

# MBA Pioneer Pro 2024

## Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension

DPP: 6

### RC- Retrieval and Specific Purpose Questions

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

Free-floating planets – dark, isolated orbs roaming the universe unfettered to any host star – don't just pop into existence in the middle of cosmic nowhere. They probably form the same way other planets do: within the swirling disk of gas and dust surrounding an infant star. But unlike their planetary siblings, these worlds get violently chucked out of their celestial neighborhoods. Astronomers had once calculated that billions of planets had gone rogue in the Milky Way. Now, scientists at NASA and Osaka University in Japan are upping the estimate to trillions. Detailed in two papers accepted for publication in *The Astronomical Journal*, the researchers have deduced that these planets are six times more abundant than worlds orbiting their own suns, and they identified the second Earth-size free floater ever detected. The existence of wandering worlds orphaned from their star systems has long been known, but poorly understood. Previous findings suggested that most of these planets were about the size of Jupiter, our solar system's most massive planet. But that conclusion garnered a lot of pushback; even scientists who announced it found it surprising. To better study these rogue worlds, David Bennett, an astronomer at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and his team used nine years of data from the Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics telescope at the University of Canterbury Mount John Observatory in New Zealand. Exoplanets were indirectly detected by measuring how their gravity warped and magnified the light arriving

from faraway stars behind them, an effect known as microlensing. With help from empirical models, the researchers worked out the spread of the masses for more than 3,500 microlensing events, which included stars, stellar remnants, brown dwarfs and planet candidates. (Data from one of those candidates was compelling enough for the team to claim the discovery of a new rogue Earth.) From this analysis, they estimate that there are about 20 times more free-floating worlds in our Milky Way than stars, with Earth-mass planets 180 times more common than rogue Jupiters. The conclusion that most rogue worlds are small makes more sense than the idea that they are Jupiter-size, Dr. Bennett said. That's because planets are thought to go rogue when two protoplanets slam into each other. The force of the impact is so strong that it knocks one out of the emerging star system altogether.

**Q1** Based on the passage, what is the likely reason for the abundance of free-floating planets in the Milky Way?

- (A) Free-floating planets are formed by the collision of protoplanets.
- (B) Free-floating planets are created independently in cosmic nowhere.
- (C) Planets within the swirling disk of gas and dust are ejected violently.
- (D) Free-floating planets are more massive than planets orbiting stars.

**Q2** What can be inferred from the statement that scientists at NASA and Osaka University upped the estimate of rogue planets from billions to trillions?

- (A)



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The discovery of rogue planets has increased significantly not in recent years.

- (B) Scientists are now using more advanced telescopes to study rogue planets.
  - (C) Rogue planets are more abundant than previously thought.
  - (D) NASA and Osaka University are the only institutions studying rogue planets.
- Q3** Which of the following statements is NOT supported by the passage?
- (A) Free-floating planets are violently ejected from their celestial neighborhoods.
  - (B) Trillions of rogue planets exist in the Milky Way.
  - (C) The discovery of rogue planets is based on microlensing observations.
  - (D) Planets within the swirling disk of gas and dust are stable and never go rogue.
- Q4** Based on the passage, why did the previous conclusion about the size of rogue planets garner pushback?
- (A) Scientists disagreed with the existence of rogue planets.
  - (B) The conclusion was based on microlensing data from the Milky Way.
  - (C) Previous findings suggested that rogue planets are Jupiter-size.
  - (D) Rogue planets were believed to be part of a star system.
- Q5** What conclusion can be drawn from the statement that Earth-mass planets are 180 times more common than rogue Jupiters?
- (A) Earth-mass planets are more likely to collide and go rogue.
  - (B) Rogue Jupiters are less abundant than rogue Earth-mass planets.
  - (C)

Earth-mass planets are more likely to have a swirling disk of gas and dust.

- (D) Rogue Jupiters are formed independently in cosmic nowhere.

**Directions (6-9) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.**

In high-intensity training (HIT), you seek to perform high quality weight training repetitions until your muscles momentarily fail. The long-term goal is to maximize your muscle growth and strength.

Here's what it feels like to train in this manner: after a warm-up set on a new machine, you begin a process that will last one to two minutes. Unlike most goals in life, your mission is not to succeed; it is to fail, despite your best efforts. You start by lifting or pushing the weight for a count of four, stopping just before the point at which your arms or legs would be fully extended, then you allow the weight to come back towards you for a count of six. You reverse directions without unloading the weight at the bottom.

Over time, of course, it gets harder and harder. But here's the interesting part... the harder it gets, the more you focus on form and your breathing. You double down on technique. Everything recedes except the weight and your form; you forget the gym, the outside world, any thoughts or concerns from earlier in the day. It would be nearly impossible to think of anything rather than can you make one more rep... and then another... and then... no... this is soooo hard... breathe... lower your elbows... focus your energy... no... no....

At some point, your muscles can't continue. You fail. You succeed. Which is it? Both. Neither.

It feels wonderful, at least after a minute or two. You were totally present. Your mind was quiet. You were free of mental chatter and self-talk.

This is how we want to be, throughout our days. Calm, focused and present. Growing stronger by stretching our boundaries.



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Doing intensely hard things pulls you into the present moment and into true awareness. I work with expansive professionals committed to leading their best possible life.

**Q6** According to the passage, what is the effect of doing intensely hard things, such as high-intensity training (HIT)?

- (A) It leads to physical exhaustion and fatigue.
- (B) It improves your ability to multitask.
- (C) It enhances your awareness of the present moment.
- (D) It increases mental chatter and distractions.

**Q7** What is the author's view on the experience of training using high-intensity training (HIT)?

- (A) The experience of HIT is unpleasant and unfulfilling.
- (B) The experience of HIT is both a success and a failure.
- (C) The experience of HIT is focused on achieving maximal strength.
- (D) The experience of HIT is meditative and calming

**Q8** What is the role of technique and form during high-intensity training (HIT), as discussed in the passage?

- (A) Technique and form become less important as the training becomes harder.
- (B) Technique and form become the sole focus during HIT.
- (C) Technique and form are irrelevant in achieving muscle growth.
- (D) Technique and form are emphasized more as the training becomes more challenging.

**Q9** Which one is the most apt Predominant Motif of the passage?

- (A)

The importance of setting achievable goals in weight training.

- (B) The benefits of incorporating mindfulness and focus into high-intensity training.
- (C) The physical and mental challenges of weight training.
- (D) The significance of seeking professional guidance for effective training.

**Directions (10-13) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.**

Originally termed the imposter phenomenon by the US psychologists Pauline Clance and Suzanne Imes in 1978 – and then relabelled 'imposter syndrome' by others – the experience involves a feeling of phoniness or inadequacy that exists and persists despite evidence to the contrary. If you've had this experience, you likely have an inner critic or 'imposter voice' – ie, a negative way of thinking about yourself that repeatedly pops up in your consciousness – which questions your legitimacy and perhaps whether you truly belong in your company, your team or another group. You likely believe that others have overestimated your competence, which causes a fear of being 'found out'.

You may be wondering why I keep putting 'syndrome' in quotation marks. The imposter phenomenon is not a disorder or a disease, and research suggests that it is a common experience. What's more, when Clance and Imes first described the imposter phenomenon, they identified it specifically among high-achieving women. It didn't take long, in a patriarchal society, for other people to co-opt the concept and pathologise this experience. Women struggling with their confidence came to be described as if they were suffering from some type of disordered psyche – a 'syndrome'. What was ignored was the role of organisational and systemic bias. While anyone can experience the imposter phenomenon, people who have a history of marginalisation



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may be more prone to experiencing it. It makes sense: if you have received the message that people of your description don't belong at the table – eg, that women don't belong at tables dominated by men, that people of colour don't belong at white tables, or that LGBTQIA+ people don't belong at straight/cis tables, etc – you may be more vulnerable to feeling like an imposter once you arrive there.

Early learning experiences may contribute to the development of imposterism as well. If your parents, teachers, coaches or friends were highly critical of you, you might have developed an 'I'm not good enough' story about yourself. Imposter thoughts could be an extension of that, as you worry that the 'truth' of your inadequacy will be revealed.

The imposter phenomenon can have various costs, some of which I've mentioned: burnout, due to working overly hard to prove yourself; missing out on opportunities, due to fears about your competence; even relationship problems due to people-pleasing behaviours, which might be used to compensate for feeling inadequate. All of these issues involve experiential avoidance, or trying to avoid or control difficult feelings.

**Q10** Which of the following statements, if made by an individual, would NOT be indicative of experiencing the imposter phenomenon as described by Clance and Imes?

- (A) I often feel like my colleagues are going to realize I'm not as capable as they initially thought.
- (B) Despite being a top performer, I'm concerned people will find out I'm not as skilled as they believe.
- (C) I'm sometimes overwhelmed by the thought that my accomplishments are

due to chance rather than my competence.

(D) I worry that my peers may not understand their own potential but don't feel the same about myself and my skills.

**Q11** The passage notes that the imposter phenomenon "involves a feeling of phoniness or inadequacy that exists and persists despite evidence to the contrary." Which of the following statements, if true, would contradict this assertion?

- (A) People with imposter feelings are rarely able to secure promotions or high-profile projects.
- (B) Many individuals feel that their success is due more to networking and being at the right place at the right time than to their actual abilities.
- (C) Professionals with imposter feelings frequently engage in further education and training to overcome their self-doubt.
- (D) Self-sabotage is a common response among those who feel like imposters, as it reconciles their success with their self-image.

**Q12** Based on the passage's discussion regarding marginalized groups and the imposter phenomenon, which of the following options is LEAST accurate?

- (A) Marginalization leads to a disproportionately high occurrence of imposter feelings among affected individuals.
- (B) Individuals from underrepresented backgrounds may experience intensified imposter feelings due to historical exclusion from certain sectors.
- (C) The role of personal failing is more pronounced in developing imposter



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feelings than external biases and discrimination.

- (D) Messages that signal to people they do not belong can exacerbate imposter feelings when they achieve success in environments historically not inclusive of them.
- Q13** Considering the passage's emphasis on the oversight of organizational and systemic biases in understanding the imposter phenomenon, which of the following conclusions is the LEAST justified?
- (A) Programs enhancing individual resilience are sufficient to combat the imposter phenomenon within organizations.
  - (B) Tackling systemic bias through organizational reform is crucial to addressing the root causes of the imposter phenomenon.
  - (C) Mentorship programs for individuals from marginalized groups can mitigate the effects of imposter feelings.
  - (D) Revising recruitment and promotion criteria to remove unconscious bias directly confronts the issue of imposter feelings at the systemic level.

**Directions (14-17) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.**

What makes a work of visual art beautiful? Researchers in aesthetics have identified various physical characteristics – such as symmetry and visual complexity – that seem to affect people's preferences, but they don't explain everything. And while some pieces of art are admired much more widely than others, people's taste in artworks is hugely variable (seemingly more so than their preferences for particular natural scenes or human faces). Given the idiosyncrasy of artistic taste, researchers have been looking for what else

might account for how much beauty you or I perceive in a work of art.

A recent set of studies in the journal Psychological Science suggests that a more personal factor – specifically, how much a piece of art seems to relate, in one way or another, to you – can contribute greatly to its aesthetic power. Amid the vivid colours of your favourite Impressionist landscape, the bold strokes of a beloved Japanese ink painting, or the twisted forms of an entrancing abstract piece, there may be qualities of art that you especially like because they somehow speak to your memories, identity or other elements of your life.

Edward A Vessel, a computational cognitive neuroscientist at the City College of New York, and his colleagues showed people (a small group of German participants in one study, and a couple of hundred English-speakers in another) pictures of paintings that spanned different styles, genres and periods. The participants looked at each image for a moment and then rated it. For instance, in one study they rated each painting based on how 'beautiful, compelling, or powerful' they found it and how much it moved them. Participants then rated the self-relevance of each artwork, 'based on how much you think the depicted artwork relates to you, your interests and hobbies, your personality, to places or people you know, or to events in your personal life.'

The participants varied a lot in how they rated the different paintings. But, on the whole, the more they rated a piece of art as being personally relevant to them, the higher they tended to rate its aesthetic impact. What's more, self-relevance seemed to account for the differences in how participants responded to the images more than a long list of various image features did, such as complexity and 'naturalness'. Overall, the results suggest that self-relevance matters for how people respond to visual art.



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Was it possible that the volunteers simply rated the art pieces they most liked as also being more relevant to them? The team conducted a third study that addressed that concern, one which involved using AI to create artwork that was made specifically to be relevant to each participant.

The participants first shared personal details about themselves, such as where they grew up, places they had travelled to, social groups, favourite things (eg, books, food, animals) and style of dress. The team fed this information into a machine-learning algorithm to generate individually tailored images that looked like human-made works of art, but which also reflected aspects of each participant's life, such as a landscape-style painting of a city that the participant had visited.

Participants rated the artworks that were generated to be relevant to them as more aesthetically appealing, on average, than other synthetic art pieces, including ones that were based on details from other people's lives and which were comparable in terms of their physical characteristics. So, self-relevance was again associated with a greater aesthetic response – and these results using AI showed more convincingly than the preliminary studies that the former was driving the latter, rather than vice versa.

**Q14** Among the statements below, which cannot be correctly inferred from the passage concerning the impact of self-relevance on art perception?

- (A) A self-referential approach to art invariably leads to a heightened aesthetic experience.
- (B) Artworks with personal relevance tend to receive universally higher aesthetic ratings.
- (C) The connection between personal relevance and aesthetic value is observed across diverse art forms.

(D) Viewers who find personal relevance in art are more likely to perceive the art as complex.

**Q15** Considering the passage, which of the following statements inaccurately represents the concept of 'visual complexity' as it relates to art appreciation?

- (A) Artworks that are visually complex are invariably appreciated more than simpler ones.
- (B) The visual complexity of an artwork determines its likelihood to be seen as personally relevant.
- (C) Viewers tend to prefer artworks with lower visual complexity when seeking personal relevance.
- (D) The aesthetic impact of an artwork is directly proportional to its level of visual complexity.

**Q16** Based on the passage, which of the following options aligns most closely with the author's underlying assumptions regarding factors that influence art appreciation?

- (A) Artistic intent is the foremost factor in determining an artwork's value to the viewer.
- (B) Personal relevance is a determinant of an artwork's aesthetic impact on the individual.
- (C) The historical context of an artwork does not significantly affect its aesthetic value.
- (D) An artwork's complexity is secondary to its ability to evoke personal connections.

**Q17** Reflecting on the passage, which additional piece of evidence would most significantly bolster the argument that personal relevance increases an artwork's aesthetic appeal?



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- (A) A study showing that personal relevance is the single most reported reason for purchasing art.
- (B) Research indicating that most art critics consider personal relevance when evaluating art.
- (C) Statistical data demonstrating a high correlation between personal relevance and the time spent viewing an artwork.
- (D) Neurological studies that find a distinctive brain response when individuals view art they consider personally relevant.

**Directions (18-21) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.**

In a photographic exhibition titled 'Removed' (2015), Eric Pickersgill includes depictions of subjects in the company of other intimates, all of them captured in the act of staring blankly at their hands, where smartphones would normally be placed but have been withdrawn to create images of people alone together. Here is how the artist describes his inspiration for the project:

The work began as I sat in a café one morning. This is what I wrote about my observation: Family sitting next to me at Illium café in Troy, NY is so disconnected from one another. Not much talking. Father and two daughters have their own phones out. Mom doesn't have one or chooses to leave it put away. She stares out the window, sad and alone in the company of her closest family. Dad looks up every so often to announce some obscure piece of info he found online. Twice he goes on about a large fish that was caught. No one replies. I am saddened by the use of technology for interaction in exchange for not interacting. This has never happened before and I doubt we have scratched the surface of the social impact of

this new experience. Mom has her phone out now.

Pickersgill's work is very much of a piece with broader social and economic concerns over the phenomenon of disengagement in (and from) our culture. Recently, the United States surgeon general issued a public health advisory detailing a growing epidemic of isolation and loneliness, one fuelled largely, though not exclusively, by our increasing use of digital technologies as a substitute for in-person engagement. This trend was taking shape long before the COVID-19 pandemic forced our mass removal from public space and from familiar patterns of shared life, and we are only beginning to understand that era's long-term effects on our personal and public wellbeing. Meanwhile, the moral and managerial panic over the great resignation, quiet quitting and other (even benign) forms of labour disruption in the wake of the pandemic reveals the extent to which our voluntary practices of leave-taking have been pathologised. We are, it seems, obliged to show up – to be reliably present, available and legible – for our own good or for that of the collective.

Rarely do we display much intellectual curiosity about what these practices of withdrawal might be doing for – not just to – us. Acts of disengagement are routinely met with scepticism, judgment and pushback in public discourse. What if we were to treat them instead as opportunities for open enquiry and ask what is to be gained by them? In that spirit, I propose an expanded lexicon that speaks to the benefits of escaping (even temporarily) the confines of waged work; of disconnecting from the enmeshments of a modern existence; and of seizing interludes for contemplation in a world that is chockablock with demands and distractions.

**Q18**



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The author's reference to the family in the café suggests a lamentation over lost interpersonal connections. Which of the following statements, if true, does NOT undermine this suggestion?

- (A) The family often engages in group activities without digital devices.
- (B) The father regularly uses his online findings to start conversations.
- (C) The mother prefers the tranquility that comes with her family's digital preoccupation.
- (D) The children value their online interactions over familial communication.

**Q19** Among the statements below, which one diverges from the central premise in the paragraph concerning the 'great resignation' and its perception in society, challenging the conclusion drawn therein?

- (A) The 'great resignation' signals a widespread disapproval of traditional work ethics.
- (B) Labour disruptions are considered as a collective's loss rather than an individual's gain.
- (C) Quiet quitting is seen as a benign form of labor disruption.
- (D) The 'great resignation' is a necessary societal correction post-pandemic.

**Q20** Based on the passage, all of the following are societal responses to acts of disengagement EXCEPT:

- (A) Skepticism      (B) Judgment
- (C) Encouragement      (D) Pushback

**Q21** Given the arguments in the passage, which of the following scenarios, if it were to occur, would be appreciated by the author?

- (A) A societal shift that valorizes solitude and individual pursuits.

- (B) The implementation of technology that fosters deeper connections in digital interactions.
- (C) An increase in public spaces designed to promote solitary reflection.
- (D) The emergence of a movement advocating for continuous social engagement.

**Directions (22-25) 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



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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.

**Q22** 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.

**Q23** 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.

**Q24** 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, lacking in 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.

**Q25**



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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 (26-30) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.**

One torrid afternoon, I journeyed with an Indigenous Marind woman and her family to a patch of razed forest at the edge of the plantation frontier, where workers had cleared the way for oil palm trees. Her name was Circia\*. A mother of three in her late 50s, Circia was imposing, but her footsteps were gentle, almost silent when she led us across the wet soils of Merauke, a district in the Indonesian-controlled western half of New Guinea known as West Papua. The patch of former forest that we travelled toward that hot afternoon in May 2016 was a sacred site that belonged to her clan, forming part of the customary territory of the Marind peoples, which today number around 600 families. Though the Marind rely directly on the forest for their everyday livelihoods and subsistence, Circia had not journeyed here with her three children and nine grandchildren to forage or hunt. They had come to mourn.

Towering piles of felled trees surrounded us, ripped from the soil days earlier to make way for a 50,000-hectare oil palm plantation. Among and between the trees lay the bodies of

plants and animals who had once inhabited this sacred place. The air was stiflingly hot and still. It was quiet, too, until a distant chainsaw ripped to life. Somewhere in the remaining patches of forest, plantation workers were clearing the way for more oil palm.

I visited Merauke between 2011 and 2019 while doing long-term ethnographic fieldwork with the Marind. I came to learn how they understood the spread of oil palm in their home of West Papua, which has been under Indonesian rule since the 1960s. But during the 18 months that I lived with Marind communities along the upper banks of the Bian River, Circia and her kin taught me something else: the arts of mourning. This was not only a mourning for people, but for trees, animals and ecosystems. In our age of planetary unravelling, mourning has become a crucial disposition. It is one that allows us to acknowledge and grieve loss, but also to create or revive connections with more-than-human others. In that way, mourning becomes a form of resistance that pushes against human exceptionalism. It reminds us that we share the world with many other kinds of beings, and that these beings also have their own ways of grieving. But the space shared with other species is complicated. We are not just together in the same world, we are tangled up in each other's lives. Other species live on and in us, they change us, and we change them, too: we breed them, farm them, mutate their genomes, eat them, research them, love them, and kill them. Increasingly, human action is leading to their extinction. Should we not mourn them, too? Acknowledging the relations that sustain or undermine life and death in multispecies worlds means also learning to practise 'multispecies mourning'.

**Q26** Based on the passage, which of the following inferences about the practice of 'multispecies mourning' is most supported?



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- (A) It is a traditional practice specific to the Marind community, deeply rooted in their cultural heritage.
- (B) It represents a form of resistance against human exceptionalism, acknowledging interconnectedness with nature.
- (C) It is primarily a symbolic act with little influence on the practical conservation of ecosystems.
- (D) It is a religious ceremony that primarily serves to appease the spirits of the forest.
- Q27** Which of the following scenarios, if true, would challenge the assertion that 'multispecies mourning' is an inherent human trait as suggested in the passage?
- (A) A study finds that certain communities do not exhibit any form of mourning for non-human species.
- (B) Anthropological research shows that mourning practices vary significantly across different human cultures.
- (C) Environmental activists globally have adopted 'multispecies mourning' as a standard practice.
- (D) The Marind people have specific rituals for mourning that are unique to their culture.
- Q28** Which underlying ideology, accentuating the discourse of the passage, would not be circumscribed by which of the following statements?
- (A) Economic growth should be prioritized over the preservation of indigenous cultures and ecosystems.
- (B)
- Indigenous cultures hold intrinsic value that should be preserved, even at the cost of economic development.
- (C) The coexistence of economic development and the preservation of cultural practices is feasible.
- (D) Environmental conservation should be the primary concern, regardless of cultural implications.
- Q29** Based on the information provided in the passage, which of the following outcomes is most likely to NOT occur as a result of the loss of sacred sites for the Marind community?
- (A) A gradual loss of traditional knowledge and cultural practices.
- (B) An increase in economic opportunities for the Marind community.
- (C) The disruption of the ecological balance in the region.
- (D) A decline in the biodiversity of the affected area.
- Q30** Considering the implications of the passage, which additional piece of evidence would most substantially reinforce the author's position that mourning can be a form of resistance?
- (A) Anthropological studies showing that mourning rituals have no significant impact on policy changes.
- (B) Documented cases where indigenous mourning practices led to the preservation of sacred sites.
- (C) Evidence that mourning practices are predominantly a personal and private affair.
- (D) Reports indicating a global decline in traditional mourning rituals.



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# Answer Key

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

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



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# Hints & Solutions

## Q1. Text Solution:

### **Essence of the question:**

This question asks for specific reason for abundance of floating planets in the milky way. For this we shall find out the information from the passage based on milky way.

### **Explanation for the correct answer:**

Option A: The passage suggests that free-floating planets are formed when two protoplanets collide and one is ejected from the emerging star system. So the free floating planets are due to collision of protoplanets. Option a is the correct inference because the passage suggests that free-floating planets are formed in a similar way to other planets, within the swirling disk of gas and dust surrounding an infant star. The statement about protoplanets colliding and one being ejected provides a plausible explanation for the abundance of free-floating planets in the Milky Way.

### **Explanation for incorrect answers:**

Option B: Free-floating planets are created independently in cosmic nowhere. This option is not supported by the passage. The passage mentions that free-floating planets probably form in the same way as other planets, within the swirling disk of gas and dust surrounding an infant star. It does not indicate that they are created independently in cosmic nowhere.

Option C: Planets within the swirling disk of gas and dust are ejected violently. The passage does not make any direct connection between the swirling disk of gas and dust and the ejection of planets. It only mentions that free-floating planets get violently chucked out of their celestial neighborhoods, but it doesn't specify that these planets originate from the swirling disk.

Option D: Free-floating planets are more massive than planets orbiting stars. The

passage does not provide information to support the claim that free-floating planets are more massive than planets orbiting stars. It does mention that Earth-mass planets are more common than rogue Jupiters, but it doesn't establish a general comparison between free-floating planets and planets orbiting stars in terms of mass.

### **Trap of the Question:**

The trap in such questions lies in the distortion of facts in the options. This distortion can be created by either making the option too broad, too narrow, outside the scope of the passage, exaggerated, or half of the option is correct but the other half is distorted. One should look for such distortions and eliminate options to arrive at the best option that does justice to the question.

## Q2. Text Solution:

### **Essence of the question:**

This question asks the meaning of the given argument about scientists at NASA and Osaka University, the statement which delivers its meaning in the best possible way, will be our answer.

### **Explanation for the correct answer:**

Option C: The passage states that the estimate of rogue planets in the Milky Way has been increased from billions to trillions, indicating that they are more abundant than initially believed. The passage states that scientists upped the estimate to trillions, indicating that rogue planets are not more abundant than previously thought. Therefore, Option C is the correct inference, and Option A is negated answer choice.

### **Explanation for incorrect answers:**

Option A: Option A says that discovery of rogue planets has not increased in recent years however in the argument says that the estimate



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of rogue planets is upped. Thus, it cannot be the answer.

**Option B:** The passage does not provide any information about scientists using more advanced telescopes to study rogue planets. It only mentions that scientists at NASA and Osaka University conducted the research and upped the estimate, but it doesn't specify the reason for the increase in estimates.

**Option D:** The passage does not suggest that NASA and Osaka University are the only institutions studying rogue planets. It only mentions them in the context of conducting the research that led to an increased estimate of rogue planets, but it doesn't exclude the possibility of other institutions also studying rogue planets.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

The trap in such questions lies in the distortion of facts in the options. This distortion can be created by either making the option too broad, too narrow, outside the scope of the passage, exaggerated, or half of the option is correct but the other half is distorted. One should look for such distortions and eliminate options to arrive at the best option that does justice to the question.

### **Q3. Text Solution:**

#### **Essence of the question:**

We need to check which option does not deliver the information based on the passage.

#### **Explanation for the correct answer:**

**Option D:** The passage does not mention that planets within the swirling disk of gas and dust are always stable and never go rogue. It only suggests that free-floating planets are violently ejected from their celestial neighborhoods.

#### **Explanation for incorrect answers:**

**Option A:** Free-floating planets are violently ejected from their celestial neighborhoods. This statement is supported by the passage, which mentions that free-floating planets get

violently chucked out of their celestial neighborhoods.

**Option B:** Trillions of rogue planets exist in the Milky Way. This statement is supported by the passage, as it mentions that scientists have upped the estimate of rogue planets to trillions in the Milky Way.

**Option C:** The discovery of rogue planets is based on microlensing observations. This statement is supported by the passage, as it explains that researchers used data from the Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics telescope to indirectly detect exoplanets, including rogue planets, through microlensing.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

The trap in such questions lies in the distortion of facts in the options. This distortion can be created by either making the option too broad, too narrow, outside the scope of the passage, exaggerated, or half of the option is correct but the other half is distorted. One should look for such distortions and eliminate options to arrive at the best option that does justice to the question.

### **Q4. Text Solution:**

#### **Essence of the question:**

This asks the reason for pushing back on the previous conclusion about the size of rogue planets.

#### **Explanation for the correct answer:**

**Option C:** The passage mentions that the previous conclusion about the size of rogue planets garnered pushback, implying that scientists disagreed with the idea that most rogue planets are Jupiter-size.

#### **Explanation for incorrect answers:**

**Option A:** The passage does not mention any disagreement among scientists regarding the existence of rogue planets. It only discusses the size of the rogue planets being the cause of pushback, not their existence.

**Option B:** The passage does not mention the basis of the previous conclusion about the size



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of rogue planets. It only mentions that scientists found the conclusion surprising, but it doesn't specify the exact data or method used for that conclusion.

Option D: The passage does not provide any information about what was previously believed about rogue planets being part of a star system. It only mentions that the existence of wandering worlds orphaned from their star systems has long been known but poorly understood. The passage mainly focuses on the new findings and estimation of the abundance of rogue planets, not their previous beliefs about being part of a star system.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

The trap in such questions lies in the distortion of facts in the options. This distortion can be created by either making the option too broad, too narrow, outside the scope of the passage, exaggerated, or half of the option is correct but the other half is distorted. One should look for such distortions and eliminate options to arrive at the best option that does justice to the question.

#### **Q5. Text Solution:**

##### **Essence of the question:**

Here one statement is mentioned that Earth-mass planets are 180 times more common than rogue Jupiters, we shall search out its meaning. What the author wants to convey by this statement.

##### **Explanation for the correct answer:**

Option B: The statement indicates that Earth-mass planets are 180 times more common than rogue Jupiters, leading to the conclusion that rogue Jupiters are less abundant.

##### **Explanation for incorrect answers:**

Option A: The passage does not provide any information about the likelihood of Earth-mass planets colliding and going rogue, so this conclusion cannot be drawn from the given statement.

Option C: The passage does not mention anything about the likelihood of Earth-mass planets having a swirling disk of gas and dust, so this conclusion cannot be drawn from the given statement.

Option D: The passage does not provide any information about where rogue Jupiters are formed, so this conclusion cannot be drawn from the given statement. It only states that free-floating planets don't just pop into existence in the middle of cosmic nowhere and that they probably form the same way as other planets, within the swirling disk of gas and dust surrounding an infant star.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

The trap in such questions lies in the distortion of facts in the options. This distortion can be created by either making the option too broad, too narrow, outside the scope of the passage, exaggerated, or half of the option is correct but the other half is distorted. One should look for such distortions and eliminate options to arrive at the best option that does justice to the question.

#### **Q6. Text Solution:**

##### **Essence of the question:**

Here we need to search out the information based on high intensity training to find out its effects.

##### **Explanation for the correct answer:**

Option C: The passage suggests that doing intensely hard things, like HIT, pulls you into the present moment and true awareness. This aligns with option C.

##### **Explanation for incorrect answers:**

Option A: The passage does not emphasize physical exhaustion and fatigue as the main effect of doing intensely hard things.

Option B: The passage does not mention multitasking as a significant outcome of doing intensely hard things.

Option D: The passage states that doing intensely hard things leads to mental quiet and



freedom from mental chatter, which contradicts the idea of increased mental chatter and distractions.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

The trap in such questions lies in the distortion of facts in the options. This distortion can be created by either making the option too broad, too narrow, outside the scope of the passage, exaggerated, or half of the option is correct but the other half is distorted. One should look for such distortions and eliminate options to arrive at the best option that does justice to the question.

#### **Q7. Text Solution:**

##### **Essence of the question:**

This question is particularly asking for author's views. The statement that illustrates the author's experience on high intensity training, will be the answer.

##### **Explanation for the correct answer:**

Option B: The passage presents the paradoxical nature of the experience in HIT – it involves both failing and succeeding. This is captured in option B.

##### **Explanation for incorrect answers:**

Option A: The passage does not describe the experience of HIT as unpleasant and unfulfilling; rather, it emphasizes its meditative and focused nature.

Option C: While strength is mentioned, it is not the main focus of the experience described in the passage.

Option D: This option accurately describes the meditative and calming nature of the experience, but it does not capture the dual nature of success and failure.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

The trap in such questions lies in the distortion of facts in the options. This distortion can be created by either making the option too broad, too narrow, outside the scope of the passage, exaggerated, or half of the option is correct but the other half is distorted. One should look for

such distortions and eliminate options to arrive at the best option that does justice to the question.

#### **Q8. Text Solution:**

##### **Essence of the question:**

The passage discusses role of techniques in high intensity training. The statement that reflects its role, will be the answer.

##### **Explanation for the correct answer:**

Option D: The passage explains that as the training becomes harder in HIT, the focus on technique and form increases. This aligns with option D. Hence, it is the right answer.

##### **Explanation for incorrect answers:**

Option A: The passage does not suggest that technique and form become less important; in fact, it states that they are focused on more as the training gets harder.

Option B: While technique and form are important, the passage does not suggest that they become the sole focus to the exclusion of other factors.

Option C: The passage does not mention that technique and form are irrelevant; it emphasizes their significance in the training process.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

The trap in such questions lies in the distortion of facts in the options. This distortion can be created by either making the option too broad, too narrow, outside the scope of the passage, exaggerated, or half of the option is correct but the other half is distorted. One should look for such distortions and eliminate options to arrive at the best option that does justice to the question.

#### **Q9. Text Solution:**

##### **Essence of the question:**

Here we need to find out the overall picture presented by the author in the passage.

##### **Explanation for the correct answer:**

Option B: The motif of the passage is the benefits of incorporating mindfulness and focus



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into high-intensity training (HIT). The passage discusses how performing HIT requires intense concentration on form, breathing, and technique, leading to a state of being present and free from mental chatter. This theme is highlighted in sentences like "Calm, focused and present" and "Doing intensely hard things pulls you into the present moment and into true awareness."

#### **Explanation for incorrect answers:**

Option A: While the passage briefly mentions the goal of maximizing muscle growth and strength, the primary focus is on the mindfulness aspect, making this option incorrect.

Option C: The challenges of weight training are discussed, but the main emphasis is on mindfulness and focus rather than the physical challenges themselves.

Option D: The passage doesn't discuss seeking professional guidance or its significance.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

The trap in such questions lies in the distortion of facts in the options. This distortion can be created by either making the option too broad, too narrow, outside the scope of the passage, exaggerated, or half of the option is correct but the other half is distorted. One should look for such distortions and eliminate options to arrive at the best option that does justice to the question.

### **Q10. Text Solution:**

#### **Essence of the Question:**

This one's about identifying which statement doesn't align with experiencing the imposter phenomenon as per Clance and Imes' description. The question is asking you to deeply understand the concept of the imposter phenomenon. So, we're not just skimming here; we've got to understand what makes someone feel like an imposter and why.

#### **Explanation for the Correct Answer:**

Option D – "I worry that my peers may not understand their own potential but don't feel the same about myself and my skills." – is our odd one out. The imposter phenomenon is all about doubting your own accomplishments, not fretting over others not recognizing their own. While the other options are clearly about self-doubt, Option D is different and is not fitting into the imposter phenomenon mold.

#### **Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:**

- Option A talks about a fear of being exposed as less capable – classic imposter feeling.
- Option B has the "I'm not actually skilled" paranoia which is seamlessly an impostor syndrome feeling.
- Option C is a bit sneaky – it brings in the element of chance which might throw you off. But, feeling like your accomplishments are due to luck and not your own skill? That's textbook imposter phenomenon.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

It's easy to get caught up in the general idea of the imposter phenomenon and miss that the question is asking for a statement that DOESN'T fit. Keep an eye out for confidence; it's a giveaway that you're not dealing with an imposter situation.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

The trap in such questions lies in the distortion of facts in the options. This distortion can be created by either making the option too broad, too narrow, outside the scope of the passage, exaggerated, or half of the option is correct but the other half is distorted. One should look for such distortions and eliminate options to arrive at the best option that does justice to the question.

### **Q11. Text Solution:**

#### **Essence of the Question:**

You've got to understand what the imposter phenomenon and you've also got to be sharp



enough to spot a statement that clashes with it.

#### **Explanation for the Correct Answer:**

Option A – "People with imposter feelings are rarely able to secure promotions or high-profile projects." The passage tells us that feeling like a fraud doesn't stop someone from being successful. But Option A is saying, "No, they don't get ahead," which doesn't gel with the concept. The imposter phenomenon is all about feeling inadequate despite evidence of success, not a lack of success.

#### **Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:**

- Option B's talks about "right place, right time", which feels very imposter-like. This clearly fits in with the theme.
- Option C "Professionals with imposter feelings frequently engage in further education and training to overcome their self-doubt." - It makes sense; keep learning to feel better about your skills. This is more of a solution than a contradiction.
- And D, self-sabotage, is clever – it implies success but also that push to confirm their doubts. This is more of what happens due to imposter syndrome rather than a contradiction.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

Don't get sidetracked by all the talk of success and how it's achieved. The entire heart of the idea of the imposter phenomenon is about feeling like you don't deserve to win, even when you're holding the trophy. Keep in mind, we're looking for a mismatch here, something that goes against the concept of the phenomenon we've understood.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

The trap in such questions lies in the distortion of facts in the options. This distortion can be created by either making the option too broad, too narrow, outside the scope of the passage, exaggerated, or half of the option is correct but the other half is distorted. One should look for such distortions and eliminate options to arrive

at the best option that does justice to the question.

#### **Q12. Text Solution:**

#### **Essence of the Question:**

The question nudges us towards the understanding of the nuanced impact of external biases and discrimination on the imposter phenomenon. It's asking us to pick out the statement that doesn't quite fit the narrative being presented.

#### **Explanation for the Correct Answer:**

The correct option here is "C". The passage has been going on about how systemic issues and societal messages can instill feelings of being an imposter. Now, this option tries to slide in the idea that personal failing is more to blame than those big external forces. The passage lays out all the societal and systemic biases, and this option's trying to make a single reason be the focus.

#### **Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:**

- Option A, it's sneaky because it seems to fit right in with the passage, talking about how marginalization increases imposter feelings. But, it's not the odd one out we're looking for.
- Option B, talking about historical exclusion leading to louder imposter sentiments. It's echoing what the passage is saying, and that's the reason it's incorrect.
- option D, is tricky because it's got a ring of truth to it – messages that don't make people feel like they belong can indeed amplify those imposter feelings.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

options like "A," "B," and "D" – they sound right because they are right. They're hoping for you to make a quick call and overlook the one option that's different. The trick is to slow down, make sure you're comparing each option to what the passage actually says.

#### **Q13. Text Solution:**

#### **Essence of the Question:**



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This question's a tough one, in simple words, it is looking for you to draw a conclusion that's NOT supported by the passage. It's asking us to figure out which solution isn't actually a solution at all, according to the passage.

#### **Explanation for the Correct Answer:**

The correct answer is "A". Because the passage has been written on about how it's not just an individual's battle, it's the whole system that needs a makeover. So, while programs boosting personal grit sound like a good band-aid fix, they're not going to heal the issue the passage is pointing out.

#### **Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:**

- option B. It talks about revamping the organization to root out the systemic bias. Which is a bullseye and is a good conclusion, according to the passage.
- option C. It suggests mentorship, which might seem like a bit of a non answer, but it's actually a system to help people navigate the tricky waters of bias.
- option D, is all about shaking up the status quo in recruitment and promotion. That's hitting the nail on the head as far as conclusions go, so this one's incorrect too.

#### **Trap of the Question:**

If you remember the passage, it's more about fixing the system than personal pep talks. The passage is painting on a broader topic, and option A is trying to sell you a narrow concept.

#### **Q14. Text Solution:**

**The essence of the question's ask:** Here, the challenge isn't just about what can be inferred but what can't be. This is a tough question that may go unnoticed, since it's easy to get tangled up in double negatives.

**Explaining the right option:** Reading carefully, the passage suggests that while self-relevance can impact art perception, it's not a one-size-fits-all deal. Option A uses the word 'invariably,' which is a big, flashing sign saying 'no exceptions!' That's where it trips up. Art is

subjective, and while self-relevance might often enhance the experience, to say it always does is too much of a stretch. The passage doesn't warrant such a sweeping statement.

#### **All the incorrect options:**

- **Option B** talks about 'tend to receive,' which is a softer, more cautious way of saying there's a general trend without committing to absolutes. It's sneaky because it sounds like something that could be inferred, but it doesn't fall into the same trap as Option A.
- **Option C** is clever in its wording because 'observed across' hints at a broad trend without insisting it's a universal truth. It sounds plausible, making it tempting to overlook.
- **Option D** brings in the concept of complexity, which could logically be connected to finding personal meaning in art. It's a reasonable inference that personal relevance could lead to viewers digging deeper and seeing more layers, hence 'complexity.'

**Trap of the Question:** You might think, "art is personal, so of course self-relevance always makes it better" But that's where the question's cleverness lies—it's using a common assumption to set a trap. The trick in these kinds of questions is to watch out for absolutes and universals.

#### **Q15. Text Solution:**

**The essence of the question's ask:** This question tests the aspirant's understanding of the relationship between visual complexity and art appreciation. It asks for a statement that doesn't quite fit with the passage's discussion on the topic.

**Explaining the right option:** The passage doesn't suggest that complexity always equals appreciation. The word 'invariably' is our red flag again. Art appreciation is subjective; what's complex to one person might be chaotic



to another. So, Option A oversteps by implying a fixed rule where there isn't one.

#### All the incorrect options:

- **Option B** could be a trick, as it suggests a cause-and-effect relationship that isn't absolute. It says 'determines,' which is a strong word, but it's about 'likelihood,' which softens the claim just enough.
- **Option C** flips the usual expectation on its head, implying a preference for simplicity in some cases. It's a bit unexpected, which might make it seem wrong, but it's not definitively contradicted by the passage.
- **Option D** talks about 'direct proportionality,' which might make it sound too mathematical or precise for something as subjective as art. However, it's just cautious enough in its wording to slide by.

**Trap of the Question:** The pitfall here is the assumption that 'more complex equals better' in the realm of art. The trick is to not let personal biases color the interpretation of the text.

#### Q16. Text Solution:

**The essence of the question's ask:** The query is asking you to identify what the author likely believes based on the content and tone of the passage. You need a deeper level of reading, where you're looking for the underlying implications rather than skimming the surface.

**Explaining the right option:** The passage suggests personal relevance is important for the impact of an artwork on the individual. Hence, option B is correct.

#### All the incorrect options:

- **Option A** might seem right because we often think of the artist's intent as paramount. But the passage doesn't place it above all else.
- **Option C** is sneaky because it might feel right - how much does history really matter? But the passage doesn't go as far as to say it's insignificant.

- **Option D** could be the one if you're not paying close attention. It downplays complexity, aligning with the passage's suggestion that personal connection trumps sheer intricacy.

**Trap of the Question:** It's easy to conflate importance with exclusivity. Just because the passage highlights the importance of personal relevance, it doesn't mean it's the only factor at play.

#### Q17. Text Solution:

**The essence of the question's ask:** This one's about bolstering arguments with evidence. What kind of additional data would really put the wind in the sails of the claim that personal relevance ups an artwork's appeal?

**Explaining the right option:** Option D is golden because it takes the debate from the subjective into the realm of the observable and measurable. Brain scans don't lie - or so we'd like to think. It's hard evidence that personal relevance isn't just fluff; it has tangible effects.

#### All the incorrect options:

- **Option A** talks about purchasing art, which is a behavior that could be influenced by many factors besides aesthetic appeal. It's related but not a bullseye.
- **Option B** brings in art critics, which could add weight to the argument since they're supposed to be experts. But critics are still subjective, and they're not every viewer.
- **Option C** discusses the correlation between personal relevance and viewing time. Although it may seem compelling, it doesn't have the same emphasis as a brain scan. Time could mean anything—confusion, admiration, a really comfy bench.

**Trap of the Question:** The potential misstep here is to choose an option that seems related to art appreciation but doesn't directly support the argument about personal relevance. It's a question of relevance and strength of evidence.

#### Q18. Text Solution:



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**Essence of the Question:**

This one is not the kind to take lightly - it demands the understanding of the implications and subtleties in the passage. What we're after here is identifying which statement would not challenge the author's implied disappointment with technology's impact on family interaction.

**Explanation for the Correct Answer:**

Option D is the answer we're looking for. The author's concern is about the erosion of family communication due to technology. If the children already value their online interactions more than family communication, it means the author's fears have been realized, not contradicted. The statement fits perfectly into the gloomy picture painted by the author.

**Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:**

- Option A is sneaky. It wants to make us think that if a family engages in activities without digital devices, the author's concerns are addressed. But remember, the question asks us for a statement that does NOT go against the author's lament. A is the opposite of what we want here.
- Option B throws a curveball by suggesting that technology can be a catalyst for conversation. It feels right because it challenges the author's lament – which is exactly why it's wrong for our answer.
- Option C talks about the mother enjoying the quiet – which sounds, but it's a red herring, leading us away from the real issue of interpersonal connection.

You might be tempted by C because it seems harmless, but we're looking for the choice that reinforces the author's story about technology.

**Trap of the Question:**

This is a question that wants to play with our expectations. Looking at these shiny statements that seem to say, "Technology isn't all bad," is an easy way to get carried away, but we have to stay focused on asking – which statement actually upholds the author's lament?

**Q19. Text Solution:****Essence of the Question:**

The question's difficulty is relatively difficult, you've to go through the paragraph and identify the one that doesn't sit well with the central premise – that's the target.

**Explanation for the Correct Answer:**

Option C is the correct answer. The central premise of the paragraph is that society views the 'great resignation' pretty negatively. So, if quiet quitting is seen as a gentle move rather than a calamity, it's not aligning with the paragraph's emphasis about the societal perception.

**Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:**

- Option A sounds right, but it's a trap. It's exactly the kind of viewpoint the author says society holds – disapproval of abandoning the grind. So it sits comfortably in the passage's context and doesn't diverge.
- Option B – this one's a chameleon, blending into the background of societal perceptions. It echoes the sentiment of collective loss, so it's certainly not out of place.
- Option D is suggesting the 'great resignation' is a correction. It's easy to think of this as a divergence, but it's actually the conclusion the paragraph is moving towards.

**Trap of the Question:**

What this question cleverly does is mix up the societal perception with what the 'great resignation' actually might be. You might be tempted by the seemingly correct assumptions the other options offer, but remember, we're after the odd one out.

**Q20. Text Solution:**

**Essence of the Question:** This particular question is moderately challenging and targets the test-taker's ability to look for subtle differences in societal reactions to disengagement.

**Explanation for the Correct Answer:**

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The correct option here is (C), "Encouragement." The question sneakily pits 'encouragement' against negative responses. Reading through the passage, we see that the societal responses to disengagement are predominantly negative—ranging from skepticism to outright pushback. The passage, if you look carefully, paints a picture of a society that doesn't really 'cheer on' disengagement. Encouragement would imply a positive reinforcement, which the passage does not indicate as a common societal response.

#### **Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:**

- Option A) Skepticism: It's a plausible response, and the passage does suggest a critical and doubting reaction from society. However, it's a red herring because it fits neatly into the expected responses.
- Option B) Judgment: This might have tripped you up. Judgment is often linked to skepticism. But in the passage, judgment is distinct and present as a societal response, which makes it incorrect for our purpose here.
- Option C) Pushback: The tricky part here is that pushback sounds negative and, thus, likely. Many might have been drawn to this because it resonates with a society that reacts defensively. But that's precisely why it's included in the passage as a form of response, making it an incorrect choice.

**Trap of the Question:** The twist in this question lies in the connotations of the options. It's easy to get caught up in the negative tone of the passage and overlook the 'EXCEPT' part of the question. Remember, it's not just about identifying the societal responses but picking the one that is NOT mentioned.

#### **Q21. Text Solution:**

**Essence of the Question:** We're dealing with a higher difficulty level here. The question asks you to apply the arguments presented in the passage to hypothetical scenarios.

#### **Explanation for the Correct Answer:**

Option D) "The emergence of a movement advocating for continuous social engagement" is our answer. If a movement promoting non-stop social togetherness were to gain traction, the author would appreciate it the most.

#### **Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:**

- Option A) A societal shift that valorizes solitude and individual pursuits: This option seems like it could be right, But that's the pitfall—it actually supports the author's contention rather than complicating it.
- Option B) The implementation of technology that fosters deeper connections in digital interactions: this one is interesting. It might appear to be a scenario that the author would appreciate, but in reality, it does not directly counter the author's issues with disengagement. It's still another form of virtual engagement.
- Option C) An increase in public spaces designed to promote solitary reflection: Although solitary reflection may seem important, the author may not appreciate it as the given arguments suggest the author wants people to interact more.

**Trap of the Question:** The main trap here is the lure of seemingly relevant but actually supportive options. They are red herrings, designed to catch you off guard if you haven't fully grasped the author's main argument. Always contrast each option directly with the core contention of the passage. Does it challenge or support it?

#### **Q22. Text Solution:**

**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.

#### **Approach to the Solution:**



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- Understand the passage's core argument: The passage suggests that team performance isn't just about individual talent, but also about collective dynamics and prior shared successes.
- Evaluate each option in light of this 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 author's 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.

#### Q23. Text Solution:

**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.

#### Approach to the Solution:

- Grasp the passage's main themes and arguments.
- Analyze each option to see if it aligns with the passage's content.

**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.

#### Q24. Text Solution:

**Essence of the Question:** This question delves into recognizing scenarios that would



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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:** While indirectly conflicting with the passage's view by going against the common-sense notion that top-level talent will result in a top-level team, it doesn't offer as direct a contradiction as Option D.
- **Option B:** This aligns with the passage's suggestion that team dynamics matter, hence not a direct contradiction.
- **Option C:** Similar to Option A, it challenges the passage but doesn't offer as stark a contradiction as Option D.

**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.

#### **Q25. Text Solution:**

**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.

#### **Q26. Text Solution:**

##### **Essence of the Question:**

This question, sitting at a moderate level of difficulty, probes the understanding of the concept of 'multispecies mourning' as discussed in the passage. It's important to identify the broader implications of this concept.

- **Correct Option: B**



- Explanation:** The passage emphasizes the interconnectedness of humans with nature and other species. The idea of mourning loss in the context of environmental destruction and the loss of biodiversity is not just a Marind-specific tradition but a broader, more universal form of resistance against human exceptionalism. This option aligns with the passage's underlying theme of acknowledging and grieving for more-than-human entities.

**Incorrect Options Analysis:**

- Option A:** This is a trap! It might seem correct as it is directly related to the Marind community, but the passage talks about a broader concept that transcends cultural specificity.
- Option C:** It might be tempting to see mourning as symbolic, but the passage gives it a much more profound role in acknowledging the loss of biodiversity, thus making this option too narrow in scope.
- Option D:** This option narrows down mourning to a religious act, which the passage doesn't support. The mourning discussed is more about existential and ecological loss rather than religious rituals.

**Trap of the Question:**

The question is designed to test the depth of understanding of the passage's themes. One might get swayed by options focusing solely on the Marind community or cultural practices.

**Q27. Text Solution:**

**Essence of the Question:**

This question is of higher complexity as it demands the examinee to infer a concept not directly stated but implied in the passage, and then identify a scenario challenging this inference.

**Correct Option: A**

- Explanation:** The passage doesn't explicitly state that 'multispecies

mourning' is an inherent human trait, but it implies a universal capability for such mourning. If a study finds communities without such mourning practices, it challenges this universality, aligning with the need to identify a contradicting scenario.

**Incorrect Options Analysis:**

- Option B:** While this option talks about cultural variability, it doesn't directly challenge the inherent nature of 'multispecies mourning'.
- Option C:** This strengthens, rather than challenges, the assertion.
- Option D:** The uniqueness of the Marind's rituals doesn't necessarily contradict the possibility of a universal trait.

**Trap of the Question:**

The complexity lies in differentiating between what challenges an implied universal trait and what merely highlights cultural differences. The trick is to focus on the universality aspect rather than cultural specificity.

**Q28. Text Solution:**

**Essence of the Question:**

This one is a bit tricky as it requires understanding the passage's ideological underpinning and then identifying which statement doesn't confine this ideology.

**Correct Option: A**

- Explanation:** The passage focuses on the significance of ecological and cultural preservation, implicitly criticizing the prioritization of economic growth over these aspects. Therefore, a statement favoring economic growth over cultural and ecological preservation doesn't align with the passage's ideology.

**Incorrect Options Analysis:**

- Option B:** This aligns with the passage's reverence for indigenous cultures.
- Option C:** Suggests a balance, which is not opposed to the passage's ideology.



- **Option D:** Focuses solely on environmental conservation, which, while important, is not the sole focus of the passage's ideology.

#### Trap of the Question:

The question tempts one to pick an option that seems in line with environmental conservation but the passage's ideology is more nuanced, encompassing both ecological and cultural aspects.

#### Q29. Text Solution:

##### Essence of the Question:

This question is moderately challenging, requiring the examinee to infer potential consequences of the loss of sacred sites for the Marind community.

##### • Correct Option: B

- **Explanation:** The passage discusses the loss of cultural and ecological heritage due to the destruction of sacred sites. An increase in economic opportunities doesn't align with this theme of loss and is not supported by the passage.

##### • Incorrect Options Analysis:

- **Option A:** This is plausible as the loss of sacred sites could lead to a loss of cultural practices.
- **Option C:** The ecological balance disruption is a likely outcome of such loss.
- **Option D:** A decline in biodiversity is a direct consequence of the destruction of sacred sites.

#### Trap of the Question:

The key here is to distinguish between the direct consequences of the loss (cultural and ecological) and an unrelated potential benefit (economic), which the passage does not support.

#### Q30. Text Solution:

##### Essence of the Question:

This question is about identifying evidence that would support the author's position that mourning can be a form of resistance. It's a higher-order thinking question, requiring application of information from the passage.

##### • Correct Option: B

- **Explanation:** If documented cases show that indigenous mourning practices led to the preservation of sacred sites, it strongly supports the author's position that mourning is not just an expression of grief but an act of resistance.

##### • Incorrect Options Analysis:

- **Option A:** This undermines the author's position rather than reinforcing it.
- **Option C:** Personal and private nature of mourning doesn't necessarily reinforce the idea of it as a form of resistance.
- **Option D:** A decline in traditional mourning rituals doesn't directly support the author's position.

#### Trap of the Question:

Aspirants might be tempted to choose options that seem to relate to mourning but miss the critical aspect of mourning as a form of resistance, which is central to the author's argument.



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