

CAT 2019 VARC Slot 1 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

Tale of Aladdin

In the past, credit for telling the tale of Aladdin has often gone to Antoine Galland . . . the first European translator of . . . Arabian Nights [which] started as a series of translations of an incomplete manuscript of a medieval Arabic story collection. . . But, though those tales were of medieval origin, Aladdin may be a more recent invention. Scholars have not found a manuscript of the story that predates the version published in 1712 by Galland, who wrote in his diary that he first heard the tale from a Syrian storyteller from Aleppo named Hanna Diyab . . .

Despite the fantastical elements of the story, scholars now think the main character may actually be based on a real person's real experiences. . . . Though Galland never credited Diyab in his published translations of the Arabian Nights stories, Diyab wrote something of his own: a travelogue penned in the mid-18th century. In it, he recalls telling Galland the story of Aladdin [and] describes his own hard-knocks upbringing and the way he marveled at the extravagance of Versailles. The descriptions he uses were very similar to the descriptions of the lavish palace that ended up in Galland's version of the Aladdin story. [Therefore, author Paulo Lemos] Horta believes that "Aladdin might be the young Arab Maronite from Aleppo, marveling at the jewels and riches of Versailles." . .

For 300 years, scholars thought that the rags-to-riches story of Aladdin might have been inspired by the plots of French fairy tales that came out around the same time, or that the story was invented in that 18th century period as a byproduct of French Orientalism, a fascination with stereotypical exotic Middle Eastern luxuries that was prevalent then. The idea that Diyab might have based it on his own life - the experiences of a Middle Eastern man encountering the French, not vice-versa - flips the script. [According to Horta,] "Diyab was ideally placed to embody the overlapping world of East and West, blending the storytelling traditions of his homeland with his youthful observations of the wonder of 18th-century France." . .

To the scholars who study the tale, its narrative drama isn't the only reason storytellers keep finding reason to return to Aladdin. It reflects not only "a history of the French and the Middle East, but also [a story about] Middle Easterners coming to Paris and that speaks to our world today," as Horta puts it. "The day Diyab told the story of Aladdin to Galland, there were riots due to food shortages during the winter and spring of 1708 to 1709, and Diyab

was sensitive to those people in a way that Galland is not. When you read this diary, you see this solidarity among the Arabs who were in Paris at the time. . . . There is little in the writings of Galland that would suggest that he was capable of developing a character like Aladdin with sympathy, but Diyab’s memoir reveals a narrator adept at capturing the distinctive psychology of a young protagonist, as well as recognizing the kinds of injustices and opportunities that can transform the path of any youthful adventurer.”

Q1. All of the following serve as evidence for the character of Aladdin being based on Hanna Diyab EXCEPT:

- (A) Diyab’s cosmopolitanism and cross-cultural experience.
- (B) Diyab’s humble origins and class struggles, as recounted in his travelogue.
- (C) Diyab’s description of the wealth of Versailles in his travelogue.
- (D) Diyab’s narration of the original story to Galland.

Correct Answer: (D) Diyab’s narration of the original story to Galland.

Solution:

The passage indicates that Diyab narrated the story of Aladdin to Galland, but this alone does not directly link the character of Aladdin to Diyab’s personal life or experiences. The other options all provide evidence of Diyab’s background and experiences, which align with the character of Aladdin, such as his cross-cultural experience (A), his humble origins (B), and the descriptions he gives of Versailles’ wealth (C). Therefore, the narration itself does not serve as evidence of Aladdin’s character being based on Diyab.

Quick Tip

Look for the options that provide direct links to Diyab’s life experiences rather than his actions of storytelling.

Q2. The author of the passage is most likely to agree with which of the following explanations for the origins of the story of Aladdin?

- (A) Galland derived the story of Aladdin from Diyab’s travelogue in which he recounts his fascination with the wealth of Versailles.
- (B) The story of Aladdin has its origins in an undiscovered, incomplete manuscript of a medieval Arabic collection of stories.

(C) Basing it on his own life experiences, Diyab transmitted the story of Aladdin to Galland who included it in Arabian Nights.

(D) Galland received the story of Aladdin from Diyab who, in turn, found it in an incomplete medieval manuscript.

Correct Answer: (C) Basing it on his own life experiences, Diyab transmitted the story of Aladdin to Galland who included it in Arabian Nights.

Solution:

The passage argues that Diyab’s personal experiences, particularly his observations of wealth and luxury in Versailles, might have influenced the creation of the story of Aladdin. It also points out that Diyab’s travelogue may have provided the inspiration for Galland to include the story in his translations of Arabian Nights. Therefore, option (C) best aligns with the passage’s argument.

Quick Tip

Look for options that reference Diyab’s personal experiences as the basis for Aladdin’s story, as emphasized in the passage.

Q3. Which of the following, if true, would invalidate the inversion that the phrase “flips the script” refers to?

(A) Diyab’s travelogue described the affluence of the French city of Bordeaux, instead of Versailles.

(B) The French fairy tales of the eighteenth century did not have rags-to-riches plot lines like that of the tale of Aladdin.

(C) The description of opulence in Hanna Diyab’s and Antoine Galland’s narratives bore no resemblance to each other.

(D) Galland acknowledged in the published translations of Arabian Nights that he heard the story of Aladdin from Diyab.

Correct Answer: (D) Galland acknowledged in the published translations of Arabian Nights that he heard the story of Aladdin from Diyab.

Solution:

The phrase “flips the script” refers to the reversal of expectations about the origins of the

story, which are typically attributed to European influences on Middle Eastern culture. If Galland had acknowledged Diyab as the source of the story in his published translations, it would negate the inversion of the narrative, as the story would be directly linked to Diyab's own life experiences. Therefore, option (D) would invalidate the inversion.

Quick Tip

Consider the impact of explicit acknowledgments or direct connections made in the text when determining what would invalidate a reversal of assumptions.

Q4. Which of the following is the primary reason for why storytellers are still fascinated by the story of Aladdin?

- (A) The traveller's experience that inspired the tale of Aladdin resonates even today.
- (B) The tale of Aladdin documents the history of Europe and Middle East.
- (C) The archetype of the rags-to-riches story of Aladdin makes it popular even today.
- (D) The story of Aladdin is evidence of the eighteenth century French Orientalist.

Correct Answer: (A) The traveller's experience that inspired the tale of Aladdin resonates even today.

Solution:

The passage emphasizes that the story of Aladdin still resonates because it reflects not just historical events, but also universal themes such as the challenges faced by those who cross cultural boundaries and the transformative experiences that shape a person's life. This contemporary relevance is the primary reason storytellers continue to revisit Aladdin.

Quick Tip

Focus on options that highlight the universal themes and contemporary relevance of the story, which are key reasons for its continued fascination.

Q5. Which of the following does not contribute to the passage's claim about the authorship of Aladdin?

- (A) The narrative sensibility of Diyab's travelogue.
- (B) The depiction of the affluence of Versailles in Diyab's travelogue.

(C) Galland's acknowledgment of Diyab in his diary.

(D) The story-line of many French fairy tales of the 18th century.

Correct Answer: (D) The story-line of many French fairy tales of the 18th century.

Solution:

The passage attributes the origins of the story of Aladdin to Diyab's life experiences, particularly his travels and impressions of Versailles. While Diyab's travelogue and Galland's diary are directly relevant to the authorship claim, the storylines of other French fairy tales are not discussed in the passage as contributing to the Aladdin tale.

Quick Tip

Focus on the specific aspects of Diyab's life and Galland's work that are directly tied to Aladdin's authorship.

Choice Fatigue

Contemporary internet shopping conjures a perfect storm of choice anxiety. Research has consistently held that people who are presented with a few options make better, easier decisions than those presented with many. . . . Helping consumers figure out what to buy amid an endless sea of choice online has become a cottage industry unto itself. Many brands and retailers now wield marketing buzzwords such as curation, differentiation, and discovery as they attempt to sell an assortment of stuff targeted to their ideal customer. Companies find such shoppers through the data gold mine of digital advertising, which can catalog people by gender, income level, personal interests, and more. Since Americans have lost the ability to sort through the sheer volume of the consumer choices available to them, a ghost now has to be in the retail machine, whether it's an algorithm, an influencer, or some snazzy ad tech to help a product follow you around the internet. Indeed, choice fatigue is one reason so many people gravitate toward lifestyle influencers on Instagram-the relentlessly chic young moms and perpetually vacationing 20-somethings-who present an aspirational worldview, and then recommend the products and services that help achieve it. . . .

For a relatively new class of consumer-products start-ups, there's another method entirely. Instead of making sense of a sea of existing stuff, these companies claim to disrupt stuff as Americans know it. Casper (mattresses), Glossier (makeup), Away (suitcases), and many

others have sprouted up to offer consumers freedom from choice: The companies have a few aesthetically pleasing and supposedly highly functional options, usually at mid-range prices. They're selling nice things, but maybe more importantly, they're selling a confidence in those things, and an ability to opt out of the stuff rat race. . . .

One-thousand-dollar mattresses and \$300 suitcases might solve choice anxiety for a certain tier of consumer, but the companies that sell them, along with those that attempt to massage the larger stuff economy into something navigable, are still just working within a consumer market that's broken in systemic ways. The presence of so much stuff in America might be more valuable if it were more evenly distributed, but stuff's creators tend to focus their energy on those who already have plenty. As options have expanded for people with disposable income, the opportunity to buy even basic things such as fresh food or quality diapers has contracted for much of America's lower classes.

For start-ups that promise accessible simplicity, their very structure still might eventually push them toward overwhelming variety. Most of these companies are based on hundreds of millions of dollars of venture capital, the investors of which tend to expect a steep growth rate that can't be achieved by selling one great mattress or one great sneaker. Casper has expanded into bedroom furniture and bed linens. Glossier, after years of marketing itself as no-makeup makeup that requires little skill to apply, recently launched a full line of glittering color cosmetics. There may be no way to opt out of stuff by buying into the right thing.

Q1: Which of the following hypothetical statements would add the least depth to the author's prediction of the fate of start-ups offering few product options?

- (A) An exponential surge in their sales enables start-ups to meet their desired profit goals without expanding their product catalogue
- (B) With the motive of promoting certain rival companies, the government decides to double the tax-rates for these start-ups.
- (C) With Casper and Glossier venturing into new product ranges, their regular customers start losing trust in the companies and their products.
- (D) Start-ups with few product options are no exception to the American consumer market that is deeply divided along class lines.

Correct Answer: (B) With the motive of promoting certain rival companies, the government

decides to double the tax-rates for these start-ups.

Solution: The author discusses how start-ups offering fewer product options may eventually face challenges due to their need to expand product lines to meet growth expectations. Each of the given options pertains to how external factors might affect the start-ups, except for option (B), which focuses on government intervention that doesn't directly relate to the growth of start-ups or the dynamics of offering few product options. Hence, option (B) adds the least depth to the prediction of the fate of such start-ups.

Quick Tip

Focus on the factors that directly affect business growth and product offering strategies when analyzing scenarios. External regulations may impact businesses but don't always affect the core issue.

Q2: Which one of the following best sums up the overall purpose of the examples of Casper and Glossier in the passage?

- (A) They are increasing the purchasing power of poor Americans.
- (B) They are exceptions to a dominant trend in consumer markets.
- (C) They are facilitating a uniform distribution of commodities in the market.
- (D) They might transform into what they were exceptions to.

Correct Answer: (D) They might transform into what they were exceptions to.

Solution: The author discusses that start-ups like Casper and Glossier initially set themselves apart by offering a limited number of product options to relieve consumers from choice fatigue. However, as the companies grow, they may eventually expand into offering a wider variety of products. This reflects the possibility that they will eventually mirror the very market dynamics they initially sought to disrupt. Therefore, option (D) best sums up the purpose of the examples.

Quick Tip

When analyzing business models, consider how the market and growth pressures can lead companies to shift strategies, even when they begin with a distinct approach.

Q3: A new food brand plans to launch a series of products in the American market. Which of the following product plans is most likely to be supported by the author of the passage?

- (A) A range of 10 products priced between \$5 and \$10.
- (B) A range of 25 products priced between \$10 and \$25.
- (C) A range of 25 products priced between \$5 and \$10.
- (D) A range of 10 products priced between \$10 and \$25.

Correct Answer: (A) A range of 10 products priced between \$5 and \$10.

Solution: The author advocates for offering a limited number of products, which avoids overwhelming consumers with choice fatigue. A smaller range of affordable products fits the model discussed in the passage, making option (A) the most consistent with the author's perspective.

Quick Tip

In consumer behavior, simplicity and affordability often resonate more than variety, especially when trying to combat choice fatigue.

Q4: All of the following, IF TRUE, would weaken the author's claims EXCEPT:

- (A) Product options increased market competition, bringing down the prices of commodities, which, in turn, increased purchasing power of the poor.
- (B) The annual sales growth of companies with fewer product options were higher than that of companies which curated their products for target consumers.

- (C) The annual sale of companies that hired lifestyle influencers on Instagram for marketing their products were 40% less than those that did not.
- (D) The empowerment felt by purchasers in buying a commodity were directly proportional to the number of options they could choose from.

Correct Answer: (A) Product options increased market competition, bringing down the prices of commodities, which, in turn, increased purchasing power of the poor.

Solution: The author argues that an overwhelming number of product options creates choice fatigue, which weakens consumer decision-making. Options (B), (C), and (D) would all support the notion that limited product options are beneficial or that offering more choices leads to worse outcomes, thereby weakening the author's claims. However, option (A) introduces a counterpoint that could support the idea of more options leading to positive effects (like increased competition and lower prices). This would not weaken, but rather add an alternative perspective, hence it is the exception.

Quick Tip

When considering weakening or strengthening arguments, focus on how each choice aligns with the central claim of the passage. Contradictory evidence can weaken, but alternative explanations may only offer a different angle.

Q5: Based on the passage, all of the following can be inferred about consumer behaviour EXCEPT that:

- (A) Too many options have made it difficult for consumers to trust products.
- (B) Consumers are susceptible to marketing images that they see on social media.
- (C) Having too many product options can be overwhelming for consumers.
- (D) Consumers tend to prefer products by start-ups over those by established companies.

Correct Answer: (D) Consumers tend to prefer products by start-ups over those by established companies.

Solution: The passage discusses how consumers struggle with too many options and how start-ups like Casper and Glossier attempt to solve this issue with limited choices. However, it does not suggest that consumers generally prefer start-ups over established companies. The focus is on how choice fatigue is affecting consumer behavior, not their preference for start-ups. Therefore, option (D) cannot be inferred from the passage.

Quick Tip

When evaluating inferences, carefully consider the direct statements in the passage. Avoid assuming preferences not directly discussed or implied.

Emperor Penguins

Scientists recently discovered that Emperor Penguins—one of Antarctica’s most celebrated species—employ a particularly unusual technique for surviving the daily chill. As detailed in an article published today in the journal *Biology Letters*, the birds minimize heat loss by keeping the outer surface of their plumage below the temperature of the surrounding air. At the same time, the penguins’ thick plumage insulates their body and keeps it toasty. . . . The researchers analyzed thermographic images . . . taken over roughly a month during June 2008. During that period, the average air temperature was 0.32 degrees Fahrenheit. At the same time, the majority of the plumage covering the penguins’ bodies was even colder: the surface of their warmest body part, their feet, was an average 1.76 degrees Fahrenheit, but the plumage on their heads, chests and backs were -1.84, -7.24 and -9.76 degrees Fahrenheit respectively. Overall, nearly the entire outer surface of the penguins’ bodies was below freezing at all times, except for their eyes and beaks. The scientists also used a computer simulation to determine how much heat was lost or gained from each part of the body—and discovered that by keeping their outer surface below air temperature, the birds might paradoxically be able to draw very slight amounts of heat from the air around them. The key to their trick is the difference between two different types of heat transfer: radiation and convection.

The penguins do lose internal body heat to the surrounding air through thermal radiation, just as our bodies do on a cold day. Because their bodies (but not surface plumage) are warmer

than the surrounding air, heat gradually radiates outward over time, moving from a warmer material to a colder one. To maintain body temperature while losing heat, penguins, like all warm-blooded animals, rely on the metabolism of food. The penguins, though, have an additional strategy. Since their outer plumage is even colder than the air, the simulation showed that they might gain back a little of this heat through thermal convection—the transfer of heat via the movement of a fluid (in this case, the air). As the cold Antarctic air cycles around their bodies, slightly warmer air comes into contact with the plumage and donates minute amounts of heat back to the penguins, then cycles away at a slightly colder temperature.

Most of this heat, the researchers note, probably doesn't make it all the way through the plumage and back to the penguins' bodies, but it could make a slight difference. At the very least, the method by which a penguin's plumage wicks heat from the bitterly cold air that surrounds it helps to cancel out some of the heat that's radiating from its interior. And given the Emperors' unusually demanding breeding cycle, every bit of warmth counts. . . . Since [penguins trek as far as 75 miles to the coast to breed and male penguins] don't eat anything during [the incubation period of 64 days], conserving calories by giving up as little heat as possible is absolutely crucial.

Q1: In the last sentence of paragraph 3, "slightly warmer air" and "at a slightly colder temperature" refer toAND respectively:

- (A) The air inside penguins' bodies kept warm because of metabolism of food AND the fall in temperature of the body air after it transfers some heat to the plumage.
- (B) The cold Antarctic air which becomes warmer because of the heat radiated out from penguins' bodies AND the fall in temperature of the surrounding air after thermal convection.
- (C) The air trapped in the plumage which is warmer than the Antarctic air AND the fall in temperature of the trapped plumage air after it radiates out some heat.
- (D) The cold Antarctic air whose temperature is higher than that of the plumage AND the fall in temperature of the Antarctic air after it has transmitted some heat to the plumage.

Correct Answer: (D) The cold Antarctic air whose temperature is higher than that of the plumage AND the fall in temperature of the Antarctic air after it has transmitted some heat to the plumage.

Solution: In the sentence, the phrase "slightly warmer air" refers to the cold Antarctic air that comes in contact with the penguins' plumage and gains heat, while "at a slightly colder temperature" refers to the air after it has transferred some of its heat to the plumage and therefore cooled down. This matches with option (D), where the cold Antarctic air warms up and then cools after transferring heat to the plumage.

Quick Tip

Always break down phrases in a passage into their components and see how they relate to each other to correctly match terms in complex scenarios.

Q2: Which of the following best explains the purpose of the word "paradoxically" as used by the author?

- (A) Keeping their body colder helps penguins keep their plumage warmer.
- (B) Keeping a part of their body colder helps penguins keep their bodies warmer.
- (C) Heat gain through radiation happens despite the heat loss through convection.
- (D) Heat loss through radiation happens despite the heat gain through convection.

Correct Answer: (D) Heat loss through radiation happens despite the heat gain through convection.

Solution: The word "paradoxically" is used to highlight the unexpected outcome of the penguins' heat regulation strategy. While they lose heat through radiation, they gain a small amount of heat through convection, which is counterintuitive. Therefore, option (D) best captures this paradox.

Quick Tip

Look for words like "paradoxically" that signal an unexpected or contradictory effect in the passage's logic.

Q3: All of the following, if true, would negate the findings of the study reported in the passage EXCEPT:

- (A) The penguins' plumage were made of a material that did not allow any heat transfer through convection or radiation.
- (B) The average air temperature recorded during the month of June 2008 in the area of study were -10 degrees Fahrenheit.
- (C) The temperature of the plumage on the penguins' heads, chests and backs were found to be 1.84, 7.24 and 9.76 degrees Fahrenheit respectively.
- (D) The average temperature of the feet of penguins in the month of June 2008 were found to be 2.76 degrees Fahrenheit.

Correct Answer: (D) The average temperature of the feet of penguins in the month of June 2008 were found to be 2.76 degrees Fahrenheit.

Solution: Option (D) does not negate the study's findings, as it does not contradict the penguins' ability to maintain their internal body temperature through heat exchange. On the other hand, options (A), (B), and (C) directly affect the assumptions and data in the study, as they would alter the fundamental heat transfer dynamics described in the passage.

Quick Tip

Focus on how each option either supports or undermines the key findings of a study. Variations in temperature, material properties, or experimental conditions can significantly impact conclusions.

Q4: Which of the following can be responsible for Emperor Penguins losing body heat?

- (A) Food metabolism.
- (B) Reproduction process.
- (C) Plumage.
- (D) Thermal convection.

Correct Answer: (D) Thermal convection.

Solution: Thermal convection is responsible for penguins losing heat to the surrounding air, as the cold air around them moves and transfers heat away from their bodies. While food metabolism and reproduction help regulate internal body temperature, they do not directly contribute to heat loss in the same way thermal convection does. Plumage, on the other hand, helps conserve heat.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to the terminology used to describe heat transfer mechanisms. Convection specifically refers to the loss of heat through the movement of air or fluids.

Folk Music

"Free of the taint of manufacture" - that phrase, in particular, is heavily loaded with the ideology of what the Victorian socialist William Morris called the "anti-scrape", or an anti-capitalist conservatism (not conservatism) that solaced itself with the vision of a pre-industrial golden age. In Britain, folk may often appear a cosy, fossilised form, but when you look more closely, the idea of folk - who has the right to sing it, dance it, invoke it, collect it, belong to it or appropriate it for political or cultural ends - has always been contested territory. . . .

In our own time, though, the word "folk" . . . has achieved the rare distinction of occupying fashionable and unfashionable status simultaneously. Just as the effusive floral prints of the radical William Morris now cover genteel sofas, so the revolutionary intentions of many folk historians and revivalists have led to music that is commonly regarded as parochial and conservative. And yet - as newspaper columns periodically rejoice - folk is hip again, influencing artists, clothing and furniture designers, celebrated at music festivals, awards ceremonies and on TV, reissued on countless record labels. Folk is a sonic "shabby chic", containing elements of the uncanny and eerie, as well as an antique veneer, a whiff of Britain's heathen dark ages. The very obscurity and anonymity of folk music's origins open up space for rampant imaginative fancies. . . .

[Cecil Sharp, who wrote about this subject, believed that] folk songs existed in constant transformation, a living example of an art form in a perpetual state of renewal. "One man sings a song, and then others sing it after him, changing what they do not like" is the most concise summary of his conclusions on its origins. He compared each rendition of a ballad to an acorn falling from an oak tree; every subsequent iteration sows the song anew. But there is tension in newness. In the late 1960s, purists were suspicious of folk songs recast in rock idioms. Electrification, however, comes in many forms. For the early-20th-century composers such as Vaughan Williams and Holst, there were thunderbolts of inspiration from oriental mysticism, angular modernism and the body blow of the first world war, as well as input from the rediscovered folk tradition itself.

For the second wave of folk revivalists, such as Ewan MacColl and AL Lloyd, starting in the 40s, the vital spark was communism's dream of a post-revolutionary New Jerusalem. For their younger successors in the 60s, who thronged the folk clubs set up by the old guard, the lyrical freedom of Dylan and the unchained melodies of psychedelia created the conditions for folk-rock's own golden age, a brief Indian summer that lasted from about 1969 to 1971. . . . Four decades on, even that progressive period has become just one more era ripe for fashionable emulation and pastiche. The idea of a folk tradition being exclusively confined to oral transmission has become a much looser, less severely guarded concept. Recorded music and television, for today's metropolitan generation, are where the equivalent of folk memories are seeded

Q1: The author says that folk "may often appear a cosy, fossilised form" because:

- (A) of its nostalgic association with a pre-industrial past.
- (B) it has been arrogated for various political and cultural purposes.
- (C) folk is a sonic "shabby chic" with an antique veneer.
- (D) the notion of folk has led to several debates and disagreements.

Correct Answer: (A) of its nostalgic association with a pre-industrial past.

Solution: The phrase "cosy, fossilised form" refers to the perception of folk as a nostalgic and outdated form, especially linked to a pre-industrial golden age. This connection to the past suggests that folk music appears as something preserved or frozen in time. Option (A) best aligns with this idea.

Quick Tip

Look for historical or nostalgic references in the passage to understand perceptions of tradition and its implications.

Q2: All of the following are causes for plurality and diversity within the British folk tradition EXCEPT:

- (A) The fluidity of folk forms owing to their history of oral mode of transmission.
- (B) Paradoxically, folk forms are both popular and unpopular.
- (C) That British folk forms can be traced to the remote past of the country.
- (D) That British folk continues to have traces of pagan influence from the dark ages.

Correct Answer: (C) That British folk forms can be traced to the remote past of the country.

Solution: The passage discusses the diversity of British folk through its fluid, evolving nature, influenced by oral tradition and its popularity in various forms. However, the claim that folk can be traced directly to the remote past doesn't contribute to this diversity, making (C) the exception.

Quick Tip

Consider how tradition is shaped over time, especially in its transformation and fluidity, rather than its historical origins.

Q3: At a conference on folk forms, the author of the passage is least likely to agree with which one of the following views?

- (A) The power of folk resides in its contradictory ability to influence and be influenced by the present while remaining rooted in the past.
- (B) Folk forms, despite their archaic origins, remain intellectually relevant in contemporary times.

(C) Folk forms, in their ability to constantly adapt to the changing world, exhibit an unusual poise and homogeneity with each change.

(D) The plurality and democratising impulse of folk forms emanate from the improvisation that its practitioners bring to it.

Correct Answer: (C) Folk forms, in their ability to constantly adapt to the changing world, exhibit an unusual poise and homogeneity with each change.

Solution: The author emphasizes folk’s constant transformation, but does not suggest it exhibits ”poise and homogeneity” with every change. The idea of folk constantly adapting while maintaining homogeneity contradicts the passage’s portrayal of folk as a form in continuous evolution, making (C) the least likely to be agreed with.

Quick Tip

Watch out for terms like ”homogeneity” that conflict with the passage’s depiction of folk’s evolving and diverse nature.

Q4: The primary purpose of the reference to William Morris and his floral prints is to show:

(A) the pervasive influence of folk on contemporary art, culture, and fashion.

(B) that what is once regarded as radical in folk, can later be seen as conformist.

(C) that what was once derided as genteel is now considered revolutionary.

(D) that despite its archaic origins, folk continues to remain a popular tradition.

Correct Answer: (B) that what is once regarded as radical in folk, can later be seen as conformist.

Solution: The reference to William Morris and his floral prints highlights how once-radical elements of folk are later appropriated into mainstream culture, transforming from revolutionary to fashionable or conformist. This idea is central to the passage’s discussion of the evolving status of folk.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to how the passage contrasts the evolving roles of folk in both radical and mainstream contexts.

Q5: Which of the following statements about folk revivalism of the 1940s and 1960s cannot be inferred from the passage?

- (A) Freedom and rebellion were popular themes during the second wave of folk revivalism.
- (B) Electrification of music would not have happened without the influence of rock music.
- (C) Even though it led to folk-rock's golden age, it wasn't entirely free from critique.
- (D) It reinforced Cecil Sharp's observation about folk's constant transformation.

Correct Answer: (B) Electrification of music would not have happened without the influence of rock music.

Solution: The passage does not suggest that rock music was the sole or primary influence on the electrification of folk. It acknowledges that electrification came in many forms, and rock music was just one of many influences. Therefore, (B) cannot be inferred from the passage.

Quick Tip

Examine the language in the passage that suggests multiple influences, rather than attributing changes to a single cause.

Topophilia

As defined by the geographer Yi-Fu Tuan, topophilia is the affective bond between people and place. His 1974 book set forth a wide-ranging exploration of how the emotive ties with the material environment vary greatly from person to person and in intensity, subtlety, and mode of expression. Factors influencing one's depth of response to the environment include cultural background, gender, race, and historical circumstance, and Tuan also argued that there is a biological and sensory element. Topophilia might not be the strongest of human

emotions- indeed, many people feel utterly indifferent toward the environments that shape their lives- but when activated it has the power to elevate a place to become the carrier of emotionally charged events or to be perceived as a symbol.

Aesthetic appreciation is one way in which people respond to the environment. A brilliantly colored rainbow after gloomy afternoon showers, a busy city street alive with human interaction-one might experience the beauty of such landscapes that had seemed quite ordinary only moments before or that are being newly discovered. This is quite the opposite of a second toponymic bond, namely that of the acquired taste for certain landscapes and places that one knows well. When a place is home, or when a space has become the locus of memories or the means of gaining a livelihood, it frequently evokes a deeper set of attachments than those predicated purely on the visual. A third response to the environment also depends on the human senses but may be tactile and olfactory, namely a delight in the feel and smell of air, water, and the earth.

Topophilia-and its very close conceptual twin, sense of place-is an experience that, however elusive, has inspired recent architects and planners. Most notably, new urbanism seeks to counter the perceived placelessness of modern suburbs and the decline of central cities through neo-traditional design motifs. Although motivated by good intentions, such attempts to create places rich in meaning are perhaps bound to disappoint. As Tuan noted, purely aesthetic responses often are suddenly revealed, but their intensity rarely is long-lasting. Topophilia is difficult to design for and impossible to quantify, and its most articulate interpreters have been self-reflective philosophers such as Henry David Thoreau, evoking a marvelously intricate sense of place at Walden Pond, and Tuan, describing his deep affinity for the desert.

Topophilia connotes a positive relationship, but it often is useful to explore the darker affiliations between people and place. Patriotism, literally meaning the love of one's terra patria or homeland, has long been cultivated by governing elites for a range of nationalist projects, including war preparation and ethnic cleansing. Residents of upscale residential developments have disclosed how important it is to maintain their community's distinct identity, often by casting themselves in a superior social position and by reinforcing class and racial differences. And just as a beloved landscape is suddenly revealed, so too may landscapes of fear cast a dark shadow over a place that makes one feel a sense of dread or

anxiety-or topophobia.

Q1: The word "topophobia" in the passage is used:

- (A) to represent a feeling of dread towards particular spaces and places.
- (B) as a metaphor expressing the failure of the homeland to accommodate non-citizens.
- (C) to signify the fear of studying the complex discipline of topography.
- (D) to signify feelings of fear or anxiety towards topophilic people.

Correct Answer: (A) to represent a feeling of dread towards particular spaces and places.

Solution: The passage describes "topophobia" as a fear or dread associated with certain places or landscapes, in contrast to "topophilia," which refers to positive emotional bonds to places. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

When encountering a term like "topophobia," look for contextual clues in the passage that contrast it with related concepts such as "topophilia."

Q2: In the last paragraph, the author uses the example of "Residents of upscale residential developments" to illustrate the:

- (A) introduction of nationalist projects by such elites to produce a sense of dread or topophobia.
- (B) manner in which environments are designed to minimise the social exclusion of their clientele.
- (C) sensitive response to race and class problems in upscale residential developments.
- (D) social exclusivism practised by such residents in order to enforce a sense of racial or class superiority.

Correct Answer: (D) social exclusivism practised by such residents in order to enforce a sense of racial or class superiority.

Solution: The passage suggests that residents of upscale developments maintain their community’s distinct identity, often reinforcing class and racial divisions. This aligns with option (D), which highlights social exclusivism.

Quick Tip

Look for examples in the passage that describe how physical or social environments reinforce societal divisions, such as race or class.

Q3: Which one of the following best captures the meaning of the statement, “Topophilia is difficult to design for and impossible to quantify . . .”?

- (A) Philosopher-architects are uniquely suited to develop topophilic design.
- (B) People’s responses to their environment are usually subjective and so cannot be rendered in design.
- (C) Architects have to objectively quantify spaces and hence cannot be topophilic.
- (D) The deep anomie of modern urbanisation led to new urbanism’s intricate sense of place.

Correct Answer: (B) People’s responses to their environment are usually subjective and so cannot be rendered in design.

Solution: The passage explains that topophilia is difficult to design for because emotional responses to the environment are deeply subjective, making them hard to quantify or incorporate into architectural design. Therefore, (B) best captures the meaning.

Quick Tip

Focus on how the passage emphasizes subjectivity and the challenges of translating emotional responses into concrete designs.

Q4: Which one of the following comes closest in meaning to the author’s understanding of topophilia?

- (A) The French are not overly patriotic, but they will refuse to use English as far as possible, even when they know it well.
- (B) The tendency of many cultures to represent their land as "motherland" or "fatherland" may be seen as an expression of their topophilia.
- (C) Scientists have found that most creatures, including humans, are either born with or cultivate a strong sense of topography.
- (D) Nomadic societies are known to have the least affinity for the lands through which they traverse because they tend to be topophobic.

Correct Answer: (B) The tendency of many cultures to represent their land as "motherland" or "fatherland" may be seen as an expression of their topophilia.

Solution: Topophilia refers to an emotional bond between people and place. The idea of a "motherland" or "fatherland" aligns with this concept, as these terms often carry deep emotional significance and cultural attachment to the land. Therefore, (B) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

Look for cultural examples that illustrate deep emotional or affective bonds to land or place when defining topophilia.

Q5: Which of the following statements, if true, could be seen as not contradicting the arguments in the passage?

- (A) Generally speaking, in a given culture, the ties of the people to their environment vary little in significance or intensity.
- (B) Patriotism, usually seen as a positive feeling, is presented by the author as a darker form of topophilia.
- (C) New Urbanism succeeded in those designs where architects collaborated with their clients.
- (D) The most important, even fundamental, response to our environment is our tactile and olfactory response.

Correct Answer: (B) Patriotism, usually seen as a positive feeling, is presented by the author as a darker form of topophilia.

Solution: The passage discusses topophilia in both positive and negative contexts, including how patriotism can be a darker form of attachment to one's homeland. Therefore, (B) aligns with the passage's argument and does not contradict it.

Quick Tip

Consider the dual nature of concepts in the passage, such as the contrast between positive and negative expressions of topophilia like patriotism.

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:

1. People with dyslexia have difficulty with print-reading, and people with autism spectrum disorder have difficulty with mind-reading.
2. An example of a lost cognitive instinct is mind-reading: our capacity to think of ourselves and others as having beliefs, desires, thoughts, and feelings.
3. Mind-reading looks increasingly like literacy, a skill we know for sure is not in our genes, since scripts have been around for only 5,000-6,000 years.
4. Print-reading, like mind-reading, varies across cultures, depends heavily on certain parts of the brain, and is subject to developmental disorders.

Answer:

The correct interpretation is that both **mind-reading** and **print-reading** are cognitive abilities that can be affected by developmental disorders, cultural variations, and brain functionality.

Mind-reading and **print-reading** are also examples of skills that are learned rather than innate, as literacy has only been around for a few thousand years. The ability to interpret others' emotions and thoughts (mind-reading) is more complex and abstract, while

print-reading deals with decoding written symbols. Both are developmental skills with inherent difficulties when disrupted by conditions like dyslexia and autism.

Solution:

- Mind-reading as a concept, though seemingly innate, is learned and not genetically programmed.
- People with dyslexia struggle with **print-reading**, and people with autism may find it difficult to understand others' emotions or thoughts, a phenomenon referred to as **mind-reading**.
- This illustrates the complexity of cognitive instincts, showing that such skills are learned, not genetic traits.
- Both abilities have overlaps in how the brain processes them, making them susceptible to similar developmental disorders.

Quick Tip

Always convert time accurately (e.g., 6 hrs 40 mins = $\frac{20}{3}$ hours) and break multi-person work problems into known rate \times time structures.

Q2:

1. If you've seen a little line of text on websites that says something like "customers who bought this also enjoyed that," you have experienced this collaborative filtering firsthand.
2. The problem with these algorithms is that they don't take into account a host of nuances and circumstances that might interfere with their accuracy.
3. If you just bought a gardening book for your cousin, you might get a flurry of links to books about gardening, recommended just for you! The algorithm has no way of knowing you hate gardening and only bought the book as a gift.
4. Collaborative filtering is a mathematical algorithm by which correlations and co-occurrences of behaviors are tracked and then used to make recommendations.

Answer:

The key issue with **collaborative filtering** is its reliance on past user behavior, which may not always be an accurate representation of personal preferences, especially when there are

nuances involved (like buying a gift). This results in irrelevant recommendations, as the algorithm lacks understanding of the intent behind purchases.

Solution:

- Collaborative filtering systems suggest items based on the behavior of other users, such as their purchases or viewing habits.
- The system uses mathematical correlations and co-occurrences to determine what items are likely to be recommended.
- However, it has limitations since it fails to account for deeper user contexts, like buying a gift, which leads to inaccurate suggestions.
- The accuracy of the recommendations heavily depends on the data collected, and without considering individual nuances, the system can often make irrelevant suggestions.

Quick Tip

When designing recommendation systems, ensure that contextual information (like the reason for a purchase) is integrated into the algorithm. This can significantly improve the relevance of recommendations.

Q3:

1. We'll all live under mob rule until then, which doesn't help anyone.
2. Perhaps we need to learn to condense the feedback we receive online so that 100 replies carry the same weight as just one.
3. As we grow more comfortable with social media conversations being part of the way we interact every day, we are going to have to learn how to deal with legitimate criticism.
4. A new norm will arise where it is considered unacceptable to reply with the same point that dozens of others have already.

Answer:

In the digital age, we are increasingly faced with massive amounts of feedback, often from a variety of sources. The challenge lies in how to manage this feedback in a meaningful way, rather than being overwhelmed by the sheer volume. The emphasis on learning to condense feedback, as well as the development of new social norms around online interaction, will

likely help in improving the overall experience.

Solution:

- The idea of "mob rule" implies that large volumes of feedback, often with little individual merit, can drown out meaningful conversation.
- Condensing feedback so that it carries more weight is a necessary adjustment for meaningful interactions in a digital context.
- Social media platforms will need to evolve new norms for engaging with criticism, possibly by discouraging repeated comments that don't add value.
- Ultimately, we will need to recognize that quality matters more than quantity in the online discourse.

Quick Tip

In the digital age, focus on quality feedback over quantity. Learning to condense information effectively can help maintain productive conversations and minimize online noise.

Q4:

1. Metaphors may map to similar meanings across languages, but their subtle differences can have a profound effect on our understanding of the world.
2. Latin scholars point out *carpe diem* is a horticultural metaphor that, particularly seen in the context of its source, is more accurately translated as "plucking the day," evoking the plucking and gathering of ripening fruits or flowers, enjoying a moment that is rooted in the sensory experience of nature, unrelated to the force implied in seizing.
3. The phrase *carpe diem*, which is often translated as "seize the day and its accompanying philosophy, has gone on to inspire countless people in how they live their lives and motivates us to see the world a little differently from the norm.
4. It's an example of one of the more telling ways that we mistranslate metaphors from one language to another, revealing in the process our hidden assumptions about what we really value.

Answer:

The translation of metaphors often carries deeper meanings that may be missed in the process. The example of "carpe diem" shows how the literal translation of metaphors may not always align with the cultural or contextual nuances that shape our understanding. This demonstrates the potential for misinterpretation when we translate metaphors without considering their deeper implications.

Solution:

- While metaphors may have similar meanings across languages, the subtle differences in how they are expressed can reveal different worldviews.
- "Carpe diem" is a metaphor deeply rooted in the sensory and temporal experience of nature, not simply the forceful action implied by the English "seize the day."
- By translating metaphors without fully considering their context, we risk misunderstanding the values and philosophies behind them.
- This misinterpretation can shape how we view the world and influence the choices we make based on our cultural assumptions.

Quick Tip

When translating metaphors, always consider cultural and contextual implications. The way a metaphor is understood can differ greatly from language to language.

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

Q1: Vance Packard's *The Hidden Persuaders* alerted the public to the psychoanalytical techniques used by the advertising industry. Its premise was that advertising agencies were using depth interviews to identify hidden consumer motivations, which were then used to entice consumers to buy goods. Critics and reporters often wrongly assumed that Packard was writing mainly about subliminal advertising. Packard never mentioned the word subliminal, however, and devoted very little space to discussions of "subthreshold" effects. Instead, his views largely aligned with the notion that individuals do not always have access to their conscious thoughts and can be persuaded by supraliminal messages without their knowledge.

1. (A) Packard argued that advertising as a 'hidden persuasion' understands the hidden motivations of consumers and works at the subliminal level, on the subconscious level of the awareness of the people targeted.
2. (B) Packard held that advertising as a 'hidden persuasion' understands the hidden motivations of consumers and works at the supraliminal level, though the people targeted have no awareness of being persuaded.
3. (C) Packard held that advertising as a 'hidden persuasion' builds on people's conscious thoughts and awareness, by understanding the hidden motivations of consumers and works at the subliminal level.
4. (D) Packard argued that advertising as a 'hidden persuasion' works at the supraliminal level, wherein the people targeted are aware of being persuaded, after understanding the hidden motivations of consumers.

Correct Answer: (B) Packard held that advertising as a 'hidden persuasion' understands the hidden motivations of consumers and works at the supraliminal level, though the people targeted have no awareness of being persuaded.

Solution: The passage describes Packard's views about the advertising industry. According to Packard, advertising works at the supraliminal level, where individuals are persuaded without their conscious awareness. Option B correctly describes this perspective. Packard did not emphasize subliminal techniques but rather focused on the concept that persuasion occurs without the target's knowledge.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to the exact level of persuasion discussed in the passage (supraliminal vs subliminal) and the awareness of the people being targeted.

Q2: A distinguishing feature of language is our ability to refer to absent things, known as displaced reference. A speaker can bring distant referents to mind in the absence of any obvious stimuli. Thoughts, not limited to the here and now, can pop into our heads for unfathomable reasons. This ability to think about distant things necessarily

precedes the ability to talk about them. Thought precedes meaningful referential communication. A prerequisite for the emergence of human-like meaningful symbols is that the mental categories they relate to can be invoked even in the absence of immediate stimuli.

1. (A) Thoughts precede all speech acts and these thoughts pop up in our heads even in the absence of any stimulus.
2. (B) The ability to think about objects not present in our environment precedes the development of human communication.
3. (C) Thoughts are essential to communication and only humans have the ability to think about objects not present in their surroundings.
4. (D) Displaced reference is particular to humans and thoughts pop into our heads for no real reason.

Correct Answer: (B) The ability to think about objects not present in our environment precedes the development of human communication.

Solution: The passage emphasizes the idea that humans have the ability to think about absent things (displaced reference), and this ability comes before communication. Option B most directly aligns with this idea by stating that the ability to think about absent objects comes before communication.

Quick Tip

Focus on the relationship between thought and communication when answering questions about displaced reference. The correct answer emphasizes thought's precedence over communication.

Q3: Physics is a pure science that seeks to understand the behavior of matter without regard to whether it will afford any practical benefit. Engineering is the correlative applied science in which physical theories are put to some specific use, such as building a bridge or a nuclear reactor. Engineers obviously rely heavily on the discoveries of

physicists, but an engineer's knowledge of the world is not the same as the physicist's knowledge. In fact, an engineer's know-how will often depend on physical theories that, from the point of view of pure physics, are false. There are some reasons for this. First, theories that are false in the purest and strictest sense are still sometimes very good approximations to the true ones, and often have the added virtue of being much easier to work with. Second, sometimes the true theories apply only under highly idealized conditions which can only be created under controlled experimental situations. The engineer finds that in the real world, theories rejected by physicists yield more accurate predictions than the ones that they accept.

1. (A) The unique task of the engineer is to identify, understand, and interpret the design constraints to produce a successful result.
2. (B) The relationship between pure and applied science is strictly linear, with the pure science directing applied science, and never the other way round.
3. (C) Though engineering draws heavily from pure science, it contributes to knowledge, by incorporating the constraints and conditions in the real world.
4. (D) Engineering and physics fundamentally differ on matters like building a bridge or a nuclear reactor.

Correct Answer: (C) Though engineering draws heavily from pure science, it contributes to knowledge, by incorporating the constraints and conditions in the real world.

Solution: The passage contrasts pure science (physics) with applied science (engineering) and points out that engineers often rely on theories that are not strictly accurate but work well in real-world situations. This shows that engineering not only draws on physics but also contributes its own knowledge by considering real-world constraints, as described in option C.

Quick Tip

Remember that the passage highlights the practical application of science in engineering, where real-world factors often alter the pure theories of physics. This helps you identify the answer that reflects engineering's role in applied science.

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. His idea to use sign language was not a completely new idea as Native Americans used hand gestures to communicate with other tribes.
2. Ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, for example, observed that men who are deaf are incapable of speech.
3. People who were born deaf were denied the right to sign a will as they were "presumed to understand nothing; because it is not possible that they have been able to learn to read or write."
4. Pushback against this prejudice began in the 16th century when Pedro Ponce de León created a formal sign language for the hearing impaired.
5. For millennia, people with hearing impairments encountered marginalization because it was believed that language could only be learned by hearing the spoken word.

Answer:

The statements highlight the long-standing prejudice and marginalization faced by people with hearing impairments. Early philosophers and societal norms often denied people born deaf the ability to communicate effectively, with assumptions about their intellectual capacity. The creation of formal sign language in the 16th century marked the beginning of a shift toward recognizing the validity and importance of visual languages.

Solution:

- Native Americans had been using hand gestures for intertribal communication long before formal sign language was developed for the hearing impaired.
- Aristotle's belief that deaf individuals were incapable of speech reflects a widespread historical misunderstanding of deafness.
- The denial of the right to sign a will for deaf individuals was a reflection of society's ignorance regarding the intellectual capabilities of deaf people.
- The creation of formal sign language by Pedro Ponce de León marked an important milestone in the recognition of deaf culture and communication.

- For centuries, deaf individuals were marginalized because language was seen as inherently tied to the ability to hear.

Quick Tip

The development of formal languages for marginalized groups is key to promoting equality. Recognizing the diverse ways in which people communicate fosters greater inclusivity.

Q2:

1. One argument is that actors that do not fit within a single, well-defined category may suffer an "illegitimacy discount."
2. Others believe that complex identities confuse audiences about an organization's role or purpose.
3. Some organizations have complex and multidimensional identities that span or combine categories, while other organizations possess narrow identities.
4. Identity is one of the most important features of organizations, but there exist opposing views among sociologists about how identity affects organizational performance.
5. Those who think that complex identities are beneficial point to the strategic advantages of ambiguity, and organizations' potential to differentiate themselves from competitors.

Answer:

The statements highlight the tension between organizations with complex, multidimensional identities and those with more narrowly defined roles. While some believe that complexity leads to confusion and reduced legitimacy, others argue that ambiguity can offer strategic advantages, such as differentiation in competitive markets.

Solution:

- Organizations with complex identities may face challenges in being perceived as legitimate because they do not fit into a well-defined category.
- Some sociologists believe that ambiguity in organizational identity may confuse audiences and hinder understanding of the organization's role.
- On the other hand, complex identities can offer advantages by enabling organizations to

differentiate themselves from competitors.

- The debate over whether complexity or simplicity is better for organizational performance reflects the ongoing challenge of defining identity in a rapidly changing business world.

Quick Tip

When building an organization's identity, balance clarity with flexibility. A clear identity is essential for legitimacy, but strategic ambiguity can provide a competitive edge.

Q3:

1. 'Stat' signaled something measurable, while 'matic' advertised free labour; but 'tron', above all, indicated control.
2. It was a totem of high modernism, the intellectual and cultural mode that decreed no process or phenomenon was too complex to be grasped, managed and optimized.
3. Like the heraldic shields of ancient knights, these morphemes were painted onto the names of scientific technologies to proclaim one's history and achievements to friends and enemies alike.
4. The historian Robert Proctor at Stanford University calls the suffix '-tron', along with '-matic' and '-stat', embodied symbols.
5. To gain the suffix was to acquire a proud and optimistic emblem of the electronic and atomic age.

Answer:

The suffixes like "-tron" and "-matic" became symbols of modernity, power, and control during the rise of the electronic and atomic age. They reflected the optimism of the time and the belief that technology could control and optimize complex processes.

Solution:

- The suffix "-tron" signified control, evoking the intellectual and cultural ideas of high modernism, where no process was deemed too complex to be managed.
- These suffixes became a way to communicate the achievements of modern technology, similar to how heraldic symbols signified status and history in ancient times.
- Historians like Robert Proctor have pointed out that these morphemes, including "-tron",

became symbols of technological advancement.

- Acquiring such suffixes became a mark of pride, symbolizing progress and innovation during the electronic and atomic age.

Quick Tip

Suffixes like ”-tron” and ”-matic” not only reflect technical advancements but also the cultural mindset of their time. Understanding the symbolism behind these names reveals the values of an era.
