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-BY ANUBHAV SIR

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READING

Let's be honest—when it comes to English for some political exams, reading isn't just important; it's everything. Nearly half of the questions—directly or indirectly—are based on how well you read. Don't think I'm saying that to scare you. You don't have to become a speed reader overnight. What you need is smart, consistent reading. That's why I've picked real, relevant content from daily newspapers just for you. It'll train your mind to think, understand, and respond faster. Every passage you read here brings you a step closer to confidence and clarity. Read this, and you've already won half the battle.

VOCABULARY

I know vocabulary can feel overwhelming sometimes—so many words, so little time. But here's the truth: it doesn't have to be that way. This section is designed to help you truly connect with words—not just memorize them. You'll learn them in context, understand how they're used in real life, and slowly start to own them. Everything you see here is from actual newspapers, so it's relevant, real, and reliable. Over time, you'll notice something beautiful—you won't just remember the words, you'll feel them. And that changes everything.

GRAMMAR

Grammar... it has a bit of a reputation, right? You study rules, too many exceptions. But here's the thing: grammar doesn't have to be dry or confusing. In fact, it can be one of the most empowering tools you have. We're not going to give you rules—we're going to understand them, together. All examples come from real newspaper content, so you'll see how grammar actually works in real life. Shortcuts, patterns will start to click. You'll begin spotting mistakes instantly, understanding structure intuitively. That's grammar doing its job, and you're becoming your own support system.

IDIOMS & PHRASES

Idioms and phrases—these little expressions that often confuse us in the exam—don't worry, we've got this. I've picked the ones you'll actually come across in exams, pulled straight from daily newspapers. But more importantly, I'll help you understand them in a way that sticks. Not by rote, but through real context and simple meaning. Give them, these phrases will become second nature to you, and you'll be able to use and spot them effortlessly. It's one of those small things that makes a big difference.

DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

Descriptive writing is where your preparation meets your personality. It's not just about grammar or structure—it's about how you think, how you feel, and how clearly you express that. Whether you're writing an essay, a piece, or a report, I'll help you shape your thoughts with clarity and purpose. All the topics we'll work on come from current news, so your writing stays fresh, relevant, and impactful. And here's my promise—you'll never feel lost staring at a blank page again. Together, we'll build your voice, one word at a time.

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FLIPPANT

बकवादी

(Aad)

making light of something usually regarded as serious or sacred

SYNONYMS

- Facetious
- Frivolous
- Irreverent
- Glib

Dis-respectful

Sassy

offhand

Impertinent

ANTONYMS

- Somber
- Solemn
- Sincere
- Earnest

Serious

Melancholic

Grave



FORMS

Noun- (flippancy)

His flippant jokes in the interview made him seem glib, while his competitor appeared _____ and well-prepared.

FATUOUS

बुद्धिहीन (Aam)

not having or showing an ability to absorb ideas readily

SYNONYMS

Foolish
Idiotic

ANTONYMS

- Vacuous
- Obtuse
- Inane
- Absurd

Judicious
Ridiculous
Preposterous

- Rational
- Prudent
- Logical
- Insightful

Wise
Sagacious

FORMS

Noun- (fatuousness)



His fatuous jokes made him look silly, while her _____ responses earned the panel's respect.



CONTRITE

① पछताया हुआ (Aam)

feeling sorrow for a wrong that one has done

SYNONYMS

- Remorseful ✓
- Penitent ✓
- Repentant ✓
- Lugubrious ✓

Regretful

Pineful

Sorrowful

ANTONYMS

- Ruthless ✓
- Defiant ✓
- Proud ✓
- Indifferent ✓

Cold

Apathetic

Sitting in the exam hall

Me: Sir I don't feel well.
Invigilator: Kya ho raha hai?
Me: **Pachtawa.** 😊

Aur_bataao



FORMS

Noun- (contrition) ✓

②

The thief showed no _____ even after being caught red-handed.



PRESUMPTION

अनुमान (N) Presume

something taken as being true or factual and used as a starting point for a course of action

SYNONYMS

- Conjecture
- Hypothesis
- Postulate
- Theory

Supposition
Guess
Assume

ANTONYMS

- Evident
- Certainty
- Verification
- Reality

Truth



FORMS

Adjective-(presumptive)
Verb-(presume)

He is the _____ nominee for the presidential race.



COHORT

पलटन

a person frequently seen in the company of another

SYNONYMS

- Associate ✓
- Accomplice ✓
- Contingent ✓
- Ally ✓

Peer

Foe

ANTONYMS

- Rival
- Opponent ✓
- Loner ✓
- Competitor

Antagonist

Friend

Adversary

Co-Together

FORMS



He arrived with a _____ of loyal supporters.



ANOMALY

विसंगति

(N)

something that is different from what is ordinary or expected

SYNONYMS

- Exception ✓
- Phenomenon ✓
- Quirk ✓
- Aberration ✓

oddity

Abnormality

ANTONYMS

- Ordinary ✓
- Regularity ✓
- Conformity ✓
- Usualness ✓



FORMS

Adjective-(anomalous)

(Adj) ly

The data points were distributed _____, suggesting a technical glitch.



COPIOUS

प्रचुर

pouring forth in great amounts

SYNONYMS

- Lavish
- Profuse
- Riotous
- Bountiful

Plentiful
Abundant
Ample
Generous

ANTONYMS

- Sparse
- Scant
- Meagre
- Scarce

Paltry

FORMS

Noun-(copiousness)



The teacher gave copious notes to one group, while the others had to manage with only a _____ set of materials.



INTRANSIGENT

हठी

sticking to an opinion, purpose, or course of action in spite of reason, arguments, or persuasion

SYNONYMS

- Adamant
- Obdurate
- Obstinate
- Steadfast

Stubborn

Relentless

Inflexible Dogged

ANTONYMS

- Pliant
- Amenable
- Compliant
- Docile

Submissive
Compromising

bacha jab khilona k lya shop main ziddi

FORMS

Noun-(intransigence)

His _____ during the peace talks led to a complete breakdown in negotiations.



JEOPARDISING

to place in danger ✓

खतरे में डाल

SYNONYMS

- Imperiling ✓
- Menacing ✓
- Undermining ✓
- Exposing ✓

Chdangar

ANTONYMS

- Shielding ✓
- Ensuring ✓
- Preserving ✓
- Protecting ✓

**FORMS**

Verb-(jeopardize) ✓
Noun- (jeopardy) ✓



He was _____ his health by smoking, while his brother was actively safeguarding his body with a strict fitness routine.

ACRIMONIOUS

उग्र

AOA

having or showing deep-seated resentment

SYNONYMS

- Rancorous
- Cynical
- Acrid
- Embittered
- Irascible

Malicious
Resentful
Hostile

ANTONYMS

- Sympathetic
- Warm
- Cordial
- Tender

Amiable
Cordial
Affable

FORMS

Noun- (acrimony)



There was clear acrimony between the two departments over budget allocation.



CONCOMITANT

सहगामी

present at the same time and place ✓

SYNONYMS

- Collateral ✓
- Subsequent ✓
- Associates ✓
- Concurrent ✓

Adjacent

ANTONYMS

- Exclusive ✓
- Isolate ✓
- Standalone ✓
- Separate ✓

Adar

No Matter How Many
Hours You Study



Ghar Walo को Usi Waqt
Aana होता Hai Jab Mobile हाथ Me Ho

FORMS

Noun- (concomitant) ✓

Depression is often a _____ of chronic illness.



PHRASAL VERBS

Cast light on ✓

Meaning: To clarify or make something easier to understand.

Example: Her memoir cast light on the struggles she faced as a refugee.

Lay to rest ✓

Meaning: To eliminate fears, doubts, or concerns.

Example: The DNA evidence laid to rest any doubts about his innocence.

Double down (on) ✓

Meaning: To strengthen one's commitment to a strategy or course of action.

Example: Despite criticism, the company doubled down on its environmental policies.

IDIOMS

Cut an inspirational figure

Meaning: To serve as a role model or inspiration.

Example: Despite her disability, she cut an inspirational figure in the sports world.

Caught between a rock and a hard place

Meaning: Faced with two difficult choices.

Example: She was caught between a rock and a hard place—stay in a bad job or be unemployed.

Take something with a grain of salt

Meaning: To view something skeptically or not to take it literally.

Example: You should take his predictions with a grain of salt—he often exaggerates.

Root Word: cap / cept / cip (Latin: *capere* — to take or seize)

Deceive – to take someone in by trickery; to mislead

Example: He deceived the voters by hiding the truth.

Anticipate – to take action in advance; to expect beforehand

Example: We anticipated the storm and stayed indoors.

Recipient – one who receives or takes something

Example: He was the recipient of a national scholarship.

Intercept – to seize or stop something on its way

Example: The defender intercepted the ball before it reached the goal.

A crew of four astronauts including India's Shubhanshu Shukla completed their roughly two-week mission to the International Space Station on July 15. Mr. Shukla's trip was presumed to have been an intensive rehearsal ahead of his flight as part of India's first batch of astronauts for ISRO's 'Gaganyaan' mission, currently expected in 2027. The **presumption** is because the goals of Mr. Shukla's trip, which ISRO arranged for by paying north of ₹500 crore to Axiom Space, have not been officially communicated by Indian authorities. Fortunately, clarifications from Axiom and NASA have since cast more light on its purpose. While ISRO and the Department of Space are still expected to proactively disseminate what they know about their activities under Gaganyaan, not least because of the mission's ₹20,000 crore price tag, Mr. Shukla's trip ought to strengthen ISRO's preparations. Human spaceflight is a highly involved endeavour: once in space, the crew is on its own and the resources to respond to a variety of situations are limited. According to a statement ISRO published after the mission launched on June 25, Mr. Shukla and Prasanth Nair — who is also part of Gaganyaan's first **cohort** of astronauts and was part of the Axiom mission's backup crew — were familiarised with "advanced spacecraft systems, emergency protocols, scientific payload operations, microgravity adaptation, space medicine, and survival traits".

As the mission pilot, per Axiom, Mr. Shukla was also coached on docking and undocking, manual operations, atmospheric re-entry, and **anomaly** management. Onboard the space station, Mr. Shukla was exposed to operations in the Japanese and European modules, for which he and Mr. Nair were trained in Japan and Germany. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan has also said that the Axiom mission cost less than what ISRO might have had to invest if it had to train Mr. Shukla on its own. In all, the NASA-Axiom-ISRO tie-up emerges as an admirable outcome, even as space agencies continue to closely guard space technologies for their strategic value.

Concerns that the limitations imposed by the U.S.'s International Traffic in Arms Regulations would prevent the duo from learning much may also be laid to rest. Instead, they may be replaced by concerns about ISRO's piecemeal communication. Astronauts cut inspirational figures and appeal to all ages. As India prepares for its first human spaceflight mission, there can be no better way to build excitement than by facilitating access to India's astronauts. The lack of initiative is hard to rationalise, although it is still not too late. ISRO as well as India's soft power platform will make **copious** gains by expanding outreach and easing public access to the spacefarers.

$$\frac{6}{10}$$

$$\frac{9}{10}$$

Inference-Based

Q1. What can be reasonably inferred about ISRO's public communication regarding Mr. Shukla's mission?

- A) It was hindered due to external diplomatic ~~protocols~~.
- B) It remained (limited) despite the public nature of the mission. ✓
- C) It was delayed intentionally to align with NASA's disclosures.
- D) It was cautious due to technological confidentiality clauses.
- E) It was adequate given the complexity of the Gaganyaan mission.

Vocab Based Question

In the phrase “space agencies continue to closely guard space technologies for their strategic value,” the word “guard” most nearly means:

- A) Withhold for tactical reasons ✓
- B) Observe without interference ✗
- C) Develop through global partnerships ✗
- D) Share cautiously under treaties ✓
- E) Avoid regulating through legal channels ✓

Tone-Based

The tone of the author towards ISRO's collaboration with NASA and Axiom can best be described as:

- A) Begrudgingly supportive ✗
- B) Cautiously optimistic
- C) Grudgingly neutral ✗
- D) Unreservedly critical ✗
- E) Admiring with restrained concern

Cause & Effect

Q4. Which of the following best explains why Mr. Shukla's training was deemed cost-effective?

- A. The mission didn't involve any international agencies
- B. Training via Axiom was cheaper than building domestic facilities
- C. Japan and Germany sponsored all modules
- D. ISRO received NASA grants for astronaut programs
- E. The Indian government covered full expenses through crowdfunding

Purpose Identification

What was the likely unstated objective of Shukla's mission?

- A. An independent U.S.-funded military mission
- B. A practical rehearsal for the upcoming Gaganyaan launch
- C. A political demonstration of India's space ambitions
- D. A recreational space tourism activity
- E. A fundraising effort for ISRO

Central Idea Based Question

What best summarizes the central idea of the passage?

- A) India's collaboration with international agencies has diluted its autonomy in space programs.
- B) Despite a successful international mission, ISRO must enhance public outreach for Gaganyaan.
- C) Space regulations limit astronauts from developing full mission capability in foreign programs.
- D) ISRO's training methods were inefficient until NASA's assistance.
- E) The success of private firms like Axiom undermines national agencies like ISRO.

U.S. President Donald Trump has made a U-turn on Ukraine, shifting from his campaign pledge to end the war within 24 hours of taking office to promising to send more weapons to Ukraine and threatening to impose "severe tariffs" on Russia and its trading partners if the crisis is not resolved in 50 days. The shift reflects the complex realities on the ground. Ukraine, which has lost more than 20% of its territories, including its Sea of Azov coastline, to Russia since 2014, agreed to a ceasefire, under pressure from the Trump administration, based on the current frontline. Russia had initially responded to Mr. Trump's peace push. It agreed to a naval ceasefire in the Black Sea, and halted attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure for 30 days. Moscow also declared brief ceasefires and sent negotiators to Istanbul for talks with Kyiv on June 2, despite a drone strike by Ukraine deep inside Russia, targeting its bombers. But after the U.S. joined Israel to bomb Iran, despite Tehran's nuclear talks with Washington, Russia accelerated attacks on Ukraine with drone attacks and troop advances in the Dnipropetrovsk region. In a call with Mr. Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin said he would not back down from his goals in Ukraine. Caught between an **intransigent** Moscow and pressure from his allies, Mr. Trump seems to have decided to change course.

Nevertheless, Mr. Trump has ruled out giving Ukraine long-range offensive weapons. The plan is to send defensive weapons, including Patriot systems and ammunition to Ukraine through NATO allies. While Patriots could be effective in shielding Ukraine's skies from Russian missile strikes, they are unlikely to alter the balance in the battlefield. And, the U.S.'s ability to hurt Russia through direct tariffs is limited as bilateral trade stood at just \$3 billion in 2024. But if Mr. Trump opts for secondary tariffs, the impact would extend to other countries, including India, China, and Brazil. Since the start of the Ukraine war, the U.S. and Europe have imposed multiple layers of sanctions on Russia, which have failed to impact the Kremlin's war policies. By threatening to penalise third countries for Russia's actions, Mr. Trump is doubling down on a failed policy, and also jeopardising the energy security of countries such as India, an American partner. Mr. Trump must realise that he cannot resolve global conflicts through imperial-style ultimatums and threats. Instead, sustained diplomacy with Moscow and Kyiv is essential. Russia must come down from its maximalist demands, and Ukraine's security concerns should be addressed. His focus should be on finding a middle ground between the Russian and Ukrainian positions to achieve a durable peace.

Column Matching – Logical Connectors

Q1. Connector: **However**

1218

Column A	Column B
A1. Mr. Trump initially promised to end the Ukraine war within 24 hours	B1. He later announced more military support and tariff threats
A2. Russia halted attacks and agreed to ceasefires temporarily	B2. It resumed strikes after U.S. bombed Iran during nuclear negotiations
A3. Sanctions were repeatedly imposed by Western powers	B3. They did not force Russia to change its military strategy

Options:

- A. A1–B3, A2–B1, A3–B2
- B. A1–B1, A2–B2, A3–B3
- C. A1–B2, A2–B3, A3–B1
- D. A1–B1, A2–B3, A3–B2
- E. A1–B3, A2–B2, A3–B1

A1-B1

✓

Odd One Out – Contextual Consistency

Q8. Identify the sentence that does NOT align logically with the tone and message of the passage.

A. The U.S. has shifted its stance multiple times based on evolving ground realities

B. Russia is open to all peace negotiations without setting any prior conditions

C. Bilateral trade between the U.S. and Russia has remained limited throughout

D. Threatening third-party countries could weaken diplomatic relations globally

E. Defensive weapons like the Patriot system offer only limited battlefield impact

Assumption– Logical Sequence

Which of the following actions did Russia take in response to Mr. Trump's peace proposal?

- A) Declared victory over Ukraine's Azov coastline
- B) Invaded Dnipropetrovsk and halted talks with Kyiv
- C) Agreed to limited ceasefires and participated in peace talks
- D) Strengthened economic ties with Iran and Brazil
- E) Imposed retaliatory tariffs on the U.S.

Critical Evaluation – Strategy Assessment

Q10. Which of the following best evaluates the effectiveness of Mr. Trump's current strategy as discussed in the passage?

- A. It offers a sustainable roadmap that unifies Western allies and deters Russia
- B. It reflects a reactive approach that may worsen global economic conditions
- C. It focuses solely on trade rather than on geopolitical conflict resolution
- D. It avoids any involvement in foreign disputes to focus on domestic growth
- E. It leverages nuclear deterrence as a means to establish global peace



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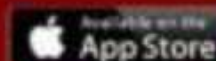
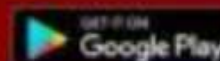
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