Sukkur IBA STHP Free Practice Set A – 50 Questions

Sukkur IBA Sindh Talent Hunt Program · English, Mathematics & ICT · with answer key

Please read first

• Set A: 50 original MCQs (20 English, 20 Mathematics, 10 ICT) by MCQsAI, in the same proportion as the STHP pattern (English 40, Maths 40, ICT 20). Set A and Set B have completely different questions.
• This is not a Sukkur IBA paper and does not predict the real test. Check the announcement at iba-suk.edu.pk.
• Suggested time: 60 minutes. Answer key and short explanations are on the last pages. Scan the QR to take the full timed test online with instant score.

Section	Questions
English	20
Mathematics	20
ICT	10
Total	**50**

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English

Q1. Choose the word most similar in meaning to 'Dearth'.

A) scarcity
B) abundance
C) profusion
D) plenty

Q2. Which sentence demonstrates correct sentence structuring?

A) Walking down the street, a stray dog approached me.
B) A stray dog approached me, walking down the street.
C) As I was walking down the street, a stray dog approached me.
D) Walking down the street, me was approached by a stray dog.

Q3. Which sentence correctly employs the subjunctive mood after 'Lest' to express a warning or precaution?

A) Lest he forgets his duties, the administrator kept a meticulous log.
B) Lest he forget his duties, the administrator kept a meticulous log.
C) Lest he would forget his duties, the administrator kept a meticulous log.
D) Lest he forgot his duties, the administrator kept a meticulous log.

Q4. The scholarship was awarded to her because of her ___ academic record.

A) outstood
B) outstanding
C) outstand
D) outstandingly

Q5. Choose the word that best completes the sentence: 'The politician's speech was full of _____ promises that lacked any concrete plans.'

A) tangible
B) nebulous
C) verifiable
D) specific

Q6. He has been living in Karachi ____ 2010.

A) for
B) from
C) during
D) since

Q7. Change the following sentence into Passive Voice: 'The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested several individuals in connection with the cybercrime.'

A) Several individuals were arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in connection with the cybercrime.
B) In connection with the cybercrime, the FIA arrested several individuals.
C) The cybercrime led to the arrest of several individuals by the FIA.
D) Several individuals had been arrested by the FIA in connection with the cybercrime.

Q8. Select the grammatically correct sentence, demonstrating proper use of inversion with 'No sooner'.

A) No sooner had the chief minister arrived than the crowd cheered.
B) No sooner did the chief minister arrived than the crowd cheered.
C) No sooner had the chief minister arrived when the crowd cheered.
D) No sooner the chief minister arrived than the crowd cheered.

Q9. Which of the following sentences has the correct punctuation and grammar?

A) The speaker concluded by saying; that peace is essential for progress.
B) The speaker concluded by saying, that peace is essential for progress.
C) The speaker concluded by saying that peace is essential for progress.
D) The speaker concluded by saying, 'peace is essential for progress'.

Q10. Change the following into indirect speech: She said, 'I visited Mohenjo-Daro last year.'
A) She said that she would visit Mohenjo-Daro the previous year.
B) She said that she visited Mohenjo-Daro last year.
C) She said that she has visited Mohenjo-Daro the previous year.
D) She said that she had visited Mohenjo-Daro the previous year.

Q11. Which of the following sentences correctly uses a pronoun?
A) Me and him went to the market.
B) She give the book to I.
C) They invited my brother and myself to the event.
D) He and I completed the assignment.

Q12. Select the word that correctly fits the blank: 'The impact of the economic reforms was quite _____, lasting only a few months before the old problems resurfaced.'
A) Permanent
B) Ephemeral
C) Volatile
D) Perpetual

Q13. Neither the teacher nor the students ___ present yesterday.
A) has been
B) is
C) were
D) was

Q14. Choose the most appropriate tense for the sentence: 'By next year, the Gwadar Port expansion project _____ its first phase.'
A) will have completed
B) will be completed
C) would complete
D) is being completed

Q15. The government has imposed a ban _____ public gatherings due to security concerns in Islamabad.
A) with
B) for
C) at
D) on

Q16. Which word is the error in this sentence: 'The FBR requested for the submission of tax returns by March 31st.'
A) requested
B) for
C) by
D) submission

Q17. He succeeded _____ dint of hard work.
A) with
B) through
C) by
D) of

Q18. If 'Justice' is to 'Court', then 'Legislation' is to:
A) Prison
B) Police
C) Parliament
D) Lawyer

Q19. Choose the correct synonym for 'Paucity'.

A) Sufficiency
B) Abundance
C) Scarcity
D) Profusion

Q20. Select the sentence that correctly uses the third conditional structure.

A) If the government implements stricter environmental laws, the air quality in Lahore would have improved.
B) If the government would implement stricter environmental laws, the air quality in Lahore would improve.
C) If the government had implemented stricter environmental laws, the air quality in Lahore would improve.
D) If the government had implemented stricter environmental laws, the air quality in Lahore would have improved.

Mathematics

Q21. The ratio of boys to girls in a school is 7:5. If there are 210 boys, what is the total number of students in the school?

A) 360
B) 300
C) 420
D) 350

Q22. The average monthly electricity bill for a household in Lahore for 5 months was PKR 4,500. If the bills for the first four months were PKR 4,000, PKR 5,200, PKR 3,800, and PKR 4,700, what was the bill for the fifth month?

A) PKR 4,800
B) PKR 5,000
C) PKR 4,900
D) PKR 4,600

Q23. A worker completes a task in 3 hours. If another worker, who is twice as efficient, helps him, how much time will they take to complete the same task together?

A) 80 minutes
B) 60 minutes
C) 90 minutes
D) 100 minutes

Q24. In a raid, ANF seized 120 kg of 'charas'. If this quantity is to be divided among 3 evidence bags in the ratio 2:3:5, what is the weight (in kg) of 'charas' in the largest bag?

A) 36 kg
B) 24 kg
C) 60 kg
D) 50 kg

Q25. What are the roots of $x^2 - 5x + 6 = 0$?

A) -1 and 6
B) -2 and -3
C) 1 and 6
D) 2 and 3

Q26. A rectangular plot of land in DHA Lahore has a length that is twice its width. If the perimeter of the plot is 120 meters, what is its area?

A) 800 sq meters
B) 1000 sq meters
C) 600 sq meters
D) 1200 sq meters

Q27. If a car travels 360 km in 4 hours, what is its average speed in meters per second?
A) 90 m/s
B) 25 m/s
C) 30 m/s
D) 20 m/s

Q28. Find the missing number in the series: 5, 11, 23, 47, ___, 191.
A) 95
B) 85
C) 92
D) 90

Q29. A team of ANF officers seized 3/5 of a shipment of illegal goods. If the total shipment weighed 250 kg, how much was seized?
A) 125 kg
B) 175 kg
C) 150 kg
D) 100 kg

Q30. A shopkeeper offers a 20% discount on a smartphone priced at PKR 45,000. What is the selling price after the discount?
A) PKR 36,000
B) PKR 35,000
C) PKR 40,000
D) PKR 38,000

Q31. The angles of a triangle are in the ratio 2:3:4. What is the measure of the smallest angle in degrees?
A) 60 degrees
B) 80 degrees
C) 20 degrees
D) 40 degrees

Q32. A rectangle has a length of 15 cm and a width of 8 cm. What is its perimeter?
A) 23 cm
B) 60 cm
C) 46 cm
D) 120 cm

Q33. If 25% of a number is 60, what is the number?
A) 200
B) 180
C) 240
D) 300

Q34. If 3x - 7 = 2x + 5, what is the value of x?
A) 2
B) 10
C) 14
D) 12

Q35. Simplify: 25 - 3 \times 4 + 5
A) 18
B) 12
C) 10
D) 8

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Q36. The average of 5 numbers is 18. What is their sum?
A) 90
B) 85
C) 95
D) 80

Q37. Simplify the expression: 15 + (12 - 4) \u00f7 2 \u00d7 3
A) 27
B) 18
C) 30
D) 39

Q38. A motorist covers a distance of 180 kilometers in 2.5 hours. What is his average speed in km/h?
A) 60 km/h
B) 72 km/h
C) 90 km/h
D) 80 km/h

Q39. A shopkeeper in Peshawar bought a consignment of apples for Rs. 15,000. He sold 2/5 of the apples at a 10% profit, and the remaining apples at a 5% loss. What was his overall profit or loss?
A) Rs. 450 Profit
B) Rs. 150 Loss
C) Rs. 150 Profit
D) No profit, no loss

Q40. What is the highest common factor (HCF) of 42, 63, and 105?
A) 3
B) 7
C) 14
D) 21

ICT

Q41. Which type of software is designed to protect a computer from malicious attacks like viruses and malware?
A) Spreadsheet Program
B) Antivirus Software
C) Web Browser
D) Word Processor

Q42. If 'DESK' is coded as '2345' and 'TABLE' as '67893', how would 'BLADE' be coded?
A) 89732
B) 89273
C) 98723
D) 89723

Q43. Which type of software is typically distributed freely but often requires payment for advanced features or support?
A) Proprietary software
B) Shareware
C) Freeware
D) Open-source software

Q44. In MS Word, which feature allows you to combine multiple cells into a single larger cell in a table?
A) Split Cells
B) Merge Cells
C) Insert Cells
D) Delete Cells

Q45. Which of the following is a volatile memory that loses its content when the power is turned off?
A) Solid State Drive (SSD)
B) Random Access Memory (RAM)
C) Hard Disk Drive (HDD)
D) Read-Only Memory (ROM)

Q46. If 'CAT' is coded as '3120', then 'DOG' would be coded as?
A) 4157
B) 41520
C) 41516
D) 41517

Q47. Which component is considered the 'brain' of a computer system?
A) Hard Disk Drive
B) RAM
C) Motherboard
D) CPU

Q48. In MS Word, which feature is used to apply predefined design elements to a document?
A) Macros
B) Track Changes
C) Styles
D) Mail Merge

Q49. In MS Excel, which feature is used to arrange data in a specific order (ascending or descending)?
A) Filter
B) PivotTable
C) Conditional Formatting
D) Sort

Q50. Which email protocol is used for retrieving emails from a mail server, typically downloading them to the local device?
A) HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol)
B) IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol)
C) SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol)
D) POP3 (Post Office Protocol version 3)

Answer Key

Q1: A	Q2: C	Q3: B	Q4: B	Q5: B	Q6: D	Q7: A	Q8: A	Q9: C	Q10: D
Q11: D	Q12: B	Q13: C	Q14: A	Q15: D	Q16: B	Q17: C	Q18: C	Q19: C	Q20: D
Q21: A	Q22: A	Q23: B	Q24: C	Q25: D	Q26: A	Q27: B	Q28: A	Q29: C	Q30: A
Q31: D	Q32: C	Q33: C	Q34: D	Q35: A	Q36: A	Q37: A	Q38: B	Q39: C	Q40: D
Q41: B	Q42: D	Q43: B	Q44: B	Q45: B	Q46: A	Q47: D	Q48: C	Q49: D	Q50: D

Next step

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Explanations

Q1 · A · Synonyms / Similar Meanings · easy
'Dearth' means a scarcity or lack of something. 'Scarcity' is the closest synonym.

Q2 · C · Sentence Correction and Structuring · hard
Option C correctly resolves the dangling participle of 'Walking down the street' by clearly stating who was performing the action.

Q3 · B · Complex Subjunctive · medium
'Lest' takes the base form of the verb (the subjunctive): 'lest he forget'. 'Forgets', 'would forget' and 'forgot' are wrong after 'lest'.

Q4 · B · Sentence Completion · medium
An adjective is needed before the noun "record".

Q5 · B · Word Choice and Contextual Vocabulary · hard
Nebulous means vague, hazy, or ill-defined. This accurately describes promises that lack concrete plans. 'Tangible', 'verifiable', and 'specific' are antonyms in this context.

Q6 · D · Articles and Prepositions · easy
'Since' is used to indicate the starting point of an action or state that continues up to the present.

Q7 · A · Active/Passive Voice and Direct/Indirect Narration · medium
In passive voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject, and the verb is changed to a 'be' verb + past participle. 'Were arrested' correctly transforms the active 'arrested'.

Q8 · A · Advanced Grammar and Syntax · hard
The correct structure for 'No sooner... than' is 'No sooner + auxiliary verb (had/did) + subject + main verb (past participle for had, base form for did) + than + clause'. Option A correctly uses 'had' with the past participle 'arrived'.

Q9 · C · Grammar and Punctuation · hard
When 'that' introduces a subordinate clause following a reporting verb like 'saying', no comma is needed before 'that'. The phrase 'peace is essential for progress' is an indirect statement, not a direct quote.

Q10 · D · Direct and Indirect Speech · medium
When converting past simple to indirect speech, it changes to past perfect, and 'last year' changes to 'the previous year'.

Q11 · D · Basic Grammar (Pronouns) · hard
In option D, 'He and I' is the correct subject pronoun usage. Options A and B use objective or incorrect pronouns in subject positions. Option C uses 'myself' incorrectly as a subject or object when 'me' or 'I' would be suitable.

Q12 · B · Reading Comprehension & Contextual Analysis · hard
The impact lasted only a few months, so it was short-lived. 'Ephemeral' means lasting a very short time. 'Permanent' and 'Perpetual' mean the opposite, and 'Volatile' means unstable.

Q13 · C · Subject-Verb Agreement · medium
With neither/nor, the verb agrees with the nearer subject "students" (plural, past).

Q14 · A · Tenses and Verb Forms · medium
'By next year' needs the future perfect. The project itself completes 'its first phase' (an object), so the active form 'will have completed' is correct.

Q15 · D · Prepositions and Phrasal Verbs · easy
The correct preposition to use with 'ban' when referring to the object being banned is 'on'.

Q16 · B · Error Detection and Comprehension · hard
'Request' takes a direct object, so 'for' is not needed. Correct: 'The FBR requested the submission of tax returns by March 31st.'

Q17 · C · Prepositions · medium
The correct idiomatic phrase is 'by dint of', meaning 'by means of'.

Q18 · C · Analogies · easy
Justice is administered in a Court. Similarly, legislation (the process of making laws) is carried out and enacted by a Parliament.

Q19 · C · Synonyms and Antonyms · easy
'Paucity' refers to the presence of something in only small or insufficient quantities or amounts, making 'Scarcity' the correct synonym.

Q20 · D · Tenses and Sentence Structure · hard
The third conditional is used to talk about hypothetical situations in the past (unreal past). Its structure is 'If + past perfect, would have + past participle'.

Q21 · A · Ratios and Proportions · medium
Let the number of boys be 7x and girls be 5x. Given 7x = 210, so x = 210/7 = 30. Number of girls = 5x = 5 * 30 = 150. Total students = 210 (boys) + 150 (girls) = 360.

Q22 · A · Basic Average/Mean · medium
Total bill for 5 months = 5 * 4500 = 22,500 PKR. Sum of bills for 4 months = 4000 + 5200 + 3800 + 4700 = 17,700 PKR. Bill for fifth month = 22,500 - 17,700 = 4,800 PKR.

Q23 · B · Time and Work Problems · medium
The first worker does 1/3 of the task per hour. The second is twice as fast: 2/3 per hour. Together: 1/3 + 2/3 = 1 task per hour, so 60 minutes.

Q24 · C · Advanced Arithmetic · easy
The sum of the ratios is 2 + 3 + 5 = 10. The largest share is 5 parts. So, (5/10) * 120 kg = 0.5 * 120 kg = 60 kg.

Q25 · D · Quadratic Equations · medium
$(x - 2)(x - 3) = 0$.

Q26 · A · Geometry (Planar applications) · medium
Let width = W, then length = 2W. Perimeter = 2 * (Length + Width) = 2 * (2W + W) = 2 * (3W) = 6W. Given perimeter = 120m, so 6W = 120, W = 20 meters. Length = 2 * 20 = 40 meters. Area = Length * Width = 40 * 20 = 800 sq meters.

Q27 · B · Ratios, Proportions, and Rates · medium
Average speed = Distance / Time = 360 km / 4 hours = 90 km/hr. To convert km/hr to m/s, multiply by (5/18): 90 \times (5/18) = 5 \times 5 = 25 m/s.

Q28 · A · Number Series · medium
The pattern is (previous number * 2) + 1. So, 5*2+1=11, 11*2+1=23, 23*2+1=47. The next number is 47*2+1 = 94+1 = 95. And 95*2+1 = 191.

Q29 · C · Fractions and Decimals · easy
Seized amount = (3/5) * 250 kg = 3 * (250/5) = 3 * 50 = 150 kg.

Q30 · A · Percentages and Ratios · medium
Discount amount = 20% of 45,000 = (20/100) * 45,000 = 9,000 PKR. Selling price = Original price - Discount = 45,000 - 9,000 = 36,000 PKR.

Q31 · D · Geometry (Area, Perimeter, Angles) · medium
Let the angles be 2x, 3x, and 4x. The sum of angles in a triangle is 180 degrees. So, 2x + 3x + 4x = 180. 9x = 180. x = 180 / 9 = 20 degrees. The angles are 2*20=40 degrees, 3*20=60 degrees, and 4*20=80 degrees. The smallest angle is 40 degrees.

Q32 · C · Basic Geometry (Area, Perimeter, Volume, Angles) · easy
Perimeter of a rectangle = 2 \times (length + width) = 2 \times (15 cm + 8 cm) = 2 \times 23 cm = 46 cm.

Q33 · C · Percentages · easy
60 × 4 = 240.

Q34 · D · Basic Algebra (Linear Equations) · easy
Rearrange the equation: 3x - 2x = 5 + 7. So, x = 12.

Q35 · A · Basic Arithmetic Operations · easy
Multiplication first: 3 x 4 = 12. Then left to right: 25 - 12 = 13, and 13 + 5 = 18.

Q36 · A · Averages · easy
Sum = 5 × 18 = 90.

Q37 · A · Basic Arithmetic Operations (BODMAS) · medium
Follow BODMAS: Parentheses first (12-4) = 8. Then Division 8 \u00f7 2 = 4. Then Multiplication 4 \u00d7 3 = 12. Finally Addition 15 + 12 = 27.

Q38 · B · Word Problems (Distance, Time) · medium
Speed = Distance / Time. Speed = 180 km / 2.5 hours = 72 km/h.

Q39 · C · Fractions and Decimals, Percentages · hard
Cost of 2/5 = Rs. 6,000, profit 10% = Rs. 600. Cost of the rest = Rs. 9,000, loss 5% = Rs. 450. Net = 600 - 450 = Rs. 150 profit.

Q40 · D · Arithmetic (HCF) · medium
Prime factorization: 42 = 2 × 3 × 7, 63 = 3^2 × 7, 105 = 3 × 5 × 7. HCF is the product of common prime factors with the lowest power: 3 × 7 = 21.

Q41 · B · Software · hard
Antivirus software is specifically designed to detect, prevent, and remove malicious software, such as viruses, worms, and Trojans, from a computer system.

Q42 · D · Basic Logical Reasoning · medium
From the codes: D=2, E=3, S=4, K=5, T=6, A=7, B=8, L=9. So BLADE = 8, 9, 7, 2, 3 = 89723.

Q43 · B · Software · medium
Shareware is a type of proprietary software that is provided to users without payment on a trial basis and is often limited by time, functionality, or both. After the trial period, users are expected to purchase a license to continue using it or to unlock full features.

Q44 · B · MS Office · medium
Merge Cells is the feature in MS Word that combines two or more selected cells into a single cell, typically used in tables.

Q45 · B · Hardware · medium
RAM (Random Access Memory) is volatile memory, meaning it requires power to maintain the stored information. Most RAM is lost when the computer is turned off.

Q46 · A · Basic Logical Reasoning · hard
Each letter is replaced by its position in the alphabet: C=3, A=1, T=20 gives 3120. So D=4, O=15, G=7 gives 4157.

Q47 · D · Computer Fundamentals · easy
The Central Processing Unit (CPU) is responsible for executing instructions and performing calculations, thus often referred to as the 'brain' of the computer.

Q48 · C · MS Office · easy
Styles in MS Word allow users to apply a consistent set of formatting (font, size, color, spacing) to text quickly.

Q49 · D · MS Office · medium
The 'Sort' feature in MS Excel allows users to rearrange data in a worksheet based on specified criteria, such as ascending or descending order.

Q50 · D · Internet and Email · hard
POP3 is a protocol used by email clients to retrieve email from a mail server. It typically downloads email to your local computer and deletes it from the server. IMAP also retrieves emails but keeps them on the server, while SMTP is for sending emails.