



GREEDGE **GUIDE**

**The Ultimate
READING
COMPREHENSION
Hand Book**

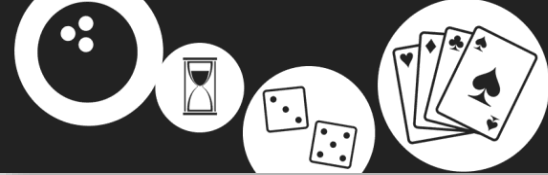


GREEDGE **GUIDE**

**GRE VERBAL :
EXAMPLES OF
READING
COMPREHENSION**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | What is GREedge? |
| 2 | Online Academy = Higher GRE scores |
| 3 | What students have to say about GREedge |
| 4 | Checklist for a High Verbal Score |
| 5 | Sample Questions in Reading Comprehension |
| 6 | Analytical Reading |



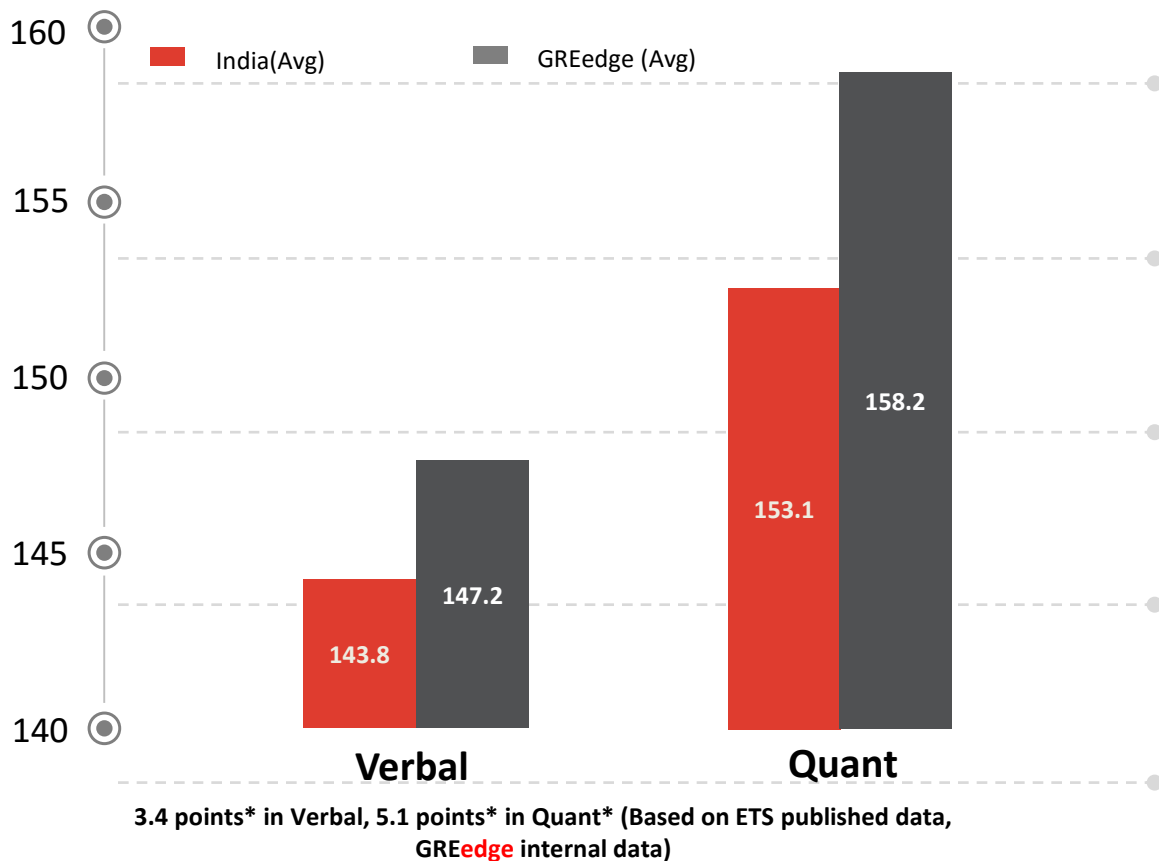
WHAT IS GREEDGE ?

GREedge is an Online Academy which is completely focused on improving your GRE score.

The average GRE score of students from **GREedge** is a good **8 points above national average as published by ETS**, the provider of GRE.

GREedge has helped over 30,000 students score better in the GRE. GREedge uses different software across its online platform to propel you toward a high GRE score.

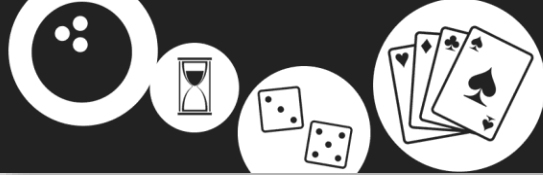
GREedge vs. Rest of India: 8 points lead



GREEDGE

Wall of Fame

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ONLINE ACADEMY = HIGHER GRE SCORE

Academy means a society of learned persons organized to advance a field of knowledge or area of expertise. Online means available over the internet or done over the internet. Yes, even the mobile internet. **Online Academy has the best GRE experts available online. GREedge offers complete help in your GRE preparation to help you boost your GRE score.**

Student Facilitators and Analysts (SFAs)

SFAs are personal trainers who will be with you throughout your GRE preparation to help you with concepts, provide feedback, and solve all your doubts. They teach, motivate, guide, and prepare you for a high GRE score.

Learning Tracker

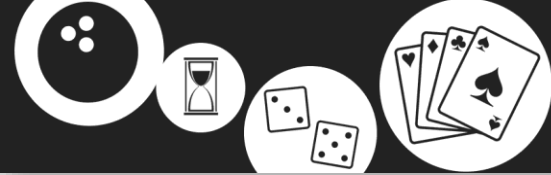
The Learning Tracker (LT) is a smart online platform designed by experts. It provides complete materials for GRE and constantly monitors your preparation with the help of "milli-second monitoring" technology.

Personalized Feedback

SFAs provide personalized feedback after reviewing your practice sessions and full length tests. This helps you identify your weak areas and strengthen them for a better GRE score.

**START YOUR GRE PREPARATION
WITH GREEDGE**

START LEARNING NOW

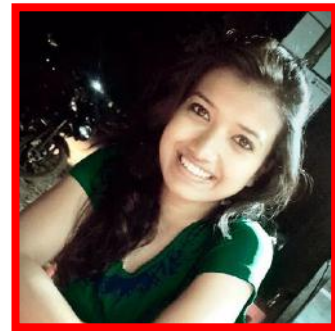


WHAT STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT **GREEDGE**



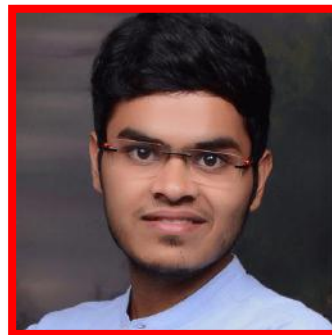
Shyam Sundar

"Preparing for GRE despite a hectic work schedule is difficult but GREedge made it possible. My SFAs designed a perfect study plan for me and without them, it wouldn't have been possible."



Arpita Sahu

"The evaluation of the tests and the explanation provided for each and every question was simply amazing. The explanations were so simple and easy to understand"



Gautam Gupta

"The SFAs constantly helped me in my preparation. All of the doubts were answered within a day or two. The reminders pushed me to work harder. It was a great learning experience."

READ MORE SUCCESS STORIES

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CHECKLIST FOR A **HIGH** VERBAL SCORE

ENSURE YOU TICK EACH BOX BEFORE YOUR EXAM

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| 1 | TAKE A FREE DIAGNOSTIC VERBAL TEST | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | BEFORE YOU BEGIN PREPARING, ASK YOURSELF: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Where do I stand now?● How is my Verbal Quotient?● Do I know the different questions that will appear in GRE Verbal? | |
| 2 | DESIGN A STUDY PLAN FOR VERBAL | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | PLAN CLEARLY WHEN YOU NEED TO DO WHAT. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Decide the timeline of preparation● Allocate Study lessons for each day● Spend more time in solving tough RC passages | |
| 3 | PRACTICE WITH GRE STYLE VERBAL TESTS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | TAKE AS MANY GRE STYLE TESTS AS POSSIBLE. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● It will make you prepared for the exam better● Helps immensely in Time management | |
| 4 | TAKE FULL LENGTH ADAPTIVE TESTS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | POST PREPARATIONS, TAKE A FULL LENGTH ADAPTIVE TEST. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Range of score you could get.● Revise the sections you're weak in | |

PLAN YOUR FIRST WEEK WITH OUR LEARNING TRACKER (LT)

FIRST DAY:

1. Take a Diagnostic Test from Learning Tracker (LT) ☐
2. Device a Study Plan ☐
3. Finish 100 words in WordBot ☐

SECOND DAY:

1. Text Completion lessons from LT ☐
2. Take GRE Style Practice Test ☐
3. Finish 100 words in WordBot ☐

THIRD DAY:

1. Verbal Lessons on Reading Comprehension from LT ☐
2. Take GRE Style Practice Test ☐
3. Finish 100 words in WordBot ☐

FOURTH DAY:

1. Verbal Lessons on Sentence Equivalence from LT ☐
2. Take GRE Style Practice Test ☐
3. Finish 100 words in WordBot ☐

FIFTH DAY:

1. Practice AWA and get feedbacks from SFAs. ☐
2. Take GRE Styles tests on TC ☐
3. Finish 100 words in WordBot ☐

SIXTH DAY:

1. 1 Full Length Diagnostic Test ☐
2. Revise Word List ☐
3. Take lot of Rest ☺ ☐

FACT: GREedge STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED OVER 971,912 LESSONS!

READING COMPREHENSION: WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

STEP ONE:

You should immediately give a quick read to understand what the passage is all about. Don't take more than 25 seconds to do this.

STEP TWO:

Try to break the passage into small sentence units. A passage is nothing but the flow of ideas. So whenever you encounter long passages, take a few seconds and break the passage into small sentence units.

STEP THREE:

Relating the ideas is the most important step. Breaking the passage into small sentences allows you understand the ideas and also helps in relating different ideas together. Doing this efficiently can help you become an RC expert.

QUICK EXAMPLE

In the nineteenth century, when women began to enter factories, Jules Simon, a French politician, warned that by doing so, women would give up their femininity. Friedrich Engels, however, predicted that women would be liberated from the "social, legal, and economic subordination" of the family by technological developments that made possible the recruitment of "the whole female sex.....into public industry". Observers thus differed on the social effects of mechanization, but they agreed that it would transform women's lives.

LET'S NOW BREAK THE PASSAGE INTO THREE PARTS

In the nineteenth century, when women began to enter factories, Jules Simon, a French politician, warned that by doing so, women would give up their femininity.

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Observers thus differed on the social effects of mechanization, but they agreed that it would transform women's lives.

RC QUESTION 1

The United States is commonly referred to as a melting pot, a society in which people from different societies blend together into a single mass. Some sociologists prefer the term, "multicultural," pointing out that even if a group has lived in this country for many generations, they probably still retain some of their original heritage. The term, "multiculturalism," recognizes the original heritages of millions of Americans, noting that Americans who are originally from other societies do not necessarily have to lose their individual markers by melting into the mainstream.

Q.1. Which of the following is true with regard to the concept of "melting pot" as mentioned in the passage?

- a. A melting pot is essential for stability in society as groups loyal to their native heritage could cause fractions
- b. *The term "melting pot" refers to the culmination of different cultures into one single blended culture wherein each of these cultures do not retain any of their original heritages*
- c. The concept of the melting pot recognizes the fact that Americans originally from other societies do not lose touch with their heritage
- d. Though conceptually interesting, a melting pot is not practical as it is difficult to groups to forget that original cultural affiliations
- e. The concept of melting pot is all about diffusion rather than simple unification of cultures

RC QUESTIONS

Answer questions of higher
difficulty level in Reading
Comprehension

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RC QUESTION 1 - CLUES AND ANSWERS

The United States is commonly referred to as a melting pot, a society in which people from different societies blend together into a single mass. Some sociologists prefer the term, "multicultural," pointing out that even if a group has lived in this country for many generations, they probably still retain some of their original heritage:

The first line states that the term melting pot refers to a society that includes people from different societies blended together into a single mass. To differentiate from this idea, sociologists coined the term, multicultural, which means that these people do not necessarily blend into a single mass, but still retain some of their original heritage (even if they live in the place for a long time).

So option B, *The term "melting pot" refers to the culmination of different cultures into one single blended culture wherein each of these cultures do not retain any of their original heritages*, is true with regard to the concept of melting pot as described in the passage.

WHY NOT?

Option A: The passage does not state anything about melting pots bringing in stability in a society.

Option C: Sociologists come up with an alternate term, multicultural, to differentiate from the term, melting pot. Multiculturalism describes that the people from other societies still carry a part of their original heritage.

Option D: The passage does not define the practicality of the ideas of melting pot and multiculturalism.

Option E: The concept of melting point is described as a blend of all cultures into a single mass. It is not about diffusion.

**ATTEND EXCLUSIVE SEMINARS TO
MASTER RC**

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FACT: 30% OF GREedge STUDENTS GET A SCORE BOOST OF AT LEAST 10 POINTS!

RC QUESTION 2

Some scientists claim that mankind's brain power has reached its peak. Simon Laughlin, professor of neurobiology, has said that the brain must consume energy to function and that these requirements are sufficiently demanding to limit our performance. Far-reaching powers of deduction demand a lot of energy because for the brain to search out new relationships, it must constantly correlate information from different sources. Such energy demands mean there is a limit to the information we can process. The cleverest people have the best wiring, with messages carried very quickly between different parts of the brain.

Q.1. According to the passage, which of the following are true?

- A. Environmental impulses travel slower in smarter people and faster in those who are less intelligent
- B. *Formation of efficient networks within the brain seems to be associated with high IQ*
- C. *Becoming smarter means improving connections between different brain areas, but meeting energy needs could still pose a limit*

RC QUESTION 2 - CLUES AND ANSWERS

"the brain must consume energy to function and that these requirements are sufficiently demanding to limit our performance. Far-reaching powers of deduction demand a lot of energy because for the brain to search out new relationships, it must constantly correlate information from different sources. Such energy demands mean there is a limit to the information we can process. The cleverest people have the best wiring, with messages carried very quickly between different parts of the brain"

From these lines, you understand that the brain requires energy to process information. To stretch its ability in deducing a correlation or in identifying a relationship, a tremendous amount of energy is required to do so. This requirement, most of the times, can become an unmatched demand. Only the smartest in the set with excellent neuron network can possess good deducing abilities while the rest are left with a limit on the amount of information one can process. This leads to option B, *Formation of efficient networks within the brain seems to be associated with high IQ*, and option C, *Becoming smarter means improving connections between different brain areas, but meeting energy needs could still pose a limit*.

ANALYTICAL READING

Analytical reading is a proven technique to build your comprehending skills. It is divided into five steps for skill-building.

There are some critical questions you should ask, as you read an article. They are:

1. What is the subject and what are the main points?
2. Are difficult ideas explained clearly? Are they subject to various interpretations?
3. Are illustrations, evidences, and examples effective?
4. Is there an argument in the article?
5. Is the argument convincing? Logical? Authoritative?
6. How does this article fit relative to other authors on the subject?
7. Is this article describing a new event or thing, or is it another example of something familiar?

STEP 1- COMPREHENDING RC PASSAGES

- The complexity and organization strain the limits of short-term memory.
- You may often have to read a sentence several times to understand it.
- You need breaks in the flow of ideas, so that you can assimilate what you have read, and then move on.
- You can break a long sentence into short manageable units, from which you can understand ideas easily.

**TAKE A QUIZ IN READING
COMPREHENSION**

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FACT: 30% OF GREedge STUDENTS GET A SCORE BOOST OF AT LEAST 10 POINTS!

STEP 2 – READING ANALYTICALLY

- Analytical readers break down a text into short parts and examine each part separately.
- One way to read analytically is to skim the text first and then return to a deeper reading.
- You might highlight relevant passages, take notes or jot down thoughts on a particular character or theme as you read.
- You may also understand the goals of a character or read it from a historical perspective.

STEP 3 – DEVELOPING VERBAL REASONING

- You will be provided with approximately ten non-fiction text passages.
- Having an extensive vocabulary is definitely an asset, but working from lists of words may not be the best study approach.
- Focus on reading advanced texts as often as possible during the time that you're preparing for the GRE.
- If reading and language are challenging areas for you, check out GRE prep courses and tutoring services that can be found online.

STEP 4 – IMPROVING ACCURACY

- The key is not to read faster, but to read smarter. Intelligent reading means knowing when to pay attention and when to relax.
- You shouldn't skim or skip any parts of the passage as you read, but you should slow down and pay more attention to important parts, and speed up and pay less attention to the unimportant parts.
- The best way to improve is to work with passages, identify where you went wrong, and ensure you got it right for the right reason.

STEP 5 – DEVELOPING CRITICAL REASONING

- Critical thinking is the ability to question, analyze, and understand the context of information before you accept or reject it.
- Train yourself to question and process different types of information by setting daily habits.
- The goal is not to come to a conclusion, but to be able to understand what you can and cannot know from the evidence.
- Putting words on paper will help you visualize and evaluate them more critically.

RC QUESTION 3

Developed countries have planned to derive energy from plants in the form of ethanol. This alternate energy, best known as bio-fuel, is championed as an affordable alternative to fossil fuels by its major benefactors, United States of America (USA) and European Union (EU). They believe that replacing petrol and diesel with bio-fuels will play a significant part in reducing carbon emissions and the effects of climate change. They are convinced that bio-fuel energy has the potential to reduce and stabilize the escalating oil prices, open up new markets, which may be beneficial to poor countries. According to their prediction, a multi-billion dollar bio-fuel industry will be able to provide 25 per cent of the world's energy within 10-15 years. While the optimism surrounding bio-fuel and its potential to become an effective renewable source of energy continues to prevail, we are beginning to hear the voices of vehement skepticism from many developing countries. One of the reasons could be the heavy handed approach adopted by the USA and some European countries. The voracious energy requirements of these developed economies are thrust on the under-developed countries. It is feared that cultivation of corn and other cereals in abundance, to meet their enormous need of 550 million tones can rob the farmlands in poor countries of fertility; the people of their food; and the nations of their economic sovereignty.

RC QUESTION 3

Which of the following best reflects the author's attitude toward bio-fuel production?

1. Ironic
2. Indignant
3. Cautious optimism
4. Unconditional enthusiasm
5. Unbiased objectivity

CLUES

- The author's tone is negative.
- Eliminate positive and neutral tones from the options.
- Shortlist words with negative tones.
- Analyze and choose the best option.

RC Video Lesson

Click the button at the bottom to learn from an RC expert, Mr. Yogish Lavanis

Learn Now



Welcome to the GREedge Reading Comprehension Practice eBook

Try solving these questions, one by one. Answers are mentioned in the slide following the question.

Question 1

The ability to pay attention is considered such an essential life skill that the lack of it has become a widespread medical problem. Nearly 4 to 5 percent of the American children are now diagnosed with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). In recent years, however, the surprising benefits of not paying attention have been found. For instance, researchers have found a surprising link between daydreaming and creativity - people who daydream more are also better at generating new ideas. Other studies have found that employees are more productive when they're allowed to engage in "Internet leisure browsing" and that people unable to concentrate due to severe brain damage actually score above average on various problem-solving tasks. According to the scientists, the inability to focus helps ensure a richer mixture of thoughts in consciousness. Because these people struggled to filter the world, they ended up letting everything in, they couldn't help but be open-minded. Such lapses in attention turn out to be a crucial creative skill. When we're faced with a difficult problem, the most obvious solution is probably wrong. At such moments, it often helps to consider far-fetched possibilities, to approach the task from an unconventional perspective. And this is why distraction is helpful: People unable to focus are more likely to consider information that might seem irrelevant but will later inspire the breakthrough.

This does not mean that attention is not an important mental skill, or that attention-deficit disorders are not a serious problem. There's clearly nothing advantageous about struggling in the classroom, or not being able to follow instructions. Nevertheless, this new research demonstrates that, for a certain segment of the population, distractibility can actually be a net positive. Although we think that more attention can solve everything, that's not the case.

It can be inferred from the passage that the author would agree with which of the following statements?

- ☐ Neither complete attention nor attention deficit solves everything.
- ☐ Attention deficit disorder is not a serious problem.
- ☐ With complete attention, you can solve any problem in this world.
- ☐ A substantial amount of office hours of all employees should be earmarked for Internet leisure browsing.
- ☐ It is ok to have attention deficit disorder as it has brought a lot of surprising benefits.

Answer:

- a) Neither complete attention, nor attention deficit solves everything.

Question 2

Melanism is a natural development of dark-colored pigment in the skin or its appendages. Industrial melanism is adaptive melanism caused by alteration of the natural environment in terms of industrial pollution. Kettlewell did an experiment to know the melanism caused in moths. Kettlewell's first experiment was conducted in an aviary containing a pair of nesting birds and their young. He released peppered moths into the aviary, and watched them as they settled onto resting sites and were subsequently eaten by the birds. Kettlewell thus established that birds prey on resting peppered moths. The second experiment consisted of marking several hundred peppered moths, including typicals as well as melanics, and releasing them into a polluted woodland near Birmingham, England. Kettlewell watched through binoculars as the moths settled on nearby trees; he observed that melanics were much less conspicuous than typicals, as judged by the human eye, and that birds took conspicuous moths more readily than inconspicuous ones. That night he set out traps to recapture as many as he could. He recaptured 27.5% of the melanics, but only 13.0% of the typicals, suggesting that a much higher proportion of melanics had survived predation. Kettlewell concluded that birds act as selective agents, as postulated by evolutionary theory. In Kettlewell's third experiment, the same procedure was repeated in an unpolluted woodland in Dorset, England. As expected, melanic moths were much more conspicuous than typicals on the lichen-covered Dorset trees, and thus more readily taken by predatory birds. He recaptured 62 of 496 released typicals (12.5%), but only 30 of 473 released melanics (6.3%), so the 2:1 recapture ratio which he had found in Birmingham was completely reversed.

Typicals enjoyed a selective advantage in Dorset because _____

- ☒ The typicals were better adapted to surviving in Dorset woodlands, which was unpolluted.
- ☒ Dorset has unpolluted woodlands unlike Birmingham, whose environs were polluted.
- ☒ Relatively larger number of typicals were released in the Dorset woods by Kettlewell compared to the melanics.
- ☒ The time of sample collection made a difference: At Birmingham, Kettlewell collected samples in the night where the melanics were more visible.
- ☒ Typicals were much more inconspicuous than melanic moths on the lichen-covered Dorset trees.

Answer:

e) Typicals were much more inconspicuous than melanic moths on the lichen covered Dorset trees

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Which of the following argument does Kettlewell's experiment support in the context of "industrial melanism."

- ☐ The cause for industrial melanism was cryptic coloration and differential predation.
- ☐ There was no evidence that birds were major predators of camouflaged day-resting moths.
- ☐ Melanism could be produced in several other moth species if their larvae were fed on leaves contaminated with metallic salts.
- ☐ Melanic forms in unpolluted environments enjoyed a physiological advantage related to their color.
- ☐ Birds act as selective agents

Answer:

e) Birds act as selective agents

Question 4

The change of the Roman state from being Republic to Empire, was not a special concern only to the men of Rome. It also affected women who were at least somewhat involved in Roman political life. At the time of the Republic, the wives of Roman Senators were honored and well regarded as the power over the state belonged to their husbands. After the end of the Republic, the Senators' and their wives role was diminished and they no longer had as much respect and power.

The positive effect for the women was that the existence of a sole ruler replaced the need for the daughters of the politicians to be used for the marriage alliances. Under the Republic rule they would be forced to marry for political reasons. Under the Empire, The daughter of the emperor was the only one who was needed to gain close associates and legal heirs for her father. For this reason, Augustus' only daughter Julia was married several times to those men whom her father needed to keep close to himself. She was envied the most among the women of the Empire for her nobility and power, but she could make no personal choice for her life.

The only woman that seemed to have a stable position with both power and security was the wife of the emperor. Livia Drusilla, wife of Augustus, we can see how influential a wife of a powerful man could be. Despite certain insecurity from not giving Augustus an heir, Livia was the most powerful woman of her time. Augustus appeared to have taken most of her advice, for she was the only one whose interests resembled his own. She was even resented by the Senate for all the power she had without the accountability. However, all she had was totally dependent on the affection of her husband. As long as he loved her, her position was enviable.

What is the purpose of the author in the passage?

- ☐ To describe how an emperor's wife misused her relations with Augustus to further her interests
- ☐ To bring to light the paradox in the vulnerability of women even when they belonged to powerful families of Rome
- ☐ To showcase the dark side of the personalities of the senators of Rome who did not hesitate to sacrifice the happiness of the daughters to further their political ambition
- ☐ To highlight how marriages of women from the families of those in power were influenced by political consideration
- ☐ To state that the conditions of women remained the same even when Rome transitioned into a monarchy under Augustus

Answer:

b) To bring to light the paradox in the vulnerability of women even when they belonged to powerful families in Rome.

Question 5

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Which of the following point(s) is supported by the passage?(Choose all that apply.)

- ☒ Though Livia Drusilla's position was enviable, she was at the mercy of the emperor
- ☒ When even the monarch's daughter did not have a say in her marriage, the plight of commoners' daughters was even worse
- ☒ It was imperative that women behaved in such a way that their husbands favored them over others

Answer:

All 3 answers are correct

Question 6

"For the past five decades, many researchers in Biology, Astronomy, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Paleontology, Physics, Mathematics and related studies latched onto the supposition of Darwin's Origin Of Species (1859) and his "natural selection" and "survival of the fittest" ideas with all their strength. But regardless of how flimsy his idea was, these scientists snatched it up since they had been looking for some answer, other than Intelligent Design, for the universe and for man. Problems arose early on, simply due to the fact that nothing would come along to verify their adamant stand.

An embryologist named Ernest Haeckel in the mid-1800s, published pictures he claimed were the embryos of a fish, salamander, tortoise, chicken, hog, calf, rabbit and human being. He tried to show that the embryos look similar in the early stages of development. This was supposed to show they all had a common ancestor. Jonathan Wells, Ph.D., professor for the University of California at Berkeley in his book, Icons of Evolution: Why much of what we teach about evolution is wrong, (2000) stated that When Haeckel's embryos are viewed side by side with actual embryos, there can be no doubt that his drawings were deliberately distorted to fit his theory. Earlier, in 1894, Professor Adam Sedgwick of Cambridge University wrote concerning Haeckel's embryonic similarities that they were not in accordance with the facts of development.

There is the infamous "Piltdown" man: "A supposed early species of human postulated from a skull allegedly found in a gravel bed in about 1912 but determined in 1953 to be a fake constructed from a human cranium and the jawbone of an ape." Then there is "Lucy", . "The skeletal remains of a female hominid, Australopithecus afarensis, found in Tanzania in 1974 and dated at about 3 million years old. Lucy is the most complete australopithecine skeleton yet discovered, being about 40 percent intact."

Lucy's actual remains did not include hands or feet but their reconstructions are commonly presented with human or near-human hands and feet despite the fact that other skeletons of the same creature have hands and feet which are clearly those of an ape, with curved fingers for moving about in trees. Their reasoning for their view was they found clear tracks of human footprints in the same strata and location as Lucy's remains and the assumption is that at least one Australopithecus must have had human feet. Scientific discoveries have left evolutionist assumptions regarding ""Lucy,"" once considered the most important example of the Australopithecus genus, completely unfounded. The famous French scientific magazine, Science et Vie, confirmed that Australopithecus cannot be considered an ancestor of man."

The author focuses primarily on _____

- Presenting Darwin's theory and how it brought progress in embryology.
- Discussing the series of research works undertaken as a result of Darwin's theory.
- Demonstrating the limitations in proving the role of Intelligent Design in origin of species
- pointing out the reasons why Darwin's theory was snatched by most of the scientists.
- Giving examples to show how futile the attempt to establish Darwin's theory of natural selection and survival of the fittest.

Answer:

e) Giving examples to show how futile the attempts to establish Darwin's theory of natural selection and survival of the fittest were.

Question 7

"For the past five decades, many researchers in Biology, Astronomy, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Paleontology, Physics, Mathematics and related studies latched onto the supposition of Darwin's Origin Of Species (1859) and his "natural selection" and "survival of the fittest" ideas with all their strength. But regardless of how flimsy his idea was, these scientists snatched it up since they had been looking for some answer, other than Intelligent Design, for the universe and for man. Problems arose early on, simply due to the fact that nothing would come along to verify their adamant stand.

An embryologist named Ernest Haeckel in the mid-1800s, published pictures he claimed were the embryos of a fish, salamander, tortoise, chicken, hog, calf, rabbit and human being. He tried to show that the embryos look similar in the early stages of development. This was supposed to show they all had a common ancestor. Jonathan Wells, Ph.D., professor for the University of California at Berkeley in his book, Icons of Evolution: Why much of what we teach about evolution is wrong, (2000) stated that When Haeckel's embryos are viewed side by side with actual embryos, there can be no doubt that his drawings were deliberately distorted to fit his theory. Earlier, in 1894, Professor Adam Sedgwick of Cambridge University wrote concerning Haeckel's embryonic similarities that they were not in accordance with the facts of development.

There is the infamous "Piltdown" man:" A supposed early species of human postulated from a skull allegedly found in a gravel bed in about 1912 but determined in 1953 to be a fake constructed from a human cranium and the jawbone of an ape." Then there is "Lucy", . " The skeletal remains of a female hominid, Australopithecus afarensis, found in Tanzania in 1974 and dated at about 3 million years old. Lucy is the most complete australopithecine skeleton yet discovered, being about 40 percent intact."

Lucy's actual remains did not include hands or feet but their reconstructions are commonly presented with human or near-human hands and feet despite the fact that other skeletons of the same creature have hands and feet which are clearly those of an ape, with curved fingers for moving about in trees. Their reasoning for their view was they found clear tracks of human footprints in the same strata and location as Lucy's remains and the assumption is that at least one Australopithecus must have had human feet. Scientific discoveries have left evolutionist assumptions regarding ""Lucy,"" once considered the most important example of the Australopithecus genus, completely unfounded. The famous French scientific magazine, Science et Vie, confirmed that Australopithecus cannot be considered an ancestor of man."

What could best describe the author's attitude towards Darwin's theory?

- ☐ enthusiastic
- ☐ ecstatic
- ☐ Indignant
- ☐ skeptical
- ☐ Objective

Answer:

d) Skeptical

Question 8

"For the past five decades, many researchers in Biology, Astronomy, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Paleontology, Physics, Mathematics and related studies latched onto the supposition of Darwin's Origin Of Species (1859) and his "natural selection" and "survival of the fittest" ideas with all their strength. But regardless of how flimsy his idea was, these scientists snatched it up since they had been looking for some answer, other than Intelligent Design, for the universe and for man. Problems arose early on, simply due to the fact that nothing would come along to verify their adamant stand.

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In the context in which it appears, "Intelligent Design" most nearly means _____

- ☐ theory of Darwin's Natural selection
- ☐ Darwin's theory of Survival of the fittest
- ☐ Divine Creation
- ☐ The embryonic similarities claimed by Ernest Haeckel.
- ☐ The marked similarity between man and his ancestor

Answer:

c) Divine Creation

How many did you get right?

7-8: Excellent

6-7: Good

5-6: Satisfactory

4-5: Fair

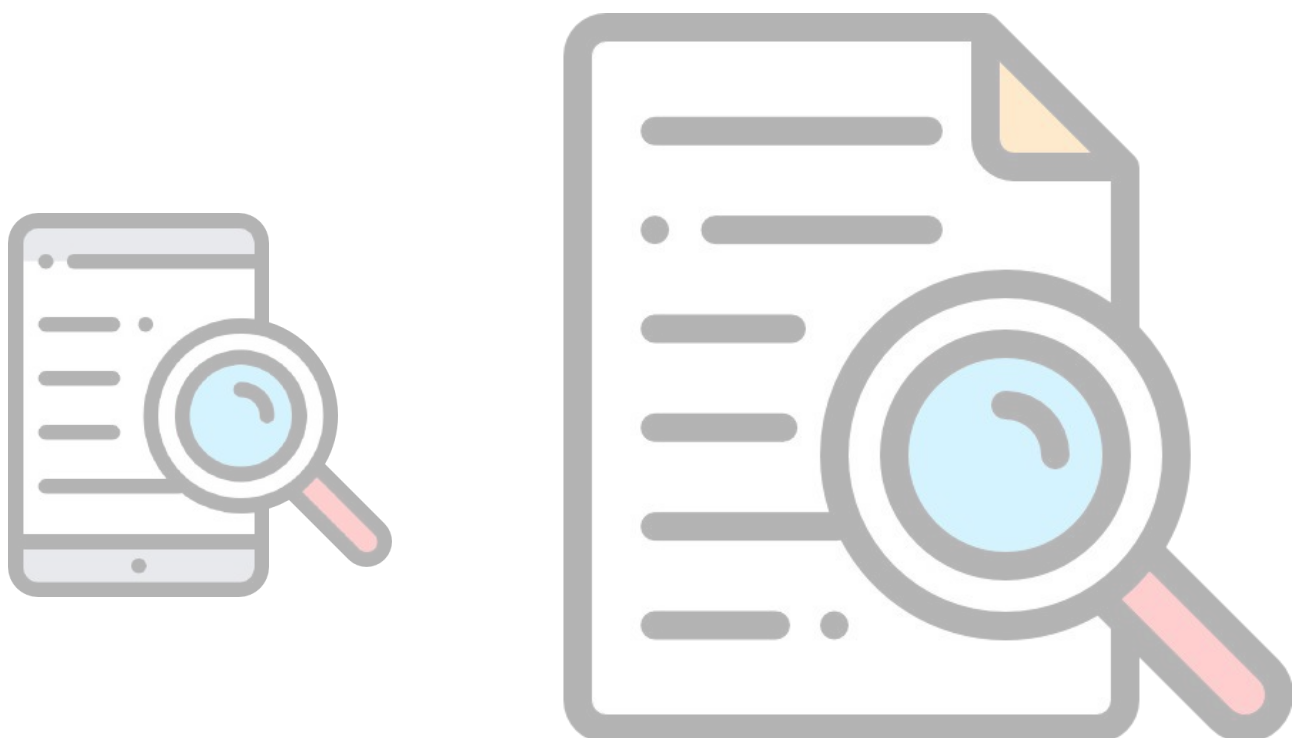
1-4: Need more practice and concept clearing sessions!



Cracking The Central Theme

Reading Comprehension

Practice Questions - Part 2



- 1) Did you know that ballot position can have an effect on voting? In many cases, the first-listed candidate is more likely to be voted for. The relationship between ballot position and electoral success, AKA "name-order effects," has been well-established in the political science literature, and seems to be a truism amongst politicians, who covet those first-row listings. In the dark ages of American politics, candidates were not beneath changing their names when listings were alphabetical, but in our enlightened times they are more likely to sue over name order.
- Delbert A. Taebel showed that candidates listed first enjoyed a favorable advantage. This advantage did not, however, hold when voters had high recognition of candidate names. This suggests that presidential elections, where there is generally much higher name recognition than in primary and off-year elections, are less likely to be influenced by name-order effects. The flip side of this was that in this study, low name recognition meant that voters were less likely to make any choice at all for those unknown candidates.
- ~sSource: Matthew Wills, "Ballot position: It matters," JSTOR Daily, 29 August 2016~s

Question Text

Which of the following best summarizes the main idea of the passage?

Choices

- a) Candidates whose names appear first in the ballot list get more votes, defeated only by those whose names are widely recognized by the voters
- b) Voters voted most for candidates whose names appeared at the top of the ballot list
- c) Voters do not vote for candidates whose names they are not familiar with
- d) Voters gave more preference to candidates listed first in the ballot list than those whose names they were not familiar with
- e) The order in which the ballot list is prepared has got no relation to the pattern of voting, despite the popular belief that it is advantageous to be listed at the top

Answer

a) Candidates whose names appear first in the ballot list get more votes, defeated only by those whose names are widely recognized by the voters

- 2) As recently as the 1950s, possessing only middling intelligence was not likely to severely limit your life's trajectory. IQ wasn't a big factor in whom you married, where you lived, or what others thought of you. The qualifications for a good job, whether on an assembly line or behind a desk, mostly revolved around integrity, work ethic, and a knack for getting along—bosses didn't routinely expect college degrees, much less ask to see SAT scores. As one account of the era put it, hiring decisions were "based on a candidate having a critical skill or two and on soft factors such as eagerness, appearance, family background, and physical characteristics."

The 2010s, in contrast, are a terrible time to not be brainy. Those who consider themselves bright openly mock others for being less so. Even in this age of rampant concern over microaggressions and victimization, we maintain open season on the nonsmart. People who'd swerve off a cliff rather than use a pejorative for race, religion, physical appearance, or disability are all too happy to chastise others: Indeed, degrading others for being "stupid" has become nearly automatic in all forms of disagreement.

~sSource: David H. Freedman, "The War on Stupid People," The Atlantic, Jul—Aug 2016~s

Question Text

What is the main idea of the passage?

Choices

- a) There has been a huge shift in the human values in the last six decades
- b) Less importance to intelligence led to mediocre achievements in the past
- c) Mockery of the less intelligent is rampant in current times
- d) Increasing importance to intelligence has led to increased victimization
- e) Our society increasingly mistakes intelligence for human worth

Answer

e) Our society increasingly mistakes intelligence for human worth

- 3) Predictive analytics learns from data to generate many predictions. Consumer demand for predictive analytics is expected to surge with the 2016 presidential candidates using it to appeal to voters to win more votes. Predictive analytics is the Information Age's latest evolutionary step. This singular, universally applicable force can improve every large-scale thing we do—how we build things, sell things, and prevent bad things from happening—because every function benefits from prediction. These predictions boost the odds across millions of organizational decisions simply because the predictions themselves are considerably better than guessing.

(~sAdapted from:

<http://bigthink.com/big-think-edge/4-predictions-about-2016-provided-by-digital-data-collection~s>)

Question Text

The main idea of this passage is:

Choices

- a) Using of statistics in winning elections
- b) Making businesses realize the importance of predictive analysis
- c) Using data for making predictions scientifically
- d) Highlighting the magnitude of data that needs prediction
- e) Conveying discreetly the futility of predictive analysis

Answer

c) Using data for making predictions scientifically

- 4) Inequality is on the rise across the world, but it is not increasing everywhere at the same pace. In many ways Europe stands out as a positive exception. Despite all the criticism thrown at the EU, it is a global leader in preserving a degree of fairness in the social fabric.

It is often said that globalization and digitization explain the surge in global inequality, but that is not a very convincing narrative. Since the 1980s, Europe and the US have had similar exposure to global markets and new technologies. But they have differed in policies and institutional direction. To date, Europe has shown that it is much better at keeping inequality in check.

Social healthcare systems in most European countries still guarantee universal protection for all — hardly the case in the US. Many of those countries offer free access to university. A young European's hopes of receiving higher education depends much less on his or her parents' income than their American counterpart's. Labor markets are also more favorable to workers in Europe than in the US, where the minimum wage has fallen by a third in real terms since the 1970s (in France it has risen fourfold). In Sweden and Germany, trade unions are represented in corporate governance bodies, taking part in strategic decision-making.

Question Text

The important point the author wishes to make in the passage is that:

Choices

- a) Europe welcomes migrant workers much better than the US
- b) Europe is a better place to live in than the US
- c) Europe has done well in addressing the inequality gap better than the US
- d) European policies are much better than that of the US's
- e) Europe has not encouraged racism and inequality as much as the US

Answer

c) Europe has done well in addressing the inequality gap better than the US

- 5) The developed countries have planned to derive energy from plants in the form of ethanol. This alternate energy, best known as biofuel, is championed as an affordable alternative to fossil fuels by its major benefactors, United States of America (USA) and European Union (EU). They believe that replacing petrol and diesel with biofuels will play a significant part in reducing carbon emissions and the effects of climate change. They are convinced that biofuel energy has the potential to reduce and stabilize the escalating oil prices, open up new markets, which may be very beneficial to poor countries. According to their prediction, a multi-billion dollar biofuel industry will be able to provide 25 % of the world's energy within 10-15 years. While the optimism surrounding biofuel and its potential to become an effective renewable source of energy continues to prevail, we are beginning to hear the voices of vehement skepticism from many developing countries. One of the reasons could be the heavy handed approach adopted by the USA and some European countries. The voracious energy requirements of these developed economies are thrust on the under-developed countries. It is feared that cultivation of corn and other cereals in abundance, to meet their enormous need of 550 million tonnes can rob the farmlands in poor countries of fertility; the people of their food; and the nations of their economic sovereignty. Large scale cultivation of food crops such as corn, barley, sorghum, rye, millet and oats exclusively for biofuel also has severe economic, ecological and ethical consequences. A recent study says that the world consumes 604 million tonnes of these crops, while the production stands at about 679 million tonnes. The available surplus is only about 77 million tonnes, which is far too less when compared to the existing demand from the biofuel industries. This means an impetus to increase the supply would result in an increase in the cultivable area devoted to energy crops. Last year, Brazil and China grew these crops on nearly 50 million acres in the same year. Global production of energy crops doubles every few years. Increasing pressure on countries like Indonesia has led to a severe environmental crisis. Forests are felled giving way to plantations and farms, growing raw materials for ethanol production. Following similar alarming trends, the UN warns, "the use of large scale cropping (for energy purposes) could lead to significant biodiversity loss, soil erosion and nutrient leaching." A more imposing threat is the mushrooming competition between food and fuel. Many economists opine that the existing policies and politics of bioenergy will impact global food prices adversely. Growing food crops to feed the ethanol production plants, fueling the affluent economies of the world provides a road map to an impending global food shortage. Promotion of biofuel energy in poor countries will present us with a scenario where the rich burn food in their automobiles, while people starve. The World Bank observes that the cereals and grains providing the biomass required to fill the tank of a sport utility vehicle with ethanol could feed one person for a year. The competition between food and fuel is very much real. If the aspirations of developed countries are allowed to dictate the future of agriculture in most parts of Africa and Asia, we are running the risk of worsening the food vs fuel conflict. Attempts by the western world to project biofuel as an environment friendly alternate to fossil fuels has been unsuccessful. Their belief that biofuel will contribute significantly to control carbon emissions and reduce their dependence on fossil fuels is widely debated. The promises of bioenergy as the provider of extraordinary opportunities to address climate change, energy security and rural development has also not manifested in reality. It is time we focus on the real issues. We must choose to feed people rather than the engines of luxury vehicles. For this, we need to resist being lured into an economic and environmental catastrophe.

Question Text

What is the author's stand when it comes to developing countries and under-developed countries with regards to biofuel production?

Choices

- a) It has the potential to stabilize oil prices and open up new markets.
- b) Will cause widespread destruction in the rain forests and wildlife especially in Indonesia, while sustaining the natural resources of the western world intact.
- c) Will turn out to be an important economic spin-off for them.
- d) Lead to inequitable strain on the available natural resources, jeopardize food security and catapult food prices.
- e) Progress of the developing countries will gain momentum as the energy is the major requirement for any growing economy.

Answer

d) Lead to inequitable strain on the available natural resources, jeopardize food security and catapult food prices.

- 6) People visit museums to learn, but more than that, to be transported to the past. They might ooh and *ahh* over artifacts masterfully crafted with simple tools or paintings that depict a lifestyle long disappeared. We often assume these objects are immortal, that they will always be there to remind us of who we are as a culture. Yet few of us think about how much had to be done to those objects simply to stop them from falling apart. Urns that gleam on museum shelves were once pulled from the ground as corroded hunks of metal. An earthenware pot might have been a million fragments before someone painstakingly pieced it back together. A dedicated scholar and craftsman has returned a faded painting to its former glory.

Art conservators fight a constant, never-ending battle against time, an unwinnable war against entropy to bring works of art back to nearly immaculate condition and keep them there. Of course, things don't always go according to plan. Good intentions aside, old, delicate objects can be damaged by overzealous cleaning or by storing them under the wrong conditions. There have been shards of Mayan ceramics that were whittled down to fit together when the reassembly is incorrect. Prehistoric flints in storage in Verona, Italy, turned a pearly blue because of previously unknown molecules present in the plastic drawer liners.

Conservators rely on science to aid their efforts. They scrutinize the tiniest details of priceless artifacts. They conduct chemical analyses of an object to determine its molecular makeup and decide how best to clean or repair it. They place a sculpture or painting in storage or on display under environmental conditions that will delay its slide into destruction. And yet, art conservation is not quite a science. Saving the past means navigating a sea of unanswered or unanswerable questions about what the artist intended an object to look like or how efforts to fix a piece of art could damage it. And though the field has become much more scientific in the past few decades, conservators still have some big questions about how to preserve the past without destroying it. They have to take the long view of the history of the objects.

(~sSource: Alexandra Ossola, The Uncertain Future of Saving the Past, Popular Mechanics, 28 June 2016,
<http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a20855/the-future-of-saving-the-past/~s>)

Question Text

In light of information presented in the passage, the author would agree with all of the following, EXCEPT:

Choices

- a) The moment conservation efforts are begun on something that is 2000 years old, it is being deprived of its originality
- b) If conservationists are not sure how to fix something, they should abstain from doing anything to it
- c) A good analysis of the art and the technique used prior to conservation efforts would help sustain the originality of the piece
- d) Not just the restoration process, but even the process of storing or displaying ancient objects can be quite challenging
- e) The techniques that conservators use should match the techniques used in the original work

Answer

b) If conservationists are not sure how to fix something, they should abstain from doing anything to it

- 7) More often than not, instead of standing by our decisions and the fortitude of our contingencies, we relieve ourselves at others' expense. There's an appealing concept following this, which implies that a number of the world's misery comes from individuals passing on their own grief, compensating for their disparagement, just like blaming the last runner in the relay for the incompetence of the team.

Question Text

The important point the author wishes to make in the passage is that:

Choices

- a) Miseries could be alleviated if individuals demonstrate courage to accept the consequences resulting from their own inadequacies, rather than blaming external factors
- b) Life is a relay race, and winning it entirely depends on how good the last runner is
- c) We are wired by nature to relive at others' expense, and would require gradual evolution for this to change

Answer

a) Miseries could be alleviated if individuals demonstrate courage to accept the consequences resulting from their own inadequacies, rather than blaming external factors

All the best!

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