

NDA & NA EXAMINATION (II) 2025

TOTAL MARKS: 200

TIME : 50 MINUTES

INSTRUCTIONS

1. This test consists of **50 questions**.
2. Each question carries **4 marks**.
3. For every incorrect answer, **1.33 marks will be deducted** as negative marking.
4. There is **no penalty for an unattempted question**.
5. Each question has **four alternatives — (a), (b), (c) and (d)**. Select the most appropriate answer.
6. Attempt the test within the prescribed time to simulate **actual examination conditions**.
7. Check the **Answer Key & Explanations** only after completing the test

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and answer the items that follow the passage. Your answers to these items should be based solely on the passage.

Can agricultural productivity meet human needs in the long run? Since twentieth century advances, given increasing costs, do not seem sustainable, further increases in output will not be achieved easily. Global population growth, while showing signs of slowing down, has pushed farmers and herders into areas unsuited to intensive agriculture, accelerating worldwide ecological disruptions. Reserves of arable land and fresh water have diminished alarmingly. Chemical runoffs have compounded pollution problems. Invasion of natural habitats have hastened species extinction. Desertification has been severe in the last hundred years, especially in North Africa, southern portions of Africa, Australia, northern Mexico, and the American Southwest. Tropical forests have shrunk by one-half since World War II, with agricultural pressures causing three-quarters of that loss. Government intervention has produced its share of catastrophes, ranging from a terrible famine in China between 1958–1961 that may have killed 30 million people and destroyed the Aral Sea. Taking everything into consideration, we may remain hopeful about humankind's agricultural prospects, but we can scarcely look forward optimistically at the end of the first quarter of the twenty-first century.

1. Why do twentieth century advances not seem sustainable?

- (a) They do not meet the human needs
- (b) Due to the increased cost of agricultural production
- (c) Because they are outdated for the current times
- (d) They are useful, but intensive

2. What pushes farmers into places unsuited for agriculture?

- (a) Population growth
- (b) Industrialisation
- (c) Water scarcity
- (d) Desertification

3. Which one of the following is NOT true, according to the passage, for ecological degradation?

- (a) Global population growth
- (b) Excess use of chemicals

- (c) Desertification
- (d) World War II

4. What is the conclusion of the author in the passage about the prospects of agriculture in the world?

- (a) The author is both hopeful and sceptical of the prospects of agriculture
- (b) The author is very hopeful of the prospects of agriculture
- (c) The author is sceptical of the prospects of agriculture
- (d) The author is neither hopeful nor sceptical of the prospects of agriculture

5. Which one of the following words means 'incursion'?

- (a) invasion
- (b) intensive
- (c) severe
- (d) intervention

Directions: The following items have a sentence in direct or indirect speech, followed by four options. One of the options correctly converts the direct speech into indirect speech. Select the most appropriate option and mark your answer on the Answer Sheet.

6. Convert from direct into indirect speech.

Ayushi said to the group, "We have had enough of suffering today. It is time to march forward."

- (a) Ayushi told the group that they had had enough of suffering that day and it was time to march forward
- (b) Ayushi asked the group that they had had enough of suffering this day and it was time to march forward
- (c) Ayushi told the group that they had enough of suffering and that it is time to march forward
- (d) Ayushi told the group that we had had enough of suffering this day and it was time to march forward

7. Convert from direct speech into indirect speech.

"Alas! We lost the match by one point," said the Captain.

- (a) The Captain regretted that they had lost the match by one point

by one point

(c) The Captain exclaimed that they had lost the match by one point

(d) The Captain told the team that they had lost the match by one point

8. Convert from direct speech into indirect speech.

"Where were you last week?" Alok asked Sheela.

(a) Alok told Sheela where she had been the week before

(b) Alok asked Sheela where she had been the week before

(c) Alok asked Sheela where she was the week before

(d) Alok asked Sheela where she had been the last week

Directions: Following items have sentences in active voice with four options. One of the options converts the active voice into passive voice correctly. Select the most appropriate option and mark your answer on the Answer Sheet.

9. The king who the people loved built the castle five centuries ago.

(a) The castle was built five centuries ago by the king who was loved by the people

(b) The castle was built five centuries ago by the king who loved the people

(c) The castle built five centuries ago by the king loved by the people

(d) The castle was built five centuries ago by the people who were loved by the king

10. The company has recruited four hundred engineers who will have to complete an internship for three weeks.

(a) Four hundred engineers have been recruited by the company and an internship of three weeks will have to be completed by them

(b) Four hundred engineers have been recruited by the company and they will have to complete an internship of three weeks

(c) The company has been recruited by four hundred engineers and an internship of three week will have to be completed by them

(d) Four hundred engineers have been recruited by the company. Internship of three weeks will have had to be completed by them

Directions: In the following items, a pair of words is provided. You are required to select the option that most appropriately describes the meaning of both the words and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

11. Seldom and Often

(a) Seldom means hardly ever and often means time and again

(b) Seldom means time and again and often means

(c) Seldom means never and often means not at all

(d) Seldom means frequently and often means time and again

12. Overview and Review

(a) Overview means assessment and review means general idea

(b) Overview means general idea and review means assessment

(c) Overview means general analysis and review means go through

(d) Overview means summary and review means evaluation

13. Overcome and Succeed

(a) Overcome means triumph over and succeed means to achieve something

(b) Overcome means achieve something and succeed means to triumph over

(c) Overcome means to be successful and succeed means to achieve something

(d) Overcome means winning and succeed means to rise above

14. Embed and Imbue

(a) Embed means instil and imbue means implant

(b) Embed means implant and imbue means instil

(c) Embed means accept and imbue means detest

(d) Embed means include and imbue means accept

15. Emancipate and Empower

(a) Emancipate means authorize and empower means liberate

(b) Emancipate means liberate and empower means authorise

(c) Emancipate means liberal and empower means authorisation

(d) Emancipate means freedom and empower means encounter

Directions: In the following items a sentence or a phrase is given with a word that is underlined, followed by four words or group of words. Select the option that is nearest in meaning to the underlined word and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

16. The Professor has been able to INSTIL confidence in her students.

(a) inculcate (b) infer

(c) eradicate (d) unlike

17. The members of the group expressed their ALLEGIANCE to their leader.

(a) commitment (b) disloyalty

(c) understanding (d) unlikely

18. The INSCRUTABILITY surrounding the incident remains unresolved until the end of the movie.

(a) clearness (b) comprehensibility

(c) seriousness (d) mystery

- (a) principled (b) dubious
(c) dishonest (d) painful
20. People have been advised not to venture into sea as the weather is likely to be **INCLEMENT**.
(a) squally (b) calm
(c) pleasant (d) indigent

Directions: In this section each item consists of six sentences of a passage. The first and sixth sentences are given in the beginning as S1 and S6. The middle four sentences in each have been jumbled up and labelled as P, Q, R and S. You are required to find the proper sequence of the four sentences and mark your response accordingly on the Answer Sheet.

21. **S1.** Sufism is an English word coined in the Nineteenth Century.
S6. It may also have been *suffa*, the platform outside a place of Islamic worship.
P. Historians have understood this term in several ways.
Q. According to some scholars, it is derived from *suf*, meaning wool.
R. Others derive it from *safa*, meaning purity.
S. The word used for Sufism in Islamic texts is *tasawwuf*.
(a) Q R S P (b) S P Q R
(c) P Q S R (d) R P S Q
22. **S1.** Al-Biruni was born in 973, in Khwarizm in present-day Uzbekistan.
S6. He arrived in Ghazni as a hostage, but gradually developed a liking for the city.
P. In 1017, when Sultan Mahmud invaded Khwarizm, he took several scholars back to his capital, Ghazni; Al-Biruni was one among them.
Q. He was well versed in several languages; Syriac, Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, and Sanskrit.
R. Khwarizm was an important centre of learning, and Al-Biruni received the best education available at the time.
S. However he did not know Greek, although he was familiar with the works of Plato and other Greek philosophers.
(a) Q S R P (b) R Q S P
(c) P Q S R (d) R P S Q
23. **S1.** Vijayanagara or 'city of victory' was the name of both a city and an empire.
S6. They remembered it as Hampi, a name derived from that of the local mother goddess, Pampadevi.
P. In its heyday it stretched from the river Krishna in the north to the extreme south of the Indian peninsula.
Q. Although it fell into ruin in the seventeenth-eighteenth centuries, it continued to live in the memories of the people who inhabited the Krishna-Tungabhadra doab.
R. In 1565 the city was sacked and subsequently deserted.

- (a) S P R Q (b) S Q P R
(c) P Q S R (d) P Q R S

24. **S1.** Liberalisation and globalisation freed India's economy from the low GDP trap that had impeded India's progress.
S6. Today India has transformed into one of the largest economies of the world.
P. India's 3 pc rate of growth and a set of emergent circumstances led to a balance of payment crisis in the early 1990s.
Q. Ease of business was ensured, and the requirement for import licences, and production quotas, were removed.
R. Apart from these measures India also took a loan from the IMF to tide over the crisis, but after 1993, India has not taken another loan from the IMF.
S. In a landmark budget in 1991, responding to the emergent crisis, India delicensed many industries and liberalised its economic policies.
(a) Q S R P (b) S Q P R
(c) R Q S P (d) P S Q R
25. **S1.** In many countries, there are millions of people who are underprivileged and deprived.
S6. In the past forced labour was imposed by landlords, money-lenders, and other wealthy persons.
P. Both of these are prohibited under the Constitution of India.
Q. One such form of exploitation in our country has been *begar* or forced labour without payment.
R. The marginalised are often subjected to exploitation by their fellow human beings.
S. Another closely related form of exploitation is buying and selling of human beings and using them as slaves.
(a) Q S R P (b) R Q S P
(c) P Q S R (d) Q S P R

Directions: Given below are sentences that use discourse markers/expressions to make them complete. Identify the most appropriate discourse marker and mark your answer accordingly on the Answer Sheet.

26. I can't be bothered to tell him what I think; _____ he would not listen to me.
(a) meanwhile (b) in any case
(c) in the meantime (d) somehow
27. _____ if the referee points his fingers, this indicates that someone has done something wrong.
(a) On the contrary (b) Whatever more
(c) Briefly (d) As regards
28. _____, have you been to the local library yet?
(a) Sort of (b) Frankly
(c) All the same (d) Incidentally

than ever before; indeed on an average, they can expect to live five years longer than men.

- (a) To a large extent (b) As regards
(c) As far as (d) Turning now

30. The difference is that I have been fortunate to find a career that I love and, _____, I am getting paid reasonably for it.

- (a) briefly (b) broadly speaking
(c) what is more (d) in conclusion

31. _____, the Government of India has followed the policy of trying to improve relations with its neighbours.

- (a) Particularly (b) Knowingly
(c) Otherwise (d) In general

32. _____, this issue is likely to be discussed when the Council meets next.

- (a) As per reports (b) Accordingly
(c) Likewise (d) Briefly

33. _____, you needed to consult a physician to have a clear idea of what the disease is about.

- (a) In that case (b) In these case
(c) Likewise (d) Henceforth

34. _____, in the ten-year-ago period the current account deficit stood at \$1.3 billion or 0.2% of the GDP.

- (a) Particularly (b) Notably
(c) Seriously (d) Unknowingly

35. _____, the records have been completely undermined by shoddy book-keeping.

- (a) Because of (b) As such
(c) Forever (d) Hence

Directions: Given below are words/expressions/jargons followed by four options. Identify the most appropriate option that defines the word/expression/jargon in each instance, and mark your response accordingly on the Answer Sheet.

36 . Infelicity:

- (a) Disloyalty towards one's nation
(b) An inappropriate remark
(c) To kill or destroy
(d) To touch or push gently

37 . Corollary:

- (a) Something that is too expensive
(b) Something that looks real but does not really exist
(c) Something that naturally follows
(d) Something resembling a coal mine

38 . Quandary:

- (a) Situation in which you are confused about what to do
(b) Situation in which two people or group argue
(c) Situation in which no progress can be made
(d) Situation in which a relationship becomes friendlier

39 . Presumption:

- (c) Decision based on facts
(d) Opinion formed before having all the facts

40 . Smug:

- (a) Too confident about one's own achievements
(b) Too eager to help or obey someone important
(c) Too emotional or dramatic
(d) Too eager to bottle up conflicts

Directions: Each of the following items in this section consists of a sentence, the parts of which have been jumbled. These parts have been labelled as P, Q, R and S. Each sentence is followed by four sequences, namely (a), (b), (c) and (d), indicating the rearrangement of the parts. You are required to select the most appropriate option and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

41. P — of children they also contain deeply embedded

Q — whereas traditional fairy tales

R — moral lessons that are relevant even for adults

S — were designed for the entertainment

(a) R P Q S (b) Q S R P

(c) R P S Q (d) Q S P R

42. P — of school education is an ineluctable truth

Q — that sporting activities are an integral part

R — meaningfully towards the overall growth of a student

S — that underscores the learning process and contributes

(a) Q P S R (b) Q S R P

(c) R P S Q (d) Q S P R

43. P — and contentment on account of a life lived

Q — the beneficial outcome of

R — well without retribution or rebuke

S — a virtuous life is peace of mind

(a) S R Q P (b) S P Q R

(c) Q S P R (d) Q S R P

44. P — more representative than the latter

Q — from a non-parliamentary system

R — in as much as the former is

S — it is widely believed that the parliamentary system differs

(a) S Q R P (b) S P Q R

(c) R S P Q (d) P S R Q

45. P — crushes the spirit behind the service

Q — it stunts the person offering the same and

R — exhibition or for fear of public opinion

S — when service is done for

(a) S Q R P (b) S P Q R

(c) R S P Q (d) S R Q P

Directions: Each of the following sentences in this section has a blank space, followed by four options. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

principal.

- (a) any further (b) further
(c) farther (d) any farther

47. _____ all the confusion the thief made a quiet getaway.

- (a) Among (b) Amongst
(c) Amids (d) Amid

48. The intricate operation on the patient required the expertise of a/an _____ surgeon.

49. There are _____ thirty students inside the classroom at any time.

- (a) less than (b) fewer than
(c) less then (d) fewer then

50. There are many _____ vehicles on the highway due to a sudden landslide.

- (a) stationery (b) stationed
(c) stranded (d) straggle

Answers and Explanations

1. (B) Due to the increased cost of agricultural production
The passage states that twentieth-century advances do not seem sustainable because of their increasing costs.
2. (A) Population growth
The passage explicitly says that global population growth has pushed farmers and herders into areas unsuitable for intensive agriculture.
3. (D) World War II
Population growth, chemical pollution and desertification contribute to ecological degradation. World War II is only used as a time reference for the decline of tropical forests.
4. (A) The author is both hopeful and sceptical of the prospects of agriculture
The author says we may remain hopeful, but can "scarcely look forward optimistically"; therefore, the conclusion combines hope with scepticism.
5. (A) Invasion
Incursion means an entry or intrusion into a place, making *invasion* the closest synonym.
6. (A) Ayushi told the group that they had had enough of suffering that day and it was time to march forward.
We changes to *they*, *have had* to *had had*, *today* to *that day*, and *is* to *was* in reported speech.
7. (A) The Captain regretted that they had lost the match by one point.
Alas! expresses sorrow or regret, so *regretted* is appropriate. *Lost* also backshifts to *had lost*.
8. (B) Alok asked Sheela where she had been the week before.
In an indirect WH-question, *were* changes to *had been*, and *last week* becomes the week before.
9. (A) The castle was built five centuries ago by the king who was loved by the people.
The castle becomes the subject, *built* becomes *was built*, and *whom the people loved* becomes *who was loved by the people*.
10. (A) Four hundred engineers have been recruited by the company and an internship of three weeks will have to be completed by them.
Both relevant clauses are correctly changed into passive: *have been recruited* and *will have to be completed*.
11. (A) Seldom = hardly ever; Often = time and again
Seldom means rarely, whereas *often* means frequently/repeatedly.
12. (B) Overview = general idea; Review = assessment
An *overview* gives a general idea, while a *review* involves assessment or evaluation.
13. (A) Overcome = triumph over; Succeed = to achieve something
To *overcome* is to defeat or successfully deal with something, while *succeed* means to achieve the desired result.
14. (B) Embed = implant; Imbue = instil
Embed means to fix or implant firmly, whereas *imbue* means to instil or fill with a quality/idea.
15. (B) Emancipate = liberate; Empower = authorise
Emancipate means to free or liberate, while *empower* means to give authority or power.
16. (A) Inculcate
Instil means to gradually introduce an idea, attitude or feeling into someone's mind; *inculcate* is its closest synonym.
17. (A) Commitment
Allegiance means loyalty, devotion or commitment to a person, group or cause.
18. (D) Mystery
Inscrutability refers to something difficult or impossible to understand, hence *mystery*.
19. (C) Dishonest
Dodgy can mean dishonest, suspicious or unreliable. In the context of the leader's behaviour, *dishonest* is the keyed answer.
20. (A) Squally
Inclement weather means unpleasant, stormy or severe weather; *squally* is the closest option.
21. (B) S-P-Q-R
S introduces *tasawwuf*; *P* says historians interpret the term differently; *Q* and *R* then give two possible derivations—*suf* and *safa*.
22. (B) R-Q-S-P
R continues from Al-Biruni's birthplace to his education; *Q* lists languages he knew; *S* contrasts these with Greek; and *P* explains how he reached Ghazni.

was sacked (R), and later remained in people's memories (Q)—a clear chronological sequence.

24. (D) P–S–Q–R
The economic crisis (P) leads to the 1991 reforms (S); the reforms are elaborated upon (Q); and the IMF loan is subsequently mentioned (R).
25. (B) R–Q–S–P
R introduces exploitation of marginalised people; Q gives one form—*begar*; S gives another—slavery; and P refers back to both of these.
26. (B) In any case
In any case means anyway/regardless, fitting the idea that telling him is pointless because he would not listen.
27. (A) On the contrary
This is the answer prescribed by the supplied official key. In the reproduced sentence, however, the discourse relationship is somewhat unusual, so the item is best retained as keyed.
28. (D) Incidentally
Incidentally is used to introduce an additional or casually related point: "Incidentally, have you been to the local library yet?"
29. (A) To a large extent
The expression means largely or substantially, appropriately qualifying the general statement about women's health and longevity.
30. (C) What is more
What is more introduces additional information—he loves his career and, additionally, is reasonably paid.
31. (D) In general
In general means generally speaking and appropriately introduces the broad policy of the Government.
32. (A) As per reports
As per reports means according to available reports, appropriately indicating the source of the information.
33. (A) In that case
In that case means if that is the situation, naturally introducing the resulting advice to consult a physician.
34. (B) Notably
Notably means particularly or importantly, drawing attention to the significant economic figure.
35. (B) As such
As such functions here as a connective indicating the resulting situation concerning the records.
36. (B) An inappropriate remark
Infelicity can mean an unfortunate, unsuitable or inappropriate expression/remark.
37. (C) Something that naturally follows
A *corollary* is a result or consequence that naturally follows from something.
- A *quandary* is a state of uncertainty or perplexity, especially when deciding what to do.
39. (D) Opinion formed before having all the facts
A *presumption* is an assumption or belief made without complete evidence.
40. (A) Too confident about one's own achievements
Smug describes someone who is excessively self-satisfied or pleased with himself/herself.
41. (D) Q–S–P–R
Correct sentence: "Whereas traditional fairy tales were designed for the entertainment of children, they also contain deeply embedded moral lessons that are relevant even for adults."
42. (A) Q–P–S–R
Correct sentence: "That sporting activities are an integral part of school education is an ineluctable truth that underscores the learning process and contributes meaningfully towards the overall growth of a student."
43. (C) Q–S–P–R
Correct sentence: "The beneficial outcome of a virtuous life is peace of mind and contentment on account of a life lived well without retribution or rebuke."
44. (A) S–Q–R–P
Correct sentence: "It is widely believed that the parliamentary system differs from a non-parliamentary system in as much as the former is more representative than the latter."
45. (D) S–R–Q–P
Correct sentence: "When service is done for exhibition or for fear of public opinion, it stunts the person offering the same and crushes the spirit behind the service."
46. (A) Any further
Further is commonly used for figurative advancement or progress. With the negative construction *does not look like*, any further is appropriate: *going any further in his studies*.
47. (C) Amidst
Amidst means in the middle of or surrounded by something. Here, the thief escaped amidst all the confusion.
48. (C) Specialist
A specialist surgeon is a surgeon possessing specialised expertise in a particular field.
49. (B) Fewer than
Students is a plural countable noun, so fewer, not *less*, is required. The correct comparative expression is *fewer than thirty students*.
50. (C) Stranded
Stranded means left unable to move or proceed. Vehicles may become stranded on a highway because of a landslide.