

Aptitude, 2016 EC, common, entrance exam

Grade 12 · Aptitude · 2016 E.C.

MARKING KEY — CONFIDENTIAL

Time allowed: 120 minutes

Questions: 35

Total marks: 35

1. Directions: This section which is subdivided into Analogy, Synonyms, Antonyms, Word Substitution, Sentence Completion, Sentence Correction, Reading Comprehension, Analytical and Logical Reasoning contains 35 Verbal reasoning items altogether. Each subsection is followed by its specific instruction. (1)

Analogy

Instruction: Answer questions 1-4 based on the pair that best expresses a relationship similar to that of the original or capitalized pair.

WONDERFUL : SATISFACTORY : : Gigantic: -----

- A. Spacious
C. ✓ **Large**
B. Comprehensive
D. Broad

Answer: C

The capitalized pair works by degree: **satisfactory** is the mild version of **wonderful**. Both are positive, but one is ordinary and one is extreme.

So the second pair needs the mild version of **gigantic**, and that is **large**.

Spacious fails because it describes room inside a place, not size in general, so it does not sit on the same strong to mild line.

Tip: Say the link between the capitalized words in one short sentence, then read that sentence again with each option in place.

2. BOTANY: PLANTS: : Soil: ----- (1)

- A. Biology
C. ✓ **Pedology**
B. Pedagogy
D. Sociology

Answer: C

The link is science and what it studies: botany is the study of plants.

The study of soil is **pedology**, so (C) keeps the same link.

Pedagogy is the closest trap because it looks almost the same, but it means the art of teaching, not the study of soil.

Tip: With subject name pairs, watch for lookalike words. Read every letter before you choose.

3. TEAM:PLAYER::Member: ----- (1)

- A. Trainer
C. Vocalist
B. Musician
D. ✓ **Crew**

Answer: D

The link is a group and one person inside it: a player is one person in a team.

A member is one person in a **crew**, so (D) repeats the link. Note that the two pairs are written in opposite order, group first and then person in the first pair.

Musician and vocalist fail because they name single people, and the missing word has to name the group.

Tip: Check which side is the group and which side is the part before you pick. Order can flip between the two pairs.

4. JUSTICE:FAIRNESS: : Bias:_____

(1)

A. Just

B. ✓ Prejudice

C. Compassion

D. Rational

Answer: B

Justice and fairness mean nearly the same thing, so this is a synonym pair.

Bias means judging unfairly in advance, and **prejudice** means the same, so (B) matches.

Compassion fails because it is a feeling of pity, not unfair judgement.

Tip: When two capitalized words mean the same, the answer is simply a synonym of the third word.

5. #Synonyms

(1)

#Instruction: Questions 5-7 consist of words printed in capital letters followed by four options. Choose the word that is most nearly similar in meaning to the word in capital letters.

FEASIBLE _____

A. Ambitious

B. ✓ Achievable

C. Impractical

D. Unrealistic

Answer: B

Feasible describes a plan that can really be carried out.

Achievable says exactly that, so (B) is the match.

Ambitious is the nearest trap: an ambitious plan is a big plan, and a big plan may still be impossible.

Tip: Put the capitalized word in a short sentence of your own, then swap in each option and keep the one that changes nothing.

6. ADHERE _____

(1)

A. ✓ Obey

B. Drop

C. Abandon

D. Decline

Answer: A

Adhere means to stick to something, and with rules or orders it means to follow them.

Obey carries that same sense, so (A) is correct.

Drop, abandon and decline all mean to let go or refuse, which is the opposite direction.

Tip: If three options mean roughly the same as one another, they are usually all wrong. The odd one is often the answer.

7. CONDONE _____

(1)

A. Discourage

B. Complicate

C. Confuse

D. ✓ Forgive

Answer: D

To **condone** an act is to accept it and let it pass without punishment.

Forgive carries the same idea of not holding the fault against someone, so (D) fits.

Confuse fails because it is about mixing things up in the mind and has nothing to do with pardoning.

Tip: Think of a common phrase with the word, such as condone cheating, and test the options in that phrase.

8. Antonyms

(1)

Instruction: Questions 8—10 consist of words in capital letters followed by four options. Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capital letters.

IMMACULATE _____

A. Tidy

B. Lucid

C. Spotless

D. ✓ **Filthy**

Answer: D

Immaculate means perfectly clean, with no mark at all.

The opposite is **filthy**, which means very dirty, so (D) is correct.

Spotless is the trap: it means the same as immaculate, and this item asks for the opposite.

Tip: In antonym items, first cross out every option that agrees with the capitalized word.

9. RAVAGE _____

(1)

A. ✓ **Renovate**

B. Ruin

C. Damage

D. Devastate

Answer: A

To **ravage** a place is to destroy it badly.

Renovate means to repair and make new again, which is the opposite action, so (A) is correct.

Ruin, damage and devastate all repeat the idea of destroying, so none of them can be the opposite.

Tip: When three options are close in meaning, the single different one is very likely the answer.

10. DAUNTING _____

(1)

A. ✓ **Entertaining**

B. Frightening

C. Intimidating

D. Discouraging

Answer: A

Daunting describes something that frightens you or makes you lose courage.

Entertaining describes something enjoyable, so it pulls in the opposite direction and (A) is correct.

Intimidating fails because it means almost the same as daunting.

Tip: Group the options by feeling, positive or negative. The opposite of a negative word is usually in the positive group.

11. Word Substitution

(1)

Instruction: Questions 11-13 are related to word substitution. Each question is followed by four alternatives. Choose the word which could be interchangeably used with the words written in bold.

Unethical work habits <> individuals' development efforts and a country's overall growth potential.

- A. accelerate
B. facilitate
C. speed-up
D. ✓ **detriment**

Answer: D

The bold word is lost in this copy of the paper, so read the sentence for sense. Unethical work habits damage growth, so the missing word means to harm or to hold back.

Detriment is the only option with that meaning, so (D) is correct.

Accelerate, facilitate and speed up all mean to help or to make faster. They agree with each other, so none of them can be the single right answer, and all three contradict the sentence.

Tip: In word substitution, use the rest of the sentence. If several options mean the same thing, they are all wrong together.

12. Lowland areas usually get<< intermittent>> rain: as a result, they have low animal and crop productions.

(1)

- A. ✓ **sporadic**
B. frequent
C. regular
D. substantial

Answer: A

The bold word is missing from this copy, so use the result given in the sentence. Lowland areas have low animal and crop production, so the rain they get must be irregular or scarce.

Sporadic means happening now and then with no pattern, so (A) fits.

Frequent, regular and substantial all describe plenty of rain, which would not explain low production, and they also mean nearly the same as one another.

Tip: Let the linking words guide you. After *as a result*, the second half tells you what the first half must mean.

13. Risk factors such as smoking, overweight, lack of physical exercise and stress <> blood pressure, heart disease, and gastro-intestinal problems.

(1)

- A. improve
B. ✓ **aggravate**
C. mitigate
D. moderate

Answer: B

The bold word is missing here too, so read the sense. Smoking, extra weight, no exercise and stress make blood pressure and heart disease worse.

Aggravate means to make a bad thing worse, so (B) is correct.

Improve, mitigate and moderate all mean to reduce or soften the problem, which says the opposite of what risk factors do.

Tip: Decide the direction first, worse or better, then look only at options that point that way.

14. The _____ forests in western Ethiopia, accompanied by the shrimps and singing of birds and the fresh breeze are really inspirational. (1)

A. ✓ **tranquil**

B. empty

C. abandoned

D. deserted

Answer: A

The sentence lists singing birds and a fresh breeze, and calls the scene inspirational, so the blank needs a calm and positive word.

Tranquil means peaceful and quiet, so (A) fits.

Deserted fails because it says nobody is there and it carries an empty, sad feeling that clashes with inspirational.

Tip: Mark the sentence as positive or negative first, then keep only options with that same feeling.

15. To fight some of the incurable diseases, the world is facing currently, scientists are _____ biotechnology to develop effective drugs. (1)

A. overlooking
B. ✓ utilizing
C. discounting
D. setting aside

Answer: B

The sentence says scientists are working on drugs for diseases that have no cure, so they must be putting biotechnology to work.

Utilizing means using, so (B) is correct.

Overlooking fails because it means ignoring, and a scientist who ignores biotechnology cannot develop drugs with it.

Tip: Cover the options, guess your own word for the blank, then choose the option closest to your guess.

16. As it contains students from diverse cultural backgrounds, the class is a highly _____ one. (1)

A. ✓ **heterogeneous** B. consistent
C. homogenous D. invariable

Answer: A

The clue is *students from diverse cultural backgrounds*, so the class is mixed.

Heterogeneous means made up of different kinds, so (A) is correct.

Homogenous is the trap: it means all of one kind, which is the opposite of diverse.

Tip: Underline the clue word in the sentence. In this item *diverse* alone decides the answer.

17. Many health professionals believe that laughter has _____ effects on the human body as it enhances both physical and emotional health.

A. adverse B. harmful

C. ✓ therapeutic D. detrimental

Answer: C

The sentence says laughter enhances physical and emotional health, so the blank needs a helpful, healing word.

Therapeutic means having a healing effect, so (C) is correct.

Adverse, harmful and detrimental are all negative, so each one contradicts the second half of the sentence.

Tip: Watch the joining word. After *as* the reason follows, and the reason must agree with the blank.

18. Sentence Correction

(1)

Instruction: Questions, 18– 21 consist of grammatically incorrect sentences. Choose the letter that contains the correct option. Then, blacken the letter of your choice on the separate answer sheet provided.

#Choose the letter that contains the correct option

- A. In my opinion, we can visited our friend when we return from school.
- B. In my opinion, we can visit our friend when we return back from school.
- C. In my opinion, I think, we can visit our friend when we back from school.
- D. ✓ In my opinion, we can visit our friend when we are back from school.

Answer: D

Option (D) is the only sentence with no error: *we can visit* uses the base verb after *can*, and *when we are back* is complete.

(A) puts a past form after *can*. (C) drops the verb in *when we back* and also repeats the idea with *In my opinion, I think*.

(B) is the closest wrong one: it is correct except that *return back* repeats itself, since *return* already means come back.

Tip: Check three things in each option: the verb form after a modal, missing verbs, and repeated words.

19. Choose the letter that contains the correct option?

(1)

- A. The dog that was riding a bicycle barked at me.
- B. The dog, while it was riding a bicycle, barked at me.
- C. While it was riding a bicycle the dog barked at me.
- D. ✓ The dog barked at me while I was riding a bicycle.

Answer: D

The problem is where the describing clause sits. A clause like *while riding a bicycle* attaches to the nearest subject, so a careless order makes the dog ride the bicycle.

Option (D) names the rider clearly with a full clause, *while I was riding a bicycle*, so nothing is confusing.

(B) is the closest wrong one: it is a full clause too, but *it* points back to the dog.

Tip: For modifier items, ask who is doing the action in the extra clause. The sentence must make that person clear.

20. Choose the stetment that contains the correct option?

(1)

- A. What things are you enjoy doing in your spare time?
- B. ✓ What are the things you enjoy doing in your spare time?
- C. What things you are enjoy doing in your spare time?
- D. What things you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Answer: B

A direct question needs one auxiliary verb in front of the subject and no second verb doubling it.

Option (B) is correct: *are* comes before *the things*, and the relative clause *you enjoy doing* follows normally.

(A) and (C) use *are* and *enjoy* together, and (D) has no auxiliary at all, so it reads as a statement.

Tip: Count the verbs in a question. One helping verb before the subject is enough.

21. Choose the letter that contains the correct option?

(1)

- A. The population of China is more great than India.
- B. The population of china is greater than in India.
- C. ✓ **The population of china is greater than that of India.**
- D. The population of china is greater than India.

Answer: C

A comparison must place like against like. Here one population is compared with another population, not with a country.

Option (C) does this with *that of India*, where *that* stands for the population.

(D) is the closest wrong one: it compares a population directly with a country, which leaves the sentence unbalanced.

Tip: In comparison sentences, look for *that of* or *those of*. They keep both sides of the comparison equal.

22. Reading Comprehension

(1)

Instruction: Read the following passage carefully and answer questions. Each question is based on the information in the passage.

Reading Passage II

Population, which means the total number of people living in a certain area, is a critical aspect of our world. However, this simple number has far-reaching effects on our world. It greatly influences our societies, economies, and environment. When population grows too rapidly, it can create problems like shortages of food, clean water, and housing. On the flip side, a declining population can lead to workforce shortages and economic difficulties. Striking a balance is essential.

To manage population growth, governments and communities implement various strategies. They promote family planning, educate people about birth control, and create job opportunities to reduce the pressure on resources. Education is a key tool here as it empowers individuals to make informed decisions about family size. In essence, understanding and managing population is crucial for ensuring a better quality of life for everyone and a sustainable future for our planet.

Q: What is the theme of the passage?

- A. Population control and its disadvantages.
- B. ✓ **The need to balance birth rate and death rate.**
- C. Population growth always poses challenges.
- D. Decline in population size has problems.

Answer: B

The passage gives both sides: growth that is too fast causes shortages, and a falling population causes worker shortages and economic trouble. It then says striking a balance is essential.

That balance between people being born and people dying is the theme, so (B) is correct.

(C) is the closest wrong one, but it takes only one side and the word *always* is stronger than anything the passage says.

Tip: For theme items, choose the option that covers the whole passage, not one paragraph or one example.

23. What does the word "far-reaching" mean according to the context of the passage? (1)

- A. going to faraway places
- B. ✓ **affecting certain areas**
- C. impacting economic development
- D. facilitating resource allocation

Answer: B

The passage says population *greatly influences our societies, economies, and environment*, so far reaching effects are effects that spread into many parts of life.

Option (B) says the effects touch areas, which is the closest meaning offered.

(A) fails because it reads the word as distance in kilometres, and the passage is about influence, not travel. (C) names only one of the three areas.

Tip: For vocabulary in context, read the sentence right after the word. It usually explains what the word means.

24. What does "make informed decision" mean in the above, passage? It means decision: (1)

- A. based on mere personal opinion.
- B. made for the sake of satisfying others.
- C. made for the sake of satisfying oneself.
- D. ✓ **based on fact and opinion**

Answer: D

The passage says education empowers people to make informed decisions about family size, so an informed decision rests on knowledge, not on feeling alone.

Option (D) describes a decision built on facts together with judgement, so it is the best fit.

(A) is the closest wrong one, but a decision based on personal opinion only is exactly the uninformed kind.

Tip: Answer from the passage, not from general knowledge. Find the sentence that carries the phrase and read around it.

25. Based on the information given in the passage, which one of the following statements is correct? (1)

- A. It is the sole responsibility of the government to control population growth.
- B. The role of the community is highly constrained.
- C. ✓ **Both the government and the community are responsible for controlling population.**
- D. Having the requisite understanding about population is what matters most.

Answer: C

The passage says governments and communities implement various strategies such as family planning, birth control education and job creation.

Both sides are named, so (C) is correct.

(A) is the closest wrong one, but the word *sole* removes the community, which the passage clearly includes.

Tip: Beware of absolute words like *sole*, *only* and *always* in options. They often make a true idea false.

26. Reading Comprehension

(1)

Instruction: Read the following passage carefully and answer questions 26-29. Each question is based on the information in the passage.

Passage II

Air pollution, one of the most pressing environmental concerns, is posing significant risks to human health and the planet's well-being. It is characterized by the presence of pollutants in the air. It's not just about breathing problems: it also harms the heart and makes life less enjoyable. Particulate matter, consisting of tiny particles suspended in the air, is a major contributor to air pollution. These particles can penetrate deep into the lungs, causing respiratory diseases and aggravating existing health conditions. Ground-level ozone, another common air pollutant, can lead to respiratory problems and the formation of smog

To combat air pollution, it is imperative to adopt sustainable practices and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Governments play a crucial role in enforcing stringent emission standards for industries and promoting public transportation. Additionally, individuals can contribute by using energy-efficient appliances, carpooling, and planting trees to improve air quality. By collectively addressing the root causes of air pollution, we can create a healthier environment for current and future generations. Planting trees and participating in community clean-up efforts further contribute to the improvement of air quality at the local level.

Q: How can an air pollution-free environment be created for the new generation?

- A. By devising rules and regulations
- B. ✓ **Tackling the causes of air pollution from the source**
- C. By planting trees every year
- D. By restricting private use of car

Answer: B

The passage ends by saying that by collectively addressing the root causes of air pollution we can create a healthier environment for current and future generations.

Tackling the causes at the source is that same idea, so (B) is correct.

(C) is the closest wrong one: planting trees is only one action the passage mentions, while (B) covers all of them.

Tip: When one option repeats the passage's main solution and another repeats a single detail, choose the broad one.

27. In the phrase, "the planet's well-being", what does "the planet" refer to?

(1)

- A. The nine planets
- B. The moon
- C. The sun
- D. ✓ **The earth**

Answer: D

The passage talks about pollutants in the air, human health and the environment we live in, so the planet under discussion is the one we live on.

That is the earth, so (D) is correct.

(C) fails because the sun is a star, and no part of the passage is about it.

Tip: For reference items, ask which noun the phrase replaces. The answer is always inside the passage.

28. Which one of the following is NOT an air pollutant?

(1)

- A. particulate matter
B. ✓ **carpooling**
C. ground-level ozone
D. smog

Answer: B

The passage names particulate matter and ground level ozone as pollutants and smog as what ozone helps form.

Carpooling is different: it is sharing one car among several people, which the passage lists as a way to cut pollution, so (B) is the answer.

(D) smog is the closest trap because it appears in the same paragraph, but the passage treats it as a product of pollution, not a remedy.

Tip: In a NOT question, tick the options you can find in the passage. The one left over is your answer.

29. As used in the passage, what is the meaning of the word "imperative"?

(1)

- A. optional
B. tentative
C. conditional
D. ✓ **compulsory**

Answer: D

The sentence says it is imperative to adopt sustainable practices and cut the use of fossil fuels, and the passage treats this as something we must do.

Compulsory carries that sense of must, so (D) is correct.

(A) optional fails because it means you may choose to skip it, which is the opposite of imperative.

Tip: Replace the hard word with each option inside the original sentence and keep the one that leaves the meaning unchanged.

30. #Analytical and Logical Reasoning Questions

(1)

Instruction: Questions 30–35 deal with logical and analytical reasoning. Read the given set of conditions and assumptions for each question. Choose the answer that you think is most appropriate among the given alternatives.

Q: It is apparent that most of the well-paid jobs in today's thriving economy require a higher level learning, usually a university degree. Conversely, many of the new jobs being created and flourishing, ranging from medium level businesses to huge manufacturing industries mainly require knowledge other than just having a degree. For workers in these new jobs, basic skills in communication, interpersonal skills and team work play a crucial role in getting a job and attaining career development.

#Based on this information, it is valid to conclude that:

- A. Career development in most jobs is impossible without producing a degree.
B. ✓ **The new jobs that are being created rather require knowledge of soft skills.**
C. A university degree is irrelevant for the newly created and flourishing jobs.
D. Holding a university degree is crucial for career development.

Answer: B

The passage says the new and growing jobs mainly need knowledge other than a degree, and it names communication, interpersonal skills and team work. Those are soft skills.

Option (B) states exactly that, so it is the valid conclusion.

(C) is the closest wrong one: the passage says more than a degree is needed, which is not the same as saying a degree is irrelevant.

Tip: A valid conclusion never adds strength. Reject options that turn *not enough* into *useless*.

31. Statement: Thomas Edison failed so many times before he invented the light bulb. Instead of quitting, however, Edison tried again and again until he finally achieved success. His achievement was applauded as an extraordinary determination. (1)

#Conclusion I: A problem can be a chance to do one's best.

#Conclusion II: It is advisable to have perseverance in the face of challenges.

#Conclusion III: One has to always indulge in a problem whatever the consequences may be.

A more valid conclusion for the above statement is:

A. Conclusion I

B. Conclusion II

C. Conclusions II and III

D. ✓ **Conclusions I and II**

Answer: D

The statement says Edison failed many times, kept trying and was praised for extraordinary determination.

Conclusion I follows, because his failures became the chance to show his best effort. Conclusion II follows directly, since perseverance is what the statement praises. So (D) is correct.

Conclusion III fails on the words *always* and *whatever the consequences*, which the statement never supports.

Tip: Test each conclusion on its own before you look at the combinations. One extreme word is enough to reject a conclusion.

32. #Statement I: For quite some years now, several sub-cities in Addis Ababa get one or two days' of water supply per week. (1)

#Statement II: There has been significant imbalance between demand for and supply of water in the city.

#Statement III: There has been a booming water trading market in the city in the last few years.

Which one of the following ideas is TRUE about the above statements?

A. Statement I is the cause and statements II and III are its effects.

B. ✓ **Statement II is the cause and statements I and III are its effects.**

C. Statement III is the cause and statements I and II are its effects.

D. Each of the three is an independent cause for three different effects.

Answer: B

Look for the statement that explains the other two. A gap between how much water people need and how much is supplied is the underlying condition.

That shortage forces the rationing in Statement I and creates the market for sold water in Statement III, so (B) is correct.

(A) fails because rationing is a way of managing the shortage, not the reason the shortage exists.

Tip: In cause and effect sets, ask which statement could still be true first in time. That one is the cause.

33. Assumption: Most traffic accidents in Ethiopia are caused mainly because of what many drivers commit while driving: such as talking on the phone, exchanging text messages, violation of traffic regulations, and recklessness among other causes. (1)

#Conclusion I: Most traffic accidents are caused because drivers do not have the requisite driving skills.

#Conclusion II: Most traffic accidents are caused due to the decisions such drivers make while they are driving.

#Conclusion III: Most traffic accidents are the consequences of the illbehaviors of such drivers.

Which one of the following conclusions is more logical for the above assumption?

- A. Conclusion I
B. Conclusion II
C. Both conclusions I and II
D. ✓ **Both conclusion II and III**

Answer: D

The listed causes are phone calls, texting, breaking traffic rules and recklessness. Every one of them is a choice the driver makes at the wheel.

Conclusion II names those choices and Conclusion III names the bad behaviour behind them, so (D) is correct.

Conclusion I fails because nothing in the statement says the drivers lack skill. A skilled driver can still text while driving.

Tip: Accept only what the given facts contain. If an option introduces a new cause, drop it.

34. Statement: XYZ company workers who have their own cars are constantly complaining as they do not have parking spaces either in the company compound or by the side of the street facing the company. The company administration couldn't give any solutions to the complaints of the workers. (1)

#Conclusion I: The workers should start using public transportation.

#Conclusion II: The workers should leave their cars at home.

#Conclusion III: The workers should rather sell their cars.

Which one of the following conclusions would follow from the above statement?

- A. Conclusion I
B. Conclusion II
C. ✓ **Both conclusions I and II**
D. Both conclusions I and III

Answer: C

The problem is that there is nowhere to park a private car at the company, and the administration has no answer.

Conclusion I and Conclusion II both remove the car from the company gate and solve the parking problem directly, so (C) is correct.

Conclusion III fails because selling the car goes far beyond the parking problem, and the worker still needs the car outside work.

Tip: A conclusion should match the size of the problem. Reject solutions that cost more than the trouble they fix.

35. Five students (namely Ha, Ga, Ta, Za and Ya), all from the same grade level sat for four exams on four different subjects: English, History, Geography and Mathematics. For Ha History was the easiest while Mathematics was the most difficult: on the other hand, Ga found them to be the reverse of what Ha found them to be. Ta found both History and Mathematics the hardest and Geography the easiest. Za rather found them to be the opposite of what Ta found them to be. For Ya, what Ha found the easiest was the most difficult. (1)

According to the text, which subject was the most difficult one for most of the students?

- A. Geography
B. ✓ History
C. English
D. Mathematics

Answer: B

Work through each student and note the hardest subject.

- Ha: History easiest, Mathematics hardest.
- Ga: the reverse of Ha, so Mathematics easiest and History hardest.
- Ta: History and Mathematics hardest, Geography easiest.
- Za: the opposite of Ta, so Geography hardest.
- Ya: what Ha found easiest was hardest, so History hardest.

Counting the hardest subject: History for Ga, Ta and Ya, that is 3 students. Mathematics for Ha and Ta, that is 2. Geography for Za, that is 1. History leads, so (B) is correct.

Mathematics is the closest wrong option, but it reaches only 2 students.

Tip: For puzzle items, build a small table of names against subjects before you read the options.

— END OF MARKING KEY —