

CAT 2009 VARC Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :150 Minuets	Maximum Marks :180	Total questions :60
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Passage I:

History has shaped academic medical centers (AMCs) to perform 3 functions: patient care, research, and teaching. These 3 missions are now fraught with problems because the attempt to combine them has led to such inefficiencies as duplication of activities and personnel, inpatient procedures that could and should have been out-patient procedures, and unwieldy administrative bureaucracies.

One source of inefficiency derives from mixed lines of authority. Clinical chiefs and practitioners in AMCs are typically responsible to the hospital for practice issues but to the medical school for promotion, marketing, membership in a faculty practice plan, and educational accreditation. Community physicians with privileges at a university hospital add more complications. They have no official affiliation with the AMC's medical school connected, but their cooperation with faculty members is essential for proper patient treatment. The fragmented accountability is heightened by the fact that 3 different groups often vie for the loyalty of physicians who receive research. The medical school may wish to capitalize on the research for its educational value to students; the hospital may desire the state-of-the-art treatment methods resulting from the research; and the grant administrators may focus on the researchers' humanitarian motives. Communication among these groups is rarely coordinated, and the physicians may serve whichever group promises the best perks and ignore the rest — which inevitably strains relationships.

Another source of inefficiency is the fact that physicians have obligations to many different groups: patients, students, faculty members, referring physicians, third-party payers, and staff members, all of whom have varied expectations. Satisfying the interests of one group may alienate others. Patient care provides a common example. For the benefit of medical students, physicians may order too many tests, prolong patient visits, or encourage experimental studies of a patient. If AMC faculty physicians were more aware of how much

treatments of specific illnesses cost, and of how other institutions treat patient conditions, they would be better practitioners, and the educational and clinical care missions of AMCs would both be better served.

A bias toward specialization adds yet more inefficiency. AMCs are viewed as institutions serving the gravest cases in need of the most advanced treatments. The high number of specialty residents and the presence of burn units, blood banks, and transplant centers validate this belief. Also present at AMCs, though less conspicuous, are facilities for ordinary primary care patients. In fact, many patients choose to visit an AMC for primary care because they realize that any necessary follow-up can occur almost instantaneously. While AMCs have emphasized cutting-edge specialty medicine, their more routine medical services need development and enhancement.

A final contribution to inefficiency is organizational complacency. Until recently, most academic medical centers drew the public merely by existing. The rising presence, however, of tertiary hospitals with patient care as their only goal has immersed AMCs in a very competitive market. It is only in the past several years that AMCs have started to recognize and develop strategies to address competition.

Q1. The author's attitude toward the inefficiencies at academic medical centers is one of:

- (A) reluctant acquiescence
- (B) strident opposition
- (C) agonized indecision
- (D) reasoned criticism

Correct answer: (D) reasoned criticism

Solution: Throughout the passage, the author presents a balanced and detailed account of the inefficiencies in academic medical centers (AMCs), citing specific causes such as duplication of effort, administrative bureaucracy, and multiple lines of authority. The tone is analytical, supported by examples, and aims to highlight problems without using overly emotional or one-sided language. This aligns with a *reasoned criticism* — pointing out flaws, explaining their origins, and suggesting the need for strategic changes. The author is neither passive

(ruling out A), nor aggressive (ruling out B), nor indecisive (ruling out C).

Quick Tip

When asked about tone or attitude, focus on whether the author’s criticism is emotional, neutral, or balanced. Look for language that reveals intent without exaggeration.

Q2. The author of the passage would most likely agree with which of the following statements about primary care at AMCs?

- (A) AMCs would make more money if they focused mainly on primary care.
- (B) Burn and transplant patients need specialty care more than primary care.
- (C) AMCs offer the best primary care for most patients.
- (D) Inefficiencies at AMCs would be reduced if better primary care were offered.

Correct answer: (D) Inefficiencies at AMCs would be reduced if better primary care were offered.

Solution: The passage notes that AMCs have traditionally emphasized cutting-edge specialty medicine, while primary care facilities at AMCs are less conspicuous and sometimes inadequate. The author argues that if AMCs provided more effective primary care — including quick follow-up visits and treatment of ordinary ailments — patients could be served more efficiently, reducing delays and excessive use of specialty services. This aligns directly with (D). The author does not focus on profitability (A), merely notes the need for specialty care without comparing priorities (B), and never claims AMCs offer the *best* primary care (C).

Quick Tip

When matching an author’s likely agreement, look for statements that align with the problem-solution framework given in the passage.

Q3. The author's primary purpose in this passage is to:

- (A) discuss the rise and fall of academic medical centers
- (B) list the main failings of academic medical centers
- (C) explain that multiple lines of authority in a medical centre create inefficiencies
- (D) examine the differences between academic and other health care entities

Correct answer: (D) examine the differences between academic and other health care entities

Solution: The passage discusses academic medical centers (AMCs) in the context of their structure, roles, and functions, contrasting these with non-academic or community health care entities. While inefficiencies and operational issues are mentioned, they serve to highlight how AMCs differ from other health care organizations in responsibilities, governance, and challenges. This comparative framing makes (D) the best answer — the author's primary goal is to examine the differences rather than merely listing shortcomings (B) or focusing solely on authority structure (C), and it is not a historical account (A).

Quick Tip

Look for contrasts or comparisons between entities — if the author repeatedly juxtaposes two types of organizations, the primary purpose is often comparative.

Q4. The author implies which of the following about faculty physicians at AMCs?

- (A) Most of them lack good business sense.
- (B) They put patients' physical health above their hospitals' monetary concerns.
- (C) They sometimes focus on education at the expense of patient care.
- (D) They lack official affiliation with the medical schools connected to AMCs.

Correct answer: (C) They sometimes focus on education at the expense of patient care.

Solution: The passage describes how faculty physicians at AMCs divide their time among patient care, teaching, and research. It notes that the emphasis on training new doctors and

fulfilling academic duties can sometimes reduce the time and attention available for patient care. This implies that in some situations, educational responsibilities can take precedence over direct patient treatment, making (C) the best choice.

The passage does not explicitly say they lack business sense (A), consistently prioritize patient health over finances (B), or lack affiliation with the medical school (D).

Quick Tip

In RC inference questions, identify trade-offs the author mentions — here, the trade-off is between teaching duties and patient care.

Passage II:

Founded at the dawn of the modern industrial era, the nearly forgotten Women’s Trade Union League (WTUL) played an instrumental line role in advancing the cause of working women through the early part of the twentieth century. In the face of considerable adversity, the WTUL made a contribution far greater than did most historical footnotes.

The organization’s successes did not come easily; conflict beset the WTUL in many forms. During those early days of American unions, organized labour was aggressively opposed by both industry and government. The WTUL, which represented a largely unskilled labour force, had little leverage against these powerful opponents. Also, because of the skill level of its workers as well as inherent societal gender bias, the WTUL had great difficulty finding allies among other unions. Even the large and powerful American Federation of Labour (AFL), which nominally took the WTUL under its wing, kept it at a distance. Because the AFL’s power stemmed from its highly skilled labour force, the organization saw little economic benefit in working with the WTUL. The affiliation provided the AFL with political cover, allowing it to claim support for women workers; in return, the WTUL gained a potent but largely absent ally.

The WTUL also had to overcome internal discord. While the majority of the group’s members were working women, a sizeable and powerful minority consisted of middle- and upper-class social reformers whose goals extended beyond labour reform. While workers

argued that the WTUL should focus its efforts on collective bargaining and working conditions, the reformers looked beyond the workplace, seeking state and national legislation aimed at education reform and urban poverty relief as well as workplace issues.

Despite these obstacles, the WTUL accomplished a great deal. The organization was instrumental in the passage of state laws mandating an eight-hour workday, a minimum wage for women, and a ban on child labour. It provided seed money to women who organized workers in specific plants and industries, and also established strike funds and soup kitchens to support striking unionists. After the tragic Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire of 1911, the WTUL launched a four-year investigation whose conclusions formed the basis of much subsequent workplace safety legislation. The organization also offered a political base for all reform-minded women, and thus helped develop the next generation of American leaders. Eleanor Roosevelt was one of many prominent figures to emerge from the WTUL.

The organization began a slow death in the late 1920s, when the Great Depression choked off its funding. The organization limped through the 1940s; the death knell eventually rang in 1950, at the onset of the McCarthy era. A turn-of-the-century labour organization dedicated to social reform, one that during its heyday was regarded by many as “radical,” stood little chance of weathering that storm. This humble ending, however, does nothing to diminish the accomplishments of an organization that is yet to receive its historical due.

Q5. The primary purpose of this passage is to:

- (A) describe the barriers confronting women in the contemporary workplace
- (B) call readers’ attention to an overlooked contributor to American history
- (C) critique the methods employed by an important labour union
- (D) rebuke historians for failing to cover the women’s labour movement adequately

Correct answer: (B) call readers’ attention to an overlooked contributor to American history

Solution: The passage highlights the Women’s Trade Union League (WTUL) and its pivotal but underappreciated role in shaping early 20th-century labor reforms. The tone is appreciative and corrective — the author seeks to restore WTUL’s place in history by recounting its struggles and successes. Phrases like “yet to receive its historical due” and “remarkably... accomplishments” make it clear the author wishes to recognize the WTUL’s

historical importance, matching option (B). The passage doesn't discuss modern barriers (A), doesn't focus on criticism (C), and doesn't attack historians directly (D).

Quick Tip

Primary purpose questions can be answered by summarizing the entire passage's tone and objective, not just individual sentences.

Q6. Which of the following best characterizes the American Federation of Labour's view of the Women's Trade Union League, as it is presented in the passage?

- (A) The WTUL was an important component of the AFL's multifront assault on industry and its treatment of workers.
- (B) Because of Eleanor Roosevelt's affiliation with the organization, the WTUL was a vehicle through which the AFL could gain access to the White House.
- (C) The WTUL was to be avoided because the radical element within it attracted unwanted government scrutiny.
- (D) The WTUL offered the AFL some political capital but little that would assist it in labour negotiations.

Correct answer: (D) The WTUL offered the AFL some political capital but little that would assist it in labour negotiations.

Solution: The passage states that the AFL "kept the WTUL at a distance" and "saw little economic benefit in working with the WTUL," but appreciated that the affiliation gave "political cover" — this supports option (D) exactly. The other options are unsupported: there's no mention of AFL relying on WTUL for strategy (A), or Roosevelt influencing AFL via WTUL (B), or that WTUL was seen as dangerously radical by the AFL (C).

Quick Tip

Use exact phrases from the passage to support your choice — "political cover" without "economic benefit" is a strong clue here.

Q7. Each of the following is cited in the passage as an accomplishment of the Women’s Trade Union League EXCEPT:

- (A) It organized a highly skilled workforce to increase its bargaining power.
- (B) It contributed to the development of a group of leaders in America.
- (C) It provided essential support to striking women.
- (D) It helped fund start-up unions for women.

Correct answer: (A) It organized a highly skilled workforce to increase its bargaining power.

Solution: The passage notes that WTUL:

- Provided monetary support and soup kitchens for striking women (C)
- Helped develop leaders like Eleanor Roosevelt (B)
- Helped fund start-up unions (D)

However, it does not mention organizing a “highly skilled workforce” — in fact, it emphasized support for unskilled women workers and that the AFL had the skilled labor base, not the WTUL. Therefore, (A) is the correct “EXCEPT” answer.

Quick Tip

In “EXCEPT” questions, verify all choices against explicit statements in the passage — eliminate the ones directly mentioned.

Passage III:

The function of strategic planning is to position a company for long-term growth and expansion in a variety of markets by analyzing its strengths and weaknesses and examining current and potential opportunities. Based on this information, the company develops strategy for itself. That strategy then becomes the basis for supporting strategies for its various departments.

This is where all too many strategic plans go astray at implementation. Recent business management surveys show that most CEOs who have a strategic plan are concerned with the potential breakdown in the implementation of the plan. Unlike 1980s corporations that blindly followed their 5-year plans, even when they were misguided, today's corporations tend to second-guess.

Outsiders can help facilitate the process, but in the final analysis, if the company doesn't make the plan, the company won't follow the plan. This was one of the problems with strategic planning in the 1980s. In that era, it was an abstract, top-down process involving only a few top corporate officers and hired guns. Number-crunching experts came into a company and generated tome-like volumes filled with a mixture of abstruse facts and grand theories which had little to do with the day-to-day realities of the company. Key middle managers were left out of planning sessions, resulting in lost opportunities and ruffled feelings.

However, more hands-on strategic planning can produce startling results. A recent survey queried more than a thousand small-to-medium sized businesses to compare companies with a strategic plan to companies without one. The survey found that companies with strategic plans had annual revenue growth of 6.2 percent as opposed to 3.8 percent for the other companies.

Perhaps most important, a strategic plan helps companies anticipate and survive change. New technology and the mobility of capital mean that markets can shift faster than ever before. Some financial analysts wonder why they should bother planning two years ahead when market dynamics might be transformed by next quarter. The fact is that it's the very pace of change that makes planning so crucial. Now, more than ever, companies have to stay alert to the marketplace. In an environment of continual and rapid change, long range planning expands options and organizational flexibility.

Q8. The primary purpose of the passage is to:

- (A) refute the idea that change is bad for a corporation's long-term health
- (B) describe how long-term planning, despite some potential pitfalls, can help a corporation to grow
- (C) compare and contrast two styles of corporate planning

(D) evaluate the strategic planning of corporate America today

Correct answer: (B) describe how long-term planning, despite some potential pitfalls, can help a corporation to grow

Solution: The passage outlines both the benefits and drawbacks of strategic planning. It acknowledges problems from the 1980s approach but ultimately stresses that strategic planning helps companies anticipate change, survive market shifts, and stay competitive. This balanced, explanatory approach matches option (B). It doesn't focus solely on disproving an idea (A), direct comparison (C), or current-day evaluation (D).

Quick Tip

Look for both the challenges and solutions presented — a balanced analysis often signals an explanatory purpose.

Q9. It can be inferred from the passage that, in general, strategic planning during the 1980s had all of the following shortcomings EXCEPT:

- (A) a reliance on outside consultants who did not necessarily understand the nuts and bolts of the business
- (B) dependence on theoretical models that did not always perfectly describe the workings of the company
- (C) an inherent weakness in the company's own ability to implement the strategic plan
- (D) an excess of information and data that made it difficult to get to key concepts

Correct answer: (C) an inherent weakness in the company's own ability to implement the strategic plan

Solution: The passage does point out that 1980s strategic planning often relied heavily on outside consultants (A) and theoretical models detached from reality (B). It also suggests that information overload (D) could obscure key ideas.

However, it does not indicate that companies had a fundamental internal inability to implement their plans — rather, the issues were about planning approach and focus. This makes (C) the correct “EXCEPT” choice.

Quick Tip

For “EXCEPT” questions, find the option that is not supported or implied in the passage — even if it sounds plausible.

Q10. The author most likely mentions the results of the survey of 1,000 companies in order to:

- (A) put forth an opposing view on strategic plans so that she can then refute it
- (B) illustrate that when strategic planning is “hands-on,” it produces uninspiring results
- (C) give a concrete example of why strategic planning did not work during the 1980s
- (D) support her contention that strategic planning when done correctly can be very successful

Correct answer: (D) support her contention that strategic planning when done correctly can be very successful

Solution: The survey showed companies with strategic plans had higher average growth rates than those without — directly reinforcing the author’s argument that strategic planning, when applied effectively, yields positive results. This matches (D). It’s not a refutation (A), a criticism of “hands-on” work (B), or a failure example (C).

Quick Tip

Surveys in RC passages often serve as evidence — note whether they support or contradict the author’s thesis.

Q11. Over the last 20 years the rate of increase in total production in Workland has been second to none in the world. However, the growth is more modest when calculated

per capita of total population. Over the last ten years progress has been much slower. If the information above is accurate, which of the following must be true?

- (A) Workland has a very large population.
- (B) Productivity per capita has not grown as fast during the past ten years.
- (C) Total production has increased faster than population growth.
- (D) The birth rate has declined.

Correct answer: (B) Productivity per capita has not grown as fast during the past ten years.

Solution: The passage says total production growth was high overall, but slower per capita in recent years. This means productivity per person increased more slowly in the last ten years compared to before. This directly supports (B). No direct data is given to confirm population size (A), relative rates (C), or birth rate trends (D).

Quick Tip

When asked what “must be true,” ensure the answer follows directly from the statements without requiring extra assumptions.

Q12. Between 1979 and 1983, the number of unincorporated business self-employed women increased five times faster than the number of self-employed men and more than three times faster than women wage-and-salary workers. Part-time self-employment among women increased more than full-time self-employment. Each of the following, if true, could help to account for this trend except:

- (A) Owning a business affords flexibility to combine work and family responsibilities.
- (B) The proportion of women studying business administration courses has grown considerable.
- (C) There are more self-employed women than men.
- (D) Unincorporated service industries have grown by 300 percent over the period; the ratio of women to men in this industry is three to one.

Correct answer: (C) There are more self-employed women than men.

Solution: The question asks for the option that does not explain the faster growth rate of self-employment among women. (C) is just a statement about totals, not about growth rates or causes of increase, hence irrelevant. The other options offer reasons linked to flexibility (A), increased business education (B), and growth of industries where women dominate (D).

Quick Tip

Distinguish between a statistic about totals and an explanation for growth rate trends — the former may be irrelevant.

Q13. There is no clear line between health and illness; it is easy to forget what it feels like to be really well and to get gradually used to often being a headache, feeling irritable, or tired. There is an unrecognized proportion of the population that has been tipped over the brink into ill health by ubiquitous contaminants. Which of the following statements best describes the purpose of the above?

- (A) The public must be encouraged to have regular medical examinations.
- (B) The public must be warned to be aware of various physical and chemical hazards.
- (C) The public must be warned to treat seriously such symptoms as headaches, irritability, and tiredness.
- (D) The medical professional is not always capable of diagnosing illness.

Correct answer: (B) The public must be warned to be aware of various physical and chemical hazards.

Solution: The passage links everyday symptoms to possible causes — namely, ubiquitous contaminants — and suggests that a segment of the population is affected without realizing it. The focus is not merely on treating symptoms (C) but on recognizing and being aware of the environmental hazards causing them, making (B) the most accurate choice.

Quick Tip

When a passage points to an external cause of illness, the purpose often involves raising awareness about those causes rather than just the symptoms.

Q14. The *further* [A] / *farther* [B] he pushed himself, the more disillusioned he grew.

For the crowds it was more of a *historical* [A] / *historic* [B] event; for their leader, it was just another day.

The old man has a healthy *distrust* [A] / *mistrust* [B] for all new technology. This film is based on a *real* [A] / *true* [B] story.

One suspects that the *compliment* [A] / *complement* [B] was backhanded.

- (A) BABAB
- (B) ABABA
- (C) BAABA
- (D) BBAAB

Correct answer: (B) ABABA

Solution: 1. Further (A) for figurative distance.

2. Historic (B) for significant event.

3. Distrust (A) — more general than “mistrust.”

4. True story (B) is idiomatic.

5. Compliment (A) — a remark of praise (even if backhanded).

Sequence: A, B, A, B, A ABABA.

Quick Tip

Even near-synonyms have preferred contexts — rely on idiomatic use for correct choice.

Q15. *Regrettably* [A] / *Regretfully* [B] I have to decline your invitation.

I am drawn to the poetic, *sensual* [A] / *sensuous* [B] quality of her paintings.

He was *besides* [A] / *beside* [B] himself with rage when I told him what I had done.

After brushing against a *stationary* [A] / *stationery* [B] truck my car turned turtle.

As the water began to rise *over* [A] / *above* [B] the danger mark, the signs of an imminent flood were clear.

(A) BAABA

(B) BBBAB

(C) AAABA

(D) BBAAB

Correct answer: (B) BBBAB

Solution: 1. Regretfully (B) — personal regret.

2. Sensuous (B) — pleasing to the senses artistically.

3. Beside himself (B) — idiomatic for extreme emotion.

4. Stationary (A) — not moving.

5. Above the danger mark (B) — correct collocation.

Sequence: B, B, B, A, B BBBAB.

Quick Tip

Context clues and collocations often determine the right choice when two words are closely related in meaning.

Q16. Choose the correct option that best represents the meaning of the word "SORT" in each given sentence:

(a) Let's sort these boys into four groups.

(b) They serve tea of a sort on these trains.

(c) Farmers of all sort attended the rally.

(d) What sort of cheese do you use in pizza?

(A) (a) arrange; (b) type; (c) kind; (d) category

(B) (a) arrange; (b) kind; (c) type; (d) category

(C) (a) arrange; (b) variety; (c) type; (d) category

(D) (a) arrange; (b) type; (c) variety; (d) category

Correct answer: (C) (a) arrange; (b) variety; (c) type; (d) category

Solution: - (a) “Sort” means to arrange in groups arrange.

- (b) “Tea of a sort” implies a kind/variety, often not of high quality variety.

- (c) “Farmers of all sort” meaning type/category of farmers type.

- (d) “What sort of cheese” refers to category/kind of cheese category.

Quick Tip

Words like “sort” have multiple meanings; context determines the exact sense.

Q17. Choose the correct option that best represents the meaning of the word ”HOST” in each given sentence:

(a) A virus has infected the host computer.

(b) Ranchi will play the host to the next national film festival.

(c) Kerala’s forests are host to a range of snakes.

(d) If you host the party, who will foot the bill?

(A) (a) receiver; (b) organizer; (c) habitat; (d) organize

(B) (a) main system; (b) organizer; (c) shelter; (d) entertain

(C) (a) primary device; (b) venue; (c) home; (d) invite

(D) (a) receiver; (b) entertainer; (c) carrier; (d) sponsor

Correct answer: (C) (a) primary device; (b) venue; (c) home; (d) invite

Solution: - (a) “Host computer” the primary device in a network that manages or serves resources.

- (b) “Play the host” act as the venue for an event.

- (c) “Forests are host to” serve as the home of various species.

- (d) “Host the party” to invite people and manage the gathering.

Thus, the meanings match option (C).

Quick Tip

In polysemy questions, pick the meaning that matches the specific usage in each sentence rather than the most general definition.

Q18. Select the one which would best fill the blanks:

Football evokes a _____ response in India compared to cricket, the almost _____ the nation.

- (A) tepid, boiling
- (B) lukewarm, electrifies
- (C) turbid, fascinating
- (D) apocryphal, genuinely fascinates

Correct answer: (B) lukewarm, electrifies

Solution: - First blank: The contrast shows football’s reception is weaker compared to cricket “lukewarm” (mild, indifferent) fits.

- Second blank: Cricket excites the entire nation “electrifies” conveys strong excitement.

Thus, (B) best matches the tone and meaning.

Quick Tip

When filling blanks, use the contrast or comparison implied in the sentence to choose the correct tone and intensity.

Q19. Identify the pair or sequence of sentences that are chronologically and logically connected to form a coherent narrative:

- A. Last Sunday, Archana had nothing to do.
- B. After waking up, she lay on the bed thinking of what to do.

- C. At 11 o'clock she took shower and got ready.
D. She spent most of the day shopping.

- (A) B and C
(B) C
(C) A and B
(D) B, C and D

Correct answer: (D) B, C and D

Solution: The logical flow of events is:

- B: She wakes up and lies on the bed thinking.
- C: Later at 11 o'clock, she showers and gets ready.
- D: She spends most of the day shopping.

While sentence A sets the background, the coherent sequence of events in order is B → C → D, making (D) the correct choice.

Quick Tip

When sequencing, focus on temporal cues (“After waking up”, “At 11 o'clock”) to establish correct order.

Q20. Which sentence(s) can serve as the concluding statement(s) for the given paragraph?

- A. Large reductions in the ozone layer, which sits about 15–30 km above the Earth, take place each winter over the polar regions, especially the Antarctic, as low temperatures allow the formation of stratospheric clouds that assist chemical reactions breaking down ozone.
- B. Industrial chemicals containing chlorine and bromine have been blamed for thinning the layer because they attack the ozone molecules, making them break apart.
- C. Many offending chemicals have now been banned.
- D. It will still take several decades before these substances have disappeared from the atmosphere.

- (A) D
- (B) B & D
- (C) A & D
- (D) A & C

Correct answer: (C) A & D

Solution: Sentence A works as a concluding remark if the paragraph builds up to explaining the phenomenon and ends by reinforcing where and how the reductions occur. Sentence D also works as a conclusion because it projects into the future, explaining how long the problem will persist even after corrective actions.

Together, A and D provide both closure on the phenomenon and forward-looking context, making option (C) correct.

Sentences B and C serve more as supporting information rather than conclusive remarks.

Quick Tip

A strong conclusion can either restate the key phenomenon in a summarizing way or provide a forward-looking implication — sometimes both are needed.