

CLOZE TEST

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SSC CGL English Preparation

Introduction to Cloze Test

A Cloze Test is a reading comprehension exercise where words are removed from a passage at regular intervals, and you need to fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words from given options.

Typical SSC CGL Cloze Test Pattern:

Format: A passage of 150-250 words with 5-10 blanks

Options: Usually 4 options for each blank

Skills Tested: Vocabulary, grammar, contextual understanding, coherence

Time Allocation: 5-7 minutes per passage

The internet has _____ transformed how we communicate. While it has made information more _____, it has also raised concerns about privacy and _____ overload. The key is to use technology _____ while being aware of its _____.

Approach to Cloze Test:

- 1 Read the entire passage quickly to understand the context
- 2 Identify the theme and tone of the passage
- 3 Analyze each blank for grammatical and contextual clues
- 4 Look for connecting words and logical flow
- 5 Eliminate obviously wrong options
- 6 Choose words that maintain coherence and meaning
- 7 Verify your answers by reading the complete passage

☰ Types of Cloze Tests

1. Grammar-based Cloze Test

Focuses on grammatical elements like prepositions, articles, tenses, and conjunctions.

She went to the market _____ buy some vegetables. On her way, she met
_____ old friend whom she hadn't seen _____ many years.

2. Vocabulary-based Cloze Test

Tests knowledge of word meanings, synonyms, and appropriate word usage.

The scientist made a _____ discovery that could _____ the way we treat
diseases. His research was truly _____ and earned him international recognition.

3. Contextual Cloze Test

Requires understanding of the overall context and logical flow of the passage.

Climate change is one of the most _____ issues facing humanity today.
_____, rising temperatures and extreme weather events, we need to take
_____ action to mitigate its effects.

Type	Focus Area	Strategy
Grammar-based	Prepositions, tenses, articles	Apply grammatical rules systematically
Vocabulary-based	Word meanings, synonyms	Understand context and word connotations

Contextual	Logical flow, coherence	Read entire passage for overall understanding
Mixed	All of the above	Combine all strategies



Effective Strategies

Read First

Read the entire passage without filling blanks to understand context and flow.

Context Clues

Look for clues in sentences before and after the blank.

Grammar Analysis

Identify what part of speech is needed for each blank.

Coherence Check

Ensure your choices maintain logical flow and coherence.

Common Contextual Clues:

Definition Clues

The author explains the meaning:
"His **avarice**, or extreme greed, was well-known."

Example Clues

Examples illustrate meaning:
"Various **reptiles** like snakes, lizards, and turtles..."

Contrast Clues

Opposite meaning helps:
"Unlike her **gregarious** sister, she was quite shy."

Grammar Rules for Cloze Test:

Prepositions

- Depend **on**
- Good **at**
- Interested **in**
- Afraid **of**

Articles

- **The** for specific nouns
- **A/An** for general nouns
- No article for plural/uncountable general nouns

Tenses

- Maintain tense consistency
- Use appropriate time references
- Watch for sequence of tenses

Systematic Approach:

- **First Reading:** Understand the main idea and tone
- **Second Reading:** Fill obvious blanks quickly
- **Third Reading:** Solve difficult blanks using context
- **Final Reading:** Verify all answers for coherence
- **Time Check:** Allocate time proportionally



Practice Exercises

Practice Passage 1

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is _____ the world in unprecedented ways. From healthcare to transportation, AI applications are becoming increasingly _____. However, this rapid advancement also _____ important ethical questions. We must ensure that AI development _____ human values and benefits society as a _____.

Blank 1:

(A) creating

(B) transforming

(C) making

(D) doing

Blank 2:

(A) rare

(B) prevalent

(C) limited

(D) expensive

Blank 3:

(A) answers

(B) raises

(C) solves

(D) avoids

Practice Passage 2

Education is often _____ as the great equalizer in society. It provides individuals _____ the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in life. _____, access to quality education remains unequal across different socioeconomic groups.

Governments and institutions must work _____ to bridge this gap and ensure that every child has the opportunity to _____ their potential.

Blank 1:

(A) described

(B) told

(C) spoken

(D) said

Blank 2:

(A) by

(B) with

(C) for

(D) from

Blank 3:

(A) Similarly

(B) However

(C) Therefore

(D) Moreover

Practice Passage 3 (SSC CGL Pattern)

The COVID-19 pandemic has _____ the importance of digital connectivity. As people were forced to stay indoors, digital platforms became _____ for work, education, and social interaction. This shift has _____ accelerated the adoption of digital technologies across various sectors. While this digital transformation offers numerous _____, it also highlights the digital divide that exists in our society. Ensuring equitable access to technology has become more _____ than ever before.

Directions: Choose the most appropriate words for the blanks.

Blank 1:

(A) reduced

(B) highlighted

(C) ignored

(D) complicated

Blank 2:

(A) optional

(B) essential

(C) unnecessary

(D) expensive

Blank 3:

(A) slowly

(B) significantly

(C) barely

(D) never

Exam Tips for Cloze Test

Time Management

Allocate 5-7 minutes per cloze passage.
Don't spend too much time on one blank.

Elimination Method

Eliminate grammatically incorrect options first, then choose from remaining.

Coherence Check

Read the completed passage to ensure logical flow and consistency.

Multiple Readings

Read the passage multiple times with increasing focus on details.

Common Mistakes to Avoid:

- Filling blanks without reading the entire passage first
- Ignoring grammatical structure and context
- Choosing words based on personal preference rather than context
- Not verifying answers for overall coherence
- Spending disproportionate time on difficult blanks

Quick Revision - Common Connectors:

Addition

Moreover, Furthermore, Additionally,
Also

Contrast

However, Nevertheless, Although,
Despite

Cause-Effect

Therefore, Consequently, Thus, As a
result

Examples

For example, For instance, Such as

Final Strategy Summary:

- 1 Quickly read the entire passage

2. Identify the main theme and tone
3. Fill obvious blanks first
4. Use context clues for difficult blanks
5. Check grammatical consistency
6. Verify logical flow and coherence
7. Review all answers