



40

Cloze Test Practice

A 5-step method to solve any cloze test, then **40 exam-style passages** (200 blanks) on banking, environment, technology and society, each with the answer and the reason.

40

passages

200

blanks

8

practice sets

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HOW TO SOLVE

Cloze Test Strategy

5 steps

Step 1 · Read the whole passage first

Skim the full passage once without filling anything. Find the topic and the tone (positive, negative, neutral). Most blanks depend on the idea of the whole paragraph, not just one line.

Step 2 · Check grammar before meaning

Look at the words just before and after the blank: an article (a / an / the) needs a noun; “to” often needs a verb; a plural subject needs a plural verb; “more” needs an adjective. This removes 1–2 options at once.

Step 3 · Use the linking words

“But, however, although” signal a contrast; “and, also, moreover” signal the same direction; “so, therefore, as a result” signal a result. The answer must fit this direction.

Step 4 · Watch for fixed pairs

Many blanks test collocations and prepositions: “take steps”, “pay attention to”, “deal with”, “rise in prices”, “play a role in”.

✓ The government took ___ to control inflation. → steps

Step 5 · Re-read with your answers

Read the passage again with all words filled in. If one sounds odd, change it. Leave a blank you cannot decide and come back: negative marking punishes guesses.





SET 1 · 5 PASSAGES

Cloze Test

Q001-005 of 40

Read each passage fully first, then fill the blanks. Answers with the reason are at the end of the set.

P1 DIGITAL PAYMENTS

India has seen a __ (1) __ rise in digital payments over the last few years. Paying with a mobile phone is now __ (2) __ even for small shopkeepers. This change has made transactions faster and more __ (3) __. However, the growth of online payments has also __ (4) __ to new kinds of fraud. Users must therefore be careful and never __ (5) __ their PIN with anyone.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| (1) a) sharp | b) small | c) rare | d) slow |
| (2) a) strange | b) difficult | c) common | d) costly |
| (3) a) doubtful | b) transparent | c) confusing | d) hidden |
| (4) a) stopped | b) led | c) made | d) given |
| (5) a) remember | b) share | c) keep | d) change |

P2 SAVING WATER

Water is one of our most precious __ (1) __, yet we often waste it without thinking. In many cities, the groundwater level is falling __ (2) __ every year. Simple habits, such as closing the tap while brushing, can __ (3) __ a big difference. Rainwater harvesting is another way to __ (4) __ water for the dry months. If we do not act now, our children may __ (5) __ serious shortages.

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| (1) a) resources | b) luxuries | c) diseases | d) problems |
| (2) a) happily | b) slowly up | c) never | d) rapidly |
| (3) a) do | b) give | c) take | d) make |
| (4) a) sell | b) pollute | c) waste | d) store |
| (5) a) avoid | b) cause | c) face | d) enjoy |



**P3 ONLINE LEARNING**

The pandemic forced schools to move classes online almost **__(1)___**. For many students, this was the first time they had to study **__(2)___** a screen for hours. While some found it convenient, others **__(3)___** because they did not have a good internet connection. Teachers, too, had to learn new skills **__(4)___** quickly. Today, a mix of online and classroom teaching is **__(5)___** as the best approach.

- | | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) | a) yearly | b) overnight | c) slowly | d) never |
| (2) | a) behind | b) under | c) on | d) in front of |
| (3) | a) enjoyed | b) relaxed | c) struggled | d) celebrated |
| (4) | a) much | b) more | c) very | d) most |
| (5) | a) hidden | b) seen | c) forgotten | d) rejected |

P4 HEALTHY BREAKFAST

Doctors say that breakfast is the most important **__(1)___** of the day. A healthy breakfast gives the body **__(2)___** to start the morning. Children who skip breakfast often find it **__(3)___** to concentrate in class. Fruits, eggs and whole grains are good **__(4)___**. Instead of sugary cereals, parents should **__(5)___** simple home-made food.

- | | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| (1) | a) drink | b) task | c) meal | d) hour |
| (2) | a) sleep | b) energy | c) pain | d) weight |
| (3) | a) hard | b) easy | c) quick | d) fun |
| (4) | a) reasons | b) mistakes | c) choices | d) excuses |
| (5) | a) avoid | b) forget | c) refuse | d) prefer |

P5 BANK LOANS

Before taking a loan, a borrower should **__(1)___** the interest rate offered by different banks. A small difference in the rate can **__(2)___** the total amount paid over many years. It is also important to read the terms **__(3)___**, especially the charges for late payment. A good credit score helps a person get a loan at a **__(4)___** rate. Above all, one should borrow only what one can **__(5)___** repay.

- | | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| (1) | a) hide | b) increase | c) ignore | d) compare |
| (2) | a) stop | b) remove | c) fix | d) change |
| (3) | a) quickly | b) rarely | c) loudly | d) carefully |
| (4) | a) strange | b) fixed | c) higher | d) lower |
| (5) | a) never | b) easily | c) barely | d) hardly |



**ANSWERS + EXPLANATION**

- P1**
- (1) **a** sharp — a sharp rise = a big rise
 - (2) **c** common — now normal for everyone
 - (3) **b** transparent — faster and more open
 - (4) **b** led — “led to” = caused
 - (5) **b** share — never share your PIN
- P2**
- (1) **a** resources — water is a resource
 - (2) **d** rapidly — falling fast every year
 - (3) **d** make — fixed phrase: make a difference
 - (4) **d** store — harvest = store
 - (5) **c** face — face shortages
- P3**
- (1) **b** overnight — a sudden change
 - (2) **d** in front of — study in front of a screen
 - (3) **c** struggled — contrast with “some found it convenient”
 - (4) **c** very — “very quickly”
 - (5) **b** seen — seen as the best approach
- P4**
- (1) **c** meal — breakfast is a meal
 - (2) **b** energy — food gives energy
 - (3) **a** hard — hard to concentrate
 - (4) **c** choices — good choices
 - (5) **d** prefer — prefer home-made food
- P5**
- (1) **d** compare — compare rates
 - (2) **d** change — changes the total
 - (3) **d** carefully — read carefully
 - (4) **d** lower — good score = lower rate
 - (5) **b** easily — easily repay





SET 2 · 5 PASSAGES

Cloze Test

Q006-010 of 40

Read each passage fully first, then fill the blanks. Answers with the reason are at the end of the set.

P6 PLASTIC POLLUTION

Plastic waste has become a __ (1) __ threat to our rivers and oceans. Most plastic does not __ (2) __ for hundreds of years. Animals often mistake it for food and __ (3) __ as a result. Many states have now __ (4) __ single-use plastic bags. Each of us can help by carrying a cloth bag __ (5) __ we go shopping.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| (1) | a) temporary | b) serious | c) minor | d) funny |
| (2) | a) decompose | b) shine | c) move | d) grow |
| (3) | a) thrive | b) die | c) dance | d) sleep |
| (4) | a) made | b) bought | c) banned | d) allowed |
| (5) | a) although | b) unless | c) until | d) whenever |

P7 SPACE MISSION

The successful landing of the spacecraft near the Moon's south pole was a __ (1) __ moment for Indian science. Very few countries had __ (2) __ this before. Scientists worked for years to __ (3) __ the mission at a low cost. The data sent by the rover will help us understand the Moon __ (4) __. The achievement has also __ (5) __ many young students to study science.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| (1) | a) boring | b) proud | c) shameful | d) small |
| (2) | a) refused | b) achieved | c) avoided | d) feared |
| (3) | a) plan | b) delay | c) cancel | d) stop |
| (4) | a) worse | b) better | c) less | d) never |
| (5) | a) discouraged | b) prevented | c) forced | d) inspired |

P8 READING HABIT

Reading every day is one of the best ways to __ (1) __ your vocabulary. When you read, you see new words used in __ (2) __, which makes them easier to remember. Newspapers are a good place to start __ (3) __ they cover many topics. Over time, regular reading also improves your writing and __ (4) __. Even twenty minutes a day can bring __ (5) __ results.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|---------------|-------------|------------|
| (1) | a) forget | b) hide | c) reduce | d) improve |
| (2) | a) secret | b) isolation | c) silence | d) context |
| (3) | a) unless | b) because | c) although | d) but |
| (4) | a) speed | b) anger | c) height | d) hunger |
| (5) | a) no | b) surprising | c) poor | d) harmful |



**P9 ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

Electric vehicles are becoming more **__(1)__** in Indian cities. They produce no smoke and are **__(2)__** to run than petrol cars. The main problem is the small number of charging **__(3)__**. The government is offering subsidies to **__(4)__** people to buy them. If batteries become cheaper, electric cars may soon **__(5)__** petrol cars on our roads.

- | | | | | |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| (1) | a) dangerous | b) expensive | c) popular | d) rare |
| (2) | a) cheaper | b) harder | c) slower | d) costlier |
| (3) | a) parks | b) stations | c) schools | d) banks |
| (4) | a) force | b) warn | c) encourage | d) stop |
| (5) | a) help | b) fear | c) replace | d) follow |

P10 KINDNESS

A small act of kindness can **__(1)__** someone's whole day. Holding a door, sharing a smile or helping an elderly person **__(2)__** the road costs us nothing. Yet these acts often mean a lot to the person who **__(3)__** them. Kindness also makes us feel happier **__(4)__**. In a busy world, we should not be too busy to be **__(5)__**.

- | | | | | |
|------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| (1) | a) brighten | b) ruin | c) waste | d) end |
| (2) | a) leave | b) clean | c) cross | d) block |
| (3) | a) refuses | b) forgets | c) sells | d) receives |
| (4) | a) themselves | b) ourselves | c) himself | d) yourself |
| (5) | a) late | b) rude | c) angry | d) kind |



**ANSWERS + EXPLANATION**

- P6**
- (1) **b** serious — a serious threat
 - (2) **a** decompose — does not break down
 - (3) **b** die — animals die
 - (4) **c** banned — banned bags
 - (5) **d** whenever — whenever = every time
- P7**
- (1) **b** proud — a proud moment
 - (2) **b** achieved — few had done it
 - (3) **a** plan — plan the mission
 - (4) **b** better — understand better
 - (5) **d** inspired — inspired students
- P8**
- (1) **d** improve — improve vocabulary
 - (2) **d** context — in context = in real sentences
 - (3) **b** because — gives a reason
 - (4) **a** speed — reading speed
 - (5) **b** surprising — surprising (good) results
- P9**
- (1) **c** popular — more popular
 - (2) **a** cheaper — cheaper to run
 - (3) **b** stations — charging stations
 - (4) **c** encourage — encourage buyers
 - (5) **c** replace — replace petrol cars
- P10**
- (1) **a** brighten — brighten someone's day
 - (2) **c** cross — help cross the road
 - (3) **d** receives — the person who receives
 - (4) **b** ourselves — "we ... ourselves"
 - (5) **d** kind — too busy to be kind





SET 3 · 5 PASSAGES

Cloze Test

Q011–015 of 40

Read each passage fully first, then fill the blanks. Answers with the reason are at the end of the set.

P11 INFLATION

Inflation means a general **__(1)__** in the prices of goods and services. When prices go up, the same amount of money can buy **__(2)__** than before. The central bank tries to **__(3)__** inflation by raising interest rates. Higher rates make loans costlier, so people **__(4)__** less. However, rates that are too high can **__(5)__** economic growth.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| (1) a) change | b) fall | c) rise | d) pause |
| (2) a) much | b) same | c) more | d) less |
| (3) a) ignore | b) create | c) control | d) increase |
| (4) a) spend | b) lend | c) earn | d) save |
| (5) a) boost | b) slow | c) start | d) double |

P12 YOGA

Yoga has been **__(1)__** in India for thousands of years. Today it is popular all **__(2)__** the world. Regular practice helps to **__(3)__** stress and keeps the body flexible. Many offices now hold short yoga sessions to keep employees **__(4)__**. The best part is that yoga needs **__(5)__** special equipment.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| (1) a) sold | b) forgotten | c) banned | d) practised |
| (2) a) on | b) at | c) in | d) over |
| (3) a) increase | b) cause | c) add | d) reduce |
| (4) a) busy | b) tired | c) bored | d) healthy |
| (5) a) heavy | b) costly | c) much | d) no |

P13 JOB INTERVIEWS

A job interview is a chance to show why you are the right **__(1)__** for the post. Prepare by reading about the company and its **__(2)__**. Dress neatly and reach the venue on **__(3)__**. During the interview, listen carefully and answer **__(4)__**. At the end, thank the panel **__(5)__** their time.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| (1) a) price | b) paper | c) place | d) person |
| (2) a) problems only | b) pets | c) parents | d) products |
| (3) a) date | b) clock | c) hour | d) time |
| (4) a) rudely | b) honestly | c) loudly | d) never |
| (5) a) with | b) for | c) of | d) to |





P14 CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is no longer a distant __ (1) __. Rising temperatures are already causing more floods, droughts and heat waves. The main __ (2) __ is the burning of coal, oil and gas. To slow it down, countries must __ (3) __ to clean energy such as solar and wind. Planting trees and saving energy at home can also __ (4) __. The longer we wait, the __ (5) __ the damage will be.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| (1) | a) dream | b) festival | c) joy | d) threat |
| (2) | a) result | b) cure | c) cause | d) benefit |
| (3) | a) return | b) shift | c) object | d) stop |
| (4) | a) hurt | b) harm | c) fail | d) help |
| (5) | a) lighter | b) smaller | c) less | d) greater |

P15 EXAM STRESS

Many students feel __ (1) __ before exams. A little stress can be useful, but too much can affect performance. A clear study plan helps to __ (2) __ last-minute panic. Short breaks, enough sleep and light exercise keep the mind __ (3) __. Instead of comparing yourself with others, focus on your own __ (4) __. Remember that one exam does not __ (5) __ your whole future.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| (1) | a) hungry | b) nervous | c) sleepy | d) proud |
| (2) | a) create | b) enjoy | c) cause | d) avoid |
| (3) | a) tired | b) empty | c) fresh | d) dull |
| (4) | a) friends | b) progress | c) mistakes only | d) weakness |
| (5) | a) improve | b) decide | c) help | d) change |



**ANSWERS + EXPLANATION**

- P11** (1) **c** rise — inflation = rise in prices
(2) **d** less — money buys less
(3) **c** control — control inflation
(4) **a** spend — people spend less
(5) **b** slow — slow growth
- P12** (1) **d** practised — practised for years
(2) **d** over — all over the world
(3) **d** reduce — reduce stress
(4) **d** healthy — keep employees healthy
(5) **d** no — needs no equipment
- P13** (1) **d** person — right person
(2) **d** products — its products
(3) **d** time — fixed phrase: on time
(4) **b** honestly — answer honestly
(5) **b** for — thank someone for something
- P14** (1) **d** threat — a distant threat
(2) **c** cause — main cause
(3) **b** shift — shift to clean energy
(4) **d** help — help
(5) **d** greater — the longer...the greater
- P15** (1) **b** nervous — nervous before exams
(2) **d** avoid — avoid panic
(3) **c** fresh — fresh mind
(4) **b** progress — your own progress
(5) **b** decide — does not decide your future





SET 4 · 5 PASSAGES

Cloze Test

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Read each passage fully first, then fill the blanks. Answers with the reason are at the end of the set.

P16 SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses are the **__(1)__** of the Indian economy. They employ millions of people, especially in towns and villages. However, they often find it hard to get **__(2)__** from banks. New government schemes now offer loans **__(3)__** collateral. Online platforms have also helped them **__(4)__** customers across the country. With the right support, these firms can **__(5)__** quickly.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| (1) a) burden | b) backbone | c) enemy | d) shadow |
| (2) a) blame | b) advice | c) land | d) credit |
| (3) a) with | b) for | c) without | d) by |
| (4) a) cheat | b) lose | c) avoid | d) reach |
| (5) a) shrink | b) grow | c) fall | d) close |

P17 CYBER SAFETY

As more people use the internet, cyber crime is **__(1)__**. Fraudsters send fake messages that look like they come from banks. Never **__(2)__** on links in such messages. Use strong passwords and change them **__(3)__**. If you are cheated, report it **__(4)__** to the cyber crime helpline. Being careful is the best **__(5)__** against online fraud.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|
| (1) a) sleeping | b) ending | c) rising | d) falling |
| (2) a) look | b) press up | c) click | d) type |
| (3) a) regularly | b) rarely | c) never | d) once |
| (4) a) never | b) later | c) immediately | d) slowly |
| (5) a) protection | b) reason | c) chance | d) tool for fraud |

P18 LIBRARIES

Public libraries play an important **__(1)__** in society. They give everyone free **__(2)__** to books, newspapers and the internet. For poor students, a library can be the only quiet place to **__(3)__**. Sadly, many libraries are **__(4)__** because of a lack of funds. Local bodies must take **__(5)__** to keep them open.

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| (1) a) role | b) rule | c) game | d) song |
| (2) a) access | b) exit | c) ban | d) entry fee |
| (3) a) play | b) study | c) shout | d) sleep |
| (4) a) shining | b) growing | c) opening | d) closing |
| (5) a) notes | b) walks | c) turns | d) steps |



**P19 ROAD SAFETY**

Every year, thousands of lives are **__(1)__** in road accidents. Most of these accidents are caused by over-speeding and careless driving. Wearing a helmet or seat belt can **__(2)__** the risk of serious injury. Drivers should never use their phones **__(3)__** driving. Strict **__(4)__** of traffic rules is also needed. Road safety is the **__(5)__** of every citizen.

- | | | | | |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) | a) saved | b) found | c) given | d) lost |
| (2) | a) raise | b) reduce | c) hide | d) double |
| (3) | a) while | b) until | c) since | d) unless |
| (4) | a) ignorance | b) breaking | c) enforcement | d) removal |
| (5) | a) enemy | b) fault | c) hobby | d) responsibility |

P20 TEAMWORK

No great project is ever **__(1)__** by one person alone. Teamwork brings together people with **__(2)__** skills. When team members trust each other, they can **__(3)__** problems faster. A good leader listens to every member and **__(4)__** the work fairly. In the end, the success of the team is **__(5)__** than the success of any one person.

- | | | | | |
|------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| (1) | a) completed | b) feared | c) avoided | d) refused |
| (2) | a) no | b) different | c) same | d) bad |
| (3) | a) create | b) hide | c) ignore | d) solve |
| (4) | a) divides | b) steals | c) wastes | d) hides |
| (5) | a) worse | b) smaller | c) less | d) greater |



**ANSWERS + EXPLANATION**

- P16** (1) **b** backbone — backbone = main support
(2) **d** credit — credit = loans
(3) **c** without — loans without collateral
(4) **d** reach — reach customers
(5) **b** grow — grow quickly
- P17** (1) **c** rising — crime is rising
(2) **c** click — click on links
(3) **a** regularly — change regularly
(4) **c** immediately — report immediately
(5) **a** protection — best protection
- P18** (1) **a** role — play a role
(2) **a** access — free access
(3) **b** study — quiet place to study
(4) **d** closing — closing due to no funds
(5) **d** steps — take steps
- P19** (1) **d** lost — lives are lost
(2) **b** reduce — reduce the risk
(3) **a** while — while driving
(4) **c** enforcement — enforcement of rules
(5) **d** responsibility — responsibility of every citizen
- P20** (1) **a** completed — completed by one person
(2) **b** different — different skills
(3) **d** solve — solve problems
(4) **a** divides — divides work fairly
(5) **d** greater — greater than





SET 5 · 5 PASSAGES

Cloze Test

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Read each passage fully first, then fill the blanks. Answers with the reason are at the end of the set.

P21 FARMERS AND TECHNOLOGY

Technology is slowly **__(1)__** the way Indian farmers work. Mobile apps now give them weather **__(2)__** and market prices. Drones are being used to spray crops **__(3)__** and safely. Soil testing helps farmers use the right amount of fertiliser and **__(4)__** costs. If these tools reach small farmers, their incomes can **__(5)__** rise.

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| (1) a) ending | b) hiding | c) changing | d) stopping |
| (2) a) songs | b) updates | c) jokes | d) games |
| (3) a) quickly | b) late | c) rudely | d) never |
| (4) a) cut | b) add | c) hide | d) raise |
| (5) a) barely | b) never | c) hardly | d) really |

P22 SLEEP

Good sleep is as important as good food. Adults need about seven to eight hours of sleep every **__(1)__**. Lack of sleep can make us **__(2)__**, forgetful and less productive. Using phones late at night **__(3)__** with sleep because the screen light keeps the brain alert. A fixed bedtime helps the body **__(4)__** a healthy routine. Sleep is not a waste of time but an **__(5)__** in health.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| (1) a) week | b) meal | c) night | d) hour |
| (2) a) taller | b) irritable | c) stronger | d) cheerful |
| (3) a) plays | b) agrees | c) interferes | d) helps |
| (4) a) break | b) build | c) forget | d) lose |
| (5) a) investment | b) accident | c) enemy | d) expense |

P23 WOMEN IN SPORTS

Indian women athletes have **__(1)__** the country proud in recent years. From badminton to boxing, they have won medals at the **__(2)__** level. Their success has **__(3)__** the old belief that sports are only for boys. Many girls in villages now dream of becoming **__(4)__**. Better training facilities will help this talent **__(5)__**.

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| (1) a) held | b) made | c) kept | d) done |
| (2) a) highest | b) lowest | c) smallest | d) weakest |
| (3) a) broken | b) built | c) proved | d) kept |
| (4) a) champions | b) critics | c) spectators | d) strangers |
| (5) a) fail | b) vanish | c) flourish | d) shrink |





P24 SAVINGS

Saving money is a habit that should be **__(1)__** early. Even a small amount saved every month can **__(2)__** into a large sum over the years. Banks offer fixed deposits and recurring deposits that pay **__(3)__**. Before investing, it is wise to **__(4)__** the risks. A savings account also helps in times of **__(5)__**.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| (1) | a) forgotten | b) learnt | c) hated | d) broken |
| (2) | a) vanish | b) fall | c) grow | d) shrink |
| (3) | a) interest | b) taxes | c) fines | d) fees |
| (4) | a) double | b) understand | c) hide | d) ignore |
| (5) | a) holiday | b) leisure | c) emergency | d) celebration |

P25 TOURISM

Tourism is a major **__(1)__** of income for many states. Every year, millions of visitors come to see India's forts, temples and beaches. Tourism also creates jobs for guides, drivers and hotel **__(2)__**. But too many tourists can **__(3)__** fragile places. Responsible tourism means respecting local culture and keeping places **__(4)__**. In this way, tourism can benefit both visitors and **__(5)__**.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| (1) | a) loss | b) waste | c) cost | d) source |
| (2) | a) roofs | b) walls | c) staff | d) beds |
| (3) | a) clean | b) protect | c) build | d) damage |
| (4) | a) clean | b) crowded | c) closed | d) dirty |
| (5) | a) animals only | b) locals | c) robots | d) strangers |



**ANSWERS + EXPLANATION**

- P21** (1) **c** changing — changing the way
(2) **b** updates — weather updates
(3) **a** quickly — spray quickly
(4) **a** cut — cut costs
(5) **d** really — really rise
- P22** (1) **c** night — hours every night
(2) **b** irritable — irritable = easily annoyed
(3) **c** interferes — interferes with sleep
(4) **b** build — build a routine
(5) **a** investment — investment in health
- P23** (1) **b** made — made the country proud
(2) **a** highest — highest level
(3) **a** broken — broken the belief
(4) **a** champions — become champions
(5) **c** flourish — flourish = grow well
- P24** (1) **b** learnt — learnt early
(2) **c** grow — grow into a large sum
(3) **a** interest — deposits pay interest
(4) **b** understand — understand the risks
(5) **c** emergency — times of emergency
- P25** (1) **d** source — source of income
(2) **c** staff — hotel staff
(3) **d** damage — damage fragile places
(4) **a** clean — keep places clean
(5) **b** locals — benefit locals





SET 6 · 5 PASSAGES

Cloze Test

Q026-030 of 40

Read each passage fully first, then fill the blanks. Answers with the reason are at the end of the set.

P26 SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media has made it easy to __ (1) __ in touch with friends and family. It is also a useful tool for learning and finding jobs. However, spending too much time on it can be __ (2) __. False news spreads quickly online, so we must __ (3) __ facts before sharing. Setting a daily time limit can help us use social media __ (4) __. Like any tool, it is good or bad depending on __ (5) __ we use it.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| (1) a) stay | b) go | c) fall | d) run |
| (2) a) cheap | b) useful | c) healthy | d) harmful |
| (3) a) hide | b) spread | c) change | d) check |
| (4) a) endlessly | b) wisely | c) blindly | d) lazily |
| (5) a) how | b) why | c) where | d) who |

P27 STARTUP INDIA

India now has one of the largest startup __ (1) __ in the world. Young entrepreneurs are building companies in fields like education, health and finance. Many of these startups solve __ (2) __ problems that big firms ignored. Investors are willing to __ (3) __ money in good ideas. However, most startups fail in the first few years, so founders must be __ (4) __ and learn from mistakes. The startups that survive can __ (5) __ thousands of jobs.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| (1) a) villages | b) ecosystems | c) problems | d) deserts |
| (2) a) imaginary | b) foreign only | c) local | d) ancient |
| (3) a) lose | b) hide | c) waste | d) invest |
| (4) a) lazy | b) patient | c) proud | d) careless |
| (5) a) block | b) cut | c) create | d) destroy |



**P28 DOCTORS IN VILLAGES**

Many villages in India still **__(1)__** trained doctors. People often have to travel long distances for **__(2)__** treatment. Telemedicine, where doctors advise patients through video calls, is **__(3)__** to fill this gap. The government is also opening health and wellness centres in rural areas. Encouraging young doctors to **__(4)__** in villages remains a **__(5)__** challenge.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| (1) | a) have | b) reject | c) train | d) lack |
| (2) | a) fake | b) basic | c) foreign | d) costly |
| (3) | a) refusing | b) helping | c) stopping | d) failing |
| (4) | a) avoid | b) serve | c) leave | d) visit only |
| (5) | a) funny | b) simple | c) minor | d) major |

P29 FESTIVALS

India is a land of festivals, and almost every month brings a new **__(1)__**. Festivals bring families and neighbours **__(2)__**. They are also good for business, as people buy new clothes, sweets and gifts. In recent years, there has been a push to celebrate in an eco-friendly **__(3)__**, such as using clay idols and fewer firecrackers. Such changes help us enjoy festivals **__(4)__** harming nature. After all, the true spirit of a festival lies in **__(5)__** joy.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| (1) | a) tax | b) problem | c) exam | d) celebration |
| (2) | a) down | b) together | c) away | d) apart |
| (3) | a) road | b) path | c) way | d) form |
| (4) | a) for | b) by | c) with | d) without |
| (5) | a) hiding | b) selling | c) sharing | d) buying |

P30 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Good public transport can **__(1)__** traffic jams in big cities. One bus can carry as many people as forty cars. Metro trains are fast, clean and **__(2)__**. If more people used buses and trains, air pollution would also **__(3)__**. To attract users, public transport must be safe, frequent and **__(4)__**. Cities that invest in it become more **__(5)__** places to live.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| (1) | a) cause | b) reduce | c) create | d) increase |
| (2) | a) slow | b) late | c) dirty | d) punctual |
| (3) | a) fall | b) double | c) spread | d) rise |
| (4) | a) rare | b) expensive | c) affordable | d) crowded |
| (5) | a) noisy | b) pleasant | c) dangerous | d) costly |



**ANSWERS + EXPLANATION**

- P26** (1) **a** stay — fixed phrase: stay in touch
(2) **d** harmful — harmful
(3) **d** check — check facts
(4) **b** wisely — use wisely
(5) **a** how — depending on how we use it
- P27** (1) **b** ecosystems — startup ecosystem
(2) **c** local — local problems
(3) **d** invest — invest money
(4) **b** patient — patient founders
(5) **c** create — create jobs
- P28** (1) **d** lack — lack doctors
(2) **b** basic — basic treatment
(3) **b** helping — helping to fill the gap
(4) **b** serve — serve in villages
(5) **d** major — a major challenge
- P29** (1) **d** celebration — a new celebration
(2) **b** together — bring together
(3) **c** way — in an eco-friendly way
(4) **d** without — enjoy without harming
(5) **c** sharing — sharing joy
- P30** (1) **b** reduce — reduce jams
(2) **d** punctual — punctual = on time
(3) **a** fall — pollution would fall
(4) **c** affordable — affordable = cheap enough
(5) **b** pleasant — pleasant places





SET 7 • 5 PASSAGES

Cloze Test

Q031-035 of 40

Read each passage fully first, then fill the blanks. Answers with the reason are at the end of the set.

P31 TIME MANAGEMENT

Successful people are not those who have more time, but those who __ (1) __ their time well. Making a to-do list every morning helps us __ (2) __ the important tasks. Big tasks should be broken into small steps so that they look less __ (3) __. Social media and long phone calls are common __ (4) __ that eat up our time. If we value every hour, we will __ (5) __ much more.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| (1) a) sell | b) waste | c) manage | d) forget |
| (2) a) identify | b) ignore | c) hide | d) delay |
| (3) a) pleasant | b) daunting | c) easy | d) small |
| (4) a) tools | b) solutions | c) distractions | d) friends |
| (5) a) achieve | b) miss | c) lose | d) regret |

P32 WILDLIFE

India is home to tigers, elephants, rhinos and many rare birds. Protected areas such as national parks have helped __ (1) __ many species from extinction. The tiger population has __ (2) __ in the last decade thanks to strict laws. However, poaching and loss of forests are still __ (3) __ threats. Local people must be __ (4) __ in conservation, since they live closest to the forests. Saving wildlife means saving our __ (5) __ heritage.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| (1) a) push | b) save | c) drive | d) remove |
| (2) a) stopped | b) vanished | c) decreased | d) increased |
| (3) a) minor | b) old | c) funny | d) serious |
| (4) a) removed | b) involved | c) ignored | d) blamed |
| (5) a) modern | b) natural | c) artificial | d) foreign |



**P33 VOLUNTEERING**

Volunteering is a way of giving our time to help others without **__(1)__** anything in return. Students can volunteer at schools, hospitals or animal shelters. It teaches skills like teamwork and **__(2)__**. Many volunteers say that helping others gives them a deep sense of **__(3)__**. Employers also **__(4)__** candidates who have done community work. Above all, volunteering makes society kinder and more **__(5)__**.

- | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| (1) | a) giving | b) refusing | c) expecting | d) losing |
| (2) | a) laziness | b) anger | c) leadership | d) fear |
| (3) | a) boredom | b) regret | c) satisfaction | d) anger |
| (4) | a) value | b) reject | c) fear | d) avoid |
| (5) | a) lonely | b) selfish | c) caring | d) cruel |

P34 FOOD WASTE

While millions of people go to bed hungry, a large amount of food is **__(1)__** every day. Weddings and parties often cook far more than is **__(2)__**. Restaurants throw away food that is still **__(3)__** to eat. Some groups now collect leftover food and **__(4)__** it among the poor. If each of us takes only what we can eat, we can **__(5)__** food waste greatly.

- | | | | | |
|------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| (1) | a) grown | b) saved | c) cooked | d) wasted |
| (2) | a) needed | b) wasted | c) bought | d) eaten |
| (3) | a) fit | b) unfit | c) cold | d) old |
| (4) | a) burn | b) hide | c) sell | d) distribute |
| (5) | a) start | b) double | c) reduce | d) increase |

P35 LEARNING A LANGUAGE

Learning a new language opens the door to new cultures and **__(1)__**. The best way to learn is to use the language every day, even if you make **__(2)__**. Listening to songs and watching films in that language can help you **__(3)__** the accent. Do not be afraid to **__(4)__** with native speakers. With patience and practice, you will become **__(5)__** sooner than you think.

- | | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) | a) fines | b) problems | c) walls | d) opportunities |
| (2) | a) money | b) mistakes | c) friends | d) noise |
| (3) | a) give up | b) break up | c) pick up | d) turn down |
| (4) | a) speak | b) argue | c) hide | d) fight |
| (5) | a) tired | b) fluent | c) confused | d) silent |



**ANSWERS + EXPLANATION**

- P31** (1) **c** manage — manage time
(2) **a** identify — identify important tasks
(3) **b** daunting — daunting = scary
(4) **c** distractions — distractions
(5) **a** achieve — achieve much more
- P32** (1) **b** save — save from extinction
(2) **d** increased — population increased
(3) **d** serious — serious threats
(4) **b** involved — involved in conservation
(5) **b** natural — natural heritage
- P33** (1) **c** expecting — without expecting
(2) **c** leadership — leadership skill
(3) **c** satisfaction — sense of satisfaction
(4) **a** value — employers value
(5) **c** caring — caring society
- P34** (1) **d** wasted — food is wasted
(2) **a** needed — more than needed
(3) **a** fit — still fit to eat
(4) **d** distribute — distribute among the poor
(5) **c** reduce — reduce waste
- P35** (1) **d** opportunities — new opportunities
(2) **b** mistakes — make mistakes
(3) **c** pick up — pick up = learn
(4) **a** speak — speak with native speakers
(5) **b** fluent — become fluent





SET 8 · 5 PASSAGES

Cloze Test

Q036-040 of 40

Read each passage fully first, then fill the blanks. Answers with the reason are at the end of the set.

P36 SOLAR ENERGY

India receives plenty of sunshine for most of the year, which makes solar energy a natural __ (1) __. Solar panels on rooftops can __ (2) __ electricity bills for homes and offices. Large solar parks are being built in states like Rajasthan and Gujarat. Unlike coal, solar power does not __ (3) __ the air. The main challenge is storing energy for use at __ (4) __. Cheaper batteries will make solar energy even more __ (5) __.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| (1) | a) loss | b) danger | c) choice | d) burden |
| (2) | a) print | b) lower | c) double | d) raise |
| (3) | a) clean | b) cool | c) pollute | d) fill |
| (4) | a) midday | b) night | c) noon | d) sunrise |
| (5) | a) attractive | b) useless | c) harmful | d) rare |

P37 HONESTY

Honesty is the __ (1) __ of trust. When people know we always tell the truth, they rely on us. A single lie can __ (2) __ a reputation that took years to build. Being honest is not always easy, especially when the truth may __ (3) __ us trouble. Yet in the long run, honesty always __ (4) __. As the saying goes, honesty is the best __ (5) __.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|------------|------------|---------------|
| (1) | a) enemy | b) end | c) roof | d) foundation |
| (2) | a) build | b) improve | c) protect | d) destroy |
| (3) | a) remove | b) cause | c) give up | d) save |
| (4) | a) hurts | b) fails | c) stops | d) pays |
| (5) | a) price | b) policy | c) police | d) prize |



**P38 ELDERLY CARE**

India's population of senior citizens is growing __ (1) __. Many elderly people live alone because their children have moved to cities for work. They often __ (2) __ from loneliness and health problems. Simple steps like regular phone calls and visits can make a big difference. The government provides pensions and health schemes, but awareness about them is __ (3) __. Society must treat the elderly with respect and __ (4) __. After all, we will all __ (5) __ old one day.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| (1) | a) rapidly | b) backwards | c) rarely | d) never |
| (2) | a) benefit | b) escape | c) gain | d) suffer |
| (3) | a) high | b) low | c) perfect | d) complete |
| (4) | a) neglect | b) fear | c) care | d) anger |
| (5) | a) go | b) turn up | c) look | d) grow |

P39 NEWSPAPERS

Despite the rise of the internet, newspapers __ (1) __ an important source of news. A good newspaper checks its facts __ (2) __ it prints a story. Editorials help readers __ (3) __ different views on an issue. For students preparing for competitive exams, reading a newspaper daily is almost __ (4) __. It improves general awareness and __ (5) __ skills at the same time.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| (1) | a) stop | b) remain | c) become less | d) refuse |
| (2) | a) until | b) before | c) unless | d) after |
| (3) | a) ignore | b) understand | c) forget | d) hide |
| (4) | a) essential | b) optional | c) useless | d) harmful |
| (5) | a) cooking | b) drawing | c) language | d) driving |

P40 THE VALUE OF FAILURE

Nobody likes to fail, but failure is often our best __ (1) __. Every mistake shows us what does not work. Many famous scientists failed hundreds of times before they __ (2) __. What matters is not how many times we fall, but whether we get __ (3) __ again. People who learn from failure become stronger and more __ (4) __. So the next time you fail, do not give up; try again with a __ (5) __ plan.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| (1) | a) punishment | b) friend only | c) enemy | d) teacher |
| (2) | a) stopped | b) cried | c) succeeded | d) slept |
| (3) | a) away | b) down | c) up | d) off |
| (4) | a) careless | b) resilient | c) weak | d) afraid |
| (5) | a) better | b) same | c) lazy | d) worse |



**ANSWERS + EXPLANATION**

- P36** (1) **c** choice — a natural choice
(2) **b** lower — lower bills
(3) **c** pollute — does not pollute
(4) **b** night — use at night
(5) **a** attractive — more attractive
- P37** (1) **d** foundation — foundation of trust
(2) **d** destroy — destroy a reputation
(3) **b** cause — cause us trouble
(4) **d** pays — honesty pays
(5) **b** policy — the proverb: best policy
- P38** (1) **a** rapidly — growing rapidly
(2) **d** suffer — suffer from loneliness
(3) **b** low — awareness is low
(4) **c** care — respect and care
(5) **d** grow — grow old
- P39** (1) **b** remain — remain a source
(2) **b** before — check before printing
(3) **b** understand — understand views
(4) **a** essential — essential for exams
(5) **c** language — language skills
- P40** (1) **d** teacher — failure teaches
(2) **c** succeeded — before they succeeded
(3) **c** up — get up again
(4) **b** resilient — resilient = recover quickly
(5) **a** better — a better plan





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