

CAT 2019 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

Bureaucracy

Around the world, capital cities are disgorging bureaucrats. In the post-colonial fervour of the 20th century, coastal capitals picked by trade-focused empires were spurned for "regionally neutral" new ones But decamping wholesale is costly and unpopular; governments these days prefer piecemeal dispersal. The trend reflects how the world has changed. In past eras, when information travelled at a snail's pace, civil servants had to cluster together. But now desk-workers can ping emails and video-chat around the world. Travel for face-to-face meetings may be unavoidable, but transport links, too, have improved. . . .

Proponents of moving civil servants around promise countless benefits. It disperses the risk that a terrorist attack or natural disaster will cripple an entire government. Workers in the sticks will be inspired by new ideas that walled-off capitals cannot conjure up. Autonomous regulators perform best far from the pressure and lobbying of the big city. Some even hail a cure for ascendant cynicism and populism. The unloved bureaucrats of faraway capitals will become as popular as firefighters once they mix with regular folk. Beyond these sunny visions, dispersing central-government functions usually has three specific aims: to improve the lives of both civil servants and those living in clogged capitals; to save money; and to redress regional imbalances. The trouble is that these goals are not always realised. The first aim-improving living conditions-has a long pedigree. After the second world war Britain moved thousands of civil servants to "agreeable English country towns" as London was rebuilt. But swapping the capital for somewhere smaller is not always agreeable. Attrition rates can exceed 80%. . . . The second reason to pack bureaucrats off is to save money. Office space costs far more in capitals. . . . Agencies that are moved elsewhere can often recruit better workers on lower salaries than in capitals, where well-paying multinationals mop up talent.

The third reason to shift is to rebalance regional inequality. . . . Norway treats federal jobs as a resource every region deserves to enjoy, like profits from oil. Where government jobs go, private ones follow. . . . Sometimes the aim is to fulfil the potential of a country's second-tier cities. Unlike poor, remote places, bigger cities can make the most of relocated government agencies, linking them to local universities and businesses and supplying a better-educated workforce. The decision in 1946 to set up America's Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta

rather than Washington, D.C., has transformed the city into a hub for health-sector research and business.

The dilemma is obvious. Pick small, poor towns, and areas of high unemployment get new jobs, but it is hard to attract the most qualified workers; opt for larger cities with infrastructure and better-qualified residents, and the country's most deprived areas see little benefit. . . .

Others contend that decentralisation begets corruption by making government agencies less accountable. . . . A study in America found that state-government corruption is worse when the state capital is isolated-journalists, who tend to live in the bigger cities, become less watchful of those in power.

Q1. According to the passage, colonial powers located their capitals:

- (A) to showcase their power and prestige.
- (B) where they had the densest populations.
- (C) based on political expediency.
- (D) to promote their trading interests.

Correct Answer: (C) based on political expediency.

Solution. The passage mentions that the colonial powers chose their capitals based on their political considerations and expedient reasons, which is reflected in option (C). Other options are not directly supported by the passage details, as it emphasizes political reasons rather than prestige, population density, or trading interests. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Quick Tip

Always focus on the key terms mentioned in the passage when answering questions related to political, economic, or social decisions.

Q2. The “dilemma” mentioned in the passage refers to:

- (A) keeping government agencies in the largest city with good infrastructure or moving them to a remote area with few amenities.

(B) concentrating on decongesting large cities or focusing on boosting employment in relatively larger cities.

(C) encouraging private enterprises to relocate to smaller towns or not incentivising them in order to keep government costs in those towns low.

(D) relocating government agencies to boost growth in remote areas with poor amenities or to relatively larger cities with good amenities.

Correct Answer: (D) relocating government agencies to boost growth in remote areas with poor amenities or to relatively larger cities with good amenities.

Solution. The "dilemma" discussed in the passage revolves around finding the best solution for government agencies—either relocating to remote areas with poor amenities for growth or moving to larger cities with better facilities. Hence, option (D) is the correct interpretation of the dilemma.

Quick Tip

When a passage talks about dilemmas, identify the contrasting choices to find the most balanced or supported solution.

Q3. People who support decentralising central government functions are LEAST likely to cite which of the following reasons for their view?

(A) More independence could be enjoyed by regulatory bodies located away from political centres.

(B) Policy makers may benefit from fresh thinking in a new environment.

(C) It reduces expenses as infrastructure costs and salaries are lower in smaller cities.

(D) It could weaken the nexus between bureaucrats and media in the capital.

Correct Answer: (C) It reduces expenses as infrastructure costs and salaries are lower in smaller cities.

Solution. Option (C) is the least likely reason cited by decentralisers. While the decentralisation argument often includes benefits like increased independence, fresh

thinking, and a reduced nexus between bureaucrats and the media, it is less likely to focus on cost reduction as the primary factor, as decentralisation is not mainly viewed from an economic standpoint.

Quick Tip

To identify the least likely argument, focus on reasoning that diverges from the core motivations or broader logic discussed in the passage.

Q4. The “long pedigree” of the aim to shift civil servants to improve their living standards implies that this move:

- (A) is not a new idea and has been tried in the past.
- (B) has become common practice in several countries worldwide.
- (C) is supported by politicians and the ruling elites.
- (D) takes a long time to achieve its intended outcomes.

Correct Answer: (A) is not a new idea and has been tried in the past.

Solution. The phrase “long pedigree” refers to something that has a long history or tradition. This implies that the aim to shift civil servants is not a new idea, but rather one that has been in practice for a long time. Thus, option (A) is correct.

Quick Tip

Focus on the wording of phrases like “long pedigree” that indicate the historical context or tradition behind an idea or policy.

Q5. According to the author, relocating government agencies has not always been a success for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- (A) a rise in pollution levels and congestion in the new locations.

- (B) the difficulty of attracting talented, well-skilled people in more remote areas.
- (C) increased avenues of corruption away from the capital city.
- (D) high staff losses, as people may not be prepared to move to smaller towns.

Correct Answer: (A) a rise in pollution levels and congestion in the new locations.

Solution. The passage mentions several reasons why relocating government agencies has not always been successful. These include the difficulty of attracting skilled workers to remote areas (Option B), the possibility of increased corruption when moved away from the capital (Option C), and the high staff losses that occur when people are not willing to relocate (Option D). However, a rise in pollution levels and congestion is not mentioned as a reason for the failure of relocation efforts, making option (A) the correct answer as the exception.

Quick Tip

Carefully check for statements that are not directly supported by the passage when identifying the exception.

Preservation

War, natural disasters and climate change are destroying some of the world's most precious cultural sites. Google is trying to help preserve these archaeological wonders by allowing users access to 3D images of these treasures through its site.

But the project is raising questions about Google's motivations and about who should own the digital copyrights. Some critics call it a form of "digital colonialism." When it comes to archaeological treasures, the losses have been mounting. ISIS blew up parts of the ancient city of Palmyra in Syria and an earthquake hit Bagan, an ancient city in Myanmar, damaging dozens of temples, in 2016. In the past, all archaeologists and historians had for restoration and research were photos, drawings, remnants and intuition.

But that's changing. Before the earthquake at Bagan, many of the temples on the site were scanned. . . . [These] scans . . . are on Google's Arts Culture site. The digital renditions allow viewers to virtually wander the halls of the temple, look up-close at paintings and turn

the building over, to look up at its chambers. . . . [Google Arts Culture] works with museums and other nonprofits . . . to put high-quality images online.

The images of the temples in Bagan are part of a collaboration with CyArk, a nonprofit that creates the 3D scanning of historic sites. . . . Google . . . says [it] doesn't make money off this website, but it fits in with Google's mission to make the world's information available and useful. Critics say the collaboration could be an attempt by a large corporation to wrap itself in the sheen of culture. Ethan Watrall, an archaeologist, professor at Michigan State University and a member of the Society for American Archaeology, says he's not comfortable with the arrangement between CyArk and Google. . . . Watrall says this project is just a way for Google to promote Google. "They want to make this material accessible so people will browse it and be filled with wonder by it," he says. "But at its core, it's all about advertisements and driving traffic." Watrall says these images belong on the site of a museum or educational institution, where there is serious scholarship and a very different mission.

. . . [There's] another issue for some archaeologists and art historians. CyArk owns the copyrights of the scans - not the countries where these sites are located. That means the countries need CyArk's permission to use these images for commercial purposes. Erin Thompson, a professor of art crime at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, says it's the latest example of a Western nation appropriating a foreign culture, a centuries-long battle. . . . CyArk says it copyrights the scans so no one can use them in an inappropriate way. The company says it works closely with authorities during the process, even training local people to help. But critics like Thompson are not persuaded. . . . She would prefer the scans to be owned by the countries and people where these sites are located.

Q1. Based on his views mentioned in the passage, one could best characterise Dr. Watrall as being:

- (A) opposed to the use of digital technology in archaeological and cultural sites in developing countries.
- (B) dismissive of laypeople's access to specialist images of archaeological and cultural sites.
- (C) uneasy about the marketing of archaeological images for commercial use by firms such as Google and CyArk.
- (D) critical about the links between a non-profit and a commercial tech platform for

distributing archaeological images.

Correct Answer: (C) uneasy about the marketing of archaeological images for commercial use by firms such as Google and CyArk.

Solution. Dr. Watrall expresses discomfort with the arrangement between CyArk and Google, stating that the project seems more focused on driving traffic and advertisement rather than true scholarly access. Therefore, option (C) most accurately reflects his stance.

Quick Tip

When addressing objections or criticisms in a passage, focus on the core concern raised by the individual.

Q2. By "digital colonialism", critics of the CyArk-Google project are referring to the fact that:

- (A) CyArk and Google have been scanning images without copyright permission from host countries.
- (B) the scanning process can damage delicate frescos and statues at the sites.
- (C) countries where the scanned sites are located do not own the scan copyrights.
- (D) CyArk and Google have not shared the details of digitisation with the host countries.

Correct Answer: (C) countries where the scanned sites are located do not own the scan copyrights.

Solution. The term "digital colonialism" refers to the control over cultural heritage by Western organisations, specifically the ownership of digital copyrights for scans by CyArk, rather than the countries where these archaeological sites are located. Hence, option (C) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

"Digital colonialism" typically refers to the control of digital assets and intellectual property by entities that are not directly linked to the original site or culture.

Q3. Which of the following, if true, would most strongly invalidate Dr. Watrall’s objections?

- (A) Google takes down advertisements on its website hosting CyArk’s scanned images.
- (B) There is a ban on CyArk scanning archaeological sites located in other countries.
- (C) CyArk does not own the copyright on scanned images of archaeological sites.
- (D) CyArk uploads its scanned images of archaeological sites onto museum websites only.

Correct Answer: (A) Google takes down advertisements on its website hosting CyArk’s scanned images.

Solution. Dr. Watrall’s objection centers on the commercial aspect of the project. If Google were to remove advertisements, it would address his concern about the marketing of the scanned images for commercial purposes. Therefore, option (A) would invalidate his objections.

Quick Tip

Always consider the commercial and non-commercial implications when evaluating concerns about digital projects.

Q4. In Dr. Thompson’s view, CyArk owning the copyright of its digital scans of archaeological sites is akin to:

- (A) tourists uploading photos of monuments onto social media.
- (B) the seizing of ancient Egyptian artefacts by a Western museum.
- (C) the illegal downloading of content from the internet.
- (D) digital platforms capturing users’ data for market research.

Correct Answer: (B) the seizing of ancient Egyptian artefacts by a Western museum.

Solution. Dr. Thompson views CyArk’s ownership of copyright over digital scans as similar to the historical appropriation of cultural artefacts by Western museums. The implication is

that this is an ongoing issue of cultural ownership and control, as seen with the appropriation of Egyptian artefacts. Hence, option (B) is the correct analogy.

Quick Tip

When evaluating analogies, consider historical contexts and the underlying issues of power and control over cultural assets.

Q5. Of the following arguments, which one is LEAST likely to be used by the companies that digitally scan cultural sites?

- (A) It enables people who cannot physically visit these sites to experience them.
- (B) It helps preserve precious images in case the sites are damaged or destroyed.
- (C) It allows a large corporation to project itself as a protector of culture.
- (D) It provides images free of cost to all users.

Correct Answer: (C) It allows a large corporation to project itself as a protector of culture.

Solution. While the companies might argue that their scanning of cultural sites helps people experience them remotely or preserves the sites for future generations, the idea that their motive is to project themselves as a protector of culture is less likely to be their stated argument. Hence, option (C) is the least likely argument.

Quick Tip

Focus on the stated benefits of a project and critically assess whether these align with the project's actual goals.

Urban Settlements

The magic of squatter cities is that they are improved steadily and gradually by their residents. To a planner's eye, these cities look chaotic. I trained as a biologist and to my eye, they look organic. Squatter cities are also unexpectedly green. They have maximum

density-1 million people per square mile in some areas of Mumbai-and have minimum energy and material use. People get around by foot, bicycle, rickshaw, or the universal shared taxi.

Not everything is efficient in the slums, though. In the Brazilian favelas where electricity is stolen and therefore free, people leave their lights on all day. But in most slums recycling is literally a way of life. The Dharavi slum in Mumbai has 400 recycling units and 30,000 ragpickers. Six thousand tons of rubbish are sorted every day. In 2007, the Economist reported that in Vietnam and Mozambique, "Waves of gleaners sift the sweepings of Hanoi's streets, just as Mozambiquan children pick over the rubbish of Maputo's main tip. Every city in Asia and Latin America has an industry based on gathering up old cardboard boxes." . . . In his 1985 article, Calthorpe made a statement that still jars with most people: "The city is the most environmentally benign form of human settlement. Each city dweller consumes less land, less energy, less water, and produces less pollution than his counterpart in settlements of lower densities." "Green Manhattan" was the inflammatory title of a 2004 New Yorker article by David Owen. "By the most significant measures," he wrote, "New York is the greenest community in the United States, and one of the greenest cities in the world . . . The key to New York's relative environmental benignity is its extreme compactness. . . . Placing one and a half million people on a twenty-three-square-mile island sharply reduces their opportunities to be wasteful." He went on to note that this very compactness forces people to live in the world's most energy-efficient apartment buildings.

Urban density allows half of humanity to live on 2.8 per cent of the land. . . . Consider just the infrastructure efficiencies. According to a 2004 UN report: "The concentration of population and enterprises in urban areas greatly reduces the unit cost of piped water, sewers, drains, roads, electricity, garbage collection, transport, health care, and schools." . . .

[T]he nationally subsidised city of Manaus in northern Brazil "answers the question" of how to stop deforestation: give people decent jobs. Then they can afford houses, and gain security. One hundred thousand people who would otherwise be deforesting the jungle around Manaus are now prospering in town making such things as mobile phones and televisions. . . . Of course, fast-growing cities are far from an unmitigated good. They concentrate crime, pollution, disease and injustice as much as business, innovation, education and entertainment. . . . But if they are overall a net good for those who move there,

it is because cities offer more than just jobs. They are transformative: in the slums, as well as the office towers and leafy suburbs, the progress is from hick to metropolitan to cosmopolitan . . .

Q1. Which one of the following statements would undermine the author’s stand regarding the greenness of cities?

- (A) The compactness of big cities in the West increases the incidence of violent crime.
- (B) Sorting through rubbish contributes to the rapid spread of diseases in the slums.
- (C) The high density of cities leads to an increase in carbon dioxide and global warming.
- (D) Over the last decade the cost of utilities has been increasing for city dwellers.

Correct Answer: (C) The high density of cities leads to an increase in carbon dioxide and global warming.

Solution. The author emphasizes that the compactness of cities leads to environmental efficiencies, such as reduced energy and material use. The statement in option (C), regarding increased carbon dioxide and global warming, directly contradicts the author’s positive view of urban density and greenness, making it the correct answer.

Quick Tip

When evaluating questions about a passage’s argument, identify statements that contradict or weaken the key claims made by the author.

Q2. According to the passage, squatter cities are environment-friendly for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- (A) their transportation is energy efficient.
- (B) they recycle material.
- (C) they sort out garbage.
- (D) their streets are kept clean.

Correct Answer: (D) their streets are kept clean.

Solution. The passage describes how squatter cities, like those in Mumbai, recycle material and sort out garbage, but it does not mention the cleanliness of the streets as a contributing factor to their environmental friendliness. Hence, option (D) is the correct answer as it is not mentioned in the passage.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to the specific reasons mentioned in the passage when choosing the exception.

Q3. We can infer that Calthorpe’s statement ”still jars” with most people because most people:

- (A) regard cities as places of disease and crime.
- (B) do not consider cities to be eco-friendly places.
- (C) do not regard cities as good places to live in.
- (D) consider cities to be very crowded and polluted.

Correct Answer: (B) do not consider cities to be eco-friendly places.

Solution. Calthorpe’s statement, which argues that cities are environmentally benign, ”jarred” with most people because cities are often not viewed as eco-friendly. The general perception of cities is more negative, associating them with pollution and inefficiency. Therefore, option (B) is the correct inference.

Quick Tip

Identify the underlying reasons for why a statement might be surprising or controversial to the audience.

Q4. In the context of the passage, the author refers to Manaus in order to:

- (A) explain how urban areas help the environment.

- (B) describe the infrastructure efficiencies of living in a city.
- (C) explain where cities source their labour for factories.
- (D) promote cities as employment hubs for people.

Correct Answer: (A) explain how urban areas help the environment.

Solution. The author refers to Manaus to highlight how urban areas can help stop deforestation by providing decent jobs to people who would otherwise contribute to environmental destruction. This supports the argument that cities can have positive environmental impacts. Hence, option (A) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

Look for examples in the passage that support the broader claims made by the author.

Q5. From the passage it can be inferred that cities are good places to live in for all of the following reasons EXCEPT that they:

- (A) offer employment opportunities.
- (B) help prevent destruction of the environment.
- (C) contribute to the cultural transformation of residents.
- (D) have suburban areas as well as office areas.

Correct Answer: (D) have suburban areas as well as office areas.

Solution. The passage mentions that cities provide employment opportunities, contribute to cultural transformation, and help prevent environmental destruction. However, the presence of suburban areas and office areas is not specifically mentioned as a benefit of living in cities. Therefore, option (D) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

Focus on the key reasons given in the passage for why cities are good places to live, and look for what is not mentioned.

Linguistics

For two years, I tracked down dozens of . . . Chinese in Upper Egypt [who were] selling lingerie. In a deeply conservative region, where Egyptian families rarely allow women to work or own businesses, the Chinese flourished because of their status as outsiders. They didn't gossip, and they kept their opinions to themselves. In a *New Yorker* article entitled "Learning to Speak Lingerie," I described the Chinese use of Arabic as another non-threatening characteristic. I wrote, "Unlike Mandarin, Arabic is inflected for gender, and Chinese dealers, who learn the language strictly by ear, often pick up speech patterns from female customers. I've come to think of it as the lingerie dialect, and there's something disarming about these Chinese men speaking in the feminine voice." . . .

When I wrote about the Chinese in the *New Yorker*, most readers seemed to appreciate the unusual perspective. But as I often find with topics that involve the Middle East, some people had trouble getting past the black-and-white quality of a byline. "This piece is so orientalist I don't know what to do," Aisha Gani, a reporter who worked at *The Guardian*, tweeted. Another colleague at the British paper, Iman Amrani, agreed: "I wouldn't have minded an article on the subject written by an Egyptian woman-probably would have had better insight." . . .

As an MOL (man of language), I also take issue with this kind of essentialism. Empathy and understanding are not inherited traits, and they are not strictly tied to gender and race. An individual who wrestles with a difficult language can learn to be more sympathetic to outsiders and open to different experiences of the world. This learning process-the embarrassments, the frustrations, the gradual sense of understanding and connection-is invariably transformative. In Upper Egypt, the Chinese experience of struggling to learn Arabic and local culture had made them much more thoughtful. In the same way, I was interested in their lives not because of some kind of voyeurism, but because I had also experienced Egypt and Arabic as an outsider. And both the Chinese and the Egyptians welcomed me because I spoke their languages. My identity as a white male was far less important than my ability to communicate.

And that easily lobbed word-"Orientalist"-hardly captures the complexity of our interactions. What exactly is the dynamic when a man from Missouri observes a Zhejiang native selling

lingerie to an Upper Egyptian woman? . . . If all of us now stand beside the same river, speaking in ways we all understand, who's looking east and who's looking west? Which way is Oriental? For all of our current interest in identity politics, there's no corresponding sense of identity linguistics. You are what you speak-the words that run throughout your mind are at least as fundamental to your selfhood as is your ethnicity or your gender. And sometimes it's healthy to consider human characteristics that are not inborn, rigid, and outwardly defined. After all, you can always learn another language and change who you are.

Q1. Which of the following can be inferred from the author's claim, "Which way is Oriental?"

- (A) Learning another language can mitigate cultural hierarchies and barriers.
- (B) Globalisation has mitigated cultural hierarchies and barriers.
- (C) Goodwill alone mitigates cultural hierarchies and barriers.
- (D) Orientalism is a discourse of the past, from colonial times, rarely visible today.

Correct Answer: (A) Learning another language can mitigate cultural hierarchies and barriers.

Solution. The author's claim "Which way is Oriental?" challenges the traditional East-West divide and questions rigid cultural boundaries. By emphasizing how language can shape selfhood and break down barriers, the author suggests that learning another language can help overcome cultural hierarchies and barriers. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Quick Tip

When identifying inferences, focus on the key themes and the author's underlying message in the passage.

Q2. A French ethnographer decides to study the culture of a Nigerian tribe. Which of the following is most likely to be the view of the author of the passage?

- (A) The author would encourage the ethnographer, but ask him/her to first learn the language of the Nigerian tribe s/he wishes to study.

(B) The author would encourage the ethnographer, but ask him/her to be mindful of his/her racial and gender identity in the process.

(C) The author would discourage the ethnographer from conducting the study as Nigerian ethnographers can better understand the tribe.

(D) The author would encourage the ethnographer and recommend him/her to hire a good translator for the purpose of holding interviews.

Correct Answer: (A) The author would encourage the ethnographer, but ask him/her to first learn the language of the Nigerian tribe s/he wishes to study.

Solution. The author stresses the importance of empathy and understanding through language learning. Given this, the most likely view is that the ethnographer should learn the language of the tribe they are studying, as this would lead to a more genuine and empathetic understanding. Therefore, option (A) is the best match.

Quick Tip

When evaluating a passage that discusses language and cultural understanding, focus on the role of language in bridging gaps.

Q3. The author's critics would argue that:

(A) Empathy can overcome identity politics.

(B) Language is insufficient to bridge cultural barriers.

(C) Linguistic politics can be erased.

(D) Orientalism cannot be practiced by Egyptians.

Correct Answer: (B) Language is insufficient to bridge cultural barriers.

Solution. The critics in the passage, such as Aisha Gani and Iman Amrani, challenge the author's approach, suggesting that the author's perspective may be too simplistic and not account for the complexities of identity and cultural understanding. They would likely argue that while language is important, it is insufficient to overcome all cultural barriers.

Therefore, option (B) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

When considering opposing arguments, focus on how critics challenge the underlying assumptions of the original position.

Q4. According to the passage, which of the following is not responsible for language's ability to change us?

- (A) The ups and downs involved in the course of learning a language.
- (B) Language's intrinsic connection to our notions of self and identity.
- (C) Language's ability to mediate the impact of identity markers one is born with.
- (D) The twists and turns in the evolution of language over time.

Correct Answer: (D) The twists and turns in the evolution of language over time.

Solution. The passage emphasizes how language learning, its connection to identity, and its ability to shape selfhood can transform us. However, the evolution of language over time (option D) is not discussed as a factor that directly impacts personal transformation. Therefore, option (D) is not responsible for language's ability to change us.

Quick Tip

When analyzing a passage, differentiate between factors that directly influence personal change and those that are more general or historical in nature.

British Colonial Policy

British colonial policy . . . went through two policy phases, or at least there were two strategies between which its policies actually oscillated, sometimes to its great advantage. At first, the new colonial apparatus exercised caution, and occupied India by a mix of military power and subtle diplomacy, the high ground in the middle of the circle of circles. This, however, pushed them into contradictions. For, whatever their sense of the strangeness of the country and the thinness of colonial presence, the British colonial state represented the great

conquering discourse of Enlightenment rationalism, entering India precisely at the moment of its greatest unchecked arrogance. As inheritors and representatives of this discourse, which carried everything before it, this colonial state could hardly adopt for long such a self-denying attitude. It had restructured everything in Europe-the productive system, the political regimes, the moral and cognitive orders-and would do the same in India, particularly as some empirically inclined theorists of that generation considered the colonies a massive laboratory of utilitarian or other theoretical experiments. Consequently, the colonial state could not settle simply for eminence at the cost of its marginality; it began to take initiatives to introduce the logic of modernity into Indian society. But this modernity did not enter a passive society. Sometimes, its initiatives were resisted by pre-existing structural forms. At times, there was a more direct form of collective resistance. Therefore the map of continuity and discontinuity that this state left behind at the time of independence was rather complex and has to be traced with care.

Most significantly, of course, initiatives for . . . modernity came to assume an external character. The acceptance of modernity came to be connected, ineradicably, with subjection. This again points to two different problems, one theoretical, the other political.

Theoretically, because modernity was externally introduced, it is explanatorily unhelpful to apply the logical format of the 'transition process' to this pattern of change. Such a logical format would be wrong on two counts. First, however subtly, it would imply that what was proposed to be built was something like European capitalism. (And, in any case, historians have forcefully argued that what it was to replace was not like feudalism, with or without modificatory adjectives.) But, more fundamentally, the logical structure of endogenous change does not apply here. Here transformation agendas attack as an external force. This externality is not something that can be casually mentioned and forgotten. It is inscribed on every move, every object, every proposal, every legislative act, each line of causality. It comes to be marked on the epoch itself. This repetitive emphasis on externality should not be seen as a nationalist initiative that is so well rehearsed in Indian social science. . . .

Quite apart from the externality of the entire historical proposal of modernity, some of its contents were remarkable. . . . Economic reforms, or rather alterations . . . did not foreshadow the construction of a classical capitalist economy, with its necessary emphasis on extractive and transport sectors. What happened was the creation of a degenerate version of

capitalism-what early dependency theorists called the 'development of underdevelopment'.

Q1. All of the following statements about British colonialism can be inferred from the first paragraph, EXCEPT that it:

- (A) was at least partly an outcome of Enlightenment rationalism.
- (B) faced resistance from existing structural forms of Indian modernity.
- (C) was at least partly shaped by the project of European modernity.
- (D) allowed the treatment of colonies as experimental sites.

Correct Answer: (B) faced resistance from existing structural forms of Indian modernity.

Solution. The first paragraph suggests that the British colonial policy was influenced by Enlightenment rationalism, shaped by European modernity, and treated colonies as experimental sites for theories of utilitarianism. However, it does not specifically mention that Indian modernity had existing structural forms resisting colonialism. Therefore, option (B) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

Focus on identifying what is explicitly stated in the passage, especially when the options mention resistance or opposition.

Q2. All of the following statements, if true, could be seen as supporting the arguments in the passage, EXCEPT:

- (A) the introduction of capitalism in India was not through the transformation of feudalism, as happened in Europe.
- (B) modernity was imposed upon India by the British and, therefore, led to underdevelopment.
- (C) throughout the history of colonial conquest, natives have often been experimented on by the colonisers.
- (D) the change in British colonial policy was induced by resistance to modernity in Indian society.

Correct Answer: (D) the change in British colonial policy was induced by resistance to modernity in Indian society.

Solution. The passage discusses how the British colonial policy was influenced by Enlightenment rationalism and their desire to introduce modernity, and how the imposition of modernity led to underdevelopment. However, it does not attribute the change in British colonial policy to resistance from Indian society; rather, it mentions the contradictions faced by the colonial state. Therefore, option (D) does not align with the arguments in the passage.

Quick Tip

Be careful when interpreting cause-and-effect relationships. Look for what the passage actually suggests, not assumptions about motivations.

Q3. "Consequently, the colonial state could not settle simply for eminence at the cost of its marginality; it began to take initiatives to introduce the logic of modernity into Indian society." Which of the following best captures the sense of this statement?

- (A) The colonial state's eminence was unsettled by its marginal position; therefore, it developed Indian society by modernising it.
- (B) The colonial enterprise was a costly one; so to justify the cost it began to take initiatives to introduce the logic of modernity into Indian society.
- (C) The colonial state felt marginalised from Indian society because of its own modernity; therefore, it sought to address that marginalisation by bringing its modernity to change Indian society.
- (D) The cost of the colonial state's eminence was not settled; therefore, it took the initiative of introducing modernity into Indian society.

Correct Answer: (C) The colonial state felt marginalised from Indian society because of its own modernity; therefore, it sought to address that marginalisation by bringing its modernity to change Indian society.

Solution. The statement highlights the contradiction that while the colonial state represented modernity, it still felt marginalised in Indian society. The colonial state then sought to impose its own version of modernity on Indian society to address this marginalisation. Option (C) best captures this sense of the statement.

Quick Tip

Focus on the core idea of how colonial actions are linked to their sense of marginality and the actions taken to resolve it.

Q4. Which one of the following 5-word sequences best captures the flow of the arguments in the passage?

- (A) Military power-arrogance-laboratory-modernity-capitalism.
- (B) Colonial policy-Enlightenment-external modernity-subjection-underdevelopment.
- (C) Colonial policy-arrogant rationality-resistance-independence-development.
- (D) Military power-colonialism-restructuring-feudalism-capitalism.

Correct Answer: (B) Colonial policy-Enlightenment-external modernity-subjection-underdevelopment.

Solution. The passage outlines the flow of British colonial policy, which starts with the colonial state influenced by Enlightenment thought, leads to the imposition of external modernity on Indian society, and results in subjection and underdevelopment. Therefore, option (B) best captures the flow of arguments in the passage.

Quick Tip

When selecting a sequence of words, focus on how the key concepts in the passage are linked together logically.

Q5. Which of the following observations is a valid conclusion to draw from the author's statement that "the logical structure of endogenous change does not apply here. Here transformation agendas attack as an external force"?

- (A) The endogenous logic of colonialism can only bring change if it attacks and transforms external forces.
- (B) Indian society is not endogamous; it is more accurately characterised as aggressively exogamous.
- (C) Colonised societies cannot be changed through logic; they need to be transformed with external force.
- (D) The transformation of Indian society did not happen organically, but was forced by colonial agendas.

Correct Answer: (D) The transformation of Indian society did not happen organically, but was forced by colonial agendas.

Solution. The author emphasizes that the transformation of Indian society was not a natural, organic process but was driven by external colonial forces, which is captured by option (D). The passage suggests that the change was not endogenous but imposed externally through colonial agendas.

Quick Tip

Look for conclusions that reflect the main argument of the passage, especially in relation to the nature of transformation in colonised societies.

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

Q1.

(i) Conceptualisations of 'women's time' as contrary to clock-time and clock-time as synonymous with economic rationalism are two of the deleterious results of this representation.

(ii) While dichotomies of 'men's time', 'women's time', clock-time, and caring time can be analytically useful, this article argues that everyday caring practices incorporate a multiplicity of times; and both men and women can engage in these multiple-times.

(iii) When the everyday practices of working sole fathers and working sole mothers are carefully examined to explore conceptualisations of gendered time, it is found that caring time is often more focused on the clock than generally theorised.

(iv) Clock-time has been consistently represented in feminist literature as a masculine artefact representative of a 'time is money' perspective.

Solution: - **Sentence 4** introduces clock-time as a masculine concept tied to economic rationalism.

- **Sentence 1** elaborates on the negative consequences of this representation.

- **Sentence 3** discusses how working sole fathers and mothers view caring time as more focused on the clock.

- **Sentence 2** concludes that both men and women can engage in multiple times, challenging rigid dichotomies.

Quick Tip

Follow the logical flow of ideas, starting from the general idea and narrowing down to specific examples.

Q2. (i) Living things—animals and plants—typically exhibit correlational structure.

(ii) Adaptive behaviour depends on cognitive economy, treating objects as equivalent.

(iii) The information we receive from our senses, from the world, typically has structure and order, and is not arbitrary.

(iv) To categorize an object means to consider it equivalent to other things in that category, and different along some salient dimension from things that are not.

Solution: - **Sentence 3** introduces the idea that the information we receive from our senses is structured and ordered.

- **Sentence 1** follows by stating that living things exhibit correlational structure.

- **Sentence 2** explains adaptive behavior and cognitive economy, emphasizing that objects are treated as equivalent.
- **Sentence 4** elaborates on categorization, where an object is treated as equivalent to others in the same category and different from those in others.

Quick Tip

Identify the key terms and how each sentence builds on or relates to them.

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- Q3. (i)** To the uninitiated listener, atonal music can sound like chaotic, random noise.
- (ii)** Atonality is a condition of music in which the constructs of the music do not 'live' within the confines of a particular key signature, scale, or mode.
- (iii)** After you realize the amount of knowledge, skill, and technical expertise required to compose or perform it, your tune may change, so to speak.
- (iv)** However, atonality is one of the most important movements in 20th century music.

Solution: - **Sentence 2** defines atonality, explaining that it does not adhere to a particular key, scale, or mode.

- **Sentence 1** follows by describing how atonal music can seem chaotic and random to an uninitiated listener.
- **Sentence 4** emphasizes atonality's importance in 20th-century music.
- **Sentence 3** wraps up by explaining that once you understand the expertise required to compose or perform atonal music, your perspective on it may change.

Quick Tip

Look for the sequence that introduces the concept first and then follows with clarification and significance.

Q4.

- (i) Such a belief in the harmony of nature requires a purpose presumably imposed by the goodness and wisdom of a deity.
- (ii) These parts, all fit together into an integrated, well-ordered system that was created by design.
- (iii) Historically, the notion of a balance of nature is part observational, part metaphysical, and not scientific in any way.
- (iv) It is an example of an ancient belief system called teleology, the notion that what we call nature has a predetermined destiny associated with its component parts.

Solution: - **Sentence 3** introduces the historical perspective of the balance of nature, stating it is observational and metaphysical, rather than scientific.

- **Sentence 1** follows by discussing that such a belief requires a purpose imposed by a deity.
- **Sentence 2** connects these ideas, discussing how the parts of nature fit together as an integrated system.
- **Sentence 4** concludes by linking the concept of teleology to an ancient belief system that assigns predetermined destiny to nature.

Quick Tip

When identifying sequences, focus on how one sentence introduces a broad idea and the following sentences narrow it down with explanations and examples.

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

Q1. Language is an autapomorphy found only in our lineage, and not shared with other branches of our group such as primates. We also have no definitive evidence that any species other than *Homo sapiens* ever had language. However, it must be noted straightaway that 'language' is not a monolithic entity, but rather a complex bundle of traits that must have evolved over a significant time frame Moreover, language crucially draws on aspects of cognition that are long established in the primate lineage, such as memory: the language faculty as a whole comprises more than just the uniquely linguistic features.

- (A) Language, a derived trait found only in humans, has evolved over time and involves memory.
- (B) Language is a distinctively human feature as there is no evidence of the existence of language in any other species.
- (C) Language evolved with linguistic features building on features of cognition such as memory.
- (D) Language is not a single, uniform entity but the end result of a long and complex process of linguistic evolution.

Correct Answer: (C) Language evolved with linguistic features building on features of cognition such as memory.

Solution. The passage emphasizes that language is a complex bundle of traits that evolved over time and draws on cognitive aspects like memory, which is shared in the primate lineage. This supports option (C), as it directly mentions the interaction between linguistic features and cognition. Options (A), (B), and (D) do not fully capture this point in the same way.

Quick Tip

Look for the details in the passage that explain how different features contribute to the evolution of language.

Q2. Social movement organizations often struggle to mobilize supporters from allied movements in their efforts to achieve critical mass. Organizations with hybrid identities—those whose organizational identities span the boundaries of two or more social movements, issues, or identities—are vital to mobilizing these constituencies. Studies of the post-9/11 U.S. antiwar movement show that individuals with past involvement in non-anti-war movements are more likely to join hybrid organizations than are individuals without involvement in non-anti-war movements. In addition, they show that organizations with hybrid identities occupy relatively more central positions in inter-organizational contact

networks within the antiwar movement and thus recruit significantly more participants in demonstrations than do nonhybrid organizations.

(A) Post 9/11 studies show that people who are involved in non anti-war movements are likely to join hybrid organizations.

(B) Hybrid organizations attract individuals that are deeply involved in anti-war movements.

(C) Movements that work towards social change often find it difficult to mobilize a critical mass of supporters.

(D) Organizations with hybrid identities are able to mobilize individuals with different points of view.

Correct Answer: (A) Post 9/11 studies show that people who are involved in non anti-war movements are likely to join hybrid organizations.

Solution. The passage clearly mentions that individuals with past involvement in non-anti-war movements are more likely to join hybrid organizations. Therefore, option (A) directly aligns with the information in the passage. The other options are not directly supported by the passage.

Quick Tip

Focus on the specific points mentioned in the passage when answering questions about research findings or studies.

Q3. Privacy-challenged office workers may find it hard to believe, but open-plan offices and cubicles were invented by architects and designers who thought that to break down the social walls that divide people, you had to break down the real walls, too. Modernist architects saw walls and rooms as downright fascist. The spaciousness and flexibility of an open plan would liberate homeowners and office dwellers from the confines of boxes. But companies took up their idea less out of a democratic ideology than a desire to pack in as many workers as they could. The typical open-plan office of the first half of the 20th century was a white-collar assembly line. Cubicles were interior designers' attempt to put some soul back in.

(A) Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out as desired and therefore cubicles came into being.

(B) Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out the way their utopian inventors intended, as they became tools for exploitation of labor.

(C) Wall-free office spaces could have worked out the way their utopian inventors intended had companies cared for workers' satisfaction.

(D) Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out as companies don't believe in democratic ideology.

Correct Answer: (B) Wall-free office spaces did not quite work out the way their utopian inventors intended, as they became tools for exploitation of labor.

Solution. The passage discusses how the original intent of open-plan offices was to break down social walls and liberate workers. However, companies adopted this idea primarily to maximize worker density, leading to the exploitation of labor. Option (B) reflects this shift in purpose accurately, while the other options do not fully capture this idea.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to how the author's critique of idealism in design contrasts with the practical consequences in real-world applications.

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.

Q1. 1. A particularly interesting example of inference occurs in many single-panel comics.

2. It's the creator's participation and imagination that makes the single-panel comic so engaging and so rewarding.

3. Often, the humor requires you to imagine what happened in the instant immediately before or immediately after the panel you're being shown.

4. To get the joke, you actually have to figure out what some of these missing panels must be.

Correct Answer: (A) Inference in single-panel comics often requires you to imagine the sequence of events before or after the panel.

Solution. The passage emphasizes the need for the reader to infer what happened before or after the single-panel comic to fully understand the humor. This aligns with option (A). Options (B), (C), and (D) either overstate or misunderstand the role of inference in single-panel comics.

Quick Tip

Focus on what the passage explicitly says about the need to imagine events outside the single-panel to understand the humor.

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- Q2.** 1. Socrates told us that 'the unexamined life is not worth living' and that to 'know thyself' is the path to true wisdom.
2. It suggests that you should adopt an ancient rhetorical method favored by the likes of Julius Caesar and known as 'illeism' - or speaking about yourself in the third person.
3. Research has shown that people who are prone to rumination also often suffer from impaired decision making under pressure and are at a substantially increased risk of depression.
4. Simple rumination - the process of churning your concerns around in your head - is not the way to achieve self-realization.
5. The idea is that this small change in perspective can clear your emotional fog, allowing you to see past your biases.
5. It is as though the cartoonist devised a series of panels to tell the story and has chosen to show you only one - and typically not even the funniest.

Correct Answer: (A) Rhetorical methods like illeism can help you better understand yourself by shifting perspective.

Solution. The passage mentions that rhetorical methods like illeism can help you gain a clearer perspective on yourself, which is tied to self-realization. Option (A) best captures this

point. Other options either misinterpret or overcomplicate the passage's ideas about rumination and rhetorical techniques.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to how the passage connects the concepts of self-reflection, rumination, and rhetorical techniques.

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- Q3.** 1. Ocean plastic is problematic for a number of reasons, but primarily because marine animals eat it.
2. The largest numerical proportion of ocean plastic falls in small size fractions.
3. Aside from clogging up the digestive tracts of marine life, plastic also tends to adsorb pollutants from the water column.
4. Plastic in the oceans is arguably one of the most important and pervasive environmental problems today.
5. Eating plastic has a number of negative consequences such as the retention of plastic particles in the gut for longer periods than normal food particles.

Correct Answer: (A) Ocean plastic is harmful to marine life because it clogs digestive tracts and adsorbs pollutants.

Solution. The passage explains that ocean plastic causes harm to marine life by clogging digestive tracts and adsorbing pollutants, which aligns with option (A). Options (B), (C), and (D) either misrepresent the passage or focus on less relevant aspects of the issue.

Quick Tip

Look for direct explanations in the passage about how the problem is caused or worsened.