

## Explanatory Notes for VAHO1002011

### Explanatory notes for questions 1 to 6:

1. To see eye to eye means to share the same views as somebody or something.  
Choice (B)
2. A chink in someone's armour is a weak point in somebody's argument, character etc that can be used in an attack.  
Choice (A)
3. An apple of discord is something that is causing trouble, discord or jealousy.  
Choice (A)
4. A paper tiger is a person, a country or situation that is not as dangerous or as threatening as it seems to be.  
Choice (C)
5. A wet blanket is a person who is not enthusiastic about anything and who stops other people from enjoying themselves.  
Choice (D)
6. A bitter pill is a fact or an event that is unpleasant and difficult to accept.  
Choice (B)

### Explanatory notes for questions 7 to 18:

7. 'To strain every nerve', is the correct idiom. To strain every nerve is to try as hard as you can to do something.  
Choice (C)
8. 'To go back on', meaning to fail to keep a promise or to change your mind about something, is the correct idiom to be used here.  
Choice (D)
9. If a situation is 'in hand' it means it is under control.  
Choice (A)
10. 'To blow your own trumpet' is to praise your own abilities and achievement. Only choice D is apt in the given sentence.  
Choice (D)
11. The correct idiom is given in option B. To be up in arms over something is to be very angry about something and ready to protest strongly about it.  
Choice (B)
12. 'Get wind of' is the correct idiom to be used here. To get wind of something is to hear about something secret or private.  
Choice (B)
13. 'Wax lyrical' is the correct idiom to be used in this sentence. To wax lyrical is to praise something in an enthusiastic and effusive manner.  
Choice (B)
14. 'Talk shop' is the correct replacement for the underlined part of the sentence. To talk shop is to talk about your work with the people you work with. It is also applicable when you are with people who are not connected or associated with your work.  
Choice (A)
15. 'Came to a head' is the correct idiom to be used in this sentence. If you bring a situation to a head or if a situation comes to a head, you are forced to deal with it quickly because it suddenly becomes very bad.  
Choice (C)
16. The expression 'in cahoots' is the correct replacement for the underlined part of the sentence. To be in cahoots is to be planning or doing something dishonest with somebody else.  
Choice (A)

17. 'Currying favour' is the correct idiom to be used in this sentence. Currying favour means ingratiate oneself with someone through sycophantic behaviour. Choice (D)
18. 'Against time' is the correct idiom to be used in this sentence. To work against time is to work with utmost speed.  
Choice (A)

### Explanatory notes for questions 19 to 25:

19. 'Live down' is the correct phrasal verb to be used in option D. To live something down is to be able to make people forget something embarrassing that you have done.  
Choice (D)
20. The phrasal verb keep away does not make sense in statement B. To keep away from somebody or something is to stay at a distance from somebody or something. Keep down is the correct phrasal verb to be used here. To keep something down is to make something stay at a low level.  
Choice (B)
21. The use of the phrasal verb 'put off' is incorrect in option C. 'Put out', meaning to stop something from burning, is the correct phrasal verb to be used here.  
Choice (C)
22. 'Set forth', which means to present something or make it known, is the correct phrasal verb to be used in option A. 'Set off', meaning to begin a journey does not make sense in option A.  
Choice (A)
23. 'Lay down' is the correct phrasal verb which should replace 'lay aside' in option C. If you lay down a rule or a principle, you state officially that people must obey it or use it.  
Choice (C)
24. 'Give off' is the correct phrasal verb to be used in option B. To give off something is to produce something such as a smell, heat, light etc,  
Choice (B)
25. 'Look in' is the phrasal verb which is suitable in option A. To look in (on somebody) is to make a short visit to a place, especially somebody's house when they are ill/sick or need help.  
Choice (A)

### Explanatory notes for questions 26 to 35:

26. Shaggy refers to hair or fur which is long and untidy. Shabby means scruffy or untidy. Only b suits the context. While shabby also means untidy, it is used with reference to buildings, clothes, objects etc. Since the reference, here, is to beard shaggy is more appropriate.

One of the meanings of the word comb is the fleshy, more or less, serrated outgrowth on the head of certain gallinaceous birds, especially the domestic fowl. Combe refers to a narrow valley especially one enclosed on all but one side. Only 'comb' suits the given context. Hence b.

Venial means prepared to do dishonest or immoral things in return for money. Venial refers to a sin or mistake that is not very serious and therefore able to be forgiven. Only a suits the context.

Foul, meaning very bad or unpleasant, is the word which is apt in this sentence. Fowl refers to a bird that is kept for its meat and eggs. Only b makes sense here.

Therefore the correct sequence is bbab.  
Choice (B)

27. The word 'exiguous' meaning very small in size or amount is the appropriate word to be used here. Exigent means in urgent need or demand. The former is appropriate in the given sentence. Hence b.  
Demur is to protest. Demure means modest. Only a makes sense here.

Plausible, which means reasonable and likely to be true, is the most appropriate word which fits into the given sentence. Hence a.

Precarious refers to a situation that is not safe. Precocious means having developed particular abilities and ways of behaving at a much younger age than usual. Only a makes sense here.

Therefore the correct sequence is baaa. Choice (D)

28. Economic means connected with the trade industry and development of wealth of a country. Economical means providing good service or value in relation to the amount of time or money spent. Only b suits the context.

Dissent is the fact of having or expressing opinions that are different from those that are officially accepted. Descent refers to an action of coming or going down. Only b makes sense here.

Sever means to break off. Severe means extremely bad or serious. Only a is suitable in this sentence.

Veracious means genuine or true. Voracious, in this context, means avid or wanting a lot of new information and knowledge. Only a is apt in this sentence.

Therefore the correct sequence is bbaa. Choice (A)

29. Extort is to make somebody give you something by threatening them. Exhort is to try hard to persuade somebody to do something. The former is apt in this sentence. Hence a.

Profusion, meaning abundance or plenty, is the most appropriate word in this sentence. Protrusion – a thing that sticks out from a place of surface – does not make sense here. Only a.

Extenuating means showing reasons why a wrong or illegal act or a bad situation should be judged less seriously and excused. Exterminating means killing or wiping out. Only a make sense in this sentence.

Hail, in this sentence, refers to the small balls of ice which fall like rain from the sky. The expression 'hale and hearty' refers to a person, especially an old person, who is strong and healthy. Only a suits the context.

Therefore the correct sequence is aaaa. Choice (C)

30. Alloy is to lessen, Alley is a narrow passage behind or between buildings. The former is apt in this sentence. Only a.

Foreboding is a strong feeling that something unpleasant or dangerous is going to happen. Forbidding means seeming unfriendly and frightening and likely to cause harm. Only a suits the given sentence.

Patio is a flat hard area outside, and usually behind, a house where people can sit. Patois is a form of language, spoken by people in a particular area that is different from the standard language of the country. Only a.

Spectrum is a complete or wide range of related qualities, ideas etc. Spectre refers to something unpleasant that people are afraid might happen in the future. Only b is apt here

Therefore, the correct sequence is aaab. Choice (A)

31. Assent is an official agreement to or approval of something. Consent is the permission to do something, especially given by somebody in authority. Only a is apt in this sentence.

If a period of time elapses, it passes. Lapse is a small mistake, especially one that is caused by forgetting something or by being careless. Only a is appropriate in this sentence.

To feel rested is to feel relaxed. Restive means unable to stay still, or unwilling to be controlled, especially because you feel bored or not satisfied. The former makes sense in this sentence. Hence a.

Imminent means likely to happen very soon. Immanent means present as a natural part of something. Only a is suitable in this sentence.

Therefore, the correct sequence is aaaa. Choice (B)

32. Ribald means language or behavior referring to sex in an amusingly rude but humorous way. Riband refers to a ribbon especially one awarded for some achievement. Only a is appropriate in this sentence.

Palate refers to the top part of the inside of the mouth, it also refers to the ability to recognize and/or enjoy food and drink. Palette is a thin board with a hole in it, used by an artist for mixing colours. Only a is apt here.

Fraught means to be filled with something unpleasant. Wrought means caused something to happen, especially a change. Only a makes sense here.

Tremble is to shake in a way that you cannot control, especially because you are very nervous, excited, frightened etc. Temblor, which means an earthquake, is the appropriate word which should be used in this sentence. Hence a.

Therefore the correct sequence is aaaa. Choice (D)

33. Council refers to a group of people who are elected to govern an area such as a city or a country. Counsel, meaning advice, is the appropriate word which suits the context. Hence b.

Flout is to violate a rule etc. Flaunt is to show something you are proud of to other people, in order to impress them. Only b makes sense here.

Between the words meretricious and meritorious, the latter, which means deserving praise, is the appropriate word to fit into the given sentence. Meretricious, meaning seemingly attractive but having no real values, is inappropriate here. Hence b.

Realty or real estate refers to property in the form of land or buildings. Reality refers to a thing that is actually experienced or seen, in contrast to what people might imagine. The former is apt in this sentence. Hence a.

Therefore the correct sequence is bbba. Choice (C)

34. Amiable means pleasant, friendly and easy to like. Amicable means done or achieved in a polite or friendly way and without arguing. The latter is apt in this sentence. Hence b.

The word augur, which means to be a sign that something will be successful or not successful in the future, suits the given sentence. Auger which is a tool for making holes in wood, does not make sense in this sentence. Hence b

Sanguine is to be optimistic about something. Saturnine is used to describe a person or his/her face which looks serious or threatening. Only a makes sense in this sentence.

Creak refers to the sound that a door sometimes makes when you open it or that a wooden floor sometimes makes when you step on it. Creek, which is a narrow area of water where the sea flows into the land, is appropriate in this sentence. Hence b.

Therefore, the correct sequence is bbab. Choice (A)

35. Ambivalent, which means having or showing mixed feelings about somebody or something, suits the context most appropriately. Ambiguous which refers something that can be understood in more than one way or something that is not clearly stated or defined, does not make sense here. Only b.

To sail through something is to pass an exam, a test etc without any difficulty. Sale refers to the act or process of selling something. Only a is appropriate in this sentence.

Accede is to agree to a request, proposal etc. Exceed is to be greater than a particular number or amount. Only a is appropriate in this sentence.

The word adept, which means skillful is apt in this sentence. Adapt, meaning change something in order to make it suitable for a new use or situation, does not make sense in this sentence. Only a.

Therefore the correct sequence is baaa. Choice (C)

## EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

### Explanatory notes for questions 1 and 2:

1. 'On thin ice' means in a precarious situation. Choice (B)
2. When you 'lie low' you try not to attract attention to yourself. Choice (B)

### Explanatory notes for questions 3 to 6:

3. 'Bring home the bacon' is the correct idiom. To bring home the bacon means to earn money that your family needs. Choice (D)
4. When somebody is cut to quick he or she is deeply hurt. Only choice D is appropriate in this sentence. Choice(D)
5. 'Common touch' is the correct idiom. If someone has the common touch, it means that they have the ability to talk to and understand ordinary people. Choice (A)
6. If someone is 'hard of hearing' they are unable to hear well. Choice C is the correct idiom to be used in this sentence. Choice (C)

### Explanatory notes for questions 7 and 8:

7. 'Breaking through' a barrier means succeeding in forcing one's way through it. Choice (B)
8. 'Pull through', which means to get better after a serious illness, operation etc, is the correct idiom which should be used in option B. Choice (B)

### Explanatory notes for questions 9 and 10:

9. Adapt means to change something in order to make it suitable for a new use or situation. Adept, meaning skillful, is the appropriate word which fits into the sentence. Only b. Collaborate is to work together with somebody in order to produce or achieve something. Corroborate is to provide

evidence or information that supports a statement, theory etc. Only b suits the context.

Stationary means static not moving. Stationery refers to materials like paper, pens, envelopes etc which are used for writing. Only a makes sense here.

Potent means strong and powerful. Portent is a sign or warning of something that is going to happen in the future. Only a makes sense here.

Therefore, the correct sequence is bbaa. Choice (D)

- 10 The word 'turbid' is used to describe a liquid which is full of mud, dirt etc so that you cannot see through it. Turgid, which is used to describe a pompous speech or writing which is boring, complicated and difficult to understand, is the most appropriate word which fits into the context. Only b.

The word 'historic' is used to describe something that is so important that it is likely to be remembered. 'Historical' describes something that is connected with the past or history, or something that really happened in the past. Only a suits the context.

Appraise is to consider or examine somebody or something and form an opinion about them or it. Apprise is to tell or inform somebody or something. The latter is appropriate in this sentence. Only a.

Wreak is to do great damage or harm to somebody or something. Reek is to smell very strongly of something unpleasant. Only a suits the context.

Therefore the correct sequence is baaa. Choice (B)