

NDA & NA EXAMINATION (II) 2026

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: Each item in this section consists of a sentence with an underlined word followed by four words. Select the word that is opposite in meaning to the underlined word and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

1. During the trial, the witness's deposition was **EQUIVOCAL**.
(a) ambiguous (b) evasive
(c) explicit (d) guarded
2. The professor is known for his characteristic **RETICENCE**.
(a) communicativeness (b) reserve
(c) restraint (d) diffidence
3. Observers noted the officials' increasingly **CAPRICIOUS** approach to administrative reforms.
(a) erratic (b) whimsical
(c) ceremonial (d) steadfast
4. The novel presents an **IDEALISTIC** view of the ongoing political reform.
(a) visionary (b) utopian
(c) pragmatic (d) romantic
5. The speaker's tone became increasingly **CAUSTIC** during the debate.
(a) sarcastic (b) conciliatory
(c) acerbic (d) acrimonious
6. The note drew attention to the **FALLACIOUS** assumptions underlying the proposals.
(a) veracious (b) misleading
(c) procedural (d) erroneous
7. The activist was **SCEPTICAL** with regard to the antecedents of the newly discovered documents.
(a) restrained (b) credulous
(c) circumlocutory (d) guarded
8. The panel found the conclusion somewhat **SPECULATIVE**.
(a) conjectural (b) hypothetical
(c) substantiated (d) interpretive
9. After the mishap, the mood was **SOMBRE** among the survivors.

- (a) shady (b) dingy
(c) restrained (d) buoyant
10. He is a **PROFESSIONAL** artist.
(a) apprentice (b) dilettante
(c) amateur (d) aspirant

Directions : Each item in this section consists of a sentence with an underlined word followed by four words. Select the word that is nearest in meaning to the underlined word and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

11. The controversial policy received the committee's **IMPRIMATUR**.
(a) criticism (b) approval
(c) rejection (d) appraisal
12. The archaeologist was fascinated by the **ANNULAR** design of the ancient monument.
(a) circular (b) vertical
(c) triangular (d) funicular
13. The nobility is not known for its **MUNIFICENCE**.
(a) reluctance (b) valour
(c) generosity (d) graciousness
14. The goods kept in the storage facility were declared to be **CONTRABAND**.
(a) prohibited (b) taxable
(c) foreign (d) adulterated
15. The judge ruled on the **EGREGIOUS** violations of human rights by the authorities.
(a) subtle (b) flagrant
(c) inadvertent (d) concealed

Directions: Given below are some foreign phrases followed by four alternatives to each. Select the most appropriate alternative which provides the correct meaning of the foreign phrase used in English and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

16. **Ipso facto**
(a) After the fact (b) In fact
(c) By the fact itself (d) The primary factor

- (a) Through newspapers (b) Through diplomacy
(c) In secrecy (d) A middle way

18. **Quid pro quo**

- (a) The existing state of affairs
(b) Therefore or consequently
(c) Something given in exchange for something else
(d) Done for public good without compensation

19. **A posteriori**

- (a) At the very beginning
(b) Based on reasoning from known facts or empirical evidence
(c) Military campaign leading to swift victory
(d) A person with a sociable and expansive lifestyle

20. **Modus operandi**

- (a) The most appropriate word (b) Method of operating
(c) The violation of a rule (d) Successful operation

Directions: Given below are some idioms/phrases followed by four alternatives to each. Select the most appropriate alternative which provides the correct meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

21. **'Burn your bridges'**

- (a) Ending one's life
(b) To make a decision you cannot change
(c) To ignore danger
(d) To settle an argument

22. **'Make no bones about something'**

- (a) To do your own thing
(b) To make no money
(c) To not try to hide one's feelings
(d) To not come right to the point

23. **'A blot on the landscape'**

- (a) A painting that has turned out wrong
(b) A bald patch in a meadow
(c) A black sheep in an office
(d) Something ugly that spoils the appearance of a place

24. **'A bone of contention'**

- (a) Source of agreement (b) Point of long standing dispute
(c) A hidden agenda (d) Legal obligation

25. **'Pour oil on troubled waters'**

- (a) To mastermind a trick or deception
(b) To produce something that is required as if by magic
(c) To exacerbate a festering situation
(d) To say or do something to stop an argument or calm down a situation

an underlined word. Read the sentence carefully and identify which word class the underlined word belongs to. Indicate your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

26. **Despite** the heavy rain, the match continued as scheduled.

- (a) Conjunction (b) Adverb
(c) Noun (d) Preposition

27. He gave **both** candidates an equal opportunity to present their case.

- (a) Determiner (b) Pronoun
(c) Adverb (d) Adjective

28. The old woman sat on the bench, knitting in **silence**.

- (a) Verb (b) Adjective
(c) Adverb (d) Noun

29. The injured soldier crawled **forward** in spite of debilitating pain.

- (a) Noun (b) Adverb
(c) Adjective (d) Preposition

30. The results were **beyond** everyone's expectation.

- (a) Preposition (b) Conjunction
(c) Adjective (d) Adverb

Directions :Reorder the PQRS set to create the most appropriate meaningful sentence. Indicate your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

31. The findings were

P : that had long been accepted

Q : because they fundamentally challenged the assumptions

R : met with considerable resistance at first

S : by the mainstream scientific community

The proper sequencing should be :

- (a) RQPS (b) RSPQ
(c) PQSR (d) PSQR

32. It is often argued that

P : are not the result of innate talent alone

Q : but rather the product of

R : extraordinary achievements

S : sustained effort and deliberate practice

The proper sequencing should be :

- (a) SPQR (b) PSQR
(c) RPQS (d) QRSP

33. The historian noted that

P : had been systematically erased

Q : the memory of certain communities

R : and replaced with a sanitized narrative

S : from the official records of the colonial period

The proper sequencing should be :

- (a) PQRS (b) QPSR
(c) RQSP (d) QSPR

34. Critics have long maintained that

Q : assumptions and not in the mere
 R : ability to disturb comfortable
 S : reproduction of social reality
 The proper sequencing should be :

- (a) PQRS (b) PRQS
 (c) SPQR (d) QRSP

35. The movie

P : it was hardly possible
 Q : were so humorous that
 R : to keep a straight face
 S : had many scenes which
 The proper sequencing should be :

- (a) PRSQ (b) SPRQ
 (c) QPRS (d) SQPR

Directions : The following items have four sentences, one of which is grammatically correct. Select the most appropriate correct sentence and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

36. (a) She insisted that he apologises immediately.
 (b) She insisted that he apologise immediately.
 (c) She insisted that he may apologise immediately.
 (d) She insisted that he apologised immediately.
37. (a) The police has arrested the accused last night.
 (b) The police have arrested the accused last night.
 (c) The police arrested the accused last night.
 (d) The police had arrested the accused last night.
38. (a) The teacher made the students to rewrite the essay.
 (b) The teacher has the students to rewrite the essay.
 (c) The teacher got the students rewriting the essay.
 (d) The teacher had the students rewrite the essay.
39. (a) I shall base my decision on how much free time can I manage.
 (b) I shall base my decision about how much free time I can manage.
 (c) I shall base my decision on how much free time I can manage.
 (d) I shall base my decision to how much free time I can manage.
40. (a) Do not panic because a situation is under control.
 (b) Do not panic because situation under control.
 (c) Do not panic however a situation is under control.
 (d) Do not panic because the situation is under control.

(c). Find out which part of the sentence has an error. If there is no error, mark your option (d). Indicate your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

- (a) He is a honest man
 (b) who has served
 (c) this institution for twenty years
 (d) No error

42. A sentence is given in three parts (a), (b) and (c). Find out which part of the sentence has an error. If there is no error, mark your option (d). Indicate your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

- (a) The jury has delivered
 (b) its verdict after
 (c) long and careful deliberations
 (d) No error

43. Read the following pairs:

I. Active Voice: These grapes taste sour.

Passive Voice: These grapes are sour when they are tasted.

II. Active Voice: Forget the past.

Passive Voice: Let the past be forgotten.

Identify the pair(s) wherein the Passive Voice is correctly stated and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

- (a) I only (b) II only
 (c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

44. Read the following pairs:

I. Active Voice: They asked me my name.

Passive Voice: My name was asked by them.

II. Active Voice: They found him guilty.

Passive Voice: He found them guilty.

Identify the pair(s) wherein the Passive Voice is correctly stated and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

- (a) I only (b) II only
 (c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

45. Read the following pairs:

I. Direct Speech: He said, "Bravo! You have written the best answer."

Indirect Speech: He applauded him saying that he had written the best answer.

II. Direct Speech: "The sun rises in the East," said the teacher.

Indirect Speech: The teacher said that the sun rose in the East.

Identify the pair(s) wherein the Indirect Speech is correctly stated and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

- (a) I only (b) II only
 (c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

46. Read the following pairs:

until I return.”

Indirect Speech: He ordered him to wait here until he returned.

II. Direct Speech: He said, “Alas! I am undone.”

Indirect Speech: He exclaimed sadly that he was undone.

Identify the pair(s) wherein the Indirect Speech is correctly stated and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

- (a) I only (b) II only
(c) Both I and II (d) Neither I nor II

47. Read the following pairs:

I. One who studies handwriting

Graphologist

II. One who draws maps

Cartographer

III. One who studies flags

Vexillologist

Identify the pairs wherein the one word substitution is correctly stated and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

- (a) I and II only (b) II and III only
(c) I and III only (d) I, II and III

48. Read the following pairs:

Omnipotent

II. One who is all powerful

Omniscient

III. One who abandons religious faith

Apostate

Identify the pair(s) wherein the one word substitution is correctly stated and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

- (a) I only (b) II only
(c) III only (d) I, II and III

49. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate phrasal verb and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

The car tended to _____ every time the rains decided to _____.

- (a) act out; come in (b) act up; come down
(c) act out; come down (d) act up; come in

50. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate phrasal verb and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

He was eager to _____ after having resigned his position, but was advised to _____ his next move given the prevailing market situation.

- (a) move on; hold on (b) move off; hold off
(c) move on; hold off (d) move off; hold on

Answers and Explanations

- C (explicit) — *Equivocal* means ambiguous or open to more than one interpretation. Explicit means clear and definite, hence the opposite.
- A (communicativeness) — *Reticence* means reserve or unwillingness to speak. Communicativeness is its opposite.
- D (steadfast) — *Capricious* means unpredictable or changeable. Steadfast means firm and consistent.
- C (pragmatic) — *Idealistic* is based on ideals; pragmatic means practical and realistic.
- B (conciliatory) — *Caustic* means harsh or sarcastic. Conciliatory means intended to calm or reconcile.
- A (veracious) — *Fallacious* means false or based on mistaken reasoning. Veracious means truthful or accurate.
- B (credulous) — *Sceptical* means doubtful or questioning. Credulous means too ready to believe.
- C (substantiated) — *Speculative* means based on conjecture rather than evidence. Substantiated means supported by evidence.
- D (buoyant) — *Sombre* means gloomy or serious. Buoyant means cheerful and optimistic.
- C (amateur) — A *professional* practises an occupation as a career; an amateur does it without professional status.
- B (approval) — *Imprimatur* means official approval or authorization.
- A (circular) — *Annular* means ring-shaped or circular.
- C (generosity) — *Munificence* means great generosity or liberality.
- A (prohibited) — *Contraband* refers to goods whose possession, import or export is prohibited.
- B (flagrant) — *Egregious* means outstandingly bad or shocking; flagrant is the closest synonym.
- C (By the fact itself) — *Ipso facto* literally means “by the fact itself.”
- D (A middle way) — *Via media* means a middle course or compromise between two extremes.
- C (Something given in exchange for something else) — *Quid pro quo* means one thing given or received in return for another.
- B (Based on reasoning from known facts or empirical evidence) — *A posteriori* refers to

observation.

20. B (Method of operating) — *Modus operandi* means a particular method or manner of doing something.
21. B (To make a decision you cannot change) — *Burn your bridges* means to take an action that makes returning to an earlier position impossible.
22. C (To not try to hide one's feelings) — *Make no bones about something* means to speak openly and directly about it.
23. D (Something ugly that spoils the appearance of a place) — *A blot on the landscape* is an unattractive feature that spoils an area.
24. B (Point of long standing dispute) — *A bone of contention* is a subject that causes disagreement or dispute.
25. D (To say or do something to stop an argument or calm down a situation) — *Pour oil on troubled waters* means to calm a quarrel or tense situation.
26. D (Preposition) — *Despite* introduces the noun phrase "the heavy rain"; therefore, it functions as a preposition.
27. A (Determiner) — *Both* comes before and determines the noun "candidates."
28. D (Noun) — *Silence* is the object of the preposition "in" and functions as a noun.
29. B (Adverb) — *Forward* modifies the verb "crawled" by indicating direction.
30. A (Preposition) — *Beyond* precedes the noun phrase "everyone's expectation" and functions as a preposition.
31. A (RQPS) — Correct sentence: *The findings were met with considerable resistance at first because they fundamentally challenged the assumptions that had long been accepted by the mainstream scientific community.*
32. C (RPQS) — Correct sentence: *It is often argued that extraordinary achievements are not the result of innate talent alone but rather the product of sustained effort and deliberate practice.*
33. B (QPSR) — Correct sentence: *The historian noted that the memory of certain communities had been systematically erased from the official records of the colonial period and replaced with a sanitized narrative.*
34. B (PRQS) — Correct sentence: *Critics have long maintained that literature's true power lies in its not in the mere reproduction of social reality.*
35. D (SQPR) — Correct sentence: *The movie had many scenes which were so humorous that it was hardly possible to keep a straight face.*
36. B — After *insisted that*, the subjunctive form is used: "he apologise", not *apologises/apologised*.
37. C — With a definite past-time expression such as *last night*, the simple past is appropriate: *The police arrested...*
38. D — The causative structure is have + object + bare infinitive: *had the students rewrite.*
39. C — The correct expression is *base my decision on*, followed by normal statement word order: *how much free time I can manage.*
40. D — The sentence is grammatically complete and correctly uses the situation: *Do not panic because the situation is under control.*
41. A — *Honest* begins with a vowel sound, so the correct expression is "an honest man."
42. D (No error) — The sentence is grammatically acceptable: *The jury has delivered its verdict after long and careful deliberations.*
43. C (Both I and II) — According to the official key, both pairs are accepted as correct passive constructions.
44. A (I only) — According to the official key, Pair I is accepted; Pair II does not correctly transform the active sentence into passive voice.
45. A (I only) — Pair I correctly reports the exclamation of praise. In Pair II, a universal truth should remain in the present tense: *the sun rises in the East.*
46. B (II only) — Pair I should use *there* instead of *here* in reported speech; Pair II is correctly transformed.
47. D (I, II and III) — A graphologist studies handwriting, a cartographer draws maps, and a vexillologist studies flags.
48. C (III only) — One who knows everything is *omniscient*; one who is all-powerful is *omnipotent*. Apostate correctly means one who abandons religious faith.
49. B (act up; come down) — *Act up* means malfunction; *rain comes down* when it falls heavily.
50. C (move on; hold off) — *Move on* means proceed to a new stage; *hold off* means postpone or delay.