

# VERBAL REASONING

Time: 20 mins.  
40 questions

## SYNONYMS

Each of the following questions consists of one word followed by five words or phrases. You are to select the word or phrase whose meaning is closest to the word in capital letters.

### SAMPLE QUESTION:

EASY:  
a.) effortless  
b.) difficult  
c.) abstract  
d.) ready

### 1.) CATASTROPHE

a.) festivity  
b.) remission  
c.) historical  
d.) disaster

### 2.) AFFLUENT

a.) pauper  
b.) wealthy  
c.) distant  
d.) convoluted

### 3.) INDIGNANT

a.) instinctive  
b.) burrow  
c.) promoting  
d.) displeased

### 4.) AVAL

a.) overcome  
b.) available  
c.) fabric  
d.) tremulous

### 5. PROSECUTE

a.) to predict  
b.) take legal action  
c.) endearing  
d.) set free

### 6. FORAGE

a.) hunt  
b.) ancient  
c.) strike  
d.) wrath

### 7. FORLORN

a.) sad  
b.) irate  
c.) jovial  
d.) mythical

### 8. SPARSE

a.) herb  
b.) wily  
c.) crisp  
d.) scant

# 9. STAGNANT

- a.) hoarse
- b.) graceful
- c.) motionless
- d.) equitable

# 10. LIVID

- a.) bright
- b.) angry
- c.) young
- d.) round

# 11. TOTE

- a.) wooden
- b.) corrupt
- c.) shake
- d.) carry

# 12. RESILIENT

- a.) durable
- b.) miraculous
- c.) dire
- d.) careful

# 13. GRIMACE

- a.) still
- b.) spiky
- c.) fortunate
- d.) frown

# 14. ERRONEOUS

- a.) flawed
- b.) rare
- c.) pointed
- d.) combination

# 15. FRANK

- a.) male
- b.) courageous
- c.) honest
- d.) grotesque

# 16. MISCELLANEOUS

- a.) microscopic
- b.) unknown
- c.) feminine
- d.) erroneous

# 17. STRENGTH

- a.) fortitude
- b.) covert
- c.) compassionate
- d.) miserly

# 18. REPLICATE

- a.) slimy
- b.) erase
- c.) copy
- d.) pacify

# 19. DESTITUTION

- a.) building
- b.) confidential
- c.) elementary
- d.) poverty

# 20. EMBELLISH

- a.) exaggerate
- b.) collaborate
- c.) nullify
- d.) serious

## SENTENCE COMPLETION

Each of the following questions consists of a sentence with one or two words missing followed by five possible answer choices. You are to select the word or group of words whose meaning best completes the sentence.

### SAMPLE QUESTION:

Since Carla did not \_\_\_\_\_ her notes or her textbook, she felt very worried going into her exam.

- a.) study
- b.) remember
- c.) listen
- d.) follow

1. Sharon had a reputation for being a \_\_\_\_\_ because she would \_\_\_\_\_ skateboard off the highest jumps.  
  - ☒ a.) daredevil, fearlessly
  - b.) coward, boldly
  - c.) risk-taker, avoid
  - d.) complainer, toss
2. The men were \_\_\_\_\_ engaged in \_\_\_\_\_ the old warehouse. They were going to replace it with a playground for the community.  
  - ☒ a.) spontaneously, tearing-down
  - b.) passionately, playing
  - c.) busily, levelling
  - d.) sadly, keeping
3. Knowing that there was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ supply of toy trucks left on the shelves, I ordered more for the store.  
  - a.) vibrant
  - ☒ b.) large
  - c.) endless
  - d.) limited
4. Teachers will never \_\_\_\_\_ what is on a final exam, but one can \_\_\_\_\_ that if it's cumulative you should study all topics covered from the beginning of the semester.  
  - a.) disclose, surmise
  - b.) care, strive
  - c.) solve, remember
  - ☒ d.) reveal, study

5. Still in training for his marathon, Leron knew that he would soon fall \_\_\_\_\_ to his aunt's freshly baked apple pie.
- a.) prey
  - ☒ b.) tempted
  - c.) angry
  - d.) suspect
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Mona Lisa hanging in the museum is relatively indistinguishable from the original painting.
- ☒ a.) replica
  - b.) artistry
  - c.) pastel
  - d.) Renaissance
7. As the mountain climbers slowly \_\_\_\_\_ the steep slope they began to experience nausea and headaches due to the lack of oxygen in the higher altitudes.
- a) persevered
  - b) amounted
  - ☒ c) ascended
  - d) graphed
8. Due to the lack of \_\_\_\_\_ among your group members, your project was very poorly researched and presented, therefore, you will all receive a failing grade.
- a) arrogance
  - b) lethargy
  - ☒ c) collaboration
  - d) corruption
9. When you are confused or upset, you may \_\_\_\_\_ your brow and narrow your eyes.
- a) salute
  - b) furrow
  - c) crystallize
  - ☒ d) smooth
10. I was very far away but I could still detect the sweet and \_\_\_\_\_ smell of cinnamon coming from the bakery.
- a) subtle
  - b) putrid
  - c) hushed
  - d) malevolent

11. Sherri's emotions \_\_\_\_\_ between joy and sadness because even though she had won the race, she knew that her best friend had been disqualified.
- a) harmonized
  - b) stymied
  - c) corresponded
  - d) fluctuated
12. The latest \_\_\_\_\_ by the Supreme Court calls for longer prison sentences for those who \_\_\_\_\_ violent crimes.
- a.) penalty, cells
  - b.) slander, insulation
  - c.) hurdle, offices
  - d.) mandate, commit
13. The \_\_\_\_\_ load \_\_\_\_\_ on this bridge is 10 tonnes.
- a.) minimum, organized
  - b.) bulk, condone
  - c.) heaviest, permitted
  - d.) suggested, swaying
14. The newspaper editorial called attention to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the animals affected by the oil spill.
- a.) predicament
  - b.) livelihood
  - c.) annoyance
  - d.) duty
15. Adolf Hitler is among many people in history who have hurt and committed \_\_\_\_\_ acts against other humans.
- a.) admirable
  - b.) desperate
  - c.) promises
  - d.) abominable
16. We strained our ears to hear but he was \_\_\_\_\_ above the din and so we missed his speech.
- a) loud
  - b) levitating
  - c) inaudible
  - d) deaf

17. Most poison dart frogs are brightly coloured to warn any \_\_\_\_\_ predators who may be initially attracted to their eye-catching appearance.
- ☒ a) potential
  - b) comical
  - c) unappetizing
  - d) camouflaged
18. Unlike most plants that make their own food using photosynthesis, Venus Flytraps are \_\_\_\_\_ plants that catch and digest animal prey, like insects and spiders.
- ☒ a) carnivorous
  - b) latitude
  - c) fuchsia
  - d) feeble
19. His incessant and inane chatter began to \_\_\_\_\_ on the nerves of his colleagues.
- ☒ a) relate
  - b) migrate
  - c) grate
  - d) collaborate
20. She \_\_\_\_\_ believed him and entrusted the fraudulent banker with all her savings when he promised her he would invest it, not knowing that he would soon disappear with her money.
- a) naively
  - b) solidly
  - ☒ c) frugally
  - d) sharply

**STOP**

IF YOU FINISH BEFORE TIME IS CALLED, YOU MAY  
CHECK YOUR WORK ON THIS SECTION ONLY.  
DO NOT TURN TO ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE TEST.

## READING COMPREHENSION

Time: 35 mins.

36 questions

Read each passage carefully then answer the questions that follow.

Never a word passed between us; each set his mouth and kept his eyes in front of him, and lifted up his foot and set it down again, like people lifting weights at a country play; all the while, with the moorfowl crying "peep" in the heather, and the light coming slowly clearer in the east. I say Alan did as I did. Not that ever I looked at him, for I had enough ado to keep my feet; but because it is plain he must have been as stupid with weariness as myself, and looked as little where we were going, or we should not have walked into an ambush like blind men.

It fell in this way. We were going down a heathery brae, Alan leading and I following a pace or two behind, like a fiddler and his wife; when upon a sudden the heather gave a rustle, three or four ragged men leaped out, and the next moment we were lying on our backs, each with a dirk at his throat. I don't think I cared; the pain of this rough handling was quite swallowed up by the pains of which I was already full; and I was too glad to have stopped walking to mind about a dirk. I lay looking up in the face of the man that held me; and I mind his face was black with the sun and his eyes very light, but I was not afraid of him.

- 1.) The two boys can best be described as:
  - ☒ a.) brave
  - ☐ b.) exhausted
  - ☐ c.) modest
  - ☐ d.) perplexed
- 2.) The best title for this passage is:
  - ☐ a.) Lost in the Woods
  - ☒ b.) Sleep Deprivation
  - ☐ c.) Broken Silence
  - ☐ d.) The Ambush
- 3.) It can be inferred from the passage that the ambush occurs:
  - ☐ a.) in a heavily forested area
  - ☐ b.) near a body of water
  - ☒ c.) early in the morning
  - ☐ d.) on a battlefield

- 4.) All of the following are true of the two boys EXCEPT:
- a.) They spoke very little to one another.
  - ☒ b.) They had been walking for a long period of time.
  - c.) They were blind.
  - d.) They were in pain.
- 5.) According to the passage, the boys may have avoided the ambush if they:
- a.) had not been so weary
  - ☒ b.) were paying more attention
  - c.) communicated with each other more often
  - d.) knew where they were
- 6.) The mood of the passage may best be described as:
- a.) deadly
  - ☒ b.) reflective
  - c.) festive
  - d.) peaceful

The advertiser acquires no more rights in the newspaper than the subscriber. He is entitled to use the space for which he pays by the insertion of such material as is approved by the editor. He gains no interest in any other part of the paper, and has no more claim to any space in the editorial columns, than any other one of the public. To give him such space would be unbusiness-like, and the extension of a preference which would be unjust to the rest of the public. Nothing more quickly destroys the character of a journal, begets distrust of it, and so reduces its value, than the well-founded suspicion that its editorial columns are the property of advertisers. Even a religious journal will, after a while, be injured by this.

Yet it must be confessed that here is one of the greatest difficulties of modern journalism. The newspaper must be cheap. It is, considering the immense cost to produce it, the cheapest product ever offered to man. Most newspapers cost more than they sell for; they could not live by subscriptions; for any profits, they certainly depend upon advertisements. The advertisements depend upon the circulation; the circulation is likely to dwindle if too much space is occupied by advertisements, or if it is evident that the paper belongs to its favored advertisers. The counting-room desires to conciliate the advertisers; the editor looks to making a paper satisfactory to his readers. Between this see-saw of the necessary subscriber and the necessary advertiser, a good many newspapers go down. This difficulty would be measurably removed by the admission of the truth that the newspaper is a strictly business enterprise, depending for success upon a 'quid pro quo' between all parties connected with it, and upon integrity in its management.



- 7.) The author's primary purpose is to:
- a.) generate public awareness of the newspaper's inaccuracy
  - b.) offer a solution to increase newspaper revenues and subscriptions
  - c.) applaud editor's for their commitment to presenting unbiased information
  - ☒ d.) state and analyze the fundamental challenge of the newspaper
- 8.) According to the author, many newspapers fail as a result of:
- a.) people taking little interest in local events
  - ☒ b.) too many advertisements and too few editorials
  - c.) being overpriced
  - d.) editors refusing to write controversial articles
- 9.) The author implies that the modern world and the newspaper are not well matched because the newspaper:
- a.) pays very little attention to the world of advertising
  - ☒ b.) poses a threat to the stability of the economy
  - c.) uses outdated machinery that the modern world shuns
  - d.) is not a profitable business and the modern world values money
- 10.) All of the following are true EXCEPT:
- a.) The newspaper's greatest challenge is finding entertaining stories to report on.
  - ☒ b.) Advertisements must be granted approval by the editor.
  - c.) The newspaper could not survive without the financial assistance of advertisers.
  - d.) The production process of a newspaper is costly.
- 11.) Which of the following statements would the author most likely agree with?
- a.) A newspaper motivated by money is a newspaper of poor quality.
  - b.) The newspaper should be a charitable organization and not a business.
  - c.) In order to cut the cost of producing a newspaper, editors should be paid less.
  - ☒ d.) There are too many newspapers currently in print.
- 12.) As used in the final sentence, the phrase "quid pro quo" most closely means:
- a.) the signing of an official document
  - b.) the giving of something in return for something else
  - ☒ c.) an unwritten agreement
  - d.) demonstrated competency in a number of areas
- 13.) The style of the passage can best be described as:
- a.) biased
  - b.) analytical
  - ☒ c.) archaic
  - d.) repetitive

A person, on first entering a tropical forest is astonished at the labours of the ants: well-beaten paths branch off in every direction, on which an army of never-failing foragers may be seen, some going forth, and others returning, burdened with pieces of green leaf, often larger than their own bodies.

A small dark-coloured ant sometimes migrates in countless numbers. One day, at Bahia, my attention was drawn by observing many spiders, cockroaches, and other insects, and some lizards, rushing in the greatest agitation across a bare piece of ground. A little way behind every stalk and leaf was blackened by a small ant. The swarm having crossed the bare space, divided itself, and descended an old wall. By this means many insects were fairly enclosed; and the efforts which the poor little creatures made to extricate themselves from such a death were wonderful. When the ants came to the road they changed their course, and in narrow files re-ascended the wall. Having placed a small stone so as to intercept one of the lines, the whole body attacked it, and then immediately retired. Shortly afterwards another body came to the charge, and again having failed to make any impression, this line of march was entirely given up. By going an inch round, the file might have avoided the stone, and this doubtless would have happened, if it had been originally there: but having been attacked, the lion-hearted little warriors scorned the idea of yielding.

14.) The ant may best be described as:

- a.) capricious
- b.) industrious
- ☒ c.) lethargic
- d.) obstinate

15.) The author's primary purpose is to:

- a.) give an anecdote to illustrate the ant's tenacity
- b.) illustrate the cavalier attitude of ants
- ☒ c.) criticize the ant for its folly
- d.) provide insight into the world of insects

16.) The author's tone may best be described as:

- a.) pompous
- b.) intrigued
- c.) concerned
- d.) baffled

17.) As used in line 9, the word "extricate" most closely means:

- ☒ a.) exact
- b.) free
- c.) entrap
- d.) overcome

- 18.) Which of the following is the author most likely to discuss next?
- a.) Predators of the ant
  - b.) Other insects that perform laborious tasks
  - c.) The similarities between carpenter ants and red ants
  - d.) The organization of ant colonies and the camaraderie that exists between ants

- 19.) This passage would most likely be found in a(n):
- a.) biologist's diary
  - b.) scientific thesis
  - c.) zoology brochure
  - d.) horticultural magazine

The distribution of light and shade in clouds is most striking. The watery particles of which they are composed, yielding constantly to changes in temperature and moisture, are always changing; so that a most beautiful cloud may alter in figure and appearance in an instant of time; the light parts may suddenly become dark, and those that were shaded may all at once glow in the rays of the sun. Again, the appearance of a cloud, with respect to the sun, may entirely alter its character. The same cloud, to one observer, may appear entirely in shade, to another tipped with silver; to a third it may present brilliant points and various degrees of shade, or one of its edges only may appear illuminated; sometimes the middle parts may appear in shadow, while the margin may be partially luminous, rendering the middle parts all the more obscure by the contrast.

A wonderful variety may also be produced by the shadow of one cloud falling upon another. Sometimes the whole of a cloud projects a shadow through the air upon some other far distant cloud, and this again upon another, until at length it reaches the ground. The shadows of moving clouds may often be traced upon the ground, and they contribute greatly to modify the appearance of the landscape. A large number of small flickering clouds produce broken lights and shades which have an unpleasant jarring effect; but when the clouds are massive, or properly distributed, the shadows often produce a high degree of repose.

- 20.) This passage is primarily about the ways in which:
- a.) light alters the atomic structure of a cloud
  - b.) clouds are adversely affected by light and shade
  - c.) shade and light affect the appearance of a cloud
  - d.) clouds bring a touch of artistry and creativity to the skies
- 21.) Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
- a.) Clouds are very seldom appreciated.
  - b.) The shadow of a cloud can change how we see the world around us.
  - c.) The beauty of a cloud is enhanced after a heavy rainfall.
  - d.) The chemical composition of a cloud is not fully understood.

- 22.) As used in the final sentence, the word "repose" most closely means:
- a.) peacefulness
  - b.) disturbance
  - ☒ c.) luminosity
  - d.) tension
- 23.) According to the passage, all of the following affect the appearance of a cloud EXCEPT:
- a.) temperature
  - b.) moisture
  - c.) time of day
  - ☒ d.) movement
- 24.) Which of the following statements is true?
- a.) A cloud can appear as a glowing outline in the sky.
  - b.) A cloud's appearance changes gradually.
  - c.) Clouds look the same to everyone.
  - ☒ d.) Sunlight is the single greatest variable that contributes to a cloud's appearance

*The great fire at Chicago was on 8-10 October, 1871.*

Men said at vespers: "All is well!"  
In one wild night the city fell;  
Fell shrines of prayer and marts of gain  
Before the fiery hurricane.

On threescore spires had sunset shone,  
Where ghastly sunrise looked on none.  
Men clasped each other's hands, and said  
"The City of the West is dead!"

Brave hearts who fought, in slow retreat,  
The fiends of fire from street to street,  
Turned, powerless, to the blinding glare,  
The dumb defiance of despair.

A sudden impulse thrilled each wire  
That signalled round that sea of fire;  
Swift words of cheer, warm heart-throbs came;  
In tears of pity died the flame!

From East, from West, from South and North,

The messages of hope shot forth,  
And, underneath the severing wave,  
The world, full-handed, reached to save.  
Fair seemed the old; but fairer still  
The new, the dreary void shall fill  
With dearer homes than those o'erthrown,  
For love shall lay each corner-stone.

Rise, stricken city! from thee throw  
The ashen sackcloth of thy woe;  
And build, as to Amphion's strain,  
To songs of cheer thy walls again!

How shrivelled in thy hot distress  
The primal sin of selfishness!  
How instant rose, to take thy part,  
The angel in the human heart!

Ah! not in vain the flames that tossed  
Above thy dreadful holocaust;  
The Christ again has preached through thee  
The Gospel of Humanity!

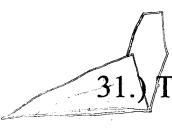
Then lift once more thy towers on high,  
And fret with spires the western sky,  
To tell that God is yet with us,  
And love is still miraculous!  
1871.

KINSMAN

25.) According to the poem, the collapse of the city was caused by a(n):

- a.) great fire
- b.) massive hurricane
- c.) untimely war
- d.) tidal wave

- 26.) The poet states that the city:
- a.) has no hope of recovery
  - b.) is full of inhospitable and contemptuous people
  - c.) will be rebuilt
  - d.) will erect a monument to remember the dreadful day
- 27.) All of the following are true EXCEPT:
- a.) News of the tragedy spread quickly.
  - b.) Places of worship were destroyed.
  - c.) Many people tried to save the city.
  - d.) The city was believed to be indestructible.
- 28.) Which of the following statements would the author most likely agree with?
- a.) Beauty can be found even in the midst of tragedy.
  - b.) Everyday men can perform miracles.
  - c.) Panic and worry is a natural part of life.
  - d.) Live for today; the past is passed.
- 29.) The mood of the poem can best be described as:
- a.) pensive
  - b.) optimistic
  - c.) bewildered
  - d.) celebratory
- 30.) Which of the following questions is answered by the poem?
- a.) Who is Amphion?
  - b.) How old were some of the buildings that were demolished?
  - c.) How many casualties and fatalities were incurred?
  - d.) What started the "fiery hurricane?"
- 31.) The best title for this poem is:
- a.) Calamity Consumes Chicago
  - b.) The Eye of the Storm
  - c.) Harnessing A Hurricane
  - d.) Wild Flames



During nearly two-thirds of the year the arctic regions are under the absolute dominion of winter; and for many weeks of that bitter season they are shrouded with the mantle of a dark, sunless night. The entire ocean is locked in the embrace of a covering of ice many feet thick, so that its liquid aspect is thoroughly removed; and, owing to ice-masses scattered over its surface, together with mounds of drifted snow, it bears a much stronger resemblance to the land than to the sea. Gales of wind sometimes sweep over those frozen plains in bitter fury, hurling the snow into the air in vast eddying masses, and threatening destruction to any living creature that may chance to be exposed to them--not so much from their violence,

however, as from the intense cold of the atmosphere which is put in motion. But in regard to gales, although there are no lack of them, they are neither so fierce nor so frequent as are those of the torrid zone.

It might be supposed that in such a climate animal life could scarcely exist; but such is not the case. The inhabitants of part of the arctic regions, named Esquimaux (more correctly Eskimos, with the accent on the last syllable), are a stout, hardy, healthy race and the polar bears, foxes, wolves, seals, musk-oxen, walruses, etcetera, that dwell there, seem to enjoy their existence just as much as do the animals of more favoured and warmer climes.

During the short but hot summer of the arctic regions, the immense masses of ice formed in winter are by no means cleared away. A great part of the heat of early summer (there is no season there that merits the name of spring) is spent in breaking up the solid crust of ice on the sea, a large proportion of which is carried south by the currents that flow to the equator, and melted long before they reach the temperate zones. But a considerable quantity of broken ice-masses get locked in narrow places or stranded on shallows; and although they undergo the process of melting the whole summer, they are not much diminished ere the returning frost stops the process and locks them in the new ice of a succeeding winter.

32.) As used in the final sentence, the word "ere" most closely means:

- a.) before
- b.) until
- c.) so
- d.) after

33.) According to the passage, many people are not aware that:

- a.) glaciers of ice do not melt during the summer months
- b.) arctic gales are a hazardous and frequent occurrence
- c.) the arctic has more than one season
- d.) living creatures are able to thrive in the arctic region

34.) It can be inferred from the passage that in the summer:

- a.) there are no arctic gales
- b.) the temperature never gets above freezing
- c.) the Eskimo migrate towards the northern region
- d.) melted glaciers threaten the surrounding natural life habitat

35.) All of the following are true of the arctic EXCEPT:

- a.) the arctic is in darkness for almost eight months of the year
- b.) the arctic is located in a temperate zone
- c.) arctic winds are so cold they can be fatal
- d.) there are weeks of complete darkness

36.) The author's tone may best be described as:

- a.) brusque
- b.) condescending
- c.) objective
- d.) derisive

