

CAT 2008 VARC Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :150 Minuets	Maximum Marks :180	Total questions :60
----------------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------

1. There are three houses on each side of the road.
2. These six houses are labeled as P, Q, R, S, T and U.
3. The houses are of different colours, namely, Red, Blue, Green, Orange, Yellow and White.
4. The houses are of different heights.
5. T, the tallest house, is exactly opposite to the Red coloured house.
6. The shortest house is exactly opposite to the Green coloured house.
7. U, the Orange coloured house, is located between P and S.
8. R, the Yellow coloured house, is exactly opposite to P.
9. Q, the Green coloured house, is exactly opposite to U.
10. P, the White coloured house, is taller than R, but shorter than S and Q.

Q1. In 1849, a poor Bavarian immigrant named Levi Strauss... (choose the logically connected sentences)

- (1) B only
- (2) B and C
- (3) A and B
- (4) A only
- (5) A, B and D

Correct answer: (5) A, B and D

Solution: Logical order: A (introduces Levi Strauss) → B (tells location San Francisco) → D (mentions dry goods business) → E (business became Levi Strauss & Co.). C is extra detail not necessary for the core sequence.

Quick Tip

When arranging facts, maintain chronological order and relevance to the main subject.

Q2. In response to the allegations and condemnation pouring in, Nike... (choose the logically connected sentences)

- (1) D and E
- (2) D only
- (3) A and E
- (4) A and D
- (5) B, C and E

Correct answer: (5) B, C and E

Solution: B (implemented changes) → C (context of global labour concerns) → E (result: industry leader in employee relations). Fits flow from problem to action to outcome.

Quick Tip

Look for a cause–action–result structure when ordering statements in response to an issue.

Q3. Charges and countercharges mean nothing... (choose the logically connected sentences)

- (1) A only
- (2) C only
- (3) A and C
- (4) A, C and D
- (5) D only

Correct answer: (4) A, C and D

Solution: A (introduces irrelevance of charges) → C (explains seriousness for govt) → D (states people still stranded). This is a logical progression.

Quick Tip

Check each option for logical consistency and ensure continuity of subject.

Q4. I did not know what to make of you... (choose the logically connected sentences)

- (1) A only
- (2) A and B
- (3) A and E
- (4) D only
- (5) A and D

Correct answer: (3) A and E

Solution: A (expresses uncertainty) → E (adds concessive contrast: although you did make effort). Fits the contrastive relationship naturally.

Quick Tip

When two statements are linked, check for transitions like “although” to spot contrastive pairing.

Q5. Anita wore a beautiful broach(A)/brooch(B) on the lapel of her jacket.

If you want to complain about the amenities in your neighbourhood, please meet your councillor(A)/counselor(B).

I would like your advice(A)/advise(B) on which job I should choose.

The last scene provided a climactic(A)/climatic(B) ending to the film.

Jeans that flair(A)/flare(B) at the bottom are in fashion these days.

- (1) BBAAB

- (2) BABAB
- (3) ABAAB
- (4) ABBAA
- (5) BAABA

Correct answer: (1) BBAAB

Solution: - brooch (B) = ornamental pin.

- councillor (A) = elected member.
- advice (A) = noun.
- climactic (A) = climax-related.
- flare (B) = widen out. Sequence = BBAAB.

Quick Tip

Check part of speech and meaning; some pairs differ by grammatical function, others by definition.

Q6. The cake had lots of currents(A)/currants(B) and nuts in it.

If you engage in such exceptional(A)/exceptionable(B) behaviour, I will be forced to punish you.

He has the same capacity as an adult to consent(A)/assent(B) to surgical treatment.

The minister is obliged(A)/compelled(B) to report regularly to a parliamentary board.

His analysis of the situation is far too sanguine(A)/genuine(B).

- (1) BBAAA
- (2) BBAAA
- (3) BBBBA
- (4) ABBBA
- (5) BABAB

Correct answer: (3) BBBBA

- currants (B) = dried fruit.
- exceptionable (B) = objectionable.
- consent (A) = agree.
- compelled (B) = forced.
- sanguine (A) = optimistic. Sequence = BBBBA.

Quick Tip

Watch for subtle meaning changes—especially false friends like “exceptional” vs “exceptionable.”

Q7. She managed to bite back the ironic(A)/caustic(B) retort on the tip of her tongue.
 He gave an impassioned and valid(A)/cogent(B) plea for judicial reform.
 I am not adverse(A)/averse(B) to helping out.
 The coup(A)/coupe(B) broke away as the train climbed the hill.
 They heard the bells pealing(A)/pealing(B) far and wide.

- (1) BBAAB
- (2) BBABB
- (3) BAABB
- (4) ABBAB
- (5) BBBBA

Correct answer: (2) BBABB

- caustic (B) = biting remark.
- cogent (B) = convincing.
- averse (B) = opposed.
- coup (A) = sudden action.
- pealing (B) = ringing. Sequence = BBABB.

Quick Tip

Context usually makes the correct synonym clear—check tone and subject.

Q8. We were not successful in defusing(A)/diffusing(B) the Guru's ideas.

The students baited(A)/bated(B) the instructor with irrelevant questions.

The hoard(A)/horde(B) rushed into the campus.

The prisoner's interment(A)/internment(B) came to an end with his early release.

The hockey team could not deal with his unsociable(A)/unsocial(B) tendencies.

(1) BABBA

(2) BBABB

(3) BABAA

(4) ABBAB

(5) AABBA

Correct answer: (1) BABBA

- defusing (A) = remove hostility.

- bated (B) = restrained.

- horde (B) = crowd.

- internment (B) = imprisonment.

- unsociable (A) = not inclined to socialize. Sequence = BABBA.

Quick Tip

Distinguish between similar-sounding words by checking literal vs figurative meanings.

Q9. Run — (1) I must run fast to catch up with him.

(2) Our team scored a goal against the run of play.

(3) You can't run over him like that.

(4) The newly released book is enjoying a popular run.

(5) This film is a run-of-the-mill production.

Solution: Options (1) to (4) are valid uses of "run" in literal and idiomatic contexts: - (1)

Literal meaning: move fast on foot.

- (2) Idiom: "against the run of play" (sports phrase).
- (3) Phrasal verb "run over" meaning physically pass over or figuratively dominate.
- (4) "A popular run" refers to a period of popularity.

Option (5) "run-of-the-mill" is correct idiomatically but here "run" is not acting independently — it's part of a fixed compound where its base meaning is absent.

Quick Tip

Check whether the core word retains its individual meaning in idioms; if it's purely part of a fixed phrase, it may not count in polysemy questions.

Q10. Round — (1) The police fired a round of tear gas shells.

- (2) The shop is located round the corner.
- (3) We took a ride on the merry-go-round.
- (4) The doctor is on a hospital round.
- (5) I shall proceed further only after you come round to admitting it.

Solution: All five sentences use valid meanings of "round": - (1) "A round" = a volley or set of shots.

- (2) "Round the corner" = nearby.
- (3) "Merry-go-round" = a circular amusement ride.
- (4) "On a hospital round" = regular visits to patients.
- (5) "Come round" = change opinion or recover consciousness.

Quick Tip

Words with many senses (polysemous words) can apply in military, spatial, entertainment, and figurative contexts.

Q11. Buckle — (1) After the long hike our knees were beginning to buckle.

(2) The horse suddenly broke into a buckle.

(3) The accused did not buckle under police interrogation.

(4) Sometimes, an earthquake can make a bridge buckle.

(5) People should learn to buckle up as soon as they get into a car.

Solution: - (1) "Knees beginning to buckle" = give way physically.

- (3) "Buckle under" = yield to pressure.

- (4) "Bridge buckle" = collapse or bend under stress.

- (5) "Buckle up" = fasten seatbelt.

Option (2) is incorrect — "buckle" is not a type of horse gait.

Quick Tip

Discard options where the supposed meaning doesn't exist in standard usage; verify idiomatic uses.

Q12. File — (1) You will find the paper in the file under C.

(2) I need to file an insurance claim.

(3) The cadets were marching in a single file.

(4) File your nails before you apply nail polish.

(5) When the parade was on, a soldier broke the file.

Solution: All five are correct: - (1) "File" = folder of papers.

- (2) "File" = submit formally.

- (3) "Single file" = one behind another.

- (4) "File" = smooth or shape with a tool.

- (5) "Broke the file" = disrupted the formation.

Quick Tip

Polysemy mastery involves recognizing both literal and metaphorical applications of a word across domains.

Q13. The genocides in Bosnia and Rwanda, apart from being mis-described in the most sinister and _____ manner as ‘ethnic cleansing’, were also blamed, in further hand-washing rhetoric, on something dark and interior to _____ and perpetrators alike.

- (1) innovative; communicator
- (2) enchanting; leaders
- (3) disingenuous; victims
- (4) exigent; exploiters
- (5) tragic; sufferers

Correct answer: (3) disingenuous; victims

Solution: ”Disingenuous” means insincere, which fits the description of mislabeling genocide. The victims are the ones suffering, making the phrase ”victims and perpetrators alike” logical in context. Other options either break meaning or tone.

Quick Tip

Look for tone alignment: in serious topics, vocabulary must match the gravity and intended criticism.

Q14. As navigators, calendar makers, and other _____ of the night sky accumulated evidence to the contrary, ancient astronomers were forced to _____ that certain bodies might move in circles about points, which in turn moved in circles about the earth.

- (1) scrutinizers; believe
- (2) observers; agree
- (3) scrutinizers; suggest

(4) observers; concede

(5) students; conclude

Correct answer: (4) observers; concede

Solution: "Observers" fits for people studying the sky. "Concede" fits because they had to reluctantly accept evidence against established belief.

Quick Tip

When both words are missing, check subject logic first, then find the verb that matches the described attitude or reaction.

Q15. Every human being, after the first few days of his life, is a product of two factors: on the one hand, there is his _____ endowment; and on the other hand, there is the effect of environment, including _____.

(1) constitutional; weather

(2) congenital; education

(3) personal; climate

(4) economic; learning

(5) genetic; pedagogy

Correct answer: (2) congenital; education

Solution: "Congenital" means present from birth, fitting "endowment." "Education" is an environmental factor shaping a person. Other combinations are awkward or illogical.

Quick Tip

In analogy-type blanks, first match the tone and meaning of the first blank to the category (innate vs acquired).

Q16. Exhaustion of natural resources, destruction of individual initiative by governments, control over men's minds by central _____ of education and propaganda are some of the major evils which appear to be on the increase as a result of the impact of science upon minds suited by _____ to an earlier kind of world.

- (1) tenets; fixation
- (2) aspects; inhibitions
- (3) institutions; inhibitions
- (4) organs; traditions
- (5) departments; repulsion

Correct answer: (3) institutions; inhibitions

Solution: "Institutions" of education is a standard collocation. "Inhibitions" describes mental attitudes resistant to change, fitting the idea of being suited to an older world.

Quick Tip

Check for standard collocations first — they often decide the correct pairing in double-blank questions.

Q17. Most people at their first consultation take a furtive look at the surgeon's hands in the hope of reassurance. Based on this, Henry Perowne loses a number of cases each year. He knows it's about to happen before the patient does: the downward glance, repeated questions, overemphatic thanks during retreat to the door. Which statement explains his loss of cases?

- (1) Other people do not communicate due to their poor observation.
- (2) Other patients don't like what they see but are ignorant of their right to go elsewhere.
- (3) But Perowne himself is not concerned.
- (4) But others will take their place, he thought.
- (5) These hands are steady enough, but they are large.

Correct answer: (5) These hands are steady enough, but they are large.

Solution: The passage focuses on the patients' observation of the surgeon's hands. Their large size might cause hesitation despite being steady. This matches the context of patients deciding against surgery with him.

Quick Tip

When selecting the answer, focus on the specific visual cue mentioned and its potential interpretation by others.

Q18. Trade protectionism, disguised as concern for the climate, is raising its head. Which statement summarises the author's main point?

- (1) Climate change is evoked to bring trade protectionism through the back door.
- (2) OECD countries are taking refuge in climate change issues to erect trade barriers.
- (3) Climate change concerns have come as a convenient stick to beat the rising trade power of China and India.
- (4) Defenders of global economic status quo are posing as climate change champions.
- (5) Today's climate change champions are the perpetrators of global economic inequity.

Correct answer: (1) Climate change is evoked to bring trade protectionism through the back door.

Solution: The passage asserts that climate change is being used as a pretext for trade barriers. This matches option (1) precisely, as it describes the hidden intent behind the climate change rhetoric.

Quick Tip

When multiple options are similar, choose the one that captures the essence without adding extra assumptions.

Q19. Mattancherry is Indian Jewry's most famous settlement, symbolising religious tolerance and peace. Which statement best captures this idea?

- (1) Mattancherry represents the perfect picture of peaceful co-existence.
- (2) India's Jews have almost never suffered discrimination except for colonizers.
- (3) Jews in India were always tolerant.
- (4) Religious tolerance has always been only a façade.
- (5) The pretty pastel streets are very popular with tourists.

Correct answer: (1) Mattancherry represents the perfect picture of peaceful co-existence.

Solution: The description of Mattancherry focuses on harmony, history, and peaceful coexistence. Option (1) summarises the intended depiction accurately without extra detail.

Quick Tip

Look for the core theme repeated in descriptive sentences — here it's peaceful coexistence.

Q20. Given cultural and intellectual interconnections, the question of what is 'Western' and what is 'Eastern' is hard to decide. Which statement reflects the author's conclusion?

- (1) Thoughts are not the kind of things that can be easily categorized.
- (2) Though 'occidentalism' and 'orientalism' have many adherents, the dichotomy has little meaning.
- (3) 'East is East and West is West' has been discredited.
- (4) Compartmentalizing thoughts is often desirable.
- (5) The purity of a thought is the kind of thing to which 'purity' happens easily.

Correct answer: (1) Thoughts are not the kind of things that can be easily categorized.

Solution: The passage highlights the difficulty in classifying thoughts as purely Western or Eastern, supporting the conclusion that such categorization is inherently flawed.

Quick Tip

When a passage questions a dichotomy, the correct answer often rejects rigid categorization entirely.

Passage:

When I was little, children were bought two kinds of ice cream, sold from those white wagons with canoe-pies made of silvery metal: either the two-cent cone or the four-cent ice-cream pie. The two-cent cone was very small, in fact it could fit comfortably into a child's hand, and it was made by taking the ice cream from its container with a special scoop and piling it on the cone. Granny always suggested I eat only a part of the cone, then throw away the pointed end, because it had been touched by the vendor's hand (though that was the best part, nice and crunchy, and it was regularly eaten in secret, after a pretence of discarding it).

The four-cent pie was made by a special little machine, also silvery, which pressed two disks of sweet biscuit against a cylindrical section of ice cream. First you had to thrust your tongue into the gap between the biscuits until it touched the central nucleus of ice cream; then, gradually, you ate the whole thing, the biscuit surfaces softening as they became soaked in creamy nectar. Granny had no advice to give here: in theory the pies had been touched only by the machine; in practice, the vendor had held them in his hand while giving them to us, but it was impossible to isolate the contaminated area.

I was fascinated, however, by some of my peers, whose parents bought them not a four-cent pie but two two-cent cones. These privileged children advanced proudly with one cone in their right hand and one in their left; and expertly moving their head from side to side, they licked first one, then the other. This liturgy seemed to me so sumptuously enviable, that many times I asked to be allowed to celebrate it. In vain. My elders were inflexible: a four-cent ice, yes; but two two-cent ones, absolutely no.

As anyone can see, neither mathematics nor economy nor dietetics justified this refusal. Nor did hygiene, assuming that in due course the tips of both cones were discarded. The pathetic, and obviously mendacious, justification was that a boy concerned with turning his eyes from one cone to the other was more inclined to stumble over stones, steps, or cracks in the pavement. I dimly sensed that there was another secret justification, cruelly pedagogical, but I was unable to grasp it.

Today, citizen and victim of a consumer society, a civilization of excess and waste (which the

society of the thirties was not), I realize that those dear and now departed elders were right. Two two-cent cones instead of one at four cents did not signify squandering, economically speaking, but symbolically they surely did. It was for this precise reason, that I yearned for them: because two ice creams suggested excess. And this was precisely why they were denied to me: because they looked indecent, an insult to poverty, a display of fictitious privilege, a boast of wealth. Only spoiled children ate two cones at once, those children who in fairy tales were rightly punished, as Pinocchio was when he rejected the skin and the stalk. And parents who encouraged this weakness, appropriate to little parvenus, were bringing up their children in the false theatre of “I’d like to but I can’t.” They were preparing them to turn up at tourist-class check-in with a fake Gucci bag bought from a street peddler on the beach at Rimini.

Nowadays the moralist risks seeming at odds with morality, in a world where the consumer civilization now wants even adults to be spoiled, and promises them always something more, from the wristwatch in the box of detergent to the bonus bangle sheathed, with the magazine it accompanies, in a plastic envelope. Like the parents of those ambidextrous gluttons I so envied, the consumer civilization pretends to give more, but actually gives, for four cents, what its worth for four cents. You will throw away the old transistor radio to purchase the new one, that boasts an alarm clock as well, but some inexplicable defect in the mechanism will guarantee that the radio lasts only a year. The new cheap car will have leather seats, double side mirrors adjustable from inside, and a panelled dashboard, but it will not last nearly so long as the glorious old Fiat 500, which, even when it broke down, could be started again with a kick.

The morality of the old days made Spartans of us all, while today’s morality wants all of us to be Sybarites.

Q21. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the passage?

- (1) Today’s society is more extravagant than the society of the 1930s.
- (2) The act of eating two ice cream cones is akin to a ceremonial process.
- (3) Elders rightly suggested that a boy turning eyes from one cone to the other was more likely to fall.
- (4) Despite seeming to promise more, the consumer civilization gives away exactly what the

thing is worth.

(5) The consumer civilization attempts to spoil children and adults alike.

Correct answer: (3) Elders rightly suggested that a boy turning eyes from one cone to the other was more likely to fall.

Solution: The elders' comment about stumbling was presented as a justification, but the author implies it was not valid. Therefore, inferring it as "right" is incorrect, making option (3) the one that cannot be inferred. All other statements are supported by the passage.

Quick Tip

For inference questions, eliminate options contradicted by the author's stance or described as invalid reasoning.

Q22. In the passage, the phrase "little parvenus" refers to:

- (1) naughty midgets.
- (2) old hags.
- (3) arrogant people.
- (4) young upstarts.
- (5) foolish kids.

Correct answer: (4) young upstarts.

Solution: "Parvenu" means someone newly risen in status, often arrogant. The context describes children indulged to display status, which aligns with "young upstarts."

Quick Tip

Always match figurative labels to the broader context rather than literal meanings of words.

Q23. The author pined for two two-cent cones instead of one four-cent pie because:

- (1) it made dietetic sense.
- (2) it suggested intemperance.
- (3) it was more fun.
- (4) it had a visual appeal.
- (5) he was a glutton.

Correct answer: (3) it was more fun.

Solution: The author envied the ceremony and enjoyment of switching between cones, finding it more entertaining, not for diet or appearance reasons.

Quick Tip

Distinguish between the stated emotional reason and other possible but unstated justifications.

Q24. What does the author mean by “nowadays the moralist risks seeming at odds with morality”?

- (1) The moralists of yesterday have become immoral today.
- (2) The concept of morality has changed over the years.
- (3) Consumerism is amoral.
- (4) The risks associated with immorality have gone up.
- (5) The purist’s view of morality is fast becoming popular.

Correct answer: (2) The concept of morality has changed over the years.

Solution: The author contrasts old strictness with modern indulgence, showing that what was once moral now appears outdated, reflecting a shift in moral perception.

Quick Tip

Look for contrast indicators in the passage to understand how meanings evolve over time.

Q25. According to the author, the justification for refusal to let him eat two cones was plausibly:

- (1) didactic.
- (2) dietetic.
- (3) dialectic.
- (4) diatonic.
- (5) diastolic.

Correct answer: (2) dietetic.

Solution: The refusal was linked to health and moderation — matters of diet — making “dietetic” the most accurate term.

Quick Tip

Match answer choices to the domain of reasoning used — here, diet and health link directly to “dietetic.”

Language is not a cultural artifact that we learn the way we learn to tell time or how the federal government works. Instead, it is a distinct piece of the biological makeup of our brains. Language is a complex, specialized skill, which develops in the child spontaneously, without conscious effort or formal instruction, is deployed without awareness of its underlying logic, is qualitatively the same in every individual, and is distinct from more general abilities to process information or behave intelligently. For these reasons some cognitive scientists have described language as a psychological faculty, a mental organ, a neural system, and a computational module. But I prefer the admittedly quaint term “instinct”. It conveys the idea that people know how to talk in more or less the sense that spiders know how to spin webs. Web-spinning was not invented by some unsung spider genius and does not depend on having had the right education or on having an aptitude for architecture or the construction trades. Rather, spiders spin spider webs because they have spider brains, which give them the urge to spin and the competence to succeed. Although

there are differences between webs and words, I will encourage you to see language in this way, for it helps to make sense of the phenomena we will explore.

Thinking of language as an instinct inverts the popular wisdom, especially as it has been passed down in the canon of the humanities and social sciences. Language is no more a cultural invention than is upright posture. It is not a manifestation of a general capacity to use symbols: a three-year-old, we shall see, is a grammatical genius, but is quite incompetent at the visual arts, religious iconography, traffic signs, and the other staples of the semiotics curriculum. Though language is a magnificent ability unique to *Homo sapiens* among living species, it does not call for sequestering the study of humans from the domain of biology, for a magnificent ability unique to a particular living species is far from unique in the animal kingdom. Some kinds of bats home in on flying insects using Doppler sonar. Some kinds of migratory birds navigate thousands of miles by calibrating the positions of the constellations against the time of day and year. In nature's talent show, we are simply a species of primate with our own act, a knack for communicating information about who did what to whom by modulating the sounds we make when we exhale.

Once you begin to look at language not as the ineffable essence of human uniqueness but as a biological adaptation to communicate information, it is no longer as tempting to see language as an insidious shaper of thought, and, we shall see, it is not. Moreover, seeing language as one of nature's engineering marvels — an organ with “that perfection of structure and co-adaptation which justly excites our admiration,” in Darwin's words - gives us a new respect for your ordinary Joe and the much-maligned English language (or any language). The complexity of language, from the scientist's point of view, is part of our biological birthright; it is not something that parents teach their children or something that must be elaborated in school — as Oscar Wilde said, “Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.” A preschooler's tacit knowledge of grammar is more sophisticated than the thickest style manual or the most state-of-the-art computer language system, and the same applies to all healthy human beings, even the notorious syntax-fracturing professional athlete and the, you know, like, inarticulate teenage skateboarder. Finally, since language is the product of a well-engineered biological instinct, we shall see that it is not the nutty barrel of monkeys that

entertainer columnists make it out to be.

Q26. According to the passage, which of the following does not stem from popular wisdom on language?

- (1) Language is a cultural artifact.
- (2) Language is a cultural invention.
- (3) Language is learnt as we grow.
- (4) Language is unique to *Homo sapiens*.
- (5) Language is a psychological faculty.

Correct answer: (5) Language is a psychological faculty.

Solution: Popular wisdom, as described in the passage, treats language as something cultural, learned during life, and unique to humans. The idea that it is a *psychological faculty* comes from modern cognitive science and is not part of traditional thinking. Therefore, (5) is the one that does not stem from popular wisdom.

Quick Tip

When asked to find what is “not” from popular wisdom, focus on ideas introduced as new or contrasting with tradition.

Q27. Which of the following can be used to replace the “spiders know how to spin webs” analogy as used by the author?

- (1) A kitten learning to jump over a wall.
- (2) Bees collecting nectar.
- (3) A donkey carrying a load.
- (4) A horse running a Derby.
- (5) A pet dog protecting its owner’s property.

Correct answer: (2) Bees collecting nectar.

Solution: The spider web analogy describes an instinctive biological skill, not learned through teaching. Bees collecting nectar is also an innate behavior — they do it naturally

without instruction. Other examples involve learning, training, or external influence, so they do not fit the analogy.

Quick Tip

When matching an analogy, find the option that shares the same core principle — here, an inborn, instinctive action.

Q28. According to the passage, which of the following is unique to human beings?

- (1) Ability to use symbols while communicating with one another.
- (2) Ability to communicate with each other through voice modulation.
- (3) Ability to communicate information to other members of the species.
- (4) Ability to use sound as means of communication.
- (5) All of the above.

Correct answer: (5) All of the above.

Solution: The passage points out that human language is special because it combines several unique features — symbolic communication, voice modulation, and complex information transfer. All of these abilities together distinguish humans from other animals, making (5) the correct answer.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, when all listed features are supported by the passage, choose “All of the above.”

Q29. According to the passage, complexity of language cannot be taught by parents or at school to children because:

- (1) Children instinctively know language.
- (2) Children learn the language on their own.
- (3) Language is not amenable to teaching.

- (4) Children know language better than their teachers or parents.
- (5) Children are born with the knowledge of semiotics.

Correct answer: (3) Language is not amenable to teaching.

Solution: The author explains that language is a biological instinct, part of human birthright. A child’s grasp of grammar develops naturally without formal teaching. This means its complexity cannot be “taught” in the usual sense, making (3) the accurate reason.

Quick Tip

Look for the specific reason stated in the text, not just a restatement of an effect or example.

Q30. Which of the following best summarizes the passage?

- (1) Language is unique to *Homo sapiens*.
- (2) Language is neither learnt nor taught.
- (3) Language is not a cultural invention or artifact as it is made out.
- (4) Language is instinctive ability of human beings.
- (5) Language is use of symbols unique to human beings.

Correct answer: (4) Language is instinctive ability of human beings.

Solution: The passage’s core message is that language is not cultural or learned, but an instinct — a biological adaptation humans are born with. This makes option (4) the most comprehensive summary, as it encapsulates the argument and main evidence presented.

Quick Tip

When summarizing, pick the option that captures the passage’s overall argument, not just a detail.

Passage:

To summarize the Classic Maya collapse, we can tentatively identify five strands. I acknowledge, however, that Maya archaeologists still disagree vigorously among themselves in part, because the different strands evidently varied in importance among different parts of the Maya realm; because detailed archaeological studies are available for only some Maya sites; and because it remains puzzling why most of the Maya heartland remained nearly empty of population and failed to recover after the collapse and after re-growth of forests.

With those caveats, it appears to me that one strand consisted of population growth outstripping available resources: a dilemma similar to the one foreseen by Thomas Malthus in 1798 and being played out today in Rwanda, Haiti and elsewhere. As the archaeologist David Webster succinctly puts it, "Too many farmers grew too many crops on too much of landscape." Compounding that mismatch between population and resources was the second strand: the effects of deforestation and hillside erosion, which caused a decrease in the amount of useable farmland at a time when more rather than less farmland was needed, and possibly exacerbated by an anthropogenic drought resulting from deforestation, by soil nutrient depletion and other soil problems, and by the struggle to prevent bracken ferns from overrunning the fields.

The third strand consisted of increased fighting, as more and more people fought over fewer resources. Maya warfare, already endemic, peaked just before the collapse. That is not surprising when one reflects that at least five million people, perhaps many more, were crammed into an area smaller than the US state of Colorado (104,000 square miles). That warfare would have decreased further the amount of land available for agriculture, by creating no-man's lands between principalities where it was now unsafe to farm. Bringing matters to a head was the strand of climate change. The drought at the time of the Classic collapse was not the first drought that the Maya had lived through, but it was the most severe. At the time of previous droughts, there were still uninhabited parts of the Maya landscape, and people at a site affected by drought could save themselves by moving to another site. However, by the time of the Classic collapse the landscape was now full, there was no useful unoccupied land in the vicinity on which to begin anew, and the whole population could not be accommodated in the few areas that continued to have reliable water supplies.

As our fifth strand, we have to wonder why the kings and nobles failed to recognize and solve these seemingly obvious problems undermining their society. Their attention was evidently focused on their short-term concerns of enriching themselves, waging wars, erecting monuments, competing with each other, and extracting enough food from the peasants to support all those activities. Like most leaders throughout human history, the Maya kings and nobles did not heed long-term problems, insofar as they perceived them. Finally, while we still have some other past societies to consider before we switch our attention to the modern world, we must already be struck by some parallels between the Maya and the past societies. As on Mangareva, the Maya environmental and population problems led to increasing warfare and civil strife. Similarly, on Easter Island and at Chaco Canyon, the Maya peak population numbers were followed swiftly by political and social collapse. Paralleling the eventual extension of agriculture from Easter Island's coastal lowlands to its uplands, and from the Mimbres floodplain to the hills, Copan's inhabitants also expanded from the floodplain to the more fragile hill slopes, leaving them with a larger population to feed when the agricultural boom in the hills went bust. Like Easter Island chiefs erecting ever larger statues, eventually crowned by pukao, and like Anasazi elite treating themselves to necklaces of 2,000 turquoise beads, Maya kings sought to outdo each other with more and more impressive temples, covered with thicker and thicker plaster — reminiscent in turn of the extravagant conspicuous consumption by modern American CEOs. The passivity of Easter chiefs and Maya kings in the face of the real big threats to their societies completes our list of disquieting parallels.

Q31. According to the passage, which of the following best represents the factor that has been cited by the author in the context of Rwanda and Haiti?

- (1) Various ethnic groups competing for land and other resources.
- (2) Various ethnic groups competing for limited land resources.
- (3) Various ethnic groups fighting with each other.
- (4) Various ethnic groups competing for political power.
- (5) Various ethnic groups fighting for their identity.

Correct answer: (2) Various ethnic groups competing for limited land resources.

Solution: The passage draws a parallel between population growth outstripping resources in

the Maya collapse and the situation in Rwanda and Haiti. The specific issue highlighted is the struggle over **limited land resources**, which aligns with option (2). While conflict is mentioned, the core problem here is scarcity of arable land due to overpopulation.

Quick Tip

When passages mention historical parallels, focus on the key factor being compared, not just related consequences like fighting.

Q32. By an anthropogenic drought, the author means:

- (1) A drought caused by lack of rains.
- (2) A drought caused due to deforestation.
- (3) A drought caused by failure to prevent bracken ferns from overrunning the fields.
- (4) A drought caused by actions of human beings.
- (5) A drought caused by climate changes.

Correct answer: (4) A drought caused by actions of human beings.

Solution: The prefix *anthropo-* refers to humans, and the passage specifies that deforestation, soil nutrient depletion, and land mismanagement by humans contributed to the drought. Hence, it is a drought caused by human actions, making (4) correct.

Quick Tip

When dealing with technical terms, break down their root meanings to understand the definition in context.

Q33. According to the passage, the drought at the time of Maya collapse had a different impact compared to the droughts earlier because:

- (1) The Maya kings continued to be extravagant when common people were suffering.
- (2) It happened at the time of collapse of leadership among Mayas.

(3) It happened when the Maya population had occupied all available land suited for agriculture.

(4) It was followed by internecine warfare among Mayans.

(5) Irreversible environmental degradation led to this drought.

Correct answer: (3) It happened when the Maya population had occupied all available land suited for agriculture.

Solution: The passage states that earlier droughts could be survived by moving to unoccupied land. However, during the Classic Maya collapse, the landscape was already full, leaving no land to relocate to, making the impact much more severe. This is captured by option (3).

Quick Tip

Look for contrasts in historical timelines — the difference between earlier and later events often reveals the answer.

Q34. According to the author, why is it difficult to explain the reasons for Maya collapse?

(1) Copan inhabitants destroyed all records of that period.

(2) The constant deforestation and hillside erosion have wiped out all traces of the Maya kingdom.

(3) Archaeological sites of Mayas do not provide any consistent evidence.

(4) It has not been possible to ascertain which of the factors best explains as to why the Maya Civilization collapsed.

(5) At least five million people were crammed into a small area.

Correct answer: (4) It has not been possible to ascertain which of the factors best explains as to why the Maya Civilization collapsed.

Solution: The author clearly mentions that while multiple factors have been identified, archaeologists disagree on their relative importance, and no single cause can be definitively established. This makes (4) correct.

Quick Tip

When the question asks “why is it difficult. . .,” focus on the uncertainty or disagreement expressed in the text.

Q35. Which factor has not been cited as one of the factors causing the collapse of Maya society?

- (1) Environmental degradation due to excess population.
- (2) Social collapse due to excess population.
- (3) Increased warfare among Maya people.
- (4) Climate change.
- (5) Obsession of Maya population with their own short-term concerns.

Correct answer: (2) Social collapse due to excess population.

Solution: The passage lists environmental degradation, warfare, climate change, and the ruling class’s obsession with short-term gains as causes. However, “social collapse due to excess population” is not explicitly stated — instead, social collapse is presented as a *result*, not a direct cause.

Quick Tip

Be careful to distinguish between causes and consequences when interpreting the passage.

Passage:

A remarkable aspect of art of the present century is the range of concepts and ideologies which it embodies. It is almost tempting to see a pattern emerging within the art field — or alternatively under an *a posteriori* umbrella — similar to that which exists under the umbrella of science where the general term covers a whole range of separate, though interconnecting, activities. Any parallelism is, however, in this instance at least — misleading. A scientific

discipline develops systematically once its bare tenets have been established, named and categorized as conventions. Many of the concepts of modern art, by contrast, have resulted from the almost accidental meetings of groups of talented individuals at certain times and certain places. The ideas generated by these chance meetings had twofold consequences. Firstly, a corpus of work would be produced which, in great part, remains as a concrete record of the events. Secondly, the ideas would themselves be disseminated through many different channels of communication — seeds that often bore fruit in contexts far removed from their generation. Not all movements were exclusively concerned with innovation. Surrealism, for instance, claimed to embody a kind of insight which can be present in the art of any period. This claim has been generally accepted so that a sixteenth century painting by Spranger or a mysterious photograph by Atget can legitimately be discussed in surrealist terms. Briefly, then, the concepts of modern art are of many different (often fundamentally different) kinds and resulted from the exposures of painters, sculptors and thinkers to the more complex phenomena of the twentieth century, including our ever increasing knowledge of the thought and products of earlier centuries. Different groups of artists would collaborate in trying to make sense of a rapidly changing world of visual and spiritual experience. We should hardly be surprised if no one group succeeded completely, but achievements, though relative, have been considerable. Landmarks have been established — concrete statements of position which give a pattern to a situation which could easily have degenerated into total chaos. Beyond this, new language tools have been created for those who follow — semantic systems which can provide a springboard for further explorations.

The codifying of art is often criticized. Certainly one can understand that artists are wary of being pigeon-holed since they are apt to think of themselves as individuals — sometimes with good reason. The notion of self-expression, however, no longer carries quite the weight it once did; objectivity has its defenders. There is good reason to accept the ideas codified by artists and critics, over the past sixty years or so, as having attained the status of independent existence — an independence which is not without its own value. The time factor is important here. As an art movement slips into temporal perspective, it ceases to be a living organism — becoming, rather, a fossil. This is not to say that it becomes useless or uninteresting. Just as a scientist can reconstruct the life of a prehistoric environment from the

messages codified into the structure of a fossil, so can an artist decipher whole webs of intellectual and creative possibility from the recorded structure of a “dead” art movement. The artist can match the creative patterns crystallized into this structure against the potentials and possibilities of his own time. As T.S. Eliot observed, no one starts anything from scratch; however consciously you may try to live in the present, you are still involved with a nexus of behaviour patterns bequeathed from the past. The original and creative person is not someone who ignores these patterns, but someone who is able to translate and develop them so that they conform more exactly to his — and our — present needs.

Q36. Many of the concepts of modern art have been the product of:

- (1) Ideas generated from planned deliberations between artists, painters and thinkers.
- (2) The dissemination of ideas through the state and its organizations.
- (3) Accidental interactions among people blessed with creative muse.
- (4) Patronage by the rich and powerful that supported art.
- (5) Systematic investigation, codification and conventions.

Correct answer: (3) Accidental interactions among people blessed with creative muse.

Solution: The passage states that many modern art concepts resulted from “almost accidental meetings of groups of talented individuals at certain times and certain places.” These chance encounters led to new artistic ideas and movements, rather than planned or systematic efforts. Hence, (3) best reflects this origin.

Quick Tip

Look for phrases in the passage that indicate spontaneity or chance — they point toward “accidental” rather than deliberate or systematic creation.

Q37. In the passage, the word ‘fossil’ can be interpreted as:

- (1) An art movement that has ceased to remain interesting or useful.
- (2) An analogy from the physical world to indicate a historic art movement.
- (3) An analogy from the physical world to indicate the barrenness of artistic creations in the past.

- (4) An embedded codification of pre-historic life.
- (5) An analogy from the physical world to indicate the passing of an era associated with an art movement.

Correct answer: (1) An art movement that has ceased to remain interesting or useful.

Solution: The passage compares a stagnant or outdated art movement to a fossil — something no longer alive, dynamic, or relevant. This analogy emphasizes that when art loses its evolving creative essence, it becomes like a fossil: preserved but no longer active or inspiring.

Quick Tip

When interpreting metaphors, identify what qualities from the comparison object (here, a fossil) are being applied to the subject (an art movement).

Q38. In the passage, which of the following similarities between science and art may lead to erroneous conclusions?

- (1) Both, in general, include a gamut of distinct but interconnecting activities.
- (2) Both have movements not necessarily concerned with innovation.
- (3) Both depend on collaborations between talented individuals.
- (4) Both involve abstract thought and dissemination of ideas.
- (5) Both reflect complex priorities of the modern world.

Correct answer: (1) Both, in general, include a gamut of distinct but interconnecting activities.

Solution: The opening lines compare art and science by noting both cover a range of separate but interconnected activities. However, the author warns that this kind of parallelism can be misleading if taken too far. Therefore, (1) is the similarity that can lead to wrong conclusions.

Quick Tip

Check the introduction of the passage for comparisons — they often reveal the exact point the question is targeting.

Q39. The range of concepts and ideologies embodied in the art of the twentieth century is explained by:

- (1) The existence of movements such as surrealism.
- (2) Landmarks which give a pattern to the art history of the twentieth century.
- (3) New language tools which can be used for further explorations into new areas.
- (4) The fast changing world of perceptual and transcendental understanding.
- (5) The quick exchange of ideas and concepts enabled by efficient technology.

Correct answer: (4) The fast changing world of perceptual and transcendental understanding.

Solution: The passage attributes the diversity of modern art concepts to the complex phenomena of the twentieth century — including changes in perception, knowledge, and ways of understanding. This is best captured in option (4).

Quick Tip

Look for the broader cultural or intellectual context the author gives when explaining diversity in movements.

Q40. The passage uses an observation by T.S. Eliot to imply that:

- (1) Creative processes are not 'original' because they always borrow from the past.
- (2) We always carry forward the legacy of the past.
- (3) Past behaviours and thought processes recreate themselves in the present and get labeled as 'original' or 'creative'.
- (4) 'Originality' can only thrive in a 'greenhouse' insulated from the past biases.

(5) 'Innovations' and 'original thinking' interpret and develop on past thoughts to suit contemporary needs.

Correct answer: (5) 'Innovations' and 'original thinking' interpret and develop on past thoughts to suit contemporary needs.

Solution: The T.S. Eliot reference supports the idea that no creation starts from a completely blank slate — all artistic innovation is shaped by inherited ideas, which are adapted to fit present-day contexts. Option (5) expresses this most accurately.

Quick Tip

When a literary quote is used, focus on the author's explanation after the quote to find the intended implication.
