



AFCAT FIXED PREPOSITIONS

Notes + Complete Solved PYQ Bank

AFCAT Fixed-Preposition Notes

marry / be married to	Use marry without a preposition: She married an officer. Use married to for the relationship, and married with two children only to describe family status.
enter / enter into	Enter a place takes no preposition: enter the hall. Enter into is used for an agreement, discussion, arrangement or formal relationship.
compare with / compare to	Compare with examines similarities and differences; compare to likens one thing to another. In ordinary usage, compare with is safer for a detailed comparison.
die of / die from	Die of usually names a disease or internal cause; die from commonly names an injury, exposure or other external cause.
die in / die for / die by	Die in an accident or battle; die for a cause or country; die by violence, suicide or another stated manner. Die in harness means die while still in active service.
part with / part from	Part with a possession, often unwillingly; part from a person when separating or taking leave.
live on / live by	Live on food, income or available resources; live by a rule, principle, profession or customary practice.
deal in / deal with	Deal in goods or a line of business; deal with a person, subject, task or problem.
care for / care about / take care of	Care for means like or look after; care about means consider important; take care of means look after or handle.
write in / write with	Write in ink, pencil or a language; write with a pen, pencil or other instrument.
good at / good in	Good at refers to skill in an activity or subject; good in is used for performance in a role, situation or particular area.
blind in / blind to	Blind in one or both eyes describes eyesight; blind to faults, danger or reality means unwilling or unable to notice them.

sympathy for / sympathise with	Have sympathy for a person or cause; sympathise with a person who is suffering or with a view.
angry with / angry at	Be angry with a person; be angry at or about an act, remark, event or situation.
shout at / shout to	Shout at someone in anger; shout to someone to attract attention or make oneself heard.
laugh at / smile at	Laugh at and smile at take a person, remark or situation as their object. Smile on or upon means favour or support.
beside / besides	Beside means next to; besides means in addition to or apart from.
between / among	Between is usual for two distinct people or things; among is usual within a group of three or more.
amid / amidst	Amid or amidst means in the middle of or surrounded by a situation, crowd or uncountable condition.
by transport / on a named service	Travel by bus, train or air when naming the mode; use on for a specific service or vehicle: on the Shatabdi Express, on the bus.
on days and dates	Use on before days and dates: on Monday, on 15 August and on Friday morning.
at night / in the morning	Use at night, at noon and at midnight; use in the morning, afternoon and evening.
killed in an accident	Use killed in an accident when the accident directly caused death. Died in an accident is also possible when the focus is the setting.
order something	Order food or goods directly: We ordered three cups of coffee. Do not insert for after order in this sense.
ask for / ask about / ask after / ask out	Ask for an object or request; ask about a topic; ask after someone's health; ask someone out means invite that person socially.
stare at / glare at	Stare at means look fixedly; glare at means look angrily or fiercely.

blush at	Blush at a remark, compliment, thought or recollection that causes embarrassment.
bad at	Use bad at for lack of skill in an activity or subject: bad at calculations.
on the phone	Use on for communication by telephone: She is on the phone; we spoke on the phone.
mock someone	Mock takes a direct object in standard modern English: They mocked the proposal. Avoid the archaic exam trap mock at.
salubrious	Salubrious usually modifies a noun directly and means health-giving: a salubrious climate. Avoid treating salubrious to as a routine fixed pair.
abound in / abound with	A place abounds in resources or a quality; it abounds with people, creatures or visible things.
absolve from / absolve of	Absolve someone from responsibility or an obligation; absolve someone of blame, guilt or a charge.
abstain from	Deliberately avoid an action, food, drink or vote: abstain from smoking.
accede to	Agree to a request, proposal or demand; also succeed to a throne or office.
acquiesce in	Accept a decision, arrangement or situation without protest.
adapt to	Become adjusted to changed conditions: adapt to a new environment.
advance by	Move an event to an earlier time by a stated interval: advanced by three days.
agree with / agree to / agree on	Agree with a person or opinion; agree to a proposal or terms; agree on a plan, price or course of action.
aim at	Direct an effort or weapon towards a target: aim at improving accuracy.
alight from / alight at / alight on	Alight from a vehicle, alight at a stop or station, and alight on a surface.

amuse with / be amused at or by	Amuse someone with a story; be amused at a remark or by an entertaining event.
answer for / answer to	Answer for an action means be responsible for it; answer to a name or description means respond or correspond to it.
apologise to / apologise for	Apologise to a person for a mistake, delay or action.
appeal to / appeal against	Appeal to a person or authority for help; appeal against a judgment or decision.
apply for / apply to	Apply for a post, loan or permission; apply to an organisation or person.
aspire to	Aim at attaining a position, standard or achievement: aspire to command.
atone for	Make amends for a wrong, mistake or offence.
attend to / attend upon	Attend to a task, patient or need; attend upon means serve or wait on someone.
avail oneself of	Use avail with a reflexive pronoun: avail yourself of the opportunity. Avoid the non-standard exam form avail of.
believe in	Have faith in a person, idea or principle; also accept the existence or value of something.
belong to	Be owned by, connected with or a member of: This book belongs to me.
boast of / boast about	Speak proudly of or about an achievement, possession or quality.
blame for / blame on	Blame a person for a mistake; blame the mistake on a cause or person.
call at / call on	Call at a place; call on a person. Both may mean make a brief visit.
call for	Require, demand or collect: The situation calls for restraint.
charge with / charge for	Charge someone with an offence; charge a sum for goods or services.

compliment on / complement to	Compliment someone on an achievement; one thing may be a complement to another because it completes or enhances it.
comply with	Act according to a rule, request, order or standard.
congratulate on	Congratulate a person on success, promotion or another happy event.
consist of / consist in	Consist of names the parts; consist in states the essential nature: Happiness consists in contentment.
convict of / acquit of	Convict or acquit a person of an offence or charge.
decamp with	Leave secretly while taking money, goods or information.
depend on / depend upon	Rely on or be determined by a person, condition or circumstance.
deprive of	Prevent someone from having or using something: deprived of liberty.
dispose of	Get rid of, sell or deal conclusively with something.
dispense with	Manage without a person or thing; waive a requirement or formality.
dabble in	Take a casual or superficial interest in an activity or subject.
engage in / engage with	Engage in an activity; engage with a person, issue or idea.
entrust to / entrust with	Entrust a task or object to a person; entrust a person with a task, object or secret.
exult at / exult over	Exult at a victory or joyful event; exult over an opponent or another person's defeat.
fall back on	Use something as a last source of help, support or security.
feed on	Animals feed on food; an emotion or habit may figuratively feed on a condition.
fight against / fight for	Fight against an enemy or evil; fight for a cause, right or objective.

glance at / glance through	Glance at something briefly; glance through written material quickly.
guard against / guard from	Guard against a risk or possible harm; guard someone or something from an actual danger.
hanker after / hanker for	Long strongly for status, possessions, fame or another desired thing.
hear of / hear from / hear about	Hear of means know of; hear from means receive communication; hear about means receive information concerning.
hint at	Suggest something indirectly rather than state it openly.
indulge in	Allow oneself to enjoy or become involved in an activity, often excessively.
insist on	Demand or maintain firmly: insist on proper verification.
interfere in / interfere with	Interfere in an affair or dispute; interfere with a person, process or object by obstructing it.
invest in	Put money, effort or time into something to obtain a return.
laugh at	Treat a person, idea or mistake as amusing or ridiculous.
listen to	Give attention to sound, advice, a speaker or a broadcast.
look after	Take care of or be responsible for a person, animal or thing.
look at	Direct one's eyes or attention towards something.
look for	Try to find a person, object, answer or opportunity.
look into	Investigate or examine a matter carefully.
look over	Inspect or examine something, often quickly.
look through	Read or examine quickly; also deliberately ignore someone by appearing not to see them.
look up	Search for information in a reference source; also visit or contact someone after a long interval.

look up to / look down on	Admire and respect someone; regard someone as inferior or unworthy.
look forward to	Await with pleasure. To is a preposition here, so use a noun or gerund: look forward to meeting.
muse on / ponder over / mull over	Think deeply about a subject, proposal or problem.
object to	Express opposition to an idea or action. Use a noun or gerund after to: object to waiting.
participate in	Take part in an activity, event, discussion or competition.
persist in	Continue firmly in an action or belief despite difficulty or opposition.
point at / point to / point out	Point at a visible target; point to evidence or a conclusion; point out means draw attention to or identify.
pray for / pray to	Pray for a person or desired result; pray to a deity.
prefer to	Prefer one person or thing to another. Do not use than after prefer in this construction.
prevent from / prohibit from	Prevent or prohibit a person from doing something. Follow from with a gerund.
protect from / protect against	Protect from an immediate source of harm; protect against a possible risk, disease or attack.
provide with / provide for	Provide a person with something; provide for a need, future event or dependent.
reconcile to / reconcile with	Reconcile oneself to an unpleasant fact; reconcile with a person after disagreement.
recover from	Return to health or normality after illness, injury, shock or a setback.
refrain from	Deliberately stop oneself from an action. Follow from with a gerund.
rely on / rely upon	Depend confidently on a person, system, fact or resource.
resort to	Turn to an expedient, especially an undesirable one, when other methods fail.

respond to	Reply or react to a person, question, treatment, event or stimulus.
result in / result from	Result in introduces the consequence; result from introduces the cause.
run after	Chase someone or pursue money, fame or another goal.
speak to / speak about	Speak to a person; speak about a subject or issue.
subscribe to	Pay to receive a service or publication; support a belief or view.
suffer from	Experience an illness, problem, shortage or disadvantage.
wait for	Remain until a person, thing or event arrives or happens.
warn against / warn of / warn about	Warn against an action; warn of an approaching danger; warn about a possible problem.
accustomed to	Familiar with something through experience. Use a noun or gerund after to.
absorbed in	Fully occupied or interested in an activity or thought.
abstemious in	Moderate and self-controlled in eating, drinking or another habit.
advanced for	More developed or mature than is usual for a stated age.
akin to	Similar in character or nature to something.
aloof from	Distant or detached from people, events or involvement.
amazed at / amazed by	Greatly surprised at a fact or by an event, action or achievement.
armed with	Equipped with a weapon, knowledge, authority or another useful resource.
astonished at / surprised at	Use at for the fact, news, result or behaviour that causes surprise.
averse to	Strongly disinclined to an action or idea. Averse, not adverse, describes a person's attitude.

capable of	Having the ability or qualities needed for an action. Follow of with a noun or gerund.
conducive to	Helping to produce a favourable result or condition.
content with / satisfied with	Pleased enough with a person, thing, result or situation.
detrimental to / injurious to	Harmful or damaging to a person, interest, system or condition.
different from	The standard examination form is different from. Different to and different than occur in some varieties but are less safe in objective tests.
enamoured of / enamoured with	Strongly attracted to or fascinated by a person, idea or activity.
envious of / jealous of	Envious of what another possesses; jealous of a relationship, rival or another person's advantage.
fed up with	Annoyed, bored or unhappy because a situation has continued too long.
fond of	Having affection for or taking pleasure in a person or activity.
indifferent to	Having no particular interest, sympathy or concern regarding something.
indignant at / incensed at	Angry or offended at an unfair act, remark, policy or situation.
liable for / liable to	Liable for a debt or responsibility; liable to punishment, risk or an unwanted event.
pleased with / pleased at	Pleased with a person or thing; pleased at or about an event, result or news.
polite to	Showing good manners towards a person: polite to the staff.
quick at / slow at	Quick or slow at a task, activity or type of work.
responsible for	Having a duty or being the cause of an action, result, person or thing.

similar to / adjacent to	Similar to means resembling; adjacent to means next to or adjoining.
worthy of	Deserving a specified honour, attention, respect or consequence.
abhorrent to	Causing disgust or strong dislike: Corruption is abhorrent to honest citizens.
overwhelmed with / overwhelmed by	Filled with emotion or work; overcome by the force, quantity or effect of something.
antidote to	A remedy for poison or a way of counteracting an undesirable condition: an antidote to despair.
antipathy to / towards	A strong feeling of dislike or aversion to or towards a person, idea or practice.
aversion to	A strong dislike of or unwillingness to do something.
access to	The right, opportunity or means to enter, approach or use something.
answer to	A solution or response to a question, difficulty or need.
cause of / reason for	Cause of an event or condition; reason for a choice, action or decision.
complaint against / complaint about	A formal complaint against a person; a complaint about a product, action or situation.
contempt for	A feeling that a person or thing is beneath respect.
control over	Power or authority to direct or regulate someone or something.
demand for	A need or request for a commodity, service, action or explanation.
discussion about / discussion on	A discussion about or on a subject, proposal or problem.
exception to	A person or thing excluded from a general rule or statement.
need for	A requirement or necessity for an object, quality, person or action.

preference for	A greater liking for one alternative over another.
remedy for	A treatment for an illness or a means of correcting a problem.
respect for	Admiration for a person or regard for a law, right or principle.
solution to	A way of solving a problem, puzzle or difficult situation.
sympathy for	Concern or compassion for a person, group or cause.
threat to	A person, thing or situation likely to cause harm or danger.
back up	Support a person or claim; also make a reserve copy of data.
back down / back off / back out	Back down means withdraw a claim; back off means retreat; back out means withdraw from an agreement or commitment.
blow away / blow over	Blow away may mean impress greatly or carry away; blow over means pass without lasting effect.
blow up / blow down	Blow up means explode or enlarge; blow down means knock something over by wind or force.
break down	Stop functioning, lose emotional control or divide something into parts for analysis.
break out in	Suddenly develop a rash, sweat or another skin reaction: break out in hives.
butt in / butt out	Butt in means interrupt or interfere; butt out means stop interfering.
call off / call in	Call off means cancel; call in means summon assistance or request the return of something.
call out / call down	Call out means summon, challenge or speak loudly; call down means reprimand or invoke.
fall apart / fall flat	Fall apart means disintegrate or lose control; fall flat means fail to have the intended effect.
fall off / fall through	Fall off means decrease or detach; fall through means fail to happen or be completed.

fall in with / fall out with	Fall in with means agree with or join; fall out with means quarrel with.
get along with / get on with	Have a friendly relationship or continue making progress with work.
get by / get over	Get by means manage with limited resources; get over means recover from or overcome.
get up	Rise from bed or a seated position; also organise or dress in a specified way.
go off / go with	Go off may explode, ring or become spoiled; go with means match or accompany.
hand in	Submit work, a document, found property or one's resignation.
let in / let off	Let in means admit; let off means excuse from punishment, release or cause to explode.
let go / let up	Let go means release; let up means become less intense.
look out	Be watchful or cautious: Look out for traffic.
make out	Understand, discern, claim or write a document such as a cheque.
put down / put out	Put down means suppress, criticise or write; put out means extinguish, inconvenience or publish.
put off / put on	Put off means postpone or discourage; put on means wear, gain weight or stage a performance.
put up with	Tolerate an unpleasant person, action or situation.
run away / run down	Run away means escape; run down means criticise, knock down, lose power or trace after a search.
run out of / run over	Run out of means exhaust a supply; run over means hit with a vehicle, exceed time or review quickly.
set up / set aside	Set up means establish or arrange; set aside means reserve, disregard or annul.
set off / set out	Set off means begin a journey or trigger; set out means begin with a purpose, arrange or explain.

set in / set upon	Set in means begin and seem likely to continue; set upon means attack suddenly.
take after / take in	Take after means resemble a relative; take in means understand, deceive, admit or alter clothing.
take off / take over	Take off means remove, leave the ground or become successful; take over means assume control.
take down / take up	Take down means record or dismantle; take up means begin, occupy or pursue.

Five-Year Solved PYQ Bank

NDA Fixed-Preposition PYQs | 2022-2026

1. The gas turns into liquid ____ a process called condensation.

- A. from
- B. through
- C. with
- D. by

Answer: B. through

A change occurs through a process. The original sentence incorrectly used from.

NDA I 2023 | Official PYQ | Error corrected

2. Christopher Columbus began his famous voyage ____ 1492.

- A. on
- B. in
- C. at
- D. from

Answer: B. in

Use in before a year: in 1492.

NDA I 2023 | Official PYQ | Error corrected

3. The Principal felicitated the students ____ the prize ceremony.

- A. in
- B. at
- C. on
- D. with

Answer: B. at

Use at for presence at an event or ceremony.

NDA II 2023 | Official PYQ | Error corrected

4. The organisation needs to improve its capacity ____ assessment.

- A. for
- B. of
- C. in
- D. to

Answer: A. for

Capacity for is the fixed noun-preposition combination when naming a function or activity.

NDA I 2024 | Official PYQ

5. The meetings are held ____ regular intervals.

- A. with
- B. at
- C. on
- D. by

Answer: B. at

At regular intervals is the standard expression.

NDA I 2024 | Official PYQ

6. The speaker paused ____ a few moments before continuing.

- A. with
- B. for
- C. by
- D. into

Answer: B. for

Use for with a period of time: for a few moments.

NDA I 2024 | Official PYQ

7. The car broke ____ on the way to the station.

- A. down
- B. out
- C. off
- D. in

Answer: A. down

Break down means stop functioning.

NDA I 2024 | Official PYQ

8. The inspection will be completed ____ the end of February.

- A. in
- B. at
- C. on
- D. for

Answer: B. at

At the end of names the final point of a period.

NDA I 2024 | Official PYQ

9. I shall drop ____ to see Sunita this evening.

- A. in
- B. out
- C. off
- D. over

Answer: A. in

Drop in means make a short, usually informal, visit.

NDA I 2024 | Official PYQ

10. The manner in which appointments are made ____ scrutiny by the High Court.

- A. was under
- B. under
- C. is under
- D. however under

Answer: C. is under

Be under scrutiny is the correct fixed expression; the singular subject manner takes is.

NDA I 2025 | Official PYQ



CDS Fixed-Preposition PYQs | 2022-2026

11. Few things are impossible ____ achieve if one has determination.

- A. for
- B. to
- C. in
- D. onto

Answer: B. to

The adjective impossible is followed by a to-infinitive: impossible to achieve.

CDS I 2022 | Official PYQ

12. It is natural for everyone to aspire ____ distinction.

- A. with
- B. about
- C. into
- D. for

Answer: D. for

Aspire for was required by the official option set here; in formal modern usage, aspire to distinction is also standard and often preferred.

CDS I 2022 | Official PYQ

13. He is liable ____ his wife's debts.

- A. for
- B. to
- C. with
- D. at

Answer: A. for

Liable for introduces a debt, cost or responsibility.

CDS I 2022 | Official PYQ

14. Rahul must have received the dues ____ now.

- A. by
- B. till
- C. at
- D. to

Answer: A. by

By now means not later than the present time.

CDS II 2022 | Official PYQ

15. How many students have come ____ you for the programme?

- A. along with
- B. by
- C. for
- D. till

Answer: A. along with

Along with means in company with.

CDS II 2022 | Official PYQ

16. Her dedication is second ____ none.

- A. by
- B. to
- C. with
- D. for

Answer: B. to

Second to none means as good as or better than everyone else.

CDS II 2022 | Official PYQ

17. Entry ____ the building is restricted.

- A. into
- B. of
- C. for
- D. by

Answer: A. into

Entry into is the standard noun-preposition combination for admission to a place or field.

CDS II 2022 | Official PYQ

18. The operation was demonstrated ____ the Drop Zone.

- A. by
- B. at
- C. on
- D. with

Answer: B. at

At identifies the point or site where the demonstration occurred.

CDS II 2022 | Official PYQ

19. I shall be away ____ Monday.

- A. on
- B. by
- C. until
- D. from

Answer: C. until

Until marks the endpoint of the absence.

CDS I 2023 | Official PYQ

20. I shall see you ____ Friday morning.

- A. in
- B. on
- C. along
- D. at

Answer: B. on

Use on before a named day, including a day plus part of day.

CDS I 2023 | Official PYQ

21. Write your name ____ the top of the page.

- A. at
- B. in
- C. by
- D. with

Answer: A. at

At the top of is the standard expression for a position on a page.

CDS I 2023 | Official PYQ

22. She is studying ____ university.

- A. in
- B. at
- C. on
- D. from

Answer: B. at

At university refers to attendance or study at the institution.

CDS I 2023 | Official PYQ

23. I am deeply indebted ____ my friend.

- A. from
- B. with
- C. by
- D. to

Answer: D. to

Indebted to identifies the person to whom one owes gratitude or money.

CDS I 2023 | Official PYQ

24. She is capable ____ winning the competition.

- A. on
- B. at
- C. of
- D. until

Answer: C. of

Capable of is followed by a noun or gerund.

CDS I 2024 | Official PYQ

25. This book has been translated ____ many languages.

- A. into
- B. with
- C. on
- D. along

Answer: A. into

Translate into names the target language.

CDS I 2024 | Official PYQ

26. The elephant has been placed ____ the endangered list.

- A. in
- B. at
- C. about
- D. on

Answer: D. on

A person or thing is placed on a list.

CDS II 2024 | Official PYQ

27. The information is available ____ the Internet.

- A. with
- B. on
- C. in
- D. at

Answer: B. on

Use on with the Internet, a website or an online platform.

CDS I 2026 | Official PYQ

28. What other sport do you play ____ hockey?

- A. beside
- B. besides
- C. instead
- D. except

Answer: B. besides

Besides means in addition to; beside means next to.

CDS I 2026 | Official PYQ

29. I am not speaking to Ravi. I have fallen ____ with him.

- A. away
- B. back
- C. out
- D. through

Answer: C. out

Fall out with someone means quarrel and cease being friendly.

CDS I 2026 | Official PYQ

30. Harish wanted to report on the war ____ the danger involved.

- A. though
- B. in spite of
- C. although
- D. even though

Answer: B. in spite of

In spite of is followed by a noun phrase; the other options introduce clauses.

CDS I 2026 | Official PYQ

31. The two groups entered ____ an agreement after a protracted discussion.

- A. unto
- B. at
- C. in
- D. into

Answer: D. into

Enter into an agreement is the fixed formal construction.

CDS I 2026 | Official PYQ

AFCAT Fixed-Preposition PYQs | 2022-2026

32. It is essential to conserve and save water ____ ourselves and the planet.

- A. to
- B. for
- C. at
- D. by

Answer: B. for

For introduces the people and purpose that benefit from the action.

AFCAT 2022 | Reported PYQ

33. The construction ____ new buildings has increased rapidly.

- A. for
- B. of
- C. can
- D. may

Answer: B. of

Construction of introduces the thing being constructed.

AFCAT 2022 | Reported PYQ

34. ____ his parents' disapproval, he joined this university.

- A. While
- B. Despite
- C. Nevertheless
- D. Until

Answer: B. Despite

Despite is a preposition and is correctly followed by the noun phrase his parents' disapproval.

AFCAT 02/2023 | Reported PYQ

35. Select the correction: Despite of his hard work, he could not clear the examination.

- A. Despite his hard work
- B. In despite his hard work
- C. Although of his hard work
- D. No correction

Answer: A. Despite his hard work

Despite is not followed by of. Use despite his hard work or in spite of his hard work.

AFCAT II 2023 | Reported PYQ

36. He is good ____ playing the guitar.

- A. in
- B. at
- C. on
- D. with

Answer: B. at

Good at is used for skill in an activity; a gerund follows the preposition.

AFCAT II 2023 | Reported PYQ

37. I am looking forward ____ you soon.

- A. to meet
- B. for meeting
- C. to meeting
- D. at meeting

Answer: C. to meeting

In look forward to, to is a preposition; it must be followed by a noun or gerund.

AFCAT II 2023 | Reported PYQ

38. Select the correction: Despite of her fear, she entered the room.

- A. Despite her fear
- B. In despite of her fear
- C. Although her fear
- D. No correction

Answer: A. Despite her fear

Despite takes a direct noun phrase and never despite of.

AFCAT 2024 | Reported PYQ

39. Please refrain ____ talking while the instructions are being read.

- A. with
- B. of
- C. from
- D. for

Answer: C. from

Refrain from is followed by a noun or gerund.

AFCAT 2024 | Reported PYQ

40. The new policy will be ____ next month.

- A. carried on
- B. carried out
- C. carried over
- D. carried in

Answer: B. carried out

Carry out means implement or execute a plan, order or policy.

AFCAT 2025 | Reported PYQ