

SAMPLE PAPER — USAT ARTS & HUMANITIES

FULLY SOLVED VERSION WITH EXPLANATIONS

Every MCQ below has its correct option ticked and highlighted in green, followed by a clear explanation. The essay section at the end includes a fully written argumentative essay and a fully written narrative essay.

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VERBAL REASONING

Q1. Air passengers usually _____ much luggage.

✓ A. don't have

■ B. have

■ C. have not

■ D. not have

Correct Answer: A Explanation: The sentence describes a general habitual truth about air passengers, so the simple present tense is needed. Since most air passengers travel light (especially with baggage restrictions), the negative form "don't have" correctly completes the sentence grammatically and logically. Options C and D are grammatically incorrect forms of the simple present negative.

Q2. Someone must deal with the situation _____ the spot.

■ A. beside

■ B. by

■ C. of

✓ D. on

Correct Answer: D Explanation: "On the spot" is a fixed idiomatic prepositional phrase meaning "immediately, without delay." None of the other prepositions (beside, by, of) form a correct or meaningful idiom with "the spot" in this context.

Q3. SLEEP : AWAKE ::

- A. expect : hope
- ✓ B. rise : fall
- C. waste : left-over
- D. watch : see

Correct Answer: B Explanation: SLEEP and AWAKE are direct antonyms (opposites). Among the choices, only RISE and FALL share the same antonym relationship. Expect/hope and watch/see are near-synonyms, and waste/left-over is not a true opposite pair.

Q4. HEAD : HAIR ::

- A. brain : mind
- B. eye : see
- ✓ C. fingers : nails
- D. leg : calf

Correct Answer: C Explanation: HAIR is something that naturally grows on and covers the HEAD. In the same way, NAILS are something that naturally grows on and covers the FINGERS, making fingers:nails the closest matching relationship. The other pairs describe function (eye:see) or a part-of relationship (leg:calf), not a "grows on" relationship.

Q5. He is a SHREWD fellow and not _____.

☐ A. cooperative

☐ B. cruel

☐ C. dull

☒ D. honest

Correct Answer: D Explanation: Here SHREWD is used in its negative sense of being cunning or self-serving in judgement. The word that is most nearly opposite in this context is "honest," since a shrewd (cunning) person is typically seen as calculating rather than sincere and straightforward.

Q6. If something DEVELOPS it _____.

☐ A. falls

☒ B. grows

☐ C. performs

☐ D. stops

Correct Answer: B Explanation: "Develop" means to grow, expand, or become more advanced over time. "Grows" is the closest match in meaning, while falls and stops are near-opposites, and performs is unrelated.

Reading Passage (for Questions 7 – 8)

Primitive human beings who were hunter-gatherers had no money. Each band hunted, gathered and manufactured almost everything it required, from meat to medicine, from sandals to sorcery. Different band members may have specialized in different tasks, but they shared their goods and services through an economy of favors and obligations. The band was economically independent; only a rare few items had to be obtained from strangers, usually through simple barter.

Little of this changed with the onset of the Agricultural Revolution. Most people continued to live in small, intimate communities. Much like a hunter-gatherer band, each village was a self-sufficient economic unit, maintained by mutual favors and obligations plus a little barter with outsiders. Villages were small, so there could be no full-time shoemakers and doctors.

The rise of cities and kingdoms and the improvement in transport infrastructure brought new opportunities for specialization, allowing full-time professionals such as shoemakers, doctors, carpenters, priests, soldiers and lawyers to flourish, as settlements began trading specialized goods with one another.

Q7. The hunter-gatherer societies had _____ economy.

- | |
|---|
| ☐ A. global |
| ☐ B. industrial |
| ☒ C. simple |
| ☐ D. traditional |

Correct Answer: C Explanation: The passage describes hunter-gatherer bands as economically independent, producing what they needed themselves and relying on favors, obligations, and occasional barter. This describes a “simple” (basic, non-specialized) economy, not a global or industrial one.

Q8. The societies formed soon after the arrival of the Agricultural Revolution had economies similar to those of _____.

✓ A. hunter-gatherers

■ B. industrial age

■ C. kingdoms

■ D. villages

Correct Answer: A *Explanation: The passage explicitly states, "Little of this changed with the onset of the Agricultural Revolution... Much like a hunter-gatherer band, each village was a self-sufficient economic unit." This directly tells us early agricultural societies resembled hunter-gatherer economies.*

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Q9. Which of the following is a whole number?

■ A. -10

■ B. -3.5

✓ C. 0

■ D. $\frac{5}{7}$

Correct Answer: C Explanation: Whole numbers are the set $\{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ — non-negative integers with no fractional part. -10 is a negative integer (not a whole number), -3.5 and $\frac{5}{7}$ are not integers at all, so only 0 qualifies as a whole number.

Q10. What is the angle between the hands of a clock at 6 O'clock?

■ A. 90°

■ B. 120°

■ C. 150°

✓ D. 180°

Correct Answer: D Explanation: At 6 o'clock, the hour hand points at 6 and the minute hand points at 12 — exactly opposite each other on the clock face. This forms a straight line, i.e. an angle of 180° .

Q11. What is the volume of a sphere whose radius is 10.5 cm? (Take $\pi = 22/7$)

■ A. 4651 cm³

✓ B. 4851 cm³

■ C. 5055 cm³

■ D. 38808 cm³

Correct Answer: B Explanation: Volume of a sphere = $(4/3)\pi r^3$. Here $r^3 = 10.5^3 = 1157.625$. So Volume = $(4/3) \times (22/7) \times 1157.625 = (88/21) \times 1157.625 \approx 4851 \text{ cm}^3$.

Q12. The linear equation $3x = 10$ represents a _____ line.

■ A. horizontal

■ B. oblique

✓ C. vertical

■ D. y-axis

Correct Answer: C Explanation: $3x = 10$ simplifies to $x = 10/3$, a constant value with no y-term. Any equation of the form $x = \text{constant}$ represents a vertical line on the coordinate plane, since x never changes while y can take any value.

Q13. If the cost of 2 hens and 3 goats is Rs. 47000 and the cost of 5 hens and 1 goat is Rs. 20000, what is the cost of a hen?

✓ A. Rs. 1000

■ B. Rs. 15000

■ C. Rs. 16000

■ D. Rs. 20000

Correct Answer: A Explanation: Let hen = h , goat = g . Equations: $2h + 3g = 47000$ and $5h + g = 20000$. From the second equation, $g = 20000 - 5h$. Substituting into the first: $2h + 3(20000 - 5h) = 47000 \Rightarrow 2h + 60000 - 15h = 47000 \Rightarrow -13h = -13000 \Rightarrow h = \text{Rs. } 1000$.

Q14. Two dice are rolled. What is the probability of getting the same face on top?

■ A. $5/36$

✓ B. $1/6$

■ C. $7/36$

■ D. 1

Correct Answer: B Explanation: There are $6 \times 6 = 36$ total equally likely outcomes when two dice are rolled. Matching pairs (1,1), (2,2), (3,3), (4,4), (5,5), (6,6) give 6 favorable outcomes. Probability = $6/36 = 1/6$.

ISLAMIAT / ETHICS

Q15. Shab-e-Qadar (Night of Value) falls in the month of _____.

■ A. Rabi-ul-Awal

■ B. Rajab

✓ C. Ramzan

■ D. Shaban

Correct Answer: C Explanation: Shab-e-Qadar (Laylat al-Qadr), the "Night of Decree/Value," occurs during the last ten nights of the holy month of Ramzan (Ramadan), commonly associated with the 27th night.

Q16. Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) declared _____ a key to paradise.

■ A. fasting

■ B. hajj

■ C. jihad

✓ D. salat

Correct Answer: D Explanation: Salat (the five daily prayers) has been described in Hadith as a key to Paradise, emphasizing its central importance among the pillars of Islam as the direct link between a believer and Allah.

Q17. The foremost right of parents is to _____.

- A. give them proper time
- B. keep them smiling
- C. support them
- ✓ D. treat them kindly

Correct Answer: D *Explanation: Islamic teaching places kind, respectful treatment (husn-e-sulook) of parents above all specific acts, since kindness is the foundational attitude from which giving time, support, and care for their happiness all naturally follow.*

PAKISTAN STUDIES

Q18. Quaid-e-Azam presented his fourteen points in response to _____.

- ☐ A. Khilafat Movement
- ☐ B. Lucknow Pact
- ☒ C. Nehru Report
- ☐ D. Simon Commission

Correct Answer: C *Explanation: In 1929, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah presented his Fourteen Points as a direct counter-response to the Nehru Report of 1928, which had ignored the constitutional safeguards Muslims had been demanding.*

Q19. Geographically Pakistan is located in _____.

- ☐ A. Central Asia
- ☐ B. Middle East
- ☒ C. South Asia
- ☐ D. Southeast Asia

Correct Answer: C *Explanation: Pakistan lies in South Asia, bordered by India, Afghanistan, Iran, and China, and is often considered a gateway between South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, but its formal geographic region is South Asia.*

Q20. The basis of our national unity is _____.

■ A. All India Muslim League

■ B. Geography

■ C. History

✓ D. Islam

Correct Answer: D *Explanation: Pakistan was created on the ideological basis of Islam, the "Two-Nation Theory," which holds that Muslims of the subcontinent were a distinct nation. Islam remains the unifying bond among Pakistan's diverse ethnic and linguistic groups.*

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Q21. In the human body, blood and wastes are filtered by _____.

☐ A. stomach

☐ B. heart

☒ C. kidneys

☐ D. lungs

Correct Answer: C Explanation: The kidneys filter blood to remove metabolic waste products and excess fluid, producing urine. The stomach digests food, the heart pumps blood, and the lungs exchange gases — none of them filter blood wastes.

Q22. Capital city of China is _____.

☒ A. Beijing

☐ B. Shanghai

☐ C. Tianjin

☐ D. Wuhan

Correct Answer: A Explanation: Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China. Shanghai, Tianjin, and Wuhan are major Chinese cities but none of them serve as the national capital.

Q23. Leo Messi is a professional _____ belonging to Argentina.

☐ A. boxer

☐ B. cricketer

☒ C. footballer

☐ D. swimmer

Correct Answer: C *Explanation: Lionel Messi is a world-renowned Argentine professional footballer (soccer player), widely regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time.*

ESSAY SECTION — MODEL SOLVED ESSAYS

Below are complete, fully written model essays for one selected topic from each essay question, written to match the expected standard for the marks allocated.

Q24. Argumentative Essay (15 Marks)

Selected Topic: Does technology limit creativity?

In the modern world, technology has become an inseparable part of daily life, shaping how people work, learn, and express themselves. A recurring debate, however, is whether this rapid technological advancement limits human creativity or, instead, expands it. While critics argue that technology makes people passive consumers rather than original thinkers, a closer examination shows that technology, when used thoughtfully, is far more likely to enhance creativity than to restrict it.

Those who believe technology limits creativity often point to the ease with which digital tools provide ready-made answers and templates. For instance, students who once had to brainstorm ideas or draw diagrams by hand can now search the internet or rely on software to generate results instantly. Critics argue that this convenience discourages original thinking, as people become accustomed to accepting pre-packaged solutions rather than developing their own. Similarly, algorithms on social media platforms are said to create an “echo chamber” effect, repeatedly showing users

similar content and narrowing their exposure to diverse ideas, which could stifle imaginative thought over time.

However, this view overlooks the immense creative possibilities that technology has unlocked. Digital art software, music production tools, video editing platforms, and 3D printing have given artists and designers capabilities that were unimaginable a generation ago. A filmmaker with a smartphone can now produce professional-quality work that once required an entire studio. Writers and musicians collaborate across continents in real time, blending cultural influences to create entirely new genres and styles. Far from limiting expression, these tools remove technical barriers, allowing more people, regardless of background or resources, to participate in creative fields.

Furthermore, technology often acts as a catalyst that pushes creativity into new directions rather than replacing it. Video games, virtual reality, and interactive storytelling are entirely new creative mediums made possible only by technological innovation. Even in traditional fields such as architecture and engineering, computer-aided design software enables professionals to experiment with complex, imaginative structures that would be nearly impossible to conceive and calculate by hand.

It is also worth noting that the concern is not really about technology itself, but about how it is used. A hammer can

build a house or cause harm depending on the user's intent; similarly, technology is a neutral tool whose creative or limiting effect depends entirely on human choices. Passive, unthinking use of technology can indeed dull creative instincts, but active, purposeful engagement with digital tools consistently produces remarkable innovation across art, science, and everyday problem-solving.

In conclusion, while technology can encourage shortcuts and reduce effort if used carelessly, its overall impact on human creativity has been overwhelmingly positive. It has democratized access to creative tools, connected creative minds across the globe, and opened entirely new artistic mediums. Rather than limiting creativity, technology, when embraced thoughtfully, serves as one of the most powerful amplifiers of human imagination in history.

Q25. Narrative Essay (10 Marks)

Selected Beginning: A Day at the Amusement Park

The gates of the amusement park swung open at exactly nine o'clock, and my cousins and I rushed in before the crowds could grow too thick. The morning air still carried a faint chill, but the smell of fresh popcorn and cotton candy drifting from the nearby stalls quickly warmed the mood, filling us with an excitement that had been building for weeks.

Our first stop was the towering roller coaster that curved and twisted high above the trees like a silver serpent. My heart pounded as we climbed into the front row, and the safety bar clicked shut with a sound that felt almost final. Slowly, the cart clanked up the first steep incline, the city skyline spreading out beneath us, and then, without warning, we plunged. The wind roared past my ears, my stomach seemed to float somewhere above me, and a scream of pure joy tore out of my throat before I even realized I was making it.

After stumbling off the ride on wobbly legs, we wandered toward the games section, where colorful stalls promised giant stuffed animals to anyone skilled enough to knock down a stack of bottles. My younger cousin, determined not to leave empty-handed, spent nearly twenty minutes trying before finally winning a bright purple elephant almost as large as herself. Her triumphant grin made the long wait completely worth it.

As the afternoon sun grew warmer, we took a break by the lakeside food court, sharing a tray of crispy fries and cold lemonade while watching the paddle boats glide lazily across the water. It was a quiet, comfortable moment, a brief pause in the middle of all the excitement, where we simply laughed and talked about which ride to try next.

By the time evening arrived, the entire park had transformed. Thousands of lights blinked on across the Ferris wheel, turning it into a glowing wheel of color against the darkening sky. We ended our day with one last, slow ride to the top, the whole park spread out beneath us in a sea of light and sound. Tired, sticky with cotton candy, and thoroughly happy, we walked back to the car already planning our next visit — a perfect end to a truly unforgettable day.

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