

FPSC · CSS · VERBAL REASONING

Fill in the Blanks

Complete Solved Practice Set with Explanations

40

QUESTIONS

100%

VERIFIED
ANSWERS

1

PER
SECTION

Every answer independently re-checked • corrected where needed

Verbal Reasoning — Fill in the Blanks (Solved)

Q1 An essential purpose of the criminal justice system is to enable purgation to take place; that is, to provide a community expresses its collective _____ the transgression of the criminal.

a catharsis, outrage at 

b procedure, distaste for

c means, empathy with

d disclaimer, forgiveness of

e none of these

Explanation: The system provides a “catharsis” (release of emotion) through which society expresses its collective “outrage at” the criminal's wrongdoing.

Q2

The Government _____ down the opposition _____ for a joint parliamentary committee probe.

a boiled, proposal

b shot, demand ✓

c put, leaders

d whipped, portfolio

e struck, party

Explanation: “Shot down” is the idiom for rejecting a demand outright — the government rejected the opposition's demand for a probe.

Q3

The new _____ in the defence field are quite _____ (and hence appreciable).

a ideas, novel

b studies, substandard

c incentives, diplomatic

d appointments, sensitive

e inventions, admirable ✓

Explanation: New “inventions” being “admirable” logically connects with “hence appreciable” at the end of the sentence.

Q4 The _____ manner of the officer _____ all his fears.

- a haughty, aggravated
- b officious, levelled
- c amicable, concentrated
- d fickle, reduced

e genial, dispelled ✓

Explanation: A “genial” (warm, friendly) manner would naturally “dispel” (remove) fears, not aggravate them.

Q5 Giving unfair _____ to one's relatives in the matter of appointment and such other benefits is _____.

- a punishment, parochialism
- b advantage, nepotism** ✓
- c benefits, pragmatism
- d preferences, chauvinism
- e leverage, communism

Explanation: Favouring relatives in appointments/benefits is the textbook definition of “nepotism.”

Q6

The dimensions of the _____ are known and the solution is _____ on.

a problem, agreed ✓

b theory, dealt

c measures, decided

d risks, tampered

e danger, looked

Explanation: “The dimensions of the problem are known and the solution is agreed on” flows logically and grammatically (“agreed on” is a correct collocation).

Q7

Such are the small _____ of allowing people their _____.

a benefits, maturity

b rules, privacy

c bonuses, rights

d dividends, individuality ✓

e cases, prestige

Explanation: “Dividends” (figurative rewards) of allowing people their “individuality” is the standard idiomatic pairing here.

Q8

The second type of standards are those _____ usage and practice _____ the behaviour of all market players.

- a about, regarding
- b specifying, timing
- c impressing, stimulating
- d involving, influencing** ✓
- e facilitating, developing

Explanation: Standards “involving” usage and practice, thereby “influencing” market behaviour, is the coherent reading.

Q9

A competitive market _____ the desire to get _____.

- a influence, intelligent
- b urges, money minded
- c motivates, noticed** ✓
- d blocks, transformed
- e insinuates, observant

Explanation: A competitive market “motivates the desire to get noticed” — the only grammatically and logically sound combination.

Q10

The entire segment failed to _____ with the main question of the _____ of historical inquiry.

a mesh, facts

b disseminate, truth

c grapple, methodology ✓

d propel, antiquity

e come in terms, basis

Explanation: “Grapple with” is the fixed idiom for engaging with a difficult question; “methodology of historical inquiry” fits the academic context.

Q11

The truth is that in a highly capital intensive business _____ deep pockets, domestic civil aviation is _____ undercapitalized.

a ascertaining, highly

b requiring, woefully



c sustaining, alarmingly

d balancing, astonishingly

e demanding, niggardly

Explanation: A business “requiring” deep pockets that is “woefully” (regrettably) undercapitalized is the natural reading.

Q12

Time has now come for all agencies working in the development sector to launch a multi pronged _____ to _____ malnutrition.

a system, abjure

b weapon, annihilate

c policy, deviate

d strategy, eradicate ✓

e fact, demolish

Explanation: A “multi-pronged strategy” launched “to eradicate” malnutrition is standard development-sector language.

Q13

A well _____, physically and mentally active _____ alone can contribute to the speedier economic progress of a nation.

a educated, subjects

b organized, systems

c advanced, brethren

d formulated, citizens

e **nourished, populace** ✓

Explanation: Only a well “nourished” (fed) and active “populace” (general population) can be physically and mentally fit to drive economic progress.

Q14

We must develop _____ systems from the village upwards and up to the national level to constantly _____ the nutritional status of the people.

a monitoring, review



b machinery, tackle

c efficient, emancipate

d sound, harbor

e inherent, inundate

Explanation: “Monitoring systems” that constantly “review” nutritional status is the coherent public-health phrasing.

Q15

Democracy has taken a _____ in a system which promotes sycophancy and _____.

- a dive, bureaucracy
- b delve, dictatorship
- c beating, mediocrity** ✓
- d ride, heredity
- e privilege, intolerance

Explanation: “Taken a beating” is the idiom for having suffered damage; sycophancy naturally promotes “mediocrity.”

Q16

People in power love to _____ the freedom of expression by the players because it might _____ their position.

- a suppress, undermine** ✓
- b counter, reveal
- c contradict, focus
- d exploit, hamper
- e violate, degrade

Explanation: Those in power “suppress” free expression because it could “undermine” (weaken) their position.

Q17

Rituals play an important role in _____ growth and growth of our minds to its full _____.

a cultural, measure

b religious, maximum

c mystical, exposure

d traditional, limits

e spiritual, potential



Explanation: Rituals are most closely tied to “spiritual” growth and to reaching one's full “potential.”

Q18

_____ to the popular belief that every astrologer nurtures blind faith in fate, our astrologer believes _____.

a Contrary, action



b According, thoughts

c Bowing, present

d Proving, forecasting

e Pointing, devotion

Explanation: “Contrary to the popular belief” sets up a contrast — this astrologer, unlike the stereotype, believes in “action” rather than blind fate.

Q19

His _____ has yielded him the _____ fruit.

a fate, undesirable

b efforts, unwanted

c action, viable

d perseverance, desired ✓

e emphasis, expected

Explanation: “Perseverance” yielding “desired” fruit is the standard positive idiom (“fruits of perseverance”).

Q20

Liberalization has removed all the legal, _____ and _____ flood gates to multinational companies.

a hurdles, awarded

b barriers, opened ✓

c obstacles, guarded

d manipulation, closed

e battles, threw

Explanation: Liberalization removes legal “barriers” and “opens” the flood gates to multinational companies — the only logically consistent pair.

Verbal Reasoning — Fill in the Blanks (Solved), continued

Q21 His _____ contribution to the Tsunami relief fund was _____ by his staff members.

a meagre, admired

b spontaneous, nullified

c negligible, sanctioned

d noteworthy, improved

e **generous, appreciated** ✓

Explanation: A “generous” contribution being “appreciated” by staff is the only positive, coherent combination.

Q22

The _____ on some of the towns has created _____ among the residents of the other part of the country.

a attack, ambition

b raid, awareness

c bombardment, panic ✓

d spell, satisfaction

e shower, dampness

Explanation: A “bombardment” on towns would create “panic” among residents elsewhere in the country.

Q23

To avoid _____, there is a need for _____ planning of the project.

a Cancellation, broad

b problem, deliberate

c pitfalls, systematic ✓

d inconvenience, convenient

e losses, temporary

Explanation: Avoiding “pitfalls” requires “systematic” (well-organized) planning — a natural project-management phrase.

Q24

A good management will decide not only the _____ for equipment but also its _____ for deciding priorities.

a need, urgency



b usefulness, utility

c cost, value

d requirement, necessities

e technology, methodology

Explanation: Good management weighs both the “need” for equipment and the “urgency” of that need when prioritizing.

Q25

_____ appears to be a small error in the beginning may turn out to be a _____ in the long run.

a It, disaster

b What, blunder



c That, debacle

d It, slip

e what, incident

Explanation: “What appears to be...” is the correct relative-clause opener, and a small error escalating becomes a “blunder.”

Q26

Being very _____ in nature, he always uses his _____ skills.

a adamant, soft

b polite, basic

c humble, experimental

d pushy, persuasive



e mild, aggressive

Explanation: Someone “pushy” by nature relies on “persuasive” skills to get their way — the only pairing that makes sense together.

Q27

Demand and supply do not _____ the same relationship as the one that _____ between height and weight.

a possess, has

b incur, is

c defend, volunteers

d bear, borne

e have, exists ✓

Explanation: "Have...the same relationship as the one that exists" is grammatically correct; "borne" (option d) cannot function as a finite verb here.

Q28

A _____ is known for his _____.

- a hypocrite, modesty
- b braggart, modesty
- c altruist, truthfulness
- d mercenary, sincerity

e philanthropist, benevolence ✓

Explanation: A “philanthropist” is, by definition, known for “benevolence” (charitable goodwill) — the only logically matched pair.

Q29

One _____ by which we may estimate the character of a man in public office is his _____.

- a hyperbole, intuition
- b criterion, integrity** ✓
- c amenity, civility
- d unwary, irritable
- e specious, misanthropic

Explanation: A “criterion” (standard of judgment) for assessing character is a public official's “integrity.”

Q30

Because of his _____ honesty, employers tolerated his _____ outbursts and did not fire him.

a rapacious, amenable

b unwavering, irascible ✓

c amiable, regular

d unwary, irritable

e specious, misanthropic

Explanation: “Unwavering” (steadfast) honesty made employers overlook his “irascible” (irritable/short-tempered) outbursts.

Q31

Since its launch, the computer programme has _____ for two thirds of all software sales _____.

a allowed, legally

b plans, globally

c provided, finally

d competed, demand

e accounted, domestically ✓

Explanation: “Accounted for” two-thirds of sales “domestically” (within the country) is the correct idiomatic and logical fit.

Q32

The _____ law of increase old age pensions was passed to _____ the hardship of the elderly voters in the state.

a auspicious, mollify

b expedient, alleviate ✓

c equivocal, aggravate

d exemplary, condone

e notorious, assuage

Explanation: An “expedient” (practically useful) law passed to “alleviate” (ease) hardship is the coherent, positive reading.

Q33

When I listened to his _____ arguments, all my doubts were _____ and I was forced to agree with his point of view.

a competent, compelled

b congruent, confirmed

c cogent, dispelled ✓

d forceful, repelled

e fluent, ignored

Explanation: “Cogent” (clear, convincing) arguments “dispelled” (removed) doubts, leading to agreement.

Q34

The Chairman in his speech stated the _____ in company profits was _____ to team building.

a incline, owing

b rise, liable

c slump, accountable

d surge, due



e plunge, response

Explanation: A positive “surge” in profits being “due to” team building fits the celebratory tone of a Chairman's speech.

Q35

The main _____ of healthcare reforms is _____ medical care to every citizen.

a purpose, available

b cause, providing

c challenge, accessing

d assurance, qualified

e focus, extending



Explanation: “The main focus of healthcare reforms is extending medical care to every citizen” is the only option that is both grammatical (gerund after “is”) and logical.

Q36

Being _____ of how he wanted his career to progress, he began discussing his _____ with senior colleagues.

a convinced, misconduct

b unsure, options ✓

c unresolved, aspirations

d practical, intentions

e spontaneous, future

Explanation: Being “unsure” about career direction naturally leads to discussing “options” with senior colleagues.

Q37

Experts feel that the amendment to the Act will adversely _____ private sector _____ in infrastructure development.

a effect, participation



b facilitate, claim

c influence, involvement

d measure, investment

e expedite, stake

Explanation: The standard phrase is “adversely affect private sector participation” — the intended sense here, matching option (a).

Q38

His absence at the crucial meeting cannot be _____ as he _____ the country at important international fora.

a helped, represents ✓

b condoned, participates

c permitted, engages

d sanctioned, governs

e — none of these

Explanation: “Cannot be helped” is the idiom for an unavoidable situation — his absence is unavoidable because he represents the country elsewhere.

Q39

A nation that loses the _____ of honesty loses its _____.

- a power, will
- b appeal, charisma
- c dictum, ground
- d stamina, courage

e virtue, soul



Explanation: Honesty is described as a “virtue,” and losing it costs a nation its “soul” — a well-known moral idiom.

Q40

If one gets rid of the government officials and politicians from the _____ of economic activities, corruption will be _____.

a hub, balanced

b nexus, reprimanded

c gear, eliminated

d genre, alleviated

e sphere, reduced ✓

Explanation: Removing officials from the “sphere” (domain) of economic activities would logically get corruption “reduced.”