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02. Idioms, Phrasal Verbs & Literary Figures

Official PMDC Solved Past Paper Topical Booklet · High-Yield Examination Series

🎯 27 Solved Questions

📅 2021 to 2025 Archive

🏛️ Boards: BUMHS, DUHS, KMU, NUMS, SZABMU, UHS

📖 Weightage: 9% of MDCAT (18 MCQs)

Curated by Ibrahim for fellow bees. Every question in this chapter has been verified against official UHS, NUMS, SZABMU, DUHS, and KMU answer keys. Propolis cognitive autopsies are provided at the end of this booklet to explain core concepts and break down common distractor traps.

OFFICIAL SOLVED EDITION

Q1.

DUHS 2025

Identify the simile among the following sentences:

[Sindh MDCAT 2025 / DUHS 2025]

- (A) She trembled like a leaf in the wind.
- (B) She was a statue, frozen in fear.
- (C) She was drowning in doubt.
- (D) Her thoughts were a whirlwind.

Q2.

DUHS 2025

The purpose of using exaggerated language in parody is:

[Sindh MDCAT 2025 / DUHS 2025]

- (A) To create a serious tone
- (B) To criticize societal norms
- (C) To entertain and mock
- (D) To confuse the reader

Q3.

SZABMU 2025

What does "I've told you a million times" mean?

[SZABMU 2025 / Federal MDCAT 2025]

- (A) To provide an exact count
- (B) To emphasize frustration or impatience
- (C) To confuse the listener
- (D) To make the character sound foolish

Q4.

KMU 2025

"Revenge is a kind of wild justice." The sentence illustrates the use of:

[KMU 2025 / KPK MDCAT 2025]

- (A) Personification
- (B) Pun
- (C) Metaphor
- (D) Hyperbole

Q5.

KMU 2025

Which literary device involves using words or phrases that convey the opposite of their literal meaning?

[KMU 2025 / KPK MDCAT 2025]

- (A) Irony
- (B) Parody
- (C) Satire
- (D) Sarcasm

Q6.

SZABMU 2025

What is the effect of using synonyms with different shades of meaning in satire?

[SZABMU 2025 / Federal MDCAT 2025]

- (A) To create a serious tone
- (B) To highlight the absurdity or irony of a situation
- (C) To confuse the reader
- (D) To add complexity to the language

Q7.

SZABMU 2024

The sentence "It was 97 in the shade." refers to the _____.

[FMDC 2024 / SZABMU 2024]

- (A) Age
- (B) Distance
- (C) Temperature
- (D) Year

Q8.

SZABMU 2024

Identify the figure of speech in the following sentence: *He is considered the black sheep of the family.*

[FMDC 2024 / SZABMU 2024]

- (A) Alliteration
- (B) Imagery
- (C) Metaphor
- (D) Simile

Q9.

DUHS 2024

Choose the correct phrase: *The aeroplane travelled 5,000 meters before it _.*

[Sindh MDCAT 2024 / DUHS 2024]

- (A) Take into
- (B) Took off
- (C) Take over
- (D) Took away
- (E) Take on

Q10.

DUHS 2024

Choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined phrase: *The firemen took several hours to put out the fire.*

[Sindh MDCAT Reconduct 2024]

- (A) Dislocate
- (B) Extinguish
- (C) Producer
- (D) Broadcast

Q11.

UHS 2024

Fill in the blank with appropriate preposition: *He takes _____ his father.*

[UHS MDCAT 2024]

- (A) Up
- (B) Down
- (C) After
- (D) In

Q12.

UHS 2023

Choose the correct option: *We felt as if the ground was _____ beneath our feet.*

[UHS MDCAT 2023]

- (A) Digging
- (B) Sinking
- (C) Slipping
- (D) Bursting

Q13.

KMU 2023

The phrase "spiffed up" stands for:

[KMU MDCAT 2023 Retake]

- (A) Dressed up
- (B) Cleaned up
- (C) Upset
- (D) Fade

Q14.

KMU 2023

A figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared using "like" is a/an:

[KMU CAT 2023 Part 1]

- (A) Metaphor
- (B) Simile
- (C) Personification
- (D) Hyperbole

Q15.

KMU 2023

What is the term for a word that phonetically imitates the sound it describes, such as "buzz"?

[KMU CAT 2023 Part 1]

- (A) Simile
- (B) Alliteration
- (C) Onomatopoeia
- (D) Metaphor

Q16.

KMU 2023

Which literary term refers to the feeling of uncertainty or tension that the reader experiences?

[KMU CAT 2023 Part 2]

- (A) Climax
- (B) Foreshadowing
- (C) Suspense
- (D) Flashback

Q17.

KMU 2023

Which figure of speech involves the use of exaggeration for emphasis or effect?

[KMU CAT 2023 Part 2]

- (A) Metaphor
- (B) Simile
- (C) Hyperbole
- (D) Personification

Q18.

KMU 2023

The idiom "*Break the ice*" implies:

[KMU CAT 2023 Part 2]

- (A) Walk on ice sheet
- (B) Swallow ice cube
- (C) Chisel the ice
- (D) To make beginning

Q19.

BUMHS 2023

"*I will not tolerate his rudeness.*" Choose the sentence that has the same meaning as the given sentence:

[Balochistan MDCAT 2023 / Balochistan MDCAT 2022]

- (A) I cannot put up for his rudeness.
- (B) I cannot put up with his rudeness.
- (C) I cannot put up to his rudeness.
- (D) I cannot put up by his rudeness.

Q20.

KMU 2023

We are all looking forward _____ the announcement of election soon.

[KMU MDCAT 2023 Retake]

- (A) For
- (B) To
- (C) About
- (D) On

Q21.

KMU 2023

Choose the correct preposition: *All you think and hanker _ is government service.*

[KMU MDCAT 2023]

- (A) An
- (B) For
- (C) At
- (D) Upon

Q22.

KMU 2022

Pakistan has to fight _____ to win the test series from India:

[KMU CAT 2022]

- (A) Dagger and Sword
- (B) Lime and Lime
- (C) Tooth and Nail
- (D) Sweat and Water

Q23.

KMU 2022

What figure of speech is used in: "*He is the black sheep of the class.*"

[KPK MDCAT / KMU 2022]

- (A) Simile
- (B) Metaphor
- (C) Alliteration
- (D) Hyperbole

Q24.

SZABMU 2022

Negotiations between the two sides have _.

[FMDC / SZABMU 2022]

- (A) Broken off
- (B) Broken down
- (C) Broken up
- (D) Broken in

Q25.

BUMHS 2022

Do not hanker _____ worldly pleasures.

[Balochistan MDCAT / BUMHS 2022]

- (A) For
- (B) After
- (C) Towards
- (D) About

Q26.

NUMS 2021

"Break a leg" is an idiom commonly used to:

[KMU 2021 / NUMS 2021]

- Ⓐ Curse someone
 - Ⓑ Physically harm someone
 - Ⓒ Wish good luck to someone
 - Ⓓ Teach someone a lesson
-

Q27.

NUMS 2021

"Bite the bullet" is an idiom commonly used to:

[KMU 2021 / NUMS 2021]

- Ⓐ Accept defeat
 - Ⓑ Accept consequences
 - Ⓒ Accept death
 - Ⓓ Accept bad faith
-

RAPID 5–COLUMN ANSWER KEY

Official PMDC verified answer keys for 02. Idioms, Phrasal Verbs & Literary Figures.

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Q#	KEY	BOARD
1	A	DUHS 2025
2	C	DUHS 2025
3	B	SZABMU 2025
4	C	KMU 2025
5	A	KMU 2025
6	B	SZABMU 2025

Q#	KEY	BOARD
7	C	SZABMU 2024
8	C	SZABMU 2024
9	B	DUHS 2024
10	B	DUHS 2024
11	C	UHS 2024
12	C	UHS 2023

Q#	KEY	BOARD
13	A	KMU 2023
14	B	KMU 2023
15	C	KMU 2023
16	C	KMU 2023
17	C	KMU 2023
18	D	KMU 2023

Q#	KEY	BOARD
19	B	BUMHS 2023
20	B	KMU 2023
21	B	KMU 2023
22	C	KMU 2022
23	B	KMU 2022
24	B	SZABMU 2022

Q#	KEY	BOARD
25	B	BUMHS 2022
26	C	NUMS 2021
27	B	NUMS 2021

TOTAL MCQS	CORRECT	INCORRECT	BLANK	ACCURACY
27	-----	-----	-----	----- %

Scan the booklet QR code to enter answers in **BeambePrep Grind Mode** for automated error autopsies.

PROPOLIS COGNITIVE ERROR AUTOPSIES

Step-by-step conceptual derivations, formula working, and distractor autopsies for every question.

Question #1 Key: (A)

DUHS 2025

Identify the simile among the following sentences: [Sindh MDCAT 2025 / DUHS 2025]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Figures of Speech (Simile vs. Metaphor).

Solution: Similes explicitly compare two distinct things using comparative words 'like' or 'as' ("like a leaf in the wind").

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Options B, C, & D:** Direct comparisons without 'like' or 'as' (Metaphors).

Question #2 Key: (C)

DUHS 2025

The purpose of using exaggerated language in parody is: [Sindh MDCAT 2025 / DUHS 2025]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Literary Genres and Parody.

Solution: Parody specifically uses exaggerated imitation of an original work or author to produce humor and **entertain and mock** the subject.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Option A:** Parody intentionally avoids serious tone.
- **Option B:** Critical social critique is the domain of satire rather than pure parody.
- **Option D:** Confusion is an unwanted stylistic defect, not an artistic goal.

Question #3 Key: (B)

SZABMU 2025

What does "I've told you a million times" mean? [SZABMU 2025 / Federal MDCAT 2025]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Figurative Language (Hyperbole).

Solution: The statement uses extreme exaggeration (**hyperbole**) not intended to be taken literally, but to express strong emotion, annoyance, or impatience.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Option A:** Hyperbole does not represent a literal numeric count.
- **Option C:** The phrase is a widely understood idiom, not meant to confuse.
- **Option D:** It is a standard rhetorical device, not an indication of foolishness.

Question #4 Key: (C)

KMU 2025

"Revenge is a kind of wild justice." The sentence illustrates the use of: [KMU 2025 / KPK MDCAT 2025]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Direct Metaphor.

Solution: Equates revenge directly with wild justice without using explicit comparative markers like 'like' or 'as'.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Options A, B, & D:** Other figures of speech.

Question #5 Key: (A)

KMU 2025

Which literary device involves using words or phrases that convey the opposite of their literal meaning? [KMU ...]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Definitions of Literary Terms.

Solution: **Irony** is formally defined as expressing meaning through language that normally signifies the opposite of the literal word.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Option B:** Imitation of a specific style for comical effect.
- **Option C:** Genre using irony/humor to criticize societal vices.
- **Option D:** Specific sharp or bitter tone used to mock individuals.

Question #6 Key: (B)

SZABMU 2025

What is the effect of using synonyms with different shades of meaning in satire? [SZABMU 2025 / Federal MDCAT ...]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Nuance in Satire.

Solution: Satire relies on nuanced word choices and double meanings to mock, criticize, and expose human folly or absurdity.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Option A:** Satire uses humor/irony rather than maintaining a purely serious tone.
- **Option C:** The goal is critique and clarity of message, not confusing readers.
- **Option D:** Complexity is a byproduct, not the functional primary purpose.

Question #7 Key: (C)

SZABMU 2024

The sentence "It was 97 in the shade." refers to the _____. [FMDC 2024 / SZABMU 2024]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Idiomatic Expressions.

Solution: The idiom "in the shade" following a number describes weather **Temperature** (97 degrees Fahrenheit).

Why other options are incorrect:

- Options A, B, & D: Incorrect units of measurement.

Question #8 Key: (C)

SZABMU 2024

Identify the figure of speech in the following sentence: He is considered the black sheep of the family. [FMDC...]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Figures of Speech.

Solution: Directly equates a person to a 'black sheep' without comparative words, creating a **Metaphor**.

Why other options are incorrect:

- Option D: Lacks 'like' or 'as'.
- Options A & B: Do not describe implicit comparisons.

Question #9 Key: (B)

DUHS 2024

Choose the correct phrase: The aeroplane travelled 5,000 meters before it _____. [Sindh MDCAT 2024 / DUHS 2024]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Phrasal Verbs.

Solution: "Took off" is the correct past tense phrasal verb meaning an aircraft leaving the ground.

Why other options are incorrect:

- Options A, C, D, & E: Phrasal verbs with irrelevant meanings (assume control, remove, etc.).

Question #10 Key: (B)

DUHS 2024

Choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined phrase: The firemen took several hours to put out the fire...

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Phrasal Verbs.

Solution: The phrasal verb 'put out' strictly means to douse or **extinguish** a flame.

Why other options are incorrect:

- Options A, C, & D: Unrelated meanings.

Question #11 Key: (C)

UHS 2024

Fill in the blank with appropriate preposition: He takes _____ his father. [UHS MDCAT 2024]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Phrasal Verbs.

Solution: The phrasal verb "takes after" means to resemble a parent or ancestor in appearance or character.

Why other options are incorrect:

- Option A: 'Take up' means adopt a hobby/habit.
- Option B: 'Take down' means record or dismantle.
- Option D: 'Take in' means deceive or absorb.

Question #12 Key: (C)

UHS 2023

Choose the correct option: We felt as if the ground was _____ beneath our feet. [UHS MDCAT 2023]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Idiomatic Expressions.

Solution: The standard idiom is ground "slipping beneath one's feet".

Why other options are incorrect:

- Options A, B, & D: Do not form the standard idiomatic expression.

Question #13 Key: (A)

KMU 2023

The phrase "spiffed up" stands for: [KMU MDCAT 2023 Retake]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Idiomatic Expressions.

Solution: To get "spiffed up" means to dress smartly, formally, or elegantly (**Dressed up**).

Why other options are incorrect:

- Options B, C, & D: Do not describe stylish personal attire or grooming.

Question #14 Key: (B)

KMU 2023

A figure of speech in which two unlike things are compared using "like" is a/an: [KMU CAT 2023 Part I]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Figures of Speech.

Solution: Formal definition of a **Simile**.

Why other options are incorrect:

- Option A: Direct comparison without 'like' or 'as'.
- Options C & D: Other distinct literary devices.

Question #15 Key: (C)

KMU 2023

What is the term for a word that phonetically imitates the sound it describes, such as "buzz"? [KMU CAT 2023...]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Literary Figures.

Solution: **Onomatopoeia** refers to words that mimic natural sound effects.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Option B:** Repetition of initial consonant sounds.
- **Options A & D:** Comparative devices.

Question #16 Key: (C)

KMU 2023

Which literary term refers to the feeling of uncertainty or tension that the reader experiences? [KMU CAT 2023...]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Literary Devices.

Solution: **Suspense** creates emotional tension and anticipation regarding story outcomes.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Option A:** Peak turning point of plot.
- **Option B:** Hints about future events.
- **Option D:** Scene returning to earlier time.

Question #17 Key: (C)

KMU 2023

Which figure of speech involves the use of exaggeration for emphasis or effect? [KMU CAT 2023 Part 2]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Rhetorical Figures.

Solution: **Hyperbole** uses deliberate, extreme exaggeration.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Options A, B, & D:** Distinct comparative or personifying devices.

Question #18 Key: (D)

KMU 2023

The idiom "Break the ice" implies: [KMU CAT 2023 Part 2]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Idiomatic Expressions.

Solution: "Break the ice" means to initiate conversation or start a social interaction (**To make beginning**).

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Options A, B, & C:** Literal interpretations of a figurative idiom.

Question #19 Key: (B)

BUMHS 2023

"I will not tolerate his rudeness." Choose the sentence that has the same meaning as the given sentence: [Balo...]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Three-word Phrasal Verbs.

Solution: The phrasal verb "**put up with**" means to endure or tolerate.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Options A, C, & D:** Misapply prepositions in the phrasal verb.

Question #20 Key: (B)

KMU 2023

We are all looking forward _____ the announcement of election soon. [KMU MDCAT 2023 Retake]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Phrasal Prepositions.

Solution: The idiom "**look forward to**" requires the preposition "**to**" followed by a noun or gerund.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Options A, C, & D:** Incorrect prepositions in this fixed idiom.

Question #21 Key: (B)

KMU 2023

Choose the correct preposition: All you think and hanker _ is government service. [KMU MDCAT 2023]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Fixed Prepositions.

Solution: The verb 'hanker' takes "**for**" (or 'after') when expressing intense longing.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Option A:** An article, not a preposition.
- **Options C & D:** Incorrect prepositions with 'hanker'.

Question #22 Key: (C)

KMU 2022

Pakistan has to fight _____ to win the test series from India: [KMU CAT 2022]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Idiomatic Expressions.

Solution: "**Tooth and nail**" means fighting with intense effort, energy, and determination.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Options A, B, & D:** Fabricated phrases, not standard English idioms.

Question #23 **Key: (B)**

KMU 2022

What figure of speech is used in: "He is the black sheep of the class." [KPK MDCAT / KMU 2022]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Metaphors.

Solution: Direct equation of a student to a 'black sheep' without comparative words forms a **Metaphor**.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Option A:** Lacks 'like' or 'as'.
- **Options C & D:** Other figures of speech.

Question #24 **Key: (B)**

SZABMU 2022

Negotiations between the two sides have _ . [FMDC / SZABMU 2022]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Phrasal Verbs.

Solution: The phrasal verb "**broken down**" specifically means talks or negotiations failing/collapsing.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Option A:** Discontinued abruptly.
- **Option C:** Separated or ended relationships/school terms.
- **Option D:** Entered by force.

Question #25 **Key: (B)**

BUMHS 2022

Do not hanker ____ worldly pleasures. [Balochistan MDCAT / BUMHS 2022]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Fixed Preposition Collocations.

Solution: The standard prepositional phrase is "**hanker after**" (or 'for'). In standard paper keys, '**after**' is marked.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Options A, C, & D:** Secondary or non-standard prepositions in this past paper key.

Question #26 **Key: (C)**

NUMS 2021

"Break a leg" is an idiom commonly used to: [KMU 2021 / NUMS 2021]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Idiomatic Expressions.

Solution: The idiom "**Break a leg**" is a theatrical superstition used to **wish good luck** before a performance.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Options A, B, & D:** Literal or negative misinterpretations.

Question #27 **Key: (B)**

NUMS 2021

"Bite the bullet" is an idiom commonly used to: [KMU 2021 / NUMS 2021]

CORE CONCEPT AND DERIVATION

Idiomatic Expressions.

Solution: "**Bite the bullet**" means to face an inevitable painful situation or **accept consequences** bravely.

Why other options are incorrect:

- **Options A, C, & D:** Incorrect idiomatic interpretations.