

SOLUTION
NATIONAL TALENT SEARCH EXAMINATION 2017 Stage-II
LANGUAGE COMPREHENSIVE TEST (LCT)

1-5. Read the following passage and answer the questions based on it. Choose the most appropriate answer.

It is taken for granted by the advocates of oriental learning that no native of this country can possibly, attain more than a mere smattering of English. They do not attempt to prove this. But they perpetually insinuate it. They designate the education which their opponents recommend as a mere spelling-book education. They assume it as undeniable that the question is between a profound knowledge of Indian and Arabic literature and science on the one side, and superficial knowledge of the rudiments of English on the other. This is not merely an assumption, but an assumption contrary to all reason and experience. We know that foreigners of all nations do learn our language sufficiently to have access to all the most abstruse knowledge which it contains sufficiently to relish even the more delicate graces of our most idiomatic writers. There are, in this very town, natives who are quite competent to discuss political or scientific questions with fluency and precision in the English language. I have heard the very question on which I am now writing discussed by native gentlemen with a liberality and an intelligence which would do credit to any member of the Committee of Public Instruction. Indeed it is unusual to find, even in the literary circles of the Continent, any foreigner who can express herself/himself in English with so much facility and correctness as we find in many Indians. Nobody, I suppose, will contend that English is so difficult to an Indian as Greek to an Englishman. Yet an intelligent English youth, in a much smaller number of years than our unfortunate pupils pass at the Sanskrit College, becomes able to read, to enjoy, and even to imitate not unhappily the compositions of the best Greek authors. Less than half the time which enables an English youth to read Herodotus and Sophocles ought to enable an Indian to read Hume and Milton.

1. The writer feels that the advocates of oriental learning are

- (1) cautiously open to the idea of English education.
- (2) aware of the tyranny of English education.
- (3) irrational in their views about English education.
- (4) aware of the politics of English education

Ans. (3)

Sol. As described in the passage.

2. Which of the following ideas does the writer have a problem with?

- (1) Some natives are proficient in discussing complex topics
- (2) knowledge of English is pitched against that of Indian and Arabic literature.
- (3) Foreigners can read and enjoy some of the difficult English writings.
- (4) Learning English for an Indian can be easier than learning Greek for an Englishman

Ans. (2)

Sol. As inferred with the authors views in the passage.

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3. The foreigner discussed in the passage is
(1) an Arab (2) a Greek (3) an Indian (4) an Englishman

Ans. (4)

Sol. As given in 17th line, the author makes a comparison between Indians and others.

4. Which of the following sentences best captures the main argument of the writer?
(1) Many Indians are capable of using English like any Englishman.
(2) Learning English is as difficult as learning any other foreign language.
(3) The importance of English education needs to be recognised by the supporters of oriental learning.
(4) An Indian can learn English in half the time taken by an Englishman to learn Greek.

Ans. (3)

Sol. The first line of the passage and this option, both indicate the main reason behind this passage.

5. According to the author, it is easier for
(1) Indians to have a profound knowledge of Arabic literature and science than learn English.
(2) Indians to learn Sanskrit than for Englishmen to appreciate Greek literature.
(3) foreigners to learn Indian language than for Indians to learn foreign languages.
(4) Indian to appreciate English literature than for Englishmen to appreciate Greek literature.

Ans. (3)

Sol. Line 8 of the passage, clearly explains this.

6-10. Read the following passage and answer the questions based on it. Choose the most appropriate answer.

Every day new careers and professional opportunities emerge. No matter how much each career option excites you, you will have to prioritize and choose the best option for yourself. Your personality, interests, abilities, aspirations, strengths and weaknesses will help you to decide the most viable option for you. The following exercises are important for career planning, and following these will ensure that you are on the right track.

Self-Assessment : The entire process of career planning should be ideally done in conjunction with your career counsellor, so that you have professional help at every step. A trained career counsellor can help you identify a variety of professions in which you can excel. Remember to keep your list of possible professions long, so that your confidence in yourself does not wane.

When I took my test, the long list of professions included being a florist, teacher, counsellor, doctor and sales executive. The very idea that I have an aptitude for several professions - and not just to be a doctor - was very comforting. I thought to myself, "When patients get tired of me I can always be a salesman!" Do not let anyone ever tell you that you are good for nothing. Each one of us has several talents, and it is important to first identify them, and then work hard to develop them.

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Self-Analysis: Another important aspect of self-assessment is self-analysis or soul searching. We are the best judge of our abilities strengths and weaknesses. If you concentrate and decide to be honest with yourself, self-analysis can help you understand your career options better.

Need for Planning : If you ask adults around you whether they actually became what they had wanted to become when they were young, chances are that very few of them actually became what they had aspired towards in childhood. This may not essentially be a reflection of their failure – but an indication of change. Circumstances change, ideas change, and so do people. By the time you grow up, you may end up working in professions that neither you nor your parents know about today. Of course some of you may get to work in traditional professions and move along a well-planned path. Whatever the consequence of your planning, the truth about matting a plants that it may not work. But in the words of Henry C. Link, if "you do make a plan, the chances of getting what you want significantly increase."

But one thing is quite certain: only those of you who work hard at your studies, acquire new skills as' you move along in life, involve yourself in cultural/sports activities and attempt to plan your life will be successful.

6. Career planning is an activity that requires

(1) analysing one's personality, interests, abilities, aspirations, strengths and weaknesses.

(2) working hard at your studies, acquiring new skills as you move along in life and involving yourself in cultural/sports activities.

(3) following three important steps in consultation with one's career counsellor, and making a plan that may work.

(4) understanding and being aware of the fact that whatever the consequences of one's planning the truth a about as king a plan is that it may not work.

Ans. (1)

Sol. As given in line 3 of the passage.

7. This passage may be summarized as

(1) 'In career planning, it is important to involve oneself in cultural/sports activities as much as working hard or acquiring new skills.'

(2) 'Before making a career choice, one should learn to prioritize career options and use one's personality, interests, abilities, aspirations, strengths and weaknesses to plan and decide the most viable option.

(3) 'In choosing a career, it is important not to allow anyone to tell us that we are good for nothing, because our personality, interests, abilities, aspirations, strengths and weaknesses will help us decide the most viable career options for ourselves.'

(4) 'A good career choice results when you follow traditional professions and move along a well-planned path.'

Ans. (2)

Sol. As explained in Lines 2 to 5 of the given passage.

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- 8.** Self-analysis is considered an important part of self-assessment because
- (1) soul searching helps us to judge our abilities honestly and helps us understand our career options better.
 - (2) we are the best judge of our abilities, strengths and weaknesses, and self-analysis will enable others to analyse our abilities accurately.
 - (3) by the time we grow up we may end up working in professions that neither we nor our parents know about today.
 - (4) each one of us has career options, and it is important to first identify them, and then work hard to attain them.

Ans. (1)

Sol. As explained in Para 4.

- 9.** A trained career counsellor can help us
- (1) do self-analysis, so that we are honest with ourselves.
 - (2) decide whether to be a florist, teacher, counsellor doctor, or sales executive, so that we can be a salesman if we cannot be a doctor.
 - (3) identify our talents, because each one of us has several talents, and it is important to first identify them, and then work hard to develop them.
 - (4) identify different professions that will help us use our abilities, because a trained professional can help us prioritize and choose the option that is most viable for us.

Ans. (4)

Sol. As explained in Para 2.

- 10.** An important point highlighted in the passage is that
- (1) only a trained counsellor can help you make the right career choice.
 - (2) it is our abilities, strengths and weaknesses that help us succeed in our career.
 - (3) there is not much use of making a plan - very few people get their plans fulfilled.
 - (4) many people do not get to pursue the career of their choice because circumstances, ideas and people change.

Ans. (2)

Sol. As given in Line 3 and 4 of the given passage.

11-15. Read the following passage and answer the questions based on it. Choose the most appropriate answer.

If the fact of the fire did not immediately penetrate my consciousness, the heat of the blast did and soon propelled me from my seat. All around me, there was a confusion of upended tables, overtuned chairs, bodies pitched toward the door of the dining room, and the squads of broken glass and crockery. Fortunately, the windows toward the street, large windows through which a body might pass, had been thrown open by an enterprising diner. I remember that I rolled sideways through one of these window frames and fell onto the snow and was immediately aware that I should move aside to allow others to land as I had - and it was in that moment that my altruism was finally triggered.



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I rose to my feet and began to assist those who had sustained cuts and bruises and broken bones, or who had been mildly crushed in the chaos. The blaze lit up the escaped diners with a light greater than any other that could be produced in the night. So that I was able to see clearly the dazed expressions of those near to me. Many people were coughing and some were crying, and all looked as though they had been struck by a blow to the head. A few men attempted heroics and tried to go back into the hotel to save those who remained behind, and I think one student did actually rescue an elderly woman who had succumbed to paralysis beside the buffet table; but generally there was no thought of reentering the burning building once one had escaped. Indeed, so great was the heat that we in the crowd had to move farther and farther across the street until we all stood in the college quadrangle, surrounded by bare oaks and elms and stately sycamores.

11. The passage describes

- (1) the heat and smoke that was generated by the sudden fire.
- (2) the effect of the blast on unsuspecting hotel guests.
- (3) the loss of crockery glass and bodies in the accident.
- (4) the layout of the college quadrangle, surrounded by bare oaks and elms and sycamores.

Ans. (2)

Sol. The Scene described in the passage is all about the effects of blast in the hotel.

12. The dazed expression on people's faces was caused by

- (1) the blow to their heads.
- (2) the heat generated by the blast.
- (3) The suddenness and extent of damage caused by the impact of the blast.
- (4) the impact of broken glass and crockery being hurled around in the confusion.

Ans. (3)

Sol. As described in the given passage.

13. The words in the passage that suggest there was a blast include

- (1) fire, heat, confusion, overturned and chaos.
- (2) blazed, dazed, heroic, succumbed and paralysis.
- (3) broken glass, cuts, bruises and sycamores.
- (4) rescue, quadrangle, altruism, trigger and heat.

Ans. (1)

Sol. All these words describe the effect of the blast in the hotel.

14. 'The blaze lit up the escaped diners with a light greater than any other that could be produced in the night' can be paraphrased as

- (1) 'The fire set all the escaped diners ablaze.'
- (2) 'The light that set the escaped diners on fire was from a divine night fire.'
- (3) 'The night sky was lit by such brightness that one could, see the blaze clearly.'
- (4) 'The fire burned in such a way that the writer could see the escaped diners clearly.'

Ans. (4)

Sol. This option clearly explains the given line without changing its meaning.

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15. The word altruism here means

- (1) 'the act of rolling across a window.' (2) 'a sudden movement triggered by a blast.'
(3) 'selfless concern for the well being of others.' (4) 'the dazed feeling generated by an accident.'

Ans. (3)

Sol. The correct meaning of the given word 'altruism' which means 'disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others'.

16-17. The following five sentences come from a paragraph. The first and the last sentences are given. Choose the right order in which the three sentences (PQR) should appear to complete the paragraph.

S1- A man who possesses a strong will and firm determination finds all difficulties solved.

S2- _____

S3- _____

S4- _____

S5- It is therefore, the man who labours hard with a strong resolution and an unshaken will, who achieves success and makes his fortune.

P : Such a man goes on working hard and even if he fails he is never downcast.

Q : In turn failures make him all the more determined and resolute and he persists in his task till he attains the desired success.

R : To him there are a thousand ways open to steer clear of all dangers and difficulties.

16. Choose from the options given below :

- (1) RPQ (2) PRQ (3) QRP (4) PQR

Ans. (1)

Sol. Sentence R describes the perception of the man being discussed in S1. Sentence P then describes the attributes and sentence Q summarizes the paragraph by explaining the how a man deals in a converse situation.

17. S1- Film theory is an academic discipline that aims to explore the essence of cinema and provides conceptual frameworks for understanding a film's relationship to reality, other arts, individual viewers, and society at large.

S2- _____

S3- _____

S4- _____

S5- Film review, on the other hand, is the way in which critics assess a film's overall quality and determine whether or not they think the film is worth recommending to viewers.

P Film theory incorporates various aspects of filmmaking, including analysis and review.

Q One way of analysing films is by the shot-by-shot analysis, though that is typically used only for small clips or scenes.

R Film analysis is the process of analysing a film in terms of mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound and editing.

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Choose from the options given below:

- (1) PQR (2) QRP (3) PRQ (4) RQP

Ans. (3)

Sol. The line P continues to describe about the Film theory which the passage is about. Sentence R explains what 'Film analysis' is and Sentence Q further describes another way to analyse film theory.

18-19. The following questions have the second sentence missing. Choose the appropriate sentence from the given options to complete it.

18. A. A few months ago I went to Princeton University to see what the young people who are going to be running our country in a few decades are like.

B. _____

C. I went to sleep in my hotel room around midnight and when I awoke, my mailbox was full of replies – sent at 1:15 a.m., 2:59 a.m., 3 : 23 a.m

- (1) One senior told me that she went to bed around two and woke up each morning at seven; she could afford that much rest because she had learned to supplement her full day of work by studying in her sleep.
(2) As she was falling asleep she would recite a math problem Or a paper topic to herself; she would then sometimes dream about it, and when she woke up, the problem might be solved.
(3) Faculty members gave me the names of a few dozen articulate students, and I sent them e-mails, inviting them out to lunch or diner in small groups.
(4) Young people stay up late replying to their emails and indulging in social networking.

Ans. (3)

Sol. Sentence 'C' indicates that the earlier step should be to send e-mails followed by the author receives mails in his mailbox.

19. A. We are usually inclined to look upon bad temper as a very harmless weakness,

B. _____

C. And yet all religious texts condemn it as one of the most destructive elements in human nature.

- (1) This shows that we lack judgement.
(2) Often work pressure creates bad temper.
(3) Bad temper harms human relationship.
(4) We speak of it as a mere infirmity of nature, perhaps a family failing.

Ans. (4)

Sol. Only this line is contrary to sentence C.

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20-29. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option from the given alternatives.

20. We are trying to _____ correct information and dispel wrong information that is being circulated.

- (1) raise (2) foster (3) cultivate (4) disseminate

Ans. (4)

Sol. Disseminate means to spread widely or distribute, then only the wrong information can be removed.

21. When we decided to, move, my mother wanted a place with a _____ outside every window to keep potted plants

- (1) balcony (2) ledge (3) curtain (4) stained glass

Ans. (2)

Sol. Ledge means a shelf like projection on a wall which many a times is used to keep potted plants.

22. While Dinesh can never acquire a choir boyish innocence, he has _____ and seems to know that an entire nation's sporting image stands on the team's sportsmanship.

- (1) mellowed (2) discarded (3) plummeted (4) flipped

Ans. (1)

Sol. Mellowed means to be calm and relaxed. This option best completes the given sentence.

23. The construction of identity (for both men and women) is _____ by culture, rationality, class and historical differences.

- (1) inferred (2) interlocked (3) influenced (4) instigated

Ans. (3)

Sol. Influenced means to determine. This option best completes the given sentence.

24. While we believe that BMI is a standard in measuring the fat in our body, there is a growing _____ among scientists that it may not be the best tool to do so.

- (1) concord (2) consensus (3) congruous (4) confluence

Ans. (2)

Sol. Consensus means to have a general agreement about something that is shared by all the people in a group.

25. Under the new rule, the civic body can take _____ action against the violators by imposing, a fine.

- (1) punitive (2) vindictive (3) pejorative (4) diminutive

Ans. (1)

Sol. Punitive means intended as punishment. This option best completes the given sentence.

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26. The SG has cautioned HCs against reversing the acquittal of an accused by the trial court unless the judgment was _____ wrong.

- (1) ostensibly (2) tangibly (3) palpably (4) allegedly

Ans. (1)

Sol. Ostensibly means apparently or evidently.

27. From the rim of the excavation site the archaeologist was unable to surmise exactly what the _____ chamber might hold.

- (1) terra firma (2) subterranean (3) ground level (4) beneath

Ans. (2)

Sol. Subterranean means under the earth surface.

28. The heat was becoming unbearable as the temperature was rising. _____, the rains had been delayed.

- (1) However (2) Therefore (3) Moreover (4) Nonetheless

Ans. (3)

Sol. Moreover means additionally which best completes the given sentence.

29. Miles Davis, the jazz player, _____ supremely expressive, didn't have the range or technique to play convincingly in the bebop style.

- (1) moreover (2) though (3) nevertheless (4) on the one hand

Ans. (2)

Sol. Though means despite the fact and this word best completes the given sentence.

30-35. Select the meaning of the underlined phrases/idioms.

30. It is easy for you to splurge when you have your mom's credit card, but remember after the feast comes the reckoning.

- (1) Trust is easy to break. (2) Truth can't be hidden forever.
(3) Every action has a consequence. (4) Don't take your parents for granted.

Ans. (3)

Sol. The meaning of the given idiom 'after the feast comes the reckoning' is that every action has a consequence.

31. The distance between the towns is only 30 kms as the crow flies.

- (1) when measured in a straight line
(2) when measured in a random manner
(3) when measured between the two highest points
(4) when the curves of the road are included in the measurement

Ans. (1)

Sol. The meaning of the given idiom 'as the crow flies' is when measured in a straight line.

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32. I didn't want to go to the exhibition but Leena twisted my arm.

- (1) forced me (2) teased me (3) fought with me (4) discouraged me

Ans. (1)

Sol. The meaning of the given idiom 'twisted my arm' is forced me.

33. In this age of super specialisation, industrial engineers are in demand because they are the only ones who can see the big picture.

- (1) realistic view of something (2) complete view of something
(3) narrow view of something (4) accurate view of something

Ans. (2)

Sol. Big Picture means complete view of something.

34. What is the matter with him? He is falling foul of his friends.

- (1) betraying (2) quarrelling with (3) losing touch with (4) being badly hurt by

Ans. (2)

Sol. Falling foul means quarrelling with

35. She gave me a cold shoulder when I went to see her.

- (1) abused me (2) insulted me (3) ignored me (4) scolded me

Ans. (3)

Sol. The meaning of the given idiom is to ignore

36-43. In the following passage there are some numbered blanks. Fill in the blanks by selecting the most appropriate word for each blank from the given options.

Carnatic vocalist, playback singer and composer Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna, who burst into the music world, as a child (36) _____, passed away on 22 November 2016. The (37) _____ of Balamurali Krishna include a musical (38) _____ which showed up as his ability to (39) _____ and reproduce music heard just once, his ability to (40) _____ more than one musical instrument, his ability to compose from the age of 15 and finally, his (41) _____ voice manifested as his ability to utter clearly, pronounce faithfully and accent correctly the lyrical phrases along with the (42) _____ of the underlying musical (43) _____ and microtones.

36. (1) spectacle (2) prodigy (3) paragon (4) demigod

Ans. (2)

Sol. The option that best completes this line.

37. (1) talents (2) potentials (3) capacities (4) advantages

Ans. (1)

Sol. The option that best completes this line.

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38. (1) perception (2) smartness (3) denseness (4) acumen

Ans. (4)

Sol. Acumen means the ability to make good judgements and take quick decision.

39. (1) recite (2) retain (3) realize (4) repeat

Ans. (2)

Sol. The option that best completes this line.

40. (1) handle (2) work (3) create (4) manoeuvre

Ans. (4)

Sol. The option that best completes this line.

41. (1) abled (2) gifted (3) stunned (4) staggered

Ans. (2)

Sol. The option that best completes this line.

42. (1) signs (2) slots (3) tokens (4) nuances

Ans. (4)

Sol. The option that best completes this line.

43. (1) notes (2) marks (3) records (4) remarks

Ans. (1)

Sol. The option that best completes this line.

44-47. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blanks from the given alternatives.

44. Worries _____ all kinds of illness, from high blood pressure to stomachache.

- (1) believe to have caused (2) are believed to be caused
(3) are believed to cause (4) believed to be caused

Ans. (2)

Sol. The simple present tense best completes the sentence and also the verb 'believe' is to be followed by an infinitive form of the verb.

45. I _____ all the books on the reading list before I attended the lecture.

- (1) had read (2) have read (3) would have read (4) would read

Ans. (1)

Sol. When two actions take place one after the other, the action which happened first is always in past perfect tense.

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46. Bala Chandra _____ school before. The desire to become a famous novelist led him to attend the adult literacy classes.

- (1) never attends (2) was never attentive (3) had never attended (4) will be attending

Ans. (3)

Sol. In this sentence, Past perfect tense should be used to refer to a time earlier than before.

47. I set the alarm for 6.30 in the morning _____. I wouldn't miss the train.

- (1) in case (2) unless (3) until (4) so that

Ans. (4)

Sol. The most appropriate conjunction which conveys the correct meaning to complete the given sentence.

48-50. Select the word which means the opposite of the underlined word.

48. The activities of the cine club will conclude early next year owing to the volume of work that has kept its members occupied.

- (1) continue (2) commence (3) comprehend (4) conduct

Ans. (2)

Sol. Conclude means to bring or come to an end and commence means to begin.

49. The town is unique in its appearance.

- (1) picturesque (2) singular (3) drab (4) typical

Ans. (4)

Sol. Unique means being the only one of its kind whereas typical means normal for a person, thing, or group.

50. Mr. Prakash was candid at a history TV promotional in Mumbai recently.

- (1) fickle (2) forthright (3) unapologetic (4) guarded

Ans. (4)

Sol. Candid means truthful or straightforward whereas its antonym guarded means to be cautious.