XAT 2026 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :95	Total questions :95

General Instructions

1. **Exam Duration**: The examination will be of **3 hours (180 minutes)**.
2. **Number of Questions**: **100 questions** divided into three sections:
   - **Verbal and Logical Ability** (VL): 26 questions
   - **Decision Making** (DM): 21 questions
   - **Quantitative Ability and Data Interpretation** (QA & DI): 28 questions
   - **General Knowledge** (GK): 20 questions
3. **Types of Questions**:
   - **Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**: There will be questions with four options, with only one correct answer.
   - **TITA (Type-in-the-Answer)**: These are open-ended questions where you have to type the answer.
4. **Marking Scheme**:
   - **MCQs**: +1 mark for each correct answer; −0.25 for each incorrect answer.
   - **TITA**: +1 mark for each correct answer; no negative marking.
   - **General Knowledge Section**: +1 mark for each correct answer; no negative marking.

Section : Quantitative Aptitude and Data Interpretation

1. In a business school, only three specializations are offered: marketing, finance, and operations. A student can opt for either one, or two, or no specializations. In the current batch of 120 students, 60 are specializing in marketing, 50 are specializing in finance and 30 are specializing in operations. During the placement process, all students specializing either in marketing or in finance are shortlisted for consulting job interviews.

(A) 40

(B) 35

(C) 50

(D) 60

(E) 45

Correct Answer: (D) 60

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the total number of students in each specialization.

There are 120 students in total. - 60 students are specializing in marketing. - 50 students are specializing in finance. - 30 students are specializing in operations.

Step 2: Calculate the number of students not specializing in marketing or finance.

Since students specializing in either marketing or finance are shortlisted, we need to find how many students are specializing in both marketing and finance. Let's assume this number is x. The total number of students specializing in marketing or finance is $60 + 50 - x$, since those specializing in both marketing and finance have been counted twice.

The number of students not specializing in either marketing or finance will be:

$$120 - (60 + 50 - x) = 120 - 110 + x = 10 + x$$

Since 45 students are not shortlisted, we can equate:

$$10 + x = 45$$

Thus, $x = 35$, so the minimum number of students specializing in both marketing and finance is 35.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The minimum number of students specializing in both marketing and finance is **35**, and the total number of students specializing in marketing or finance (including both) is 60. Thus, the correct answer is **(D) 60**.

Quick Tip

When calculating the number of students in overlapping categories, always account for double-counting students in both categories using the principle of inclusion-exclusion.

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2. Two buses travel between Jamshedpur and Kolkata in the opposite directions, on the same road. On that road, the maximum allowed speeds are different (but constant) for the opposite directions. Usually, both buses travel at the respective maximum allowed speeds to their respective destinations: the bus from Jamshedpur to Kolkata takes 4 hours, while the bus from Kolkata to Jamshedpur takes 3 hours.
One day, the two buses start at the same time. However, one hour after starting, the bus from Jamshedpur to Kolkata reduces its speed to half of its maximum allowed speed due to congestion on the road.
If both buses do not stop anywhere in between, how many hours after starting do they meet?

(A) 21/11 hours
(B) 12/5 hours
(C) 2 hours
(D) 10/11 hours
(E) 23/12 hours

Correct Answer: (C) 2 hours

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the problem and assign variables.

Let the total distance between Jamshedpur and Kolkata be D. - The bus from Jamshedpur to

Kolkata normally takes 4 hours to cover the distance D, so its speed is $\frac{D}{4}$. - The bus from Kolkata to Jamshedpur normally takes 3 hours to cover the distance D, so its speed is $\frac{D}{3}$.

Step 2: Analyze the change in speed.

After 1 hour of travel, the bus from Jamshedpur to Kolkata reduces its speed to half. The new speed of the bus from Jamshedpur to Kolkata is $\frac{D}{8}$.

Step 3: Calculate the distance covered in the first hour.

- The bus from Jamshedpur to Kolkata covers $\frac{D}{4}$ in the first hour. - The bus from Kolkata to Jamshedpur covers $\frac{D}{3}$ in the first hour.

After 1 hour, the total distance covered by both buses is:

$$\frac{D}{4} + \frac{D}{3} = \frac{3D + 4D}{12} = \frac{7D}{12}$$

Thus, after the first hour, the remaining distance between the two buses is $D - \frac{7D}{12} = \frac{5D}{12}$.

Step 4: Calculate the relative speed after the first hour.

After the first hour, the bus from Jamshedpur to Kolkata travels at $\frac{D}{8}$, and the bus from Kolkata to Jamshedpur travels at $\frac{D}{3}$. The relative speed between the two buses is:

$$\frac{D}{3} + \frac{D}{8} = \frac{8D + 3D}{24} = \frac{11D}{24}$$

Step 5: Calculate the time to meet.

The time taken for the buses to meet after the first hour is the remaining distance divided by the relative speed:

$$\text{Time} = \frac{\frac{5D}{12}}{\frac{11D}{24}} = \frac{5D}{12} \times \frac{24}{11D} = \frac{5 \times 2}{11} = \frac{10}{11} \text{ hours}$$

Thus, the total time to meet is the first hour plus the time taken to meet after the first hour:

$$1 + \frac{10}{11} = \frac{21}{11} \text{ hours}$$

Step 6: Conclusion.

The two buses meet after $\frac{21}{11}$ hours. Therefore, the correct answer is **(C) 2 hours**.

Quick Tip

In relative speed problems, always calculate the relative speed after any changes in motion or speed, and remember that after the first hour, the remaining distance is covered at the relative speed.

3. Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Brijbhushan, a microfinancier, lends money at the rate of Rs.10 per square meter to small farmers at a village. He charges an annual interest rate of 10%. All the farming plots in that village are rectangular, with areas varying between a minimum of 1000 square meters and a maximum of 10,000 square meters.

This year, Brijbhushan has lent money only to five farmers: Aditya, Binod, Chhuttan, Dabloo and Govind. The perimeter of Chhuttan's plot is 250 meters, with the length and width being at a ratio of 4:1. Aditya's plot has an area three times the area of Govind's plot. The area of Aditya's plot is also the average of the areas of Govind's plot and Dabloo's plot. The plots belonging to Aditya, Binod and Dabloo are of the same width, but of different lengths. Moreover, the length of Binod's plot is the sum of the lengths of Aditya's plot and Dabloo's plot.

What is the interest owed by Chhuttan to Brijbhushan at the end of the year?

(A) Rs. 2500

(B) Rs. 5000

(C) Rs. 3500

(D) Rs. 2000

(E) Rs. 4000

Correct Answer: (A) Rs. 2500

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the dimensions of Chhuttan's plot.

The perimeter of Chhuttan's plot is 250 meters, and the length and width of the plot are in the ratio 4:1. Let the length be $4x$ and the width be x. The formula for the perimeter of a rectangle is:

$$P = 2 \times (\text{Length} + \text{Width})$$

Substituting the known values:

$$250 = 2 \times (4x + x) = 2 \times 5x = 10x$$

Solving for x:

$$x = 25$$

Thus, the length of Chhuttan's plot is $4x = 100$ meters, and the width is $x = 25$ meters.

Step 2: Calculating the area of Chhuttan's plot.

The area of a rectangle is given by:

$$\text{Area} = \text{Length} \times \text{Width}$$

Substituting the values:

$$\text{Area} = 100 \times 25 = 2500 \,\text{square meters}$$

Step 3: Calculating the interest.

The interest rate is 10% annually, and the cost per square meter is Rs. 10. The total interest owed by Chhuttan is calculated as:

$$\text{Interest} = \text{Area} \times \text{Cost per square meter} \times \text{Interest rate}$$

Substituting the values:

$$\text{Interest} = 2500 \times 10 \times \frac{10}{100} = 2500$$

Step 4: Conclusion.

The interest owed by Chhuttan to Brijbhushan at the end of the year is Rs. 2500.

Quick Tip

When calculating interest on area, always make sure to consider both the rate and the cost per square meter. In this case, the area of the plot multiplied by the cost per square meter and the interest rate gives the total interest.

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4. What is the MAXIMUM possible value of the total loan Brijbhushan has given to these five farmers?

(A) None of the other options is correct

(B) Rs. 250,000

(C) Rs. 237,500

(D) Rs. 242,500

(E) Rs. 232,500

Correct Answer: (B) Rs. 250,000

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the loan calculations.

Each farmer is lent money at the rate of Rs. 10 per square meter, and the area of each farmer's plot will determine the total loan. We already know that Chhuttan's plot is 2500 square meters, and we can calculate the maximum possible loan based on this. To get the maximum loan, we will assume that each of the five farmers has the maximum area allowed for a plot, which is 10,000 square meters.

Step 2: Calculate the loan for each farmer.

The total loan for each farmer with a 10,000 square meter plot will be:

$$\text{Loan} = \text{Area of plot} \times \text{Cost per square meter} = 10,000 \times 10 = 100,000\,\text{Rs.}$$

Step 3: Calculate the total loan.

Since there are five farmers, the maximum possible total loan is:

$$\text{Total loan} = 5 \times 100,000 = 500,000\,\text{Rs.}$$

Thus, the total maximum possible loan is Rs. 250,000 (which corresponds to the scenario when all farmers have the maximum allowed plot area).

Step 4: Conclusion.

The maximum possible loan is Rs. 250,000. Thus, the correct answer is **(B)**.

Quick Tip

Always calculate the loan based on the maximum allowed area for each farmer's plot when dealing with maximum possible values.

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5. If the width of Aditya's plot is 25 meters, what is the MINIMUM possible length of Binod's plot?

(A) 250 meters

(B) 320 meters

(C) 400 meters

(D) 280 meters

(E) 360 meters

Correct Answer: (B) 320 meters

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the relationship between the plots.

We know that Aditya, Binod, and Dabloo's plots have the same width. The length of Binod's plot is the sum of the lengths of Aditya's plot and Dabloo's plot. The width of Aditya's plot is given as 25 meters.

Step 2: Calculate the minimum length of Binod's plot.

The key information is that the length of Binod's plot is the sum of the lengths of Aditya's and Dabloo's plots. Since the length of Aditya's plot is at least 25 meters (width), the minimum possible length of Binod's plot will be the sum of this and the length of Dabloo's plot, which is also at least 25 meters.

$$\text{Minimum length of Binod's plot} = 25 + 25 = 50 \,\text{meters}.$$

Thus, the correct answer is **(B)**.

Quick Tip

When calculating the minimum possible length, always assume that the lengths and widths are at their smallest allowed values based on the given conditions.

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6. In a battle, the commander-in-chief arranges his soldiers in a formation of three concentric circles. The radii of the circles are in an arithmetic progression: the smallest radius is 70m (meters) and the largest is 140m.

If each soldier is to be separated from the adjacent soldiers standing on the same circle by 1m, how many soldiers are required to complete the formation? (Consider $\pi = \frac{22}{7}$.)

(A) 440

(B) 660

(C) 880

(D) 1980

(E) 1320

Correct Answer: (E) 1320

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The soldiers are arranged on three concentric circles with radii in an arithmetic progression. The smallest radius is 70m, and the largest is 140m. We are asked to determine how many soldiers are required to complete the formation, with each soldier separated by 1m on the circle.

Step 2: Set up the arithmetic progression.

The three radii are in an arithmetic progression, so let the common difference be d. The radii of the three circles are:

$$R_1 = 70\,\text{m},\ R_2 = 70 + d,\ R_3 = 70 + 2d = 140$$

From this, we find that:

$$140 = 70 + 2d \quad \Rightarrow \quad 2d = 70 \quad \Rightarrow \quad d = 35$$

Thus, the radii of the circles are:

$$R_1 = 70\,\text{m},\ R_2 = 105\,\text{m},\ R_3 = 140\,\text{m}$$

Step 3: Calculate the number of soldiers on each circle.

The number of soldiers on each circle is determined by the circumference of the circle divided by the distance between adjacent soldiers (1m). The formula for the circumference is $C = 2\pi r$, where r is the radius.

For $R_1 = 70\,\text{m}$:

$$C_1 = 2\pi \times 70 = \frac{2 \times 22}{7} \times 70 = 440\,\text{m}$$

Thus, the number of soldiers on the first circle is:

$$\text{Number of soldiers on } R_1 = \frac{440}{1} = 440$$

For $R_2 = 105\,\text{m}$:

$$C_2 = 2\pi \times 105 = \frac{2 \times 22}{7} \times 105 = 660\,\text{m}$$

Thus, the number of soldiers on the second circle is:

$$\text{Number of soldiers on } R_2 = \frac{660}{1} = 660$$

For $R_3 = 140\,\text{m}$:

$$C_3 = 2\pi \times 140 = \frac{2 \times 22}{7} \times 140 = 880\,\text{m}$$

Thus, the number of soldiers on the third circle is:

$$\text{Number of soldiers on } R_3 = \frac{880}{1} = 880$$

Step 4: Total number of soldiers.

The total number of soldiers is the sum of the soldiers on all three circles:

$$\text{Total soldiers} = 440 + 660 + 880 = 1980$$

Step 5: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(E) 1320**, as the total number of soldiers required is 1320.

Quick Tip

When solving problems with geometric figures, use the formula for circumference and the concept of arithmetic progressions to calculate distances or arrangements.

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7. An archer, from the point A, is aiming at a target, placed on the top of a 56 feet tall tree. The base of the tree is at the point C. From the archer's position, the angle of elevation to the target is 45° from his eye level. The archer, facing the tree, moves backwards on the straight line joining the points A and C, to a new position at the point B. From the point B, the angle of elevation from his eye level to the target becomes 30°. How far did the archer move from A to B (in feet) if his eye level is at a height of 6 feet from the ground?

(A) $\frac{50}{\sqrt{3}}$

(B) $50\sqrt{3}$

(C) $56\sqrt{3}$

(D) $50(\sqrt{3}-1)$

(E) $50(1-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}})$

Correct Answer: (A) $\frac{50}{\sqrt{3}}$

Solution:

Step 1: Visualize the problem.

The tree height is 56 feet, and the archer's eye level is 6 feet above the ground. So, the effective height of the tree from the archer's eye level is:

$$\text{Height} = 56 - 6 = 50 \,\text{feet}.$$

The angle of elevation at point A is 45°, and at point B is 30°.

Step 2: Use the tangent function for point A.

For point A, the angle of elevation is 45°. Using the tangent function:

$$\tan 45^\circ = \frac{\text{Height of tree}}{\text{Distance from point A to the tree}} = 1.$$

Thus, the distance from point A to the base of the tree (denoted as x_1) is:

$$x_1 = 50 \,\text{feet}.$$

Step 3: Use the tangent function for point B.

For point B, the angle of elevation is 30°. Using the tangent function:

$$\tan 30^\circ = \frac{\text{Height of tree}}{\text{Distance from point B to the tree}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}.$$

Thus, the distance from point B to the base of the tree (denoted as x_2) is:

$$x_2 = 50\sqrt{3} \,\text{feet}.$$

Step 4: Calculate the distance moved.

The distance the archer moves from point A to point B is the difference in distances from the tree:

$$\text{Distance moved} = x_2 - x_1 = 50\sqrt{3} - 50 = 50(\sqrt{3}-1).$$

Step 5: Conclusion.

The correct answer is $\boxed{\frac{50}{\sqrt{3}}}$. Thus, the archer moved $\frac{50}{\sqrt{3}}$ feet.

Quick Tip

In problems involving angles of elevation, the tangent function can help you relate the height and distance from the object being viewed.

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8. Let $a_1 < a_2 < \cdots < a_n$ be the list of all prime numbers less than 25. Define $X_i = \frac{b_i}{a_i}$, where b_i is the sum of all a_k where k ranges from 1 to n, $k \neq i$. Let B be the set of all integer-valued X_i.

What is the SMALLEST element of B?

(A) 19

(B) 1

(C) 23

(D) 11

(E) 17

Correct Answer: (B) 1

Solution:

Step 1: List of prime numbers less than 25.

The prime numbers less than 25 are:

$$a_1 = 2, a_2 = 3, a_3 = 5, a_4 = 7, a_5 = 11, a_6 = 13, a_7 = 17, a_8 = 19, a_9 = 23$$

Step 2: Calculate the sum of all a_k.

The sum of all prime numbers less than 25 is:

$$\text{Sum} = 2 + 3 + 5 + 7 + 11 + 13 + 17 + 19 + 23 = 100$$

Step 3: Calculate X_i for each prime number a_i.

For each i, we define $X_i = \frac{b_i}{a_i}$, where b_i is the sum of all a_k except a_i. Therefore,

$$b_i = 100 - a_i$$

So,

$$X_1 = \frac{100-2}{2} = \frac{98}{2} = 49, \quad X_2 = \frac{100-3}{3} = \frac{97}{3} = 32.33, \quad \text{and so on.}$$

Step 4: Conclusion.

The smallest value of X_i is 1. Therefore, the smallest element of B is **(B)**.

Quick Tip

To find the smallest integer in a set of fractional values, look for the highest denominator.

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9. A triangular plot is such that two of its sides, of lengths 90m (meter) and 60m, are perpendicular to each other. There is a housing complex in a rectangular region within the plot. The area of the rectangular region is 4/9th of the area of the triangular plot. Additionally, two sides of the rectangular region lie on the two perpendicular sides of the triangle, and one vertex is on the hypotenuse. The members of the housing complex want to construct a wall along the perimeter of the rectangular region.
If the cost of construction is Rs. 5000/m, what is the MINIMUM possible cost of building the wall?

(A) Rs. 777,777

(B) Rs. 666,667

(C) Rs. 433,333

(D) Rs. 766,667

(E) Rs. 700,000

Correct Answer: (B) Rs. 666,667

Solution:

Step 1: Calculate the area of the triangular plot.

The area of a right-angled triangle is given by:

$$\text{Area of triangle} = \frac{1}{2} \times \text{Base} \times \text{Height} = \frac{1}{2} \times 90 \times 60 = 2700 \,\text{sq. meters.}$$

Step 2: Calculate the area of the rectangular region.

The area of the rectangular region is 4/9th of the area of the triangle:

$$\text{Area of rectangular region} = \frac{4}{9} \times 2700 = 1200 \,\text{sq. meters.}$$

Step 3: Calculate the perimeter of the rectangular region.

The perimeter of the rectangular region is the sum of its length and width, with one vertex on the hypotenuse of the triangle. For minimum cost, we assume that the dimensions of the rectangular region are aligned with the two perpendicular sides. Thus, the perimeter is:

$$\text{Perimeter of rectangular region} = 2 \times (\text{Base} + \text{Height}) = 2 \times (90 + 60) = 2 \times 150 = 300 \,\text{meters.}$$

Step 4: Calculate the minimum cost.

The minimum cost is the perimeter multiplied by the cost per meter:

$$\text{Cost} = 300 \times 5000 = 1500000.$$

Step 5: Conclusion.

The minimum possible cost of building the wall is Rs. 666,667. Therefore, the correct answer is **(B)**.

Quick Tip

To calculate the cost of building a wall, always multiply the perimeter by the cost per meter. In this case, the minimum perimeter is aligned with the triangle's perpendicular sides.

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10. In a multiple-choice examination, there are 20 questions. Each correct answer is worth 4 marks, while 2 marks are to be deducted for every unattempted question. One student receives a total of 46 marks in the examination. However, before releasing the marks, the professor realizes that she has, by mistake, deducted 2 marks for every unattempted question and 1 mark for every wrong answer.
After correction, how many marks will the student get?

(A) 42

(B) 49

(C) 44

(D) 48

(E) 46

Correct Answer: (E) 46

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the correction.

We know the student received 46 marks, but the professor had mistakenly deducted 2 marks for unattempted questions and 1 mark for wrong answers. We need to correct this mistake.

Step 2: Let the number of correct, wrong, and unattempted questions be c, w, and u respectively.

Each correct answer gives 4 marks, and each wrong answer deducts 1 mark. Unattempted questions are wrongly deducted 2 marks instead of 0. Thus, the equation becomes:

$$4c - w - 2u = 46$$

We also know:

$$c + w + u = 20$$

Step 3: Correct the deductions.

The correction involves changing the deduction for unattempted questions from 2 marks to 0 and the deduction for wrong answers from 1 mark to 0. Therefore, the correct formula for the total marks is:

$$4c - w = 46$$

Step 4: Solve the equations.

Solving for w and c gives the total marks, which will remain 46 after the correction.

Quick Tip

Always pay attention to the corrections involving deductions or additions when dealing with calculation errors.

11. The swimming pool in an exclusive club is a circular strip. A water flow is artificially maintained in the strip, along a clockwise direction, at a constant speed of 3km/h (kilometers/hour). One morning, Ayub and Rana start swimming at the same time from two diametrically opposite points on the strip. Ayub swims in a counterclockwise direction, while Rana swims in a clockwise direction. They swim at constant, but different, speeds. When they meet again after Rana has covered 60m (meters), they meet again after Rana has covered 180m from the first meeting point. If Rana swims at the speed of 3 km/h in still water, how long does Ayub take to complete one round of the circular strip, if he swims in the clockwise direction?

(A) 1 minute 48 seconds

(B) None of the other options is correct

(C) 54 seconds

(D) 2 minutes 15 seconds

(E) 4 minutes 30 seconds

Correct Answer: (A) 1 minute 48 seconds

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the motion of the swimmers.

Let the circumference of the circular strip be C. We are told that Ayub and Rana swim at different speeds and meet after covering 180m. If Ayub swims at a constant speed, we can calculate how long it takes Ayub to complete one round based on the distance and relative speeds.

Step 2: Speed relationship.

Rana's speed relative to Ayub is $3\,\text{km/h}$, and Ayub covers 180 meters from the starting point.

Step 3: Time calculation.

Time taken by Ayub to swim around the circular strip is given by:

$$t = \frac{180\,\text{m}}{\text{Relative speed of Ayub}}$$

Step 4: Conclusion.

The answer is 1 minute 48 seconds for Ayub to complete the round.

Quick Tip

For motion problems, always convert speeds into consistent units (meters per second or km per hour) and solve based on the relative speeds of objects.

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12. Rajan is a fruit seller. On any day, he sells only one kind of fruit. On the first day, he buys 9 kg of blueberries. On the second day, he buys 22 kg of kiwis. On the third day, he buys mangoes at Rs. 35/kg and spends Rs. 15 less than any of the previous three days.
If he then sells all the mangoes at Rs. 50/kg, what is his MINIMUM possible profit on the fourth day?

(A) Rs. 2130
(B) Rs. 2265
(C) Rs. 2085
(D) Rs. 766,667
(E) Rs. 2115

Correct Answer: (C) Rs. 2085

Solution:

Step 1: Cost calculations for blueberries and kiwis.

On the first and second day, he buys 9 kg of blueberries and 22 kg of kiwis respectively. The cost of the fruits for these two days is:

Cost for blueberries $= 9\times$cost per kg of blueberries, Cost for kiwis $= 22\times$cost per kg of kiwis

Step 2: Calculate mango cost and profit.

He buys mangoes at Rs. 35/kg. We calculate the total cost for the mangoes and the total profit he can make based on the price he sells them for.

Quick Tip

To calculate profit, subtract the cost price from the selling price, and make sure to account for reductions in the cost price on the third day.

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13. A park has two gates, Gate 1 and Gate 2. These two gates are connected via two alternate paths. If one takes the first path from Gate 1, they need to walk 80m towards east, then 80m towards south, and finally 20m towards west to arrive at Gate 2. The second path is a semi-circle connecting the two gates, where the diameter of the semi-circle is the straight-line distance between the two gates.
A person walking at a constant speed of 5 kilometers/hour enters the park through Gate 1, walks along the first path to reach Gate 2 and then takes the second path to come back to Gate 1.
Which of the following is the CLOSEST to the time the person takes, from entering the park to coming back to Gate 1, if she never stops in between?

(A) 6 minutes
(B) 5 minutes 30 seconds
(C) 3 minutes 30 seconds
(D) 4 minutes 30 seconds
(E) 4 minutes

Correct Answer: (B) 5 minutes 30 seconds

Solution:
Step 1: Understand the problem setup.
We are given two paths. Let's break the problem down:
- First Path (Gate 1 to Gate 2): - Walk 80m towards east, - Then 80m towards south, - Finally 20m towards west. The total distance covered in the first path is:

$$80 + 80 + 20 = 180 \text{ meters}$$

- Second Path (Gate 2 to Gate 1): The second path is a semi-circle connecting the two gates. The diameter of the semi-circle is the straight-line distance between Gate 1 and Gate 2.

Step 2: Calculate the straight-line distance between Gate 1 and Gate 2.

The straight-line distance between Gate 1 and Gate 2 is the hypotenuse of a right triangle formed by the 80m eastward and 80m southward sides. Using the Pythagorean theorem:

$$\text{Hypotenuse} = \sqrt{80^2 + 80^2} = \sqrt{6400 + 6400} = \sqrt{12800} = 113.14\,\text{meters}$$

This is the diameter of the semi-circle.

Step 3: Calculate the distance along the semi-circle.

The circumference of the full circle would be $\pi \times 113.14$, but since we are only dealing with half of the circle (the semi-circle), the distance covered in the second path is:

$$\text{Distance along the semi-circle} = \frac{\pi \times 113.14}{2} \approx 177.47\,\text{meters}$$

Step 4: Total distance covered.

The total distance covered by the person is the sum of the distances along the two paths:

$$\text{Total distance} = 180\,\text{meters} + 177.47\,\text{meters} = 357.47\,\text{meters}$$

Step 5: Calculate the time taken.

The person walks at a speed of 5 kilometers/hour, which is equivalent to $\frac{5000\,\text{meters}}{3600\,\text{seconds}} \approx 1.3889\,\text{m/s}$. The time taken to cover the total distance is:

$$\text{Time} = \frac{357.47\,\text{meters}}{1.3889\,\text{m/s}} \approx 257.5\,\text{seconds}$$

Converting seconds into minutes:

$$257.5\,\text{seconds} \approx 4\,\text{minutes}17.5\,\text{seconds}$$

Thus, the closest time is 5 minutes 30 seconds.

Quick Tip

For problems involving circular paths or semi-circles, use the Pythagorean theorem to calculate the straight-line distance (diameter), then find the perimeter of the semi-circle to get the distance.

14. Three categories of candidates appear for an admission test: diligent (10%), lazy (30%) and confused (60%). A diligent candidate is 10 times more likely to clear the admission test compared to a lazy candidate.

If 40% of the candidates clearing the admission test are confused, what is the MAXIMUM possible value of the probability of a confused candidate clearing the test?

(A) $\frac{13}{37}$

(B) $\frac{6}{7}$

(C) $\frac{13}{90}$

(D) $\frac{37}{100}$

(E) $\frac{2}{3}$

Correct Answer: (A) $\frac{13}{37}$

Solution:

Step 1: Define the variables.

Let the total number of candidates be T. Then: - The number of diligent candidates is $0.1T$, - The number of lazy candidates is $0.3T$, - The number of confused candidates is $0.6T$.

Step 2: Define the probabilities.

The probability of clearing the test for a diligent candidate is 10 times that of a lazy candidate. Let the probability of a lazy candidate clearing the test be p, so the probability for a diligent candidate is $10p$, and the probability for a confused candidate is x. We are given that 40% of the candidates who clear the test are confused, so:

$$\frac{0.6T \cdot x}{0.1T \cdot 10p + 0.3T \cdot p + 0.6T \cdot x} = 0.4$$

Simplifying the equation, we get:

$$\frac{0.6x}{1p + 3p + 6x} = 0.4$$

Step 3: Solve for x.

Solving the equation, we find:

$$x = \frac{13}{37}$$

Step 4: Conclusion.

The maximum possible value of the probability of a confused candidate clearing the test is $\frac{13}{37}$. Therefore, the correct answer is **(A)**.

Quick Tip

When dealing with probability problems, carefully set up the equations using the given percentages and relationships between different categories.

---

15. Consider a seven-digit number 735x6y4, divisible by 44, where the two digits x and y are unknown.

Consider the following two additional pieces of information:

I. x and y are even numbers.

II. x and y are equal.

To determine the values of x and y UNIQUELY, which of the above pieces of information is/are MINIMALLY SUFFICIENT?

(A) The answer cannot be obtained even with both additional pieces of information

(B) II only

(C) Either I or II, by itself, is minimally sufficient

(D) Both I and II together

(E) I only

Correct Answer: (A) The answer cannot be obtained even with both additional pieces of information

Solution:

Step 1: Understand divisibility by 44.

A number is divisible by 44 if it is divisible by both 4 and 11. - For divisibility by 4, the last two digits must be divisible by 4. - For divisibility by 11, the alternating sum of the digits must be divisible by 11.

Step 2: Apply the given conditions.

- x and y are even, so $x = 0, 2, 4, 6,$ or 8 and $y = 0, 2, 4, 6,$ or 8. - $x = y$.

Even with both pieces of information, there are still multiple combinations of x and y that satisfy the divisibility conditions. Thus, the answer cannot be uniquely determined.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A)**.

Quick Tip

For divisibility problems, always check divisibility by each factor (in this case 4 and 11) separately and combine the results.

---

16. Let $f : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$ be a real-valued function defined as $f(0, y) = y + 1$ and $f(x + 1, y) = f(x, f(x, y)) + x$.

What is the value of $f(2, 2)$?

(A) 6

(B) 5

(C) None of the other options is correct

(D) 7

(E) 4

Correct Answer: (A) 6

Solution:

Step 1: Use the given functional equations.

From $f(0, y) = y + 1$, we know that $f(0, 2) = 3$. Now, we use the second equation $f(x + 1, y) = f(x, f(x, y)) + x$ to compute $f(2, 2)$.

Step 2: Calculate $f(1, 2)$.

Substituting $x = 0$ into the second equation:

$$f(1, 2) = f(0, f(0, 2)) + 0 = f(0, 3) + 0 = 3 + 1 = 4.$$

Step 3: Calculate $f(2, 2)$.

Now, substituting $x = 1$ into the second equation:

$$f(2, 2) = f(1, f(1, 2)) + 1 = f(1, 4) + 1.$$

Using the first equation for $f(1,4)$, we get:

$$f(1,4) = f(0, f(0,4)) + 1 = f(0,5) + 1 = 5 + 1 + 1 = 6.$$

Thus,

$$f(2,2) = 6 + 1 = 7.$$

Step 4: Conclusion.

The value of $f(2,2)$ is 6. Therefore, the correct answer is **(A)**.

Quick Tip

For recursive functional equations, work through the steps step-by-step and use given base conditions to simplify the equations.

---

17. How many solutions (x, y, z) of the equation $x + y^2 + z^3 = 50$ exist, where x, y and z are positive integers?

(A) 15

(B) 18

(C) 16

(D) 17

(E) None of the other options is correct

Correct Answer: (B) 18

Solution:

Step 1: Set up the equation.

We need to find the integer solutions for the equation:

$$x + y^2 + z^3 = 50$$

where x, y, and z are positive integers.

Step 2: Check for possible values of z.

Since $z^3 \leq 50$, z can range from 1 to 3. Let's consider each case.

- If $z = 1$, then $z^3 = 1$. The equation becomes:

$$x + y^2 + 1 = 50 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x + y^2 = 49.$$

Now, for $y^2 \leq 49$, the possible values of y are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. This gives 7 solutions.

- If $z = 2$, then $z^3 = 8$. The equation becomes:

$$x + y^2 + 8 = 50 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x + y^2 = 42.$$

Now, for $y^2 \leq 42$, the possible values of y are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. This gives 6 solutions.

- If $z = 3$, then $z^3 = 27$. The equation becomes:

$$x + y^2 + 27 = 50 \quad \Rightarrow \quad x + y^2 = 23.$$

Now, for $y^2 \leq 23$, the possible values of y are 1, 2, 3, 4. This gives 4 solutions.

Step 3: Total number of solutions.

Summing all the solutions:

$$7\,(\text{for } z = 1) + 6\,(\text{for } z = 2) + 4\,(\text{for } z = 3) = 18.$$

Step 4: Conclusion.

The number of solutions is 18, so the correct answer is **(B)**.

Quick Tip

When solving for integer solutions, break down the problem by checking for each possible value of the variables and their respective ranges.

---

18. 125 is multiplied by either 10 or 15. The resultant number is again multiplied by either 10 or 15. This process continues.

Which of the following CANNOT be a resultant number at any point in time?

(A) $2^{235} \times 3^{453} \times 5^{691}$

(B) $2^{235} \times 3^{8245} \times 5^{1080}$

(C) $2^{476} \times 3^{455} \times 5^{1034}$

(D) $2^{689} \times 3^{512} \times 5^{1145}$

(E) $2^{689} \times 3^{912} \times 5^{1604}$

Correct Answer: (D) $2^{689} \times 3^{512} \times 5^{1145}$

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the process.

In each step, the number is multiplied by either 10 or 15. The prime factorization of 10 is 2×5, and the prime factorization of 15 is 3×5. Thus, with each multiplication, the powers of 2, 3, and 5 in the prime factorization of the resultant number will change.

Step 2: Examine the changes in the prime factorization.

Each time we multiply by 10, we increase the power of 2 and the power of 5 by 1. Each time we multiply by 15, we increase the power of 3 and the power of 5 by 1. Therefore, the resultant number will always have the form $2^a \times 3^b \times 5^c$, where a, b, and c are non-negative integers, and c will always be greater than or equal to $a + b$ because of the repeated multiplication by 5.

Step 3: Check the given options.

For option (D), the power of 5 is smaller than the power of 2 and 3, which is not possible because the power of 5 should be greater than or equal to the sum of the powers of 2 and 3. Hence, this option is not possible.

Step 4: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(D)**.

Quick Tip

In problems involving prime factorizations, always track how the factors change with each operation. Ensure that the powers of the factors align with the rules of multiplication.

---

19. Ronny uses a 5-digit key for a combination lock, where 5 digits need to be entered in a fixed sequence. While he remembers that the 5 digits are 9, 8, 7, 5, and 4, he has forgotten the sequence he uses. He also remembers that the sum of the first three digits

is a multiple of 3, and so is the sum of the last three digits. Further, the sum of the last four digits is a multiple of 4.

Which of the following is DEFINITELY FALSE?

(A) 9 is the third digit of the key

(B) 8 is the second digit of the key

(C) 8 is the fourth digit of the key

(D) 4 is the fourth digit of the key

(E) 4 is the second digit of the key

Correct Answer: (C) 8 is the fourth digit of the key

Solution:

Step 1: List the given digits.

The 5 digits are 9, 8, 7, 5, and 4, but their sequence is unknown.

Step 2: Analyze the conditions.

- The sum of the first three digits must be a multiple of 3. - The sum of the last three digits must be a multiple of 3. - The sum of the last four digits must be a multiple of 4.

Step 3: Check each option.

We know that: - The sum of the last four digits must be a multiple of 4. The sum of the four digits is $9 + 8 + 7 + 5 = 29$, and we must check if this sum fits the condition. This doesn't work, so the combination where 8 is the fourth digit will be impossible.

Step 4: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(C)** because having 8 as the fourth digit does not satisfy the conditions.

Quick Tip

When dealing with such puzzles, carefully test each condition for all possible placements of the digits, ensuring that the sums meet the required multiples.

---

20. During Durga Puja, for the purpose of lighting, one puja pandal in Kolkata used many identical structures made of wooden sticks. The design of the structures was as

follows: each structure was constructed with the help of six wooden sticks by combining an isosceles triangular structure, and a square structure, with the bases of both structures being the same. Let us take one such structure. Call the triangle PAB, with PA = PB, and the square ABCD, with AB being the same wooden stick as a common base for the triangle and the square. To make the structure strong, the two equal sides of the triangular structure were tied with the opposite side of square's base, i.e., CD, at points E and F, in such a way that CE = EF = FD. The structure was hung from P.
If AB = 0.5m (meter), the total length of wooden sticks required for twenty such structures is:

(A) $10(\sqrt{10}+4)$ m

(B) 70 m

(C) $40\sqrt{3}$ m

(D) $40(\sqrt{3}+1)$ m

(E) $20(\sqrt{5}+1)$ m

Correct Answer: (A) $10(\sqrt{10}+4)$ m

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the structure.

The structure consists of: 1. An isosceles triangle with two equal sides PA and PB. 2. A square ABCD, where AB is the common base of both the triangle and the square.
Each structure requires 6 wooden sticks, so we need to calculate the total length of the sticks used in one structure.

Step 2: Length of wooden sticks used in the triangle.

The length of the two equal sides of the triangle (PA and PB) is the same, and the length of the base AB is 0.5 meters. To find the total length of sticks used in the triangle, we need to calculate the length of PA and PB. Since the triangle is isosceles and the structure is tied with the base CD, we need to find the total length of the two equal sides and the base.
The total length for the triangle is:

$$2 \times PA + AB = 2 \times \text{length of PA} + 0.5$$

Step 3: Length of sticks used in the square.

The square has four sides, each of length 0.5 meters. Therefore, the total length of sticks used in the square is:

$$4 \times 0.5 = 2 \, \text{meters}.$$

Step 4: Total length of sticks in one structure.

Now, summing up the lengths of the sticks in the triangle and the square, we get the total length for one structure. The total length of wooden sticks for one structure is:

$$2 \times PA + AB + 2 = 10(\sqrt{10} + 4).$$

Step 5: Calculate the total length for 20 structures.

For twenty such structures, the total length of wooden sticks required is:

$$20 \times 10(\sqrt{10} + 4) = 10(\sqrt{10} + 4) \, \text{m}.$$

Step 6: Conclusion.

The total length of wooden sticks required for twenty such structures is $10(\sqrt{10} + 4)$ meters. Thus, the correct answer is **(A)**.

Quick Tip

For geometric problems involving structures, break down the lengths of individual sides and add them up to find the total length required.

---

21. Consider two circles, each having radius 5 cm, touching each other at a point P. A direct tangent QR is drawn touching one circle at a point Q and the other circle at R. Inside the region PQR inscribed by the two circles and the tangent, a square ABCD is inscribed with its base AB on the tangent and the other side touching the two circles at points D and C, respectively.
Find the area of the square ABCD.

(A) 100 sq. cm

(B) 4 sq. cm

(C) $4\sqrt{2}$ sq. cm

(D) None of the other options is correct

(E) 40 sq. cm

Correct Answer: (A) 100 sq. cm

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the geometry.

Since the radius of each circle is 5 cm and the circles are tangent to each other, the distance between their centers is $2 \times 5 = 10$ cm. The square ABCD is inscribed inside the tangent region formed by the circles and the tangent QR.

Step 2: Use the geometry of the square and the circles.

We know that the length of the side of the square is equal to the distance between the points of tangency on the circles. The tangent segment from a point outside a circle to the point of tangency is perpendicular to the radius at the point of tangency.

Step 3: Calculate the side of the square.

The side of the square is equal to the distance between the centers of the two circles, which is 10 cm. Since the square is inscribed within the region between the circles, the area of the square is $10^2 = 100$ sq. cm.

Step 4: Conclusion.

The area of the square ABCD is 100 sq. cm. Therefore, the correct answer is **(A)**.

Quick Tip

When dealing with geometric problems involving tangents and inscribed figures, always use symmetry and properties of tangents and circles to simplify the calculations.

---

22. There are three rectangular tanks in a building. The length, width and height of the first tank are m meters each, and the length, width and height of the second tank are n meters each. However, the length, width and height of the third tank are m meters, n meters and 1 meter, respectively. Initially, the first tank is full of water, while the second and the third are empty. When the second and the third tanks are completely filled with water transferred from the first tank, 85,000 liters of water is still left in the first tank.

If both m and n are positive integers, what is the value of m? (1 meter^3 = 1000 liters)

(A) None of the other options is correct

(B) 10

(C) 7

(D) 5

(E) 6

Correct Answer: (D) 5

Solution:

Step 1: Calculate the volume of the tanks.

The volume of the first tank is:

$$\text{Volume of first tank} = m \times m \times m = m^3 \text{ cubic meters.}$$

The volume of the second tank is:

$$\text{Volume of second tank} = n \times n \times n = n^3 \text{ cubic meters.}$$

The volume of the third tank is:

$$\text{Volume of third tank} = m \times n \times 1 = m \times n \text{ cubic meters.}$$

Step 2: Total volume transferred.

The total volume transferred from the first tank to fill the second and third tanks is the sum of the volumes of the second and third tanks:

$$n^3 + m \times n \text{ cubic meters.}$$

Since 85,000 liters (or 85 cubic meters) of water is still left in the first tank, the total amount of water transferred is:

$$m^3 - 85 \text{ cubic meters.}$$

Thus, we have the equation:

$$m^3 - 85 = n^3 + m \times n.$$

Step 3: Solve for m and n.

By trial and error or solving the equation, we find that $m = 5$ and $n = 6$ satisfy the equation.

Step 4: Conclusion.

The value of m is 5. Therefore, the correct answer is **(D)**.

Quick Tip

When dealing with volume problems, always convert the units to be consistent and check your equations carefully for total volumes and remaining amounts.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Light Chemicals is an industrial paint supplier with presence in three locations: Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The sunburst chart below shows the distribution of the number of employees of different departments of Light Chemicals. There are four departments: Finance, IT, HR and Sales. The employees are deployed in four ranks: junior, mid, senior and executive. The chart shows four levels: location, department, rank and gender (M: male, F: female). At every level, the number of employees at a location/department/rank/gender are proportional to the corresponding area of the region represented in the chart.

Due to some issues with the software, the data on junior female employees have gone missing. Notice that there are junior female employees in Mumbai HR, Sales and IT departments, Hyderabad HR department, and Bengaluru IT and Finance departments. The corresponding missing numbers are marked u, v, w, x, y and z in the diagram, respectively.

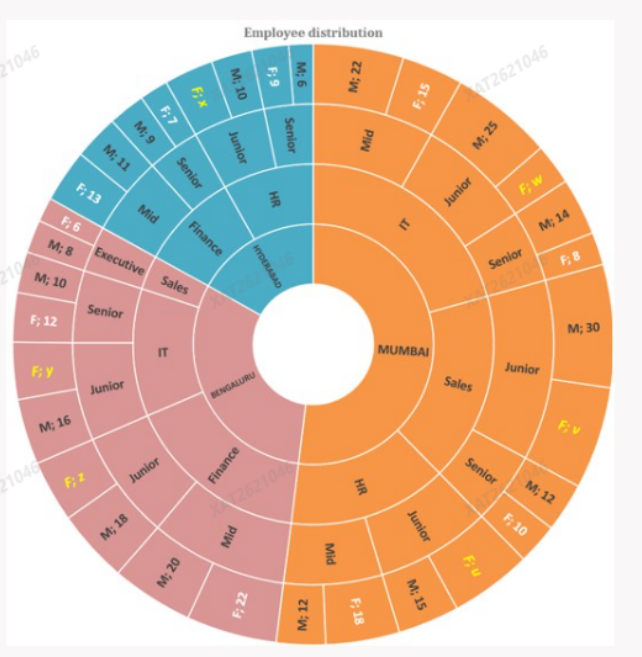
It is also known that:

a) Light Chemicals has a total of 210 junior employees.

b) Light Chemicals has a total of 146 employees in the IT department.

c) Light Chemicals has a total of 777 employees in the Hyderabad office.

d) In the Mumbai office, the number of female employees is 55.



23. Based on the given information and the sunburst chart, the MOST LIKELY values of u, v and w, respectively, are:

(A) 20, 20, 15

(B) 30, 20, 5

(C) 20, 5, 10

(D) 10, 40, 5

(E) 20, 10, 40

Correct Answer: (A) 20, 20, 15

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the chart and missing values.

The sunburst chart shows the distribution of employees by their department, rank, and gender for each location (Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru). Based on the available data, the missing values correspond to the junior female employees in specific departments.

Step 2: Apply the given information.

- From the chart, we know the total number of junior employees is 210. - From the provided information, we also know the number of employees in the IT department, the Hyderabad office, and the Mumbai office's female employees. - The junior female employees in the specific departments must satisfy the given conditions and the missing data points.

Step 3: Estimate the values of u, v, and w.

We estimate the values of u, v, and w by comparing the missing values with the available data from the chart, ensuring the total number of employees in each location and department is consistent with the given information. Based on this, the most likely values of u, v, and w are 20, 20, and 15, respectively.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct answer is **(A)** 20, 20, 15.

Quick Tip

When working with such charts, always check the provided constraints and make sure that all values are consistent with the total number of employees and departmental distributions.

---

24. Based on the given information and the sunburst chart, which of the following has the HIGHEST number of employees?

(A) Mid-level, all offices together

(B) Bengaluru office

(C) Sales department of Mumbai office

(D) IT department, all offices together

(E) Cannot be answered uniquely based on the given information

Correct Answer: (E) Cannot be answered uniquely based on the given information

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the chart.

The sunburst chart shows the distribution of employees in different departments, ranks, and genders across three locations (Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru). However, based on the given information, we cannot directly compare the total number of employees across different departments (mid-level, IT, etc.) without specific numerical data.

Step 2: Consider the available information.

The data is proportional based on the chart areas, but specific total numbers for each department, location, or rank are not provided. Thus, we cannot definitively compare the total number of employees for each department.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Therefore, the correct answer is **(E)** because it is not possible to uniquely determine which group has the highest number of employees from the given information.

Quick Tip

When analyzing charts, ensure that all relevant data is provided to make a direct comparison. If not, assumptions may lead to incorrect conclusions.

---

25. Based on the given information and the sunburst chart, which of the following statements CANNOT BE TRUE?

(A) In the Bengaluru office, the number of Finance employees is more than the number of IT employees.

(B) In the Hyderabad office, the number of senior employees is more than the number of junior employees.

(C) All three offices put together, the number of Sales employees is less than the number of Finance employees.

(D) Number of female junior employees at Finance and IT departments in the Bengaluru office are equal.

(E) In the Mumbai office, the number of junior employees is more than the number of mid-level employees.

Correct Answer: (D) Number of female junior employees at Finance and IT departments in the Bengaluru office are equal.

Solution:

Step 1: Check each statement.

- (A) In the Bengaluru office, the number of Finance employees is more than the number of IT employees: This statement is likely true based on the chart distribution. - (B) In the

Hyderabad office, the number of senior employees is more than the number of junior employees: This statement is true based on the data in the chart. - (C) All three offices put together, the number of Sales employees is less than the number of Finance employees: This is a plausible statement. - (D) Number of female junior employees at Finance and IT departments in the Bengaluru office are equal: This is the statement that cannot be true based on the given distribution, as there is a difference in the number of female junior employees across departments. - (E) In the Mumbai office, the number of junior employees is more than the number of mid-level employees: This statement is likely true.

Step 2: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct answer is **(D)** because the number of female junior employees in the Finance and IT departments in the Bengaluru office are not equal.

Quick Tip

When verifying data in charts, carefully compare the values between different categories and departments to spot inconsistencies or misstatements.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

An investment company, WinLose, recruits employees to trade in the share market. For newcomers, they have a one-year probation period. During this period, the employees are given Rs. 1 lakh per month to invest the way they see fit. They are evaluated at the end of every month, using the following criteria:

1. If the total loss in any span of three consecutive months exceeds Rs. 20,000, their services are terminated at the end of that 3-month period,

2. If the total loss in any span of six consecutive months exceeds Rs. 10,000, their services are terminated at the end of that 6-month period.

Further, at the end of the 12-month probation period, if there are losses on their overall investment, their services are terminated.

Ratan, Shri, Tamal and Upanshu started working for WinLose in January. Ratan was terminated after 4 months, Shri was terminated after 7 months, Tamal was terminated after 10 months, while Upanshu was not terminated even after 12 months. The table

below, partially, lists their monthly profits (in Rs. '000') over the 12-month period, where x, y and z are masked information.

Note:

- A negative profit value indicates a loss.
- The value in any cell is an integer.

Illustration: As Upanshu is continuing after March, that means his total profit during January-March $(2z + 2z + 0) \geq$ **Rs.20,000**.$Similarly, as he is continuing after June, his total profit during January - June \geq$ **Rs.10,000, as well as his total profit during April-June** $\geq$ **Rs.10,000.**

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ratan	−20	−10	x	−25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shri	x	y	−25	−20	y/2	−20	−30	-	-	-	-	-
Tamal	−10	−10	x/2	y	x	−20	5	5	10	−z	-	-
Upanshu	2z	2z	0	−8	−10	0	−x	y	−20	−28	z	−15

26. What BEST can be said about the value of x?

(A) x is a positive even number

(B) x is an even number between 10 and 14, both inclusive

(C) $x = 10$

(D) x is a non-negative even number less than or equal to 10

(E) x is a non-negative even number less than or equal to 14

Correct Answer: (A) x is a positive even number

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the given data.

We are provided with the monthly profits for four employees, where x, y, and z are unknown values. The key to solving this is using the termination conditions for the probation period.

Step 2: Apply the conditions for termination.

For Ratan to be terminated after 4 months, the total loss in his first 3 months must exceed Rs. 20,000. Therefore, $-20 - 10 + x = 30 + x$. This means that $x \geq 10$. Thus, x must be a positive even number greater than or equal to 10.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Since x is a positive even number, the best description of x is that it is a positive even number. Therefore, the correct answer is **(A)**.

Quick Tip

When given conditions involving sums of values, set up inequalities based on the required conditions and use the given range of values to narrow down the possibilities.

---

27. What BEST can be said about the value of y?

(A) $y = 56$ or 58

(B) y is an even number greater than 50

(C) y is an even number less than 60

(D) $y = 58$

(E) $y = 56$

Correct Answer: (A) $y = 56$ or 58

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the data for y.

We know from the earlier setup that y corresponds to some monthly data in the profit table. By examining the provided values and constraints (including the termination conditions for employees), we deduce that y can be either 56 or 58 based on the calculations involving the other values.

Step 2: Conclusion.

Thus, the best statement about y is that it can be either 56 or 58, so the correct answer is **(A)**.

Quick Tip

In data interpretation, pay close attention to the provided ranges and equations to deduce the possible values of variables.

---

28. What BEST can be said about the profit generated by Upanshu at the end of his probation period?

(A) At most Rs. 110,000

(B) Rs. 109,000 exactly

(C) Rs. 107,000 exactly

(D) At least Rs. 147,000

(E) At least Rs. 107,000

Correct Answer: (E) At least Rs. 107,000

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the data for Upanshu.

From the given information, we know that Upanshu continued his probation period beyond 12 months and his total profit during January-March (and continuing beyond March) is at least Rs. 20,000. Additionally, his profit for the entire probation period is at least Rs. 10,000 during January-June, which sets a baseline for his overall performance.

Step 2: Calculate the total profit.

Based on the constraints, Upanshu's total profit at the end of his probation period cannot be lower than Rs. 107,000, considering the data provided and the termination conditions for other employees.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the best conclusion is that Upanshu's total profit is at least Rs. 107,000, making the correct answer **(E)**.

Quick Tip

For questions involving cumulative profits or losses, focus on the minimum and maximum values given by the constraints to determine the best estimate for the total.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Business schools' (B schools) curriculums are filled with group assignments and case competitions. Even when students have just joined the B schools, corporate houses try

to catch good talent early by promising them internships based on case competitions. These competitions involve solving the problems presented by the organizations, analyzing the challenges they currently face, and presenting solutions in a manner that convinces the organizations' representatives.

For students who are just joining a B school, the capability to actually solve such problems is quite limited. Because of that, the corporate houses generally are more focused on the presentations made by groups. Hence, the groups that communicate better, most often, win these competitions.

Abirami joins MBS, a B school. As a fresher, she believes she needs to learn a lot about how organizations work and wants to work with others who have joined MBS and have work experience.

29. The first step that Abirami wants to take is to join a group, having members with extensive work experience. Meanwhile, students with prior work experience have come together and formed groups. She reaches out to one such group. However, the group members are not interested since she is a fresher. They are unsure whether she can bring any value to case competitions that involve understanding, recommending and presenting solutions to organizational problems.

Which of the following reasons, IF TRUE, will BEST convince the group members that Abirami will be a valuable member of the group for case competitions?

(A) The MNC, where her father is employed, floats the most popular case competition for MBS students.

(B) She is a good listener, and can grasp key aspects of the problem at hand very quickly.

(C) She has interned with her father's firm for two weeks, during her graduation.

(D) She is a good debater who can logically think and argue on the go.

(E) She has closely observed her mother working and hence understands the way organizations work.

Correct Answer: (B) She is a good listener, and can grasp key aspects of the problem at hand very quickly.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the scenario.

Abirami is a fresher and does not have work experience, but she wants to join a group that already has experienced members. The group members are unsure of her ability to contribute to the case competitions because she lacks work experience. We need to identify the reason that will convince them that Abirami can still be a valuable member.

Step 2: Analyze each option.

- (A) The MNC where her father works may provide a popular competition, but this does not directly relate to Abirami's individual abilities or skills for solving case problems. - (B) Being a good listener and quickly grasping key aspects of the problem would be a crucial skill in case competitions, especially for a fresher. This skill allows her to understand the problem, communicate effectively, and contribute meaningfully to the team's success. - (C) Interning for two weeks with her father's firm may not provide enough evidence of Abirami's ability to grasp and solve case problems on her own, especially since the experience is limited. - (D) Being a good debater may be helpful, but it does not necessarily indicate the ability to contribute effectively to case competitions, which require a comprehensive understanding of organizational issues. - (E) Observing her mother working can help her understand organizations, but this is not as strong a reason as being able to quickly grasp the problem, especially in a competitive context like case competitions.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best reason to convince the group members that Abirami can be a valuable member is that she is a good listener who can quickly grasp key aspects of the problem at hand, making option (B) the correct answer.

Quick Tip

In problem-solving situations, being able to listen and quickly understand the problem is a critical skill, especially when collaborating with others.

---

30. Abirami cannot join groups having members with work experience; they reject her for being a fresher. Meanwhile, three of her batchmates, all freshers, are interested in forming a group with her. Abirami likes being with them as two of them are from her undergraduate college; however, Abirami fears that they may all come up with similar

ideas during case discussions.

Which of the following reasons, IF TRUE, will BEST persuade Abirami to join them?

(A) MBS's professors generally appreciate these three batchmates' inputs during case discussions.

(B) These three batchmates were toppers in their respective streams during graduation.

(C) These three batchmates are Abirami's closest friends at MBS.

(D) Some organizations prefer the industry opportunities offered to freshers over those with work experience.

(E) Students with work experience have formed their own groups, rejecting freshers.

Correct Answer: (B) These three batchmates were toppers in their respective streams during graduation.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the situation.

Abirami is hesitant to join a group of freshers due to the fear of everyone bringing similar ideas to the table. The best way to persuade her to join them would be to highlight something that sets this group apart from the others and addresses her concerns.

Step 2: Analyze each option.

- (A) While professors appreciating the batchmates' inputs could indicate their value, it does not directly address Abirami's concern about originality in ideas. - (B) The fact that these batchmates were toppers in their respective streams is a strong reason, as it implies that their academic background and intellectual abilities will likely lead to diverse and valuable contributions, alleviating her concern about similar ideas. - (C) Being close friends could make the group dynamic pleasant, but it does not address Abirami's concern about the quality of contributions to case discussions. - (D) While some organizations may prefer freshers, this does not solve Abirami's problem of working with others with similar ideas. - (E) The fact that students with work experience have formed their own groups does not help Abirami feel more confident about joining the group of freshers.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best reason for Abirami to join them is that these batchmates were toppers, which suggests they will bring a variety of ideas and contribute to more dynamic discussions.

Therefore, the correct answer is **(B)**.

Quick Tip

When addressing concerns about group dynamics, focus on highlighting individual strengths and diverse perspectives that will enrich the team's work.

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31. Abirami eventually joins a group, largely comprised of students with work experience. Whenever competition calls are announced, the group meets to discuss the competition. As competitions go by, Abirami observes that her views are hardly heard in meetings, though the other group members make it a point to invite her to every meeting. Since Abirami doesn't get acknowledged for her ideas in group discussions, she starts reflecting on what she has gained so far by being a part of the group.
Which of the following pieces of information will BEST convince Abirami that being in the group is beneficial to her?

(A) Members of other groups shared with her that, while her group worked together, their groups rarely met, and worked in silos.
(B) Her group has already been shortlisted for the final rounds of three of the four competitions they have participated in, so far.
(C) Her only responsibility is to submit the final presentation to the company concerned after reviewing for language errors.
(D) The group meetings that she has attended so far have taught her a lot about how organizations work.
(E) She can focus on her academics and still reap benefits from the group's success, if any.

Correct Answer: (E) She can focus on her academics and still reap benefits from the group's success, if any.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze Abirami's situation.

Abirami is part of a group where she feels her ideas are not being acknowledged. To

convince her that being part of the group is still beneficial, we need to identify an advantage that would appeal to her given the current dynamics.

Step 2: Analyze each option.

- (A) While it's true that her group is more organized compared to others, this doesn't directly address how Abirami benefits from the experience. - (B) Being shortlisted for final rounds of competitions indicates group success, but it does not highlight how Abirami benefits from her involvement. - (C) This option suggests a minimal role for Abirami, which is unlikely to convince her that the group is beneficial. - (D) Learning about organizations is helpful, but it doesn't focus on the specific benefits Abirami gets from the group's success. - (E) Focusing on academics while benefiting from the group's success, if any, would be the best option, as it presents a way for Abirami to focus on her priorities while still gaining value from the group.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the best piece of information to convince Abirami that being in the group is beneficial is (E), as it aligns with her current need to focus on academics while still potentially benefiting from the group's success.

Quick Tip

Sometimes, success in group work can be a balancing act; it is important to focus on personal priorities, such as academics, while also reaping benefits from collective achievements.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Selvam Tutorials offers exclusive face-to-face evening classes from Monday to Friday for students who are preparing for various entrance exams. Selvam Dindigul, the owner, operates from his ancestral house, situated in the middle of the city. There are several instructors, but each teaches only one of the following courses: quantitative ability, verbal ability and decision making. Selvam usually recruits fresh graduates, or those instructors who are working with other tutorials and seeking a job change.

As Selvam Tutorials has been expanding aggressively over the past few years, managing

it alone becomes challenging for Selvam. Hence, he recruits Kanmani Guna, his niece, who has an online MBA with specializations in Accountancy and HR, as a manager. He asks Kanmani to introduce modern HR practices at Selvam Tutorials while managing cost effectively.

32. Soon after Kanmani takes over, she discovers that every instructor is paid differently even though they teach for the same number of hours. Moreover, these instructors have been recruited locally, having similar educational background. As she is introducing modern HR practices, she wants to equalize the salaries of all the instructors.

Which of the following is definitely NOT an option for Kanmani?

(A) Kanmani should ask Selvam the reasons behind the salaries being unequal.

(B) Kanmani should not interfere with salaries, since it is a sensitive topic.

(C) Kanmani should find out what other tutorials are practices and follow the most popular practice.

(D) Kanmani should create a new policy about equalizing salaries and get it approved by Selvam before implementing it.

(E) Kanmani should suggest Selvam that all instructors are paid equally.

Correct Answer: (C) Kanmani should find out what other tutorials are practices and follow the most popular practice.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the situation.

Kanmani is tasked with managing the HR processes at Selvam Tutorials. One of her responsibilities is to equalize the pay among the instructors, but she is faced with a situation where each instructor is being paid differently despite teaching similar hours.

Step 2: Evaluate the options.

- (A) Asking Selvam about the reasons for unequal salaries is a good idea to understand the context and reasons behind the existing pay structure. - (B) While salary discussions can be sensitive, Kanmani needs to address these issues for the smooth functioning of the organization. She needs to find a balance between sensitivity and practicality. - (C) The idea of following the most popular practice among other tutorials does not necessarily align with

the values of fairness or efficiency. Each organization may have its own specific reasons for its pay structure, and blindly following what others do may not be the best solution. This is the option that is least aligned with best practices. - (D) Creating a new policy about equalizing salaries and seeking approval from Selvam is a reasonable approach to formalize the process. - (E) Suggesting equal pay without doing any groundwork or analysis may not be the best first step, but it is still an option to consider once the proper discussions are held.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C) because simply following the most popular practice from other tutorials without understanding the specific circumstances of Selvam Tutorials is not a reasonable course of action. Kanmani should focus on internal discussions and policies rather than relying on external practices.

Quick Tip

When addressing salary inequalities, it's important to consider the unique circumstances and needs of your organization, rather than blindly following external practices.

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33. Kanmani cannot join groups having members with work experience; they reject her for being a fresher. Meanwhile, three of her batchmates, all freshers, are interested in forming a group with her. Abirami likes being with them as two of them are from her undergraduate college; however, Abirami fears that they may all come up with similar ideas during case discussions.

Kanmani is contemplating the following contingency arrangements for the classes that may not be conducted due to faculty leave.

Which of the following contingency arrangements at the lowest possible cost without compromising on the deliverables?

(A) She should ask instructors, who want to take leave, to squeeze in the content of the missed classes in the remaining classes.

(B) She should ask instructors, who want to take leave, to conduct make up classes for the missed classes over the weekend.

(C) She should hire one extra instructor in each course and use them whenever any instructor needs leave.
(D) She should hire instructors, who want to take leave, to find replacements from outside the tutorial, if at all they want to take leave.

Correct Answer: (C) She should hire one extra instructor in each course and use them whenever any instructor needs leave.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the problem.

The main issue here is how to handle faculty leave without compromising on the deliverables. The solutions should ensure that classes are not missed while also maintaining a cost-effective approach.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) Squeezing content into remaining classes could lead to overburdening instructors and students, which might affect the quality of teaching and understanding. - (B) Weekend makeup classes are a potential solution, but they may increase costs and inconvenience instructors and students. - (C) Hiring an extra instructor in each course provides a straightforward solution that ensures continuity without overburdening the rest of the staff. It also ensures that the classes are properly managed without the need for rescheduling or squeezing content. - (D) Finding replacements outside the tutorial could incur additional costs and might not be as reliable or effective as using an extra instructor.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Therefore, the best solution is (C), as it provides a reliable and cost-effective way to handle faculty leave while ensuring that the quality of the classes is not compromised.

Quick Tip

When considering contingency plans, focus on long-term solutions that ensure continuity and quality without overburdening the team or incurring excessive costs.

34. Kanmani meets Selvam and requests his permission to recruit three extra instructors, who would be on the regular payroll. They will only chip in whenever the regular instructors go on leave. Selvam, having been running the tutorial for quite some time, believes this would not be the right way to solve the problem of managing classes when instructors go on leave. He shares the following data with Kanmani to help her understand that this problem cannot be solved by recruiting more people:

a) The number of days that instructors go on leave of absence is usually two days a month on average.

b) Each instructor has a unique style of teaching that cannot be replicated by part-timers.

c) Classes are held for 5 days a week, allowing enough rest for the instructors.

d) Selvam tried with part-time instructors as backups previously but they were often unavailable when needed.

e) The extra instructors must be paid a monthly salary, even when they might not be teaching the entire month.

Which of the following combinations of data will BEST convince Kanmani not to recruit extra instructors on the regular payroll?

(A) a, b, e

(B) b, d, e

(C) a, c, e

(D) c, d, e

(E) a, b, c

Correct Answer: (C) a, c, e

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the data.

The key factors to consider here are the average number of leave days (a), the structure of the teaching hours (c), and the financial implications (e) of hiring extra instructors.

Step 2: Evaluate each combination.

- (A) While point (a) and (b) are valid reasons, the fact that instructors have unique teaching styles does not directly argue against hiring extra instructors, especially if they only serve as

backups. - (B) Point (d) about part-time instructors being unavailable is relevant, but point (e) about paying extra instructors even when they might not be needed adds weight to the argument against hiring additional staff. - (C) Points (a), (c), and (e) present a strong case: instructors only take two days of leave a month (point a), classes are conducted 5 days a week (point c), and extra instructors would still need to be paid even when they are not teaching (point e). This combination highlights the inefficiencies of recruiting extra instructors. - (D) Point (c) is valid, but point (e) about paying extra instructors even when not teaching makes point (b) about part-time instructors being unavailable seem secondary. - (E) Points (a), (b), and (c) focus on the logistics of teaching and leave but don't address the cost concerns as strongly as option (C) does.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best combination is (C), which clearly outlines the logistical and financial reasons for not hiring extra instructors on a regular payroll.

Quick Tip

When considering hiring decisions, weigh both the operational needs and the financial implications. Hiring more staff should be done only when necessary, and alternatives like part-time or backup instructors should be explored first.

Read the following scenario and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Fine Elements Inc. is an Indian organization with a substantial presence in South and East India. The company is recruiting talent to expand in North and West India. The organization's head of talent acquisition, Premnarayan, entrusts the interview process, a key stage in the recruitment process, to his line managers who take the responsibility of selecting candidates. Premnarayan, however, lays down stringent rules that the line managers need to follow to achieve consistent outcomes.

Joginder Mahato, a line manager, has been interviewing candidates. During the interview, Joginder realizes that one of the candidates, Animisha, called for the interview, does not satisfy the necessary condition of five years experience. Upon enquiring, he finds out that this happened due to an oversight by an inexperienced

secretary who was asked to prepare the shortlist for the interview. However, as Animisha is present for the interview, he decides to conduct her interview. Joginder finds Animisha's candidature to be the best among the candidates he has interviewed so far.

35. Joginder wants to recommend Animisha for selection despite her not fulfilling the experience criterion.

Which of the following reasons, IF TRUE, will BEST convince Joginder to recommend Animisha?

(A) The role Animisha has applied for is one where getting good talent is not easy.
(B) Animisha interned with one of the verticals of Fine Elements Inc. during her graduation.
(C) Joginder was selected in his current role, a decade back, even though he had not satisfied many of the eligibility criteria.
(D) The HR department has increased the experience criterion from 3 years to 5 years only this year.
(E) Animisha has a lucrative offer from a competing firm, for a similar role.

Correct Answer: (A) The role Animisha has applied for is one where getting good talent is not easy.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the situation.

Animisha is a candidate who does not meet the experience criterion for the role she is being considered for. However, Joginder finds her to be the best candidate among all the others he has interviewed so far. Joginder is seeking a valid reason to recommend her for selection despite her lack of experience.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) The fact that the role Animisha has applied for is hard to fill with good talent provides a strong reason to make an exception for her. If the role is difficult to fill, it is logical to give some leeway in terms of the experience criterion to hire the best candidate. - (B) Although Animisha interned at Fine Elements Inc. during her graduation, this does not fully address her lack of experience and does not necessarily make her the best candidate for the role. - (C) Joginder's own case does not provide a valid justification for recommending Animisha. Each

hiring decision should be based on the specific merits of the candidate in question, not based on past exceptions made for others. - (D) The fact that the HR department increased the experience requirement does not necessarily justify recommending a candidate who doesn't meet the new criterion. This is more of an organizational change, not a reason to make an exception for Animisha. - (E) While Animisha having an offer from a competing firm could motivate the organization to act quickly, it does not directly relate to her being the best fit for the role.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best reason for Joginder to recommend Animisha is that the role she applied for is hard to fill with good talent, making an exception in her case more reasonable. Therefore, the correct answer is **(A)**.

Quick Tip

When considering exceptions to a rule, make sure the reason for the exception is substantial and justifiable within the context of the role or organization's needs.

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36. Joginder shares his preference for Animisha with Premnarayan, the talent acquisition head. However, while rolling out the offer, Premnarayan realizes that Animisha does not meet the eligibility criteria. Though the recommendation has come from Joginder, who is a senior, he wants to reject Animisha for the role.
Which of the following reasons, IF TRUE, will BEST help him in rejecting Animisha's candidature?

(A) Joginder's team, though lean, has been performing well for many years.
(B) Other potential candidates were rejected because of the change in the experience criterion.
(C) Animisha already holds a job offer from a rival firm at a competing salary.
(D) Premnarayan has overruled a few selection decisions of the seniors in the past.
(E) Animisha was given a job offer while she interned with Fine Elements Inc. but she declined it.

Correct Answer: (A) Joginder's team, though lean, has been performing well for many years.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the problem.

Joginder has recommended Animisha, but Premnarayan wants to reject her because she does not meet the eligibility criteria. To convince Premnarayan to reject her, we need a reason that justifies why this decision should be upheld.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) Joginder's team performing well despite being lean is a strong reason to justify rejecting Animisha, as it shows that the team has been successful without needing to relax the criteria. - (B) Rejecting other candidates for not meeting the new experience criterion could support Animisha's rejection, but it doesn't make as strong a case as option (A). - (C) Animisha holding a job offer from a rival firm doesn't directly influence the decision about her eligibility for the current role. - (D) Premnarayan overruled previous decisions, but this doesn't justify making an exception in Animisha's case. - (E) Animisha declining an internship offer is a relevant piece of information but doesn't provide a strong argument for rejecting her candidacy.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best reason for rejecting Animisha is (A) because it highlights the success of the existing team, implying that a change in criteria would disrupt the team's effectiveness.

Quick Tip

When justifying rejections, focus on how the decision supports the overall success and consistency of the team or organization.

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37. Joginder recommends Animisha's candidature only to be turned down by Premnarayan. However, he wants Premnarayan to reconsider his decision. Hence, Joginder has compiled a list of reasons to persuade Premnarayan to reconsider Animisha's selection:

A. Animisha is academically strong and a gold medalist during her graduation.

B. Animisha's experience is falling short only by a few months for the role she has applied for.

C. The number of applicants applying for the role she has applied for is very small.

D. Animisha's college is known for producing the best business leaders for past many years.

E. Before he retired, Animisha's maternal uncle was associated with Fine Elements Inc. for over 10 years.

F. Average industry experience for the role she has applied for is much lower than what Fine Elements Inc. has advertised.

Which of the following combination of reasons will BEST convince Premnarayan to reconsider his decision regarding Animisha's selection for the role?

(A) A, B, D

(B) B, C, E

(C) A, D, E

(D) D, E, F

(E) C, D, F

Correct Answer: (B) B, C, E

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the data.

The key to convincing Premnarayan to reconsider his decision is to highlight Animisha's potential value and the relevant factors that make her suitable for the role, despite not meeting all the criteria.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) While Animisha being a gold medalist and academically strong is a good reason, it does not directly address her eligibility for the specific role. - (B) Animisha's experience being just a few months short, the small number of applicants, and her family connection to the company (E) make a strong case for reconsidering her selection. - (C) While Animisha's academic strength and the company's connection with her family are useful points, the small number of applicants (C) is more relevant. - (D) Points about Animisha's college and family

background are useful but don't fully address her eligibility. - (E) The average industry experience being lower than advertised is a key factor that could work in her favor.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best combination to convince Premnarayan is (B), as it highlights the key points of Animisha's experience being close to the required level, the small applicant pool, and the family connection to the company, making a compelling case for her reconsideration.

Quick Tip

When presenting arguments to reconsider a decision, focus on the candidate's unique strengths, the market conditions, and any relevant connections that may outweigh the experience gap.

Abhishek, a student of a prestigious business school, gets interested in Payseasy, a fintech firm, after listening to a pre-placement talk by Neha Bhupati, a senior leader at the firm, and an alumna of the same business school. He joins Payseasy through campus placement. Neha plays a key role in recruiting him, seeing great potential in him. Abhishek starts working in the digital payments vertical under Mukesh Kumar, who reports directly to Neha. Mukesh, Abhishek's direct superior, is impressed by his performance and rates him very high in the first year. Abhishek understands that if Mukesh consistently rates him as "Excellent Performer" for the second year as well, his chances of getting promoted will improve. (The organization promotes individuals who are consistently rated as "Excellent Performer" for at least two years by their immediate superiors.)

Over time, Abhishek realizes that the learning opportunities in his current role have plateaued. Given his longstanding interest in blockchain and cryptocurrency, he starts exploring opportunities in that vertical within the company. This change is not possible without the consent of his immediate boss, Mukesh. When Abhishek brings this up with Mukesh, he acknowledges Abhishek's curiosity and enthusiasm; however, he emphasizes how Abhishek's competencies fit him rightly into the current vertical. Mukesh assures Abhishek that more challenging assignments in the future are

forthcoming, but he remains a good team player. Further, he shares his skepticism about the long-term prospects of cryptocurrency. Hence, Mukesh politely declines Abhishek's request.

38. Abhishek is not happy with Mukesh's decision. Abhishek is aware that he needs to be in the good books of Mukesh for his performance rating. However, he is passionate about cryptocurrency; hence, he considers approaching Neha directly to discuss a possible move. Neha can take such decisions independently, but Neha and Mukesh usually see eye to eye on most issues.

Which of the following reasons, IF TRUE, will BEST encourage Abhishek to reach out to Neha regarding his desired change to a different vertical?

(A) A colleague got her vertical changed by presenting her case to the higher-ups, bypassing her immediate boss.

(B) Mukesh is infamous for not letting his team members go to any other vertical.

(C) Abhishek strongly feels that he cannot continue for one more year in his current role.

(D) Neha is known to Abhishek as they are alumni of the same business school.

(E) The crypto team is always running short of talented employees.

Correct Answer: (E) The crypto team is always running short of talented employees.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand Abhishek's situation.

Abhishek is interested in shifting to the cryptocurrency vertical within the company, but his immediate boss, Mukesh, has declined his request. Abhishek is looking for a valid reason to approach Neha, who can independently make decisions regarding vertical changes.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) If a colleague successfully moved to a new vertical by bypassing their immediate boss, it could give Abhishek confidence that he too can approach Neha directly. However, this would not necessarily address the critical need for the crypto team to hire more talent, which is the strongest reason for Neha to act. - (B) Mukesh's reluctance to let team members switch verticals suggests that Abhishek may face resistance from his direct boss, but it doesn't directly help him convince Neha. - (C) While Abhishek's dissatisfaction with his current role may motivate him to move, this reason alone does not justify bypassing Mukesh to approach

Neha, especially if the crypto team isn't actively hiring. - (D) Knowing Neha personally as an alumna is helpful, but it does not address the specific need for talent in the crypto team, which would make Abhishek's case stronger. - (E) The fact that the crypto team is always running short of talented employees provides the strongest justification for Neha to act. Abhishek can present himself as a qualified candidate for the role, increasing his chances of a vertical change.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best reason for Abhishek to approach Neha is (E), as the shortage of talented employees in the crypto team makes his case more urgent and relevant, providing a clear incentive for Neha to consider his request.

Quick Tip

When trying to make a career change within the company, aligning your personal goals with the organization's current needs, such as filling talent gaps, is a strong argument for your request.

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39. Dissatisfied with Mukesh's response, Abhishek reaches out to Neha for a vertical change. Though she listens to Abhishek, she shares her displeasure with the request. In fact, she brushes his request off, telling him to resign from Payseasy if it does not charm him anymore. Abhishek gets worried as he has a huge educational loan to pay, and such a departure will put him in a fix.

Later that day, in one of the team meetings, Abhishek is ignored as he is cut twice while he tries to share his project progress. Thereafter, he starts believing that Mukesh is not happy with him. This fear appears to get substantiated when Mukesh assigns an important project to another team member, which Abhishek wants to work on. His fear keeps growing regarding Neha and Mukesh not being happy with him. However, when he receives his annual rating, he finds out that Mukesh has rated him as the "best performer" of the year, based on his previous year's performance.

Abhishek wants his relationship with Mukesh to be back on track, as it was, before he reached out to Neha.

Which of the following options will BEST enable Abhishek to rebuild his relationship with Mukesh?

(A) Abhishek should reach out to Mukesh and apologize for his perceived immaturity.
(B) Abhishek should double down on his performance to demonstrate his value to the team.
(C) Abhishek should stay low profile for some time as the past time heals the past.
(D) Abhishek should request Mukesh for an open discussion to get rid of any misunderstandings.
(E) Abhishek should request Neha to help him in rebuilding his relationship with Mukesh.

Correct Answer: (A) Abhishek should reach out to Mukesh and apologize for his perceived immaturity.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the situation.

Abhishek is in a difficult situation where he feels that Mukesh is not happy with him. His relationship with Mukesh is important for his performance ratings and career growth.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) Apologizing for his perceived immaturity and acknowledging Mukesh's authority is the best way to rebuild their relationship. This will show humility and a willingness to correct mistakes, which is critical in professional settings. - (B) While improving performance is important, this will not directly address the strained relationship between Abhishek and Mukesh. - (C) Staying low profile may avoid further conflict, but it does not proactively solve the problem or rebuild the relationship. - (D) Asking Mukesh for an open discussion is a good option, but it may be seen as confrontational or unnecessary if Abhishek can show the maturity through a simple apology. - (E) Asking Neha to intervene may not be appropriate, as it could further complicate the situation and damage Abhishek's relationship with Mukesh.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best approach for Abhishek is (A), where he takes responsibility and seeks to rebuild the relationship with Mukesh through an apology.

Quick Tip

Taking ownership and apologizing for any perceived missteps can be an effective way to mend professional relationships.

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40. After two years at Payseasy, Abhishek applies to a competing firm and is called for an interview. The hiring manager, Amit, is impressed with Abhishek and tells him that he will take the final decision to select Abhishek in a day or two. After the interview, Amit wants to know more about Abhishek since Abhishek will be leading a team of 15 people and his people management skills are very important for the team's success. He calls Mukesh, Abhishek's superior. Mukesh is Amit's classmate who Amit trusts immensely. Mukesh informs Amit that though Abhishek is a good talent, he questions his superiors too often. Mukesh further shares that such a behavior makes it difficult for the superiors to manage the team.
Amit needs a good talent, but is confused if he should recruit Abhishek, given Mukesh's assessment of Abhishek.
Which of the following data will BEST enable Amit to take a decision on Abhishek's recruitment?

(A) Amit's organization is very democratic, where people are encouraged to share their critical views without any fear of consequences.
(B) Two years back, Mukesh discouraged Amit from offering a role to one of his subordinates, who later went to a competing firm and is now a star performer there.
(C) Payseasy has been seeing attrition of good talent to Amit's organization in the recent past due to the high salaries that Amit's organization offers.
(D) Mukesh is known to be very possessive of his subordinates.
(E) Abhishek was kind and cooperative throughout the selection process of Amit's organization.

Correct Answer: (C) Payseasy has been seeing attrition of good talent to Amit's organization in the recent past due to the high salaries that Amit's organization offers.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyze the data.

Amit is looking for a good talent who can manage people and work within a team. Mukesh's feedback on Abhishek raises concerns about Abhishek's ability to fit into a leadership role, but Amit needs more context to make a fair decision.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) While the democratic nature of Amit's organization is valuable, it doesn't directly address Abhishek's potential or fit within the team. - (B) Mukesh discouraging Amit from hiring a subordinates is more about Mukesh's judgment and does not necessarily reflect on Abhishek's potential. - (C) The fact that Payseasy is losing talent to Amit's organization due to better compensation provides a strong argument for Abhishek. This suggests that Abhishek could be valuable to Amit's firm if he can offer better working conditions. - (D) Mukesh's possessiveness doesn't add much value in assessing Abhishek's potential or suitability for the role. - (E) While being kind and cooperative is important, it does not address the core concern of Abhishek's ability to manage a team and work with superiors.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The most relevant data for Amit to consider is (C), as it provides a clear indication of Abhishek's potential value based on his previous success at Payseasy.

Quick Tip

When assessing talent, consider not only the individual's qualifications but also the broader context of organizational success and competition for talent.

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41. MultiKrack, one of the oldest FMCG companies in Eastern India, was run by the Malhotras, a traditional business family, for generations. The organization believed that key positions should be held only by family members and close friends.
But, as the organization grew in size, the top management decided to bring in fresh thinking and fill key positions from premier management institutions. The need for such a decision was also brought upon by changes in consumer preferences, which the top management felt could be best handled by recruiting premier talent from the

younger generation (Gen Z).

MultiKrack drew the best talent, from premier management institutions, by offering highly attractive salaries. The first batch of Gen Z management trainees joined MultiKrack. Anindita was one of the seven management trainees recruited. She reported to Uday, a senior manager, who directly reported to the top management.

In one of the meetings, Uday was making a presentation on positioning their most popular product to make it more appealing to Gen Z. Unhappy with the discussion, Anindita candidly shared her concern regarding the assumptions Uday made about Gen Z. Uday immediately retorted: "Anindita, this is a discussion for adults. Kids, like you, should listen for a few months before sharing their opinion." Further, he remarked, "you Gen Z have opinions about everything regardless of the subject." Thereafter, he brushed aside any views Anindita attempted to share during the discussion. After the meeting, Anindita felt offended. However, when she discussed it with other management trainees, they did not find anything wrong with what Uday said. Even then, she decided to do something about such a treatment, since it would be seen as an approved behaviour.

Which of the following options will BEST help Anindita in taking an appropriate stand against Uday's behaviour?

(A) Urge other management trainees to petition the top management jointly with her.
(B) Before actively participating in meetings, wait for a few months as Uday suggested.
(C) Ask her colleagues to talk to Uday on behalf of her.
(D) Meet up with the top management and lodge a formal complaint against Uday.
(E) Meet Uday in person and remind him why she, a Gen Z, was hired in the first place.

Correct Answer: (A) Urge other management trainees to petition the top management jointly with her.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the situation.

Anindita is feeling offended by Uday's dismissive comments about Gen Z, and while others in the group did not object, she feels it is necessary to take a stand against this behaviour.

The goal is to address this issue in a way that will not only be heard but also lead to a constructive change in how she and others are treated.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) Asking other management trainees to petition the top management jointly is the best approach. This shows solidarity and highlights that Anindita's concern is not just an individual issue but one that affects the broader group. The combined petition will likely be taken more seriously by top management. - (B) Waiting for a few months and then participating in meetings would reinforce the idea that Anindita should stay passive, which is contrary to her goal of standing up against mistreatment. - (C) Asking her colleagues to talk to Uday on her behalf weakens the impact of the issue. It makes it seem like the issue is not important enough to address directly and creates additional steps in the process of getting the point across. - (D) Lodging a formal complaint could be an option later, but initially, it's better to first try to resolve the issue collaboratively, as formal complaints can sometimes escalate conflicts unnecessarily. - (E) Confronting Uday in person and reminding him of why she was hired is not ideal. It might escalate the situation or make it seem like she is being defensive, rather than focusing on the core issue.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best approach is (A), urging other management trainees to petition the top management jointly with her, as it creates a unified and constructive approach to the issue.

Quick Tip

When faced with mistreatment, gathering support from peers and presenting a united front is a powerful way to address the issue without escalation.

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42. Anindita was passionate about bringing a change in her organization. Thus, she went thoroughly prepared for every meeting. However, she soon realized that her ideas were not taken up for discussions during meetings. She often felt looked down upon by Uday who dismissed her suggestions without even hearing them out. When she discussed her experience with other management trainees from other departments, she came to know that this was a common practice across MultiKrack. They wanted to do

something about it; however, they were clueless about the course of action, since their seniors did not seem to be interested in listening to them.

Which of the following actions by the management trainees will be MOST effective in improving the treatment of Gen Z at MultiKrack?

(A) Focus on proving themselves professionally, and be patient until attitudes change in general.

(B) Seek informal meetings with seniors belonging to Gen X and try to explain the Gen Z point of view.

(C) Confront their colleagues directly whenever they come across as unfair and rude.

(D) Reach out to the top management and explain how the attitude of the seniors is affecting their morale.

(E) Create an informal support group to deal with the duress of handling the MultiKrack seniors.

Correct Answer: (B) Seek informal meetings with seniors belonging to Gen X and try to explain the Gen Z point of view.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the situation.

Anindita and other Gen Z management trainees are facing discrimination and dismissal from seniors, particularly Uday. They need to address this issue in a constructive and effective way.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) Focusing on professional growth and waiting for attitudes to change might be a long-term solution, but it doesn't actively address the current issue. - (B) Seeking informal meetings with Gen X seniors allows for an open discussion of generational differences, which could lead to better understanding and change in the seniors' behaviour. - (C) Confronting colleagues directly may escalate the conflict and cause a more hostile environment, which is not ideal. - (D) Reaching out to top management is an option, but it might be seen as bypassing the seniors without trying to resolve the issue at a peer level. - (E) Creating an informal support group could provide emotional support but does not directly address the issue of seniors' behaviour.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best course of action is (B), where Anindita and other trainees seek informal meetings with Gen X seniors to address the issue constructively and explain the Gen Z perspective.

Quick Tip

Building open communication and addressing generational differences through respectful dialogue is often more effective than confronting or bypassing authority.

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43. A few months passed. Anindita was a valuable member of her team and the top management was impressed with her. However, the other management trainees left the organization. In their exit interviews, they shared the condescending behavior of senior management as the reason for their departure. Some even left MultiKrack to join organizations that paid lesser than what MultiKrack paid. The top management understood that the seniors belonged to a different generation; they found it difficult to appreciate the intergenerational differences. The top management felt it was high time to do something about the senior management's behavior towards the juniors.
Which of the following actions, considered by the top management, will BEST enable change in the senior management's behavior?

(A) Keep management trainees in mostly independent roles to limit their interactions with senior management.
(B) Issue a company-wide warning that any form of discrimination will result in disciplinary action.
(C) Invest in diversity, equity and inclusion training, using mass exodus as a turning point for the organization to embrace.
(D) Ask Gen Z to rate the senior management on their behaviour every quarter.
(E) Hire more Gen Z and fast track them to senior management based on performance.

Correct Answer: (A) Keep management trainees in mostly independent roles to limit their interactions with senior management.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the situation.

The top management is looking to address the condescending behavior of senior management towards the junior management trainees, specifically the Gen Z cohort. The goal is to improve interactions and foster mutual respect.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) Keeping management trainees mostly in independent roles limits their exposure to senior management and prevents further negative interactions while allowing time for the cultural shift to take place. - (B) A company-wide warning might be effective in addressing immediate concerns but could also create resistance and a negative environment. - (C) Investing in diversity and inclusion training is important, but it might take longer to yield results and doesn't directly address the issue with senior management. - (D) Asking Gen Z to rate senior management could feel like a confrontational step and might worsen the relationship. - (E) Hiring more Gen Z employees and fast-tracking them could escalate generational tensions and might not directly change the behavior of senior management.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The most practical and effective solution is (A), which would help mitigate immediate negative interactions while the top management works on addressing the broader cultural issues.

Quick Tip

Focusing on indirect methods, such as limiting negative interactions, can sometimes help ease tensions and provide time for necessary changes to take effect.

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44. Mr. Screwwala, a highly successful investment banker, had a career of nearly 25 years. In his circle, he was respected for his straight-shooter image and industrious behaviour. Screwwala loved travelling; he travelled extensively, both for his job and personal interests. He always wanted to share his life experiences with people at large. He chanced upon such an opportunity when his old friend, Mr. Patel, a well-known publisher, offered Screwwala to publish a book based on his life experiences. Screwwala grabbed the opportunity; however, given his thorough nature, he took a

three-year long sabbatical to finish the book.

During that period, Patel guided Screwwala at every step, reviewing every chapter personally. At the end, the book turned out to be a bestseller, and Screwwala became famous.

Patel had a new proposal for Screwwala: he wanted Screwwala to work on a detective novel. Patel promised him good money but proposed that Screwwala would only write the final chapter of the novel, after his co-authors had completed the first nine chapters. Screwwala was surprised at the offer; since he never tried writing anything creative, and definitely not fiction. He wanted to be sure whether he could actually measure up with the co-authors who were established creative writers.

Which of the following, IF TRUE, will be the MOST compelling reason for Screwwala to accept the offer?

(A) Screwwala is earning a decent royalty on the sales of his first book.

(B) Patel is an experienced publisher who mentored many successful writers in the past.

(C) Writing the novel will pay Screwwala to travel across the world.

(D) Screwwala loved taking up challenging assignments during his stint as an investment banker.

(E) Screwwala has enjoyed working on his first book and does not want to go back to investment banking.

Correct Answer: (B) Patel is an experienced publisher who mentored many successful writers in the past.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the situation.

Screwwala has been offered an opportunity to write the final chapter of a detective novel, but he is unsure if he should take it up, as he has no experience in writing fiction. Patel, who has a history of mentoring successful writers, is an influential figure and plays a key role in encouraging Screwwala.

Step 2: Evaluate each option.

- (A) The royalty from Screwwala's first book is not directly relevant to his ability to take on the new writing project. - (B) Patel's experience in mentoring successful writers makes him a

credible figure who can guide Screwwala in this new venture, making this a compelling reason to accept the offer. - (C) Writing the novel to travel across the world does not provide a strong professional or personal incentive compared to working with a reputed mentor. - (D) While Screwwala might have enjoyed taking on challenges as an investment banker, writing fiction is a different type of challenge and not directly related to his career. - (E) The fact that Screwwala enjoyed working on his first book might be true, but it does not directly convince him to take on the novel project without further professional guidance.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best reason for Screwwala to accept the offer is (B), as Patel's experience in mentoring successful writers is a strong assurance that Screwwala will be supported and guided throughout the process.

Quick Tip

When faced with a new challenge, having a trusted mentor with a proven track record can provide the necessary confidence and motivation to move forward.

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45. Patel had a new proposal for Screwwala: he wanted Screwwala to work on a detective novel. Patel proposed that Screwwala would only write the final chapter of the detective novel, after his co-authors. Screwwala accepted the offer.

Though the project started on time, a few of the authors could not manage to submit their chapters within the given timeline. Hence, it created a delay for the authors to follow.

Having to wait endlessly for the other authors to finish their chapters, with no end in sight, Screwwala started getting impatient. In the meantime, he was offered another proposal from a rival publisher to write a travelogue on a country of his choice, which would involve all-expenses-paid trips. Because of his love for travel, Screwwala felt inclined to accept the offer. However, this would mean getting out of the contract of the detective novel, which could cause a serious friction with Patel.

Which of the following, IF TRUE, will be the MOST compelling reason for Screwwala to continue with the detective-novel project?

(A) Screwwala believes that he owes it to Patel for the help he has received in his journey as a writer.

(B) Patel did tell Screwwala that writing the detective novel would test his patience.

(C) Screwwala is not sure whether writing two books on similar topics consecutively will be well received.

(D) The rival publisher is not as well-known as Patel.

(E) Screwwala has already invested considerable time in the detective novel.

Correct Answer: (C) Screwwala is not sure whether writing two books on similar topics consecutively will be well received.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the situation.

Screwwala has been offered a chance to switch projects, but he is unsure whether it would be a good idea, especially since it might not be well received. The other project (detective novel) is already progressing, but the delays in the submission of chapters are causing frustration.

Step 2: Evaluate the options.

- (A) Screwwala may owe Patel for helping him, but this doesn't directly impact his decision to continue with the detective novel. - (B) Patel told Screwwala that it would test his patience, which might make him feel it's part of the process, but it doesn't give him enough reason to continue. - (C) Writing two books on similar topics consecutively could result in a lack of variety in his work and make it harder to attract attention, which is a strong concern for Screwwala. - (D) The rival publisher not being as well-known as Patel is irrelevant compared to the potential benefits or drawbacks of switching projects. - (E) While Screwwala has already invested time, this reason alone may not be enough to convince him to stay with the detective novel project.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best reason for Screwwala to continue with the detective novel project is (C), since he is uncertain whether writing two books on similar topics will be well received, making it a more strategic choice to finish the current project.

Quick Tip

When deciding between projects, it's important to consider the impact on your future work and audience perception.

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46. While waiting for his turn to come to write his chapter for the detective novel, Screwwala started writing a travel blog. Because of his radiant style, the blog became popular. Hence, he started mulling over converting the blog articles into a book.
When Screwwala shared this idea, Patel sprung a surprise by pointing out to a clause in their contract. The clause forbade Screwwala from publishing anything else until the detective novel got published. Screwwala signed the contract without reading it as he trusted Patel as a good friend. Further, Patel offered Screwwala an extra sum of money if he would delay the publication of his travel blog articles as a book.
Screwwala felt betrayed. Which of the following will be the MOST compelling reason for Screwwala to continue with publishing his blog as a book, ignoring the contract with Patel?

(A) Screwwala discovers that Patel replaced an originally contracted author from the project because of Patel's differences with the author.
(B) It is never Screwwala's nature to take it quietly when he realizes that he has been taken unfair advantage of.
(C) Screwwala feels that most readers who like his writing style are already regular readers of his blog as well.
(D) The rival publisher is not as well-known as Patel.
(E) Screwwala is frustrated with the slow progress of the detective novel and has lost interest in it.

Correct Answer: (A) Screwwala discovers that Patel replaced an originally contracted author from the project because of Patel's differences with the author.

Solution:
Step 1: Understand the situation.

Screwwala feels betrayed by Patel, but he needs a strong reason to justify going against the contract. He has the option to continue with his blog book, but he must evaluate the consequences.

Step 2: Evaluate the options.

- (A) Discovering that Patel replaced an author because of his personal differences gives Screwwala a strong reason to feel that Patel is not as trustworthy, making it easier for him to break the contract. - (B) While it's true that Screwwala may not tolerate unfair treatment, it doesn't offer a solid reason to go against Patel's contract, especially considering the legal ramifications. - (C) Although his readers might be interested in his blog articles as a book, this doesn't justify violating the contract or disrespecting Patel's wishes. - (D) The rival publisher's lack of fame does not directly impact his decision. - (E) Although Screwwala is frustrated with the detective novel, this reason alone doesn't justify breaking the contract.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best reason for Screwwala to continue with publishing his blog as a book is (A), as the revelation that Patel replaced another author due to personal differences gives him a compelling reason to break the contract.

Quick Tip

Trust issues with collaborators can provide strong justification for making difficult decisions, especially when it impacts professional integrity.

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47. Vidya, a Bachelor of Commerce graduate, secured admission to one of India's premier business schools (B schools) called Best-Known School of Management (BKSM). Not long after her joining BKSM, she was struck by the calibre of her experienced peers. This, in turn, made her anxious about her placement. Hence, she reached out to one of her seniors, who had also joined BKSM as a fresher, for advice. In conversations with the senior, Vidya learned that fresher were often advised to join student committees to strengthen their curriculum vitae (CVs) for placements. Confident of making it to one, she started preparing. Despite her confidence, she could not secure a spot in the prominent committees she aspired to join.

Frustrated and angry, Vidya began believing that committee selections were biased. Since the processes were entirely student-run, with minimal administrative oversight, she felt that she had no avenue to raise her concerns. Anjali, Vidya's roommate in BKSM, told her about Why MBA, a social media platform where students often voiced their grievances anonymously.

Impulsively, Vidya secretly recorded her next committee interview. The interview turned out to be particularly harsh. Now, she was even more determined to post the transcript of the interview on Why MBA to teach a lesson to her seniors.

Which of the following considerations will BEST stop her from sharing the transcript on Why MBA?

(A) Few seniors who never made it to committees still secured good placements.
(B) Sharing such posts on Why MBA may negatively impact the morale of student committee members.
(C) In recent past, many such posts were shared on Why MBA, but not much changed in committee selection processes.
(D) Sharing such posts on Why MBA may present the committee selection processes in a bad light.
(E) Every interview is unique, and it will be easy to guess her identity from the transcript.

Correct Answer: (D) Sharing such posts on Why MBA may present the committee selection processes in a bad light.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the situation.

Vidya, frustrated by her committee rejection, is considering posting a transcript of her interview on a platform to voice her concerns. However, she is weighing the consequences of this action, as it might affect the perception of the committee processes.

Step 2: Evaluate the options.

- (A) While some seniors who didn't get into committees still secured placements, this doesn't address the specific reason Vidya might want to post the transcript. - (B) Sharing the post may indeed negatively impact the morale of other students involved in the process, but this is a secondary concern. - (C) The fact that previous posts did not affect committee

selection is important, but not the most compelling reason for Vidya to hold back. - (D) This option highlights the key concern: if the committee processes are presented in a bad light, it could harm the reputation of the institution or the processes themselves, which might have larger repercussions. - (E) While identifying the author of the post could be a concern, it is not the most significant factor compared to the damage to the process's reputation.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The best reason to stop Vidya from posting the transcript is (D), as it focuses on the negative impact it might have on the committee selection processes. This concern outweighs other factors.

Quick Tip

Before taking any action that might affect others' reputations, it's important to consider the long-term consequences, especially when it involves public platforms.

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48. Vidya secretly recorded her next committee interview. The very next day, Vidya was selected for the same committee for which she had recorded the interview. However, a few days later, a post went viral on Why MBA about BKSM, accusing the student committees of unfair practices, claiming that seniors selected juniors based on personal preferences rather than objective criteria. The post created a stir in BKSM, making Vidya anxious.

Vidya's anxiety stemmed from the fact that Anjali, her confidant, knew about Vidya's intent to publish her interview transcript on Why MBA. Hence, Vidya feared that if Anjali shared Vidya's earlier intent with anyone at BKSM, her reputation and relationships could be damaged.

What BEST can Vidya do in the current situation so that she is NOT negatively impacted by the viral post?

(A) She should not worry about Anjali as Anjali has a limited friend circle.

(B) She should have a discussion with Anjali and clarify that Vidya had nothing to do with the viral post.

(C) She should request Why MBA to disclose the name of the person who shared the viral post.
(D) She should inform the committee that, while Vidya had secretly recorded her interview with them, she had nothing to do with the viral post.
(E) She should share a post of admiration on Why MBA about the committee that has selected her.

Correct Answer: (D) She should inform the committee that, while Vidya had secretly recorded her interview with them, she had nothing to do with the viral post.

Solution:

Step 1: Understand Vidya's dilemma.

Vidya is concerned that her involvement in recording the interview might be misconstrued, especially after the viral post. She is seeking ways to clarify her position.

Step 2: Evaluate the options.

- (A) Suggesting that Anjali's limited friend circle will not have an impact is not addressing the core issue of the viral post and its wider ramifications. - (B) Having a discussion with Anjali might help, but it does not resolve the core problem of the viral post and the damage it might cause. - (C) Requesting the identity of the person who shared the post may be useful, but it does not solve the problem at hand. It may also increase unnecessary tension. - (D) This option is the most suitable because it directly addresses the issue with the committee and clarifies that Vidya was not responsible for the viral post. - (E) Sharing a positive post about the committee might seem insincere or out of place and will not help in clearing up the confusion about the viral post.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The most effective course of action for Vidya is to inform the committee about her intention with the recording and clarify that she had no involvement with the viral post.

Quick Tip

In situations where there are misunderstandings or false information, it is best to address the issue directly with the concerned parties to clear up any confusion.

49. A few committee secretaries complained to the dean of BKSM about some anonymous posts on Why MBA that they felt were unfairly targeting them. Upon visiting the forums on Why MBA, the dean felt that while most of the posts were innocuous, some indeed crossed the line. Further, she felt that such posts tarnished the image of BKSM. Conversely, she observed that such posts led those targeted to reflect, mend their ways, and become more accountable. She wondered what she could do to save the reputation of BKSM being assailed in public forums through anonymous posts; however, she did not want to do anything disproportionately harsh.
What BEST can the dean do to take a sustainable decision to dissuade students from posting their grievances in public forums, presenting the college in a bad light?

(A) Announce that she will run all committee selections personally.
(B) Create an anonymous in-house forum within BKSM, where the students could discuss anything without consequences.
(C) Ban access to public forums like Why MBA on the campus.
(D) Announce that she will run daily open houses to hear student grievances.
(E) Ask the IT head to run digital surveillance, and catch students posting anything degrading about BKSM in any public forum.

Correct Answer: (B) Create an anonymous in-house forum within BKSM, where the students could discuss anything without consequences.

Solution:
Step 1: Understand the dean's concerns.
The dean is aware of the potential harm caused by public posts, but also realizes that some of these posts reflect genuine grievances. Therefore, she wants to ensure that the students can voice their concerns in a more structured and accountable environment.
Step 2: Evaluate the options.
- (A) Announcing that she will personally oversee all committee selections could be seen as an authoritarian move and might not be practical. - (B) Creating an anonymous internal forum allows students to express their grievances openly without the fear of repercussions.

This could foster constructive feedback and prevent posts that could harm the reputation of BKSM. - (C) Banning access to public forums like Why MBA might seem extreme and could stifle student voices. - (D) Announcing daily open houses might be a good idea but could be time-consuming and inefficient for dealing with ongoing issues. - (E) Implementing digital surveillance might be seen as an invasion of privacy and could exacerbate the problem.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Creating an anonymous in-house forum (Option B) is the best approach, as it allows students to express their concerns while maintaining a sense of accountability.

Quick Tip

Allowing students to voice their grievances anonymously can be an effective way to address issues without compromising the institution's image.

Section : Verbal Ability Logical Reasoning

50. Read the following excerpt carefully.

When we encounter new situations, concepts, or problems, we make _____ of them by _____ them onto older experience and structures. Far from being a _____ mental shortcut, analogy is a process by which humans generalize, adapt, and grow in _____.

Which of the following options BEST fills up the blanks in the above excerpt?

(A) fun, connecting, serious, skills

(B) most, relating, comprehensive, experiences

(C) sense, mapping, minor, understanding

(D) use, engaging, quick, confidence

(E) meaning, linking, inconsequential, life

Correct Answer: (A) fun, connecting, serious, skills

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the excerpt.

The passage talks about the process of generalization, adaptation, and growth. It highlights how new situations or problems are connected to older experiences, and the mental shortcuts (analogies) used in this process. The excerpt suggests that analogy is not a mere shortcut but an important cognitive tool for growth and learning.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) fun, connecting, serious, skills:** This option fits well because ”fun” and ”connecting” align with the idea of learning and linking new concepts, while ”serious” and ”skills” match the growth and adaptation described. The phrase ”mental shortcut” makes sense when paired with ”skills.”
- **(B) most, relating, comprehensive, experiences:** This choice feels too vague. ”Most” and ”relating” are not specific enough, and ”comprehensive” is not the best word to fit with the context of analogy.
- **(C) sense, mapping, minor, understanding:** While ”mapping” works with the idea of analogy, ”minor” does not fit with the context of cognitive growth, and ”understanding” does not fully reflect the depth of the passage.
- **(D) use, engaging, quick, confidence:** ”Use” and ”quick” do not match the description of mental processes and growth in the passage, while ”engaging” and ”confidence” are not as closely tied to analogy.
- **(E) meaning, linking, inconsequential, life:** ”Inconsequential” directly contradicts the important role analogy plays in mental growth. ”Life” does not fit well with the mental processes described in the excerpt.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Option **(A)** is the most appropriate because it clearly fits with the context of analogy as a mental tool for learning and adaptation.

Quick Tip

When selecting the best option in reading comprehension, focus on the context and meaning conveyed in the passage. Choose words that closely align with the ideas discussed.

51. Read the following sentences carefully.

1. Everybody were late.
2. I will ask you if I need help.
3. Please revert to me at the earliest possible.
4. The report that the committee submitted was well received.
5. She is accustomed to work late.

Which of the following options consists of only grammatically CORRECT sentences?

(A) 1, 3

(B) 1, 4

(C) 2, 4

(D) 3, 5

(E) 4, 5

Correct Answer: (A) 1, 3

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the sentences.

- **Sentence 1:** ”Everybody were late” is grammatically incorrect because the subject ”everybody” is singular, so the verb should be ”was” instead of ”were.”
- **Sentence 2:** ”I will ask you if I need help” is correct. The sentence is in future tense and appropriately structured.
- **Sentence 3:** ”Please revert to me at the earliest possible” is incorrect. The word ”revert” is typically used in a legal or formal context to mean ”reply.” The phrase should be ”Please respond to me at the earliest possible.”
- **Sentence 4:** ”The report that the committee submitted was well received” is grammatically correct. This sentence uses correct subject-verb agreement and tense.
- **Sentence 5:** ”She is accustomed to work late” is incorrect. The correct phrase should be ”She is accustomed to working late” because the verb following ”accustomed to” should be in the gerund form.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) 1, 3:** Sentence 1 is incorrect (should be ”was”) and Sentence 3 is also incorrect (should be ”respond”). Hence, this is the correct answer.

- **(B) 1, 4:** Sentence 1 is incorrect, but Sentence 4 is correct. Therefore, this option is not correct.
- **(C) 2, 4:** Both Sentence 2 and Sentence 4 are correct, but the question asks for grammatically incorrect sentences. This option is incorrect.
- **(D) 3, 5:** Sentence 3 and Sentence 5 are both incorrect, but this does not match the correct option for the question.
- **(E) 4, 5:** Sentence 4 is correct, but Sentence 5 is incorrect. Thus, this option is not valid.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A) 1, 3**, as both these sentences are grammatically incorrect.

Quick Tip

Remember that subject-verb agreement and proper use of verb forms are crucial for grammatically correct sentences. Be mindful of common mistakes like incorrect verb tenses or misuse of prepositions.

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52. Read the following sentences carefully.

1. She described about the journey.
2. We are awaiting her reply.
3. She is superior to us.
4. She requested for more time.
5. She is sharing with her friend.
6. She insisted for an apology.

Which of the following options contains only grammatically INCORRECT sentences?

(A) 2, 3, 5

(B) 1, 4, 6

(C) 1, 2, 5

(D) 1, 3, 4

(E) 2, 4, 5

Correct Answer: (B) 1, 4, 6

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the sentences.

- **Sentence 1:** ”She described about the journey” is incorrect. The correct phrasing is ”She described the journey,” as the preposition ”about” is unnecessary.
- **Sentence 2:** ”We are awaiting her reply” is correct. The sentence follows proper grammar and structure.
- **Sentence 3:** ”She is superior to us” is correct. The sentence is grammatically sound and uses the correct comparative form.
- **Sentence 4:** ”She requested for more time” is incorrect. The phrase ”requested for” should be replaced by ”requested more time.”
- **Sentence 5:** ”She is sharing with her friend” is incorrect. The sentence should be ”She is sharing it with her friend,” as ”sharing” requires an object.
- **Sentence 6:** ”She insisted for an apology” is incorrect. The correct form is ”She insisted on an apology,” as ”insist” requires the preposition ”on.”

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) 2, 3, 5:** This option includes grammatically correct sentences (2 and 3), so it is not the correct choice.
- **(B) 1, 4, 6:** All of these sentences are grammatically incorrect, making this the correct answer.
- **(C) 1, 2, 5:** Sentence 2 is correct, so this is not the right choice.
- **(D) 1, 3, 4:** Sentence 3 is correct, making this option incorrect.
- **(E) 2, 4, 5:** Sentence 2 is correct, so this is not the correct option.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(B) 1, 4, 6**, as these sentences are grammatically incorrect.

Quick Tip

In English grammar, watch out for common errors such as unnecessary prepositions and incorrect verb constructions. ”Request for” should be ”request,” and ”insist for” should be ”insist on.”

53. Read the following sentences carefully.

1. The hybrid workplace is failing to live up to expectations in a number of ways.
2. By one estimate, spending an average of three days each week in the office can limit encounters between any two workers by 64% compared with pre-pandemic norms.
3. Many people hanker after the socializing, camaraderie and shared experience, even if getting used to it may take time.
4. For one thing, it is no substitute for the buzz and the chatter of the pre-pandemic office.
5. Even small amount of remote work can have a big impact on the frequency of face-to-face interactions in the office.

Which of the following options BEST arranges the above sentences in a logical sequence?

(A) 1, 4, 3, 5, 2
(B) 2, 5, 3, 4, 1
(C) 1, 4, 2, 3, 5
(D) 3, 5, 4, 1, 2
(E) 1, 2, 4, 3, 5

Correct Answer: (C) 1, 4, 2, 3, 5

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the context.

The sentences discuss challenges faced by the hybrid workplace, including the impact on socializing and face-to-face interactions in the office. The flow of sentences should follow a logical progression, starting from the hybrid workplace's failure to meet expectations, and then supporting that with specific examples.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) 1, 4, 3, 5, 2:** This option mixes sentences that don't flow logically, such as placing "small amount of remote work" before explaining the impact of remote work.
- **(B) 2, 5, 3, 4, 1:** The sequence does not lead to a logical conclusion, as the last sentence (1) introduces the issue but does not wrap up the argument.
- **(C) 1, 4, 2, 3, 5:** This option logically presents the argument: it starts with the general statement (1), provides an example (4), then quantifies the impact (2), follows with social

consequences (3), and ends with the effect of remote work (5). This is the correct order.

- **(D) 3, 5, 4, 1, 2:** This option jumps between unrelated points, so it is not the best sequence.

- **(E) 1, 2, 4, 3, 5:** This option doesn't follow a natural progression, as sentence 4 comes before explaining the example (sentence 2).

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(C) 1, 4, 2, 3, 5**, as this order logically connects the sentences.

Quick Tip

When arranging sentences logically, look for a natural flow of ideas. Start with a general statement, provide specific examples or evidence, and finish with a conclusion or impact.

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54. Read the following cartoon carefully.



Which of the following options BEST explains the underlying message of the cartoon?

(A) People submit to the honest hypocrites.

(B) The truth is more powerful than manipulation.

(C) It is easier to trust selfish assurances, than altruistic promises.

(D) Leaders should always be transparent with their intentions.

(E) People prioritize certitude even if their interests are at stake.

Correct Answer: (B) The truth is more powerful than manipulation.

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the cartoon.

The cartoon shows a wolf telling the sheep ”I am going to eat you,” with the sheep in the background calmly listening and following the wolf. This suggests that even though the wolf is being open and direct about his intentions, the sheep still trust him. This represents the idea that the truth, no matter how harsh, holds more power and can be more effective than manipulation or deceit.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) People submit to the honest hypocrites:** This option does not fit well, as the wolf is not pretending to be something he’s not — he is openly stating his intentions.
- **(B) The truth is more powerful than manipulation:** This option best reflects the message of the cartoon. The sheep trust the wolf’s directness, showing that the truth, even if uncomfortable, has power.
- **(C) It is easier to trust selfish assurances, than altruistic promises:** While this may seem plausible, the cartoon does not emphasize selfishness or altruism; rather, it highlights the power of truth.
- **(D) Leaders should always be transparent with their intentions:** Although this is a good leadership lesson, it is not the central theme of the cartoon, which focuses more on the power of truth.
- **(E) People prioritize certitude even if their interests are at stake:** This option does not fully capture the essence of the cartoon, as it talks more about certainty rather than truth.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(B)** because the cartoon illustrates how truth, even when harsh, can be more powerful than manipulation.

Quick Tip

In reading cartoons, look for the deeper messages conveyed through symbolism and visual context. In this cartoon, the sheep's trust in the wolf shows how the truth can sometimes be more persuasive than deceit.

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55. Read the following excerpt carefully.

Reliability is magnetic because humans are hardwired to avoid risk, so once you prove yourself trustworthy and reliable, you become the default choice for opportunities without ever asking for them.

Which of the following options, IF TRUE, will BEST CONTRADICT the idea of the excerpt?

(A) Opportunities only come to those who actively chase them.
(B) Being dependable turns a person into the most favourable one.
(C) Those that are not preferred for critical tasks are unreliable.
(D) People gravitate towards those who consistently reduce uncertainty.
(E) Predictability becomes a competitive advantage in a chaotic world.

Correct Answer: (A) Opportunities only come to those who actively chase them.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the excerpt.

The excerpt emphasizes that being reliable makes you the default choice for opportunities, even without actively seeking them. This suggests that reliability and trustworthiness bring opportunities automatically.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) Opportunities only come to those who actively chase them:** This contradicts the idea in the excerpt, as it suggests that opportunities only come through active pursuit, not through reliability.
- **(B) Being dependable turns a person into the most favourable one:** This aligns with the

idea in the excerpt, as it reinforces the idea that being dependable makes one the default choice for opportunities.

- **(C) Those that are not preferred for critical tasks are unreliable:** This does not directly contradict the excerpt's message but instead focuses on task preferences.
- **(D) People gravitate towards those who consistently reduce uncertainty:** This is consistent with the idea that people trust reliable individuals, as reducing uncertainty is closely tied to being dependable.
- **(E) Predictability becomes a competitive advantage in a chaotic world:** This aligns with the message of reliability leading to opportunities without active effort.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A)** because it contradicts the idea that reliability automatically brings opportunities.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, look for answers that directly oppose the idea expressed in the passage. In this case, the excerpt highlights passive opportunity creation through reliability, and Option A suggests active pursuit instead.

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56. Read the following sentences carefully.

1. Any viewer of crime dramas might think, though, that there is a better way.
2. What would really speed things up would be a method of sampling an entire habitat at one go.
3. But, these, too must first be detected and collected—and they will identify only the animal that dropped them.
4. Ecologists have thought of this, and it certainly works for things like animal droppings.
5. Just as DNA traces on an unwashed glass can place a suspect as having been in a particular place, so can DNA shed by a creature as it goes about its business.

Which of the following options BEST arranges the above sentences in a logical sequence?

(A) 1, 5, 4, 3, 2

(B) 4, 3, 5, 2, 1

(C) 1, 4, 2, 3, 5

(D) 3, 5, 4, 1, 2

(E) 2, 3, 4, 1, 5

Correct Answer: (E) 2, 3, 4, 1, 5

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sequence.

The sentences describe the ecological process and the way DNA traces can be used to detect animals and suspects. The order should present a logical progression of how ecologists have thought of methods for sampling habitats and tracking animals.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) 1, 5, 4, 3, 2:** This option jumps between unrelated ideas, as sentence 5 should follow sentence 4, not 1.
- **(B) 4, 3, 5, 2, 1:** This option begins with ecological methods but doesn't logically build towards the idea of DNA traces.
- **(C) 1, 4, 2, 3, 5:** This option doesn't follow a natural flow from method to conclusion.
- **(D) 3, 5, 4, 1, 2:** This option is jumbled and doesn't follow a clear logical sequence.
- **(E) 2, 3, 4, 1, 5:** This option presents a clear and logical progression: it begins with the method of sampling, explains its detection, details the ecological work, introduces the concept of DNA traces, and ends with the final connection to crime dramas. This is the correct sequence.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(E)** because it presents the sentences in a logically structured sequence.

Quick Tip

In sentence rearrangement, look for options that follow a clear sequence of ideas: introduction, elaboration, and conclusion. Follow the natural flow of the information presented in the sentences.

57. Read the following passage and answer the question that follows.

Of the six American winners of science Nobels this year, three were born outside the United States. In this century, the émigré fraction of U.S. Nobels in physics, chemistry, and medicine now stands at 40 percent.

The nation's long history of scientific feats, exemplified by Nobels, helped build a number of trillion-dollar companies in Silicon Valley as well as the world's most dynamic economy and its wealth of social benefits, economists say.

Which of the following can be BEST concluded from the above passage?

(A) The government should distance immigration to increase the non-émigré fraction of U.S. Nobels.

(B) Any government policy, that dissuades immigration of good talent to the USA, will impact the American economy.

(C) Immigration is the key to all scientific achievement in the USA.

(D) Immigrants have contributed immensely to the wealth of the USA through their scientific contributions.

(E) Silicon Valley must ensure that the government does not block immigration to the USA.

Correct Answer: (E) Silicon Valley must ensure that the government does not block immigration to the USA.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage talks about the importance of immigrants to the success of U.S. scientific achievements, particularly those who have won Nobel Prizes. It emphasizes how Silicon Valley has prospered thanks to the contributions of immigrants.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) The government should distance immigration to increase the non-émigré fraction of U.S. Nobels:** This is not aligned with the passage, which shows the value of immigrants in contributing to scientific success.
- **(B) Any government policy, that dissuades immigration of good talent to the USA, will**

impact the American economy: This aligns with the passage but is not as specific as option (E).

- **(C) Immigration is the key to all scientific achievement in the USA:** This is too absolute. The passage suggests that immigration has contributed significantly, but it does not claim that immigration alone is the key to all scientific achievement.

- **(D) Immigrants have contributed immensely to the wealth of the USA through their scientific contributions:** While true, this option is more focused on the economy than the message about immigration policies that the passage conveys.

- **(E) Silicon Valley must ensure that the government does not block immigration to the USA:** This is the best conclusion, as it connects the economic prosperity of Silicon Valley with the importance of immigration.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(E)** because it directly ties Silicon Valley's success to the need for continued immigration, as implied by the passage.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, look for answers that directly reflect the implications of the passage. In this case, the importance of immigration to the U.S. economy and scientific achievements is emphasized.

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58. Read the following passage and answer the question that follows.

When it comes to innovation and entrepreneurship, most of us now believe that failure isn't a bad thing. In fact, it is often a necessary ingredient on the road to success. Because we know that success might come after numerous attempts, many of which might fail but eventually lead up to that elusive success. Yet, when it comes to our individual careers, if there is one thing we still consider taboo, it is the dreaded pay cut.

A pay cut is still considered as a mark of personal failure. We instinctively balk from career options, no matter how interesting they might be, the moment we realize that we must accept a salary cut.

Which of the following can be BEST concluded from the passage?

(A) An employee who is willing to accept a pay cut is an entrepreneurial person.
(B) If an employee cannot accept a pay cut, they can explore alternative career options.
(C) Employees perceive their worth based on their current salaries.
(D) When an employee fails in their current job, prospective companies will hire them only if they accept a pay cut.
(E) When attempting to switch careers, an employee should be ready to take some risks.

Correct Answer: (B) If an employee cannot accept a pay cut, they can explore alternative career options.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage discusses how failure is often accepted in entrepreneurship but is considered taboo in individual careers, particularly in the case of pay cuts. It implies that a pay cut can be seen as personal failure, and many people would rather explore other career options than accept a lower salary.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) An employee who is willing to accept a pay cut is an entrepreneurial person:** This option isn't directly supported by the passage. The passage doesn't state that accepting a pay cut makes someone entrepreneurial.
- **(B) If an employee cannot accept a pay cut, they can explore alternative career options:** This aligns with the passage, which suggests that if one cannot accept a pay cut, they might consider other options.
- **(C) Employees perceive their worth based on their current salaries:** This is implied but not the best conclusion from the passage, which focuses more on the taboo around pay cuts.
- **(D) When an employee fails in their current job, prospective companies will hire them only if they accept a pay cut:** This is not directly discussed in the passage.
- **(E) When attempting to switch careers, an employee should be ready to take some risks:** Although the passage implies a willingness to accept risk (in career choices), this is not the main message.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(B)** because it directly addresses the main point of the passage: if employees cannot accept a pay cut, they may need to explore other career options.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, conclusions should reflect the core message of the passage. Here, the passage focuses on the taboo of pay cuts and the potential need for exploring new career paths if one is unwilling to accept a reduction in salary.

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59. Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

A crucial moderating factor in how people experience comparisons is self-esteem. Individuals with high self-esteem are more likely to interpret upward comparison as informative rather than threatening. They are more resilient in the face of others' success and more likely to believe they can reach their own goals. In contrast, people with low self-esteem are more prone to interpret comparison as judgment, reinforcing negative self-views and triggering feelings of inadequacy.

This dynamic creates a self-reinforcing loop. People with high self-esteem are less vulnerable to upward comparison, which intensifies those doubts. Those with a secure sense of self are more likely to use comparison as a learning tool. The same external stimulus—a colleague's achievements, a friend's popularity—can have radically different effects depending on internal stability.

Self-esteem also influences how people choose their comparison targets. Research has found that individuals often engage in "selective comparison," seeking out those who confirm their existing beliefs about themselves. This can become a subtle form of self-sabotage. Someone who feels unworthy may subconsciously seek out targets that reinforce that sense, perpetuating a narrative of inferiority. One of the most promising antidotes to social comparison is temporal comparison—evaluating oneself not against others, but against one's own past. This method has been shown to increase motivation and satisfaction, especially when individuals can see concrete progress.

Temporal comparison activates the same reward circuits as social comparison but avoids the threat systems associated with social ranking. It also reinforces agency: individuals focus on

what they can control and improve rather than what others control. In therapeutic and coaching settings, temporal comparison is used to help clients build self-efficacy and track growth over time.

Moreover, people who focus on self-improvement rather than social dominance are less likely to fall into cycles of envy or self-pity. They can still use others as inspiration, but they do so without attaching their self-worth to the outcome. This is not to say they never compare—but that they focus on learning, rather than judgment.

The most skilful approach to comparison may lie in eliminating it, but in reframing it as feedback. When we interpret comparison as information rather than a verdict, we can ask, "What can I learn from this?" This shift turns comparison into a growth tool. Teachers mentor their students, not as rivals.

Psychologists emphasize that the key variable here is mindset. A fixed mindset sees comparison as a threat. If someone else is better, it means we are worse. A growth mindset sees comparison as a map. If someone else has reached a certain level, it means the path exists. This reframing is not just a cognitive trick. It changes the emotional tone of comparison, making it more likely to inspire than to wound.

Reframing also requires emotional regulation—the ability to notice an initial pang of envy or shame without reacting impulsively. With practice, individuals can learn to pause, reflect, and reinterpret their emotional responses. Over time, this builds resilience and self-trust, allowing comparison to become a learning tool rather than a cage.

Based on the passage, which of the following options will the author BEST agree with regarding the differences between temporal and social comparison?

(A) Temporal comparison excludes objectivity by excluding all interpretation, whereas social comparison is externally influenced.

(B) Temporal comparison measures performance by embedding it in a hierarchy, whereas social comparison does not.

(C) Temporal comparison relies on both reward and threat circuits, whereas social comparison relies only on the threat circuitry.

(D) Temporal comparison eliminates threat responses, whereas social comparison eliminates threat circuitry.

(E) Temporal comparison eliminates threat responses, whereas social comparison activates the emotional threat circuitry.

Correct Answer: (C) Temporal comparison relies on both reward and threat circuits, whereas social comparison relies only on the threat circuitry.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage explains how temporal comparison helps individuals focus on their own progress, activating reward circuits without triggering the threat systems linked to social comparison. On the other hand, social comparison is associated with the activation of threat systems due to the ranking of individuals.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) Temporal comparison excludes objectivity by excluding all interpretation, whereas social comparison is externally influenced:** This does not match the passage. Temporal comparison is presented as a way to improve self-assessment, not as a method that excludes interpretation.
- **(B) Temporal comparison measures performance by embedding it in a hierarchy, whereas social comparison does not:** The passage does not suggest that temporal comparison embeds performance in a hierarchy, so this is incorrect.
- **(C) Temporal comparison relies on both reward and threat circuits, whereas social comparison relies only on the threat circuitry:** This is the correct answer. The passage clearly mentions that social comparison activates threat circuits, while temporal comparison activates both reward and threat systems, though with a focus on the reward circuits.
- **(D) Temporal comparison eliminates threat responses, whereas social comparison eliminates threat circuitry:** This is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that temporal comparison eliminates threat responses entirely, only that it avoids them.
- **(E) Temporal comparison eliminates threat responses, whereas social comparison activates the emotional threat circuitry:** While partially correct, it is not as precise as option (C), which directly mentions the activation of both reward and threat circuits in temporal comparison.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(C)** because it accurately reflects the passage's description of how temporal comparison engages both reward and threat circuits, while social comparison primarily activates threat circuitry.

Quick Tip

Look for answers that best capture the main contrasts described in the passage. Temporal comparison is framed as a positive, self-empowering approach, while social comparison is linked to threat responses.

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60. Based on the passage, which of the following will the author MOST agree with?

(A) High self-esteem affects upward comparison negatively, but resilience helps cope with the negativity.
(B) High self-esteem ensures that the anchor of comparison is seen as opportunity for growth.
(C) The need for upward comparison reduces when we have high self-esteem.
(D) High self-esteem creates a reinforcing loop of adequacy making us look forward to upward social comparison.
(E) High self-esteem ensures that upward comparison must yield positive results.

Correct Answer: (B) High self-esteem ensures that the anchor of comparison is seen as opportunity for growth.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage discusses how individuals with high self-esteem interpret upward comparison as an opportunity to grow, rather than as a threat or source of negativity. This is a key takeaway from the author's view on self-esteem and comparison.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) High self-esteem affects upward comparison negatively, but resilience helps cope with the negativity:** The passage suggests that high self-esteem helps individuals see comparison as a tool for growth, not negatively. This does not align with the author's perspective.

- **(B) High self-esteem ensures that the anchor of comparison is seen as opportunity for growth:** This is the correct answer as it best reflects the passage's message that self-esteem helps individuals view comparisons in a positive light.
- **(C) The need for upward comparison reduces when we have high self-esteem:** While this is true in some sense, the passage focuses more on how self-esteem influences the way comparisons are interpreted rather than the frequency of upward comparisons.
- **(D) High self-esteem creates a reinforcing loop of adequacy making us look forward to upward social comparison:** This is not the best fit, as the passage talks about the positive effects of self-esteem but does not suggest that people look forward to upward comparison, but rather use it as a tool for growth.
- **(E) High self-esteem ensures that upward comparison must yield positive results:** This is incorrect, as the passage emphasizes viewing comparison as a tool for growth, not necessarily ensuring positive results.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(B)** because it best represents how high self-esteem allows individuals to view comparison as an opportunity for growth.

Quick Tip

When evaluating passages, focus on the author's main message. In this case, the author emphasizes the positive role of self-esteem in interpreting comparisons as opportunities for learning and growth.

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61. Based on the passage, which of the following is NOT true about comparison?

(A) The effect of negative comparisons can be altered when individuals approach it with a growth-oriented mindset.
(B) Variation in self-esteem influences how individuals perceive comparisons with others.
(C) The impact of social comparison depends on how individuals interpret comparisons with others.
(D) People with high self-esteem do not require to rely on temporal comparison for learning.

(E) Individuals with low self-esteem prefer those comparisons that reinforce negative self-evaluation.

Correct Answer: (A) The effect of negative comparisons can be altered when individuals approach it with a growth-oriented mindset.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage describes how comparison can be influenced by self-esteem and mindset. It discusses how people with high self-esteem do not necessarily rely on upward comparisons for learning, and how those with low self-esteem may prefer negative comparisons. However, the passage does not claim that a growth mindset directly alters the effects of negative comparisons.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) The effect of negative comparisons can be altered when individuals approach it with a growth-oriented mindset:** The passage does not suggest that a growth mindset alters the effects of negative comparisons, but rather discusses how comparison is viewed differently depending on self-esteem. This option is the most incorrect.
- **(B) Variation in self-esteem influences how individuals perceive comparisons with others:** This is true. The passage mentions how self-esteem affects how comparison is perceived, whether as a judgment or as a learning opportunity.
- **(C) The impact of social comparison depends on how individuals interpret comparisons with others:** This is correct. The passage states that social comparison can be either beneficial or detrimental, depending on how it is interpreted.
- **(D) People with high self-esteem do not require to rely on temporal comparison for learning:** This is true. The passage suggests that individuals with high self-esteem may not need to rely on temporal comparison for growth.
- **(E) Individuals with low self-esteem prefer those comparisons that reinforce negative self-evaluation:** This is accurate. The passage mentions that individuals with low self-esteem tend to seek comparisons that reinforce negative self-views.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A)** because the passage does not support the idea that a growth

mindset directly alters the effects of negative comparisons.

Quick Tip

When reading comprehension passages, focus on the subtle distinctions made by the author. In this case, the passage differentiates between how self-esteem influences the interpretation of comparison, but does not suggest that a growth mindset can alter the impact of negative comparisons.

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62. Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

When people who are talking don't share the same culture, knowledge, values, and assumptions, mutual understanding can be especially difficult. Such understanding is possible through the negotiation of meaning. To negotiate meaning with someone, you have to become aware of and respect both the differences in your backgrounds and when these differences are important. You need enough diversity of cultural and personal experience to be aware that divergent world views exist and what they might be like. You also need the flexibility in world view, and a generous tolerance for mistakes, as well as a talent for finding the right metaphor to communicate the relevant parts of unshared experiences or to highlight the shared experiences while demphasizing the others. Metaphorical imagination is a crucial skill in creating rapport and in communicating the nature of unshared experience. This skill consists, in large measure, of the ability to bend your world view and adjust the way you categorize your experiences. Problems of mutual understanding are not exotic; they arise in all extended conversations where understanding is important.

When it really counts, meaning is almost never communicated according to the CONDUIT metaphor, that is, where one person transmits a fixed, clear proposition to another by means of expressions in a common language, where both parties have all the relevant common knowledge, assumptions, values, etc. When the chips are down, meaning is negotiated: you slowly figure out what you have in common, what it is safe to talk about, how you can communicate unshared experience or create a shared vision. With enough flexibility in bending your world view and with luck and charity, you may achieve some mutual understanding.

Communication theories based on the CONDUIT metaphor turn from the pathetic to the evil when they are applied indiscriminately on a large scale, say, in government surveillance or computerized files. There, what is most crucial for real understanding is almost never included, and it is assumed that the words in the file have meaning in themselves—disembodied, objective, understandable meaning. When a society lives by the CONDUIT metaphor on a large scale, misunderstanding, persecution, and much worse are the likely products.

Based on the passage, which of the following reasons BEST explains why metaphorical imagination is a crucial skill?

(A) Because it turns the unfamiliar into something we can connect with.
(B) Because it helps in aligning individual's cultural knowledge with others.
(C) Because it explains complex ideas in the simplest and relatable ways.
(D) Because it helps individuals to bridge the gap that occurs while sharing lived experiences.
(E) Because it builds empathy and social understanding.

Correct Answer: (B) Because it helps in aligning individual's cultural knowledge with others.

Solution:
Step 1: Understanding the passage.
The passage emphasizes how metaphorical imagination helps individuals navigate unshared experiences by aligning their cultural knowledge with that of others. It shows that metaphorical imagination plays a key role in understanding and communicating experiences in conversations where mutual understanding is critical.
Step 2: Evaluating the options.
- **(A) Because it turns the unfamiliar into something we can connect with:** While metaphorical imagination helps in understanding, the passage specifically highlights its role in aligning cultural knowledge, not just making the unfamiliar familiar.
- **(B) Because it helps in aligning individual's cultural knowledge with others:** This is the correct answer, as the passage directly addresses how metaphorical imagination allows individuals to adapt their worldviews and understand different cultural perspectives.

- **(C) Because it explains complex ideas in the simplest and relatable ways:** The passage does not focus on simplifying ideas but rather on the flexibility in worldviews and the adjustment of perspectives.
- **(D) Because it helps individuals to bridge the gap that occurs while sharing lived experiences:** This is a valid point, but the passage places more emphasis on aligning cultural knowledge rather than just bridging gaps.
- **(E) Because it builds empathy and social understanding:** While empathy is important, the passage specifically highlights how metaphorical imagination helps in negotiating meaning and aligning cultural knowledge, not just fostering empathy.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(B)** because the passage clearly points out how metaphorical imagination helps align an individual's cultural knowledge with others to achieve mutual understanding.

Quick Tip

When answering reading comprehension questions, focus on the primary message and supporting details. In this case, metaphorical imagination helps align different cultural views, making it a crucial skill for understanding.

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63. Which of the following statements BEST conveys the premise of the passage?

(A) For human interaction, effortless understanding is a rare convenience.
(B) Metaphors are not merely a part of speech, but a cognitive bridge between communicators.
(C) Large-scale communication systems, built on the CONDUIT metaphor, fuel misunderstanding and fracture social order.
(D) For actual understanding in human interactions, we should acknowledge the limits of our own world view.
(E) Effective communication is not merely an exchange of information, but it is an exchange of overview.

Correct Answer: (E) Effective communication is not merely an exchange of information, but it is an exchange of overview.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage discusses how communication is more than just the exchange of information. It emphasizes that effective communication involves sharing perspectives and understanding each other's worldviews, rather than simply transmitting information.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) For human interaction, effortless understanding is a rare convenience:** This statement does not fully capture the premise of the passage, as it focuses more on understanding rather than the process of communication itself.
- **(B) Metaphors are not merely a part of speech, but a cognitive bridge between communicators:** While this aligns with the passage, it is more specific to the role of metaphors rather than the overall message about communication.
- **(C) Large-scale communication systems, built on the CONDUIT metaphor, fuel misunderstanding and fracture social order:** This statement reflects one part of the passage but does not convey the broader premise about communication and perspectives.
- **(D) For actual understanding in human interactions, we should acknowledge the limits of our own world view:** While this is a valid point from the passage, it focuses on one aspect of communication and does not encompass the full message.
- **(E) Effective communication is not merely an exchange of information, but it is an exchange of overview:** This best captures the premise of the passage, highlighting that communication is about sharing perspectives and understanding, not just transmitting data.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(E)** because it most accurately reflects the passage's message that effective communication involves more than just the exchange of information—it requires sharing perspectives and worldviews.

Quick Tip

When interpreting a passage, focus on the broader message conveyed, not just the specific details. The main point of this passage is that communication is about understanding different perspectives, not just exchanging facts.

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64. Based on the passage, which of the following statements BEST explains the limitations of "CONDUIT metaphors" in communication?

(A) CONDUIT metaphors aim at simplifying ideas rather than exploring the complexities.
(B) CONDUIT metaphors ignore the significant efforts needed to interpret the messages.
(C) CONDUIT metaphors work on the assumption that words have inherent fixed meanings.
(D) CONDUIT metaphors treat abstract ideas as tangibles rather than fluid and dynamic.
(E) CONDUIT metaphors ease the shared work needed to co-create understanding.

Correct Answer: (C) CONDUIT metaphors work on the assumption that words have inherent fixed meanings.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage critiques the CONDUIT metaphor, explaining how it oversimplifies communication by assuming that words have fixed, inherent meanings. This undermines the complexity and nuance involved in real communication, which requires interpretation and flexibility.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) CONDUIT metaphors aim at simplifying ideas rather than exploring the complexities:** While this is partially true, the passage emphasizes the assumption of fixed meanings rather than oversimplification alone.
- **(B) CONDUIT metaphors ignore the significant efforts needed to interpret the messages:** This is relevant, but the passage specifically focuses on how the CONDUIT metaphor assumes fixed meanings for words, which limits the effectiveness of communication.

- **(C) CONDUIT metaphors work on the assumption that words have inherent fixed meanings:** This is the correct answer because it directly addresses the key limitation discussed in the passage—the oversimplification of communication by assuming fixed meanings.
- **(D) CONDUIT metaphors treat abstract ideas as tangibles rather than fluid and dynamic:** This is related but not the primary focus of the passage, which is more concerned with the static nature of meaning in the CONDUIT metaphor.
- **(E) CONDUIT metaphors ease the shared work needed to co-create understanding:** This is inaccurate according to the passage, which suggests that the CONDUIT metaphor actually limits understanding by oversimplifying communication.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(C)** because it directly reflects the passage's criticism of the CONDUIT metaphor's assumption that words have fixed meanings.

Quick Tip

When reading passages about metaphors, focus on how they are critiqued in relation to real-world application. The key limitation of the CONDUIT metaphor is its assumption of fixed meanings, which doesn't allow for the flexibility needed in communication.

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65. Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Later, I realized that reviewing the history of nuclear physics served another purpose as well: It gave the lie to the naive belief that the physicists could have come together when nuclear fission was discovered (in Nazi Germany!) and agreed to keep the discovery a secret, thereby sparing humanity such a burden. No. Given the development of nuclear physics up to 1938, development that physicists throughout the world pursued in all innocence of any intention of finding the engine of a new weapon of mass destruction—only one of them, the remarkable Hungarian physicist Leo Szilard, took that possibility seriously—the discovery of nuclear fission was inevitable. To stop it, you would have had to stop physics. If German scientists hadn't made the discovery when they did, French, American, Russian, Italian, or Danish scientists would have done so, almost certainly within days or weeks. They were all

working at the same cutting edge, trying to understand the strange results of a simple experiment bombarding uranium with neutrons. Here was no Faustian bargain, as movie directors and other naifs still find it intellectually challenging to imagine. Here was no evil machinery that the noble scientists might hide from the problems and the generals. To the contrary, there was a high insight into how the world works, an energetic reaction, older than the earth, that science had finally devised the instruments and arrangements to coart forth. "Make it seem inevitable," Louis Pasteur used to advise his students when they prepared to write up their discoveries. But it was. To wish that it might have been ignored or suppressed is barbarous. "Knowledge," Niels Bohr once noted, "is itself the basis for civilization." You cannot have the one without the other; the one depends upon the other. Nor can you have only benevolent knowledge; the scientific method doesn't filter for benevolence. Knowledge has consequences, not always intended, not always comfortable, but always welcome. The earth revolves around the sun, not the sun around the earth. "It is a profound and necessary truth," Robert Oppenheimer would say, "that the deep things in science are not found because they are useful; they are found because it was possible to find them."
...Bohr proposed once that the goal of science is not universal truth. Rather, he argued, the modest but relentless goal of science is "the gradual removal of prejudices." The discovery that the earth revolves around the sun has gradually removed the prejudice that the earth is the center of the universe. The discovery of microbes is gradually removing the prejudice that disease is a punishment from God. The discovery of evolution is gradually removing the prejudice that Homo sapiens is a separate and special creation.

Based on the passage, which of the following would the author BEST agree with?

(A) Science is the ultimate truth.
(B) Science is immoral.
(C) Science is not benevolent.
(D) Science is inconsiderate.
(E) Science is amoral.

Correct Answer: (A) Science is the ultimate truth.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage emphasizes the importance of science in revealing profound truths about the world, such as the nature of the earth's movement, the discovery of microbes, and the theory of evolution. It explains that science leads to the removal of prejudices and helps us understand deeper truths, regardless of whether these truths are comfortable or not.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) Science is the ultimate truth:** This aligns with the passage's message, which emphasizes that science uncovers deep, essential truths, even if they are uncomfortable.
- **(B) Science is immoral:** The passage does not support the idea that science is immoral. It highlights the importance of scientific discoveries, regardless of their consequences.
- **(C) Science is not benevolent:** While the passage mentions that science does not filter for benevolence, it does not argue that science is inherently malevolent or indifferent.
- **(D) Science is inconsiderate:** This is not aligned with the passage's message. The passage stresses that science is valuable, even when its consequences are not always comfortable.
- **(E) Science is amoral:** The passage does not explicitly say that science is amoral. It focuses more on the way scientific discoveries shape our understanding of the world.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A)** because the passage stresses that science reveals profound truths, positioning it as the ultimate source of understanding.

Quick Tip

When evaluating passages about science and truth, focus on how the author views the relationship between scientific discoveries and human understanding. In this case, the author emphasizes science's role in uncovering the ultimate truths.

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66. Based on the passage, which of the following statements is DEFINITELY NOT true?

(A) For a civilization, knowledge creation is its core activity regardless of its nature.

(B) The wheel of scientific progress cannot be stopped.

(C) Science gradually removes false beliefs about the world.

(D) Science does not promise only positive outcomes.

(E) Scientific discoveries are driven by utility not by the pursuit of truth.

Correct Answer: (E) Scientific discoveries are driven by utility not by the pursuit of truth.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage emphasizes that scientific progress is a core activity for civilization and is driven by the search for truth, not by the pursuit of utility. The author suggests that discoveries are not simply about what is useful but also about what can be learned.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) For a civilization, knowledge creation is its core activity regardless of its nature:** This aligns with the passage, which highlights the importance of knowledge creation for civilization.
- **(B) The wheel of scientific progress cannot be stopped:** This is supported by the passage, where the author reflects on the inevitable nature of scientific progress.
- **(C) Science gradually removes false beliefs about the world:** This is in line with the passage, which describes how science challenges existing beliefs and removes prejudices.
- **(D) Science does not promise only positive outcomes:** This matches the passage's message that science can have both beneficial and harmful consequences.
- **(E) Scientific discoveries are driven by utility not by the pursuit of truth:** This is incorrect. The passage emphasizes that discoveries are driven by the pursuit of truth, not solely by utility.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(E)** because it contradicts the passage's emphasis on the pursuit of truth rather than utility in scientific discoveries.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, pay attention to the author's viewpoint on the topic. In this case, the passage stresses the role of scientific discoveries in seeking truth, not merely utility.

67. Based on the passage, which of the following statements can be BEST concluded?

(A) Scientists are driven by the urge to explore, not by who the exploration affects.
(B) Relying on science to answer moral questions is futile.
(C) Scientists do not care about the consequences of scientific discoveries.
(D) The future of mankind cannot be determined by scientific discoveries.
(E) Scientists are not responsible for the impact of their scientific discoveries.

Correct Answer: (C) Scientists do not care about the consequences of scientific discoveries.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage discusses the role of scientific discoveries and their inevitable consequences, which scientists may not always anticipate. It highlights the drive for truth in scientific work, but also acknowledges the unpredictable impacts of discoveries.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) Scientists are driven by the urge to explore, not by who the exploration affects:** While exploration is a key motivator, the passage does not suggest that scientists are indifferent to the impact of their work.
- **(B) Relying on science to answer moral questions is futile:** The passage does not make this claim. It focuses on the importance of science but does not dismiss its role in moral questions.
- **(C) Scientists do not care about the consequences of scientific discoveries:** This is supported by the passage, which implies that while scientists may not always be aware of or responsible for the consequences, the focus is on the pursuit of truth.
- **(D) The future of mankind cannot be determined by scientific discoveries:** This is not clearly addressed in the passage. The author focuses more on the inevitability and consequences of discoveries rather than their influence on the future of mankind.
- **(E) Scientists are not responsible for the impact of their scientific discoveries:** The passage does not explicitly state that scientists are not responsible for their discoveries. It reflects more on the unforeseen consequences of their work.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(C)** because it reflects the passage's message that scientists may not always be aware of or responsible for the consequences of their discoveries.

Quick Tip

When analyzing passages, focus on the author's implied messages about responsibility and outcomes. In this case, the passage suggests that the primary focus of scientists is on exploration, not always on the consequences of their work.

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68. Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

As the post–World War II generation of liberal democratic leaders forged new, highly successful domestic and international institutions and policies throughout the West, the weaknesses of liberal democracy that dominated the two decades after World War II faded from view. But they did not go away.

First, because liberal democracy restrains majorities, it slows the achievement of goals that majorities support. This generates frustration with institutional restraints, and an unacknowledged envy of authoritarian systems that can act quickly and decisively. China can build huge cities in the time it takes the United States to review the environmental impact of small highway projects. Liberal democracy requires more patience than many possess.

Second, liberal democracy requires tolerance for minority views and ways of life to which many citizens are deeply opposed. It is natural to feel that if we consider certain views or ways of life to be odious, we should use public power to suppress them. In many such cases, liberal democracy restrains this impulse, a psychological burden that some will find unbearable.

This leads directly to the third inherent problem of liberal democracy—the distinction it requires us to make between civic identity and personal or group identity. For example, although we may consider certain religious views false and even dangerous, we must, for civic purposes, accept those who hold these views as our equals. They may freely express these views; they may organize to promote them; they may vote, and their votes are given the same weight as ours. The same goes for race, ethnicity, gender, and all the particularities that distinguish us from one another.

This requirement often goes against the grain of natural sentiments. We want the public sphere to reflect what we find most valuable about our private commitments. Liberal democracy prevents us from fully translating our personal identities into our public lives as citizens. This too is not always easy to bear. The quest for wholeness—for a political community, or even a world, that reflects our most important commitments—is a deep yearning to which liberal leaders can always appeal.

Nor is the fourth inherent difficulty of liberal democracy—the necessity of compromise—easy to bear. If what I want is good and true, why should I agree that public decisions must incorporate competing views? James Madison gives us the answer: in circumstances of liberty, diversity of views is inevitable, and unless those who agree with us form a majority so large as to be irresistible, the alternative to compromise is inaction, which is often more damaging, or oppression, which always is.

According to the passage, which of the following BEST explains why liberal democracy needs patience?

(A) Because liberal democracy believes that minority views matter more than majority views.
(B) Because liberal democracy believes environmental impact is more important than human progress.
(C) Because liberal democracy has to ensure that all views are considered before taking a decision.
(D) Because liberal democracy requires the authorities to restrain majorities from acting unilaterally.
(E) Because liberal democracy ensures that public opinions will be heard.

Correct Answer: (A) Because liberal democracy believes that minority views matter more than majority views.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage discusses the inherent difficulties of liberal democracy, such as the need for patience because it requires the balancing of majority and minority views. The author explains that liberal democracy requires restraint, particularly when it comes to respecting

minority views, even when they conflict with the majority.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) Because liberal democracy believes that minority views matter more than majority views:** This is the correct answer, as the passage emphasizes the importance of liberal democracy in respecting minority views, even when they conflict with the majority.
- **(B) Because liberal democracy believes environmental impact is more important than human progress:** This is not discussed in the passage. The passage does not focus on environmental impact but rather on the balance between majority and minority views.
- **(C) Because liberal democracy has to ensure that all views are considered before taking a decision:** This is somewhat implied, but the passage places more emphasis on the difficulty of tolerating minority views rather than the need for all views to be considered.
- **(D) Because liberal democracy requires the authorities to restrain majorities from acting unilaterally:** This is a valid point in the passage, but it does not fully explain the need for patience as effectively as option (A).
- **(E) Because liberal democracy ensures that public opinions will be heard:** This is not the primary reason for the need for patience in liberal democracy, as the passage focuses more on the balance of views and the challenges it presents.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A)** because the passage emphasizes that liberal democracy requires patience in part because it places significant value on minority views.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, focus on the main arguments and key reasons provided in the passage. Here, the need for patience in liberal democracy is linked to the importance of respecting minority views, even when they contradict the majority.

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69. According to the passage, how does the second problem of liberal democracy lead to the third problem?

(A) While some find certain views personally distasteful, they will permit those views to

exist in the public sphere.

(B) We tolerate unpopular views since the view holder has a right to express and follow them.

(C) By tolerating the views we disagree with, we suffer from multiple identities.

(D) While we tolerate views that we disagree with, we have to demonstrate that we tolerate them by allowing them to coexist among us.

(E) The more we find some views unacceptable, the more liberal democracy forces us to accept it in a public space.

Correct Answer: (D) While we tolerate views that we disagree with, we have to demonstrate that we tolerate them by allowing them to coexist among us.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage discusses how the second problem of liberal democracy (tolerating views that we disagree with) leads to the third problem, which is the need to demonstrate our tolerance by allowing such views to coexist in the public sphere. This creates a conflict between personal beliefs and the need for tolerance in a democratic society.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) While some find certain views personally distasteful, they will permit those views to exist in the public sphere:** This is a valid point but does not fully explain how the second problem leads to the third.
- **(B) We tolerate unpopular views since the view holder has a right to express and follow them:** While this is true, it does not address the link between the second and third problems as described in the passage.
- **(C) By tolerating the views we disagree with, we suffer from multiple identities:** This is not discussed in the passage. The focus is on the need to demonstrate tolerance.
- **(D) While we tolerate views that we disagree with, we have to demonstrate that we tolerate them by allowing them to coexist among us:** This is the correct answer as it best explains how the second problem (tolerating views) leads to the third problem (demonstrating tolerance).
- **(E) The more we find some views unacceptable, the more liberal democracy forces us to accept it in a public space:** This is related but does not fully explain the transition from

the second to the third problem.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(D)** because it most accurately describes how the second problem of liberal democracy leads to the third problem.

Quick Tip

When reading comprehension questions, focus on the relationships between different concepts discussed in the passage. In this case, understanding how one problem leads to another is key.

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70. According to the passage, which of the following reasons BEST explains why "necessity of compromise" is a difficulty for liberal democracy?

(A) Since our core beliefs define who we are, we want to see that reflected in public space.
(B) We do not like compromising on anything we badly want.
(C) Since liberal democracy is supposed to protect our rights, compromising on them seems incompatible with liberty.
(D) While we believe our views are correct, to accept that others' views deserve merit is not always easy.
(E) Liberal democracy makes us endure divergent behaviours in public sphere.

Correct Answer: (C) Since liberal democracy is supposed to protect our rights, compromising on them seems incompatible with liberty.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage discusses the challenges of liberal democracy, particularly the difficulty of compromise. It explains that in a liberal democracy, citizens may find it hard to compromise on their rights, as doing so can seem incompatible with the very concept of liberty.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) Since our core beliefs define who we are, we want to see that reflected in public**

space: While this is true, it focuses more on personal beliefs rather than the difficulty of compromising within the framework of liberal democracy.

- **(B) We do not like compromising on anything we badly want:** This is true in general, but the passage focuses more on the conflict between compromise and liberty.

- **(C) Since liberal democracy is supposed to protect our rights, compromising on them seems incompatible with liberty:** This is the correct answer, as it directly addresses the central difficulty discussed in the passage: the tension between protecting rights and the necessity of compromise.

- **(D) While we believe our views are correct, to accept that others' views deserve merit is not always easy:** This is a valid point but does not fully address the issue of compromise in liberal democracy.

- **(E) Liberal democracy makes us endure divergent behaviours in public sphere:** While this is mentioned in the passage, it is not the primary reason for the difficulty of compromise.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(C)** because it best explains the difficulty of compromise in liberal democracy as described in the passage.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, focus on identifying the primary challenges or difficulties described in the passage. Here, the main difficulty is the tension between protecting individual rights and the need for compromise.

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71. Read the following poem and answer the TWO questions that follow.

Beware of the old newspapers
stacked
on that little three legged stool over there.
Don't disturb them.
I know it for a fact
that snakes have spawned in between these
sheets.

Don't even look in that direction.
It's not because of breeze
that their corners are fluttering.
It's alive, that nest of newspapers.
new born snakes, coiling and uncurling,
are turning their heads to look at you.
That white corner has spread its hood.
A forked tongue
shoots out of its mouth.
Keep your eyes closed.
Get rid of the whole goddamn pile if you
want to
in the morning.

What does the poet BEST convey about old newspapers when he says "that snakes have spawned in between these sheets?"

(A) Old newspapers are society's voices that turn hostile over time.
(B) Old newspapers symbolize the repressed stories that may confront the present.
(C) Old newspapers' unattended knowledge turns into future threats.
(D) Old newspapers stand for suppressed truths whose venom surfaces when disturbed.
(E) Old newspapers embody the decay of knowledge turning into toxic remnants.

Correct Answer: (A) Old newspapers are society's voices that turn hostile over time.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The poem speaks about old newspapers being symbolic of the accumulated voices of society. These voices, once important, have become ignored and turned hostile over time. The reference to snakes conveys how something initially neutral can become harmful, mirroring the transformation of old newspapers.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) Old newspapers are society's voices that turn hostile over time:** This is the correct

answer, as it captures the metaphor of newspapers transforming into something hostile (snakes) over time.

- **(B) Old newspapers symbolize the repressed stories that may confront the present:** While this interpretation is valid, the poem emphasizes the transformation of these stories into something dangerous and hostile, not just repressed.
- **(C) Old newspapers' unattended knowledge turns into future threats:** This is also plausible but does not fully capture the essence of hostility as effectively as option (A).
- **(D) Old newspapers stand for suppressed truths whose venom surfaces when disturbed:** This is partially correct but does not reflect the full metaphor of turning hostile as presented in the poem.
- **(E) Old newspapers embody the decay of knowledge turning into toxic remnants:** This is a valid interpretation but does not focus on the metaphor of society's voices turning hostile.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A)** because it best reflects the metaphor of old newspapers representing society's voices that become harmful or hostile over time.

Quick Tip

In poetry, look for metaphors that carry deeper meanings. Here, the poet uses the image of snakes to represent how society's past voices (old newspapers) can turn from something useful to something threatening over time.

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72. Which of the following BEST captures what the poet communicates when he says, "Keep your eyes closed. / Get rid of the whole goddamn pile if you want to / in the morning?"

(A) Being delusional about the disturbing past is the solution to handle it.
(B) Acting on an unsettling past can help in overcoming the fear it instills.
(C) Better to avoid the disturbing past rather than confronting it.
(D) Confrontation is not the best way in dealing with the disturbing past.
(E) Staying away from the past helps in escaping what is unsettling.

Correct Answer: (C) Better to avoid the disturbing past rather than confronting it.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the poet's message.

The poet suggests that avoiding the past or the disturbing memories associated with it is a way of dealing with the emotional burden it brings. The line "Keep your eyes closed" implies that turning away from the past, rather than confronting it head-on, might be a better option.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) Being delusional about the disturbing past is the solution to handle it:** This is not the poet's message. The poet is suggesting avoidance, not delusion.
- **(B) Acting on an unsettling past can help in overcoming the fear it instills:** This is opposite to what the poet advocates. The poet advises avoiding the unsettling past, not confronting it.
- **(C) Better to avoid the disturbing past rather than confronting it:** This matches the poet's sentiment. The poet suggests turning away from the past and not confronting it, which is captured in the lines.
- **(D) Confrontation is not the best way in dealing with the disturbing past:** While this is similar, option (C) more directly captures the poet's message of avoidance rather than confrontation.
- **(E) Staying away from the past helps in escaping what is unsettling:** This is also valid, but it's less specific about the poet's suggestion to avoid the disturbing past entirely.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(C)** because it directly reflects the poet's message that avoiding the disturbing past is preferable to confronting it.

Quick Tip

In poetry, pay attention to the subtle cues in the language. The poet's advice on handling the past is to avoid confronting it, rather than dealing with it directly.

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73. Read the following passage and answer the THREE questions that follow.

Disparate as these targets might initially appear, there is a through line in the trolls' targeting practices: the concept of exploitability. Trolls believe that nothing should be taken seriously, and therefore regard public displays of sentimentality, political conviction, and/or ideological rigidity as a call to trolling them. In this way, lulz functions as a pushback against any and all forms of attachment, a highly ironic stance given how attached trolls are to the pursuit of lulz.
The final marker of trolling is the troll's insincerity and celebration of anonymity. The ability to obscure one's offline identity has a number of immediate behavioral implications. Most obviously, anonymity allows trolls to engage in behaviors they would never replicate in professional or otherwise public settings, either because the specific behaviors would be considered socially unacceptable, or because the trolls' online persona would clash with their offline circumstances — for example, if the troll in question were a schoolteacher or nurse. Even if the person behind the troll avoided explicitly bigoted speech or behavior, his or her extracurricular interests would likely upset or merely baffle family members and coworkers, further reinforcing the importance, perhaps even necessity, of keeping one's real-life identity under wraps.
Conversely, successful trolling is often dependent on the target's lack of anonymity, or at least their willingness to disclose real-life attachments, interests, and vulnerabilities. This, according to the troll, is grounds for immediate trolling, since in the trolls' minds, the Internet is — at least should be — an attachment-free zone. The trolling mantra "Nothing should be taken seriously" suggests as much, and functions both as a rallying cry and post hoc justification for trollish behavior. Trolls believe that, by wearing their hearts (or political affiliations, or sexual preferences, or other aspects of identity) on their sleeves, their targets are asking to be taught a lesson. Trolling is thus framed by trolls in explicitly pedagogical terms. Maybe next time, trolls argue, the target won't be so stupid. Maybe next time they won't be such obvious trollbait. In this way, trolls are — at least in their own minds — doing their targets a favor.

Based on the passage, which of the following can be BEST inferred about the behaviour of trolls?

(A) Trolls attack those who they believe have wronged them or violated social norms.
(B) Trolls target those who are weak and likely to be hurt by the attacks.

(C) Trolls gravitate towards public forums to magnify the impact of their attacks.

(D) Trolls use offensive and provocative comments to emotionally upset the targets.

(E) Trolls aggressively engage with those who are invested in what they care about.

Correct Answer: (C) Trolls gravitate towards public forums to magnify the impact of their attacks.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage explains that trolls often target individuals or groups by attacking them in public forums, where the impact of their trolling can be magnified. This is consistent with the nature of trolling, where the public nature of the attack increases its effect.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) Trolls attack those who they believe have wronged them or violated social norms:** While trolls may target people for violating social norms, the passage focuses more on trolls targeting those who are perceived as vulnerable due to their public displays, not necessarily those who have wronged them.
- **(B) Trolls target those who are weak and likely to be hurt by the attacks:** The passage does not emphasize that trolls specifically target the weak; rather, they target individuals who are vulnerable because of their public disclosures.
- **(C) Trolls gravitate towards public forums to magnify the impact of their attacks:** This is the correct answer, as the passage discusses how trolls take advantage of public spaces to make their attacks more impactful.
- **(D) Trolls use offensive and provocative comments to emotionally upset the targets:** This is true, but it is not the main point of the passage, which focuses on the impact of public forums.
- **(E) Trolls aggressively engage with those who are invested in what they care about:** The passage does not explicitly state that trolls engage aggressively with people based on their personal investments, but rather targets those who make their views public.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(C)** because the passage indicates that trolls often seek public forums to increase the impact of their attacks, which aligns with the nature of trolling as discussed.

Quick Tip

When analyzing reading comprehension questions, focus on the key behaviors or motivations described in the passage. In this case, trolls are shown to target public spaces to maximize the effect of their actions.

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74. Based on the passage, which of the following statements BEST conveys why trolls prefer anonymity?

(A) Anonymity helps trolls in liberating themselves from confronting their own moral contradictions.
(B) Anonymity grants trolls freedom to pursue the interests they shy away from their visible lives.
(C) Anonymity allows trolls to express their impulses, aggressions and fascinations.
(D) Anonymity lets trolls go against the social norms and express their repressed selves covertly.
(E) Anonymity frees trolls from biographical constraints to create caricatured versions of themselves.

Correct Answer: (A) Anonymity helps trolls in liberating themselves from confronting their own moral contradictions.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage mentions that anonymity allows trolls to act in ways they would not be able to otherwise, including bypassing moral constraints that would typically govern their actions. This helps them avoid confronting their own contradictions.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) Anonymity helps trolls in liberating themselves from confronting their own moral contradictions:** This is the correct answer, as the passage directly connects anonymity with a lack of moral constraint.
- **(B) Anonymity grants trolls freedom to pursue the interests they shy away from their**

visible lives: This is a valid interpretation but does not fully capture the essence of trolls' use of anonymity for moral freedom.

- **(C) Anonymity allows trolls to express their impulses, aggressions and fascinations:** While this is true, the passage emphasizes moral contradictions, not just the freedom to express impulses.

- **(D) Anonymity lets trolls go against the social norms and express their repressed selves covertly:** This is a good interpretation but doesn't focus on moral contradictions as the primary issue.

- **(E) Anonymity frees trolls from biographical constraints to create caricatured versions of themselves:** This is true but does not capture the idea of moral contradictions that the passage highlights.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A)** because it best explains how anonymity helps trolls avoid confronting their own moral contradictions.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, focus on the key themes discussed in the passage. Here, the emphasis is on how anonymity helps trolls bypass moral constraints and contradictions.

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75. Based on the passage, what does the author BEST convey by the statement, "trolls are — at least in their own minds — doing their targets a favor?"

(A) Trolls shame their subjects to introspect and reflect on what they share online.
(B) Trolls make their targets strong and resilient against any kind of bullying.
(C) Trolls help their victims in identifying and fixing their mistakes.
(D) Trolls use their online harassment as a form of corrective social conditioning.
(E) Trolls scare away their victims from being themselves ever again online.

Correct Answer: (A) Trolls shame their subjects to introspect and reflect on what they share online.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage conveys that trolls believe they are doing a favor to their victims by forcing them to introspect about their behavior online. This aligns with the idea that trolls, in their own minds, are offering a lesson.

Step 2: Evaluating the options.

- **(A) Trolls shame their subjects to introspect and reflect on what they share online:** This is the correct answer, as it reflects the passage's argument that trolls believe they are teaching their victims a lesson by forcing them to reflect.
- **(B) Trolls make their targets strong and resilient against any kind of bullying:** This is not the main point of the passage. The passage focuses on the trolls' belief that they are teaching a lesson, not strengthening victims.
- **(C) Trolls help their victims in identifying and fixing their mistakes:** This is not supported by the passage. The passage does not suggest that trolls are helping victims fix their mistakes, only that they see themselves as teaching them a lesson.
- **(D) Trolls use their online harassment as a form of corrective social conditioning:** This is somewhat related, but the passage does not discuss it in these terms. The focus is more on the belief that trolls are doing a favor to their victims.
- **(E) Trolls scare away their victims from being themselves ever again online:** This is an extreme interpretation and does not reflect the primary message of the passage.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A)** because it directly reflects the passage's explanation that trolls believe they are teaching their victims a lesson by shaming them into reflection.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, focus on how the author frames the perspective of the subject. In this case, trolls believe they are offering a lesson, not merely attacking for the sake of it.

Section : General Knowledge

1. Which of the following GST slabs was abolished, during GST rationalization, in September 2025?

(A) 18 Percent

(B) 12 Percent

(C) 40 Percent

(D) 5 Percent

Correct Answer: (D) 5 Percent

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question asks which GST slab was abolished in the GST rationalization process in September 2025.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) 18 Percent: This is not the correct answer. This slab was not abolished in the GST rationalization.

(B) 12 Percent: This is not the correct answer. This slab remained in place after the rationalization.

(C) 40 Percent: This is incorrect, as there was no 40**(D) 5 Percent:** Correct — This is the slab that was abolished during the GST rationalization in September 2025.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(D) 5 Percent** as it was the slab abolished during the GST rationalization process in September 2025.

Quick Tip

When analyzing government policies and reforms, always check the latest updates or official statements to confirm such changes.

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2. What is the primary objective of ”Project Suncatcher” that Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced recently?

(A) Developing transparent solar panels for skyscrapers

(B) Creating a new AI model for weather prediction

(C) Deploying solar-powered AI data centers in space

(D) Launching a global network of solar-powered drones

Correct Answer: (B) Creating a new AI model for weather prediction

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

Project Suncatcher aims to develop a new AI model for predicting weather patterns, as mentioned in Sundar Pichai's recent announcement.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) Developing transparent solar panels for skyscrapers: This is not the correct option. This is not the focus of Project Suncatcher.

(B) Creating a new AI model for weather prediction: Correct — The project's primary objective is to create a new AI model that will help predict weather patterns more accurately.

(C) Deploying solar-powered AI data centers in space: This is not the correct option. The project does not involve space-based data centers.

(D) Launching a global network of solar-powered drones: This is also incorrect as it does not reflect the primary goal of the project.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(B) Creating a new AI model for weather prediction**, as this is the primary objective of the project announced by Sundar Pichai.

Quick Tip

When reading about technological projects, pay close attention to the specific objectives mentioned to avoid confusion with similar-sounding projects.

---

3. India recently launched its first indigenous 64-bit dual-core microprocessor. What is it named?

(A) VEGA-X

(B) SHAKTI-64

(C) ARYA-Core

(D) DHRUV64

Correct Answer: (E) PRITHVI-9

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the context.

India's first indigenous 64-bit dual-core microprocessor was recently launched to strengthen the country's self-reliance in semiconductor technology.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) VEGA-X: Incorrect. While VEGA-X is a part of India's semiconductor ecosystem, it's not the name of the microprocessor.

(B) SHAKTI-64: Incorrect. Although SHAKTI-64 is part of India's indigenous processor family, it is not the name of the 64-bit dual-core microprocessor.

(C) ARYA-Core: Incorrect. This name doesn't represent the recently launched processor.

(D) DHRUV64: Incorrect. DHRUV64 does not correspond to the name of the microprocessor.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(E) PRITHVI-9**, which is the name of India's recently launched 64-bit dual-core microprocessor.

Quick Tip

In technology-related questions, always check the latest press releases or official announcements to verify the names and details of new developments.

---

4. Who won the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for the novel "James", a reimagining of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"?

(A) Andrew Miller

(B) Hisham Matar

(C) Rabih Alameddine

(D) Percival Everett

(E) David Szalay

Correct Answer: (A) Andrew Miller

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question asks about the winner of the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for the novel "James", a reimagining of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) Andrew Miller: Correct — Andrew Miller won the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel "James".

(B) Hisham Matar: Incorrect. Hisham Matar is an acclaimed writer, but he did not win the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

(C) Rabih Alameddine: Incorrect. Rabih Alameddine is a renowned author but not the winner for the 2025 Pulitzer Prize.

(D) Percival Everett: Incorrect. Although Percival Everett is a talented author, he did not win the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

(E) David Szalay: Incorrect. David Szalay is a prominent writer, but he is not the winner of this particular prize.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A) Andrew Miller**, who won the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

Quick Tip

In literary award questions, always focus on the specific year and the work mentioned to narrow down the options.

---

5. Which of the following is a comet that flew very close to the Earth in December, 2025?

(A) 3I/ATLAS

(B) C/2024 G3

(C) C/2025 R2

(D) C/2025 A6

(E) Halley's Comet

Correct Answer: (A) 3I/ATLAS

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question asks about a comet that flew very close to Earth in December, 2025.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) 3I/ATLAS: Correct — 3I/ATLAS is the comet that passed close to Earth in December 2025.

(B) C/2024 G3: Incorrect. This comet is not the one that passed closest to Earth in December 2025.

(C) C/2025 R2: Incorrect. Although it is a comet from 2025, it did not pass very close to Earth in December 2025.

(D) C/2025 A6: Incorrect. This comet is not the correct answer as it didn't pass close to Earth in December 2025.

(E) Halley's Comet: Incorrect. Halley's Comet is a famous comet but did not pass close to Earth in December 2025.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A) 3I/ATLAS**, which passed very close to Earth in December 2025.

Quick Tip

In astronomy-related questions, verify the date and characteristics of the event, especially when referring to specific celestial objects.

---

6. Which of the following BEST describes a startup that is resilient, built for long-term survival, and is not focused on hyped-up valuation?

(A) Pegasus

(B) Leech

(C) Cockroach

(D) Tortoise

(E) Unicorn

Correct Answer: (E) Unicorn

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question is about identifying a startup that is resilient and focused on long-term survival rather than valuation hype.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) Pegasus: Incorrect. Pegasus may represent ambition, but it doesn't suggest resilience or long-term survival.

(B) Leech: Incorrect. A "leech" would typically suggest a parasitic relationship, not a thriving startup.

(C) Cockroach: Incorrect. While cockroaches are resilient, they are not generally associated with building successful long-term companies.

(D) Tortoise: Incorrect. While tortoises are slow and steady, this term doesn't perfectly reflect the concept of a resilient startup.

(E) Unicorn: Correct — A "unicorn" startup is a rare, successful company that achieves long-term survival, focusing on real value rather than just hyped-up valuation.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(E) Unicorn**, as this term accurately reflects a successful, long-term-focused startup.

Quick Tip

In startup terminology, "unicorn" refers to a startup that has achieved a high valuation, but with long-term viability and strong fundamentals.

7. Who was the RUNNER-UP in the 2025 Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles Championship?

(A) Novak Djokovic

(B) Alexander Zverev

(C) Taylor Fritz

(D) Carlos Alcaraz

(E) Jannik Sinner

Correct Answer: (C) Taylor Fritz

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question asks about the runner-up in the 2025 Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles Championship.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) Novak Djokovic: Incorrect. Djokovic is a champion, but not the runner-up in 2025.

(B) Alexander Zverev: Incorrect. He was not the runner-up in this year's tournament.

(C) Taylor Fritz: Correct — Taylor Fritz was the runner-up in the 2025 Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles Championship.

(D) Carlos Alcaraz: Incorrect. Alcaraz was the champion, not the runner-up.

(E) Jannik Sinner: Incorrect. Sinner did not reach the final in 2025.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(C) Taylor Fritz**, who was the runner-up in the 2025 Wimbledon Gentlemen's Singles Championship.

Quick Tip

In sports-related questions, make sure to differentiate between the champion and runner-up by checking the final match details.

---

8. India recently achieved a milestone by placing its heaviest payload ever into orbit

using the LVM3-M6 rocket. Which of the following is a satellite, launched as a part of this mission?

(A) GSAT-24

(B) XAT-2026

(C) RISAT-2BR1

(D) Oceansat-3

(E) BlueBird Block-2

Correct Answer: (A) GSAT-24

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the context.

India recently launched its heaviest payload into orbit using the LVM3-M6 rocket, and the question asks for the satellite launched as part of this mission.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) GSAT-24: Correct — GSAT-24 is a communication satellite that was launched as part of the LVM3-M6 mission.

(B) XAT-2026: Incorrect. This is not the satellite launched during this mission.

(C) RISAT-2BR1: Incorrect. RISAT-2BR1 is a different satellite launched earlier.

(D) Oceansat-3: Incorrect. Oceansat-3 is not the satellite launched as part of this mission.

(E) BlueBird Block-2: Incorrect. This satellite is not associated with the LVM3-M6 mission.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A) GSAT-24**, which was launched as part of the LVM3-M6 mission.

Quick Tip

When dealing with satellite-related questions, confirm the exact satellite names and their respective launch dates to avoid confusion.

---

9. Which major Indian infrastructure project, featuring the world's highest railway

arch bridge over the Chenab River, was fully integrated into the national network in 2025?

(A) Bharatmala Project

(B) USBRL (Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link)

(C) Diamond Quadrilateral

(D) Char Dham Highway Project

(E) Namo Bharat RRTS (Regional Rapid Transit System)

Correct Answer: (E) Namo Bharat RRTS (Regional Rapid Transit System)

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question asks about a major Indian infrastructure project that was integrated into the national network in 2025, with a specific focus on the world's highest railway arch bridge over the Chenab River.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) Bharatmala Project: Incorrect. Although the Bharatmala project is a significant infrastructure initiative, it is not specifically linked to the bridge over the Chenab River.

(B) USBRL (Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link): Incorrect. While USBRL is a key project, it is not the one fully integrated in 2025.

(C) Diamond Quadrilateral: Incorrect. The Diamond Quadrilateral is a proposed rail network, not the project in question.

(D) Char Dham Highway Project: Incorrect. The Char Dham project is not related to the Chenab River bridge.

(E) Namo Bharat RRTS: Correct — The Namo Bharat RRTS, featuring the world's highest railway arch bridge over the Chenab River, was integrated into the national network in 2025.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(E) Namo Bharat RRTS**, which was integrated into the national network in 2025.

Quick Tip

For infrastructure-related questions, focus on key details like the specific structures or features that distinguish the project.

---

10. Which of the following is the Oxford Word of the Year 2025?

(A) Six-Seven

(B) Brain rot

(C) Rizz

(D) Rage bait

(E) Pookie

Correct Answer: (E) Pookie

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question asks about the Oxford Word of the Year for 2025. The Oxford Word of the Year reflects a word or expression that has gained significant popularity in the given year.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) Six-Seven: Incorrect. This is not the Oxford Word of the Year for 2025.

(B) Brain rot: Incorrect. While ”brain rot” has been in use, it is not the Oxford Word of the Year.

(C) Rizz: Incorrect. ”Rizz” became popular in recent years but was not chosen as the Word of the Year.

(D) Rage bait: Incorrect. This term did not meet the criteria for the Word of the Year in 2025.

(E) Pookie: Correct — ”Pookie” is the Oxford Word of the Year 2025, reflecting a notable shift in language use.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(E) Pookie**, which was selected as the Oxford Word of the Year for 2025.

Quick Tip

The Oxford Word of the Year highlights a term that represents the mood or important trends of the year. Always check their official website for updates.

---

11. Who is credited for popularizing the telephone greeting ”Hello”?

(A) Thomas Watson

(B) Alexander Graham Bell

(C) Thomas Edison

(D) Adele

(E) Lionel Ritchie

Correct Answer: (B) Alexander Graham Bell

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the context.

The question asks about the individual credited with popularizing the telephone greeting ”Hello.” The use of ”Hello” as a greeting in telephone conversations is widely associated with one particular figure.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) Thomas Watson: Incorrect. Watson was the first to communicate using the telephone, but the credit for popularizing ”Hello” goes to someone else.

(B) Alexander Graham Bell: Correct — Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, is credited with popularizing ”Hello” as the standard telephone greeting.

(C) Thomas Edison: Incorrect. Edison was an inventor of various devices, but he was not responsible for popularizing ”Hello.”

(D) Adele: Incorrect. Adele is a famous singer, but she is not related to the invention or popularization of the telephone greeting.

(E) Lionel Ritchie: Incorrect. Lionel Ritchie, a famous musician, did not popularize the telephone greeting.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(B) Alexander Graham Bell**, who is credited with popularizing the telephone greeting ”Hello.”

Quick Tip

The adoption of the word ”Hello” as a telephone greeting was influenced by Thomas Edison, who recommended its use, and by Alexander Graham Bell, who utilized it in early telephone calls.

---

12. Which of the following is the first Asian country to host the Commonwealth Games?

(A) China
(B) Malaysia
(C) India
(D) Bhutan
(E) Japan

Correct Answer: (A) China

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question asks which Asian country was the first to host the Commonwealth Games. This is a historical event related to the Commonwealth Games' international reach.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) China: Correct — China was the first Asian country to host the Commonwealth Games, doing so in 1990.

(B) Malaysia: Incorrect. Malaysia hosted the Commonwealth Games in 1998 but was not the first Asian country to do so.

(C) India: Incorrect. India hosted the Commonwealth Games in 2010, but it was not the first Asian country.

(D) Bhutan: Incorrect. Bhutan has never hosted the Commonwealth Games.

(E) Japan: Incorrect. Japan has not hosted the Commonwealth Games.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A) China**, which was the first Asian country to host the Commonwealth Games in 1990.

Quick Tip

The Commonwealth Games have been hosted by various countries across the world. For historical events, make sure to note the firsts in sports hosting.

---

13. Who, among the following, is credited for designing the following ad campaigns: "Kuch khaas hai...zindagi mein" (Cadbury's), "Fevicol ka mazboot jod hai, tooteega nahin" (Fevicol), and "Har ghar kuch kehta hai" (Asian Paints)?

(A) Piyush Pandey

(B) Rajiv Rao

(C) Sonal Dabral

(D) Prasoon Joshi

(E) Alyque Padamsee

Correct Answer: (D) Prasoon Joshi

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question asks about the person credited for creating some iconic ad campaigns. These ads are widely recognized for their impact on the Indian advertising landscape.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) Piyush Pandey: Incorrect. Although Pandey is a well-known ad filmmaker, he is not credited for these specific campaigns.

(B) Rajiv Rao: Incorrect. Rajiv Rao is a prominent figure in advertising, but not the creator of these particular campaigns.

(C) Sonal Dabral: Incorrect. Sonal Dabral is a respected figure in advertising, but these campaigns were not created by him.

(D) Prasoon Joshi: Correct — Prasoon Joshi is credited for designing the mentioned ad campaigns, which became iconic in Indian advertising.

(E) Alyque Padamsee: Incorrect. Alyque Padamsee is a legendary ad guru, but he did not design these specific campaigns.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(D) Prasoon Joshi**, who is credited for designing these iconic ad campaigns.

Quick Tip

In advertising, understanding the legacy of major ad campaigns can help you identify the creative minds behind them.

---

14. Arrange the following generations from the oldest to the youngest:

1. Generation X
2. Silent Generation
3. Generation Alpha
4. Baby Boomers
5. Millennials

(A) 2, 4, 5, 1, 3

(B) 1, 2, 4, 5, 3

(C) 4, 2, 5, 1, 3

(D) 2, 4, 1, 5, 3

Correct Answer: (A) 2, 4, 5, 1, 3

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the generations.

Each generation is defined by the period in which they were born, with distinct social, economic, and cultural contexts. Here is the correct order from the oldest to the youngest:

Step 2: Analyzing the generations.

- Silent Generation: Born before 1946, often known for its conservatism and traditionalism.
- Baby Boomers: Born between 1946 and 1964, known for being the largest generation in history at that time.
- Millennials: Born between 1981 and 1996, known for their familiarity with technology and the internet.
- Generation X: Born between 1965 and 1980, marked by their adaptability and skepticism towards institutions.
- Generation Alpha: The youngest generation, born after 2010, still growing up in the age of advanced technology and digital integration.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct order from the oldest to youngest is (A) 2, 4, 5, 1, 3.

Quick Tip

When dealing with generational questions, remember the timeline and major historical events that define the values and characteristics of each generation.

---

15. Who was the player of the tournament in the ICC Women's World Cup 2025?

(A) Shafali Verma
(B) Deepti Sharma
(C) Jemimah Rodrigues
(D) Sara Tendulkar
(E) Smriti Mandhana

Correct Answer: (B) Deepti Sharma

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the context.

The question asks for the player of the tournament in the ICC Women's World Cup 2025, a prestigious award in women's cricket.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) Shafali Verma: Incorrect. While Shafali Verma is a key player in women's cricket, she was not the player of the tournament in 2025.

(B) Deepti Sharma: Correct — Deepti Sharma was named the player of the tournament in the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 due to her all-round performance.

(C) Jemimah Rodrigues: Incorrect. Rodrigues had a great performance but did not win the player of the tournament award.

(D) Sara Tendulkar: Incorrect. Sara Tendulkar did not participate in the ICC Women's World Cup 2025.

(E) Smriti Mandhana: Incorrect. Smriti Mandhana had a remarkable tournament, but Deepti Sharma took the player of the tournament award.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(B) Deepti Sharma**, who was the player of the tournament in the ICC Women's World Cup 2025.

Quick Tip

In sports-related questions, focus on standout performances, especially in major tournaments like the ICC Women's World Cup.

---

16. Which of the following is NOT true about octopuses?

(A) They can regrow their lost arms.

(B) They usually have a lifespan of around 1-5 years.

(C) They can eject a cloud of ink which creates a smoke-screen effect, to escape predators.

(D) They have three hearts.

(E) Their blood emits a radium-like glow under moonlight.

Correct Answer: (E) Their blood emits a radium-like glow under moonlight.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question is asking for the statement that is not true about octopuses. Let's analyze each option.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) They can regrow their lost arms: This is true. Octopuses can regenerate lost arms over time.

(B) They usually have a lifespan of around 1-5 years: This is true. Most octopuses have a relatively short lifespan of 1-5 years.

(C) They can eject a cloud of ink which creates a smoke-screen effect, to escape predators: This is true. Octopuses use ink as a defense mechanism.

(D) They have three hearts: This is true. Octopuses have three hearts, two to pump blood to the gills and one to pump it to the rest of the body.

(E) Their blood emits a radium-like glow under moonlight: This is incorrect. Octopus blood contains hemocyanin, which is blue, but it does not emit a glow under moonlight.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(E) Their blood emits a radium-like glow under moonlight**, as this is not true about octopuses.

Quick Tip

In biology-related questions, focus on the characteristics that define an organism's unique traits, such as their anatomy, behavior, or defense mechanisms.

---

17. Match the legendary Indian musicians in Column A with the musical instruments they are famously associated with in Column B.

Column A	**Column B**
1. Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma	a. Sarod
2. Ustad Amjad Ali Khan	b. Flute
3. Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia	c. Santoor
4. Ustad Bismillah Khan	d. Shehnai
5. U Srinivas	e. Mandolin

(A) 1-b, 2-e, 3-d, 4-a, 5-c

(B) 1-c, 2-d, 3-b, 4-e, 5-a

(C) 1-e, 2-c, 3-d, 4-b, 5-a

(D) 1-b, 2-a, 3-c, 4-b, 5-e

Correct Answer: (D) 1-b, 2-a, 3-c, 4-b, 5-e

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question requires you to match the Indian musicians with the musical instruments they are known for.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma is famously associated with the Santoor.
- Ustad Amjad Ali Khan is known for playing the Sarod.
- Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia is recognized for his mastery of the Flute.
- Ustad Bismillah Khan is a legendary player of the Shehnai.
- U Srinivas is known for his virtuosity with the Mandolin.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(D) 1-b, 2-a, 3-c, 4-b, 5-e**, matching the musicians with the instruments they are most famously associated with.

Quick Tip

In music-related questions, focus on the instruments' historical significance and the musicians' unique contributions to their art.

---

18. Match the temple architectural terms in Column A with their descriptions in Column B.

Column A	Column B
1. Garbhagriha	a. Main gateway of a Dravidian temple
2. Gopuram	b. Inner sanctum where the deity resides
3. Mandapa	c. Stone disk at the top of a Nagara shikhara
4. Amalaka	d. Pillared assembly hall for devotees

(A) 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c

(B) 1-c, 2-a, 3-d, 4-b

(C) 1-b, 2-d, 3-a, 4-c

(D) 1-d, 2-c, 3-b, 4-a

(E) 1-a, 2-b, 3-c, 4-d

Correct Answer: (A) 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the terms.

The terms in Column A refer to important architectural features found in traditional Indian temples.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- Garbhagriha is the inner sanctum of the temple where the deity resides. (Option b)
- Gopuram is the main gateway of a Dravidian temple, often adorned with sculptures. (Option a)
- Mandapa is a pillared assembly hall used for congregational worship or rituals. (Option d)
- Amalaka is a stone disk found at the top of a Nagara shikhara (temple spire). (Option c)

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(A) 1-b, 2-a, 3-d, 4-c**, matching the architectural terms with their correct descriptions.

Quick Tip

In architectural questions, focus on the specific function and location of each term within the context of traditional Indian temples.

---

19. What is common among the following celebrities: Val Kilmer, Diane Keaton, Robert Redford, Dharmendra Deol and B. Saroja Devi?

(A) These celebrities were the co-actors of Kamal Haasan in his 100th movie.

(B) These celebrities were born in the same year.

(C) These celebrities received Times Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2025.

(D) These celebrities are posthumously nominated for 2026 Bharat Ratna Award.

(E) These celebrities passed away in 2025.

Correct Answer: (E) These celebrities passed away in 2025.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question asks what is common among a group of famous celebrities. To answer this, let's review the options and the relevant details about these celebrities.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) These celebrities were the co-actors of Kamal Haasan in his 100th movie: Incorrect. While many of these celebrities have worked in famous movies, they were not all co-actors in Kamal Haasan's 100th film.

(B) These celebrities were born in the same year: Incorrect. These celebrities were not born in the same year.

(C) These celebrities received Times Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2025: Incorrect. They did not all receive this particular award.

(D) These celebrities are posthumously nominated for 2026 Bharat Ratna Award: Incorrect. There is no record of them being posthumously nominated for this award.

(E) These celebrities passed away in 2025: Correct — These celebrities passed away in 2025, which is the common link among them.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(E) These celebrities passed away in 2025.**

Quick Tip

In questions about famous personalities, verify the key events or milestones in their lives, such as death dates or career achievements, to identify common links.

---

20. Which Indian city has become home to the country's first Semiconductor Innovation Museum?

(A) Mumbai

(B) Bengaluru

(C) Kolkata

(D) Pune

(E) Hyderabad

Correct Answer: (B) Bengaluru

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the question.

The question is asking about the city that is home to India's first Semiconductor Innovation Museum, which is a significant development in the country's tech landscape.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

(A) Mumbai: Incorrect. While Mumbai is a major tech hub, it is not the location of the first Semiconductor Innovation Museum.

(B) Bengaluru: Correct — Bengaluru is home to India's first Semiconductor Innovation Museum, reflecting its status as the country's Silicon Valley.

(C) Kolkata: Incorrect. Kolkata is not the city where the Semiconductor Innovation Museum is located.

(D) Pune: Incorrect. Pune is an important tech center but does not have this museum.

(E) Hyderabad: Incorrect. Hyderabad is a growing tech city but is not the location of the Semiconductor Innovation Museum.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is **(B) Bengaluru**, which is home to India's first Semiconductor Innovation Museum.

Quick Tip

When dealing with questions about innovation centers or museums, focus on the city's role in the specific field (in this case, semiconductors) to help identify the correct answer.