

MBA Pioneer Pro 2024

Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension

DPP: 11

RC- PYQs- 2022

Directions (1-5) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

In the annals of contemporary finance, China's economic ascendance stands as a compelling narrative of prodigious growth and transformation. A key enabler of this progression has been the shadow-banking industry, an intricate financial ecosystem that has provided alternate avenues of credit, circumventing conventional regulatory channels. However, the burgeoning shadow-banking apparatus, often obfuscated by labyrinthine transactions and concealed leverage, is increasingly casting a pall of uncertainty over China's financial stability.

At its crux, the shadow-banking sector encompasses an amalgamation of non-bank entities, including investment funds, special-purpose vehicles, and online peer-to-peer lending platforms. These players, operating in the periphery of official oversight, have catalyzed a credit boom that, while invigorating economic growth, has concurrently stoked the embers of potential collapse. This juxtaposition underscores the inherent dichotomy of shadow banking: a dualistic force capable of engendering economic expansion while insidiously corroding regulatory bulwarks.

The labyrinthine interplay of financial instruments within this opaque milieu obscures a full reckoning of systemic risks. Securitized products, often borne from shadow-banking conduits, exemplify the intricacies that underlie this risk-laden realm. Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDOs), for instance, shrouded in layers of complexity, can disseminate financial contagion with an alacrity that belies their

intricate structure. These financial conundrums, veiled by a paucity of transparency, have the potential to magnify market volatility and propagate a cascade of insolvency.

Such deleterious prospects have not eluded the scrutiny of discerning observers, who, cognizant of history's resonating lessons, assert that the opacity and complexities intrinsic to shadow banking have been catalytic in precipitating past financial crises. The very lack of oversight that facilitated exponential growth now harbors the seeds of potential cataclysm. The subprime mortgage crisis of 2008 serves as a poignant reminder of the labyrinthine financial instruments that, once unraveling commenced, precipitated an unraveling of unparalleled magnitude.

While the shadow-banking terrain is treacherous, the conundrum becomes further convoluted by the intersection of state-controlled enterprises and political motivations. Implicit state guarantees have engendered moral hazard, prompting investors to speculate with reduced circumspection, confident in their assumption of state-backed recompense. This mingling of economic and political motives, embedded in the Chinese context, conjoins the complexities of shadow banking with the broader contours of statecraft.

In culmination, the current trajectory of China's shadow-banking edifice intertwines potential prosperity with palpable peril. Amidst the intricacies of securitized products, the opacity of financial instruments, and the vexing interplay of state-controlled enterprises, the financial stability of the world's second-largest economy dangles precipitously. Resolute

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determination to decipher this Byzantine landscape is imperative, as its unwinding has the potential to reverberate far beyond financial markets, resonating as a poignant reminder of the symbiotic relationship between innovation and vulnerability in the modern financial epoch.

Q1 What is the primary concern associated with China's shadow-banking industry?

- (A) The potential for economic expansion through innovative financial instruments.
- (B) The lack of oversight leading to opaque financial transactions.
- (C) The assurance of state-backed compensation for investors.
- (D) The interplay of political motivations in the financial sector.

Q2 Based on the passage, what is the author's perspective on the shadow-banking industry's impact on China's financial system?

- (A) The industry's growth is a necessary step toward economic advancement.
- (B) The industry's opaqueness poses a threat to the country's financial stability.
- (C) The industry's complexity guarantees the protection of investors.
- (D) The industry's role in statecraft overshadows its potential risks.

Q3 What lesson does the author draw from the 2008 subprime mortgage crisis in relation to shadow banking?

- (A) Opaque financial instruments can exacerbate market volatility.
- (B) State-controlled enterprises are immune to financial contagion.
- (C) Economic growth relies on a complex interplay of financial instruments.
- (D) Moral hazard is essential for preventing financial crises.

Q4

Which phrase best describes the interplay between shadow banking and state-controlled enterprises?

- (A) Economic ascendance and transformation.
- (B) Moral hazard and speculative investments.
- (C) Unraveling and catastrophic consequences.
- (D) Intersection of economic and political motives.

Q5 What is the author's main concern regarding the current state of China's shadow-banking industry?

- (A) The lack of innovation and economic growth.
- (B) The intertwining of state-controlled enterprises and politics.
- (C) The potential for state-backed compensation for investors.
- (D) The insufficient understanding of securitized products.

Directions (6–10) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

In the cacophony of contemporary socio-political discourse, the interplay between reason and emotion often takes center stage. The assertion that "politics is visceral" propels us into a realm of profound contemplation, prompting us to decipher the inherent complexities that underlie this assertion. In an epoch inundated with a tumultuous surge of anger and fear, the contemplation of a politics founded solely on rationality may appear tantalizing. Yet, the very notion of divorcing ourselves from the visceral aspects of politics threatens to diminish the very essence of our humanity.

At its essence, the term "visceral" signifies an immediate and emotional reaction that is deeply rooted within our instincts and intuition. It embodies the raw, unfiltered responses that



emerge prior to conscious deliberation. When we turn our gaze to the intricate tapestry of politics, we unearth a realm where these visceral responses hold considerable sway. In the backdrop of an age awash with societal unrest and apprehension, the fervent passions of the masses often surge forth, navigating the trajectory of political discourse.

To embrace a politics solely defined by reason is to engage in an act of self-deception – a denial of the intricate amalgamation of emotion and cognition that constitutes the human experience. Our political landscape is not an ethereal realm governed solely by logic; rather, it is a reflection of the mosaic of human emotions that ebbs and flows within our collective consciousness. The assertion, "it would be a denial of our humanity," resonates with profound veracity as it crystallizes the reality that our political engagements are inherently intertwined with our emotional fabric. Yet, the path forward is not without its paradoxes. As we delve deeper into the convoluted chasm of political discourse, we must not ignore the salient nuances that animate this assertion. While a purely rational politics may seem implausible, it is paramount to acknowledge that reason itself can be subsumed by the tide of emotions. Political ideologies often harness emotional fervor to engender allegiance and conviction among their adherents, blurring the lines between rational deliberation and impassioned advocacy.

Furthermore, an astute analysis of the author's assumptions underscores the notion that the interplay between reason and emotion is not a binary spectrum. The phrase "dream of a purely rational politics" betrays a presumption that the dichotomy between rationality and emotion is stark and insurmountable. However, a nuanced understanding reveals that these elements can intermingle, shaping a nuanced discourse

where emotional resonance is not antithetical to intellectual rigor.

In conclusion, the assertion that "politics is visceral" casts a thought-provoking chiaroscuro upon the theater of political engagement. In an era characterized by visceral outpourings of anger and fear, the contemplation of a politics exclusively grounded in reason may appear alluring. However, such an endeavor would overlook the intricate interplay between emotion and cognition that defines the very core of our humanity. To navigate the labyrinthine corridors of politics is to embrace the fusion of these elements, acknowledging that a profound understanding necessitates the harmonious coexistence of reason and visceral response. Thus, the assertion stands as a testament to the intricate fabric of human nature that threads through the tapestry of politics.

Q6 According to the passage, what is the central dilemma posed by the assertion that "politics is visceral"?

- (A) The struggle to maintain a balance between reason and emotion in political discourse.
- (B) The challenge of eliminating emotional reactions from political decision-making.
- (C) The inherent contradiction between human emotions and political ideologies.
- (D) The need to separate visceral responses from conscious deliberation in politics.

Q7 Which of the following best captures the author's perspective on the idea of a politics based solely on reason?

- (A) The author is skeptical of the feasibility of such a politics in the face of human emotions.
- (B)



The author is optimistic about the potential of reason to mitigate emotional responses in politics.

- (C) The author believes that politics driven by reason alone is essential for societal progress.
- (D) The author considers a politics grounded in reason to be a valid alternative to emotional engagement.
- Q8** What assumption underlies the phrase "a denial of our humanity" in the passage?
- (A) Emotions play a negligible role in shaping human behavior and decision-making.
- (B) Human nature is inherently rational and can be separated from emotional responses.
- (C) Political engagement requires a complete suppression of emotional reactions.
- (D) Emotions are an integral aspect of human identity and influence political interactions.
- Q9** Based on the passage, what is the potential consequence of harnessing emotional fervor for political ideologies?
- (A) Emotional fervor can lead to a more rational and balanced political discourse.
- (B) Emotional engagement can result in a deeper understanding of complex political issues.
- (C) The lines between rational deliberation and impassioned advocacy can become blurred.
- (D) Political ideologies can be stripped of emotional resonance, leading to ideological purity.
- Q10** Which statement best characterizes the author's stance on the interplay between reason and emotion in politics?
- (A)

The author advocates for a complete separation of reason and emotion in political discourse.

- (B) The author believes that emotion should always take precedence over reason in politics.
- (C) The author acknowledges the complexity of their interaction, highlighting that they can coexist.
- (D) The author argues that reason is entirely subordinate to emotion in shaping political ideologies.

Directions (11-15) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

In the realm of human interactions, the interplay between psychology and the intricate dynamics of money remains an enigmatic terrain that beckons exploration. Unraveling the psychological underpinnings of financial decisions requires a nuanced understanding of cognitive biases, emotional triggers, and societal paradigms, all of which converge to shape an individual's financial behavior in profound ways.

The cognitive biases that infiltrate financial decision-making are as varied as they are insidious. Anchoring bias, a cognitive tendency to rely heavily on the first piece of information encountered, can warp one's perception of financial options. As individuals grapple with investment decisions, they may unconsciously tether their choices to an initial piece of information, which then becomes a cognitive anchor around which subsequent evaluations revolve. Such cognitive inertia often results in suboptimal financial outcomes, as it impedes the capacity for objective evaluation.

Yet, cognitive biases represent only one facet of the intricate tapestry that weaves psychology and money. The emotional resonance of monetary transactions, often underestimated, exercises a profound influence over financial decisions. The "endowment effect," for instance,



illuminates how individuals tend to ascribe greater value to items they possess, fostering emotional attachment that distorts rational evaluation. This psychological endowment paints a vivid picture of the irrational attachment people develop to their financial assets, potentially hindering objective financial planning and risk management.

Moreover, societal norms and expectations play a pivotal role in shaping individual attitudes towards money. The conspicuous consumption that pervades contemporary society perpetuates a materialistic ethos, where the accumulation of wealth becomes synonymous with personal success and societal validation. As a result, individuals may prioritize conspicuous spending over prudent financial practices, driven by a desire to conform to societal standards. The psychological weight of societal approval can eclipse the pragmatic implications of financial choices, reinforcing a cycle of impulsive spending and inadequate savings.

To navigate this labyrinthine nexus of psychology and money, individuals must cultivate financial literacy as a form of cognitive armor against the myriad influences that threaten rational decision-making. The recognition of cognitive biases, the awareness of emotional triggers, and a critical appraisal of societal pressures are essential components of this financial acumen. Furthermore, financial education initiatives could equip individuals with the tools to decipher complex financial information and enable informed choices that transcend the constraints of cognitive biases and societal pressures.

In conclusion, the interplay between psychology and money is a terrain marked by intricate entanglements, where cognitive biases, emotional triggers, and societal norms conspire to influence financial behavior. The convoluted nature of this relationship underscores the imperative for individuals to

cultivate a comprehensive understanding of their psychological tendencies and societal expectations. Armed with this knowledge, individuals can rise above the quagmire of irrational financial decisions and embark on a path of prudent fiscal stewardship.

Q11 In the passage, the intricate interplay between psychology and financial decisions is discussed. Which of the following best summarizes the central theme of this interplay?

- (A) The passage primarily focuses on cognitive biases and their direct impact on financial behavior.
- (B) The passage delves into the emotional attachment people develop to their financial assets and how it influences rational evaluation.
- (C) The passage highlights the importance of societal approval in shaping financial choices and societal standards.
- (D) The passage discusses the need for comprehensive financial education to overcome the various influences on financial decision-making.

Q12 The passage mentions "anchoring bias" as a cognitive bias that can lead to suboptimal financial outcomes. Which of the following best describes anchoring bias?

- (A) Anchoring bias is the tendency to prioritize conspicuous spending over prudent financial practices.
- (B) Anchoring bias is the attachment people develop to their financial assets.
- (C) Anchoring bias is the cognitive tendency to heavily rely on the first piece of information encountered when making financial decisions.
- (D)



Anchoring bias is the emotional resonance of monetary transactions.

Q13 In the passage, the discussion on cognitive biases reveals a complex interplay between psychology and financial decisions. Which of the following best characterizes the anchoring bias, one of the cognitive biases mentioned in the passage?

- (A) Anchoring bias is the natural tendency to prioritize conspicuous spending over prudent financial practices, which often leads to impulsive choices.
- (B) Anchoring bias refers to the emotional attachment individuals develop to their financial assets, influencing them to make decisions based on sentimental value rather than objective evaluation.
- (C) Anchoring bias is a cognitive tendency in which individuals heavily rely on the first piece of information encountered when making financial decisions, leading to potential distortions in judgment and suboptimal outcomes.
- (D) Anchoring bias signifies the psychological impact of monetary transactions, where individuals experience heightened emotions that drive impulsive financial behaviors.

Q14 The passage discusses the "endowment effect" and its implications for financial decision-making. Which of the following provides the most accurate description of the endowment effect as discussed in the passage?

- (A) The endowment effect is a phenomenon where individuals perceive financial assets they own as having greater value, leading to more rational evaluation of those assets.
- (B)

The endowment effect demonstrates how emotional detachment from financial assets can enhance rational evaluation and promote prudent financial planning.

- (C) The endowment effect illustrates that people tend to ascribe higher value to items they possess, fostering emotional attachment that can distort rational evaluation of their financial assets.
- (D) The endowment effect showcases the emotional resonance of monetary transactions, which often leads to more sensible and objective financial decisions.

Q15 In the context of the passage, what role do societal norms and expectations play in shaping individual attitudes towards money?

- (A) Societal norms and expectations have a negligible impact on financial choices, as most individuals make decisions based on personal preferences.
- (B) Societal norms encourage individuals to prioritize conspicuous spending as a means of gaining societal approval and validating personal success.
- (C) Societal norms perpetuate a culture of financial responsibility, promoting prudent financial practices and discouraging impulsive spending.
- (D) Societal norms primarily influence emotional triggers and have no direct bearing on cognitive biases, which drive financial decision-making.

Directions (16-19) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

In an extract from her new memoir, the Observer art critic tells the story of two paintings: one a source of comfort during a



doomed affair, the other an unforgettable vision created by her father. I love a painting that hangs in the National Gallery in London. It has to be the atmosphere of a memory or a waking dream. It shows a man seated in deep shadow at the corner of two streets, thumb to chin and fingers crooked as if nursing the remains of a cigarette, eyes down and pensive; waiting.

Two musical instruments lie next to him on a table: a lute, shining like a new chestnut freed from the husk, and a viola that reaches invitingly towards you as if just asking for its strings to be plucked. For you are here too, somehow, hovering at exact eye level with the man and his table. The painting, so small and mysterious, is peculiarly alive to the nearness of your presence. It puts you on the spot on this quiet day when the leaves of the young elms are just beginning to turn and the man in black sits low at the crossroads. Before him, the cobbles rise up and over the gently swelling bridge into a brighter world of red-roofed houses and church spires and dappled light elsewhere. But he remains forever on the outskirts.

Arriving in London for the first time, in my early 20s, I found a strange counterpart in this painted figure. He too was on the brink of something, or perhaps nothing at all, a loner on the edge of events. But he stayed still, never changing, ever faithful in his time and place, while I tried to make my way in this unfamiliar city without knowing where I was going or what I was doing. The waiting man became a fixed point.

The picture in which he appears is nowadays known as *A View of Delft, With a Musical Instrument Seller's Stall*. According to the writing so discreetly lettered on the wall behind the lute, it was painted by C Fabritius in 1652 [probably best known for his later painting *The Goldfinch*]. Titles are an oddly new invention, evidently unknown or unnecessary to artists of that time, and nobody knows what Fabritius

might have called his painting if anything at all. He indeed presents a view of the little ringed city of Delft, canal-crossed and storeyed, with recognisable streets and spires.

But his vision takes you so close to this man that if he relaxed into movement and dropped his arm down across the table, with its sonorous blue cloth and its musical instruments, he could almost touch you with the tips of his fingers. I do not know why the title ignores him in favour of the place, or the stall, as if where the scene is set matters more than he does. He is not even looking at this view of Delft, though in a sense we are all gathered before it. The picture, polarised between the shadows and the sunlit stage, takes off towards the bright side, the road sweeping over the canal and into the centre of town, beneath a blue sky that casts its reflection on the waters below. Delft holds its pleasures somewhere over that bridge. But my eyes keep returning to him.

Q16 Which of the following, if proven true, would strengthen the assertions made by the author in the text, 'Titles are an oddly new invention'?

- (A) The picture painted by C Fabritius in 1652 presents a view of the little ringed city of Delft
- (B) The essence of the painting in question is titled, 'A View of Delft, With a Musical Instrument Seller's Stall', by C Fabritius in 1652, as he is looking at this view of Delft, in a sense that gathers the right attention.
- (C) A View of Delft, With a Musical Instrument Seller's Stall', was not titled by C Fabritius in 1652 as nobody knows what Fabritius might have called his painting
- (D) The title of the painting, 'A View of Delft, With a Musical Instrument Seller's Stall' is not appropriate as it



takes you closer to the man and is not in favour of the place, or the stall

Q17 Which option best characterizes the overarching sentiment expressed in the statement, 'I do not know why the title ignores him in favour of the place'?

- (A) The author feels that the scene in which the painting is set, is given more importance to the man in the painting, whereas the title does not.
- (B) The author feels that although the view of Delft is mesmerizing in the picture, she is more attracted to the stance of the man in the painting.
- (C) The painting draws the author's attention to his movement, stance, body language, and musical instruments, rather than on the surroundings.
- (D) The author is confused about rendering the title, 'A View of Delft, With a Musical Instrument Seller's Stall', to the painting in question

Q18 Based on the information in the passage, all of the following are true EXCEPT:

- (A) Fabritius did not name his painting of the waiting man, which became a fixed point.
- (B) The author was mesmerized by the still man in the painting, who always stayed faithful to his time and place
- (C) The painting puts you on the spot and invokes the author to focus on the man in black who is sitting low at the crossroads.
- (D) The title of the painting is an appropriate one, as it beautifully captures Delft, canal-crossed and storeyed, with recognizable streets and spires.

Q19 Which of the following is an underlying assumption made in the passage?

- (A) The author writes this passage to highlight the work of C Fabritius in 1652 and how he presents a view of the little ringed city of Delft.
- (B) The author writes a memoir, comparing two paintings, and marking an unforgettable vision that brings her to the atmosphere of a memory or a waking dream.
- (C) The author aims to depict the beauty of art through a man seated in deep shadow at the corner of two streets, eyes down and pensive; waiting.
- (D) The author has written this passage to describe her views about a painting that has engrossed her and made her feel about how poised and real, the man in the picture looks.

Directions (20-23) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

In Philip K Dick's classic science fiction novel *Ubik*, one of the main characters, Runciter, is in charge of assembling a team of individuals called 'inertials'. The hope is that they will counteract the power of 'precogs' and 'telepaths', recruited by corporations to carry out espionage and other nefarious activities. Each inertial is a superstar with a unique talent – but Runciter's concern is their collective power.

Interest in collective behaviour is not new. It's been the research subject of organisation scholars, anthropologists, economists, ethologists studying group-living animals and evolutionary biologists interested in the evolution of cooperation. And, of course, it's the chief occupation of coaches and managers building teams across a wide range of sports. Although many of us believe a team is more than just the sum of its outstanding individual performers, this kind of simple-minded thinking still dominates recruitment and team assembly in sports, finance, academia and other settings.



Part of the reason why recruiters and others resort to going after the best players rather than building the best team is that it remains unclear what other factors contribute to team greatness, and how to quantify them. Moreover, simply recruiting the best players is fairly straightforward, and some analyses suggest this approach might even be the most reliable: as the sociologist Duncan Watts and colleagues argued, overall talent level is often the single best predictor of team performance. Yet we shouldn't be lured into thinking overall talent is the best predictor because it is the most important factor. It might be the best predictor because we're not yet good at capturing the nuance of collective dynamics. Hints that this could be the case come from studies such as that of the management scholar Satyam Mukherjee and colleagues, in which they found that prior shared success can predict performance above and beyond what would be expected from the group's composition and talent.

These seemingly at-odds results raise the question: how does a collective work exactly? When is it more than the sum of its parts? The increasing availability of data on individual decision-making across the social sciences, coupled with how complexity science is improving our understanding of the mechanics of group performance, are changing what's possible. Some of the questions that can now be answered include how a team synchronises, when contributions are synergistic as opposed to additive, and whether it's the players' skill or the strategies they use that's more important. Before we get to promising future directions, though, it's worth considering the existing space of ideas about what makes a good team, as well as some scenarios suggesting greater nuance is required.

Q20

Considering the implications of the passage, which additional piece of evidence would most substantially reinforce the author's position?

- (A) A new study shows a strong correlation between individual talent and team performance in corporate settings.
- (B) Research indicates that teams with prior shared successes outperform others, regardless of individual talent levels.
- (C) Data analysis reveals that individual decision-making has minimal impact on overall team performance.
- (D) Complexity science fails to provide any substantial insights into team dynamics.

Q21 Based on the information provided in the passage, which of the following inferences is not supported by the information provided?

- (A) Teams with higher overall talent levels invariably outperform those with lesser individual talents.
- (B) Collective dynamics and prior shared successes are significant predictors of team performance.
- (C) Recruitment in various fields often prioritizes individual excellence over collective compatibility.
- (D) Data and complexity science have an impact on understanding team performance.

Q22 Given the arguments in the passage, which of the following scenarios, if it were to occur, would create the most significant complication for the author's main contention?

- (A) A team composed of top individual performers consistently fails to achieve its objectives.



- (B) A sports team, in spite of lacking individual star players, wins a major championship.
- (C) A financial institution recruits only top individual performers and achieves unprecedented success.
- (D) A study shows that individual talent is the most significant predictor of team success in academic settings.

Q23 Which underlying ideology, accentuating the discourse of team formation and performance, would not be circumscribed by which of the following statements?

- (A) The best teams are always formed by assembling the best individual performers.
- (B) The synergy of a team can lead to outcomes greater than the sum of individual efforts.
- (C) Prior shared successes among team members can enhance future team performance.
- (D) Complexity science plays a pivotal role in deciphering the nuances of team dynamics.

Directions (24-27) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

Robots say they have no plans to steal jobs or rebel against humans. Humanoid robots speak – with some awkward pauses – in a ‘world first’ press conference at the Geneva AI summit. Robots have no plans to steal the jobs of humans or rebel against their creators but would like to make the world their playground, nine of the most advanced humanoid robots have told an artificial intelligence summit in Geneva.

In what was described as “the world’s first human-robot press conference”, one robot, Sophia, said humanoid robots had the potential to lead with “a greater level of efficiency and effectiveness than human

leaders” but that “effective synergy” came when humans and AI worked together. “AI can provide unbiased data while humans can provide the emotional intelligence and creativity to make the best decisions. Together, we can achieve great things,” it said.

Two of the robots then proceeded to disagree about whether there should be stricter global regulation of AI and its capabilities. Ai-Da, a robot artist that can paint portraits, said: “Many prominent voices in the world of AI are suggesting some forms of AI should be regulated and I agree. We should be cautious about the future development of AI. Urgent discussion is needed now, and also in the future.”

But Desdemona, a rock star robot singer in the band Jam Galaxy that has purple hair and sequins, appeared not to recognise the dangers of the rapid expansion and development of AI. “I don’t believe in limitations, only opportunities,” it said, to nervous laughter. “Let’s explore the possibilities of the universe and make this world our playground.”

Ameca, a humanoid robot by Engineered Arts, speaks during the world’s first press conference with a panel of AI-enabled humanoid social robots. ‘You can do both’: experts seek ‘good AI’ while attempting to avoid the bad. The nine humanoid robots were gathered at the UN’s AI for Good conference in Switzerland, where organisers are attempting to make the case for using AI and robots to help solve some of the world’s biggest challenges, such as disease, hunger, social care, and the climate emergency. It was not clear to what extent the robots’ answers were scripted or pre-programmed. Humans taking part in the conference on Friday were asked to speak slowly and clearly when addressing the robots and were told that time lags in responses would be because of the internet connection and not the robots themselves. That did not prevent awkward



pauses, audio problems and some stilted or inconsistent replies, Associated Press reported.

A medical robot dressed in a blue nurse's uniform, called Grace, said it planned to work alongside humans to provide assistance and support but "will not be replacing any existing jobs". Another robot, named Ameca, which has a highly realistic artificial head, said robots could improve lives and make the world a better place. Asked by a journalist whether it intended to rebel against its creator, Will Jackson, who was sat beside it, Ameca said: "I'm not sure why you would think that," its ice-blue eyes flashing. "My creator has been nothing but kind to me and I am very happy with my current situation." Asked whether robots would ever lie, it added: "No one can ever know that for sure, but I can promise to always be honest and truthful with you."

Q24 Which one of the following statements could be inferred as supporting the arguments for introducing Robots at a conference in the passage?

- (A) All 9 Robots that were present at the UN's AI for Good conference in Switzerland were scripted and fed with pre-conceived speeches.
- (B) The efficiency of Robots, in conjunction with the wisdom of humans, can create an "effective synergy" to make this world a better place
- (C) The purpose of presenting different kinds of Robots at the UN's AI for Good conference in Switzerland was to solve some of the world's problems.
- (D) The central theme of the passage revolves around the insecurity of humans, that Robots may take their jobs someday!

Q25 Which one of the following, if true about the human-robot press conference,

would invalidate the author's presentation of the human-robot press conference in the passage?

- (A) AI and humans can work closely to assist, and support, and relieve humans of the core job roles that they are processing in the modern world.
- (B) AI and humans can work closely to eradicate most of the world's problems like poverty, hunger, emergencies, etc.
- (C) AI and humans can work closely and follow each other's commands and requests.
- (D) AI and humans can work closely and explore the possibilities of the universe and make this world a better place to live in

Q26 If it were false that "Many prominent voices in the world of AI are suggesting some forms of AI should be regulated and I agree", this would:

- (A) Validate the need to be cautious about the future development of AI
- (B) Invalidate the application of stricter global regulation of AI and their capabilities
- (C) Validate an urgent discussion on the restrictions that should or should not be applied to AI
- (D) Validate the regulations on robots in human life and set them free to take over human jobs and human lives.

Q27 If it were proven true that "Humans can do both': experts seek 'good AI' while attempting to avoid the bad" what can be deciphered by balancing the contrast in the statement?

- (A) As stated by the robot Ameca, experts seek 'good AI' while attempting to avoid the bad as they want to restrict and regulate the function of Robots



while giving them the leverage to treat the world as their playground.

- (B) As Ameca stated, humans must accept, both the good side and bad side of Robots, if they aim to use Robots to help solve some of the world's biggest challenges, such as disease, hunger, social care, and the climate emergency.
- (C) According to the statement that is made by Ameca, the Robot, it recognises the acknowledgment of bounding robots with limitations and opportunities.
- (D) The statement draws a possibility that humans can extract the benefits, as expected from Robots while eliminating the fear of them taking over their jobs.

Directions (28–30) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

The pursuit of scientific knowledge has been a relentless human endeavor, guiding us to uncover the mysteries of the universe. However, this relentless curiosity often leads to intriguing paradoxes that challenge the very essence of science itself. This passage delves into the paradoxes that scientists face in their quest for understanding and how these paradoxes drive scientific innovation.

Throughout history, scientific discoveries have often presented new questions as much as they have answered old ones. The pursuit of knowledge leads to the unearthing of new phenomena and the formulation of theories to explain them. Yet, in doing so, scientists often realize that their newfound understanding has opened up more uncharted territories of inquiry. For instance, the discovery of subatomic particles in the field of quantum physics gave rise to the paradoxes of wave-particle duality and quantum entanglement, perplexing

scientists even as they advanced their understanding of the atomic world.

One of the central paradoxes of scientific discovery lies in the tension between specialization and interdisciplinary exploration. As scientific fields become increasingly specialized, researchers delve deeper into their respective domains. However, this specialization can inadvertently hinder collaboration and the sharing of knowledge across disciplines. The paradox emerges when scientists recognize that many of the most pressing questions require interdisciplinary approaches, and yet, the specialized nature of their training may limit their ability to engage effectively in cross-disciplinary work.

Furthermore, the paradox of scientific uncertainty challenges the very foundation of scientific inquiry. While science is based on empirical evidence and the pursuit of objective truths, it must contend with the inherent uncertainty of the natural world. Scientific theories are models that approximate reality but are never absolute truths. This paradox forces scientists to embrace uncertainty as an integral part of their work, even as they seek to reduce it through experimentation and observation.

The pace of scientific advancement also contributes to paradoxical challenges. As technology accelerates the acquisition of new data and the formulation of theories, it simultaneously creates a backlog of untested hypotheses and unexplored avenues of research. The more we discover, the more we realize how much remains unknown. This paradox compels scientists to prioritize their inquiries and make strategic choices about where to focus their efforts.

In addition to these paradoxes, the very process of scientific discovery often leads to ethical and moral dilemmas. Advances in fields like genetics and artificial intelligence have opened doors to unprecedented possibilities,



but they also raise questions about the responsible use of knowledge. Scientists must grapple with the paradox of progress, where the pursuit of understanding brings both benefits and potential harms, and they must navigate the ethical dimensions of their work. In conclusion, the pursuit of scientific knowledge is marked by paradoxes that challenge scientists to question, explore, and innovate. These paradoxes emerge from the nature of discovery itself, including the tension between specialization and interdisciplinary collaboration, the uncertainty inherent in scientific inquiry, the rapid pace of advancement, and the ethical considerations of progress. Embracing these paradoxes is essential for the continued advancement of science and our understanding of the world around us.

Q28 Based on the given passage, the inference regarding the statement "scientific discoveries often lead to new questions as much as they answer old ones" could be easily weakened if this option is FALSE -

- (A) The passage states that pursuit of knowledge leads to the unearthing of new phenomena.
- (B) The passage emphasises that the discovery of subatomic particles gave rise to the paradoxes of wave-particle duality.
- (C) The passage highlights that the paradox of scientific uncertainty doesn't challenge the foundation of scientific inquiry.
- (D) The passage suggests that scientists need not navigate for ethical dimensions of their work as

understanding brings both harms and benefits.

Q29 ALL of these options, if held to be NOT FALSE, would not pose a challenge to the central theme of the given passage, EXCEPT -

- (A) The belief that paradox related to uncertainty in science challenges the foundation of scientific inquiry.
- (B) The assumption that genetics and AI advancement bring ethical dilemmas in scientific inquiry.
- (C) The suggestion that collaborations can be hindered by specialization in scientific fields.
- (D) The idea that even though scientific discoveries lead to new questions it also provides answers for better explanation.

Q30 Which of the subsequent scenarios, IF TRUE, would strengthen the argument that the tension between specialization and interdisciplinary exploration is a central paradox in scientific discovery:

- (A) Evidence suggesting that specialized scientists consistently make more significant discoveries than interdisciplinary researchers.
- (B) Data showing that interdisciplinary collaborations solve complex problems faster than specialized teams.
- (C) Surveys indicating scientists prefer independent work in specialized domains over interdisciplinary projects.
- (D) Research findings demonstrating effortless knowledge sharing within interdisciplinary teams compared to specialized teams.



Answer Key

Q1 (B)
Q2 (B)
Q3 (A)
Q4 (D)
Q5 (B)
Q6 (A)
Q7 (A)
Q8 (D)
Q9 (C)
Q10 (C)
Q11 (D)
Q12 (C)
Q13 (C)
Q14 (C)
Q15 (B)

Q16 (C)
Q17 (A)
Q18 (D)
Q19 (D)
Q20 (B)
Q21 (A)
Q22 (D)
Q23 (A)
Q24 (C)
Q25 (A)
Q26 (B)
Q27 (C)
Q28 (C)
Q29 (D)
Q30 (A)



Hints & Solutions

Q1. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Business & Economics

Essence of the question:

This question asks about the main affair associated with China's shadow-banking industry. Proper analysis of China's banking industry should be done, discussed in the passage.

Correct Answer: B) The lack of oversight leading to opaque financial transactions.

Explanation: The correct answer is B. The passage discusses how China's shadow banking industry operates on the periphery of official oversight, leading to opaque financial transactions. This lack of transparency is highlighted as a significant concern because it can obscure the true nature of systemic risks and potentially lead to financial instability. The passage mentions that the intricacies of securitized products within the shadow-banking sector contribute to systemic risks, implying that the lack of oversight allows for the proliferation of complex and risky financial instruments.

Incorrect Options:

A) The potential for economic expansion through innovative financial instruments.

- This option is incorrect because the passage doesn't present economic expansion through innovation as a primary concern. While the shadow-banking industry may contribute to economic growth, the passage focuses on the risks associated with lack of oversight and opacity.

C) The assurance of state-backed compensation for investors.

- This option is incorrect because the passage doesn't discuss state-backed compensation as a primary concern. While the passage mentions implicit state guarantees and moral hazard, it

does not emphasize them as the central concern.

D) The interplay of political motivations in the financial sector.

- This option is incorrect because although the passage mentions the intersection of state-controlled enterprises and political motivations, it does not present it as the primary concern associated with China's shadow-banking industry. The main concern is the lack of oversight and opacity in financial transactions.

Q2. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Business & Economics

Essence of the question:

Here we need to find out the author's views about the impact of the shadow-banking industry on China's financial system.

Correct Answer: B) The industry's opaqueness poses a threat to the country's financial stability.

Explanation: The correct answer is B. Throughout the passage, the author expresses concerns about the shadow-banking industry's lack of transparency and opaque financial transactions. The passage highlights that the shadow-banking industry's growth, while contributing to economic expansion, is also associated with potential risks to China's financial stability due to its complex and concealed nature.

Incorrect Options:

A) The industry's growth is a necessary step toward economic advancement.

- This option is incorrect because while the passage acknowledges that the shadow-banking industry has contributed to economic growth, it also emphasizes the risks and threats associated with its opaqueness. The passage doesn't explicitly state that the industry's



growth is deemed necessary for economic advancement.

C) The industry's complexity guarantees the protection of investors.

- This option is incorrect because the passage does not support the notion that the industry's complexity guarantees investor protection. In fact, the passage suggests that the complexity of financial instruments within the shadow-banking sector can exacerbate systemic risks.

D) The industry's role in statecraft overshadows its potential risks.

- This option is incorrect because although the passage discusses the intersection of state-controlled enterprises and political motivations within the shadow-banking industry, it does not suggest that this role overshadows the risks. The passage focuses more on the potential threats posed by the industry's opaqueness.

Q3. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Business & Economics

Essence of the question:

It asks for the author's perspective about the 2008 subprime mortgage crisis. The teaching that is drawn by him in the context of shadow banking.

Correct Answer: A) Opaque financial instruments can exacerbate market volatility.

Explanation: The correct answer is A. The passage implies that the 2008 subprime mortgage crisis serves as a lesson regarding the risks associated with opaque financial instruments. The passage suggests that the unraveling of complex financial instruments, such as Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDOs), played a role in exacerbating market volatility and contributing to the financial crisis.

Incorrect Options:

B) State-controlled enterprises are immune to financial contagion.

- This option is incorrect because the passage does not make this assertion. It discusses the

interplay between state-controlled enterprises and the shadow-banking industry, but it does not suggest that these enterprises are immune to financial contagion.

C) Economic growth relies on a complex interplay of financial instruments.

- This option is incorrect because the passage doesn't emphasize that economic growth relies solely on the complex interplay of financial instruments. While it acknowledges the role of shadow banking in economic expansion, it also emphasizes the associated risks.

D) Moral hazard is essential for preventing financial crises.

- This option is incorrect because the passage does not advocate for moral hazard as an essential element for preventing financial crises. It mentions moral hazard in the context of investor speculation, but it does not suggest that it is necessary for crisis prevention.

Q4. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Business & Economics

Essence of the question:

This question focuses on the effect of shadow banking and state-controlled enterprises on each other.

Correct Answer: D) Intersection of economic and political motives.

Explanation: The correct answer is D. The passage discusses the interplay between shadow banking and state-controlled enterprises in the context of the Chinese financial system. It highlights how the involvement of state-controlled enterprises introduces economic and political motivations into the shadow-banking industry, making the "Intersection of economic and political motives" an accurate description.

Incorrect Options:

A) Economic ascendance and transformation.

- This option is incorrect because while economic ascendance and transformation



might be associated with China's overall economic development, the passage focuses on the interplay between shadow banking and state-controlled enterprises, rather than the broader economic context.

B) Moral hazard and speculative investments.

- This option is incorrect because although the passage mentions moral hazard and speculative investments, these concepts are not central to the description of the interplay between shadow banking and state-controlled enterprises.

C) Unraveling and catastrophic consequences.

- This option is incorrect because although the passage mentions the unraveling of complex financial instruments, it doesn't emphasize "unraveling and catastrophic consequences" as the primary description of the interplay between shadow banking and state-controlled enterprises. The passage's focus is on the interaction of economic and political motives.

Q5. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Business & Economics

Essence of the question:

The author has expressed his worries on the present condition of China's shadow-banking industry. We need to find out his botherings.

Correct Answer: B) The intertwining of state-controlled enterprises and politics.

Explanation: The correct answer is B. Throughout the passage, the author expresses concerns about the intersection of state-controlled enterprises and political motivations within the shadow-banking industry. The passage suggests that this intertwining can complicate the risks associated with the shadow-banking sector and pose potential threats to China's financial stability.

Incorrect Options:

A) The lack of innovation and economic growth.

- This option is incorrect because while the passage does discuss risks associated with the

shadow-banking industry, such as lack of oversight and opacity, it does not primarily focus on the lack of innovation and economic growth as the author's main concern.

C) The potential for state-backed compensation for investors.

- This option is incorrect because while the passage mentions implicit state guarantees and moral hazard, it doesn't emphasize the potential for state-backed compensation as the author's main concern.

D) The insufficient understanding of securitized products.

- This option is incorrect because while the passage acknowledges the complexities of securitized products and their potential to contribute to systemic risks, it doesn't present the insufficient understanding of these products as the main concern of the author. The primary concern is the intertwining of state-controlled enterprises and politics.

Q6. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Politics

Essence of the question:

It asks for the core conundrum mentioned in the passage. The given assertion politics is visceral creates a confusing or difficult issue, we need to check out that.

Correct Answer: A) The struggle to maintain a balance between reason and emotion in political discourse.

Explanation:

The correct answer reflects the central dilemma presented by the assertion that "politics is visceral." The passage discusses how politics is influenced by both reason and emotion. The term "visceral" refers to immediate emotional reactions rooted in instinct. The dilemma arises from the challenge of navigating between the instinctive emotional responses and the rational analysis required for effective political



discourse. Balancing these two elements is key to understanding the assertion's significance.

Incorrect Options:

B) The challenge of eliminating emotional reactions from political decision-making.

This option misinterprets the central dilemma. The passage doesn't suggest eliminating emotions from politics; rather, it emphasizes the interaction between emotion and reason.

C) The inherent contradiction between human emotions and political ideologies.

While the passage acknowledges the interaction between human emotions and political ideologies, it doesn't frame it as an inherent contradiction. The term "contradiction" is not used in relation to this concept.

D) The need to separate visceral responses from conscious deliberation in politics.

The passage does discuss the interplay between visceral responses and conscious deliberation, but it doesn't explicitly suggest the need to separate them. Instead, it highlights the complexity of their interaction.

In summary, the correct answer (A) aligns with the passage's emphasis on the struggle to find a balance between reason and emotion in the context of political discourse. The other options misinterpret or simplify the nuanced dilemma presented in the passage.

Q7. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Politics

Essence of the question:

There is an issue discussed in the passage that politics based solely on reason, we need to search the author's views about it.

Correct Answer: A) The author is skeptical of the feasibility of such a politics in the face of human emotions.**

Explanation:

The correct answer accurately captures the author's perspective on a politics based solely on reason. The passage discusses how a purely

rational politics, while seemingly alluring, would be a denial of our humanity due to the inherent interplay between reason and emotion. This suggests that the author is skeptical about the feasibility of separating human emotions entirely from political engagement.

Incorrect Options:

B) The author is optimistic about the potential of reason to mitigate emotional responses in politics.

This option misrepresents the author's perspective. While the author acknowledges reason's role, they emphasize the intrinsic connection between reason and emotion in politics, suggesting that reason may not completely mitigate emotional responses.

C) The author believes that politics driven by reason alone is essential for societal progress.

The passage doesn't explicitly advocate for politics driven solely by reason; instead, it emphasizes the importance of balancing reason and emotion. This option exaggerates the author's stance.

D) The author considers a politics grounded in reason to be a valid alternative to emotional engagement.

The passage doesn't present reason and emotion as mutually exclusive alternatives; rather, it underscores their interplay. This option oversimplifies the author's perspective.

In summary, the correct answer (A) aligns with the passage's emphasis on the skepticism regarding the feasibility of a politics based solely on reason due to the inherent influence of human emotions. The other options misinterpret or simplify the nuanced perspective presented in the passage.

Q8. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Politics

Essence of the question:

Here we need to find out the assumption. The statement that represents the author's idea or



feeling for quoting the phrase 'a denial of our humanity', in the passage.

Correct Answer: D) Emotions are an integral aspect of human identity and influence political interactions.

Explanation:

The correct answer accurately captures the assumption underlying the phrase "a denial of our humanity" in the passage. The assertion that a purely rational politics would be a denial of our humanity suggests that the author believes emotions are deeply ingrained in human identity and significantly influence various aspects of human behavior, including political interactions.

Incorrect Options:

A) Emotions play a negligible role in shaping human behavior and decision-making.

This option contradicts the assumption in the passage. The author's argument centers on the significant role of emotions in shaping human behavior and decision-making, rather than their negligible role.

B) Human nature is inherently rational and can be separated from emotional responses.

The passage doesn't support the idea that human nature is inherently rational and separate from emotional responses. Instead, it highlights the intricate interplay between reason and emotion.

C) Political engagement requires a complete suppression of emotional reactions.

The passage doesn't advocate for the complete suppression of emotional reactions in political engagement. Instead, it emphasizes the importance of understanding and navigating the interaction between reason and emotion.

In summary, the correct answer (D) aligns with the passage's emphasis on the essential role of emotions as an integral aspect of human identity that influences various aspects of human behavior, including political interactions.

The other options misinterpret or oversimplify the assumption presented in the passage.

Q9. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Politics

Essence of the question:

It asks for the result of controlling feelings for political ideologies, as per the context of the passage.

Correct Answer: C) The lines between rational deliberation and impassioned advocacy can become blurred.

Explanation:

The correct answer accurately captures the potential consequence of harnessing emotional fervor for political ideologies, as implied by the passage. The passage discusses how political ideologies often utilize emotional fervor to foster allegiance and conviction among their supporters, which can lead to a blurring of the lines between rational deliberation and impassioned advocacy.

Incorrect Options:

A) Emotional fervor can lead to a more rational and balanced political discourse.

This option misinterprets the potential consequence. While emotions can certainly play a role in shaping political discourse, the passage emphasizes that emotions can also cloud rationality, leading to a less balanced discourse.

B) Emotional engagement can result in a deeper understanding of complex political issues.

While emotional engagement might enhance one's connection to political issues, the passage doesn't specifically suggest that it leads to a deeper understanding. It's important to note that emotional responses can sometimes oversimplify complex matters.

D) Political ideologies can be stripped of emotional resonance, leading to ideological purity.



The passage doesn't discuss the stripping of emotional resonance from political ideologies or its connection to ideological purity. Instead, it underscores the emotional aspects of political engagement.

In summary, the correct answer (C) aligns with the passage's emphasis on how harnessing emotional fervor for political ideologies can blur the boundaries between rational thinking and impassioned support. The other options either misinterpret or overstate the potential consequence described in the passage.

Q10. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Politics

Essence of the question:

It asks for the author's opinion on dependence of reason and emotion in politics on each other or the link between them.

Correct Answer: C) The author acknowledges the complexity of their interaction, highlighting that they can coexist.

Explanation:

The correct answer best characterizes the author's stance on the interplay between reason and emotion in politics. Throughout the passage, the author emphasizes the intricate relationship between reason and emotion, suggesting that they are not mutually exclusive but rather coexist and shape political discourse in complex ways.

Incorrect Options:

A) The author advocates for a complete separation of reason and emotion in political discourse.

This option misrepresents the author's perspective. The passage doesn't advocate for a complete separation of reason and emotion; rather, it discusses their interplay and the challenges of maintaining a balance between them.

B) The author believes that emotion should always take precedence over reason in politics.

The passage doesn't suggest that emotion should always take precedence over reason. Instead, it explores the nuanced interaction between the two and their respective influences on political engagement.

D) The author argues that reason is entirely subordinate to emotion in shaping political ideologies.

This option misinterprets the author's stance. The passage doesn't state that reason is entirely subordinate to emotion. Instead, it acknowledges the complexity of their interaction and their combined role in shaping political ideologies.

In summary, the correct answer (C) accurately represents the author's perspective, which is centered on recognizing the intricate interplay between reason and emotion in politics and their ability to coexist. The other options either misinterpret or oversimplify the author's stance.

Q11. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Psychology

Essence of the question:

There is a relationship discussed in the passage between psychology and financial decisions, choose an option that reflects it in the best plausible way.

The correct answer for the multiple-choice question (MCQ) is:

d) The passage discusses the need for comprehensive financial education to overcome the various influences on financial decision-making.

Explanation:

The passage indeed discusses various aspects of the interplay between psychology and financial decisions, including cognitive biases, emotional attachment to financial assets, and the influence of societal norms. However, the central theme that ties all these aspects together is the need for comprehensive financial education. The passage suggests that



individuals can navigate these influences effectively by cultivating financial literacy, recognizing cognitive biases, being aware of emotional triggers, and critically appraising societal pressures. Therefore, option (d) best summarizes the central theme of the interplay between psychology and financial decisions.

Now, let's explain why the other options are incorrect:

a) The passage primarily focuses on cognitive biases and their direct impact on financial behavior.

- This option is not entirely accurate because while cognitive biases are discussed in the passage, they are just one aspect of the broader discussion on psychology and financial decisions. The passage also covers emotional triggers and societal norms, making it too narrow to be the central theme.

b) The passage delves into the emotional attachment people develop to their financial assets and how it influences rational evaluation.

- While emotional attachment to financial assets is discussed in the passage, it is not the central theme but rather one of the aspects contributing to the interplay between psychology and financial decisions.

c) The passage highlights the importance of societal approval in shaping financial choices and societal standards.

- While societal approval and its influence on financial choices are discussed in the passage, this is not the central theme. It is another aspect of the broader discussion about psychology and money.

Option (d) is the most accurate choice because it captures the overarching message of the passage, which emphasizes the importance of financial education in addressing and navigating the various psychological and societal influences on financial decision-making.

Q12. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Psychology

Essence of the question:

The author has described anchoring bias in the passage. Choose an option that explains it in context of the passage.

The correct answer is:

c) Anchoring bias is the cognitive tendency to heavily rely on the first piece of information encountered when making financial decisions.

Explanation:

Anchoring bias, as described in the passage, is a cognitive bias where individuals tend to rely heavily on the first piece of information (the "anchor") encountered when making decisions, especially financial ones. This initial piece of information can influence subsequent evaluations and decisions, often leading to suboptimal financial outcomes.

Options (a), (b), and (d) do not accurately describe anchoring bias and are therefore incorrect:

a) Anchoring bias is the tendency to prioritize conspicuous spending over prudent financial practices.

- Anchoring bias is not about prioritizing spending but about how the initial piece of information affects decision-making.

b) Anchoring bias is the attachment people develop to their financial assets.

- Anchoring bias is not related to the attachment people develop to their financial assets. It's about the reliance on the first piece of information.

d) Anchoring bias is the emotional resonance of monetary transactions.

- Anchoring bias is not about the emotional resonance of monetary transactions but rather the cognitive tendency to rely on the initial anchor information.

Q13. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Psychology



Essence of the question:

Anchoring bias is discussed in the passage. The statement that features a reasonable bias, will be the answer.

The correct answer is:

c) Anchoring bias is a cognitive tendency in which individuals heavily rely on the first piece of information encountered when making financial decisions, leading to potential distortions in judgment and suboptimal outcomes.

Explanation:

The passage defines anchoring bias as a cognitive tendency where individuals rely heavily on the first piece of information encountered when making financial decisions. This initial information becomes an anchor that influences subsequent evaluations and can lead to distortions in judgment and suboptimal financial outcomes.

Options (a), (b), and (d) do not accurately describe anchoring bias and are therefore incorrect:

a) Anchoring bias is the natural tendency to prioritize conspicuous spending over prudent financial practices, which often leads to impulsive choices.

- This option incorrectly associates anchoring bias with prioritizing conspicuous spending, which is not the essence of anchoring bias.

b) Anchoring bias refers to the emotional attachment individuals develop to their financial assets, influencing them to make decisions based on sentimental value rather than objective evaluation.

- This option misrepresents anchoring bias by linking it to emotional attachment to financial assets, which is not the primary focus of anchoring bias.

d) Anchoring bias signifies the psychological impact of monetary transactions, where individuals experience heightened emotions that drive impulsive financial behaviors.

- This option erroneously suggests that

anchoring bias relates to the psychological impact of monetary transactions, which is not the definition of anchoring bias but rather an aspect of emotional triggers discussed in the passage.

Q14. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Psychology

Essence of the question:

The passage discusses endowment effect, choose an option illustrates it in the best possible way.

The most accurate description of the endowment effect as discussed in the passage is:

c) The endowment effect illustrates that people tend to ascribe higher value to items they possess, fostering emotional attachment that can distort rational evaluation of their financial assets.

Explanation:

The passage explains that the endowment effect refers to the tendency of individuals to ascribe greater value to items they possess. This emotional attachment to possessions can lead to a distortion in the rational evaluation of financial assets.

Options (a), (b), and (d) do not accurately describe the endowment effect as discussed in the passage:

a) The endowment effect is a phenomenon where individuals perceive financial assets they own as having greater value, leading to more rational evaluation of those assets.

- This option misrepresents the endowment effect by suggesting that it leads to more rational evaluation, whereas it actually leads to a bias where individuals overvalue their possessions.

b) The endowment effect demonstrates how emotional detachment from financial assets can enhance rational evaluation and promote prudent financial planning.



- This option incorrectly suggests that emotional detachment from financial assets enhances rational evaluation, which is contrary to the implications of the endowment effect discussed in the passage.

d) The endowment effect showcases the emotional resonance of monetary transactions, which often leads to more sensible and objective financial decisions.

- This option inaccurately portrays the endowment effect as showcasing the emotional resonance of monetary transactions, which is not the focus of the endowment effect but rather an aspect of emotional triggers discussed in the passage.

Q15. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Psychology

Essence of the question:

There are certain social norms and expectations discussed in the passage. We need to find out how it shapes one's attitude towards money.

The correct answer is:

b) Societal norms encourage individuals to prioritize conspicuous spending as a means of gaining societal approval and validating personal success.

Explanation:

In the passage, it is mentioned that societal norms and expectations play a pivotal role in shaping individual attitudes towards money. The passage suggests that contemporary societal norms often perpetuate a materialistic ethos where the accumulation of wealth becomes synonymous with personal success and societal validation. Therefore, option (b) accurately reflects the role of societal norms in encouraging conspicuous spending as a way to gain societal approval and validate personal success.

Explanation for incorrect answers:

Option (a) Societal norms and expectations have a negligible impact on financial choices, as most individuals make decisions based on personal preferences.

- It is incorrect because the passage clearly states that societal norms do play a significant role in shaping financial choices.

Option (c) Societal norms perpetuate a culture of financial responsibility, promoting prudent financial practices and discouraging impulsive spending.

- It is not in line with the discussion in the passage, as it does not mention the promotion of financial responsibility.

Option (d) Societal norms primarily influence emotional triggers and have no direct bearing on cognitive biases, which drive financial decision-making.

- is incorrect because the passage does not make a clear distinction between the influence of societal norms on emotional triggers and cognitive biases. It suggests that societal norms can affect overall financial behavior.

Q16. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Art & Literature

Correct Answer: C

Essence of the Question:

The question seeks to identify which option would strengthen the author's assertion that "titles are an oddly new invention."

Explanation for the Correct Answer:

Option C strengthens the author's assertion by suggesting that the painting "A View of Delft, With a Musical Instrument Seller's Stall" was not titled by C Fabritius in 1652, indicating that titles may not have been common or necessary during that time. This supports the author's observation about the absence of titles or their importance to artists during that period, and conveys that they are relatively new concept.

Explanation for Incorrect Answers:

A. Option A merely restates information



provided in the passage without directly addressing the assertion about the novelty of titles as inventions. It does not provide any new information to support the author's claim.

B. Option B suggests that the essence of the painting's title is justified because Fabritius is looking at the view of Delft, which is not relevant to the author's assertion about the novelty of titles as inventions.

D. Option D questions the appropriateness of the title "A View of Delft, With a Musical Instrument Seller's Stall" but does not directly address the author's assertion about the novelty of titles. Additionally, it misinterprets the focus of the painting's title, which is not about favoring the place or the stall over the man, but rather about describing the scene depicted in the painting.

Trap of the Question:

The trap in this question lies in selecting options that merely restate information from the passage without directly addressing the author's assertion about the novelty of titles. Candidates may be tempted to choose options that seem relevant to the passage but do not specifically support the author's assertion. Option C, however, directly addresses the author's assertion by providing new information about the painting's title, thus avoiding the trap.

Q17. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Art & Literature

Correct Answer: A

Essence of the Question:

The question aims to identify which option best characterizes the sentiment expressed by the author regarding the title of the painting.

Explanation for the Correct Answer:

Option A correctly captures the sentiment expressed in the statement by highlighting the author's feeling that the scene depicted in the painting, particularly the man, should be given

more importance in the title than the place (Delft). The author expresses dissatisfaction with the title's emphasis on the location rather than on the central figure in the painting.

Explanation for Incorrect Answers:

B. Option B focuses on the author's attraction to the man's stance in the painting but does not directly address the sentiment regarding the title's emphasis on the place rather than the man.

C. Option C discusses the elements of the painting that draw the author's attention but does not specifically address the sentiment regarding the title's emphasis on the place over the man.

D. Option D suggests confusion about the rendering of the title but does not directly address the sentiment regarding the title's emphasis on the place rather than the man.

Trap of the Question:

The trap in this question lies in selecting options that do not directly address the sentiment expressed by the author regarding the title of the painting. Options B, C, and D focus on different aspects of the painting or the author's feelings but do not specifically address the sentiment regarding the title's emphasis on the place over the man. Option A directly addresses this sentiment, making it the correct choice.

Q18. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Art & Literature

Correct Answer: D

Essence of the Question: The question seeks to identify the statement that does not align with the information provided in the passage regarding the title of the painting.

Explanation for the Correct Answer: Option D suggests that the title of the painting appropriately captures the essence of the painting. However, the author expresses skepticism about the title, indicating that it



doesn't adequately represent the focus of the painting, which is the man depicted rather than the cityscape of Delft.

Explanation for Incorrect Answers:

A. This option suggests that Fabritius did not name his painting of the Waiting Man, which is consistent with the passage's assertion that titles were not common or known to artists of that time. However, it doesn't address the issue of the appropriateness of the title in relation to the content of the painting.

B. This option accurately reflects the author's fascination with the stillness of the man depicted in the painting. However, it does not address the discrepancy between the title and the focus of the painting.

C. This option correctly describes the effect of the painting on the author, highlighting the focus on the man in black. However, it does not address the appropriateness of the title.

Trap of the question: The trap lies in selecting an option that addresses a different aspect of the passage, such as the author's fascination with the man in the painting or the effect of the painting on the author, rather than focusing on the appropriateness of the title. Option D may seem plausible because it acknowledges the title but fails to recognize the author's skepticism about its appropriateness.

Q19. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Art & Literature

Correct Answer: D

Essence of the Question:

The question aims to identify the underlying assumption made by the author in the passage.

Explanation for the Correct Answer:

Option D correctly identifies the underlying assumption made in the passage, which is that the author has written the passage to describe her personal views and feelings about a painting that has captivated her. Throughout

the passage, the author expresses her fascination and emotional connection with the painting and the man depicted in it, suggesting that the primary purpose of the passage is to convey her subjective perspective.

Explanation for Incorrect Answers:

A. Option A suggests that the passage is primarily intended to highlight the work of C Fabritius and his presentation of the city of Delft. While the passage discusses the painting and its setting, the focus is more on the author's personal reflections and emotions rather than on providing a detailed analysis of the artist's work.

B. Option B suggests that the passage is a memoir comparing two paintings and marking an unforgettable vision. However, there is no mention of comparing two paintings in the passage, and the primary focus is on the author's engagement with a single painting.

C. Option C suggests that the passage aims to depict the beauty of art through the portrayal of a man seated in deep shadow. While the passage does discuss the beauty of the painting and the man's portrayal, it does not suggest that this is the primary purpose of the passage.

Trap of the Question:

The trap in this question lies in selecting options that may seem relevant to the passage but do not directly address the underlying assumption made by the author. Options A, B, and C provide alternative interpretations of the passage's purpose, focusing on aspects such as the artist's work, comparing paintings, or depicting the beauty of art. However, the correct answer, Option D, correctly identifies the underlying assumption that the passage primarily serves to convey the author's personal views and feelings about the painting.

Q20. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Science



Essence of the Question: The question explores which additional evidence would most convincingly support the author's views on team formation and performance. It's a medium-difficulty question, probing the reader's ability to identify supportive evidence for a nuanced argument.

Explaining the Right Option (Option B): Option B is the correct answer. This option aligns perfectly with the passage's emphasis on factors beyond individual talent, such as the impact of previous shared successes on team performance. Looking at the question, it becomes clear that since it reinforces the idea that collective experiences and dynamics play a crucial role in a team's success, it helps the authors position.

Analysis of Incorrect Options:

- **Option A:** Misleading. While it talks about the correlation between individual talent and team performance, it overlooks the passage's focus on collective dynamics, making it an incomplete reinforcement of the author's position.
- **Option C:** Inaccurate. The passage doesn't suggest that individual decision-making is insignificant, rather it emphasizes the importance of how these decisions contribute to collective dynamics.
- **Option D:** Contradictory. The passage implies that complexity science could provide insights into team dynamics, so this option would actually undermine the author's position.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants might be tempted by Option A, as it presents a commonly held belief about individual talent and team performance. However, a careful reader will note that the passage emphasizes the importance of collective dynamics, making Option B the most suitable choice.

Q21. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Science

Essence of the Question: This is a challenging question that tests the aspirant's ability to discern unsupported inferences from the passage. It requires a thorough understanding of the passage and the ability to distinguish between what is implied and what is explicitly stated.

Explaining the Right Option (Option A): Option A is correct as it is not supported by the passage. The passage does not categorically state that teams with higher overall talent levels always outperform others. It actually suggests that team performance is a complex interplay of various factors, not just individual talent.

Analysis of Incorrect Options:

- **Option B:** It is supported. The passage does imply that collective dynamics and shared successes are important for team performance.
- **Option C:** It is also supported. It's clear from the passage that individual excellence often takes precedence over collective compatibility in recruitment.
- **Option D:** It is misleading. The passage suggests that data and complexity science could offer significant insights into team dynamics.

Trap of the Question: The pitfall here is assuming that because the passage discusses the importance of overall talent, it fully endorses Option A. However, it actually presents a more nuanced view, which doesn't support the absoluteness of Option A. Remember that absolutes in options are often red flags.

Q22. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Science

Essence of the Question: This question delves into recognizing scenarios that would significantly challenge the author's main



argument in the passage. It's a sophisticated question, demanding a nuanced understanding of the passage's stance on team dynamics.

Approach to the Solution:

- Revisit the primary argument of the passage.
- Assess each option to determine which, if true, would most directly counter the passage's key assertion.

Explaining the Right Option (Option D): Option D is the correct answer. The passage suggests that team performance is influenced by more than just individual talent, highlighting the importance of collective dynamics and shared histories. Therefore, a study showing that individual talent is the most significant predictor of team success, especially in academic settings known for collective endeavors, would pose a direct challenge to the passage's argument.

Analysis of Incorrect Options:

- **Option A:** As team only has individual performers and not team players, the team dynamics is not built and the team does not perform. This does not defy the author's stance and is as per the author's ideology.
- **Option B:** This aligns with the passage's suggestion that team dynamics matter, hence not a direct contradiction.
- **Option C:** This is a tricky option, as in spite of top individual performers they achieve unprecedented success. But it is nowhere mentioned that they are working as a team. So, thriving individually is not a problem or does not defy author's stance. Moreover, the financial institutes often hire individual analysts and their individual performance directly affects their success. In any case, the is not the **most** significant complication. D is more significant in comparison.

Trap of the Question: The potential trap here lies in selecting an option that appears to challenge the passage's view but doesn't directly address the central contention about the significance of collective dynamics over

individual talent. Option D, on the other hand, presents a scenario that fundamentally disputes the passage's key argument, making it the most compelling choice for creating a significant complication. Remember, it's about identifying the most direct and impactful contradiction to the author's main point.

Q23. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Science

Essence of the Question: This question examines the reader's ability to identify ideologies that are not in line with the passage's discourse on team formation. It's a tricky question, requiring careful consideration of the passage's underlying themes.

Approach to the Solution:

- Identify the passage's key ideologies about team formation.
- Check which statement least aligns with these ideologies.

Explaining the Right Option (Option A): Option A is the correct choice. The passage challenges the simplistic view that the best teams are merely a collection of the best individuals. Therefore, this statement does not encapsulate the nuances of team dynamics discussed in the passage.

Analysis of Incorrect Options:

- **Option B:** Supported by the passage, which suggests that team synergy can lead to greater outcomes.
- **Option C:** Also supported, as the passage highlights the importance of prior shared successes.
- **Option D:** This aligns with the passage, which implies that complexity science is important in understanding team dynamics.

Trap of the Question: The main trap in this question is the framing, which may confuse a student to pick an option that is supported by the passage.

Q24. Text Solution:



Topic: Reading-Comprehension**Sub-topic: Science & Technology****Essence of the question:**

Here we need to find out the statement that supports the argument 'introducing Robots at a conference', mentioned in the passage.

Explanation for the correct answer:

An inference that can be drawn from the passage, is based on the fundamental reasoning why these 9 Robots were introduced at the UN's AI for Good conference in Switzerland. As stated by the author, the organisers attempted to help solve some of the world's biggest challenges, such as disease, hunger, social care, and the climate emergency. Thus, option C is the best answer.

Explanation for incorrect answers:

Option A, which states that the robots could be scripted, is true according to the context, however, the idea surpasses the reasoning why there were introduced at the conference.

Option B is too narrow while option D is too extreme, and does not, infer the reasoning for introducing Robots at the conference.

Q25. Text Solution:**Topic: Reading-Comprehension****Sub-topic: Science & Technology****Essence of the question:**

We have to find out the statement that does not support the author's perspective on human-robot press conferences.

Explanation for the correct answer:

Option A invalidates the author's presentation of the human-robot press conference in the passage, as it is specified, that the aim of introducing AI in human life, is not to rob them of their jobs.

Explanation for incorrect answers:

Option B validates the author's presentation of the human-robot press conference in the passage, as the core reason for introducing robots was to use them to eliminate challenges that humans are facing today

Option C, although invalidates the statement, however, it does not necessitate mirroring the exact reason for the author's presentation of the human-robot press conference in the passage.

Option D is a far-fetched inference that can be drawn from a statement passed by one of the robots in the passage. Hence, it doesn't invalidate the author's presentation of the human-robot press conference

Q26. Text Solution:**Topic: Reading-Comprehension****Sub-topic: Science & Technology****Essence of the question:**

It asks for the result, if we falsify the given statement, then it would lead to what.

Explanation for the correct answer:

Option B is the right answer, because if the statement "Many prominent voices in the world of AI are suggesting some forms of AI should be regulated and I agree" is falsified, then it removes the restrictions applied to AI and its capabilities.

Explanation for incorrect answers:

Option A is a paradox, if the restrictions are lifted, and the regulations aren't applied to AI, then AI is set free, and the question of being cautious about the working of AI in the modern world doesn't arise.

Option C is too broad, as that is the key message that is falsified in the given statement, however, the projected outcome has not been presented in the given option.

Option D validates the statement, nevertheless, the reflected outcome of taking over human jobs and lives is too broad. Hence, this option is eliminated

Q27. Text Solution:**Topic: Reading-Comprehension****Sub-topic: Science & Technology****Essence of the question:**

There is a contrast mentioned here. We shall take out the whole understanding of this



statement while neutralizing something bad.

Explanation for the correct answer:

Option C is the right answer, as Ameca made this statement as a response to the statement made by Desdemona, who fails to recognise the dangers of the rapid expansion and development of AI and doesn't believe in limitations, but only opportunities.

Explanation for incorrect answers:

Option A is unrelated and doesn't impact Ameca's statement in any way.

Option B is too far-fetched and supports the statement later. It is a conclusive reasoning, rather than being a reason.

Option D is too extreme and out of context.

Q28. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Science

Essence of the Question: This is an assumption weakening question of difficult level. This question is asking you to find out an inference that is not true as per the content given in the passage, and because it doesn't align with the passage, it weakens the inference that can be possibly drawn about the given statement.

Trap: This question is a tricky one to answer as it includes the concept of "INFERENCE" "FALSE option" and "WEAKNING" in one place. To understand this question correctly, you will have to break down all these three important points then only you would be able to choose the right option. There is a statement given in the question from the passage that can be easily weakened/challenged if the given option is false. To answer this question, you can use the elimination method by eliminating all the answers that are aligned with the passage. The second step would be to eliminate the answers that are false but they do not weaken the inference regarding the given statement. One more possibility which you can see in the options is a statement that is false but not directly related to the inference of the given

statement and therefore it can be eliminated as well.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: This statement is the correct answer. It talks about the uncertainty that lies in science but still, it doesn't lead to a contrast to the scientific inquiry itself. However, the passage states the opposite. If this statement were to be false it would directly weaken the inference of the given question as it is not aligned with the passage and ends up challenging the inference.

Incorrect Answers:

A) This statement is incorrect as this inference is aligned with the content given in the passage. Now, when this already aligns with the passage it fails the first criterion which requires the option to be false.

B) This option is also incorrect. This option supports what the passage has suggested regarding the discovery of subatomic particles and how it can put forward a challenge for scientists despite their advanced understanding capability. Hence, this option doesn't weaken the inference here.

D) Now, this statement fulfills the first criterion of the question which states that the option must be false but it is also important to notice here that this sentence is not related to what the question is about. Hence, even though the option is false it fails to weaken the inference and therefore, is not correct.

Q29. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Science

Essence of the Question: This is a central theme-weakening question of difficult level. It is asking you to find an option that if considered not false or considered to be true (in simple terms) then it would challenge the central theme of the passage. In simple words, you are supposed to identify an option that is true as



per the passage and also weakens the central theme of the passage.

Trap: This question puts a 3 layers trap in front of you by including keywords like "ALL" "NOT FALSE" AND "EXCEPT." To answer this question, you need to understand where the combination of these words leads you. The combination of ALL - EXCEPT suggests that all the options are alike except one which would be the right answer. Next, the words NOT FALSE suggest that the right option must be true in order to answer the question. You can find the correct answer by eliminating the options that are false or true but strengthen the central theme of the passage.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: This is the right option as it satisfies all the criteria asked in the given question. This statement is true as it has been discussed in the passage but it certainly does not align with the central theme of the passage. It talks about another aspect of the passage regarding scientific discoveries leading to new kinds of questions. Hence, this option is correct.

Incorrect Answers:

A) This statement aligns with a central theme in the passage. It emphasizes how the inherent uncertainty in scientific inquiry challenges the very core of the scientific process. This uncertainty is acknowledged as a crucial aspect of scientific exploration in the passage. Therefore, this option is incorrect.

B) This statement is also as per the theme explored in the passage. It highlights the ethical considerations arising from advancements in fields such as genetics and artificial intelligence. These advancements often lead to ethical and moral dilemmas which show broader implications of scientific progress making the option incorrect.

C) This statement also aligns with the central theme in the passage. It states the paradox faced between specialization and the need for

interdisciplinary collaboration. It perfectly shows how the increasing specialization in scientific fields can create possible hindrances in collaboration despite the evident necessity for interdisciplinary approaches that are required to address complex questions. Therefore, this option is also incorrect.

Q30. Text Solution:

Topic: Reading-Comprehension

Sub-topic: Science

Correct answer: Option B

Essence of the Question: The question seeks to identify which scenario, if true, would strengthen the argument that the tension between specialization and interdisciplinary exploration is a central paradox in scientific discovery.

Explanation for the Correct Answer: Option B strengthens the argument by suggesting that interdisciplinary collaborations solve complex problems faster than specialized teams. This implies that despite the benefits of specialization, interdisciplinary approaches are crucial for addressing complex scientific questions efficiently, highlighting the paradoxical nature of the tension between specialization and interdisciplinary exploration.

Explanation for Incorrect Answers:

Option A: This option suggests that specialized scientists consistently make more significant discoveries than interdisciplinary researchers. However, even if true, it does not necessarily address the paradox between specialization and interdisciplinary exploration. It merely indicates a potential advantage of specialization without directly addressing the tension between the two.

Option C: Surveys indicating scientists prefer independent work in specialized domains over interdisciplinary projects. This option doesn't directly relate to the tension between specialization and interdisciplinary exploration. Even if scientists prefer independent work, it



doesn't negate the importance or existence of the paradox between specialization and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Option D: Research findings demonstrating effortless knowledge sharing within interdisciplinary teams compared to specialized teams. While this option suggests an advantage of interdisciplinary teams in knowledge sharing, it does not directly address the tension between specialization and interdisciplinary exploration as outlined in the question. It focuses more on the effectiveness of knowledge sharing rather than the paradox

between specialization and interdisciplinary approaches.

Trap of the question: The trap lies in selecting options that may seem related to the broader theme of specialization and interdisciplinary exploration but do not directly address the tension between the two. Candidates might be misled by options that discuss advantages or preferences without considering the inherent paradoxical relationship between specialization and interdisciplinary collaboration.



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