

## Verbal Ability Question Bank

*Directions for questions 1 to 5: In the following questions, there are six sentences marked 1, 6, P, Q, R, S. The positions of 1 and 6 are fixed. Arrange the other four sentences to make a coherent paragraph.*

1. 1: We do not know whether the machines are the masters or we are.  
P: They must be given or rather 'fed' with coal and given petrol to drink from time to time.  
Q: Already man spends most of his time looking after and waiting upon them.  
R: Yet he has grown to dependent on them that they have almost become the masters now.  
S: It is very true that they were made for the sole purpose of being man's servants.  
6: And if they don't get their meals when they expect them, they will just refuse to work
- (1) RSQP (2) RSPQ (3) SPQR (4) SRQP

2. 1: The 'age of computers' is considered to have begun in 1946.  
P: Those early computers were huge and heavy affairs, with problems of speed and size.  
Q: It was only with the introduction of electronics that the computers really came of age.  
R: But computers were in use long before that.  
S: They had several rotating shafts and gears, which almost always doomed them to slow operation. The proper sequence should be  
6: And now it is difficult to find a field where computers are not used.
- (1) RPQS (2) PRSQ (3) RPSQ (4) PRQS

3. 1: Plastic containers are being used more and more to package soft drink, milk, oil, fruit juices, ketchup, etc.  
P: Most people think that this is the right thing to do, as it is economical.  
Q: Plastic containers are cheap and light.  
R: It is easier to transport materials packaged in them than in glass bottles.  
S: They also involve the least transport costs.  
6: Yet as plastic does not decompose by bacteria or naturally in the air, they are a big threat to the environment.
- (1) PQRS (2) PQSR (3) QRSP (4) QSPR

4. 1: A farmer was taking the grist to the mill in sacks.  
P: It was too heavy for him to lift.  
Q: On the way the horse stumbled, and one of the sacks fell to the ground.  
R: Presently he saw a rider coming towards him.  
S: He stood waiting till he found some body to help him.  
6: But the farmer saw that he was none other than the nobleman.
- (1) QPRS (2) PRQS (3) PSQR (4) QPSR

5. 1: He could not rise.  
 P: All at once, in the distance, he heard an elephant trumpet.  
 Q: He tried again with all his might, but to no use.  
 R: The next moment he was on his feet.  
 S: He stepped into the river.  
 6: It was colder than usual.  
 (1) QPRS (2) PQSR (3) QPSR (4) PRQS

*Directions for questions 6 to 21: Choose the most logical order of sentences to construct a paragraph.*

6. P. The overall fluctuations in the yield of pulse crops as estimated through coefficient of variation was lower because of a marginal increase in yield.  
 Q. The coefficient of variation as measured from downward variation from the trend yield was, therefore, considered to be appropriate measure of risk and was higher in case of pulses than that of rice, wheat as well as groundnut and mustard.  
 R. The higher risk associated with cultivation of pulses is a major constraint to the production of pulses.  
 S. The yield of pulses does not remain stable and fluctuates due to high susceptibility to pests and rain fed situations.  
 (1) PQRS (2) PQSR (3) QPRS (4) RSPQ
7. P. The area under and the production of pulses remained almost static during the past three decades.  
 Q. But the performance of pulses production is dismal.  
 R. They are not only a cheap source of proteins for the majority of the population, but also maintain the nitrogen fertility of the soil.  
 S. The importance of pulses in the human diet hardly needs any recognition.  
 (1) SRQP (2) PQSR (3) PRSQ (4) PSRQ
8. P. More startling was the revelation that while tax was being deducted at source from the salaries of the ministers, the government, in its generosity, reimbursed the deducted amount to the ministers concerned in gross violation of every principle underlying the provision of 'tax at source'.  
 Q. The CBI investigation into the animal husbandry scandal in Bihar has had interesting fallout in that it has brought into open many irregularities committed by the law-makers themselves.  
 R. The income tax department, for example, disclosed the other day that most of the legislators, including ministers and the chief ministers himself, have not filed their income tax returns for years.  
 S. The government, in its largesse, squandered away the money that could have been used for more productive purposes.  
 (1) QRPS (2) SRQP (3) PQRS (4) QPRS

9. P. Gloom is writ large not just on the face of Pakistan's polity, but on its economy as well.  
 Q. According to a report published in this newspaper on Monday, the Pakistani economy may have "reached its lowest point since the country was divided in 1971."  
 R. The immediate worry is the ballooning external debt.  
 S. With massive debt repayments due and foreign exchange reserves low, Pakistan appears on the threshold of a major crisis on the external debt front.  
 (1) PQRS (2) QRSP (3) QSRP (4) QPRS
10. P. As numerous enquiry panels have shown, an unwillingness to concentrate on critical issues and delays in investigation often lead to the punishment for graft being merely some bad publicity.  
 Q. India's miserable performance in athletics reflects the national tendency to lose steam after a good start.  
 R. This situation obtains in corruption investigations as well.  
 S. After the initial burst of enthusiasm and energy, we tend to peter out and the final result is usually dismal.  
 (1) QRSP (2) QSRP (3) SRPQ (4) PQRS
11. A. He is the faceless man who is nowhere and everywhere.  
 B. He will live on bread and water, sleep on the streets, move from house to house.  
 C. It is impossible for the political leaders of a tame western world that wages its wars by remote control to understand the power of the marginal man, who has been deprived, stripped of his right and driven back to the wall.  
 D. This is a man who has lost everything, his home, his family, his country, even his personal history.  
 (1) CDAB (2) DABC (3) CABD (4) CDBA
12. A. The first vision is cyclical and millennial.  
 B. It sees man originating from the greater anthropoid apes, climbing slowly through tribal groups, via the Renaissance and the early Industrial Age, into modern technological man.  
 C. The second is linear and utopian.  
 D. It sees man originating from a divine source, a fall, exile, a final battle, the regeneration of the world by a Divine Savior and the foundation of the Kingdom of God on earth.  
 (1) ABCD (2) CBAD (3) ACBD (4) ADCB
13. A. One may disagree with some of his contentions, but one must give credence to

his central point: that in the post-Cold War world, the critical distinctions between people are not ideological or economic -- they are cultural.

- B. Samuel P Huntington's book *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* is very topical these days.
- C. Religious, ethnic and racial stands that constitute cultural identity are the central factors shaping associations and antagonism.
- D. Thus, cultural communities are replacing Cold War blocs and the fault lines between civilizations are becoming the nerve-centers of conflicts in the world.
- (1) BADC      (2) CBAD      (3) BACD      (4) DBAC
14. A. Even when it is self-willed, migration causes dislocation and alienation, creating the need for meaningful identities at the individual level.
- B. The root cause is modernization that has spurred migration in large numbers.
- C. Simultaneously, education and development within non-western societies stimulates the revitalization of indigenous identities and culture.
- D. Huntington's analysis explains why we are witnessing this surging antagonism among Indian and Pakistani youth and expatriates.
- (1) DBCA      (2) BCDA      (3) DBAC      (4) BADC
15. A. Not too far from the bright lights of Mumbai, a silent scourge is killing thousands of young children.
- B. Their ill-fed bodies, vulnerable to infection, most succumbed to ailments as minor as diarrhea.
- C. Stalked by chronic hunger and disease, nearly 30,000 children below the age of six have died in the last year alone in the state's rural belt.
- D. It may be considered the country's dollar magnet and envied for its robust industrial base but this image of Maharashtra cloaks a macabre reality.
- (1) CBDA                      (2) DACB      (3) BDCA      (4) CDBA
16. A. Trade protocols were signed, the dollar as the medium of exchange was ignored, trade was denominated in rupees and the exchange rate between the two countries was to be fixed outside the ambit of free markets.
- B. A young India, some years after independence, fashioning her foreign policy of nonalignment, found it prudent to stay close to the former Soviet Union.
- C. Once upon a time there was a superpower named Soviet Union that attracted nations apprehensive of the global aspirations of the other superpower, the USA.
- D. One way of doing this was to evolve bilateral relations in trade that could be called upon to provide a buffer against the arm-twisting by the USA.
1. CBAD                      b) BADC                      c) BCAD                      d) CBDA
17. A. This is probably one of the reasons why the number of women and men remain roughly equal in most societies.
- B. Fortunately or unfortunately, individual couples cannot really be concerned about this overall 'error'.

- C. Population growth then can be considered the error of this central process.  
 D. Purely at the human level, it appears that most couples like to have at least one living daughter and one living son when they are in their middle ages.  
 1. CBDA                      2. DACB                      3. DCBA                      4. CDAB
18. A. It was never denied and seemed to be integrated into the city life.  
 B. The poverty was there right in the open in all the streets.  
 C. But, somehow it did not depress me as much as I had feared.  
 D. Indian society is associated with great poverty, and indeed I saw a lot of poverty in Bombay.  
 1. ADBC                      2. BCAD                      3. BCDA                      4. DCBA
19. A. I had heard that sort of thing before.  
 B. He said that his generation was the first to believe that it had no future.  
 C. A young American male earthling stopped by my house the other day to talk about some book of mine he had read.  
 D. He was the son of a Boston man who had died an alcoholic vagrant.  
 1. CDBA                      2. ABCD                      3. CBAD                      4. ABDC
20. A. This has been going on now for nearly 200 years.  
 B. They haven't even been noticed much by central, state, or local governments, no matter how insolent or blasphemous or treasonous those writers may be.  
 C. But writers of novels, plays, short stories or poems have never been hurt or hampered much.  
 D. Journalists and teachers are often bullied or fired in my country for saying this or that.  
 1. DCBA                      2. ABCD                      3. BCDA                      4. DCAB
21. A. Their growing costs and a growing economy must be reckoned with realistically.  
 B. Central programs persist and in some cases grow.  
 C. As demand expands, programs expand.  
 D. It is extremely difficult to curtail them.  
 1. CDAB                      2. BCDA                      3. DABC                      4. ACBD

*Directions for questions 22 to 25: Choose the most fitting definition for the word in bold.*

22. I held his hand as we entered the **tenebrous** passageways of the cave. There was no way that I would risk losing him when I could only rely on my sense of smell and touch to guide me. Thinking of the morbid creatures that may have chosen this cave as their home inspired me to tighten my grip.

- (1) dark; gloomy      (2) secret      (3) strong smelling      (4) untouched

23. Neha was the only one with a car, so when she **vacillated** between staying home or going out on the town, we did not like it as our plans were spoilt.

- (1) decided    (2) switched    (3) wavered                      (4) directed

24. As Amit turned the corner, he collided with what seemed to be a brick wall. But when he looked up to see what had obstructed his path, he jumped back in horror. Before him loomed a hulking **hirsute** figure with giant claws.

- (1) hairy            (2) ugly            (3) threatening                      (4) degenerate

25. Mr. Gupta was the sort of man who would **cozen** all of the local card players in all-night gambling games, but during the day preached the virtues of honesty and kindness.

- (1) challenge    (2) cheat            (3) engage                      (4) fib

*Directions for questions 26 to 30: For each question in this section, select the best of the answer choices given.*

26. Toys World, a chain of toy stores, has relied on a “supermarket concept” of computerised inventory control and customer self-service to eliminate the category of sales clerks from its force of employees. It now plans to employ the same concept in selling children’s clothes.

The plan of Toys World assumes that

- (1) supermarkets will not also be selling children’s clothes in the same manner
- (2) personal service by sales personnel is not required for selling children’s clothes successfully
- (3) the same kind of computers will be used in inventory control for both clothes and toys at Toys World.
- (4) a self-service plan cannot be employed without computerised inventory control.

27. Continuous indoor fluorescent light benefits the health of mice with inherited heart disease. A group of them exposed to continuous fluorescent light survived twenty-five percent longer than similar group exposed instead to equal periods of indoor fluorescent light and of darkness.

The method of research described above is most likely to be applicable in addressing which of the following questions?

- (1) Can industrial workers who need to see their work do so better by sunlight or by fluorescent light?
- (2) Can hospital lighting be improved to promote the recovery of patients?
- (3) How do deep-sea fish survive in total darkness?
- (4) What are the inherited illnesses to which mice are subject?

28. Millions of identical copies of a plant can be produced using tissue culture and cloning techniques. If plant propagation by such methods in laboratories proves economical, each of the following, if true, represents a benefit of the new techniques to farmers EXCEPT:

- (1) The techniques allow the development of superior strains to take place more rapidly, requiring fewer generations of plants grown to maturity.

- (2) It is less difficult to care for plants that will grow at rates that do not vary widely.
- (3) Plant diseases and pests, once they take hold, spread more rapidly among genetically uniform plants than among those with genetic variations.
- (4) Mechanical harvesting of crops is less difficult if plants are more uniform in size.

29. Which of the following best completes the passage below?

Sales campaigns aimed at the faltering personal computer market have strongly emphasised ease of use, called user-friendliness. This emphasis is oddly premature and irrelevant in the eyes of most potential buyers, who are trying to address the logically prior issue of whether \_\_\_\_\_.

- (1) user-friendliness also implies that owners can service their own computers
- (2) personal computers cost more the more user-friendly they are
- (3) currently available models are user-friendly enough to suit them
- (4) they have enough sensible uses for a personal computer to justify the expense of buying one

30. A weapons-smuggling incident recently took place in country Y. We all know that Y is a closed society. So Y's government must have known about the weapons. Which of the following is an assumption that would make the conclusion above logically correct?

- (1) If a government knows about a particular weapons-smuggling incident, it must have intended to use the weapons for its own purposes.
- (2) If a government claims that it knew nothing about a particular weapons-smuggling incident, it must have known everything about it.
- (3) If a government does not permit weapons to enter a country, it is a closed society.
- (4) If a country is a closed society, its government has knowledge about everything that occurs in the country.

*Directions for questions 31 to 35: In each of the sentences below, some part or the whole is underlined. Each sentence is followed by five alternative versions of the underlined portion. Select the alternative you consider both most correct and most effective according to the requirements of standard written English.*

31. If he was to decide to go to college, I, for one, would recommend that he plan to go to Loyola.

- (1) If he was to decide to go to college.
- (2) If he were to decide to go to college.
- (3) Had he decided to go to college.
- (4) In the event that he decides to go to college.

32. Except for you and I, everyone brought a present to the party.

- (1) Except for you and I, everyone brought
- (2) With exception of you and I, everyone brought
- (3) Except for you and I, everyone had brought
- (4) Except for you and me, everyone brought





