

DEFENCE DREAMS

NDA ENGLISH PRACTICE SET

50 Multiple-Choice Questions with Answer Key & Written Explanations

Practice instructions

1. Attempt all 50 questions before checking the answers.
2. Each question has four options. Select the single best answer.
3. The answer key and explanations are provided after the question paper.
4. This is an original practice resource for NDA English preparation, not an official UPSC question paper.

Suggested time: 35 minutes **Total questions:** 50

SECTION A — QUESTION PAPER

Choose the most appropriate option for each question.

Q1. Choose the word nearest in meaning to “ABATE”.

A. Increase
B. Lessen
C. Refuse
D. Delay

Q2. Choose the antonym of “FRUGAL”.

A. Economical
B. Careful
C. Extravagant
D. Thrifty

Q3. Choose the correctly spelt word.

A. Accomodation
B. Acommodation
C. Accommodation
D. Accommadation

Q4. Choose the one-word substitution: A person who can speak many languages.

A. Linguist
B. Polyglot
C. Orator
D. Translator

Q5. Choose the meaning of the idiom “to hit the nail on the head”.

A. To make a serious mistake
B. To work very hard
C. To describe exactly what is causing a situation
D. To avoid a problem

Q6. Choose the synonym of “CANDID”.

A. Frank
B. Secretive
C. Doubtful
D. Careless

Q7. Choose the antonym of “SCARCE”.

A. Rare
B. Limited
C. Abundant
D. Insufficient

Q8. Choose the correct meaning of “meticulous”.

A. Very careless
B. Extremely careful about details
C. Easily angered
D. Unwilling to learn

Q9. Choose the correct indirect speech: He said, “I am busy now.”

A. He said that I am busy now.
B. He said that he was busy then.
C. He says that he was busy now.
D. He said he is busy then.

Q10. Choose the correct passive voice: “The team completed the mission.”

A. The mission is completed by the team.
B. The mission had completed by the team.
C. The mission was completed by the team.
D. The mission has been completing by the team.

Q11. Choose the correct verb: Neither of the candidates _____ present.

A. were
B. are
C. have
D. was

Q12. Choose the correct article: He is _____ honest officer.

A. a
B. an
C. the
D. no article

Q13. Choose the correct preposition: She is good _____ mathematics.

A. in
B. on
C. at
D. with

Q14. Choose the correct form: By next June, she _____ here for five years.

A. works
B. will have worked
C. has worked
D. had worked

Q15. Choose the grammatically correct sentence.

A. Each of the boys have a book.
B. Each of the boys has a book.
C. Each boys has a book.
D. Each of boys have book.

Q16. Identify the part containing an error: “The news / are too good / to be true / No error.”

A. The news
B. are too good
C. to be true
D. No error

Q17. Identify the part containing an error: “She is senior / than me / in the office / No error.”

A. She is senior
B. than me
C. in the office
D. No error

Q18. Identify the part containing an error: “One of my friend / has joined / the armed forces / No error.”

A. One of my friend
B. has joined
C. the armed forces
D. No error

Q19. Identify the part containing an error: “He did not / went to school / yesterday / No error.”

A. He did not
B. went to school
C. yesterday
D. No error

Q20. Identify the part containing an error: “Unless you do not work hard / you will not / pass the examination / No error.”

A. Unless you do not work hard
B. you will not
C. pass the examination
D. No error

Q21. Choose the best improvement: “He is accustomed to wake up early.”

A. accustomed to waking up early
B. accustomed for waking up early
C. accustomed to woke up early
D. No improvement

Q22. Choose the best improvement: “The officer discussed about the plan.”

A. discussed on the plan
B. discussed the plan
C. discussed over about the plan
D. No improvement

Q23. Choose the best improvement: “I prefer tea than coffee.”

A. prefer tea over than coffee
B. prefer tea to coffee
C. prefer tea from coffee
D. No improvement

Q24. Choose the best improvement: “Hardly had the train left than it started raining.”

A. when it started raining
B. then it started raining
C. and it started raining
D. No improvement

Q25. Choose the correct question tag: You have completed the assignment, _____?

A. haven't you
B. have you
C. don't you
D. didn't you

Q26. Choose the correct conjunction: He worked hard _____ he could pass the test.

A. because
B. so that
C. although
D. unless

Q27. Choose the correct sentence.

A. The furniture are expensive.
B. The furnitures are expensive.
C. The furniture is expensive.
D. A furniture is expensive.

Q28. Choose the correct comparative form: This route is _____ than the other one.

A. more shorter
B. shortest
C. shorter
D. most short

Q29. Choose the correct form: If I _____ in your place, I would apologise.

A. am
B. was being
C. were
D. will be

Q30. Choose the correct word: The soldiers showed great _____ in the face of danger.

A. brave
B. bravery
C. bravely
D. braver

Q31. Choose the correct meaning of the phrasal verb “look into”.

A. Ignore
B. Investigate
C. Admire
D. Postpone

Q32. Choose the meaning of “call off”.

A. Cancel
B. Continue
C. Announce
D. Discover

Q33. Choose the correct one-word substitution: A speech delivered without preparation.

A. Dialogue
B. Extempore
C. Monologue
D. Debate

Q34. Choose the correct one-word substitution: Government by the people.

A. Monarchy
B. Oligarchy
C. Democracy
D. Autocracy

Q35. Choose the synonym of “RESILIENT”.

A. Fragile
B. Adaptable and quick to recover
C. Indifferent
D. Rigid

Q36. Choose the antonym of “HOSTILE”.

A. Aggressive
B. Unfriendly
C. Friendly
D. Bitter

Q37. Choose the correctly spelt word.

A. Privilege
B. Privelege
C. Priviledge
D. Privilage

Q38. Choose the correctly spelt word.

A. Seperate
B. Separate
C. Seperete
D. Separete

Q39. Choose the idiom that means “very rarely”.

A. At sixes and sevens
B. By leaps and bounds
C. Once in a blue moon
D. Under the weather

Q40. Choose the correct sentence.

A. No sooner did he arrive when the meeting began.
B. No sooner had he arrived than the meeting began.
C. No sooner he arrived than the meeting began.
D. No sooner had he arrive when the meeting began.

Q41. Choose the correct passive voice: “People speak English all over the world.”

A. English was spoken all over the world.
B. English is spoken all over the world.
C. English has spoke all over the world.
D. English speaks all over the world.

Q42. Choose the correct indirect speech: She said to me, “Please help me.”

A. She told me please help her.
B. She requested me to help her.
C. She said me to help her.
D. She asked that I helped me.

Q43. Choose the correct verb: The captain, along with his players, _____ arriving.

A. are
B. were
C. is
D. have

Q44. Choose the correct preposition: The cadets arrived _____ the academy at 6 a.m.

A. at
B. in
C. on
D. by

Q45. Choose the correct word: The instructor gave us useful _____ before the test.

A. advices
B. advice
C. an advice
D. advising

Q46. Choose the correct meaning of “vigilant”.

A. Alert and watchful
B. Sleepy
C. Careless
D. Confused

Q47. Choose the antonym of “TRANSPARENT”.

A. Clear
B. Obvious
C. Opaque
D. Bright

Q48. Choose the correct word: The pilot made a _____ landing despite the strong wind.

A. safely
B. safety
C. safe
D. saferly

Q49. Choose the best completion: The cadet was praised _____ his discipline.

A. for
B. with
C. by
D. of

Q50. Read the passage and answer the question: “Discipline is essential in the armed forces. It helps personnel act together, follow instructions, and remain calm under pressure. Training builds discipline through regular practice and accountability.” What is the main idea of the passage?

A. Training should be avoided.
B. Discipline supports coordinated and reliable action.
C. Pressure always causes mistakes.
D. Instructions are unnecessary.

SECTION B — ANSWER KEY

Use this quick key to check your responses. Full explanations follow in Section C.

Q1: B	Q2: C	Q3: C	Q4: B	Q5: C
Q6: A	Q7: C	Q8: B	Q9: B	Q10: C
Q11: D	Q12: B	Q13: C	Q14: B	Q15: B
Q16: B	Q17: B	Q18: A	Q19: B	Q20: A
Q21: A	Q22: B	Q23: B	Q24: A	Q25: A
Q26: B	Q27: C	Q28: C	Q29: C	Q30: B
Q31: B	Q32: A	Q33: B	Q34: C	Q35: B
Q36: C	Q37: A	Q38: B	Q39: C	Q40: B
Q41: B	Q42: B	Q43: C	Q44: A	Q45: B
Q46: A	Q47: C	Q48: C	Q49: A	Q50: B

SECTION C — FULL WRITTEN EXPLANATIONS

Q1. Answer: B — Lessen

“Abate” means to become less intense or to reduce. “Lessen” is the closest synonym.

Q2. Answer: C — Extravagant

“Frugal” means careful with money. “Extravagant” means spending wastefully, so it is the opposite.

Q3. Answer: C — Accommodation

The correct spelling is “accommodation”, with double c and double m.

Q4. Answer: B — Polyglot

A “polyglot” is a person who knows or speaks several languages.

Q5. Answer: C — To describe exactly what is causing a situation

The idiom means to say or identify exactly the right thing.

Q6. Answer: A — Frank

“Candid” means honest, direct, and frank.

Q7. Answer: C — Abundant

“Scarce” means not enough or hard to find. “Abundant” means plentiful.

Q8. Answer: B — Extremely careful about details

“Meticulous” describes someone who pays great attention to detail.

Q9. Answer: B — He said that he was busy then.

In reported speech, “I” changes to “he”, present “am” usually changes to “was”, and “now” changes to “then”.

Q10. Answer: C — The mission was completed by the team.

The simple past active becomes “was/were + past participle” in the passive: “was completed”.

Q11. Answer: D — was

“Neither” is treated as singular in standard exam grammar here, so it takes “was”.

Q12. Answer: B — an

“Honest” begins with a vowel sound because the h is silent, so “an” is used.

Q13. Answer: C — at

The standard expression is “good at” a subject or skill.

Q14. Answer: B — will have worked

The future perfect (“will have worked”) describes an action continuing up to a point in the future.

Q15. Answer: B — Each of the boys has a book.

“Each” is singular and takes a singular verb: “has”.

Q16. Answer: B — are too good

“News” is an uncountable singular noun, so the correct phrase is “The news is too good”.

Q17. Answer: B — than me

“Senior” takes “to”, not “than”: “She is senior to me”.

Q18. Answer: A — One of my friend

After “one of my”, use a plural noun: “One of my friends”.

Q19. Answer: B — went to school

After “did not”, use the base form of the verb: “did not go”.

Q20. Answer: A — Unless you do not work hard

“Unless” already means “if not”; avoid the extra negative. Say: “Unless you work hard, you will not pass”.

Q21. Answer: A — accustomed to waking up early

When “to” is a preposition in “be accustomed to”, it is followed by a noun or gerund: “waking”.

Q22. Answer: B — discussed the plan

“Discuss” takes a direct object and is not normally followed by “about”.

Q23. Answer: B — prefer tea to coffee

The correct construction is “prefer X to Y”.

Q24. Answer: A — when it started raining

The standard pair is “hardly…when” (and “no sooner…than”).

Q25. Answer: A — haven't you

A positive statement with “have” takes a negative tag using the same auxiliary: “haven't you?”.

Q26. Answer: B — so that

“So that” introduces purpose: he worked hard with the aim of passing.

Q27. Answer: C — The furniture is expensive.

“Furniture” is an uncountable noun and takes a singular verb; it has no regular plural “furnitures”.

Q28. Answer: C — shorter

The comparative form of “short” is “shorter”; do not use “more” with it.

Q29. Answer: C — were

In a hypothetical condition, formal standard English uses “If I were…”.

Q30. Answer: B — bravery

A noun is needed after “great”; “bravery” is the noun form.

Q31. Answer: B — Investigate

“Look into” means to investigate or examine a matter.

Q32. Answer: A — Cancel

“Call off” means to cancel an event or plan.

Q33. Answer: B — Extempore

“Extempore” refers to speaking without prior preparation.

Q34. Answer: C — Democracy

“Democracy” is a system of government in which power rests with the people.

Q35. Answer: B — Adaptable and quick to recover

A resilient person or thing can recover quickly from difficulty or change.

Q36. Answer: C — Friendly

“Hostile” means unfriendly or antagonistic; “friendly” is its opposite.

Q37. Answer: A — Privilege

The correct spelling is “privilege”.

Q38. Answer: B — Separate

The correct spelling is “separate”.

Q39. Answer: C — Once in a blue moon

“Once in a blue moon” means very rarely.

Q40. Answer: B — No sooner had he arrived than the meeting began.

The correct construction is “No sooner had…than”, with the past participle “arrived”.

Q41. Answer: B — English is spoken all over the world.

The simple present passive is “is/am/are + past participle”: “English is spoken”.

Q42. Answer: B — She requested me to help her.

A polite request is reported with “requested + object + to-infinitive”.

Q43. Answer: C — is

The main subject is “The captain”; “along with his players” does not change the singular subject.

Q44. Answer: A — at

Use “arrive at” for a specific place such as an academy or station; “arrive in” is commonly used for cities/countries.

Q45. Answer: B — advice

“Advice” is an uncountable noun in English, so it does not take “a/an” or a plural “-s”.

Q46. Answer: A — Alert and watchful

“Vigilant” means keeping careful watch for possible danger or problems.

Q47. Answer: C — Opaque

“Transparent” means allowing light through or easy to understand; “opaque” means not allowing light through.

Q48. Answer: C — safe

An adjective is needed to describe the noun “landing”; the correct adjective is “safe”.

Q49. Answer: A — for

The standard expression is “praised for” a quality or achievement.

Q50. Answer: B — Discipline supports coordinated and reliable action.

The passage explains that discipline helps people cooperate, follow instructions, and remain composed, so option B best captures its main idea.