

Time Allowed : 40 Hours

M. M. : 400

**Instructions**

1. This Test Booklet contains **50** items (questions). Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
2. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See directions in the Answer Sheet.
3. All items carry equal marks.
4. **Penalty for wrong answers :**  
**THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPERS.**
  - (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
  - (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a **wrong answer** even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
  - (iii) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be **no penalty** for that question.

**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 option that is **opposite in meaning** to the underlined word and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

1. Mohan was living in a deplorable condition.  
(a) reprehensible (b) opprobrious  
(c) despicable (d) commendable
2. These exercises will counteract the effects of stress and tension.

- (a) exacerbate (b) foil  
(c) thwart (d) contravene
3. You have to persevere with difficult students.  
(a) give up (b) persist  
(c) carry on (d) stand firm
4. Their new colour scheme is hideous.  
(a) appalling (b) beautiful  
(c) grotesque (d) macabre
5. Everywhere they go, they squander their earnings.  
(a) fritter away (b) splurge  
(c) squabble (d) manage

**Cloze Comprehension**

**Directions :** In this section, there is a passage having some blank spaces, each blank space is followed by four individual words or group of words. Select a word or group of words you consider the most appropriate for filling the blank space, and indicate your response on the Answer sheet accordingly.

- The Earth's climate is \_\_\_\_\_ 6. (a) passionately changing and evolving. Some of  
(b) continually  
(c) deadly  
(d) thoughtfully
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. (a) these changes have been due to natural causes but others can be  
(b) those  
(c) this  
(d) that
- attributed to \_\_\_\_\_ 8. (a) practical activities such as deforestation,  
(b) geological  
(c) human  
(d) animal

- emissions from industry, transport, etc., which have led to the \_\_\_\_\_ 9. (a) assimilation  
(b) absolution  
(c) collection  
(d) accumulation
- of gases and aerosols in \_\_\_\_\_ 10. (a) an atmosphere. These gases are known  
(b) a  
(c) the  
(d) no article
- as greenhouse gases because they trap heat and \_\_\_\_\_ 11. (a) raise air temperatures  
(b) hike  
(c) rise  
(d) balance
- near the ground, acting like a greenhouse on the surface of the \_\_\_\_\_ 12. (a) crust. In order  
(b) core  
(c) mantle  
(d) planet
- to create and strengthen the scientific and analytical capacity \_\_\_\_\_ 13. (a) for assessment  
(b) or  
(c) in  
(d) to
- of climate change in the country, different studies under Climate Change Action Programme  
\_\_\_\_\_ 14. (a) are developed. Many important bilateral and multilateral  
(b) are initiated  
(c) have developed  
(d) have initiated
- meetings and negotiations are held \_\_\_\_\_ 15. (a) with regular intervals  
(b) at  
(c) in  
(d) on
- (c) to drop off the lights at night.  
(d) to break off the lights at night.

### Sentence Completion

**Directions:** Each of the following items features one part of a sentence, followed by four alternatives. Complete the sentence by choosing the correct alternative and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

16. He paused  
(a) with a few moments.  
(b) for a few moments.  
(c) by a few moments.  
(d) into a few moments.
17. Late at night, our car  
(a) broke down on the highway.  
(b) broke up on the highway.  
(c) broke into the highway.  
(d) broke out on the highway.
18. All the countries signed the treaty  
(a) beneath Germany and France.  
(b) except Germany and France.  
(c) among Germany and France.  
(d) during Germany and France.
19. I reminded her  
(a) to turn off the lights at night.  
(b) to call off the lights at night.
20. They told us about the woman  
(a) whom lived next door.  
(b) which lived next door.  
(c) who lived next door.  
(d) whose lived next door.
21. I'll see you  
(a) at the end of February.  
(b) on the end of February.  
(c) along the end of February.  
(d) for the end of February.
22. I dislike films  
(a) who have sad endings.  
(b) that have sad endings.  
(c) whose have sad endings.  
(d) whom have sad endings.
23. The thieves denied  
(a) having stealing the money.  
(b) stealing the money.  
(c) had stolen the money.  
(d) having to steal the money.

24. Did you  
 (a) drop out to see Sunita on your way home?  
 (b) drop in to see Sunita on your way home?  
 (c) drop behind to see Sunita on your way home?  
 (d) drop away to see Sunita on your way home?
25. Would you like to  
 (a) meeting her? (b) meet her?  
 (c) met her? (d) meet with her?

### Idioms and Phrases

**Directions:** Given below are some idioms/phrases followed by four alternative meanings to each. Select the most appropriate response from the options (a), (b), (c) or (d), and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

26. Be bad news  
 (a) feelings of hate  
 (b) someone who behaves in a dishonest way  
 (c) someone who is considered undesirable  
 (d) to be ill
27. Back to the drawing board  
 (a) to draw comparisons  
 (b) to be a member of planning group  
 (c) to start planning again because the previous plan has failed  
 (d) to be fast at understanding a situation
28. Be in the eye of the storm  
 (a) to look at something quickly  
 (b) to fail miserably at a sport  
 (c) to see something that you do not want to see  
 (d) to be in the midst of a controversy
29. Life in the fast lane  
 (a) to lead a selfless life  
 (b) to have a happy life without complaints  
 (c) life without money or comforts  
 (d) an exciting and eventful lifestyle
30. To pass the buck  
 (a) to collect money from a group of people  
 (b) to shift the responsibility of something to someone  
 (c) to have a short conversation with someone  
 (d) to have the credentials for a particular job
31. include basic freedoms  
 P  
the fundamental rights are  
 Q  
guaranteed to the individual  
 R  
basic rights and  
 S  
 (a) QSPR (b) QRSP  
 (c) SQRP (d) RQSP
32. for many millennia  
 P  
been in the making  
 Q  
of a historical process that has  
 R  
the Indian nation is the product  
 S  
 (a) SRQP (b) SQPR  
 (c) PRSQ (d) RSQP
33. an epoch that was imbued  
 P  
for its people the start of  
 Q  
with a new vision  
 R  
India's Independence represented  
 S  
 (a) SQPR (b) QRPS  
 (c) SPQR (d) RQSP
34. science and mathematics exhibition  
 P  
for a discussion on the forthcoming  
 Q  
to be present before the Principal  
 R  
all students have been instructed  
 S  
 (a) SQPR (b) RPQS  
 (c) SRQP (d) QPRS
35. two bowlers and two batsmen respectively  
 P  
to the new team  
 Q  
with the selection of another player  
 R  
the team now has  
 S  
 (a) QPRS (b) SQRP  
 (c) RQSP (d) RPSQ

### Word classes

**Directions:** Each of the following sentences has an underlined word. Read the sentence carefully and find which word class the underlined word belongs to. Indicate your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

**Directions:** Each of the following items in this section consists of a sentence, the parts of which have been jumbled as P, Q, R and S. Rearrange the jumbled parts of the sentences into sequence and select the correct sequence as (a), (b), (c) and (d) given below and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

36. You are most welcome to visit my humble abode.  
 (a) Noun (b) Adjective  
 (c) Adverb (d) Participle

37. The situation is beyond our control.  
 (a) Adjective (b) Adverb  
 (c) Conjunction (d) Preposition
38. I didn't tell him anything except that I needed the money.  
 (a) Adjective (b) Adverb  
 (c) Preposition (d) Conjunction
39. He dry-cleaned my coat nicely.  
 (a) Adjective (b) Adverb  
 (c) Relative pronoun (d) Conjunction
40. Would you like to buy this new item?  
 (a) Determiner (b) Conjunction  
 (c) Interjection (d) Adjective

### Passage

**Directions:** Read the following passage carefully and answer the items based on it. You are required to select your answers based solely on the contents of the passage and the opinion of the author.

The grouping or assemblage of plants, animals and microbes we observe when we study a natural forest, a grassland, a pond, a coral reef or some other undisturbed area, is referred to as the area's biota or biotic community. The plant portion of the biotic community includes all vegetation, from large trees down through to microscopic algae. Likewise, the animal portion includes everything from large mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians through to earthworms, tiny insects and mites. Microbes encompass a large array of microscopic bacteria, fungi and protozoans. Thus, the biotic community comprises a plant community, an animal community and a microbial community.

The particular kind of biotic community found in a given area is, in large part, determined by abiotic factors such as the amount of water or moisture present, the temperature, the salinity, or the type of soil in the area. These abiotic factors both support and limit the particular community. For example, a relative lack of available moisture prevents the growth of most species of plants, but supports certain species, such as cacti; these kinds of areas and a suitable temperature support forests. The presence of water is the major factor that sustains aquatic communities.

The first step in investigating a biotic community may be simply to catalogue all the species present. Species are the different kinds of plants, animals and microbes in the community. A given species includes all those individuals which have a strong similarity in appearance to one another and which are distinct in appearance from other such groups. Each species in a biotic community is represented by a certain population – that is, by a certain number of individuals that make up the interbreeding, reproducing group.

41. Which one of the following does *not* belong to the biotic community?  
 (a) Water (b) Human  
 (c) Protozoa (d) Bush
42. The nature of the biotic community largely depends on:  
 1. Biotic components  
 2. Abiotic components  
 Select the correct answer using the code given below:  
 (a) 1 only (b) 2 only  
 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
43. Which of the following is *not* an abiotic factor?  
 (a) Temperature (b) Humidity  
 (c) Algae (d) Moisture
44. In the passage, the word 'aquatic community' refers to:  
 (a) Biotic community inhabiting the land  
 (b) Biotic community found in water  
 (c) Biotic community found in the air  
 (d) Assemblage of rain and moisture
45. Species are defined on the basis of:  
 (a) Similarities only  
 (b) Differences only  
 (c) Both similarities and differences  
 (d) None of the above

### Synonyms

**Directions:** Each item in this section consists of a sentence with an underlined word followed by four words/group of words. Select the option that is nearest in meaning to the underlined word and mark your response on the Answer Sheet accordingly.

46. The king's son was banished due to the political rivalry.  
 (a) deported (b) called back  
 (c) accepted (d) notified
47. He gave a dazzling performance at the opera.  
 (a) brilliant (b) dismal  
 (c) pathetic (d) puerile
48. She rebuffed all suggestions from her friends.  
 (a) took (b) rejected  
 (c) criticised (d) granted
49. He disowned his royal legacy and became a commoner.  
 (a) accepted (b) abandoned  
 (c) allowed (d) questioned
50. The public was sceptical about the new government policy.  
 (a) hopeful (b) anxious  
 (c) doubtful (d) expectant

## Answer Key

Q. No	Answer Key	Topic's Name	Chapter's Name
1	d	Antonyms	Vocabulary
2	a	Antonyms	Vocabulary
3	a	Antonyms	Vocabulary
4	b	Antonyms	Vocabulary
5	d	Antonyms	Vocabulary
6	b	Cloze Comprehension	Grammar
7	a	Cloze Comprehension	Grammar
8	c	Cloze Comprehension	Grammar
9	d	Cloze Comprehension	Grammar
10	c	Cloze Comprehension	Grammar
11	a	Cloze Comprehension	Grammar
12	d	Cloze Comprehension	Grammar
13	a	Cloze Comprehension	Grammar
14	b	Cloze Comprehension	Grammar
15	b	Cloze Comprehension	Grammar
16	b	Sentence Completion	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
17	a	Sentence Completion	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
18	b	Sentence Completion	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
19	a	Sentence Completion	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
20	c	Sentence Completion	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
21	a	Sentence Completion	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
22	b	Sentence Completion	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
23	b	Sentence Completion	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
24	b	Sentence Completion	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
25	b	Sentence Completion	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
26	c	Idioms and Phrases	Vocabulary
27	c	Idioms and Phrases	Vocabulary
28	d	Idioms and Phrases	Vocabulary
29	d	Idioms and Phrases	Vocabulary
30	b	Idioms and Phrases	Vocabulary
31	a	Order of Words in a Sentence	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
32	a	Order of Words in a Sentence	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
33	a	Order of Words in a Sentence	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
34	c	Order of Words in a Sentence	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
35	c	Order of Words in a Sentence	Sentence Structure & Verbal Ability
36	a	Word Class	Grammar
37	d	Word Class	Grammar
38	d	Word Class	Grammar
39	b	Word Class	Grammar
40	a	Word Class	Grammar
41	a	Passage	Reading Comprehension
42	c	Passage	Reading Comprehension
43	c	Passage	Reading Comprehension
44	b	Passage	Reading Comprehension
45	c	Passage	Reading Comprehension
46	a	Synonyms	Vocabulary
47	a	Synonyms	Vocabulary
48	b	Synonyms	Vocabulary
49	b	Synonyms	Vocabulary
50	c	Synonyms	Vocabulary

**ANSWERS WITH EXPLANATIONS**

1. **Option (d) is correct.**  
*Explanation:* The word 'deplorable' means 'shockingly bad in quality'. The synonyms are reprehensible, opprobrious, despicable. The antonym of the given word is 'commendable' (deserving praise).
2. **Option (a) is correct.**  
*Explanation:* The word 'counteract' means to reduce or remove the effect of something by producing an opposite effect. The synonyms are foil, thwart, contravene. The antonym of the given word is 'exacerbate' (to make something that is already bad even worse).
3. **Option (a) is correct.**  
*Explanation:* The word 'persevere' means to continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no indication of success. The synonyms are persist, carry on, stand firm. The antonym of the given word is 'give up' (admit defeat).
4. **Option (b) is correct.**  
*Explanation:* The word 'hideous' means extremely ugly. The synonyms are appalling, grotesque, macabre. The antonym of the given word is 'beautiful'.
5. **Option (d) is correct.**  
*Explanation:* The word 'squander' means to spend extravagantly or foolishly. The synonyms are splurge, squabble, fritter away. The antonym of the given word is 'manage' (to succeed in doing or dealing with something).
6. **Option (b) is correct.**  
*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, "The Earth's climate is continually changing and evolving". Here, 'continually' implies regularly, so this is correct, as this is a constant process.
7. **Option (a) is correct.**  
*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, "Some of these changes have been due to natural causes". 'These' is the perfect fit for the blank because the antecedent is plural 'changes', and the tense is in present, as this is a constant process.
8. **Option (c) is correct.**  
*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, "Some of these changes have been due to natural causes but others can be attributed to human activities like deforestation, emissions from industry and transport". All these acts point at human intervention.
9. **Option (d) is correct.**  
*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, "Some of these changes have been due to natural causes but others can be attributed to human activities like deforestation, emissions from industry, transport, etc. which have led to the accumulation of gases". Accumulate is to heap up in a mass; to pile up. Assimilation refers to the act of taking something in and absorbing it fully. Absolution is the act of forgiving someone for having done something wrong or sinful.
10. **Option (c) is correct.**  
*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, "Some of these changes have been due to natural causes but others can be attributed to human activities like deforestation, emissions from industry, transport, etc. which have led to the accumulation of gases and aerosol in the atmosphere". This is because we are referring to a specific atmosphere — the Earth's atmosphere, which is a well-defined and specific entity. Therefore, the definite article "the" is used to indicate this particular atmosphere.
11. **Option (a) is correct.**  
*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, "These gases are known as greenhouse gases because they trap heat and raise air temperatures near the ground". The word 'rise' simply means to get up or go to a higher position from a lower position. The word 'raise' means to elevate something to a higher level/position. So 'raise' is the perfect choice.

**12. Option (d) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “These gases are known as greenhouse gases because they trap heat and raise air temperatures near the ground, acting like a greenhouse on the surface of the planet”. The word ‘surface’ points at an object, so it is the Earth to which it belongs to.

**13. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “In order to strengthen the scientific and analytical capacity for assessment”. The correct conjunction is ‘for’ as this is used to denote purpose /reason.

**14. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “In order to create the scientific and analytical capacity for assessment of climate change in the country, different studies under Climate Change Action Programme are initiated”. Here, initiate implies taking a first step in a process or series that is to continue.

**15. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “Many important bilateral and multilateral meetings and negotiations are held at regular intervals”. ‘At’ is used with ‘regular intervals’.

**16. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “He paused for a few moments”. We use ‘for’ to talk about a purpose or a reason for something.

**17. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “Late at night, our car broke down on the highway”. Broke down is used to talk about something that has stopped working properly.

**18. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “All the countries signed the treaty except Germany and France”. ‘Except’ is the correct preposition, as ‘beneath’ means lower than; ‘among’ is used to refer to more than two things; ‘during’ connotes a time period.

**19. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “I reminded her to turn off the lights at night”. ‘Lights’ can be ‘turned off’, not ‘call off, drop off or break off’.

**20. Option (c) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “They told us about the woman who lived next door”. “Who” is used when the pronoun is the subject of a dependent clause, as in this case where

“who” refers to the woman, who is the subject of the clause “lived next door.” If “whom” were used here, it would be grammatically incorrect.

**21. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “I’ll see you at the end of February”. The phrase ‘at the end of’ means to refer to the end of a specific noun (February).

**22. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “I dislike films that have sad endings”. ‘That’ is used with inanimate objects/things and animals. Other pronouns are used with human beings.

**23. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “The thieves denied stealing the money”. In this sentence, “stealing” functions as a gerund, a noun formed from a verb, which is used as the direct object of the verb “denied”.

**24. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “Did you drop in to see Sunita on your way home”? ‘Drop in’ is used for casual visit to refer to making an informal visit to a place without a prior appointment or arrangement.

**25. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is, “Would you like to meet her”? The infinitive ‘to’ is used with the base form of the verb.

**26. Option (c) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The idiom ‘be bad news’ that is troublesome, unwelcome, or dangerous. So, the correct meaning is ‘one who is considered undesirable’. Example: The drop in travel is bad news for the airline industry.

**27. Option (c) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The idiom ‘back to the drawing board’ means the need to start over or to go back to the beginning because the previous attempt or plan was unsuccessful or failed to achieve the desired result. Example: After the prototype failed to meet the quality standards, we had to go back to the drawing board and redesign it from scratch.

**28. Option (d) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The idiom ‘be in the eye of the storm’ implies deeply involved in a difficult or controversial situation which affects or interests a lot of people. Thus, the meaning is in the midst of controversies. Example: Despite being caught in the eye of the storm; the manager was composed.

**29. Option (d) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The idiom 'life in the fast lane' means in a way that is exciting and slightly dangerous/ to live an exciting and eventful lifestyle. Example: After moving to the city, Sarah found herself living life in the fast lane, balancing her work and her family.

**30. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The idiom 'to pass the buck' means to leave a difficult problem for someone else to deal with/to shift the responsibility of something to someone. Example: After the failure of the project, Rita tried to pass the buck to her teammates.

**31. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is: The fundamental rights are basic rights and include basic freedoms guaranteed to the individuals. Thus, the correct pattern is QSPR. This sequence makes sense logically as it begins by defining what the fundamental rights are (Q), followed by specifying that these rights encompass basic rights and freedoms (SP), and concluding by stating to whom these rights are guaranteed (R), which is the individual.

**32. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is: The Indian nation is the product of a historical process that has been in the making for many millennia. Thus, the correct pattern is SRQP. This sequence makes sense as it starts by identifying the subject (S), which is the Indian nation, followed by describing it as the outcome or product of a historical process (R) that has been ongoing for many millennia (Q), and finally concluding with the assertion of the statement (P) about the duration and nature of this historical development.

**33. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is: India's independence represented for its people the start of an epoch that was imbued with a new vision. Thus, the correct pattern is SQPR. This sequence starts by identifying the subject (S), which is India's Independence, and then describes what it represented for its people (Q) — the beginning of an epoch imbued with a new vision (P) or perspective. This sequence concludes with the statement (R) about the nature of this new vision.

**34. Option (c) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is: All students have been instructed to be present before the Principal for a discussion on the forthcoming science and mathematics exhibition. Thus, the correct pattern is SRQP. This sequence starts by stating what all students have been instructed to do (S) — be present before the Principal. It then specifies the purpose or reason (R) for this instruction, which is for a discussion on the forthcoming science and mathematics exhibition (Q), and finally concludes with the subject of the discussion (P), which is the exhibition itself.

**35. Option (c) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The correct sentence is: With the selection of another player to the new team, the team now has two bowlers and two batsmen respectively. Thus, the correct pattern is RQSP. R introduces the action of selecting an additional player. Further Q describes where the new player is being added, which is to the new team. S sets up the subject for the final part of the sentence. Lastly, P specifies the composition of the team after the selection of the new player, with two bowlers and two batsmen, each in their respective roles.

**36. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Abode refers to a place where someone lives, so it is a noun because it refers to a place.

**37. Option (d) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Here, "beyond" is used to indicate something further away or more distant than a particular point, it functions as a preposition.

**38. Option (d) is correct.**

*Explanation:* "Except" can function as a conjunction, connecting two clauses or phrases and indicating that everything in the first clause is true except for what is mentioned in the second clause. It connects two clauses – I didn't tell him anything, I needed money.

**39. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* An adverb modifies verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs, providing information about how an action is performed. Since, "nicely" modifies the verb 'dry-cleaned', it functions as an adverb.

**40. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* 'This' is a demonstrative pronoun used to refer to something that is not immediately present but can be identified. The new item is the object that is identified.



**41. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Options (c) and (d) are confirmed from the statement: 'the plant portion of the biotic community includes all vegetation, from large trees down through microscopic algae'. Option (b) is affirmed through 'the animal portion includes everything from large mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians through earthworms, tiny insects, and mites.' Thus, it eliminates option (a) – water.

**42. Option (c) is correct.**

*Explanation:* The statement – 'one may speak of the biotic community as comprising a plant community, an animal community and a microbial community' evinces that the nature of biotic community depends on both biotic and abiotic components.

**43. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Abiotic connotes non-living chemical and physical factors, such as the amount of water or moisture present, temperature, salinity and soil type. So, algae are not an abiotic factor.

**44. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Here, aquatic communities refer to biotic community found in water. This is so because a particular kind of biotic community is determined by abiotic (meaning non-living chemical and physical) factors.

**45. Option (c) is correct.**

*Explanation:* It is evident in the sentence that each species includes all those individuals that

have a very strong similarity in appearance to one another, and which are distinct in appearance from other such groups, so 'both similarities and differences' is the correct alternative.

**46. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Banished means send (someone) away from a country or place as an official punishment. So, 'deported' (the expulsion of a person or group of people from a territory) is the correct synonym.

**47. Option (a) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Dazzling is brilliantly or showily bright, colourful, or impressive. So, 'brilliant' is the correct choice. While 'dismal' (dull) is an antonym and puerile means childish.

**48. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Rebuffed implies refusing to accept a suggestion, a request for help, or an offer to help, often in an unfriendly way. So, it means to ignore/ reject. 'Granted' is an antonym.

**49. Option (b) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Disowned means to refuse to acknowledge or maintain any connection with. So, 'abandoned' is the synonym and 'accepted' and 'allowed' are antonyms.

**50. Option (c) is correct.**

*Explanation:* Sceptical is not convinced that something is true; doubtful. So, 'doubtful' is the correct synonym.