

CAT 2017 Question Paper with Solution Slot 2 VARC

Direction (Q1-6): Read the following passage carefully and answer the question based on it.

Creativity is at once our most precious resource and our most inexhaustible one. As anyone who has ever spent any time with children knows, every single human being is born creative; every human being is innately endowed with the ability to combine and recombine data, perceptions, materials and ideas, and devise new ways of thinking and doing. What fosters creativity? More than anything else: the presence of other creative people. The big myth is that creativity is the province of great individual geniuses. In fact creativity is a social process. Our biggest creative breakthroughs come when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.

Cities are the true fonts of creativity... With their diverse populations, dense social networks, and public spaces where people can meet spontaneously and serendipitously, they spark and catalyze new ideas. With their infrastructure for finance, organization and trade, they allow those ideas to be swiftly actualized.

As for what stanches creativity, that's easy, if ironic. It's the very institutions that we build to manage, exploit and perpetuate the fruits of creativity — our big bureaucracies, and sad to say, too many of our schools. Creativity is disruptive; schools and organizations are regimented, standardized and stultifying.

The education expert Sir Ken Robinson points to a 1968 study reporting on a group of 1,600 children who were tested over time for their ability to think in out-of-the-box ways. When the children were between 3 and 5 years old, 98 percent achieved positive scores. When they were 8 to 10, only 32 percent passed the same test, and only 10 percent at 13 to 15. When 280,000 25-year-olds took the test, just 2 percent passed. By the time we are adults, our creativity has been wrung out of us.

I once asked the great urbanist Jane Jacobs what makes some places more creative than others. She said, essentially, that the question was an easy one. All cities, she said, were filled with creative people; that's our default state as people. But some cities had more than their shares of leaders, people and institutions that blocked out that creativity. She called them "squelchers."

Creativity (or the lack of it) follows the same general contours of the great socio-economic divide - our rising inequality - that plagues us. According to my own estimates, roughly a third of us across the United States, and perhaps as much as half of us in our most creative cities - are able to do work which engages our creative faculties to some extent, whether as artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists or educators - those of us who work with our minds. That leaves a group that I term "the other 66 percent," who toil in low-wage rote and rotten jobs — if they have jobs at all — in which their creativity is subjugated, ignored or wasted.

Creativity itself is not in danger. It's flourishing is all around us, in science and technology, arts and culture, in our rapidly revitalizing cities. But we still have a long way to go if we want to build a truly creative society that supports and rewards the creativity of each and every one of us.

1. In the author's view, cities promote human creativity for all the following reasons EXCEPT that they

- A. contain spaces that enable people to meet and share new ideas.
- B. expose people to different and novel ideas, because they are home to varied groups of people.
- C. provide the financial and institutional networks that enable ideas to become reality.
- D. provide access to cultural activities that promote new and creative ways of thinking.

Answer: D

Solution:

Refer to paragraph 2 where the author mentions how cities are the fonts of creativity.'... With their diverse populations, dense social networks, and public spaces where people can meet spontaneously and serendipitously, they spark and catalyze new ideas. With their infrastructure for finance, organization and trade, they allow those ideas to be swiftly actualized.'

A has been mentioned 'public spaces ..new ideas'

B has been mentioned 'diverse populations... new ideas'

C has been mentioned. 'With their infrastructure for finance, organization and trade, they allow those ideas to be swiftly actualized.'

D is the answer as the author has not mentioned cultural activities

2. The author uses 'ironic' in the third paragraph to point out that

- A. people need social contact rather than isolation to nurture their creativity.
- B. institutions created to promote creativity eventually stifle it.
- C. the larger the creative population in a city, the more likely it is to be stifled.
- D. large bureaucracies and institutions are the inevitable outcome of successful cities.

Answer: B

Solution:

Refer to the third paragraph where the author uses the term ironic and explains why it is ironic.

'As for what stanches creativity, that's easy, if ironic. It's the very institutions that we build to manage, exploit and perpetuate the fruits of creativity — our big bureaucracies, and sad to say, too many of our schools.'

This means that the institutions which build and nurture creativity are the ones that stop or check it.

This is best explained in option B.

3. The central idea of this passage is that

- A. social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity.
- B. creativity and ideas are gradually declining in all societies.
- C. the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends.
- D. more people should work in jobs that engage their creative faculties.

Answer: A

Solution:

The passage is about creativity. The author says it is a social process and that cities are the fonts of creativity. The institutions that create and build creativity are also the ones that check it. Some places are more creative than others. Creativity follows the same general contours of the socio-economic divide. According to the author those who work with their minds in professions such as artists, musicians, writers etc are creative while creativity is subjugated or wasted in menial labour.

Option A is the correct answer. The author mentions this in the first 2 paragraphs of the passage.

Option B has not been mentioned as the author has not mentioned that it is declining.

Option C only mentions that it follows the lines of the socio-economic divide.

Option D is irrelevant as the author does not say what one should do 'only what is the state ... not what ought to be..or what one should do'.

4. Jane Jacobs believed that cities that are more creative

- A. have to struggle to retain their creativity.
- B. have to 'squench' unproductive people and promote creative ones.
- C. have leaders and institutions that do not block creativity.
- D. typically do not start off as creative hubs.

Answer: C

Solution:

Refer to paragraph 5 where Jane Jacobs has been mentioned. 'All cities... were filled with creative people....But some cities had more than their shares of leaders, people and institutions that blocked out that creativity.'

So we can infer that those cities which have fewer squelchers are more creative. In other words, those that have leaders and institutions that do not block creativity.

5. The 1968 study is used here to show that

- A. as they get older, children usually learn to be more creative.
- B. schooling today does not encourage creative thinking in children.
- C. the more children learn, the less creative they become.
- D. technology today prevents children from being creative.

Answer: B

Solution:

Refer to paragraph 4 'The education expert Sir Ken Robinson points to a 1968 study reporting on a group of 1,600 children who were tested over time for their ability to think in out-of-the-box ways. When the children were between 3 and 5 years old, 98 percent achieved positive scores. When they were 8 to 10, only 32 percent passed the same test, and only 10 percent at 13 to 15. When 280,000 25-year-olds took the test, just 2 percent passed. By the time we are adults, our creativity has been wrung out of us.

From this we can see,

Option A is incorrect. It contradicts the findings.

Option C is ambiguous. It's too general. The studies were of children of different age groups and their creativity. Learning was not the criterion.

D is not correct as technology has not been mentioned.

Option B is correct as the children got older they were less creative. So, we can infer that schooling does not encourage creativity.

6.The author's conclusions about the most 'creative cities' in the US (paragraph 6) are based on his assumption that

- A. people who work with their hands are not doing creative work.

- B. more than half the population works in non-creative jobs.
- C. only artists, musicians., writers., and so on should be valued in a society.
- D. most cities ignore or waste the creativity of low-wage workers

Answer: A

Solution:

The author's statement about the most creative cities has been mentioned in the concluding paragraph. Refer to the lines: ‘..roughly a third of us across the United States, and perhaps as much as half of us in our most creative cities - are able to do work which engages our creative faculties to some extent those of us who work with our minds’.

In the concluding paragraph the author claims that ‘the other 66 percent,’ who toil in low-wage rote and rotten jobs in which their creativity is subjugated, ignored or wasted.

This claim is based on his assumption that those who do not work with their mind and work with their hands do not do creative work. So, A is the answer.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Reading Comprehension||Reading Comprehension###

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2



Direction (Q7-12): Read the following passage carefully and answer the question based on it.

During the frigid season...it's often necessary to nestle under a blanket to try to stay warm. The temperature difference between the blanket and the air outside is so palpable that we often have trouble leaving our warm refuge. Many plants and animals similarly hunker down, relying on snow cover for safety from winter's harsh conditions. The small area between the snowpack and the ground, called the subnivium...might be the most important ecosystem that you have never heard of.

The subnivium is so well-insulated and stable that its temperature holds steady at around 32 degree Fahrenheit (0 degree Celsius). Although that might still sound cold, a constant temperature of 32 degree Fahrenheit can often be 30 to 40 degrees warmer than the air temperature during the peak of winter. Because of this large temperature difference, a wide variety of species...depend on the subnivium for winter protection.

For many organisms living in temperate and Arctic regions, the difference between being under the snow or outside it is a matter of life and death. Consequently, disruptions to the subnivium brought about by climate change will affect everything from population dynamics to nutrient cycling through the ecosystem.

The formation and stability of the subnivium requires more than a few flurries. Winter ecologists have suggested that eight inches of snow is necessary to develop a stable layer of insulation. Depth is not the only factor, however. More accurately, the stability of the subnivium depends on the interaction between snow depth and snow density. Imagine being under a stack of blankets that are all flattened and pressed together. When compressed, the blankets essentially form one compacted layer. In contrast, when they are lightly placed on top of one another, their insulative capacity increases because the air pockets between them trap heat. Greater depths of low-density snow are therefore better at insulating the ground.

Both depth and density of snow are sensitive to temperature. Scientists are now beginning to explore how climate change will affect the subnivium, as well as the species that depend on it. At first glance, warmer winters seem beneficial for species that have difficulty surviving subzero temperatures; however, as with most ecological phenomena, the consequences are not so straightforward. Research has shown that the snow season (the period when snow is more likely than rain) has become shorter since 1970. When rain falls on snow, it increases the density of the snow and reduces its insulative capacity. Therefore, even though winters are expected to become warmer overall from future climate change, the subnivium will tend to become colder and more variable with less protection from the above-ground temperatures.

The effects of a colder subnivium are complex...For example, shrubs such as crowberry and alpine azalea that grow along the forest floor tend to block the wind and so retain higher depths of snow around them. This captured snow helps to keep soils insulated and in turn increases plant decomposition and nutrient release. In field experiments, researchers removed a portion of the snow cover to investigate the importance of the subnivium's insulation. They found that soil frost in the snow-free area resulted in damage to plant roots and sometimes even the death of the plant.

7. The purpose of this passage is to
- A. introduce readers to a relatively unknown ecosystem: the subnivium.
 - B. explain how the subnivium works to provide shelter and food to several species.
 - C. outline the effects of climate change on the subnivium.
 - D. draw an analogy between the effect of blankets on humans and of snow cover on species living in the subnivium.

Answer: C

Solution:

A summary of the passage will help us identify the purpose of the passage easily.

The passage is about the subnivium. The author states that the subnivium or the small area between the snowpack and the ground might be the most important ecosystem. The subnivium's temperature is steady at around 32 degree Fahrenheit

and a wide variety of species depend on the subnivium for winter protection. Disruptions to the subnivium brought about by climate change will affect everything from population dynamics to nutrient cycling through the ecosystem. The passage on these changes.

So we can say the purpose of the passage is to emphasize how the subnivium is important and how climate change is affecting it and how disruptions to it can affect the entire ecosystem.

This is best expressed in option C.

8. All of the following statements are true EXCEPT

- A. snow depth and snow density both influence the stability of the subnivium.
- B. climate change has some positive effects on the subnivium.
- C. the subnivium maintains a steady temperature that can be 30 to 40 degrees warmer than the winter air temperature.
- D. researchers have established the adverse effects of dwindling snow cover on the subnivium.

Answer: B

Solution:

Option A has been mentioned. Refer to para 5: 'Both depth and density of snow are sensitive to temperature. ...When rain falls on snow, it increases the density of the snow and reduces its insulative capacity.'

Option B is not true according to the passage and therefore our answer. Refer to para 5: 'even though winters are expected to become warmer overall from future climate change, the subnivium will tend to become colder and more variable.'

C is mentioned in para 2 while D is mentioned in the concluding paragraph.

9. Based on this extract, the author would support which one of the following actions?

- A. The use of snow machines in winter to ensure snow cover of at least eight inches.
- B. Government action to curb climate change.
- C. Adding nutrients to the soil in winter.
- D. Planting more shrubs in areas of short snow season.

Answer: B

Solution:

The author's main point is that climate change has adverse effects on the subnivium and through it an entire ecosystem.

Hence, B is the action that will be supported. Government action to curb climate change

10. In paragraph 6, the author provides the examples of crowberry and alpine azalea to demonstrate that

- A. despite frigid temperatures, several species survive in temperate and Arctic regions.
- B. due to frigid temperatures in the temperate and Arctic regions., plant species that survive tend to be shrubs rather than trees.
- C. the crowberry and alpine azalea are abundant in temperate and Arctic regions.
- D. the stability of the subnivium depends on several interrelated factors, including shrubs on the forest floor.

Answer: D

Solution:

The author mentions crowberry and alpine azalea in the concluding paragraph to demonstrate the effects of a colder subnivium.

Refer to the following lines '...shrubs such as crowberry and alpine azalea that grow along the forest floor tend to block the wind and so retain higher depths of snow around them. This captured snow helps to keep soils insulated and in turn increases plant decomposition and nutrient release. In field experiments, researchers removed a portion of the snow cover to investigate the importance of the subnivium's insulation. They found that soil frost in the snow-free area resulted in damage to plant roots and sometimes even the death of the plant.'

In simple terms, these shrubs block winds and retain higher depths of snow which helps in insulation and consequently plant decomposition. But if the depth decreases, it damages plant roots and results in the plant dying in some cases.

So, the example has been given to show the importance of various factors including shrubs in maintaining the subnivium. So, the correct answer is D.

11. Which one of the following statements can be inferred from the passage?

- A. In an ecosystem, altering any one element has a ripple effect on all others.
- B. Climate change affects temperate and Arctic regions more than equatorial or arid ones.
- C. A compact layer of wool is warmer than a similarly compact layer of goose down.
- D. The loss of the subnivium, while tragic, will affect only temperate and Arctic regions.

Answer: A

Solution:

Reading all the options it is clear that options B, C, and D can be eliminated and A is the correct answer.

B is incorrect as equatorial arid regions have not been discussed.

C and D are irrelevant to the author's arguments about climate change affecting the subnivium.

12. In paragraph 1, the author uses blankets as a device to

- A. evoke the bitter cold of winter in the minds of readers.
- B. explain how blankets work to keep us warm.
- C. draw an analogy between blankets and the snowpack.
- D. alert readers to the fatal effects of excessive exposure to the cold.

Answer: C

Solution:

The author uses the analogy of blankets in paragraph 4 to explain that the stability of the subnivium depends on the connection between depth and density of snow. Greater depths of low-density snow are, therefore, better at insulating the ground.

C expresses this best. Hence, C is the correct answer.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Reading Comprehension||Reading Comprehension###

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

Direction (Q13-18): Read the following passage carefully and answer the question based on it.

The end of the age of the internal combustion engine is in sight. There are small signs everywhere: the shift to hybrid vehicles is already under way among manufacturers. Volvo has announced it will make no purely petrol-engined cars after 2019...and Tesla has just started selling its first electric car aimed squarely at the middle classes: the Tesla 3 sells for \$35,000 in the US, and 400,000 people have put down a small, refundable deposit towards one. Several thousand have already taken delivery, and the company hopes to sell half a million more next year.

This is a remarkable figure for a machine with a fairly short range and a very limited number of specialised charging stations.

Some of it reflects the remarkable abilities of Elon Musk, the company's founder, as a salesman, engineer, and a man able to get the most out his factory workers and the governments he deals with...Mr Musk is selling a dream that the world wants to believe in.

This last may be the most important factor in the story. The private car is...a device of immense practical help and economic significance, but at the same time a theatre for myths of unattainable self-fulfilment. The one thing you will never see in a car advertisement is traffic, even though that is the element in which drivers spend their lives. Every single driver in a traffic jam is trying to escape from it, yet it is the inevitable consequence of mass car ownership.

The sleek and swift electric car is at one level merely the most contemporary fantasy of autonomy and power. But it might also disrupt our exterior landscapes nearly as much as the fossil fuel-engined car did in the last century. Electrical cars would of course pollute far less than fossil fuel-driven ones; instead of oil reserves, the rarest materials for batteries would make undeserving despots and their dynasties fantastically rich. Petrol stations would disappear. The air in cities would once more be breathable and their streets as quiet as those of Venice. This isn't an unmixed good. Cars that were as silent as bicycles would still be as dangerous as they are now to anyone they hit without audible warning.

The dream goes further than that. The electric cars of the future will be so thoroughly equipped with sensors and reaction mechanisms that they will never hit anyone. Just as brakes don't let you skid today, the steering wheel of tomorrow will swerve you away from danger before you have even noticed it...

This is where the fantasy of autonomy comes full circle. The logical outcome of cars which need no driver is that they will become cars which need no owner either. Instead, they will work as taxis do, summoned at will but only for the journeys we actually need. This the future towards which Uber...is working. The ultimate development of the private car will be to reinvent public transport. Traffic jams will be abolished only when the private car becomes a public utility. What then will happen to our fantasies of independence? We'll all have to take to electrically powered bicycles.

13. Which of the following statements best reflects the author's argument?
- A. Hybrid and electric vehicles signal the end of the age of internal combustion engines.
 - B. Elon Musk is a remarkably gifted salesman.
 - C. The private car represents an unattainable myth of independence.
 - D. The future Uber car will be environmentally friendlier than even the Tesla.

Answer: C

Solution:

The author's main point is best captured in paragraphs in the last lines of paragraph 2 and the first lines of paragraph 3.

.'...Mr Musk is selling a dream that the world wants to believe in.'

This last may be the most important factor in the story. The private car is...a device of immense practical help and economic significance, but at the same time a theatre for myths of unattainable self-fulfilment.

The option that best expresses this idea is option C.

14. The author points out all of the following about electric cars EXCEPT

- A. their reliance on rare materials for batteries will support despotic rule.
- B. they will reduce air and noise pollution.
- C. they will not decrease the number of traffic jams.
- D. they will ultimately undermine rather than further driver autonomy.

Answer: D

Solution:

We have to look for an option that has not been mentioned about electric cars.

Refer to paragraph 4.

The point about despotic rule mentioned in option A has been mentioned in the following lines: 'the rarest materials for batteries would make undeserving despots and their dynasties fantastically rich.'

Option B has also been mentioned. Refer to the lines: '...Electrical cars would of course pollute far less than fossil fuel-driven ones.'

Option C has been mentioned in the following lines '...Traffic jams will be abolished only when the private car becomes a public utility.'

Hence, the answer is option D. Refer to the lines in the concluding paragraph: 'have even noticed it...'

This is where the fantasy of autonomy comes full circle. The logical outcome of cars which need no driver is that they will become cars which need no owner either.

This does not state or mean it will undermine or weaken driver autonomy.'

15. According to the author, the main reason for Tesla's remarkable sales is that

- A. in the long run, the Tesla is more cost effective than fossil fuel-driven cars.
- B. the US government has announced a tax subsidy for Tesla buyers.
- C. the company is rapidly upscaling the number of specialised charging stations for customer convenience.
- D. people believe in the autonomy represented by private cars.

Answer: D

Solution:

The author mentions that one reason for the remarkable figures is that Musk is selling a dream that the world wants to believe in. 'The sleek and swift electric car is at one level merely the most contemporary fantasy of autonomy and power.'

So, people believe that private cars symbolize autonomy. Hence, D is the answer.

16. The author comes to the conclusion that

- A. car drivers will no longer own cars but will have to use public transport.
- B. cars will be controlled by technology that is more efficient than car drivers.
- C. car drivers dream of autonomy but the future may be public transport.
- D. electrically powered bicycles are the only way to achieve autonomy in transportation.

Answer: C

Solution:

The author's conclusion about private cars is given in the lines of the concluding paragraph: 'The ultimate development of the private car will be to reinvent public transport.'

Hence, C is the answer.

A is incorrect as it misrepresents the author's point about driverless cars.

B is incorrect as the author does not compare efficiency of drivers and technology driven cars.

D expresses an extreme view.

Hence, C is the correct answer.

17. In paragraphs 5 and 6, the author provides the example of Uber to argue that

- A. in the future, electric cars will be equipped with mechanisms that prevent collisions.

- B. in the future, traffic jams will not exist.
- C. in the future, the private car will be transformed into a form of public transport.
- D. in the future, Uber rides will outstrip Tesla sales.

Answer: C

Solution:

In the concluding paragraph the author states: 'The logical outcome of cars which need no driver is that they will become cars which need no owner either. Instead, they will work as taxis do, summoned at will but only for the journeys we actually need. This the future towards which Uber...is working'

So, the example of Uber has been given to emphasize that the future of the private car is public transport.

This is expressed in option C.

18. In paragraph 6, the author mentions electrically powered bicycles to argue that

- A. if Elon Musk were a true visionary, he would invest funds in developing electric bicycles.
- B. our fantasies of autonomy might unexpectedly require us to consider electric bicycles.
- C. in terms of environmental friendliness and safety, electric bicycles rather than electric cars are the future.
- D. electric buses are the best form of public transport.

Answer: B

Solution:

The author's argument in the concluding lines is that 'The ultimate development of the private car will be to reinvent public transport. Traffic jams will be abolished only when the private car becomes a public utility. What then will happen to our fantasies of independence? We'll all have to take to electrically powered bicycles.'

So the author says we will be rid of traffic jams only if we are rid of private cars or when private cars become public utility vehicles. When that happens we will not have autonomy since we won't own private cars. If we want autonomy, we would have to take to bicycles.

Our dream of autonomy might end up with us not having cars.

This point is best expressed in option B.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Reading Comprehension||Reading Comprehension###
Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

Direction (Q19-21): Read the following passage carefully and answer the question based on it.

Typewriters are the epitome of a technology that has been comprehensively rendered obsolete by the digital age. The ink comes off the ribbon, they weigh a ton, and second thoughts are a disaster. But they are also personal, portable and, above all, private. Type a document and lock it away and more or less the only way anyone else can get it is if you give it to them. That is why the Russians have decided to go back to typewriters in some government offices, and why in the US, some departments have never abandoned them. Yet it is not just their resistance to algorithms and secret surveillance that keeps typewriter production lines - well one, at least - in business (the last British one closed a year ago). Nor is it only the nostalgic appeal of the metal body and the stout well-defined keys that make them popular on eBay. A typewriter demands something particular: attentiveness. By the time the paper is loaded, the ribbon tightened, the carriage returned, the spacing and the margins set, there's a big premium on hitting the right key. That means sorting out ideas, pulling together a kind of order and organising details before actually striking off. There can be no thinking on screen with a typewriter. Nor are there any easy distractions. No online shopping. No urgent emails. No Twitter. No need even for electricity - perfect for writing in a remote hideaway. The thinking process is accompanied by the encouraging clack of keys, and the ratchet of the carriage return. Ping!

19. Which one of the following best describes what the passage is trying to do?

1. It describes why people continue to use typewriters even in the digital age.
2. It argues that typewriters will continue to be used even though they are an obsolete technology.
3. It highlights the personal benefits of using typewriters.
4. It shows that computers offer fewer options than typewriters.

Answer: A

Solution:

The main contention of the author is that typewriters continue to be used in today's digital age and the reasons for it.

This point has been best expressed in option A.

20. According to the passage, some governments still use typewriters because:

- A. they do not want to abandon old technologies that may be useful in the future.
- B. they want to ensure that typewriter production lines remain in business.
- C. they like the nostalgic appeal of typewriter.
- D. they can control who reads the document.

Answer: D

Solution:

Refer to the following lines in paragraph 1: 'Type a document and lock it away and more or less the only way anyone else can get it is if you give it to them. That is why the Russians have decided to go back to typewriters in some government offices, and why in the US, some departments have never abandoned them.'

So, the reason can be inferred as security. Governments can control who reads the document.

Hence, D is the correct answer.

21. The writer praises typewriters for all the following reasons EXCEPT

- A. unlike computers, they can only be used for typing.
- B. you cannot revise what you have typed on a typewriter.
- C. typewriters are noisier than computers.
- D. typewriters are messier to use than computers.

Answer: D

Solution:

The author praises the computer for many reasons.

The author mentions A, B and C as advantages. Even the noise is expressed as a positive point. The thinking process is accompanied by the encouraging clack of keys, and the ratchet of the carriage return. Ping!

Option D mentions a disadvantage. Hence, it is the answer.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Reading Comprehension||Reading Comprehension###

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

Direction (Q22-24): Read the following passage carefully and answer the question based on it

Despite their fierce reputation, Vikings may not have always been the plunderers and pillagers popular culture imagines them to be. In fact, they got their start trading in northern European markets, researchers suggest.

Combs carved from animal antlers, as well as comb manufacturing waste and raw antler material has turned up at three archaeological sites in Denmark, including a medieval marketplace in the city of Ribe. A team of researchers from Denmark and the U.K. hoped to identify the species of animal to which the antlers once belonged by analyzing collagen proteins in the samples and comparing them across the animal kingdom, Laura Geggel reports for LiveScience. Somewhat surprisingly, molecular analysis of the artifacts revealed that some combs and other material had been carved from reindeer antlers.... Given that reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) don't live in Denmark, the researchers posit that it arrived on Viking ships from Norway. Antler craftsmanship, in the form of decorative combs, was part of Viking culture. Such combs served as symbols of good health, Geggel writes. The fact that the animals shed their antlers also made them easy to collect from the large herds that inhabited Norway.

Since the artifacts were found in marketplace areas at each site it's more likely that the Norsemen came to trade rather than pillage. Most of the artifacts also date to the 780s, but some are as old as 725. That predates the beginning of Viking raids on Great Britain by about 70 years. (Traditionally, the so-called "Viking Age" began with these raids in 793 and ended with the Norman conquest of Great Britain in 1066.) Archaeologists had suspected that the Vikings had experience with long maritime voyages [that] might have preceded their raiding days. Beyond Norway, these combs would have been a popular industry in Scandinavia as well. It's possible that the antler combs represent a larger trade network, where the Norsemen supplied raw material to craftsmen in Denmark and elsewhere.

22. The primary purpose of the passage is:

- A. to explain the presence of reindeer antler combs in Denmark.
- B. to contradict the widely-accepted beginning date for the Viking Age in Britain, and propose an alternate one.
- C. to challenge the popular perception of Vikings as raiders by using evidence that suggests their early trade relations with Europe.
- D. to argue that besides being violent pillagers, Vikings were also skilled craftsmen and efficient traders.

Answer: C

Solution:

A quick reading of the passage will give you an understanding of the main point and purpose of the author. He starts by stating that despite their fierce reputation, Vikings may not have always been the plunderers and pillagers popular culture imagines them to be. In fact, they got their start trading in northern European

markets. He substantiates the point that they were traders before they turned plunderers with evidence.

This point is best expressed in option C.

23. The evidence - 'Most of the artifacts also date to the 780s, but some are as old as 725' - has been used in the passage to argue that:

- A. the beginning date of the Viking Age should be changed from 793 to 725.
- B. the Viking raids started as early as 725.
- C. some of the antler artifacts found in Denmark and Great Britain could have come from Scandinavia.
- D. the Vikings' trade relations with Europe pre-dates the Viking raids.

Answer: D

Solution:

Refer to the lines in the third paragraph: 'Most of the artifacts also date to the 780s, but some are as old as 725. That predates the beginning of Viking raids on Great Britain by about 70 years.'

The author uses the dates of the artifacts to justify his claim that the artifacts predate the raids by 70 years. So they prove that the Vikings had trade relations with Europe earlier.

Hence, D is the correct answer.

24. All of the following hold true for Vikings EXCEPT

- A. Vikings brought reindeer from Norway to Denmark for trade purposes.
- B. Before becoming the raiders of northern Europe, Vikings had trade relations with European nations.
- C. Antler combs, regarded by the Vikings as a symbol of good health, were part of the Viking culture.
- D. Vikings, once upon a time, had trade relations with Denmark and Scandinavia.

Answer: A

Solution:

Option A is the answer. Read the lines of the second paragraph carefully. 'It arrived on Viking ships from Norway.' The author says reindeer antlers arrived on ships from Norway not reindeer.

Hence, A is the correct answer.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Reading Comprehension||Reading Comprehension###

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

25. **Direction:** Identify the most appropriate summary for the paragraph.

North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars (*Amorpha juglandis*) look like easy meals for birds, but they have a trick up their sleeves—they produce whistles that sound like bird alarm calls, scaring potential predators away. At first, scientists suspected birds were simply startled by the loud noise. But a new study suggests a more sophisticated mechanism: the caterpillar's whistle appears to mimic a bird alarm call, sending avian predators scrambling for cover. When pecked by a bird, the caterpillars whistle by compressing their bodies like an accordion and forcing air out through specialized holes in their sides. The whistles are impressively loud - they have been measured at over 80 dB from 5 cm away from the caterpillar - considering they are made by a two-inch long insect.

- A. North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars will whistle periodically to ward off predator birds - they have a specialized vocal tract that helps them whistle.
- B. North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars can whistle very loudly; the loudness of their whistles is shocking as they are very small insects.
- C. North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in a case of acoustic deception, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.
- D. North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars, in a case of deception and camouflage, produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.

Answer: C

Solution:

The main point of the paragraph is to describe how the North American walnut sphinx moth caterpillars scare off predators. They produce loud whistles that sound like bird alarm calls, scaring potential bird predators away.

Option A is incorrect as it mentions a 'specialized vocal tract' which is not mentioned in the paragraph.

Option B is also incorrect as it mentions only the loudness of the whistle while what scares the birds is the fact that the whistle sounds like a bird alarm call.

Option D mentions 'camouflage' which has not been mentioned in the original paragraph. The deception is the sound produced by the whistle.

Option C expresses the main point of the passage correctly by mentioning that the caterpillars use acoustic deception and produce whistles that mimic bird alarm calls to defend themselves.

Hence, C is the correct answer.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Verbal Reasoning||Paragraph Summary###

Tag Type: Type 1

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

26. **Direction:** Identify the most appropriate summary for the paragraph.

Both Socrates and Bacon were very good at asking useful questions. In fact, Socrates is largely credited with coming up with a way of asking questions, 'the Socratic method/ which itself is at the core of the 'scientific method, 'popularised by Bacon. The Socratic method disproves arguments by finding exceptions to them, and can, therefore, lead your opponent to a point where they admit something that contradicts their original position. In common with Socrates, Bacon stressed it was as important to disprove a theory as it was to prove one - and real-world observation and experimentation were key to achieving both aims. Bacon also saw science as a collaborative affair, with scientists working together, challenging each other.

- A. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated clever questioning of the opponents to disprove their arguments and theories.
- B. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated challenging arguments and theories by observation and experimentation.
- C. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated confirming arguments and theories by finding exceptions.
- D. Both Socrates and Bacon advocated examining arguments and theories from both sides to prove them.

Answer: D

Solution:

The Socratic method was popularised by Bacon. Both Socrates and Bacon stressed it was as important to disprove a theory as it was to prove one and real-world observation and experimentation were key to achieving both aims.

This point has been best expressed in option D.

The other options mention only one aspect. Not all the main points or twist the meaning of the original passage.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Verbal Reasoning||Paragraph Summary###

Tag Type: Type 1

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

27. **Direction:** Identify the most appropriate summary for the paragraph.

A fundamental property of language is that it is slippery and messy and more liquid than solid, a gelatinous mass that changes shape to fit. As Wittgenstein would remind us, "usage has no sharp boundary." Oftentimes, the only way to determine the meaning of a word is to examine how it is used. This insight is often described as the "meaning is use" doctrine. There are differences between the "meaning is use" doctrine and a dictionary-first theory of meaning. "The dictionary's careful fixing of words to definitions, like butterflies pinned under glass, can suggest that this is how language works. The definitions can seem to ensure and fix the meaning of words, just as the gold standard can back a country's currency." What Wittgenstein found in the circulation of ordinary language, however, was a free-floating currency of meaning. The value of each word arises out of the exchange. The lexicographer abstracts a meaning from that exchange, which is then set within the conventions of the dictionary definition.

- A. Dictionary definitions are like 'gold standards' - artificial, theoretical and dogmatic. Actual meaning of words is their free- exchange value.
- B. Language is already slippery; given this, accounting for 'meaning in use' will only exasperate the problem. That is why lexicographers 'fix' meanings
- C. Meaning is dynamic; definitions are static. The 'meaning in use' theory helps us understand that definitions of words are culled from their meaning in exchange and use and not vice versa.
- D. The meaning of words in dictionaries is clear, fixed and less dangerous and ambiguous than the meaning that arises when words are exchanged between people.

Answer: C

Solution:

The paragraph is about language. There are differences between two theories about language and meaning: the 'meaning is use' doctrine and a dictionary-first theory of meaning. Wittgenstein and others argue that the meanings of words are not fixed, but arise out of the way they are used (exchanged). The lexicographer abstracts a meaning from that exchange and sets it down in the dictionary. The dictionary-first theory of meaning is, thus, limited.

These points are best expressed in C.

Options B and D contradict the main point of the paragraph. Option A does not bring out the essence of the passage.

Hence, C is the answer.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Verbal Reasoning||Paragraph Summary###

Tag Type: Type 1

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

28. **Direction:** The five sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4, and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentence and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

- 1) The implications of retelling of Indian stories, hence, takes on new meaning in a modern India.
- 2) The stories we tell reflect the world around us.
- 3) We cannot help but retell the stories that we value - after all, they are never quite right for us - in our time.
- 4) And even if we manage to get them quite right, they are only right for us - other people living around us will have different reasons for telling similar stories.
- 5) As soon as we capture a story, the world we were trying to capture has changed.

Answer: 25341

Solution:

Reading all the sentences in the jumble, it is clear that 2 is the starting sentence as it is a general stand alone sentence in the set.

5 follows 2 as it talks about what happens when we capture a story

2 is followed by the mandatory pair 3-4. 3 talks about why we retell stories 'they are not quite right for us' and 4 continues this argument by stating that ' even if we get them right, it is right only for us'.

1 follows 4 by carrying on the thread of retelling in 4: the implications of retelling.

Hence, 25341 is the correct order.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Verbal Reasoning||Parajumbles###

Tag Type: Type 1

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

29.

Direction: The five sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4, and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentence and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

- 1) Before plants can take life from atmosphere, nitrogen must undergo transformations similar to ones that food undergoes in our digestive machinery.
- 2) In its aerial form nitrogen is insoluble, unusable and is in need of transformation.
- 3) Lightning starts the series of chemical reactions that need to happen to nitrogen, ultimately helping it nourish our earth.
- 4) Nitrogen - an essential food for plants - is an abundant resource, with about 22 million tons of it floating over each square mile of earth.
- 5) One of the most dramatic examples in nature of ill wind that blows goodness is lightning.

Answer: 53421

Solution:

The theme of the paragraph is natural phenomena and nitrogen fixation.

Reading all the sentences in the jumble, it is clear that the stand alone statement which can start the sequence is 5.

5-3 is the mandatory pair as 3 continues with the theme of lightning and how it is good.

4-2 pair follow 3 as they continue the thread about nitrogen introduced by sentence 3.

1 follows 2 as it elaborates on how plants transform unusable aerial nitrogen (mentioned in 2).

Hence, the correct order is 53421.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Verbal Reasoning||Parajumbles###

Tag Type: Type 1

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

30.Direction: The five sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4, and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentence and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1) This has huge implications for the health care system as it operates today, where depleted resources and time lead to patients rotating in and out of doctor's offices, oftentimes receiving minimal care or concern (what is commonly referred to as "bed side manner") from doctors.

2) The placebo effect is when an individual's medical condition or pain shows signs of improvement based on a fake intervention that has been presented to them as a real one and used to be regularly dismissed by researchers as a psychological effect.

3) The placebo effect is not solely based on believing in treatment, however, as the clinical setting in which treatments are administered is also paramount.

4) That the mind has the power to trigger biochemical changes because the individual believes that a given drug or intervention will be effective could empower chronic patients through the notion of our bodies' capacity for self-healing.

5) Placebo effects are now studied not just as foils for "real" interventions but as a potential portal into the self-healing powers of the body.

Answer: 25431

Solution:

Reading the jumbled sentences it is clear that 2 is the starting sentence as it introduces the topic that is the placebo effect and describes it.

5 elaborates on this by stating how they are regarded and studied now-not just as foils for 'real' interventions but as a potential portal into the self-healing powers of the body.

4 follows 5 as it continues with the theme of self-healing.

The pair 3-1 follow this. 3 states that the placebo effect is not solely based on believing in treatment, ... the clinical setting in which treatments are administered is also paramount.

1 explains the idea started in 3 by explaining why clinical settings are important

Hence, 25431 is the correct answer.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Verbal Reasoning||Parajumbles###

Tag Type: Type 1

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

31. **Direction:** The five sentences (labelled 1,2,3,4, and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentence and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1) Johnson treated English very practically, as a living language, with many different shades of meaning and adopted his definitions on the principle of English common law - according to precedent.

2) Masking a profound inner torment, Johnson found solace in compiling the words of a language that was, in its coarse complexity and comprehensive genius, the precise analogue of his character.

3) Samuel Johnson was a pioneer who raised common sense to heights of genius, and a man of robust popular instincts whose watchwords were clarity, precision and simplicity.

4) The 18th century English reader, in the new world of global trade and global warfare, needed a dictionary with authoritative acts of definition of words of a language that was becoming seeded throughout the first British empire by a vigorous and practical champion.

5) The Johnson who challenged Bishop Berkeley's solipsist theory of the non-existence of matter by kicking a large stone ("I refute it thus") is the same Johnson for whom language must have a daily practical use.

Answer: 43512

Solution:

Sentence 4 starts the sequence by mentioning the need of a dictionary in 18th century England 3-5 -1 follow this as they describe the lexicographer Samuel

Johnson and how he treated language. 2 follows this description with a concluding remark on why Johnson compiled a dictionary. Johnson found solace in compiling the words of a language that was, in its coarse complexity and comprehensive genius, the precise analogue of his character.

Hence, 43512 is the correct order.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Verbal Reasoning||Parajumbles###

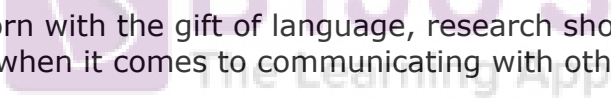
Tag Type: Type 1

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

32.

Direction: Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

- 
- 1) Although we are born with the gift of language, research shows that we are surprisingly unskilled when it comes to communicating with others.
 - 2) We must carefully orchestrate our speech if we want to achieve our goals and bring our dreams to fruition.
 - 3) We often choose our words without thought, oblivious of the emotional effects they can have on others.
 - 4) We talk more than we need to, ignoring the effect we are having on those listening to us.
 - 5) We listen poorly, without realizing it, and we often fail to pay attention to the subtle meanings conveyed by facial expressions, body gestures, and the tone and cadence of our voice.

Answer: 2

Solution:

Reading the sentences of the jumble, it is clear that all the sentences relate to language and communication. 1, 3, 4, and 5 are on the same theme, i.e., how we are unskilled in communicating with others. But 2 mentions something different. It tells us that we have to orchestrate our speech if we want to achieve goals.

Hence, 2 is the odd one out.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Verbal Reasoning||Parajumbles###

Tag Type: Type 2

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

33.

Direction: Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

- 1) Over the past fortnight, one of its finest champions managed to pull off a similar impression.
- 2) Wimbledon's greatest illusion is the sense of timelessness it evokes.
- 3) At 35 years and 342 days, Roger Federer became the oldest man to win the singles title in the Open Era - a full 14 years after he first claimed the title as a scruffy, pony-tailed upstart.
- 4) Once he had survived the opening week, the second week witnessed the range of a rested Federer's genius.
- 5) Given that his method isn't reliant on explosive athleticism or muscular ball-striking, both vulnerable to decay, there is cause to believe that Federer will continue to enchant for a while longer.

Answer: 4

Solution:

Since all the sentences seem to be on the same theme, we need to read them carefully and arrange them in a logical order to identify the odd one out.

2 starts the sequence. 2-1 is a mandatory pair as 2 talks of the 'sense of timelessness' Wimbledon evokes and 1 says that 'Over the past fortnight, one of its finest champions managed to pull off a similar impression.' The similar impression of 1 refers to the sense of timelessness in 2.

3 follows as it mentions the name of the champion mentioned in 1. It explains what Roger Federer did.

5 speaks of why he can be expected to continue in the same vein, why Federer will continue to enchant for a while longer.

2135 is the order while the odd one out is 4 since it mentions a specific match.

Hence, 4 is the correct answer.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Verbal Reasoning||Parajumbles###

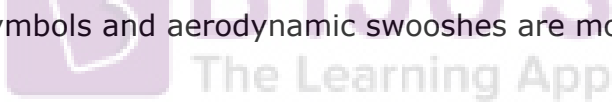
Tag Type: Type 2

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

34.

Direction: Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

- 
- 1) Those geometric symbols and aerodynamic swooshes are more than just skin deep.
 - 2) The Commonwealth Bank logo - a yellow diamond, with a black chunk sliced out in one corner - is so recognisable that the bank doesn't even use its full name in its advertising.
 - 3) It's not just logos with hidden shapes; sometimes brands will have meanings or stories within them that are deliberately vague or lost in time, urging you to delve deeper to solve the riddle.
 - 4) Graphic designers embed cryptic references because it adds a story to the brand; they want people to spend more time with a brand and have that idea that they are an insider if they can understand the hidden message.
 - 5) But the Comm Bank logo has more to it than meets the eye, as squirrelled away in that diamond is the Southern Cross constellation.

Answer: 1

Solution:

All the sentences seem to be on the same theme, so we have to read the sentences carefully and find pairs and arrange them in a sequence to identify the odd one out.

Reading the sentences in the jumble it is clear that 4 is the starting sentence. 4-3 is a pair as 4 talks of cryptic references and hidden messages embedded by Graphic designers and 3 continues with references to hidden shapes in logos and stories in brands.

This is followed by the pair 2-5, both giving an example of the Commonwealth bank logo.

Hence, the order of sentences is 4325 and 1 is the odd one out.

Hence, 1 is the answer.

###TOPIC###Verbal||Verbal Reasoning||Parajumbles###

Tag Type: Type 2

Extra Tag: Byju's

Extra Tag: CAT 2017 Slot 2

