

Question 1: Read the short excerpt: “The traveller paused at the ruined arch, its shadow a slow confession of vanished times.” Which literary device is most prominent?

- a) Personification
- b) Metonymy
- c) Synecdoche
- d) Hyperbole

Question 2: Choose the correct sentence:

- a) Each of the students have completed their assignment.
- b) Each of the students has completed his or her assignment.
- c) Each of the students have completed its assignment.
- d) Each students has completed their assignment.

Question 3: A speaker notices audience attention dropping after 10 minutes in a talk. Which technique is most appropriate to regain attention?

- a) Continue at same pace to cover content
- b) Introduce a short rhetorical question or illustrative story
- c) Reduce content and end early
- d) Switch to reading verbatim from slides

Question 4: Which word best completes the sentence for precise academic tone: “The researcher’s findings were _____ significant, indicating a consistent trend.”

- a) arguably
- b) emphatically
- c) nominally
- d) statistically

Question 5: In literary analysis, which approach focuses primarily on author’s life to interpret a poem?

- a) Formalist approach
- b) Biographical criticism
- c) Structuralist approach
- d) New Criticism

Question 6: Choose the best synonym for the underlined word in a formal essay: The hypothesis was tenable under scrutiny.

- a) credible
- b) transient
- c) redundant
- d) trivial

Question 7: A novelist uses an unreliable narrator who recollects events differently each time. Which critical question would a reader-analyst ask?

- a) How does the narrator’s unreliability shape thematic meaning and reader response?
- b) Is the narrator physically attractive?
- c) How many pages is the novel?
- d) What is the author’s favourite colour?

Question 8: Which word is an example of a polysemous word?

- a) Bank
- b) Heterogeneous
- c) Bluebird
- d) Octagon

Question 9: Choose the grammatically correct revision: “Everyone must submit their essays by Friday.”

- a) Everyone must submit their essays by Friday.
- b) Everyone must submit his or her essay by Friday.
- c) Everyone must submit them essays by Friday.
- d) Everyone must submit our essays by Friday.

Question 10: Passage says a protagonist’s silence functions as “verbal armour.” What does this imply in context?

- a) Silence protects the protagonist emotionally.
- b) Silence makes the protagonist invisible.
- c) Silence increases the protagonist’s physical strength.
- d) Silence is a legal defense.

Question 11: Which transition is best to show contrast between two ideas in a research essay?

- a) Furthermore
- b) Nonetheless
- c) Moreover
- d) Consequently

Question 12: Which choice corrects the sentence for register and concision: “Due to the fact that the experiment failed, we were not able to proceed further.”

- a) Because the experiment failed, we could not proceed.
- b) As a result of the experiment’s failure, proceeding was not feasible.
- c) The experiment failed, hence we stuck.
- d) Owing to the fact that the experiment failed, proceeding was unattainable.

Question 13: A speech includes complex jargon and long sentences while the audience is mixed (students + laypeople). What is a competent revision strategy?

- a) Keep jargon; the audience will appreciate complexity.
- b) Replace technical terms with short explanations and use shorter sentences.
- c) Read out a long bibliography.
- d) Insist audience read a textbook first.

Question 14: Choose the best ending to this sentence for clarity: “The committee recommended reforms, _____ would require legislative approval.”

- a) which
- b) that
- c) who
- d) whom

Question 15: Which phrase is an example of collocation?

- a) Commit a cake
- b) Make a decision
- c) Make a bed
- d) Run an exam

Question 16: Which verb pattern is correct after the verb “recommend”?

- a) They recommend that he takes the course.
- b) They recommend that he take the course.
- c) They recommend him taking the course.
- d) They recommend him to take the course.

Question 17: A persuasive speech aims to change audience attitude on climate action. Which rhetorical appeal is most ethically effective when used with credible data?

- a) Pathos alone (emotional plea without facts)
- b) Logos supported by ethos (logic + speaker credibility)
- c) Name-calling opponents
- d) Repeating slogans only

Question 18: Which literary term describes a recurring image or symbol in a text?

- a) Motif
- b) Metaphor
- c) Anachronism
- d) Foil

Question 19: Select the option that correctly paraphrases: “The study suggests a correlative — not necessarily causal — link between screen time and sleep quality.”

- a) The study proves screen time causes poor sleep.
- b) The study shows screen time and sleep quality are related but causation is not proven.
- c) The study denies any relationship between screen time and sleep.
- d) The study only studied sleep and not screen time.

Question 20: Which sentence displays correct use of subjunctive mood in formal writing?

- a) If I was the president, I would act.
- b) If I were the president, I would act.
- c) If I are the president, I will act.
- d) If I be the president, I would have acted.

Question 21: A passage contrasts “solitude” and “loneliness.” Which analytic move best captures nuance?

- a) Define both terms and examine how the author positions solitude as chosen and loneliness as imposed.
- b) Claim they are identical always.
- c) Ignore the distinction and focus on plot only.
- d) Replace both words with ‘quiet.’

Question 22: Which word is the odd one out in terms of register for an academic article?

- a) Commence
- b) Utilize
- c) Kids
- d) Investigate

Question 23: Choose the most precise word to replace the underlined phrase: “She had a lot of evidence to back her claim.”

- a) a preponderance of evidence
- b) countless rumours
- c) a miscellaneous amount
- d) a smattering of hearsay

Question 24: Which sentence is grammatically correct and concise?

- a) Due to the fact that it rained, the match was postponed.
- b) Because of the rain, the match was postponed.
- c) Owing to the rain, match postponed.
- d) Seeing that it did rain, we postponed the match.

Question 25: A literature essay argues that a minor character functions as a moral foil. Which evidence is most relevant?

- a) Scenes where the minor character’s decisions highlight the protagonist’s ethical choices.
- b) The minor character’s favourite food.
- c) Page count of the novel.
- d) Printer’s edition details.

Question 26: Which sentence demonstrates correct subject-verb agreement with collective nouns in American formal English?

- a) The team are practicing for their match.
- b) The team is practicing for its match.
- c) The team were practicing for their match.
- d) The team is practicing for their match.

Question 27: In critical reading, what does “inference” primarily involve?

- a) Stating what is explicitly written only
- b) Drawing reasoned conclusions from textual clues and prior knowledge
- c) Ignoring textual evidence
- d) Repeating the author’s words verbatim

Question 28: A student must write a research paper with an annotated bibliography. Which practice best demonstrates academic integrity?

- a) Paraphrase source ideas with citation and include original analysis.
- b) Copy paragraphs and add one citation at the end.
- c) Use a single source for entire paper without attribution.
- d) Omit citations to keep writing concise.

Question 29: Which connective signals cause & effect in an argumentative essay?

- a) Consequently
- b) Whereas
- c) Additionally
- d) Similarly

Question 30: Which of the following is a correct example of nominalization appropriate for academic style?

- a) He decided to analyse the data. → He made an analysis of the data.
- b) He analysed the data. → He conducted an analysis of the data.
- c) She runs quickly. → She does quick running.
- d) They slept. → They were sleeping.

Question 31: A student preparing for a debate wants to strengthen ethos. Which action is the most effective?

- a) Dress casually and avoid facts
- b) Cite reputable sources, acknowledge counterarguments, and speak respectfully
- c) Use inflammatory insults for opponents
- d) Avoid any statistics

Question 32: Choose the correct use of the semicolon in academic writing:

- a) The experiment failed; because the apparatus malfunctioned.
- b) The experiment failed; the apparatus malfunctioned.
- c) The experiment failed; and therefore it closed.
- d) The experiment; failed the apparatus.

Question 33: Which technique enhances clarity in long sentences?

- a) Insert multiple parenthetical remarks
- b) Break into shorter clauses and use punctuation strategically
- c) Replace nouns with pronouns only
- d) Add synonyms to reinforce ideas

Question 34: In a poem, enjambment frequently occurs. What analytic observation is most appropriate?

- a) Discuss how enjambment creates momentum and affects tone and pacing.
- b) Count the enjambments only.
- c) Replace enjambment with punctuation for clarity.
- d) Avoid mentioning enjambment.

Question 35: Which pair shows correct collocation?

- a) Make a decision — Heavy rain
- b) Do a decision — Light rain
- c) Take an exam — Strong coffee
- d) Commit a decision — Tall rain

Question 36: Choose the most formal replacement for “get” in an academic essay:

- a) acquire
- b) getted
- c) fetch
- d) grabbed

Question 37: A speaker uses monotone voice throughout a 40-minute talk. How will this most likely affect communication effectiveness?

- a) Improve retention of complex ideas
- b) Reduce engagement and listener comprehension
- c) Make the talk memorable for energy
- d) Increase rhetorical impact

Question 38: Select the best thesis statement for a research essay about urbanization’s social effects:

- a) Urbanization is bad.
- b) This essay examines social transformations due to urbanization, focusing on housing, community networks, and labour dynamics.
- c) Cities are big and noisy.
- d) Urbanization sometimes affects things.

Question 39: Which punctuation change corrects this sentence for clarity: “However many students arrived late.”

- a) However, many students arrived late.
- b) However many students, arrived late.
- c) However many; students arrived late.
- d) However: many students arrived late.

Question 40: An oral presentation uses slides full of dense paragraphs. Which revision aligns with effective public speaking principles?

- a) Convert paragraphs into concise bullet points, use visuals, and rehearse transitions.
- b) Keep paragraphs, read each line verbatim.
- c) Remove all visuals and speak without notes.
- d) Put entire research paper on slides.

Question 41: Which rhetorical device is being used when an author says, “She was a fortress of silence”?

- a) Metaphor
- b) Simile
- c) Alliteration
- d) Oxymoron

Question 42: Choose the correct plural form of the Latin-derived noun: “criterion” → _____

- a) criteria
- b) criterions
- c) criterium
- d) criterio

Question 43: A novelist’s repeated use of the phrase “we were small” in different contexts serves as a theme. Which analytic claim is most defensible?

- a) The repetition builds a thematic motif exploring vulnerability and perspective.
- b) The author is repetitive without purpose.
- c) It means literally the characters shrink physically.
- d) It is typographic error.

Question 44: Which of the following is an appropriate strategy to avoid plagiarism when using a direct quote?

- a) Use quotation marks, cite the source, and integrate with commentary.
- b) Change a few words and omit citation.
- c) Remove quotation marks but cite the source.
- d) Cite only at the end of the paper for all quotes.

Question 45: Which is the most precise antonym for “ambiguous” in academic writing?

- a) unequivocal
- b) vague
- c) nebulous
- d) obscure

Question 46: A poem’s speaker addresses an absent listener—an apostrophe. Which interpretation is analytically richest?

- a) Explore how apostrophe reveals speaker’s psychological state and thematic urgency.
- b) Claim that the speaker was literally talking to someone offstage.
- c) Ignore apostrophe as irrelevant.
- d) Say it’s only ornamental.

Question 47: Choose the option that correctly corrects the error: “Neither the professor nor the students _____ happy with the schedule.”

- a) is
- b) are
- c) am
- d) were

Question 48: Which technique most improves persuasive impact in a concluding paragraph?

- a) Introduce new, complex data not discussed earlier.
- b) Synthesize key arguments and provide a compelling call to action or implication.
- c) Repeat the introduction word for word.
- d) Add unrelated anecdotes.

Question 49: A student must present an impromptu speech. Which immediate tactic will improve delivery?

- a) Take a deep breath, outline three quick points, use eye contact, and begin.
- b) Panic and apologize for not preparing.
- c) Read a newspaper instead.
- d) Ask for the speech to be postponed for weeks.

Question 50: Which lexical resource helps students learn nuanced word usage and collocations?

- a) A rhyming dictionary
- b) A learner’s collocation dictionary or corpus examples
- c) A colour chart
- d) A phonebook

Question 51: Which sentence correctly uses the comparative form?

- a) She is more kinder than her sister.
- b) She is kinder than her sister.
- c) She is most kind than her sister.
- d) She kinder than her sister.

Question 52: In assessing a speech, a teacher notices overuse of hedges (“maybe”, “perhaps”) in claims. What feedback is most constructive?

- a) Strengthen claims with evidence and reduce hedging where appropriate; keep hedges to indicate honest uncertainty when needed.
- b) Tell the student to never express uncertainty.
- c) Encourage adding more hedges to sound polite.
- d) Ignore it; hedges don’t affect arguments.

Question 53: Which of the following is a function of a topic sentence in a paragraph?

- a) Present the paragraph’s main idea and provide cohesion.
- b) Confuse readers with unrelated detail.
- c) Serve as bibliography.
- d) Replace conclusion.

Question 54: Choose the word that is an example of an idiom (fixed expression):

- a) Break the ice
- b) Breakable ice
- c) Icebreaker device
- d) Breakingly icy

Question 55: A student finds two secondary sources disagree on interpretation. Which academic practice is best?

- a) Compare methodologies, evaluate evidence, and explain why one interpretation is more convincing or show both perspectives.
- b) Choose the one that sounds nicer.
- c) Ignore sources and state personal opinion only.
- d) Use both without critique.

Question 56: Which sentence demonstrates correct use of active voice for clarity?

- a) The decision was taken by the committee.
- b) The committee took the decision.
- c) The decision taking had been by committee.
- d) By the committee the decision was taken.

Question 57: Which register is most appropriate for a formal research article?

- a) Colloquial and idiomatic expressions
- b) Formal, precise, and objective language with hedging where necessary
- c) Slang and text-message style abbreviations
- d) Highly personal and confessional tone

Question 58: An oral presentation includes a slide showing raw data table with many small cells. What improvement will aid comprehension?

- a) Summarize key findings in chart/visual and highlight trends; provide table in hand-out or appendix.
- b) Keep raw table only; don’t explain.
- c) Read each cell aloud slowly.
- d) Remove data entirely.

Question 59: Which sentence best demonstrates parallelism in a list?

- a) She likes reading, to swim, and jogging.
- b) She likes reading, swimming, and jogging.
- c) She likes to read, swimming, and to jog.
- d) She likes reading and to swim and jogging.

Question 60: A student revises a draft by applying peer feedback that highlights unclear topic sentences and weak transitions. What outcome is most likely?

- a) Improved coherence, clarity, and overall argument flow.
- b) More confusion and contradictions.
- c) Immediate increase in word count only.
- d) Loss of original ideas entirely.

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