

NDA II 2018 GAT English Answer Key with Detailed Explanations: Paper Code C Dated : 9 September 2018

CLOZE COMPREHENSION

DIRECTIONS: In the following passage there are some blank spaces with four words or groups of words given. Select whichever word or group of words you consider most appropriate for the blank space and indicate your response accordingly.

The honeybee is a very unusual kind of insect. ____ (1) ____ other insects which live alone, the honeybee lives as a/an ____ (2) ____ of a community. These bees live together in what is known as a bee ____ (3) ____ . The head of the bees is called the queen bee. She is ____ (4) ____ than the rest of the bees. Her main task is to ____ (5) ____ eggs.

1. (A) Unlike (B) Similar to (C) With (D) Like

ANS: (A) Unlike. Here, the preposition “unlike” means “different from; not similar to”.

2. (A) group (B) individual (C) member (D) troop

ANS: (C) member. The noun “member” refers to a person, animal, or plant belonging to a particular group.

3. (A) house (B) home (C) army (D) colony

ANS: (D) colony. In biology, the noun “colony” refers to a community of animals or plants of one kind living close together or forming a physically connected structure.

4. (A) heaviest (B) heavier (C) largest (D) larger

ANS: (D) larger. Note the use of “than”. It implies that the adjective should be in comparative degree. This rules out options (A) and (C) from consideration. A queen bee is larger than other bees in the hive.

5. (A) lay (B) hatch (C) make (D) bear

ANS: (A) lay. One meaning of the verb “lay” with an ensuing object refers to a female bird, insect, reptile, or amphibian that produces an egg or eggs from inside the body.

NOTE: The curious minded should refer the under-mentioned site:

http://www.englishdaily626.com/cloze_passages.php?001

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

DIRECTIONS : Given below are some idioms/phrases followed by four alternative meanings to each. Choose the response (A), (B), (C) or (D) which is the most appropriate meaning and mark your response accordingly.

6. **A red-letter day**

- (A) A trivial day (B) A very important or significant day
(C) A day of bloodshed and violence (D) A mourning day

ANS: (B) A very important or significant day. A red-letter day is a day that you will always remember because something good happens to you then. The expression refers to a memorably happy or noteworthy day. This term alludes to the practice of marking/printing feast days and other holy days in red on church calendars, dating from the 1400s. Two example sentences are: "My college graduation was a real red-letter day for my whole family" and "The scheduled day of release of my debut film could mean the difference between a red-letter day and an empty basket".

7. **The gift of the gab**

- (A) Ability to speak easily and confidently (B) Ability to spoil something
(C) Ability to sell things (D) Gift from a sacred institution

ANS: (A) Ability to speak easily and confidently. If someone has "the gift of (the) gab" (American English a gift of/for gab), the individual is able to speak confidently, clearly, and in a glib way. The informal expression refers to an individual's talent for verbal fluency, especially the ability to talk persuasively. This expression may be related to the Irish and Gaelic word 'gab', which means "mouth". The Irish have a reputation as good talkers. "Gab", dating from the late 18th century, was an informal word for 'conversation or chatter'. Two example sentences are: "His gift of gab made him a wonderful salesman" and "Noel really has the gift of gab, so he should be the one to address the potential investors".

8. **Walk a tightrope**

- (A) To be forced to leave your job (B) To be ready to fall
(C) To act very carefully (D) To invite danger

ANS: (C) To act very carefully. A tightrope is a tightly stretched piece of rope high up in the air on which an acrobat balances and performs tricks in a circus. This idiom transfers the balancing act performed on a tightrope or high-wire by acrobats. You can use tightrope in expressions such as "walk/tread a tightrope", "live on a tightrope" and "be on a tightrope" to indicate that someone is in a difficult situation and has to be very careful about what they say or do. One has to navigate in the situation with extreme care and precision since it allows very little or no error. Two example sentences are: "I'm walking a tightrope at the moment; one more mistake and I might lose my job" and "The general was on a tightrope as to whether he should advance or retreat".

9. **To be in a fix**

- (A) To receive strong criticism (B) To support oneself
(C) To fix problems (D) To be in a difficult situation

ANS: (D) To be in a difficult situation. If someone is "in a fix", the person is in a difficult, troublesome, dangerous or awkward situation from which it is hard to extricate oneself. We sometimes say "in a pickle or spot" to refer to the difficult situation which puts one in a dilemma or predicament. "Pickle" in the sense of a mess or quandary, sometimes put as "in a pretty pickle", dates from the 1500s. "Spot", often put as "in a bad/tough/tight spot", dates from the early 1900s. Some more expressions that convey a similar sense are: "spot of trouble", "bit of bother", "in a bind/ box/ hole/ jam", "in deep water", "in a soup" and "in a tight corner". Two example sentences are: "The power cut put us in a fix because we had invited people to dinner" and "John had lost all his money in a

13. Newton discovered that

- P: due to the gravitational pull
- Q: of the earth
- R: the apple falls
- S: on the ground

The correct sequence should be:

- (A) QPRS (B) RSPQ (C) QSPR (D) SQRP

ANS: (B) RSPQ. The “gravitational pull” is exerted by the earth. So, it is logical to place part (Q) after (P). Part-sequence PQ is mentioned only in option (B). The complete sentence is read by using option (B). The sentence is meaningful. The adverb phrase of place “on the ground” is positioned after the verb “falls”. It is followed by part (P) which mentions the reason. There is no need to waste time in checking other options.

14. The knocking

- P: were still in the house
- Q: for some time
- R: although the echoes of it
- S: ceased

The correct sequence should be:

- (A) SRPQ (B) SQRP (C) PQSR (D) RSPQ

ANS: (A) SRPQ. The subject of the sentence is “the knocking”. It is required to be followed by a verb. So, the focus is on options starting with a verb i.e. (S) and (P). Consequently, option (D) is not considered. “Knocking” is a singular noun and cannot take the plural verb “were”. So, option (C) is also not considered. The sense of the sentence is that first the knocking ceased. Thereafter, the echoes (echo = a sound or sounds caused by the reflection of sound waves from a surface back to the listener) continued to exist for some time before eventually fading away. This sequence of actions does not fit with option (B). A final reading of the sentence is done by using option (A). The sentence has a flow and the sequence of events is correct.

15. The history of mankind is

- P: and steady progress
- Q: continuous change
- R: the history of
- S: from barbarism to refinement

The correct sequence should be:

- (A) PQRS (B) RQPS (C) QSPR (D) SQRP

ANS: (B) RQPS. The verb “is” in the opening part cannot be followed by the conjunction “and”. This eliminates option (A) from consideration. Part (R), which ends with a preposition, cannot be placed at the end of the sentence. This eliminates option (C) from consideration. Neither does part (S) fit after the opening part nor does (R) fit after (Q). This eliminates option (D) from consideration. The only remaining option (B) is used to complete the sentence and it is found to be grammatically correct.

COMPREHENSION

DIRECTIONS: In this section, you have two short passages. After each passage, you will find some items based on the passage. First, read a passage and answer the items based on it and mark your response accordingly. You are required to select your answers based on the contents of the passage and opinion of the author only.

COMPREHENSION PASSAGE I

“Now, ladies and gentlemen,” said the conjuror, “having shown you that the cloth is absolutely empty, I will proceed to take from it a bowl of goldfish. Presto!”

All around the hall people were saying, “Oh, how wonderful! How does he do it?”

But the Quick Man on the front seat said in a big whisper to the people near him, “He-had-it-up-his-sleeve.”

Then the people nodded brightly at the Quick Man and said, “Oh, of course”; and everybody whispered round the hall, “He-had-it-up-his-sleeve.”

“My next trick,” said the conjuror, “is the famous Hindostanee rings. You will notice that the rings are apparently separate; at a blow they all join (clang, clang, clang) – Presto!”

There was a general buzz of stupefaction till the Quick Man was heard to whisper, “He- must-have-had-another-lot-up-his-sleeve.”

Again everybody nodded and whispered, “The-rings-were-up-his-sleeve.”

The brow of the conjuror was clouded with a gathering frown.

“I will now,” he continued, “show you a most amusing trick by which I am enabled to take any number of eggs from a hat. Will some gentleman kindly lend me his hat? Ah, thank you – Presto!”

He extracted seventeen eggs, and for thirty-five seconds the audience began to think that he was wonderful. Then the Quick Man whispered along the front bench, “He-has-a-hen-up-his-sleeve,” and all the people whispered it on. “He-has-a-lot-of-hens-up-his-sleeve.”

The egg trick was ruined.

It went on like that all through. It transpired from the whispers of the Quick Man that the conjuror must have concealed up his sleeve, in addition to the rings, hens, and fish, several packs of cards, a loaf of bread, a doll’s cradle, a live guinea pig, a fifty-cent piece, and a rocking chair.

16. **“The brow of the conjuror was clouded with a gathering frown.” The sentence means that the conjuror**

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| (A) was very pleased | (B) was very sad |
| (C) was rather angry | (D) was very afraid |

ANS: (C) was rather angry. The verb “clouded” is occasionally used to refer to someone's face or eyes to mean “show an emotion such as worry, sorrow, or anger”.

17. **“The egg trick was ruined.” This means that**

- (A) eggs were all broken (B) people were unconvinced
(C) conjuror was disappointed (D) the trick could not be performed

ANS: (B) people were unconvinced. The conjuror was endeavouring to make the magic show enjoyable for the audience. The “egg” trick was ruined because the audience were swayed by the explanations provided by Quick Man.

18. **According to the Quick Man, the conjuror**

- (A) had everything bought for production (B) produced things with the magic he knew
(C) had things in the large sleeves of his coat (D) created an illusion of things with his magic

ANS: (C) had things in the large sleeves of his coat. Quick Man gave the explanation of each trick by saying “He-had-it-up-his-sleeve.” This is possible if the sleeves are large. Also refer the last sentence of the paragraph.

19. **The author believes that the Quick Man was really**

- (A) foolish (B) clever (C) wrong (D) right

ANS: (A) foolish. The constant comments by the Quick Man made the audience feel that the tricks were nothing special. The Quick Man was a heckler. He wanted to embarrass the conjuror who was performing in public. This was a foolish action as while the conjuror was making efforts to make his magic shows enjoyable for the audience, the Quick Man was constantly trying to pull him down by adopting a fault – finding and doubt creating approach. This was a foolish action.

20. **The conjuror extracted seventeen eggs from the hat of**

- (A) the Quick Man (B) his own
(C) one gentleman from the audience (D) None of the above

ANS: (C) one gentleman from the audience. The conjuror requested for a hat from someone in the audience and thanked the giver of the hat. Please refer the sentence “Will some gentleman kindly lend me his hat? Ah, thank you – Presto!”

NOTE: This hilarious passage is from “The Conjuror's Revenge” by Stephen Leacock. The curious minded should read the entire text. (Refer page 203 of the text at <http://docplayer.net/53216049-Elective-english-iv-deng203.html>). The text is also available at: <https://www.lingq.com/lesson/the-conjurors-revenge-111177/>

COMPREHENSION PASSAGE II

Magda: Good morning, Mrs. Smiles. It's wet, isn't it?

Mrs. Smiles: Yes, it is, isn't it? How are you today? All right? You haven't been studying too hard, have you? You look a bit pale.

Magda: I don't, do I? Well, I haven't been out much lately. I don't like this weather a bit. Why, we haven't had a dry day for weeks, have we?

Mrs. Smiles: No, I don't think we have. Let's see, you'll be going back home next month, won't you?

Magda: Oh no, I'm not going back yet. My sister's coming over first.

Mrs. Smiles: Oh, is she? You're looking forward to that, I expect. How long is it since you saw her?

Magda: Nearly a year now. Yes, I am looking forward to it very much.

Mrs. Smiles: She's coming over here to study?

Magda: Yes, that's right. I shan't go back home until she's settled down. I don't think I ought to, ought I?

Mrs. Smiles: Well, no, she's younger than you are, is she?

Magda: Yes, she's only eighteen.

21. Magda had not been out much lately because

- (A) she had not been keeping well (B) she was busy with her studies
(C) the weather had been unpleasant (D) her sister had come over to stay

ANS: (C) the weather had been unpleasant. Refer the second dialogue of Magda wherein she says "Well, I haven't been out much lately. I don't like this weather a bit. ..."

22. Magda was not going back home yet because

- (A) it had been raining heavily (B) her sister was coming over
(C) her studies were not completed (D) she was not feeling well

ANS: (B) her sister was coming over. The phrase "going back home" refers to the hometown of Magda. Magda replies that she would not be going home yet because her sister was coming over to stay with her.

23. Mrs. Smiles says, "You're looking forward to that." This means, Magda was _____ her sister's arrival.

- (A) expecting with pleasure (B) preparing hard for
(C) thinking greatly about (D) watching with joy

ANS: (A) expecting with pleasure. The phrasal verb "look forward to" means "await eagerly". This sense is conveyed by option (A).

24. Magda's sister was coming to

- (A) visit her sister (B) help Mrs. Smiles
(C) settle down in England (D) pursue her studies

ANS: (D) pursue her studies. To Mrs. Smiles query, Magda replies in the affirmative by saying "Yes, that's right. I shan't go back home until she's settled down. ..."

25. Mrs. Smiles and Magda

- (A) classmates (B) school friends (C) neighbours (D) sisters-in-law

ANS: (C) neighbours. Note the first sentence wherein Magda says "Good morning, Mrs. Smiles". This is not the way to address ones classmates or school friends or for that matter even one's sister-in-law. The use of "Mrs." Before the name "Smiles" provides the clue that the two are neighbours. The use of "Mrs" provides the required degree of formality in British society.

NOTE: The text is from the site: <https://plus.google.com/+BabjanTasha/posts/Rpkz42NUPkD>

SPOTTING ERRORS

DIRECTIONS: Each item in this section has a sentence with three underlined parts labelled (A), (B), and (C). Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in any underlined part and indicate your response against the corresponding letter i.e. (A) or (B) or (C). If you find no error, your response should be indicated as (D).

26. He appears (A)/ to be (B)/ a honest man. (C)/ No Error (D)

ANS: (C). Replace article “a” with “an”. The choice between “a” and “an” depends on the pronunciation, not spelling. We use “an” before words that start with a vowel sound.

27. One of the members (A)/ expressed doubt if (B)/ the Minister was an atheist. (C)/ No Error (D)

ANS: (B). Say “expressed/voiced a doubt that”. In this sentence, “doubt” is a countable noun. When we wish to use the plural form “doubts”, we express/voice doubts (=say that you have doubts). Also, the noun “doubt” has a negative connotation in some uses. In such cases, it is better to use “that” instead of “whether/if”.

28. This view has been taken (A)/ by one of the ablest persons (B)/ who has written on this subject. (C)/ No Error (D)

ANS: (C). Replace “has” with “have”. The pronoun “who” can take a singular verb if it has a singular sense. However, in this sentence, the relative pronoun “who” refers to the preceding plural noun “persons”. So, a plural verb is required. A plural noun or a pronoun with a plural sense takes a plural verb.

29. Slow and steady (A)/ owns the race, (B)/ as the wise would say. (C)/ No Error (D)

ANS: (B). Replace “owns” by “wins”. The proverb is “slow and steady wins the race”. If you work slowly but constantly, you will succeed better than if you work fast for a short while and do not continue. The proverb is associated with Aesop's fable of "The Tortoise and the Hare." The wordings of a proverb are not changed.

30. We often hear people say (A)/ that most human beings have not evolved (B)/ or grow up enough to stick to truth or non-violence. (C)/ No Error (D)

ANS: (C). Replace “grown” by “grow”. Note the use of “... have not evolved” in part (B). The auxiliary verb is common to the next verb “grow”. The auxiliary verb “have” is used only before a past participle. So, the verb “grow” should be changed to “grown”. Part (C) of the sentence means “or (have) grown up enough ...”. The repetition of the auxiliary verb “have” is not required.

SYNONYMS

DIRECTIONS: Each item in this section consists of a sentence with an underlined word followed by four words or groups of words. Select the word or group of words that is nearest in meaning to the underlined word and mark your answer accordingly.

31. The Industrial Revolution saw a **massive** rise in the population of Europe.

(A) enormous (B) erroneous (C) hazardous (D) perilous

ANS: (A) enormous. One meaning of the adjective “massive” is “exceptionally large”. Some words that convey a similar sense are: huge, enormous, gigantic, very large, great, extraordinary and substantial.

32. I had some deepest **convictions** reflected in my work.

(A) ideas and opinions (B) firm beliefs (C) prejudices (D) biases

ANS: (B) firm beliefs. One meaning of the noun “conviction” is “a firmly held belief or opinion as in “she takes pride in stating her political convictions”. This is the intended sense A firmly held belief or opinion. SYN: belief, opinion, view, thought, persuasion, idea, position, stance

33. This boy is very **timid**.

(A) courageous (B) shy (C) clever (D) dull

ANS: (B) shy Timid means “showing a lack of courage or confidence; easily frightened”. The adjective “timid” is usually taken to convey the sense of: cowardly, pusillanimous, lily-livered, pigeon-hearted, spineless and craven. However, the adjective “timid” also conveys the sense: shy, diffident, bashful, self-effacing, shrinking, unassuming, unassertive, reserved, retiring, reticent, quiet, timorous, nervous, modest, demure, coy, meek and humble.

34. My friend is as **stubborn** as a mule.

(A) observant (B) obnoxious (C) obstinate (D) corpulent

ANS: (C) obstinate. The adjective “stubborn” means “having or showing dogged determination not to change one's attitude or position on something, especially in spite of good arguments or reasons to do so”. The informal phrase “as stubborn as a mule” means “extremely stubborn”. Some synonyms are: obstinate, stubborn as a mule, mulish, headstrong, wilful, strong-willed, self-willed, pig-headed, bull-headed, obdurate, awkward, difficult, contrary, perverse, recalcitrant and refractory.

35. His behaviour was deliberately **provocative**.

(A) exciting desire (B) infuriating (C) pitiable (D) creating frustration

ANS: (A) exciting desire. One meaning of the adjective “provocative” is “intended or intending to arouse sexual desire or interest” as in “a provocative sidelong glance”. Some words that convey a similar sense are: sexy, sexually arousing, sexually exciting, alluring, seductive, tempting, suggestive, inviting, tantalizing and titillating.

ANTONYMS

DIRECTIONS: Each item in this section consists of a sentence with an **underlined** word followed by four words or groups of words. Select the word or group of words that is **opposite in meaning** to the underlined word and mark your answer accordingly.

36. Too many cooks **spoil** the broth.

(A) tarnish (B) wreck (C) embellish (D) upset

ANS: (C) embellish. The verb “spoil” means “diminish or destroy the value or quality of”. Some synonyms are: mar, damage, impair, blemish, disfigure, blight, flaw, deface, scar, injure, harm. The opposite sense is conveyed by: ameliorate, better, enhance, enrich, improve, meliorate, perfect,

refine. The verb “embellish” means “make (something) more attractive by the addition of decorative details or features”. This word effectively conveys the opposite sense of “spoil”.

37. He is **biased** against the students from cities.

(A) open (B) prejudiced (C) liked (D) impartial

ANS: (D) impartial. The adjective “biased” means “unfairly prejudiced for or against someone or something”. The similar sense is conveyed by: partial, partisan, prejudiced. The opposite sense is conveyed by: disinterested, equal, equitable, evenhanded, fair, impartial, neutral, nonpartisan, objective, unbiased and unprejudiced.

38. It is easy to be an **orthodox**.

(A) idolatrous (B) intelligent (C) malignant (D) heterodox

ANS: (D) heterodox. One meaning of “orthodox” is “following or conforming to the traditional or generally accepted rules or beliefs of a religion, philosophy, or practice”. Some words that convey a similar sense are: conservative, traditional, observant, conformist, devout, strict, true, true blue, of the faith and of the true faith. The opposite sense is conveyed by: unconventional, unorthodox, nonconformist and heterodox. The adjective “heterodox” means “Not conforming with accepted or orthodox standards or beliefs” and some synonyms are: unorthodox, heretical, dissenting, dissident, blasphemous, nonconformist, apostate, freethinking, iconoclastic, schismatic, rebellious, renegade, separatist, sectarian and revisionist.

39. **Permit** me to present you with a book.

(A) Allow (B) Enclose (C) Prohibit (D) Persuade

ANS: (C) Prohibit. One meaning of “permit” is “provide an opportunity or scope for (something) to take place; make possible”. Some synonyms are: allow, let, authorize, empower, enable and entitle. The opposite sense is conveyed by: ban, forbid and prohibit.

40. None but the **brave** deserves the fair.

(A) ugly person (B) coward (C) jealous person (D) weak person

ANS: (B) coward. The adjective “brave” means “Ready to face and endure danger or pain; showing courage” and some words that convey this sense are: courageous, plucky, fearless, valiant, valorous, intrepid, heroic, lionhearted, manful, macho, bold, daring, daredevil, adventurous, audacious, death-or-glory. The opposite sense is conveyed by: coward, cowardly, chicken, chickenhearted, chicken-livered, craven, dastardly, fainthearted, fearful, gutless, lily-livered, milk-livered [archaic], nerveless, poltroon, poor-spirited, pusillanimous, spineless, spiritless, timorous, uncourageous, ungallant, unheroic, weakhearted and yellow.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

DIRECTIONS: Each of the following sentences in this section has a blank space and four words or groups of words given after the sentence. Select whichever word or group of words you consider most appropriate for the blank space and indicate your response accordingly.

41. We fail to understand your reasons for _____ the college without completing the degree.

(A) attending (B) joining (C) leaving (D) refusing

ANS: (C) leaving. One meaning of “leaving” is “departing from a place permanently”

42. She _____ her energy and started shouting only when she heard the noise of bulldozers and cranes.

(A) checked (B) conserved (C) maintained (D) controlled

ANS: (B) conserved. In this sentence, “conserved” means “prevented the wasteful overuse of (a resource)”.

43. The British _____ all over Africa and Asia collapsed in the first half of the twentieth century.

(A) hegemony (B) domicile (C) residence (D) inheritance

ANS: (A) hegemony. One meaning of “hegemony” is “leadership or dominance, especially by one state or social group over others”.

44. The football match has to be _____ because of the weather.

(A) called off (B) continued (C) put off (D) turned off

ANS: (A) called off. The phrasal verb “call off” means “cancel an event or agreement”.

45. If I were rich, _____ a lot.

(A) I’ll travel (B) I can travel
(C) I would travel (D) I travelled

ANS: (C) I would travel. The sentence is a Conditional sentence Type 2. When the verb in the if-clause is in the past tense, the verb in the main clause is in the conditional tense. The modals will, can are not used in this type of conditional sentence. Similarly, the simple past tense is not used in the main clause. The past tense in the if-clause is not a true past but a subjunctive, which indicates unreality or improbability.

46. They apologised _____ me for what happened.

(A) to (B) at (C) for (D) with

ANS: (A) to. Remember that you apologise to someone to convey that you are sorry that you have done something wrong. You apologise for (doing) something as in “He later apologized for his behaviour” and “I apologize for losing my temper”.

47. If you are tired of swimming, just _____ for a while.

(A) struggle (B) stroke (C) float (D) streak

ANS: (C) float. One meaning of the verb “float” is “rest or move on or near the surface of a liquid without sinking” as in “she relaxed, floating gently in the water”.

48. He had _____ spoken for two minutes when there was a commotion in the crowd.

(A) even (B) hardly (C) often (D) little

ANS: (B) hardly. The adverb “hardly” means “only a very short time before”.

49. I would not commit myself _____ that course of action.

(A) of (B) to (C) by (D) with

ANS: (B) to. You commit yourself to (doing) something.

50. The soldiers waiting to go into battle for the first time were full of _____.

(A) apprehension (B) consideration (C) anticipation (D) frivolity

ANS: (A) apprehension. The noun “apprehension” means “anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen”.