

### **English Test – 3&5**

**Read the given passage carefully and answer the following questions. Some words have been highlighted to help you locate the same while answering.**

Despite the seemingly successful talks between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and his U.S. counterpart Jake Sullivan in June, to make progress on the bilateral Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET), structural challenges endure in its execution.

Local industry officials and military analysts maintain that these **impediments** pertain primarily to the autonomy of U.S. defence companies with regard to transferring technology, which have been developed at immense cost at Washington's behest with many companies zealously guarding their intellectual property rights (IPR) over it. Additionally, the U.S.'s strict export control laws in this regard, controlled by its defence industrial complex, were loath to sharing military technologies via joint ventures, however meaningful they might be to Washington's wider strategic interests. For now, the iCET's defence component is focused on India locally manufacturing General Electric GE F-414INS6 after burning turbofan engines to power the under-development Tejas Mk-II light combat aircraft and locally assembling 31 armed MQ-9 armed Reaper/Predator-B unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and under acquisition for all three services, for around \$3 billion.

Official sources claimed negotiations had been concluded for GE to transfer around 80% technology to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to produce the F-414 engines, but not critical know-how related to forging metallurgy discs for the power packs turbines. Technology transfer from General Atomics Aeronautical Systems to assemble the MQ-9s reportedly stands at around 10-15%, and includes establishing a domestic maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility for the UAVs. Alongside, directly acquiring, licence-building and co-developing the General Dynamics Land Systems Stryker Infantry Combat Vehicle for the Indian Army, under iCET patronage, is under negotiation. But innate limitations in all these ventures persist. Military analyst Abhijit Singh said that the U.S. government does not presume to act on behalf of its defence companies that own the IPRs for their sundry wares. Besides, U.S. defence vendors, he cautioned, were answerable to their shareholders, whose motivations were largely commercially driven. This, in turn, could adversely impact the quantum of technology they were willing to transfer. It was precisely these mercantile considerations, weighed down by **cumbersome** bureaucracies, that led to the failure of the 2012 Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) between India and the U.S., and on whose ashes the iCET emerged in June 2023, albeit with a more ambitious remit.

Meanwhile, a cross-section of domestic defence industry officials averred that one strategy to ensure iCET's attainment, and that of related projects, centred on the U.S. permitting the Indian military to exercise innovative solutions on its U.S. platforms such as attack and heavy-lift helicopters, heavy transport aircraft, and naval surveillance aircraft it had acquired. After all, this resourceful approach had provided India's military with user flexibility, by ably rendering imported platforms serviceable in climatic extremes and assorted terrain. Through trial and error over decades, the services had elevated innovative solutions to sophisticated levels to ensure that foreign weapon systems performed over their declared potential. For instance, these innovative solutions had rendered the fleet of Chetak's and Cheetah's, principally French-origin Alouette III's and SA-315B Lama's, capable of operating to heights over 14,000 feet in the Siachen glacier region, a feat their original equipment manufacturers had never deemed possible.

The iCET also appears to be part of the U.S.'s overall policy, outlined in a recent Senate Foreign Relations Committee report, which urged President Joseph Biden to address the ticklish issue of India's close strategic ties with Moscow and particularly its dependency on Russian arms. The implicit suggestion in the February 2023 report was

that India should now begin sourcing its future military kit from Washington, conceivably via the iCET route. Hopefully, the iCET will not fall prey to Augustine's Laws, the **tongue-in-cheek** aphorisms immortalised by Norman Augustine, an Under Secretary of the U.S. Army. One Law states that the more time both sides spend talking about what they had been doing, the less time they had to spend doing what they were talking about. And eventually they (could) end up spending more and more time talking about less and less, until finally they spent all their time talking about nothing.

**Q1 What are the primary challenges in executing the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)?**

- 1.Lack of interest from the Indian government
- 2.High cost of implementation
- 3.Autonomy of U.S. defense companies and strict U.S. export control laws
- 4.Insufficient funding from the U.S. government
- 5.Opposition from other countries

**Q2 What is the focus of the iCET's defense component?**

- 1.Building new aircraft carriers for the Indian Navy
- 2.Manufacturing General Electric GE F-414INS6 engines and assembling MQ-9 Reaper UAVs
- 3.Developing nuclear weapons
- 4.Establishing new defense training academies in India
- 5.Creating new missile systems

**Q3 Why is there a limitation on the technology transfer from U.S. defense companies to India?**

- 1.The Indian government does not want advanced technology
- 2.Lack of skilled labor in India
- 3.There are no agreements in place for technology transfer
- 4.The technology is too complex for Indian engineers to understand
- 5.U.S. defense companies guard their intellectual property rights and are commercially driven

**Q4 What historical initiative is mentioned as a predecessor to the iCET, and why did it fail?**

- 1.The Make in India initiative; it was too ambitious
- 2.The India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement; it was politically controversial
- 3.The Strategic Partnership Model; it lacked funding
- 4.The Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI); it was weighed down by mercantile considerations and cumbersome bureaucracies
- 5.The India-U.S. Joint Working Group; it had insufficient support

**Q5 What strategy do domestic defense industry officials suggest to ensure the success of iCET?**

- 1.Encouraging the Indian military to exercise innovative solutions on U.S. platforms
- 2.Increasing funding for technology development
- 3.Reducing the role of private companies in defense
- 4.Establishing new research centers in collaboration with U.S. universities
- 5.Strengthening intellectual property rights laws in India

**Q6 What does the recent Senate Foreign Relations Committee report urge President Joseph Biden to address regarding India?**

- 1.India's environmental issues
- 2.India's lack of technological advancement
- 3.India's economic policies
- 4.India's close strategic ties with Moscow and its dependency on Russian arms
- 5.India's human rights record

**Q7 What is one of Augustine's Laws mentioned in the context of the iCET?**

- 1.The more money spent, the better the results

- 2.The more time spent talking, the less time spent doing
- 3.The more partners involved, the slower the progress
- 4.The more technology transferred, the greater the success
- 5.The more complex the project, the higher the failure rate

**Q8 Choose the synonym for the word "impediment" as used in the passage.**

- 1.Enhancement
- 2.Advantage
- 3.Obstacle
- 4.Assistance
- 5.Benefit

**Q9 Choose the antonym for the word "cumbersome" as used in the passage.**

- 1.Convenient
- 2.Bulky
- 3.Heavy
- 4.Awkward
- 5.Clumsy

**Q10 What is the meaning of the idiom "tongue-in-cheek" as used in the passage?**

- 1.Very seriously
- 2.Without any humor
- 3.In a sincere manner
- 4.In an ironic or mocking way
- 5.Completely honestly

**In the following questions, a sentence is given with two blanks in it followed by multiple options. Choose the most appropriate words that fit correctly in the given blanks. If none of the combinations is correct, choose option E as your answer.**

**Q11. The implementation of the new policy, while intended to \_\_\_\_\_ the economic downturn, has inadvertently \_\_\_\_\_ several unforeseen issues that need immediate attention.**

- a. alleviate
- b. stimulate
- c. counteract
- d. exacerbated
- e. diminished
- f. resolved

- 1.a and d
- 2.b and f
- 3.c and d
- 4.c and e
- 5.None of these

**Q12.The ambassador's meticulously orchestrated and \_\_\_\_\_ approach to negotiations was met with vehemence \_\_\_\_\_ from both parties involved, each entrenched in their positions and unwilling to yield.**

- a. conciliatory
- b. pugnacious
- c. diplomatic
- d. consensus
- e. acquiescence
- f. opposition

- 1.b and d
- 2.a and e
- 3.b and f
- 4.c and f
- 5.None of these

**Q13.The artist's latest masterpiece intricately \_\_\_\_\_ a reflection of colors that \_\_\_\_\_ viewers with its profound depth and nuanced symbolism, inviting them into a world of aesthetic contemplation.**

- a. features
- b. exhibits
- c. portrays
- d. confounded
- e. mesmerized
- f. bewildered

- 1.c and d
- 2.b and f
- 3.b and e
- 4.c and f
- 5.None of these

**Q14.The eagerly anticipated software update purported to significantly \_\_\_\_\_ the system's efficiency, yet it unexpectedly \_\_\_\_\_ several critical bugs, frustrating users and IT administrators alike.**

- a. degenerate
- b. enhance
- c. bolster
- d. aggravated
- e. debugged
- f. alleviated

- 1.a and d
- 2.b and d
- 3.c and f
- 4.c and e
- 5.None of these

**Q15.His recent meteoric rise to success \_\_\_\_\_ his earlier setbacks and \_\_\_\_\_ the belief that perseverance and unwavering dedication can ultimately triumph over even the most daunting adversities.**

- a. eclipsed
- b. conquer
- c. overshadowed
- d. transcended
- e. vanquished
- f. reinforced

- 1.c and f
- 2.b and f
- 3.c and d
- 4.a and e
- 5.None of these

**In the following questions, three phrases/sentences are given (A, B and C) followed by four connectors (I, II, III and IV). Choose the option that represents the correct combination of connectors that can be used to join the given sentences without changing their original meaning. If none of the connectors is correct, choose option E as your answer.**

**Q16.A. The new policy was implemented last month,**

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ it has faced significant opposition from various stakeholders.**

**C. \_\_\_\_\_, the administration believes it will bring long-term benefits to the organization.**

- I. but, However
- II. as, Therefore
- III. although, Consequently
- IV. since, Nevertheless

- 1.Only II
- 2.Only III
- 3.Only I
- 4.Both I and IV
- 5.None of these

**Q17.A. The CEO announced a new strategic plan,**

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ many employees were skeptical about its feasibility.**

**C. \_\_\_\_\_, the board decided to proceed with the implementation.**

- I. so, Therefore
- II. yet, Nevertheless
- III. because, Thus
- IV. although, Moreover

- 1.Only II
- 2.Only III
- 3.Only I
- 4.Both I and IV
- 5.None of these

**Q18.A. The weather forecast predicted heavy rain,**

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ we decided to cancel the picnic.**

**C. \_\_\_\_\_, we planned an indoor activity instead.**

- I. because, Moreover
- II. since, Subsequently
- III. therefore, but also
- IV. so, Instead

- 1.Only II
- 2.Only III
- 3.Only I
- 4.Only IV
- 5.None of these

**Q19.A. She studied diligently for the exams,**

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ she was confident of her success.**

**C. \_\_\_\_\_, she made sure to revise all her notes thoroughly.**

- I. but, Nevertheless
- II. and, Consequently
- III. thus, Moreover
- IV. although, However

- 1.Only IV
- 2.Only II
- 3.Only III
- 4.Only I
- 5.None of these

**Q20.A. The company launched a new product line,**

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ the market response was lukewarm.**

**C. \_\_\_\_\_, they decided to invest more in marketing and promotions.**

- I. yet, ConsequentlY
- II. because, However
- III. although, Therefore
- IV. since, Instead

- 1.Only II
- 2.Only III
- 3.Only I
- 4.Both I and IV
- 5.None of these

**In the questions given below, four statements are given that are labelled as (A),(B),(C) and (D), in which only one statement may be grammatically and contextually incorrect. Find out the sentence that is grammatically and contextually incorrect using the given options. If all sentences are correct, then choose 'option E' as your answer.**

**Q21.a. Rising sea levels due to climate change is a phenomenon that threatens coastal communities worldwide, prompting urgent calls for mitigation efforts.**

**b. Neither the advisors nor the minister were aware of the impending policy changes announced by the president.**

**c. The government should provide more incentives to companies that are investing in renewable energy technologies to ensure sustainable development.**

**d. The new law, which was passed last week, aims to protect consumer rights in digital transactions and online services.**

- 1.a
- 2.b
- 3.c
- 4.d
- 5.No error

**Q22.a. Promoting digital literacy among the rural population has become a key focus of government policies, aimed at bridging the urban-rural divide.**

**b. The board of directors is planning to launch several new initiatives to boost company performance in the next fiscal year.**

**c. Citizens must adhered to the new traffic regulations that have been implemented to reduce accidents and improve road safety.**

**d. The athlete who won the gold medal at the Olympics has been appointed as a brand ambassador for the national sports campaign.**

- 1.a
- 2.b
- 3.c
- 4.d
- 5.No error

**Q23.a. Implementing strict lockdown measures was necessary to curb the spread of the virus, although it led to significant economic downturns.**

**b. A series of workshops on digital transformation were conducted by the ministry to enhance the skills of government employees.**

**c. The education policy could be revised next year to include more emphasis on skill-based learning and vocational training.**

**d. The organization which received the grant is expected to complete the project within two years, bringing significant benefits to the community.**

- 1.a
- 2.c
- 3.d
- 4.b
- 5.No error

**Q24.a. Each of the proposed amendments to the constitution require approval by a two-thirds majority in the parliament.**

b. Developing sustainable agricultural practices is essential for ensuring food security in the face of changing climatic conditions.

c. Healthcare professionals might face challenges in the coming months due to the predicted surge in flu cases alongside COVID-19.

d. The book, which has been critically acclaimed, provides deep insights into the economic policies of the last decade.

1.a 2.b 3.c 4.d 5.No error

**Q25.a.** The government will need to focus on developing infrastructure in remote areas, which are currently less developed compared to urban centers.

b. The number of COVID-19 cases has significantly decreased due to widespread vaccination campaigns and strict public health measures.

c. The central bank will likely increase interest rates in response to rising inflation, which might effect borrowing costs for businesses.

d. The scientist whose research led to the breakthrough in renewable energy was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics.

1.a 2.b 3.c 4.d 5.No error

In each of the following questions, a short passage is given with one of the phrases/sentences in the passage missing and is represented by a blank. Choose the alternative that fits correctly in the given passage so as to make it grammatically and contextually correct. If none of the alternatives is correct, choose option E as your answer.

**Q26.**The rise of digital payment systems has revolutionized the way transactions are conducted. With the proliferation of smartphones and internet connectivity, people can now transfer money and make payments with just a few taps on their screens. This shift towards digital payments has not only made transactions faster and more convenient but has also significantly reduced the reliance on cash. Furthermore, digital payment platforms offer enhanced security features such as encryption and two-factor authentication, ensuring that users' financial information remains protected. However, despite the many advantages, there are still challenges that need to be addressed, particularly in rural areas where internet connectivity is limited and digital literacy is low.

1.Many people in urban areas are already accustomed to using these technologies.

2.The government must focus on improving digital infrastructure and education in these regions.

3.Mobile wallets and online banking apps have become increasingly popular.

4.Digital payments are expected to continue growing in the coming years.

5.None of these

**Q27.**The global shift towards renewable energy sources is accelerating as countries recognize the urgent need to combat climate change. Solar and wind power have emerged as leading alternatives to fossil fuels, offering clean and sustainable energy solutions. Innovations in energy storage and grid management are also playing a crucial role in facilitating this transition. Governments around the world are investing heavily in renewable energy projects and setting ambitious targets for reducing carbon emissions. However,

1.electric vehicles are becoming more popular due to advancements in battery technology.

2.the impact of climate change on wildlife and ecosystems is a growing concern.

3.public awareness campaigns are essential to promote energy conservation.

4.the challenge remains to make these technologies accessible and affordable for all.

5.None of these

**Q28.**The importance of mental health has gained significant recognition in recent years, with more people acknowledging the need for psychological well-being. Mental health issues such as depression and anxiety are now openly discussed, reducing the stigma associated with them. Many organizations are implementing programs to support the mental health of their employees, recognizing that a healthy workforce is more productive. Schools and colleges are also introducing mental health education to help students manage stress and build resilience.

1.Physical health and mental health are closely interconnected.

2.The role of social media in mental health is a topic of debate.

3.Such initiatives are prompting governments to allocate more resources and awareness campaigns.

4.The use of technology in mental health treatment is on the rise.

5.None of these

**Q29.**Advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) are transforming various industries, from healthcare to finance. AI-powered systems can analyze vast amounts of data quickly and accurately, providing valuable insights and improving decision-making processes. In healthcare, AI is being used to develop predictive models for disease outbreaks and personalized treatment plans. In finance, AI algorithms can detect fraudulent transactions and optimize investment strategies. However, the rapid development of AI also raises ethical and legal concerns, such as data privacy and job displacement.

1.AI technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace.

2.Many companies are investing in AI research and development.

3.Addressing these concerns is essential to ensure responsible AI deployment.

4.The impact of AI on society is a topic of much debate.

5.AI has the potential to revolutionize many aspects of daily life.

**Q30.**Urbanization is a global trend that has significant implications for economic development and environmental sustainability. As more people move to cities in search of better opportunities, urban areas are expanding rapidly. This growth can drive economic progress by creating jobs and stimulating innovation. However, it also poses challenges such as traffic congestion, pollution, and inadequate infrastructure. To address these issues, city planners are adopting smart city technologies that integrate data and communication systems to improve urban living.

1.Rural areas, on the other hand, face different kinds of development challenges.

2.Effective urban planning is crucial to managing the growth of cities sustainably.

3.Public transportation systems play a key role in reducing urban traffic.

4.Green spaces and parks are essential for enhancing urban quality of life.

5.The global population is expected to continue growing in the coming decades.

In the following questions, three sentences have been given in which a word has been highlighted. Find out the sentence/s in which the highlighted word has been used incorrectly and choose the answer from the given options. If all the sentences use the highlighted word correctly, choose option E as your answer.

**Q31.I.** The ephemeral joy of winning the lottery soon gave way to the reality of managing newfound wealth and responsibilities.

**II.** The prodigious student managed to solve complex mathematical problems effortlessly, impressing his teachers and peers.

**III.** The soldiers displayed intrepid behavior as they cowered in fear during the attack.

1.Only I 2.Only II 3.Only III 4.Both I and II 5.All are correct

**Q32.I.** The laconic speaker captivated the audience with his elaborate and long-winded speeches.

II. The **meticulous** gardener spent hours pruning and trimming the plants to ensure they grew perfectly.

III. His **audacious** plan to climb the corporate ladder involved sabotaging his colleagues' projects and stealing their ideas.

1. Only I 2. Only II 3. Only III 4. Both I and II 5. All are correct

**Q33.I.** The **magnanimous** donor provided significant funds for the construction of the new community center.

II. The **stoic** man burst into tears when he heard the tragic news.

III. The **gluttonous** squirrel stored more nuts than it could ever eat in one winter.

1. Only I 2. Only II 3. Only III 4. Both I and II 5. All are correct

**Q34.I.** The **eclectic** decor of the restaurant featured a mix of modern and traditional elements.

II. The **vindictive** judge showed leniency and compassion in his verdict.

III. The **assiduous** student reviewed his notes thoroughly before the final exams.

1. Only III 2. Only I 3. Only II 4. Both I and II 5. All are correct

**Q35.I.** The rainfall this year has ensured a **bountiful** harvest for the farmers.

II. The **inscrutable** instructions made it easy for everyone to understand and complete the task.

III. The **gregarious** child quickly made friends at the new school.

1. Only I 2. Only II 3. Only III 4. Both I and II 5. All are correct

**In the following questions, a sentence is given in which two phrases have been highlighted. The highlighted phrases may/may not be grammatically correct. Choose the best alternative from the given options that could replace the highlighted phrases to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct. If no improvement is required, choose option E as your answer.**

**Q36.** The government's initiative to promote electric vehicles, **which includes subsidies and tax breaks, have received** mixed reactions from **both industry experts nor consumers**, highlighting the complexities involved in transitioning to sustainable transportation solutions.

1. that includes subsidies and tax breaks, have been received, both industry experts and consumers,

2. which includes subsidies and tax breaks, has received, both industry experts or consumers,

3. that include subsidies and tax breaks, have received, both industry experts and consumers,

4. which includes subsidies and tax breaks, has received, both industry experts and consumers,

5. No Improvement

**Q37.** The recent advancements in artificial intelligence, which have revolutionized various industries, **are faced ethical and regulatory challenges that need to be address by policymakers**, ensuring responsible deployment and ethical use of AI technologies.

1. are still facing ethical and regulatory, that need to be addressed by policymakers,

2. faced ethical and regulatory, that need to be addressed by policymakers,

3. have faced ethical and regulatory, who need to be addressed by policymakers,

4. were facing ethical and regulatory, that need to be addresses by policymakers,

5. No Improvement

**Q38.** The CEO's decision **to restructure a company, while controversial** in the board members, **was deemed to being necessary** to enhance its competitiveness and adaptability in the rapidly evolving market conditions, aiming to streamline operations and improve overall performance.

1. to restructure the company, while controversial between, was deemed to be necessary

2. to restructure the company, while controversial among, was deemed necessary

3. to restructuring the company, when controversial among, was deemed as necessary

4. for restructuring the company, while controversial among, were deemed as necessary

5. No Improvement

**Q39.** The **committee has submitted its report** on the environmental impact of urbanization, and **its recommendations expected to be implemented** by the end of the year, pending approval from the legislative bodies and stakeholders involved.

1. The committee has submitted its' report, its recommendations are expected to implemented

2. The committee have submitted their report, their recommendations are expected to be implemented

3. The committee has submitted its report, their recommendations are expected to be implement

4. The committee has submitted its report, its recommendations are expected to be implemented

5. No Improvement

**Q40.** **Despite the raising costs of healthcare**, many people still lack access to basic medical services, **who underscores the urgent need for reforms** in the healthcare sector to ensure equitable distribution of resources and quality care for all citizens.

1. Despite the rising costs among healthcare, which underscore the urgent need for reforms

2. Despite of the rising costs of healthcare, which underscores the urgent need to reforms

3. Despite the rising costs of healthcare, which underscores the urgent need for reforms

4. Despite the raising costs of healthcare, which underscore the urgent need for reforms

5. No Improvement

**1. Answer: C**

The passage states, "These impediments pertain primarily to the autonomy of U.S. defence companies with regard to transferring technology... zealously guarding their intellectual property rights (IPR) over it. Additionally, the U.S.'s strict export control laws in this regard... were loath to sharing military technologies via joint ventures."

Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

**2. Answer: B**

The passage mentions, "For now, the iCET's defence component is focused on India locally manufacturing General Electric GE F-414INS6 afterburning turbofan engines to power the under-development Tejas Mk-II light combat aircraft and locally assembling 31 armed MQ-9 armed Reaper/ Predator-B unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)."

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

**3. Answer: E**

The passage explains, "U.S. defence companies... have been developed at immense cost at Washington's behest with many companies zealously guarding their intellectual property rights (IPR) over it. Besides, U.S. defence vendors... were answerable to their shareholders, whose motivations were largely commercially driven."

Therefore, option E is the correct answer.

**4. Answer: D**

The passage states, "It was precisely these mercantile considerations, weighed down by cumbersome bureaucracies, that led to the failure of the 2012 Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) between India and the U.S."

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

**5. Answer: A**

The passage states, "A cross-section of domestic defence industry officials averred that one strategy to ensure iCET's attainment, and that of related projects, centred on the U.S. permitting the Indian military to exercise innovative solutions on its U.S. platforms."

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

**6. Answer: D**

The passage mentions, "The iCET also appears to be part of the U.S.'s overall policy, outlined in a recent Senate Foreign Relations Committee report, which urged President Joseph Biden to address the ticklish issue of India's close strategic ties with Moscow and particularly its dependency on Russian arms."

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

**7. Answer: B**

The passage states, "One Law states that the more time both sides spend talking about what they had been doing, the less time they had to spend doing what they were talking about."

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

**8. Answer: C**

"Impediment" means something that hinders or obstructs progress. "Obstacle" is a synonym, meaning something that blocks or impedes progress.

Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

**9. Answer: A**

"Cumbersome" means unwieldy or difficult to handle due to size, weight, or complexity. "Convenient" is the antonym, meaning easy to use or suitable for one's purpose without causing difficulty.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

**10. Answer: D**

"Tongue-in-cheek" refers to something said or done in a humorous or sarcastic manner, often with an ironic or mocking intent.

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

**11. Answer: A**

**Alleviate:** means to make (a problem, suffering, or difficulty) less severe.

**Exacerbated:** means to make (a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling) worse.

In this context, the policy was meant to reduce or ease the economic downturn (alleviate), but instead, it worsened or intensified other issues (exacerbated).

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

**12. Answer: D**

**Diplomatic:** characterized by skillful handling of negotiations and relations.

**Opposition:** strong disagreement or resistance.

In this context, the ambassador's careful and tactful approach to negotiations faced strong resistance from both sides, who were firmly entrenched in their opposing positions.

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

**13. Answer: C**

• **First Blank:**

○ **Features:** This fits well because it means that the masterpiece prominently displays or includes a reflection of colors.

○ **Exhibits:** This also fits well, as it means to show or present something.

○ **Portrays:** This fits well too, as it means to represent or depict something.

○ **Confounded:** This does not fit because it means to confuse or perplex, which does not logically fit the context.

• **Second Blank:**

○ **Mesmerized:** This fits well because it means to captivate or enchant, which aligns with the idea of viewers being deeply affected by the artwork.

○ **Bewildered:** This does not fit as well because it means to confuse or puzzle, which is not the intended impact in the context of the artwork described.

• **Features and Mesmerized:**

○ **The artist's latest masterpiece intricately features a reflection of colors that mesmerized viewers with its profound depth and nuanced symbolism, inviting them into a world of aesthetic contemplation.**

○ This combination makes sense and creates a coherent sentence.

• **Exhibits and Mesmerized:**

○ **The artist's latest masterpiece intricately exhibits a reflection of colors that mesmerized viewers with its profound depth and nuanced symbolism, inviting them into a world of aesthetic contemplation.**

○ This combination also makes sense and creates a coherent sentence.

• **Portrays and Mesmerized:**

○ **The artist's latest masterpiece intricately portrays a reflection of colors that mesmerized viewers with its profound depth and nuanced symbolism, inviting them into a world of aesthetic contemplation.**

○ This combination also makes sense and creates a coherent sentence.

**14. Answer: B**

**Enhance:** to improve or increase the quality, value, or effectiveness of something.

**Aggravated:** to make a problem or situation worse, especially by causing more anger or annoyance.

In this context, the update was expected to improve the system's efficiency but ended up making it worse by introducing critical bugs, leading to frustration among users and IT administrators.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

**15. Answer: A**

**Overshadowed:** to be more important or significant than something else, thereby reducing its importance or impact.

**Reinforced:** to strengthen or support, often by providing additional evidence or confirmation.

In this context, his rapid success eclipsed his past setbacks and strengthened the belief that dedication and perseverance can overcome significant challenges.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

**16. Answer: C**

The correct answer is "but / However" because "but" is used to introduce a contrasting idea regarding the policy facing opposition despite its implementation. "However" is used to contrast the opposition with the administration's belief in the long-term benefits, emphasizing that the administration remains optimistic despite the opposition.

Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

**17. Answer: A**

"Yet" introduces a contrasting idea regarding employee skepticism despite the announcement. "Nevertheless" is used to emphasize that the board decided to proceed despite the skepticism.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

**18. Answer: D**

So: indicates a consequence or reason following from the previous statement (the prediction of heavy rain led to the decision to cancel the picnic).

Instead: introduces an alternative course of action (in this case, planning an indoor activity as an alternative to the canceled picnic).

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

**19. Answer: C**

**Thus:** indicates a result or consequence (her diligent studying led to her confidence in succeeding).

**Moreover:** introduces an additional point or idea (in addition to her confidence, it emphasizes that she also thoroughly revised her notes).

Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

**20. Although:** contrasts the launch of the new product line with the lukewarm market response.

**Therefore:** introduces the consequence or result of the lukewarm market response, which is the decision to increase investment in marketing and promotions.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

**21. Answer: B**

Sentence b is incorrect. When using "neither...nor," the verb agrees with the nearest subject. Here, the closest subject is singular i.e. 'minister'. So, 'was' should be used instead of 'were'.

**Thus, the correct sentence is:**

**Neither the advisors nor the minister was** aware of the impending policy changes announced by the president.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

**22. Answer: C**

The error in the sentence c is the use of "adhered" instead of the base form "adhere."

Modals must always be followed by the base form of the verb.

**Thus, the correct sentence is:**

**23. Answer: D**

**The error in the sentence b**

**"A series of workshops on digital transformation were conducted by the ministry to enhance the skills of government employees."**

In this sentence, the phrase "A series of workshops" should be treated as a singular subject, so the correct verb should be "was conducted," not "were conducted." The error is in subject-verb agreement.

**Thus, the correct sentence is:**

**24. Answer: A**

The verb "require" is incorrect because it does not agree with the singular subject "Each."

When "each" is used as the subject, it is treated as singular, so the verb should be in the singular form 'requires'.

**Thus, the correct sentence is:**

**25. Answer: C**

The verb "affect" (meaning to influence) is correct here instead of the noun "effect" (a result). So, the sentence should use "affect" to indicate the action on borrowing costs.

**Thus, the correct sentence is:**

The central bank will likely increase interest rates in response to rising inflation, which **might affect** borrowing costs for businesses.

Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

**26. Answer: B**

Option B fits logically into the passage by addressing the challenges related to digital payment adoption in rural areas, where internet connectivity is limited and digital literacy is low. This statement follows the context of discussing challenges despite the advantages of digital payments, suggesting that improving digital infrastructure and education in these regions is necessary.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

**27. Answer: D**

Option D logically follows the context of the passage, which discusses the global shift towards renewable energy sources. It acknowledges the challenges associated with making renewable technologies accessible and affordable for everyone, despite the positive momentum and investments in renewable energy projects worldwide.

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

**28. Answer: C**

Option C is the correct completion for the passage. It expands on the initiatives mentioned earlier in the passage by noting their broader impact, specifically prompting governments to allocate more resources and launch awareness campaigns related to mental health. This statement effectively concludes the

passage by highlighting the societal response and governmental action prompted by the increasing recognition of mental health importance.

Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

**29. Answer: C**

Option A: "AI technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace." → True but doesn't address the concerns raised in the preceding sentence.

Option B: "Many companies are investing in AI research and development." → Adds a fact unrelated to the ethical/legal concerns.

Option C: Correct. Directly links to "ethical and legal concerns," ensuring continuity and closure.

Option D: "The impact of AI on society is a topic of much debate." → Too generic, doesn't give resolution to the concern mentioned.

Option E: "AI has the potential to revolutionize many aspects of daily life." → Repeats the earlier idea of AI's potential, no connection to the concerns.

Option C is the correct completion for the passage. It logically follows the discussion about the ethical and legal concerns raised by AI development, emphasizing the importance of tackling these issues to ensure AI is used responsibly.

Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

**30. Answer: B**

Option B is the correct completion for the passage. It directly addresses the need for proper management of urban growth mentioned in the passage, highlighting the importance of urban planning in achieving sustainable development in expanding cities.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

**31. Answer: C**

Ephemeral means lasting for a very short time. This is used correctly.

Prodigious means remarkably or impressively great in extent, size, or degree. This is used correctly.

Intrepid means fearless or adventurous. This is used incorrectly; "cowered in fear" contradicts the meaning of intrepid.

Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

**32. Answer: A**

Laconic means using very few words. This is used incorrectly; "elaborate and long-winded" contradicts the meaning of laconic.

Meticulous means showing great attention to detail. This is used correctly.

Audacious means showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks. This is used correctly.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

**33. Answer: B**

Magnanimous means very generous or forgiving. This is used correctly.

Stoic means enduring pain and hardship without showing feelings or complaining. This is used incorrectly; bursting into tears contradicts being stoic.

Gluttonous means excessively greedy, especially regarding food. This is used correctly.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

**34. Answer: C**

Eclectic means deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources. This is used correctly.

Vindictive means having or showing a strong or unreasoning desire for revenge. This is used incorrectly; showing leniency and compassion contradicts being vindictive.

Assiduous means showing great care and perseverance. This is used correctly. Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

**35. Answer: B**

Bountiful means abundant or large in quantity. This is used correctly.

Inscrutable means impossible to understand or interpret. This is used incorrectly; it should imply difficulty in understanding, not ease.

Gregarious means fond of company; sociable. This is used correctly. Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

**36. Answer: D**

"Includes" is the correct usage because the subject "the government's initiative" is singular.

"Has" is the correct usage because it is the correct form of the verb "have" for a third-person singular subject ("the government's initiative").

"Both.....and" is the correct usage as it effectively connects and emphasizes the two groups.

**Thus, the correct sentence is:**

The government's initiative to promote electric vehicles, **which includes subsidies and tax breaks, has received** mixed reactions from **both industry experts and consumers**, highlighting the complexities involved in transitioning to sustainable transportation solutions.

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

**37. Answer: A**

"are still facing" which is in the present continuous tense, should be used as the sentence is in the present tense.

"That" is a relative pronoun used to introduce a defining relative clause, which provides essential information about the noun "challenges."

"Be addressed" should be used as it is in the passive voice, which is formed using the verb "be" plus the past participle (V3) of the main verb "address."

**Thus, the correct sentence is:**

The recent advancements in artificial intelligence, which have revolutionized various industries, **are still facing ethical and regulatory challenges that need to be addressed by policymakers**, ensuring responsible deployment and ethical use of AI technologies.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

**38. Answer: B**

The verb "deem" is followed directly by an adjective or noun without any additional prepositions like "as" or "to." This is because "deem" itself means "to regard or consider in a specified way."

"Among" should be used to indicate a group of people.

**Thus, the correct sentence is:**

The CEO's decision **to restructure the company, while controversial among** the board members, **was deemed necessary to enhance its competitiveness** and adaptability in the rapidly evolving market conditions, aiming to streamline operations and improve overall performance.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

**39. Solution**

**Answer: D**

"The committee" is a singular collective noun, so "has" is the correct form to use for indicating that this group has performed an action.

"Its" is a possessive pronoun used to show ownership or association with something that belongs to or is related to "the committee."

"To be implemented" is a passive construction that indicates an action that will happen in the future. It is formed by the infinitive "to be" followed by the past participle "implemented."

- **The committee has submitted its report** on the environmental impact of urbanization, and **its recommendations are expected to be implemented** by the end of the year, pending approval from the legislative bodies and stakeholders involved.

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

**40. Answer: C**

Adding "of" after "despite" is grammatically incorrect because "despite" already means "in spite of."

The subject of the verb "underscores" is the entire clause "many people still lack access to basic medical services." This is a singular subject because it refers to one overall idea or situation. So, the verb should be in the third-person singular form, which is "underscores."

- **Despite the rising costs of healthcare**, many people still lack access to basic medical services, **which underscores the urgent need for reforms** in the healthcare sector to ensure equitable distribution of resources and quality care for all citizens.

Therefore, option C is the correct answer.