

# Sentence Improvement Questions for SSC MTS PDF

## Sentence Improvement Questions for SSC MTS

1. Rearrange the parts of the sentence in the correct order.

No sooner had he reached the office (but) he got some work.

- A. then
- B. than
- C. when
- D. No improvement

Ans. B

Sol. The conjunction used after "no sooner" is "than".

*No sooner* is used to show that one thing happened immediately after another thing. It is often used with the past indefinite or past perfect, and usually followed by *than*.

Its structure is "*No sooner + did + Subject + verb (Ist form) + ..... + than + ..... "*

Example: No sooner did I arrive at the station *than* the train came

2. **Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'No Improvement'.**

The tourists insured their luggage because they assumed it must be stole.

- A. it will be stolen
- B. it was going to be stole
- C. it might be stolen
- D. No improvement

Ans. C

Sol. The underlined part of the sentence is grammatically incorrect.

- The tourists got their luggage insured to be on a safer side in case if it was stolen. Insurance is done on the basis of some probability. So, the verb used in the sentence must also reflect **probability**.
- "**Must be**" is an incorrect verb here as it denotes **certainty**.
- "**Will be**" is also incorrect as it shows **certainty** in near future while the sentence is in past.
- "**Was going to be**" is incorrect as if the tourists knew that the luggage was sure to be lost.
- The correct verb is "**might be**" as it denotes the **probability** that the luggage **may or may not** be stolen.
- Also, "must be" is the **passive form** of the verb and must be followed by the V3 or past participle form of the verb.
- Thus, the correct verb to use here is "**stolen**".

The correct sentence will be: **The tourists insured their luggage because they assumed it might be stolen.**

Hence, **option C** is the correct answer.

**3. Select the alternative that will improve the underlined part of the sentence; if no improvement is required, select "No improvement".**

I think he has not fully understood the topic.

- A. complete
- B. partially
- C. basically
- D. No improvement

Ans. D

Sol. The sentence does not require any improvement. "Fully" is an adverb that means completely or to the full extent and it gives correct meaning to the sentence.

Hence, option D is the correct answer.

**4. Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'No Improvement'.**

Your true friend will stands around yours in your failures and your success.

- A. stands up to you on
- B. stand by you in
- C. stand by your in
- D. No improvement

Ans. B

Sol. The underlined part of the sentence is grammatically incorrect.

- After shall/ will the V1 form of the verb is used.
- *For example: I will go to school tomorrow.*
- "Stand around" means to stand without doing anything and "stand up to" To confront someone or something in defiant opposition. Both of them are contextually incorrect.
- The correct phrasal verb is "**stand by**" which means to be supportive or loyal to someone in the time of need.
- Also, we need a personal pronoun here not a possessive pronoun.
- So, "**you**" should be used in the place of "yours".

The correct sentence will be: **Your true friend will stand by you in your failures and your success.**

Hence, **option B** is the correct answer.

5. Improve the bracketed part of the sentence.

His brother (never has) and never will be dependable.

- A. never had
- B. never has been
- C. was never being
- D. No improvement

Ans. B

Sol.

The given sentence uses two forms of auxiliary verb. One is "has" and the other is "will". We know that these auxiliary verbs are followed by different forms of main verbs. "Will" is a future verb and it is followed by the simple form of the main verb. "Has" is a present perfect verb and it is followed by the third form of the main verb. The main verb in the sentence is "be". Thus, "has" will be followed by the third form of "be" which is "been". Thus, the correct answer is option B.

**6. Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.**

I had a few eggs in the fridge, so we need to go to the market to buy them.

- A. a little
- B. few
- C. little
- D. No improvement

Ans. B

Sol.

In the bracketed part, 'a' has to be eliminated because the basic difference is between positive and negative meaning in the sentence. 'Few', when used without a preceding 'a', means "very few" or "none at all". On the other hand, 'a few' is used to indicate "not a large number". The difference is subtle, yet there are instances where the two can mean completely opposite things. Hence, option B is the correct answer.

7. Improve the bracketed part of the sentence.

The enemy, (beaten at) every point, fled from the field.

- A. having been beaten at                      B. was beaten at  
C. to be beaten at                              D. No improvement

Ans. A

Sol.

In active voice, if an action has been completed, we use "having+verb (3rd form)". However, in passive voice, we use "having+been+verb (3rd form)". The given sentence is in passive form, so it will be written as "The enemy having being beaten at every point, fled from the field. Thus, option A is the correct answer.

**8. Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.**

He has enough skilled to handle his problems on his own.

- A. has enough good  
B. is skilled enough  
C. is possess skilled enough  
D. No improvement

Ans. B

Sol.

The underlined part is grammatically incorrect.

- When used with an **adjective ('skilled')**, the **adverb 'enough'** is used after it.

e.g. Is the water **hot enough** yet? (**hot** is an **adjective**; **enough** is an **adverb**)

- When used with **nouns**, the **adjective 'enough'** is used before it.

e.g. Do we have **enough lettuce** for a salad? (**enough** is an **adjective**; **lettuce** is a **noun**)

Thus, here the order should be '**skilled enough**'.

- Also, '**have**' can be used as both **an auxiliary**, and **a main verb**.

Here, in the above sentence, the **verb** before the **adjective 'skilled'** should **not** be an auxiliary.

It should be **a main verb**.

**"Have"**, as a main verb, means to possess something.

e.g. He **has** a car.

Thus, replace the verb '**has**' with '**is**'.

- The use of two verbs 'is' and 'possess' is incorrect; also, the verb 'possess' should be followed by an object (which is not given in the option).
- Thus, replace the underlined part with the one given in option B.

The correct sentence is: **He is skilled enough to handle his problems on his own.**

Hence, option B is the correct answer.

**9. Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'No Improvement'.**

Easy transport was the main reason why cities grew in the river bank all around the world.

- A. along the river banks
- B. in the river banks
- C. along the river bank
- D. No improvement

Ans. A

Sol.

The underlined part of the sentence is grammatically incorrect.

- The use of the preposition "**on**" is **incorrect** in the given sentence as is used to show the physical contact to a surface.
- The correct preposition to be used here is "**along**" as it means extending in a more or less horizontal line on. The cities were established not **on the banks** **but along the banks**.
- Also, the sentence mentions "**cities**" and "**all over the world**", which makes it obvious that there must be more than one "**river bank**".
- Thus, "**river banks**" should be used here.



The correct sentence will be: **Easy transport was the main reason why cities grew along the river banks all around the world.**

Hence, **option A** is the correct answer.

10. **Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.**

After he arrived from office, he goes to gym.

- A. After he had being arriving
- B. After he had arrived
- C. After he arrives
- D. No improvement

Ans. C

Sol. The underlined part is grammatically incorrect.

- The latter part of the sentence talks about what the person does after the former part is over.
- Since the latter part is in simple present tense, the former part should also be in the same tense.
- Thus, '**After he arrives**' is the most suited one.

The correct sentence should be :- **After he arrives from office, he goes to gym.**

Hence, **option C** is the correct answer.

11. **Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'No Improvement'.**

The sun was shining such bright that Leela has to put on her sunglasses.

- A. so bright that Leela had
- B. such brightly that Leela has
- C. so brightly that Leela had
- D. No improvement

Ans. C

Sol. The underlined part of the sentence is grammatically incorrect.

- "Bright" is an **adjective** but in this sentence it is intended to modify **the verb** "was shining" and not a noun.
- So, it must be an **adverb**. Thus replace "bright" with "**brightly**".
- Such is placed before a modifier and noun to intensify the quality of the modifier for emphasis on the **noun** and the structure "such...that..." is used to express an effect.
- So is placed before a modifier — **adjective or adverb** — to intensify its quality or manner and the structure "so...that..." is used to express an effect.
- As "brightly" is an adverb we will use the "so...that..." structure. Thus, "such" should be replaced with "**so**".
- The sentence is clearly in the past tense as evident from the first verb "was shining".
- So, "has" is incorrect that way and must be replaced with "had".

The correct sentence will be: **The sun was shining so brightly that Leela had to put on her sunglasses.**

Hence, **option C** is the correct answer.

12. Improve the bracketed part of the sentence.

I am looking forward (to meet you) in Kochi.

- A. to be meeting you
- B. to meeting you
- C. meeting with you
- D. No improvement

Ans. B

Sol. The construction "look forward to" is followed by a gerund. Therefore, the correct verb form here should be "meeting". Also, the verb "meet" does not take the preposition "with" with it. So, option C is incorrect. Correct answer is option B.

13. Improve the bracketed part of the sentence.

I will be with you in (**one quarter of an hour**).

- A. a quarter of one hour
- B. a quarter of an hour
- C. a quarter of hour
- D. No improvement

Ans. B

Sol. The bracketed part is incorrect as with time fractions like quarter, we do not use the numerical adjectives. We rather use "a" to with it. Also, with "hour", we must use the article "an" as "hour" begins with a vowel sound. So, the correct answer is option B.

14. **Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'No Improvement'.**

Inspite of his profound knowledge and deep interest his father forbade him about entering into politics.

- A. from entering politics
- B. on entering into politics
- C. about entering politics
- D. No improvement

Ans. A

Sol. The underlined part of the sentence is grammatically incorrect.

- The verb "forbid" cannot be followed by the prepositions "about". Prepositions **"to" and "from"** are used with "forbid".

- To** is used as an **infinitive** with "Forbid" and if we use **from** after forbid it is followed by a **gerund**.

- For example:**

*They forbade them to enter.*

*They forbade them from entering.*

- Since, the gerund form is used in the sentence, so, the preposition "from" will be used.

- Also, "enter" does not take a preposition after it.

- For example: I could not enter the meeting room.**

- So, into should be removed.**

The correct sentence will be: **Inspite of his profound knowledge and deep interest his father forbade him about entering into politics.**

Hence, **option A** is the correct answer.

15. Improve the bracketed part of the sentence.  
(Neither plants) nor animals can survive without water.
- A. Plants can neither
  - B. Neither can plants
  - C. Plants neither
  - D. No improvement

Ans. D

Sol. No improvement is required for the bracketed part. "Neither" is followed by "nor" as given in the sentence. See below example:

Neither Ravi nor his friends are coming to the party.

16. **Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'No Improvement'.**

He is a fast bowler of repute, but his yesterday's performance was not up to the mark.

- A. performance for yesterday
- B. yesterday performance
- C. performances for yesterday
- D. No improvement

Ans. D

Sol.

"His yesterday's performance" means his performance of yesterday. The use of apostrophe ('s) is correct as it is used to show ownership or possession. Hence, the bracketed part is correct and no improvement is needed.

17. Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.

The Chairman appointed her as a secretary as she is efficient.

- A. a secretary
- B. as secretary
- C. secretary
- D. No improvement

Ans. D

Sol. The sentence requires no improvement. "Appoint" is a verb which can be used with or without "as". So, it is not incorrect in the given sentence. See some example for more clarity.

He was appointed the chairman of the company.

After his parents died, the boy's uncle was *appointed* as his guardian.

As we can see in these two examples, "as" can be used with "appoint".

Although, the sentence is also correct if it is not used.

18. Improve the bracketed part of the sentence.

Our salaries have (multiplied) over the years.

- A. progressed
- B. developed
- C. enhanced
- D. No improvement

Ans. D

Sol.

The given sentence is correct and no improvement is required. To refer to an increase in the salary for comparative purpose in general context we use 'multiply' because the salary is always increased in multiples with respect to a base value.

19. Improve the bracketed part of the sentence.

The driver was (dazzled) by the bright light of approaching car.

- A. twinkled
- B. flashed
- C. glowed
- D. No improvement

Ans. D

Sol. Let's understand the meaning of each verb to find out which one fits best in the sentence:

dazzle = to become temporary blind due to sudden bright light

twinkle = shine with a gleam that changes constantly from bright to faint

glow = give out steady light without flame.

The sentence talks about a driver getting affected by the bright light of a car. Therefore, the correct verb that fits here contextually is "dazzled". Hence, no improvement is required.

20. Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence.

If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.

Hold hands of your child while crossing the road.

- A. your child's hands
- B. your child's hand
- C. hand of your child
- D. No improvement

Ans. B

Sol. While crossing a road, a single hand is held not both hands. So, it is incorrect to say hold hands. Apart from this, the sentence should use apostrophe (') as it is used to denote ownership and make the sentence concise. The sentence must be written as "hold your child's hand while crossing the road". Hence, option B is the correct answer.

21. Improve the bracketed part of the sentence.

He is (**neither ashamed**) nor sorry for his deeds.

- A. not ashamed
- B. not ashamed of
- C. neither ashamed of
- D. No improvement

Ans. C

Sol. The use of "*neither*" is correct in the sentence as "*nor*" is always preceded by "*neither*". The preposition "of" should be used after "*ashamed*". Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

22. **Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.**

By definition, make a map is to select certain features as relevant and ignore others.

- A. To make a map by definition
- B. By definition, making a map
- C. Map making is defined as
- D. No improvement



Ans. B

Sol.

The bracketed part is incorrect because it is being followed by a transitive form of the verb (to+I form of the verb). The bracketed part is acting as the subject of the sentence and therefore, it needs to be kept in gerund form (gerund works as a noun).

23. Improve the bracketed part of the sentence.

She (had to) four previous solo shows.

- A. has
- B. has had
- C. has been
- D. No improvement

Ans. B

Sol. The sentence shows that a woman possesses four previous solo shows. In order to show the possession, we use the main verb "has". Also, the sentence shows that the action of owning the solo shows is completed. So, present perfect tense should be used. Since, "she" is a singular subject, we will use "has" with it and the third form of main verb. So, "has" will change to "had". Thus, option B is correct.

24. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the bracketed segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select No improvement.

The man (who has jumped into the lake) managed to swim ashore.

- A. who jumping into the lake
- B. jumping into the lake
- C. who jumped into the lake
- D. No improvement

Ans. C

Sol. "Managed to swim" indicates that the incident occurred in the past. Thus, "has jumped" in the highlighted part is incorrect. Among all the given options, option C is the correct answer.

25. **Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.**

He must has change clothes during the night.

- A. have changed
- B. has changed
- C. have changes
- D. No improvement

Ans. A

Sol.

The underlined part is grammatically incorrect.

- The modal verb "must" is used to show the certainty of something.  
e.g. You **mustn't** take photographs in here. It's forbidden.
- When it is used **in the past tense**, it is followed by the verb "**have**" and then takes **the third form of the main verb**.

e.g. I can't find my chequebook. I **must have left** it at home.

- Thus, replace the underlined part with "have changed".

The correct sentence will be: **He must have changed clothes during the night.**

Hence, **option A** is the correct answer.

26. Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select No improvement.

The child would have jumped with delight on seeing the joker at the circus.

- A. jumping
- B. jumped
- C. to jump
- D. No improvement

Ans. B

Sol.

*Could have, would have, and should have* are sometimes called "modals of lost opportunities." They work like a grammatical time machine. The simple past just tells what happened. Past modals tell what *could have, would have, and should have* happened.

Would have is used with the verb "had". For example:

If I had made hurry, I would have caught the train.

To use "would have" to describe a past event is incorrect as given in the sentence. Here, simple past should be used. Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

**27. Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.**

He complained of the following of having tortured by the police.

- A. having been tortured
- B. tortured
- C. been tortured
- D. No improvement

Ans. A

Sol. Here "having been tortured" should be used in the place of "having tortured" because Here "he" is passive subject which indicates present perfect Participle.

28. Improve the bracketed part of the sentence.

After they (had finished) eating they went for a walk.

- A. no improvement
- B. have finished
- C. finish
- D. will finish

Ans. A

Sol. The sentence is grammatically correct.

29. Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select No improvement.

Why should we bothered?

- A. bother
- B. bothering
- C. to bother
- D. no improvement

Ans. A

Sol. After "should", the main verb should be written in simple present tense therefore option A is the correct answer.

30. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the bracketed segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select No improvement.

Why you (refrained from mention) this point is a surprise to me?

- A. refrained from mentioning
- B. refrained from mention of
- C. refrain from any mention of
- D. No correction required

Ans. A

Sol. After '**refrained from**' a noun or noun equivalent (gerund) is required. Hence option (A) is correct.

31. **Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.**

The granaries of India are trapped in a dangerous vicious cycle of input use, where increased dumping of fertilizer in the wrong combinations has rendered the soil incapable of regenerating itself, which in turn escalates input use.

- A. have rendered
- B. is rendered
- C. had render
- D. No improvement

Ans. D

Sol. The given sentence is correct and the bracketed part does not need any improvement.

**32. Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.**

We demonstrated to them how we were prepared the artistic patterns.

- A. are prepared
- B. have prepared
- C. had prepared
- D. No improvement

Ans. C

Sol. When two actions are discussed in a sentence and both belong to different time periods, we use past perfect for the action that occurred earlier and simple past with the action that occurred later. The preparing of artistic patterns was the activity which occurred earlier, so its tense must be past perfect tense. Thus, the correct answer is option C.

**33. Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.**

It may not be in the cupboard but the cupboard's doors are opened.

- A. doors of cupboard
- B. doors of the cupboard
- C. cupboard-doors
- D. No improvement

Ans. B

Sol.

Usually, apostrophe(s) is used for living things. For example, Ram's brother is intelligent. In case of a non-living thing, we use 'of' and not apostrophe(s). Also, since the sentence is talking about a particular cupboard, the article "the" should be placed before it. Option C is the incorrect formation of noun. Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

34. In the following question, out of the four alternatives, select the alternative which will improve the bracketed part of the sentence. In case no improvement is needed, select "no improvement".

He proposed (meets) me at the temple.

- A. for meeting
- B. to meet
- C. meeting with
- D. no improvement

Ans. B

Sol. Verbs like proposed, likes, needs, are followed by infinitive. So option B is the correct answer.

35. **Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.**

He complained of having been tortured by the police.

- A. having tortured
- B. tortured
- C. been tortured
- D. No Improvement

Ans. D

Sol.

- The structure in the underlined part is in passive voice and no improvement is required here.
- Please note that "having" is used to show the completing of an activity and it is followed by "been" to show that the structure is of passive voice.

See below example :-

- Active sentence example :- Having completed his work, Sonu went to play.
- Passive sentence example :- Sonu complained of having been cheated by his friends.

Hence, **option D** is the correct answer.

36. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the bracketed segment in the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select No improvement.

River Damodar in West Bengal (carry the effluents) from the Durgapur industrial complex for miles.

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. carries the effluents | B. carries the effluence |
| C. carried the effluents | D. No improvement        |

Ans. A

Sol. "River Damodar" represents a singular noun, so the verb that follows it should also be singular. Therefore, the bracketed part should be written as "carries the effluents". Option C is incorrect as the correct word required is "effluent" which means liquid waste or sewage discharged into a river or the sea while effluence means a substance that flows out from something.



37. Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select No improvement.

There's nothing wrong with having to a different opinion.

- A. Have to
- B. Has to
- C. Having
- D. No improvement

Ans. C

Sol. The use of the word 'to' is unnecessary. It distorts the structure of the sentence.

The correct form of the verb after 'with', here, is the gerund form; hence option C is the correct answer.

**38. Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.**

One explanation might have been that their infrastructure is overburdened.

- A. explanation of
- B. explanation may be that
- C. explanation might be that
- D. No improvement

Ans. C

Sol.

"Might have been" is used in passive sentence while the given sentence is in active voice. So, option C is the correct answer.

In popular usage and speech, *may* and *might* are used interchangeably when referring to possibility and probability, but there is a slight difference between the two.

**May** is used to express what is possible, factual, or could be factual.

**Might** is used to express what is hypothetical, counterfactual, or remotely possible.

**39. Identify the best way to improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If there is no improvement required, select 'no Improvement'.**

He must not to be left like this.

- A. being left
- B. been left
- C. be left
- D. No improvement

Ans. C

Sol.

The bracketed part is incorrect as "to be left" is incorrect grammar construction. "Must" cannot be followed by "being" which makes option A incorrect choice. Option C is incorrect as "been" cannot be used along with "must". It can go with "must" when used as "must have been". Thus, the correct choice is option C.

**40. Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select No improvement.**

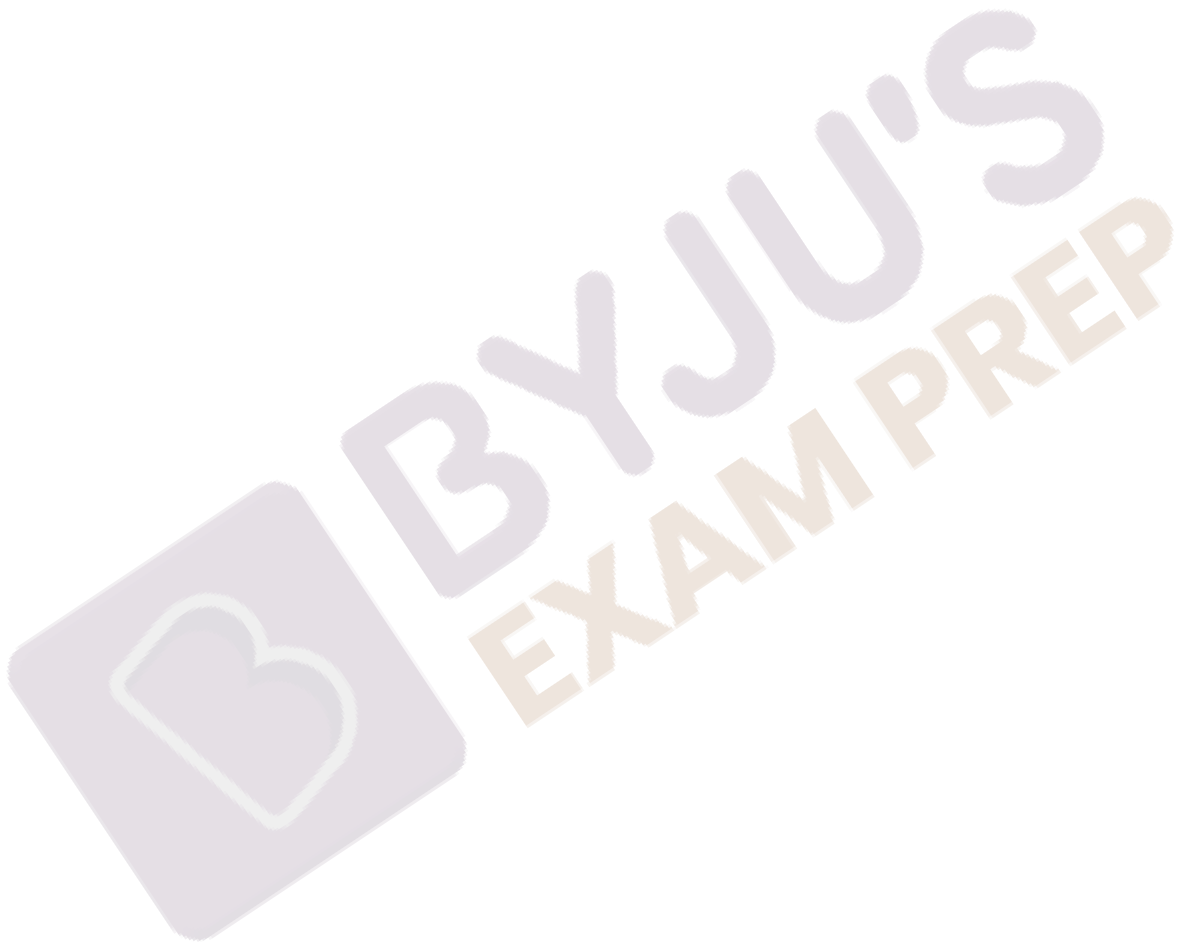
As long as we are in this historical city let us spend our time doing sightseeing.

- A. to sightsee
- B. sightsee
- C. sightseeing
- D. No improvement

Ans. C

Sol.

The bracketed part in the given sentence consists of two main verbs which is grammatically incorrect. The verb "sightseeing" is the gerund form of "sightsee" and its use alone in the sentence can convey the intended meaning to the sentence. So, using "doing" is superfluous and should be removed. Thus, option C is the correct answer.



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