

Prime CAT 14 2022 VARC

Directions for questions 1 to 4: Study the following information and answer the questions that follow:

We might think of ourselves as an intelligent species but our self-destructive behaviour, at least as far as nature's delicate infrastructure is concerned, shows little evidence that this is true. The well-documented fact is that we are at risk of destroying this precious planet for future generations, or at least saddling them with an enormous financial and environmental legacy of having to fix the problems we couldn't.

This callous disregard is directly linked to growth. During the 20th century, the human population grew by four times and economic output by 40 times. We increased our fossil fuel use by 16 times, our fishing catches by 35 and our water use by 9. At the same time – and it is no coincidence – we have been living through an alarming global decline in species and natural habitats at up to 1,000 times the natural rate. In the EU alone, up to one quarter of animal species is threatened with extinction and 88% of our fish stocks are over-exploited. Most of our ecosystem services are 'degraded' – ie no longer able to deliver those basic and largely unknown, yet vital services such as crop pollination, clean air and water, and control of floods or erosion.

By 2050 the global population will have risen to 9 billion people. It doesn't take a genius to work out that we are on the very slippery slope towards ecological disaster.

Protecting nature is both a moral and ethical issue. It goes without saying that we must preserve the planet's natural wonders for its own sake and for future generations, but if that is not a convincing enough argument for some people than the economic argument should be. It is in our own interest to conserve and restore them – otherwise we are just biting the hand that feeds us. And if we don't make those smart investments now to protect biodiversity and the healthy ecosystems around us, then we face even heavier bills later trying to restore what has been lost.

This is not blind faith in nature. There is documented, solid economic thinking behind it. The Economy of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study estimates that business opportunities from investments in nature could be worth US\$2-6tr by 2050, and recommends factoring the true economic value of biodiversity into decision-making and reflecting it in systems of national accounts.

World environment ministers agreed last year in Nagoya on a global strategy to combat biodiversity loss. This was a success in itself, but the challenge now is to follow through and implement those targets. It is a challenge that needs to be taken up in the widest possible way. It has to be on the agenda of not just environment ministers but also of the ministers dealing with agriculture, fisheries, industry, transport, research, trade ... Halting biodiversity loss needs to be discussed in parliaments, boardrooms and in living rooms.

There is a well-known Cree Indian Prophecy that says: "Only after the last tree has been cut down, only after the last river has been poisoned, only after the last fish has been caught, only then will you find that money cannot be eaten."

Q 1. Which of the following best describes the central idea of the passage?

- 1) Human being is the most intelligent species among all.
- 2) Conserving and restoring biodiversity is the need of the hour.
- 3) Over population is one of the biggest challenge the world will face.
- 4) According to a study, biodiversity has become a big platform for business opportunities.

Q 2. If we do not preserve the biodiversity today, which of the following is most likely to NOT happen in the future.

- 1) There will be an ecological disaster
 - 2) The outburst of population
 - 3) Availing the business opportunities from investments in nature.
 - 4) The upcoming generation will be left to fix the problems that the current ones could not do.
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Q 3. All the following statements summarise the current status of biodiversity on Earth EXCEPT

- 1) Over usage of fossil fuels.
 - 2) Degradation of ecosystem services.
 - 3) Global decline in species and natural habitats at an alarming rate.
 - 4) Smart investments in biodiversity and healthy ecosystem.
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Q 4. Which of the following best explains the phrase “This is not blind faith in nature” in the context of the passage?

- 1) The author has concrete evidence to prove his point related to biodiversity.
 - 2) The author has faith that people will protect biodiversity.
 - 3) The people have shut their eyes for their responsibility towards nature.
 - 4) The people are blindly using all the resources without keeping biodiversity in mind.
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Directions for questions 5 to 8: Study the following information and answer the questions that follow:

Plato’s attempt 2,500 years ago to define the human as ‘a featherless biped’ had to be swiftly qualified – ‘with broad flat nails’ – when Diogenes presented him with a plucked chicken. Many subsequent attempts at human self-definition have faced similar problems in relation to exceptionality. Yet lately, scholars have begun to conclude that while the difference between humans and other animals is great, it is one of degree, not kind. Steadily, the notion that humans were uniquely created in the image of the divine is dropping out of the Western world view, as it becomes clear that characteristics once thought to be unique to our species – tool use, language, culture – are found to occur among other species. Even so, one aspect of humanity has seemed indisputably ours alone: our capacity for self-conscious agency; that is, our ability not just to act on and influence the world, but to do so deliberately and reflectively.

Self-aware animal protagonists have always existed within the human world. Usually, however, they’ve been imaginary, and mostly they’ve appeared in the pages of children’s stories. Characters such as the talking animals in *The Chronicles of Narnia* (1950-56) by C S Lewis, for example, were relatively simple. For all their animal appearance, their thoughts, actions and emotions were largely indistinguishable from those of humans. Other stories have exploited differences in human and animal experience to teach moral or ethical lessons, by precept or example. In some cases, this involved close exploration of the inner lives of animal protagonists – the gradual civilisation of the wolf-dog in Jack London’s *White Fang* (1906), for example, or the mature suffering of the horse in Anna Sewell’s *Black Beauty* (1877). But more often than not, the author’s aim was to use the animal to explore the human, and humane.

In *The Inheritors* (1955), William Golding embarked on a sustained novelistic attempt to imagine a nonhuman consciousness among Neanderthals. Golding shows us a world where ego is integrated at the community, rather than individual, level. Understanding is based on collective experience, intense proximity and abiding empathy, while knowledge, concept and communication are kinaesthetic rather than cerebrally based. Golding’s Neanderthals are not self-conscious in the human sense – since they are not ‘human’. They are, however, active subjects and agents making their own histories and influencing those of others. Reading that novel is a breathtaking and disturbing exercise in trying to understand, rather than analyse, awareness.

The Inheritors presaged a new way of thinking that would spread among animal behaviourists, evolutionary scientists and eventually historians in the latter part of the 20th century. It turns on there being a difference between agency and consciousness – and between agency and subjectivity, or agency and individuality. Humans have the capacity to act as agents, because they are considered to know what they are doing and why they are doing it. But even though nonhumans possess individuality and consciousness, too, the absence of self-consciousness among them has generally been taken to preclude agency. However, as scholars and artists adopt less anthropocentric approaches to understanding how histories (and futures) are made, in the manner that Golding did in 1955, such thinking is now being challenged.

Q 5. The main conclusion of the passage is

- 1) To reconsider the significance of animal agency.
- 2) To reconsider the significance of different authors.

- 3) The supremacy of humans among living beings
 - 4) The approach given to nonhumans by different scholars
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Q 6. The scholars recently have started to conclude that humankind is not so exclusive after all because

- 1) They believe that humankind is ignorant.
 - 2) The characteristics once thought to be unique to our species are found to occur among other species too.
 - 3) They don't believe in humans but are humane.
 - 4) They have adopted less anthropocentric approaches.
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Q 7. Which of the following is Not true with respect to 'The Inheritors'?

- 1) It presaged a new perspective that would spread among animal behaviourists.
 - 2) It is a novelistic attempt to imagine a nonhuman consciousness among Neanderthals.
 - 3) It represents a world where ego is integrated in every individual.
 - 4) Understanding is based on collective experience, while knowledge is kinaesthetic.
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Q 8. Which of the following best describes the significance of 'self-consciousness' in the passage?

- 1) The presence of self-consciousness is what makes humans superior to other agencies.
 - 2) There is a difference between agency and consciousness – and between agency and subjectivity.
 - 3) Certain characteristics that once thought to be unique to our species are found to occur among other species too.
 - 4) The portrayal of self-aware animal protagonists is as similar to human beings.
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Directions for questions 9 to 12: Study the following information and answer the questions that follow:

The modern age began in 1900, with the passage of federal legislation to ban the illegal trade of wild animals. Broader legislation followed, urged on by a growing movement of conservation groups. The most powerful of these was the National Association of Audubon Societies, though Davis points out that its leadership, dominated by "sportsmen," shared its namesake's callousness toward the bald eagle. The group opposed protections for years—refusing even to condemn Alaska's bounty on the species—until it caved to patriotic appeals in 1930. The symbolism that had threatened to doom the bird saved it in the end. Activists learned that Americans who cared little for nonhuman life could be convinced that the indiscriminate slaughter of the national symbol was as distasteful as burning the flag.

After the passage of the Endangered Species Act and—not coincidentally—the bicentennial, the eagle was classified as endangered in most of the Lower 48 states, and threatened in the rest. A species once abundant in every part of the country had largely retreated to Alaska. Conservation graduated to propagation. Misdirected pangs of patriotism helped inspire extraordinary feats of intervention. To reintroduce the bald to southern climates, researchers drove a motor home straight from Florida to Oklahoma with incubators balanced on their laps, turning the eggs every three hours. Davis writes of Alaskan eaglets shipped to New York State, Floridian eggs placed beneath unwitting Oklahoman hens, and a pair of Michigan eaglets debarking at Logan International Airport to establish Massachusetts's first nesting eagle population in nearly a century. Caretakers watched two eaglets full-time, separated from nests by one-way glass; hand-fed eaglets hundreds of pounds of quail; relocated an alligator from a nearby pond; rescued a fallen fledgling; and wore an oversize mesh "ghillie" suit to avoid creating any positive associations with humanity.

There's no avoiding us, however. In the end, balds and human beings face the same challenge: how to live together in peace. Eagles have been more adaptable than many other species, and we have made a far greater effort to save them than we have, say, the Florida scrub

jay or the marbled murrelet. In recent years, balds have made thriving habitats at a former biological-weapons facility, a hydroelectric station—a reliable source of dead fish—and the Alaskan port of Dutch Harbor (home to *Deadliest Catch*), where eagles clean fishing nets, buzz dogs, and steal groceries from a supermarket parking lot. Reintroduction has been so successful that the federal government has begun to consider a new chapter in our stewardship of the species: *population control*.

The lesson Davis draws from the bald eagle's success story is "that our nature is predisposed to virtue." The weight of the historical record would seem to suggest a predisposition to recklessness, cruelty, and violence, but the larger point is clear: More species had better become patriotic symbols soon.

I'd like to propose for consideration the eastern black rail, a mysterious mouse-size bird found in southwestern Louisiana. It is distinguished by its red eyes and big feet. It disdains flying, and sneaks through coastal marshes under the cover of night. It has a delicate bone structure, is gravely threatened by the fossil-fuel industry, and is close to extinction.

Q 9. In paragraph 2, the phrase "indiscriminate slaughter of the national symbol was as distasteful as burning the flag" suggests

- 1) Americans were burning their national flag.
 - 2) Americans were destroying their national symbol by killing bald eagles.
 - 3) Americans were disrespecting the national flag by burning it.
 - 4) Killing bald eagles is equivalent to disrespecting their national flag.
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Q 10. Which of the following best describes the central idea of the passage?

- 1) Concern for the species that are endangered.
 - 2) The methods to revive species that are endangered.
 - 3) The success story of saving bald eagles from going extinct.
 - 4) The challenge of coexistence for humans and animals.
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Q 11. The author explains the case of bald eagles in order to

- 1) Celebrate the success of saving an endangered species.
 - 2) Explain how they were prioritised over other endangered species.
 - 3) Explain the ignorance of authorities
 - 4) Draw attention towards the co-existence of humans and animals.
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Q 12. All of the following statements are true according to the passage EXCEPT

- 1) The bald eagle was classified as endangered in most of the American states.
 - 2) More species need to become patriotic symbols.
 - 3) The first nesting eagle population was established in Massachusetts in a century.
 - 4) The eastern black rail is another patriotic symbol that needs to be conserved.
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Directions for questions 13 to 16: Study the following information and answer the questions that follow:

Over time, successive economists slid into the role we had removed from the churchmen: giving us guidance on how to reach a promised land of material abundance and endless contentment. For a long time, they seemed to deliver on that promise, succeeding in a way few other religions had ever done, our incomes rising thousands of times over and delivering a cornucopia bursting with new inventions, cures and delights.

This was our heaven, and richly did we reward the economic priesthood, with status, wealth and power to shape our societies according to their vision. At the end of the 20th century, amid an economic boom that saw the western economies become richer than humanity had ever known, economics seemed to have conquered the globe. With nearly every country on the planet adhering to the same free-market playbook, and with university students flocking to do degrees in the subject, economics seemed to be attaining the goal that had eluded every other religious doctrine in history: converting the entire planet to its creed.

Yet if history teaches anything, it's that whenever economists feel certain that they have found the holy grail of endless peace and prosperity, the end of the present regime is nigh. On the eve of the 1929 Wall Street crash, the American economist Irving Fisher advised people to go out and buy shares; in the 1960s, Keynesian economists said there would never be another recession because they had perfected the tools of demand management.

The 2008 crash was no different. Five years earlier, on 4 January 2003, the Nobel laureate Robert Lucas had delivered a triumphal presidential address to the American Economics Association. Reminding his colleagues that macroeconomics had been born in the depression precisely to try to prevent another such disaster ever recurring, he declared that he and his colleagues had reached their own end of history: "Macroeconomics in this original sense has succeeded," he instructed the conclave. "Its central problem of depression prevention has been solved."

No sooner do we persuade ourselves that the economic priesthood has finally broken the old curse than it comes back to haunt us all: pride always goes before a fall. Since the crash of 2008, most of us have watched our living standards decline. Meanwhile, the priesthood seemed to withdraw to the cloisters, bickering over who got it wrong. Not surprisingly, our faith in the "experts" has dissipated.

Hubris, never a particularly good thing, can be especially dangerous in economics, because its scholars don't just observe the laws of nature; they help make them. If the government, guided by its priesthood, changes the incentive-structure of society to align with the assumption that people behave selfishly, for instance, then lo and behold, people will start to do just that. They are rewarded for doing so and penalised for doing otherwise. If you are educated to believe greed is good, then you will be more likely to live accordingly.

The hubris in economics came not from a moral failing among economists, but from a false conviction: the belief that theirs was a science. It neither is nor can be one, and has always operated more like a church. You just have to look at its history to realise that.

Q 13. It can be inferred from the passage that

- 1) Economics has become a new religion that is converting the entire planet to its creed.
- 2) With right economic structure, recession can be averted.
- 3) Economists are the experts that prevent recession.
- 4) History is the best economy teacher.

Q 14. Which of the following did not happen after the end of 20th century?

- 1) Economic boom that made western economies richer.
- 2) Increase in students' interest in learning economics as subject.
- 3) Economics taking over the world.
- 4) The world never saw economic recession.

Q 15. Which of the following was common between Keynesian economists and the Nobel laureate Robert Lucas?

- 1) They were the members of American Economics Association.
- 2) They formulated macroeconomics to prevent economic recession.
- 3) They were overconfident that recession would never happen.

4) They were responsible for 1929 Wall Street Crash.

Q 16. Even the most successful economist experts were not able to prevent recession because

- 1) They did not study the history of economics properly.
 - 2) They did not observe the laws of nature correctly.
 - 3) They believed that there was a science for economics.
 - 4) They took over the profile of churchmen.
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Q 17. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer:

1. Meta Platforms Inc is planning to begin large-scale layoffs this week that will affect thousands of employees, the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) reported on Sunday.
 2. Meta declined to comment on the WSJ report.
 3. The announcement from Meta is planned as early as Wednesday.
 4. WSJ predicted the layoffs after citing people familiar with the matter.
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Q 18. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) is a mental disorder, with a lot of complexity, its lack of treatment has a great impact on the quality of life of the individual and his or her relatives. It is therefore, important to investigate the efficacy of dream therapy in the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder. 18 patients were randomly divided into two groups of 9. The Moudsley Obsessive-Compulsive Inventory (MOCI) was taken from both groups in pre-test and post-test. For the experimental group, the first stage of dream therapy was performed in 7 sessions of 90 minutes, but the control group did not receive any treatment. The mean of experimental and control groups before and after the implementation of the therapeutic method showed that dream therapy has a great influence on the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder. Therefore, dream therapy is effective in the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder.

- 1) How obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) can affect the family and social lives of a patient
 - 2) The complexities of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) in the 21st century and their impact on the psychological terrain of patients
 - 3) The effectiveness of dream therapy on the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder
 - 4) The many characteristics of obsessive-compulsive disorder and how it is curable with the help of modern scientific techniques
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Q 19. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Most people claim that their social hierarchy is natural and just, while those of other societies are based on false and ridiculous criteria. Modern Westerners are taught to scoff at the idea of racial hierarchy. They are shocked by laws prohibiting blacks to live in white neighborhoods, or to study in white schools, or to be treated in white hospitals. But the hierarchy of rich and poor – which mandates that rich people live in separate and more luxurious neighborhoods, study in separate and more prestigious schools, and receive medical treatment in separate and better-equipped facilities – seems perfectly sensible to many Americans and Europeans. Yet it's a proven fact that most rich people are rich for the simple reason that they were born into a rich family, while most poor people will remain poor throughout their lives simply because they were born into a poor family.

1)

Although people profess that they do not support the ridiculous criteria of dividing society into sections, still, they are unknowingly unable to dispense with discrimination altogether, especially that between rich and poor.

2)

Although people reject the concept of social hierarchy and social discrimination, they are unable to stop categorizing people as per economic hierarchy.

3)

Social hierarchies may be easy to break but it is very difficult to get rid of economic hierarchies as these are based more of merit and opportunity.

4)

Modern westerners disapprove of the idea of racial hierarchy but at the same time they don't find the different treatments and privileges given to the rich and the poor unjust.

Q 20. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

It is easy to understand how optimism should become of the tissue of American life. The pioneer must hope. Else, how can he press on? The American editor or writer who fails to strike the optimistic note is set upon with a ferocity which becomes clear if we bear in mind that hope is the pioneer's preserving arm. I do not mean to discredit the validity of hope and optimism. I can honestly lay claim to both. America was built on a dream of fair lands: a dream that has come true. In the infinitely harder problems of social and psychic health, the dream persists. We believe in our Star. And we do not believe in our experience. America is filled with poverty, with social disease, with oppression and with physical degeneration. But we do not wish to believe that this is so. We bask in the benign delusion of our perfect freedom.

1) Hope and optimism are good, but one needs to acknowledge the practical problems and realities of life.

2)

The American dream of fairness and freedom is an illusion and not a reality; and any author who doesn't represent this in his/her work is criticized very often.

3)

Optimism has become a crucial ingredient of American life and people would rather embrace this delusion than address the harsh realities that exist in the country.

4)

The delusion of perfect freedom has overtaken Americans and they only dream about the principles of fairness and freedom upon which their country is built.

Q 21. 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. The move came after the ACLU of Georgia, Southern Poverty Law Center and Dechert LLP joined forces to file an emergency lawsuit urging officials to extend the deadline for these voters to return their ballots.
2. A judge has agreed to extend the deadline to return absentee ballots for voters in a suburban Atlanta county who didn't receive their ballots because election officials failed to mail them.
3. County elections director Janine Eveler wrote in an email to the county election board that because of staff error, ballots were never created nor sent on two days last month, the lawsuit says.
4. Georgia's Election Integrity Act, SB 202, significantly changed the absentee voting process
5. The discovery that more than 1,000 Georgia voters were never sent their absentee ballots was made just three days before the midterms in Cobb county, Georgia's third most populous county.

Q 22. 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. Iran has denied for more than two months that it sold the drones to Russia despite their use to target power stations and civilian infrastructure, but at the weekend said it had supplied a small number of drones before the war started, an explanation that has been rejected by the US and Ukraine.
2. The row over the drones reflects a wider foreign policy debate in Tehran about the risks of developing close links with Moscow.
3. The scorer of Iran's decisive goal in the final of the Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup against Brazil symbolically cut his hair after his shot went into the net in an apparent show of solidarity with the female demonstrators.
4. A former Iranian ambassador to Moscow has also hinted the foreign ministry may have been kept in the dark both by the Kremlin and the Iranian military.
5. An internal rift over the supply of deadly drones to Russia for use in Ukraine has opened up in Iran, with a prominent conservative cleric and newspaper editor saying Russia is the clear aggressor in the war and the supply should stop.

Q 23. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer:

1. According to Liston, in recent years, aided by advances in brain-imaging techniques, researchers have shifted to a more nuanced view, identifying a variety of changes in the brain that can create diverse symptoms.
2. The brain can be thought of as a collection of circuits, linked by neurons, which use electrical signals mediated by neurotransmitters to communicate, Liston says.
3. Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) can reveal how these circuits work differently in people with depression, creating the variety of symptoms.
4. The hope is that such techniques will identify biological causes or 'biotypes' of depression, helping doctors categorize patients and identify who will respond best to which treatment mode, targeting therapies accordingly, and maybe even developing new types of treatment.

Q 24. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4) below, when properly sequenced would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer:

1. Atheistic traditions have played a significant part in Asian cultures for millennia.
 2. To many, atheism—the lack of belief in a personal god or gods—may appear an entirely modern concept.
 3. As a scholar of Asian religions, however, I'm often struck by the prevalence of atheism and agnosticism—the view that it is impossible to know whether a god exists—in ancient Asian texts.
 4. After all, it would seem that it is religious traditions that have dominated the world since the beginning of recorded history.
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