PlaceMentor

Tests of Aptitude for Placement Readiness

ARCHANA RAM

Managing Director
SMART Training Resources India Pvt. Ltd, Chennai

OXFORD

UNIVERSITY PRESS

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Preface

Aptitude tests are an integral part of the recruitment process of many organizations, both in private and public sectors. And no matter which career path you choose—IT–ITes, core engineering, management, banking, government services, or any other—there is something you will gain from *PlaceMentor*, which will take you closer to your goal. This book will help you ace your aptitude tests with accuracy and speed.

To be prepared is half the victory, and by choosing this book, you have made a head start. Whether you have taken aptitude tests earlier or not, this book will serve as your personal friend and companion in helping you master the various topics tested.

Designed to be a self-study guide, the chapters contain theoretical explanations, illustrative examples to help you understand the concepts discussed and valuable tips and shortcuts in the form of Math Genie, Logic Wiz and Verbal Ninja. Each chapter contains numerous exercises covering all known question types in the form of Kick-start Questions—a refresher course and Brain-drill Questions—which require extended application of the concepts learnt.

This book is the culmination of all the time, efforts and lessons learnt in the last 15 years of running SMART Training Resources—India's largest employability enhancement company. It is the outcome of helping over 1.7 million students and counting with their career dreams.

Key Features
- Provides over 2200 questions with answers covering Quantitative Aptitude, Logical Reasoning and Verbal Ability—the key aptitude skills for employability
- Presents a brief overview to each topic along with examples and plenty of exercise questions with solutions towards the end of the chapter
- Includes a module on *Soft Skills for Employability* covering topics such as résumé writing, group discussions and handling interviews

- Presents three mascots
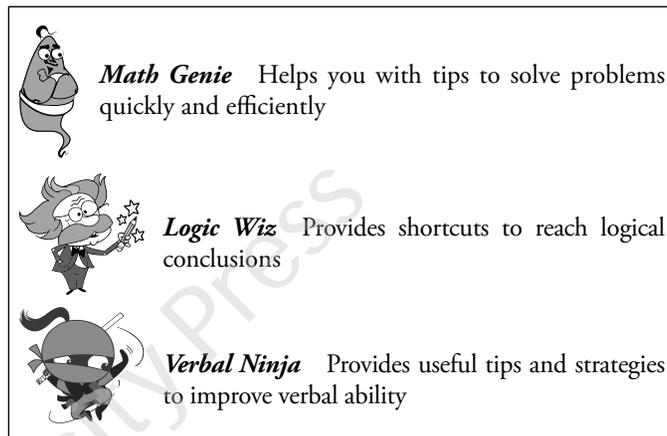
Math Genie Helps you with tips to solve problems quickly and efficiently

Logic Wiz Provides shortcuts to reach logical conclusions

Verbal Ninja Provides useful tips and strategies to improve verbal ability

Organization of the Book
The book has been divided into 5 parts, comprising 53 chapters. The 5 parts are General, Quantitative Ability, Analytical/Logical Reasoning, Verbal Ability and Soft Skills for Employability.

Online Resources
To aid the faculty and the students using this text, the following resources are made available on the companion website at India. oup.com/orcs/9780199488780.

For trainers and students
- A chapter on *Essay Writing*
- A chapter on *Introduction to Psychometric Assessment*
- Additional problems

Online Assessments
Purchasing this book will also get you FREE access to a comprehensive pack of 75 online tests modelled according to campus recruitment exams conducted by top recruiters and of varying difficulty levels. Key general aptitude skills apart, these assessments also test students on fundamental IT skills required for successful placement. It covers questions on C, C++, Java and Python with answers. Students can access these tests through the online portal www.smartians.co.in

---

Tests Available Online

- 40 tests on various topics of importance in Quantitative, Logical Reasoning and Verbal skills
- 10 tests to examine skills on C, C++, Java and Python. These tests have been modularized according to easy, medium, difficult and challenging levels
- 7 comprehensive aptitude tests (mock tests) covering all key skills of general aptitude modelled according to easy, medium and difficult levels
- 10 company-specific model tests
- 8 tests modelled according to IBPS and SBI (PO/Clerical)

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to my awesome team at SMART Training Resources who made this book possible: Shanthi, Krishnamoorthy Sir, Vijayasree, Vaishnavi, Manish, Muthulakshmi, Joy Mary, the ever diligent R&D team, the ever enthusiastic trainers of the Quants and Verbal teams (each of whose contributions have made a difference), and many others who have supported with their time, effort and advice over the years.

I would like to thank all the editors at OUP who helped us during the publication of this book. I would also like to thank the reviewers of the book who provided their useful comments, observations, and suggestions, all of which helped us in enriching the content and approach of the book.

Archana Ram

About SMART

SMART Training Resources is the pioneer in placement training and the largest employability enhancement company in India. The company has two verticals – College and Corporate.

In the College vertical, SMART has trained over 1.7 million students pan India on relevant employability skills like Language & Communication Skills, IT Skills, Life Skills and Aptitude Skills to enhance their overall 'Employability Quotient' and transform them into 'ready to deploy' talent mapped to industry requirements.

Students trained by SMART are recruited by top companies in IT, IT services, Consulting, E-commerce, Analytics, Automotive and Core. To name a few, companies include Amazon, Microsoft, Honeywell, Paypal, McKinsey, Ernst & Young, Mu Sigma, TCS, Cognizant, Accenture, Wipro, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Motors, Ashok Leyland, Caterpillar, L&T Construction, Danfoss, Saint Gobain, etc.

SMART's client list includes many prestigious technical education institutions like IITs, NITs and premier universities. Over 700+ institutions across India have enrolled for various prestigious placement training programmes. In many institutions, these programmes have virtually become a part of their academic curriculum and become credit-based courses in themselves. What makes the training most sought after are the various value-added ingredients and the numerous benefits that the participants derive, both of which are resultant from the infrastructural and institutional excellence the institution has accomplished over the years.

In the Corporate vertical, SMART has established over 200+ corporate connects and regularly works with a host of IT and non-IT companies for their hiring and training needs. This regular interaction with industry has greatly contributed to the relevance of SMART's study materials.

Now with this book you too can enjoy the benefit of our years of expertise to crack any competitive examination.

Contents

PART 4: VERBAL ABILITY

PART 5: SOFT SKILLS FOR EMPLOYABILITY

PART 1
GENERAL

Introduction to Recruitment Process

FRESHERS' SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process comprises the following stages:
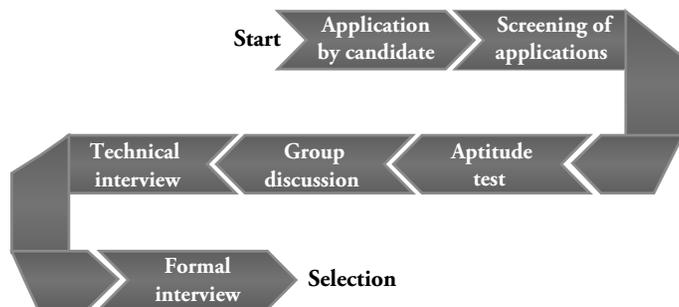
Let us discuss each stage in detail.

Application by Candidate

This stage generally does not apply for campus or pooled campus recruitment, wherein the companies usually specify in advance the eligibility for participation in the selection process.

> 📝 Eligibility can be in terms of branch of study and (or) percentage of marks secured

In other cases, a candidate submits his résumé with a covering letter for a particular job opening.

Screening of Applications

Each organization has its own creative methods and channels to recruit its prospective employees. To be shortlisted, the résumé has to meet the minimum eligibility criteria listed for the job.

Public sector units and banks resolutely lay down the eligibility and age criteria for the applicants and adhere to them very stringently while shortlisting the candidates. It is mandatory for the candidates to clear the aptitude test which may be used as a primary step for shortlisting them for the next round of interview.

Start-ups try and recruit trained candidates from the market, as these candidates will have practical exposure.

Social media plays a significant role in the hiring and selection process. Companies could gauge an individual by just viewing his/her Facebook page, photos posted, groups joined and also the pages he/she likes and dislikes. So it is advisable to be active on social media, but be careful about what you post online.

Aptitude tests play a significant role in the process of shortlisting a candidate for recruitment. The companies will test the problem solving capability, logical ability, language ability and comprehension skills of an individual. Companies generally have a cut off mark for eligibility and adhere to it.

> 📝 Pre-placement talks are important to know about the organization and the work profile before you attend the interview. A presentation about the company will be made during the pre-placement talk. This presentation basically includes information about the company (profile, milestones, achievements, etc.) and the job (responsibilities, selection procedure, salary, career progression, employment benefits, etc.). Usually this presentation will end with a Question and Answer session, where students are given the chance to ask questions about the company.

Aptitude Test

Aptitude tests have proved to be a quick and relatively easy filtration tool. These tests assess a candidate's proficiency in some or all of the following skills:

- Problem solving
- Analytical and logical thinking
- Reasoning
- Verbal ability
- Technical domain

After all, any company wants candidates with a fair share of all these skills. Quite naturally, the more sought after the job, the tougher the test!

Group Discussion

Group discussion or GD, as the name suggests, is a selection method where a group of 6–12 candidates are made to discuss a given topic and arrive at some common understanding. The following are the important parameters used in evaluating GD performance:

- Communication skills, including listening
- Clarity of thought
- Group behaviour
- Ability to withstand pressure

While many companies no longer conduct GDs, some still do. So it's always wise to be ready.

Technical Interview

Based on the outcome of the process so far, students will further undergo a technical round of questioning. This round evaluates the technical ability of the student. This will be either be an individual round or it will be grouped with the formal interview.

Formal Interview

Popularly known as the *HR Interview*, this could be on a one-to-one basis or one-to-many basis. If there are two or more interviewers, it is also referred to as *Panel Interview*.

At this final stage, the candidate's stability, commitment and confidence levels are tested. If there has been no GD, then this is the stage where communication skills are also evaluated.

A recent trend in freshers' recruitment is the Panel Interview with both the technical and HR interviewers sitting together. This way, considerable time is saved.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET PLACED?

Though India produces lakhs of engineers each year, there is still a huge shortage of skilled workforce that is employable. According to available data, only 20 to 25 per cent of the engineering graduates passing out annually are directly employable and the large pool of unemployed graduates keeps increasing every year.

How Come?

Simple! Getting that DREAM JOB is not just about a great percentage in college. The great percentage, though imperative, cannot by itself guarantee you a smooth sail into the company of your choice unless you

- equip yourself with relevant technical skills,
- gain industry familiarization,
- and most importantly, learn, practice and fine-tune your aptitude as well as soft skills.
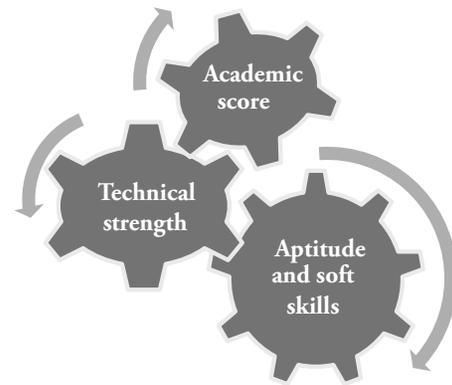
Aptitude and soft skills preparation gains all the more relevance because these skill sets cannot be 'read off a book' or 'mugged up' overnight! They need to be understood, practised and assimilated over time.

In fact, owing to a plethora of information, ranging from helpful to wildly misleading, the importance of aptitude and soft skills preparation can be greatly undermined or over-hyped!

So, let's break them down to basics and explore them one after another.

Aptitude skills and soft skills (essentially one's 'attitude') are presented in a gist in the following tree diagram:

What does it take to get placed in your dream company?

APTITUDE			ATTITUDE		
Quantitative	Reasoning	Verbal	Résumé	Group Discussion	Interviews
Problem solving	Analytical	Vocabulary	Format	Communication	Personal grooming
Data sufficiency	Logical	Grammar	Content	Interpersonal skills	Body language
Data interpretation	Critical	Comprehension and application		Leadership	Etiquette
	Non-verbal			Problem solving	Impression management
	Puzzles and brainteasers			Conceptualising skills	Intrinsic value

Diagnostic Test

This diagnostic test should give you a feel of what an Aptitude Test would be like. It has questions from a selection of topics that are typically tested.

Attempt it just for fun! It doesn't matter what your score is right at the start, because the purpose of this book is to help you learn and you are going to be doing just that. A good score doesn't guarantee success in all Aptitude Tests, nor does a low score spell doom. The test is only intended to set you off in the right direction with regards to your test preparation and give you a fair idea about what to expect.

Test instructions

1. The test comprises 60 questions in all—20 from Quantitative Ability, 20 from Reasoning Ability and 20 from Verbal Ability.

2. The ideal duration to complete the test is within 60 minutes. However, given that this test is only diagnostic in nature, you can take more time if you need to.

3. If a particular question stumps you, take an intelligent guess and move on. You can go back and change the answers if you need to.

4. Ideally, you are recommended to finish one section before moving to the next. However, this is not mandatory.

5. Once you complete the test, check your answers using the Answer Key provided at the end. The number of correct answers is your raw score, which you may convert to percentage.

QUANTITATIVE ABILITY

1. A's income is 25% more than B's income. The percentage of B's income in terms of A's income is
   (a) 80   (b) 70   (c) 60   (d) 75
   (e) None of these

2. A certain amount doubles itself in 8 years at simple interest. At the same rate, in how many years will it become 3 times?
   (a) 18 years   (b) 16 years   (c) 14 years   (d) 12 years
   (e) None of these

3. A father has two sons. Four years ago, the father was three times as old as his elder son and four years hence, the elder son will be twice as old as the younger son. If the younger son is now 8 years old, find the father's present age.
   (a) 52 years   (b) 48 years   (c) 64 years   (d) 44 years

4. The number $\sqrt{\dfrac{1452}{1872}}$ is of the type:
   (a) natural   (b) integer   (c) rational   (d) irrational

5. The digit at the units place in the resulting number $17^{1995} + 11^{1995} - 7^{1995}$ is:
   (a) 0   (b) 1   (c) 2   (d) 3

6. A flagstaff stands vertically on a pillar, the height of the flagstaff being double the height of the pillar. A man on the ground at a distance finds that both the pillar and the flagstaff subtend equal angles at his eyes. The ratio of the height of the pillar and the distance of the man from the pillar, is
   (a) $\sqrt{}$:1   (b) 1:3   (c) $1:\sqrt{3}$ (d) $\sqrt{3}$:2

7. Walking from house to the station at the rate of 3 kmph, A reaches the station 4 minutes late for a particular train; but walking at the rate of 4 kmph, he reaches the station 6 minutes earlier for the same train. How far is the station from A's house?
   (a) 4 km   (b) 2 km   (c) 8 km   (d) 6 km
   (e) None of these

8. A rail engine started from station A and proceeded towards station B at a speed of 48 kmph. Forty five minutes later, another engine started from station B and proceeded towards A at 50 kmph. If the distance between A and B is 232 km, at what distance from A will the trains meet?
   (a) 132 km   (b) 144 km   (c) 160 km   (d) 108 km
   (e) None of these

9. A boat travels 2 km upstream in a stream flowing at 3 kmph and then returns downstream to the starting point in 30 minutes. The speed of the boat in still water is
   (a) 17 kmph   (b) 9 kmph   (c) 13 kmph   (d) 12 kmph
   (e) None of these

10. In an election, only 64% of voters cast their votes. A candidate who was supported by 56% of cast votes won the election with a majority of 1920 votes. Find the total number of voters in the voting list.
    (a) 25000   (b) 24000   (c) 30000   (d) 27000
    (e) None of these

11. The ratio of the areas of two squares is 9:1. Find the ratio of their perimeters.
    (a) 9:1   (b) 1:3   (c) 3:1   (d) 3:4
    (e) None of these

12. A man loses $12\frac{1}{2}$% of his money and after spending 70% of the remaining money, he is left with ₹210. How much did he have in the beginning?
(a) ₹800   (b) ₹900   (c) ₹600   (d) ₹700
(e) None of these

13. Two numbers are in ratio of 2:3 and if 8 is added to each of them, they stand in the ratio of 3:4. The numbers are
(a) 4 and 6   (b) 16 and 24
(c) 12 and 18   (d) 2 and 3
(e) None of these

14. Anu can complete a work in 10 days. Manu is 25% more efficient than Anu and Sonu is 60% more efficient than Manu. Working together, how long will they take to finish the work?
(a) $3\frac{5}{8}$ days   (b) $5\frac{6}{7}$ days

(c) $2\frac{6}{17}$ days   (d) $5\frac{6}{17}$ days

(e) None of these

15. A cricket team of 11 players is to be formed from 16 players including 4 bowlers and 2 wicket-keepers. In how many different ways can a team be formed so that each team contains exactly 3 bowlers and 1 wicket keeper?
(a) 1050   (b) 960
(c) 840   (d) Cannot say
(e) None of these

16. Among numbers 1 to 9, three numbers are selected. The probability that all the three are odd numbers is
(a) $\frac{1}{60}$ (b) $\frac{201}{504}$

(c) $\frac{47}{60}$ (d) Cannot say

(e) None of these

17. The third term of an arithmetic progression is 11 and the sixth term is 23. What is the 19th term?
(a) 34   (b) 75   (c) 253   (d) 123
(e) None of these

18. A sum of ₹53 is divided among A, B and C in such a way that A gets ₹7 more than what B gets and B gets ₹8 more than what C gets. The ratio of their shares is
(a) 16:9:18   (b) 25:18:10
(c) 18:25:10   (d) 15:8:30
(e) None of these

19. The average of 6 numbers is 30. If the average of the first four is 25 and that of the last three is 35, the fourth number is
(a) 35   (b) 30   (c) 25   (d) 40
(e) None of these

20. Today is 3rd November, Monday. This is a leap year. What will be the day of the week on this date after 3 years?
(a) Monday (b) Tuesday   (c) Wednesday
(d) Thursday (e) Friday

REASONING ABILITY

21. Introducing a woman, a man said, 'Her mother's husband's sister is my aunt.' How is the man related to the woman?
(a) Nephew (b) Brother   (c) Brother-in-law
(d) Cousin   (e) Cannot say

22. If the first and second letters of the word CORRESPON-DENCE were interchanged as well as the third and fourth letters, the fifth and sixth and so on, which of the following will be the fifth letter counting from right?
(a) O   (b) R   (c) N   (d) S
(e) None of these

23. A husband and wife have 8 married sons and each of them have four children. The total number of members in the family is
(a) 40   (b) 45   (c) 50   (d) 55
(e) None of these

24. In a certain code, C O I N is written as 3015090140. In the same code, F A T E will be written as
(a) 601020050   (b) 502020060
(c) 601019040   (d) 601019050
(e) 501020060

25. A, B, C, D, E and F are six brothers. A is older than B but younger than C, D is younger than C and E, and F is older than E. Which of the following statements, if true, is sufficient to determine which of them is the eldest?
(a) D is younger than B.
(b) C is older than E.
(c) F is older than A.
(d) The average age of F and E is more than the age of C.

26. All couples who have children are happy.
All couples have children or are happy.
Assuming the above to be true, which of the following cannot be true?
(i) Some couples are not happy.
(ii) Some couples who are happy have children.
(iii) Some couples who have children are not happy.
(a) (i) only   (b) (ii) only   (c) (iii) only
(d) (i) and (iii) only   (e) (ii) and (iii) only

27. Eight friends A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H are sitting in a circle facing the centre. B is sitting between G and D. H is third to the left of B and second to the right of A. C is sitting between

A and G and B and E are not sitting opposite to each other. Which of the following statements is not correct?
(a) D and A are sitting opposite to each other.
(b) C is third to the right of D.
(c) E is sitting between F and D.
(d) A is sitting between C and F.

28. In a certain code language, 'dagu kabu' means 'clear ice', 'nip lago' means 'deep sky' and 'nip fas kabu' means 'clear blue sky'. Which word in that language means 'blue'?
(a) kabu   (b) dagu   (c) fas   (d) nip

Directions for Q29 to Q32: Study the graph given below and answer the questions. (Consider approximate values for answers)
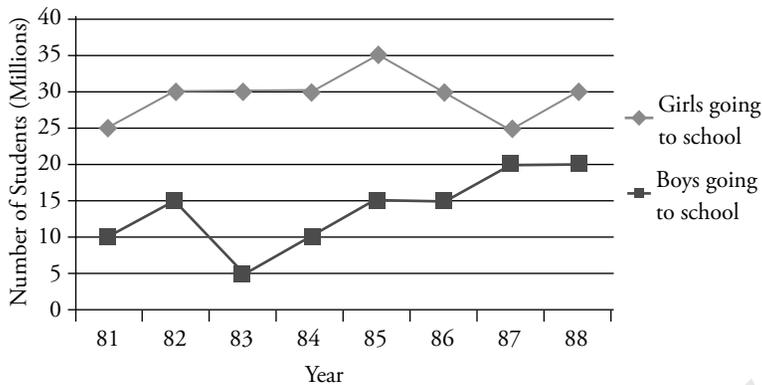
29. How many more boys and girls went to school in the year 1988 than in 1981?
(a) 15 million   (b) 17 million
(c) 18 million   (d) 20 million

30. What was the ratio of school-going boys and girls in the year 1986?
(a) 2:1   (b) 1:2   (c) 1:4   (d) 1:3

31. In which year was there a fall in the admission of girls?
(a) 1982   (b) 1987   (c) 1986   (d) 1983

32. In which year did the highest number of boys attend school?
(a) 1987   (b) 1988   (c) 1985   (d) 1981

33. Which option is the mirror image of the following figure?

34. Select the option, which is the logical equivalent of the given statement: 'If the clouds are not black, then it will not rain and we can play cricket.'
(a) If it rains, then the clouds are black and we cannot play cricket.
(b) If it rains, then the clouds are black and we can play cricket.
(c) If it does not rain, then the clouds are not black and we can play cricket.
(d) If the clouds are black, then it will rain and we can play cricket.

35. Five boys are sitting in a row. Rahul is not adjacent either to Sudheer or Amit. Abhishek is not adjacent to Sudheer. Rahul is adjacent to Mohit. Mohit is in the middle of the row. Who is Abhishek adjacent to?
(a) Rahul   (b) Sudheer   (c) Amit   (d) Abhishek

36. If MANAGER is coded NZOZHDS, then how is ORGAN-ISATION coded?
(a) PQHZOHTHUPM   (b) PQHZOHTZUHPM
(c) PQHZOHHTUPM   (d) PQHZOHZTUHPM

37. Find the next term in the given series.
JAK KBL LCM MDN _____
(a) QEP   (b) NEO   (c) MEN   (d) PFQ

38. The next two terms in the following sequence of numbers are:
1, 3, 7, 5, 13, 7, …
(a) 9, 19   (b) 19, 9   (c) 11, 9   (d) 9, 11
(e) None of these

39. A started walking towards the North. After walking 30 meters, he turned left and walked 40 meters. He then turned left and walked 30 meters. He again turned left and walked 50 meters. How far is he from his original position?
(a) 20 meters   (b) 10 meters
(c) 30 meters   (d) 40 meters
(e) None of these

40. Four pens are arranged in a line so that the first one is green, the second blue, the third red and the fourth black. The positions of 1 and 3 are interchanged and then those of 2 and 4 and finally those of 2 and 3. What will be the position of black?
(a) 1   (b) 2   (c) 3   (d) 4
(e) None of these

VERBAL ABILITY

Directions for Q41 and Q42: Pick out the most effective word from the given words to fill in the blanks to make the sentence meaningfully complete.

41. After consulting a _____ of doctors, he eventually thought of consulting a specialist.
(a) string (b) series (c) chain (d) majority
(e) mass

42. The chairman assured the shareholder that the management would _____itself to increase the production.
(a) share (b) balance (c) exert (d) produce
(e) try

Directions for Q43 and Q44: In each of the following sentences, there is a missing word or phrase. From the answer choices given, choose the one you consider most appropriate.

43. Last year he told his wife that _____ bad manners.
(a) I hate you for your
(b) I have been hating you for your
(c) he hates her for her
(d) should do now
(e) he hated her

44. Govind did not abide _____.
(a) around the field (b) by the rules
(c) with his grandfather (d) for the race
(e) with the rules

Directions for Q45 and Q46: Fill in the blanks with the appropriate prepositions.

45. He was well versed _____ the ancient Upanishad hymns.
(a) at (b) from (c) in (d) with
(e) on

46. You must not indulge _____ verbosity.
(a) at (b) into (c) in (d) to
(e) with

Directions for Q47 and Q48: Identify the ANTONYMS of the words given in CAPITALS.

47. BENIGN
(a) Invisible (b) Secluded
(c) Malignant (d) Important

48. AMELIORATE
(a) Decay (b) Decline (c) Die (d) Worsen

Directions for Q49 and Q50: Identify the SYNONYMS of the words given in CAPITALS.

49. CIRCUMSPECT
(a) Condition (b) Inspect (c) Cautious
(d) Reckless

50. ORDAIN
(a) Arrange (b) Command
(c) Contribute (d) Establish

Directions for Q51 and Q52: Complete the analogies.

51. Money : Transaction
(a) Life : Death (b) Water : Drink
(c) Ideas : Exchange (d) Language : Conversation

52. Wrench : Tool
(a) Rose : Flower (b) Pencil : Paper
(c) Knee : Leg (d) Automobile : Car

Directions for Q53 and Q54: In each question given below, a part of the sentence is underlined. Find the best replacement for the underlined part from the options given. If no correction is needed, mark (a).

53. Because zebras have <u>very striped patterns,</u> photos can be used to identify them when captured.
(a) very striped patterns
(b) varying stripe patterns
(c) varied striped patterns
(d) various stripe pattern

54. Unlike the brown sparrow, the passenger pigeon <u>was slaughtered indiscriminately</u> and became extinct in 1914.
(a) was slaughtered indiscriminately
(b) did not slaughter indiscriminately
(c) had been slaughtered indiscriminately
(d) slaughtered indiscriminately

Directions for Q55 and Q56: Choose the most logical order of sentences from among the given choices to construct a coherent paragraph.

55. A. In consonance with this approach, these projects are being developed with high specifications as per IRC standards.
B. The cost of construction is higher than that of routine roads.
C. For Mohanty, the quality of all these roads is very important for the sake of assuring the credibility of the project.
D. It is also for the first time that the state government has engaged outside consultants at every stage.
(a) CBAD (b) ACDB (c) CABD (d) CDAB

56. A. This is part of a coordinated international effort to reduce the damage caused by natural disasters.
B. To mitigate the threat an early warning system is required.

C. On 31 July 1990 the Belize Postal Services released a set of four stamps to commemorate the international Decade for National Disaster Reduction.

D. In Belize hurricanes pose the greatest threat.

E. The new stamps depict picture of one of the worst hurricanes to strike Belize and three aspect of the protective warning system against similar storms.

(a) CADBE   (b) CEADB

(c) DBCAE   (d) CEDAB

Directions for Q57 and Q58: Read the following passage and select the best answer to questions among the given choices.

In the past natural disasters signaled a string of bad news for the Indian economy. Droughts were major calamities in India that translated into price escalation, food imports, foreign exchange crises, and political challenges. Two droughts in 1960s together affected around 65 million Indians and led to food scarcity and foreign aid. The situation led India to take help from IMF, and devalue in exchange for a loan.

In 2016, an NGO had filed a petition in the Supreme Court asking for its help in directing the Central government to release aid to about 330 million people affected by water shortages in many parts of India. Many regions in eastern, central and southern India were facing water scarcity and poor, marginal farmers had suffered crop losses after two consecutive weak monsoons.

India has always been at a greater risk due to different monsoon patterns across the country, depleted groundwater, and the pressure of food demand from a population of 1.252 billion. The Green Revolution improved wheat production significantly in India by adopting high-yield variety seeds, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation (Chakravarti, 1973).

Yet in the recent past India has had its share of natural disasters without suffering any major challenges on the food availability, foreign exchange, or the political front. In a 2012 article, Swaminathan S. Anklesaria Aiyar argues that India economy is now less susceptible to the after effects of drought. According to him, a better irrigation system, such as the use of tubewells, has been beneficial to the crops. Earlier, most irrigation was through canals, which themselves suffered when droughts dried up reservoirs. But after the 1960s, tubewell irrigation rose exponentially, and now accounts for four-fifths of all irrigation (Aiyar, 2012).

There has also a factor that the share of agriculture in India's GDP has been falling steadily. In 1950, agriculture accounted for 52% of GDP, but is by 2017 has been reduced to 18% share of the GDP. One important to be noted here that the sector continues to be the largest employer in India (with 50% of the workforce employed in agriculture of agri-related businesses). However, the Economic Survey of India estimates that percentage of agricultural workers of total work force would drop to 25.7 per cent by 2050. There has been a related trend: the economic survey notes that with growing rural to urban migration, there is 'feminisation of agriculture sector', with increasing number of women, who stay back in villages, taking on the mantle of being rural workers by working as farmers or farm labourers. Globally, it has been observed that women have a major role in ensuring food security and protecting the agro-biodiversity. It is important for the govern-

ment and policy makers not to ignore this crucial sector as modern irrigation systems, microfinance options, and mechanization needs to improve.

Based on the following sources:

Aiyar, *Why Drought Matters So Little*, 17 November 2002, http://swaminomics.org/why-drought-matters-so-little/, accessed on 16 May 2018.

India: The History of Drought, *Outlook*, 8 May 2002, https://www.outlookindia.com/magazine/story/india-the-history-of-drought/209341, accessed on 16 May 2018.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/20/india-drought-affecting-330-million-people-weak-monsoons, accessed on 16 May 2018.

https://www.nature.com/articles/srep44552, accessed on 16 May 2018.

Chakravarti, A.K., *Green Revolution in India*, Ann. Assoc. Am. Geogr. 63, 319–330, doi: 10.1111/j.1467-8306.1973.tb00929.x (1973).

Economic Survey of India (2017–18), Government of India.

57. In the past, droughts were the major reason for price escalation, food imports and crisis with foreign exchange.

(a) Absolutely true   (b) Absolutely false

(c) Partly true   (d) Cannot be inferred

58. As per the passage what does the term "feminisation of agricultural sector" mean?

(a) Agriculture sector is meant only for women

(b) Increase in the number of women who opt to work in agriculture

(c) Feminism is related to agriculture

(d) Women are more fit than men to work in agriculture

59. The "Plain English" law required that a contract agreement be stated in non-technical language, if the parties to the agreement are not represented by attorneys. The rent stabilization code legally requires a contractual agreement for renewing a housing lease to be upon the same terms and conditions as the expiring lease. Which of the following conclusions can most properly be drawn from the information above?

(a) If a contractual agreement for an expiring housing lease is stated in technical language and cannot be stated in non-technical language, a landlord and a tenant not represented by attorneys cannot satisfy all legal requirements in renewing the lease.

(b) Since the two legal requirements are in conflict and cannot be reconciled, the provisions of the "Plain English" law must be suspended for contractual agreements to renew housing leases.

(c) When the renewal of a housing lease becomes necessary, it will be necessary for both landlord and tenant to employ attorneys to renegotiate the terms of the lease and to formulate them in "Plain English".

(d) Contractual agreements to renew housing lease cannot be upon the same terms and conditions as the expiring leases, if the provisions of the "Plain English" law are to be enforced.

60. The creativity in the invention of modern tools is far greater than that involved in the development of early hand tools. To deny this is to underestimate contemporary intellect. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the claim presented in the first sentence of the passage above?
(a) Early hand tools were discovered accidentally, rather than developed by imaginative application of knowledge.
(b) The steam engine in its most sophisticated and powerful form could not be produced until the technology to produce iron was discovered.
(c) Necessity often prompts the creative invention of a tool to meet the needs of a particular job
(d) The technological needs of contemporary culture are more varied and complex than those of the past.

ANSWERS

1. (a)	2. (b)	3. (a)	4. (d)	5. (b)	6. (c)	7. (b)	8. (a)	9. (b)	10. (a)
11. (c)	12. (a)	13. (b)	14. (c)	15. (b)	16. (e)	17. (b)	18. (b)	19. (c)	20. (d)
21. (b)	22. (c)	23. (c)	24. (a)	25. (d)	26. (d)	27. (c)	28. (c)	29. (a)	30. (b)
31. (c)	32. (b)	33. (b)	34. (a)	35. (a)	36. (b)	37. (b)	38. (b)	39. (b)	40. (c)
41. (b)	42. (c)	43. (c)	44. (b)	45. (c)	46. (c)	47. (c)	48. (d)	49. (c)	50. (b)
51. (d)	52. (a)	53. (b)	54. (c)	55. (d)	56. (c)	57. (a)	58. (b)	59. (a)	60. (c)