

# Cloze Test



**Format of the question:** A passage running roughly into hundred words is given. Blank spaces in the sentences are left. These are numbered. For each blank space four answer choices are given. The candidate is to pick up one which will fill the blank space correctly.

## Solved example

**Directions:** Pick up the correct word or phrase for each of the numbered blank spaces from the answer-choices given for each space.

An Air-India air hostess \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ dead in her hotel room under \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances. She \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ into Singapore only yesterday. She broke journey here. Police \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ informed at midnight and the body was \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ for post mortem. The body will be given to Air-India officials' \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ today. Neither the police not the officials could give any details as the investigations were not completed.

1. (a) found (b) was found  
(c) had found (d) had been found
2. (a) mystical (b) mythical  
(c) misty (d) mysterious
3. (a) had flowed (b) had flown  
(c) flew (d) flowed
4. (a) had been (b) have been  
(c) was (d) were
5. (a) removed (b) was removed  
(c) carried (d) had carried
6. (a) latter (b) later  
(c) after (d) late



## **Explanatory Answers:**

- (1.b) The sentence demands that the verb to be filled in the blank space should be in passive form. Only answer choices (b) and (d) are in passive voice. But perfect tense cannot be used because the incident refers to simple past tense. So answer choice (b) is correct.
- (2.d) MYSTICAL means “relating to direct communion with God”. MYTHICAL means “fabulous or untrue”. MYSTY means “unclear”. But circumstances can be “mysterious” only that is “strange”.
- (3.b) FLOWED is used for the “movement of liquids”. As the flying took place before her death so perfect tense should be used.
- (4.b) POLICE is a collective noun and is not used collectively so plural verb should be used. But HAVE BEEN cannot be used because present perfect tense does not refer to the past.
- (5.b) A dead body is “removed” and “carried” for post mortem is not so accurate.
- (6.b) LATTER is that which is mentioned second. LATE cannot be used because the sentence demands comparative degree.

## **How to prepare for this question?**

This question is also primarily concerned with a very good knowledge of the rules of correct English and of vocabulary. If you attempt this question by taking the following steps it will be easier to solve.

**Step 1** – Discover which part of speech is to be filled in the blank space. By reading the earlier and latter parts of the sentence you can easily find whether verb or adjective or adverb or noun is needed.

**Step 2** – Pick the answer choice which seems to be appropriate while going through the sentence. Two answer-choices may seem to be quite correct.

**Step 3 (a)** If a verb is to be filled in the blank space, recall the different rules regarding the correct use of the verb-forms. Determine which answer choice does not violate the rules.

**(b)** If a single word is required for the blank space, check the appropriateness of the word. Till you know the correct meanings of words which look similar with regard to their meanings you cannot pick up the correct word.

From the format of the question and three steps you can conveniently infer that you should have a through knowledge of the rules concerning sentence construction and the use of the different parts of speech etc.

**Pitfalls in this type of question:** The most important problem in this type of question is that you cannot pick up the answer-choice by taking the sentence with a blank space into consideration independently. You will have to be guided by the general trend of the passage. So after choosing the answer-choice read the preceding and following sentences to determine whether the choice is correct or not.