

WB PANCHAYAT EXAM

ENGLISH SECTION

Complete Notes & 70+ Important Q&A

Topics Covered:

- ◆ Vocabulary
- ◆ Grammar (Tenses, Articles, Prepositions)
- ◆ Reading Comprehension
- ◆ Synonyms & Antonyms
- ◆ Sentence Correction
- ◆ Idioms & Phrases
- ◆ One-word Substitution

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CHAPTER 1: VOCABULARY

□ Vocabulary tests your word knowledge. Common question types: fill in the blanks, choose the correct word, spot the odd one out.

Key Concepts

Vocabulary refers to the set of words you know and understand. A strong vocabulary helps in all sections of the English paper.

Common word types tested: Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs, Homophones, Confusing words.

Important Vocabulary Q&A

Q1. Which word means 'to make something better'?

Ans: Improve / Ameliorate / Enhance

Q2. What does 'Ambiguous' mean?

Ans: Having more than one possible meaning; unclear or doubtful. E.g., His ambiguous answer confused everyone.

Q3. Choose the correct word: 'The teacher gave a _____ (complement/compliment) to the student.'

Ans: Compliment — it means praise. 'Complement' means something that completes another thing.

Q4. What is the meaning of 'Benevolent'?

Ans: Kind, generous, charitable. Antonym: Malevolent (wishing evil).

Q5. Which word is a synonym of 'Plausible'?

Ans: Reasonable, Believable, Credible. E.g., 'Her excuse seemed plausible.'

Q6. What does 'Verbose' mean?

Ans: Using more words than necessary; long-winded. Antonym: Concise / Brief.

Q7. What is the meaning of 'Diligent'?

Ans: Hardworking, careful, and persistent. E.g., 'A diligent student always does well in exams.'

Q8. What does 'Obsolete' mean?

Ans: No longer in use; outdated. E.g., 'Typewriters have become obsolete.'

Q9. What are 'Homophones'? Give an example.

Ans: Words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings. E.g., 'their' (belonging to them) and 'there' (in that place).

Q10. Choose the correct word: 'The _____ (principal/principle) of the school spoke at the assembly.'

Ans: Principal — it means the head of a school. 'Principle' means a rule or belief.

CHAPTER 2: GRAMMAR

□ Grammar tests tenses, articles (a/an/the), prepositions, subject-verb agreement, and correct sentence structure.

A. TENSES — Quick Reference

Present Simple: I eat. She eats. (Habitual actions)

Present Continuous: I am eating. (Action in progress now)

Present Perfect: I have eaten. (Completed action with present relevance)

Past Simple: I ate. She ate. (Completed action in the past)

Past Continuous: I was eating. (Ongoing action in the past)

Past Perfect: I had eaten. (Action completed before another past action)

Future Simple: I will eat. (Action in the future)

Future Perfect: I will have eaten. (Action completed by a future time)

B. ARTICLES — Quick Reference

'A': Used before singular nouns starting with a consonant sound. E.g., a book, a university.

'An': Used before singular nouns starting with a vowel sound. E.g., an apple, an hour.

'The': Used for specific/known nouns. E.g., the sun, the Ganga, the book I gave you.

C. PREPOSITIONS — Quick Reference

In: Used for months, years, seasons, and large areas. E.g., in January, in India.

On: Used for days and dates. E.g., on Monday, on 15th August.

At: Used for specific times and places. E.g., at 5 PM, at the bus stop.

Since: Used with a specific point in time (with perfect tense). E.g., since 2020.

For: Used with a duration of time. E.g., for two hours, for many years.

Grammar Q&A

Q11. Fill in the blank: She _____ (go) to school every day.

Ans: goes — Present Simple tense. Third-person singular 's' is added.

Q12. Fill in the blank: They _____ (play) cricket since morning.

Ans: have been playing — Present Perfect Continuous, because the action started in the past and is still going on.

Q13. Which article is used: 'She is _____ honest woman.'

Ans: 'An' is used because 'honest' begins with a vowel sound (silent 'h').

Q14. Fill in the blank: He was born _____ 1995.

Ans: 'In' 1995 — preposition 'in' is used for years.

Q15. Correct the sentence: 'She don't like mangoes.'

Ans: Corrected: 'She doesn't like mangoes.' — Third-person singular needs 'doesn't'.

Q16. Fill in the blank: I have been waiting _____ two hours.

Ans: 'For' two hours — 'for' is used with a duration of time.

Q17. Which tense: 'By the time he arrived, she had already left.'

Ans: Past Perfect — 'had left' shows an action completed before another past action.

Q18. Fill in the blank: 'The Taj Mahal is _____ most beautiful monument.'

Ans: 'the' — 'the' is used before superlatives and unique things.

Q19. Fill in the blank: The cat is sitting _____ the table.

Ans: 'On' the table — 'on' is used to indicate surface position.

Q20. Correct the sentence: 'He have completed the work.'

Ans: Corrected: 'He has completed the work.' — Third-person singular uses 'has'.

CHAPTER 3: READING COMPREHENSION

A passage is given followed by questions. Read carefully before answering. Focus on main idea, tone, and specific details.

How to Attempt Comprehension Questions

Step 1: Read the passage carefully at least once to understand the main idea.

Step 2: Read each question and identify keywords.

Step 3: Go back to the passage, find the relevant part, and choose the best answer.

Step 4: For 'title/theme' questions, look for the central topic of the passage.

Step 5: For 'tone' questions — determine if the writer is critical, appreciative, neutral, or sarcastic.

Sample Comprehension Q&A

Q21. What does 'Main Idea' of a passage mean?

Ans: The main idea is the central thought or message the author wants to convey. It is usually found in the introduction or conclusion.

Q22. What is an 'Inference' question?

Ans: An inference question asks you to draw a conclusion not directly stated in the passage, using clues from the text.

Q23. How do you find the 'Title' of a passage?

Ans: The title should reflect the central topic of the entire passage, not just one part. Choose the most general and accurate option.

Q24. What does 'Tone of the passage' mean?

Ans: Tone refers to the writer's attitude toward the subject — e.g., critical, appreciative, humorous, serious, neutral, or sarcastic.

Q25. If a passage says: 'Despite hardships, Raju studied hard and topped the exam.' What can be inferred?

Ans: Raju is determined and hardworking. Adversity did not stop him from achieving success.

CHAPTER 4: SYNONYMS & ANTONYMS

□ *Synonyms = words with similar meaning. Antonyms = words with opposite meaning. These are heavily tested in govt. exams!*

Important Synonym & Antonym Q&A

Q26. Synonym of 'Brave'

Ans: Courageous, Valiant, Bold, Daring, Fearless

Q27. Antonym of 'Brave'

Ans: Cowardly, Timid, Fearful, Meek

Q28. Synonym of 'Happy'

Ans: Joyful, Elated, Content, Cheerful, Pleased

Q29. Antonym of 'Happy'

Ans: Sad, Sorrowful, Gloomy, Melancholy, Dejected

Q30. Synonym of 'Intelligent'

Ans: Smart, Clever, Wise, Brilliant, Sharp

Q31. Antonym of 'Intelligent'

Ans: Stupid, Foolish, Dull, Ignorant, Unintelligent

Q32. Synonym of 'Ancient'

Ans: Old, Antique, Archaic, Aged, Prehistoric

Q33. Antonym of 'Ancient'

Ans: Modern, New, Contemporary, Recent, Current

Q34. Synonym of 'Abundant'

Ans: Plentiful, Copious, Ample, Profuse, Bountiful

Q35. Antonym of 'Abundant'

Ans: Scarce, Rare, Deficient, Meager, Insufficient

Q36. Synonym of 'Arrogant'

Ans: Haughty, Proud, Insolent, Conceited, Pompous

Q37. Antonym of 'Arrogant'

Ans: Humble, Modest, Meek, Polite, Down-to-earth

Q38. Synonym of 'Transparent'

Ans: Clear, Translucent, Obvious, Evident, Plain

Q39. Antonym of 'Transparent'

Ans: Opaque, Unclear, Hidden, Obscure, Dark

Q40. Synonym of 'Frugal'

Ans: Thrifty, Economical, Sparring, Careful with money

Q41. Antonym of 'Frugal'

Ans: Wasteful, Extravagant, Lavish, Spendthrift

Q42. Synonym of 'Vague'

Ans: Unclear, Ambiguous, Obscure, Indefinite, Hazy

Q43. Antonym of 'Vague'

Ans: Clear, Definite, Precise, Specific, Explicit

CHAPTER 5: SENTENCE CORRECTION

□ Sentence correction tests subject-verb agreement, tense consistency, correct preposition use, pronoun use, and word order.

Common Error Types

Subject-Verb Agreement: The subject and verb must agree in number. 'She go' is wrong; 'She goes' is correct.

Tense Consistency: Don't mix tenses unnecessarily. 'He came and eats' is wrong; 'He came and ate' is correct.

Wrong Preposition: 'She is good in English' is wrong; 'She is good at English' is correct.

Redundancy: 'She returned back home' is wrong. 'Returned' already implies 'back'. Correct: 'She returned home.'

Wrong Article: 'She is a honest girl' is wrong. Correct: 'She is an honest girl.'

Sentence Correction Q&A

Q44. Correct: 'Each of the students have submitted their work.'

Ans: Corrected: 'Each of the students has submitted their work.' — 'Each' is singular, so use 'has'.

Q45. Correct: 'Neither Ram nor Shyam are coming.'

Ans: Corrected: 'Neither Ram nor Shyam is coming.' — When 'neither...nor' joins singular subjects, use singular verb.

Q46. Correct: 'She is more intelligent than any student in the class.'

Ans: Corrected: 'She is more intelligent than any other student in the class.' — Add 'other' to exclude the subject from comparison.

Q47. Correct: 'He is one of the best student in the class.'

Ans: Corrected: 'He is one of the best students in the class.' — After 'one of', use plural noun.

Q48. Correct: 'I have seen him yesterday.'

Ans: Corrected: 'I saw him yesterday.' — Use Simple Past (not Present Perfect) with specific past time expressions like 'yesterday'.

Q49. Correct: 'The news are shocking.'

Ans: Corrected: 'The news is shocking.' — 'News' is an uncountable noun; always use singular verb.

Q50. Correct: 'He told me that he is a doctor.'

Ans: Corrected: 'He told me that he was a doctor.' — In reported speech, the verb shifts to past tense.

Q51. Identify the error: 'She was looking forward to meet him.'

Ans: Error: 'to meet' should be 'to meeting'. After 'look forward to', use a gerund (-ing form).
Correct: 'She was looking forward to meeting him.'

CHAPTER 6: IDIOMS & PHRASES

□ *An idiom is a phrase whose meaning is different from the literal meaning of the words. These are very common in competitive exams.*

Important Idioms Q&A

Q52. What does 'Kick the bucket' mean?

Ans: To die. E.g., 'The old man kicked the bucket last night.' (Informal expression)

Q53. What does 'Beat around the bush' mean?

Ans: To avoid the main topic; to talk in a roundabout way instead of getting to the point.

Q54. What does 'Break the ice' mean?

Ans: To do or say something to relieve tension or start a conversation in a social situation.

Q55. What does 'Bite the bullet' mean?

Ans: To endure a painful or difficult situation bravely.

Q56. What does 'Cost an arm and a leg' mean?

Ans: To be very expensive. E.g., 'That new phone costs an arm and a leg.'

Q57. What does 'Under the weather' mean?

Ans: To feel ill or unwell. E.g., 'I am feeling under the weather today.'

Q58. What does 'Hit the nail on the head' mean?

Ans: To describe exactly what is causing a problem; to be exactly right about something.

Q59. What does 'Once in a blue moon' mean?

Ans: Very rarely. E.g., 'She visits her relatives once in a blue moon.'

Q60. What does 'A blessing in disguise' mean?

Ans: Something that seems bad at first but turns out to be good. E.g., 'Losing that job was a blessing in disguise.'

Q61. What does 'Burning the midnight oil' mean?

Ans: To work or study late into the night. E.g., 'He was burning the midnight oil before the exam.'

Q62. What does 'Spill the beans' mean?

Ans: To reveal a secret. E.g., 'She spilled the beans about the surprise party.'

Q63. What does 'Barking up the wrong tree' mean?

Ans: To look for something in the wrong place or blame the wrong person.

CHAPTER 7: ONE-WORD SUBSTITUTION

□ One-word substitution means replacing a group of words with a single word that carries the same meaning. This is a high-scoring topic in govt exams!

Important One-Word Substitution Q&A

Q64. One word for: 'A person who cannot read or write'

Ans: Illiterate

Q65. One word for: 'One who loves his/her country'

Ans: Patriot

Q66. One word for: 'One who does not believe in God'

Ans: Atheist

Q67. One word for: 'The study of ancient things'

Ans: Archaeology

Q68. One word for: 'A person who loves books'

Ans: Bibliophile

Q69. One word for: 'A doctor who treats mental illness'

Ans: Psychiatrist

Q70. One word for: 'A government run by the people'

Ans: Democracy

Q71. One word for: 'Killing of one's own brother'

Ans: Fratricide

Q72. One word for: 'A person who eats only plants'

Ans: Vegetarian / Herbivore

Q73. One word for: 'A speech made without previous preparation'

Ans: Extempore / Impromptu

Q74. One word for: 'One who looks after and tends to horses'

Ans: Groom / Ostler

Q75. One word for: 'A story in which animals speak as humans'

Ans: Fable

Q76. One word for: 'Fear of water'

Ans: Hydrophobia

Q77. One word for: 'A place where sick people are treated'

Ans: Hospital

Q78. One word for: 'A statement that contradicts itself'

Ans: Paradox

Q79. One word for: 'One who studies the stars and planets'

Ans: Astronomer

Q80. One word for: 'Belonging to or connected with birth'

Ans: Natal

BONUS: Quick Revision Table — Commonly Confused Words

Word	Synonym(s)	Antonym(s)
Brave	Courageous, Bold	Cowardly, Timid
Honest	Truthful, Sincere	Dishonest, Deceitful
Generous	Kind, Liberal	Miserly, Stingy
Diligent	Hardworking, Earnest	Lazy, Idle
Transparent	Clear, Evident	Opaque, Obscure
Ancient	Old, Archaic	Modern, Recent
Abundant	Plentiful, Copious	Scarce, Deficient
Arrogant	Haughty, Proud	Humble, Modest
Clever	Smart, Intelligent	Dull, Foolish
Calm	Peaceful, Serene	Agitated, Turbulent

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