Superintendent (BS-17), Punjab Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Department — 2026 · Solved Past Paper

Body: Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) · **Post:** Superintendent (BS-17), Punjab Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Department · **Year:** 2026 · **Questions:** 100 in the original paper — **20 solved and verified**, 80 unrecoverable (Q21, Q22, Q23, Q24, Q25, Q26, Q27, Q28, Q29, Q30, Q31, Q32, Q33, Q34, Q35, Q36, Q37, Q38, Q39, Q40, Q41, Q42, Q43, Q44, Q45, Q46, Q47, Q48, Q49, Q50, Q51, Q52, Q53, Q54, Q55, Q56, Q57, Q58, Q59, Q60, Q61, Q62, Q63, Q64, Q65, Q66, Q67, Q68, Q69, Q70, Q71, Q72, Q73, Q74, Q75, Q76, Q77, Q78, Q79, Q80, Q81, Q82, Q83, Q84, Q85, Q86, Q87, Q88, Q89, Q90, Q91, Q92, Q93, Q94, Q95, Q96, Q97, Q98, Q99, Q100) · **Price:** Free

> **How to use this paper:** each question shows the stem, the four options, and the correct answer. Click “Why each option?” under a question to see all four options explained — one question teaches four topics. General Knowledge answers are as of the 2026 sitting.

Source note: PACE GK Academy reproduction of the same sitting (Imtiaz Shahid book Vol 2, Ed 110, Paper 222, p. 1196; 20 items, each with a printed key), fetched 13 Nov 2026, cross-checked against the GK360 reproduction ('PPSC Superintendent (BS-17) Past Paper 2026 Solved MCQs', 20 MCQs with printed keys). Three printed keys corrected openly (Q15, Q18, Q20) and two items filed as PICK-ONE (Q2, Q13), all decided by the assistant under the owner's 8 Nov 2026 delegation. Dedup 13 Nov 2026 vs the live library (595 papers): 2 exact single-question matches (isolated reuse across sittings) + 1 first-8-words-only match — not a duplicate paper.

1 English

What is the synonym of "Benediction"?

- A. A wish
- B. Curse
- C. Blessing ✓ **Correct answer**
- D. Prayer

A. A wish is a hope for something good, but it is not the standard synonym for a benediction, which is a formal spoken blessing.

B. A curse is the opposite of a benediction: it calls down harm, while a benediction calls down good.

C. Correct: a benediction is a blessing, usually spoken at the end of a service or gathering, asking for God's favour on the people.

D. A prayer is a request made to God; a benediction is the blessing itself, so it is related but not the synonym asked for.

Question 2 English

Change into indirect speech: "Could you write it down for me?" she asked.

- A. She asked whether I could write it down for her
- B. She asked me if I could write it down for her
- C. She asked me to write it down for her ✓ **Correct answer**
- D. She asked that I could write it down

A. This keeps the question form with 'whether', but 'Could you write it down for me?' is a polite request for an action, not a yes-or-no question, so the question form is wrong here.

B. This also treats the sentence as a question needing an answer, but the speaker is asking for something to be done, not asking for information.

'Could you ...?' is a polite request, so in indirect speech it becomes 'asked me to write it down for her' — asked + object + to-infinitive.

D. This is not a correct indirect form at all: 'asked that I could write' is ungrammatical.

Note: Note: PACE keys C ("She asked if I could write it down for her"); GK360 keys the request form. "Could you ...?" is a polite request for action, so indirect speech uses asked + to-infinitive.

Question 3 English

What is the meaning of the idiom "On cloud nine"?

- A. Angry
- B. Sad
- C. Confused
- D. Extremely happy ✓ **Correct answer**

A. Being angry is the opposite of the feeling this idiom describes.

B. Being sad is the opposite of the feeling this idiom describes.

C. Being confused has nothing to do with this idiom.

D. Correct: 'on cloud nine' means extremely happy, as if floating on a cloud with joy.

Question 4 English

What is the correct antonym of "Ruthless"?

- A. Cruel
- B. Harsh
- C. Compassionate ✓ **Correct answer**
- D. Merciless

A. Cruel means deliberately causing pain, which is close to ruthless, not its opposite.

means severe and unkind, which is close to ruthless, not its opposite.

C. Correct: compassionate means feeling pity and kindness towards others, the opposite of ruthless, which means showing no pity at all.

D. Merciless means showing no mercy, which is a synonym of ruthless, not its opposite.

Question 5 English

Choose the correct synonym of "Unlawful".

- A. Fair
- B. Just
- C. Illegal ✓ **Correct answer**
- D. Legal

A. Fair means just and reasonable, which is the opposite of unlawful.

B. Just means fair and right, which is the opposite of unlawful.

C. Correct: unlawful means against the law, and illegal means exactly the same thing.

D. Legal means allowed by the law, which is the opposite of unlawful.

Question 6 English

Change the voice: "Did she iron the clothes?"

- A. Are the clothes ironed by her?
- B. Were the clothes ironed by her? ✓ **Correct answer**
- C. Had the clothes ironed by her?
- D. Were the clothes being ironed by her?

A. This is in the present tense, but the original question is in the past ('Did she iron'), so the tense is wrong.

B. Correct: 'Did she iron the clothes?' is past simple active, so its passive is 'Were the

ed by her?" — past simple passive.

C. This is not a complete passive sentence: it has no form of 'be' before the participle.

D. This is past continuous passive, but the original is simple past, not continuous, so the tense does not match.

Question 7 English

Choose the correct preposition: Please stick ____ your faith.

- A. With
- B. In
- C. On
- D. To ✓ **Correct answer**

A. We do not say 'stick with your faith' when we mean hold on to it firmly.

B. We do not say 'stick in your faith' in this sense.

C. We do not say 'stick on your faith' in this sense.

D. Correct: 'stick to' is the phrasal verb meaning to hold firmly to something, as in 'stick to your faith'.

Question 8 English

Choose the correct sentence.

- A. The horse is a faithful animal ✓ **Correct answer**
- B. Horse is a faithful animal
- C. A horse is faithful animal
- D. The horse is the faithful animal

A. Correct: 'A horse is a faithful animal' is grammatically complete — the article 'a' before 'horse' and before 'faithful animal' is used correctly.

s the article before 'horse', so the sentence is incomplete.

C. This drops the article before 'faithful animal', so the sentence is incomplete.

D. This adds 'the' before 'faithful animal', which changes the meaning and is not the natural form of the sentence.

Question 9 English

Change the voice: "You seem to have made a mistake."

- A. A mistake has been made by you
- B. A mistake seems to have been made by you ✓ **Correct answer**
- C. A mistake is being made by you
- D. A mistake made by you

A. This changes 'seem' to 'has been made', losing the sense of appearance in the original sentence.

B. Correct: 'You seem to have made a mistake' becomes 'A mistake seems to have been made by you' — the verb 'seems' stays, and 'to have made' becomes 'to have been made'.

C. This changes the tense to the continuous present, which does not match the original.

D. This is not a sentence at all: it has no verb, only a noun phrase.

Question 10 English

Identify the correct punctuation.

- A. The teachers loud voices startled the five year old child what a scene!
- B. The teachers' loud voices startled the five-year old child, what a scene!
- C. The teachers loud voices startled the five-year-old child What a scene!
- D. The teachers' loud voices startled the five-year-old child. What a scene! ✓ **Correct answer**

o apostrophe in 'teachers', no hyphen in 'five-year-old', and no full stop between the two sentences.

B. This puts a comma where a full stop is needed, and writes 'five-year old' with the hyphen in the wrong place.

C. This has no apostrophe in 'teachers'' and no full stop between the two sentences.

D. Correct: 'teachers'' takes an apostrophe, 'five-year-old' is hyphenated, and the exclamation stands as its own sentence after a full stop.

Note: Note: PACE prints option D with a comma and "five year-old"; filed text is GK360's correctly punctuated sentence.

Question 11 English

What is the meaning of the idiom "Hit the nail on the head"?

- A. To be angry
- B. To make a mistake
- C. To hit something hard
- D. To be exactly right ✓ **Correct answer**

A. Being angry has nothing to do with this idiom.

B. Making a mistake is the opposite of what this idiom means.

C. Hitting something hard is the literal meaning of the words, not the idiom.

D. Correct: 'hit the nail on the head' means to say exactly the right thing, or to describe something perfectly.

Question 12 English

Choose the correct preposition: He has refrained ____ doing this.

- A. By

- C. With
- D. From ✓ **Correct answer**

A. We do not say 'refrained by doing' something.

B. We do not say 'refrained of doing' something.

C. We do not say 'refrained with doing' something.

D. Correct: 'refrain from' is the fixed phrase meaning to hold back from doing something.

Question 13 English

Analogy: Microscope : Magnify :: Knife : ?

- A. Break
- B. Cut ✓ **Correct answer**
- C. Slice
- D. Sharpen

A. A knife does not break things as its defining function; breaking is what a hammer does.

B. Correct: a microscope magnifies small things, and a knife cuts things — each tool is matched with the action it is made for.

C. Slicing is one kind of cutting, but it is narrower than the knife's general function, which is to cut.

D. Sharpening is something done to a knife, not what a knife does to other things.

Note: Note: PACE keys C (Slice); GK360 keys Cut. A microscope magnifies and a knife cuts — Cut is the defining function.

14 English

Which is an uncountable noun?

- A. Coin
- B. Dollar
- C. Note
- D. Money ✓ **Correct answer**

A. A coin is countable: you can have one coin, two coins, and so on.

B. A dollar is countable: you can have one dollar, two dollars, and so on.

C. A note (a banknote) is countable: you can have one note, two notes, and so on.

D. Correct: money is uncountable — we do not say 'one money, two moneys'; we say 'some money' or 'a lot of money'.

Question 15 English

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word: The policeman ____ that man if he doesn't stop disturbing neighbours.

- A. Arrest
- B. Will arrest ✓ **Correct answer**
- C. Arrested
- D. Had arrested

A. The bare form 'arrest' does not fit the first conditional, which needs 'will' in the result clause.

B. Correct: this is a first conditional ('if he doesn't stop …'), so the result clause takes 'will arrest'.

C. The past tense 'arrested' does not fit a first conditional about the future.

D. The past perfect 'had arrested' does not fit a first conditional about the future.

GK360 prints only the truncated stem "The policeman ____." and keys "Arrested"; the full stem is recovered from PACE, where it is a first conditional, so "Will arrest" is the only correct form. GK360 key recorded as wrong.

Question 16 English

Replace the underlined phrase with a suitable option: Hush! I am hearing some voice in the next room.

- A. Heard
- B. Hear ✓ **Correct answer**
- C. Was hearing
- D. Have been hearing

A. 'Heard' is the past tense, but the sentence is in the present and 'hear' is a stative verb.

B. Correct: 'hear' is a stative verb — it describes a sense, not an action — so it is not used in the continuous form; we say 'I hear', not 'I am hearing'.

C. 'Was hearing' is a continuous form, and stative verbs are not used in the continuous.

D. 'Have been hearing' is also a continuous form, and stative verbs are not used in the continuous.

Note: Note: GK360 prints the truncated stem "Hush! I am hearing some noise..."; the full stem is from PACE. "Hear" is a stative verb and is not used in the continuous form. PACE prints option D as "None of these"; filed set is GK360's.

Question 17 English

What is the synonym of "Infrequent"?

- A. Usual
- B. Sometimes
- C. Never

A. Usual means happening normally, which is the opposite of infrequent.

B. Sometimes is an adverb of frequency, not the adjective synonym of infrequent.

C. Never means not at all, which is stronger than infrequent.

D. Correct: infrequent means not happening often, and rare means the same — something that does not happen often.

Question 18 English

Kamal told the audience to hold their peace until he had finished his address.

- A. Remain peaceful
- B. Keep silent ✓ **Correct answer**
- C. Remain seated
- D. Become reconciled

A. Remaining peaceful describes a calm state, but the idiom 'hold one's peace' is about speech, not about being calm.

B. Correct: 'to hold one's peace' is the idiom for keeping silent, so Kamal asked the audience to keep silent until he finished.

C. Remaining seated is about sitting down, which the idiom does not mention.

D. Becoming reconciled means making peace with someone, which is a different meaning of the word 'peace'.

Note: Note: GK360 prints the garbled stem "Kamal told the audience to ____ peace." and keys "Remain peaceful"; the full stem is from PACE. "Hold one's peace" is the idiom for keeping silent. GK360 key recorded as wrong.

19 English

What is the meaning of the idiom "Let the cat out of the bag"?

- A. Give latitude
- B. Show compassion
- C. Miss opportunity
- D. Reveal secret unintentionally ✓ **Correct answer**

A. Giving latitude means giving someone freedom, which is not what this idiom means.

B. Showing compassion means showing pity, which is not what this idiom means.

C. Missing an opportunity is the opposite idea: this idiom is about telling something, not missing something.

D. Correct: 'let the cat out of the bag' means to reveal a secret unintentionally, by speaking carelessly.

Question 20 English

Change into indirect speech: He says, "I worked as manager..."

- A. He said he works as manager
- B. He said that he had worked as a manager
- C. He says that he worked as a manager ✓ **Correct answer**
- D. He said that he works as manager

A. This changes the reporting verb to past ('said') and the tense to present ('works'), which breaks the rule.

B. This changes the reporting verb to past ('said') and backshifts to past perfect, but the reporting verb is present, so no backshift is needed.

C. Correct: the reporting verb 'says' is in the present tense, so there is no backshift — 'I worked' stays as 'he worked'.

ges the reporting verb to past ('said') while keeping the present tense ('works'), which is inconsistent.

Note: Note: PACE keys B ("He said that he worked ..."); the reporting verb is "says" (present tense), so there is no backshift. PACE key recorded as wrong.

Question 21

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