

MBA Pioneer Pro 2024

Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension

DPP: 9

RC- Strengthening & Weakening Questions

Directions (1-5) 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'.

- Q1** Based on the passage, which of the following inferences about the practice of 'multispecies mourning' is most supported?
- (A) It is a traditional practice specific to the Marind community, deeply rooted in their cultural heritage.
 - (B)



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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.
- Q2** 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.

Q3 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.

Q4 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.

Q5 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.

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

In the Roman Empire, the common languages of Greek (**koine**) and Latin, standardised coinage and centralised bureaucracy increased the ease of travel, all of which helped a culture of souvenirs flourish. Indeed, a broad range of souvenirs commemorating places emerges from the archaeological record. These are not just trivial mementoes. Souvenirs then and now offer a remarkable window on how people develop shared visions of places, how they conceive of such foundational ideas as



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authenticity, and how we create emotionally meaningful personal relationships. Souvenirs perform vital work in shaping how people come to know their world and its landmarks. By taking ancient souvenirs seriously, we can glimpse how Romans themselves understood their empire and its cultural heritage.

In the Roman Empire, which lacked a print culture, let alone digital media, souvenirs were crucial in disseminating knowledge of places, be they cities, monuments, buildings or statues. For people who could not travel to such sites in person – which included the majority of the empire's inhabitants – reproductions were a key means for visualising their physical appearance and cultural significance. Some of the most famous statues of the Greek world – masterpieces such as Athena Parthenos by Phidias, Aphrodite of Knidos by Praxiteles, and Tyche of Antioch by Eutychides – spawned veritable souvenir industries, not just at the sites where these cult statues stood but also, in some cases, elsewhere. Craftspeople churned out miniature reproductions that brought these statues before the eyes of people who would otherwise never see them. In fact, we too are among those who will never see the original statues made by the vaunted hands of Phidias, Praxiteles and Eutychides since these works do not survive. What we do have, however, are replicas – not only the large-scale marble copies that populate the pages of art history textbooks, but also, and much more numerous, souvenirs.

Given the epistemological significance of souvenirs, both in antiquity and in art history, why are we so quick to dismiss souvenirs as objects of serious enquiry?

In part, scholarly devaluation of ancient souvenirs stems from the longstanding dominance of **Kopienkritik** in the study of Greco-Roman art. **Kopienkritik** – the methodology of reconstructing lost Greek sculptures by assuming that Roman sculptures

copy them reasonably faithfully – traces its origins back to the enormously influential work of the 18th-century German art historian Johann Joachim Winckelmann, who viewed Classical Greek art as the aesthetic pinnacle of ancient art (although, ironically, many of the 'Greek' statues he so admired were actually later Roman replicas). It became entrenched in studies of Greco-Roman sculpture in the late 19th century by the German archaeologist and art historian Adolf Furtwängler. **Kopienkritik** valorises Roman statues insofar as they offer insight into a Greek predecessor, and it often fails to contextualise Roman artworks in their own historical and cultural milieux. It crystallises a desire to uncover lost 'originals' that has obscured the import of reproductions, numerous among which were ancient Roman souvenirs.

Take, for example, the Tyche of Antioch, the life-size bronze statue created by the sculptor Eutychides (a student of Lysippos, Alexander the Great's court artist) to commemorate the founding of the city of Syrian Antioch (modern Antakya, Turkey) in 300 BCE. This statue, which came to personify Antioch, represented the goddess Tyche, or Fortune, as a heavily draped figure wearing a mural crown, seated upon a rock, with the male torso of the personified River Orontes rising from below her feet.

Q6 The passage suggests a multifaceted role of souvenirs in the Roman Empire. Which of the following statements best captures this complexity?

- (A) Souvenirs were primarily valued for their economic contribution to the Roman market.
- (B) They served as critical tools for emotional and cultural connection to distant places.
- (C) Their role was limited to being miniature replicas of famous artworks for decorative purposes.



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- (D) They were used exclusively for educational purposes within Roman schools.
- Q7** The passage affirms that souvenirs in the Roman Empire were more than just trivial mementoes. Which of the following options, if NOT FALSE, challenges this assertion?
- (A) Souvenirs were primarily valued for their economic trade worth rather than cultural significance.
 - (B) They served as a means to foster shared cultural identities and emotional connections.
 - (C) Souvenirs were used to educate the Roman populace about the empire's architectural grandeur.
 - (D) Their role was limited to being artistic replicas of famous landmarks and statues.
- Q8** Based on the information provided in the passage regarding 'lack of print and digital media', which of the following outcomes is most likely to NOT occur as a result of this absence?
- (A) Souvenirs played a less significant role in disseminating knowledge about distant places.
 - (B) Oral traditions became the primary means of sharing information about distant landmarks.
 - (C) The significance of souvenirs in cultural dissemination was amplified.
 - (D) Artistic expression in the Roman Empire was predominantly confined to sculpture and architecture.
- Q9** Analyze the words - "The Tyche of Antioch, represented the goddess Tyche, or Fortune" - and identify which statement would harness its complete understanding.
- (A) The statue was mainly celebrated for its economic symbolism in Antioch.
 - (B) It signifies the cultural and symbolic essence of the city of Antioch.
 - (C) Its primary importance was as an example of Greek influence on Roman sculpture.
 - (D) The statue's significance lies in its artistic depiction of the goddess Tyche.
- Q10** Which of the given options, IF TRUE, would strengthen the idea regarding scholarly devaluation of ancient souvenirs?
- (A) Scholars typically focus on the artistic intricacies of souvenirs rather than their cultural significance.
 - (B) The primary interest in ancient souvenirs lies in their ability to inform about ancient trade practices.
 - (C) Academic focus is predominantly on the preservation of souvenirs for their historical value.
 - (D) Kopienkritik's dominance in art history led to a diminished focus on the cultural context of Roman souvenirs.

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

Although one of the loneliest moments of my life happened more than 15 years ago, I still remember its uniquely painful sting. I had just arrived back home from a study abroad semester in Italy. During my stay in Florence, my Italian had advanced to the point where I was dreaming in the language. I had also developed intellectual interests in Italian futurism, Dada, and Russian absurdism – interests not **entirely** deriving from a crush on the professor who taught a course on those topics – as well as the love sonnets of Dante and Petrarch (conceivably also related to that crush). I left my semester abroad feeling as many students likely do: transformed not only intellectually but emotionally. My picture of the



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world was complicated, my very experience of that world richer, more nuanced.

After that semester, I returned home to a small working-class town in New Jersey. Home proper was my boyfriend's parents' home, which was in the process of foreclosure but not yet taken by the bank. Both parents had left to live elsewhere, and they graciously allowed me to stay there with my boyfriend, his sister and her boyfriend during college breaks. While on break from school, I spent most of my time with these ***de facto*** roommates and a handful of my dearest childhood friends.

When I returned from Italy, there was so much I wanted to share with them. I wanted to talk to my boyfriend about how aesthetically interesting but intellectually dull I found Italian futurism; I wanted to communicate to my closest friends how deeply those Italian love sonnets moved me, how Bob Dylan so wonderfully captured their power. ('And every one of them words rang true/and glowed like burning coal/Pouring off of every page/like it was written in my soul ...') In addition to a strongly felt need to share specific parts of my intellectual and emotional lives that had become so central to my self-understanding, I also experienced a dramatically increased need to engage intellectually, as well as an acute need for my emotional life in all its depth and richness – for my whole being, this new being – to be appreciated. When I returned home, I felt not only unable to engage with others in ways that met my newly developed needs, but also unrecognised for who I had become since I left. And I felt deeply, painfully lonely.

This experience is not uncommon for study-abroad students. Even when one has a caring and supportive network of relationships, one will often experience 'reverse culture shock' – what the psychologist Kevin Gaw describes as a 'process of readjusting, reacculturating, and reassimilating into one's own home culture after

living in a different culture for a significant period of time' – and feelings of loneliness are characteristic for individuals in the throes of this process.

Q11 Based on the information provided in the passage regarding the protagonist's emotional state after returning from Italy, which of the following inferences is not supported by the information provided in the passage?

- (A) The protagonist's loneliness stemmed primarily from the intellectual disconnect with her peers.
- (B) Her feelings of loneliness were exacerbated by the physical and social environment of her boyfriend's parents' home.
- (C) The protagonist felt a sense of alienation due to her evolved intellectual interests, which her peers couldn't relate to.
- (D) The protagonist's sense of loneliness was primarily due to the language barrier she faced upon returning.

Q12 The author notes that the protagonist found Italian futurism "aesthetically interesting but intellectually dull". Which one of the following statements, if true, does not contradict this statement?

- (A) Italian futurism was widely regarded as intellectually stimulating by most contemporary art critics.
- (B) The protagonist appreciated Italian futurism for its artistic style rather than its intellectual substance.
- (C) The protagonist's peers shared her opinion about Italian futurism, finding it lackluster in intellectual depth.
- (D) Many students studying abroad in Italy found Italian futurism to be both aesthetically pleasing and intellectually enriching.



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Q13 Which underlying ideology accentuating the discourse of the protagonist's relationships would not be circumscribed by which of the following statements?

- (A) The protagonist's relationships back home provided a comforting yet intellectually unstimulating environment.
- (B) Her hometown relationships, while emotionally supportive, lacked the intellectual depth she craved.
- (C) The protagonist's relationships were primarily defined by mutual intellectual pursuits and deep emotional connections.
- (D) Despite the protagonist's evolved interests, her relationships in her hometown maintained a sense of emotional depth and understanding.

Q14 Among the statements below, which one diverges from the central premise in the paragraph concerning 'reverse culture shock', challenging the conclusion drawn therein?

- (A) 'Reverse culture shock' typically results in an immediate readjustment to one's home culture without significant emotional challenges.
- (B) The protagonist experienced 'reverse culture shock' as a process of gradual reintegration into her home culture.
- (C) Only a minority of students who study abroad are affected by the 'Reverse culture shock' phenomenon.
- (D) Feelings of loneliness and disconnection are common symptoms of 'reverse culture shock'.

Q15 The passage affirms that the protagonist's return from Italy was emotionally and intellectually challenging. Which of the following options, if NOT FALSE, challenges this assertion?

- (A) The protagonist found comfort in the familiar surroundings and relationships of her hometown.
- (B) Her intellectual growth in Italy was seen as an enhancement rather than a barrier upon her return.
- (C) The protagonist's hometown environment was intellectually stimulating and congruent with her experiences in Italy.
- (D) The protagonist's peers in her hometown were eager to engage in discussions about her experiences abroad.

Directions (16–20) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

One of the greatest threats to familial harmony in the 21st century is the home DNA test. Stories of psychological devastation abound, from finding out your father isn't your real father to discovering the imminence of a terrible disease. Perhaps you'll discover you have an unusually high proportion of Neanderthal DNA, to the great annoyance of your spouse; or maybe you'll even find out you're related to a serial killer. In France, private commercial testing has been banned since 2005 in order to "preserve the peace of families" – perhaps not surprising when you also remember that 38% of French women admit to cheating on their partners.

But if, despite all the risks, you find yourself positively longing to find lost genetic relatives, a testing kit may be the way to go. This week, the UK's Human Fertilisation and Embryo Authority has recommended that the identities of sperm and egg donors be made knowable to recipients from birth, on the grounds that the widespread use of home DNA test kits has made attempts to preserve donor anonymity futile in any case.

Under current law, a donor-conceived young person turning 16 gains the right to discover the height, weight, eye and hair colour of the



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person who contributed at least half of her genetic material, along with generalised information about ethnicity, marital status, and the number of other children, if available. Only at 18 are clinics permitted to send out information about a donor's full identity – name, date of birth, and last known address. But in the meantime, databases can be used to track down close genetic relatives by comparing your DNA results with those of others. There are several Facebook groups and non-profit "search angel" agencies that will help, leading in many cases to identification of donors for those who want to know.

On a cynical reading, the popularity of such kits is yet another reflection of our narcissistic culture and its obsession with identity – understood as something socially marketable that elevates you into desirably select company and away from the common herd. Certainly, across the political spectrum there are those who take DNA results as implying something positively fascinating about them as individuals, whether this involves celebrating the discovery of supposedly pure white ancestry or thrilling to the thought of unknown distant Jewish forebears. But in another more basic sense of "identity" – meaning one's private sense of self – testing clearly offers hugely significant information about immediate biological origins to those who lack it.

Granted, within philosophical theories of personal identity, there is a tendency to favour a certain configuration of qualitative psychological aspects as the definitive factor, rather than prioritising the biological make-up of a particular human organism. (John Locke, for instance, thought that personal identity was determined by continuity of memories – according to him, complete amnesia made you a whole new person.) But even if identity in this fundamental sense is determined by psychological not biological factors, the fact remains that beliefs about your birth parents

usually make a big difference to your psychology. In a recent survey of donor-conceived people, 85% reported a shift in their "sense of self" upon learning of their origins, and about half "sought psychological help in order to cope". Nearly 74% said that they "often or very often" thought about the nature of their conception.

Q16 Based on the passage, which of the following outcomes is most likely to NOT occur as a result of the widespread use of home DNA tests?

- (A) Increased familial discord due to unexpected revelations.
- (B) A surge in psychological support services for impacted individuals.
- (C) A decline in the popularity of DNA testing kits.
- (D) Greater public awareness of genetic predispositions to diseases.

Q17 Which of the following, if true, would strengthen the idea that DNA testing kits have significantly impacted cultural views on identity?

- (A) DNA testing kits have become the most gifted item during holidays.
- (B) There is a decrease in the number of people seeking information about their ancestry.
- (C) Most users of DNA testing kits report no change in their sense of identity.
- (D) Sales of DNA testing kits have declined over recent years.

Q18 In the context of the passage, which of the following inferences is not supported by the information provided?

- (A) Most people who use DNA testing kits are satisfied with the results.
- (B) DNA testing has led to philosophical debates on the nature of personal identity.
- (C)



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Legal changes are being considered to address the consequences of DNA testing.

- (D) The rise in DNA testing has had little impact on people's psychological well-being.
- Q19** If one were to challenge the author's stance that DNA testing kits pose a threat to familial harmony, which of the following strategies would likely be the most effective based on the information in the passage?
- (A) Arguing that DNA testing kits have no significant impact on family relationships.
- (B) Presenting statistical evidence showing a low incidence of shocking discoveries from DNA tests.
- (C) Claiming that DNA testing kits have improved medical research.
- (D) Insisting that DNA tests are inaccurate and unreliable.
- Q20** Among the options presented, which one would serve as a fitting headline for the content elucidated in the passage?
- (A) "The Rise of DNA Testing: A Boon for Medical Research and Ancestry Tracking"
- (B) "Home DNA Tests: Unraveling the Fabric of Familial Harmony"
- (C) "DNA Testing Kits: Largely Ineffective in Revealing True Ancestry"
- (D) "The Decline of DNA Testing Popularity Due to Psychological Risks"

Directions (21-25) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

Could a jellyfish tell you why the ocean is near the shore, or think of things never thunk before – if it only had a brain? Maybe, but jellyfish don't have brains. They instead have simple nervous systems dispersed throughout their transparent bodies. For this reason, it has been

long thought that they are incapable of learning beyond a basic level, and research seems to back up this notion.

In 2021, biologist Ken Cheng wrote a systematic review of learning in cnidarians – the phylum that consists of jellyfish, hydras, and sea anemones. He found substantial evidence of habituation among these animals, meaning they can grow accustomed to a stimulus. In other words, super basic learning.

Only a few studies showed the potential for associative learning in sea anemones. In these, the anemones were shocked while also being shown a light. In time, the animals would retract their bodies when the light was shown, even without a concurrent shock. It's classic conditioning and does suggest that the anemones formed a memory and adapted their behavior accordingly.

But there's a concern. Because anemones rarely encounter shock-happy scientists in the wild, it's not entirely clear whether these studies demonstrated learning that aids survival or simply induced an unnatural behavior in the creatures.

To see if and how cnidarians learn, researchers at the University of Kiel and the University of Copenhagen created a more natural school for Caribbean box jellyfish. Their results challenge the belief that advanced learning requires a brain.

For brainless, spineless, blueberry-sized predators, Caribbean box jellyfish have it pretty good. They spend their days swimming in sunlit tropical waters among the prop roots of mangrove trees. These roots provide protection as the jellies hunt their prey of choice, tiny crustaceans called copepods.

It all sounds idyllic, but as always in nature, dangers abound. One such danger is the roots themselves. Should a box jellyfish's fraile body collide with a root, it could injure the creature. The weather also poses risks. It can churn up silt and other particles to make the water murky,



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inhibiting a box jelly's ability to see the prop roots and navigate them safely. (Caribbean box jellyfish are unique among jellies for having eyes on their bells. Most other jellyfish can only sense light and dark.)

The researchers wanted to determine if box jellyfish learn to avoid the prop roots or have to mindlessly take their licks. To test this, they brought the jellies into the lab and created three experimental conditions using round tanks.

The first tank sported high-contrasting black-and-white stripes. This condition was meant to simulate clear-water days where the prop roots are easily visible. The second tank also contained stripes but with low-contrast colors to simulate murky days. The final tank had uniformly gray walls.

The researcher's aim was to create conditions analogous to those the box jellyfish actually encounter in the wild – and not the cnidarian equivalent of a close encounter with the third kind.

"Learning is the pinnacle of performance for nervous systems," Jan Bielecki, the study's first author and a postdoctoral researcher at Kiel University, said. "It's best to leverage its natural behaviors, something that makes sense to the animal, so it reaches its full potential."

Q21 If the claim that "Caribbean box jellyfish have eyes on their bells" were found to be false, what could have been the primary inference regarding their navigation abilities?

- (A) They rely solely on their nervous system for navigation.
- (B) Their navigation is primarily guided by tactile sensations.
- (C) They use chemical signals in the water to navigate.
- (D) Navigation in these jellyfish does not depend on sensory inputs.

Q22 The passage affirms that Caribbean box jellyfish are unique for having eyes. Which of the following, if true, challenges this assertion?

- (A) Other jellyfish species also possess advanced sensory organs.
- (B) Caribbean box jellyfish are the only species to navigate using sight.
- (C) The eyes of Caribbean box jellyfish are not functional.
- (D) Most jellyfish lack any form of sensory organs.

Q23 None of the below-given options best summarizes the significance of Ken Cheng's 2021 review EXCEPT.

- (A) It disproved any form of learning ability in cnidarians.
- (B) The review highlighted substantial evidence of habituation in cnidarians.
- (C) Ken Cheng's review focused exclusively on the nervous systems of cnidarians.
- (D) It concluded that associative learning is common among all cnidarians.

Q24 Which of the following, if introduced as a fact, aligns most closely with the passage's underlying assumptions about cnidarian learning?

- (A) Cnidarians have a complex brain structure enabling advanced learning.
- (B) Basic forms of learning like habituation are evident in cnidarians.
- (C) Cnidarians demonstrate learning abilities equivalent to higher animals.
- (D) All forms of learning are absent in the cnidarian phylum.

Q25 In the context of the passage's support for cnidarian learning, which statement aligns with the discussed findings?

- (A) The passage implies that cnidarians possess complex brains similar to vertebrates.



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- (B) The passage suggests that cnidarians are capable of basic forms of learning like habituation.
- (C) The passage equates cnidarian learning abilities with those of higher animals.
- (D) The passage indicates that cnidarians lack any form of learning capabilities.

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

When the German banking giant Wirecard collapsed in June 2020 amid a roaring fraud scandal, public opinion was shocked. The company, praised as the country's innovative answer to the fintech industry of Silicon Valley, had been widely seen as a 'German miracle' following recovery from the 2008 financial crisis. Its bankruptcy involved a massive state prosecution that sent shockwaves through world markets. To the astonishment of German and international observers, Wirecard executives were found to be involved in all manner of deception: direct falsification of accounts, fake cash-flows, re-routing of payments through non-existing shell companies, ghost subsidiaries. While forging profits, they had obscured a mammoth debt of €3.5 billion.

This, of course, is not an unfamiliar tale. The explosive growth of finance as a percentage of the 'real' economy in recent decades has been matched by an equally dazzling scale of financial fraud, from the Enron scandal to Bernie Madoff's pyramid scheme (the largest recorded fraud in world history) in the 2000s, to more recent scams in cryptocurrency markets such as FTX. Denizens of finance – both system insiders (Madoff was a former chairman of the Nasdaq exchange) and 'maverick' outsiders (Sam Bankman-Fried of FTX had been seen as a challenger of mainstream banking elites) – have displayed a unique capacity for alchemy: whipping up distorted realities in which false

truth and true fact become indistinguishable. Their plotting is often aided by regulatory bodies, rating agencies and consultancies that firm up such distorted realities through either action or inaction.

A recent Netflix documentary follows the Financial Times reporter Dan McCrum in his quest to reveal Wirecard's own big con. The 'aha' moment comes when McCrum and his FT colleagues show up at the Singapore address of one of the company's supposed subsidiaries only to find an unassuming farmhouse. Behind Wirecard's opaque structure lay simply nothing: no accounts, no offices, no cash. Much of the bank's alleged business had been conjured out of thin air. Evocatively subtitled 'a fight for the truth', McCrum's bestselling book *Money Men* (2022), on which the Netflix show is based, offers an animated account not only of Wirecard's fraudsters, but also of their victims – those led to believe the company bosses and their outlandish myths of stratospheric growth, despite ominous clouds of deceit hovering over. What made a fake story so readily believable by so many? How is it possible that a DAX 30-listed bank (with the backing of Germany's former chancellor, Angela Merkel, herself) transpired to be a giant Ponzi scheme?

Today's financial fraud is part of a bigger story unravelling outside of trading floors and corporate board rooms: a growing preoccupation over the nature of reality itself. On one level this preoccupation is fuelled by Big Tech, which has been pumping financial value through innovations ostensibly geared towards tackling 'existential' future threats via the production of simulated realities. Facebook's launch of the Metaverse, an avatar world promising to revolutionise work and everyday life, has been critiqued as a fluke that aimed to distract from the company's legal troubles, and the more recent release of programs such as ChatGPT and DALL-E by OpenAI intensified concerns about the use of



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artificial intelligence in Silicon Valley to address fabricated, rather than real, problems.

Q26 Which underlying ideology accentuating the discourse of financial frauds would not be circumscribed by the following statement?

- (A) Financial frauds are an inevitable consequence of an unregulated market economy.
- (B) Frauds are exclusively a result of individual moral failings and not systemic issues.
- (C) The complexities of modern finance naturally obscure fraudulent activities.
- (D) Regulatory bodies often play a significant role in enabling financial frauds.

Q27 Considering the information provided in the passage about financial fraud, which of the following statements inaccurately represents the role of technology as described?

- (A) Technological advancements have played a pivotal role in perpetuating financial frauds.
- (B) The Metaverse, introduced by Big Tech like Facebook, has been widely acclaimed as a solution to address legal troubles and enhance corporate transparency.
- (C) The use of technology in finance has contributed to a growing preoccupation with the nature of reality itself.
- (D) Silicon Valley's fintech innovations have not been immune to fraudulent practices.

Q28 Which one of the following, if true, would not undermine the argument that financial frauds reflect societal preoccupation with reality?

- (A) Most financial frauds are detected and addressed promptly by regulatory bodies.
- (B) Financial frauds have decreased significantly in the last decade.
- (C) The Wirecard scandal was an isolated incident and not indicative of a larger trend.
- (D) Technological innovations have often been used to mask or distract from real-world problems.

Q29 Considering the implications of the passage, which additional piece of evidence would most substantially reinforce the author's position on financial frauds?

- (A) An increase in the number of whistleblowers exposing fraudulent practices in finance.
- (B) A documented decline in public trust in financial institutions following major frauds.
- (C) Evidence showing that financial frauds have no significant impact on the economy.
- (D) Statistical data indicating a rise in financial literacy among the general populace.

Q30 Which of the following declarations most precisely conveys the core theme of the passage?

- (A) "Financial frauds are a direct result of individual greed and lack of ethical standards."
- (B) "Technological advancements in finance are the primary enablers of widespread financial fraud."
- (C) "Financial frauds mirror the societal obsession with distorted realities and fabricated truths."
- (D) "The increasing complexity of financial systems has made fraud detection



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almost impossible."



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Answer Key

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

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



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Hints & Solutions

Q1. 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.

Q2. 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.

Q3. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question:

This one is a bit tricky as it requires understanding the passage's ideological



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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.

Q4. 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.

Q5. 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.

Q6. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question:

This question is moderately challenging as it tests the understanding of the multifaceted role of souvenirs in the Roman Empire, as described in the passage.



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- **Correct Option: B**

- **Explanation:** The passage clearly indicates that souvenirs in the Roman Empire played a significant role in creating emotional and cultural connections to distant places, especially in the absence of print and digital media. They were not just objects; they were a way for people to connect with and understand their world and its landmarks.

- **Incorrect Options Analysis:**

- **Option A:** This option narrows the role of souvenirs to just economic value, which the passage doesn't support.
- **Option C:** While souvenirs were indeed replicas, the passage emphasizes their role beyond mere decorative purposes.
- **Option D:** The passage doesn't suggest that souvenirs were used exclusively for educational purposes in schools, making this option too narrow and specific.

Trap of the Question:

The primary trap in this question is to oversimplify the role of souvenirs. The passage presents a complex picture of their significance, which is more than just economic or educational.

Q7. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question:

This question is complex as it requires identifying an option that, if true, would challenge the passage's assertion about the significance of souvenirs.

- **Correct Option: A**

- **Explanation:** The passage asserts that souvenirs were more than just trivial items; they had cultural and emotional significance. If it were true that souvenirs were valued mainly for their economic trade worth, this would challenge the passage's assertion.

- **Incorrect Options Analysis:**

- **Option B:** This option aligns with the passage's assertion and thus doesn't challenge it.
- **Option C:** The educational role of souvenirs complements the passage's view.
- **Option D:** While mentioning their role as replicas, this option does not directly challenge the passage's broader view.

Trap of the Question:

The key to navigating this question is understanding the passage's central assertion about souvenirs and then identifying an option that would directly oppose this assertion.

Q8. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question:

This question is moderately difficult, asking to identify an outcome that is least likely due to the absence of print and digital media in the Roman Empire.

- **Correct Option: D**

- **Explanation:** The absence of print and digital media emphasized the importance of souvenirs for knowledge dissemination. This doesn't necessarily imply that artistic expression was confined only to sculpture and architecture.

- **Incorrect Options Analysis:**

- **Option A:** The passage suggests that souvenirs played an even more significant role due to this absence.
- **Option B:** Oral traditions were indeed important, but this doesn't negate the role of souvenirs.
- **Option C:** This aligns with the passage, indicating an amplified significance of souvenirs.

Trap of the Question:

The trap is in the assumption that the absence of print and digital media would restrict artistic expression to certain forms, whereas the passage focuses more on the significance of souvenirs in cultural dissemination.



Q9. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question:

This is a question of medium difficulty, focusing on a specific aspect of the passage related to the Tyche of Antioch and requires understanding its complete significance.

- **Correct Option: B**

- **Explanation:** The Tyche of Antioch is described as more than just a statue; it symbolized the city itself. This option captures the cultural and symbolic essence of the statue in representing Antioch.

- **Incorrect Options Analysis:**

- **Option A:** The economic symbolism is not mentioned in the passage, making this option too narrow.
- **Option C:** While Greek influence is an aspect, the passage focuses on the statue's cultural significance.
- **Option D:** The passage goes beyond the artistic depiction, focusing on the symbolic meaning of the statue.

Trap of the Question:

The challenge here is to avoid focusing too narrowly on either the artistic or economic aspects of the statue and instead understand its broader cultural and symbolic significance as described in the passage.

Q10. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question:

This question, of moderate difficulty, aims to identify which hypothetical scenario would most strengthen the argument about the academic underappreciation of ancient souvenirs.

- **Correct Option: D**

- **Explanation:** The passage emphasizes the influence of Kopienkritik in Greco-Roman art studies, which valorizes Roman statues mainly for their insight into Greek originals, often overlooking their cultural context. Thus, if Kopienkritik's dominance led to a

diminished focus on the cultural context of Roman souvenirs, it directly reinforces the idea of scholarly devaluation of these artifacts. This option aligns perfectly with the passage's discussion on the academic approach towards souvenirs.

- **Incorrect Options Analysis:**

- **Option A:** Focusing on artistic intricacies doesn't necessarily imply devaluation; it could instead indicate a different kind of appreciation.
- **Option B:** Interest in ancient trade practices associated with souvenirs doesn't directly relate to their devaluation or underappreciation in scholarly study.
- **Option C:** Academic focus on preservation for historical value is, in fact, a form of appreciation and contradicts the idea of devaluation.

Trap of the Question:

The potential trap here lies in choosing options that seem to relate to the study of souvenirs but do not directly address the notion of devaluation. The key is understanding the specific critique of Kopienkritik mentioned in the passage and how it relates to the perception of souvenirs.

Q11. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question asks the examinee to identify an inference that is not supported by the information provided in the passage regarding the protagonist's emotional state after returning from Italy.

Explanation for the Correct Answer: The correct answer is option D: "The protagonist's sense of loneliness was primarily due to the language barrier she faced upon returning."

The passage does not mention that the protagonist's loneliness was primarily due to a language barrier. Instead, it highlights the protagonist's desire to share their intellectual and emotional experiences, the disconnect with their peers in their hometown, and the



need for recognition. The passage emphasizes the intellectual and emotional aspects of the protagonist's loneliness rather than a language barrier.

Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:

- Option A: This option is supported by the passage. The protagonist felt lonely because of the intellectual disconnect with her peers due to their inability to relate to the protagonist's evolved interests.
- Option B: The passage mentions that the protagonist returned to her boyfriend's parents' home, which was in the process of foreclosure. The physical and social environment may have contributed to her loneliness.
- Option C: This option is supported by the passage. The passage highlights the protagonist's sense of alienation due to her evolved intellectual interests and the inability of her peers to relate to them.

Trap of the Question: In this question, it's essential to carefully analyze the information provided in the passage and focus on what is explicitly mentioned or implied. Option D is a trap because it introduces a concept (language barrier) that is not emphasized in the passage, diverting attention from the actual causes of the protagonist's loneliness.

Q12. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question focuses on the protagonist's perception of Italian futurism. It asks the examinee to identify a statement that, if true, does not contradict the protagonist's statement that Italian futurism was "aesthetically interesting but intellectually dull."

Explanation for the Correct Answer: The correct answer is option C: "The protagonist's peers shared her opinion about Italian futurism, finding it lackluster in intellectual depth."

This statement aligns with the protagonist's perception of Italian futurism as intellectually

dull. If the protagonist's peers also found it lackluster in intellectual depth, it would support the idea that the protagonist's assessment was not unique.

Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:

- Option A: This option contradicts the protagonist's perception of Italian futurism as intellectually dull. The protagonist's view is that it was aesthetically interesting but lacked intellectual depth.
- Option B: This option aligns with the protagonist's perception. It suggests that the protagonist found Italian futurism aesthetically interesting but intellectually dull, focusing on its artistic style.
- Option D: This option contradicts the protagonist's view of Italian futurism. The protagonist did not find it intellectually enriching but rather intellectually dull.

Trap of the Question: This question requires the examinee to understand and align with the protagonist's perspective on Italian futurism. Option C provides a perspective similar to the protagonist's, which might make it an attractive choice. However, it's crucial to carefully evaluate each option to determine if it contradicts the protagonist's perception.

Q13. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question asks the examinee to identify which underlying ideology accentuating the discourse of the protagonist's relationships would not be circumscribed or covered by a particular statement.

Explanation for the Correct Answer: The correct answer is option C: "The protagonist's relationships were primarily defined by mutual intellectual pursuits and deep emotional connections."

This statement goes beyond the scope of the passage. While the passage discusses the protagonist's desire for intellectual engagement and recognition, it does not explicitly state that the relationships were primarily defined by



mutual intellectual pursuits. The passage also emphasizes emotional depth, but the intellectual aspect is not the sole defining factor of the relationships.

Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:

- Option A: This option aligns with the passage, which suggests that the protagonist's relationships back home did not meet their intellectual needs but provided comfort.
- Option B: This option is consistent with the passage. The protagonist's relationships are described as emotionally supportive but lacking in intellectual depth.
- Option D: This option aligns with the passage. It suggests that the protagonist's relationships maintained emotional depth and understanding despite the changes in the protagonist's interests.

Trap of the Question: This question requires the examinee to consider the balance between emotional and intellectual aspects in the protagonist's relationships. Option C introduces the idea of primarily defined by intellectual pursuits, which goes beyond what the passage explicitly conveys. Focus on the passage's description of the relationships to choose the correct option.

Q14. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question asks the examinee to identify a statement that diverges from the central premise in the paragraph concerning 'reverse culture shock,' challenging the conclusion drawn in the passage.

Explanation for the Correct Answer: The correct answer is option A: "Reverse culture shock' typically results in an immediate readjustment to one's home culture without significant emotional challenges."

Option A diverges from the central premise in the paragraph concerning 'reverse culture shock.' The passage suggests that 'reverse culture shock' is a process that involves

readjustment, reacculturation, and reassimilation into one's home culture after living in a different culture for a significant period. It implies that this process is not typically characterized by an immediate readjustment without significant emotional challenges. Therefore, option A contradicts the central premise in the passage.

Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:

- Option B: This option aligns with the central premise in the passage, which describes 'reverse culture shock' as a process involving gradual reintegration.
- Option C: This option does not diverge from the central premise but rather provides additional information about the prevalence of 'reverse culture shock' among study-abroad students.
- Option D: This option aligns with the central premise in the passage, which discusses the commonality of feelings of loneliness and disconnection during the process of 'reverse culture shock.'

Trap of the Question: Option C is a trap because it presents an extreme-looking statement that appears to contradict the central premise in the passage, but doesn't. It's essential to carefully consider the information provided in the passage and select the option that challenges the established premise.

Q15. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question asks the examinee to identify an option that, if NOT FALSE, challenges the assertion that the protagonist's return from Italy was emotionally and intellectually challenging. The approach here is to look for options that challenge the statement first, and then compare to the passage.

Explanation for the Correct Answer: The correct answer is option A: "The protagonist found comfort in the familiar surroundings and relationships of her hometown."



Option A challenges the assertion that the protagonist's return from Italy was emotionally and intellectually challenging. If the protagonist found comfort in the familiar surroundings and relationships of her hometown, it suggests that the return was not as challenging as the passage implies. It indicates that the protagonist was able to adapt easily to their hometown environment.

Explanation for the Incorrect Answers:

- Option B: This option aligns with the assertion in the passage that the protagonist experienced intellectual growth in Italy, but it does not challenge the idea that the return was challenging.
- Option C: This option does not challenge the assertion in the passage but rather provides a different perspective on the hometown environment.
- Option D: This option does not challenge the assertion but rather provides information about the protagonist's peers in her hometown.

Trap of the Question: Option A is a trap because it introduces the idea that the protagonist found comfort in their hometown, which contradicts the notion of a challenging return - and so without a careful examination, Option A may slip past. It's important to consider the implications of each option and how they relate to the assertion in the passage.

Q16. Text Solution:

Sense of the Question: This question tests the aspirant's ability to identify an outcome that is least likely to occur due to the widespread use of home DNA tests.

Approach to Solve:

- Recognize the passage's discussion on the impact of home DNA tests. Determine which outcome is least consistent with the passage's implications.

Correct Answer Explanation:

- **Option C:** Correct. The passage suggests various disruptive consequences of DNA testing, including familial discord and psychological impacts. A decline in the popularity of DNA testing kits, given their profound impact and the rise in public awareness, seems least likely. This is especially true given the ongoing discussions about legal changes and the increased interest in understanding genetic origins.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- **Option A:** Incorrect. The passage explicitly mentions the threat to familial harmony posed by DNA tests, making this outcome quite likely.
- **Option B:** Incorrect. Given the psychological ramifications mentioned, an increase in psychological support services would be a logical consequence.
- **Option D:** Incorrect. The passage discusses the revealing nature of DNA tests regarding genetic predispositions, making this outcome likely.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants might be tempted to choose an option that seems negative but is actually consistent with the passage's implications.

Q17. Text Solution:

Sense of the Question: This question assesses the aspirant's ability to identify information that would strengthen the passage's assertion about the impact of DNA testing kits on cultural issues of identity.

Approach to Solve:

- Remember the passage's discussion on the cultural impact of DNA testing kits. Find which option, if true, would strengthen this cultural impact.

Correct Answer Explanation:



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- **Option A:** Correct. The popularity of DNA testing kits as gifts during holidays would indicate a deep cultural penetration and interest in genetic identity, aligning with the passage's theme of identity obsession. This would strengthen the idea of their significant cultural impact.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- **Option B:** Incorrect. A decrease in people seeking information about their ancestry would weaken, not strengthen, the passage's assertion.
- **Option C:** Incorrect. Most users reporting no change in their sense of identity contradicts the passage's assertion about the profound impact on identity.
- **Option D:** Incorrect. A decline in sales would suggest a decreasing cultural impact, contrary to the passage's theme.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants might select an option that appears to be a direct consequence of DNA testing kits but actually weakens the idea of their cultural impact.

Q18. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question evaluates the aspirant's skill in discerning inferences unsupported by the passage.

Approach to Solve:

- Focus on the specific information and implications provided in the passage. Choose the option that is least supported by the passage.

Correct Answer Explanation:

- **Option D:** Correct. The passage extensively discusses the psychological impact of DNA testing, including shifts in the sense of self and the need for psychological help. This option, suggesting minimal impact on psychological well-being, is not supported by the passage.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- **Option A:** Incorrect. The passage doesn't specifically address the satisfaction levels of DNA test users, making this inference possible but not directly supported.
- **Option B:** Incorrect. The philosophical debates on personal identity mentioned in the passage support this inference.
- **Option C:** Incorrect. Discussions of legal changes in the context of DNA testing are implied in the passage, supporting this inference.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants may be misled by options that present plausible but not explicitly supported inferences based on the passage's content.

Q19. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question tests the aspirant's ability to identify an effective strategy for opposing the author's viewpoint on DNA testing kits.

Approach to Solve:

- Grasp the author's view that DNA testing kits pose a threat to familial harmony. Determine which strategy would most effectively challenge this view.

Correct Answer Explanation:

- **Option B:** Correct. Presenting statistical evidence showing a low incidence of shocking discoveries effectively counters the author's stance. It directly challenges the notion that DNA tests frequently lead to disruptive family revelations, which is central to the author's argument.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- **Option A:** Incorrect. Simply arguing that DNA tests have no significant impact is too broad and lacks specificity.
- **Option C:** Incorrect. While improving medical research is a positive aspect, it does not directly counter the argument about familial harmony.
- **Option D:** Incorrect. Claiming inaccuracy does not effectively address the core issue of



familial disruption caused by accurate DNA test results.

Trap of the Question: The challenge lies in identifying a strategy that directly counters the author's specific argument rather than just presenting a positive aspect of DNA testing or a general denial.

Q20. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question assesses the aspirant's ability to encapsulate the main content of the passage in an appropriate headline.

Approach to Solve:

- Understand the central theme and key points of the passage. Identify the headline that best represents the overall content and tone of the passage.

Correct Answer Explanation:

- Option B:** Correct. The passage mainly discusses the disruptive nature of home DNA tests on familial harmony, detailing the psychological and familial consequences of such tests. This option captures the essence of the passage, focusing on the unraveling effect of DNA tests on family relationships and aligning with the narrative of unexpected familial revelations and their impact.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- Option A:** Incorrect. While the passage mentions medical research and ancestry tracking, it primarily focuses on the negative implications of DNA testing on family harmony, not on its benefits or the rise in its popularity.
- Option C:** Incorrect. The passage does not suggest that DNA testing kits are largely ineffective in revealing true ancestry. Instead, it highlights the accuracy and potential consequences of these revelations.
- Option D:** Incorrect. The passage does not explicitly state a decline in the popularity of DNA testing kits due to psychological risks. It

focuses more on the impact of the results rather than the popularity of the kits themselves.

Trap of the Question: The aspirant might be tempted to choose a headline that either emphasizes the positive aspects of DNA testing or misrepresents the passage's focus on its disruptive effects on family harmony.

Q21. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question examines the implications of falsifying a specific claim about Caribbean box jellyfish.

Approach to Solve:

- First, recognize the importance of the claim that Caribbean box jellyfish have eyes on their bells. Determine which alternative inference aligns with the falsification of this claim.

Correct Answer Explanation:

- Option B:** Correct. If the claim about the jellyfish having eyes is false, it implies they don't rely on sight for navigation. Hence, tactile sensations would be a plausible alternative method for navigation, aligning with the falsification of the claim.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- Option A:** Incorrect. This option doesn't directly correlate with the falsification of the jellyfish having eyes.
- Option C:** Incorrect. There's no direct link in the passage suggesting that chemical signals would be the primary navigation method if the jellyfish didn't have eyes.
- Option D:** Incorrect. This option is too extreme, as it suggests the jellyfish don't use any sensory inputs for navigation, which isn't a direct consequence of them not having eyes.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants might be misled by options that seem plausible but don't directly relate to the falsification of the jellyfish having eyes.

Q22. Text Solution:



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- Essence of the Question:** This question examines the implications of falsifying a specific claim about Caribbean box jellyfish.

Approach to Solve:

- First, recognize the importance of the claim that Caribbean box jellyfish have eyes on their bells.
- Determine which alternative inference aligns with the falsification of this claim.

Correct Answer Explanation:

- Option C:** Correct. If the eyes of the Caribbean Jellyfish are false, it implies they don't rely on sight for navigation. Hence, tactile sensations would be a plausible alternative method for navigation, aligning with the falsification of the claim.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- Option A:** Incorrect. This option doesn't directly correlate with the falsification of the jellyfish having eyes.
- Option B:** Incorrect. This does not contradict. This is mentioned in the passage.
- Option D:** Incorrect. This option doesn't directly correlate with the falsification of the jellyfish having eyes.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants might be misled by options that seem plausible but don't directly relate to the falsification of the jellyfish having eyes.

Q23. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question aims to test the aspirant's comprehension of the significance of Ken Cheng's 2021 review.

• Approach to Solve:

- Recognize what the review revealed about cnidarian learning. Choose the option that best summarizes the review's findings.

Correct Answer Explanation:

- Option B:** Correct. The passage specifically mentions that Ken Cheng's review found substantial evidence of habituation among cnidarians, which aligns with this option.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- Option A:** Incorrect. The review did not disprove cnidarian learning ability but rather found evidence of basic learning.
- Option C:** Incorrect. While the review did focus on cnidarians, it did not exclusively focus on their nervous systems.
- Option D:** Incorrect. The passage does not state that associative learning is common among all cnidarians, only in some instances.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants may be tempted to select options that overstate or misrepresent the review's findings.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- Option A:** Incorrect. The passage does not suggest cnidarians have complex brains.
- Option C:** Incorrect. The passage does not equate cnidarian learning abilities with higher animals.
- Option D:** Incorrect. The passage clearly indicates the presence of basic learning forms, contradicting this option.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants could be misled

Q24. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question assesses the aspirant's understanding of the underlying assumptions in the passage about cnidarian learning.

Approach to Solve:

- Focus on what the passage implicitly suggests about cnidarian learning. Find the option that aligns with these underlying assumptions.

Correct Answer Explanation:



- **Option B:** Correct. The passage suggests cnidarians are capable of basic forms of learning like habituation, aligning with this option.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- **Option A:** Incorrect. The passage does not suggest cnidarians have complex brains.
- **Option C:** Incorrect. The passage does not equate cnidarian learning abilities with higher animals.
- **Option D:** Incorrect. The passage clearly indicates the presence of basic learning forms, contradicting this option.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants could be misled by options that either overstate or completely negate the learning abilities of cnidarians.

Essence of the Question: This question assesses the aspirant's understanding of the underlying assumptions in the passage about cnidarian learning.

Approach to Solve:

- Focus on what the passage implicitly suggests about cnidarian learning. Find the option that aligns with these underlying assumptions.

Correct Answer Explanation:

- **Option B:** Correct. The passage suggests cnidarians are capable of basic forms of learning like habituation, aligning with this option.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- **Option A:** Incorrect. The passage does not suggest cnidarians have complex brains.
- **Option C:** Incorrect. The passage does not equate cnidarian learning abilities with higher animals.
- **Option D:** Incorrect. The passage clearly indicates the presence of basic learning forms, contradicting this option.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants could be misled by options that either overstate or completely negate the learning abilities of cnidarians.

Q25. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question aims to identify the statement that accurately reflects the passage's support for cnidarian learning.

Explanation for the Correct Answer: Option B is correct as it aligns with the passage, which suggests that cnidarians, including jellyfish, are capable of basic forms of learning like habituation. The passage discusses habituation among cnidarians, indicating their ability to adapt to stimuli.

Explanation for Incorrect Answers

Option A: The passage does not suggest cnidarians have complex brains, so this option is incorrect.

Option C: The passage does not equate cnidarian learning abilities with those of higher animals; it specifically focuses on basic forms of learning.

Option D: The passage clearly indicates the presence of basic learning forms, contradicting the idea that cnidarians lack any form of learning capabilities.

Trap of the Question

The trap lies in options A, C, and D, which misinterpret or exaggerate the passage's findings. Candidates might be tempted to choose options that go beyond the scope of the discussed basic forms of cnidarian learning. Option B correctly aligns with the passage's emphasis on basic learning, avoiding the trap of overinterpreting or misrepresenting the information provided.

Q26. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question evaluates the aspirant's understanding of the ideologies underlying the discourse of financial frauds.

Approach to Solve:

- Focus on the passage's discussion of financial frauds and the ideologies or beliefs underpinning them. Determine which statement does not fit the ideologies discussed in the passage.



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Correct Answer Explanation:

- Option C:** Correct. The passage discusses the systemic issues and deceptive practices in financial frauds but does not suggest that the complexities of modern finance naturally obscure fraudulent activities. This statement does not align with the passage's emphasis on deliberate deception and manipulation by individuals or entities in the financial sector.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- Option A:** Incorrect. The passage implicitly suggests that unregulated market economies can lead to financial frauds, making this statement fitting within the discussed ideologies.
- Option B:** Incorrect. While the passage highlights systemic issues, it does not rule out individual moral failings as a cause of frauds, making this statement plausible within the passage's context.
- Option D:** Incorrect. The passage mentions the role of regulatory bodies in aiding frauds, either through action or inaction, aligning with this statement.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants might be misled by options that seem to align with general notions about financial frauds but don't fit the specific ideologies discussed in the passage.

Q27. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question tests the aspirant's ability to identify a statement that inaccurately represents the role of technology in financial fraud as described in the passage.

Approach to Solve:

- Focus on what the passage says about technology's role in financial fraud. Choose the statement that misrepresents this role.

Correct Answer Explanation:

- Option B:** Correct. This option introduces an inaccuracy by attributing positive acclaim to the Metaverse for purposes not explicitly mentioned in the passage.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- Option A:** Incorrect. The passage suggests that technological advancements have played a role in perpetuating financial fraud, making this statement accurate.
- Option C:** Incorrect. Explicitly mentioned in the paragraph.
- Option D:** Incorrect. The passage does imply that Silicon Valley's fintech innovations are not immune to fraudulent practices.

Trap of the Question: The aspirant might be tempted to choose an option that broadly aligns with the role of technology in finance but does not accurately represent the passage's specific discussion on this topic.

Q28. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question evaluates the aspirant's skill in identifying a statement that, if true, would not undermine the passage's argument about financial frauds reflecting societal preoccupation with reality.

Approach to Solve:

- Grasp the passage's argument regarding the societal preoccupation with reality and its reflection in financial frauds. Determine which statement would not weaken this argument.

Correct Answer Explanation:

- Option D:** Correct. The statement that technological innovations are often used to mask or distract from real-world problems aligns with the passage's theme of financial frauds reflecting a societal preoccupation with distorted realities. It does not undermine the argument but rather supports the notion of technology being used to create false narratives, as exemplified in financial frauds.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- Option A:** Incorrect. If most financial frauds are detected and addressed promptly, it would undermine the argument by suggesting effective regulatory control, contrasting with the passage's implication of widespread deceit and illusion.



- **Option B:** Incorrect. A significant decrease in financial frauds would suggest that the issue is not as pervasive as the passage implies, undermining the argument.
- **Option C:** Incorrect. If the Wirecard scandal was an isolated incident, it would weaken the argument that financial frauds are a widespread reflection of societal issues.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants might select an option that seems to challenge the frequency or severity of financial frauds, thus undermining the passage's broader argument about societal preoccupations.

Q29. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question challenges the aspirant to identify additional evidence that would strengthen the author's position on financial frauds.

Approach to Solve:

- Remember the author's viewpoint on the nature and impact of financial frauds. Find which additional evidence would most strongly reinforce this viewpoint.

Correct Answer Explanation:

- **Option B:** Correct. Documented evidence of a decline in public trust in financial institutions following major frauds aligns with the author's position that financial frauds have significant, widespread impacts. This evidence would reinforce the idea that these frauds not only cause economic harm but also erode public confidence in financial systems.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- **Option A:** Incorrect. While whistleblowers exposing frauds is significant, it doesn't directly strengthen the author's position about the widespread impact of financial frauds.
- **Option C:** Incorrect. Evidence showing no significant economic impact would actually weaken the author's position.

- **Option D:** Incorrect. A rise in financial literacy, while positive, does not directly support the author's position on the deceptive nature and societal implications of financial frauds.

Trap of the Question: The aspirant might be tempted to choose an option that seems positive or related to financial fraud but does not directly reinforce the author's specific viewpoint.

Q30. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question: This question tests the aspirant's comprehension of the passage's central theme.

Approach to Solve:

- Identify the main theme or message of the passage. Choose the declaration that most precisely conveys this theme.

Correct Answer Explanation:

- **Option C:** Correct. The passage discusses financial frauds in the context of a societal preoccupation with distorted realities and fabricated truths, particularly in the financial sector. This option captures this theme, reflecting the passage's emphasis on the blurring of reality and fiction in financial frauds and the broader societal implications.

Incorrect Answer Analysis:

- **Option A:** Incorrect. The passage goes beyond individual greed and ethics, focusing on systemic issues and societal preoccupations.
- **Option B:** Incorrect. While technology plays a role, the passage does not state it as the primary enabler of financial fraud.
- **Option D:** Incorrect. The passage does not suggest that detecting financial fraud is almost impossible; it focuses more on the societal preoccupations and deceptive nature of such frauds.

Trap of the Question: Aspirants may choose a declaration that aligns with general notions about financial fraud but does not capture the passage's specific emphasis on societal



preoccupations and the blurring of reality and fiction.



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