

General English

Village Field Assistant (VFA) - 10 Marks
Grammar & Vocabulary Notes, Practice Questions and Answers

Topic	Questions
1. Articles & Prepositions	2
2. Tenses & Subject-Verb Agreement	2
3. Synonyms & Antonyms	2
4. One-Word Substitution & Idioms	2
5. Active-Passive Voice & Spelling	2
Total	10

Read the notes of each topic, then attempt the questions without looking at the green answer lines. A combined answer key is on the last page.

1. Articles & Prepositions

Key Notes

- **A / An:** use 'a' before a consonant *sound* (a book, a university, a one-rupee coin) and 'an' before a vowel *sound* (an apple, an hour, an honest man).
- **The:** used for a particular or already-mentioned noun, for unique things (the sun, the moon), for rivers, seas and mountain ranges (the Periyar, the Himalayas), and for superlatives (the best).
- **No article** with plural or uncountable nouns used in general (Books are useful), with names of meals, and with most proper names.
- **Prepositions of place:** 'in' for enclosed areas and cities, 'on' for surfaces, 'at' for points. **Time:** 'at' for clock time (at 5 pm), 'on' for days and dates (on Monday), 'in' for months, years and seasons (in June).

Exam-Style Questions

Q1. Choose the correct article: She is ____ honest woman.

- (A) a
- (B) an
- (C) the
- (D) no article

Answer: (B) an. 'Honest' begins with a silent 'h', so the first sound is a vowel sound. Hence 'an'.

Q2. Fill in the blank: The cat jumped ____ the table.

- (A) in
- (B) at
- (C) on
- (D) by

Answer: (C) on. 'On' is used for a surface, so the cat jumped on the table.

2. Tenses & Subject-Verb Agreement

Key Notes

- **Simple past** for finished actions (She came yesterday); **present perfect** for actions with present relevance (She has come); **past perfect** for the earlier of two past actions (She had left before I came).
- **Neither, either, each, everyone, anybody, nobody** take a singular verb: Neither of the boys is present. Each of the students has a book.
- **Two subjects joined by 'and'** take a plural verb (Ravi and Anu are friends). With 'either...or' and 'neither...nor', the verb agrees with the nearer subject.
- **Collective nouns** (class, team, committee) are usually singular when treated as a single unit. Words like 'news', 'mathematics' and 'physics' are singular.

Exam-Style Questions

Q1. Choose the correct verb: Neither of the boys ____ present.

- (A) is
- (B) are
- (C) were
- (D) have been

Answer: (A) is. 'Neither' means 'not one of the two' and takes a singular verb.

Q2. Choose the correct form: I ____ my homework before the teacher came.

- (A) finished
- (B) had finished
- (C) have finished
- (D) was finishing

Answer: (B) had finished. Two past actions: the earlier one (finishing homework) uses the past perfect, 'had finished'.

3. Synonyms & Antonyms

Key Notes

- **Synonyms** are words with similar meanings: brave - courageous, bold; big - large, huge; quick - fast, rapid; begin - start, commence.
- **Antonyms** are words with opposite meanings: ancient - modern; victory - defeat; generous - stingy; expand - contract; rural - urban.
- **Exam tip:** read the word in a sentence in your mind before choosing; eliminate options that are closer to the antonym when a synonym is asked, and vice versa.
- **Prefixes** often create antonyms: un- (happy - unhappy), dis- (agree - disagree), in-/im- (possible - impossible), mis- (understand - misunderstand).

Exam-Style Questions

Q1. Choose the word closest in meaning to 'BRAVE':

- (A) Timid
- (B) Weak
- (C) Lazy
- (D) Courageous

Answer: (D) Courageous. 'Courageous' means having courage, the same as 'brave'. 'Timid' is its opposite.

Q2. Choose the word opposite in meaning to 'ANCIENT':

- (A) Old
- (B) Historic
- (C) Modern
- (D) Antique

Answer: (C) Modern. 'Ancient' means very old; its opposite is 'modern'.

4. One-Word Substitution & Idioms

Key Notes

- **One-word substitutions:** omnipresent - present everywhere; omniscient - knows everything; omnipotent - all-powerful; bilingual - speaking two languages; bibliophile - lover of books; orphan - child without parents; atheist - one who does not believe in God; autobiography - the story of one's own life.
- **Idioms:** 'a piece of cake' - something very easy; 'break the ice' - start a conversation in an awkward situation; 'once in a blue moon' - very rarely; 'hit the nail on the head' - to say exactly the right thing; 'under the weather' - slightly ill.
- **Exam tip:** an idiom's meaning is figurative, so never translate it word for word.

Exam-Style Questions

Q1. One who is present everywhere is:

- (A) Omniscient
- (B) Omnipotent
- (C) Omnipresent
- (D) Optimist

Answer: (C) Omnipresent. 'Omni' means all. Omnipresent = present everywhere; omniscient = all-knowing; omnipotent = all-powerful.

Q2. The idiom 'a piece of cake' means:

- (A) Something very easy
- (B) A small gift
- (C) A tasty snack
- (D) A difficult task

Answer: (A) Something very easy. It is used to describe a task that is very easy to do.

5. Active-Passive Voice & Spelling

Key Notes

- **Active to passive:** the object of the active sentence becomes the subject, the verb takes the form 'be + past participle', and the old subject follows 'by'. Present: 'is/are + V3'; past: 'was/were + V3'; future: 'will be + V3'.
- **Example:** The farmer ploughs the field. (active) - The field is ploughed by the farmer. (passive).
- **Commonly misspelt words:** accommodation (double c, double m), necessary (one c, two s), receive (i before e except after c), separate, definitely, embarrass, government, occurrence, calendar, committee.
- **Exam tip:** in spelling questions, sound the word out syllable by syllable and watch for double letters.

Exam-Style Questions

Q1. Choose the correct passive form of: 'The farmer ploughs the field.'

- (A) The field was ploughed by the farmer.
- (B) The field ploughed by the farmer.
- (C) The field is being ploughed by the farmer.
- (D) The field is ploughed by the farmer.

Answer: (D) The field is ploughed by the farmer.. Simple present active becomes 'is/are + past participle' in the passive: 'is ploughed'.

Q2. Choose the correctly spelt word:

- (A) Accomodation
- (B) Accommodation
- (C) Acommodation
- (D) Acomodation

Answer: (B) Accommodation. Accommodation has double 'c' and double 'm'.

Combined Answer Key

Topic	Answers
1. Articles & Prepositions	Q1-B, Q2-C
2. Tenses & Subject-Verb Agreement	Q1-A, Q2-B
3. Synonyms & Antonyms	Q1-D, Q2-C
4. One-Word Substitution & Idioms	Q1-C, Q2-A
5. Active-Passive Voice & Spelling	Q1-D, Q2-B