

**Exercise A. CLOZE TESTS** Read the following two (separate, but related) texts carefully, before writing into each gap I suitable word that fits grammatically and in terms of context.

- 1) In less \_\_\_\_\_ a month, the world's biggest democratic exercise begins in India. And out of a total of 900 million eligible voters, a staggering 84.3 million – including 15 million aged 18 or 19 – will be \_\_\_\_\_ a vote for the first time. So what do they want from their politicians? Tolerance, according to Shreeparna Chatterjee, a 22-year-old arts student in New Delhi going to the polls for \_\_\_\_\_ first time. Voting will \_\_\_\_\_ held in seven phases across the vast country, \_\_\_\_\_ 11 April to 19 May, with the result announced \_\_\_\_\_ May 23. The Hindu nationalist government, \_\_\_\_\_ stormed to power at the last general election in 2014, \_\_\_\_\_ currently battling a challenge led \_\_\_\_\_ the secular opposition Congress Party.
- 2) Although India's Civil servants are \_\_\_\_\_ to be obedient and compliant to their political bosses, their role does \_\_\_\_\_ end there. They are experienced and knowledgeable, and are trained and educated \_\_\_\_\_ work in administration. This means that, in comparison with voters and politicians, civil servants are more aware of the country's priorities and the \_\_\_\_\_ it faces, and the ways these could be overcome. So politicians may not be as educated or enlightened as civil servants, and \_\_\_\_\_ there are problems, the latter must “blow the \_\_\_\_\_” on the former, using powers set \_\_\_\_\_ in the Constitution of India, and acting within the legal-institutional framework to limit damage. However, it must still be stressed that civil servants are symbols of continuity and permanence whose \_\_\_\_\_ is to remain neutral towards politics and political parties, putting government policies \_\_\_\_\_ effect, no matter \_\_\_\_\_ is in power.