

CAT 2017 VARC Slot-2 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours

Maximum Marks :390

Total questions :130

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.

Creativity is both our most valuable resource and our most limitless one. Anyone who has interacted with children knows that every human being is born creative. Each person naturally possesses the capacity to merge and rearrange data, observations, materials, and ideas, leading to innovative ways of thinking and doing.

What nurtures creativity? More than anything else, it is the company of other creative individuals. The widespread belief is that creativity is the domain of extraordinary lone geniuses. However, in truth, creativity is a social process. The most significant creative insights emerge when individuals learn from, compete with, and collaborate with others. Cities, in particular, are prime sources of creativity. Their diverse populations, compact social networks, and open public spaces encourage spontaneous and fortunate encounters that ignite new ideas. Furthermore, cities offer the infrastructure — financial systems, organizational frameworks, and trade networks — needed to bring those ideas to life efficiently.

Ironically, the very institutions designed to manage and expand on creative outcomes often stifle creativity. Bureaucracies and, unfortunately, many schools suppress it. Creativity is inherently disruptive, whereas schools and organizations are usually rigid, standardized, and repressive.

Education expert Sir Ken Robinson highlights a 1968 study of 1,600 children tested over time for their ability to think creatively. Between the ages of 3 and 5, 98% scored positively. At 8 to 10 years old, that number dropped to 32%, and by ages 13 to 15, it was down to 10%. When the test was given to 280,000 adults aged 25, only 2% passed. As adults, much of our creativity has been suppressed.

Urbanist Jane Jacobs once explained why some cities seem more creative than others. She stated that all cities are filled with inherently creative people — this is our natural state. However, some cities have a higher concentration of leaders and institutions she referred to as "squelchers" — those who inhibit creative expression. Creativity, or the lack thereof, often mirrors broader social and economic inequalities.

According to estimates, about one-third of people in the United States — or up to half in the most innovative cities — engage in work that uses their creative skills, whether as artists,

musicians, writers, tech professionals, innovators, entrepreneurs, or professionals like doctors, lawyers, educators, and journalists. These are people whose work involves the use of the mind. Meanwhile, the remaining two-thirds work in low-paying, monotonous jobs — if they are employed at all — where their creative abilities go unnoticed, ignored, or wasted. Creativity as a phenomenon is not under threat. It thrives in science, technology, the arts, culture, and in the rebirth of cities. Nevertheless, to create a society that genuinely encourages and rewards everyone’s creativity, there is still a long journey ahead.

1. In the author’s view, cities promote human creativity for all the following reasons EXCEPT that they

- (A) contain spaces that enable people to meet and share new ideas.
- (B) expose people to different and novel ideas, because they are home to varied groups of people.
- (C) provide the financial and institutional networks that enable ideas to become reality.
- (D) provide access to cultural activities that promote new and creative ways of thinking.

Correct Answer: (D) provide access to cultural activities that promote new and creative ways of thinking.

Solution:

According to the passage, cities promote creativity by offering:

- Diverse populations that spark new ideas (supports option B)
- Public spaces for spontaneous meetings (supports option A)
- Infrastructure for finance and trade to bring ideas to life (supports option C)

However, there is no mention in the passage about cities providing access to cultural activities that directly promote creative thinking, which makes option D the correct EXCEPTION.

Quick Tip

In 'EXCEPT' questions, focus on identifying the statement that is not supported by the passage, even if it sounds plausible. Eliminate options explicitly mentioned or implied.

2. The author uses 'ironic' in the third paragraph to point out that

- (A) people need social contact rather than isolation to nurture their creativity
- (B) institutions created to promote creativity eventually stifle it
- (C) the larger the creative population in a city, the more likely it is to be stifled
- (D) large bureaucracies and institutions are the inevitable outcome of successful cities

Correct Answer: (B) institutions created to promote creativity eventually stifle it

Solution:

The paragraph refers to the irony of how the very systems designed to support creativity—schools and bureaucracies—actually end up limiting it. This supports option (B).

Quick Tip

Watch for contrast words like "ironic" or "however" — they often indicate the author's attitude or a surprising point.

3. The central idea of this passage is that

- (A) social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity
- (B) creativity and ideas are gradually declining in all societies
- (C) the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends
- (D) more people should work in jobs that engage their creative faculties

Correct Answer: (A) social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity

Solution:

The passage emphasizes the role of collaboration, networks, and city life in fostering creativity. Hence, social interaction is highlighted as crucial.

Quick Tip

When identifying the central idea, focus on what is supported throughout the passage and not just in isolated paragraphs.

4. Jane Jacobs believed that cities that are more creative

- (A) have to struggle to retain their creativity
- (B) have to 'squellch' unproductive people and promote creative ones
- (C) have leaders and institutions that do not block creativity
- (D) typically do not start off as creative hubs

Correct Answer: (C) have leaders and institutions that do not block creativity

Solution:

Jane Jacobs stated that all cities have creative people, but creative places are those where leaders don't suppress this creativity.

Quick Tip

Jane Jacobs is quoted directly in the passage — use her words to find the most accurate summary of her belief.

5. The 1968 study is used here to show that

- (A) as they get older, children usually learn to be more creative
- (B) schooling today does not encourage creative thinking in children
- (C) the more children learn, the less creative they become
- (D) technology today prevents children from being creative

Correct Answer: (B) schooling today does not encourage creative thinking in children

Solution:

The data shows a decline in creative test scores as children grow older, suggesting institutional influence (schooling) reduces creativity.

Quick Tip

Watch how examples (like the study) are used to support a claim — in this case, the decline in creativity due to formal schooling.

6. The author's conclusions about the most 'creative cities' in the US (paragraph 6) are based on his assumption that

- (A) people who work with their hands are not doing creative work.
- (B) more than half the population works in non-creative jobs.
- (C) only artists, musicians, writers, and so on should be valued in a society.
- (D) most cities ignore or waste the creativity of low-wage workers

Correct Answer: (A) people who work with their hands are not doing creative work.

Solution:

The author classifies jobs into creative and non-creative and excludes low-wage manual labor jobs from the creative category, implying this assumption.

Quick Tip

Author assumptions can often be inferred from comparisons made between two groups — here, creative professionals vs. manual laborers.

Read the passage and answer the question based on it.

During the frigid season, it's often necessary to nestle under a blanket to try to stay warm. The temperature difference between the blanket and the air outside is so palpable that we often have trouble leaving our warm refuge. Many plants and animals similarly hunker down, relying on snow cover for safety from winter's harsh conditions.

The small area between the snowpack and the ground, called the **subnivium**, might be the most important ecosystem that you have never heard of. The subnivium is so well-insulated and stable that its temperature holds steady at around 32° Fahrenheit (0° Celsius). Although that might still sound cold, a constant temperature of 32° Fahrenheit can often be 30 to 40 degrees warmer than the air temperature during the peak of winter. Because of this large temperature difference, a wide variety of species depend on the subnivium for winter protection.

For many organisms living in temperate and Arctic regions, the difference between being under the snow or outside it is a matter of life and death. Consequently, disruptions to the subnivism brought about by climate change will affect everything from population dynamics to nutrient cycling through the ecosystem.

The formation and stability of the subnivism requires more than a few flurries. Winter ecologists have suggested that eight inches of snow is necessary to develop a stable layer of insulation. Depth is not the only factor, however. More accurately, the stability of the subnivism depends on the interaction between snow depth and snow density.

Imagine being under a stack of blankets that are all flattened and pressed together. When compressed, the blankets essentially form one compacted layer. In contrast, when they are lightly placed on top of one another, their insulative capacity increases because the air pockets between them trap heat. Greater depths of low-density snow are therefore better at insulating the ground.

Both depth and density of snow are sensitive to temperature. Scientists are now beginning to explore how climate change will affect the subnivism, as well as the species that depend on it. At first glance, warmer winters seem beneficial for species that have difficulty surviving subzero temperatures; however, as with most ecological phenomena, the consequences are not so straightforward.

Research has shown that the snow season (the period when snow is more likely than rain) has become shorter since 1970. When rain falls on snow, it increases the density of the snow and reduces its insulative capacity. Therefore, even though winters are expected to become warmer overall from future climate change, the subnivism will tend to become colder and more variable with less protection from the above-ground temperatures.

The effects of a colder subnivism are complex. For example, shrubs such as crowberry and alpine azalea that grow along the forest floor tend to block the wind and so retain higher depths of snow around them. This captured snow helps to keep soils insulated and in turn increases plant decomposition and nutrient release.

In field experiments, researchers removed a portion of the snow cover to investigate the importance of the subnivism's insulation. They found that soil frost in the snow-free area resulted in damage to plant roots and sometimes even the death of the plant.

7. The purpose of this passage is to

- (A) introduce readers to a relatively unknown ecosystem: the subnivium
- (B) explain how the subnivium works to provide shelter and food to several species
- (C) outline the effects of climate change on the subnivium
- (D) draw an analogy between the effect of blankets on humans and of snow cover on species living in the subnivium

Correct Answer: (C) outline the effects of climate change on the subnivium

Solution:

Although the passage introduces the subnivium initially, the majority of the content centers on how climate change is disrupting its structure and function.

It explains how increased rainfall, reduced snow season, and higher snow density due to warming winters are all leading to a colder and less stable subnivium.

This instability affects species relying on this layer for thermal insulation and protection.

Furthermore, the passage discusses ecological consequences such as soil freezing, root damage, nutrient cycling, and altered plant survival.

These detailed analyses indicate the author’s main intention is to highlight the **ecological impact of climate change** on the subnivium, making option (C) the most comprehensive and accurate.

Quick Tip

Look beyond the introduction — the central paragraphs often reveal the author’s main concern, especially when discussing environmental disruptions or scientific trends.

8. All of the following statements are true EXCEPT

- (A) Snow depth and snow density both influence the stability of the subnivium.
- (B) Climate change has some positive effects on the subnivium.
- (C) The subnivium maintains a steady temperature that can be 30 to 40 degrees warmer than the winter air temperature.

(D) Researchers have established the adverse effects of dwindling snow cover on the subnivium.

Correct Answer: (B) Climate change has some positive effects on the subnivium.

Solution:

According to the passage, climate change does not improve the subnivium; instead, it causes rain to fall on snow, increasing snow density and reducing its insulating properties.

This leads to a colder, less stable subnivium. The author explicitly describes this as harmful to species depending on it for thermal protection.

Options (A), (C), and (D) are clearly supported by the passage. Only (B) contradicts the passage and is therefore the correct "EXCEPT" choice.

Quick Tip

When a question asks for an "EXCEPT," carefully scan for the one statement that contradicts or is not supported by the passage, even if subtly.

9. Based on this extract, the author would support which one of the following actions?

- (A) The use of snow machines in winter to ensure snow cover of at least eight inches.
- (B) Government action to curb climate change.
- (C) Adding nutrients to the soil in winter.
- (D) Planting more shrubs in areas of short snow season.

Correct Answer: (B) Government action to curb climate change.

Solution:

The passage repeatedly emphasizes the negative effects of climate change on the subnivium: shorter snow seasons, increased rain, denser snow, and colder soil temperatures.

The author highlights how these changes threaten plant and animal life, soil insulation, and nutrient cycles.

Thus, the most supported action the author would advocate is to curb climate change — which directly addresses the root cause.

While other options might offer limited localized benefits, (B) tackles the broader, systemic issue.

Quick Tip

For "author would support" questions, focus on the solution that addresses the main concern expressed throughout the passage—in this case, climate disruption.

10. In paragraph 6, the author provides the examples of crowberry and alpine azalea to demonstrate that

- (A) Despite frigid temperatures, several species survive in temperate and Arctic regions.
- (B) Due to frigid temperatures in the temperate and Arctic regions, plant species that survive tend to be shrubs rather than trees.
- (C) The crowberry and alpine azalea are abundant in temperate and Arctic regions.
- (D) The stability of the subnivium depends on several interrelated factors, including shrubs on the forest floor.

Correct Answer: (D) The stability of the subnivium depends on several interrelated factors, including shrubs on the forest floor.

Solution:

The passage mentions crowberry and alpine azalea in the context of how they help retain snow by blocking the wind, thereby increasing insulation.

This shows that the presence of such shrubs plays a critical role in maintaining the structure and stability of the subnivium.

Hence, the author uses these plant examples to illustrate the importance of vegetation in supporting the subnivium ecosystem.

Quick Tip

Always check why an example is introduced—it's often to support a broader idea, not just to state facts.

11. Which one of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?

- (A) In an ecosystem, altering any one element has a ripple effect on all others.
- (B) Climate change affects temperate and Arctic regions more than equatorial or arid ones.
- (C) A compact layer of wool is warmer than a similarly compact layer of goose down.
- (D) The loss of the subnivium, while tragic, will affect only temperate and Arctic regions.

Correct Answer: (A) In an ecosystem, altering any one element has a ripple effect on all others.

Solution:

The passage explains that climate change affects snow density and depth, which in turn impacts the subnivium, which then affects species survival and nutrient cycles.

This chain of effects clearly demonstrates the interconnected nature of ecosystems—change in one component (like snow patterns) disrupts multiple others.

Thus, (A) is a valid inference even though not stated directly.

Quick Tip

Inference questions require you to connect the dots from the passage's logic—even if the statement isn't spelled out.

12. In paragraph 1, the author uses blankets as a device to

- (A) evoke the bitter cold of winter in the minds of readers.
- (B) explain how blankets work to keep us warm.
- (C) draw an analogy between blankets and the snowpack.
- (D) alert readers to the fatal effects of excessive exposure to the cold.

Correct Answer: (C) draw an analogy between blankets and the snowpack.

Solution:

The author introduces the image of humans tucked under blankets to show how snow insulates organisms beneath it.

This analogy helps readers intuitively understand how snow, like a blanket, traps heat and provides warmth—an essential function of the subnivium.

Thus, the blanket is a metaphorical tool to explain how insulation works in both contexts.

Quick Tip

When authors use everyday objects, it's often to create relatable analogies for complex scientific ideas.

Read the passage and answer the question based on it.

The end of the age of the internal combustion engine is in sight. There are small signs everywhere: the shift to hybrid vehicles is already under way among manufacturers. Volvo has announced it will make no purely petrol-engined cars after 2019, and Tesla has just started selling its first electric car aimed squarely at the middle classes: the Tesla 3 sells for \$35,000 in the US, and 400,000 people have put down a small, refundable deposit towards one. Several thousand have already taken delivery, and the company hopes to sell half a million more next year.

This is a remarkable figure for a machine with a fairly short range and a very limited number of specialised charging stations. Some of it reflects the remarkable abilities of Elon Musk, the company's founder, as a salesman, engineer, and a man able to get the most out of his factory workers and the governments he deals with. Mr Musk is selling a dream that the world wants to believe in.

This last may be the most important factor in the story. The private car is a device of immense practical help and economic significance, but at the same time a theatre for myths of unattainable self-fulfilment. The one thing you will never see in a car advertisement is traffic, even though that is the element in which drivers spend their lives. Every single driver in a traffic jam is trying to escape from it, yet it is the inevitable consequence of mass car ownership.

The sleek and swift electric car is at one level merely the most contemporary fantasy of autonomy and power. But it might also disrupt our exterior landscapes nearly as much as the fossil fuel-engined car did in the last century. Electrical cars would of course pollute far less

than fossil fuel-driven ones; instead of oil reserves, the rarest materials for batteries would make undeserving despots and their dynasties fantastically rich. Petrol stations would disappear. The air in cities would once more be breathable and their streets as quiet as those of Venice.

This isn't an unmixed good. Cars that were as silent as bicycles would still be as dangerous as they are now to anyone they hit without audible warning. The dream goes further than that. The electric cars of the future will be so thoroughly equipped with sensors and reaction mechanisms that they will never hit anyone. Just as brakes don't let you skid today, the steering wheel of tomorrow will swerve you away from danger before you have even noticed it.

This is where the fantasy of autonomy comes full circle. The logical outcome of cars which need no driver is that they will become cars which need no owner either. Instead, they will work as taxis do, summoned at will but only for the journeys we actually need. This is the future towards which Uber is working. The ultimate development of the private car will be to reinvent public transport. Traffic jams will be abolished only when the private car becomes a public utility. What then will happen to our fantasies of independence? We'll all have to take to electrically powered bicycles.

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13. Which of the following statements best reflects the author's argument?

- (A) Hybrid and electric vehicles signal the end of the age of internal combustion engines.
- (B) Elon Musk is a remarkably gifted salesman.
- (C) The private car represents an unattainable myth of independence.
- (D) The future Uber car will be environmentally friendlier than even the Tesla.

Correct Answer: (C) The private car represents an unattainable myth of independence.

Solution:

While the passage discusses many points—including the end of the internal combustion engine, Elon Musk's talent, and future vehicle innovations—the central thread tying it all together is the author's critique of the private car as a symbol of personal autonomy. The author argues that car advertisements promote fantasies of freedom and escape, even though the actual experience of driving is dominated by traffic and congestion.

He states that electric cars are just a modern version of this illusion—sleek, silent, and autonomous, yet still part of the same fantasy.

The ending drives the point home: once cars become shared, self-driving utilities like public transport, our cherished idea of car-based independence will collapse, exposing it as a myth all along.

Hence, (C) captures the overarching argument, rather than just a supporting detail.

Quick Tip

Look for the idea that runs through the entire passage and not just specific examples—this is usually the best reflection of the author’s core argument.

14. The author points out all of the following about electric cars EXCEPT

- (A) Their reliance on rare materials for batteries will support despotic rule.
- (B) They will reduce air and noise pollution.
- (C) They will not decrease the number of traffic jams.
- (D) They will ultimately undermine rather than further driver autonomy.

Correct Answer: (D) They will ultimately undermine rather than further driver autonomy.

Solution:

The author clearly mentions that electric cars:

- will rely on rare materials, possibly empowering despotic regimes (A)
- will make cities more breathable and quiet (B)
- will not resolve the issue of traffic jams (C)

However, option (D) is the opposite of what the passage implies. While the author does touch on autonomous cars reducing the role of drivers, this shift is portrayed as a **logical consequence of autonomy**—not as an outright undermining of it by electric cars themselves. The undermining occurs due to the shift to shared, self-driving systems later, not directly because of electric vehicles. Hence, (D) is the EXCEPT statement.

Quick Tip

EXCEPT questions test your attention to subtle differences—watch for what’s clearly stated versus what’s inferred or assumed.

15. According to the author, the main reason for Tesla’s remarkable sales is that

- (A) in the long run, the Tesla is more cost effective than fossil fuel-driven cars.
- (B) the US government has announced a tax subsidy for Tesla buyers.
- (C) the company is rapidly upscaling the number of specialised charging stations for customer convenience.
- (D) people believe in the autonomy represented by private cars.

Correct Answer: (D) people believe in the autonomy represented by private cars.

Solution:

The author emphasizes that Tesla’s success is driven more by what the brand symbolizes than by practicality or policy.

Specifically, it taps into the “fantasy of autonomy and power” associated with private cars.

Though factors like cost, infrastructure, or subsidies may play some role, the emotional and symbolic appeal—especially under Elon Musk’s vision—is presented as the core reason for such unprecedented interest.

Thus, (D) best reflects the main reason as explained by the author.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to abstract ideas and recurring themes—like “myth of independence”—as they often reveal the author’s deeper point.

16. The author comes to the conclusion that

- (A) car drivers will no longer own cars but will have to use public transport.
- (B) cars will be controlled by technology that is more efficient than car drivers.

- (C) car drivers dream of autonomy but the future may be public transport.
(D) electrically powered bicycles are the only way to achieve autonomy in transportation.

Correct Answer: (C) car drivers dream of autonomy but the future may be public transport.

Solution:

The passage critiques the dream of autonomy associated with private car ownership, portraying it as an illusion.

It argues that the evolution of technology, including driverless cars and Uber-like systems, is likely to lead to shared mobility solutions.

The author concludes that as private vehicles become publicly summoned utilities, our traditional notions of independence will fade, turning the private car into a form of public transport.

Thus, (C) accurately captures this contrast between our ideals and the emerging reality.

Quick Tip

Conclusions often reflect a shift or reversal from the premise — follow the argument to its final implication.

17. In paragraphs 5 and 6, the author provides the example of Uber to argue that

- (A) in the future, electric cars will be equipped with mechanisms that prevent collisions.
(B) in the future, traffic jams will not exist.
(C) in the future, the private car will be transformed into a form of public transport.
(D) in the future, Uber rides will outstrip Tesla sales.

Correct Answer: (C) in the future, the private car will be transformed into a form of public transport.

Solution:

The passage explains how autonomous vehicles may evolve into a system where individual car ownership becomes obsolete.

The Uber model—cars summoned as needed—represents this shift, suggesting that cars will function more like taxis or shared utilities.

Hence, the traditional "private car" will take on the role of public transportation, making (C) the most fitting answer.

Quick Tip

Authors often use companies like Uber as real-world examples of future trends—trace the implications of those models.

18. In paragraph 6, the author mentions electrically powered bicycles to argue that

- (A) if Elon Musk were a true visionary, he would invest funds in developing electric bicycles.
- (B) our fantasies of autonomy might unexpectedly require us to consider electric bicycles.
- (C) in terms of environmental friendliness and safety, electric bicycles rather than electric cars are the future.
- (D) electric buses are the best form of public transport.

Correct Answer: (B) our fantasies of autonomy might unexpectedly require us to consider electric bicycles.

Solution:

In a slightly ironic tone, the author ends by suggesting that when shared, driverless vehicles replace private cars, the only way left to preserve personal autonomy might be to ride electric bicycles.

It reflects the tension between our desire for freedom and the direction of technological progress.

Thus, (B) captures the author's philosophical conclusion: the irony that true independence may lie in pedaling, not driving.

Quick Tip

The final sentence of a passage often offers a wry or summarizing insight—read it carefully for philosophical or thematic implications.

Read the passage and answer the question based on it.

Typewriters are the epitome of a technology that has been comprehensively rendered obsolete by the digital age. They come off the ribbon, they weigh a ton, and second thoughts are a disaster. But they are also personal, portable and, above all, private. Type a document and lock it away and more or less the only way anyone else can get it is if you give it to them. That is why the Russians have decided to go back to typewriters in some government offices, and why in the US, some departments have never abandoned them. Yet it is not just their resistance to algorithms and secret surveillance that keeps typewriter production lines - well one, at least - in business (the last British one closed a year ago). Nor is it only the nostalgic appeal of the metal body and the stout well-defined keys that make them popular on eBay. A typewriter demands something particular: attentiveness. By the time the paper is loaded, the ribbon tightened, the carriage returned, the spacing and the margins set, there's a big premium on hitting the right key. That means sorting out ideas, pulling together a kind of order and organising details before actually striking off. There can be no thinking on screen with a typewriter. Nor are there any easy distractions. No online shopping. No urgent emails. No Twitter. No need even for electricity - perfect for writing in a remote hideaway. The thinking process is accompanied by the encouraging clack of keys, and the ratchet of the carriage return. Ping!

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

- (A) It describes why people continue to use typewriters even in the digital age.
- (B) It argues that typewriters will continue to be used even though they are an obsolete technology.
- (C) It highlights the personal benefits of using typewriters.
- (D) It shows that computers offer fewer options.

Correct Answer: (A) It describes why people continue to use typewriters even in the digital age.

Solution:

The passage provides several reasons why typewriters still retain relevance despite their obsolescence.

It notes their value in privacy (resistance to digital surveillance), their nostalgic appeal, and the sense of focus and deliberation they enforce.

The author also emphasizes the lack of digital distractions and the physical nature of the writing process.

These various reasons are not aimed at predicting the future or arguing for revival, but simply explaining the enduring appeal among some users.

Thus, (A) best summarizes the purpose of the passage—it's an explanation, not a prediction or persuasive argument.

Quick Tip

For questions on author's purpose, ask yourself: Is the author explaining, persuading, or predicting? In this case, the author is clearly explaining why some still prefer typewriters.

20. According to the passage, some governments still use typewriters because:

- (A) they do not want to abandon old technologies that may be useful in the future.
- (B) they want to ensure that typewriter production lines remain in business.
- (C) they like the nostalgic appeal of typewriter.
- (D) they can control who reads the document.

Correct Answer: (D) they can control who reads the document.

Solution:

The passage explicitly mentions that a major reason for continued typewriter use by governments like Russia, and some US departments, is their resistance to digital surveillance. A document typed and physically locked away can only be accessed if someone is given the physical copy—this ensures a high level of privacy and control.

This stands in contrast to digital documents, which are vulnerable to hacking or unauthorized access.

Options (A), (B), and (C) are either not mentioned or are irrelevant to the context of government use.

Quick Tip

When asked about a specific group’s motivation, locate their mention in the passage and match it to the most direct reason—not general or emotional appeals.

21. The writer praises typewriters for all the following reasons EXCEPT

- (A) Unlike computers, they can only be used for typing.
- (B) You cannot revise what you have typed on a typewriter.
- (C) Typewriters are noisier than computers.
- (D) Typewriters are messier to use than computers.

Correct Answer: (D) Typewriters are messier to use than computers.

Solution:

The passage praises typewriters for their single-purpose functionality (A), their finality (B), and even their audible feedback (C), suggesting that the clack of keys and carriage return encourages the writing process.

However, the writer never praises typewriters for being messy—in fact, messiness is not mentioned at all as a desirable or celebrated quality.

Thus, (D) is the correct “EXCEPT” answer because it is not a reason the author praises typewriters.

Quick Tip

EXCEPT questions test your ability to eliminate accurately—choose the option that contradicts or isn’t mentioned in a positive light.

Read the passage and answer the question based on it.

Despite their fierce reputation, Vikings may not have always been the plunderers and pillagers popular culture imagines them to be. In fact, they got their start trading in northern European markets, researchers suggest.

Combs carved from animal antlers, as well as comb manufacturing waste and raw antler material has turned up at three archaeological sites in Denmark, including a medieval marketplace in the city of Ribe. A team of researchers from Denmark and the U.K. hoped to identify the species of animal to which the antlers once belonged by analyzing collagen proteins in the samples and comparing them across the animal kingdom, Laura Geggel reports for LiveScience. Somewhat surprisingly, molecular analysis of the artifacts revealed that some combs and other material had been carved from reindeer antlers. Given that reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) don't live in Denmark, the researchers posit that it arrived on Viking ships from Norway. Antler craftsmanship, in the form of decorative combs, was part of Viking culture. Such combs served as symbols of good health, Geggel writes. The fact that the animals shed their antlers also made them easy to collect from the large herds that inhabited Norway.

Since the artifacts were found in marketplace areas at each site it's more likely that the Norsemen came to trade rather than pillage. Most of the artifacts also date to the 780s, but some are as old as 725. That predates the beginning of Viking raids on Great Britain by about 70 years. (Traditionally, the so-called "Viking Age" began with these raids in 793 and ended with the Norman conquest of Great Britain in 1066.) Archaeologists had suspected that the Vikings had experience with long maritime voyages [that] might have preceded their raiding days. Beyond Norway, these combs would have been a popular industry in Scandinavia as well. It's possible that the antler combs represent a larger trade network, where the Norsemen supplied raw material to craftsmen in Denmark and elsewhere.

22. The primary purpose of the passage is:

- (A) to explain the presence of reindeer antler combs in Denmark.
- (B) to contradict the widely-accepted beginning date for the Viking Age in Britain, and propose an alternate one.
- (C) to challenge the popular perception of Vikings as raiders by using evidence that suggests their early trade relations with Europe.

(D) to argue that besides being violent pillagers, Vikings were also skilled craftsmen and efficient traders.

Correct Answer: (C) to challenge the popular perception of Vikings as raiders by using evidence that suggests their early trade relations with Europe.

Solution:

The passage opens by stating that Vikings may not have always been the fearsome plunderers portrayed in popular culture.

It builds a case around archaeological discoveries, such as combs made from reindeer antlers found in Danish marketplaces, dating back to well before Viking raids began in 793.

These findings support the idea that early Viking activity involved peaceful trade, particularly in antler goods, possibly through a network reaching Norway and Scandinavia.

While combs and trade networks are discussed in detail, these serve to support the broader thesis—that Vikings were initially traders, not merely warriors or raiders.

Hence, (C) captures the author’s main intent: to challenge a dominant narrative about Viking history using archaeological evidence.

Quick Tip

To find the main purpose, look at the first and last paragraphs together—how the author introduces the topic and what conclusion they draw from the evidence.

23. The evidence – “Most of the artifacts also date to the 780s, but some are as old as 725” – has been used in the passage to argue that:

(A) the beginning date of the Viking Age should be changed from 793 to 725.

(B) the Viking raids started as early as 725.

(C) some of the antler artifacts found in Denmark and Great Britain could have come from Scandinavia.

(D) the Vikings’ trade relations with Europe pre-date the Viking raids.

Correct Answer: (D) the Vikings’ trade relations with Europe pre-date the Viking raids.

Solution:

The artifacts found in Danish marketplaces date back to 725—well before the traditionally accepted start of Viking raids in 793.

This timeline suggests that Vikings were already active in trade and long-distance voyages decades before their raiding era began.

Hence, the purpose of this evidence is to highlight the early existence of trading relationships, not to revise the historical date of raids or claim that raiding began earlier.

Thus, option (D) accurately reflects the author’s use of this archaeological evidence.

Quick Tip

Focus on what the evidence is actually used to prove—not just what the data says, but how the author uses it in argument.

24. All of the following hold true for Vikings EXCEPT

- (A) Vikings brought reindeer from Norway to Denmark for trade purposes.
- (B) Before becoming the raiders of northern Europe, Vikings had trade relations with European nations.
- (C) Antler combs, regarded by the Vikings as a symbol of good health, were part of the Viking culture.
- (D) Vikings, once upon a time, had trade relations with Denmark and Scandinavia.

Correct Answer: (A) Vikings brought reindeer from Norway to Denmark for trade purposes.

Solution:

The passage states that reindeer antlers—not live animals—were transported from Norway to Denmark, likely collected from naturally shed antlers.

Option (A) inaccurately implies that the Vikings traded reindeer as livestock, which is not supported by the text.

Options (B), (C), and (D) are all supported by the passage, describing Viking trade networks and cultural values.

Thus, (A) is the correct "EXCEPT" choice, as it misrepresents the historical evidence.

Quick Tip

In "EXCEPT" questions, verify each option against specific facts from the passage. Even small wording changes—like trading reindeer vs. reindeer antlers—can make an answer incorrect.

25. Identify the most appropriate summary for the paragraph.

North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars (*Amorpha juglandis*) look like easy meals for birds, but they have a trick up their sleeves—they produce whistles that sound like bird alarm calls, scaring potential predators away. At first, scientists suspected birds were simply startled by the loud noise. But a new study suggests a more sophisticated mechanism: the caterpillar's whistle appears to mimic a bird alarm call, sending avian predators scrambling for cover. When pecked by a bird, the caterpillars whistle by compressing their bodies like an accordion and forcing air out through specialized holes in their sides. The whistles are impressively loud—they have been measured at over 80 dB from 5 cm away from the caterpillar—considering they are made by a two-inch long insect.

- (A) North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars will whistle periodically to ward off predator birds – they have a specialized vocal tract that helps them whistle.
- (B) North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars can whistle very loudly; the loudness of their whistles is shocking as they are very small insects.
- (C) North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in a case of acoustic deception, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.
- (D) North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in a case of deception and camouflage, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.

Correct Answer: (C) North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in a case of acoustic deception, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.

Solution:

The passage centers around how this species of caterpillar uses sound as a defense mechanism, not by startling predators randomly, but by intentionally mimicking bird alarm calls.

This auditory mimicry causes birds to flee, thinking there's a danger nearby. The passage further explains the mechanics of how the caterpillars generate the sound.

Option (C) clearly captures the essence of the passage: a form of **acoustic deception** used for self-defense.

Option (A) incorrectly suggests periodic whistling and misattributes the sound to a vocal tract. Option (B) highlights only the loudness, which is a supporting detail, not the core idea.

Option (D) incorrectly introduces "camouflage," which is not discussed at all.

Quick Tip

In summary questions, identify the main strategy or mechanism described in the paragraph—avoid choices that highlight side details or introduce unrelated concepts.

26. Identify the most appropriate summary for the paragraph.

Both Socrates and Bacon were very good at asking useful questions. In fact, Socrates is largely credited with coming up with a way of asking questions, 'the Socratic method,' which itself is at the core of the 'scientific method,' popularised by Bacon. The Socratic method disproves arguments by finding exceptions to them, and can therefore lead your opponent to a point where they admit something that contradicts their original position. In common with Socrates, Bacon stressed it was as important to disprove a theory as it was to prove one – and real-world observation and experimentation were key to achieving both aims. Bacon also saw science as a collaborative affair, with scientists working together, challenging each other.

(A) Both Socrates and Bacon advocated clever questioning of the opponents to disprove their arguments and theories.

(B) Both Socrates and Bacon advocated challenging arguments and theories by observation and experimentation.

(C) Both Socrates and Bacon advocated confirming arguments and theories by finding exceptions.

(D) Both Socrates and Bacon advocated examining arguments and theories from both sides to prove them.

Correct Answer: (D) Both Socrates and Bacon advocated examining arguments and theories from both sides to prove them.

Solution:

The passage explains that both Socrates and Bacon emphasized not only proving arguments but also disproving them.

Socrates developed the method of questioning by finding exceptions, which forced contradictions into the opponent's logic.

Bacon emphasized the need for empirical testing and scientific collaboration, treating science as both constructive and critical.

This balance—testing both sides of an argument—forms the core message of the paragraph.

Thus, (D) best captures the idea that both philosophers valued exploring both affirmation and refutation to validate understanding.

Quick Tip

Look for a summary that reflects the full scope of the paragraph—not just one philosopher or method, but the commonality between them.

27. Identify the most appropriate summary for the paragraph.

A fundamental property of language is that it is slippery and messy and more liquid than solid, a gelatinous mass that changes shape to fit. As Wittgenstein would remind us, "usage has no sharp boundary." Oftentimes, the only way to determine the meaning of a word is to examine how it is used. This insight is often described as the "meaning is use" doctrine. There are differences between the "meaning is use" doctrine and a dictionary-first theory of meaning. "The dictionary's careful fixing of words to definitions, like butterflies pinned under glass, can suggest that this is how language

works. The definitions can seem to ensure and fix the meaning of words, just as the gold standard can back a country's currency." What Wittgenstein found in the circulation of ordinary language, however, was a free-floating currency of meaning. The value of each word arises out of the exchange. The lexicographer abstracts a meaning from that exchange, which is then set within the conventions of the dictionary definition.

(A) Dictionary definitions are like 'gold standards' – artificial, theoretical and dogmatic. Actual meaning of words is their free-exchange value.

(B) Language is already slippery; given this, accounting for 'meaning in use' will only exasperate the problem. That is why lexicographers 'fix' meanings.

(C) Meaning is dynamic; definitions are static. The 'meaning in use' theory helps us understand that definitions of words are culled from their meaning in exchange and use and not vice versa.

(D) The meaning of words in dictionaries is clear, fixed and less dangerous and ambiguous than the meaning that arises when words are exchanged between people.

Correct Answer: (C) Meaning is dynamic; definitions are static. The 'meaning in use' theory helps us understand that definitions of words are culled from their meaning in exchange and use and not vice versa.

Solution:

The passage explains that language is fluid and shaped by usage rather than fixed definitions. Wittgenstein's "meaning is use" doctrine emphasizes that meaning comes from real-world use and interaction, not static dictionary entries.

Dictionaries attempt to "pin down" meaning like butterflies under glass, but in reality, word meanings evolve from how people use them in context.

Thus, option (C) best captures the contrast between dynamic language use and static definitions and aligns with the core of the passage.

Option (A) captures part of the metaphor but lacks the nuance of the dynamic process. (B) and (D) misinterpret the author's message.

Quick Tip

When identifying a summary, prefer the option that reflects both the problem (language's fluidity) and the proposed insight (meaning shaped by use).

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 implications of retelling of Indian stories, hence, takes on new meaning in a modern India.
2. The stories we tell reflect the world around us.
3. We cannot help but retell the stories that we value – after all, they are never quite right for us – in our time.
4. And even if we manage to get them quite right, they are only right for us – other people living around us will have different reasons for telling similar stories.
5. As soon as we capture a story, the world we were trying to capture has changed.

Correct Answer: 25341

Solution:

The logical flow of the paragraph begins with a general observation about storytelling (2), followed by the idea that our values influence which stories we choose to retell (5).

Sentence (3) introduces the notion that retellings are always partial and shaped by context. (4) then expands this idea to acknowledge that even a well-told story varies in meaning across individuals.

Finally, sentence (1) connects all these reflections specifically to Indian storytelling, giving the paragraph a cultural anchor and conclusion.

Thus, the correct coherent order is: **2-5-3-4-1**.

Quick Tip

Start with general or universal statements when arranging paragraph sequences, and look for concluding ideas that reflect or apply the theme in a specific context.

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. Before plants can take life from atmosphere, nitrogen must undergo transformations similar to ones that food undergoes in our digestive machinery.
2. In its aerial form nitrogen is insoluble, unusable and is in need of transformation.
3. Lightning starts the series of chemical reactions that need to happen to nitrogen, ultimately helping it nourish our earth.
4. Nitrogen – an essential food for plants – is an abundant resource, with about 22 million tons of it floating over each square mile of earth.
5. One of the most dramatic examples in nature of ill wind that blows goodness is lightning.

Correct Answer: 53421

Solution:

The paragraph begins with a stylistic hook: sentence (5), which introduces lightning as a “dramatic example” of a beneficial natural force.

It logically connects to sentence (3), which explains the chemical effect of lightning on nitrogen.

Next, sentence (4) gives context about nitrogen’s abundance and importance to plant life.

Sentence (2) then explains the problem: atmospheric nitrogen is unusable in its raw form.

Finally, sentence (1) concludes the paragraph by analogizing nitrogen transformation to human digestion—linking back to the earlier transformation theme.

Thus, the correct sequence is: **5–3–4–2–1**.

Quick Tip

Look for a sentence that introduces a vivid image or metaphor (like lightning) as a hook, and follow the logical flow from cause to effect, then elaboration.

30. The six sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4,5 and 6) 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 six numbers as your answer.

1. This has huge implications for the health care system as it operates today, where depleted resources and time lead to patients rotating in and out of doctor's offices, oftentimes receiving minimal care or concern (what is commonly referred to as "bed side manner") from doctors.
2. The placebo effect is when an individual's medical condition or pain shows signs of improvement based on a fake intervention that has been presented to them as a real one and used to be regularly dismissed by researchers as a psychological effect.
3. The placebo effect is not solely based on believing in treatment, however, as the clinical setting in which treatments are administered is also paramount.
4. That the mind has the power to trigger biochemical changes because the individual believes that a given drug or intervention will be effective could empower chronic patients through the notion of our bodies' capacity for self-healing.
5. Placebo effects are now studied not just as foils for "real" interventions but as a potential portal into the self-healing powers of the body.
6. [This sentence is missing from the original image and is therefore not considered in the given answer choice.]

Correct Answer: 25431

Solution:

The paragraph begins with sentence (2), which introduces the concept of the placebo effect and its traditional dismissal.

Sentence (5) follows by highlighting a modern reconsideration of the placebo as a serious area of research with therapeutic potential.

Sentence (4) explains the mechanism by which belief and self-healing connect, strengthening the scientific relevance of the placebo effect.

Sentence (3) continues the explanation by pointing out the importance of clinical settings in the efficacy of placebo.

Finally, sentence (1) concludes by applying the relevance of the placebo effect to the real-world health care system, where care is often minimal and belief-based healing could have powerful implications.

Thus, the most coherent sequence is: **2–5–4–3–1**.

Quick Tip

Start with definitions for concept-heavy questions, then look for progression: history → new research → mechanism → application.

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. Johnson treated English very practically, as a living language, with many different shades of meaning and adopted his definitions on the principle of English common law – according to precedent.

2. Masking a profound inner torment, Johnson found solace in compiling the words of a language that was, in its coarse complexity and comprehensive genius, the precise analogue of his character.

3. Samuel Johnson was a pioneer who raised common sense to heights of genius, and a man of robust popular instincts whose watchwords were clarity, precision and simplicity.

4. The 18th century English reader, in the new world of global trade and global warfare, needed a dictionary with authoritative acts of definition of words of a language that was becoming seeded throughout the first British empire by a vigorous and practical champion.

5. The Johnson who challenged Bishop Berkeley's solipsist theory of the nonexistence of matter by kicking a large stone ("I refute it thus") is the same Johnson for whom language must have a daily practical use.

Correct Answer: 43512

Solution:

The paragraph begins with (4), which sets the historical context and the need for Johnson's work in the 18th century.

This leads to (3), which introduces Johnson's character as a genius rooted in clarity and simplicity.

Then (5) follows by giving an anecdote that reinforces Johnson's practical approach to abstract ideas.

Sentence (1) provides specific evidence of how he applied that practicality to his dictionary work.

Finally, (2) gives a personal insight into how compiling the dictionary was also a personal comfort, closing the paragraph with emotional depth.

Therefore, the logical and thematic sequence is: **4-3-5-1-2**.

Quick Tip

Start with historical or contextual background, follow with character insight and examples, and conclude with emotional or philosophical depth for coherence.

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. Although we are born with the gift of language, research shows that we are surprisingly unskilled when it comes to communicating with others.
2. We must carefully orchestrate our speech if we want to achieve our goals and bring our dreams to fruition.
3. We often choose our words without thought, oblivious of the emotional effects they can have on others.
4. We talk more than we need to, ignoring the effect we are having on those listening to us.
5. We listen poorly, without realizing it, and we often fail to pay attention to the subtle

meanings conveyed by facial expressions, body gestures, and the tone and cadence of our voice.

Correct Answer: 2

Solution:

Sentences 1, 3, 4, and 5 together form a coherent and critical reflection on the *inefficiencies and unconscious flaws in human communication*.

Sentence (1) introduces the paradox of being gifted with language but poor at communication. (3) and (4) develop this by highlighting careless speaking and insensitivity to listeners. (5) adds the dimension of poor listening and non-verbal interpretation.

However, sentence (2) breaks the critical tone and shifts into a motivational tone about achieving goals through careful speech—this doesn't align with the self-critical nature of the other sentences.

Hence, the odd one out is **sentence 2**.

Quick Tip

When identifying the odd one out, look for tone and theme consistency. A shift from criticism to advice or from reflection to motivation can signal mismatch.

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. Over the past fortnight, one of its finest champions managed to pull off a similar impression.
2. Wimbledon's greatest illusion is the sense of timelessness it evokes.
3. At 35 years and 342 days, Roger Federer became the oldest man to win the singles title in the Open Era – a full 14 years after he first claimed the title as a scruffy, pony-tailed upstart.
4. Once he had survived the opening week, the second week witnessed the range of a rested Federer's genius.

5. Given that his method isn't reliant on explosive athleticism or muscular ball-striking, both vulnerable to decay, there is cause to believe that Federer will continue to enchant for a while longer.

Correct Answer: 4

Solution:

The paragraph develops around the timelessness of Wimbledon (2), its embodiment in Federer's career longevity (1 and 3), and the prospect of his continued excellence despite age (5).

Sentence (4), while factually accurate, narrows the focus too specifically to match reporting of a particular match week.

It doesn't flow with the more thematic and reflective tone of the rest of the paragraph. The remaining sentences form a coherent idea about timelessness, legacy, and style.

Therefore, sentence (4) is the odd one out.

Quick Tip

To find the odd one out, look for a sentence that shifts the tone, scope, or focus from the rest—like moving from timeless narrative to a match report.

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. Those geometric symbols and aerodynamic swooshes are more than just skin deep.
2. The Commonwealth Bank logo – a yellow diamond, with a black chunk sliced out in one corner – is so recognisable that the bank doesn't even use its full name in its advertising.
3. It's not just logos with hidden shapes; sometimes brands will have meanings or stories within them that are deliberately vague or lost in time, urging you to delve deeper to solve the riddle.
4. Graphic designers embed cryptic references because it adds a story to the brand; they want people to spend more time with a brand and have that idea that they are an insider if they can

understand the hidden message.

5. But the Comm Bank logo has more to it than meets the eye, as squirrelled away in that diamond is the Southern Cross constellation.

Correct Answer: 1

Solution:

Sentences (2), (3), (4), and (5) all revolve around the specific case of the Commonwealth Bank logo and the broader idea of hidden meanings in brand design.

Sentence (1), while generally related to the theme of logos and branding, is much broader and does not connect to the central focus on hidden symbolism and specific examples.

The rest of the paragraph builds a coherent argument about how designers embed cryptic references and how the Comm Bank logo exemplifies that trend.

Thus, sentence (1) is the odd one out as it lacks the specificity and narrative thread of the others.

Quick Tip

Look for the sentence that stays too broad or introduces a separate idea when the others are building around a clear, specific example or argument.