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Q1. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

As the bomb exploded people ran **helter-skelter**.

- (a) in great fear
- (b) in disorderly haste
- (c) in haste
- (d) in great sorrow

Ans: b

Sol. 'Helter-skelter' is an adjective, adverb and noun as well. In this question it's been used as an adverb. 'Helter-skelter' means something done in a disorderly haste or in a confused manner.

Example- People were screaming and running helter-skelter down the steps to escape the flames.

Q2. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

He was progressing **by leaps and bounds** because of his hard work.

- (a) Rapidly
- (b) Slowly
- (c) Peacefully
- (d) Strongly

Ans: a

Sol. 'By (or In) leaps and bounds' is a phrase of 'leap'. It means very quickly; rapidly; with startlingly rapid progress. (Note: It is generally used to talk about how something increases or improves)

Q3. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

Our founder had done a **Herculean task** constructing this great educational institution.

- (a) A work of no worth
- (b) An effortless job
- (c) A work requiring very great effort
- (d) A work requiring very great intelligence

Ans: c

Sol. 'Herculean' is an adjective which means needing a lot of strength; something very hard to perform. A *herculean task* is an extremely difficult task; an almost impossible undertaking.

Example- "The President informed the people that they had a Herculean task before them."

Q4. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

My close friend **got the sack** from his first job recently.

- (a) Resigned
- (b) Got rid of
- (c) Was demoted from
- (d) Was dismissed from

Ans: d

Sol. 'Get the sack' means to be dismissed or to be fired suddenly from a job (usually because of something that you have done wrong).

Example- The new secretary is so rude—it's time she got the sack.

Q5. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

I can no longer **put up with** her insolence.

- (a) Endure



- (b) Evade
- (c) Suppress
- (d) Assume

Ans: a

Sol. To put up with = to accept somebody/something that is annoying, unpleasant, etc. without complaining; to tolerate; endure.

Example: I will not put up with your bad behaviour any longer!

Q6. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

When he saw the snake he **took to his heels**.

- (a) Ran away in fear
- (b) Went slowly
- (c) Walked in fear
- (d) Jumped fast

Ans: a

Sol. Take to one's heels = To flee or run away from something or somewhere. Example - The youths took to their heels when they heard the police officers approaching.

Example- They *took to their heels* when they saw the policeman approaching.

Q7. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

He has to abide by the **hard and fast** rules of the company.

- (a) Flexible
- (b) Strict
- (c) Difficult
- (d) Honest

Ans: b

Sol. 'Hard and fast' is a phrase of 'hard'. It means that cannot be changed in any circumstances; fixed or definitive (of a rule or a distinction made).

Sentence: There are no hard and fast rules about this.

Q8. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

She goes to her mother's house **off and on**.

- (a) Frequently
- (b) Rarely
- (c) Occasionally
- (d) Sometimes

Ans: c

Sol. 'Off and on' is a phrase of 'off'. It means now and then; intermittently; occasionally; If something happens **on and off**, or **off and on**, it happens occasionally, or only for part of a period of time, not in a regular or continuous way.

Sentence: It rained **off and on** all day.

Q9. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

The robber **murdered** the woman **in cold blood** for the sake of the jewels.

- (a) A murder done without feeling
- (b) A murder done in revenge
- (c) A murder done in great anger
- (d) A murder done in enmity

Ans: a

Sol. 'In cold blood' is a phrase of 'cold'. It means acting in a way that is deliberately cruel; with no pity; without feeling or mercy; ruthlessly.



Example- He was shot dead in cold blood.

Q10. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

Indians **are going places** in the field of software technology.

- (a) Going abroad
- (b) Going to spaces
- (c) Talented and successful
- (d) Friendly and amicable

Ans: c

Sol. If you say that someone is **going places**, you mean that they are showing a lot of talent or ability and are likely to become very successful.

Example- You always knew Barbara was **going places**; she was different.

Q11. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

A few days before his death, he **made a clean breast of** everything.

- (a) Confessed
- (b) Took off his shirt
- (c) Suffered
- (d) Spoke ill

Ans: a

Sol. 'To make a clean breast of/about something' means to tell the truth about something so that you no longer feel guilty.

Q12. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

I am done for.

- (a) Ruined
- (b) Rewarded
- (c) Answered
- (d) Questioned

Ans: a

Sol. 'Done for' is used as an adjective. 'To be done for' is a phrase of 'done' which means to be in a situation so bad that it is impossible to get out; to be about to die or suffer very much because of a serious difficulty or danger.

Sentence: When he pointed the gun at me, I thought I was done for.

Q13. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

For a healthy and lasting friendship one must be **on the level**.

- (a) Equally rich
- (b) Mentally compatible
- (c) Honest and sincere
- (d) ready for sacrifices

Ans: c

Sol. On the level = honest; sincere

If you say that someone or something is **on the level**, you mean that they are sincere or honest, and are not attempting to deceive people.

Sentence: 1. I am not convinced that he is on the level.

2. Are you sure this deal is one the level?



Q14. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

The foolish young man soon **made ducks and drakes of** the vast property his father left him.

- (a) Squandered
- (b) Distributed
- (c) Spent
- (d) Gave in charity

Ans: a

Sol. Make ducks and drakes of something mean to use something or to deal with or to handle something recklessly; squander or waste something. It is also a game in which you make flat stones bounce across the surface of water.

Q15. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

All his ventures **went to the winds**.

- (a) Dissipated
- (b) Spread all over
- (c) Got speed of the winds
- (d) Became well-known

Ans: a

Sol. Went to the wind or gone with the wind is a phrase that is used to describe something that has disappeared, passed, or vanished, permanently or completely.

Q16. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

The story of the train accident, as narrated by one of the survivors, **made my flesh creep**.

- (a) Thrilled me
- (b) Horrified me
- (c) Excited me
- (d) Frightened me

Ans: d

Sol. To make someone's flesh creep or crawl means to cause someone to experience an uncomfortable sensation of horror or disgust. If something makes your flesh creep or makes your flesh crawl, it makes you feel disgusted, shocked or frightened.

Q17. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

He has resigned his job and **burnt his boats** so far as government service is concerned.

- (a) Felt dejected
- (b) Blasted his hopes
- (c) Ruined himself
- (d) Left no means of retreat

Ans: b

Sol. To burn your boats/bridges means you destroy all possible ways of going back to that situation; to do something that makes it impossible to return to the previous situation later.

Sentence: Think carefully before you resign-you don't want to burn your boats.

Q18. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

He **cannot hold a candle to** his elder brother.

- (a) Equal to
- (b) No as clever as
- (c) Cannot be compared to



(d) Duller than

Ans: c

Sol. 'Cannot hold a candle to somebody/something' means to be not as good as the person or thing mentioned or told;

Cannot compare to someone or something; is not nearly as good or desirable as someone or something.

Sentence: His singing cannot hold a candle to Sonia's.

Q19. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

The question of higher membership fee was **brought up** at the last meeting.

- (a) Discussed at great length
- (b) Introduced for discussion
- (c) Criticised vehemently
- (d) Vaguely referred to

Ans: b

Sol. If you **bring up** a particular subject or topic, it means you introduce it into a discussion or conversation. The phrasal verb 'bring up' has several meanings.

Sentence: Bring it up in the meeting.

Q20. Direction: Four alternatives are given for the idiom/phrase bold in the sentence. Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the idiom/phrase and mark it in the answer sheet.

His arguments **cut no ice with me**.

- (a) Had no influence on me
- (b) Did not hurt me
- (c) Did not benefit me
- (d) Did not make me proud

Ans: a

Sol. To cut no ice (with somebody) = to have no influence or effect on somebody.

Sentence: His excuses cut no ice with me.