

Cloze Test

Cloze test or what may even be considered as fill in the blanks is an integral part of the verbal ability section for the various Government exams conducted in the country.

Mostly 4-8 questions are asked from the cloze test topic in the major Government exams, especially SSC, Bank, Insurance and RRB exams and candidates can easily score marks in this section with wise knowledge of Grammar.

The Verbal Ability section in various competitive exams can be the most scoring section if an Aspirant is well prepared as no lengthy calculations and solutions are required and just a glance at the question can enable a candidate to answer it.

But mostly this is not the case as the questions formed are complex and the options following it make them even harder to answer, which is why candidates tend to lose marks in this section.

In this article, we shall discuss tips which may help you solve the cloze test questions along with its types and a few sample questions for your reference.

What is Cloze Test?

A Cloze test is an amalgamation of comprehension and fill in the blanks where your reading, analysing and vocabulary skills are all tested at once. A comprehension or a passage is given in the question which comprises blanks. Candidates need to choose the most appropriate word from the given options which can most suitably be placed in the blank.

There are various benefits for a candidate if cloze test is asked in the question paper. This because to answer these questions, it does not take anything more than 30 seconds and anybody who has good command over Grammar can easily score more for this topic and increase their overall scores.

Willing Aspirants can know more about General English for competitive exams at the linked article.

There are two major patterns based on which cloze test is asked in the examinations:

- **Basic Fill in the Blanks Format:** The simplest format for the cloze test is that a passage is given with multiple blanks and candidates have to choose one correct answer from the given options which would appropriate and logically fill the blank.
- **Replacing words:** With the increased competition in the various Government exams, a new pattern for cloze test is now frequently asked in the examination where instead of giving blanks, multiple words are given in bold in the passage and candidates need to answer if the word given in bold is appropriate or if it can be replaced from another word from the given options.

In either of the two cases, candidates need to have good command over vocabulary and grammar as only then can they answer these questions easily and efficiently.

Tips and Tricks to Solve Cloze Test

The exam pattern for the various competitive exams may be different but the syllabus under each subject is the same. So, candidates who are preparing for any Government sector exam must know that questions from cloze test may be asked in the examination.

To ensure that a candidate does not lose marks in the cloze test passage, given below are few tips to solve the close test-based questions:

- **Overview of the Passage:** Take a quick glance at the passage to know what does the topic deal with as this will help you apprehend which of the given options most suitably fits in the blank
- **Look for Contextually Correct Options:** The options provided under cloze test may seem to be similar in meaning which makes selecting the appropriate option even tougher. Thus, look for an option which aptly fits with the context of the passage
- **Eliminate Options in case confused:** If you are unable to reach an answer, try eliminating the options which seem to be incorrect. This will lessen your options and may help to reach the correct answer easily
- **Link the Sentences while answering:** The cloze test is a passage based on a particular topic. So, if you are unable to find the answer, try linking the sentences with each other to simplify the context of the passage
- **Understand the tone of the passage:** Once a candidate understands the tone of the passage, selecting the appropriate option becomes easier

The tips given above will help an aspirant preparing for the competitive exams to analyse how time can be saved while answering any question. It must also be noted that more a candidate practises, more he/she shall become confident answering the questions.

Questions for Cloze Test

Question: Read the passage given below and fill in the blanks with the suitable option:

Earth, our home, is the third planet from the sun. It's the only _____ (a) known to have an atmosphere containing free oxygen, oceans of water on its surface and, of course, life.

The fifth largest planet of the Solar system is the Earth. It is smaller _____ (b) the four gas giants — Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune — but larger than the three other rocky planets, Mercury, Mars and Venus.

Earth has a diameter of roughly 8,000 miles and is _____ (c) because gravity pulls matter into a ball. But, it is not perfectly round. Earth is really an “oblate spheroid,” because its spin causes it to be squashed at its poles and swollen at the equator.

71 per cent of the Earth's surface is covered with water, and most of that is in the oceans. About a fifth of Earth's atmosphere consists of oxygen, produced by _____ (d). While scientists have been studying our planet for centuries, a lot has been learned in the past few decades by studying pictures of Earth from space.

Q 1. (a)

1. Planet
2. Moon
3. Satellite
4. Surface
5. Life

Answer: (1) Planet

Q 2. (b)

1. For
2. Then
3. Than
4. There
5. On

Answer: (3) Than

Q 3. (c)

1. Oval
2. Round
3. Square
4. Uneven
5. Disrupted

Answer: (2) Round

Q 4. (d)

1. Animals
2. Humans
3. Living Beings
4. Plants
5. None of the Above

Answer: (4) Plants

Mobile banking (M banking) involves the use of a mobile phone or any other mobile device to (___1___) financial transaction linked to a client's account. M-Banking is new in most countries and most mobile payment models even in developed countries, to date operate on a (___2___) scale. A mobile network offers a (___3___) available technology platform onto which other services can be provided at low cost with effective results. For example, M-Banking services which use (___4___) such as SMS can be carried at a cost of less than one US cent per message. The low cost of using existing infrastructure makes such services more (___5___) to use by customers with lower purchasing power and opens up access to services which did not reach them earlier due to (___6___) cost of service delivery. Although M-Banking is one aspect in the wider (___7___) of e banking there are reasons to single it out for focus especially because there are reasons to single it out for focus especially because there are a lot more people with mobile phones than bank accounts in India. M-Banking could provide a (___8___) solution to bring more unbanked people to the financial mainstream. Without traditional credit, individuals are (___9___) to exploitation by abusive lenders offering very high interest rates on short term loans .Also of considerable importance are public safety implications for the unbanked they are often victims of crime because many operate on a cash only basis and end up carrying significant amounts of cash on their (___10___) or store cash in their homes.

Q1.

- (a) disburse
- (b) undertake
- (c) subscribe
- (d) lure amass

Q2.

(a) full

(b) voluminous

(c) substantial

(d) limited

Q3.

(a) readily

(b) tangible

(c) routinely

(d) unique

Q4.

(a) process

(b) waves

(c) deliveries

(d) channels

Q5.

(a) valuable

(b) answerable

(c) amenable

(d) exposed

Q6.

(a) waning

(b) stable

(c) proportionate

(d) high

Q7.

(a) archive

(b) domain

(c) purpose

(d) component

Q8.

- (a) law abiding
- (b) tried
- (c) reassuring
- (d) cost effective

Q9.

- (a) inclined
- (b) immune
- (c) vulnerable
- (d) surrendered

Q10.

- (a) person
- (b) own
- (c) relatives
- (d) purses

Answer Key

1	a	6	d
2	d	7	b
3	a	8	d
4	d	9	c
5	c	10	a

Mankind has seen rapid (___11___) in the last 150 years because of the mass manufacturing techniques (___12___) in western nations and later taken to new levels of efficiency by Japan. Mass production and production for the masses became the bases of new business strategies. Large scale consumption by all with the social benefit of (___13___) poverty became the dominant economic strategy. The advent of electricity and its large-scale application to lighting, heating and operating machines added a fresh dimension to manufacturing. By the 1950s came (___14___) in electronics and transistor devices to be followed by innovations in microelectronics, computers and various forms of sensors all of which (___15___) altered the manufacturing scene. It is now no longer necessary to make prototypes in a factory or a laboratory to study a new product. Many new products can be (___16___) on computers and their behaviour simulated on them. By choosing an optimum design through such simulations, computer programmes can directly (___17___) the manufacturing processes. These processes are generally called Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Assisted Manufacturing (CAM). These capabilities are leading to newer forms of (___18___) by customers. Each customer can be offered several special options. Customized product design or (___19___) manufacturing are other popular techniques currently in (___20___) in many developed countries.

Q11.

- (a) havoc
- (b) transformation
- (c) destruction
- (d) violence

Q12.

(a)discarded

(b)resorted

(c)indulged

(d)perfected

Q13.

(a)removing

(b)nurturing

(c)appeasing

(d)cajoling

Q14.

(a) additions

(b) gadgets

(c)modifications

(d)variety

Q15.

(a) immediately

(b) precisely

(c) irreversibly

(d) indefinitely

Q16.

(a) designed

(b) produced

(c) manufactured

(d) sold

Q17.

(a) inspire

(b) cultivate

(c) visualise

(d) curtail

Q18.

- (a) uses
- (b) demands
- (c) advertisements
- (d) consumption

Q19.

- (a) visible
- (b) secure
- (c) fundamental
- (d) flexible

Q20.

- (a) view
- (b) wings
- (c) vogue
- (d) isolation

Answer Key

11	b	16	a
12	d	17	e
13	a	18	d
14	c	19	e
15	b	20	c

The continuing economic crisis has put central banks and governments the world over into (___21___) waters. For the industrialized West, the question seems to be a choice between economic stimulus and jobs, in the hope of creating a softer landing, or a swift shock at the hands of the free markets, in the hope of getting through the (___22___) more quickly. In emerging markets, the question is how to deal with being the focal point for investors looking to maximize returns. Specifically, for the Federal Reserve in the United States, that means (___23___) hundreds of billions of dollars into the markets buying Treasury bills to increase liquidity. In Europe the concern is that monetary union may be at risk due to the strains posed by euro-zone countries that are (___24___) in (___25___). In Asia, on the other hand, economies are surging, but the prospect of hot money flowing into the region could potentially spell (___26___) due to overheating. Fears that the Fed's second, round of quantitative easing may lead to a faster pace of (___27___) may be (___28___). US unemployment remains persistently high at around 10 per cent, while Inflation remains astoundingly low at 1 per cent or less, the slowest on record. That is despite the Fed's earlier injection of \$ 1.7 trillion into the financial system to avert an economic depression in the wake of the global financial crisis. In contrast to the Fed's quantitative easing, the European Central Bank has reduced liquidity in the European banking system by some 350 billion euros during the past five months. This reflects the central banks (___29___) in the improved stability of the banking system and easier (___30___) to capital.

Q21.

- (a) tested
- (b) unpredictable
- (c) under
- (d) uncharted

Q22.

- (a) Downturn
- (b) Spectrum
- (c) Options
- (d) Hope

Q23.

- (a) Sucking
- (b) Pumping
- (c) Forming
- (d) Blocking

Q24.

- (a) Mired
- (b) Safe
- (c) Above
- (d) Unhappy

Q25.

- (a) Market
- (b) Trouble
- (c) Debt
- (d) Surplus

Q26.

- (a) Positive
- (b) Negative
- (c) Trouble
- (d) Growth

Q27.

- (a) Cost
- (b) Depreciation
- (c) Cooperation
- (d) Inflation

Q28.

- (a) challenged
- (b) overstated
- (c) perfect
- (d) predicted

Q29.

- (a) weakness
- (b) strength
- (a) correction
- (c) confidence

Q30.

- (a) denial
- (b) approval
- (c) appreciation
- (d) access

Answer Key

21	d	26	c
22	a	27	d
23	b	28	b
24	a	29	d
25	c	30	d

Indian culture is rich and (___31___) and as a result unique in its very own way. Our manners, way of communicating with one another, etc are one of the important components of our culture. Even though we have accepted modern means of living, improved our lifestyle, our values and beliefs remain unchanged. A person can change his way of clothing, way of eating and living but the rich values in a person always, (___32___) unchanged because they are deeply rooted within our hearts, mind, body, and soul, which we receive from our culture. Indian culture (___33___) guests as god and serves

Them and takes care of them as if they are a part of the family itself. Even though we do not have anything to eat, the guests are never left hungry and are always looked after by the members of the family. Elders and the respect for elders is a major component in Indian culture. Elders are the (___34___) force for any family and hence the love and respect for elders comes from (___35___) and is not artificial. An (___36___) takes blessings from his elders by touching their feet. Elders drill and pass on the Indian culture within us as we grow. Respecting one another is another lesson that is taught from the books of Indian culture. All people are alike and respecting one another is one's duty. In foreign countries the relation (___37___) the boss and the employee is like a (___38___) and slave and is purely monetary whereas in Indian culture the relation between the boss and the employee is more like homely relations unlike foreign countries. Helpful nature is another (___39___) feature in our Indian culture. Right from our early days of childhood, we are taught to help one another (___40___) help and distress. If not monetary then at least in kind or nonmonetary ways. Indian culture tells us to multiply and distribute joy and happiness and share sadness and pain. It tells us that by all this we can develop cooperation and better living amongst ourselves and subsequently make this world a better place to live in. Even though India is a country of various religions and caste our culture tells us just one thing **Phir bhi Dil hai Hindustani.**

Q31.

- (a) diverse
- (b) averse
- (c) poor
- (d) reconciliatory

Q32.

- (a) remains
- (b) remain
- (c) remaining
- (d) reverent

Q33.

- (a) ill-treat
- (b) deals in
- (c) treats
- (d) treated

Q34.

(a)diversive

(b) driven

(c)devastating

(d)driving

Q35.

(a) within

(b)surrounding

(c)proximity

(d)outside

Q36.

(a) Individual

(b) illiterate

(c) enriched

(d) elder

Q37.

(a) among

(b) with

(c) between

(d) of

Q38.

(a) master

(b) zamindar

(c) owner

(d) warden

Q39.

(a) stricken

(b) striking

(c) negative

(d) damnable

Q40.

(a) for need

(b) needful

(c) in need of

(d) for want of

Answer key

31	a	36	a
32	b	37	c
33	c	38	a
34	d	39	b
35	a	40	c