

## NATIONAL TALENT SEARCH EXAMINATION 2015 Stage-2

### LANGUAGE COMPREHENSIVE TEST (LCT)

**Q.1-5**

Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.

The loudest public food fight right now is about GMOs, or genetically modified organisms. Scientists add genes to corn, soya beans and other plants, usually to protect the crops from insects or herbicides. Those who support this say that the genetic help makes crops easier to grow and cheaper. But many consumers and those who keep an eye on food-safety worry that GMOs pose an unnatural threat to our health and the environment. These opponents say the GMOs have been linked to depression, allergies and even cancer. Unless we have been eating food labelled 100 percent organic – which means that it must be GMO-free—we probably have GMOs in our body system already!

**1.** Adding genes to crops will

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| (1) Help in better crop-research. | (2) Make them resistant to insect attacks.   |
| (3) Make the foods 'organic'.     | (4) Give them a stable price in the markets. |

**Ans. (2)**

**Sol.** It is written in second line of passage that scientists add genes to protect the crops from insects.

**2.** The “.....loudest public food fight .....” suggests that

- (1) People do not like the Crop Scientists.
- (2) Crop Scientists are almost fighting in the streets.
- (3) There is a great competition in growing GMOs.
- (4) There are strong protests against GMOs

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** Last lines of passage making it clear that people are still against of GMO food.

**3.** Those who support GMOs say that

- (1) Growing the crops poses many challenges now.
- (2) They do not protect the fields from insect-attacks.
- (3) They bring down the prices of the crops.
- (4) They help in carrying out more experiments with better results.

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** This answer is clear from the line, ‘Those who support this say that the genetic help makes crops easier to grow and cheaper’.

**4.** Those who are opposed to GMOs say that

- (1) The costs of the crops will not change much in the markets.
- (2) The pattern of growing and harvesting of crops will change.
- (3) Such crop-research has been stopped.
- (4) These crops can cause serious harm to our health.

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** This answer is from the line ‘opponents say that GMOs pose an unnatural threat to our health’.

**5.** ‘Organic foods’ according to the passage are those are

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (1) already there in our bodies as GMOs | (2) grown in well-organised farms        |
| (3) grown free from GMOs                | (4) helpful to our body’s various organs |

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** In last line it is given that Organic food is grown free from GMOs.

**6-10 Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.**

‘We are living in the golden age of answer’. Of course information is not knowledge or wisdom, and data can mislead. Profusion of online information can be distracting or even useless. Privacy can also be a problem in a digital world where everything you’ve clicked can be used to sell things to you, evaluate you or embarrass you. Your iPhone or computer can provide information to others that you might prefer to keep to yourself. But revolutions always cause some damages. Things do get lost in the ocean of information. We no longer bother to remember stuff we can easily

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look up. We don't search for addresses as we use the GPS. We spend more time connecting with friends on Facebook than connecting with real friends. Still, pop-up ads, internet frauds and other inconveniences are a small price to pay for instant access to infinite information. Today we have better tools for searching, analysing or evaluating through data than before. And what's most exciting about our age of answers is, its potential to change the quality of our lives.

6. The passage primarily discusses
- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| (1) the advantage of technology | (2) criticism of technology                           |
| (3) the age of technology       | (4) the evaluation of the pros and cons of technology |

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** The whole para is describing the good and bad effect of technology.

7. 'The golden age of answers' implies that there are
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) diverse technologies available in the present time | (2) opportunities to connect with friends on Facebook |
| (3) better tools for searching information             | (4) pop-up ads to provide information                 |

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** Only ans (3) is giving an appropriate information about 'golden age'.

8. We pay a price for this revolution as we
- |                                      |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) only receive useless information | (2) forget our identities |
| (3) get agitated                     | (4) surrender our privacy |

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** As information can be received from anywhere so it is clear that we have surrendered our privacy.

9. This 'revolution' has brought
- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) radical changes to our lives. | (2) success in our lives.         |
| (3) rotation in our lives.        | (4) merely problems in our lives. |

**Ans. (1)**

**Sol.** This is clear by the things which are explained that revolution has also caused some damages.

10. The author's attitude to technology according to this passage is
- |                |               |               |                    |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| (1) not clear. | (2) positive. | (3) negative. | (4) insignificant. |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|

**Ans. (2)**

**Sol.** Last line of author suggest that he has positive attitude towards technology.

**Q. 11-15 Read the following passage and answer the questions given after it.**

For Abid Surti, Sunday is no day of rest. He is busy going to door volunteering with an assistant and a plumber. They are in an apartment building in Mumbai's densely populated suburb filled with high rise buildings. He rings doorbells and asks residents the same question, 'Any leaky taps? We are providing a free service.'

Surti is a multifaceted 79 year old man. A national award winning author, he has written some 80 books – novels, plays and collection of short stories and poems. He is also an artist and a cartoonist. In 2007, Surti started Drop Dead Foundation, his won water conservation NGO that caters the buildings in Mira Road, fixing leaky plumbing for free. With water shortages and the prospects of taps running dry in Mumbai, Surti's work is vital. 'Massive' is how he describes water wastage in Mumbai. 'In poor families, they can't afford to pay a plumber but in most middle-class families, the problem is one of sheer indifference. 'Indeed it was the apathy of a friend that first spurred Surti into action. While visiting a friend's house, Surti saw a leaking tap and asked why it wasn't fixed. His friend casually dismissed the query, saying it was hard to get a plumber 'for something so trivial.'

11. Surti's primary mission is to
- |                            |                            |                        |                         |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) provide free plumbers. | (2) check wastage of water | (3) supply free water. | (4) close running taps. |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|

**Ans. (2)**

**Sol.** Whole passage is suggesting this thing that it is the main motive of Abid Surti to check the wastage of water.

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- 12.** People may be more willing to accept Surit's services as he  
 (1) provides services assisted by a plumber. (2) runs a water conservation NGO.  
 (3) is a local person from Mumbai. (4) is on a mission.

**Ans. (1)**

**Sol.** Surti's services are accepted because he provides services assisted by a plumber.

- 13.** Most middle-class families' attitude to water conservation is due to their  
 (1) lack of knowledge. (2) lack of money. (3) lack of expertise. (4) lack of concern.

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** Poor families don't have money but middle class families attitude towards water problem is due to lack of concern.

- 14.** The work being done by Surit is significant because he  
 (1) runs an NGO in Mumbai. (2) has several skills.  
 (3) is providing plumbing services. (4) is solving social problems.

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** This work is significant because generally tape leakage is avoided due to not getting plumber for something so trivial. And Surti is doing social service by solving water problem.

- 15.** 'spurred into action' means  
 (1) emboldened to act. (2) volunteered to act. (3) keen to act. (4) encouraged to act.

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** 'Spurred into action means' to encourage to act something.

**Q. (16 to 17): The following five sentences come from a paragraph. The first and the last sentences are given. Choose the right order in which the three sentences (PQR) should appear to complete the paragraph.**

- 16.** S 1. Normally ladybugs are sophisticated and voracious predators.  
 S 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 S 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 S 4. \_\_\_\_\_

S 5. Then it creeps up and strikes, ripping the victim apart with its barbed mandibles.

P – Once it has homed in on these signals, it switches its sensory scan to search for molecules released by the victim.

Q – A single individual may devour several thousands of victims in a lifetime.

R – to find a victim, it first waves its antennae to detect chemicals that plants release when they are under attack by herbivorous insects.

Choose from the options given below :

- (1) RPQ (2) PRQ (3) QRP (4) PQR

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** S1 is giving information about ladybugs and 'Q' is giving information what a ladybug can do, so answer will be 'QRP'.

- 17.** S 1. Years ago, the kids were all keen on 'soda water powder', soft drink mix that made carbonated beverages.  
 S 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 S 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 S 4. \_\_\_\_\_

S 5. They began calling them Popsicles instead, and the treat was patented as such.

P – Epperson cleverly sat on his invention, keeping it secret for 18 years, until he was in the position to make something of it.

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Q – One night in 1905, Frank Epperson accidentally left his drink out on the porch, and as it froze overnight, it was absolutely delicious by the morning.

R – In 1923, he decided to patent his Epsicles (“Epp’s Icicles”), but his children refused to use that name since none of them called their father Epp.

Choose from the options given below :

- (1) PRQ                                      (2) RPQ                                      (3) RQP                                      (4) QPR

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** ‘Q’ is linking with S1 because it is providing information how soda water was invented.

**Q. (18-19) : The following questions have the second sentence missing. Choose the appropriate sentence from the given option to complete it.**

- 18.** A. I used to think that boiling an egg would be a simple job until I came to live in the Himalayas.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. I don’t know if it’s the altitude or the density of the water, but it just won’t come to a boil in time for break fast.  
1.  
2.  
(1) I found that just getting the water to boil was an achievement.  
(2) Boiling an egg in the Himalayas was fascinating.  
(3) I could never find good eggs there.  
(4) “Were the eggs also too hard?” I wondered.

**Ans. (1)**

**Sol.** ‘A’ is linked with ‘1’ because it says that author came to know about difficulty of boiling egg when he came to live in the Himalayas.

- 19.** A. Imagine a five-year old composing music and playing on a child-size violin.  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. He was a young genius who grew up to be one of the most creative composers of all time.  
(1) This was something Mozart did.                                      (2) It is strange to find such a phenomenon.  
(3) The child must have been some genius.                                      (4) This is simply impossible for us to think of

**Ans. (1)**

**Sol.** Answer is decided by ‘C’ as it has ‘He’ and he will be used for some person that is given in Answer ‘1’

**Q. (20 – 29) : Choose the word which best fills the blank from the four options given,**

- 20.** The journey in the run down bus over the pot-holed road felt almost like a ..... ride.  
(1) train                                      (2) boat                                      (3) roller-coaster                                      (4) bicycle

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** Run down bus is giving hint. Because ‘roller coaster’ also gives the same feeling when it comes down.

- 21.** The good old Ambassador cars are now considered .....  
(1) obsolete                                      (2) absolute                                      (3) obscure                                      (4) oblivious

**Ans. (1)**

**Sol.** ‘Obsolete’ means no longer produced or out of date.

- 22.** The report has been prepared well and hopefully it will be ..... at the next board meeting.  
(1) shelved                                      (2) chaired                                      (3) tabled                                      (4) grounded

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** Tabled at means to lay (the topic) on the table for consideration.

- 23.** The Talent Search Examination is challenging but not frightening. Why don’t you take a ..... at it ?  
(1) shot                                      (2) trial                                      (3) hit                                      (4) swipe

**Ans. (1)**

**Sol.** ‘Take a shot’ means to try to do something.

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**24.** Grandfather has always been a figure of ..... in our large family.

- (1) authorised                      (2) authoritative                      (3) authoritarian                      (4) authority

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** 'Authority' word is noun that is most suitable after 'figure of'

**25.** She found Rashmi in the kitchen, looking old and .....

- (1) healthy                      (2) weary                      (3) busy                      (4) in a hurry

**Ans. (2)**

**Sol.** 'Old and weary' both will come together as she was working in kitchen and she was looking rather 'tired (weary)'.

**26.** Tax offenders were refused ..... to leave the country.

- (1) admission                      (2) submission                      (3) information                      (4) permission

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** admission, submission, information can not be answer. As 'permission' is needed to leave the country.

**27.** A good driver will be very careful before carrying out a complex .....

- (1) movement                      (2) manoeuvre                      (3) motion                      (4) moment

**Ans. (2)**

**Sol.** 'manoeuvre' means a movement or series of moves requiring skill and care.

**28.** With the new Management taking over, there's now a big ..... hanging over the Company's future.

- (1) thought                      (2) gossip                      (3) discussion                      (4) question mark

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** New management taking over, so it is a 'big question mark' now on company's future.

**29.** The Coffee Room was ..... into smoking and non-smoking areas.

- (1) amalgamated                      (2) considered                      (3) segregated                      (4) shared

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** Coffee room was divided in two areas and 'segregated' means also 'to divide'.

**Q.(30-35) : Select the meaning of the given phrases/idioms.**

**30.** For want of

- (1) because of lack of                      (2) giving something wanted by another  
(3) desiring something                      (4) because of fulfilling needs

**Ans. (1)**

**Sol.** 'for want of' means 'because of lack of something/resources'.

**31.** Clown around

- (1) make others feel silly and stupid                      (2) be an object of ridicule  
(3) join a Circus company                      (4) behave in a silly way

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** 'Clown around' means 'behave in a funny or silly way'.

**32.** Talk back

- (1) answer rudely                      (2) talk behind a person's back  
(3) talk in a loud voice                      (4) reply to the questions asked

**Ans. (1)**

**Sol.** 'Talk back' means 'Reply rudely or defiantly'.

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- 33.** Run into  
 (1) meet someone by chance (2) start quarrelling  
 (3) make unexpected purchases (4) run from one place to another

**Ans. (1)**

**Sol.** 'Run into' Idiom means 'Collide with' or 'To meet or find someone or something by chance'.

- 34.** blow one's own trumpet  
 (1) to create music (2) to praise someone (3) to praise oneself (4) to feel happy

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** 'Blow one's own trumpet' means 'to boast or praise oneself greatly'.

- 35.** To see eye to eye  
 (1) stare at someone (2) examine someone's eyes  
 (3) have the same opinion (4) be cross-eyed

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** 'To see eye to eye' means 'To be able to come to an agreement' or 'have the same opinion'.

**Q.36-43**

In the following passage there are some numbered blanks. Fill in the blanks by selecting the most appropriate word for each blank from the given option.

At Sri Venkateswara Temple in Tirumala, better known as Tirupati, the laddu is next in popularity only to the Lord. The taste and aroma of (36) ..... besan (gram flour) confections – saturated (37) ..... ghee, raisin, nuts, cardamon, and (38) ..... camphor – draws millions of devotees (39) ..... this temple town in Andhra Pradesh, (40) ..... for a bite of this holy (41) ..... . In 2009, it received international (42) ..... when its was given the unique global (43) ..... i.e. legal protection against imitation.

- 36.** (1) this (2) these (3) those (4) their

**Ans. (2)**

**Sol.** here 'laddus' are mentioned so 'these' is used.

- 37.** (1) from (2) of (3) in (4) with

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** 'saturated' word takes 'with' preposition with it.

- 38.** (1) edible (2) fine (3) light (4) pious

**Ans. (1)**

**Sol.** the other things mentioned before this are edible and 'camphor' which is used in these laddus is also 'edible'.

- 39.** (1) with (2) to (3) for (4) from

**Ans. (2)**

**Sol.** devotees come 'to' this temple.

- 40.** (1) seen (2) look (3) eager (4) find

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** All people remain 'eager' for a bite.

- 41.** (1) dish (2) eat (3) taste (4) joy

**Ans. (1)**

**Sol.** 'This holy' is referring to 'dish of laddus'.

- 42.** (1) taste (2) fame (3) claim (4) love

**Ans. (2)**

**Sol.** These laddus have got international 'fame'.

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**43.** (1) index (2) quality (3) patent (4) reward

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** it was given a 'patent'.

**Q.44-47**

**Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blanks from the given alternatives.**

**44.** Located close to Charminar, the kilometer-long stretch of Laad Bazaar is ..... with shops selling bright in every hue and colour.

(1) came (2) discovered (3) covered (4) filled

**Ans. (4)**

**Sol.** Laad bazaar is 'filled with' shops.

**45.** I suggest you should ..... yourself with the rules before you join the meeting.

(1) familiar (2) familiarize (3) familiarly (4) familiarity

**Ans. (2)**

**Sol.** We need a verb after 'you should' so 'familiarize' is the only answer.

**46.** The child held the bag as tightly as if it were her most ..... possession.

(1) prize (2) prizo (3) prized (4) prizely

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** 'prized' past participle verb is needed here.

**47.** The weakness in their defense has already cost them ..... this season.

(1) dear (2) dearly (3) deary (4) dearness

**Ans. (2)**

**Sol.** 'dearly' adverb is describing verb 'cost'.

**Q.48-50**

**Select the word which means the opposite of the given word.**

**48.** Undertake

(1) recognise (2) being (3) refuse (4) rejoice

**Ans. (3)**

**Sol.** 'undertake' means 'promise to do something' and opposite of this will be 'refuse'.

**49.** Hefty

(1) half-hearted (2) light (3) heavy (4) halved

**Ans. (2)**

**Sol.** 'Hefty' means 'large and heavy' and opposite of this will be 'light'.

**50.** Miniature

(1) manicure (2) massive (3) missive (4) masculine

**Ans. (2)**

**Sol.** 'Miniature' means 'very small' and opposite will be 'Massive (very huge)'.

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