CMAT Language Comprehension 2027

Syllabus snapshot, practice questions and answers

Section snapshot

Questions in the section	20 MCQs
Marks in the section	80
Marking scheme	+4 correct, -1 wrong, 0 unattempted
Full paper	100 questions, 400 marks, 180 minutes
Medium	English

Topics to cover: Reading Comprehension, vocabulary (synonyms, antonyms, one-word substitution, idioms), grammar and usage (error spotting, fillers, reported speech, active-passive), para jumbles and para completion. Always confirm the latest scheme on cmat.nta.nic.in.

Practice questions

Q1. The manager's *lucid* explanation cleared everyone's doubts. Choose the word closest in meaning to 'lucid'.

(a) confusing
(b) clear
(c) lengthy
(d) hurried

Q2. Choose the word opposite in meaning to *ephemeral*.

(a) lasting
(b) brief
(c) fleeting
(d) tiny

Q3. Choose the one word for: 'a system of government run by a small group of people'.

(a) democracy
(b) oligarchy
(c) autocracy
(d) theocracy

Q4. What does the idiom 'to burn the midnight oil' mean?

(a) to waste resources
(b) to work late into the night
(c) to start a fire
(d) to avoid work

Q5. Spot the error: Neither the manager (A) nor his assistants (B) was invited (C) to the Friday meeting (D).

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

Q6. Fill in the blank: The two companies finally arrived ____ an agreement.

(a) at
(b) on
(c) to
(d) for

Q7. Convert to indirect speech: He said, "I am tired."

(a) He said that he is tired.
(b) He said that he was tired.
(c) He said that I was tired.
(d) He said that he had been tired.

Q8. Arrange the sentences. P: The company launched its app with great expectations. Q: However, users soon complained about frequent crashes. R: As a result, downloads fell sharply within three months. S: The team then rebuilt the app from scratch.

(a) PQRS
(b) QPRS
(c) PRQS
(d) SPQR

Q9. Complete the paragraph: Habits are formed through repetition. Small actions done every day slowly shape who we become. That is why ____.

(a) big changes happen overnight
(b) consistency matters more than intensity
(c) habits can never be changed
(d) rest is a waste of time

Reading Comprehension (Q10 to Q12)

Cities across India are rediscovering the humble stepwell. Built centuries ago to store rainwater, these structures kept villages supplied through long dry seasons. Modern pipelines and borewells pushed them aside, and many fell into neglect. Today, planners facing falling groundwater levels are taking a second look. Restoring a stepwell is not nostalgia, they argue; it is a low-cost way to recharge local aquifers while preserving architectural heritage. Critics caution, however, that revival works only when communities share the responsibility of upkeep. Without that, a restored stepwell soon becomes a dumping ground.

Q10. Which option best states the main idea of the passage?

(a) Stepwells were poorly designed
(b) Reviving stepwells can help conserve water if communities maintain them
(c) Pipelines are better than stepwells
(d) Heritage should always come before planning

Q11. According to the passage, why did many stepwells fall into neglect?

(a) They were too costly to build
(b) Modern water supply systems replaced them
(c) Villages no longer needed water
(d) Planners banned them

Q12. What is the critics' main concern about restoration?

(a) It is too expensive
(b) It may fail without community upkeep

(c) It harms heritage
(d) It lowers groundwater levels

Answers and explanations

Q	Ans	Why
1	b	Lucid means clear and easy to understand.
2	a	Ephemeral means short-lived; its opposite is lasting.
3	b	Oligarchy is rule by a few. Autocracy is rule by one person.
4	b	The idiom means working late into the night.
5	b	The verb agrees with the nearer subject, "assistants", so "were invited" is correct. The error is in B.
6	a	The standard phrase is "arrive at an agreement".
7	b	In reported speech, present tense shifts to past: "am" becomes "was", "I" becomes "he".
8	a	P introduces the launch, Q (However) shows the problem, R (As a result) shows the effect, S (then) shows the response.
9	b	The paragraph builds on small, repeated actions, so the conclusion is about consistency.
10	b	The passage discusses revival for water conservation and the need for community upkeep.
11	b	It states that modern pipelines and borewells pushed stepwells aside.
12	b	Critics say revival works only when communities share responsibility for upkeep.

Score check: each correct answer gives +4 and each wrong answer costs 1 mark. Aim for high accuracy, not high attempts. Source for exam scheme: National Testing Agency (cmat.nta.nic.in). Prepared by CatMock (www.catmock.com).