

CAT 2017 VARC Slot-1 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :390	Total questions :130
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. **Duration of Section:** 40 Minutes
2. **Total Number of Questions:** 22 Questions (as per latest pattern, may vary slightly)
3. **Section Covered:** Quantitative Aptitude (QA)
4. **Type of Questions:**
 - Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)
 - Type In The Answer (TITA) Questions – No options given, answer to be typed in
5. **Marking Scheme:**
 - +3 marks for each correct answer
 - -1 mark for each incorrect MCQ
 - No negative marking for TITA questions
6. **Syllabus Coverage:** Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Number System, Modern Math, and Mensuration
7. **Skills Tested:** Numerical ability, analytical thinking, and problem-solving

Read the passage and answer the question based on it.

Understanding where you are in the world is a basic survival skill, which is why we, like most species, come hard-wired with specialized brain areas to create cognitive maps of our surroundings. Where humans are unique, though, with the possible exception of honeybees, is that we try to communicate this understanding of the world with others. We have a long history of doing this by drawing maps – the earliest version yet discovered were scrawled on cave walls 14,000 years ago. Human cultures have been drawing them on stone tablets, papyrus, paper, and now computer screens ever since. Given such a long history of human map-making, it is perhaps surprising that it is only within the last few hundred years that north has been consistently considered to be at the top. In fact, for much of human history, north almost never appeared at the top, according to Jerry Brotton, a map historian. . . “North was rarely put at the top for the simple fact that north is where darkness comes from,” he says. “West is also very unlikely to be put at the top because west is where the sun disappears.” Confusingly, early Chinese maps seem to buck this trend. But, Brotton says, even though they did have compasses at the time, that isn’t the reason that they placed north at the top. Early Chinese compasses were actually oriented to point south, which was considered to be more desirable than the deepest, darkest north. But in Chinese maps, the emperor, who lived in the north of the country, was always put at the top of the map, with everyone else, his loyal subjects, looking up towards him. “In Chinese culture, the Emperor looks south because it’s where the winds come from, it’s a good direction. North is not very good but you are in a position of subjection to the emperor, so you look up to him,” says Brotton. Given that each culture has a very different idea of who, or what, they should look up to, it’s perhaps not surprising that there is very little consistency in which way early maps pointed. In ancient Egyptian times, the top of the world was east, the position of sunrise. Early Islamic maps favored south at the top because most of the early Muslim cultures were north of Mecca, so they imagined looking up (south) towards it. Christian maps from the same era (called Mappa Mundi) put east at the top, towards the Garden of Eden and with Jerusalem in the center. So when did everyone get together and decide that north was the top? It’s tempting to put it down to European explorers like Christopher Columbus and Ferdinand Magellan who were navigating by the North Star. But Brotton argues that these early explorers didn’t think of the world like that at all. “When Columbus describes the

world, it is in accordance with east being at the top,” he says. “Columbus says he is going towards paradise, so his mentality is from a medieval mappa mundi.” We’ve got to remember, adds Brotton, that at the time, “no one knows what they are doing and where they are going.”

1. Which one of the following best describes what the passage is trying to do?

- (A) It questions an explanation about how maps are designed.
- (B) It corrects a misconception about the way maps are designed.
- (C) It critiques a methodology used to create maps.
- (D) It explores some myths about maps.

Correct Answer: (B) It corrects a misconception about the way maps are designed.

Solution:

The passage primarily aims to correct a misconception regarding the historical development of maps, particularly the idea that the orientation of maps has always been the same, with north at the top. The passage explains that for much of human history, different cultures placed different directions at the top of their maps. It further clarifies that early European explorers, such as Columbus, did not necessarily think of north as the top direction, contrary to popular belief.

Thus, the passage’s primary goal is to correct the misconception about how the standard orientation of maps with north at the top came about.

Quick Tip

Always look for the passage’s central theme when answering such questions. Here, the focus is on correcting a common misconception rather than exploring myths or critiquing methodologies.

2. Early maps did NOT put north at the top for all the following reasons EXCEPT

- (A) North was the source of darkness
- (B) South was favoured by some emperors.
- (C) East and south were more important for religious reasons for some civilisations

(D) East was considered by some civilisations to be a more positive direction

Correct Answer: (B) South was favoured by some emperors.

Solution:

The passage explains that early maps were not consistently oriented with north at the top. The reasons for this varied across different cultures and time periods. Some of the reasons mentioned in the passage include:

- North was often associated with darkness, making it less desirable to place at the top (Option A).
- East was often considered a more positive or important direction due to its association with the sunrise (Option D).
- For religious reasons, some civilisations placed east or south at the top of their maps (Option C).

However, the passage specifically mentions that south was not necessarily considered superior or more positive by the emperors; instead, the positioning was influenced by the emperor's location in the northern part of the country (Chinese maps) rather than a preference for south.

Thus, the correct answer is (B) because it is the exception — south was not favoured by emperors as the reason for north not being at the top.

Quick Tip

Look for exceptions in the wording of the question. The correct answer should be the one that does not fit with the explanations provided in the passage.

3. According to the passage, early Chinese maps placed north at the top because:

- (A) The Chinese invented the compass and were aware of magnetic north.
- (B) They wanted to show respect to the emperor.
- (C) The Chinese emperor appreciated the winds from the south.
- (D) North was considered the most desirable direction.

Correct Answer: (B) They wanted to show respect to the emperor.

Solution:

The passage provides several insights into the cultural and historical factors that influenced early Chinese map-making. One key point emphasized in the passage is that the placement of north at the top of Chinese maps was not due to technological advancements, such as the invention of the compass or an awareness of magnetic north. In fact, the passage notes that the early Chinese compasses were oriented to point south, not north.

Instead, the passage explains that the reason for placing north at the top was symbolic and linked to the emperor's position. The emperor, who lived in the northern part of China, was placed at the top of the map. This map orientation symbolized the emperor's elevated status and the subjugation of his subjects, who looked "up" to him. The emperor's location and the direction of the map reflect a cultural belief system and social hierarchy, rather than practical navigation or geographical considerations.

Thus, the correct answer is (B) because the primary reason for placing north at the top of Chinese maps was to show respect to the emperor.

Quick Tip

When analyzing cultural influences on historical practices, always focus on the symbolic and societal factors mentioned in the passage. In this case, respect for the emperor was a key motivator for map orientation.

4. It can be inferred from the passage that European explorers like Columbus and Magellan:

- (A) Set the precedent for north-up maps.
- (B) Navigated by the compass.
- (C) Used an eastward orientation for religious reasons.
- (D) Navigated with the help of early maps.

Correct Answer: (C) Used an eastward orientation for religious reasons.

Solution:

The passage makes it clear that the explorers like Columbus and Magellan did not consider north as the "top" direction in their mental maps or navigation practices. In fact, Columbus and other European explorers navigated with a mindset that aligned with medieval Christian maps. These maps placed east at the top for religious reasons, particularly the association with the Garden of Eden and Jerusalem, which was considered the "center" of the world. The passage specifically mentions that Columbus described his journey in accordance with the idea of "paradise" being in the east, which demonstrates that his maps, and thus his navigation, were based on the medieval belief system of positioning the east as the most important direction. This religious-based orientation was a central part of the worldview at the time.

Therefore, the correct answer is (C), as European explorers used an eastward orientation for religious reasons, rather than the modern practice of placing north at the top of maps.

Quick Tip

When analyzing the practices of historical figures, especially explorers, be mindful of the cultural and religious beliefs of the time. In this case, the religious symbolism of east played a key role in their map-making.

5. Which one of the following about the northern orientation of modern maps is asserted in the passage?

- (A) The biggest contributory factor was the understanding of magnetic north.
- (B) The biggest contributory factor was the role of European explorers.
- (C) The biggest contributory factor was the influence of Christian maps.
- (D) The biggest contributory factor is not stated in the passage.

Correct Answer: (D) The biggest contributory factor is not stated in the passage.

Solution:

The passage thoroughly discusses how the idea of placing north at the top of maps gradually emerged, but it does not explicitly point to one single factor as the "biggest contributory

factor.” The passage mentions several influences, including cultural preferences, religious beliefs, and geographic orientations. It explains that early maps did not follow a standard convention, and different cultures preferred different orientations based on their worldview, such as placing east at the top in Christian maps or south in early Islamic maps.

While the passage references the role of explorers like Columbus and the influence of Christian maps, it does not definitively declare any one of these factors as the largest or most significant in determining the modern north-up orientation. Therefore, the correct answer is (D), as the biggest contributory factor is not stated explicitly in the passage.

Quick Tip

In some cases, passages may provide multiple contributing factors without explicitly ranking them. In such cases, choose the answer that correctly reflects this ambiguity.

6. The role of natural phenomena in influencing map-making conventions is seen most clearly in:

- (A) Early Egyptian maps.
- (B) Early Islamic maps.
- (C) Early Chinese maps.
- (D) Early Christian maps.

Correct Answer: (A) Early Egyptian maps.

Solution:

The passage explains that natural phenomena, such as the position of the sun, played a significant role in determining the orientations of early maps. Specifically, it mentions that early Egyptian maps placed east at the top, the direction of sunrise, which clearly demonstrates the influence of natural phenomena on map-making. The eastward orientation reflected the importance of the sun’s rising in Egyptian culture and their understanding of the natural world.

While other civilizations also incorporated natural phenomena into their map-making (e.g., Islamic maps with Mecca at the center), the passage highlights the early Egyptians’ use of the

sun's position as the key influence on map orientation. Therefore, the correct answer is (A).

Quick Tip

When dealing with questions about natural phenomena influencing map-making, always look for references to the sun, winds, or other natural elements that may have guided map orientations.

Read the passage and answer the question based on it.

I used a smartphone GPS to find my way through the cobblestoned maze of Geneva's Old Town, in search of a handmade machine that changed the world more than any other invention. Near a 13th-century cathedral in this Swiss city on the shores of a lovely lake, I found what I was looking for: a Gutenberg printing press.

"This was the Internet of its day — at least as influential as the iPhone," said Gabriel de Montmollin, the director of the Museum of the Reformation, toying with the replica of Johann Gutenberg's great invention. [Before the invention of the printing press] it used to take four monks... up to a year to produce a single book. With the advance in movable type in 15th-century Europe, one press could crank out 3,000 pages a day. Before long, average people could travel to places that used to be unknown to them — with maps! Medical information passed more freely and quickly, diminishing the sway of quacks... The printing press offered the prospect that tyrants would never be able to kill a book or suppress an idea. Gutenberg's brainchild broke the monopoly that clerics had on scripture. And later, stirred by pamphlets from a version of that same press, the American colonies rose up against a king and gave birth to a nation.

So, a question in the summer of this 10th anniversary of the iPhone: has the device that is perhaps the most revolutionary of all time given us a single magnificent idea? Nearly every advancement of the written word through new technology has also advanced humankind. Sure, you can say the iPhone changed everything. By putting the world's recorded knowledge in the palm of a hand, it revolutionized work, dining, travel, and socializing. It made us more narcissistic — here's more of me doing cool stuff! — and it unleashed an army of awful trolls. We no longer have the patience to sit through a baseball game without

that reach to the pocket.

And one more casualty of Apple selling more than a billion phones in a decade's time: daydreaming has become a lost art. For all of that, I'm still waiting to see if the iPhone can do what the printing press did for religion and democracy... the Geneva museum makes a strong case that the printing press opened more minds than anything else... it's hard to imagine the French or American revolutions without those enlightened voices in print... Not long after Steve Jobs introduced his iPhone, he said the bound book was probably headed for history's attic. Not so fast. After a period of rapid growth in e-books, something closer to the medium for Chaucer's volumes has made a great comeback. The hope of the iPhone, and the Internet in general, was that it would free people in closed societies. But the failure of the Arab Spring, and the continued suppression of ideas in North Korea, China, and Iran, has not borne that out...

The iPhone is still young. It has certainly been "one of the most important, world-changing and successful products in history," as Apple CEO Tim Cook said. But I'm not sure if the world changed for the better with the iPhone — as it did with the printing press — or merely, changed.

7. The printing press has been likened to the Internet for which one of the following reasons?

- (A) It enabled rapid access to new information and the sharing of new ideas.
- (B) It represented new and revolutionary technology compared to the past.
- (C) It encouraged reading among people by giving them access to thousands of books.
- (D) It gave people access to pamphlets and literature in several languages.

Correct Answer: (A) It enabled rapid access to new information and the sharing of new ideas.

Solution:

In the passage, the printing press is likened to the Internet for its ability to spread knowledge and ideas quickly and efficiently. The passage emphasizes that, before the printing press, it took a long time (up to a year) for monks to produce a single book. However, with the advent of the printing press, one machine could produce thousands of pages in a single day,

dramatically increasing the availability of information and ideas. The printing press, like the Internet, allowed for the rapid distribution of knowledge, empowering people with information that was once confined to a few.

This makes Option (A) the correct answer, as the passage stresses that both the printing press and the Internet revolutionized the way information was accessed and shared.

Quick Tip

When looking for the key similarity between two technological advancements, focus on the role of information sharing and accessibility, as these are often central to their impact.

8. According to the passage, the invention of the printing press did all of the following EXCEPT:

- (A) Promoted the spread of enlightened political views across countries.
- (B) Gave people direct access to authentic medical information and religious texts.
- (C) Shortened the time taken to produce books and pamphlets.
- (D) Enabled people to perform various tasks simultaneously.

Correct Answer: (D) Enabled people to perform various tasks simultaneously.

Solution:

The passage highlights the significant contributions of the printing press, emphasizing its role in promoting political views, enabling access to medical and religious texts, and speeding up the production of books and pamphlets. However, there is no mention in the passage that the printing press allowed people to perform various tasks simultaneously. This ability to multitask is more relevant to modern technologies, like smartphones and computers, not the printing press.

Thus, the correct answer is (D).

Quick Tip

When answering questions about historical technologies, focus on their direct impact and the specific abilities they provided, avoiding the inclusion of capabilities that are more relevant to modern technologies.

9. Steve Jobs predicted which one of the following with the introduction of the iPhone?

- (A) People would switch from reading on the Internet to reading on their iPhones.
- (B) People would lose interest in historical and traditional classics.
- (C) Reading printed books would become a thing of the past.
- (D) The production of e-books would eventually fall.

Correct Answer: (C) Reading printed books would become a thing of the past.

Solution:

In the passage, the author refers to Steve Jobs predicting that the introduction of the iPhone would lead to the decline of printed books. Jobs believed that digital media, like e-books, would take over, making printed books obsolete. This idea aligns with the statement in Option (C), where reading printed books is expected to become a thing of the past due to the advent of digital devices like the iPhone.

Thus, the correct answer is (C).

Quick Tip

When considering predictions about technology, focus on the most significant changes anticipated by the inventor or developer. In this case, Steve Jobs foresaw a digital revolution in reading, impacting printed books.

10. "I'm still waiting to see if the iPhone can do what the printing press did for religion and democracy." The author uses which one of the following to indicate his uncertainty?

- (A) The rise of religious groups in many parts of the world.
- (B) The expansion in trolling and narcissism among users of the Internet.
- (C) The continued suppression of free speech in closed societies.
- (D) The decline in reading habits among those who use the device.

Correct Answer: (C) The continued suppression of free speech in closed societies.

Solution:

In the passage, the author expresses uncertainty about whether the iPhone will achieve the same level of societal transformation as the printing press. He highlights that despite the hopes associated with the iPhone and the Internet, there are still significant challenges, such as the suppression of free speech in closed societies like North Korea, China, and Iran. This suppression prevents the iPhone from fully achieving the role of the printing press in spreading information and promoting freedom.

Thus, the correct answer is (C), as it reflects the author's doubts about the iPhone's ability to overcome these societal barriers.

Quick Tip

Look for key phrases in the passage that indicate uncertainty or limitation, especially in contexts where the technology's potential is being questioned.

11. The author attributes the French and American revolutions to the invention of the printing press because

- (A) Maps enabled large numbers of Europeans to travel and settle in the American continent.
- (B) The rapid spread of information exposed people to new ideas on freedom and democracy.
- (C) It encouraged religious freedom among the people by destroying the monopoly of religious leaders on the scriptures.
- (D) It made available revolutionary strategies and opinions to the people.

Correct Answer: (B) The rapid spread of information exposed people to new ideas on freedom and democracy.

Solution:

The passage connects the invention of the printing press to the spread of revolutionary ideas, specifically freedom and democracy. It explains how the printing press allowed information to be disseminated quickly, exposing people to new ideas and contributing to social and political change. This spread of information is directly linked to the French and American revolutions, as the ideas of freedom and democracy were widely circulated through printed materials.

Therefore, the correct answer is (B), as it highlights the role of the printing press in promoting these transformative ideas.

Quick Tip

When looking at causes for major events in history, focus on how the dissemination of ideas through technology, like the printing press, influenced social and political change.

12. The main conclusion of the passage is that the new technology has

- (A) Some advantages, but these are outweighed by its disadvantages.
- (B) So far not proved as successful as the printing press in opening people's minds.
- (C) Been disappointing because it has changed society too rapidly.
- (D) Been more wasteful than the printing press because people spend more time daydreaming or surfing.

Correct Answer: (B) So far not proved as successful as the printing press in opening people's minds.

Solution:

The passage discusses the iPhone and the Internet, acknowledging their significant impact on society but also expressing doubt about whether they have achieved the same transformative effects as the printing press. The author points out that while the iPhone and the Internet have revolutionized various aspects of life, they have not necessarily opened people's minds to the same extent that the printing press did, especially in the realms of religion and

democracy. Therefore, the conclusion is that the iPhone and the Internet have not yet been as successful in broadening minds as the printing press.

Thus, the correct answer is (B), as it reflects the author's comparison of the iPhone's impact with that of the printing press.

Quick Tip

Always pay attention to the concluding statements of a passage, especially when comparing the impact of different technologies or periods in history.

Read the passage and answer the question based on it.

This year alone, more than 8,600 stores could close, according to industry estimates, many of them the brand-name anchor outlets that real estate developers once stumbled over themselves to court. Already there have been 5,300 retail closures this year... Sears Holdings — which owns Kmart — said in March that there's "substantial doubt" it can stay in business altogether, and will close 300 stores this year. So far this year, nine national retail chains have filed for bankruptcy. Local jobs are a major casualty of what analysts are calling, with only a hint of hyperbole, the retail apocalypse. Since 2002, department stores have lost 448,000 jobs, a 25% decline, while the number of store closures this year is on pace to surpass the worst depths of the Great Recession. The growth of online retailers, meanwhile, has failed to offset those losses, with the e-commerce sector adding just 178,000 jobs over the past 15 years. Some of those jobs can be found in the massive distribution centers Amazon has opened across the country, often not too far from malls the company helped shutter. But those are workplaces, not gathering places. The mall is both. And in the 61 years since the first enclosed one opened in suburban Minneapolis, the shopping mall has been where a huge swath of middle-class America went for far more than shopping. It was the home of first jobs and blind dates, the place for family photos and ear piercings, where goths and grandmothers could somehow walk through the same doors and find something they all liked. Sure, the food was lousy for you and the oceans of parking lots encouraged car-heavy development, something now scorned by contemporary planners. But for better or worse, the mall has been America's public square for the last 60 years. So what happens when it disappears?

Think of your mall. Or think of the one you went to as a kid. Think of the perfume clouds in the department stores. The fountains splashing below the skylights. The cinnamon wafting from the food court. As far back as ancient Greece, societies have congregated around a central marketplace. In medieval Europe, they were outside cathedrals. For half of the 20th century and almost 20 years into the new one, much of America has found their agora on the terrazzo between Orange Julius and Sbarro, Waldenbooks and the Gap, Sunglass Hut and Hot Topic. That mall was an ecosystem unto itself, a combination of community and commercialism peddling everything you needed and everything you didn't: Magic Eye posters, wind catchers. Air Jordans... A growing number of Americans, however, don't see the need to go to any Macy's at all. Our digital lives are frictionless and ruthlessly efficient, with retail and romance available at a click. Malls were designed for leisure, abundance, ambling. You parked and planned to spend some time. Today, much of that time has been given over to busier lives and second jobs and apps that let you swipe right instead of haunt the food court. Malls, says Harvard business professor Leonard Schlesinger, "were built for patterns of social interaction that increasingly don't exist."

13. The central idea of this passage is that:

- (A) The closure of malls has affected the economic and social life of middle-class America.
- (B) The advantages of malls outweigh their disadvantages.
- (C) Malls used to perform a social function that has been lost.
- (D) Malls are closing down because people have found alternate ways to shop.

Correct Answer: (C) Malls used to perform a social function that has been lost.

Solution:

The passage discusses the decline of shopping malls and their transformation from thriving community hubs to centers of commercialism that are now facing closure. A central point of the passage is the loss of the social functions that malls once served. The author highlights that malls were not just places for shopping, but social spaces where people from all walks of life could gather, meet, and spend time together. The passage mentions how malls were central to social interactions, where people could work, shop, have fun, and socialize.

However, with the advent of digital lives, efficient online shopping, and a shift in societal patterns, people no longer see the need for physical malls in the same way.

Thus, the correct answer is (C) because the passage centers on how malls once performed vital social functions that have now been lost.

Quick Tip

Focus on the central idea of the passage, especially when the question asks for a summary of the main theme. Look for how the author describes changes over time, as in the case of malls losing their social relevance.

14. Why does the author say in paragraph 2, 'the massive distribution centers Amazon has opened across the country, often not too far from malls the company helped shutter'?

- (A) To highlight the irony of the situation.
- (B) To indicate that malls and distribution centers are located in the same area.
- (C) To show that Amazon is helping certain brands go online.
- (D) To indicate that the shopping habits of the American middle class have changed.

Correct Answer: (A) To highlight the irony of the situation.

Solution:

The author mentions that Amazon's distribution centers are located near malls that the company helped close down. This juxtaposition serves to highlight the irony in the situation. While Amazon has contributed to the decline of physical retail spaces by popularizing online shopping, it has simultaneously set up distribution centers close to these same malls. This irony is central to the author's point about how digital shopping has reshaped the retail landscape.

Thus, the correct answer is (A), as it emphasizes the irony in Amazon's role in both helping to shut down malls and establishing nearby distribution centers.

Quick Tip

When a question highlights a paradox or contradiction, look for options that suggest irony or contrast, as in this case where Amazon both contributes to the decline of malls and benefits from their proximity.

15. In paragraph 1, the phrase "real estate developers once stumbled over themselves to court" suggests that they:

- (A) Took brand-name anchor outlets to court.
- (B) Collaborated with one another to get brand-name anchor outlets.
- (C) Were eager to get brand-name anchor outlets to set up shop in their mall.
- (D) Malls are closing down because people have found alternate ways to shop.

Correct Answer: (B) Collaborated with one another to get brand-name anchor outlets.

Solution:

The phrase "real estate developers once stumbled over themselves to court" implies that real estate developers were once extremely eager and competitive to attract brand-name anchor outlets to their malls. The expression "stumbled over themselves" suggests a sense of urgency and eagerness in their efforts to secure these outlets, which were crucial for the success of the mall.

Thus, the correct answer is (B), as it captures the idea that developers were actively competing and collaborating to bring in these anchor outlets.

Quick Tip

When you encounter phrases that describe extreme eagerness or competition, look for options that suggest rivalry or collaboration in achieving a goal, as seen in this case with real estate developers.

16. The author calls the mall an ecosystem unto itself because:

- (A) People of all ages and from all walks of life went there.
- (B) People could shop as well as eat in one place.
- (C) It was a commercial space as well as a gathering place.
- (D) It sold things that were needed as well as those that were not.

Correct Answer: (C) It was a commercial space as well as a gathering place.

Solution:

The passage describes the mall as an "ecosystem unto itself" because it served multiple functions beyond just shopping. Malls were places where people could come together for various social activities, such as meeting friends, hanging out, and engaging in social interactions, while also shopping for both necessary and unnecessary items. This dual function of commerce and community gathering is why the author describes malls as ecosystems.

Thus, the correct answer is (C), as the mall served both commercial and social purposes.

Quick Tip

When a passage describes a place or concept as an "ecosystem," look for the option that reflects a combination of different roles or functions, not just a singular purpose.

17. Why does the author say that the mall has been America's public square?

- (A) Malls did not bar anybody from entering the space.
- (B) Malls were a great place to shop for a huge section of the middle class.
- (C) Malls were a hangout place where families grew close to each other.
- (D) Malls were a great place for everyone to gather and interact.

Correct Answer: (D) Malls were a great place for everyone to gather and interact.

Solution:

The passage refers to malls as America's "public square" because they were central places where people from all walks of life could gather and interact. This idea of the mall as a "public square" reflects its role as a social gathering space, much like how people used to

congregate in central squares or marketplaces in earlier societies. Malls provided a shared space where people could meet for various reasons—shopping, socializing, or simply passing time.

Thus, the correct answer is (D), which highlights the mall’s function as a social gathering space for everyone.

Quick Tip

When answering questions about social spaces or community functions, focus on options that emphasize interaction, gathering, and shared experiences.

18. The author describes ‘Perfume clouds in the department stores’ in order to:

- (A) Evoke memories by painting a picture of malls.
- (B) Describe the smells and sights of malls.
- (C) Emphasize that all brands were available under one roof.
- (D) Show that malls smelt good because of the various stores and food court.

Correct Answer: (A) Evoke memories by painting a picture of malls.

Solution:

The author’s use of the phrase “Perfume clouds in the department stores” serves to evoke nostalgic memories of the sensory experiences one associates with malls, such as distinctive smells. The phrase paints a vivid picture of what it was like to visit these malls, specifically highlighting the sensory details that made them memorable for visitors. This is not about the technical aspects like the variety of products available or the smell of food, but rather about creating a mental image of the mall environment.

Thus, the correct answer is (A), as it emphasizes the author’s goal of evoking memories and painting a sensory picture of the mall experience.

Quick Tip

When a passage uses vivid imagery, focus on how the author uses sensory details to evoke emotions or memories. Look for options that describe these experiences in a nostalgic or descriptive manner.

Read the passage and answer the question based on it.

Scientists have long recognised the incredible diversity within a species. But they thought it reflected evolutionary changes that unfolded imperceptibly, over millions of years. That divergence between populations within a species was enforced, according to Ernst Mayr, the great evolutionary biologist of the 1940s, when a population was separated from the rest of the species by a mountain range or a desert, preventing breeding across the divide over geologic scales of time. Without the separation, gene flow was relentless. But as the separation persisted, the isolated population grew apart and speciation occurred.

In the mid-1960s, the biologist Paul Ehrlich — author of *The Population Bomb* (1968) — and his Stanford University colleague Peter Raven challenged Mayr's ideas about speciation. They had studied checkerspot butterflies living in the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve in California, and it soon became clear that they were not examining a single population. Through years of capturing, marking and then recapturing the butterflies, they were able to prove that within the population, spread over just 50 acres of suitable checkerspot habitat, there were three groups that rarely interacted despite their very close proximity.

Among other ideas, Ehrlich and Raven argued in a now classic paper from 1969 that gene flow was not as predictable and ubiquitous as Mayr and his cohort maintained, and thus evolutionary divergence between neighbouring groups in a population was probably common. They also asserted that isolation and gene flow were less important to evolutionary divergence than natural selection (when factors such as mate choice, weather, disease or predation cause better-adapted individuals to survive and pass on their successful genetic traits). For example, Ehrlich and Raven suggested that, without the force of natural selection, an isolated population would remain unchanged and that, in other scenarios, natural selection could be strong enough to overpower gene flow...

19. Which of the following best sums up Ehrlich and Raven’s argument in their classic 1969 paper?

- (A) Ernst Mayr was wrong in identifying physical separation as the cause of species diversity.
- (B) Checkerspot butterflies in the 50-acre Jasper Ridge Preserve formed three groups that rarely interacted with each other.
- (C) While a factor, isolation was not as important to speciation as natural selection.
- (D) Gene flow is less common and more erratic than Mayr and his colleagues claimed.

Correct Answer: (C) While a factor, isolation was not as important to speciation as natural selection.

Solution:

In their classic 1969 paper, Ehrlich and Raven argued against the traditional view proposed by Ernst Mayr, which emphasized physical separation (isolation) as the primary cause of speciation. Through their study of checkerspot butterflies in the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, they demonstrated that even in close proximity, populations within a species could evolve differently without the need for geographic isolation. Instead, they highlighted the importance of natural selection in driving evolutionary divergence. According to Ehrlich and Raven, natural selection, through factors such as mate choice, disease, or predation, played a larger role in speciation than isolation.

Thus, the correct answer is (C), as it reflects their argument that isolation was a contributing factor but not as crucial to speciation as natural selection.

Quick Tip

When a question asks for the central idea of an argument, focus on the key factors emphasized by the authors. In this case, Ehrlich and Raven prioritized natural selection over isolation as the main driver of speciation.

20. All of the following statements are true according to the passage EXCEPT:

- (A) Gene flow contributes to evolutionary divergence.
- (B) The Population Bomb questioned dominant ideas about species diversity.
- (C) Evolutionary changes unfold imperceptibly over time.
- (D) Checkerspot butterflies are known to exhibit speciation while living in close proximity.

Correct Answer: (B) The Population Bomb questioned dominant ideas about species diversity.

Solution:

The passage discusses the challenges posed by Ehrlich and Raven to Ernst Mayr's ideas on speciation, with Ehrlich being the author of *The Population Bomb*. However, the book itself is primarily focused on issues related to population control, environmental issues, and the implications of human population growth, rather than directly questioning ideas about species diversity. While Ehrlich and Raven's work did question aspects of evolutionary biology, the statement in Option (B) is not consistent with the passage's focus.

- Option (A) is true: Gene flow is discussed in the context of how it may contribute to evolutionary divergence in the butterfly populations.
- Option (C) is true: The passage implies that evolutionary changes take place over long periods of time and often imperceptibly.
- Option (D) is true: The passage describes how checkerspot butterflies exhibited divergence within a single population, despite their close proximity.

Therefore, the correct answer is (B), as it is not consistent with the passage's argument about Ehrlich's work and its relationship to species diversity.

Quick Tip

When a question asks for the statement that is "EXCEPT," identify the one piece of information that does not align with the passage's content. Focus on context, especially when the question refers to broader works like *The Population Bomb*.

21. The author discusses Mayr, Ehrlich, and Raven to demonstrate that:

- (A) Evolution is a sensitive and controversial topic.

- (B) Ehrlich and Raven's ideas about evolutionary divergence are widely accepted by scientists.
- (C) The causes of speciation are debated by scientists.
- (D) Checkerspot butterflies offer the best example of Ehrlich and Raven's ideas about speciation.

Correct Answer: (C) The causes of speciation are debated by scientists.

Solution:

The author discusses the work of Mayr, Ehrlich, and Raven to show that the causes of speciation are a matter of debate in the scientific community. The passage outlines how Mayr's ideas about speciation, which involve isolation and physical barriers, were challenged by Ehrlich and Raven, who emphasized the role of natural selection in speciation. This demonstrates that scientists continue to debate the mechanisms of speciation and that there isn't a unanimous consensus.

Thus, the correct answer is (C), as it reflects the ongoing debate in the scientific community regarding the causes of speciation.

Quick Tip

When looking for an answer that addresses scientific debates, focus on options that reflect differing viewpoints and the complexity of the subject. In this case, the passage highlights that speciation mechanisms are still under discussion.

22. The central point in the first paragraph is that the economic benefits of the Olympic Games:

- (A) Are shared equally among the three organising committees.
- (B) Accrue mostly through revenue from advertisements and ticket sales.
- (C) Accrue to host cities, if at all, only in the long term.
- (D) Are usually eroded by expenditure incurred by the host city.

Correct Answer: (C) Accrue to host cities, if at all, only in the long term.

Solution:

The first paragraph of the passage focuses on the fact that while the Olympic Games generate significant revenue, the economic benefits to the host city are uncertain and typically materialize only over the long term. The passage discusses the high operating costs involved in hosting the Games and the fact that the bulk of the revenue generated goes to the International Olympic Committee and related organizations. The benefits to the host city are linked to the value of the Games as an advertisement, improvements to infrastructure, and the long-term use of new facilities. However, these benefits depend on several factors and are not guaranteed in the short term.

Thus, the correct answer is (C), as the passage explains that the economic benefits for host cities, if they exist, are more likely to accrue over the long term.

Quick Tip

When asked about the central point of a paragraph, focus on the primary argument or conclusion the author is making. In this case, the passage emphasizes the delayed and uncertain economic benefits for host cities.

23. Sports facilities built for the Olympics are not fully utilised after the Games are over because:

- (A) Their scale and the costs of operating them are large.
- (B) Their location away from the city centre usually limits easy access.
- (C) The authorities do not adapt them to local conditions.
- (D) They become outdated having been built with little planning and under time pressure.

Correct Answer: (A) Their scale and the costs of operating them are large.

Solution:

The passage discusses how sports facilities built for the Olympics often remain underused after the event. One of the main reasons given is that the scale of these facilities and the high costs of operating them make it difficult for cities to sustain them once the Games are over.

These large facilities require significant maintenance and operational funds, which many cities struggle to provide once the temporary excitement of the Games has passed. Thus, the correct answer is (A), as the scale and operational costs are cited as major factors contributing to the underutilization of Olympic facilities.

Quick Tip

Look for answers that highlight practical issues such as financial sustainability or logistical challenges when analyzing the long-term impact of events like the Olympics.

24. The author feels that the Games place a burden on the host city for all of the following reasons EXCEPT that:

- (A) They divert scarce urban land from more productive uses.
- (B) They involve the demolition of residential structures to accommodate sports facilities and infrastructure.
- (C) The finances used to fund the Games could be better used for other purposes.
- (D) The influx of visitors during the Games places a huge strain on the urban infrastructure.

Correct Answer: (D) The influx of visitors during the Games places a huge strain on the urban infrastructure.

Solution:

The author emphasizes the negative impacts of hosting the Olympic Games on the host city, focusing on the economic and social costs. The passage mentions that the Games lead to the diversion of valuable urban land (Option A), the demolition of residential areas (Option B), and the misallocation of financial resources that could have been used elsewhere (Option C). However, while the passage mentions the challenges of infrastructure, it does not specifically mention the influx of visitors as a major burden, making Option (D) the exception. Thus, the correct answer is (D), as the influx of visitors is not highlighted as a major issue in the passage.

Quick Tip

When looking for an exception, focus on what is not discussed in the passage, even if it seems like a possible answer. The exception typically aligns with an idea not covered in the main argument.

25. Identify the most appropriate summary for the paragraph.

To me, a "classic" means precisely the opposite of what my predecessors understood: a work is classical by reason of its resistance to contemporaneity and supposed universality, by reason of its capacity to indicate human particularity and difference in that past epoch. The classic is not what tells me about shared humanity—or, more truthfully put, what lets me recognize myself as already present in the past, what nourishes in me the illusion that everything has been like me and has existed only to prepare the way for me. Instead, the classic is what gives access to radically different forms of human consciousness for any given generation of readers, and thereby expands for them the range of possibilities of what it means to be a human being.

- (A) A classic is able to focus on the contemporary human condition and a unified experience of human consciousness.
- (B) A classical work seeks to resist particularity and temporal difference even as it focuses on a common humanity.
- (C) A classic is a work exploring the new, going beyond the universal, the contemporary, and the notion of a unified human consciousness.
- (D) A classic is a work that provides access to a universal experience of the human race as opposed to radically different forms of human consciousness.

Correct Answer: (C) A classic is a work exploring the new, going beyond the universal, the contemporary, and the notion of a unified human consciousness.

Solution:

In this paragraph, the author reflects on the nature of a "classic." The key idea is that a classic transcends the shared humanity or universality often associated with timeless works. Instead,

a classic offers access to radically different forms of human consciousness, going beyond the universal and contemporary to expand the range of possibilities for what it means to be human. The focus is on exploring the new and different, rather than reinforcing universal human experiences.

Thus, the correct answer is (C), as it reflects the paragraph's emphasis on the classic offering access to new and different forms of human consciousness.

Quick Tip

Look for the key concept in the passage about how the author views a "classic." In this case, the focus is on expanding the understanding of what it means to be human through exploring the new and different.

26. Identify the most appropriate summary for the paragraph.

A translator of literary works needs a secure hold upon the two languages involved, supported by a good measure of familiarity with the two cultures. For an Indian translating works in an Indian language into English, finding satisfactory equivalents in a generalized western culture of practices and symbols in the original would be less difficult than gaining fluent control of contemporary English. When a westerner works on texts in Indian languages the interpretation of cultural elements will be the major challenge, rather than control over the grammar and essential vocabulary of the language concerned. It is much easier to remedy lapses in language in a text translated into English, than flaws of content. Since it is easier for an Indian to learn the English language than it is for a Briton or American to comprehend Indian culture, translations of Indian texts is better left to Indians.

(A) While translating, the Indian and the westerner face the same challenges but they have different skill profiles and the former has the advantage.

(B) As preserving cultural meanings is the essence of literary translation, Indians' knowledge of the local culture outweighs the initial disadvantage of lower fluency in English.

(C) Indian translators should translate Indian texts into English as their work is less likely to

pose cultural problems which are harder to address than the quality of language.

(D) Westerners might be good at gaining reasonable fluency in new languages, but as understanding the culture reflected in literature is crucial, Indians remain better placed.

Correct Answer: (C) Indian translators should translate Indian texts into English as their work is less likely to pose cultural problems which are harder to address than the quality of language.

Solution:

The passage stresses that when translating Indian texts into English, an Indian translator has an advantage because they understand the cultural elements of the text better than a westerner would. While language fluency is important, the real challenge in translation comes from interpreting cultural nuances. Therefore, the passage suggests that Indian translators are better placed to handle these cultural aspects without posing problems related to the quality of the language.

Thus, the correct answer is (C), which emphasizes that Indian translators should handle Indian texts to avoid cultural misinterpretation.

Quick Tip

When summarizing arguments in a passage about cultural understanding in translation, focus on the connection between language fluency and cultural comprehension, as these are key factors in successful translation.

27. Identify the most appropriate summary for the paragraph.

For each of the past three years, temperatures have hit peaks not seen since the birth of meteorology, and probably not for more than 110,000 years. The amount of carbon dioxide in the air is at its highest level in 4 million years. This does not cause storms like Harvey - there have always been storms and hurricanes along the Gulf of Mexico - but it makes them wetter and more powerful. As the seas warm, they evaporate more easily and provide energy to storm fronts. As the air above them warms, it holds more water vapour. For every half a degree Celsius in warming, there is about a 3% increase in

atmospheric moisture content. Scientists call this the Clausius-Clapeyron equation. This means the skies fill more quickly and have more to dump. The storm surge was greater because sea levels have risen 20 cm as a result of more than 100 years of human-related global warming which has melted glaciers and thermally expanded the volume of sea water.

(A) The storm Harvey is one of the regular, annual ones from the Gulf of Mexico; global warming and Harvey are unrelated phenomena.

(B) Global warming does not breed storms but makes them more destructive; the Clausius-Clapeyron equation, though it predicts potential increase in atmospheric moisture content, cannot predict the scale of damage storms might wreck.

(C) Global warming melts glaciers, resulting in sea water volume expansion; this enables more water vapour to fill the air above faster. Thus, modern storms contain more destructive energy.

(D) It is naive to think that rising sea levels and the force of tropical storms are unrelated; Harvey was destructive as global warming has armed it with more moisture content, but this may not be true of all storms.

Correct Answer: (C) Global warming melts glaciers, resulting in sea water volume expansion; this enables more water vapour to fill the air above faster. Thus, modern storms contain more destructive energy.

Solution:

The paragraph explains how global warming, by melting glaciers and thermally expanding the volume of sea water, increases atmospheric moisture. This added moisture fuels storms, making them more powerful and destructive. The explanation emphasizes the role of global warming in enhancing the destructive power of modern storms, including Harvey, due to the increase in water vapour in the atmosphere, which happens faster as the sea water volume expands.

Thus, the correct answer is (C), as it summarizes the link between global warming, sea water expansion, and the increase in storm power.

Quick Tip

When asked for a summary, look for the option that connects the cause (global warming) and the effect (more destructive storms) clearly. In this case, the link is through the expansion of sea water and the increase in atmospheric moisture.

28. The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentence and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

- (1) The process of handing down implies not a passive transfer, but some contestation in defining what exactly is to be handed down.
- (2) Wherever Western scholars have worked on the Indian past, the selection is even more apparent and the inventing of a tradition much more recognizable.
- (3) Every generation selects what it requires from the past and makes its innovations, some more than others.
- (4) It is now a truism to say that traditions are not handed down unchanged, but are invented.
- (5) Just as life has death as its opposite, so is tradition by default the opposite of innovation.

Correct Answer: 5, 4, 1, 3, 2

Solution:

The correct order of the sentences can be determined by analyzing how the ideas flow logically from one to another:

- Sentence 5 introduces the metaphor that tradition is the opposite of innovation, setting up the thematic context.
- Sentence 4 then elaborates on the truism that traditions are not handed down unchanged but are invented, linking closely to the idea in Sentence 5.
- Sentence 1 follows by discussing how the process of handing down traditions involves contestation and not a passive transfer, expanding on the concept introduced in Sentence 4.
- Sentence 3 discusses how every generation selects from the past, making innovations, and ties the idea of innovation to tradition.

- Sentence 2 concludes by focusing on how Western scholars have shaped Indian tradition, showing how the selection of tradition is even more apparent in the context of Indian history. Thus, the correct sequence is 5, 4, 1, 3, 2.

Quick Tip

Look for the sentences that introduce a general idea or metaphor first, followed by sentences that elaborate on it or provide examples. This helps establish a clear flow of thought.

29. The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentence and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

- (1) Scientists have for the first time managed to edit genes in a human embryo to repair a genetic mutation, fuelling hopes that such procedures may one day be available outside laboratory conditions.
- (2) The cardiac disease causes sudden death in otherwise healthy young athletes and affects about one in 500 people overall.
- (3) Correcting the mutation in the gene would not only ensure that the child is healthy but also prevents transmission of the mutation to future generations.
- (4) It is caused by a mutation in a particular gene and a child will suffer from the condition even if it inherits only one copy of the mutated gene.
- (5) In results announced in Nature this week, scientists fixed a mutation that thickens the heart muscle, a condition called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

Correct Answer: 1, 5, 2, 4, 3

Solution:

The proper order of the sentences logically connects the introduction of the research, the results, the disease, its cause, and the benefits of correcting the mutation:

- Sentence 1 introduces the groundbreaking work of scientists editing genes in human embryos.

- Sentence 5 follows by describing the recent results announced by scientists in Nature, where they fixed a specific genetic mutation.
 - Sentence 2 provides the context for why this mutation is important: it causes sudden death in healthy athletes and affects many people.
 - Sentence 4 elaborates on the cause of the disease, linking it to a mutation in a specific gene and explaining how it can be inherited.
 - Sentence 3 concludes by discussing how correcting the mutation not only benefits the child's health but also prevents transmission to future generations.
- Thus, the correct order is 1, 5, 2, 4, 3.

Quick Tip

When sequencing sentences, look for a logical flow: first, introduce the topic, then describe the results, followed by the cause, and conclude with the implications of the findings.

30. The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentence and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

- (1) The study suggests that the disease did not spread with such intensity, but that it may have driven human migrations across Europe and Asia.
- (2) The oldest sample came from an individual who lived in southeast Russia about 5,000 years ago.
- (3) The ages of the skeletons correspond to a time of mass exodus from today's Russia and Ukraine into western Europe and central Asia, suggesting that a pandemic could have driven these migrations.
- (4) In the analysis of fragments of DNA from 101 Bronze Age skeletons for sequences from *Yersinia pestis*, the bacterium that causes the disease, seven tested positive.
- (5) DNA from Bronze Age human skeletons indicate that the black plague could have emerged as early as 3,000 BCE, long before the epidemic that swept through Europe in the mid-1300s.

Correct Answer: 5, 4, 1, 2, 3

Solution:

The correct order follows a logical sequence of introducing the discovery, providing supporting evidence, and making conclusions about the findings:

- Sentence 5 introduces the key discovery that DNA from Bronze Age skeletons suggests the black plague could have emerged as early as 3,000 BCE.
- Sentence 4 follows by explaining the methodology of analyzing the DNA from the skeletons, identifying the bacterium that causes the disease.
- Sentence 1 presents the study's conclusion, suggesting that the disease may have driven human migrations across Europe and Asia.
- Sentence 2 gives context to the findings by providing details about the oldest sample, which was from southeast Russia around 5,000 years ago.
- Sentence 3 wraps up the discussion, explaining how the age of the skeletons corresponds to a time of mass migration, reinforcing the idea that a pandemic could have driven these migrations.

Thus, the correct order is 5, 4, 1, 2, 3.

Quick Tip

When sequencing sentences, look for a natural progression from introduction (discovery) to evidence (methodology and findings), followed by analysis and conclusions.

31. The five sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentence and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

(1) This visual turn in social media has merely accentuated this announcing instinct of ours, enabling us with easy-to-create, easy-to-share, easy-to-store and easy-to-consume platforms, gadgets and apps.

(2) There is absolutely nothing new about us framing the vision of who we are or what we want, visually or otherwise, in our Facebook page, for example.

(3) Turning the pages of most family albums, which belong to a period well before the digital dissemination of self-created and self-curated moments and images, would reconfirm the basic instinct of documenting our presence in a particular space, on a significant occasion, with others who matter.

(4) We are empowered to book our faces and act as celebrities within the confinement of our respective friend lists, and communicate our activities, companionship and locations with minimal clicks and touches.

(5) What is unprecedented is not the desire to put out news feeds related to the self, but the ease with which this broadcast operation can now be executed, often provoking (un)anticipated responses from beyond one's immediate location.

Correct Answer: 3, 2, 1, 4, 5

Solution:

The correct order of the sentences logically connects the idea of self-expression in both past and present, leading to the ease of sharing personal information today:

- Sentence 3 introduces the idea of documenting presence, referencing family albums, and how it connects to the current phenomenon of digital documentation.
- Sentence 2 builds on this by stating that there is nothing new about framing who we are or what we want, exemplified in platforms like Facebook.
- Sentence 1 expands the concept of self-expression by noting how social media has made this process easier with tools for creating, sharing, and consuming content.
- Sentence 4 takes this further by highlighting how we are empowered to share our lives as if we are celebrities, with ease and minimal effort.
- Sentence 5 concludes with the unprecedented aspect of social media: the ease of broadcasting personal news and the unpredictable responses that can come from it.

Thus, the correct order is 3, 2, 1, 4, 5.

Quick Tip

When sequencing sentences, look for the progression of ideas from general concepts to specific examples. Start with historical context, then move to current trends, and finally discuss the unique aspects of the phenomenon.

32. Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

- (1) People who study children's language spend a lot of time watching how babies react to the speech they hear around them.
- (2) They make films of adults and babies interacting, and examine them very carefully to see whether the babies show any signs of understanding what the adults say.
- (3) They believe that babies begin to react to language from the very moment they are born.
- (4) Sometimes the signs are very subtle - slight movements of the baby's eyes or the head or the hands.
- (5) You'd never notice them if you were just sitting with the child, but by watching a recording over and over, you can spot them.

Correct Answer: (3)

Solution:

The four sentences in the paragraph focus on the idea that researchers observe babies' reactions to language to understand how they begin to learn it. The odd sentence out is (3), as it is a general statement about the belief that babies react to language from birth, which doesn't tie into the observation and study process described in the other sentences.

- Sentences 1, 2, 4, and 5 logically follow from one another, describing the process of studying babies' reactions to language, how researchers observe subtle signs, and how repeated viewings of recordings help spot these signs.

- Sentence 3 is a generalization without specific reference to the methods of observation, making it the odd one out.

Thus, the correct answer is (3).

Quick Tip

When identifying the odd sentence, look for the one that doesn't follow the same theme or doesn't connect logically with the others in the paragraph.

33. Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

- (1) Neuroscientists have just begun studying exercise's impact within brain cells — on the genes themselves.
- (2) Even there, in the roots of our biology, they've found signs of the body's influence on the mind.
- (3) It turns out that moving our muscles produces proteins that travel through the bloodstream and into the brain, where they play pivotal roles in the mechanisms of our highest thought processes.
- (4) In today's technology-driven, plasma-screened-in world, it's easy to forget that we are born movers — animals, in fact — because we've engineered movement right out of our lives.
- (5) It's only in the past few years that neuroscientists have begun to describe these factors and how they work, and each new discovery adds awe-inspiring depth to the picture.

Correct Answer: (4)

Solution:

The odd sentence is (4) because it does not fit with the focus on the study of exercise's impact on the brain and mind, as the other sentences do. Sentence 4 introduces a new idea about the technology-driven world and how it has reduced movement in modern life, which, while related to physical activity, doesn't align with the detailed exploration of the biological and neurological aspects of exercise described in the other sentences.

- Sentences 1, 2, 3, and 5 focus on the scientific findings related to how exercise impacts brain cells and mental processes.
- Sentence 4 is more about societal changes and technological influences, making it the odd one out.

Thus, the correct answer is (4).

Quick Tip

When identifying the odd sentence, focus on whether it continues the theme or introduces a completely new idea that doesn't align with the rest of the paragraph.

34. Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

- (1) The water that made up ancient lakes and perhaps an ocean was lost.
- (2) Particles from the Sun collided with molecules in the atmosphere, knocking them into space or giving them an electric charge that caused them to be swept away by the solar wind.
- (3) Most of the planet's remaining water is now frozen or buried, but clues over the past decade suggested that some liquid water, a presumed necessity for life, might survive in underground aquifers.
- (4) Data from NASA's MAVEN orbiter show that solar storms stripped away most of Mars's once-thick atmosphere.
- (5) A recent study reveals how Mars lost much of its early water, while another indicates that some liquid water remains.

Correct Answer: (1)

Solution:

The odd sentence is (1) because it does not focus on the processes or evidence related to the loss of water on Mars, as the other sentences do. Instead, Sentence 1 only mentions that the water was lost without specifying how or why, making it more general and disconnected from the rest of the paragraph, which focuses on scientific explanations and findings.

- Sentences 2, 3, 4, and 5 are closely related, as they explain the loss of water on Mars and the possible presence of liquid water remaining on the planet, drawing from scientific data and studies.

Thus, the correct answer is (1).

Quick Tip

When identifying the odd sentence, look for one that doesn't fit the specific theme or level of detail introduced in the rest of the paragraph. In this case, Sentence 1 is too general and lacks the specific scientific context provided by the others.
