

English Language

Directions (1-5): In the following questions, three statements are given with a highlighted phrase/idiom, you have to identify the sentence in which the usage of the phrase/idiom is incorrect, and mark it as your answer

1. Learn by rote

1. The education system in India and China is such that students just **learn by rote** and then reproduce it in exams.
2. There is widespread **learn by rote** among the staff at the proposed changes to pay and conditions
3. And finally, time was also found for PanditHerambaTatwaratna to come and get us to **learn by rote** rules of Sanscrit grammar.

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 3
- D. Both 1 and 3
- E. All are correct

2. Inter alia

1. The Foremost risk and uncertainties at the year's beginning related to the virus's trajectory, **inter alia**, new deadlier variants and if these could resist the workable vaccines.
2. Success in meeting these objectives depends, **inter alia**, on good governance within each country.
3. In this, as some clear-sighted post–World War II writers have noted, Sade's writing was, **inter alia**, a harbinger of fascism.

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 3
- D. Both 2 and 3
- E. All are correct

3. Keep abreast of

1. Formation of retail price index aims to **keep abreast of** price fluctuation of retail commodities and provide the reference basis for the Central government in working out economic policies.
2. Firstly, changing external factors meant that many plans became rapidly **keep abreast of** and so they could never be implemented properly.
3. The White Paper argued that the existing investor protection laws were **keep abreast of** and incomplete

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 3
- D. Both 2 and 3
- E. All are correct

4. With a vengeance

1. If there are dreams about a beautiful South Africa, there are also roads that lead to their goal. Two of these roads could be named Goodness and **with a vengeance**
2. Compassion will then open the door to the possibility of **with a vengeance** and will allow you to release those judgements that are holding you in self-contempt.



3. Published in 2004, this book examines the anti- American backlash that surfaced **with a vengeance** over the war in Iraq.

- A. Only 2
- B. Only 3
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Both 2 and 3
- E. All are correct

5. An eye for an eye

1. In their partnership, **an eye for an eye**, where one partner had no idea about how his name was getting dragged in the illegal work by the other.

2. The neglected Biblical principle of "**an eye for an eye**, and a tooth for a tooth" answers this question with an unexpected challenge.

3. If Jesus' teachings seem too lofty for everyday public affairs, we should at least hold our government to the limit of "**an eye for an eye**."

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Both 2 and 3
- E. All are correct

Directions (6-10): In the following questions, a highlighted word is given which is followed by three statements, in which the meaning of the word is used. You have to identify the statement in which the meaning of the word is used incorrectly, and mark it as your answer

6. Beleaguered

1. Even if you bring your own travel iron, you may be **hard-pressed** to find an ironing board

2. She couldn't be **troubled** with trivial things like makeup or dressing up every morning, she simply didn't have time

3. She was determined that she would become a **liberated** businesswoman

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 3
- D. Both 1 and 2
- E. All are correct

7. Recalcitrant

1. She became **uncooperative**: unwilling to do her homework or help with any household chores

2. But in the field of statute law the judge must be **obedient** to the will of Parliament as expressed in its enactments.

3. Utterly defeated in the battle, the losing side was **acquiescent** and agreed to all of our demands without objection

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 3
- D. Both 2 and 3
- E. All are correct

8. Eurhythmic

1. The **asymmetrical** design yields too many different attitudes, and you can create very different results.

2. The latter are plates of green tissue one cell thick, while the stem consists of **uniform** more or less elongated cylindrical cells.

3. The faces are horribly **contorted** as if suffocating or in great pain, and their eyes seem to follow anyone who passes.

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 3
- C. Both 1 and 3
- D. Both 2 and 3
- E. All are correct

9. Galvanize

1. Science writing has, as a consequence, been rather limited in its range of forms, and somewhat **monotonous** in style.

2. This process is a **tedious** one, and necessarily only gives the average form of thousands of different alternations

3. The audiologist observes **startle** responses and motor reflex changes in the child as various noisemakers are employed to elicit these responses.

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 3
- D. Both 1 and 2
- E. All are incorrect

10. Presage

1. This book may well be considered the **harbinger** of the next generation of community studies.

2. When the bar stayed empty at the opening event, the owner saw the lack of customers as a **portent** of business failure.

3. By day he **concealed** himself in cupboards or under furniture, and by night he groped his way into the royal kitchen to eat whatever he could find.

- A. Only 2
- B. Only 3
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Both 2 and 3
- E. All are correct

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Answer Key with Explanation

1. Answer: B

'Learn by rote' means – to learn something by memorizing without giving any thought

The phrase is correctly used in statements (1) and (3)

Statement (2) – 'learn by rote' doesn't support the context of the sentence, the sentence is not talking about any kind of leaning, but it talks about some changes that is taken place in an organization/institute. So, the phrase is incorrectly used here



2. Answer: E

‘Inter alia’ means – among other things

The phrase is correctly used in all the statements. Hence, ‘all are correct’ is the answer

3. Answer: D

‘Keep abreast of’ means - stay or cause to stay up-to-date with facts

The phrase the correctly used in statement (1)
Statement (2) – ‘keep abreast of’ doesn’t support the context of the sentence, it talks about the changes in some external factors that can never be implemented, and it is not talking about any updation of information of facts. So, the phrase is incorrectly used here

Statement (3) –according to the context of the sentence the White Paper argument is incomplete, so it cannot be up-to-date, ‘keep abreast of’ is incorrect here. So, the phrase is incorrectly used here

4. Answer: C

‘With a vengeance’ means - with great violence or energy

The phrase is correctly used in statement (3)
Statement (1) – the context of the sentence talks about a dream of beautiful South Africa, ‘with a vengeance’ doesn’t support the context of the sentence. So, the phrase is incorrectly used here
Statement (2) –the context of the sentence talks about compassion, how it helps to release self-contempt, ‘with a vengeance’ doesn’t support the

context of the sentence. So, the phrase is incorrectly used here

5. Answer: A

‘An eye for an eye’ means – one should punish somebody by doing to him/her what he/she has done to somebody else

The phrase is correctly used in statement (2) and (3)

Statement (1) –the context of the sentence is not talking about revenge, because according to the context one partner has no idea what the other partner is doing. So, the phrase is incorrectly used here

6. Answer: C

Meaning of ‘Beleaguered’ – in a very difficult situation

‘Hard- pressed’ and ‘troubled’ both are its synonym

‘Liberated’ is opposite in meaning, which means – release from a situation which limits freedom
Hence, the meaning of the highlighted word is incorrectly used in statement (3)

7. Answer: D

Meaning of ‘Recalcitrant’ – having an uncooperative attitude towards authority or discipline

‘Uncooperative’ is its synonym

Both ‘obedient’ and ‘acquiescent’ are its antonyms

‘Obedient’ –submissive to another’s authority

'Acquiescent' – ready to accept without protest
Hence, the meaning of the highlighted word is incorrectly used in statements (2) and (3)

8. Answer: C

'Eurhythmic' means – relating to harmonious proportion

Both 'asymmetrical' and 'contorted' are opposite in meaning

'Asymmetrical' – having parts or aspects that are not equal

'Contorted' – twisted or bent out of normal shape
Hence, the meaning of the highlighted word is incorrectly used in statements (1) and (3)

9. Answer: D

Meaning of 'galvanize' – sock or excite (someone) into taking action

'Startle' is its synonym, which means - to surprise someone

Both 'monotonous' and 'tedious' are opposite in meaning

'Monotonous' – dull, lacking the interest

'Tedious' – tiresome because of length or dullness

Hence, the meaning of the highlighted word is incorrectly used in statements (1) and (2)

10. Answer: B

Meaning of 'presage' – be a sign or warning that (something) is about to happen

Both 'harbinger' and 'portent' are synonym of it
'Harbinger' – a person or thing that announces or signals the approach of others

'Portent' – a sign or warning

'Concealed' is opposite in meaning, which means – keep out of sight or hidden from view
Hence, the meaning of the highlighted word is incorrectly used in statement (3)