

**50 English Questions Challenge for SSC Exam 2018**

**Directions: (1-15) Out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentences.**

**Q1. To lift or haul something heavy with great effort.**

- (a) heave
- (b) shrimp
- (c) wimp
- (d) runt

**S1. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Heave: lift or haul (something heavy) with great effort.

Shrimp: fish for shrimps.

Wimp: fail to do or complete something as a result of fear or lack of confidence.

Runt: an undersized or inferior person

Option A is the correct substitution.

**Q2. A political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular desires and prejudices rather than by using rational argument.**

- (a) rebel
- (b) radical
- (c) demagogue
- (d) anarchistic

**S2. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Radical: a person who advocates thorough or complete political or social reform; a member of a political party or part of a party pursuing such aims.

Demagogue: a political leader who seeks support by appealing to popular desires and prejudices rather than by using rational argument.

Option C is the correct substitution.

**Q3. The action of repeating something aloud from memory.**

- (a) paraphrase
- (b) rendition
- (c) erudition
- (d) recitation

**S3. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Paraphrase: a rewording of something written or spoken.

Rendition: a performance or interpretation, especially of a dramatic role or piece of music.

Erudition: the quality of having or showing great knowledge or learning; scholarship.

Recitation: the action of repeating something aloud from memory.

Option D is the correct substitution.

**Q4.** A trace or remnant of something that is disappearing or no longer exists.

- (a) memento
- (b) variable
- (c) glimmer
- (d) vestige

**S4. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Memento: an object kept as a reminder of a person or event.

Glimmer: a faint or wavering light.

Vestige: a trace or remnant of something that is disappearing or no longer exists.

Option D is the correct substitution.

**Q5.** To disorder or disarrange (someone's hair), typically by running one's hands through it.

- (a) to tangle
- (b) to crumple
- (c) to ruffle
- (d) to crease

**S5. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** To crumple: crush (something, typically paper or cloth) so that it becomes creased and wrinkled.

To ruffle: disorder or disarrange (someone's hair), typically by running one's hands through it.

Option C is the correct substitution.

**Q6. Courteousness and refinement of manner.**

- (a) plaudit
- (b) adulation
- (c) urbanity
- (d) profanity

**S6. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Plaudit: praise.

Adulation: excessive admiration or praise.

Urbanity: courteousness and refinement of manner.

Option C is the correct substitution.

**Q7. Involving immoral or dishonorable actions and motives.**

- (a) redoubt
- (b) scrupulous
- (c) immaculate
- (d) sordid

**S7. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Immaculate: perfectly clean, neat, or tidy.

Sordid: involving immoral or dishonorable actions and motives; arousing moral distaste and contempt.

Option D is the correct substitution.

**Q8. A symbol that serves as an emblem of a group of people**

- (a) obelisk
- (b) minaret
- (c) mast
- (d) totem

**S8. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Obelisk: a tapering stone pillar, typically having a square or rectangular cross section, set up as a monument or landmark.

Mast: a tall upright post, spar, or other structure on a ship or boat, in sailing vessels generally carrying a sail or sails.

Totem: a natural object or animal that is believed by a particular society to have spiritual significance and that is adopted by it as an emblem.

Option D is the correct substitution.

**Q9. The way in which a substance holds together; thickness or viscosity**

(a) corpulence

(b) consistency

(c) exigency

(d) exultancy

**S9. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Corpulence: something more than average fatness.

Exigency: an urgent need or demand.

Exultancy: triumphantly happy.

Option B is the correct substitution.

**Q10. Based on random choice or personal whim**

(a) auxiliary

(b) arbitrary

(c) allegory

(d) ambulatory

**S10. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Arbitrary: based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system.

Auxiliary: providing supplementary or additional help and support.

Allegory: a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.

Ambulatory: Relating to or adapted for walking.

Option B is the correct substitution.

**Q11. Involving or showing violence and bloodshed**

(a) inundate

(b) gory

(c) sanguine

(d) imbrue

**S11. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Gory: involving or showing violence and bloodshed.

Sanguine: optimistic or positive, especially in an apparently bad or difficult situation.

Inundate: overwhelm someone with things or people to be dealt with.

Imbrue: to impregnate.

Option B is the correct substitution.

**Q12. To cut off a branch, limb, or twig from the main body of a tree**

- (a) dollop
- (b) clop
- (c) lop
- (d) slop

**S12. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Dollop: a large, shapeless mass of something, especially soft food.

Clop: a sound made by or as if by a horse's hoof striking the ground.

Slop: dress in an untidy or casual manner.

Lop: cut off a branch, limb, or twig from the main body of a tree.

Option C is the correct substitution.

**Q13. A tangled mass in something such as hair or wool**

- (a) knot
- (b) vortex
- (c) snot
- (d) whorl

**S13. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Knot: A knot is a method of fastening or securing linear material such as rope by tying or interweaving.

Vortex: a whirling mass of fluid or air, especially a whirlpool or whirlwind.

Snot: mucus produced in the nose.

Option A is the correct substitution.

**Q14. Relating to or characteristic of hell or the underworld**

- (a) diabolical
- (b) execrable
- (c) elysium
- (d) infernal

**S14. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Diabolical: characteristic of the Devil, or so evil as to recall the Devil.

Execrable: extremely bad or unpleasant.

Infernal: relating to or characteristic of hell or the underworld.

Option D is the correct substitution.

**Q15. The action of making amends for a wrong one has done**

- (a) reparation
- (b) extortion
- (c) reclamation
- (d) retrieval

**S15. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Reparation: the action of repairing something.

Extortion: the practice of obtaining something, especially money, through force or threats.

Reclamation: the process of claiming something back or of reasserting a right.

Retrieval: the process of getting something back from somewhere.

Option A is the correct substitution.



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**Directions (16-30):** Out of the four alternatives, choose the one which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

**Q16. SPAWN**

- (a) Destroy
- (b) Generate
- (c) Calm
- (d) Raze

**S16. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Spawn: to cause something new, or many new things, to grow or start suddenly.  
Hence Spawn and Generate are synonyms to each other.

**Q17. RAMPANT**

- (a) Restrained
- (b) Comprehensible
- (c) Unbridled
- (d) Complementary

**S17. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Rampant: flourishing or spreading unchecked.  
Unbridled: uncontrolled; unconstrained.  
Hence Rampant and Unbridled are synonyms to each other.

**Q18. FAUX**

- (a) True
- (b) Sham
- (c) Noise
- (d) Roasted

**S18. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Faux: not genuine; fake or false.  
Sham: not genuine.  
Hence Faux and Sham are synonyms to each other.

**Q19. LIMBER**

- (a) Lissome
- (b) Stiff
- (c) LummoX
- (d) Luminary

**S19. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Limber: (of a person or body part) lithe or supple.  
Lissome: (of a person or their body) thin, supple, and graceful.  
Stiff: (of a person or part of the body) unable to move easily and without pain.  
LummoX: a clumsy, stupid person.  
Luminary: a person who inspires or influences others.  
Hence Limber and Lissome are synonyms to each other.

**Q20. ABRADE**

- (a) Scold
- (b) Attach
- (c) Wear off
- (d) Twist

**S20. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Abrade: scrape or wear away by friction or erosion.  
Wear off: lose effectiveness or intensity.  
Hence Abrade and Wear off are synonyms to each other.

**Q21. DECAPITATE**

- (a) Behead
- (b) Decipher
- (c) Deploy
- (d) Delve

**S21. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Decapitate: to cut off the head of.  
Behead: cut off the head of (someone).  
Delve: dig; excavate.  
Hence Decapitate and Behead are synonyms to each other.

**Q22. PERVERSITY**

- (a) Cooperative
- (b) Accommodating
- (c) Waywardness
- (d) Reasonable

**S22. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Perversity: a deliberate desire to behave in an unreasonable or unacceptable way; contrariness.  
Waywardness: turned or turning away from what is right or proper; disobedient.  
Hence Perversity and Waywardness are synonyms to each other.

**Q23. THRONG**

- (a) Trickle
- (b) Multitude
- (c) Scantling
- (d) Expurgate

**S23. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Throng: a large, densely packed crowd.  
Multitude: a large number of people or things.  
Hence Throng and Multitude are synonyms to each other.

**Q24. ENIGMA**

- (a) Attractive
- (b) Riddle
- (c) Flare-up
- (d) Dream

**S24. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Enigma: a puzzling or inexplicable occurrence or situation.  
Riddle: a person or thing that puzzles, perplexes, or confuses.  
Hence Enigma and Riddle are synonyms to each other.

**Q25. RECEPTACLE**

- (a) Caliber
- (b) Hole
- (c) Container
- (d) Funeral

**S25. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Receptacle: a hollow object used to contain something.  
Container: an object for holding or transporting something.  
Hence Receptacle and Container are synonyms to each other.

**Q26. INIMICAL**

- (a) Untidy
- (b) Harmful
- (c) Funny
- (d) Trial

**S26. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Inimical: adverse in tendency or effect; unfavorable.  
Harmful: causing or capable of causing damage or harm.  
Hence Inimical and Harmful are synonyms to each other.

**Q27. SPRUCE**

- (a) Lethargy
- (b) Elegant
- (c) Scruffy
- (d) Ragged

**S27. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Spruce: neat in dress and appearance.  
Elegant: graceful and stylish in appearance or manner.  
Scruffy: shabby and untidy or dirty.  
Ragged: (of cloth or clothes) old and torn.  
Hence Spruce and Elegant are synonyms to each other.

**Q28. TRUCULENT**

- (a) Ferocious
- (b) Luxurious
- (c) Luscious
- (d) Delicious

**S28. Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Truculent: eager or quick to argue or fight; aggressively defiant.  
Ferocious: savagely fierce, cruel, or violent.  
Hence Truculent and Ferocious are synonyms to each other.

**Q29. PROPITIATE**

- (a) Conform
- (b) Appease
- (c) Influence
- (d) Approach

**S29. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Propitiate: to please and make calm someone.

Appease: pacify or placate (someone).

Hence Propitiate and Appease are synonyms to each other.

**Q30. RUMINATE**

- (a) Acclaim
- (b) Contend
- (c) Ponder
- (d) Abscond

**S30. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Ruminates: think deeply about something.

Ponder: think about (something) carefully.

Hence Ruminates and Ponder are synonyms to each other.

**Direction (31-32):** In the following questions, some part of the sentence may have errors. Find out which part of the sentence has an error and select the appropriate option. If a sentence is free from error, select 'No Error'.

**Q31.** The single room tenement was bare and both (A)/ he and his wife lain out their only clean sheet, provided (B)/ my uncle a pillow and brought him fresh coffee. (C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

**S31. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Replace 'lain out' with 'laid out'.

Lay is the present tense of a verb whose basic meaning is 'place something in a more or less horizontal position', with the past tense and participle laid. Lay is also the past tense of the verb lie ('assume a horizontal or resting position'); while lain is the past participle.

Lay out: Arrange in a certain way, so as to spread or space apart. And its past participle form 'laid out' is correct to use in the given context.

For e.g. She opened her suitcase and laid her clothes out on the bed.

**Q32.** The station master of the station, which was all of one (A)/ platform, noticed my uncle was tired and perhaps also sensed that (B)/ my uncle was unaccustomed to wait on a platform. (C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

**S32. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Replace 'unaccustomed to wait' with 'unaccustomed to waiting'. As a gerund form of verb i.e. V1 + ing is used after 'unaccustomed to'.

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**Directions (33-34):** In the following questions, sentences are given with blanks to be filled in with an appropriate word(s). Four alternatives are suggested for each question. Choose the correct alternative out of the four as your answer.

**Q33.** Many of these locations are still \_\_\_\_\_ in intrigue, with their goings-on staying behind closed doors.

- (a) shrieked
- (b) debatable
- (c) parched
- (d) shrouded

**S33. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Shriek: utter a high-pitched piercing sound or words, especially as an expression of terror, pain, or excitement.

Shroud: cover or envelop so as to conceal from view.

Hence only option D fits in the context.

**Q34.** Still a \_\_\_\_\_ of spots across the globe are entirely forbidden to outside travelers.

- (a) cast
- (b) bloat
- (c) slew
- (d) stench

**S34. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Slew: a large amount or number.

Stench: a strong and very unpleasant smell.

Hence option C is the correct option.

**Directions (35-36):** In the following questions, out of the four alternatives select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase.

**Q35.** Make a dent in

- (a) To accept something exactly the way it appears to be
- (b) To make noticeable progress in a task
- (c) To use vigorous action to bring something into a proper specified state
- (d) To declare or issue a challenge

**S35. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Option B is the correct meaning.

**Q36.** Over the hill

- (a) To extract, remove, or take someone from something
- (b) To collect information
- (c) Too old to be of much value
- (d) To be oblivious of something important

**S36. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Option C is the correct meaning.

**Directions: (37-38) Out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentences.**

**Q37. Part- song for several voices without instrumental accompaniment**

- (a) Ostler
- (b) Madrigal
- (c) Quill
- (d) Reticule

**S37. Ans.(c)**

**Q38. A person held in custody.**

- (a) Deist
- (b) Dilettante
- (c) Detenu
- (d) Decalogue

**S38. Ans.(c)**

**Directions (39-40): In the following questions, four words are given out of which one word is correctly spelt. Select the correctly spelt word.**

**Q39.**

- (a) Doyen
- (b) Devieous
- (c) Dissentomb
- (d) Deflaction

**S39. Ans.(a)**

Sol. Option A is correctly spelt.

**Q40.**

- (a) Grovell
- (b) Pervisive
- (c) Hermetic
- (d) Utterence

**S40. Ans.(c)**

Sol. Option C is correctly spelt.

**Directions (41-45): A passage is given with five questions following it. Read the passage carefully and select the best answer to each question out of the given four alternatives.**

Corruption is not a uniquely Indian phenomenon. It is witnessed all over the world in developing as well as developed countries. It has spread its tentacles in every sphere of life, namely business administration, politics, officialdom, and services. In fact, there is hardly any sector which can be characterized for not being infected with the vices of corruption. Corruption is rampant in every segment and every section of society, barring the social status attached to it. Nobody can be considered free from corruption from a high-ranking officer.

To root out the evil of corruption from society, we need to make a comprehensive code of conduct for politicians, legislatures, bureaucrats, and such code should be strictly enforced. Judiciary should be given more independence and initiatives on issues related to corruption. Special courts should be set-up to take up such issues and speedy trial is to be promoted. Law and order machinery should be allowed to work without political interference. NGOs and media should come forward to create awareness against corruption in society and educate people to combat this evil. Only then we would be able to save our system from being collapsed.

**Q41. According to the passage where does corruption has spread its tentacles?**

- (a) officialdom
- (b) politics
- (c) business administration
- (d) All of these

**S41. Ans.(d)**

**Q42. What kind of status is being barred by the corruption?**

- (a) social
- (b) economic
- (c) mental
- (d) physical

**S42. Ans.(a)**

**Q43. According to the passage, who is free from corruption?**

- (a) high ranking officers
- (b) politicians
- (c) bureaucrats
- (d) None of these

**S43. Ans.(d)**

**Q44. Which of the following measure is not mentioned in the passage to root out the evil of corruption from society?**

- (a) private sector should create awareness against corruption
- (b) media should come forward to create awareness and educate people to combat this evil
- (c) judiciary to be given more independence and initiative in relation to corruption
- (d) comprehensive code of conduct for politicians, legislature and bureaucrats

**S44. Ans.(a)**

**Q45. According to the passage, which of the following is INCORRECT?**

- (a) corruption is prevalent only in developing countries
- (b) corruption is rampant in every segment and section of society
- (c) to combat corruption, law and order should be allowed to work without political interference
- (d) corruption is not a uniquely Indian phenomena

**S45. Ans.(a)**

**Directions (46-50): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase.**

**Q46. Take stock**

- (a) To be engaged in a profitable venture in business.
- (b) To become unsteady or flustered due to having a strong emotional reaction
- (c) To be progressing or finding success in some area of one's life
- (d) To make an appraisal, estimation, or assessment of something

**S46. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Option D is the correct meaning.

**Q47. Palm off**

- (a) Clearly visible
- (b) Uneasy with something
- (c) To dispose off with the intent to deceive
- (d) Conceal

**S47. Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Option C is the correct meaning.

**Q48. Wipe the nose of**

- (a) To Abuse
- (b) To Cheat
- (c) To Slap
- (d) To pull the nose

**S48. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Option B is the correct meaning.

**Q49. Make a beeline**

- (a) To go online
- (b) To rush
- (c) To be doubtful
- (d) To refuse

**S49. Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Option B is the correct meaning.

**Q50. Pay on the nail**

- (a) To pay after a long time
- (b) To pay small amount
- (c) To pay nothing
- (d) To pay promptly

**S50. Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Option D is the correct meaning.

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