CDC 14 2022 VARC

Direction (1-4): Study the following information and answer the questions that follow:

. . . Life expectancy in the UK is increasing at the rate of about two years for each decade that passes. . . . [This] cheerful statistics have been greeted by some with cries of woe. They translate 'the ageing population' into more people living restricted and miserable lives due to chronic and disabling diseases. This is not how things are turning out: despite large increases in life span, the length of the period of illness before death remains steady, and the proportion of life spent ill is declining. . . . Even this welcome prospect does not satisfy some. . .: "We cannot afford all these old people" is the cry. Hidden in that statement is the assumption that older people, even in good health (as most are), are not going to contribute to the wealth of the nation. . . **.**

We may anticipate. . ., perhaps. . .in developed countries, average healthy, productive life expectancy will increase indefinitely. Some feel this raises important questions.

The first is the question of equity: inequalities of health and life chances between rich and poor nations, and between rich and poor individuals within nations, may widen further since treatments to prevent or postpone illness, ageing and death will most likely be affordable only for the minority who are already at an advantage in terms of life, health and comfort expectancy. I am not impressed by this as an argument against research into diseases that affect us in old age. . . . There is a good general principle here: that being unable to benefit everyone should not prevent one from trying to benefit someone. The solution to inequity—whether of access to food, shelter, life-extending drugs or employment—is political. . . .

A further inequity relates to the differential opportunity to pollute our planet. Those who live longer will put out more CO2. Again, global warming is a matter for which we need to seek political, economic and technical solutions. The contribution to fouling the planet by extending the lives of those who are alive will be minute compared with rising per capita consumption and the rising number of caputs doing the consuming. Finally, there is the issue of intergenerational equity. Is it right for the young to pay increasingly more to provide for the old? But this presents itself as a problem only if we see life extension as essentially idleness extension and assume that everyone over a certain age will be an unproductive consumer, a useless mouth, irrespective of health. . . .

All right, then:. . .But where should we stop? Is there a point at which it makes sense to die?. . In the case of some individuals, we might think their death was post- rather than pre-mature—Hitler died perhaps 56 years too late. But I am thinking of the generality of decent yet flawed individuals, with the average freight of virtues and vices. . . . So long as one is happy and healthy, death will always be premature. A late death is never late enough; there is never a right, non-tragic time to die. From this, I conclude that postponing death is a fundamental good, not pointless. Even those who don't like the idea of living forever would rather put off dying until tomorrow and hope that tomorrow will remain its obliging self and never come.

Q 1. Which one of the following, if true, would best complement the author's perception as expressed in the passage?

1) People who don't want to live an endless life would want to accept death as soon as they can.

2) Postponing death is a meaningless exercise and hence, should not be pursued.

3) It is easy to determine the time when a person should ideally breathe his last.

4) A particular death of a person is considered to be untimely if the individual is hale and hearty.

Q 2. Which of the following best explains the meaning of the sentence, "Hidden in that statement is the assumption that older people, even in good health (as most are), are not going to contribute to the wealth of the nation. . ." in the context of the passage?

1) Older people often suffer from debilitating diseases and so, they are not productive.

2) Older people will not be of any use to the prosperity of a nation.

3) Productivity and old age have to be measured within the ambit of a social space.

4) Senior citizens have to update themselves in the latest skill sets and only then, can they be productive.

Q 3. In the light of the passage, it can be inferred that:

1) In the UK, the older population has been given much needed importance in the domain of policy making.

2) In the UK, the population of the youths may soon surpass that of the youths.

3) Economic disparity may be a factor in the life expectancy of an individual.

4) Political will is absent in economically weaker countries and so, policies are hard to implement.

Q 4. On the basis of the passage, which one of the following views can be inferred to be closest to that of one of the possible existing perceptions about old people?

1) Senior citizens have a role to play in the family dynamics and interpersonal relationships.

2) Senior citizens are the most marginalised section within a social space in the present day.

3) Some people opine that senior citizens are responsible for the failure of nations.

4) Some people opine that senior citizens are prone to living a lethargic life.

Direction (5-8): Study the following information and answer the questions that follow:

. . .The study is the first to combine simulations of zebrafish's brain, native environment and spatially-varying swimming behaviour into one computational model. By analyzing this model, the researchers concluded that this quirk—looking down while swimming forward—is an adaptive behaviour that evolved to help the fish self-stabilize, as when swimming against a current.

As water moves, fish are constantly trying to self-stabilize in order to stay in place—rather than getting swept away in a moving stream. Focusing on other fish, plants, or debris might give the fish a false sensation that it's moving. The stable riverbed below them, however, gives fish more reliable information about their swimming direction and speed. . . .

The team visited seven sites across India to gather video data on shallow rivers where zebrafish naturally live. [They] encased a 360-degree camera inside a waterproof diving case and attached it to a remotely-controlled robotic arm. . . . "From the video data, we were able to model hypothetical scenarios where a simulated fish moved arbitrarily through a realistic environment.", [said Northwestern's Emma Alexander, who led the study]

Back in the lab, the team also tracked the zebrafish's motions inside a ball of LEDs. Because fish have a large field of view, they do not have to move their eyes to look around like people do. So, the researchers played motion stimuli across the lights and watched the fish's responses. When patterns appeared on the bottom of the tank, the fish swam along with the moving patterns—more evidence that the fish were taking their visual cues from looking downward. "If you play a video with moving stripes, the fish will move along with the stripes," Alexander said. "It's like they are saying, 'wait for me!' In the behavioural experiment, we counted their tail beats. The more they wagged their tails, the more they wanted to keep up with the moving stripes." . . .

They discovered that in both scenarios—in the wild and in the lab—zebrafish look down when swimming forward. The researchers concluded that fish look down to understand their environment's motion and then swim to counteract it—to avoid being swept away. "We tied everything together into a simulation that showed that, in fact, this is an adaptive behaviour," said Alexander, who led the computational part of the study. "The water surface is constantly moving, and other fish and plants are moving by. Fish are better off omitting that information and focusing on the information below them. Riverbeds have a lot of texture, so fish are seeing strong features they can track."

Not only does this information give some insight into fish's behaviour, but it could also inform designs for artificial vision systems and sophisticated bio-inspired robots. "If you were making a fish-inspired robot and you just looked at its anatomy, you might think ', the eyes are pointing sideways, so I'm going to point my cameras sideways,'" Alexander said. "But it turns out that the eyes are pointing sideways because they are balancing several tasks. We think they point sideways because it's a compromise—they look upward to hunt and downward to swim."

Q 5. The central theme of the passage is about:

1) Acknowledging nuances in evolutionary changes of organisms.

2) Studying animal characteristics in order to create meaningful robots.

3) Understanding the role the environment plays in evolutionary adaptations.

4) Creating an artificial environment for fishes so as to avert their extinction.

Q 6. The author would support none of the following statements about replicating animal movement in robots except:

1) Anatomical details are but surface ideas of implementation when replicating organism based automation.

2)
When creating robots based on animals, we must first place the animal under artificial conditions to understand how the robot may evolve later.

3) Zebrafish robots should be gifted with the ability to move their eyes up and down and not restricted to sideway glance.

4)
Evolving animals through the aid of automation can only be possible by first understanding the causes which made them evolve naturally.

Q 7. The author mentions 360-degree cameras:

1) To provide a sense of mechanical vision.

2) To showcase the observation stage in a scientific experiment.

3) To show the potential of robotics infused organisms in nature.

4) To show the necessity of technology in today's world of science.

Q 8. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the given passage?

1) Field work more often than not is the groundwork upon which scientific experiments are developed.

2) Fishes are experts at not getting misguided by environmental changes in motion.

3) Most behavioural scientists are experimenting in order to replicate sophisticated bio-inspired robots.

4) Tails of fishes are indicators of their psychological insight into the patterns of their movement.

Direction (9-12): Study the following information and answer the questions that follow:

Dark as the medieval period was, nothing that happened during its 800 years could compete with the catastrophe of the Black Plague, which, by the time it ended around 1350, had decimated one-third of the population in the West fully. As a result, however, a new emphasis on the individual took place and with it came a loosening of reflexive obedience to clerical rule. Because workers had become so scarce, they found they were in a much stronger bargaining position with the feudal hierarchy. This change brought about a shakeup of the entire social structure and a widespread challenge to the belief system of the previous millennium.

For example, artisans began to win acclaim and patronage for themselves. . . . Painters again signed their artwork, abandoning pious humility for personal pride in their craft. Guilds were formed to foster the growth of individual crafts and skilled trades. The principal source of patronage was no longer the Church but rather wealthy princes and merchants whose pride in artful possessions was no longer considered a sin. The emphasis in the work of the poets, painters, and philosophers was still on the glory of God, but as reflected in the countless joys of human existence.

Also, at this time, we see widening criticism of what has been considered the acme of Church power, the inquisition. This tribunal, with its witch hunt for heretics and its infamously murderous *auto-de-fé* ("prove your love of God by admitting your guilt!"), had exerted a chilling influence over independent thought for many years. As it lost its power, the Holy Roman Empire declined in importance, and the papacy was weakened by schism. . . . Now we see the inauguration of humanistic philosophy, the belief that we ourselves are responsible for much of what happens to us. This view was not generally antimonotheistic but rather co-monotheistic. The resurgence of creative production on so grand a scale was inspiring and piqued the curiosity of those who wished to understand the complexities of minds that were capable of such accomplishments.

The term 'renaissance' originally referred to the revival of values and artistic styles of the classical age. By the 1500s, the word had acquired a broader meaning: it was becoming known as one of the great ages of human cultural development, a distinct period signalling the dawn of the modern era. Essentially, a breakdown occurred in the rigid social order that had so dominated societies in Europe, manifesting itself in cultural and intellectual advances. The style of the Renaissance music, literature, and arts are quite distinctive, and ultimately this intellectual and spiritual revolution sparked a drive in the people to release themselves from the medieval traditions. . . .

The Christian ideas had been accepted for a long time, but the pagan ideas were rapidly being reintroduced. . . . Spurred by 'new' old ideas, the best minds experienced a sense of freedom, encouraging an inquiry into everything, even the most cherished of beliefs. From this resurgence sprang the scientific, artistic, philosophical and political revolutions that came to be referred to as the 'Age of Enlightenment.'

Q 9. As per the passage, which of the following was not an aftermath of the Black Plague?

1) Painters and artisans gave up the patronage of the Church.

2) The collective forces of the skilled claimed opportunities to grow.

3) Humanistic philosophy and independent works of art gained prominence.

4) The work of the poets, painters, and philosophers depicted God through a new lens.

Q 10. Which of the following set of words/phrases can depict the flow of key arguments in the passage?

1) Medieval period – Artists – Inquisition - Renaissance

2) Black Plague – Artists – Inquisition - Renaissance

3) Medieval period – Artists – Inquisition – New old ideas

4) Black Plague – Artists – Roman empire - Renaissance

Q 11. Which of the following correctly describes the renaissance of the post sixteenth century era?

1) Post sixteenth century, renaissance reflected a resurgence of the rebellious tradition of overthrowing feudalism.

2) Post sixteenth century, renaissance called for intellectual advances inclusive of dissent from the established beliefs.

3) Post sixteenth century, renaissance called for the revival of values and artistic styles of the classical age.

4) Post sixteenth century, renaissance led to the inclusion of literature, arts and music to the clerical intellect.

Q 12. In the light of the passage, it can be inferred that the 'new old ideas' were:

1) Centered around the monotheistic beliefs of church.

2) Overthrew the framework of the then existing Christian beliefs.

3) Were subject to an individual's interpretation and imagination.

4) Spurred the acceptance and recognition of science by clerics.

Direction (13-16): Study the following information and answer the questions that follow:

The functions and roles of business anthropology are highly extensive and have expanded with time. Anthropological interventions are not only in traditional, macro management functions but also in specialized or micro functions such as advertising, consumer behaviour, sales promotion, and product design, among others. Business anthropologists study all of these business arenas. In some instances, business anthropologists solve multifarious business problems, such as securing acceptance of new technical equipment, methods, and processes by reluctant workers, or creating an organizational culture incorporating people from distinctive ethnic, educational, religious, and cultural backgrounds. . . .

The primary role of business anthropologists is, therefore, to investigate the causes of these real-life problems and suggest feasible solutions. The primary distinction between business anthropology and other subfields of anthropology is that it looks at organizations not only as an economic entity but also as a congregation of people who are similar in certain aspects. Hence, the area of concern for business anthropologists is the formal face of corporate culture along with the informal one. In other words, they look at not just what meets the naked eye but also what goes on behind the scenes.

Unlike more formal methodologies, the methods used for research in business anthropology incorporate qualitative and ethnographic methods to inspect organizational phenomena. Other tools specific to anthropology in organizations include participant observation, informal and structured interviews, and other "realistic," informal, and face-to-face methods of inquiry. The contribution of anthropologists is immense, but, more specifically, business anthropologists can help corporations by developing methods of doing business that are culture appropriate. Moreover, the profit motive usually means that the "product cycle" of any given item produced by a business—the time between the development and introduction of a product and its subsequent decline—tends to be relatively short. For this reason, research undertaken by business anthropologists is usually of much shorter duration and involves far fewer informants than academic research.

The business arena is an amalgamation of various real-life problems, and anthropologists examine the human side of the business. Hence business anthropology attempts to answer questions connected to organizations' human resources, such as: Why do people do what they do? What is their intent while doing so? Some other generic issues business anthropologists look at are: Who are the frontrunners, and who are the followers in the business? How many different groups of people exist in the business? What common beliefs, values, and attitudes do members of each group inside the business hold? What does the existing political hierarchy look like according to which power and authority are wielded and responsibility is delegated? How does information percolate among the members of each group? How do group members relate to and communicate with each other? What are the reasons for clashes among group members or among groups, and how can they be fixed?

Business anthropology thus helps organizations evolve culturally sensitive policies and strategies in a business realm characterized by cross-cultural contacts. Aguilera (1996) suggested that although the field is expanding rapidly, there is still a large amount of resistance to embracing anthropological theories because it is difficult to comprehend the direct effect and implications of anthropological investigations on the business function.

Q 13. All of the following can be inferred from the passage EXCEPT:

1)
Business anthropology differs from others fields of anthropology in that it studies the human aspect of businesses, that is, an organizations' human resources.

2)
Business anthropology has evolved over a period of time but it still faces some resistance as its impact on business functions is not fully comprehended by many.

3)
Anthropological interventions have expanded with time to include not only traditional, macro management functions but also specialized or micro ones.

4)
Business anthropology helps businesses overcome the cultural restrictions and gaps in communication created by cross-cultural contacts in a diverse workplace.

Q 14. Based on the information provided in the passage, all of the following questions/issues are likely to be of interest to a business anthropologist EXCEPT:

1) What are the different groups that exist in a business and their common beliefs.

2) What are the reasons for disharmony among group members or various groups?

3) How do the various groups communicate and associate with one another?

4) How do genetics influence the diversity of attitudes and values displayed by groups?

Q 15. Which of the following is not likely to be a methodology adopted by a business anthropologist?

1) Qualitative and ethnographic methods

2) Long-term study with numerous participants

3) Informal and structured interviews

4) Face-to-face methods of inquiry

Q 16. What is the main idea of the last paragraph of the passage?

1) To highlight the importance of business anthropology in today's age.

2) To analyze the relevance of business anthropology as a subject of management.

3) To comment upon the continuing challenges faced by business anthropology

4) To critically evaluate the impact of anthropological theories on businesses.

Q 17. **Directions for question (17):** The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer.

1. More recent research on counselling psychology graduate students determined that eight weeks of MBSR training significantly increased empathic concern for others' pre- to post-intervention.
2. Research suggests that meditation can significantly enhance clinician empathy.
3. Lesh determined that counselling psychology students showed significantly more empathy after a Zen meditation intervention compared to a wait-list control group.
4. Empathy, or the ability to "sense the patient's private world as if it were your own, but without losing the 'as if' quality", has been considered essential for effective therapy.

Q 18. Directions for question (18): The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer.

1. The 19th-century French word 'aéroplane' is made up of 'aéro,' meaning 'air,' and the Greek word 'planos,' meaning 'wandering.'
2. Sometimes, the words we use now are shortened versions of the original word, including shortening "airplane" to simply "plane."
3. In the French from which they were borrowed, the 'plane' is related to a geometrical plane (flat surface), which then became the name of the flat parts of flying machines that allow them to achieve lift.
4. What was the original meaning of the words "airplane" and "aeroplane"?

Q 19. Directions for question (19): The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

Intelligent technologies are dramatically transforming modern societies. The potential economic and social benefits of these technologies seem unprecedented. Intelligent technologies are, therefore, increasingly being involved in a variety of decision-making contexts: to support, advise and sometimes even override human decision-makers. As a result, as organisations undergo digital transformations, such technologies are increasingly used to influence a wide variety of outcomes that are important to human end-users. But of course, with greater power also comes greater responsibility. As such, it is no surprise that a strong need is emerging for greater scrutiny about the extent to which humans are vulnerable to the actions and decisions of intelligent technologies.

1)
Intelligent technologies are changing modern societies in big ways; however, there is a concern with the extent of power it wields, so there needs to be greater scrutiny on the organisations that use these techniques.

2)
There is a strong need for more inspection into how vulnerable people are to the actions and decisions of intelligent technologies, which organisations increasingly use as they undertake digital transformation.

3)
Intelligent technologies are progressively being integrated into a wide range of decision-making settings to supplement, guide, and even substitute for human decision-makers, which needs to be looked at with caution.

4)
Intelligent technologies are profoundly impacting contemporary culture, and their potential societal and economic advantages may be unprecedented to such an extent that humans may be vulnerable to their actions.

Q 20. Directions for question (20): Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out.

1. To grapple with information necessarily is to consider the medium of its representation.
2. Our assumptions about the democratic role of information were forged in the era of the press, when the circulation of printed documents was the means of public information and newspapers were the central technology of citizenship.
3. The institutional effort to determine what information is "fit" to print has always been an exercise in privilege and exclusion.
4. This modernist logic would reach its zenith in the mid-twentieth century, a moment of presumed consensus that print-based journalism would provide an objective account of public life to help citizens make rational decisions.
5. The duty of the citizen was to "follow the news," while the press was trusted to serve as gatekeeper, managing the representational space.

Q 21. Directions for question (21): The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer.

1. From a classical point of view a lie is a deliberate act intending to say something that one knows to be untrue.
2. We often think that there is a sharp and clear distinction between what is real and what is imaginary, between what is "truth" and "lie".
3. Conceptually it is more closely related to the notion of false memory, a term which was originally created within psychology following research by Loftus, Miller, and Burns.
4. In psychology a lie takes on another meaning, that of the relativity of truth.

Q 22. Directions for question (22): The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

For Voltaire, humans are not deterministic machines of matter and motion, and free will thus exist. But humans are also natural beings governed by inexorable natural laws, and his ethics anchored right action in a self that possessed the natural light of reason imminent. For Voltaire, those equipped to understand their own reason could find the proper course of free action themselves. But since many were incapable of such self-knowledge and self-control, religion, he claimed, was a necessary guarantor of social order.

1)
According to Voltaire, religion is required to maintain social order since many humans lack the self-knowledge and self-control needed to use the free will that humans possess, subject to the bounds of natural law.

2)
According to Voltaire, human ethics are subject to natural laws and the inherent rational faculty. However, since humans are not capable of knowledge or control, religion is required to guarantee social order.

3)
According to Voltaire, there is an impending need to use reason to anchor the ethical action needed to exercise free will, and this must be aided by religion that can ensure the maintenance of social stability.

4)
According to Voltaire, people are not deterministic matter-and-motion machines; hence free will exists. But, since humans are subject to inescapable natural laws, religion is a vital guarantor of social order.

Q 23. Directions for question (23): Five jumbled up sentences related to a topic is given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd one out and key in the number of the sentence as your answer.

1. How many times this year have you heard advocates of green energy decrying the fact that consumers have been ripped off by our failure to shift to renewables even more quickly?
2. That, then, is the future to which we can look forward: not one where the lights necessarily go out, but where we are forced to pay through the nose if we want to keep them on in unfavourable weather conditions.
3. Yet we really don't have an alternative to gas to make up for shortfalls in wind and solar.
4. We could try to store renewable energy, but storage, in the form of batteries, say, or pumped-storage hydro-electric stations or some other emerging technology, is incredibly expensive.
5. It costs around three or four times more to store a unit of electricity than it does to generate it in the first place.

Q 24. Directions for question (24): The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

Criminal responses are environmental and not racial. Poverty, ignorance, social isolation, and economic deprivation breed crime, whatever the racial group may be. A great and concerned nation must go back to the cause or basis for the problem. There must be massive programs, training programs and public works programs to get the jobless on the job. And so that people can work so that they can walk the earth with dignity and make an adequate income, and they can stand before their families with that kind of creativity and that kind of creative response that will make the family a real and meaningful unit.

1)
Training programs that help create jobs will go a long way in addressing not only the dignity of an individual but also creating wealth leading to them not living a life of crime.

2)
The way to address the criminal behaviour of individuals is for concerned nations to ignore their racial background and create adequate opportunities for them to integrate into society.

3)
A person's propensity to commit a crime is influenced more by their immediate surroundings than by their race, and no ethnic group is immune to the corrosive effects of an unconcerned nation.

4)
A nation must acknowledge and address the root cause of crime—an individual's race is not the reason why they commit crimes, but it is their derisive environment that breeds crime.