

CAT 2024 Verbal Bootcamp Finale

Question 1: The four sentences (labelled A, B, C, D) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer: (CAT 2020)

- A. Complex computational elements of the CNS are organized according to a “nested” hierarchic criterion; the organization is not permanent and can change dynamically from moment to moment as they carry out a computational task.
- B. Echolocation in bats exemplifies adaptation produced by natural selection; a function not produced by natural selection for its current use is exaptation -- feathers might have originally arisen in the context of selection for insulation.
- C. From a structural standpoint, consistent with exaptation, the living organism is organized as a complex of “Russian Matryoshka Dolls” -- smaller structures are contained within larger ones in multiple layers.
- D. The exaptation concept, and the Russian-doll organization concept of living beings deduced from studies on evolution of the various apparatuses in mammals, can be applied for the most complex human organ: the central nervous system (CNS).

Parajumble Answer: BCDA

Parajumble Explanation:

- B: Introduces the foundational concepts of adaptation and exaptation, providing examples like echolocation in bats and feathers. This sets the stage for understanding the broader principles of evolution.
- C: Extends the idea introduced in B by discussing the structural organization of living beings as “Russian Matryoshka Dolls.” It connects the evolutionary concept of exaptation to the physical organization of organisms.
- D: Bridges the earlier discussion to the specific application to the CNS. It ties the idea of exaptation and hierarchical organization directly to the most complex human organ, making the transition from general to specific.
- A: Concludes by describing the dynamic and nested organization of the CNS, emphasizing its computational elements and adaptability. This serves as a detailed expansion of the CNS’s structure, introduced in D.

Question 2: The four sentences (labelled A, B, C, D) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer: (CAT 2017)

- A. The process of handing down implies not a passive transfer, but some contestation in defining what exactly is to be handed down.
- B. Wherever Western scholars have worked on the Indian past, the selection is even more apparent and the inventing of a tradition much more recognizable.
- C. Every generation selects what it requires from the past and makes its innovations, some more than others.
- D. It is now a truism to say that traditions are not handed down unchanged, but are invented.
- E. Just as life has death as its opposite, so is tradition by default the opposite of innovation.

Parajumble Answer: EDACB

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Parajumble Explanation:

E: Introduces the contrast between tradition and innovation with a universal analogy (life and death), setting the thematic foundation.

D: Expands on the idea by stating that traditions are not static but are invented, reinforcing the dynamic nature of traditions.

A: Explains that handing down traditions involves contestation, highlighting the active process of defining what is passed on.

C: Elaborates further, specifying how each generation selectively adapts and innovates traditions based on its needs.

B: Concludes by providing a specific example of Western scholars' selective approach to studying Indian traditions, making the idea concrete.

Question 3: The four sentences (labelled A, B, C, D) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer: (CAT 2017)

A. Scientists have for the first time managed to edit genes in a human embryo to repair a genetic mutation, fuelling hopes that such procedures may one day be available outside laboratory conditions.

B. The cardiac disease causes sudden death in otherwise healthy young athletes and affects about one in 500 people overall.

C. Correcting the mutation in the gene would not only ensure that the child is healthy but also prevents transmission of the mutation to future generations.

D. It is caused by a mutation in a particular gene and a child will suffer from the condition even if it inherits only one copy of the mutated gene.

E. In results announced in Nature this week, scientists fixed a mutation that thickens the heart muscle, a condition called hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

Parajumble Answer: AEDBC

Parajumble Explanation:

A: Introduces the key idea of gene editing in human embryos, providing the context and significance of the breakthrough.

E: Expands on the breakthrough by specifying the condition targeted by the gene editing—hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

D: Explains the genetic basis of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, clarifying how it is caused by a specific mutation.

B: Provides further details about the impact of the disease, emphasizing its prevalence and consequences.

C: Concludes by highlighting the broader implications of correcting the mutation, including preventing its transmission to future generations.

Question 4: The four sentences (labelled A, B, C, D) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer: (CAT 2017)

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- A. This visual turn in social media has merely accentuated this announcing instinct of ours, enabling us with easy-to-create, easy-to-share, easy-to-store and easy-to-consume platforms, gadgets and apps.
- B. There is absolutely nothing new about us framing the vision of who we are or what we want, visually or otherwise, in our Facebook page, for example.
- C. Turning the pages of most family albums, which belong to a period well before the digital dissemination of self-created and self-curated moments and images, would reconfirm the basic instinct of documenting our presence in a particular space, on a significant occasion, with others who matter.
- D. We are empowered to book our faces and act as celebrities within the confinement of our respective friend lists, and communicate our activities, companionship and locations with minimal clicks and touches.
- E. What is unprecedented is not the desire to put out news feeds related to the self, but the ease with which this broadcast operation can now be executed, often provoking (un)anticipated responses from beyond one's immediate location.

Parajumble Answer: CBADE

Parajumble Explanation:

C: The paragraph begins by providing a historical perspective. It discusses family photo albums from a time before digital media, emphasizing how humans have always had an instinct to document their presence during significant moments and with important people. This sets the stage for the idea that this behavior is not new but has evolved.

B: This sentence connects the past (family albums) to the present, stating that framing our identity visually on platforms like Facebook is simply a modern manifestation of the same instinct. It bridges the historical context introduced in C with the digital age.

A: The focus shifts to how social media has amplified this instinct. The “visual turn” is explained here, noting how modern tools and platforms make it incredibly easy to create, share, store, and consume self-representative content. This emphasizes the role of technology in intensifying this behavior.

D: Building on A, this sentence highlights the personal empowerment provided by social media. It illustrates how people can now act as celebrities in their friend circles, effortlessly sharing updates about their activities, companions, and locations.

E: The paragraph concludes by contrasting the long-standing desire to share news about oneself with the unprecedented ease of doing so today. This final sentence ties the entire argument together, summarizing the impact of modern technology and the broader reach of self-broadcasting in the digital era.

Question 5: Five jumbled up sentences (labelled A, B, C, D and E), related to a topic, are given below.

Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence and key in the number of that sentence as your answer. (CAT 2019)

- A. ‘Stat’ signaled something measurable, while ‘matic’ advertised free labour; but ‘tron’, above all, indicated control.
- B. It was a totem of high modernism, the intellectual and cultural mode that decreed no process or phenomenon was too complex to be grasped, managed and optimized.
- C. Like the heraldic shields of ancient knights, these morphemes were painted onto the names of scientific technologies to proclaim one’s history and achievements to friends and enemies alike.
- D. The historian Robert Proctor at Stanford University calls the suffix ‘-tron’, along with ‘-matic’ and ‘-stat’, embodied symbols.

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E. To gain the suffix was to acquire a proud and optimistic emblem of the electronic and atomic age.

Answer- B

Explanation:

A, C, D, and E are all related to the discussion of suffixes like “-tron,” “-matic,” and “-stat” as symbols of technological and scientific achievements.

A explains the meaning and associations of these suffixes.

C elaborates on how these suffixes are like heraldic symbols, showcasing history and achievements.

D references a historian’s perspective on these suffixes as “embodied symbols.”

E discusses the significance of acquiring these suffixes as symbols of pride in the electronic and atomic age.

B, however, shifts to a broader idea of “high modernism,” which is not directly connected to the specific discussion about technological suffixes. While it touches on themes of control and complexity, it doesn’t fit the focused discussion on suffixes and their symbolism.

Question 6: Five jumbled up sentences (labelled A, B, C, D and E), related to a topic, are given below.

Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence and key in the number of that sentence as your answer. (CAT 2021)

A. There is a dark side to academic research, especially in India, and at its centre is the phenomenon of predatory journals.

B. But in truth, as long as you pay, you can get anything published.

C. In look and feel thus, they are exactly like any reputed journal.

D. They claim to be indexed in the most influential databases, say they possess editorial boards that comprise top scientists and researchers, and claim to have a rigorous peer-review structure.

E. But a large section of researchers and scientists across the world are at the receiving end of nothing short of an academic publishing scam.

Answer- E

Explanation:

Sentence A states the main idea of the paragraph. Sentences D and C form a unit: D explains how the journals are indexed and structured and C follows this up stating that they have the look and feel of any reputed journal. This begs the question, “What is then wrong with these journals?” Sentence B answers this. ADCB forms a cogent paragraph. Sentence E talks of an “academic publishing scam” but none of the other sentences shed any light on this. So, E is the sentence to be eliminated.

Question 7: Five jumbled up sentences (labelled A, B, C, D and E), related to a topic, are given below.

Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence and key in the number of that sentence as your answer. (CAT 2021)

A. 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.

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- B. 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.
- C. Western schools have enhanced their offerings with double degrees, popular with domestic and overseas students alike-and boosted the prestige of their Chinese partners.
- D. For students, a big draw is the chance to rub shoulders with captains of China's private sector.
- E. 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.

Answer- C

Explanation:

- A, B, D, and E all focus on the development of Chinese business schools and the changes in their curriculum and offerings, particularly in relation to China's business environment and its growing global influence. A talks about the curriculum in Chinese business schools, mentioning how they focus on navigating capitalism with Chinese characteristics and applying Western theories to local firms. B discusses how top Chinese business schools are resembling their Western counterparts while growing distinct in their teaching and career opportunities. D mentions a key attraction for students — the opportunity to interact with influential figures in China's private sector. E highlights how Chinese business schools now cater to the increasing demand from China Inc, with a focus on globalized and richer companies that seek recruits from a sinocentric student body. C, however, shifts the focus to Western schools enhancing their offerings with double degrees and boosting the prestige of Chinese partners, which diverges from the focus on Chinese business schools and their evolution.

Question 8: Five jumbled up sentences (labelled A, B, C, D and E), related to a topic, are given below.

Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence and key in the number of that sentence as your answer. (CAT 2021)

- A. The care with which philosophers examine arguments for and against forms of biotechnology makes this an excellent primer on formulating and assessing moral arguments.
- B. Although most people find at least some forms of genetic engineering disquieting, it is not easy to articulate why: what is wrong with re-engineering our nature?
- C. Breakthroughs in genetics present us with the promise that we will soon be able to prevent a host of debilitating diseases, and the predicament that our newfound genetic knowledge may enable us to enhance our genetic traits.
- D. To grapple with the ethics of enhancement, we need to confront questions that verge on theology, which is why modern philosophers and political theorists tend to shrink from them.
- E. One argument is that the drive for human perfection through genetics is objectionable as it represents a bid for mastery that fails to appreciate the gifts of human powers and achievements.

Answer- A

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Explanation:

B, C, D, and E are all focused on the ethical implications and moral debates related to biotechnology and genetic engineering.

B talks about people's discomfort with genetic engineering and the difficulty of articulating the reasons behind this discomfort.

C highlights both the promise and the ethical predicament of genetic breakthroughs.

D touches on the need to confront difficult questions that are often avoided by philosophers, which is relevant to the ethical discussion of biotechnology.

E presents an argument that the pursuit of human perfection through genetics is morally problematic.

A, on the other hand, is more about the role of philosophers in examining biotechnology in a general sense. While it does mention moral arguments, it does not directly engage with the ethical concerns about biotechnology or genetic engineering in the same way the other sentences do. Instead, it focuses on the broader intellectual role of philosophers without directly connecting to the specific issues raised in the other sentences.

Question 9: The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage. (CAT 2022)

Several of the world's earliest cities were organised along egalitarian lines. In some regions, urban populations governed themselves for centuries without any indication of the temples and palaces that would later emerge; in others, temples and palaces never emerged at all, and there is simply no evidence of a class of administrators or any other sort of ruling stratum. It would seem that the mere fact of urban life does not, necessarily, imply any particular form of political organization, and never did. Far from resigning us to inequality, the picture that is now emerging of humanity's past may open our eyes to egalitarian possibilities we otherwise would have never considered.

- A. We now have the evidence in support of the existence of an egalitarian urban life in some ancient cities, where political and civic organisation was far less hierarchical.
- B. The emergence of a class of administrators and ruling stratum transformed the egalitarian urban life of ancient cities to the hierarchical civic organisations of today.
- C. Contrary to our assumption that urban settlements have always involved hierarchical political and administrative structures, ancient cities were not organised in this way.
- D. The lack of hierarchical administration in ancient cities can be deduced by the absence of religious and regal structures such as temples and palaces.

Answer A

Explanation: Options B and D can be ruled out right away. The paragraph does not talk about how hierarchical civic organizations of today emerged. It only says that several of the world's earliest cities were egalitarian. Option D focuses on one idea of the paragraph and is not a good summary.

Both A and C, however, look compelling. But between the two, A is better. This is because option C overgeneralises, stating that ancient cities were "not organized" on hierarchical political and administrative lines. The paragraph only says several ancient cities were egalitarian and urban life does not necessarily imply a particular form of political organization. Also, 'egalitarian urban life' is a key idea in the paragraph: C does not mention this while A does. So, option A is a better summary.

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Question 10: The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage. (CAT 2022)

It's not that modern historians of medieval Africa have been ignorant about contacts between Ethiopia and Europe; they just had the power dynamic reversed. The traditional narrative stressed Ethiopia as weak and in trouble in the face of aggression from external forces, so Ethiopia sought military assistance from their fellow Christians to the north. But the real story, buried in plain sight in medieval diplomatic texts, simply had not yet been put together by modern scholars. Recent research pushes scholars of medieval Europe to imagine a much more richly connected medieval world: at the beginning of the so-called Age of Exploration, there is evidence that the kings of Ethiopia were sponsoring their own missions of diplomacy, faith and commerce.

- A. Medieval historical sources selectively promoted the narrative that powerful European forces were called on to protect weak African civilisations such as Ethiopia, but this is far from reality.
- B. Medieval texts have been 'cherry-picked' to promote a view of Ethiopia as weak and in need of Europe's military help with aggressive neighbours, but recent studies reveal it was a well-connected and outward-looking culture.
- C. Medieval texts have documented how strong connections between the Christian communities of Ethiopia and Europe were invaluable in establishing military and trade links between the two civilisations.
- D. Historians were under the illusion that Ethiopia needed military protection from their neighbours, but in fact the country had close commercial and religious connections with them.

Answer: B

Explanation: B best captures the essence of the passage, as it discusses how historical texts have been "cherry-picked" to create a narrative of Ethiopia as weak and needing European help, while recent studies show that Ethiopia was a well-connected and outward-looking culture.

A is partially correct but doesn't capture the full scope of the passage. It highlights the misconception of Ethiopia being weak but does not mention Ethiopia's proactive role in diplomacy, faith, and commerce. C is incorrect because the passage does not focus on military and trade links but rather on Ethiopia's diplomatic and religious connections, and its role in initiating its own missions.

D is incorrect because it misrepresents the passage by implying Ethiopia had close connections with its neighbors and was under the illusion of needing protection, which is not the main point of the passage.

Question 11: The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage. (CAT 2022)

All that we think we know about how life hangs together is really some kind of illusion that we have perpetrated on ourselves because of our limited vision. What appear to be inanimate objects such as stones turn out not only to be alive in the same way that we are, but also in many infinitesimal ways to be affected by stimuli just as humans are. The distinction between animate and inanimate simply cannot be made when you enter the world of quantum mechanics and try to determine how those apparent subatomic particles, of which you and everything else in our universe is composed, are all tied together. The point is that physics and metaphysics show there is a pattern to the universe that goes beyond our capacity to grasp it with our brains.

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- A. Arbitrary distinctions between inanimate and animate objects disappear at the scale at which quantum mechanics works.
- B. Quantum physics indicates that an astigmatic view of reality results in erroneous assumptions about the universe.
- C. The inanimate world is both sentient and cognizant like its animate counterpart.
- D. The effect of stimuli is similar in inanimate objects when compared to animate objects or living beings.

Answer A

Explanation: A best captures the essence of the passage by emphasizing that the distinction between animate and inanimate objects disappears at the quantum scale, which is the central idea of the passage. B is incorrect because while quantum physics is mentioned, the passage does not directly suggest that an "astigmatic" (misfocused) view of reality leads to erroneous assumptions. The focus is more on the illusory nature of our perception of animate vs. inanimate. C is incorrect because the passage does not claim that inanimate objects are "sentient" or "cognizant." It suggests that the boundaries between animate and inanimate blur at the quantum level, but it doesn't attribute consciousness or sentience to inanimate objects. D is incorrect because the passage does not directly claim that stimuli affect inanimate objects in the same way as animate ones. Instead, it argues that the distinction between animate and inanimate objects is illusory at the quantum level.

Question 12: The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage. (CAT 2022)

Today, many of the debates about behavioural control in the age of big data echo Cold War-era anxieties about brainwashing, insidious manipulation and repression in the 'technological society'. In his book *Psychopolitics*, Han warns of the sophisticated use of targeted online content, enabling 'influence to take place on a pre-reflexive level'. On our current trajectory, "freedom will prove to have been merely an interlude." The fear is that the digital age has not liberated us but exposed us, by offering up our private lives to machine-learning algorithms that can process masses of personal and behavioural data. In a world of influencers and digital entrepreneurs, it's not easy to imagine the resurgence of a culture engendered through disconnect and disaffiliation, but concerns over the threat of online targeting, polarisation and big data have inspired recent polemics about the need to rediscover solitude and disconnect.

- A. Rather than freeing us, digital technology is enslaving us by collecting personal information and influencing our online behaviour.
- B. With big data making personal information freely available, the debate on the nature of freedom and the need for privacy has resurfaced.
- C. The notion of freedom and privacy is at stake in a world where artificial intelligence is capable of influencing behaviour through data gathered online.
- D. The role of technology in influencing public behaviour is reminiscent of the manner in which behaviour was manipulated during the Cold War.

Answer B

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Explanation: The paragraph given observes that the concerns about online targeting and polarisation due to the misuse of personal data by machine-learning algorithms today seem to echo Cold War-era anxieties. These concerns have inspired recent polemics about the need to rediscover solitude and disconnect.

Option B touches upon all key ideas and is the best summary among the given options.

The paragraph is about the resurfacing of debates about behaviour manipulation and privacy. Neither option A nor option C touches upon this. Further, both these options use terms that are not used in the given paragraph: option A states that digital data is 'enslaving' us and option C refers to 'artificial intelligence'. So, we rule out options A and C.

Option D implies behaviour was manipulated during the Cold War. The paragraph given does not explicitly say so. Also, this option does not touch upon ideas such as 'freedom' and 'privacy' mentioned in the paragraph.

B is correct because it succinctly captures the central theme of the debate over freedom and privacy in the digital age.

A is incorrect because it overly simplifies the argument by focusing just on digital enslavement.

C is incorrect because it narrows the focus to AI's influence, missing the broader concern of privacy and freedom.

D is incorrect because it compares digital manipulation to the Cold War but overlooks the privacy and freedom concerns central to the passage.

Question 13: Each of the following questions has a paragraph from which the last sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the sentence that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate way. (CAT 2007)

Characters are also part of deep structure. Characters tie events in a story together and provide a thread of continuity and meaning. Stories can be about individuals, groups, projects or whole organizations, so from an organizational studies perspective, the focal actor(s) determine the level and unit of analysis used in a study. Stories of mergers and acquisitions, for example, are common place. In these stories whole organizations are personified as actors. But these macro-level stories usually are not told from the perspective of the macro-level participants, because whole organizations cannot narrate their experiences in the first person. _____

- A. More generally, data concerning the identities and relationships of the characters in the story are required, if one is to understand role structure and social networks in which that process is embedded.
- B. Personification of a whole organization abstracts away from the particular actors and from traditional notions of level of analysis.
- C. The personification of a whole organization is important because stories differ depending on who is enacting various events.
- D. Every story is told from a particular point of view, with a particular narrative voice, which is not regarded as part of the deep structure.
- E. The personification of a whole organization is a textual device we use to make macro-level theories more comprehensible.

Answer : B

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Explanation: The paragraph discusses how organizations are personified in stories, highlighting the abstraction that prevents them from narrating experiences themselves.

Option A introduces a broader concept of social networks, which is off-topic.

Option B aligns well with the discussion, emphasizing the abstraction of personification and its limitations.

Option C shifts focus to who is enacting events, deviating from the main point.

Option D introduces narrative voice, which is unrelated to personification.

Option E explains the use of personification as a device for understanding theories, which complements the paragraph.

Conclusion: Option B is the most coherent as it reinforces the abstraction in personifying organizations.

Question 14: Each of the following questions has a paragraph from which the last sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the sentence that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate way. (CAT 2007)

Nevertheless, photographs still retain some of the magical allure that the earliest daguerreotypes inspired. As objects, our photographs have changed; they have become physically flimsier as they have become more technologically sophisticated. Daguerre produced pictures on copper plates; today many of our photographs never become tangible things, but instead remain filed away on computers and cameras, part of the digital ether that envelops the modern world. At the same time, our patience for the creation of images has also eroded. Children today are used to being tracked from birth by digital cameras and video recorders and they expect to see the results of their poses and performances instantly. The space between life as it is being lived and life as it is being displayed shrinks to a mere second. _____

A. Yet, despite these technical developments, photographs still remain powerful because they are reminders of the people and things we care about.

B. Images, after all, are surrogates carried into battle by a soldier or by a traveller on holiday.

C. Photographs, be they digital or traditional, exist to remind us of the absent, the beloved, and the dead.

D. In the new era of the digital image, the images also have a greater potential for fostering falsehood and trickery, perpetuating fictions that seem so real we cannot tell the difference.

E. Anyway, human nature being what it is, little time has passed after photography's inventions became means of living life through images.

Answer: E

Explanation: The paragraph contrasts the evolution of photographs from physical objects to digital files, focusing on how technology has made capturing and displaying life more immediate.

Option A focuses on the emotional power of photos, but doesn't address the technological transformation.

Option B talks about the portability of images, which is off-topic.

Option C is a general statement about the purpose of photos, not the evolution of photography.

Option D introduces digital manipulation, which diverges from the theme of immediacy.

Option E ties the ideas together by highlighting how quickly photography became a way of living life through images, directly supporting the paragraph's focus on immediacy.

Conclusion: Option E is the best choice as it aligns with the main theme of the paragraph.

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Question 15: There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide in which blank (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: The Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW) was set up in 2019 by a group of companies which include ExxonMobil, Dow, Shell, TotalEnergies and ChevronPhillips, some of the world's biggest producers of plastic.

Paragraph: __ (1) __ Oil and chemical companies who created a high-profile alliance to end plastic pollution have produced 1,000 times more new plastic in five years than the waste they diverted from the environment, according to new data obtained by Greenpeace. __ (2) __ They promised to divert 15m tonnes of plastic waste from the environment in five years to the end of 2023, by improving collection and recycling, and creating a circular economy. __ (3) __ Documents from a PR company that have been seen by the Guardian suggest that a key aim of the AEPW was to "change the conversation" away from "simplistic bans of plastic" which were being proposed across the world in 2019 amid an outcry over the scale of plastic pollution leaching into rivers and harming public health. __ (4) __

- A. Option 1
- B. Option 2
- C. Option 3
- D. Option 4

Answer: B

Explanation:

The sentence introduces the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW) and its founding companies, providing essential context.

Placement in Option 2:

Placing the sentence here creates a smooth transition by connecting the introduction of the alliance to its promises and objectives, ensuring coherence in the paragraph.

Why Not Other Options:

Option 1 disconnects the critique from the introduction.

Option 3 disrupts the flow by introducing the alliance too late.

Option 4 weakens the context for the promises.

Conclusion: Option B is the most logical and coherent placement.

Question 16: There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide in which blank (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence : Russia's defence ministry said the strike had targeted the Bryansk region bordering Ukraine to the north on Tuesday morning.

Paragraph: __ (1) __ Ukraine has fired US-supplied longer-range missiles at Russian territory for the first time, the Russian government said, a day after Washington gave its permission for such attacks. __ (2) __ US officials also confirmed use of the Army Tactical Missile System (Atacms) to CBS news, the BBC's US partner. Ukraine has not commented. __ (3) __ It said five missiles had been shot down and one had caused

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damage - with its fragments starting a fire at a military facility. __ (4) __ But two US officials said initial indications suggested Russia had intercepted just two missiles out of around eight fired by Ukraine.

- A. Option 1
- B. Option 2
- C. Option 3
- D. Option 4

Answer: C

Explanation:

The missing sentence provides details about the location and timing of the strike, which logically fits with the description of the missile's impact.

Option Evaluation:

Option 1 introduces the strike context well but lacks smooth flow with the subsequent details.

Option 3 naturally progresses from the location and timing to the strike's effects, making it the best choice for coherence.

Option 2 disrupts the flow by focusing on technical details.

Option 4 is disconnected and redundant in this context.

Conclusion: Option C (Option 3) fits best by following the sequence of events.

Reading Comprehension Passage 1: (CAT 2023)

Steven Pinker's new book, "Rationality: What It Is, Why It Seems Scarce, Why It Matters," offers a pragmatic dose of measured optimism, presenting rationality as a fragile but achievable ideal in personal and civic life. . . . Pinker's ambition to illuminate such a crucial topic offers the welcome prospect of a return to sanity. . . . It's no small achievement to make formal logic, game theory, statistics and Bayesian reasoning delightful topics full of charm and relevance.

It's also plausible to believe that a wider application of the rational tools he analyzes would improve the world in important ways. His primer on statistics and scientific uncertainty is particularly timely and should be required reading before consuming any news about the [COVID] pandemic. More broadly, he argues that less media coverage of shocking but vanishingly rare events, from shark attacks to adverse vaccine reactions, would help prevent dangerous overreactions, fatalism and the diversion of finite resources away from solvable but less-dramatic issues, like malnutrition in the developing world.

It's a reasonable critique, and Pinker is not the first to make it. But analyzing the political economy of journalism — its funding structures, ownership concentration and increasing reliance on social media shares — would have given a fuller picture of why so much coverage is so misguided and what we might do about it.

Pinker's main focus is the sort of conscious, sequential reasoning that can track the steps in a geometric proof or an argument in formal logic. Skill in this domain maps directly onto the navigation of many real-world problems, and Pinker shows how greater mastery of the tools of rationality can improve decision-making in medical, legal, financial and many other contexts in which we must act on uncertain and shifting information. . . .

Despite the undeniable power of the sort of rationality he describes, many of the deepest insights in the history of science, math, music and art strike their originators in moments of epiphany. From the 19th-century chemist Friedrich August Kekulé's discovery of the structure of benzene to any of Mozart's

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symphonies, much extraordinary human achievement is not a product of conscious, sequential reasoning. Even Plato's Socrates — who anticipated many of Pinker's points by nearly 2,500 years, showing the virtue of knowing what you do not know and examining all premises in arguments, not simply trusting speakers' authority or charisma — attributed many of his most profound insights to dreams and visions. Conscious reasoning is helpful in sorting the wheat from the chaff, but it would be interesting to consider the hidden aquifers that make much of the grain grow in the first place.

The role of moral and ethical education in promoting rational behavior is also underexplored. Pinker recognizes that rationality "is not just a cognitive virtue but a moral one." But this profoundly important point, one subtly explored by ancient Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle, doesn't really get developed. This is a shame, since possessing the right sort of moral character is arguably a precondition for using rationality in beneficial ways.

Question 17: The author refers to the ancient Greek philosophers to:

- A. indicate the various similarities between their thinking and Pinker's conclusions.
- B. reveal gaps in Pinker's discussion of the importance of ethical considerations in rational behaviour.
- C. show how dreams and visions have for centuries influenced subconscious behaviour and pathbreaking inventions.
- D. highlight the influence of their thinking on the development of Pinker's arguments.

Answer - B

Explanation:

Easy question. Refer to the lines, 'The role of moral and ethical education in promoting rational behavior is also underexplored. Pinker recognizes that rationality "is not just a cognitive virtue but a moral one." But this profoundly important point, one subtly explored by ancient Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle, doesn't really get developed'. Option B is the correct choice.

B is correct because the author emphasizes that Pinker acknowledges the moral aspect of rationality but doesn't fully explore it, unlike the ancient Greek philosophers who did.

A is incorrect because the author doesn't focus on similarities between Pinker's ideas and those of the Greek philosophers, but rather on what Pinker missed.

C is incorrect because the mention of dreams and visions is used to discuss the limitations of conscious reasoning, not to focus on subconscious behavior or inventions.

D is incorrect because the author doesn't highlight the Greek philosophers' direct influence on Pinker's arguments but instead critiques a gap in Pinker's work.

Question 18: The author mentions Kekulé's discovery of the structure of benzene and Mozart's symphonies to illustrate the point that:

- A. great innovations across various fields can stem from flashes of intuition and are not always propelled by logical thinking.
- B. unlike the sciences, human achievements in other fields are a mix of logical reasoning and spontaneous epiphanies.
- C. Pinker's conclusions on sequential reasoning are belied by European achievements which, in the past, were more rooted in unconscious bursts of genius.
- D. it is not just the creative arts, but also scientific fields that have benefitted from flashes of creativity.

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Answer – A

Explanation:

Note the context in which the author mentions Kekulé's discovery of the structure of benzene and Mozart's symphonies: 'Despite the undeniable power of the sort of rationality he describes, many of the deepest insights in the history of science, math, music and art strike their originators in moments of epiphany. From the 19th-century chemist Friedrich August Kekulé's discovery of the structure of benzene to any of Mozart's symphonies, much extraordinary human achievement is not a product of conscious, sequential reasoning'. Here, the author is making the point that great innovations can stem from flashes of intuition and are not always propelled by logical thinking. Option A is the correct choice.

The correct answer is A.

The author uses Kekulé's discovery and Mozart's symphonies to show that great innovations, particularly in science and music, can arise from flashes of intuition or epiphanies, rather than solely from logical, sequential reasoning. This illustrates the point that not all significant breakthroughs are driven by conscious, step-by-step thought processes.

B is incorrect because the author is not contrasting sciences with other fields but emphasizing the role of intuition in both.

C is incorrect because the author is not specifically contrasting European achievements with Pinker's conclusions but highlighting the role of unconscious bursts of creativity in historical achievements.

D is incorrect because the author does not suggest that both creative arts and science have benefited from creativity in equal measure but focuses on how even scientific discoveries can come from intuition.

Question 19: According to the author, for Pinker as well as the ancient Greek philosophers, rational thinking involves all of the following EXCEPT:

- A. the belief that the ability to reason logically encompasses an ethical and moral dimension.
- B. an awareness of underlying assumptions in an argument and gaps in one's own knowledge.
- C. the primacy of conscious sequential reasoning as the basis for seminal human achievements.
- D. arriving at independent conclusions irrespective of who is presenting the argument.

Answer – C

Explanation:

The passage states that unlike Pinker, whose main focus is on conscious, sequential reasoning, Socrates, while affirming the virtue of conscious, sequential reasoning, also 'attributed many of his most profound insights to dreams and visions'. Option C is the correct answer choice as the views of Pinker and ancient Greek philosophers differ on this point.

For both Pinker as well as the ancient Greek philosophers, the ability to reason logically encompasses an ethical and moral dimension: 'Pinker recognizes that rationality "is not just a cognitive virtue but a moral one." But this profoundly important point, one subtly explored by ancient Greek philosophers...' So, option A is true.

According to the passage, Socrates 'anticipated many of Pinker's points by nearly 2,500 years, showing the virtue of knowing what you do not know and examining all premises in arguments, not simply trusting speakers' authority or charisma'. So, options B and D are true.

According to the author, both Pinker and the ancient Greek philosophers value rational thinking, which involves:

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A: the belief that rational thinking has an ethical and moral dimension.

B: an awareness of underlying assumptions and knowledge gaps.

D: arriving at independent conclusions, regardless of the speaker's authority.

However, C is incorrect because the author discusses how significant achievements can also stem from epiphanies or unconscious insights, rather than solely from conscious, sequential reasoning. Therefore, the primacy of conscious sequential reasoning is not fully aligned with their views on rationality.

Question 20: The author endorses Pinker's views on the importance of logical reasoning as it:

A. equips people with the ability to tackle challenging practical problems.

B. focuses public attention on real issues like development rather than sensational events.

C. provides a moral compass for resolving important ethical dilemmas.

D. helps people to gain expertise in statistics and other scientific disciplines.

Answer – A

Explanation:

Note the author's comments on Pinker's views on the importance of logical reasoning: 'Skill in this domain maps directly onto the navigation of many real-world problems, and Pinker shows how greater mastery of the tools of rationality can improve decision-making in medical, legal, financial and many other contexts in which we must act on uncertain and shifting information'. So, option A is the correct answer choice.

A is the correct answer because the author specifically highlights how Pinker's emphasis on rationality helps individuals tackle practical, real-world problems by using tools of reasoning. The author praises Pinker for showing how logical reasoning improves decision-making in various complex situations.

Here's why B, C, and D are not correct:

B: The author mentions Pinker's critique of sensational media coverage but doesn't directly endorse logical reasoning for focusing public attention on issues like development. This is more of a critique of the media rather than an endorsement of Pinker's reasoning methods.

C: While the author acknowledges that Pinker recognizes rationality as a moral virtue, the primary endorsement focuses on how rationality helps in practical problem-solving, not in providing a moral compass for resolving ethical dilemmas.

D: The author doesn't emphasize the role of logical reasoning in gaining expertise in statistics or scientific disciplines, but rather focuses on its ability to improve decision-making in broader, real-world contexts.

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S.N.	QUESTION	TOPIC	GENRE
Q1	Actual CAT 2020	Parajumbles	Natural Science
Q2	Actual CAT 2017	Parajumbles	History
Q3	Actual CAT 2017	Parajumbles	Science
Q4	Actual CAT 2017	Parajumbles	Technology
Q5	Actual CAT 2019	Out of Context	Technology
Q6	Actual CAT 2020	Out of Context	Predatory journals
Q7	Actual CAT 2021	Out of Context	Business
Q8	Actual CAT 2021	Out of Context	Ethics and Biotechnology
Q9	Actual CAT 2022	Parasummary	History
Q10	Actual CAT 2022	Parasummary	History
Q11	Actual CAT 2022	Parasummary	Science
Q12	Actual CAT 2022	Parasummary	Technology
Q13	Actual CAT 2007	Paracompletion CAT 2007	Social Science
Q14	Actual CAT 2007	Paracompletion CAT 2007	Arts and Culture
Q15	Practice Question	Paracompletion 2023 Pattern	Business
Q16	Practice Question	Paracompletion 2023 Pattern	Geopolitics
Q17	Actual CAT 2023	Reading Comprehension	Book Review/Analysis
Q18	Actual CAT 2023	Reading Comprehension	Book Review/Analysis
Q19	Actual CAT 2023	Reading Comprehension	Book Review/Analysis
Q20	Actual CAT 2023	Reading Comprehension	Book Review/Analysis

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Sumit Sir

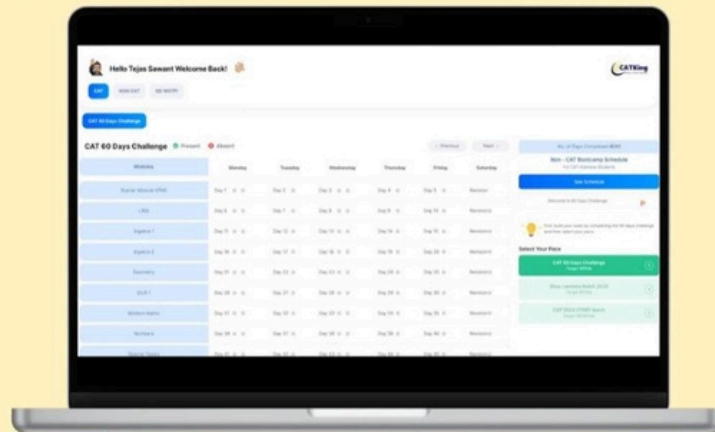
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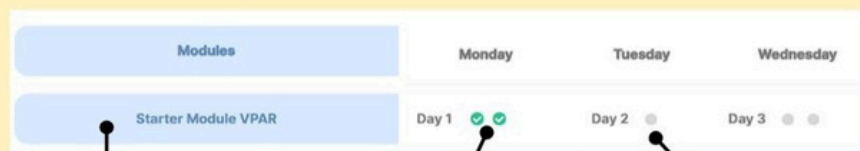


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