APPROACH NOTE FOR INCOMPLETE SENTENCES AND GRAMMATICALLY INCORRECT SENTENCES

- This section relies on the basic knowledge of grammar
- Acquiring a functional knowledge of Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives, Verbs, Adverbs, Prepositions and Conjunctions would help
- One should be generally conversant with the following:
  - singular – plural e.g. datum – data, genius – genii, crises – crises, a pair of pajamas, sheep – sheep, aircraft – aircraft
  - noun – pronoun placement
  - tenses – it cannot have two tenses in one sentences - present and future cannot be combined
  - adjective comes before the noun it qualifies – fat woman, black horse
  - adverb comes after the verb it qualifies – runs slowly, works well
  - a good knowledge of phrasal verbs i.e. verbs + preposition i.e. call on, call off, etc.
  - placement of conjunctions and the entities they qualify, they should be as close to each other as possible to avoid errors – and, not only…but also…, etc They combine similar entities – perspiration and respiration (noun and noun), not only the car but also the truck (vehicle to vehicle)

Practice Set I

Directions: **Choose the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.**

1. The police officer claims _____
   a. that you drunk too much liquor.
   b. that you have drank too much liquor.
   c. that you drank too much liquor.
   d. you have drank too much liquor.

2. He ate everything and _____
   a. didn't leave none for the others.
   b. didn't leave anything for the others.
   c. didn't leave hardly anything for the others.
   d. did leave anything for the others.

3. He is _____
   a. likely to be elected as the next President.
   b. liable to be elected as the next President.
   c. hardly to be elected as the next President.
   d. not possible to be elected as the next President.

4. The coach is the one _____
   a. person who they always consult.
   b. who they always consult.
   c. person who they always consulted.
   d. person whom they always consult.

Answers

1. c 2. b 3. a 4. d

Practice Set II

Directions: **In each of these questions, a sentence has been broken into four parts and marked a, b, c and d. One of these parts contains a mistake. Identify that part and mark it as the answer.**

1. (a) She was as pretty
   (b) if not prettier than
   (c) any other girl who had come
   (d) to participate in the meeting.

2. (a) If one reads the newspaper regularly
   (b) you will be surprised at the improvement
   (c) in your overall reading skills
   (d) day by day.

3. (a) After finding the problem,
   (b) the mechanic cleaned the carburetor
   (c) started the engine
   (d) and found it working smoothly.

4. (a) The only persons in the theatre
   (b) on that stormy night
   (c) were the staff of the theatre
   (d) and me.

Answers

1. (a) 2. (a) 3. (a) 4. (d)

Explanation

1. (a) She was as pretty as
   The phrase 'as... as' forms a figure of speech and ought to be used as such. For example: He was considered to be as wise as Socrates.
   But in the sentence: I collected as many specimens as I could find--the first 'as' is an adverb and the second 'as' is a relative pronoun.

2. (a) If you read.....
   The indefinite pronoun ‘one’ or the personal pronoun ‘you’ should be used throughout the sentence.

3. (a) Having found the problem...
   We use the perfect participle here that represents an action as completed at some past time, this in this case led to the engine working smoothly.

4. (d) When a noun (or pronoun) is used as the Subject of a verb, it is said to be in the Nominative Case and when it is used as the Object of a verb, it is said to be in the Objective (or Accusative) case. In the sentence given, the staff and the person speaking form the subject of the verb, 'were' and hence the Nominative Case of the First Person-Singular i.e. I should be used instead of the Accusative Case i.e. me.

   Note:
   To find the Nominative Case put Who? or What? before the verb.
   To find the Accusative Case put whom? or What? Before the verb and its subject.

APPROACH NOTE TO ANALOGIES AND ANTONYMS

- For this section one needs to slowly and steadily build a good vocabulary
- Seek new words everyday and revise these words regularly
- Use the new words in your daily conversation. This will help you cement their meaning and usage
- Learning through roots is a great help e.g. aqua – water, terra – land, manus – hand, pedis – foot, sol – sun, etc.
- For ANALOGIES one has to see the relation ship which the main pair shares. They could be some of the following:
    - noun – verb — cobbler : mend
    - noun - adjective — nature : beauty
    - workman – tool — doctor : scalpel
    - degrees of comparison — warm : hot
    - Greek mythological references — Achilles : weakness
    - Antonyms — flattery : statuesque
    - Synonyms — prejudice : bias
    - A collection of — flowers : bunch
    - Seasons — winter : chill
    - Instruments of measurement — thermometer : temperature

Practice Set I

Directions: **In the following questions the given pair of words contains a specific relationship to each other. Select the best pair of choices which expresses the same relationship as the given.**

1. CONTIGUOUS : ABUT
   a) possible : occur
   b) simultaneous : coincide
   c) comprehensive : except
   d) synthetic : create

2. PROHIBITIVE : PURCHASE
   a) preventive : heal
   b) laudatory : praise
   c) admonitory : fear
   d) peremptory : dispute

3. SEDATIVE : DROWSINESS
   a) epidemic : contagiousness
   b) vaccine : virus
   c) laxative : drug
   d) anesthetic : numbness

4. EVANESCENT : DISAPPEAR
   a) transparent : penetrate
   b) onerous : struggle
   c) feckless : succeed
   d) pliant : yield

Answers

1. b
2. d
3. d
4. d

APPROACH NOTE TO CRITICAL REASONING

For these question sets one must be familiar with the kinds of questions that one may have to tackle during the exam. Some of the types are listed below.

- Find the conclusions
- Identify the assumptions
- Find the inference
- Identify the statement with parallel reasoning to the given argument
- Identify the irrelevant argument from the given choices
- Identify the paradox
- Find the flaw in the argument
- Identify the argument

To solve such question sets one must understand the structure of the argument. Also to gain proficiency in answering such questions the following points may be noted.

- an assumption is what is not stated but is implied
- conclusion is deduced from only what is stated in the argument – do not imagine outside the given question
- inference = assumption + conclusion
- parallel reason – if an argument stands true in one context then it is true in all similar situations

How to solve the critical reasoning problems

- Read the argument
- Reach the conclusion
- Now look for an assumption, counter argument etc. to finally arrive at a solution

Practice Set 1

1. In 1939, when the film Gone With The Wind, based on Margaret Mitchell's book of the same name, was about to be released, Hollywood's censor were very strict about permitting off-color language to be used in the movies. Nevertheless, David O. Selznick, the film's producer, was able to convince the censors to allow the film to close with Clark Gable's now immortal line, "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."
Knowledge of all of the following would potentially be useful in explaining the events described above except

a) the status of Selznick in the film industry at the time
b) whether the line in question had appeared in the original best-selling book
c) the degree of Selznick's concern over public reaction to the use of the word "damn"
d) whether the censors had banned the use of the word "damn" in other films

2. Many film critics have called Sir Alec Guinness the greatest actor of the 20th century. However, his participation in such ill-conceived and poorly executed films as The Gutsy, Veronica, and Splash of the Titans seriously undermines his claim to any such exalted title.
All of the following assumptions underlie the conclusion of the passage above except
a) the three films cited were in fact ill-conceived and poorly executed
b) if a particular film was poor, then Guinness' performance in it must have been equally poor
c) the three films cited are representative of Guinness' acting career
d) film critics frequently make inflated claims about actors whom they admire

3. Sir Norman Foster is the designer of such notable buildings as The HSBC Office in Hong Kong; his own homes in Chester-Le-Street, Durham, and The Hove, Sussex; and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao as well as the new Reichstag in Berlin. Based on this body of work, Wright is considered by most British architects, as well as many critics around the world, as the preeminent architect of the 20th century.
Which of the following assumptions is most pivotal to the argument above?

a) The buildings mentioned are outstanding examples of modern architecture.
b) British architects generally agree with the critical assessments of architects from around the world.
c) There are many 20th-century architects who have designed notable buildings.
d) The buildings mentioned are the best known of those Foster designed.

4. Although we may be exposed to all the various types of music – classical, folk, jazz, rock, and country – over the course of a lifetime, the type of music we loved as adolescents will always be our favorite.
Which of the following, if true, would most seriously weaken the argument above?

a) Some people who are exposed to classical music, as adolescents never learn to enjoy it.
b) Some people who love rock as adolescents come to prefer classical music later in life.
c) Those who are exposed to folk only as children never learn to appreciate.
d) Some people who are exposed to jazz music only late in life, learn to enjoy it.

Answers

1) c

2) d

3) a

4) b