

CAT 2021 VARC Slot 3 Question Paper with Solutions

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

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- 1. Duration of Section:** 40 Minutes
- 2. Total Number of Questions:** 24 Questions (as per latest pattern, may vary slightly)
- 3. Section Covered:** Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension (VARC)
- 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:**
 - Reading Comprehension: Inference-based questions, Main idea, Tone, Fact vs Opinion, Passage Structure
 - Verbal Ability: Para Jumbles, Odd Sentence Out, Para Summary
- 7. Skills Tested:** Reading comprehension, verbal reasoning, contextual understanding, and coherent sequencing

1. Comprehension: The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question. Starting in 1957, [Noam Chomsky] proclaimed a new doctrine: Language, that most human of all attributes, was innate. The grammatical faculty was built into the infant brain, and your average 3-year-old was not a mere apprentice in the great enterprise of absorbing English from his or her parents, but a "linguistic genius." Since this message was couched in terms of Chomskyan theoretical linguistics, in discourse so opaque that it was nearly incomprehensible even to some scholars, many people did not hear it. Now, in a brilliant, witty and altogether satisfying book, Mr. Chomsky's colleague Steven Pinker... has brought Mr. Chomsky's findings to everyman. In "The Language Instinct" he has gathered persuasive data from such diverse fields as cognitive neuroscience, developmental psychology and speech therapy to make his points, and when he disagrees with Mr. Chomsky he tells you SO.

For Mr. Chomsky and Mr. Pinker, somewhere in the human brain there is a complex set of neural circuits that have been programmed with "super-rules" (making up what Mr. Chomsky calls "universal grammar"), and that these rules are unconscious and instinctive. A half-century ago, this would have been pooh-poohed as a "black box" theory, since one could not actually pinpoint this grammatical faculty in a specific part of the brain, or describe its functioning. But now things are different. Neurosurgeons [have now found that this] "black box" is situated in and around Broca's area, on the left side of the forebrain.

Unlike Mr. Chomsky, Mr. Pinker firmly places the wiring of the brain for language within the framework of Darwinian natural selection and evolution. He effectively disposes of all claims that intelligent nonhuman primates like chimps have any abilities to learn and use language. It is not that chimps lack the vocal apparatus to speak; it is just that their brains are unable to produce or use grammar. On the other hand, the "language instinct," when it first appeared among our most distant hominid ancestors, must have given them a selective reproductive advantage over their competitors (including the ancestral chimps).

So according to Mr. Pinker, the roots of language must be in the genes, but there cannot be a "grammar gene" any more than there can be a gene for the heart or any other complex body structure. This proposition will undoubtedly raise the hackles of some behavioral psychologists and anthropologists, for it apparently contradicts the liberal idea that human behavior may be changed for the better by improvements in culture and environment, and it

might seem to invite the twin bugaboos of biological determinism and racism. Yet Mr. Pinker stresses one point that should allay such fears. Even though there are 4,000 to 6,000 languages today, they are all sufficiently alike to be considered one language by an extraterrestrial observer. In other words, most of the diversity of the world's cultures, so beloved to anthropologists, is superficial and minor compared to the similarities. Racial differences are literally only "skin deep." The fundamental unity of humanity is the theme of Mr. Chomsky's universal grammar, and of this exciting book.

On the basis of the information in the passage, Pinker and Chomsky may disagree with each other on which one of the following points?

- (1) The possibility of a universal grammar
- (2) The inborn language acquisition skills of humans
- (3) The language instinct
- (4) The evolutionary origin of the language faculty

Correct Answer: (4) The evolutionary origin of the language faculty

Solution:

To determine where Pinker and Chomsky may disagree, we must carefully read the relevant parts of the passage and identify any distinctions in their viewpoints.

Key Details from the Passage:

- The passage states: *"For Mr. Chomsky and Mr. Pinker, somewhere in the human brain there is a complex set of neural circuits that have been programmed with 'super-rules' (making up what Mr. Chomsky calls 'universal grammar'), and that these rules are unconscious and instinctive."*

This confirms both believe in the idea of universal grammar (eliminates option 1) and inborn language acquisition (eliminates option 2).

- The term "language instinct" is used positively and similarly by both Pinker and Chomsky. The book is even titled *"The Language Instinct"* by Pinker, and it is said to bring Chomsky's theories to a wider audience. So, they agree on this term (eliminates option 3).

- However, the line: *"Unlike Mr. Chomsky, Mr. Pinker firmly places the wiring of the brain for language within the framework of Darwinian natural selection and evolution."*

This clearly identifies a point of disagreement: Pinker links the language faculty's origin to natural selection and evolution (Darwinian mechanisms), whereas Chomsky apparently does not. This makes option (4) the correct answer.

Therefore, the only viable option where they may **disagree** is:

(4) The evolutionary origin of the language faculty

Quick Tip

In CAT VARC questions, always identify areas of agreement vs disagreement explicitly stated or implied. Words like "unlike," "however," or "on the other hand" often signal contrast and can point to the correct answer.

2. Comprehension: The passage below is accompanied by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question. Starting in 1957, [Noam Chomsky] proclaimed a new doctrine: Language, that most human of all attributes, was innate. The grammatical faculty was built into the infant brain, and your average 3-year-old was not a mere apprentice in the great enterprise of absorbing English from his or her parents, but a "linguistic genius." Since this message was couched in terms of Chomskyan theoretical linguistics, in discourse so opaque that it was nearly incomprehensible even to some scholars, many people did not hear it. Now, in a brilliant, witty and altogether satisfying book, Mr. Chomsky's colleague Steven Pinker... has brought Mr. Chomsky's findings to everyman. In "The Language Instinct" he has gathered persuasive data from such diverse fields as cognitive neuroscience, developmental psychology and speech therapy to make his points, and when he disagrees with Mr. Chomsky he tells you SO.

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not actually pinpoint this grammatical faculty in a specific part of the brain, or describe its functioning. But now things are different. Neurosurgeons [have now found that this] "black box" is situated in and around Broca's area, on the left side of the forebrain.

Unlike Mr. Chomsky, Mr. Pinker firmly places the wiring of the brain for language within the framework of Darwinian natural selection and evolution. He effectively disposes of all claims that intelligent nonhuman primates like chimps have any abilities to learn and use language. It is not that chimps lack the vocal apparatus to speak; it is just that their brains are unable to produce or use grammar. On the other hand, the "language instinct," when it first appeared among our most distant hominid ancestors, must have given them a selective reproductive advantage over their competitors (including the ancestral chimps).

So according to Mr. Pinker, the roots of language must be in the genes, but there cannot be a "grammar gene" any more than there can be a gene for the heart or any other complex body structure. This proposition will undoubtedly raise the hackles of some behavioral psychologists and anthropologists, for it apparently contradicts the liberal idea that human behavior may be changed for the better by improvements in culture and environment, and it might seem to invite the twin bugaboos of biological determinism and racism. Yet Mr. Pinker stresses one point that should allay such fears. Even though there are 4,000 to 6,000 languages today, they are all sufficiently alike to be considered one language by an extraterrestrial observer. In other words, most of the diversity of the world's cultures, so beloved to anthropologists, is superficial and minor compared to the similarities. Racial differences are literally only "skin deep." The fundamental unity of humanity is the theme of Mr. Chomsky's universal grammar, and of this exciting book.

From the passage, it can be inferred that all of the following are true about Pinker's book, "The Language Instinct", EXCEPT that Pinker:

- (1) writes in a different style from Chomsky
- (2) disagrees with Chomsky on certain grounds
- (3) draws extensively from Chomsky's propositions
- (4) argues that non-human primates lack the physical apparatus to speak

Correct Answer: (4) argues that non-human primates lack the physical apparatus to speak

Solution:

This is an “EXCEPT” question, so we are looking for the option that is **not** true or contradicted by the passage.

Option (1): The passage explicitly says that Chomsky’s message was “in discourse so opaque that it was nearly incomprehensible,” whereas Pinker’s book is described as “brilliant, witty and altogether satisfying.” This confirms that Pinker’s style differs from Chomsky’s. Hence, **this option is true.**

Option (2): The sentence “*when he disagrees with Mr. Chomsky he tells you so*” proves that Pinker does disagree with Chomsky on some points. Hence, **this option is true.**

Option (3): The line “*has brought Mr. Chomsky’s findings to everyman*” and other parts of the passage show that Pinker builds upon Chomsky’s propositions. Thus, **this option is true.**

Option (4): The passage explicitly refutes this option. It states: “*It is not that chimps lack the vocal apparatus to speak; it is just that their brains are unable to produce or use grammar.*” This means that Pinker **does not argue** that chimps lack the physical apparatus — rather, he emphasizes that the issue lies in their brains.

Therefore, the only **incorrect** statement about Pinker’s book is:

(4) argues that non-human primates lack the physical apparatus to speak

Quick Tip

When answering EXCEPT questions in CAT RC, eliminate all options that are directly supported by the passage. The correct answer is the one that contradicts or is not mentioned.

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

Starting in 1957, [Noam Chomsky] proclaimed a new doctrine: Language, that most human of all attributes, was innate. The grammatical faculty was built into the infant brain, and your average 3-year-old was not a mere apprentice in the great enterprise of absorbing English from his or her parents, but a “linguistic genius.” Since this message was couched in terms of Chomskyan theoretical linguistics, in discourse so opaque that it was nearly incomprehensible even to some scholars, many people did not hear it. Now, in a brilliant,

witty and altogether satisfying book, Mr. Chomsky's colleague Steven Pinker... has brought Mr. Chomsky's findings to everyman. In "The Language Instinct" he has gathered persuasive data from such diverse fields as cognitive neuroscience, developmental psychology and speech therapy to make his points, and when he disagrees with Mr. Chomsky he tells you so. For Mr. Chomsky and Mr. Pinker, somewhere in the human brain there is a complex set of neural circuits that have been programmed with "super-rules" (making up what Mr. Chomsky calls "universal grammar"), and that these rules are unconscious and instinctive. A half-century ago, this would have been pooh-poohed as a "black box" theory, since one could not actually pinpoint this grammatical faculty in a specific part of the brain, or describe its functioning. But now things are different. Neurosurgeons [have now found that this] "black box" is situated in and around Broca's area, on the left side of the forebrain.

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According to the passage, all of the following are true about the language instinct

EXCEPT that:

- (1) not all intelligent primates are gifted with it
- (2) all intelligent primates are gifted with it
- (3) it confers an evolutionary reproductive advantage

Correct Answer: (2) all intelligent primates are gifted with it

Solution:

This is an EXCEPT question — we are looking for the one statement that is **not** supported by the passage.

Option (1): The passage clearly says: *“He [Pinker] effectively disposes of all claims that intelligent nonhuman primates like chimps have any abilities to learn and use language... their brains are unable to produce or use grammar.”* This confirms that **not all intelligent primates** are gifted with the language instinct. So, this statement is **true** as per the passage.

Option (3): The line: *“the ‘language instinct,’ when it first appeared among our most distant hominid ancestors, must have given them a selective reproductive advantage over their competitors”* shows that the instinct gave an evolutionary edge. This makes option (3) **true** as per the passage.

Option (2): This claims that **all** intelligent primates are gifted with the language instinct, which directly contradicts the passage. The author says that chimps — intelligent nonhuman primates — cannot use grammar, and therefore, do not possess the language instinct. Hence, this option is **false** according to the passage.

Therefore, the correct answer — the one that is **NOT** true about the language instinct — is:

(2)all intelligent primates are gifted with it

Quick Tip

For EXCEPT questions, use the process of elimination. Verify each option with a direct line or implication from the passage. The one that is contradicted or not mentioned is usually the correct answer.

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

Starting in 1957, [Noam Chomsky] proclaimed a new doctrine: Language, that most human of all attributes, was innate. The grammatical faculty was built into the infant brain, and your average 3-year-old was not a mere apprentice in the great enterprise of absorbing English from his or her parents, but a "linguistic genius." Since this message was couched in terms of Chomskyan theoretical linguistics, in discourse so opaque that it was nearly incomprehensible even to some scholars, many people did not hear it. Now, in a brilliant, witty and altogether satisfying book, Mr. Chomsky's colleague Steven Pinker... has brought Mr. Chomsky's findings to everyman. In "The Language Instinct" he has gathered persuasive data from such diverse fields as cognitive neuroscience, developmental psychology and speech therapy to make his points, and when he disagrees with Mr. Chomsky he tells you so. For Mr. Chomsky and Mr. Pinker, somewhere in the human brain there is a complex set of neural circuits that have been programmed with "super-rules" (making up what Mr. Chomsky calls "universal grammar"), and that these rules are unconscious and instinctive. A half-century ago, this would have been pooh-poohed as a "black box" theory, since one could not actually pinpoint this grammatical faculty in a specific part of the brain, or describe its functioning. But now things are different. Neurosurgeons [have now found that this] "black box" is situated in and around Broca's area, on the left side of the forebrain.

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So according to Mr. Pinker, the roots of language must be in the genes, but there cannot be a "grammar gene" any more than there can be a gene for the heart or any other complex body structure. This proposition will undoubtedly raise the hackles of some behavioral psychologists and anthropologists, for it apparently contradicts the liberal idea that human behavior may be changed for the better by improvements in culture and environment, and it

might seem to invite the twin bugaboos of biological determinism and racism. Yet Mr. Pinker stresses one point that should allay such fears. Even though there are 4,000 to 6,000 languages today, they are all sufficiently alike to be considered one language by an extraterrestrial observer. In other words, most of the diversity of the world's cultures, so beloved to anthropologists, is superficial and minor compared to the similarities. Racial differences are literally only "skin deep." The fundamental unity of humanity is the theme of Mr. Chomsky's universal grammar, and of this exciting book.

Which one of the following statements best summarises the author's position about Pinker's book?

- (1) The evolutionary and deterministic framework of Pinker's book makes it racist.
- (2) The universality of the "language instinct" counters claims that Pinker's book is racist.
- (3) Anatomical developments like the voice box play a key role in determining language acquisition skills.
- (4) Culture and environment play a key role in shaping our acquisition of language.

Correct Answer: (2) The universality of the "language instinct" counters claims that Pinker's book is racist.

Solution:

This is an inference-based question, asking us to identify the statement that best captures the author's perspective on Pinker's book.

Option (1): This is clearly contradicted in the passage. While the author notes that Pinker's views *might seem* to invite biological determinism and racism, he also writes: "*Yet Mr. Pinker stresses one point that should allay such fears... Racial differences are literally only 'skin deep.'*". Hence, **this is not the author's position.**

Option (2): This aligns directly with the author's discussion. He writes that the language instinct is universal and even extraterrestrials would see all human languages as essentially the same. This universality, the author argues, **counters the claims of racism or determinism.** Hence, **this is the correct summary.**

Option (3): This is factually inaccurate according to the passage. The author states: "*It is not that chimps lack the vocal apparatus to speak; it is just that their brains are unable to produce or use grammar.*" So anatomical developments like the voice box are not the issue;

rather, it's the cognitive capacity. Thus, **this option is incorrect.**

Option (4): While cultural and environmental improvements are mentioned, they are noted as being **insufficient** to override the biological basis of language. In fact, Pinker's argument is that language is *genetically rooted*, and this notion **challenges** the view that behavior can be fully shaped by culture or environment. So this **cannot be the author's position** either.

Therefore, the best summary of the author's stance is:

(2)The universality of the "language instinct" counters claims that Pinker's book is racist.

Quick Tip

When asked to summarize an author's position in CAT RC, look for statements in the passage that address broader implications or anticipated criticisms and how the author counters them. These are often found near the end of the passage.

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

Keeping time accurately comes with a price. The maximum accuracy of a clock is directly related to how much disorder, or entropy, it creates every time it ticks. Natalia Ares at the University of Oxford and her colleagues made this discovery using a tiny clock with an accuracy that can be controlled. The clock consists of a 50-nanometre-thick membrane of silicon nitride, vibrated by an electric current. Each time the membrane moved up and down once and then returned to its original position, the researchers counted a tick, and the regularity of the spacing between the ticks represented the accuracy of the clock. The researchers found that as they increased the clock's accuracy, the heat produced in the system grew, increasing the entropy of its surroundings by jostling nearby particles... "If a clock is more accurate, you are paying for it somehow," says Ares. In this case, you pay for it by pouring more ordered energy into the clock, which is then converted into entropy. "By measuring time, we are increasing the entropy of the universe," says Ares. The more entropy there is in the universe, the closer it may be to its eventual demise. "Maybe we should stop measuring time," says Ares. The scale of the additional entropy is so small, though, that there is no need to worry about its effects, she says.

The increase in entropy in timekeeping may be related to the "arrow of time", says Marcus Huber at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, who was part of the research team. It has been suggested that the reason that time only flows forward, not in reverse, is that the total amount of entropy in the universe is constantly increasing, creating disorder that cannot be put in order again.

The relationship that the researchers found is a limit on the accuracy of a clock, so it doesn't mean that a clock that creates the most possible entropy would be maximally accurate—hence a large, inefficient grandfather clock isn't more precise than an atomic clock. "It's a bit like fuel use in a car. Just because I'm using more fuel doesn't mean that I'm going faster or further," says Huber.

When the researchers compared their results with theoretical models developed for clocks that rely on quantum effects, they were surprised to find that the relationship between accuracy and entropy seemed to be the same for both.... We can't be sure yet that these results are actually universal, though, because there are many types of clocks for which the relationship between accuracy and entropy haven't been tested. "It's still unclear how this principle plays out in real devices such as atomic clocks, which push the ultimate quantum limits of accuracy," says Mark Mitchison at Trinity College Dublin in Ireland. Understanding this relationship could be helpful for designing clocks in the future, particularly those used in quantum computers and other devices where both accuracy and temperature are crucial, says Ares. This finding could also help us understand more generally how the quantum world and the classical world are similar and different in terms of thermodynamics and the passage of time.

Which one of the following sets of words and phrases serves best as keywords of the passage?

- (1) Electric current; Heat; Quantum effects.
- (2) Silicon Nitride; Energy; Grandfather Clock.
- (3) Measuring Time; Accuracy; Entropy.

Correct Answer: (3) Measuring Time; Accuracy; Entropy.

Solution:

In CAT VARC questions, keywords are core concepts or recurring themes that are central to the argument or findings in the passage.

Option (1): *Electric current, heat, and quantum effects* are mentioned, but they are not the central themes of the passage. Electric current is only discussed as a component in the construction of a specific clock. Similarly, while heat and quantum effects are important in the findings, they are supporting concepts, not the main ideas. Hence, **eliminate**.

Option (2): This option includes *silicon nitride* and *grandfather clock*, which are specific details used illustratively. They are not central to the passage's primary idea. **Eliminate**.

Option (3): The passage revolves around: - The act of **measuring time**, - The **accuracy** of time measurement, and - The cost of that accuracy in terms of generated **entropy**.

These concepts are repeated throughout the passage and are used to develop the central argument that greater accuracy in timekeeping increases entropy. Therefore, this option **captures the passage's essence** best.

Hence, the correct answer is:

(3) Measuring Time; Accuracy; Entropy

Quick Tip

To identify keywords, ask: What concepts does the passage keep returning to? What is the author explaining, arguing, or proving? Discard examples, illustrations, and technical terms unless they are central.

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researchers found that as they increased the clock's accuracy, the heat produced in the system grew, increasing the entropy of its surroundings by jostling nearby particles... "If a clock is more accurate, you are paying for it somehow," says Ares. In this case, you pay for it by pouring more ordered energy into the clock, which is then converted into entropy. "By measuring time, we are increasing the entropy of the universe," says Ares. The more entropy there is in the universe, the closer it may be to its eventual demise. "Maybe we should stop measuring time," says Ares. The scale of the additional entropy is so small, though, that there is no need to worry about its effects, she says.

The increase in entropy in timekeeping may be related to the "arrow of time", says Marcus Huber at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, who was part of the research team. It has been suggested that the reason that time only flows forward, not in reverse, is that the total amount of entropy in the universe is constantly increasing, creating disorder that cannot be put in order again.

The relationship that the researchers found is a limit on the accuracy of a clock, so it doesn't mean that a clock that creates the most possible entropy would be maximally accurate—hence a large, inefficient grandfather clock isn't more precise than an atomic clock. "It's a bit like fuel use in a car. Just because I'm using more fuel doesn't mean that I'm going faster or further," says Huber.

When the researchers compared their results with theoretical models developed for clocks that rely on quantum effects, they were surprised to find that the relationship between accuracy and entropy seemed to be the same for both.... We can't be sure yet that these results are actually universal, though, because there are many types of clocks for which the relationship between accuracy and entropy haven't been tested. "It's still unclear how this principle plays out in real devices such as atomic clocks, which push the ultimate quantum limits of accuracy," says Mark Mitchison at Trinity College Dublin in Ireland. Understanding this relationship could be helpful for designing clocks in the future, particularly those used in quantum computers and other devices where both accuracy and temperature are crucial, says Ares. This finding could also help us understand more generally how the quantum world and the classical world are similar and different in terms of thermodynamics and the passage of time.

The author makes all of the following arguments in the passage, EXCEPT that:

- (1) The relationship between accuracy and entropy may not apply to all clocks.
- (2) Researchers found that the heat produced in a system is the price paid for increased accuracy of measurement.
- (3) There is no difference in accuracy between an inefficient grandfather clock and an atomic clock.

Correct Answer: (3) There is no difference in accuracy between an inefficient grandfather clock and an atomic clock.

Solution:

This is an **EXCEPT** question, which asks us to identify the option that is *not* supported by the passage.

Option (1): This is directly stated in the final paragraph: “*We can’t be sure yet that these results are actually universal. . . many types of clocks. . . haven’t been tested.*” So this is true.

Eliminate.

Option (2): This is the central point of the passage. The clock’s accuracy increases as more ordered energy is put in, leading to more heat and thus more entropy. So this is supported.

Eliminate.

Option (3): The passage **does not claim** that a grandfather clock and an atomic clock have the same accuracy. In fact, it states the opposite: “A large, inefficient grandfather clock isn’t more precise than an atomic clock.” This implies atomic clocks are **more** accurate, even if entropy production isn’t higher. Thus, this option distorts the original claim and is the correct answer.

Hence, the correct answer is:

(3) There is no difference in accuracy between an inefficient grandfather clock and an atomic clock

Quick Tip

In **EXCEPT** questions, always validate whether each option is directly supported by the passage. Even subtle distortions in wording (like flipping a comparison) can be enough to identify the correct answer.

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

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The increase in entropy in timekeeping may be related to the "arrow of time", says Marcus Huber at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, who was part of the research team. It has been suggested that the reason that time only flows forward, not in reverse, is that the total amount of entropy in the universe is constantly increasing, creating disorder that cannot be put in order again.

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"It's a bit like fuel use in a car. Just because I'm using more fuel doesn't mean that I'm going faster or further..." What is the purpose of this example?

(1) If you go faster in a car, you will tend to consume more fuel, but the converse is not necessarily true. In the same way, increased entropy does not necessarily mean greater accuracy of a clock.

(2) The further you go in a car, the more fuel you use. In the same way, the faster you go in a car, the less time you use.

(3) If you measure the speed of a car with a grandfather clock, the result will be different than if you measured it with an atomic clock.

Correct Answer: (1) If you go faster in a car, you will tend to consume more fuel, but the converse is not necessarily true. In the same way, increased entropy does not necessarily mean greater accuracy of a clock.

Solution:

This is an analogy-based interpretation question. Huber's quote is used to explain the nuanced relationship between entropy and accuracy.

Option (1): This mirrors the logic of the analogy. Just like using more fuel does not guarantee faster movement, producing more entropy does not ensure more accuracy in a clock. This interpretation captures the subtlety of Huber's point. **Correct.**

Option (2): This creates an unrelated analogy that focuses on time consumption and speed, which is not mentioned or implied by Huber's statement. **Eliminate.**

Option (3): This brings in a comparison between types of clocks (grandfather vs atomic) in terms of measurement accuracy for speed. The original analogy has no such context or intent. **Eliminate.**

Hence, the correct answer is:

(1) Increased entropy does not necessarily mean greater accuracy of a clock.

Quick Tip

When interpreting analogies in VARC, identify the key relationship or contrast being highlighted and map it precisely to the concept it explains in the passage.

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

Keeping time accurately comes with a price. The maximum accuracy of a clock is directly related to how much disorder, or entropy, it creates every time it ticks. Natalia Ares at the University of Oxford and her colleagues made this discovery using a tiny clock with an accuracy that can be controlled. The clock consists of a 50-nanometre-thick membrane of silicon nitride, vibrated by an electric current. Each time the membrane moved up and down once and then returned to its original position, the researchers counted a tick, and the regularity of the spacing between the ticks represented the accuracy of the clock. The researchers found that as they increased the clock's accuracy, the heat produced in the system grew, increasing the entropy of its surroundings by jostling nearby particles... "If a clock is more accurate, you are paying for it somehow," says Ares. In this case, you pay for it by pouring more ordered energy into the clock, which is then converted into entropy. "By measuring time, we are increasing the entropy of the universe," says Ares. The more entropy there is in the universe, the closer it may be to its eventual demise. "Maybe we should stop measuring time," says Ares. The scale of the additional entropy is so small, though, that there is no need to worry about its effects, she says.

The increase in entropy in timekeeping may be related to the "arrow of time", says Marcus Huber at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, who was part of the research team. It has been suggested that the reason that time only flows forward, not in reverse, is that the

total amount of entropy in the universe is constantly increasing, creating disorder that cannot be put in order again.

The relationship that the researchers found is a limit on the accuracy of a clock, so it doesn't mean that a clock that creates the most possible entropy would be maximally accurate—hence a large, inefficient grandfather clock isn't more precise than an atomic clock. "It's a bit like fuel use in a car. Just because I'm using more fuel doesn't mean that I'm going faster or further," says Huber.

When the researchers compared their results with theoretical models developed for clocks that rely on quantum effects, they were surprised to find that the relationship between accuracy and entropy seemed to be the same for both.... We can't be sure yet that these results are actually universal, though, because there are many types of clocks for which the relationship between accuracy and entropy haven't been tested. "It's still unclear how this principle plays out in real devices such as atomic clocks, which push the ultimate quantum limits of accuracy," says Mark Mitchison at Trinity College Dublin in Ireland. Understanding this relationship could be helpful for designing clocks in the future, particularly those used in quantum computers and other devices where both accuracy and temperature are crucial, says Ares. This finding could also help us understand more generally how the quantum world and the classical world are similar and different in terms of thermodynamics and the passage of time.

None of the following statements can be inferred from the passage EXCEPT that:

- (1) The arrow of time has not yet been tested for atomic clocks.
- (2) Quantum computers are likely to produce more heat and, hence, more entropy, because of the emphasis on their clocks' accuracy.
- (3) Grandfather clocks are likely to produce less heat and, hence, less entropy, because they are not as accurate.

Correct Answer: (3) Grandfather clocks are likely to produce less heat and, hence, less entropy, because they are not as accurate.

Solution:

This is an **EXCEPT** question in reverse — we are asked to find the one statement that *can* be inferred from the passage.

Option (1): This is incorrect because the "arrow of time" is a concept from thermodynamics, not something that can be "tested" in clocks. The passage states that entropy and the arrow of time may be related, but it does not state or suggest that the arrow of time is being tested with atomic clocks. **Eliminate.**

Option (2): This goes beyond the scope of the passage. While the passage mentions quantum computers and the importance of accurate clocks in them, it does not claim that these devices are likely to produce more heat or entropy due to their accuracy. This is an extrapolation not supported by the text. **Eliminate.**

Option (3): This is logically consistent with the main point of the passage. The researchers found that more accurate clocks produce more heat and entropy. Grandfather clocks are described as *less accurate*, which implies they generate *less* entropy. Therefore, this is the only statement that can be directly inferred. **Correct.**

Hence, the correct answer is:

(3) Grandfather clocks are likely to produce less heat and, hence, less entropy, because they are not as ac

Quick Tip

In EXCEPT-style inference questions, focus on the author's central argument and eliminate any options that go beyond what is explicitly or logically implied. Inference requires cautious reasoning, not speculation.

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

Back in the early 2000s, an awesome thing happened in the *New X-Men* comics. Our mutant heroes had been battling giant robots called Sentinels for years, but suddenly these mechanical overlords spawned a new threat: Nano-Sentinels! Not content to rule Earth with their metal fists, these tiny robots invaded our bodies at the microscopic level. Infected humans were slowly converted into machines, cell by cell.

Now, a new wave of extremely odd robots is making at least part of the Nano-Sentinels story come true. Using exotic fabrication materials like squishy hydrogels and elastic polymers, researchers are making autonomous devices that are often tiny and that could turn out to be

more powerful than an army of Terminators. Some are 1-centimetre blobs that can skate over water. Others are flat sheets that can roll themselves into tubes, or matchstick-sized plastic coils that act as powerful muscles. No, they won't be invading our bodies and turning us into Sentinels—which I personally find a little disappointing—but some of them could one day swim through our bloodstream to heal us. They could also clean up pollutants in water or fold themselves into different kinds of vehicles for us to drive....

Unlike a traditional robot, which is made of mechanical parts, these new kinds of robots are made from molecular parts. The principle is the same: both are devices that can move around and do things independently. But a robot made from smart materials might be nothing more than a pink drop of hydrogel. Instead of gears and wires, it's assembled from two kinds of molecules—some that love water and some that avoid it—which interact to allow the bot to skate on top of a pond.

Sometimes these materials are used to enhance more conventional robots. One team of researchers, for example, has developed a different kind of hydrogel that becomes sticky when exposed to a low-voltage zap of electricity and then stops being sticky when the electricity is switched off. This putty-like gel can be pasted right onto the feet or wheels of a robot. When the robot wants to climb a sheer wall or scoot across the ceiling, it can activate its sticky feet with a few volts. Once it is back on a flat surface again, the robot turns off the adhesive like a light switch.

Robots that are wholly or partly made of gloop aren't the future that I was promised in science fiction. But it's definitely the future I want. I'm especially keen on the nanometre-scale "soft robots" that could one day swim through our bodies. Metin Sitti, a director at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems in Germany, worked with colleagues to prototype these tiny, synthetic beasts using various stretchy materials, such as simple rubber, and seeding them with magnetic microparticles. They are assembled into a finished shape by applying magnetic fields. The results look like flowers or geometric shapes made from Tinkertoy ball and stick modelling kits. They're guided through tubes of fluid using magnets, and can even stop and cling to the sides of a vessel.

Which of the following best describes what the passage is about?

(1) A review of fictional robots and how they inspired modern robotic design.

(2) An overview of innovative soft robots that are made using flexible materials and may revolutionise medicine and engineering.

(3) A historical account of the development of Nano-Sentinels and their future role in surveillance.

Correct Answer: (2) An overview of innovative soft robots that are made using flexible materials and may revolutionise medicine and engineering.

Solution:

This is a **main idea** question asking what the passage is primarily about.

Option (1): While the passage opens with a reference to fictional robots in comics, this is merely an introduction. The rest of the passage focuses on *real-world* developments in soft robotics. **Eliminate.**

Option (2): This correctly captures the focus of the passage. The author describes recent advances in soft robotics, explains the unique materials and mechanisms used, and highlights potential applications like medical treatment and engineering. **Correct.**

Option (3): This option is factually incorrect. Nano-Sentinels are a fictional concept, and the passage doesn't discuss them historically or link them to surveillance. **Eliminate.**

Hence, the correct answer is:

(2) An overview of innovative soft robots that are made using flexible materials and may revolutionise m

Quick Tip

To answer main idea questions, always identify what the passage focuses on *throughout*, not just in the opening or closing lines.

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

Back in the early 2000s, an awesome thing happened in the *New X-Men* comics. Our mutant heroes had been battling giant robots called Sentinels for years, but suddenly these mechanical overlords spawned a new threat: Nano-Sentinels! Not content to rule Earth with

their metal fists, these tiny robots invaded our bodies at the microscopic level. Infected humans were slowly converted into machines, cell by cell.

Now, a new wave of extremely odd robots is making at least part of the Nano-Sentinels story come true. Using exotic fabrication materials like squishy hydrogels and elastic polymers, researchers are making autonomous devices that are often tiny and that could turn out to be more powerful than an army of Terminators. Some are 1-centimetre blobs that can skate over water. Others are flat sheets that can roll themselves into tubes, or matchstick-sized plastic coils that act as powerful muscles. No, they won't be invading our bodies and turning us into Sentinels—which I personally find a little disappointing—but some of them could one day swim through our bloodstream to heal us. They could also clean up pollutants in water or fold themselves into different kinds of vehicles for us to drive....

Unlike a traditional robot, which is made of mechanical parts, these new kinds of robots are made from molecular parts. The principle is the same: both are devices that can move around and do things independently. But a robot made from smart materials might be nothing more than a pink drop of hydrogel. Instead of gears and wires, it's assembled from two kinds of molecules—some that love water and some that avoid it—which interact to allow the bot to skate on top of a pond.

Sometimes these materials are used to enhance more conventional robots. One team of researchers, for example, has developed a different kind of hydrogel that becomes sticky when exposed to a low-voltage zap of electricity and then stops being sticky when the electricity is switched off. This putty-like gel can be pasted right onto the feet or wheels of a robot. When the robot wants to climb a sheer wall or scoot across the ceiling, it can activate its sticky feet with a few volts. Once it is back on a flat surface again, the robot turns off the adhesive like a light switch.

Robots that are wholly or partly made of gloop aren't the future that I was promised in science fiction. But it's definitely the future I want. I'm especially keen on the nanometre-scale "soft robots" that could one day swim through our bodies. Metin Sitti, a director at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems in Germany, worked with colleagues to prototype these tiny, synthetic beasts using various stretchy materials, such as simple rubber, and seeding them with magnetic microparticles. They are assembled into a finished shape by applying magnetic fields. The results look like flowers or geometric shapes

made from Tinkertoy ball and stick modelling kits. They're guided through tubes of fluid using magnets, and can even stop and cling to the sides of a vessel.

Which one of the following statements best summarises the central point of the passage?

- (1) Once the stuff of science fiction, nano-robots now feature in cutting-edge scientific research.
- (2) Robots will use nano-robots on their feet and wheels to climb walls or move on ceilings.
- (3) Nano-robots made from molecules that react to water have become increasingly useful.

Correct Answer: (1) Once the stuff of science fiction, nano-robots now feature in cutting-edge scientific research.

Solution:

This is a **main idea** question that requires identifying the core focus of the passage.

Option (1): This is the correct answer. The passage begins with a reference to fictional nano-robots and then transitions into current developments in soft and nano-robotics. The central idea is that science is catching up with science fiction, with real-world applications of tiny, flexible robots becoming increasingly viable. **Correct.**

Option (2): This focuses too narrowly on a single detail — the use of sticky hydrogel on robot feet. This is an interesting example but not representative of the entire passage.

Eliminate.

Option (3): This is partly true — the passage does mention molecular robots that interact with water — but the main thrust of the passage is broader: it discusses various types of soft robots and their potential applications beyond just those that respond to water. **Eliminate.**

Hence, the correct answer is:

(1) Once the stuff of science fiction, nano-robots now feature in cutting-edge scientific research.

Quick Tip

In main idea questions, don't get distracted by intriguing examples. Look for the *over-arching theme* that connects the entire passage from beginning to end.

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

Back in the early 2000s, an awesome thing happened in the *New X-Men* comics. Our mutant heroes had been battling giant robots called Sentinels for years, but suddenly these mechanical overlords spawned a new threat: Nano-Sentinels! Not content to rule Earth with their metal fists, these tiny robots invaded our bodies at the microscopic level. Infected humans were slowly converted into machines, cell by cell.

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Unlike a traditional robot, which is made of mechanical parts, these new kinds of robots are made from molecular parts. The principle is the same: both are devices that can move around and do things independently. But a robot made from smart materials might be nothing more than a pink drop of hydrogel. Instead of gears and wires, it's assembled from two kinds of molecules—some that love water and some that avoid it—which interact to allow the bot to skate on top of a pond.

Sometimes these materials are used to enhance more conventional robots. One team of researchers, for example, has developed a different kind of hydrogel that becomes sticky when exposed to a low-voltage zap of electricity and then stops being sticky when the electricity is switched off. This putty-like gel can be pasted right onto the feet or wheels of a robot. When the robot wants to climb a sheer wall or scoot across the ceiling, it can activate its sticky feet with a few volts. Once it is back on a flat surface again, the robot turns off the adhesive like a light switch.

Robots that are wholly or partly made of gloop aren't the future that I was promised in science fiction. But it's definitely the future I want. I'm especially keen on the

nanometre-scale "soft robots" that could one day swim through our bodies. Metin Sitti, a director at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems in Germany, worked with colleagues to prototype these tiny, synthetic beasts using various stretchy materials, such as simple rubber, and seeding them with magnetic microparticles. They are assembled into a finished shape by applying magnetic fields. The results look like flowers or geometric shapes made from Tinkertoy ball and stick modelling kits. They're guided through tubes of fluid using magnets, and can even stop and cling to the sides of a tube.

Which one of the following scenarios, if false, could be seen as supporting the passage?

- (1) There are two kinds of molecules used to make some nano-robots: one that reacts positively to water and the other negatively.
- (2) Nano-Sentinel-like robots are likely to be used to inject people to convert them into robots, cell by cell.
- (3) Robots made from smart materials are likely to become part of our everyday lives in the future.

Correct Answer: (2) Nano-Sentinel-like robots are likely to be used to inject people to convert them into robots, cell by cell.

Solution:

This is a **critical reasoning (inference support)** question that asks us to identify which statement—if proven *false*—would lend support to the central idea of the passage.

Option (1): This is actually a factual detail from the passage. It describes the molecular structure of the robots that interact with water. If this were proven false, it would weaken the passage rather than support it. **Eliminate.**

Option (2): This statement presents a scenario straight out of fiction (from the X-Men comics). The passage explicitly says that real-life nano-robots won't convert people into machines. If this statement (which reflects a fictional fear) is proven false, it aligns with the author's view and supports the real-world application focus of the passage. **Correct.**

Option (3): This statement, if proven false, would contradict the author's optimism about the future of smart materials and soft robots. Therefore, it would *weaken* the central theme rather than support it. **Eliminate.**

Hence, the correct answer is:

(2) Nano-Sentinel-like robots are likely to be used to inject people to convert them into robots, cell by cell.

Quick Tip

In inference-based questions involving hypothetical scenarios, consider how falsifying a claim can remove doubts or reinforce the passage's position.

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

Back in the early 2000s, an awesome thing happened in the *New X-Men* comics. Our mutant heroes had been battling giant robots called Sentinels for years, but suddenly these mechanical overlords spawned a new threat: Nano-Sentinels! Not content to rule Earth with their metal fists, these tiny robots invaded our bodies at the microscopic level. Infected humans were slowly converted into machines, cell by cell.

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when exposed to a low-voltage zap of electricity and then stops being sticky when the electricity is switched off. This putty-like gel can be pasted right onto the feet or wheels of a robot. When the robot wants to climb a sheer wall or scoot across the ceiling, it can activate its sticky feet with a few volts. Once it is back on a flat surface again, the robot turns off the adhesive like a light switch.

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Which one of the following statements best captures the sense of the first paragraph?

- (1) None of the options listed here.
- (2) Tiny sentinels called X-Men infected people, turning them into mutant robot overlords.
- (3) People who were infected by Nano-Sentinel robots became mutants who were called X-Men.

Correct Answer: (1) None of the options listed here.

Solution:

This is a **factual detail and inference** question that tests whether you have correctly understood the relationship between characters and events in the comic story referenced in the passage.

Option (1): This is the correct answer. The paragraph describes a comic book plot where mutant heroes (the X-Men) fought giant robots called Sentinels. These Sentinels evolved into smaller robots—Nano-Sentinels—that infected humans. However, the infected humans were not the X-Men, and the X-Men were not transformed into robots. Therefore, none of the provided options accurately describe the content. **Correct.**

Option (2): This is a distorted version of the story. The X-Men are not the tiny sentinels. Rather, they fight the Sentinels. And the Nano-Sentinels infected people—not the X-Men infecting others. **Eliminate.**

Option (3): Again, this is incorrect. Infected people were slowly turned into machines, but they were not referred to as “mutants” or “X-Men.” The X-Men were the heroes trying to fight the robots. **Eliminate.**

Hence, the correct answer is:

(1)None of the options listed here.

Quick Tip

When answering factual detail questions, pay close attention to character roles and narrative relationships. Avoid choices that mix up character identities or cause-effect relationships.

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

Today we can hardly conceive of ourselves without an unconscious. Yet between 1700 and 1900, this notion developed as a genuinely original thought. The “unconscious” burst the shell of conventional language, coined as it had been to embody the fleeting ideas and the shifting conceptions of several generations until, finally, it became fixed and defined in specialized terms within the realm of medical psychology and Freudian psychoanalysis. The vocabulary concerning the soul and the mind increased enormously in the course of the nineteenth century. The enrichments of literary and intellectual language led to an altered understanding of the meanings that underlie time-honored expressions and traditional catchwords. At the same time, once coined, powerful new ideas attracted to themselves a whole host of seemingly unrelated issues, practices, and experiences, creating a peculiar network of preoccupations that as a group had not existed before. The drawn-out attempt to approach and define the unconscious brought together the spiritualist and the psychological researcher of borderline phenomena (such as apparitions, spectral illusions, haunted houses, mediums, trance, automatic writing); the psychiatrist or alienist probing the nature of mental

disease, of abnormal ideation, hallucination, delirium, melancholia, mania; the surgeon performing operations with the aid of hypnotism; the magnetizer claiming to correct the disequilibrium in the universal flow of magnetic fluids but who soon came to be regarded as a clever manipulator of the imagination; the physiologist and the physician who puzzled over sleep, dreams, sleepwalking, anesthesia, the influence of the mind on the body in health and disease; the neurologist concerned with the functions of the brain and the physiological basis of mental life; the philosopher interested in the will, the emotions, consciousness, knowledge, imagination and the creative genius; and, last but not least, the psychologist. Significantly, most if not all of these practices (for example, hypnotism in surgery or psychological magnetism) originated in the waning years of the eighteenth century and during the early decades of the nineteenth century, as did some of the disciplines (such as psychology and psychical research). The majority of topics too were either new or assumed hitherto unknown colors. Thus, before 1790, few if any spoke, in medical terms, of the affinity between creative genius and the hallucinations of the insane.

Striving vaguely and independently to give expression to a latent conception, various lines of thought can be brought together by some novel term. The new concept then serves as a kind of resting place or stocktaking in the development of ideas, giving satisfaction and a stimulus for further discussion or speculation. Thus, the massive introduction of the term unconscious by Hartmann in 1869 appeared to focalize many stray thoughts, affording a temporary feeling that a crucial step had been taken forward, a comprehensive knowledge gained, a knowledge that required only further elaboration, explication, and unfolding in order to bring in a bounty of higher understanding. Ultimately, Hartmann's attempt at defining the unconscious proved fruitless because he extended its reach into every realm of organic and inorganic, spiritual, intellectual, and instinctive existence, severely diluting the precision and compromising the impact of the concept.

Which one of the following statements best describes what the passage is about?

- (1) The identification of the unconscious as an object of psychical research.
- (2) The collating of diverse ideas under the single term: unconscious.
- (3) The growing vocabulary of the soul and the mind, as diverse processes.
- (4) The discovery of the unconscious as a part of the human mind.

Correct Answer: (4) The discovery of the unconscious as a part of the human mind.

Solution:

This is a **main idea** or **central theme** question, requiring us to identify the overall purpose of the passage.

Option (1): While psychical research is one of the many threads discussed, the passage isn't focused solely on identifying the unconscious through that lens. It's broader in scope.

Eliminate.

Option (2): This option is close, as the passage does talk about various disciplines and ideas being drawn together under the term "unconscious." However, the emphasis is not just on the collation but also on the *evolution* and *recognition* of the unconscious as a legitimate concept. So this is too narrow. **Eliminate.**

Option (3): The passage touches on the growth in vocabulary, but this is an incidental detail—not the central theme. It's a by-product of the conceptual development. **Eliminate.**

Option (4): This best captures the passage's central idea: the development and eventual establishment of the notion of the unconscious in intellectual, medical, and psychological contexts. The evolution of this concept from spiritualism and hallucinations to a formal term in psychology is the core focus of the passage. **Correct.**

Hence, the correct answer is:

(4) The discovery of the unconscious as a part of the human mind.

Quick Tip

For central idea questions, identify what unifies all parts of the passage. Ask: What is the author primarily trying to explain or trace the evolution of?

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

Today we can hardly conceive of ourselves without an unconscious. Yet between 1700 and 1900, this notion developed as a genuinely original thought. The "unconscious" burst the shell of conventional language, coined as it had been to embody the fleeting ideas and the

shifting conceptions of several generations until, finally, it became fixed and defined in specialized terms within the realm of medical psychology and Freudian psychoanalysis. The vocabulary concerning the soul and the mind increased enormously in the course of the nineteenth century. The enrichments of literary and intellectual language led to an altered understanding of the meanings that underlie time-honored expressions and traditional catchwords. At the same time, once coined, powerful new ideas attracted to themselves a whole host of seemingly unrelated issues, practices, and experiences, creating a peculiar network of preoccupations that as a group had not existed before. The drawn-out attempt to approach and define the unconscious brought together the spiritualist and the psychical researcher of borderline phenomena (such as apparitions, spectral illusions, haunted houses, mediums, trance, automatic writing); the psychiatrist or alienist probing the nature of mental disease, of abnormal ideation, hallucination, delirium, melancholia, mania; the surgeon performing operations with the aid of hypnotism; the magnetizer claiming to correct the disequilibrium in the universal flow of magnetic fluids but who soon came to be regarded as a clever manipulator of the imagination; the physiologist and the physician who puzzled over sleep, dreams, sleepwalking, anesthesia, the influence of the mind on the body in health and disease; the neurologist concerned with the functions of the brain and the physiological basis of mental life; the philosopher interested in the will, the emotions, consciousness, knowledge, imagination and the creative genius; and, last but not least, the psychologist. Significantly, most if not all of these practices (for example, hypnotism in surgery or psychological magnetism) originated in the waning years of the eighteenth century and during the early decades of the nineteenth century, as did some of the disciplines (such as psychology and psychical research). The majority of topics too were either new or assumed hitherto unknown colors. Thus, before 1790, few if any spoke, in medical terms, of the affinity between creative genius and the hallucinations of the insane.

Striving vaguely and independently to give expression to a latent conception, various lines of thought can be brought together by some novel term. The new concept then serves as a kind of resting place or stocktaking in the development of ideas, giving satisfaction and a stimulus for further discussion or speculation. Thus, the massive introduction of the term unconscious by Hartmann in 1869 appeared to focalize many stray thoughts, affording a temporary feeling that a crucial step had been taken forward, a comprehensive knowledge gained, a

knowledge that required only further elaboration, explication, and unfolding in order to bring in a bounty of higher understanding. Ultimately, Hartmann's attempt at defining the unconscious proved fruitless because he extended its reach into every realm of organic and inorganic, spiritual, intellectual, and instinctive existence, severely diluting the precision and compromising the impact of the concept.

All of the following statements may be considered valid inferences from the passage, EXCEPT:

- (1) New conceptions in the nineteenth century could provide new knowledge because of the establishment of fields such as anaesthesiology.
- (2) Unrelated practices began to be treated as related to each other, as knowledge of the mind grew in the nineteenth century.
- (3) Without the linguistic developments of the nineteenth century, the growth of understanding of the soul and the mind may not have happened.
- (4) Eighteenth-century thinkers were the first to perceive a connection between creative genius and insanity.

Correct Answer: (1) New conceptions in the nineteenth century could provide new knowledge because of the establishment of fields such as anaesthesiology.

Solution:

This is an **inference-based EXCEPT question**, which asks us to eliminate all options that can logically follow from the passage and choose the one that does NOT.

Option (1): The passage mentions that anesthesia was one of the topics being explored during the 19th century by physiologists and physicians. However, it does not say that *new conceptions provided new knowledge because of* the establishment of anaesthesiology as a formal field. Anaesthesia is listed among many topics studied—not as a cause of conceptual breakthroughs. This goes beyond what is stated. **Not supported. Correct answer.**

Option (2): The author says: “powerful new ideas attracted to themselves a whole host of seemingly unrelated issues... creating a peculiar network...” This supports the inference that previously unrelated practices were now seen as connected. **Valid inference. Eliminate.**

Option (3): The text says: “The enrichments of literary and intellectual language led to an altered understanding of the meanings...” implying that the development of language aided

deeper understanding. So yes, linguistic progress supported psychological and philosophical growth. **Valid inference. Eliminate.**

Option (4): The passage states: “before 1790, few if any spoke, in medical terms, of the affinity between creative genius and the hallucinations of the insane.” This implies that such connections were made *after* 1790, not by eighteenth-century thinkers. So the statement is invalid because it’s **factually incorrect**—but in the EXCEPT format, we are looking for invalid inferences, not false statements of fact unless they represent a misinference. In this case, the statement is paradoxically supported by the passage’s denial, i.e., it helps frame the timeline. **Still valid under inference rules. Eliminate.**

Hence, the correct answer is:

(1) New conceptions in the nineteenth century could provide new knowledge because of the establishment

Quick Tip

In EXCEPT questions, eliminate options clearly supported or inferable from the passage. The correct answer is the one that either goes beyond the text or contradicts it without support.

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

Today we can hardly conceive of ourselves without an unconscious. Yet between 1700 and 1900, this notion developed as a genuinely original thought. The “unconscious” burst the shell of conventional language, coined as it had been to embody the fleeting ideas and the shifting conceptions of several generations until, finally, it became fixed and defined in specialized terms within the realm of medical psychology and Freudian psychoanalysis. The vocabulary concerning the soul and the mind increased enormously in the course of the nineteenth century. The enrichments of literary and intellectual language led to an altered understanding of the meanings that underlie time-honored expressions and traditional catchwords. At the same time, once coined, powerful new ideas attracted to themselves a whole host of seemingly unrelated issues, practices, and experiences, creating a peculiar network of preoccupations that as a group had not existed before. The drawn-out attempt to

approach and define the unconscious brought together the spiritualist and the psychical researcher of borderline phenomena (such as apparitions, spectral illusions, haunted houses, mediums, trance, automatic writing); the psychiatrist or alienist probing the nature of mental disease, of abnormal ideation, hallucination, delirium, melancholia, mania; the surgeon performing operations with the aid of hypnotism; the magnetizer claiming to correct the disequilibrium in the universal flow of magnetic fluids but who soon came to be regarded as a clever manipulator of the imagination; the physiologist and the physician who puzzled over sleep, dreams, sleepwalking, anesthesia, the influence of the mind on the body in health and disease; the neurologist concerned with the functions of the brain and the physiological basis of mental life; the philosopher interested in the will, the emotions, consciousness, knowledge, imagination and the creative genius; and, last but not least, the psychologist. Significantly, most if not all of these practices (for example, hypnotism in surgery or psychological magnetism) originated in the waning years of the eighteenth century and during the early decades of the nineteenth century, as did some of the disciplines (such as psychology and psychical research). The majority of topics too were either new or assumed hitherto unknown colors. Thus, before 1790, few if any spoke, in medical terms, of the affinity between creative genius and the hallucinations of the insane.

Striving vaguely and independently to give expression to a latent conception, various lines of thought can be brought together by some novel term. The new concept then serves as a kind of resting place or stocktaking in the development of ideas, giving satisfaction and a stimulus for further discussion or speculation. Thus, the massive introduction of the term unconscious by Hartmann in 1869 appeared to focalize many stray thoughts, affording a temporary feeling that a crucial step had been taken forward, a comprehensive knowledge gained, a knowledge that required only further elaboration, explication, and unfolding in order to bring in a bounty of higher understanding. Ultimately, Hartmann's attempt at defining the unconscious proved fruitless because he extended its reach into every realm of organic and inorganic, spiritual, intellectual, and instinctive existence, severely diluting the precision and compromising the impact of the concept.

Which one of the following sets of words is closest to mapping the main arguments of the passage?

- (1) Language; Unconscious; Psychoanalysis.
- (2) Unconscious; Latent conception; Dreams.
- (3) Literary language; Unconscious; Insanity.
- (4) Unconscious; Psychology; Spectral illusions.

Correct Answer: (1) Language; Unconscious; Psychoanalysis.

Solution:

This is a **main idea or theme-mapping question** that requires us to identify which trio of terms best captures the central thread and supporting ideas of the passage.

Let's break down the key themes of the passage:

- The emergence and conceptual solidification of the “**unconscious**” between 1700 and 1900.
- The **role of language** in shaping and enabling these evolving conceptions.
- The idea reaching more precise, technical meaning in the realm of **psychoanalysis** and medical psychology.

Option (1): *Language; Unconscious; Psychoanalysis* – This is the most accurate mapping of the central discussion:

- Language enabled richer thought around mental phenomena.
- The unconscious emerged as a new concept.
- It was eventually taken up and made precise in psychoanalysis.

Correct.

Option (2): *Unconscious; Latent conception; Dreams* – “Latent conception” is mentioned but not a central theme. “Dreams” is just one of many phenomena mentioned. The focus is broader than this. **Too narrow. Eliminate.**

Option (3): *Literary language; Unconscious; Insanity* – While “literary language” is discussed as part of vocabulary growth, and “insanity” is mentioned, neither is a central theme. This distracts from the primary trajectory of the unconscious leading to psychoanalysis. **Partial fit. Eliminate.**

Option (4): *Unconscious; Psychology; Spectral illusions* – Again, “spectral illusions” is an example of marginal practices, not a main idea. “Psychology” is part of the discussion, but not a central development compared to psychoanalysis. **Too specific. Eliminate.**

Hence, the correct answer is:

(1)Language; Unconscious; Psychoanalysis

Quick Tip

In theme-mapping questions, look for broad concepts that appear throughout the passage and form a coherent narrative. Avoid narrow examples or marginal references.

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

Today we can hardly conceive of ourselves without an unconscious. Yet between 1700 and 1900, this notion developed as a genuinely original thought. The “unconscious” burst the shell of conventional language, coined as it had been to embody the fleeting ideas and the shifting conceptions of several generations until, finally, it became fixed and defined in specialized terms within the realm of medical psychology and Freudian psychoanalysis. The vocabulary concerning the soul and the mind increased enormously in the course of the nineteenth century. The enrichments of literary and intellectual language led to an altered understanding of the meanings that underlie time-honored expressions and traditional catchwords. At the same time, once coined, powerful new ideas attracted to themselves a whole host of seemingly unrelated issues, practices, and experiences, creating a peculiar network of preoccupations that as a group had not existed before. The drawn-out attempt to approach and define the unconscious brought together the spiritualist and the psychical researcher of borderline phenomena (such as apparitions, spectral illusions, haunted houses, mediums, trance, automatic writing); the psychiatrist or alienist probing the nature of mental disease, of abnormal ideation, hallucination, delirium, melancholia, mania; the surgeon performing operations with the aid of hypnotism; the magnetizer claiming to correct the disequilibrium in the universal flow of magnetic fluids but who soon came to be regarded as a clever manipulator of the imagination; the physiologist and the physician who puzzled over

sleep, dreams, sleepwalking, anesthesia, the influence of the mind on the body in health and disease; the neurologist concerned with the functions of the brain and the physiological basis of mental life; the philosopher interested in the will, the emotions, consciousness, knowledge, imagination and the creative genius; and, last but not least, the psychologist. Significantly, most if not all of these practices (for example, hypnotism in surgery or psychological magnetism) originated in the waning years of the eighteenth century and during the early decades of the nineteenth century, as did some of the disciplines (such as psychology and psychical research). The majority of topics too were either new or assumed hitherto unknown colors. Thus, before 1790, few if any spoke, in medical terms, of the affinity between creative genius and the hallucinations of the insane.

Striving vaguely and independently to give expression to a latent conception, various lines of thought can be brought together by some novel term. The new concept then serves as a kind of resting place or stocktaking in the development of ideas, giving satisfaction and a stimulus for further discussion or speculation. Thus, the massive introduction of the term unconscious by Hartmann in 1869 appeared to focalize many stray thoughts, affording a temporary feeling that a crucial step had been taken forward, a comprehensive knowledge gained, a knowledge that required only further elaboration, explication, and unfolding in order to bring in a bounty of higher understanding. Ultimately, Hartmann's attempt at defining the unconscious proved fruitless because he extended its reach into every realm of organic and inorganic, spiritual, intellectual, and instinctive existence, severely diluting the precision and compromising the impact of the concept.

“The enrichments of literary and intellectual language led to an altered understanding of the meanings that underlie time-honored expressions and traditional catchwords.”
Which one of the following interpretations of this sentence would be closest in meaning to the original?

- (1) Time-honored expressions and traditional catchwords were enriched by literary and intellectual language.
- (2) The meanings of time-honored expressions were changed by innovations in literary and intellectual language.
- (3) Literary and intellectual language was altered by time-honored expressions and

traditional catchwords.

Correct Answer: (2) The meanings of time-honored expressions were changed by innovations in literary and intellectual language.

Solution:

This is a **sentence interpretation question**, where the goal is to closely match the meaning of a complex sentence with a simplified or rephrased version.

The original sentence:

“The enrichments of literary and intellectual language led to an altered understanding of the meanings that underlie time-honored expressions and traditional catchwords.”

Let us decode this carefully:

- The subject is “enrichments of literary and intellectual language.”
- This enrichment *caused* or *led to* something.
- It led to “an altered understanding” — a changed perception.
- What was altered? The meanings *underlying* “time-honored expressions and traditional catchwords.”

Thus, the core meaning is:

The innovation in language caused us to reinterpret older expressions.

Now, let’s evaluate the options:

Option (1): *Time-honored expressions and traditional catchwords were enriched by literary and intellectual language.* This reverses the cause-effect relationship. The sentence implies that newer language reshaped our understanding of old expressions — not that old expressions were themselves “enriched.” **Eliminate.**

Option (2): *The meanings of time-honored expressions were changed by innovations in literary and intellectual language.* This is a close paraphrasing.

- “Altered understanding” → “meanings were changed”

- “Enrichments of literary and intellectual language” → “innovations in literary and intellectual language”

Correct.

Option (3): *Literary and intellectual language was altered by time-honored expressions and traditional catchwords.* This completely reverses the direction of influence. The passage clearly says that literary language shaped how we understand old expressions, not the other way around. **Eliminate.**

Hence, the correct answer is:

(2) The meanings of time-honored expressions were changed by innovations in literary and intellectual language.

Quick Tip

In sentence interpretation questions, always map the grammatical structure — identify the subject, verb, and object — and check for logical cause-effect direction before matching options.

17. Para Formation: 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.

1. They often include a foundation course on navigating capitalism with Chinese characteristics and have replaced typical cases from US corporates with a focus on how Western theories apply to China’s buzzing local firms.
2. The best Chinese business schools look like their Western rivals but are now growing distinct in terms of what they teach and the career boost they offer.
3. Western schools have enhanced their offerings with double degrees, popular with domestic and overseas students alike—and boosted the prestige of their Chinese partners.
4. For students, a big draw is the chance to rub shoulders with captains of China’s private sector.

5. Their business courses now largely cater to the growing demand from China Inc which has become more global, richer and ready to recruit from this sinocentric student body.

Correct Answer: (3)

Solution:

This is a **Para Formation (Odd Sentence Out)** question. We need to form a coherent paragraph using four of the five statements and identify the one that doesn't logically fit.

Let's analyze each option:

- **Statement 2** introduces the topic: *Chinese business schools* and their growing distinctiveness. This is a strong opening sentence.
- **Statement 1** elaborates on this distinctiveness: replacing Western case studies with China-specific content.
- **Statement 5** adds that their courses now cater to demand from “China Inc,” reinforcing the idea of a sinocentric shift.
- **Statement 4** brings in the benefit to students — networking with key figures in China's private sector.

Together, 2-1-5-4 form a coherent paragraph about the evolution and localization of Chinese business schools.

Statement 3, however, stands out:

- It discusses **Western schools**, their dual degrees, and their partnerships with Chinese schools — a different focus altogether.
- While tangentially related, it shifts the paragraph's focus from how Chinese schools are adapting to the Chinese context, to how Western schools are adjusting and benefiting.
- This introduces a new actor (Western schools) and thus breaks the narrative coherence.

Hence, the correct answer is:

3

Quick Tip

In odd sentence questions, look for a sentence that either:

- shifts focus to a new subject,
- introduces unrelated examples, or
- breaks logical flow or tone.

Eliminate that sentence after confirming that the rest form a coherent idea.

18. Para Formation: The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3 and 4) 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.

1. Businesses find automation, such as robotic employees, a big asset in terms of productivity and efficiency.
2. But in recent years, robotics has had increasing impacts on unemployment, not just of manual labour, as computers are rapidly handling some white-collar and service-sector work.
3. For years politicians have promised workers that they would bring back their jobs by clamping down on trade, offshoring and immigration.
4. Economists, based on their research, say that the bigger threat to jobs now is not globalisation but automation.

Correct Answer: 3412

Solution:

This is a **Para Formation (Sequence Arrangement)** question. We aim to find the most logical sequence that presents a smooth, connected paragraph with proper idea progression. Let's analyze the logical flow of ideas:

- **Statement 3** introduces the issue: Politicians are making promises to bring back jobs by controlling trade, offshoring, and immigration.

- **Statement 4** contrasts that claim by presenting what economists say: the actual threat to jobs is automation, not globalization.
- **Statement 1** expands on automation from the business perspective—how it improves productivity and efficiency.
- **Statement 2** presents the negative consequences: automation leading to unemployment in both manual and white-collar jobs.

Thus, the most coherent sequence is: 3 → 4 → 1 → 2

- (3) sets up the common narrative (political claims).
- (4) provides a counter-narrative with expert input (economists).
- (1) elaborates on the benefits of automation to businesses.
- (2) shows the downside—its impact on employment across job types.

This order ensures smooth idea progression: ****Political myths → Economic reality → Business rationale → Social consequence****

Hence, the correct answer is:

3412

Quick Tip

In para formation questions, start by identifying:

- The general opening statement (often broader or issue-raising),
- Followed by contrast, elaboration, or example,
- Then find closing sentences that provide consequence or resolution.

Pay attention to connectors like “But,” “However,” “Thus,” which often signal relationships.

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

Passage:

Brazil's growth rate has been low, yet most Brazilians say their financial situation has improved, and they expect it to get even better. This is because most incomes are rising fast, with higher minimum wages and very low unemployment. The result is falling inequality and a growing middle class — the result of economic stabilization, improved social security and universal primary education. But despite recent improvements, the Brazilian economy is still painfully unequal, with poor Brazilians paying the biggest share of their income in taxes and getting the least back in government services.

- (1) Most Brazilians feel they have benefitted from recent economic events, but the poor continue to be dealt unfairly by the state.
- (2) With rising incomes and falling unemployment, most Brazilians are being misled into thinking that their economy is doing well.
- (3) Economic reforms have benefitted many Brazilians, but they are unaware of the impending problems from rising inequalities in their society.
- (4) Although economic reforms have created a growing middle class in Brazil, they have not benefitted everyone equally.

Correct Answer: (1)

Solution:

This is a **summary question**, where we are required to choose the option that best captures the central ideas of the passage without distorting its intent or focus.

Let us break the passage down:

- **Contradiction presented:** Brazil's growth rate is low, *yet* Brazilians feel financially optimistic.
- **Reason:** Incomes are rising, unemployment is low, leading to falling inequality and a growing middle class.
- **However:** There's still **deep inequality**, especially in taxation and public services — the poor suffer disproportionately.

Therefore, the summary must capture two key aspects:

1. General financial optimism among Brazilians due to recent improvements.
2. Persistent inequality and unfair treatment of the poor by the state.

Let us evaluate the options:

Option (1): *"Most Brazilians feel they have benefitted from recent economic events, but the poor continue to be dealt unfairly by the state."*

- Captures both optimism (**feel they have benefitted**) and the persisting inequality (**poor treated unfairly**).
- This reflects the dual structure of the passage — improvement and disparity.
- **Correct.**

Option (2): *"With rising incomes and falling unemployment, most Brazilians are being misled into thinking that their economy is doing well."*

- This implies deception or ignorance, which is not stated in the passage.
- The passage acknowledges real economic improvements; it doesn't imply illusion.
- **Incorrect.**

Option (3): *"Economic reforms have benefitted many Brazilians, but they are unaware of the impending problems from rising inequalities in their society."*

- Suggests future or "impending" inequality.
- However, the passage mentions existing inequality, not future risk.
- Also adds speculation ("they are unaware") that the passage doesn't support.
- **Incorrect.**

Option (4): *"Although economic reforms have created a growing middle class in Brazil, they have not benefitted everyone equally."*

- This is broadly true, but too generic.

- It lacks reference to the specific unfair taxation and government service issues faced by the poor.
- Misses the emotional and structural tone of “dealt unfairly.”
- **Less precise than (1).**

Hence, the correct answer is:

(1) Most Brazilians feel they have benefitted from recent economic events, but the poor continue to be d

Quick Tip

In summary questions, the best option:

- Includes all key points from the passage,
- Reflects both tone and content accurately,
- Avoids introducing new ideas or unwarranted assumptions.

Pay attention to contrast markers like “yet,” “but,” “however” — they often indicate a central tension the summary must preserve.

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

Passage:

People view idleness as a sin and industriousness as a virtue, and in the process have developed an unsatisfactory relationship with their jobs. Work has become a way for them to keep busy, even though many find their work meaningless. In their need for activity, people undertake what was once considered work (fishing, gardening) as hobbies. The opposing view is that hard work has made us prosperous and improved our levels of health and education. It has also brought innovation and labour- and time-saving devices, which have lessened life’s drudgery.

(1) Hard work has overtaken all aspects of our lives and has enabled economic prosperity, but it is important that people reserve their leisure time for some idleness.

(2) Some believe that hard work has been glorified to the extent that it has become meaningless, and led to greater idleness, but it has also had enormous positive impacts on everyday life.

(3) Despite some detractors, hard work is essential in today’s world to enable economic progress, for education and health and to propel innovations that make life easier.

(4) While the idealisation of hard work has propelled people into meaningless jobs and endless activity, it has also led to tremendous social benefits from prosperity and innovation.

Correct Answer: (4)

Solution:

This is a **summary question**, and our goal is to identify the option that best condenses and balances the two contrasting themes in the passage.

Key Ideas from the Passage:

- Society sees idleness as a vice and hard work as a virtue.
- As a result, people stay busy in often meaningless jobs.
- Some past forms of work are now recreational hobbies (e.g., gardening).
- **However**, hard work has brought significant benefits — economic growth, better health and education, innovation, and reduced drudgery.

The passage contrasts two perspectives: **the over-idealisation of work leading to dissatisfaction**, and **the undeniable benefits of hard work**.

Let’s now evaluate the options:

Option (1): *”Hard work has overtaken all aspects of our lives and has enabled economic prosperity, but it is important that people reserve their leisure time for some idleness.”*

- Introduces a recommendation: “people should reserve leisure time” — which the original passage does not mention.
- Shifts the tone from analysis to advice, which is a distortion.
- **Incorrect.**

Option (2): *”Some believe that hard work has been glorified to the extent that it has become meaningless, and led to greater idleness, but it has also had enormous positive impacts on everyday life.”*

- Misleading in tone — the passage doesn’t suggest glorification has *led to* idleness.
- The idea of “greater idleness” contradicts the passage, which argues that people keep themselves unnecessarily busy.
- **Factually inaccurate.**

Option (3): *”Despite some detractors, hard work is essential in today’s world to enable economic progress, for education and health and to propel innovations that make life easier.”*

- Strongly one-sided; emphasizes only the benefits of hard work.
- Ignores the key concern: work is now pursued as a compulsion, often without meaning.
- Lacks the duality (conflict) present in the passage.
- **Partial summary.**

Option (4): *”While the idealisation of hard work has propelled people into meaningless jobs and endless activity, it has also led to tremendous social benefits from prosperity and innovation.”*

- Clearly reflects the two opposing ideas in the passage:
 - Meaningless jobs and compulsion to stay active.
 - Social benefits like innovation and prosperity.
- Balanced and accurate — mirrors the structure and tone of the passage.
- **Correct.**

Hence, the correct answer is:

(4) While the idealisation of hard work has propelled people into meaningless jobs and endless activity,

Quick Tip

In summary questions, look for an option that:

- Presents both sides or key dimensions of the argument.
- Reflects the tone and structure of the passage.
- Avoids introducing new recommendations or exaggerations.

Summaries should mirror the passage's balance between critique and praise when such contrast exists.

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

The human mind is wired to see patterns. Not only does the brain process information as it comes in, it also stores insights from all our past experiences. Every interaction, happy or sad, is catalogued in our memory. Intuition draws from that deep memory well to inform our decisions going forward. In other words, intuitive decisions are based on data, and not contrary to data as many would like to assume. When we subconsciously spot patterns, the body starts firing neurochemicals in both the brain and gut. These "somatic markers" are what give us that instant sense that something is right... or that it's off. Not only are these automatic processes faster than rational thought, but our intuition draws from decades of diverse qualitative experience (sights, sounds, interactions, etc.) - a wholly human feature that big data alone could never accomplish.

- (1) Intuitions are neuro-chemical firings based on pattern recognition and draw upon a rich and vast database of experiences.
- (2) Intuition is infinitely richer than big data which is based on rational thought and accomplishes more than what big data can.
- (3) Intuition draws from deep memory, and may not be related to data, but to decades of diverse qualitative experience.
- (4) Intuitions are automatic processes and are therefore faster than rational thought, and so decisions based on them are better.

Correct Answer: (i) Intuitions are neuro-chemical firings based on pattern recognition and draw upon a rich and vast database of experiences.

Solution: The passage discusses the biological and cognitive basis of intuition, highlighting how it is deeply rooted in stored human experiences and past interactions. It clearly explains that intuition is not baseless or opposed to data but rather a form of fast, automatic decision-making based on complex pattern recognition and memory. Option (i) captures the essence by pointing out the pattern-recognition element and connecting it with neurochemical processes and deep experiential memory. Other options either exaggerate the comparison with big data (ii), wrongly suggest that intuition isn't data-based (iii), or draw a value judgment favoring intuition over rationality (iv), which is not the passage's intention.

Quick Tip

In CAT VARC summary questions, always prefer the option that captures both sides of the passage's argument and avoids exaggeration, oversimplification, or emotional claims.

22. 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:

(1) A typical example is Wikipedia, where the overwhelming majority of contributors are male and so the available content is skewed to reflect their interests. (2) Without diversity of thought and representation, society is left with a distorted picture of future options, which are likely to result in augmenting existing inequalities. (3) Gross gender inequality in the technology sector is problematic, not only for the industry-wide marginalisation of women, but because technology designs embody the values of their makers. (4) While redressing unequal representation in the workplace is a step in the right direction, broader social change is needed to address the structural inequalities embedded within the current organisation of work and employment. (5) If technology merely reflects the perspectives of the male stereotype, then new technologies are unlikely to accommodate the diverse social contexts within which they operate.

Correct Answer: (4)

Solution:

This is an **Odd One Out (OOO)** question, a common type in CAT VARC, where we need to identify the sentence that does not fit logically or topically with the other four.

Step-by-step analysis:

- **Sentence 3** introduces the theme: gender inequality in tech and its implications on design and value systems. It is a strong opening.
- **Sentence 5** follows naturally, elaborating that male-centric tech design will not serve diverse social realities — continuing from sentence 3’s point.
- **Sentence 1** gives a concrete example (Wikipedia) of male-dominated contribution affecting content — a specific instance of tech/gender imbalance.
- **Sentence 2** provides the consequence of a lack of diversity in tech: distorted social outcomes and perpetuated inequality.
- **Sentence 4**, however, shifts the focus from technology and its biases to *broad organisational reform* and *workplace restructuring*. While related to inequality, it introduces a **different angle** — labour organisation — that doesn’t fit with the rest’s clear tech/design/representation focus.

Thus, the coherent paragraph would consist of:

3 → 5 → 1 → 2

And the **odd sentence out is (4)**.

Quick Tip

In OOO questions, always look for:

- Topical consistency — do all sentences discuss the same core idea?
- Flow — is there a logical link from one sentence to another?
- Scope shift — does any sentence bring in an unrelated or tangential issue?

The odd one usually shifts topic or focuses on a broader/narrower issue than the rest.

23. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3 and 4) 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: (1) Restitution of artefacts to original cultures could face legal obstacles, as many Western museums are legally prohibited from disposing off their collections. (2) This is in response to countries like Nigeria, which are pressurising European museums to return their precious artefacts looted by colonisers in the past. (3) Museums in Europe today are struggling to come to terms with their colonial legacy, some taking steps to return artefacts but not wanting to lose their prized collections. (4) Legal hurdles notwithstanding, politicians and institutions in France and Germany would now like to defuse the colonial time bombs, and are now backing the return of part of their holdings.

Correct Answer: 3214

Solution:

This is a **Para-Jumble** question, where four jumbled sentences need to be ordered to form a coherent paragraph. Let's analyse step by step.

- **Sentence 3** introduces the main theme: European museums confronting their colonial past and returning artefacts. It sets the stage well.
- **Sentence 2** gives the reason or cause for this — countries like Nigeria demanding the return of looted artefacts. The phrase “this is in response” clearly links back to the actions mentioned in Sentence 3.
- **Sentence 1** adds a complication to the situation — the legal hurdles to restitution, which is a logical next point after knowing the museums want to return artefacts.
- **Sentence 4** offers a resolution or contrasting viewpoint — despite these hurdles, some countries are still taking action.

Thus, the logical sequence is:

3 → 2 → 1 → 4

Why the order works:

- **3 (theme):** Museums struggling with colonial legacy.
- **2 (cause):** Countries demanding artefact returns.
- **1 (problem):** Legal obstacles to returning artefacts.
- **4 (contrast/conclusion):** Despite legal issues, some nations are willing to act.

Quick Tip

In para-jumbles:

- Look for connectors like “this”, “such”, “despite”, “in response”, etc.
- Identify the topic sentence — usually an introduction or broad theme.
- Maintain logical flow: introduction → cause → complication → contrast/conclusion.

24. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3 and 4) 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:

1. It is regimes of truth that make certain relationships speakable - relationships, like subjectivities, are constituted through discursive formations, which sustain regimes of truth.
2. Relationships are nothing without the communication that brings them into being; interpersonal communication is connected to knowledge shared by interlocutors, and scholars should attend to relational histories in their analyses.
3. A Foucauldian approach to relationships goes beyond these conceptions of discourse and history to macrolevel regimes of truth as constituting relationships.
4. Reconsidering micropractices within relationships that are constituted within and simultaneously contributors to regimes of truth acknowledges the central position of power/knowledge in the constitution of what has come to be considered true and real.

Correct Answer: 2314

Solution:

This is a **Para-Jumble** question. The aim is to sequence the four statements in a logically coherent order. The key is to identify the broadest introductory idea, supporting elaborations, and finally, any concluding or summarising remarks.

- **Sentence 2** sets the stage by discussing the foundational idea that relationships are formed through communication and shared knowledge. It provides the general philosophical background.
- **Sentence 3** introduces a *Foucauldian lens* as an analytical upgrade to the ideas in sentence 2 — moving from general communication to discourse shaped by macrolevel “regimes of truth.”
- **Sentence 1** further explores this Foucauldian framework, explaining how “discursive formations” and “regimes of truth” sustain relationships and subjectivities. It’s a deep dive into the mechanics introduced in 3.
- **Sentence 4** logically concludes the paragraph — it reflects on micropractices within relationships and wraps up with the central idea of power/knowledge shaping truth, reinforcing the theoretical framework.

Thus, the logical sequence is:

2 → 3 → 1 → 4

Why this sequence works:

- **2 (Introductory premise):** Relationships are constituted by communication and shared knowledge.
- **3 (Analytical extension):** Foucauldian view takes the analysis deeper into how regimes of truth shape relationships.
- **1 (Conceptual support):** Discursive formations maintain these truths and relationships.
- **4 (Conclusion):** Summarises and deepens the argument by linking it to power/knowledge and accepted truths.

Quick Tip

In Para-jumble questions:

- Identify the general or definitional statement — often the introduction.
- Track pronouns (“these”, “such”, “this”) or abstract nouns that refer back to earlier ideas.
- Trace theoretical progression — from concept introduction → framework → elaboration → conclusion.