

IIM CAT · VARC

Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension and verbal practice material for CAT VARC.

Curated for CAT aspirants

Free download

Previous year Verbal Ability for CAT Preparation



Dear CAT Aspirants,

It's a tough journey to reach where we want to be in the career. It takes lots of efforts, struggles, long studying hours to crack CAT – One of the toughest management entrance exams in the country. Being one amongst the premier B School, Jaipuria Institute of Management accepts CAT score as one of its component in the selection process.

The process being very stringent, a limited number of aspirants are able to make through the selection process. In our endeavor to encourage and nurture management aspirants, we share lots of CAT related material in form of articles, ebooks, videos and even organize free career-oriented workshops. So, this time here we are with Reading Comprehension with their solutions.

Happy Reading!



Instructions

The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

The word 'anarchy' comes from the Greek 'anarchy', meaning contrary to authority or without a ruler, and was used in a derogatory sense until 1840, when it was adopted by Pierre-Joseph Proudhon to describe his political and social ideology. Proudhon argued that organization without government was both possible and desirable. In the evolution of political ideas, anarchism can be seen as an ultimate projection of both liberalism and socialism, and the differing strands of anarchist thought can be related to their emphasis on one or the other of these.

Historically, anarchism arose not only as an explanation of the gulf between the rich and the poor in any community, and of the reason why the poor have been obliged to fight for their share of a common inheritance, but as a radical answer to the question 'What went wrong?' that followed the ultimate outcome of the French Revolution. It had ended not only with a reign of terror and the emergence of a newly rich ruling caste, but with a new adored emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, strutting through his conquered territories.

The anarchists and their precursors were unique on the political Left in affirming that workers and peasants, grasping the chance that arose to bring an end to centuries of exploitation and tyranny, were inevitably betrayed by the new class of politicians, whose first priority was to re-establish a centralized state power. After every revolutionary uprising, usually won at a heavy cost for ordinary populations, the new rulers had no hesitation in applying violence and terror, a secret police, and a professional army to maintain their control.

For anarchists the state itself is the enemy, and they have applied the same interpretation to the outcome of every revolution of the 19th and 20th centuries. This is not merely because every state keeps a watchful and sometimes punitive eye on its dissidents, but because every state protects the privileges of the powerful.

The mainstream of anarchist propaganda for more than a century has been anarchist-communism, which argues that property in land, natural resources, and the means of production should be held in mutual control by local communities, federating for innumerable joint purposes with other communes. It differs from state socialism in opposing the concept of any central authority. Some anarchists prefer to distinguish between anarchist-communism and collectivist anarchism in order to stress the obviously desirable freedom of an individual or family to possess the resources needed for living, while not implying the right to own the resources needed by others. . . .

There are, unsurprisingly, several traditions of individualist anarchism, one of them deriving from the 'conscious egoism' of the German writer Max Stirner (1806-56), and another from a remarkable series of 19th-century American figures who argued that in protecting our own autonomy and associating with others for common advantages, we are promoting the good of all. These thinkers differed from free-market liberals in their absolute mistrust of American capitalism, and in their emphasis on mutualism.

Question 1

The author makes all of the following arguments in the passage, EXCEPT:

- A** The failure of the French Revolution was because of its betrayal by the new class of politicians who emerged from it.
- B** For anarchists, the state is the enemy because all states apply violence and terror to maintain their control.
- C** Individualist anarchism is actually constituted of many streams, all of which focus on the autonomy of the individual.
- D** The popular perception of anarchism as espousing lawlessness and violence comes from a mainstream mistrust of collectivism.

Answer: D

Question 2

The author believes that the new ruling class of politicians betrayed the principles of the French Revolution, but does not specify in what way. In the context of the passage, which statement below is the likeliest explanation of that betrayal?

- A** The new ruling class was constituted mainly of anarchists who were against the destructive impact of the Revolution on the market.
- B** The anarchists did not want a new ruling class, but were not politically strong enough to stop them.
- C** The new ruling class struck a deal with the old ruling class to share power between them.
- D** The new ruling class rode to power on the strength of the workers' revolutionary anger, but then turned to oppress that very class.

Answer: D

Question 3

Which one of the following best expresses the similarity between American individualist anarchists and free-market liberals as well as the difference between the former and the latter?

- A Both prioritise individual autonomy; but the former also emphasise mutual dependence, while the latter do not do so.
- B Both reject the regulatory power of the state; but the former favour a people's state, while the latter favour state intervention in markets.
- C Both are sophisticated arguments for capitalism; but the former argue for a morally upright capitalism, while the latter argue that the market is the only morality
- D Both are founded on the moral principles of altruism; but the latter conceive of the market as a force too mystical for the former to comprehend.

Answer: A

Question 4

Of the following sets of concepts, identify the set that is conceptually closest to the concerns of the passage.

- A Anarchism, State, Individual, Freedom.
- B Revolution, State, Strike, Egoism.
- C Revolution, State, Protection, Liberals.
- D Anarchism, Betrayal, Power, State.

Answer: A

Question 5

According to the passage, what is the one idea that is common to all forms of anarchism?

- A They all derive from the work of Pierre-Joseph Proudhon.
- B They are all opposed to the centralisation of power in the state.
- C They all focus on the primacy of the power of the individual.
- D There is no idea common to all forms of anarchism; that is why it is anarchic.

Answer: B

Instructions

The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

Few realise that the government of China, governing an empire of some 60 million people during the Tang dynasty (618-907), implemented a complex financial system that recognised grain, coins and textiles as money. . . . Coins did have certain advantages: they were durable, recognisable and provided a convenient medium of exchange, especially for smaller transactions. However, there were also disadvantages. A continuing shortage of copper meant that government mints could not produce enough coins for the entire empire, to the extent that for most of the dynasty's history, coins constituted only a tenth of the money supply. One of the main objections to calls for taxes to be paid in coin was that peasant producers who could weave cloth or grow grain - the other two major currencies of the Tang - would not be able to produce coins, and therefore would not be able to pay their taxes. . . .

As coins had advantages and disadvantages, so too did textiles. If in circulation for a long period of time, they could show signs of wear and tear. Stained, faded and torn bolts of textiles had less value than a brand new bolt. Furthermore, a full bolt had a particular value. If consumers cut textiles into smaller pieces to buy or sell something worth less than a full bolt, that, too, greatly lessened the value of the

textiles. Unlike coins, textiles could not be used for small transactions; as [an official] noted, textiles could not “be exchanged by the foot and the inch” . . .

But textiles had some advantages over coins. For a start, textile production was widespread and there were fewer problems with the supply of textiles. For large transactions, textiles weighed less than their equivalent in coins since a string of coins . . . could weigh as much as 4 kg. Furthermore, the dimensions of a bolt of silk held remarkably steady from the third to the tenth century: 56 cm wide and 12 m long . . . The values of different textiles were also more stable than the fluctuating values of coins. . . .

The government also required the use of textiles for large transactions. Coins, on the other hand, were better suited for smaller transactions, and possibly, given the costs of transporting coins, for a more local usage. Grain, because it rotted easily, was not used nearly as much as coins and textiles, but taxpayers were required to pay grain to the government as a share of their annual tax obligations, and official salaries were expressed in weights of grain. . . .

In actuality, our own currency system today has some similarities even as it is changing in front of our eyes. . . . We have cash - coins for small transactions like paying for parking at a meter, and banknotes for other items; cheques and debit/credit cards for other, often larger, types of payments. At the same time, we are shifting to electronic banking and making payments online. Some young people never use cash [and] do not know how to write a cheque . . .

Question 6

During the Tang period, which one of the following would not be an economically sound decision for a small purchase in the local market that is worth one-eighth of a bolt of cloth?

- A Making the payment with the appropriate weight of grain.
- B Paying with a faded bolt of cloth that has approximately the same value.
- C Using coins issued by the government to make the payment.
- D Cutting one-eighth of the fabric from a new bolt to pay the amount.

Answer: D

Question 7

When discussing textiles as currency in the Tang period, the author uses the words “steady” and “stable” to indicate all of the following EXCEPT:

- A reliable transportation.
- B reliable quality.
- C reliable measurements.
- D reliable supply.

Answer: A

Question 8

In the context of the passage, which one of the following can be inferred with regard to the use of currency during the Tang era?

- A Currency that deteriorated easily was not used for official work.
- B Copper coins were more valuable and durable than textiles.
- C Grains were the most used currency because of government requirements.
- D Currency usage was similar to that of modern times.

Answer: D

According to the passage, the modern currency system shares all the following features with that of the Tang, EXCEPT that:

- A it uses different materials as currency.
- B it uses different currencies for different situations.
- C its currencies fluctuate in value over time.
- D it is undergoing transformation.

Answer: D

Instructions

The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

Vocabulary used in speech or writing organizes itself in seven parts of speech (eight, if you count interjections such as Oh! and Gosh! and Fuhgeddaboudit!). Communication composed of these parts of speech must be organized by rules of grammar upon which we agree. When these rules break down, confusion and misunderstanding result. Bad grammar produces bad sentences. My favorite example from Strunk and White is this one: "As a mother of five, with another one on the way, my ironing board is always up."

Nouns and verbs are the two indispensable parts of writing. Without one of each, no group of words can be a sentence, since a sentence is, by definition, a group of words containing a subject (noun) and a predicate (verb); these strings of words begin with a capital letter, end with a period, and combine to make a complete thought which starts in the writer's head and then leaps to the reader's.

Must you write complete sentences each time, every time? Perish the thought. If your work consists only of fragments and floating clauses, the Grammar Police aren't going to come and take you away. Even William Strunk, that Mussolini of rhetoric, recognized the delicious pliability of language. "It is an old observation," he writes, "that the best writers sometimes disregard the rules of rhetoric." Yet he goes on to add this thought, which I urge you to consider: "Unless he is certain of doing well, [the writer] will probably do best to follow the rules."

The telling clause here is Unless he is certain of doing well. If you don't have a rudimentary grasp of how the parts of speech translate into coherent sentences, how can you be certain that you are doing well? How will you know if you're doing ill, for that matter? The answer, of course, is that you can't, you won't. One who does grasp the rudiments of grammar finds a comforting simplicity at its heart, where there need be only nouns, the words that name, and verbs, the words that act.

Take any noun, put it with any verb, and you have a sentence. It never fails. Rocks explode. Jane transmits. Mountains float. These are all perfect sentences. Many such thoughts make little rational sense, but even the stranger ones (Plums deify!) have a kind of poetic weight that's nice. The simplicity of noun-verb construction is useful—at the very least it can provide a safety net for your writing. Strunk and White caution against too many simple sentences in a row, but simple sentences provide a path you can follow when you fear getting lost in the tangles of rhetoric—all those restrictive and nonrestrictive clauses, those modifying phrases, those appositives and compound-complex sentences. If you start to freak out at the sight of such unmapped territory (unmapped by you, at least), just remind yourself that rocks explode, Jane transmits, mountains float, and plums deify. Grammar is . . . the pole you grab to get your thoughts up on their feet and walking.

Question 10

Which one of the following statements, if false, could be seen as supporting the arguments in the passage?

- A An understanding of grammar helps a writer decide if she/he is writing well or not.
- B Regarding grammar, women writers tend to be more attentive to method and accuracy.
- C It has been observed that writers sometimes disregard the rules of rhetoric.
- D Perish the thought that complete sentences necessarily need nouns and verbs!

Answer: D

Question 11

“Take any noun, put it with any verb, and you have a sentence. It never fails. Rocks explode. Jane transmits. Mountains float.” None of the following statements can be seen as similar EXCEPT:

- A Take any vegetable, put some spices in it, and you have a dish
- B Take an apple tree, plant it in a field, and you have an orchard.
- C A group of nouns arranged in a row becomes a sentence.
- D A collection of people with the same sports equipment is a sports team.

Answer: A

Question 12

Which one of the following quotes best captures the main concern of the passage?

- A “The telling clause here is Unless he is certain of doing well.”
- B “Bad grammar produces bad sentences.”
- C “Strunk and White caution against too many simple sentences in a row, but simple sentences provide a path you can follow when you fear getting lost in the tangles of rhetoric . . .”
- D “Nouns and verbs are the two indispensable parts of writing. Without one of each, no group of words can be a sentence . . .”

Answer: B

Question 13

All of the following statements can be inferred from the passage EXCEPT that:

- A sentences do not always have to be complete.
- B the subject-predicate relation is the same as the noun-verb relation.
- C the primary purpose of grammar is to ensure that sentences remain simple.
- D “Grammar Police” is a metaphor for critics who focus on linguistic rules.

Answer: C

Question 14

Inferring from the passage, the author could be most supportive of which one of the following practices?

- A The availability of language software that will standardise the rules of grammar as an aid to writers.
- B A campaign demanding that a writer’s creative license should allow the breaking of grammatical rules.
- C A Creative Writing course that focuses on how to avoid the use of rhetoric.
- D The critique of standardised rules of punctuation and capitalisation.

Answer: A

Instructions

The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

In the late 1960s, while studying the northern-elephant-seal population along the coasts of Mexico and California, Burney Le Boeuf and his colleagues couldn't help but notice that the threat calls of males at some sites sounded different from those of males at other sites. . . . That was the first time dialects were documented in a nonhuman mammal. . . .

All the northern elephant seals that exist today are descendants of the small herd that survived on Isla Guadalupe [after the near extinction of the species in the nineteenth century]. As that tiny population grew, northern elephant seals started to recolonize former breeding locations. It was precisely on the more recently colonized islands where Le Boeuf found that the tempos of the male vocal displays showed stronger differences to the ones from Isla Guadalupe, the founder colony.

In order to test the reliability of these dialects over time, Le Boeuf and other researchers visited Año Nuevo Island in California—the island where males showed the slowest pulse rates in their calls—every winter from 1968 to 1972. “What we found is that the pulse rate increased, but it still remained relatively slow compared to the other colonies we had measured in the past” Le Boeuf told me.

At the individual level, the pulse of the calls stayed the same: A male would maintain his vocal signature throughout his lifetime. But the average pulse rate was changing. Immigration could have been responsible for this increase, as in the early 1970s, 43 percent of the males on Año Nuevo had come from southern rookeries that had a faster pulse rate. This led Le Boeuf and his collaborator, Lewis Petrinovich, to deduce that the dialects were, perhaps, a result of isolation over time, after the breeding sites had been recolonized. For instance, the first settlers of Año Nuevo could have had, by chance, calls with low pulse rates. At other sites, where the scientists found faster pulse rates, the opposite would have happened—seals with faster rates would have happened to arrive first.

As the population continued to expand and the islands kept on receiving immigrants from the original population, the calls in all locations would have eventually regressed to the average pulse rate of the founder colony. In the decades that followed, scientists noticed that the geographical variations reported in 1969 were not obvious anymore. . . . In the early 2010s, while studying northern elephant seals on Año Nuevo Island, [researcher Caroline] Casey noticed, too, that what Le Boeuf had heard decades ago was not what she heard now. . . . By performing more sophisticated statistical analyses on both sets of data, [Casey and Le Boeuf] confirmed that dialects existed back then but had vanished. Yet there are other differences between the males from the late 1960s and their great-great-grandsons: Modern males exhibit more individual diversity, and their calls are more complex. While 50 years ago the drumming pattern was quite simple and the dialects denoted just a change in tempo, Casey explained, the calls recorded today have more complex structures, sometimes featuring doublets or triplets. . . .

Question 15

All of the following can be inferred from Le Boeuf's study as described in the passage EXCEPT that:

- A male northern elephant seals might not have exhibited dialects had they not become nearly extinct in the nineteenth century.
- changes in population and migration had no effect on the call pulse rate of individual male northern elephant seals.
- the influx of new northern elephant seals into Año Nuevo Island would have soon made the call pulse rate of its male seals exceed that of those at Isla Guadalupe.
- the average call pulse rate of male northern elephant seals at Año Nuevo Island increased from the early 1970s till the disappearance of dialects.

Answer: C

Question 16

Which one of the following conditions, if true, could have ensured that male northern elephant seal dialects did not disappear?

- A Besides Isla Guadalupe, there was one more surviving colony with the same average male call tempo from which no migration took place.
- B The call tempo of individual male seals in host colonies changed to match the average call tempo of immigrant male seals.
- C Besides Isla Guadalupe, there was one more founder colony with the same average male call tempo from which male seals migrated to various other colonies.
- D The call tempo of individual immigrant male seals changed to match the average tempo of resident male seals in the host colony.

Answer: D

Question 17

VARC 2020

Which one of the following best sums up the overall history of transformation of male northern elephant seal calls?

- A Owing to migrations in the aftermath of near species extinction, the average call pulse rates in the recolonised breeding locations exhibited a gradual increase until they matched the tempo at the founding colony.
- B The calls have transformed from exhibiting simple composition, less individual variety, and great regional variety to complex composition, great individual variety, and less regional variety.
- C Owing to migrations in the aftermath of near species extinction, the calls have transformed from exhibiting complex composition, less individual variety, and great regional variety to simple composition, less individual variety, and great regional variety.
- D The calls have transformed from exhibiting simple composition, great individual variety, and less regional variety to complex composition, less individual variety, and great regional variety.

Answer: B

Question 18

From the passage it can be inferred that the call pulse rate of male northern elephant seals in the southern rookeries was faster because:

- A the male northern elephant seals of Isla Guadalupe with faster call pulse rates might have been the original settlers of the southern rookeries.
- B a large number of male northern elephant seals migrated from the southern rookeries to Año Nuevo Island in the early 1970s.
- C a large number of male northern elephant seals from Año Nuevo Island might have migrated to the southern rookeries to recolonise them.
- D the calls of male northern elephant seals in the southern rookeries have more sophisticated structures, containing doublets and triplets.

Answer: A

Instructions

For the following questions answer them individually

Question 19

Five jumbled up sentences, related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd one out and key in the number of the sentence as your answer:

1. For feminists, the question of how we read is inextricably linked with the question of what we read.
2. Elaine Showalter's critique of the literary curriculum is exemplary of this work.
3. Androcentric literature structures the reading experience differently depending on the gender of the reader.
4. The documentation of this realization was one of the earliest tasks undertaken by feminist critics.
5. More specifically, the feminist inquiry into the activity of reading begins with the realization that the literary canon is androcentric, and that this has a profoundly damaging effect on women readers.

Answer:3

The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

For nearly a century most psychologists have embraced one view of intelligence. Individuals are born with more or less intelligence potential (I.Q.); this potential is heavily influenced by heredity and difficult to alter; experts in measurement can determine a person's intelligence early in life, currently from paper-and-pencil measures, perhaps eventually from examining the brain in action or even scrutinizing his/her genome. Recently, criticism of this conventional wisdom has mounted. Biologists ask if speaking of a single entity called "intelligence" is coherent and question the validity of measures used to estimate heritability of a trait in humans, who, unlike plants or animals, are not conceived and bred under controlled conditions.

- A Biologists have questioned the long-standing view that 'intelligence' is a single entity and the attempts to estimate it's heritability.
- B Biologists have criticised that conventional wisdom that individuals are born with more or less intelligence potential.
- C Biologists have started questioning psychologists' view of 'intelligence' as a measurable immutable characteristic of an individual.
- D Biologists have questioned the view that 'intelligence' is a single entity and the ways in which what is inherited

Answer: A

Question 21

The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer:

1. Relying on narrative structure alone, indigenous significances of nineteenth century San folktales are hard to determine.
2. Using their supernatural potency, benign shamans transcend the levels of the San cosmos in order to deal with social conflict and to protect material resources and enjoy a measure of respect that sets them apart from ordinary people.
3. Selected tales reveal that they deal with a form of spiritual conflict that has social implications and concern conflict between people and living or dead malevolent shamans.
4. Meaning can be elicited, and the tales contextualized, by probing beneath the narrative of verbatim, original-language records and exploring the connotations of highly significant words and phrases.

Answer:1432

Question 22

The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

As Soviet power declined, the world became to some extent multipolar, and Europe strove to define an independent identity. What a journey Europe has undertaken to reach this point. It had in every century changed its internal structure and invented new ways of thinking about the nature of international order. Now at the culmination of an era, Europe, in order to participate in it, felt obliged to set aside the political mechanisms through which it had conducted its affairs for three and a half centuries. Impelled also by the desire to cushion the emergent unification of Germany, the new European Union established a common currency in 2002 and a formal political structure in 2004. It proclaimed a Europe united, whole, and free, adjusting its differences by peaceful mechanisms.

- A Europe has consistently changed in keeping with the changing world order and that has culminated in a united Europe.
- B The establishment of a formal political structure in Europe was hastened by the unification of Germany and the emergence of a multipolar world.
- C Europe has consistently changed its internal structure to successfully adapt to the changing world order.
- D Europe has chosen to lower political and economic heterogeneity, in order to adapt itself to an emerging multi-polar world.

Answer: D

The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

For years, movies and television series like Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) paint an unrealistic picture of the “science of voices.” In the 1994 movie *Clear and Present Danger* an expert listens to a brief recorded utterance and declares that the speaker is “Cuban, aged 35 to 45, educated in the [...] eastern United States.” The recording is then fed to a supercomputer that matches the voice to that of a suspect, concluding that the probability of correct identification is 90%. This sequence sums up a good number of misimpressions about forensic phonetics, which have led to errors in real-life justice. Indeed, that movie scene exemplifies the so-called “CSI effect”—the phenomenon in which judges hold unrealistic expectations of the capabilities of forensic science.

- A Although voice recognition is often presented as evidence in legal cases, its scientific basis can be shaky.
- B Voice recognition as used in many movies to identify criminals has been used to identify criminals in real life also.
- C Movies and televisions have led to the belief that the use of forensic phonetics in legal investigations is robust and fool proof.
- D Voice recognition has started to feature prominently in crime-scene intelligence investigations because of movies and television series.

Answer: C

Question 24

The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer:

1. Tensions and sometimes conflict remain an issue in and between the 11 states in South East Asia (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam).
2. China’s rise as a regional military power and its claims in the South China Sea have become an increasingly pressing security concern for many South East Asian states.
3. Since the 1990s, the security environment of South East Asia has seen both continuity and profound changes.
4. These concerns cause states from outside the region to take an active interest in South East Asian security.

Answer:3124

Question 25

Five jumbled up sentences, related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd one out and key in the number of the sentence as your answer:

1. Talk was the most common way for enslaved men and women to subvert the rules of their bondage, to gain more agency than they were supposed to have.
2. Even in conditions of extreme violence and unfreedom, their words remained ubiquitous, ephemeral, irrepressible, and potentially transgressive.
3. Slaves came from societies in which oaths, orations, and invocations carried great potency, both between people and as a connection to the all-powerful spirit world.
4. Freedom of speech and the power to silence may have been preeminent markers of white liberty in Colonies, but at the same time, slavery depended on dialogue: slaves could never be completely muted.
5. Slave-owners obsessed over slave talk, though they could never control it, yet feared its power to bind and inspire—for, as everyone knew, oaths, whippers, and secret conversations bred conspiracy and revolt.

Answer:3

The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

Mode of transportation affects the travel experience and thus can produce new types of travel writing and perhaps even new “identities.” Modes of transportation determine the types and duration of social encounters; affect the organization and passage of space and time; . . . and also affect perception and knowledge—how and what the traveler comes to know and write about. The completion of the first U.S. transcontinental highway during the 1920s . . . for example, inaugurated a new genre of travel literature about the United States—the automotive or road narrative. Such narratives highlight the experiences of mostly male protagonists “discovering themselves” on their journeys, emphasizing the independence of road travel and the value of rural folk traditions.

Travel writing’s relationship to empire building— as a type of “colonialist discourse”—has drawn the most attention from academicians. Close connections have been observed between European (and American) political, economic, and administrative goals for the colonies and their manifestations in the cultural practice of writing travel books. Travel writers’ descriptions of foreign places have been analyzed as attempts to validate, promote, or challenge the ideologies and practices of colonial or imperial domination and expansion. Mary Louise Pratt’s study of the genres and conventions of 18th- and 19th-century exploration narratives about South America and Africa (e.g., the “monarch of all I survey” trope) offered ways of thinking about travel writing as embedded within relations of power between metropole and periphery, as did Edward Said’s theories of representation and cultural imperialism. Particularly Said’s book, *Orientalism*, helped scholars understand ways in which representations of people in travel texts were intimately bound up with notions of self, in this case, that the Occident defined itself through essentialist, ethnocentric, and racist representations of the Orient. Said’s work became a model for demonstrating cultural forms of imperialism in travel texts, showing how the political, economic, or administrative fact of dominance relies on legitimating discourses such as those articulated through travel writing. . . .

Feminist geographers’ studies of travel writing challenge the masculinist history of geography by questioning who and what are relevant subjects of geographic study and, indeed, what counts as geographic knowledge itself. Such questions are worked through ideological constructs that posit men as explorers and women as travelers—or, conversely, men as travelers and women as tied to the home. Studies of Victorian women who were professional travel writers, tourists, wives of colonial administrators, and other (mostly) elite women who wrote narratives about their experiences abroad during the 19th century have been particularly revealing. From a “liberal” feminist perspective, travel presented one means toward female liberation for middle- and upper-class Victorian women. Many studies from the 1970s onward demonstrated the ways in which women’s gendered identities were negotiated differently “at home” than they were “away,” thereby showing women’s self-development through travel. The more recent post structural turn in studies of Victorian travel writing has focused attention on women’s diverse and fragmented identities as they narrated their travel experiences, emphasizing women’s sense of themselves as women in new locations, but only as they worked through their ties to nation, class, whiteness, and colonial and imperial power structures

Question 1

From the passage, we can infer that feminist scholars’ understanding of the experiences of Victorian women travellers is influenced by all of the following EXCEPT scholars’:

- A awareness of gender issues in Victorian society
- B knowledge of class tensions in Victorian society
- C perspective that they bring to their research
- D awareness of the ways in which identity is formed

Answer: B

Question 2

American travel literature of the 1920s:

- A showed participation in local traditions.
- B developed the male protagonists’ desire for independence
- C presented travellers’ discovery of their identity as different from others.
- D celebrated the freedom that travel gives.

Question 3

From the passage, it can be inferred that scholars argue that Victorian women experienced self-development through their travels because:

- A they developed a feminist perspective of the world.
- B they were from the progressive middle- and upper-classes of society.
- C they were on a quest to discover their diverse identities.
- D their identity was redefined when they were away from home.

Answer: D

Question 4

According to the passage, Said's book, "Orientalism":

- A argued that cultural imperialism was more significant than colonial domination.
- B explained the difference between the representation of people and the actual fact
- C illustrated how narrow minded and racist westerners were
- D demonstrated how cultural imperialism was used to justify colonial domination.

Answer: D

Question 5

From the passage, we can infer that travel writing is most similar to:

- A political journalism
- B feminist writing
- C autobiographical writing.
- D historical fiction.

Answer: C

Instructions

The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

Although one of the most contested concepts in political philosophy, human nature is something on which most people seem to agree. By and large, according to Rutger Bregman in his new book *Humankind*, we have a rather pessimistic view - not of ourselves exactly, but of everyone else. We see other people as selfish, untrustworthy and dangerous and therefore we behave towards them with defensiveness and suspicion. This was how the 17th-century philosopher Thomas Hobbes conceived our natural state to be, believing that all that stood between us and violent anarchy was a strong state and firm leadership. But in following Hobbes, argues Bregman, we ensure that the negative view we have of human nature is reflected back at us. He instead puts his faith in Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the 18th-century French thinker, who famously declared that man was born free and it was civilisation - with its coercive powers, social classes and restrictive laws - that put him in chains.

Hobbes and Rousseau are seen as the two poles of the human nature argument and it's no surprise that Bregman strongly sides with the Frenchman. He takes Rousseau's intuition and paints a picture of a prelapsarian idyll in which, for the better part of 300,000 years, *Homo sapiens* lived a fulfilling life in harmony with nature . . . Then we discovered agriculture and for the next 10,000 years it was all property, war, greed and injustice. . . .

It was abandoning our nomadic lifestyle and then domesticating animals, says Bregman, that brought about infectious diseases such as measles, smallpox, tuberculosis, syphilis, malaria, cholera and plague. This may be true, but what Bregman never really seems to get to grips with is that pathogens were not the only things that grew with agriculture - so did the number of humans. It's one thing to maintain friendly relations and a property-less mode of living when you're 30 or 40 hunter-gatherers following the food. But life becomes a great deal more complex and knowledge far more extensive when there are settlements of many thousands. "Civilisation has become synonymous with peace and progress and wilderness with war and decline," writes Bregman. "In reality, for most of human existence, it was the other way around." Whereas traditional history depicts the collapse of civilisations as "dark ages" in which everything gets worse, modern scholars, he claims, see them more as a reprieve, in which the enslaved gain their freedom and culture flourishes. Like much else in this book, the truth is probably somewhere between the two stated positions.

In any case, the fear of civilisational collapse, Bregman believes, is unfounded. It's the result of what the Dutch biologist Frans de Waal calls "veneer theory" - the idea that just below the surface, our bestial nature is waiting to break out. . . . There's a great deal of reassuring human decency to be taken from this bold and thought-provoking book and a wealth of evidence in support of the contention that the sense of who we are as a species has been deleteriously distorted. But it seems equally misleading to offer the false choice of Rousseau and Hobbes when, clearly, humanity encompasses both.

Question 6

None of the following views is expressed in the passage EXCEPT that:

- A** most people agree with Hobbes' pessimistic view of human nature as being intrinsically untrustworthy and selfish.
- B** Hobbes and Rousseau disagreed on the fundamental nature of humans, but both believed in the need for a strong state.
- C** Bregman agrees with Hobbes that firm leadership is needed to ensure property rights and regulate strife.
- D** the author of the review believes in the veneer theory of human nature.

Answer: A

Question 7

According to the passage, the "collapse of civilisations" is viewed by Bregman as:

- A** a time that enables changes in societies and cultures.
- B** a sign of regression in society's trajectory.
- C** resulting from a breakdown in the veneer of human nature.
- D** a temporary phase which can be rectified by social action.

Answer: A

Question 8

According to the author, the main reason why Bregman contrasts life in pre-agricultural societies with agricultural societies is to:

- A** advocate the promotion of less complex societies as a basis for greater security and prosperity
- B** highlight the enormous impact that settled farming had on population growth
- C** make the argument that an environmentally conscious lifestyle is a more harmonious way of living.
- D** bolster his argument that people are basically decent, but progress as we know it can make them selfish.

Question 9

The author has differing views from Bregman regarding:

- A the role of agriculture in the advancement of knowledge.
- B the role of pathogens in the spread of infectious diseases.
- C a property-less mode of living being socially harmonious.
- D a civilised society being coercive and unjust.

Answer: D

Instructions

The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

I've been following the economic crisis for more than two years now. I began working on the subject as part of the background to a novel, and soon realized that I had stumbled across the most interesting story I've ever found. While I was beginning to work on it, the British bank Northern Rock blew up, and it became clear that, as I wrote at the time, "If our laws are not extended to control the new kinds of super-powerful, super-complex, and potentially super risky investment vehicles, they will one day cause a financial disaster of global-systemic proportions." . . . I was both right and too late, because all the groundwork for the crisis had already been done—though the sluggishness of the world's governments, in not preparing for the great unraveling of autumn 2008, was then and still is stupefying. But this is the first reason why I wrote this book: because what's happened is extraordinarily interesting. It is an absolutely amazing story, full of human interest and drama, one whose byways of mathematics, economics, and psychology are both central to the story of the last decades and mysteriously unknown to the general public. We have heard a lot about "the two cultures" of science and the arts—we heard a particularly large amount about it in 2009, because it was the fiftieth anniversary of the speech during which C. P. Snow first used the phrase. But I'm not sure the idea of a huge gap between science and the arts is as true as it was half a century ago—it's certainly true, for instance, that a general reader who wants to pick up an education in the fundamentals of science will find it easier than ever before. It seems to me that there is a much bigger gap between the world of finance and that of the general public and that there is a need to narrow that gap, if the financial industry is not to be a kind of priesthood, administering to its own mysteries and feared and resented by the rest of us. Many bright, literate people have no idea about all sorts of economic basics, of a type that financial insiders take as elementary facts of how the world works. I am an outsider to finance and economics, and my hope is that I can talk across that gulf.

My need to understand is the same as yours, whoever you are. That's one of the strangest ironies of this story: after decades in which the ideology of the Western world was personally and economically individualistic, we've suddenly been hit by a crisis which shows in the starkest terms that whether we like it or not—and there are large parts of it that you would have to be crazy to like—we're all in this together. The aftermath of the crisis is going to dominate the economics and politics of our societies for at least a decade to come and perhaps longer.

Question 10

Which one of the following, if true, would be an accurate inference from the first sentence of the passage?

- A The author's preoccupation with the economic crisis is not less than two years old.
- B The author is preoccupied with the economic crisis because he is being followed.
- C The economic crisis outlasted the author's preoccupation with it.
- D The author has witnessed many economic crises by travelling a lot for two years

Answer: A

Question 11

Which one of the following best captures the main argument of the last paragraph of the passage?

- A The aftermath of the crisis will strengthen the central ideology of individualism in the Western world
- B Whoever you are, you would be crazy to think that there is no crisis.
- C In the decades to come, other ideologies will emerge in the aftermath of the crisis.
- D The ideology of individualism must be set aside in order to deal with the crisis.

Answer: D

Question 12

According to the passage, the author is likely to be supportive of which one of the following programmes?

- A Economic policies that are more sensitively calibrated to the fluctuations of the market.
- B An educational curriculum that promotes economic research
- C An educational curriculum that promotes developing financial literacy in the masses.
- D The complete nationalisation of all financial institutions

Answer: C

Question 13

All of the following, if true, could be seen as supporting the arguments in the passage, EXCEPT:

- A The failure of economic systems does not necessarily mean the failure of their ideologies.
- B The difficulty with understanding financial matters is that they have become so arcane
- C The story of the economic crisis is also one about international relations, global financial security, and mass psychology.
- D Economic crises could be averted by changing prevailing ideologies and beliefs.

Answer: A

Question 14

Which one of the following, if false, could be seen as supporting the author's claims?

- A The huge gap between science and the arts has steadily narrowed over time.
- B The economic crisis was not a failure of collective action to rectify economic problems.
- C Most people are yet to gain any real understanding of the workings of the financial world.
- D The global economic crisis lasted for more than two years.

Answer: B

The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

[There is] a curious new reality: Human contact is becoming a luxury good. As more screens appear in the lives of the poor, screens are disappearing from the lives of the rich. The richer you are, the more you spend to be off-screen. . . .

The joy — at least at first — of the internet revolution was its democratic nature. Facebook is the same Facebook whether you are rich or poor. Gmail is the same Gmail. And it's all free. There is something mass market and unappealing about that. And as studies show that time on these advertisement-support platforms is unhealthy, it all starts to seem déclassé, like drinking soda or smoking cigarettes, which wealthy people do less than poor people. The wealthy can afford to opt out of having their data and their attention sold as a product. The poor and middle class don't have the same kind of resources to make that happen.

Screen exposure starts young. And children who spent more than two hours a day looking at a screen got lower scores on thinking and language tests, according to early results of a landmark study on brain development of more than 11,000 children that the National Institutes of Health is supporting. Most disturbingly, the study is finding that the brains of children who spend a lot of time on screens are different. For some kids, there is premature thinning of their cerebral cortex. In adults, one study found an association between screen time and depression. . . .

Tech companies worked hard to get public schools to buy into programs that required schools to have one laptop per student, arguing that it would better prepare children for their screen-based future. But this idea isn't how the people who actually build the screen-based future raise their own children. In Silicon Valley, time on screens is increasingly seen as unhealthy. Here, the popular elementary school is the local Waldorf School, which promises a back-to-nature, nearly screen-free education. So as wealthy kids are growing up with less screen time, poor kids are growing up with more. How comfortable someone is with human engagement could become a new class marker.

Human contact is, of course, not exactly like organic food But with screen time, there has been a concerted effort on the part of

Silicon Valley behemoths to confuse the public. The poor and the middle class are told that screens are good and important for them and their children. There are fleets of psychologists and neuroscientists on staff at big tech companies working to hook eyes and minds to the screen as fast as possible and for as long as possible. And so human contact is rare. . . .

There is a small movement to pass a "right to disconnect" bill, which would allow workers to turn their phones off, but for now a worker can be punished for going offline and not being available. There is also the reality that in our culture of increasing isolation, in which so many of the traditional gathering places and social structures have disappeared, screens are filling a crucial void.

Question 15

Which of the following statements about the negative effects of screen time is the author least likely to endorse?

- A It is shown to have adverse effects on young children's learning
- B It increases human contact as it fills an isolation void.
- C It can cause depression in viewers.
- D It is designed to be addictive.

Answer: B

Question 16

The statement "The richer you are, the more you spend to be off-screen" is supported by which other line from the passage?

- A "Gmail is the same Gmail. And it's all free."
- B "How comfortable someone is with human engagement could become a new class marker."
- C "... screens are filling a crucial void."
- D "... studies show that time on these advertisement-support platforms is unhealthy .

Question 17

The author claims that Silicon Valley tech companies have tried to “confuse the public” by:

- A** pushing for greater privacy while working with advertisement-support platforms to mine data.
- B** concealing the findings of psychologists and neuroscientists on screen-time use from the public.
- C** developing new work-efficiency programmes while lobbying for the “right to disconnect” bill.
- D** promoting screen time in public schools while opting for a screen-free education for their own children.

Answer: D

Question 18

The author is least likely to agree with the view that the increase in screen-time is fuelled by the fact that:

- A** screens provide social contact in an increasingly isolating world
- B** there is a growth in computer-based teaching in public schools
- C** some workers face punitive action if they are not online
- D** with falling costs, people are streaming more content on their devices

Answer: D

Instructions

For the following questions answer them individually

Question 19

The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer:

1. Complex computational elements of the CNS are organized according to a “nested” hierarchic criterion; the organization is not permanent and can change dynamically from moment to moment as they carry out a computational task.
2. Echolocation in bats exemplifies adaptation produced by natural selection; a function not produced by natural selection for its current use is exaptation -- feathers might have originally arisen in the context of selection for insulation.
3. From a structural standpoint, consistent with exaptation, the living organism is organized as a complex of “Russian Matryoshka Dolls” -- smaller structures are contained within larger ones in multiple layers.
4. The exaptation concept, and the Russian-doll organization concept of living beings deduced from studies on evolution of the various apparatuses in mammals, can be applied for the most complex human organ: the central nervous system (CNS).

Answer:2431

Question 20

The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer:

1. It advocated a conservative approach to antitrust enforcement that espouses faith in efficient markets and voiced suspicion regarding the merits of judicial intervention to correct anticompetitive practices.
2. Many industries have consistently gained market share, the lion's share - without any official concern; the most successful technology companies have grown into veritable titans, on the premise that they advance 'public interest'.
3. That the new anticompetitive risks posed by tech giants like Google, Facebook, and Amazon, necessitate new legal solutions could be attributed to the dearth of enforcement actions against monopolies and the few cases challenging mergers in the USA.
4. The criterion of 'consumer welfare standard' and the principle that antitrust law should serve consumer interests and that it should protect competition rather than individual competitors was an antitrust law introduced by, and named after, the 'Chicago school'.

Answer: 41235.

Question 21

Five jumbled up sentences, related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd one out and key in the number of the sentence as your answer:

1. Machine learning models are prone to learning human-like biases from the training data that feeds these algorithms.
2. Hate speech detection is part of the on-going effort against oppressive and abusive language on social media.
3. The current automatic detection models miss out on something vital: context.
4. It uses complex algorithms to flag racist or violent speech faster and better than human beings alone.
5. For instance, algorithms struggle to determine if group identifiers like "gay" or "black" are used in offensive or prejudiced ways because they're trained on imbalanced datasets with unusually high rates of hate speech.

Answer:3

Question 22

Five jumbled up sentences, related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd one out and key in the number of the sentence as your answer:

1. The logic of displaying one's inner qualities through outward appearance was based on a distinction between being a woman and being feminine.
2. 'Appearance' became a signifier of conduct - to look was to be and conformity to the feminine ideal was measured by how well women could use the tools of the fashion and beauty industries.
3. The makeover-centric media sets out subtly and not-so-subtly, 'good' and 'bad' ways to be a woman, layering these over inequalities of race and class.
4. The denigration of working-class women and women of colour often centres on their perceived failure to embody feminine beauty.
5. 'Woman' was considered a biological category, but femininity was a 'process' by which women became specific kinds of women.

Answer:3

Question 23 The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage. The dominant hypotheses in modern science believe that language evolved to allow humans to exchange factual information about the physical world. But an alternative view is that language evolved, in modern humans at least, to facilitate social bonding. It increased our ancestors' chances of survival by enabling them to hunt more successfully or to cooperate more extensively. Language meant that things could be explained and that plans and past experiences could be shared efficiently.

- A** Since its origin, language has been continuously evolving to higher forms, from being used to identify objects to ensuring human survival by enabling our ancestors to bond and cooperate.
- B** From the belief that humans invented language to process factual information, scholars now think that language was the outcome of the need to ensure social cohesion and thus human survival.
- C** Most believe that language originated from a need to articulate facts, but others think it emerged from the need to promote social cohesion and cooperation, thus enabling human survival.

- Experts are challenging the narrow view of the origin of language, as being merely used to describe facts and label objects, to being necessary to promote more complex interactions among humans

Answer: C

Question 24

The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Aesthetic political representation urges us to realize that 'the representative has autonomy with regard to the people represented' but autonomy then is not an excuse to abandon one's responsibility. Aesthetic autonomy requires cultivation of 'disinterestedness' on the part of actors which is not indifference. To have disinterestedness, that is, to have comportment towards the beautiful that is devoid of all ulterior references to use - requires a kind of aesthetic commitment; it is the liberation of ourselves for the release of what has proper worth only in itself.

- A Aesthetic political representation advocates autonomy for the representatives manifested through disinterestedness which itself is different from indifference.
- B Aesthetic political representation advocates autonomy for the representatives drawing from disinterestedness, which itself is different from indifference.
- C Disinterestedness is different from indifference as the former means a non-subjective evaluation of things which is what constitutes aesthetic political representation
- D Disinterestedness, as distinct from indifference, is the basis of political representation.

Answer: B

Question 25

The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Brown et al. (2001) suggest that 'metabolic theory may provide a conceptual foundation for much of ecology just as genetic theory provides a foundation for much of evolutionary biology'. One of the successes of genetic theory is the diversity of theoretical approaches and models that have been developed and applied. A Web of Science (v. 5.9. Thomson Reuters) search on genetic* + theor* + evol* identifies more than 12000 publications between 2005 and 2012. Considering only the 10 most-cited papers within this 12000 publication set, genetic theory can be seen to focus on genome dynamics, phylogenetic inference, game theory and the regulation of gene expression. There is no one fundamental genetic equation, but rather a wide array of genetic models, ranging from simple to complex, with differing inputs and outputs, and divergent areas of application, loosely connected to each other through the shared conceptual foundation of heritable variation.

- A Genetic theory has evolved to spawn a wide range of theoretical models and applications but Metabolic theory need not evolve in a similar manner in the field of ecology
- B Genetic theory has a wide range of theoretical approaches and application and is foundational to evolutionary biology and Metabolic theory has the potential to do the same for ecology
- C Genetic theory has a wide range of theoretical approaches and applications and Metabolic theory must have the same in the field of ecology
- D Genetic theory provides an example of how a range of theoretical approaches and applications can make a theory successful.

Answer: B

Question 26

The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer:

1. Each one personified a different aspect of good fortune.
2. The others were versions of popular Buddhist gods, Hindu gods and Daoist gods.
3. Seven popular Japanese deities, the Shichi Fukujin, were considered to bring good luck and happiness.
4. Although they were included in the Shinto pantheon, only two of them, Daikoku and Ebisu, were indigenous Japanese gods.

Answer:3142

Previous Year Verbal Ability for CAT

CAT 2019

Introduction:

Scientists recently discovered that Emperor Penguins-one of Antarctica's most celebrated species-employ a particularly unusual technique for surviving the daily chill. As detailed in an article published today in the journal *Biology Letters*, the birds minimize heat loss by keeping the outer surface of their plumage below the temperature of the surrounding air. At the same time, the penguins' thick plumage insulates their body and keeps it toasty

The researchers analyzed thermographic images ..taken over roughly a month during June 2008. During that period, the average air temperature was 0.32 degrees Fahrenheit. At the same time, the majority of the plumage covering the penguins' bodies was even colder. The surface of their warmest body part, their feet, was an average 17.6 degrees Fahrenheit, but the plumage on their heads, chests and backs were -1.84, 7.24 and -9.76 degrees Fahrenheit respectively. Overall, nearly the entire outer surface of the penguins' bodies was below freezing at all times, except for their eyes and beaks. The scientists also used a computer simulation to determine how much heat was lost or gained from each part of the body - and discovered that by keeping their outer surface below air temperature, the birds might paradoxically be able to draw very slight amounts of heat from the air around them. The key to their trick is the difference between two different types of heat transfer: radiation and convection.

The penguins do lose internal body heat to the surrounding air through thermal radiation, just as our bodies do on a cold day. Because their bodies (but not surface plumage) are warmer than the surrounding air, heat gradually radiates outward over time, moving from a warmer material to a colder one. To maintain body temperature while losing heat, penguins, like all warm-blooded animals, rely on the metabolism of food. The penguins, though, have an additional strategy. Since their outer plumage is even colder than the air, the simulation showed that they might gain back a little of this heat through thermal convection-the transfer of heat via the

Previous Year Verbal Ability for CAT

CAT 2019

movement of a fluid (in this case, the air) As the cold Antarctic air cycles around their bodies, slightly warmer air comes into contact with the plumage and donates minute amounts of heat back to the penguins, then cycles away at a slightly colder temperature. Most of this heat, the researchers note, probably doesn't make it all the way through the plumage and back to the penguins' bodies, but it could make a slight difference.

At the very least, the method by which a penguin's plumage wicks heat from the bitterly cold air that surrounds it helps to cancel out some of the heat that's radiating from its interior. And given the Emperors' unusually demanding breeding cycle, every bit of warmth counts Since [penguins trek as far as 75 miles to the coast to breed and male penguins] don't eat anything during [the incubation period of 64 days], conserving calories by giving up as little heat as possible is absolutely crucial.

Question 1:

Which of the following can be responsible for Emperor Penguins losing body heat?

- A. Food metabolism.
- B. Plumage.
- C. Reproduction process.
- D. Thermal convection.

Correct Answer. C

Explanation:

Option C: In the last paragraph of the passage, it has been mentioned that heat is very important for the breeding of Emperor Penguins. So it can be inferred that this conserved heat might be used in the reproductive process of Emperor Penguins. Hence C is the answer.

Previous Year Verbal Ability for CAT

CAT 2019

Question 2:

All of the following, if true, would negate the findings of the study reported in the passage EXCEPT:

- A. The penguins' plumage were made of a material that did not allow any heat transfer through convection or radiation.
- B. The average temperature of the feet of penguins in the month of June 2008 were found to be 2.76 degrees Fahrenheit.
- C. The average air temperature recorded during the month of June 2008 in the area of study were -10 degrees Fahrenheit.
- D. The temperature of the plumage on the penguins' heads, chests and backs were found to be 1.84, 7.24 and 9.76 degrees Fahrenheit respectively.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Option B: Since the transfer of heat takes place through the plumage, variation in the average temperature of feet will not affect the conclusions of the study.

Hence B is the answer

Question 3:

In the last sentence of paragraph 3, "slightly warmer air" and "at a slightly colder temperature" refer to __ AND __ respectively:

- A. The cold Antarctic air whose temperature is higher than that of the plumage AND the fall in temperature of the Antarctic air after it has transmitted some heat to the plumage.
- B. The cold Antarctic air which becomes warmer because of the heat radiated out from penguins' bodies AND the fall in temperature of the surrounding air after thermal convection.
- C. The air trapped in the plumage which is warmer than the Antarctic air AND the fall in temperature of the trapped plumage air after it radiates out some heat.

Previous Year Verbal Ability for CAT

CAT 2019

D. The air inside penguins' bodies kept warm because of metabolism of food AND the fall in temperature of the body air after it transfers some heat to the plumage.

Correct Answer. A

Explanation:

Option A: Consider the sentence: "As the cold Antarctic air cycles around their bodies, slightly warmer air comes into contact with the plumage and donates minute amounts of heat back to the penguins, then cycles away at a slightly colder temperature." It has been mentioned in the passage that the plumage temperature is lower than the surrounding air temperature. Hence, "slightly warmer air" refers to the Antarctica air that surrounds the plumage and "at a slightly colder temperature" refers to the fall in temperature due to heat loss

Introduction:

Contemporary internet shopping conjures a perfect storm of choice anxiety. Research has consistently held that people who are presented with a few options make better, easier decisions than those presented with many

Helping consumers figure out what to buy amid an endless sea of choice online has become a cottage industry unto itself. Many brands and retailers now wield marketing buzzwords such as curation, differentiation, and discovery as they attempt to sell an assortment of stuff targeted to their ideal customer. Companies find such shoppers through the data gold mine of digital advertising, which can catalog people by gender, income level, personal interests, and more. Since Americans have lost the ability to sort through the sheer volume of the consumer choices available to them, a ghost now has to be in the retail machine, whether it's an algorithm, an influencer, or some snazzy ad tech to help a product follow you

Previous Year Verbal Ability for CAT

CAT 2019

around the internet. Indeed, choice fatigue is one reason so many people gravitate toward lifestyle influencers on Instagram—the relentlessly chic young moms and perpetually vacationing 20-somethings—who present an aspirational worldview, and then recommend the products and services that help achieve it....

For a relatively new class of consumer-products start-ups, there's another method entirely. Instead of making sense of a sea of existing stuff, these claim to disrupt stuff as Americans know it. Casper (mattresses), Glossier (makeup), Away (suitcases), and many others have sprouted up to offer consumers freedom from choice: The companies have a few aesthetically pleasing and supposedly highly functional options, usually at mid-range prices. They're selling nice things, but maybe more importantly, they're selling a confidence in those things, and an ability to opt out of the stuff rat race...

One-thousand-dollar mattresses and \$300 suitcases might solve choice anxiety for a certain tier of consumer, but companies that sell them, along with those that attempt to massage the larger stuff economy into something navigable, are still just working within a consumer market that's broken in systemic ways. The presence of so much stuff in America might be more valuable if it were more evenly distributed, but stuff's creators tend to focus their energy on those who already have plenty. As options have expanded for people with disposable income, the opportunity to buy even basic things such as fresh food or quality diapers has contracted for much of America's lower classes. For start-ups that promise accessible simplicity, their very structure still might eventually push them toward overwhelming variety. Most of these companies are based on hundreds of millions of dollars of venture capital, the investors of which tend to expect a steep growth rate that can't be achieved by selling one great mattress or one great sneaker. Casper has expanded into bedroom furniture and bed linens. Glossier, after years of marketing itself as no-makeup makeup that requires little skill to apply, recently launched a full line of glittering color cosmetics. There may be no way to opt out of stuff by buying into the right thing.

Previous Year Verbal Ability for CAT

CAT 2019

Question 4:

Which one of the following best sums up the overall purpose of the examples of Casper and Glossier in the passage?

- A. They are exceptions to a dominant trend in consumer markets.
- B. They are increasing the purchasing power of poor Americans.
- C. They might transform into what they were exceptions to.
- D. They are facilitating a uniform distribution of commodities in the market.

Answer. C

Explanation:

Option C: These startups initially started as an exception to offering a wide variety of choices. Yet, due to limited customers, and want of steep growth, they might transform into a type of company that they intended to disrupt. Hence, this option correctly resounds the authors fear and captures his purpose of argument. Hence C is correct

Question 5:

All of the following, IF TRUE, would weaken the author's claims EXCEPT:

- A. The annual sale of companies that hired lifestyle influencers on Instagram for marketing their products were 40% less than those that did not.
- B. Product options increased market competition, bringing down the prices of commodities, which, in turn, increased purchasing power of the poor.
- C. The empowerment felt by purchasers in buying a commodity were directly proportional to the number of options they could choose from.
- D. The annual sales growth of companies with fewer product options were higher than that of companies which curated their products for target consumers.

Correct Answer. D

Previous Year Verbal Ability for CAT

CAT 2019

Explanation:

Option D: This option is largely vague and leaves unanswered questions behind. Also, the author doesn't make any comparison between the growth of these two type of companies. The author only says that, as the company targets only few consumers, for the want of growth they are likely to expand to variety of products. As there is no information about their growths, this option neither strengthens nor weakens the claim.

Question 6:

Based on the passage, all of the following can be inferred about consumer behaviour EXCEPT that:

- A. Having too many product options can be overwhelming for consumers.
- B. Too many options have made it difficult for consumers to trust products.
- C. Consumers tend to prefer products by start-ups over those by established companies.
- D. Consumers are susceptible to marketing images that they see on social media.

Answer. C

Explanation:

Option C: There is no such comparison in the passage that shows people's preference towards products by startups.

Hence, option C cannot be inferred.

Question 7:

A new food brand plans to launch a series of products in the American market. Which of the following product plans is most likely to be supported by the author of the passage?

Previous Year Verbal Ability for CAT

CAT 2019

- A. A range of 10 products priced between \$5 and \$10.
- B. A range of 25 products priced between \$5 and \$10.
- C. A range of 10 products priced between \$10 and \$25.
- D. A range of 25 products priced between \$10 and \$25.

Answer. A

Explanation:

The author principally argues for lesser choices. He says that choice anxiety is overwhelming and people make better decisions with lesser choices.

He is also critical about companies targeting only certain band of well-off customers and critiques them for not offering products for consumers of lower classes.

Hence, a product group with lesser variety, and targeted to lower class customers would be most acceptable to author.

Question 8:

Which of the following hypothetical statements would add the least depth to the author's prediction of the fate of start-ups offering few product options?

A An exponential surge in their sales enables start-ups to meet their desired profit goals without expanding their product catalogue.

B Start-ups with few product options are no exception to the American consumer market that is deeply divided along class lines.

C With Casper and Glossier venturing into new product ranges, their regular customers start losing trust in the companies and their products. D With the motive of promoting certain rival companies, the government to double the tax-rates for these start-ups.

Corrected Answer. A

Explanation:

Previous Year Verbal Ability for CAT

CAT 2019

By "Depth", the author suggests a scenario that adds value or supplies additional information which supports his claim.

Option A: If the startup products grow exponentially and are self-sufficient and do not expand to other products, this scenario directly contradicts the author's probable prediction of these companies. Hence, it would add the least depth to the author's argument.

A is the correct answer.

Introduction:

As defined by the geographer Yi-Fu Tuan, topophilia is the affective bond between people and place. His 1974 book set forth a wide-ranging exploration of how the emotive ties with the material environment vary greatly from person to person and in intensity, subtlety, and mode of expression. Factors influencing one's depth of response to the environment include cultural background, gender, race, and historical circumstance, and Tuan also argued that there is a biological and sensory element. Topophilia might not be the strongest of human emotions-indeed, many people feel utterly indifferent toward the environments that shape their lives - but when activated it has the power to elevate a place to become the carrier of emotionally charged events or to be perceived as a symbol.

Aesthetic appreciation is one way in which people respond to the environment. A brilliantly colored rainbow after gloomy afternoon showers, a busy city street alive with human interaction-one might experience the beauty of such landscapes that had seemed quite ordinary only moments before or that are being newly discovered. This is quite the opposite of a second topophilic bond, namely that of the acquired taste for certain landscapes and places that one knows well. When a place is home, or when a space has become the locus of memories or the means of defining a

Previous Year Verbal Ability for CAT

CAT 2019

livelihood, it frequently evokes a deeper set of attachments than those predicated purely on the visual. A third response to the environment also depends on the human senses but may be tactile and olfactory, namely a delight in the feel and smell of air, water, and the earth. Topophilia and its very close conceptual twin, sense of place-is an experience that, however elusive, has inspired recent architects and planners. Most notably, new urbanism seeks to counter the perceived placelessness of modern suburbs and the decline of central cities through neo-traditional design motifs. Although motivated by good intentions, such attempts to create places rich in meaning are perhaps bound to disappoint. As Tuan noted, purely aesthetic responses often are suddenly revealed, but their intensity rarely is longlasting. Topophilia is difficult to design for and impossible to quantify, and its most articulate interpreters have been self-reflective philosophers such as Henry David Thoreau, evoking a marvelously intricate sense of place at Walden Pond, and Tuan, describing his deep affinity for the desert. Topophilia connotes a positive relationship, but it often is useful to explore the darker affiliations between people and place. Patriotism, literally meaning the love of one's terra patria or homeland, has long been cultivated by governing elites for a range of nationalist projects, including war reparation and ethnic cleansing. Residents of upscale residential developments have disclosed how important it is to maintain their community's distinct identity, often by casting themselves in a superior social position and by reinforcing class and racial differences. And just as a beloved landscape is suddenly revealed, so too may landscapes of fear cast a dark shadow over a place that makes one feel a sense of dread or anxiety-or topophobia.

Question 9:

In the last paragraph, the author uses the example of "Residents of upscale residential developments" to illustrate the:

A. Manner in which environments are designed to minimise the social

Previous Year Verbal Ability for CAT

CAT 2019

exclusion of their clientele.

- B. Introduction of nationalist projects by such elites to produce a sense of dread or topophobia.
- C. Social exclusivism practised by such residents in order to enforce a sense of racial or class superiority.
- D. Sensitive response to race and class problems in upscale residential developments.

Answer: C

Explanation:

"Residents of upscale residential developments have disclosed how important it is to maintain their community's distinct identity, often by casting themselves in a superior social position and by reinforcing class and racial differences."

Option C: Residents of upscale residential developments intend to promote their community by reinforcing sectarian differences. This exclusivism (Practice of being exclusive/important) is clearly captured in the option. Hence C is correct

Question 10:

Which one of the following comes closest in meaning to the author's understanding of topophilia?

- A. Scientists have found that most creatures, including humans, are either born with or cultivate a strong sense of topography.
- B. The tendency of many cultures to represent their land as "motherland" or "fatherland" may be seen as an expression of their topophilia
- C. Nomadic societies are known to have the least affinity for the lands through which they traverse because they tend to be topophobic.
- D. The French are not overly patriotic, but they will refuse to use English as far as possible, even when they know it well.

Previous Year Verbal Ability for CAT

CAT 2019

Answer. B

Explanation:

Option B: "Topophilia connotes a positive relationship, but it often is useful to explore the darker affiliations between people and place. Patriotism, literally meaning the love of one's terra patria or homeland". Despite a negative tone, the author says that one form of topophilia is patriotism. Even though not wholesome, it comes "closest" to the author's understanding of topophilia among the given options.

Hence B is correct.

Question 11:

Which one of the following best captures the meaning of the statement, "Topophilia is difficult to design for and impossible to quantify .. :'?"

A. The deep anomie of modern urbanisation led to new urbanism's intricate sense of place.

B. Architects have to objectively quantify spaces and hence cannot be topophilic.

C. Philosopher-architects are uniquely suited to develop topophilic design

D. People's responses to their environment are usually subjective and so cannot be rendered in design.

Answer. D

Explanation:

Option D: Since every person has different topophilic attractions and have different responses to aesthetics. Capturing topophilia in the form of design is impossible. This option elaborates and explains the reason for quantifying topophilia.

Hence option D is correct.

