

## CAT 2020 VARC Slot-3 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :	Maximum Marks :	Total questions :
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### General Instructions

**Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:**

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

**The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.**

**Mode of transportation** affects the travel experience and thus can produce new types of travel writing and perhaps even new "identities." Modes of transportation determine the types and duration of social encounters; affect the organization and passage of space and time;... and also affect perception and knowledge—how and what the traveler comes to know and write about. The completion of the first U.S. transcontinental highway during the 1920s ... for example, inaugurated a new genre of travel literature about the United States—the automotive or road narrative. Such narratives highlight the experiences of mostly male protagonists "discovering themselves" on their journeys, emphasizing the independence of road travel and the value of rural folk traditions.

**Travel writing's relationship to empire building**—as a type of "colonialist discourse"—has drawn the most attention from academicians. Close connections have been observed between European (and American) political, economic, and administrative goals for the colonies and their manifestations in the cultural practice of writing travel books. Travel writers' descriptions of foreign places have been analyzed as attempts to validate, promote, or challenge the ideologies and practices of colonial or imperial domination and expansion. Mary Louise Pratt's study of the genres and conventions of 18th- and 19th-century exploration narratives about South America and Africa (e.g., the "monarch of all I survey" trope) offered ways of thinking about travel writing as embedded within relations of power between metropole and periphery, as did Edward Said's theories of representation and cultural imperialism. Particularly Said's book, *Orientalism*, helped scholars understand ways in which representations of people in travel texts were intimately bound up with notions of self, in this case, that the Occident defined itself through essentialist, ethnocentric, and racist representations of the Orient. Said's work became a model for demonstrating cultural forms of imperialism in travel texts, showing how the political, economic, or administrative fact of dominance relies on legitimating discourses such as those articulated through travel writing....

**Feminist geographers' studies of travel writing** challenge the masculinist history of geography by questioning who and what are relevant subjects of geographic study and,

indeed, what counts as geographic knowledge itself. Such questions are worked through ideological constructs that posit men as explorers and women as travelers—or, conversely, men as travelers and women as tied to the home. Studies of Victorian women who were professional travel writers, tourists, wives of colonial administrators, and other (mostly) elite women who wrote narratives about their experiences abroad during the 19th century have been particularly revealing. From a "liberal" feminist perspective, travel presented one means toward female liberation for middle- and upper-class Victorian women. Many studies from the 1970s onward demonstrated the ways in which women's gendered identities were negotiated differently "at home" than they were "away," thereby showing women's self-development through travel. The more recent poststructural turn in studies of Victorian travel writing has focused attention on women's diverse and fragmented identities as they narrated their travel experiences, emphasizing women's sense of themselves as women in new locations, but only as they worked through their ties to nation, class, whiteness, and colonial and imperial power structures.

**1. From the passage, we can infer that feminist scholars' understanding of the experiences of Victorian women travellers is influenced by all of the following EXCEPT scholars':**

- (A) awareness of the ways in which identity is formed.
- (B) perspective that they bring to their research.
- (C) knowledge of class tensions in Victorian society.
- (D) awareness of gender issues in Victorian society.

**Correct Answer:** (C) knowledge of class tensions in Victorian society.

**Solution:**

The passage emphasizes that feminist scholars' understanding of Victorian women travelers is influenced by various aspects:

- The way identity is formed (A),
- The perspective that scholars bring to their research (B),
- Their awareness of gender issues in Victorian society (D).

However, the passage does not specifically mention that scholars' understanding is primarily

influenced by their knowledge of class tensions in Victorian society. Therefore, the correct answer is (C).

### Quick Tip

Feminist studies on travel writing focus primarily on gender, identity, and scholarly perspectives, rather than class tensions, which are not directly addressed in the passage.

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## 2. From the passage, we can infer that travel writing is most similar to:

- (A) political journalism.
- (B) historical fiction.
- (C) autobiographical writing.
- (D) feminist writing.

**Correct Answer:** (C) autobiographical writing.

### Solution:

From the passage, it is clear that travel writing often involves personal experiences and self-discovery, much like autobiographical writing. Travel writers often highlight their own journeys and experiences, which closely mirrors the personal nature of autobiographical narratives.

- Option (A) political journalism does not capture the personal experience focus of travel writing.
- Option (B) historical fiction is not directly related to the personal and experiential nature of travel writing.
- Option (C) autobiographical writing fits best because travel writing often involves the writer's own personal experiences.
- Option (D) feminist writing is relevant but not the primary mode of comparison in this context.

Thus, the correct answer is (C).

### Quick Tip

Travel writing often shares characteristics with autobiographical writing, as both involve personal experiences and self-reflection.

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**3. From the passage, it can be inferred that scholars argue that Victorian women experienced self-development through their travels because:**

- (A) their identity was redefined when they were away from home.
- (B) they were from the progressive middle- and upper-classes of society.
- (C) they were on a quest to discover their diverse identities.
- (D) they developed a feminist perspective of the world.

**Correct Answer:** (A) their identity was redefined when they were away from home.

### **Solution:**

The passage emphasizes that Victorian women experienced self-development through their travels as their identities were negotiated and redefined in new locations. The focus is on how their experiences abroad helped shape their personal identities differently compared to when they were at home.

- Option (A) is correct because the passage indicates that women's identities were redefined through travel.
- Option (B) focuses on class, but the passage doesn't specifically argue that class alone was the reason for self-development.
- Option (C) mentions a quest for diverse identities, but the passage primarily mentions redefinition rather than a specific quest.
- Option (D) suggests a feminist perspective, but the passage emphasizes identity redefinition, not a shift to feminism in particular.

Thus, the correct answer is (A).

### Quick Tip

#### Quick Tip:

Scholars suggest that Victorian women experienced self-development through travel as their identities were redefined when they were away from home.

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#### 4. American travel literature of the 1920s:

- (A) celebrated the freedom that travel gives.
- (B) developed the male protagonists' desire for independence.
- (C) presented travellers' discovery of their identity as different from others.
- (D) showed participation in local traditions.

**Correct Answer:** (A) celebrated the freedom that travel gives.

#### Solution:

The passage mentions that American travel literature of the 1920s focused on the experiences of male protagonists "discovering themselves" on their journeys. This highlights the theme of freedom associated with road travel.

- Option (A) is correct as it reflects the central theme of freedom in the 1920s American travel literature.
- Option (B) is partially true, as the protagonists' desire for independence is part of the narrative, but it does not fully capture the essence of the genre.
- Option (C) is incorrect because the passage emphasizes self-discovery and freedom, not the distinction of identity from others.
- Option (D) is not mentioned in the passage as a central theme of the 1920s American travel literature.

Thus, the correct answer is (A).

### Quick Tip

When analyzing travel literature, pay attention to the themes of freedom, self-discovery, and independence as they reflect the cultural and historical context of the time.

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#### 5. According to the passage, Said's book, "Orientalism":

- (A) explained the difference between the representation of people and the actual fact.
- (B) demonstrated how cultural imperialism was used to justify colonial domination.
- (C) argued that cultural imperialism was more significant than colonial domination.
- (D) illustrated how narrow minded and racist westerners were.

**Correct Answer:** (B) demonstrated how cultural imperialism was used to justify colonial domination.

#### **Solution:**

The passage explains that Said's book "Orientalism" helped scholars understand the ways in which representations of people in travel texts were tied to cultural imperialism, specifically how these representations were used to justify colonial domination.

- Option (B) is correct because it reflects the central idea of Said's work, which demonstrates how cultural imperialism was used to legitimize colonial practices.
- Option (A) is incorrect because the focus of Said's work is on the relationship between representation and power, not just the difference between representation and fact.
- Option (C) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that cultural imperialism is more significant than colonial domination, but rather a tool used to justify it.
- Option (D) is an oversimplification; while Said's work addresses racism, it is not solely focused on illustrating narrow-mindedness and racism in Westerners.

Thus, the correct answer is (B).

### Quick Tip

When studying cultural imperialism, focus on the ways in which representations in literature and media are used to justify or legitimize political and colonial power structures.

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**The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.**

Although one of the most contested concepts in political philosophy, human nature is something on which most people seem to agree. By and large, according to Rutger Bregman in his new book *Humankind*, we have a rather pessimistic view – not of ourselves exactly, but of everyone else. We see other people as selfish, untrustworthy, and dangerous and therefore we behave towards them with defensiveness and suspicion. This was how the 17th-century philosopher Thomas Hobbes conceived our natural state to be, believing that all that stood between us and violent anarchy was a strong state and firm leadership.

But in following Hobbes, argues Bregman, we ensure that the negative view we have of human nature is reflected back at us. He instead puts his faith in Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the 18th-century French thinker, who famously declared that man was born free and it was civilisation - with its coercive powers, social classes and restrictive laws - that put him in chains.

Hobbes and Rousseau are seen as the two poles of the human nature argument and it's no surprise that Bregman strongly sides with the Frenchman. He takes Rousseau's intuition and paints a picture of a prelapsarian idyll in which, for the better part of 300,000 years, Homo sapiens lived a fulfilling life in harmony with nature . . . Then we discovered agriculture and for the next 10,000 years it was all property, war, greed and injustice....

It was abandoning our nomadic lifestyle and then domesticating animals, says Bregman, that brought about infectious diseases such as measles, smallpox, tuberculosis, syphilis, malaria, cholera and plague. This may be true, but what Bregman never really seems to get to grips with is that pathogens were not the only things that grew with agriculture - so did the number

of humans. It's one thing to maintain friendly relations and a property-less mode of living when you're 30 or 40 hunter-gatherers following the food. But life becomes a great deal more complex and knowledge far more extensive when there are settlements of many thousands. "Civilisation has become synonymous with peace and progress and wilderness with war and decline," writes Bregman. "In reality, for most of human existence, it was the other way around." Whereas traditional history depicts the collapse of civilisations as "dark ages" in which everything gets worse, modern scholars, he claims, see them more as a reprieve, in which the enslaved gain their freedom and culture flourishes. Like much else in this book, the truth is probably somewhere between the two stated positions.

In any case, the fear of civilisational collapse, Bregman believes, is unfounded. It's the result of what the Dutch biologist Frans de Waal calls "vener theory" - the idea that just below the surface, our bestial nature is waiting to break out. . . . There's a great deal of reassuring human decency to be taken from this bold and thought-provoking book and a wealth of evidence in support of the contention that the sense of who we are as a species has been deleteriously distorted.

But it seems equally misleading to offer the false choice of Rousseau and Hobbes when, clearly, humanity encompasses both.

**6. The author has differing views from Bregman regarding:**

- (A) the role of pathogens in the spread of infectious diseases.
- (B) a civilised society being coercive and unjust.
- (C) a property-less mode of living being socially harmonious.
- (D) the role of agriculture in the advancement of knowledge.

**Correct Answer:** (B) a civilised society being coercive and unjust.

**Solution:**

The author contrasts Bregman's optimistic view of pre-civilisation life with the complexities that arise with the advent of agriculture and settlement. Bregman suggests that civilisation itself is a source of oppression, with coercive powers and restrictive laws, but the author challenges this view, implying that civilisations were not only about injustice but also about greater organisation and development. This is where the author differs from Bregman.

- Option (B) is correct because it highlights the key difference between the author's perspective, which sees the civilised society not necessarily as unjust, while Bregman views it as the cause of human oppression.
- Option (A) is incorrect because the author and Bregman agree that pathogens were linked to agriculture, though the author feels Bregman overlooks the growth in population.
- Option (C) is incorrect because both the author and Bregman reflect on the differences between nomadic and settled lifestyles, with the author agreeing with Bregman on the challenges of maintaining harmony in a more complex society.
- Option (D) is incorrect because both acknowledge that agriculture brought greater complexity and advancement, though Bregman focuses on the negative aspects of that advancement.

Thus, the correct answer is (B).

#### Quick Tip

When examining differing views in a text, focus on the underlying philosophical differences, particularly on key concepts like civilisation, justice, and the role of social organisation.

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**7. According to the passage, the "collapse of civilisations" is viewed by Bregman as:**

- (A) a sign of regression in society's trajectory.
- (B) resulting from a breakdown in the veneer of human nature.
- (C) a time that enables changes in societies and cultures.
- (D) a temporary phase which can be rectified by social action.

**Correct Answer:** (C) a time that enables changes in societies and cultures.

**Solution:**

According to the passage, Bregman views the collapse of civilisations as a reprieve rather than a regression. In his perspective, this period is not one of decline, but rather one that

allows for the flourishing of culture and the gaining of freedom for the oppressed. The author highlights that modern scholars see the collapse of civilisations as a time of change, which stands in contrast to the traditional view of it as a "dark age."

- Option (C) is correct because Bregman suggests that the collapse of civilisations provides an opportunity for societal changes and cultural flourishing.
- Option (A) is incorrect because Bregman does not view the collapse as a sign of regression; rather, he sees it as a chance for transformation.
- Option (B) is incorrect because Bregman's view on the collapse of civilisations is not related to the breakdown of human nature's veneer. He focuses on the positive changes brought about by collapse.
- Option (D) is incorrect because Bregman does not describe the collapse of civilisations as a temporary phase that can be rectified but rather as a pivotal time of change.

Thus, the correct answer is (C).

#### Quick Tip

When analyzing how an author views a concept like the collapse of civilisations, focus on whether they present it as a regression or an opportunity for cultural or social change.

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#### 8. None of the following views is expressed in the passage EXCEPT that:

- (A) Hobbes and Rousseau disagreed on the fundamental nature of humans, but both believed in the need for a strong state.
- (B) Bregman agrees with Hobbes that firm leadership is needed to ensure property rights and regulate strife.
- (C) the author of the review believes in the veneer theory of human nature.
- (D) most people agree with Hobbes' pessimistic view of human nature as being intrinsically untrustworthy and selfish.

**Correct Answer:** (D) most people agree with Hobbes' pessimistic view of human nature as being intrinsically untrustworthy and selfish.

**Solution:**

The correct option is (D) because the passage explicitly states that "most people seem to agree" with Hobbes' pessimistic view of human nature, which is characterized as selfish, untrustworthy, and dangerous. The passage contrasts this view with Rousseau's more optimistic perspective.

- Option (A) is incorrect because although Hobbes and Rousseau disagreed on human nature, the passage does not state that both believed in the need for a strong state, specifically mentioning that Rousseau believed civilisation put man in chains.

- Option (B) is incorrect because Bregman does not agree with Hobbes on the need for firm leadership; instead, he sides with Rousseau and advocates for a more positive view of human nature.

- Option (C) is incorrect because the passage does not express the author's belief in the veneer theory of human nature; instead, it discusses how Bregman critiques the "veneer theory."

Thus, the correct answer is (D).

**Quick Tip**

When analyzing multiple-choice questions, focus on specific phrases from the passage that directly support or contradict each option. For example, phrases like "most people seem to agree" can be key in identifying the correct answer.

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**9. According to the author, the main reason why Bregman contrasts life in pre-agricultural societies with agricultural societies is to:**

(A) advocate the promotion of less complex societies as a basis for greater security and prosperity.

(B) bolster his argument that people are basically decent, but progress as we know it can make them selfish.

(C) highlight the enormous impact that settled farming had on population growth.

(D) make the argument that an environmentally conscious lifestyle is a more harmonious way of living.

**Correct Answer:** (B) bolster his argument that people are basically decent, but progress as we know it can make them selfish.

**Solution:**

The correct option is (B). Bregman contrasts pre-agricultural and agricultural societies to illustrate how the shift to agriculture, despite its advancements, brought about social and moral complexities, turning people selfish and creating inequality. His argument is that the original state of humanity was one of cooperation and harmony, which was disrupted by the development of agriculture and civilization. This aligns with Bregman’s belief that humans are inherently decent, but societal progress led to their current ”selfish” nature.

- Option (A) is incorrect because Bregman doesn’t advocate for promoting less complex societies; his main concern is about how progress has impacted human nature.
- Option (C) is incorrect because the focus is not on population growth but rather on the moral and social effects of agricultural development.
- Option (D) is incorrect because the argument is not about environmental consciousness but rather about the negative impact of agricultural advancement on human behavior.

Thus, the correct answer is (B).

**Quick Tip**

When interpreting the main arguments in passages, focus on the key issue the author is addressing—here, Bregman is concerned with human nature and the impact of progress. Eliminate answers that don’t align with this core focus.

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**The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.**

[There is] a curious new reality: Human contact is becoming a luxury good. As more screens

appear in the lives of the poor, screens are disappearing from the lives of the rich. The richer you are, the more you spend to be off-screen....

The joy — at least at first of the internet revolution was its democratic nature. Facebook is the same Facebook whether you are rich or poor. Gmail is the same Gmail. And it's all free. There is something mass market and unappealing about that. And as studies show that time on these advertisement-support platforms is unhealthy, it all starts to seem *déclassé*, like drinking soda or smoking cigarettes, which wealthy people do less than poor people. The wealthy can afford to opt out of having their data and their attention sold as a product. The poor and middle class don't have the same kind of resources to make that happen.

Screen exposure starts young. And children who spent more than two hours a day looking at a screen got lower scores on thinking and language tests, according to early results of a landmark study on brain development of more than 11,000 children that the National Institutes of Health is supporting. Most disturbingly, the study is finding that the brains of children who spend a lot of time on screens are different. For some kids, there is premature thinning of their cerebral cortex. In adults, one study found an association between screen time and depression...

Tech companies worked hard to get public schools to buy into programs that required schools to have one laptop per student, arguing that it would better prepare children for their screen-based future. But this idea isn't how the people who actually build the screen-based future raise their own children. In Silicon Valley, time on screens is increasingly seen as unhealthy. Here, the popular elementary school is the local Waldorf School, which promises a back-to-nature, nearly screen-free education. So as wealthy kids are growing up with less screen time, poor kids are growing up with more. How comfortable someone is with human engagement could become a new class marker.

Human contact is, of course, not exactly like organic food . . . . But with screen time, there has been a concerted effort on the part of Silicon Valley behemoths to confuse the public. The poor and the middle class are told that screens are good and important for them and their children. There are fleets of psychologists and neuroscientists on staff at big tech companies working to hook eyes and minds to the screen as fast as possible and for as long as possible. And so human contact is rare. . . .

There is a small movement to pass a "right to disconnect" bill, which would allow workers to

turn their phones off, but for now a worker can be punished for going offline and not being available. There is also the reality that in our culture of increasing isolation, in which so many of the traditional gathering places and social structures have disappeared, screens are filling a crucial void.

**10. Which of the following statements about the negative effects of screen time is the author least likely to endorse?**

- (A) It can cause depression in viewers.
- (B) It increases human contact as it fills an isolation void.
- (C) It is shown to have adverse effects on young children’s learning.
- (D) It is designed to be addictive.

**Correct Answer:** (B) It increases human contact as it fills an isolation void.

**Solution:**

The correct option is (B). The passage clearly highlights the increasing isolation caused by screen time, especially among the poor, and discusses how screens fill a void in social connection, not increasing human contact. The author mentions that screen time contributes to isolation and decreasing human engagement, which contrasts with option (B).

- Option (A) is supported in the passage, where the author discusses a study linking screen time with depression. - Option (C) is endorsed by the author, referring to the study showing the negative effects of screen time on children’s thinking and language development. - Option (D) is also supported, as the author discusses how tech companies design screen experiences to be addictive.

Thus, the least likely statement the author would endorse is (B).

**Quick Tip**

When analyzing questions about a passage, pay attention to contradictions in the text. If a statement in the question goes against the passage’s central argument, it’s likely to be the correct answer.

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**11. The statement "The richer you are, the more you spend to be off-screen" is supported by which other line from the passage?**

- (A) "... studies show that time on these advertisement-support platforms is unhealthy..."
- (B) "Gmail is the same Gmail. And it's all free."
- (C) "How comfortable someone is with human engagement could be a new class marker."
- (D) "... screens are filling a crucial void."

**Correct Answer:** (C) "How comfortable someone is with human engagement could be a new class marker."

**Solution:**

The correct answer is (C). The passage suggests that the wealthier individuals are, the more they can opt-out of screen time and seek real human engagement. This line emphasizes how human engagement may become a new class marker, which supports the idea of the wealthy distancing themselves from screens.

- Option (A) refers to unhealthy screen time but doesn't support the idea of wealthier people choosing to avoid screens. - Option (B) talks about the equal nature of Gmail, but it doesn't reflect the off-screen behavior of the rich. - Option (D) talks about screens filling a void but doesn't mention the class difference in screen use.

Therefore, (C) is the most appropriate choice.

**Quick Tip**

Look for phrases in the passage that directly discuss social behaviors or values related to wealth and how they influence choices such as screen use. These are often key in supporting statements.

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**12. The author is least likely to agree with the view that the increase in screen-time is fuelled by the fact that:**

- (A) screens provide social contact in an increasingly isolating world.
- (B) some workers face punitive action if they are not online.
- (C) with falling costs, people are streaming more content on their devices.
- (D) there is a growth in computer-based teaching in public schools.

**Correct Answer:** (C) with falling costs, people are streaming more content on their devices.

**Solution:**

The author discusses the increase in screen-time in the context of social isolation, worker surveillance, and the need for human engagement. Option (C) speaks about the economic factors of lower costs leading to more content streaming, but the passage does not focus on economic or technological reasons for increased screen-time. Instead, it highlights social issues, like isolation and punitive workplace policies. Therefore, the author is least likely to agree with this economic-driven explanation.

- Option (A) fits with the author’s discussion of screens filling a social void in an isolated society. - Option (B) aligns with the author’s concern about workers being punished for being offline. - Option (D) ties into the discussion about the increase of screen-based teaching, especially in schools.

Therefore, (C) is the least supported by the passage.

**Quick Tip**

When reading passages about social issues, focus on identifying the causes the author emphasizes. Economic reasons may be mentioned but are often secondary to the social impact discussed in such contexts.

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**13. The author claims that Silicon Valley tech companies have tried to "confuse the public" by:**

- (A) promoting screen time in public schools while opting for a screen-free education for their own children.

(B) developing new work-efficiency programmes while lobbying for the "right to disconnect" bill.

(C) concealing the findings of psychologists and neuroscientists on screen-time use from the public.

(D) pushing for greater privacy while working with advertisement-support platforms to mine data.

**Correct Answer:** (A) promoting screen time in public schools while opting for a screen-free education for their own children.

**Solution:**

The passage criticizes Silicon Valley tech companies for advocating screen-based education in public schools while choosing a screen-free, back-to-nature education for their own children. This demonstrates the hypocrisy and the effort to "confuse the public" by promoting something unhealthy while opting out of it themselves.

- Option (A) directly aligns with the author's argument about the contradictory actions of tech companies. - Option (B) doesn't match the passage, as it doesn't discuss work-efficiency programs or lobbying related to the "right to disconnect." - Option (C) is incorrect because there is no mention of concealing the findings of psychologists and neuroscientists in the passage. - Option (D) is unrelated to the point about screen-based education and Silicon Valley's actions towards it.

Therefore, (A) is the correct answer.

**Quick Tip**

Focus on identifying contradictions or hypocrisy when answering questions about authors' claims. Often, the author will highlight inconsistencies to demonstrate a particular argument.

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**The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.**

I've been following the economic crisis for more than two years now. I began working on the subject as part of the background to a novel, and soon realized that I had stumbled across the most interesting story I've ever found. While I was beginning to work on it, the British bank Northern Rock blew up, and it became clear that, as I wrote at the time, "If our laws are not extended to control the new kinds of super-powerful, super-complex, and potentially super-risky investment vehicles, they will one day cause a financial disaster of global-systemic proportions." ... I was both right and too late, because all the groundwork for the crisis had already been done though the sluggishness of the world's governments, in not preparing for the great unraveling of autumn 2008, was then and still is stupefying. But this is the first reason why I wrote this book: because what's happened is extraordinarily interesting. It is an absolutely amazing story, full of human interest and drama, one whose byways of mathematics, economics, and psychology are both central to the story of the last decades and mysteriously unknown to the general public.

We have heard a lot about "the two cultures" of science and the arts—we heard a particularly large amount about it in 2009, because it was the fiftieth anniversary of the speech during which C. P. Snow first used the phrase. But I'm not sure the idea of a huge gap between science and the arts is as true as it was half a century ago—it's certainly true, for instance, that a general reader who wants to pick up an education in the fundamentals of science will find it easier than ever before. It seems to me that there is a much bigger gap between the world of finance and that of the general public and that there is a need to narrow that gap, if the financial industry is not to be a kind of priesthood, administering to its own mysteries and feared and resented by the rest of us. Many bright, literate people have no idea about all sorts of economic basics, of a type that financial insiders take as elementary facts of how the world works. I am an outsider to finance and economics, and my hope is that I can talk across that gulf.

My need to understand is the same as yours, whoever you are. That's one of the strangest ironies of this story: after decades in which the ideology of the Western world was personally and economically individualistic, we've suddenly been hit by a crisis which shows in the starkest terms that whether we like it or not—and there are large parts of it that you would have to be crazy to like—we're all in this together. The aftermath of the crisis is going to dominate the economics and politics of our societies for at least a decade to come

and perhaps longer.

**14. Which one of the following, if false, could be seen as supporting the author's claims?**

- (A) The global economic crisis lasted for more than two years.
- (B) The huge gap between science and the arts has steadily narrowed over time.
- (C) The economic crisis was not a failure of collective action to rectify economic problems.
- (D) Most people are yet to gain any real understanding of the workings of the financial world.

**Correct Answer:** (C) The economic crisis was not a failure of collective action to rectify economic problems.

**Solution:**

The author discusses the failure of governments to prepare for the crisis and the lack of understanding in the general public about financial matters, which contributed to the crisis. Therefore, (C) is the correct answer because it contradicts the author's claims about the crisis being a failure of collective action.

- Option (A) is supported by the passage, where the author reflects on the two years of tracking the crisis. - Option (B) is also supported as the author claims that the gap between science and the arts may have narrowed but stresses that there is a larger gap between finance and the general public. - Option (D) is directly supported by the passage, where the author highlights how many people, even educated individuals, lack a basic understanding of finance.

Thus, (C) is the only option that, if false, would support the author's claims about the collective failure to address the economic crisis.

**Quick Tip**

When answering questions about an argument, focus on identifying the contradictions in the statements provided, and check which one, if false, weakens the argument presented in the passage.

**15. Which one of the following, if true, would be an accurate inference from the first sentence of the passage?**

- (A) The author's preoccupation with the economic crisis is not less than two years old.
- (B) The economic crisis outlasted the author's preoccupation with it.
- (C) The author is preoccupied with the economic crisis because he is being followed.
- (D) The author has witnessed many economic crises by travelling a lot for two years.

**Correct Answer:** (A) The author's preoccupation with the economic crisis is not less than two years old.

**Solution:**

The first sentence of the passage says, "I've been following the economic crisis for more than two years now," which implies the author's preoccupation with the crisis has been ongoing for at least two years. Therefore, Option (A) is the correct inference.

- Option (B) is incorrect because the passage does not state that the crisis outlasted the author's preoccupation. - Option (C) is irrelevant as the passage does not suggest that the author is being followed or influenced by anyone. - Option (D) is not supported, as the author mentions working on the subject but does not claim to have witnessed multiple crises through travel.

Thus, (A) is the only correct inference.

**Quick Tip**

When analyzing inference questions, focus on the key details of the passage and check which option aligns with the facts mentioned in the text.

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**16. Which one of the following best captures the main argument of the last paragraph of the passage?**

- (A) Whoever you are, you would be crazy to think that there is no crisis.
- (B) In the decades to come, other ideologies will emerge in the aftermath of the crisis.

- (C) The ideology of individualism must be set aside in order to deal with the crisis.
- (D) The aftermath of the crisis will strengthen the central ideology of individualism in the Western world.

**Correct Answer:** (C) The ideology of individualism must be set aside in order to deal with the crisis.

**Solution:**

The last paragraph emphasizes the irony that, after decades of individualism, the economic crisis has shown that we are all interconnected and need collective action. The author's argument focuses on how the crisis requires a shift away from individualism toward a more collective approach to solving societal issues.

- Option (A) is not correct, as it misinterprets the focus of the paragraph. - Option (B) introduces an unrelated concept of emerging ideologies, which is not the main argument. - Option (D) contradicts the author's point, as the paragraph advocates for moving beyond individualism rather than reinforcing it.

Thus, (C) accurately captures the main argument of the last paragraph.

**Quick Tip**

When answering main-argument questions, focus on the central theme of the last paragraph and select the option that aligns with the passage's conclusion.

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

- (A) The story of the economic crisis is also one about international relations, global financial security, and mass psychology.
- (B) Economic crises could be averted by changing prevailing ideologies and beliefs.
- (C) The failure of economic systems does not necessarily mean the failure of their ideologies.
- (D) The difficulty with understanding financial matters is that they have become so arcane.

**Correct Answer:** (C) The failure of economic systems does not necessarily mean the failure of their ideologies.

**Solution:**

The passage argues that the economic crisis is a result of prevailing ideologies and beliefs that have not been sufficiently questioned or updated. It implies that economic crises are tied to the failure of these ideologies.

- Option (A) supports the passage's argument by acknowledging the complexity of the economic crisis, which involves more than just financial issues. - Option (B) also supports the argument, as it suggests that changing ideologies could prevent economic crises, aligning with the author's view on the need for a shift in ideology. - Option (D) supports the argument that understanding finance has become difficult due to its increasing complexity, which is implied in the passage.

Option (C), however, contradicts the passage, as it suggests that the failure of economic systems may not imply the failure of the ideologies behind them, which is against the author's claim that the crisis is directly linked to faulty ideologies.

**Quick Tip**

For questions about exceptions, focus on identifying the option that contradicts the central argument presented in the passage.

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**18. According to the passage, the author is likely to be supportive of which one of the following programmes?**

- (A) An educational curriculum that promotes economic research.
- (B) An educational curriculum that promotes developing financial literacy in the masses.
- (C) The complete nationalisation of all financial institutions.
- (D) Economic policies that are more sensitively calibrated to the fluctuations of the market.

**Correct Answer:** (B) An educational curriculum that promotes developing financial literacy in the masses.

**Solution:**

The author of the passage emphasizes the need for bridging the gap between the world of finance and the general public. The author critiques how finance is often a "mystery" to many bright and literate individuals, which supports the idea that greater financial literacy among the masses is necessary.

- Option (B) aligns with the author's argument by proposing an educational curriculum focused on developing financial literacy, thus narrowing the gap between the financial world and the public. - Option (A) focuses on economic research, which isn't directly discussed or endorsed in the passage. - Option (C) talks about nationalization, but the passage doesn't mention supporting such a policy. - Option (D) concerns economic policies but isn't the author's central focus; the passage centers more on understanding the financial world rather than policy adjustments.

Thus, the author is most likely supportive of an educational curriculum that develops financial literacy.

**Quick Tip**

For questions about the author's viewpoint, identify which option directly supports the argument or need presented in the passage.

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

Brown et al. (2001) suggest that 'metabolic theory may provide a conceptual foundation for much of ecology just as genetic theory provides a foundation for much of evolutionary biology'. One of the successes of genetic theory is the diversity of theoretical approaches and models that have been developed and applied. A Web of Science (v. 5.9. Thomson Reuters) search on genetic + theor + evol identifies more than 12000 publications between 2005 and 2012. Considering only the 10 most-cited papers within this 12000 publication set, genetic theory can be seen to focus on genome dynamics, phylogenetic inference, game theory and the regulation of gene expression. There is no one fundamental genetic equation,

but rather a wide array of genetic models, ranging from simple to complex, with differing inputs and outputs, and divergent areas of application, loosely connected to each other through the shared conceptual foundation of heritable variation.

(A) Genetic theory has a wide range of theoretical approaches and applications and Metabolic theory must have the same in the field of ecology.

(B) Genetic theory has a wide range of theoretical approaches and applications and is foundational to evolutionary biology and Metabolic theory has the potential to do the same for ecology.

(C) Genetic theory provides an example of how a range of theoretical approaches and applications can make a theory successful.

(D) Genetic theory has evolved to spawn a wide range of theoretical models and applications but Metabolic theory need not evolve in a similar manner in the field of ecology.

**Correct Answer:** (B) Genetic theory has a wide range of theoretical approaches and applications and is foundational to evolutionary biology and Metabolic theory has the potential to do the same for ecology.

**Solution:**

The passage explains the success of genetic theory, with a wide range of models and applications, as a foundation for evolutionary biology. The comparison is made to Metabolic theory, which, like genetic theory, has the potential to offer a conceptual foundation for ecology. Option (B) captures this idea best by stating that Metabolic theory has the potential to do for ecology what genetic theory has done for evolutionary biology.

- Option (A) suggests Metabolic theory must have the same range as genetic theory, but this is not a point made in the passage.

- Option (C) focuses solely on the success of genetic theory without comparing it to Metabolic theory.

- Option (D) limits the potential of Metabolic theory by implying it need not evolve similarly to genetic theory, which contradicts the passage's suggestion that it has the potential to offer a foundation for ecology.

Thus, option (B) is the most accurate summary.

### Quick Tip

When comparing theories, focus on the specific potential or success mentioned in the passage and look for the option that directly parallels these ideas.

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**20. The four sentences (labelled A, B, C, D) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer:**

(A) It advocated a conservative approach to antitrust enforcement that espouses faith in efficient markets and voiced suspicion regarding the merits of judicial intervention to correct anticompetitive practices.

(B) Many industries have consistently gained market share, the lion's share - without any official concern; the most successful technology companies have grown into veritable titans, on the premise that they advance 'public interest'.

(C) That the new anti competitive risks posed by tech giants like Google, Facebook, and Amazon, necessitate new legal solutions could be attributed to the dearth of enforcement actions against monopolies and the few cases challenging mergers in the USA.

(D) The criterion of 'consumer welfare standard' and the principle that antitrust law should serve consumer interests and that it should protect competition rather than individual competitors was an antitrust law introduced by, and named after, the 'Chicago school'.

**Correct Answer:** DABC

### **Solution:**

The passage discusses antitrust law, particularly focusing on the 'Chicago school' approach to antitrust enforcement and its influence on the way monopolies and mergers are viewed.

The sentences are logically arranged as follows:

- Sentence D introduces the 'consumer welfare standard' and the 'Chicago school' antitrust law.

- Sentence A explains the conservative approach to antitrust enforcement, which aligns with

the 'Chicago school'.

- Sentence B shows how industries and tech giants have grown without concern for antitrust enforcement. - Sentence C highlights the need for new legal solutions due to the rise of tech giants like Google and Amazon.

Thus, the correct sequence is DABC.

#### Quick Tip

When sequencing sentences, identify the introductory statement and follow it with the supporting statements in a logical order. End with the concluding thought that draws a conclusion or calls for action.

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

**Aesthetic political representation urges us to realize that 'the representative has autonomy with regard to the people represented' but autonomy then is not an excuse to abandon one's responsibility. Aesthetic autonomy requires cultivation of 'disinterestedness' on the part of actors which is not indifference. To have disinterestedness, that is, to have comportment towards the beautiful that is devoid of all ulterior references to use - requires a kind of aesthetic commitment; it is the liberation of ourselves for the release of what has proper worth only in itself.**

(A) Disinterestedness is different from indifference as the former means a non-subjective evaluation of things which is what constitutes aesthetic political representation.

(B) Aesthetic political representation advocates autonomy for the representatives drawing from disinterestedness, which itself is different from indifference.

(C) Disinterestedness, as distinct from indifference, is the basis of political representation.

(D) Aesthetic political representation advocates autonomy for the representatives manifested through disinterestedness which itself is different from indifference.

**Correct Answer: B**

**Solution:**

The passage explains that aesthetic political representation involves autonomy for representatives, which is rooted in disinterestedness. Disinterestedness is distinct from indifference, meaning that it requires an aesthetic commitment, rather than merely being detached or indifferent. The most accurate summary is Option B, which clearly captures the idea that aesthetic political representation emphasizes autonomy drawn from disinterestedness, which is different from indifference.

**Quick Tip**

When summarizing a passage, focus on the key ideas or concepts mentioned in the text. Look for phrases that explain the relationship between concepts, such as "draws from," "manifested through," or "distinct from."

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**22. The four sentences (labelled A, B, C, D) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer:**

- (A) Each one personified a different aspect of good fortune.
- (B) The others were versions of popular Buddhist gods, Hindu gods and Daoist gods.
- (C) Seven popular Japanese deities, the Shichi Fukujin, were considered to bring good luck and happiness.
- (D) Although they were included in the Shinto pantheon, only two of them, Daikoku and Ebisu, were indigenous Japanese gods.

**Correct Answer:** CADB

**Solution:**

The correct order of the sentences is CADB. Here's how they form a coherent paragraph:  
- C introduces the seven Japanese deities, the Shichi Fukujin, and their role in bringing good luck and happiness.

- A explains that each of these deities personifies a different aspect of good fortune.
- D adds that, although part of the Shinto pantheon, only two of the deities, Daikoku and Ebisu, were indigenous to Japan.
- B then describes that the others were representations of popular gods from Buddhism, Hinduism, and Daoism.

### Quick Tip

When sequencing sentences, first identify the sentence that introduces the main idea or subject. Then, look for sentences that provide additional details or elaborations. The sentence that concludes the paragraph should tie back to the main idea or provide a final clarification.

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**23. Five jumbled up sentences, related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd one out and key in the number of the sentence as your answer:**

- (A) The logic of displaying one's inner qualities through outward appearance was based on a distinction between being a woman and being feminine.
- (B) 'Appearance' became a signifier of conduct - to look was to be and conformity to the feminine ideal was measured by how well women could use the tools of the fashion and beauty industries.
- (C) The makeover-centric media sets out subtly and not-so-subtly, 'good' and 'bad' ways to be a woman, layering these over inequalities of race and class.
- (D) The denigration of working-class women and women of colour often centres on their perceived failure to embody feminine beauty.
- (E) 'Woman' was considered a biological category, but femininity was a 'process' by which women became specific kinds of women.

**Correct Answer: C**

**Solution:**

The odd sentence out is C. It is more focused on the media and race/class issues, which is not directly related to the rest of the paragraph. The other sentences (A, B, D, E) are about how the concept of femininity and womanhood is shaped by appearance and societal standards, whereas C introduces the media's role and the intersectionality with race and class, which is tangential to the main theme of femininity and appearance.

### Quick Tip

When sorting jumbled sentences, focus on the core theme of the paragraph. Look for a sentence that doesn't directly relate to the central argument or topic. This sentence is likely the odd one out.

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

*The dominant hypotheses in modern science believe that language evolved to allow humans to exchange factual information about the physical world. But an alternative view is that language evolved, in modern humans at least, to facilitate social bonding. It increased our ancestors' chances of survival by enabling them to hunt more successfully or to cooperate more extensively. Language meant that things could be explained and that plans and past experiences could be shared efficiently.*

(A) From the belief that humans invented language to process factual information, scholars now think that language was the outcome of the need to ensure social cohesion and thus human survival.

(B) Most believe that language originated from a need to articulate facts, but others think it emerged from the need to promote social cohesion and cooperation, thus enabling human survival.

(C) Since its origin, language has been continuously evolving to higher forms, from being used to identify objects to ensuring human survival by enabling our ancestors to bond and cooperate.

(D) Experts are challenging the narrow view of the origin of language, as being merely used to describe facts and label objects, to being necessary to promote more complex interactions among humans.

**Correct Answer: B**

**Solution:**

The correct answer is B, as it clearly presents both dominant views: that language originated for factual communication and that an alternative view is language's role in promoting social cohesion and human survival. This captures the essence of the passage most effectively.

#### Quick Tip

When choosing a summary, focus on the central argument of the passage. The summary should reflect both the dominant hypothesis and the alternative view, as seen in this case.

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**25. The four sentences (labelled A, B, C, D) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer:**

(A) Complex computational elements of the CNS are organized according to a "nested" hierarchic criterion; the organization is not permanent and can change dynamically from moment to moment as they carry out a computational task.

(B) Echolocation in bats exemplifies adaptation produced by natural selection; a function not produced by natural selection for its current use is exaptation feathers might have originally arisen in the context of selection for insulation.

(C) From a structural standpoint, consistent with exaptation, the living organism is organized as a complex of "Russian Matryoshka Dolls" – smaller structures are contained within larger ones in multiple layers.

(D) The exaptation concept, and the Russian-doll organization concept of living beings deduced from studies on evolution of the various apparatuses in mammals, can be applied for the most complex human organ: the central nervous system (CNS).

**Correct Answer:** BCDA

**Solution:**

The correct order is B, C, D, A.

- B introduces the concept of exaptation using echolocation in bats as an example.
- C explains the structural standpoint of exaptation in the context of living organisms.
- D applies these concepts to the central nervous system (CNS).
- A provides a specific example of how these principles are applied to the CNS, explaining how its structure can change dynamically based on its computational tasks.

**Quick Tip**

When determining the correct sequence, ensure that each sentence logically leads to the next. The first sentence introduces a concept, and each subsequent sentence should build on it.

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**26. Five jumbled up sentences, related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd one out and key in the number of the sentence as your answer:**

- (A) Machine learning models are prone to learning human-like biases from the training data that feeds these algorithms.
- (B) Hate speech detection is part of the on-going effort against oppressive and abusive language on social media.
- (C) The current automatic detection models miss out on something vital: context.
- (D) It uses complex algorithms to flag racist or violent speech faster and better than human beings alone.
- (E) For instance, algorithms struggle to determine if group identifiers like "gay" or "black" are used in offensive or prejudiced ways because they're trained on imbalanced datasets with unusually high rates of hate speech.

**Correct Answer:** C

**Solution:**

The odd sentence out is C. It stands apart from the rest of the sentences as it is more of a general statement about the limitations of current detection models, whereas the other sentences elaborate on specific issues regarding how machine learning models function in hate speech detection and their flaws.

**Quick Tip**

When looking for the odd sentence out, try to focus on the content that feels too general or disconnected from the rest of the passage's flow.

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