



PS and PC workshop 17 Aug

Special class

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PS



illusion

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

The modern obsession with 'getting things done' has a curious, self-defeating quality. The more efficient we become at processing our tasks – answering emails, clearing to-do lists, managing workflows – the more tasks we seem to accumulate. This phenomenon, sometimes called the 'efficiency paradox', occurs because our efficiency doesn't reduce the total amount of incoming work; it often just increases the pace at which we are expected to handle it. Clearing your inbox faster doesn't mean you'll have an empty inbox; it signals to others that you are available for more emails. As such, the pursuit of total control over our workload through productivity techniques is a mirage. It promises a future state of calm and completion that it can never deliver, as the system is designed to replenish itself endlessly.

to fill again

☒ A. As individuals become more efficient at handling their tasks, they often find that the pace and volume of new work they are expected to handle increases.

☐ B. The pursuit of personal productivity is paradoxical because increased efficiency tends to generate a greater workload, leading to unattained goals.

☒ C. The feeling of being overwhelmed at work is a result of choosing productivity techniques that are incapable of reducing the total amount of incoming tasks.

out of scope

☒ D. The structure of modern work ensures that an individual's workload is endlessly self-replenishing, creating a constant and unmanageable pressure to finish tasks.

~~eff~~ ~~part~~

→

w ↑ ↑
pace

more w ↑ ↑

→ control X
misage ✓

Paragraph Summary

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

Judging and morally condemning others is the favourite revenge of the intellectually shallow against those who surpass them: it also compensates for their meagre natural endowment and, finally, offers them a chance to acquire a semblance of refinement—malice spiritualises. Deep down, they rejoice that a standard exists by which those richly endowed with intellectual gifts and privileges are made their equals. Hence, they champion the “equality of all before God” and almost need belief in God to sustain it. Among such people are found the most zealous opponents of atheism.

- ☒ A. The intellectually shallow weaponise moral judgment to mask envy and pretend refinement, believing divine equality levels those more gifted.
- ☒ B. Intellectually shallow critics lacking faith wield moral judgment to hide envy, seek refinement, and claim natural equality.
- ☒ C. The less-gifted weaponise morality against the gifted, upholding divine equality and fervently opposing atheism out of envy.
- ☒ D. The intellectually shallow weaponize moral judgment to offset envy, feign refinement, and uphold divine equality, thus fervently opposing atheism.

envy → judge others
std → ∴ they supp "eq. . . ." → app^s of atheism

to appear refined

Paragraph Summary

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

Nostalgia is not simply an individual sickness but a social and political force. What begins as a personal longing for a lost past is often transformed into a collective yearning. Political entrepreneurs then harness this sentiment, crafting narratives of a glorious past that has been corrupted by unwelcome changes, whether immigration, secularism or globalisation. This political nostalgia does not seek a true return to the past, which is impossible, but rather uses the idea of the past as a powerful tool to legitimise a present day agenda. It simplifies complex histories into a struggle between a pristine 'us' and a corrupting 'them', thereby mobilising support for policies that promise to restore this imagined purity.

- ☒ A. Political movements exploit people's longing for the past by creating divisive narratives that blame specific changes for corrupting a superior historical era.
- ☐ B. Political nostalgia functions by converting personal sentiment into a collective force, which is then employed to advance contemporary objectives through an idealised narrative of the past.
- ☒ C. The primary aim of political nostalgia is to address collective social anxieties by mobilising support for policies that attempt to restore the perceived purities of a nation's history.
- ☒ D. Nostalgia evolves from an individual emotion into a shared social phenomenon, which political entrepreneurs then harness to build support for their platforms.

nostalgia defⁿ → (personal → collective) → exploited →
use past → for agenda → "us" vs "them" → super politics

Paragraph Summary

sys that follows merit basis

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

Intellectual life has been commodified. Students and workers are caught in the same system that wants us to live lives of total work. But my argument is that our system doesn't even turn out ideal capitalists: Large numbers of new employees have to leave their firms because companies don't know what to look for in applicants. They select for the qualities that the meritocracy can quantify but those aren't the qualities that matter. Intelligence is overrated, and temperament and desire are underrated.

A. Companies are making hiring errors because they overvalue intelligence while underestimating the significance of an applicant's temperament and desire.

usual attitude
commodification meritocracy

B. The failure of the modern workplace lies in its inability to quantify crucial employee attributes like temperament, forcing a reliance on less indicative metrics.

!! overvalues inte

C. A culture of "total work" has commodified intellectual life because of companies favouring intelligence, resulting in employees who may lack the temperament and desire to succeed in their roles.

ooc

D. The modern work system's emphasis on quantifiable merit over essential personal traits like temperament leads to flawed professional selection.

intel life commodified → lack of proper search approach
→ value inte → under value - temple, desire

Paragraph Summary

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

That which causes philosophers to be regarded half-distrustfully and half-mockingly is not the oft-repeated discovery of how innocent they are—how often and easily they make mistakes and lose their way, in short, how childish and childlike they are—but rather that there is not enough honest dealing among them. Yet they all raise a loud and virtuous outcry when the problem of truthfulness is even hinted at in the remotest manner. They pose as though their real opinions had been discovered and attained through the self-evolving of a cold, pure, divinely indifferent dialectic in contrast to the mystics, who, fairer and foolisher, speak of “inspiration”, whereas, in fact, a prejudiced proposition, idea, or “suggestion”—generally their heart’s desire abstracted and refined—is defended by them with arguments sought out after the fact.

- ☒ A. Philosophers inspire distrust because, beneath childish mistakes, they dishonestly cloak cherished prejudices as cold, objective dialectic.
- ☒ B. Philosophers provoke distrust primarily for their childish blunders, which merely expose cherished prejudices they falsely label as reasoned logic.
- ☒ C. Humbly denying bias, philosophers conceal their heartfelt prejudices behind detached dialectic, in contrast to mystics who openly credit inspiration.
- ☒ D. Both philosophers and mystics incite distrust by hiding personal prejudices beneath lofty reasoning, each pretending their convictions arise from pure objectivity.

contrary

wrong attribute

contrary

hide

philosophers

dialectic → a kind of logical
approach which
philosophers use
to come to
conclⁿ about
their arguments

Paragraph Summary - Answer Key

1. Option B
2. Option D
3. Option B
4. Option D
5. Option A

Q 1. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide in which blank (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: In all such cases, we shall find some kind of affirmation or negation, which is the reason for that denomination.

Paragraph: 1 Though truth and falsehood, in propriety of speech, belong only to propositions, ideas are often termed true or false; for what words are there that are not used with great latitude and with some deviation from their strict and proper significations? 2 I think that when ideas themselves are termed true or false, there is still some secret or tacit proposition which is the foundation of that denomination, as we shall see if we examine the particular occasions on which they come to be called true or false. 3 For our ideas, being nothing but bare appearances or perceptions in our minds, cannot properly and simply, in themselves, be said to be true or false, any more than a single name of anything can be said to be true or false. 4

[1] ~~Option 1~~

[2]

~~Option 2~~ [3]

Option 3 [4]

~~Option 4~~

(ive)

→ naming or classification
→ correctness

→ implied without directly stating

15x

Q 2. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide in which blank (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: This is especially noticeable in a country like the United States, where, in spite of democracy, most men have a sense of almost complete impotence in regard to all large issues.

lack of power

Paragraph: Apart from war, the modern great State is harmful from its vastness and the resulting sense of individual helplessness. __1__ The citizen who is out of sympathy with the aims of the State, unless he is a man of very rare gifts, cannot hope to persuade the State to adopt purposes which seem to him better. __2__

Even in a democracy, all questions except a very few are decided by a small number of officials and eminent men; and even the few questions which are left to the popular vote are decided by a diffused mass-psychology, not by individual initiative. __3__ In so vast a country, the popular will is like one of the forces of Nature, and seems nearly as much outside the control of any one man. __4__

famous spread

[1] Option 1

[2]

Option 2 [3]

Option 3 [4]

Option 4

Q 3. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide in which blank (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: It is not essential to socialism that all men should have the same income, but it is essential that inequalities should be justified, in each case, by inequality of need or of service performed.

Paragraph: __1__ Socialism, which is the most widely advocated scheme of reconstruction, aims chiefly at justice: the present inequalities of wealth are unjust, and socialism would abolish them. __2__ There can be no disputing that the present system is grossly unjust, and that almost all that is unjust in it is harmful. __3__ But I do not think justice alone is a sufficient principle upon which to base an economic reconstruction. __4__ Justice would be secured if all were equally unhappy, as well as if all were equally happy. Justice, by itself, when once realized, contains no source of new life.

Q 4. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide in which blank (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: This is one of many ways in which the competitive organization of the State is harmful.

Paragraph: Ruthlessness in the economic struggle will almost unavoidably be taught in schools so long as the economic structure of society remains unchanged. __1__ This must be particularly the case in middle-class schools, which depend for their numbers upon the good opinion of parents, and secure the good opinion of parents by advertising the successes of pupils. __2__ Spontaneous and disinterested desire for knowledge is not at all uncommon in the young, and might be easily aroused in many in whom it remains latent. __3__ But it is remorselessly checked by teachers who think only of examinations, diplomas, and degrees. __4__

[1] Option 1

[2]

Option 2 [3]

Option 3 [4]

Option 4

Q 5. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide in which blank (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: Teasing them apart has been the real challenge to evolutionary biologists.

Paragraph: Over the years, biologists have suggested two main pathways by which sexual selection may have shaped the evolution of male birdsong. __1__ In the first, male competition and intrasexual selection produce relatively short, simple songs used mainly in territorial behavior. __2__ In the second, female choice and intersexual selection produce longer, more complicated songs used mainly in mate attraction; like such visual ornamentation as the peacock's tail, elaborate vocal characteristics increase the male's chances of being chosen as a mate, and he thus enjoys more reproductive success than his less ostentatious rivals. __3__ The two pathways are not mutually exclusive, and we can expect to find examples that reflect their interaction. __4__

[1] Option 1

[2]

Option 2 [3]

Option 3 [4]

Option 4

1. Option - 3
2. Option - 3
3. Option - 2
4. Option - 2
5. Option - 4