SSC CGL 2026 | HOMONYMS & HOMOPHONES

48 QUESTIONS • PRACTICE SET

1. Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?

He had to ____ his brains trying to remember how he came to be on the shore strewn with ____ and driftwood.

(a) wrack, rack **(b)** rack, rack **(c)** rack, wrack **(d)** wrack, wrack

2. From the given options, select the homonym that corresponds to both Definition (P) and Definition (Q).

(P) A company's legal financial debts or monetary obligations owed to outside parties

(Q) A person or thing whose presence or behaviour creates a disadvantageous burden

(a) Liability **(b)** Arrears **(c)** Onus **(d)** Impediment

3. Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'panel'?

(a) A group of people chosen to give advice or judgement

(b) A flat, usually rectangular piece forming part of a surface or structure

(c) A touchscreen interface or display area

(d) A legal fee charged per hearing

4. Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?

The two knights engaged in a fierce ____, using swords with ____ edges.

(a) dual, duel **(b)** duel, duel **(c)** dual, dual **(d)** duel, dual

5. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

The manuscript bore a <u>colophon</u> detailing the scribe's name.

(a) The typesetter inserted a printer's colophon on the final page.

(b) The insect's antenna ended in a segmented colophon.

(c) The medieval colophon praised the patron.

(d) The librarian studied the Syriac colophon.

6. Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'impertinent'?

(a) Irrelevant or not related to the matter at hand

(b) Inappropriate in a given context

(c) Rude or disrespectful, especially towards someone older or in authority

(d) Very eager or passionate about a subject

7. Choose the sentence containing the homonym of the underlined word:

The <u>match</u> was very exciting.

(a) He used a match to light the candle.

(b) The match was watched by millions.

(c) Football matches are thrilling.

(d) That match ended in a draw.

8. Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'subject'?

(a) To freely exclude oneself from external governance or control
(b) A branch of knowledge studied or taught in school or university
(c) A person under the rule of a monarch or sovereign state
(d) To cause or force someone to undergo an unpleasant experience

9. From the given options, select the homonym that corresponds to both Definition (P) and Definition (Q).

(P) To adjust or compromise one's desires or actions to prevent conflict and cooperate harmoniously with others

(Q) To provide temporary lodging, physical space, or overnight living quarters for someone

(a) Rehabilitate **(b)** Accommodate **(c)** Articulate **(d)** Designate

10. Choose the sentence containing the homonym of the underlined word:

She had a bright <u>pupil</u> in her class.

(a) The pupil of his eye was dilated.
(b) The pupil was late for school.
(c) The new pupil performed well.
(d) The pupil solved the problem quickly.

11. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

She caught the <u>train</u> just before it departed.

(a) He had to train hard for the marathon.
(b) The train was unusually delayed.
(c) They boarded the overnight train.
(d) The steam train whistled loudly.

12. Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?

The tribal women exercised their ____ to challenge the ____ of passage that had been followed for generations.

(a) rites, rites **(b)** rites, rights **(c)** rights, rites **(d)** rights, rights

13. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

The architect designed a convex <u>lunette</u> above the doorway.

(a) The archaeologist unearthed a Bronze Age lunette.
(b) The chapel's stained-glass lunette depicted an angel.
(c) The frieze curved into a crescent-like lunette.
(d) The basilica's facade included a Romanesque lunette.

14. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

The zoologist highlighted the <u>rostrum</u> in the dolphin's skull.

(a) The orator stood on the rostrum to address the assembly.
(b) The anatomist studied the rostrum near the frontal bone.
(c) The cetologist measured the beaklike rostrum carefully.
(d) The dissection revealed damage to the rostrum.

15. Identify the correct homonym that best fits the context of the sentence:

The children were excited to see the ____ during their visit to the national park.

(a) dear **(b)** deer **(c)** dears **(d)** dare

16. Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'deposition'?

(a) The act of giving sworn evidence in a legal proceeding
(b) The geological process in which material is added to a landform
(c) The removal of a sovereign or person from office
(d) The legal classification of a sovereign territory under international law

17. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

She shed a silent tear during the speech.

(a) The actor gave a tearful performance.
(b) He feared his shirt might tear during the match.
(c) The sound of tearing paper startled him.
(d) Tears rolled down her cheeks.

18. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

The calligrapher added a cadel in the manuscript margin.

(a) The scribe's cadel resembled a floral spiral.
(b) The artist painted a cadel into the decorative header.
(c) The engineer adjusted the cadel in the circuit board.
(d) The monk illuminated the cadel in gold leaf.

19. Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'constitution'?

(a) The system of fundamental principles according to which a state or organisation is governed.
(b) The physical or mental makeup of a person, especially in relation to health or temperament.
(c) The formal disbandment of a legal contract between two or more parties.
(d) The composition or structure of something, especially a material or compound.

20. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

The professor critiqued the flawed lemma in the manuscript.

(a) The botanist identified a damaged lemma in the grass sample.
(b) The lemma connects two axioms in formal logic.
(c) She corrected a misapplied lemma in the proof.
(d) The mathematician introduced a bridging lemma.

21. From the given options, select the homonym that corresponds to both Definition (P) and Definition (Q).

(P) The mathematical process of finding the total area under a curve

(Q) The mixing and unifying of previously segregated social groups

(a) Integration **(b)** Derivation **(c)** Convergence **(d)** Divergence

22. Which of the following options is NOT one of the meanings of the homonym 'advance'?

(a) Move forward **(b)** Progress **(c)** Special benefits **(d)** Ahead of time

23. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

The ethnographer noted the fetish worshipped by the tribe.

(a) The tourist purchased a tribal fetish as a souvenir.

(b) The historian discussed colonial views on fetish objects.

(c) The novel explored a character's shoe fetish.

(d) The anthropologist documented a carved fetish near the shrine.

24. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

The seal used on the treaty indicated mutual assent.

(a) The marine biologist studied a wounded seal.

(b) The seal was broken before the parcel arrived.

(c) The office uses a mechanical seal for certification.

(d) He pressed the seal onto the wax to formalize the pact.

25. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

The monk noted a red incipit at the beginning of the psalm.

(a) The librarian traced the incipit of a Carolingian hymn.

(b) The choir sang the incipit before the full chant began.

(c) The weather forecaster tracked the storm's incipit.

(d) The scholar cataloged the incipit for liturgical use.

26. From the given options, select the homonym that corresponds to both Definition (P) and Definition (Q).

(P) A military flag, banner, or symbolic staff raised to mark the rally point of an army

(Q) An officially approved level of quality, requirement, or specification

(a) Benchmark **(b)** Insignia **(c)** Criteria **(d)** Standard

27. Pick out the homonym from the given options that can suitably complete both Sentence (P) and Sentence (Q) given below.

(P) Avian zoologists monitored the artificial ____ environment, meticulously regulating thermal variables and humidity levels to ensure optimal embryonic development within the clutch.

(Q) Epidemiologists warned that the pathogenic agent possessed an extended, asymptomatic _____ period, allowing infected hosts to propagate the virus across borders before clinical detection.

(a) expectancy **(b)** dormancy **(c)** incubation **(d)** maturation

28. Select the option in which the underlined homonym "assimilation" is used with the same meaning as in the sentence below.

The educational psychologist explained that cognitive schema expansion requires a careful balance between the assimilation of familiar data points and the accommodation of radically disruptive new concepts.

(a) Sociologists argue that forced cultural assimilation policies systematically erode indigenous languages and traditions, causing generational trauma by severing a community's connection to its heritage.

(b) Gastroenterologists noted that structural damage to the intestinal villi severely compromises the metabolic assimilation of essential lipids, leading to systemic malnutrition despite adequate caloric intake.

(c) Piagetian developmental theorists observe that a child utilises assimilation when they categorise a newly encountered target object, like a raccoon, into their pre-existing mental framework for "dogs."

(d) Phonetic analysis reveals that rapid, colloquial speech frequently triggers mutual assimilation, where adjacent articulation points overlap and blend to minimise the mechanical effort required by the human vocal tract.

29. Choose the most appropriate homonym to fill in the blank.

A lovely maiden sat by the stream, weaving tiny wildflowers into her long ____.

(a) brayed **(b)** braid **(c)** bread **(d)** bred

30. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

The choir sang a motet written for Advent.

(a) The motet featured complex polyphonic layering.

(b) The musicologist analyzed a 14th-century motet.

(c) The legal clerk filed a motet to the high court.

(d) The cathedral's motet was accompanied by lute.

1.3 2.1 3.4 4.4 5.2 6.4 7.1
8.1 9.2 10.1 11.1 12.3
13.1 14.1 15.2
16.4` 17.2 18.3 19.3 20.1 21.1
22.3 23.3 24.1 25.3 26.4 27.3
28.1 29.2 30.3