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Chapter 1: Introduction to Para Completion

1.1 Introduction

Para completion questions are typically asked in CAT paper. In this the author takes a short article or a paragraph from the larger text and deletes the last line. He then puts this deleted last line in one of the options along with three other incorrect options.

Your task is to find out the last missing line that is in continuity with the author's flow of thought.

1.2 Relevance in the test

These question types are frequently seen in the CAT. In CAT 2013 there were 3 questions in Verbal Ability section on completion of last sentence to a paragraph. Correct answer to each of three questions was awarded 3 marks; the total of three stood to 9 and improved the percentile considerably. CAT 2012 had one or two questions of this type but in 2013 this question type had a good proportion in Verbal Ability.

1.3. The question structure

This type of question comes with an incomplete paragraph, leaving the last sentence, which is required to be opted, out of the four alternates (concluding

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statements) given as possible answers, to complete the paragraph in the most appropriate way.

CAT began with such questions in 2006, creating a great deal of confusion among the CAT aspirants as all the options appeared quite close to one another.

Sample Question type

Directions: The following question has a paragraph from which the last sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the sentence that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate way.

For decades India neglected the north-east, partly, allege locals, out of a racist disdain for their Mongoloid ancestry. Things have got better. Last year Delhi allotted Manipur a development budget of 11,600m rupees (\$260m), a big sum for a state of 2.5m people. Its two national highways are being widened. Construction of a railway from Assam through Imphal to the Myanmar border began last year.

1. This would be an economic boost for Manipur.
2. The main impulse behind such schemes is the government's wish to increase trade with Myanmar.



3. Campaigning in the state, India's prime minister envisaged it as a “mini Switzerland”, enriched by orchards of lemons and pears and hordes of tourists.
4. The state governor speaks shinningly of its “tremendous human capital” in Manipur.
5. Manipuris are, at the very least, good sportspeople.

The correct answer choice is option 2 as it justifies the message mentioned in the last line of the passage. One has to be very careful not to get deviated from the excess information that is given in the other options. Also, the options are worded in such a manner so as to confuse the student.



Chapter 2: Technique to Solve Para Completion Questions

2.1 Technique to Solve-

Step 1: Look at the subject of the passage

Step 2: Look at the theme

Step 3: Tone

Step 4: Key words/ transition words

Step 5: Logical flow of thought of the author

Step 6: Guess the pattern of the flow of ideas from the options

Let us understand it in a better manner:-

Step 1: Subject of the passage- Find out what is the topic or the subject area of the passage. What is the passage restricted to. So anything outside the scope cannot be a part of the passage and can be eliminated if out of scope option is mentioned.

Step 2: Theme- Find out what is the central idea of the passage. Try to summarise in your own words. Ask yourself what the author is trying to convey.

Step 3: Tone- If possible, find out the emotion of the author towards the topic or subject. Tone can be



identified based on the adjectives used in the passage. So the author may continue the same tone in the missing line of the passage. One should read editorials and articles from diverse areas and of different types because then only one can grasp the tenor of the author. Logic and reasoning are put to the test, and the student feels the pressure as the answer has to be marked within a time limit.

Step 4: Key words/ transition words- Focus on the words the author stresses on. Also focus on the transition words such as so, therefore, hence etc. these words will help you understand the flow of thought of the author or establish some sequence. The type of vocabulary used by the author to convey his view point helps the student to predict the answer choice.

Step 5: Logical flow- Visually draw the logical flow of the ideas in the passage. Read the passage as chain of events. Focus on key words, connectors/ conjunctions or transition words. The missing line should continue the thread of the thought in a sequence. Options which do not flow in the same direction should be eliminated.

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Step 6: Identify the Pattern

1. **Cause – effect:** One of the most common conclusion patterns. The paragraph presents us with causes, and the correct answer option presents us with the logical effect.
2. **Course-of-action:** The paragraph presents us with a situation, and the correct answer offers a probable course of action. The solution may be either of the two types: A – what *can be* done, and B – what *could have been* done.
3. **Sequence/ logical continuity:** The paragraph may present us with a series of events following a definite and linear timeline. The correct answer option may extend it further. Be wary of the answer options that are far removed from the timeline in the paragraph.
4. **Conclusion:** Mostly the last line is the conclusion of the paragraph. But sometimes the conclusion could be the first line also. Focus on the key ideas of the passage.
5. **Central Theme:** Sometimes the author elaborates on an idea and presents various aspects of the same point. But the skill lies in understanding the



language used by the author so that the student can sync his approach to that of the author's.

2.2 How to Eliminate Options

Elimination can often be as effective a strategy as selection. The following kind of answer options are usually the wrong ones.

Irrelevant: Such answer options are the conclusions which are either entirely unrelated to or only vaguely related to the para.

1. **Contradiction:** The last line cannot disprove what the para has tried to prove. But if the question is 'weaken the argument' then a contrasting idea present in the choices could be the correct answer option.

Too broad: This is the kind of answer option that magnifies the scope of the argument beyond reason. For example, the para may only be about who will be the next governor of Texas, and the (incorrect) answer option concludes by suddenly raising the topic of the next US president.

Too narrow: Here the incorrect answer option focuses pointlessly on a very minor aspect of the para, and



therefore fails to complete the overall theme of the passage.

Inconsistent tone: Be wary of the options that are clearly out of sync with the tone of the passage. The most common type of this is a paragraph that is formal in tone and the proposed conclusion that is extremely informal.

New themes or additional points: Such new themes are always related to the on-going discussion in the paragraph, but they cannot be immediately introduced. The writer may talk about them in the next para, or the one after that, but not in the given paragraph.

2.3 Solved examples

Pattern of different types discussed:

A. Para Completion based on Cause & Effect

DIRECTIONS: Each of the following questions has a paragraph from which the last sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the one that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate way.
(CAT 2006)

1. Relations between the factory and the dealer are distant and usually strained as the factory tries to force cars on the dealers to smooth out production. Relations



between the dealer and the customer are equally strained because dealers continuously adjust prices - make deals - to adjust demand with supply while maximizing profits. This becomes a system marked by a lack of long-term commitment on either side, which maximizes feelings of mistrust. In order to maximize their bargaining positions, everyone holds back information - the dealer about the product and the consumer about his true desires.

1. As a result, 'deal making' becomes rampant, without concern for customer satisfaction.
2. As a result, inefficiencies creep into the supply chain.
3. As a result, everyone treats the other as an adversary, rather than as an ally.
4. As a result, fundamental innovations are becoming scarce in the automobile industry.
5. As a result, everyone loses in the long run.

Solution

Identify the pattern based on the options:- All the options start with " As a result" , hence we know that the last line is an effect of the causes given in the paragraph



Step 1: Subject of the passage- Factory, dealer and customers and their relations.

Step 2: Theme- Strained relations among factory, dealer and customers.

Step 3: Tone- Negative (pessimistic)

Step 4: key words/ transition words- strained relations, mistrust, maximize bargaining positionshold backs information.

Step 5: Logical flow of thought of the author

- a. Factory--- Dealer --- Strained relations }
b. Dealer---Consumer---Strained } Cause

This becomes the transition word.

Lack of long term commitment ----- Effect

- a. In order to maximize profits everyone }
b. holds back information } Cause

We observe that all the options start with the key word **as a result**..... hence we can conclude that the answer choice has to be an effect. So a line preceding this is the cause.

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Step 6: Eliminate options-

We eliminate options keeping in mind the main idea of the passage and the structure of the passage.

Option 1 talks of customer satisfaction, which is irrelevant

Option 2 talks of supply chain-----out of scope---It is again irrelevant as it digresses from the main issue.

Option 4 talks of innovations-----out of scope . So we are left with options 3 and 5. Option 3 talks of enemies and friends which has a negative connotation.

Now look at the **key words**----- lack of long term commitment, mistrust.

Option 5 takes these keys words into account, hence a better choice of the other options. This answer choice has a neutral tone and gels with the theme of the para.

B. Para Completion Based on Sequence of Actions

Tips:

1. The last line must not have a new element not at all related to the ideas discussed earlier. The line should have structure and order very similar to the preceding ideas



2. The logical arrangement of the last line should be such that it gives a logical flow to the entire paragraph.
3. The idea in the last line should give a smooth transition from the idea in the preceding lines.

Example:

1. As anyone who has read the best-selling novel ***The Kite Runner*** knows, springtime in Kabul is heralded by flocks of dipping, looping and diving kites. But these aren't the kites of lazy weekend picnics. They are finely tuned flying machines sensitive to the slightest tug of a master's hand. The Afghan penchant for competition and (though few will admit it) gambling means that almost anything offers opportunity for a fight and a punt, from dogs to cocks, quail, sheep, boiled eggs and, yes, even kites. The object of this cruel ballet is to slice your opponents' string with yours, sending the vanquished tissue-paper jewel spiraling to the streets below.



1. The broken kite floats down the Afghan terrain, eagerly watched by the crowd.
2. Packs of boys too poor to buy their own kite races for the downed war craft so that they too can enter the fray.
3. Thus do kite runners spend their time.
4. People who have placed bets on the kites make and lose large sums of money.
5. It is a typically Afghan activity, not seen anywhere else in the world.

Solution: Pattern: - If we study the answer choices carefully, then we can conclude that these are actually all concluding sentences. The challenge for the student here is to zero in on the answer choice that holds on to the reader's interest.

Step 1: Subject: Analyse the subject of the passage - kite flying in Afghanistan.

Step 2: Theme -Study how this particular activity, "Kite flying" has a role to play in the Afghan community.

Step 3: Tone & structure- descriptive and note the type of words used



Step 4: Keywords “finely tuned flying machines”,
“vanquished tissue-paper jewel.”

Step 5: Logical flow of thought of the author

- Intro to book
- Describing the kite flying in Kabul
- Afghans interest and the betting in the competition

Last line- sequence of actions

- Motive is to cut the opponent kite’s string.
- Sending the kite spiraling on the streets.

Logical continuity---sequence of actions (next action to be followed after the last line)

Step 6: Eliminate options.

Option 5- narrows down to only Afghan community therefore out of scope.

Option 1- it is not the next action. It is the same action in the previous line and also there is nothing interesting.

Option 2-is the next action after the kite falls down and also the competitive spirit of the next generation can be observed through this answer choice.

Option 3- Starts with “thus”- it is conclusion ...we are looking at “sequence of action structure.”



Option 4- It does not take forward the last idea and also it is the outcome of betting and not related to the central theme. Hence answer choice – Option 2

C. Para Completion based on Conclusion

Tips:

- It should bring the paragraph to a smooth end. It should not be abrupt.
- The conclusion should be logically derivable from the premise already stated or from evidences already cited.
- The conclusion should focus on the main idea of the passage
- The conclusion must be relevant to the key issues of the passage
- Reviewing main points mentioned in a paragraph
- Restating the topic sentence

Example:

Nevertheless, photographs still retain some of the magical allure that the earliest daguerreotypes inspired. As objects, our photographs have changed; they have become physically flimsier as they have become more technologically sophisticated. Daguerre produced pictures on copper plates; today many of our



photographs never become tangible things, but instead remain filed away on computers and cameras, part of the digital ether that envelops the modern world. At the same time, our patience for the creation of images has also eroded. Children today are used to being tracked from birth by digital cameras and video recorders and they expect to see the results of their poses and performances instantly. The space between life as it is being lived and life as it is being displayed shrinks to a mere second.

1. Yet, despite these technical developments, photographs still remain powerful because they are reminders of the people and things we care about.
2. Images, after all, are surrogates carried into battle by a soldier or by a traveller on holiday.
3. Photographs, be they digital or traditional, exist to remind us of the absent, the beloved, and the dead.
4. In the new era of the digital image, the images also have a greater potential for fostering falsehood and trickery, perpetuating fictions that seem so real we cannot tell the difference.
5. Anyway, human nature being what it is, little time has passed after photography's inventions became means of living life through images.



Solution: Pattern: It is analytical in nature. The passage states the various developments that the photographs have undergone and what role technology has played in it.

Tip: look for the conclusion in the paragraph

Step 1: Subject of the passage- Photographs and their relevance

Step 2: Theme - Photographs and digitalization of photography

Step 3: Tone – Descriptive

Step 4: key words/ transition words- Nevertheless, still remain, time being taken into consideration.

Step 5: Logical flow of thought of the author-

- First line is the conclusion
- Second line is the change in the pattern of capturing photos.
- The paragraph starts with the core idea, moves on to state how the technology behind creating photographs has evolved, and concludes by coming back to the core idea.



Let's evaluate these answer options.

Option 1: It is an apt answer choice as it has all the elements mentioned in the passage. It does not matter which technology is used to take photograph or store photographs but still they have relevance as they remind us of people and things that matter to us.

Option 2: In this option new words are seen ('soldier' and 'traveller') which do not have any relevance to the main para and we can safely conclude that it is incorrect.

Option 3 The words 'beloved' and 'dead' are redundant and therefore this answer choice is incorrect.

Option 4 It is incorrect. Although it carries forward the idea stated in the paragraph and has a negative connotation but fails to give a conclusion.

Option 5 It is incorrect as this piece of information does not fit in the context and readers interpret it differently.

Hence, the correct answer is option 1.



Chapter 3: Summary Based Questions

3.1 Introduction

As the name suggests, summary writing involves writing a summary of the given text. It requires you to comprehend the text well. In other words, summary-writing, is a topic that combines reasoning with the ability to comprehend and understand text. Basically, whatever may be the nature of the text provided to you, you are supposed to encapsulate in a clear and succinct manner.

Generally the question consists of one paragraph and the answer options are one-line statements, referring to the paragraph.

Tip:

Keep in mind that you are not supposed to write the summary actually but identify from the given options. Yet, in fact, one of the most useful methods to solve this question could be writing a summary for the stimulus provided in your own words and then co-relating it with the options.

So it will always be better if you formulate an answer beforehand.



3.2 Common Traps:

But be careful: even if an answer choice may be true according to the stimulus, if it fails to capture the main point it cannot be correct. The correct answer must pass the Fact Test (that is it consist of facts mentioned in the paragraph), but with the additional criterion that the correct answer choice must capture the author's point.

Two types of answers typically appear in **Summary Writing questions**.

Both are incorrect:

1. Answers that are true but do not encapsulate the author's point.
2. Answers that repeat premises of the argument.

Each answer type is attractive because they are true based on what you have read. However, neither summarizes the author's main point and therefore both are incorrect.

Many paragraphs feature a structure that places the conclusion either at the beginning or in the middle of the stimulus. Most students have an unstated expectation that the conclusion will appear in the last sentence, and the test makers are able to prey upon this expectation by



creating wrong answers that paraphrase the last sentence of the stimulus. To avoid this trap, simply avoid assuming that the last sentence is the conclusion.

3.3 Tips to Solve Summary Questions

Step 1: Reading the Question

1. Identify EXACTLY what the question wants – This requires you to take note of key terms and understand question words.
2. Take note of the paragraph from which you are tasked to identify your points from.

Step 2: Identify the relevant answers from the passage

When identifying answers from comprehension passages there are a few rules we normally follow:

- Only select key ideas
- Leave out examples
- Leave out adjectives and adverbs
- That is true for most questions unless they specifically ask you for examples.
- Underline (or highlight if you are allowed to) the points from the relevant paragraphs and write a quick word or two (noting) in the margin about



each point so that you will take less time sorting them out later.

Step 3: Identify the key words in the answer

It is crucial that you identify the key words before you start finding your summary.

Step 4: Paraphrase the key words

When answering the summary question, it is recommended that you use your own words as much as possible. But it is impossible to change everything. The key words and phrases, however, have to be changed.

For example:

Q: What did Sohail do at night?

Passage: "Sohail ate a cake before he went to bed."

The word 'cake' and 'Sohail' are almost impossible to change. In most cases, proper nouns (Sohail) do not have to be changed. Common nouns (cake) may be changed but most of the time this isn't necessary.

Important Note: DO NOT force yourself to change common nouns. Unless there happens to be another alternative name, attempts to change common nouns usually end up fairly ridiculous. (Someone once changed 'bird' to 'flying mammal'. You DO NOT want to do that.)



The question asks for what Sohail did at night, therefore the key words we are looking for are most likely verbs (action words). In this case, they are 'ate' and 'went to bed'. You should try your best to change these words.

Sohail retired to bed/went to sleep/slept after consuming a cake.

Tip: Try to rephrase each point you've identified under 6 words. This will make it easier for you when combining the points together.

Summary-writing Example Question:

The human race is spread all over the world, from the polar regions to the tropics. The people of whom it is made up eat different kinds of food, partly according to the climate in which they live, and partly according to the kind of food which their country produces. In hot climates, meat and fat are not much needed; but in the Arctic regions they seem to be very necessary for keeping up the heat of the body. Thus, in India, people live chiefly on different kinds of grains, eggs, milk, or sometimes fish and meat. In Europe, people eat more meat and less grain. In the Arctic regions, where no grains and fruits are produced, the Eskimo and other races live almost entirely on meat and fish.



1. Food eaten by people in different regions of the world depends on the climate and produce of the region, and varies from meat and fish in the Arctic to predominantly grains in the tropics.
2. Hot climates require people to eat grains while cold regions require people to eat meat and fish.
3. In hot countries people eat mainly grains while in the Arctic, they eat meat and fish because they cannot grow grains.
4. While people in Arctic regions like meat and fish and those in hot regions like India prefer mainly grains, they have to change what they eat depending on the local climate and the local produce.

Solution: The first thing we need to do is to identify the subject of the paragraph. That is clearly how the eating habits of people change according to produce and climate. The line which helps us identify this is: ‘The people of whom it is made up eat different kinds of food, partly according to the climate in which they live, and partly according to the kind of food which their country produces.’ The balance of the paragraph is the continuation of the same by virtue of examples. It is now child’s play to identify **Option 1** as the answer. **Option 2**



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is only partially true. It only talks of requirements and not of what grows in those regions. **Option 3** talks only of produce and not requirement. The passage is not concerned with what people like or prefer but with what is locally available or required. **Option 4** talks of preference, something which is again absent in the paragraph.



Paragraph Completion Practise Exercise -01

1. Tax exemptions are essentially subsidy payments to preferred taxpayers. They tend to create pressure groups, and especially in case of indirect taxes, political discretion. They also deprive the government of its well-justified share of taxes, which can be utilized to finance public goods and services. Free marketers may argue that there are very few 'public goods' and the market can provide much of what was earlier considered the state's responsibility. But that's not true for the poorer strata, for which the state must make such goods available from these revenues.
 1. And that is the need of the hour, especially in a socio-economic context like ours.
 2. And that is very true in a poor country like ours.
 3. And for that, exemptions must give way to a simpler and more equitable tax regime.
 4. And for that to happen, we must create a strong pressure group.
 5. But that's easier said than done.



2. The most dangerous flaw in intuition is our deep-seated need to see patterns. The mind's well-documented facility for pattern recognition seems to lie at the core of intuition – it's how the brain synthesizes information from the past and uses it to understand the present and anticipate the future.
 1. The problem is that it happens so fast that we do not even come to perceive it's actually happening.
 2. The problem is that such pattern-seeking behaviour is common to all humans and thus, it does not afford any special advantage to anyone.
 3. The problem is that our unconscious desire to identify patterns is so strong that we routinely perceive patterns where none exist.
 4. The problem is that so few of us appreciate this kind of mental processing.
 5. The problem is that we are born with this kind of special cognitive ability.



3. The ties between husband and wife – and the emotional fault lines that can break them apart – have been assayed in recent years with unprecedented precision. Perhaps the biggest breakthrough in understanding what holds a marriage together or tears it apart has come from the use of sophisticated physiological measures that allow the moment-to-moment tracking of the emotional nuances of a couple's encounter. Scientists are now able to detect a husband's otherwise invisible adrenaline surges and jumps in blood pressure, and to observe fleeting but telling micro-emotions as they flit across a wife's face.
 1. So, tomorrow it may be possible to have a love-meter, which analyzes threadbare all emotions to have an exact idea of what the other person feels for you.
 2. Physiologically, it may be a unique achievement to have all emotions neatly mapped out on a graph, as if they were some mathematical equation picturized on a piece of paper.
 3. Funnily, one may see cases wherein a machine is sued for spoiling a relationship or cementing it.



4. Scientifically, it represents a big jump in our search of a fuller understanding of how physiological variables mirror what happens in one's mind.
5. The wife's or the husband's facial expressions may reveal the whole story in terms of measurable parameters.
4. Many problems are hard to solve because people tend to bring a particular mental set to them – a frame of mind involving an existing predisposition to think of a problem or a situation in a particular way. When problem solvers have a mental set, they fixate on a strategy that normally works in solving many problems but does not work in solving the problem at hand.
 1. Consequently, it is no use giving such people a problem for solving.
 2. Consequently, they tend to solve every problem given to them in a similar manner.
 3. Consequently, they tend not to be creative at all.
 4. Consequently, a problem may become “harder” to solve, if it was “hard” to begin with.



5. Consequently, a problem may or may not be hard, but the way one approaches it makes it so.

5. Change is necessary, we have been incessantly told, change is essential for life and growth, change will be the silver bullet to cure all business ills. But, in this over enthusiasm to push for change, we often forget that the changed systems, policies, programmes and procedures may not be necessarily better than the ones we are replacing. Research indicates that mostly, our expectations from any proposed organizational change are almost always over-ambitious.

1. Therefore, change is best avoided as far as possible.

2. Therefore, the more the things change, the more they remain the same.

3. Therefore, change should be seen as a genuine way to bring about improvement.

4. Therefore, change is not the only thing to consider in organizational development.

5. Therefore, whatever expectations you have from change need to be moderated.



6. Today, defenders of stable, monogamous marriage risk charges of giving offense to those adults who are living in "new family forms" or to those children who, even without the benefit of assisted reproduction, have acquired either three or four parents or one or none at all. Today, one must even apologize for voicing opinions that twenty-five years ago were universally regarded as the core of our cultural wisdom.
 1. In a way, this is the extreme.
 2. As Raskolnikov put it, "Man gets used to everything: the beast!"
 3. So much so that such opinions get drowned in the general cacophony of the hoopla over such novel events.
 4. In a way, it implies that we humans have no mind of our own.
 5. In a way, circumstances are extremely powerful determiners of human behaviour.
7. The middle ages were a significant part of European History, greatly contributing to the modern era in countless ways. In particular, a number of modern institutions have their roots in



the Middle Ages. The concept of nation states with strong central governmental power stems from the consolidation of powers by the kings of the Middle Ages. These kings formed royal courts, appointed sheriffs, formed royal armies, and began to collect taxes, _____

1. All concepts central to modern government.
 2. All the signs of Great era.
 3. Heralding a new era.
 4. All features of new beginning in the Middle Ages.
8. It has been suggested that long-term prisoners, on release from jail, be given a reasonable state pension to reduce the likelihood of their resorting to crime. Most people instinctively reject the suggestion as they feel it would be like rewarding criminal activity.

The supporters of the prisoner's pension scheme have criticized those who reject this possibility, by claiming that for the critics.....

Which of the following is the most logical completion of the sentence above?

1. emotion is more important than justice



2. punishment for criminals is more important than crime prevention
 3. crime prevention is not an important issue
 4. money has too high a value
 5. the law should not be concerned with what happens after jail
9. According to a recent census, city "A" had more mansions per capita last year than city "B", while city "B" had slightly fewer residents than city "A". Since the census, city "A" and city "B" have each seen the demolition of a dozen dilapidated mansions within their respective borders, and no new mansions have begun construction. It must be true, therefore, that _____.
1. City "A" and city "B" both have more cared-for mansions than dilapidated mansions.
 2. city "A" has more mansions than city "B".
 3. city "A" has more mansions per capita than city "B".
 4. city "A" and city "B" have the same number of mansions.
 5. city "A" has more residents than city "B".



10. The city council of Town X has very little effective power. It has been primarily a deliberative body, with real decisions coming down from the mayor's office. No city can claim to have effective leadership without a strong city council, and Town X is widely praised for its effective leadership. It follows, then, that the city council of Town X _____.

Which of the following best completes the argument?

1. could not be considered effective unless it's false that Town X has strong leadership.
2. actually wields the true power within Town X's leadership branch.
3. supports unilaterally the decisions from the mayor's office.
4. is representative of most deliberative bodies.
5. is able to bolster Town X's leadership through deliberation.



Paragraph Completion Practise Exercise -02

1. I have been studying it, consciously and subconsciously, for 40 years and I still find men unaccountable; people I know intimately can surprise me by some action of theirs which I never thought them capable of; or by the discovery of some trait which exhibit a side of themselves that I never even suspected.

The idea in this sentence can be best summarised as

- A) men are inconsistent and therefore one should not be confident even about one's closest friends.
- B) men are unpredictable, one can never tell what they will do next; hence, one should be very careful in one's dealings.
- C) no matter how closely you know somebody there still exists an unknown facet of his personality.
- D) None of these



2. Thomas More's Utopia, a book that will be 500 years old next year, is astonishingly radical stuff. Not many lord chancellors of England have denounced private property, advocated a form of communism and described the current social order as a "conspiracy of the rich". Such men, the book announces, are "greedy, unscrupulous and useless". There are a great number of noblemen, More complains, who live like drones on the labour of others. Tenants are evicted so that "one insatiable glutton and accursed plague of his native land" may consolidate his fields. Monarchs, he argues, would do well to swear at their inauguration never to have more than 1,000lbs of gold in their coffers.

A) Thomas More's Utopia is driven by the appalling conditions in society and More is pained to see the state of society

B) Thomas More's Utopia is an uncommon work from a person of privilege who challenges society's privilege

C) Thomas More's Utopia is rare as a work that takes up the cudgels against its own and leads the crusade for reform



D) Thomas More's Utopia is a rare work that advocates for the rights of the poor and is decidedly left-centric in its approach

3. Primary school children participating in National Theatre (NT) drama schemes enjoy school more and have improved their speaking and listening skills, a three-year study has found. Through studying Shakespeare and Marlowe and acting out their plays using puppets and music, NT children have also experienced a marked increase in self-confidence in class, said the report, published today by the Social Science Research Unit at the Institute of Education. Jenny Harris, the NT's head of education, urged schools throughout the country to emulate the programme. "The key findings of this rigorous study raise critical considerations that we hope will inform the current debate about the role, and more importantly, the value of the arts," she said.

A) Drama and art are the solutions for improving the skills of students.

B) Drama and art drive the performance of the student in school.



C) Drama and art can be significant contributors for the skill development of students.

D) Drama and art are the most valuable of art subjects and their value is exhibited by the role in student skill development.

4. A serious critic has to comprehend the particular content, unique structure, and special meaning of a work of art. And here she faces a dilemma. The critic must recognize the artistic element of uniqueness that requires subjective reaction; yet she must not be unduly prejudiced by such reactions. Her likes and dislikes are less important than what the work itself communicates, and her preferences may blind her to certain qualities of the work and thereby prevent an adequate understanding of it. Hence, it is necessary that a critic develop a sensibility informed by familiarity with the history of art and aesthetic theory. On the other hand, it is insufficient to treat the artwork solely historically, in relation to a fixed set of ideas or values. The critic's knowledge and training are, rather, a preparation of the cognitive and emotional abilities needed for an adequate personal response to an artwork's own particular qualities.



Which of the following best summarises the above paragraph?

A) Judging art requires not only the knowledge of the history of art, but also an unbiased appreciation of the uniqueness of a piece of art.

B) A serious art critic should be prejudiced, as it is her subjective reactions which can augment the history of art and aesthetic theory.

C) It is sufficient to treat a work of art historically because the critic should be blind to some of the artwork's unique qualities.

D) The meaning of art is a function of the social conditions in which it was produced.

- 5.** Currently, the paramount problem in the field of biomaterials, the science of replacing diseased tissue with human-made implants, is control over the interface, or surface, between implanted biomaterials and living tissues. The physical properties of most tissues can be matched by careful selection of raw materials: metals, ceramics, or several varieties of polymer materials. Even the requirement that biomaterials processed from these materials be nontoxic to host tissue



can be met by techniques derived from studying the reactions of tissue cultures to biomaterials or from short-term implants. But achieving necessary matches in physical properties across interfaces between living and nonliving matter requires knowledge of which molecules control the bonding of cells to each other – an area that we have not yet explored thoroughly.

Which of the following best summarises the above paragraph?

- A)** The major problem currently facing scientists in the field of biomaterials is the non-bonding between host tissue and implants.
- B)** There is an ongoing research dispute in the field of biomaterials related to toxicity of the bonding bio-material.
- C)** Our understanding of the physical properties and toxicity requirements of implants is good, but we have yet to understand how implant devices adhere to tissues.
- D)** A thorough investigation of the properties of biomaterials but has been done, but little attention



has been paid to relevant characteristics of human tissue.

6. The interaction among early large mammals, specifically between predator and prey, led to a general improvement in brain functions; however, certain components of intelligence were improved far more than others. The kind of intelligence favored by the interplay of increasingly smarter catchers and increasingly keener escapers is defined by attention – that aspect of mind carrying consciousness forward from one moment to the next. It ranges from a passive, free-floating awareness to a highly focused, active fixation. Using past events as a framework, the large mammal predator is working out a relationship between movement and food, sensitive to possibilities in cold trails and distant sounds – and yesterday's unforgotten lessons. The herbivore prey is of a different mind. Its mood of wariness rather than searching and its attitude of general expectancy instead of anticipating are silk-thin veils of tranquility over an explosive endocrine system.



Which of the following best summarises the above paragraph?

A) There exists a relationship between animals' intelligence and their ecological roles

B) Herbivores and carnivores develop different kinds of attention related to escaping or chasing

C) Improvement in brain function among early large mammals resulted primarily from improvement of the capacity for memory among herbivores and carnivores

D) The evolution of intelligence was due to the interaction between the hunting carnivores and the herbivores that they hunted

7. It is often thought that science has shown that there is no such thing as free will. If all things are bound by the same impersonal cosmic laws, then (the story goes) our paths are no freer than those of rocks tumbling down a hill. But this is wrong. Science is giving us a very powerful and clear way to understand freedom of the will. We have just been looking for it in the wrong place. Instead of using an electron microscope or a brain-scanner, we should go to the zoo. There we will find animals



using a wide range of skills that give them options for what to do – skills that we share. These abilities have evolved through natural selection because they are essential for survival: animals need to weigh different factors, explore available options, pursue new alternatives when old strategies don't work. Together these abilities give all animals, including humans, an entirely natural free will, one that we need precisely because we are not rocks. We are complex organisms actively pursuing our interests in a changing environment.

A) we are forever tethered to the idea that the free will does not exist but one look at the world of animals helps us understand what free will is and how does it apply in our world.

B) the idea of free will, though pertinent, does not find conclusive evidence in science and it is only the world of animals that provides us with clues to understand this mystery.

C) the idea of free will, despite the tools made available by science, has not been explored in the right manner and through the example of animals, we can understand the topic in a much better way.



D) the world of science has come up short in explaining the concept of free will and it is only through the pragmatic world of animals that we can understand how free will works in humans.

8. We think that happiness is something that individuals find for themselves: the key is to work hard for a good life, and to face adversity with defiance. This 'rugged individualism' might fit the American ethos, but it is at odds with a growing body of empirical research that shows that some kinds of societies produce a great deal more satisfaction with life than others. Happiness, in other words, is more social than psychological. If so, then the obvious step, as Albert Einstein put it, is to 'ask ourselves how the structure of society and the cultural attitude of man should be changed in order to make human life as satisfying as possible'. Economists, political scientists and other social scientists in the growing field of the political economy of wellbeing, or 'happiness economics', are using empirical rather than speculative methods to better understand what makes for satisfying lives. Happiness economics is not to be confused with 'positive psychology', which approaches happiness as a matter of individual



attitudes. In contrast, scholars of 'happiness economics' maintain that, in the aggregate, a satisfying life is rooted in objective conditions, such that the economic, political and social aspects of societies are strong predictors of individual happiness.

A) Happiness is driven and attained by happy individuals.

B) Happiness is the factor of social conditions and not individual effort alone.

C) Happiness is a factor of peaceful economic and social life.

D) Happiness is created by prosperity, economic well-being and political stability.

- 9.** Tall people have lower life expectancies, on average, than short people: They're at increased risk for Alzheimer's, heart disease, diabetes, and cancer—the latter because higher levels of growth hormone increases cell division rates and thus the likelihood for genetic mistakes. Though it was good for our ancestors to be large—outrunning predators and conserving thermal energy in cold winters was crucial for survival in their day—



growing in the presence of good nutrition may be a vestigial response, given that those threats no longer persist.

- A) Being bigger is no longer feasible
- B) Being bigger is no longer advisable
- C) Being bigger is no longer relevant
- D) Being bigger is no longer better

10. Sport is interesting because people take sport more seriously than religion. Sport is the last bastion of our nature as human animals. It's a combat between human animals displaying their genetic fitness. And people don't like cheating because it goes against everything that we needed as animals, that was an accurate display of people's genetic potential. That's why you want to find out who is naturally the fastest runner in the world, not the person who can run the fastest with the assistance of technology, but who was just born with the best genes. So in fact, it's profoundly just what the Nazis would've admired—the strongest, the fittest, the most beautiful.



hitbullseye

- A) sports is the driver of our genetic instincts
- B) sports is the gateway to our genetic ancestry
- C) sports defines our genetic connect and potential
- D) sports allows us to connect with our deeper genetic responses



Answer Key & Explanation

Practice Exercise -1

Q. No	Key	Explanations
1	3	The para talks about tax exemptions and its implications. Options 1 and 2 offer a narrow and restrictive viewpoint. Option 5 is too general.
2	3	The passage discusses the flaw in intuition and it talks about the ability of the brain to process information and predict about the future. One gets the correct answer after reading the para at least twice. Options 1 and 2 are irrelevant, while options 4 and 5 are too generalized. Option 3 is the best thematic statement.
3	4	It is important to make a note of key words in this para. Options 1 and 2 only reiterate the given statement. Option 5 distorts information whereas option 3 is irrelevant. Option 4 best sums up the main idea in the paragraph.
4	5	Option 1 is undesirable and represents an unwarranted conclusion, while option 2 merely restates the idea conveyed by the paragraph. Option 3 is presumptuous and option 4 is too narrow. Option 5 reflects the central idea appropriately.



5	2	Options 1, 3 and 4 are beyond the scope of the passage, whereas option 5 is quite restrictive in scope. Option 2 clearly brings out the points mentioned in the para.
6	2	In this para, the author discusses societal issues, where once given natural boundaries are blurred by technological change and in turn has had a cultural change. What was once considered acceptable and culture's wisdom could now be termed as morally wrong and not acceptable. Options 1 and 4 are wrong .Option 3 has been worded nicely but the word "novel events" has no place in this context .Option 5 is irrelevant. Option 2 is the correct answer choice as it talks about the adaptability of human beings.
7	1	The theme is that the author is saying that modern era owes much of the practices to the Middle age. How should the paragraph be completed? The answer has to do with modern government, the elements of which are described in Option A. The second and third choices are similar, while the fourth says of beginnings of the Middle Ages, not of the modern government.
8	2	Those critics who reject the idea of pensions for ex-prisoners are rejecting the scheme instinctively because they do not want to



		<p>reward crime. So for these people it is more important to be seen to oppose crime than it is to be seen to reduce the chances of the offenders committing a crime. This does not mean that they do not attach importance to crime prevention (eliminate C), nor that they are too concerned with money (eliminate D). The issue is more about punishing criminals, and so punishment is more important than crime prevention (correct answer B). Emotion is not the issue so A is incorrect, and so is E which does not follow from anything in the argument.</p>
9	3	<p>The correct answer is (B). This question hinges on our understanding of the census. It reveals that city "A" had more mansions per capita and city "B" had fewer people. But "since the census" all we know is that both city "A" and city "B" have 12 less dilapidated mansions. We can conclude only that the total number of mansions in both places has decreased equally, and therefore city "A" must still have more mansions than city "B". We do not have any information about the residents after the census. It is possible city "B" s population has increased dramatically, or that city "A" s has decreased. We therefore cannot make any conclusions about "per capita."</p>



10.	5	<p>The correct response is (E). The issue that needs to be resolved here is: why is Town X praised for its leadership, though its city council has very little effective power? It must be that a “strong city council” and a city council that is “deliberative” are not mutually exclusive.</p> <p>If you chose (A), this simply negates part of the premise. The phrase “it follows” indicates an extension of the previous sentence’s idea, not a negation of it.</p> <p>If you chose (B), this is too extreme. It must be true that the city council is “strong,” but stating it wields the “true power” is too big a leap.</p> <p>If you chose (C), there is no evidence about the interactions between the city council and the mayor’s office. We only know the mayor’s office makes the major decisions. It is possible that as a deliberative body, many members of the city council do NOT support these decisions.</p> <p>If you chose (D), this is irrelevant. What does and does not characterize deliberative bodies is outside the scope of this argument</p>
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Practice Exercise -2

Q. No	Key	Explanations
1.	C	The passage states that even those whom we intimately know, can surprise us at times with some unknown facet of their personality.
2.	B	<p>In the given question, there is a very important line that you need to focus on: "Not many lord chancellors of England have denounced private property, advocated a form of communism and described the current social order as a conspiracy of the rich."</p> <p>In this line, the author highlights his surprise that someone rich and powerful is critical of the rich. This sentiment is best expressed and captured by option B. Option A comes close but then it misses out on this point.</p>
3.	C	In the given case, each of options A, B and D are far-fetched in nature and do not do justice to the given paragraph. The paragraph only highlights the positive role of drama and art in student development (which is highlight by option C).The other options are too strong in the given case.
4.	A	The paragraph talks about a dilemma - what is more important: benchmarking a new artwork with older ones, or judging it by its uniqueness? Although the para is lengthy but the message is clear and stated in the last line and therefore we



		<p>need a logical extension of this point.</p> <p>2 – goes against the article’s advice. It calls for her not to be prejudiced.</p> <p>3 – again against the grain of the article. Both uniqueness and history are important.</p> <p>4 – Is not mentioned in the paragraph.</p>
5.	C	<p>We are primarily talking about the material sciences related to implants. We look at matching manufactured stuff with what is naturally found in tissue. The current hurdle is in our limited understanding of how bonding between an implant and tissue happens.</p> <p>1 – Does not give the background of toxicity and physical properties. Also the challenge is not the non-bonding, but the understanding of how the bonding happens.</p> <p>2 – the research dispute is not about toxicity</p> <p>4 – the passage does not talk of human tissue characteristics.</p>
6.	D	<p>Both predators and preys needed intelligence to survive. A dim witted tiger would not be able to find food – and a dim-witted deer species would not have any chance of surviving or reproducing. If you do not need to work too hard for your food – and if you do not have enemies, then you get lulled into a world of low intelligence.</p> <p>1 – is too general a statement.</p> <p>2 – the relationship between their intelligence</p>



		development should have also been discussed. 3 – goes against the passage, memory is important – but so are reflexes – and fight-or-flight decision making.
7.	C	<p>In this given case, you need to understand a few things:</p> <p>a. the author does not say that science has not been able to explain free will; he says that science does provide us the tools to understand free will.</p> <p>b. he advises us to look at animals and how they operate in order to understand the topic of free will.</p> <p>Keeping these two points in mind, we find that option c is the best answer in the given case. The other options commit of mistake of either belittling science or shifting from the main topic of discussion in the given case.</p>
8.	B	<p>In this case, there are two central points of the author of the passage:</p> <p>a. Happiness is not a factor of the individual alone</p> <p>b. Happiness depends on social conditions (economic, political and social aspects of societies). Keeping this mind, we can see that option B is the only one that covers both aspects.</p>
9.	D	In the given question, the author is comparing



		the relative merits of being big and small. He clearly points out that being big no longer offers any special advantage and this helps us identify option D as the correct answer.
10.	D	The author of the paragraph illustrates how sports is actually of our past and how it reflects the combat that used to take place between human animals. It is a reflection out of genetic fitness. Keeping these sentiments in mind, we can see that option d is the best fit in the given case.