

SOLUTION
NATIONAL TALENT SEARCH EXAMINATION 2016 Stage-II
LANGUAGE COMPREHENSIVE TEST (LCT)

Q. 1-5 Read the following passage and answer the questions based on it.

Those with green fingers can always create their little haven, be it on the ground or atop a multi-storey house. The pressure of burgeoning population has forced cities to adopt vertical development. But that does not mean that people living in higher storeys are deprived of the pleasures of their own gardens and so the terrace garden culture is catching the imagination of gardening freaks.

For a terrace garden, leakage below and seepage through walls are the biggest apprehensions. Exposure to the vagaries of weather is another hurdle. Thus, creating and maintaining a terrace garden is certainly a challenge. It needs immaculate planning regarding leakages below, the weight the roof can take, the selection of plants, the planting material, the medium in which the plants are planted, garden decoration, garden furniture and above all your own imagination.

Try to provide the garden with a bamboo fence as a wind barrier. This is also useful as a shade and you could keep shade-loving plants under it. Net shades are available in different colours; these cut light to different intensities and can be used overhead by fastening with hooks. You could remove these shades in winter. Winter is a special time for such gardens: the sun is mild and the range of flowers tremendous.

1. A person with 'green fingers' is one who
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (1) lives in a multi-storey building. | (2) has grown a terrace garden. |
| (3) has a talent for growing plants. | (4) designs and plants gardens. |

Ans. 3

Sol. The meaning of the idiom 'having green fingers' is 'the considerable talent to grow or maintain plants'.

2. People have to live in multi-storey buildings due to
- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) popularity of terrace gardens. | (2) growing population. |
| (3) fondness for gardening. | (4) development in the city. |

Ans. 2

Sol. Evident from the reading of the first paragraph of the passage.

3. Damage to the building due to terrace gardens can be minimised by
- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) reducing variations in weather. | (2) selecting plants and planting medium with care. |
| (3) reducing the planted area on the terrace. | (4) accepting the challenges. |

Ans. 2

Sol. Evident from the reading of the second paragraph of the passage.

4. Plants in a terrace garden need to be protected from
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (1) leaking of water and seepage. | (2) poor material used for roofing |
| (3) shades of different colours. | (4) harsh sunlight and strong wind. |

Ans. 4

Sol. Evident from the reading of the last paragraph of the passage.

5. The passage primarily deals with
- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) pleasures of having a terrace garden. | (2) importance of keeping a terrace garden. |
| (3) maintenance of a terrace garden. | (4) problems of garden lovers. |

Ans. 3

Sol. The pre-dominant theme of the passage as clear from the reading of the passage.

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Q. 6-10 Read the passage given below and answer the questions based on it.

Understanding Pain

Pleasure and pain are inseparable facets of human existence. While the experience of our well-being is rather vague and intangible, the experience of pain is real, and affects our body, mind and spirit, altering our lives in more ways than one. Pain is an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience caused by tissue damage that results from physical trauma, burns, illness, injury or surgery. Despite the agony caused by pain, it is essential for our survival. If you don't feel pain, you could cause great harm to your body by inadvertently touching a hot iron or jamming your finger in the drawer and not even know it. Or you could rupture the appendix and be unaware of what was going on inside your body. Pain rings an alarm bell, alerting you to pay immediate attention and take quick action.

Have you ever wondered why a severely wounded soldier continues to battle on so defiantly or an athlete injured during a race goes on to win it? It happens so because the brain does not react immediately to the pain signals, the sufferer just ignores them because there are more important tasks to attend to. The pain registers only after the task or event is over. The perception of pain has been studied extensively by psychologists who suggest that there is a "gating system" in the central nervous system that opens and closes to let pain pass through to the brain or block it. Psychological factors such as attention to pain, emotional state of a person, anticipation of pain and the way that a person interprets a situation can both open and close the "gates". This is why when you are depressed or anxious your pain seems worse and intolerable—because your feelings can open the pain gate.

6. The statement 'Pleasure and pain are the inseparable facets of human existence,' may be replaced with —

- (1) All human beings experience pleasure and pain together.
- (2) Both pleasure and pain are two sides of the same coin.
- (3) Pleasure and pain may be a part of an individual's life.
- (4) Human beings experience both pleasure and pain in their lives.

Ans. 2

Sol. As evident from the meaning of the phrase "Inseparable facets"

7. Pain is important for our survival as it.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) makes other people attend to us. | (2) makes us scream if we suffer an injury. |
| (3) informs us if we have an internal injury. | (4) alerts us to take action promptly. |

Ans. 4

Sol. As evident from the reading of the last line of the first paragraph 'Pain rings an alarm bell, alerting you to pay immediate attention and take quick action.'

8. Sometimes people carry on despite suffering an injury as

- (1) they cannot notice the pain.
- (2) being involved in a crucial task, they ignore the pain signals.
- (3) they feel pleasure more acutely than the pain signals.
- (4) pain, being an unpleasant feeling, is ignored by them.

Ans. 2

Sol. As clear from the reading of the line "the sufferer just ignores them" of the second paragraph.

9. A person who is depressed or anxious may feel pain more acutely as unhappiness

- (1) blocks the pain gate.
- (2) diverts our mind away from pain.
- (3) makes our feelings intolerable.
- (4) makes pain seem worse.

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Ans. 4

Sol. As understood by the inference drawn from the reading of the last two lines of the second paragraph

- 10.** The 'gating system' in the passage refers to
- (1) a device that controls the sensation of pain.
 - (2) psychological factors which contribute to pain.
 - (3) a person's interpretation of a situation.
 - (4) feelings of anxiety or depression.

Ans. 3

Sol. As understood from the meaning of the line " the way that a person interprets a situation can both open and close the gates" from the second paragraph.

Q. 11-15 Read the following passage and answer the questions based on it.

Persuasion is the art of convincing someone to agree with your point of view. , According to the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, there are three basic tools of persuasion: ethos, pathos, and logos.

Ethos is a speaker's way of convincing the audience that he is a credible source. The audience will consider a speaker credible if he seems trustworthy, reliable, and sincere. This can be done in many ways. For example, a speaker can develop ethos by explaining how much experience or education he has in the field. After all, you would be more likely to listen to advice about how to take care of your teeth from a dentist than a fire fighter.

Pathos is a speaker's way of connecting with an audience's emotions. For example, a speaker who is trying to convince an audience to vote for him might say that he alone can save the country from a terrible war. These words are intended to fill the audience with fear, thus making them want to vote for him. Similarly, a charity organization that helps animals might show an audience pictures of injured dogs and cats. These images are intended to fill the viewers with pity.

Logos is the use of facts, information, statistics, or other evidence to make your argument more convincing. An audience will be more likely to believe you if you have data to back up your claims. For example, a commercial for soap might tell you that laboratory tests have shown that their soap kills all 7,000,000 of the bacteria living on your hands right now. This piece of information might make you more likely to buy their brand of soap. Use of logos can also increase a speaker's ethos; the more facts a speaker includes in his argument, the more likely you are to think that he is educated and trustworthy.

Although ethos, pathos, and logos all have their strengths, they are often most effective when they are used together. Indeed, most speakers use a combination of ethos, pathos, and logos to persuade their audiences.

- 11.** The main idea of the passage is to
- (1) describe the virtues of sincerity and reliability in persuasion.
 - (2) explain the elements of persuasion.
 - (3) show that persuasion is an ancient Greek art.
 - (4) illustrate how data-based arguments are convincing.

Ans. 2

Sol. This option is suggestive of the pre-dominant theme of the passage.

- 12.** Lavina is trying to convince her mother to buy her a pair of shoes for Rs. 1,200. She says, "Mom, the shoes I have are really old and ugly. If I don't get these new shoes, everyone at school is going to laugh at me. I will be so embarrassed that I will want to die." What form of persuasion is Lavina using here?
- (1) pathos (2) ethos (3) logos and ethos (4) pathos and logos

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Ans. 1

Sol. In paragraph 3, the author explains that pathos: "is a speaker's way of connecting with an audience's emotions." The author then gives two examples: a candidate who uses fear to gain votes and a charity that makes you feel pity to get money. The second example is similar to the situation in the question. Lavina wants new shoes. She tries to convince her mother by saying that if she does not get them, everyone will laugh at her. She claims that she will be "so embarrassed" that she will "want to die." Here, Lavina is attempting to make her mother feel pity for her. If her mother feels bad enough for her, she will buy her the new shoes. Lavina is thus using pathos to try to convince her mother to buy the shoes. Therefore (1) is correct.

13. According to the passage, logos can build ethos because

- (1) an audience is more easily convinced by facts and information than simple appeals to emotions like pity or fear.
- (2) an audience is more likely to trust a speaker who uses evidence to support his argument.
- (3) a speaker who overuses pathos might make an audience too emotional; audiences who are too frightened or too sad are unlikely to be persuaded.
- (4) a speaker can use misleading or false information to make his argument seem more convincing.

Ans. 2

Sol. In paragraph 4, the author writes: "use of logos can also increase a speaker's ethos; the more facts a speaker includes in his argument, the more likely you are to think that he is educated and trustworthy." In other words, an audience will be more likely to trust a speaker that uses facts, information, or other evidence in his argument. Therefore (2) is correct.

14. Chandralekha is contesting for a mayor's post. She tells her audience, "Under our current mayor, there have been 15,000 new cases of unemployment. If she stays in office, who knows how many more people will lose their jobs? The number could go up even higher. When I was the CEO of XYZ company, I helped to create over 1,000 new jobs. I can do the same thing for this city if you vote for me." Chandralekha's strategy is to _____

- (1) gain trust by giving facts and appealing to voters' emotions.
- (2) show her sincerity and thereby win the audience's approval.
- (3) present a correct factual picture which will appeal the workers.
- (4) target audiences' emotions and feelings by creating a sense of fear

Ans. 1

Sol. The most appropriate and the most inclusive option from the given choices as it suggests that the speaker is trying to gain trust by appealing to the voter's emotions like fear.

15. Use of facts and statistics in an argument

- (1) makes the speaker responsible and virtuous.
- (2) provides emotional appeal.
- (3) generates fear and pity.
- (4) makes the points convincing.

Ans. 4

Sol. Evident from the definition of 'Logos' as given in the line "Logos is the use of facts, information, statistics, or other evidence to make your argument more convincing." of paragraph 4 in the passage.

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

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16. S1 The Indian carpet industry is highly labour intensive and almost entirely export-oriented.
S2
S3
S4
S5 While Persian weavers commonly depict animals such as lions and tigers, Indian weavers more often represent birds.
P - The carpet industry in India adopted classical designs, almost all of Persian origin.
Q - The present tradition of pile carpet-weaving goes back to the 16th century when skilled craftsmen from Persia and Afghanistan migrated to India under the patronage extended by the Mughal rulers.
R- However, some patterns, commonly incorporated, were of Indian or Chinese origin.
Choose from the options given below.

- (1) RPQ (2) PQR (3) QPR (4) RQP

Ans. 3

Sol. The most logical sequence in accordance with the theme and coherence of the given lines.

17. S1 Activities give students an opportunity to express themselves in group work, to act as leaders and members of teams.
S2
S3
S4
S5 For these reasons, every student should participate in at least one co-curricular programme.
P-Because when they participate in discussions, they become less self-conscious, more confident of their own abilities and ideas.
Q-And they find a great deal of satisfaction in doing their jobs well, and all of this is serving its purpose in preparing them for assuming responsibility in adult life.
R-Moreover, students enjoy working on projects, such as decorating for dances or working on social campaigns.
Choose from the options given below.

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

Ans. 3

Sol. The most logical sequence in accordance with the theme and coherence of the given lines.

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

18. A. The local market is a place for social interaction for people of that area.
B. _____
C. Without these markets, life could be dull and boring.
(1) They are noisy, crowded and sometimes full of litter.
(2) Vendors occupy even the pavements and corridors.
(3) They offer an opportunity to exchange a greeting with a friend or a neighbour.
(4) These markets have a limited variety and range of items.

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Ans. 3

Sol. The most befitting option pertaining to the coherence of the sentences given.

- 19.** A. Parachuting from an airplane for the first time feels like falling out of a tree.
B. _____
C. The main difference is that the jumper at least is prepared for the sensation and knows what to do.
- (1) It is an activity involving a preplanned drop from a height using an aerial platform.
(2) It is becoming a popular activity amongst adventure enthusiasts.
(3) One type of parachuting is skydiving parachute.
(4) You feel the same rush of wind, the same flip of stomach, the same sudden fear.

Ans. 4

Sol. The most befitting option pertaining to the coherence of the sentences given.

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

- 20.** They received a lot of _____ publicity about the canges.
(1) adverse (2) averse (3) addictive (4) adorable

Ans. 1

Sol. The most suitable adjective from the given options for the noun 'Publicity' in the given context.

- 21.** Man-drawn rickshaws were replaced by cycle-rickshaws as rickshaw-pulling came to be seen as a _____ occupation.
(1) depressing (2) degrading (3) desperate (4) deteriorating

Ans. 2

Sol. The most suitable adjective from the given options for the noun 'Occupation' in the given context.

- 22.** This movie on education has been _____ the best children's movie of the year.
(1) priced (2) valued (3) examined (4) rated

Ans. 4

Sol. The Present Perfect Passive form of the most suitable verb generally used in the given context.

- 23.** The Republic of South Africa, with its _____ reserves of gold and diamonds is the richest country in Africa.
(1) abundant (2) profuse (3) lavish (4) excessive

Ans. 1

Sol. The most suitable adjective from the given choices as generally used in the given context.

- 24.** The judge gave his _____ decision after listening to both the parties.
(1) thoughtful (2) faithful (3) impartial (4) sincere

Ans. 3

Sol. The most suitable adjective from the given choices as generally used in the given context.

- 25.** A rail accident occurred yesterday at 4.30 a.m. when a goods train _____ with a mail train at Rahia Mandi near Biosa.
(1) collided (2) hit (3) crashed (4) struck

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Ans. 1

Sol. The most suitable verb from the given options which corresponds to the preposition that follows it in the given context 'collides with'.

26. Dieticians are of the _____ that milk is beneficial for children because it contains calcium, protein and vitamin A.
(1) ideas (2) thought (3) opinion (4) views

Ans. 3

Sol. The phrase 'of the opinion' is a general way of stating opinions as expressed by third parties.

27. Radioactive nuclear waste is often stored in underground tanks or sealed in containers and dropped into deep ocean trenches. _____, both methods may lead to environmental pollution.
(1) Although (2) Because (3) On the one hand (4) However

Ans. 4

Sol. The most suitable conjunction that expresses contrast with the previous statement as required in the given context.

28. Humayun's Tomb is closed to the public for a few months as some _____ work is going on.
(1) reservation (2) rejuvenation (3) restoration (4) recreation

Ans. 3

Sol. The most appropriate word used in the context of the given statement.

29. _____ an accident takes place, injured persons are carried in an ambulance which has a siren to make its way to the hospital where the doctors and nurses take care of the injured immediately.
(1) As (2) When (3) How (4) While

Ans. 2

Sol. The most suitable conjunctive adverb to be used in the context of the given statement.

Q.30 – 35 Select the meaning of the underlined phrases/idioms.

30. I could not make head or tail of what he was telling me.
(1) hear (2) make sense (3) agree with (4) argue over

Ans. 2

Sol. The meaning of the idiom 'make heads or tails of something' is to understand something or make sense out of it.

31. Sheela got the wrong end of the stick.
(1) was unfairly accused of something (2) took something by mistake
(3) misunderstood something (4) got the answer correct

Ans. 3

Sol. The meaning of the idiom 'get the wrong end of the stick' is to not understand a situation correctly or misunderstand something.

32. I wonder what's wrong with them; they are out to lunch these days.
(1) absent from work (2) behaving in a strange way
(3) not found usually (4) always quarrelling

Ans. 2

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Sol. The meaning of the given idiom 'Out to lunch' is to act absentminded or behave in a strange way.

33. He tried to put a spoke in their wheel.

- (1) complete their plan (2) to cause an accident
(3) help in the execution of their plan (4) thwart the execution of their plan

Ans. 4

Sol. The meaning of the given idiom 'Put a spoke in wheel' is to spoil someone else's plans and stop them from doing something

34. She got hot under the collar when she was teased by her friends.

- (1) felt miserable (2) felt unhappy (3) got into a fight (4) got angry

Ans. 4

Sol. The meaning of the given idiom 'got hot under the collar' is to get extremely angry.

35. He should be made to toe the line

- (1) behave correctly (2) walk properly (3) follow the queue (4) wait until further orders

Ans. 4

Sol. The meaning of the given idiom 'toe the line' is to wait/ hold action until further orders.

Q.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.

Udaipur's romantic landscape and its beautiful monuments appeal to travellers from all over the world. With its (36) _____ waters, gently gliding (37) _____, and graceful havelis, Udaipur (38) _____ a delicate water-colour painting.

It originally (39) _____ on the banks of the lovely Lake Pichola, (40) _____ continues to dominate the south (41) _____ the City Palace (42) _____ the Fort that rises from its (43) _____ in breathtaking splendour.

36. (1) turbulent (2) placid (3) aquatic (4) cascading

Ans. 2

Sol. The most appropriate word which means '(of a body of water) free from disturbance by heavy waves' as required in this context.

37. (1) boats (2) flowers (3) flora (4) coral

Ans. 1

Sol. The most appropriate word that can be used in the given context.

38. (1) breathes like (2) perceives like (3) treats like (4) looks like

Ans. 4

Sol. 'look like something' means to give the appearance of predicting (something) as required in the context of the given statement.

39. (1) emerged (2) appeared (3) developed (4) built

Ans. 3

Sol. The most appropriate verb that can be used in the given context to complete the paragraph meaningfully.

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40. (1) which (2) where (3) while (4) who

Ans. 1

Sol. The most appropriate relative pronoun that can be used in the given context to complete the paragraph meaningfully.

41. (1) off (2) in (3) of (4) at

Ans. 3

Sol. The most appropriate preposition that can be used in the given context to complete the paragraph meaningfully.

42. (1) as (2) where (3) near (4) and

Ans. 3

Sol. The most appropriate word that can be used in the given context to complete the paragraph meaningfully.

43. (1) fringe (2) edge (3) rim (4) border

Ans. 1

Sol. The most appropriate word is 'Fringe' which means 'the outside boundary or surface of something' to be used in the given context to complete the paragraph meaningfully.

Q. 44 - 47

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

44. Advertising is a close _____ of market economy as it boosts economy by encouraging buying. Yet it is an unpleasant features of modern life.

(1) companion (2) assistant (3) attendant (4) enemy

Ans. 1

Sol. The most appropriate word that can be used in the given context to complete the statement meaningfully.

45. During the Gulf War, a few years back, tens of thousands of sea birds were killed due to oil _____. Do you know what makes crude oil on ocean water so deadly ?

(1) spilt (2) fall (3) falling (4) spills

Ans. 4

Sol. "Oil - Spills" means a layer of oil floating on water or covering the body of water

46. In spite of his fantastic English, for some reason Arun couldn't _____

(1) make him understandable. (2) have understood oneself.
(3) make him to understand. (4) make himself understood.

Ans. 4

Sol. In a sentence structure like the one of the given statement, the most appropriate form of verb to be used is - 'make oneself understood.'

47. The patient was suffering form _____ attacks of headache.

(1) Periodical (2) period (3) periodic (4) periodically

Ans. 3

Sol. In the given context, the term 'attacks' serves as a noun which would take the adjective 'Periodic' to make a meaningful statement.

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Q. 48-50 Choose the antonym of the underlined word from the four alternatives given.

48. Some regions were unapproachable to the Romans.
(1) casual (2) accessible (3) unattainable (4) impenetrable

Ans. 2

Sol. The correct antonym of the underlined word 'unapproachable' is 'accessible'.

49. The media was biased in its news coverage.
(1) inclined (2) unfair (3) impartial (4) imperial

Ans. 3

Sol. The correct antonym of the underlined word 'biased' is 'impartial'.

50. The expenditure on library books has been curtailed by the school authorities.
(1) increased (2) limited (3) penalized (4) expanded

Ans. 1

Sol. The correct antonym of the underlined word 'curtailed' is 'increased'.

