tough talk' is considered a style of management in which the employers or management talk to the employees in a tough, hard and arguably, insensitive manner.
74. (a) The given statement refers that there will be more amendments, but that its basic structure will still remain the same. Option (b) is correct, because 'many more' means 'an increase in the number'. Option (a) is incorrect, because 'much' is used in cases of uncountable nouns. Option (c) is incorrect, because 'too many more' refers to a huge number of amendments, and we have already explained that it's not what the statement refers to. Option (d) is incorrect, because 'quite' refers to the 'degree' or 'intensity', so it is saying that there will be very few more amendments, which is not what the author intends.
75. (a) 'Education is central' is highlighting the importance and role, electronic networks and software-driven technologies have. The sentence has a positive connotation.
- Option (a) is correct, because 'break down' refers to 'falling apart or collapsing, or failure to function' and the barriers are physical or metaphorical walls which hinder free movement, hence, this is the appropriate word.
- Option (b) is wrong, because 'break' refers to 'destroying the integrity of' or 'get ruined', but as we are talking about 'barrier', 'break down' is more appropriate.

- Option (c) is wrong, because crumble means 'break into pieces'. Option (d) is wrong, because dismantle can be considered synonymous with crumble.
76. (b) The statement refers that Science and news agencies share similarities. Both of them share a common principle in terms of making the people more aware, so they are comparable 'in principle'. Option (b) is correct. Option (a) is incorrect, because principally means 'mainly' or 'chiefly'. Option (c) is incorrect, because principal means the most important element or someone who is the head of a school. Option (d) is incorrect, because 'in spirit and form' means a very close relationship which seems too farfetched.
77. (a) Some politicians nowadays make fake promises in trying to make people to vote for them, so they try tactics of deceiving voters to vote for them. They make others believe that they have 'altruistic' (showing that you are unselfish and your actions are totally concentrated on helping others) motives.  
Option (a) is correct, because it means 'motivated'. The politicians make the voters believe that they are motivated by altruistic desires. Option (b) is wrong because 'convinced' means that you are just in agreement with something. Option (c) is wrong, because 'categorized' means 'to place in categories'. Option (d) means that they are 'guided' by altruistic desires, but the word 'motivate' is more appropriate, as it shows a higher degree of effect.
78. (c) Swindling means depriving someone of possession or money through deception or some act of deceiving. As the statement points out, it is considered a required or necessary thing to make money, or have commercial success. We have to pick the right option by saying what this tactic is based on. We have to pick what refers to 'taking someone's money by deception'.  
Option (c) is right, because 'dear' is also used to describe something that is expensive. Buying cheap and selling at a high cost is an act of swindling.  
Option (a) is incorrect, because if there is an item which you cannot buy back from the one you sold it to, then you might get in trouble. It is also a tactic which companies apply, but this is not what the companies base their commercial success on, or it doesn't describe a policy which companies adopt.  
Option (b) is wrong, because of a similar reason to option (a), but option (c) is more appropriate, as it says buy 'cheap' and sell at a very high rate, but option (b) does not quite point to making that huge margin of profit.  
Option (d) is wrong, because it means selling whatever you can, irrespective of the cost at which you bought it.
79. (b) 80. (a) 81. (b) 82. (e)  
83. (c) 84. (d) 85. (b)  
86. (d) Option (d) is the answer and there are two reasons for it. First one is that from the context of situation independence of women from the man's world is indicated so some word to show dependency should be used. Depend and Rest both show dependence so these are the answers. Second one is that as blank space is followed by ON a word that connects grammatically so it should be used. Both 'depend on' and 'rest on' are the correct usage, so it confirms the selection on basis of the first reason. Other options are not logical.
87. (e) Confiscated – means to officially take something away from somebody, especially as a punishment.  
Seized definitely fits in the blank therefore option E is correct.
88. (a) Organization and mission are two words which can be connected with committed or dedicated both the verbs - organizations committed/ dedicated to ....Objectives. Other words like kicked off/inaugurated/ succumbed do not match for objectives of organization.
89. (c) Holding and Possessing both gives the same meaning and sense to the sentence. Surrendering is inappropriate. Mastering can not be linked with passports. Fixating is also incorrect for the blank space as it gives no logical sense to the sentence. Examining can grammatically fit into the blank but not in the context of passage and would give a different direction to what is being said in the sentence.
90. (d) 'Next big thing' is always a projection or a decision based on current situation. It is neither worshipped nor shouted nor explained. Rather next big thing is touted or labeled on basis of projection.
91. (a) 92. (b) 93. (c)  
94. (b) 95. (c) 96. (c) Because  
97. (a) Healthy 98. (a) In spite of 99. (c) Decrepit  
100. (d) Sporadic  
101. (b) Since is usually followed by a time expression (Last year; this morning, 4 o'clock etc) or by a clause in the simple past tense. Use the present perfect or the past perfect in the other clause. Use for when you the length of time that something has been or had been happening. Ex; we have known each other for ten years (Not since ten years).
102. (c) 103. (a) 104. (a) 105. (d) 106. (c)  
107. (b) 108. (a) 109. (e) 110. (d) 111. (c)  
112. (a) 113. (b) 114. (c) 115. (b)