

Reading Comprehension - 02



VARC

CEX-V-0204/25

Number of Questions : **21**

Identifying the Essential

Sentence 1: On the human, experiential scale, a broad distinction can be drawn between serendipity—timely but unplanned discoveries or development of events—and what the 20th-century Lamarckian biologist and coincidence collector Paul Kammerer called seriality, which he defined as ‘a lawful recurrence of the same or similar things or events ... in time and space’.

Sentence 2: The Universal Grammar (UG) hypothesis is that human languages, as superficially diverse as they are, share some fundamental similarities and are attributable to innate principles unique to language: that deep down, there is only one human language.

Sentence 3: Immanuel Kant defines “enlightenment” in his famous contribution to the debate on the question in an essay entitled “An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?” as humankind’s release from its self-incurred immaturity; “immaturity is the inability to use one’s own understanding without the guidance of another.”

Sentence 4: In the course of developing this anthropology, Ricoeur made several major methodological shifts, partly in response to changes in his intellectual setting as new developments came to speak to the topics he was dealing with, sometimes in ways that challenged his own

approach, partly as he pursued questions that had arisen as a result of his published work or that had not yet been considered there.

Exercise - 1

Directions for questions 1 to 5: Identify the option that best represents the ESSENTIAL meaning of the sentence.

1. Unlike most missionary descriptions from that time and region, which focus on the Catholic rituals staged by the Nahuas outside in the atrium, Mendieta takes readers inside the most private rooms and spaces of a Franciscan monastery (the refectory, choir enclosure, dormitory, cloister, and even the crypt), offering a literary experience that reveals a side of the monastery they could not know unless they had read monastic rule books and exposes a reality that deviates from those strict guidelines.
 - (1) Mendieta offers a literary experience that reveals a hidden side of the monastery.
 - (2) Most of the literary depictions of missionaries focused on Catholic rituals, unlike Mendieta.
 - (3) Mendieta takes readers inside the Franciscan monastery’s private rooms and spaces.

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| <p>2. Postmodernism, with its playful rejection of grand narratives, its celebration of pastiche, fragmentation, and the blurring of high and low culture—a world where a Warhol soup can and a Shakespearean sonnet hold equal weight—relies in disrupting the very idea of a stable and knowable truth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Postmodernism epitomises the rejection of grand narratives. (2) Postmodernism is a world where disparate things hold equal weight. (3) Postmodernism disrupts the idea of stable and knowable truth. <p>3. The view that childhood vaccinations cause autism has gained some traction online; however, extensive scientific research has repeatedly debunked this claim since there exists a strong correlation between vaccinations and a significant decrease in preventable diseases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) There is a prevalent view that childhood vaccinations cause autism. (2) Childhood vaccinations do not cause autism. (3) Childhood vaccinations reduce preventable diseases. <p>4. A subtle yet profound distinction can be drawn between traditional dream interpretation, a practice rooted in ancient civilisations and often focused on uncovering hidden psychological meanings and subconscious desires through established symbolism, and lucid dreaming—a state of heightened metacognitive awareness and potential self-exploration achieved through techniques like reality checks—where the dreamer actively participates in shaping the dream narrative as a conscious observer, with some practitioners even suggesting the possibility of harnessing this state for creative problem-solving or personal growth.</p> | <p>(1) Traditional dream interpretation and lucid dreaming are fundamentally different.</p> <p>(2) Dream analysis often delves into the psyche to find hidden meanings.</p> <p>(3) The practice of lucid dreaming opens up new possibilities for self-exploration.</p> <p>5. To varying degrees, each of the fields of astronomy, climatology, ecology, evolutionary biology, geology, and palaeontology is plagued by difficulties historians face in establishing cause-and-effect relations, such as the impossibility of performing replicated, controlled experimental interventions, the complexity arising from enormous numbers of variables, the resulting uniqueness of each system, the consequent impossibility of formulating universal laws, and the difficulties of predicting emergent properties and future behaviour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Challenges hinder many scientific disciplines in experimental replication, system complexity, and predictability. (2) Many scientific fields struggle to establish cause-and-effect relations. (3) Many natural sciences struggle with the inability to conduct traditional controlled experiments, limiting their ability to establish universal laws. |
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Exercise - 2

Directions for questions 6 to 9: The passage below is accompanied by a set of four questions. Based on the passage, answer each of the questions.

[1] Renaissance Humanism, which emerged in the late 13th century, was not merely an academic revival driven by Europeans' insatiable appetite for classical texts; it represented a deeper intellectual movement, wherein the quest to emulate the style of those ancient authors—without resorting to mere duplication—merged with a sophisticated assimilation of vocabulary, styles, intentions, and

forms. [2] This intricate dance between past and present required a nuanced understanding: to participate in this cultural Renaissance, one had to immerse oneself in the classical texts, which, in turn, acted as a portal transporting the engaged back to the intellectual realms of Greece and Rome. [3] Far from being mere second-generation mimics, the proponents of Renaissance Humanism harnessed their knowledge, love, and perhaps an obsession with antiquity to forge a new way of perceiving and conceptualising their contemporary world. [4] This was not about crafting a pastiche of past epochs; rather, it signified the birth of a new consciousness, characterised by a fresh historical perspective that presented a formidable alternative to the prevailing “medieval” modes of thought.

6. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #1?
 - (1) Renaissance Humanism was a profound intellectual movement that sought to assimilate classical knowledge.
 - (2) Renaissance Humanism was an era marked by 13th-century Europeans' rediscovery and study of classical literature.
7. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #2?
 - (1) Engaging with Renaissance culture meant deeply understanding classical texts to connect with ancient intellectual traditions.
 - (2) Engaging with Renaissance culture meant studying classical texts to appreciate the artistic legacy of Greece and Rome.
8. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #3?
 - (1) Renaissance Humanists used their detailed knowledge of antiquity to innovate and reinterpret their contemporary world.

(2) Renaissance Humanists were primarily scholars who dedicated themselves to preserving the knowledge of ancient texts.

9. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #4?
 - (1) The movement signalled a shift to a new consciousness, offering an alternative to medieval thought processes.
 - (2) The movement was focused on revisiting historical periods to understand medieval intellectual traditions better.

Exercise - 3

Directions for questions 10 to 13: The passage below is accompanied by a set of four questions. Based on the passage, answer each of the questions.

[1] The formation of long-term memory, as revealed by a study conducted on mice and published in *Nature* on 27 March, triggers a robust electrical surge within certain neurons, a phenomenon so intense that it leads to the fracturing of their DNA strands. [2] Subsequently, this damage initiates an inflammatory mechanism, a natural reparative response, which not only mends the inflicted DNA breaks but also plays a pivotal role in solidifying the memory. [3] Li-Huei Tsai, an esteemed neurobiologist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, who was not directly engaged in the research, proclaims these revelations as “extremely exciting,” highlighting the inherent perils associated with memory consolidation processes. [4] Traditionally, complete ruptures in both strands of the double-helix DNA structure are ominously linked with grievous ailments, including cancer; nevertheless, within this specific context, the cyclic process of DNA damage and subsequent repair emerges as a plausible theory elucidating the mechanics behind the durable formation of memories.

10. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #1?
- Long-term memory formation is a process extensively studied in mice, leading to groundbreaking discoveries.
 - Long-term memory formation involves intense electrical activity in neurons, causing DNA strand fractures.
11. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #2?
- DNA damage in neurons is a critical concern in memory studies, often leading to significant cellular dysfunction.
 - DNA damage during memory formation triggers a repair response that helps solidify the memory.
12. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #3?
- Li-Huei Tsai, a neurobiologist, was directly involved in the groundbreaking research on memory and DNA.
 - Li-Huei Tsai finds the study's link between memory consolidation and DNA damage "extremely exciting."
13. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #4?
- Traditionally, DNA strand ruptures are serious and indicative of diseases like cancer unrelated to memory formation.
 - The study suggests that DNA damage and repair in neurons are key to forming lasting memories despite the usual risks.

Exercise - 4

Directions for questions 14 to 17: The passage below is accompanied by a set of four questions. Based on the passage, answer each of the questions.

[1] Leonard Bloomfield, revered as the intellectual ancestor of Externalism, and Edward Sapir, celebrated as the progenitor of Emergentism, are pivotal figures in linguistic thought, but it is Noam Chomsky who stands as the towering intellectual ancestor of Essentialism, shaping its very foundations. [2] The researcher imbued with Essentialist predilections—most notably those aligned with the generative grammar tradition spearheaded by Chomsky—pursues the goal of uncovering the core properties inherent to language, those quintessential elements that define its essence. [3] For the vast majority of these practitioners, the quest involves the postulation of linguistic universals; these are unlearned yet tacitly known principles enabling and facilitating the language acquisition process in children. [4] This strand of generative Essentialism harbours a marked penchant for unveiling the unexpected and intriguing characteristics of languages—features that elude deduction from mere empirical data of language use and transcend the predictable bounds of human cognitive capacities or the utilitarian demands of communication.

14. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #1?
- Leonard Bloomfield and Edward Sapir are key to linguistic thought, but Noam Chomsky fundamentally shaped Essentialism.
 - Leonard Bloomfield and Edward Sapir significantly contributed to linguistic thought alongside Noam Chomsky.
15. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #2?
- Researchers in Essentialism aim to discover language's inherent core properties, inspired by Chomsky's generative grammar.
 - The primary goal of Essentialist researchers is to understand the generative aspects of grammar that Chomsky pioneered.

16. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #3?
- Linguistic universals, while central to language theory, are not the sole focus of essentialist linguistic research.
 - Essentialist linguists focus on identifying linguistic universals that children know innately for language learning.
17. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #4?
- Language features are complex and surprising and cannot be fully pinned down by everyday observations of language.
 - Generative Essentialism seeks to reveal languages' unique, unpredictable characteristics beyond empirical observation.

Exercise - 5

Directions for questions 18 to 21: The passage below is accompanied by a set of four questions. Based on the passage, answer each of the questions.

[1] Since its inception in the latter part of the 20th century, the concept of sustainable development has undergone a profound transformation, evolving from a primary focus on environmental preservation to a multifaceted framework that encompasses economic growth and social equity, thus illustrating the intricate interdependencies among these three pillars. [2] This paradigm shift underscores the critical understanding that sustainable development cannot be achieved in isolation; rather, it necessitates a holistic approach where economic policies and social initiatives are intricately aligned

with environmental objectives to ensure the long-term viability of ecosystems, economies, and communities. [3] As this comprehensive approach gains traction, it becomes increasingly evident that the integration of sustainable development principles into national strategies and international agreements is imperative for fostering a resilient and inclusive global society capable of addressing contemporary challenges and anticipating future needs. [4] Consequently, the embedding of sustainable development frameworks into policy-making processes not only reflects an evolving recognition of their importance but also signifies a concerted effort to harmonise diverse objectives, thereby promoting a more balanced and equitable world.

18. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #1?
- Sustainable development has transformed from focusing solely on environmental preservation to integrating economic growth and social equity, highlighting their interdependencies.
 - Sustainable development initially focused on environmental preservation and later included economic and social factors to show their intricate interdependencies.
19. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #2?
- Sustainable development requires a holistic approach where economic and social policies are aligned with environmental goals for long-term viability.
 - The understanding that sustainable development necessitates a holistic approach aligns economic policies and social initiatives with environmental objectives for long-term viability.

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| <p>20. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #3?</p> <p>(1) Integrating sustainable development principles into national and international policies is essential for building a resilient and inclusive global society.</p> <p>(2) As sustainable development principles are integrated into national and international policies, it becomes clear that addressing contemporary challenges and future needs is crucial.</p> | <p>21. Which of the two options accurately captures the key idea of sentence #4?</p> <p>(1) Embedding sustainable development frameworks into policy-making reflects their recognised importance and aims to harmonise diverse objectives for a balanced world.</p> <p>(2) The integration of sustainable development frameworks into policy-making processes shows an evolving recognition of their importance and aims to create a balanced and equitable world.</p> |
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