

Rearrangement of sentences or paragraph is the most commonly seen question in the Competitive Or Govt Job Exams. Its interesting to know that this question doesn't examine any previously learnt concepts, neither is it based on any particular logic. What it tests is common sense and speed. Extensive practice is the key. However, I have a few strategies for all of you. Study them and use them in the exercise that follow and you'll be comfortable with them.

Paragraph jumbles questions are presented in 2 different forms.

TYPE 1:

Four/ five sentences either numbered 1,2,3,4,5 or lettered a, b, c, d, e are given in a jumbled form. The sentences are followed by choices of four possible combinations of arrangements of these sentences. You have to choose the most logical order of arrangement of these sentences to form a meaningful, coherent paragraph. For example,

- A. The managers are themselves parts of various hierarchies of managerial influence, coupled to one another by explicit and implicit codes of behaviour and information network.
- B. Management science and MIS have introduced new elements of complexity into the manager's world.
- C. Management deals with complex social systems joined by physical and informational mechanisms to other social systems that are the responsibility of other managers.
- D. If this seems to make the social system appear complex, it is so intended.

- DCAB
- ADCB
- DBAC
- CADB

TYPE 2:

A set of six sentences is given, in which the first and the sixth sentences are fixed at their respective positions. The four sentences that falls between the first and the sixth sentences are presented in a jumbled form. You are asked to choose the logical order of sentences from the choices.

1. If the phenomenon of down gradation is understood and accepted, brands have to continuously seek options that offer better value to consumers.
 - A. Therefore, given an option, the consumer was willing to be satisfied by greater value from trusted brands rather than downgrade.
 - B. Tea in polypacks doubled their volume share between 1989 and 1991 in Bombay.

C. Biscuits in family packs witnessed phenomenal growth of such brands even during periods of inflation.

D. The onset of the down gradation phenomenon seems to be a good time to launch new products, or better still, create new sub-categories.

6. For instance, the more expensive gel toothpaste category upped its share in Bombay by six percent at the expense of popular and economy brands.

●BCAD

●CDAB

●ADBC

●DCBA

Tips & Tricks To Solve

Strategy 1

Avoid reading the sentences closely; that is not required and is a waste of time. Inspect the choices; if each of the choices begins with different letters, identifying the sentence to begin the sequence leads to the correct answer.

The following example illustrates this.

1. Small companies that compete effectively tend to grow, and growth brings increasing complexity and specialization in each function.

A. Technologists talk about processes, new materials, and worry about prototype results and technical problems; as regards language and interests, they have little in common with marketing.

B. As the company grows it tends increasingly to fragment into separate functional islands, each trying to solve its own problems, each using its own special language and having its own priorities.

C. Marketing people, for instance, talk about market segmentation, market growth, promotions and product image, and worry about changes in share.

D. Production people talk and worry about industrial relations, people arriving on time, and plant and equipment breakdown and delays.

6. They in their turn have little in common with either marketing or the technologists who, they consider, live in ivory towers.

1. DACB

2. BCAD

3. ACBD

4. CDAB

In the above question, the choices begin with different letters. The best strategy then would be to inspect sentence 1 and to identify the sentence that logically follows 1

Sentence 1 deals with growth of companies and sentence B begins with the continuity phrase, as the company grows. Consequently, B has to follow 1 and the answer therefore is choice 2. You require minimum steps in arriving at the answer in such questions.

Strategy 2

In choices that are closely related, identify a mandatory pair of sentences (two sentences that should form a sequence).

1. This linking of politics and music is of course ancient and even Aristotle in his book 'Politics' said, "We may compare the best form of government to the most harmonious piece of music."

2. Mixing metaphors, Mr. Clinton referred to the symphony so central to western music and said, "It is time both nations heard the musical compositions of each other and understood each other better."

3. The oligarchic and despotic to the more violent tunes; and the democratic to the soft and gentler airs.

4. The US President was confident that if governments and people of the two democracies made a determined bid to understand each other's perspectives scripts, they could create new symphonies.

5. Such attempts to secure symphony would be so much better than the individual bids for virtuoso improvisations and adherence to classical compositions.

1. BACDE

2. DCAEB

3. DECAE

4. BDEAC

In the above question, observe that the choices are closely related. Two choices begin with D and the other two with B. In such cases avoid working from the first sentence; instead inspect the sentences quickly and identify a particular pair of sentences that are mandatory. In the above case EA is a mandatory sequence. Only choice 4 satisfies this condition, and therefore the most logical sequence.

Strategy 3

Look out for quick clues such as pronouns, conjunctions etc. in the beginning of sentences to help you establish a sequence.

E.g. 1. As a senior economist associated with the reforms programme used to say, a sure indication that the new economic policy was succeeding would be when foreign investors start trekking to Delhi in the sweltering heat of May and June.

A. If nothing else, India Power '94 came as a welcome break to the power ministry; most

of the participants had complimentary things to say about government policy.

B. And there were would-be entrants like the Hong Kong-based China Light and Power Company who had turned up armed with a fax from the power ministry listing available projects in India.

C. Were that the only yardstick, then judging by the attendance at India Power '94, at least the reforms in the power sector could be declared a success.

D. There were the familiar names – Enron, AES, Cogentrix, and Spectrum Technologies.

6. This was in striking contrast to the adverse comments the ministry had been attracting so far.

1. ADBC

2. BDCA

3. CDBA

4. DBCA

In the above question, a smart test taker will quickly identify the phrase ‘ were that the only yardstick’ in sentence C. This is a thought continuity of the idea in sentence 1 “ foreign investors trekking to Delhi.....”. Consequently C has to follow 1; eliminate choices 1, 2, and 4. Choice 3 is the correct answer.

Strategy 4

In six sentences variety, work backward from sentence 6 if there is no obvious clue to work from sentence 1; many a time we overlook the hints that may be valuable

Let's take a look at such an example.

1. A recent advertisement of Premier Instruments and Controls Ltd., a leading manufacturer of dashboard instruments, in a financial daily, summed it all up.

A. The fact is that executives from companies, ranging from Daimler Benz to General Motors, have been scouring the Indian countryside looking for suppliers of cheap components for products made in their European and American plants.

B. It obviously does not even have the time to make the investments required to set up a new plant.

C. Today, most Indian automobile component manufactures cannot produce enough to meet demand both domestic and international.

D. The company was soliciting spare capacities for the supply of intricate machines and sheet-metal components.

6. While some of them do find good deals, many have had to go back empty-handed.

1. ADCB

2. CBAD

3. BACD

4. DBCA

In the question given above, see that “them’ in sentence 6 refers to ‘executives’ referred to in sentence A. i.e. A precedes 6; choice 4 is the answer.

Summary Of Tricks

●When solving jumbled sentences or "Sequence of Words" type questions, first determine the "Subject" and the "Predicate".

SUBJECT - The part which names the person or thing we are speaking about.

PREDICATE - The part that tells something about the subject.

●A central Theme around which the passage is framed. Identify the central theme, which is usually the first sentence.

●A logical sequence is present which usually describes the central theme.

- If there are pronouns like (it, this, that etc) in the sentence, then it simply means that they have already discussed about the subject. So in maximum cases it won't be the first sentence (I and You are exceptions for this rule).
- Sentences that begin with 'And', 'But' etc usually follow the central theme with an explanation to the same or give additional information.
- Sentences that have full names mentioned are either the starting or come in the first few sentences of the paragraphs. Similarly, the sentences that have 'they', 'him' or 'her' or the short names would only come after the proper introduction of the person.
- In maximum cases Last sentence ends with some conclusion / statement
- It's always a good idea to read the answer options to figure out the most correct sentence, than to try solving the jumbled sentence yourself.

Exercises

Directions : the first and last parts of the paragraph/sentence are numbered 1 and 6. The remaining part of the paragraph/ sentence is split into four parts and named p, q, r and s. The correct order of the sentences/ parts is your answer. Choose from the four alternatives the one having the correct order of sentences.

1. 1. There are many roads into the world of books, but the way of fiction is probably the most common.

P. Then too the appeal of the story, whether told as poem, play, history, biography, or novel is primitive and strong.

Q. The reason is plain.

R. They are to us what epic poetry was to the Greeks and Romans, what the stage the Elizabethans.

S. The novel and the short story come closer to the experience of the modern reader than any other form of contemporary writing.

6. Mankind's delight in stories is as timeless and universal as the art of the story teller.

(A) Q S R P

(B) S R P Q

(C) R S Q P

(D) P R S Q

2. 1. The works of William Shakespeare

P. have provided us

Q. that have become

R. such common expressions

S. with a number of phrases

6. that few realize their source.

(A) RQSP

(B) SQRP

(C) PSQR

(D) QPSR

3. 1. The ever spiralling costs

P. to take another look

Q. at the plant remedies

R. of modern synthetic drugs

S. may force western medicine,

6. used by the Third World Countries.

(A) QRSP

(B) PSRQ

(C) QPSR

(D) RSPQ

4. 1. Very many people

P. from those

Q. spend money in

R. that their natural

S. ways quite different?

6. tastes would enjoin.

(A) PSQR

(B) QSPR

(C) QPSR

(D) RSPQ

5. 1. Addiction to alcoholic drinks affects the social life of the people.

P. Gradually drinking becomes a habit.

Q. The person becomes an addict.

R. When once it becomes a habit, it is difficult to give up.

S. A person begins to drink just for the fun of it.

6. If he doesn't have his bottle of drink, he becomes restless.

(A) S P R Q

(B) S R Q P

(C) Q R P S

(D) Q P R S

6. 1 There are some places that experience heavy rains throughout the year.

P. So, the local administration should take steps to provide a proper drainage system to clear the stagnant water.

Q. If water stagnates on the road sides, it leads to the spread of infectious diseases.
R. Additionally, measures should be taken to spray disinfectants.
S. In such places, people adapt themselves to moist weather.
6. By taking such steps, spread of diseases can be checked.

- (A) Q P S R (B) S Q P R
(C) Q S P R (D) S R P Q

7. 1. The pen
P. which has helped man
Q. is the vehicle of
R. to rise above
S. thought and ideas
6. purely savage conditions.

- (A) QSPR (B) RSPQ
(C)SPQR (D) PRQS

8. 1. India is mostly the land of villages.
P. India was very backward before independence.
Q. But after independence India has made tremendous progress.
R. Most of the people live in villages.
S. Agriculture is the main occupation of these people.
6. Today India exports many industrial goods all over the world.

- (A) SRQP (B) RSPQ
(C)PRQS (D) QPRS

9. 1.The eyes of seeing persons
P. to the routine of their surroundings
Q. and they actually see
R. soon become accustomed
S. only the startling and spectacular

- (A) PQSR (B) PRSQ
(C)RPQS (D) QPSR

10. 1.Though he was a man
P. when there
Q. who held all life sacred,
R. he did not hesitate to kill
S. and loved all forms of life
6. was no choice

- (A) RPQS (B) PSQR
(C) QSRP (D) SQPR

11. 1. For a moment

P. that I am terrible old

Q. since I

R. and that it is a very long time ago

S. I forget.

6. was a child

- (A) QPRS (B) PSRQ
(C) RPQS (D) SPRQ

12. 1. A few days later

P. when my friend

Q. that night

R. I was working on a report

S. that had to go

6. walked into my office.

- (A) PRQS (B) RQSP
(C) QPSR (D) RSQP

13. 1. When a boy grows into a young man, he finds himself in a new and strange world.

P. The relationship remains, but its nature changes.

Q. The emotional ties that he had with them are now loosened.

R. The old pattern of his life in which his parents were the nucleus around which his life revolved now undergoes a change.

S. He finds in himself an emotional void which he must somehow fill.

6. At this stage of life he is like a body without a soul or a flower without fragrance.

- (A) PRQS (B) RSQP
(C) SRPQ (D) RQPS

14. 1. Imitation is not civilization.

P. As ass in a lion's skin never makes a lion.

Q. It is verily the sign of awful degradation in a man.

R. Cowardly imitation never makes for progress.

S. When a man has begun to hate himself, the last blow has come.

6. When a man has begun to be ashamed of his ancestors, the end has come.

- (A) P Q R S (B) S P R Q

(C) PRQS

(D) Q S R P

15. 1. Democracy, more than any other form of government, needs good citizenship.

P. But it has to be freedom of service selfchosen and sometimes of sacrifice selfimposed.

Q. Under absolutism or dictatorship, men are forced into line.

R. Freedom is the essence of democracy: the more complete the democracy, the more complete the freedom.

S. But in a democracy things are not so simple.

6. That is not the instinct of the natural man; yet somehow that habit has to be acquired.

(A) SQPR

(B) RSQP

(C) PRQS

(D) QSRP

16. 1. In 1668 an important discovery was made.

P : He put some rotting meat and fish in open jars and watched them.

Q : When he covered the jars with muslin, he found that flies came and laid their eggs on the muslin, but no maggots developed on the meat.

R. In time, he noticed that flies came and laid their eggs in the meat and the maggots hatched from the eggs.

S. An Italian physician named Redi decided to test the idea that worms were generated spontaneously in rotting meat.

6. That was the beginning of the end of the theory of spontaneous generation of higher plants and animals.

(A) P Q S R

(B) S P R Q

(C) S R P Q

(D) R P Q S

17. 1. There is no sound more familiar in Calcutta than the clanking of its tramcars,

P. For a growing body of opinion in the city, trams are a symbol of urban blight.

Q. It is also an irritant. R. All day and late into the night the trundling roll of a tram has become a symbol, a portent.

S. Slow, overcrowded and unwieldy, they are thought of as obstructionist and outmoded.

6. Their progress is regarded with the mixture of dread and embarrassment reserved for the approach of a cantankerous old aunt.

(A) RQPS

(B) RQSP

(C) QSPR

(D) PSRQ

18. 1. In England, yesterday, villagers were amazed to see a number of youths floating over a field.

P. One boy let go his umbrella and landed on a cow from a height of about ten feet.

Q. Luckily, there were not as many casualties as there might have been.

R. Another ended up in a pond.

S. The youths, it appeared had inflated their fathers' umbrellas with hydrogen and as a result were borne skywards.

6. The others, however, returned safely to earth by puncturing their umbrellas before they had risen very far.

- (A) QSPR (B) PQSR
(C) SQPR (D) PQRS

19. 1. A recent survey reveals that Indian Engineers play an immensely significant role in the American software industry.

P. Not only this, the Indian Americans own almost 25% of the small information technology firms in the U.S.

Q. And then, over 28% of these hold a Ph.D. the highest percentage among all ethnic groups involved in the software industry.

R. Some dollars might be flowing back but the best of brains are surely being lost to the nation.

S. What catches the attention at the very outset is the number—over a million Indians work in the American software industry.

6. It is high time the leaders addressed themselves to this issue seriously.

- (A) PQSR (B) SQPR
(C) SQRP (D) SPQR

20. 1. Every today

P. many superstitions exist

Q. by a great many people

R. and are believed in

S. among the

6. most civilized nations

- (A) SPRQ (B) PSQR
(C) SQPR (D) PRQS

Solution: 1 (A) 2 (C) 3 (D) 4 (B) 5 (B) 6 (B) 7 (A) 8 (B) 9 (C) 10 (C)

11 (D) 12 (D) 13 (D) 14 (D) 15 (D) 16 (B) 17 (B) 18 (C) 19 (B) 20 (D)