

MBA

MBA Fastrack 2025

Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension

DPP: 5

RC- Retirement and Specific purpose questions

Direction (1 - 4) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

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When Akiyama recommended forest bathing all those years ago, he knew about the pioneering studies of phytoncides – basically, pungent essential oils – conducted by the Soviet scientist Boris P Tokin in the 1920s and '30s. The oils, volatile compounds exuded by conifers and some other plants, reduce blood pressure and boost immune function, among other benefits.

In recent years, a host of other mechanisms have come to light – in fact, there are up to 21 possible pathways to improved health, according to a review paper in *Frontiers in Psychology* from scientists at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Among the elements that have been identified, of particular note are bright lights and negative air ions (oxygen atoms charged with an extra electron), known to ease depression; simple views of nature, which enhance autonomic control of heart rate and blood pressure; and even the sounds of nature, which help us to recover from heightened stress.

Much of the scientific evidence of nature's benefits has been derived from studying shinrin-yoku subjects. 'Outside of urban nature, most of the peer-reviewed science has been done on northern temperate forests,' says Kathleen Wolf of the University of

Washington College of the Environment. 'We know from the research that people respond very favourably to water, for instance, whether a fountain in a healing garden or a river or shoreline environment. We know less about response to tropical environments or desert environments. And we do know that we don't need endemic nature – ornamental nature or designed nature or even engineered nature can be effective.'

What drives our search for nature immersion? Susan Karle, a California-based certified forest therapy guide and long-time licensed marriage and family therapist, says: 'Nature was important to me growing up, and I returned to it because of the seriousness of the issues in my work with victims of trauma and abuse.' She found that simple daily sits under a giant live oak in her yard helped to sustain her. 'A few years ago, I took my first guided nature walk and found it so powerful that two weeks later I signed up for the five-day training to be a certified forest therapy guide in shinrin-yoku-style walks.'

The essence of prescriptive medicine, with specific dosages and intervals between consumption, downplays nature's key role in our lives during our evolutionary history. Some call shinrin-yoku a fitness trend, a movement to counter our modern obsessions with technology, a timeout in which we put away our devices and take the good old 'nature cure'. That sense of nature as outside of us


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prevails mostly in the West; Eastern-based mindfulness practices and meditative traditions align more closely with human oneness with nature.

There's an evolutionary component to that oneness. 'Not only were we part of nature as we evolved,' Wolf says, 'but we were dependent on it. We had to rely on our senses, our intuition, and our responses in order to find food, water, shelter – the absolutely important things. We hunted or grew our food; we carried it back to the tribe.'

We've evolved a microbiology on our skin and in our gut – our microbiome – important to health and wellness, including even mental function. 'The research is starting to suggest that children who do not experience sufficient amounts of nature at an early age do not develop proper immune functions to protect them as they get older,' Wolf says. 'To be in nature is to ingest those things that set up a healthy, thriving microbiome. And because of the sterility of some of our cities, with no parks and no trees, without that inoculation of nature, children are set back.'

Q1 Which of the following options, if true, will strengthen the main argument of the passage?

- (A) A recent survey found that people who regularly practice mindfulness and meditation report similar health benefits as those who spend time in nature.
- (B) A long-term study reveals that even brief interactions with nature, such as spending just 10 minutes daily in a park, can lead to significant improvements in cardiovascular health and mental well-being.
- (C) Research conducted on diverse populations across different

continents suggests that natural environments, regardless of their specific characteristics, consistently contribute to lower stress levels and better immune function.

- (D) A comprehensive analysis indicates that individuals who actively seek out and engage in nature-based activities, even in controlled or artificial settings, exhibit a marked decrease in anxiety and depression over time.

Q2 "There's an evolutionary component....", What is the purpose of the author behind using this line?

- (A) To explain that our current detachment from nature is a recent development in human history.
- (B) To highlight that the need for nature is deeply ingrained in human biology and has been essential for survival.
- (C) To assert that human reliance on nature is not just a cultural or spiritual matter but deeply rooted in our evolutionary history.
- (D) To highlight the biological basis of human connection to nature, emphasizing that it is an intrinsic part of human evolution and crucial for our survival and development.

Q3 The author is least likely to agree with none of the following inferences, except?

- (A) The evolutionary connection between humans and nature suggests that immersion in natural environments is essential for both physical and mental well-being.
- (B) The benefits of nature are limited to certain environments, such as northern temperate forests, and may not apply as effectively to tropical or desert regions.



- (C) Modern prescriptive medicine tends to overlook the role of nature in maintaining human health, focusing instead on controlled, artificial treatments.
- (D) The rise of technology and urban living has created a disconnect between humans and nature, which has led to a resurgence of practices like shinrin-yoku to restore that connection.

Q4 Which of the following titles best suits the passage?

- (A) The Evolutionary Roots of Human-Nature Connection
- (B) "Shinrin-Yoku: A Modern Fitness Trend or Ancient Healing Practice?"
- (C) "Exploring Nature's Role in Urban and Rural Settings: A Comprehensive Analysis"
- (D) "The Impact of Phytoncides and Other Natural Elements on Human Well-being"

Direction (5 - 8) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

I will paraphrase Wells's intricate argument (the only one I've ever read that references both receptor pathways for leptin and data on the size of the Indian economy in the 18th century). It is a saga spanning many generations. Let's start with a poor farmer growing food crops in a poor country in Africa or Asia. In a capitalistic quest for new markets and cheap materials and labour, Europeans take control of the economy in the late 18th or early 19th century. With taxes, fees and sometimes violent repression, their new system strongly 'encourages' the farmer and his neighbours to stop growing their own food and start cultivating some more marketable commodity instead – coffee for export, perhaps. Now that they aren't growing food,

the farmers must buy it. But since everyone is out to maximise profit, those who purchase the coffee crop strive to pay as little as possible, and so the farmers go hungry. Years later, when the farmer's children go to work in factories, they confront the same logic: they too are paid as little as possible for their labour. By changing the farming system, capitalism first removes traditional protections against starvation, and then pushes many previously self-sufficient people into an economic niche where they aren't paid enough to eat well.

Eighty years later, the farmer's descendants have risen out of the ranks of the poor and joined the fast-growing ranks of the world's 21st-century middle-class consumers, thanks to globalisation and outsourcing. Capitalism welcomes them: these descendants are now prime targets to live the obesogenic life (the chemicals, the stress, the air conditioning, the elevators-instead-of-stairs) and to buy the kinds of foods and beverages that are 'metabolic disturbers'.

But that's not the worst of it. As I've mentioned, the human body's response to its nutrition can last a lifetime, and even be passed on to the next generation. If you or your parents – or their parents – were undernourished, you're more likely to become obese in a food-rich environment. Moreover, obese people, when they have children, pass on changes in metabolism that can predispose the next generation to obesity as well. Like the children of underfed people, the children of the overfed have their metabolism set in ways that tend to promote obesity. This means that a past of undernutrition, combined with a present of overnutrition, is an obesity trap. Wells memorably calls this double-bind the 'metabolic ghetto', and you can't escape it just by turning poor people into middle-class consumers: that turn to prosperity is precisely



what triggers the trap. 'Obesity,' he writes, 'like undernutrition, is thus fundamentally a state of malnutrition, in each case promoted by powerful profit-led manipulations of the global supply and quality of food.'

The trap is deeper than that, however. The 'unifying logic of capitalism', Wells continues, requires that food companies seek immediate profit and long-term success, and their optimal strategy for that involves encouraging people to choose foods that are most profitable to produce and sell — 'both at the behavioural level, through advertising, price manipulations and restriction of choice, and at the physiological level through the enhancement of addictive properties of foods' (by which he means those sugars and fats that make 'metabolic disturber' foods so habit-forming). In short, Wells told me via email, 'We need to understand that we have not yet grasped how to address this situation, but we are increasingly understanding that attributing obesity to personal responsibility is very simplistic.' Rather than harping on personal responsibility so much, Wells believes, we should be looking at the global economic system, seeking to reform it so that it promotes access to nutritious food for everyone. That is, admittedly, a tall order. But the argument is worth considering, if only as a bracing critique of our individual-responsibility ideology of fatness.

Q5 What can be inferred about the author's view on the "fast-growing ranks of the world's 21st-century middle-class consumers"?

- (A) They represent a complex demographic, with their food choices being influenced by a confluence of factors, including economic pressures and cultural shifts.
- (B) Their increased purchasing power and changing lifestyles have created a

global market ripe for exploitation by food companies promoting processed and unhealthy products.

- (C) Their growing desire for convenience coupled with the increasing availability of inexpensive, processed foods, presents a significant challenge to promoting healthier eating habits.
- (D) Their aspirations for a higher standard of living are often intertwined with a desire for food choices that reflect a sense of modernity and social status, potentially leading to unhealthy dietary choices.

Q6 None of the following statements accurately substantiates Wells's argument that attributing obesity to personal responsibility is overly simplistic, EXCEPT?

- (A) While individual choices play a role, attributing obesity solely to personal responsibility overlooks the complex interplay of factors, such as socioeconomic conditions, access to healthy food options, price manipulation and the influence of food marketing in determining a person's health and dietary habits.
- (B) The global food system, driven by profit motives and prioritizing affordability over nutritional value, creates an environment where healthy choices are often more difficult and expensive for many individuals.
- (C) While personal responsibility is essential, attributing obesity solely to individual choices ignores the systemic factors that contribute to unhealthy dietary patterns, such as the lack of affordable and nutritious food options in low-income communities.
- (D) Attributing obesity solely to individual choices disregards the powerful role that advertising and marketing play in



shaping consumer preferences and behaviours, often promoting unhealthy products and making them more appealing.

Q7 According to the passage, none of the following can be construed about the "metabolic ghetto", EXCEPT?

- (A) A physical space where people living in poverty are trapped.
- (B) A social condition characterized by limited access to nutritious food.
- (C) A cycle of undernutrition followed by overnutrition, leading to obesity.
- (D) A state of malnutrition caused by influence of social factors and a lack of personal responsibility.

Q8 The passage suggests that the "unifying logic of capitalism" leads to a "profit-led manipulations of the global supply and quality of food."

What are the implications of this statement for addressing the obesity crisis?

- (A) It highlights the need for a multi-pronged approach, encompassing regulatory reforms, public education, and shifts in consumer behaviour to address the systemic forces driving unhealthy food choices.
- (B) It implies that addressing the underlying economic incentives and motives driving the production and marketing of unhealthy food is crucial for achieving long-term solutions.
- (C) It suggests that fostering greater transparency in the food industry, including clear labeling and information about food production processes, is essential for empowering consumers to make informed choices.
- (D) It points to the need for a total re-evaluation of the current food system,

potentially involving alternative models that prioritize sustainability over profit maximization.

Direction (9 - 12) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

Dardistan is one of the most diverse linguistic regions in the world. In the 1930s, the Norwegian linguist Georg Morgenstierne called it one of the most polyglot parts of Asia. More recently, the Italian anthropologist Augusto Cacopardo has called it 'Peristan', an area with an 'enormous diversity of tongues and cultures'. The region has the large Dardic languages such as Kashmiri, Shina and Khowar on the one hand and, on the other, it is home to the Burushaski language, which could not be placed within any language family because of its unique features.

Dardistan's enormous linguistic diversity occurs despite the fact that, culturally, the area is fairly homogeneous. Cacopardo says there is no match for this region in terms of linguistic and cultural diversity, except the Caucasus. Though, of course, minor differences exist, the same religious rituals and religious pantheon prevailed among the polyglot peoples of Dardistan.

The many languages spoken here, though mostly belonging to the Indo-European family, still more narrowly to the Dardic sub-family within the Indo-Aryan group, are so different from each other that the people of one linguistic community have to rely on a third language, Pashto or Urdu, to communicate with members of another community. For instance, the people belonging to the Torwali and Gawri communities of the upper Swat valley in Pakistan need Pashto to converse with each other. This is despite the fact that the Torwali and Gawri languages are 'sister languages' and seem to have evolved from one



single language a few centuries ago when Swat was taken over by the Yousafzai Pathans in the 16th century.

..In his paper 'India as a Linguistic Area' (1956), the linguist M B Emeneau uses the phrase 'linguistic area' as a technical term to mean an area that includes languages of more than one family sharing some common traits with one another, but not all the linguistic features are alike among the language families. More recently, the Swedish linguist Henrik Liljegren has spent the past two decades conducting research on the languages of the northwestern fringe of the Indian subcontinent. His comparative study 'The Hindu Kush–Karakorum and Linguistic Areality' (2020) offers one definition of 'linguistic area' as 'a geographical area with well-defined and neat boundaries within which all or most of the languages, regardless of phylogenetic identity, share a significant number of unique features that have arisen as the result of contact'.

At the same time, Liljegren suggests that this part of the world is not a 'linguistic area' in that conventional meaning. Instead, he argues that the Hindu Kush–Karakorum (HK) – also known as Dardistan – is a 'linguistic area' in the sense that it is a 'convergence zone with a core that shares certain linguistic features' as a result of a prolonged period of contact with other subareas whose languages do not share all the features of HK yet display some other 'micro-areal convergence'.

Writing a century earlier, Morgenstierne was correct to claim that the region is among the most linguistically diverse in the world. Presently, about 50 languages are spoken here. Despite the Islamisation ongoing since the 16th century, the region has maintained

this linguistic diversity but it is under grave threat. Dardistan is at the crossroads of South Asia and Central Asia. It is mountainous and makes for very hard travelling. Its mountain valleys remained isolated, beyond the reach of the invaders during the Islamisation, political domestication by Asian nation-states or colonisation by Europe. It is perhaps thanks to Dardistan's mountainous geography that we still find such a rich array of languages from different linguistic phyla here.

Q9 The author is least likely to agree with which of the following inferences?

- (A) The cultural homogeneity of Dardistan is prevalent despite its linguistic diversity
- (B) The geographic isolation of Dardistan has contributed to the preservation of its linguistic diversity despite external influences.
- (C) Dardistan's linguistic diversity is at risk due to ongoing external influences and political changes.
- (D) Dardistan qualifies as a conventional "linguistic area" as defined by M B Emeneau, due to the shared linguistic features among its languages.

Q10 "At the same time, Liljegren suggests that this part of the world" What is the purpose of the author for mentioning this sentence in the passage?

- (A) To introduce a contrasting viewpoint to a traditional concept as defined by linguist M B Emeneau.
- (B) To highlight the complexity of linguistic classification in the Dardistan region, suggesting that conventional linguistic theories may not fully apply.
- (C) To support the argument that Dardistan's linguistic diversity is



unique and cannot be easily categorised using existing linguistic frameworks.

- (D) To question the validity of Dardistan's classification as a linguistic area and suggest that further research is needed to fully understand its linguistic landscape.

Q11 None of the following, if true, would strengthen the arguments of the passage, except?

- (A) Recent linguistic studies have found that the languages spoken in Dardistan share more common features than previously thought, further supporting the idea of a "convergence zone."
- (B) A new archaeological discovery in the Dardistan region reveals evidence of ancient trade routes that facilitated the exchange of linguistic features among different language groups.
- (C) Genetic studies have shown that the people of Dardistan have remained isolated from neighbouring regions for millennia, suggesting that the linguistic diversity is a result of limited external influence.
- (D) Government initiatives have been introduced to document and preserve the languages of Dardistan, highlighting the importance of protecting the region's linguistic diversity.

Q12 Which of the following sets of keywords best reflects the contents of the passage?

- (A) Linguistic Area, Burushaski, Cultural Homogeneity, South Asia, Indo-Aryan, Trade Routes, Colonisation, Phylogenetic Identity

- (B) Linguistic Diversity, Dardistan, Convergence Zone, Indo-European, Phylogenetic Identity, Kashmiri, Islamisation, Mountainous Geography

- (C) Linguistic Diversity, Hindu Kush, Kashmiri, Convergence, Language Families, Isolated Valleys, Dardic Languages,

- (D) Dardistan, Morgenstierne, Linguistic Features, Cultural Diversity, Central Asia, Linguistic Area, Comparative Study, European Colonisation

Direction (13 - 16) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.

Read the given passages carefully and answer the questions given below each passage.

...The land that emerged was profoundly inhospitable and remote, explaining why even neighbouring communities who may have known of the region long before Palmer – such as Māori and other seafaring Polynesian peoples – did not settle there. Since Palmer's sighting, the last continent to enter human history has passed through many phases: from a remote hunting ground for sealers and whalers who nearly drove some species to extinction, to a 'frozen hell' for successive waves of explorers eager to discover and conquer it, to the largest open-air science laboratory in the world, and to arguably the most protected environment on Earth, thanks to stringent international regulations. But, in our age, Antarctica has entered a new phase: it has become a paradox.

This paradox appears as Antarctica turns into one of the most threatened places on Earth. As warming events become longer and more frequent, ice-free surfaces (which cover only 0.4 per cent of the continent) are expected to dramatically increase. Though the



disappearance of ice would cause some native plants to bloom, it would also lead to the spread of non-native species and the decline and possible extinction of native animals, such as the emperor and chinstrap penguins. Changes to the Antarctic also pose an existential threat to millions of humans living further north: if the West Antarctica Ice Sheet were to collapse, the global sea-level is estimated to rise between 3.3 and 6 metres – catastrophic for the millions of inhabitants living on low-lying coastal regions or islands.

Most threatened but also most protected, Antarctica is safeguarded by one of the most rigorous environmental protection regimes in the world. And yet, no restrictions on actions in Antarctica – whether on tourist numbers, the introduction of dogs and other animals, the dumping of waste, or mining operations – can prevent the changes wrought by anthropogenic climate change. This highlights a paradox in environmental governance that becomes prominent in our age: it is not enough to protect a place by protecting that place only. What we call the 'paradox of protection' happens when the means of protection don't match the ecosystem dynamics. Such is the case in Antarctica.

Antarctica is often described as the coldest, driest, highest and windiest continent on Earth, but its purported exceptionalism is not limited to geography and climate. It is also a political exception, based on a belief that the values and structures that underpin its governance are unique. The Antarctic Treaty, signed in December 1959, is considered the founding document of this one-of-a-kind international arrangement. The 12 countries that initially signed came with diverse intentions: Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom

had claimed different slices of the continent during the first half of the 20th century; the United States and the Soviet Union rejected the validity of any existing territorial claims while reserving the right to make their own claims in the future; and Belgium, South Africa and Japan, with the other nine states, had taken part in the International Geophysical Year (IGY), an 18-month scientific project that ran in the continent from 1957-58.

Signed at a time of Cold War tensions, the Treaty reflected the political zeitgeist as much as it bucked it, and it set the stage for a specific understanding of Antarctica based on three pillars: the maintenance of peace, the agreement to 'freeze' territorial claims, and the emphasis on scientific collaboration as an important activity to be carried out in the continent.

For some, this last pillar shows how significant the IGY was – not only for establishing Antarctica as essential to understanding global environmental processes, but also to an understanding of the continent as a vast laboratory where science became the privileged activity. Research conducted under the IGY banner could be carried out anywhere in Antarctica with no legal consequences for the sovereignty claims of any state, decoupling science from sovereignty in a strict legal sense. This made it clear that Antarctica was a place for research rather than a property to be claimed....

Q13 What does the author mean when she says, "But, in our age, Antarctica has entered a new phase: it has become a paradox."?

(A) Antarctica is now simultaneously the most protected and the most threatened place on Earth,



highlighting the contradictions in its environmental governance.

- (B) The increasing scientific activities and environmental protection measures in Antarctica are paradoxically accelerating its ecological degradation.
- (C) Despite rigorous international treaties, the geopolitical interests in Antarctica are creating a situation where protection efforts and exploitation coexist uneasily.
- (D) The environmental protection measures in place for Antarctica are so extreme that they are paradoxically leading to unintended negative consequences, such as disrupting native species' natural adaptations.

Q14 Which of the following options best describes Antarctica's 'purported exceptionalism'?

- (A) Antarctica's unique combination of extreme environmental conditions and its status as a politically neutral territory governed by an international treaty
- (B) Antarctica's reputation as the only continent where human habitation is entirely absent, making it an untouched natural reserve.
- (C) Antarctica's position as the only place on Earth where environmental protection laws have completely halted industrial exploitation and tourism activities.
- (D) Antarctica's distinction as the coldest, driest, and highest continent, coupled with its role as a scientific hub with unmatched geopolitical significance.

Q15 All of the following options, if true, would strengthen the arguments of the passage, except:

- (A) New studies confirm that non-native species introduced to Antarctica have rapidly outcompeted native species, leading to a significant decline in biodiversity across the continent.
- (B) Data from recent expeditions reveal that melting glaciers in Antarctica are contributing to a previously underestimated rise in global sea levels, which could reach catastrophic levels sooner than expected.
- (C) Satellite imagery has uncovered widespread, previously undetected melting beneath the Antarctic Ice Sheet, suggesting that the continent's ice loss is more severe and less reversible than current models predict.
- (D) A new international treaty has been proposed that aims to strengthen global efforts to mitigate climate change, with specific provisions addressing the protection of Antarctica's ecosystem.

Q16 Determine the most suitable title for the given passage.

- (A) Antarctica: The World's Last Untouched Frontier
- (B) The Antarctic Paradox: Protection Amidst Growing Threats
- (C) From Frozen Hell to Scientific Haven: The Evolution of Antarctica
- (D) The Antarctic Treaty: Cold War Diplomacy and Environmental Challenges

Direction (17 - 20) Read the following passage and answer the given questions.



Read the given passages carefully and answer the questions given below each passage.

One unique aspect about conscious experience concerns the way that it is known. How do you know that a friend is undergoing emotional distress? By seeing the expressions on their face or listening to what they tell you. How do you know that you yourself are undergoing emotional distress? Here, you don't need to rely on any external cues. You have a kind of direct access to your own conscious states that you don't have to your friend's conscious states. Your own conscious states are available to you by way of *introspection* – what we might metaphorically think of as a kind of 'looking within'. The fact that we each have introspective access only to our own conscious states is intimately connected to a deep fact about the nature of consciousness: it is private. This privacy is a matter of principle, not of practice. That is, the privacy of conscious experience doesn't come down to a matter of personal choice. Rather, it is baked into the very essence of what consciousness is. When you're sitting around a campfire with your friends, there's a sense in which your experience is shared with all of them – after all, you're seeing the same flames and hearing the same crackling logs. But there's another sense in which your conscious experience is not shared with anyone; it belongs only to you. When a friend tries to empathise with you, they might say: 'I feel your pain.' Of course, this shouldn't be taken literally. An individual cannot literally feel a pain that isn't theirs. Or can they? We might put pressure on this idea by considering the case of Krista and Tatiana Hogan, the Canadian craniopagus twins who are fused at the skull. In everyday interactions, the Hogan girls reveal an incredible amount of mental

interconnectedness. In fact, at times, Krista and Tatiana appear to be sharing their sensory experiences with one another. When they were babies, putting a pacifier in one twin's mouth could stop the other twin from crying, and one twin would show signs of feeling pain when the other was pricked by a needle for a blood draw. This connection has not seemed to lessen as they've grown. If their mother holds an object in front of one twin's eyes while the other's eyes are closed, the second twin can then report various facts about the object: what kind of toy animal it is, what its colour is, and so on. If one twin is touched on the leg or arm or face while the other twin's eyes are closed, the twin with closed eyes can report where her sister was being touched. This fascinating case raises broader questions about whether technology may one day allow for some kind of mind meld along the lines envisioned in the TV show *Star Trek* or for some other way for consciousness to be merged across different individuals. But, speculations about future technology aside, it remains true that as a general matter our conscious experiences are private to us.

Q17 All of the following options, if true, would abate the central argument of the passage, except?

- (A) Research shows that individuals who meditate regularly can introspect more accurately than those who don't, suggesting that conscious experience is subjective.
- (B) A new study demonstrates that twins separated at birth can sense each other's emotional states, indicating that consciousness can be shared across individuals.
- (C) Scientists discover a brain implant that allows two people to consciously share thoughts, thus challenging the idea of private consciousness.



(D) Experiments reveal that while people can describe their emotions accurately, they still rely on external cues for validation, showing the reliance on observable behavior.

Q18 Which of the following can be a valid inference drawn from the passage?

- (A) Conscious experiences can sometimes be directly shared between individuals in unique cases.
- (B) The introspective nature of consciousness makes it possible to empathize fully with others' emotional states.
- (C) Consciousness is fundamentally private, though some rare exceptions like the Hogan twins challenge this idea.
- (D) Technology will eventually allow us to fully merge consciousness across individuals.

Q19 Which of the following set of key words in order of importance accurately summarizes what the passage is about?

- (A) Consciousness, privacy, personal choice, external cues, empathy, twins, technology
- (B) Consciousness, external cues, mind-meld, technology, introspection, empathy, privacy
- (C) Sensory experiences, conscious states, technology, introspection, privacy, twins
- (D) Empathy, sensory experiences, introspection, pain, conscious states, interaction.

Q20 "That is, the privacy of conscious experience doesn't come down to a matter of personal choice." The purpose of the given statement is to highlight:

- (A) That conscious experiences are not always private but can be partially shared or understood through external cues.
- (B) That the privacy of conscious experience is inherent and cannot be altered, even by intentional effort or sharing.
- (C) The fundamental distinction between voluntary disclosure of thoughts and the involuntary privacy of conscious states.
- (D) How conscious experiences may be private by default but can still be communicated through sophisticated social interactions.

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

...So, what does 'polycrisis' mean? The term reverberated at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh in November 2022, and in Davos the following January, as The New York Times noted. In the Financial Times, Jonathan Derbyshire chose it for his 2022 'Year in a Word' piece, defining 'polycrisis' as a collective term for interlocking and simultaneous crises. Then 2023 opened with the World Economic Forum adopting this buzzword for its Global Risks Report, highlighting how '[c]oncurrent shocks, deeply interconnected risks and eroding resilience are giving rise to the risk of polycrises'. The report explores the interrelation of geopolitical, environmental and sociopolitical risks. The World Economic Forum used the term to advertise the report, with headlines like 'We're on the Brink of a "Polycrisis" – How Worried Should We Be?' or 'Welcome to the Age of the Polycrisis'. A key champion of the word has been the British historian Adam Tooze, professor at Columbia University in New York, whose efforts to proselytise its fruitfulness and to



define it are undoubtedly an important reason for this explosion of usage. Indeed, in October 2022, Tooze launched his monthly Financial Times column with the heading 'Welcome to the World of Polycrisis'.

As Tooze has repeatedly noted, 'polycrisis' did not drop out of the blue. In the discussion paper 'What Is a Global Polycrisis?' (2022) from the Cascade Institute, Scott Janzwood and Thomas Homer-Dixon locate its origins in the book *Homeland Earth: A Manifesto for the New Millennium* (1999) by Edgar Morin and Anne Brigitte Kern. They trace its history of use in studies of sustainable transition and in studies of the European Union. A key moment often pointed out is the 2018 speech by the former president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, but he had already made an attempt at a definition in an earlier speech in 2016, when he explained how various security threats not only coincide with but also feed each other, 'creating a sense of doubt and uncertainty in the minds of our people'.

The term has emerged from relative obscurity to wild popularity, but it is crucial to note that the meanings of the word diverge. There is 'a' polycrisis and 'the' polycrisis. That is, on the one hand, people are trying to find a clear working definition of a polycrisis, to define its key characteristics, in order to forge a research concept with which to examine a diverse range of concatenations of events. With this meaning of the word in mind, there can be multiple polycrises: for example, the combination of the financial and the food-system crises around 2008-09, or the convergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, a hunger crisis and the Russian invasion of Ukraine in more recent years.

On the other hand, 'polycrisis' is understood not as a common noun but as a proper noun, denoting this particular stage of world history.

There is only one polycrisis: this historical epoch, when humanity has created a world interconnected and interdependent to an unprecedented degree, combining vast material wealth with radical inequality and teetering on the threshold of ecological collapse. It is a truly novel phase of history, different from anything in the track record of our species.

This diversity of meanings has prompted some people to question the usefulness of the word. Some have doubted whether it is even a proper concept or more a fancy way of saying that a lot of things are going on. In his article for Vox online earlier this year, the US political journalist Daniel Drezner notes how, to some, it sounds like 'a confusing and redundant neologism' and quotes the historian Niall Ferguson's quip at Davos that it is 'just history happening'. The background assumption seems to be that, in order for a word to be worthy, its meaning must be clear and distinct. But this misses a crucial thing about how words work. They are always wanton, impossible to rein in.

Q21 What is the primary purpose of the author?

- (A) To critique the overuse and lack of clarity surrounding the term 'polycrisis.'
- (B) To explain the origins, meanings, and growing popularity of the term 'polycrisis.'
- (C) To argue that the term 'polycrisis' is redundant and adds little value to discussions of global crises.
- (D) To highlight how historical and geopolitical factors have shaped the concept of 'polycrisis.'

Q22 Which of the following options will the author most likely agree with?



- (A) The term 'polycrisis' is too ambiguous to be useful in understanding global challenges.
- (B) The multiple meanings of 'polycrisis' undermine its validity as a conceptual tool for research.
- (C) The popularity of the term 'polycrisis' reflects its relevance in addressing interconnected global risks.
- (D) The rise of the term 'polycrisis' is a result of exaggerated alarmism in global discourse.

Q23 The last line of the passage serves to highlight:

- (A) The difficulty of maintaining a fixed meaning for terms in an ever-evolving discourse.
- (B) The inevitable failure of language to fully encompass complex historical phenomena.
- (C) The adaptability of language to reflect interconnected and multifaceted ideas.
- (D) The growing skepticism about the practical utility of ambiguous terms in intellectual debates.

Q24 Suggest the most suitable title for the given passage:

- (A) Polycrisis: A Historical Analysis of Global Risks
- (B) The Evolution and Controversy of the Term 'Polycrisis'
- (C) Understanding the Polycrisis: A Concept for Modern Times
- (D) The Role of Language in Defining Historical Epochs

Q25 The example of Jean-Claude Juncker is used in the passage with the purpose of:

- (A) Demonstrating how political leaders have played a significant role in defining the term "polycrisis."

- (B) Highlighting the complexities of geopolitical risks in Europe during his tenure.
- (C) Critiquing the lack of clarity in the definition of "polycrisis" as used by global leaders.
- (D) Illustrating an early attempt to explain interconnected crises and their compounding effects.

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

What does it mean to know mathematics?

Since maths is something we teach using textbooks that demand years of training to decipher, you might think the sine qua non is intelligence – usually 'higher' levels of whatever we imagine that to be. At the very least, you might assume that knowing mathematics requires an ability to work with symbols and signs. But here's a conundrum suggesting that this line of reasoning might not be wholly adequate. Living in tropical coral reefs are species of sea slugs known as nudibranchs, adorned with flanges embodying hyperbolic geometry, an alternative to the Euclidean geometry that we learn about in school, and a form that, over hundreds of years, many great mathematical minds tried to prove impossible. Sea slugs have at least the rudiments of brains; they generally possess a few thousand neurons, whose large size has made these animals a model organism for scientists studying basic neuronal functioning. This tiny number isn't nearly enough to enable the slug to formulate any representation of abstract signs, let alone an ability to mentally manipulate them, and yet, somehow, a nudibranch materialises in the fibres of its very being a form that genius-level human mathematicians didn't discover until the 19th century; and when they did, it nearly drove them mad. In this instance, complex brains were an impediment to understanding.



Nature's love affair with hyperbolic geometry dates to at least the Silurian age, more than 400 million years ago, when sea floors of the early Earth were covered in vast coral reefs. Many species of corals, then and now, also have hyperbolic structures, which we immediately recognise by the frills and crenellations of their forms. Although corals are animals, they have only very simple nervous systems and can't be said to have a brain. A head of coral is actually a colonial organism made up of thousands of individual polyps growing together; collectively, they grow a vascular system, a respiratory system and a crude gastrointestinal system through which all the individuals of the colony eat and breathe and share nutrients. Nothing like a brain exists, and yet the colony can organise itself into a mathematical surface disallowed by Euclid's axiom about parallel lines. Strike two against 'higher intelligence'.

Ask any fifth-grader what the angles of a triangle add up to, and she'll say: '180 degrees'. That isn't true on a hyperbolic surface. Ask our fifth-grader what's the circumference of a circle and she'll say: ' 2π times the radius'. That's also not true on a hyperbolic surface. Most of the geometric rules we're taught in school don't apply to hyperbolic surfaces, which is why mathematicians such as Carl Friedrich Gauss were so disturbed when finally forced to confront the logical validity of these forms, and hence their mathematical existence. So worried was Gauss by what he was discovering about hyperbolic geometry that he didn't publish his research on the subject: 'I fear the howl of the Boetians if I make my work known,' he confided to a friend in 1829. To their universal horror, other mathematicians soon converged on the same conclusion and the genie of non-Euclidean geometry was let loose.

Q26 Which of the following options will the author most likely agree with?

- (A) Understanding mathematics requires a highly developed brain capable of working with abstract symbols.
- (B) Hyperbolic geometry is better understood through human abstraction than through natural observation.
- (C) The natural world demonstrates forms of advanced mathematical principles without the need for higher intelligence.
- (D) Gauss's hesitation to publish his work on hyperbolic geometry highlights how radical these ideas were at the time.

Q27 Which of the following inferences is true according to the passage?

- (A) Sea slugs and coral demonstrate the existence of hyperbolic geometry without possessing the cognitive ability to understand it.
- (B) Carl Friedrich Gauss disproved the existence of hyperbolic geometry but feared backlash from mathematicians.
- (C) Hyperbolic geometry exists solely as a human abstraction, disconnected from the natural world.
- (D) Euclid's axioms remain universally valid across all geometrical surfaces, including hyperbolic ones

Q28 Select the most suitable title for the passage.

- (A) Nature's Mathematical Masterpiece: Hyperbolic Geometry in Coral Reefs and Sea Slugs
- (B) Gauss and the Troubled History of Non-Euclidean Geometry
- (C) The Cognitive Paradox: Intelligence and Mathematical Discovery



(D) Hyperbolic Geometry: A Human Invention or Natural Phenomenon?

Q29 What does the statement, "Nothing like a brain exists, and yet the colony can organise itself into a mathematical surface disallowed by Euclid's axiom about parallel lines," suggest about coral colonies?

- (A) Coral colonies possess a collective intelligence that mimics brain functions.
- (B) Coral colonies can create complex mathematical structures despite lacking a brain.
- (C) Coral colonies actively calculate and construct hyperbolic surfaces.

(D) Coral colonies contradict the principles of Euclidean geometry in their natural forms.

Q30 The example of Gauss is used in the passage with the purpose of:

- (A) Illustrating the challenges mathematicians faced when grappling with the concept of hyperbolic geometry.
- (B) Highlighting the historical rejection of non-Euclidean geometries as flawed.
- (C) Demonstrating how hyperbolic geometry was discovered through experimentation.
- (D) Showing the connection between human intelligence and natural forms.



Answer Key

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

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



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Hints & Solutions

Note: scan the QR code to watch video solution

Q1. Text Solution:

Explanation:

Incorrect Option A: A recent survey found that people who regularly practice mindfulness and meditation report similar health benefits as those who spend time in nature.

- **Explanation:** This option is incorrect because it introduces the idea that mindfulness and meditation, which are practices independent of nature, can provide similar health benefits as spending time in nature. This could undermine the passage's main argument, which emphasizes the unique benefits of nature. If mindfulness and meditation offer the same benefits, it suggests that nature may not be as essential as the passage argues.

Incorrect Option B: A long-term study reveals that even brief interactions with nature, such as spending just 10 minutes daily in a park, can lead to significant improvements in cardiovascular health and mental well-being.

- **Explanation:** This option is incorrect because, while it does highlight the benefits of nature, it focuses specifically on brief interactions. The passage discusses a wide range of benefits derived from more immersive and diverse interactions with nature, not just short encounters. By limiting the scope to brief interactions, this option may weaken the broader argument about the overall importance and depth of nature's benefits.

Incorrect Option D: A comprehensive analysis indicates that individuals who actively seek out and engage in nature-based activities, even in controlled or artificial settings, exhibit a marked decrease in anxiety and depression over time.

- **Explanation:** This option is incorrect because it introduces the idea that controlled or artificial settings can provide the same mental health benefits as natural environments. The passage emphasizes the unique benefits of authentic nature, suggesting that nature's inherent qualities are crucial to its health benefits. By implying that artificial or controlled nature settings can substitute for real nature, this option detracts from the main argument, which stresses the importance of genuine nature interactions.

Correct Option:

Option C: Research conducted on diverse populations across different continents suggests that natural environments, regardless of their specific characteristics, consistently contribute to lower stress levels and better immune function.

- **Explanation:** This option strengthens the main argument by reinforcing the idea that natural environments universally contribute to health benefits, supporting the passage's claim about the essential role of nature in human well-being.

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Q2. Text Solution:

Option A: This option is incorrect because it focuses on the idea of detachment from nature, which is not the main purpose of the author in this line. The author is not primarily discussing the timeline of human detachment from nature but rather the intrinsic, evolutionary connection humans have with it.

Option B: This option is partially correct because it directly addresses the author's intention of emphasizing that the human need for nature is essential for survival. But it fails to highlight overall well-being and evolutionary history. Hence it is not as accurate as Option D.

Option C: This option is partially correct because it directly addresses the author's intention of emphasizing that the human need for nature is essential for survival. But it fails to highlight overall well-being. Hence it is not as accurate as Option D.

Option D (Correct): This option accurately captures the author's intent, emphasizing that the human connection to nature is deeply rooted in our evolutionary history and remains crucial for our well-being, aligning with the overall argument of the passage.

Video Solution:



Q3. Text Solution:

Explanation:

- **Option A (Incorrect):** This inference aligns with the author's argument about the deep evolutionary ties between humans and nature, and how these ties are crucial for overall well-being.
- **Option B (Correct):** This inference is least likely to be agreed upon by the author. The passage suggests that the benefits of nature are not confined to specific environments, as even designed or ornamental nature can be effective. The author emphasizes that nature's benefits are broad and adaptable across various environments.
- **Option C (Incorrect):** The author discusses how prescriptive medicine often downplays the significance of nature, supporting the inference that modern medicine may overlook nature's role in health.
- **Option D (Incorrect):** This inference reflects the author's view that the disconnect created by modern urban living and technology has necessitated a return to nature-based practices like shinrin-yoku to restore balance and connection.

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Q4. Text Solution:

Explanation:

- **Option A (Correct):** This title best captures the passage's central theme, which discusses the evolutionary connection between humans and nature,
- **Option B (Incorrect):** While this title touches on an important aspect of the passage, it is too narrow and focuses solely on shinrin-yoku, missing the broader discussion of the evolutionary and biological connections between humans and nature.
- **Option C (Incorrect):** This title implies a focus on comparing nature's role in urban versus rural settings, which is only a minor aspect of the passage, not its main theme.
- **Option D (Incorrect):** This title focuses primarily on the role of phytoncides and other specific natural elements, which, while mentioned, do not encapsulate the broader

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Q5. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question

The question seeks to discern the author's perspective on the implications of globalization, market dynamics, and economic advancement on dietary habits among middle-class consumers in the 21st century. It probes into whether the author views this demographic as susceptible to certain influences that might affect their food choices and health.

Explanation for the Correct Answer

Option (B): This answer aligns with the author's argument that globalization and economic growth have led to an environment where middle-class consumers, with increased wealth and access to global markets, are targeted by food companies. These companies often promote processed and unhealthy foods, taking advantage of consumer demand for convenience and novelty. The author argues that this phenomenon contributes to the rise in obesity and related health issues, suggesting a link between economic prosperity and health challenges due to dietary changes.

Explanations for Incorrect Answers

Option (A): While this answer acknowledges the complexity of factors influencing food choices among the middle class, it does not specifically address the exploitation of this demographic by food companies promoting unhealthy products. The author's focus is



more on the negative impact of global economic forces on dietary habits than just the diverse influences shaping consumer behavior.

Option (C): This answer focuses on the challenges of promoting healthier eating habits among the middle class but does not explicitly connect these challenges to the exploitation by food companies or the author's argument regarding economic systems influencing dietary patterns.

Option (D): While this answer touches upon socio-economic aspirations influencing food choices, it is not completely in line with the author's arguments. Also, it does not emphasize the exploitation of this demographic by food companies as the primary concern, which is central to the author's argument.

Video Solution:



Q6. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question

The question addresses why Wells argues that attributing obesity to personal responsibility is overly simplistic. It seeks to explore the complex factors beyond individual choices that contribute to the obesity epidemic.

Explanation for the Correct Answer

Option (A): This answer correctly reflects Wells's argument by acknowledging that individual choices do matter but cannot solely explain obesity. Wells argues that factors like socioeconomic status, price manipulation, food accessibility, and pervasive food marketing heavily influence dietary choices and health outcomes. This aligns with Wells's view that attributing obesity solely to personal responsibility ignores systemic influences that shape behavior and health outcomes.

Explanations for Incorrect Answers

Option (B): While this option correctly identifies that the global food system and its profit-driven motives contribute to the challenge of making healthy choices, it does not fully capture the breadth of Wells' argument. Wells emphasizes the complex interplay of various factors, including but not limited to the global food system. This answer is too narrow, missing other critical elements such as socioeconomic conditions and food marketing.

Option (C): This option is very close to the correct answer but slightly misses the comprehensive nature of Wells' argument. It correctly acknowledges the importance of systemic factors like the availability of affordable and nutritious food in low-income communities but does not mention the role and motive of food marketing. Wells' perspective is broader, including multiple systemic influences on obesity, not just the availability of healthy food.

Option (D): This option focuses exclusively on the impact of advertising and marketing, which is indeed a significant factor but not the sole one. Wells' argument includes a wider array of influences, such as socioeconomic conditions and inadequate access to healthy food options, in addition to marketing. Therefore, this answer is too narrow and does not fully



encapsulate the complexity of the issue as Wells describes it.

Video Solution:



Q7. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question

The question asks for the accurate meaning of "metabolic ghetto" as described in the passage. It provides four options, each representing different interpretations of the term. To answer this correctly, one needs to understand the concept of "metabolic ghetto" within the context of the passage and identify the most accurate description.

Explanation for the Correct Answer

Option C): The term "metabolic ghetto" is introduced in the passage to describe a situation where past undernutrition combined with present overnutrition creates a trap that predisposes individuals to obesity. This is a cyclical condition where initial nutritional deprivation sets up the body's metabolism in such a way that, when exposed to an abundance of food later, it tends to promote obesity. This concept encompasses both historical undernutrition and current overnutrition, highlighting a cycle that traps individuals in a state of malnutrition.

Explanations for Incorrect Answers

Option A): This option incorrectly interprets the term "metabolic ghetto" as a physical

location. The passage does not describe the "metabolic ghetto" as a specific place but rather as a condition or situation affecting people's health due to historical and current nutritional practices. Therefore, this option misrepresents the term by focusing on a geographical aspect instead of a metabolic and nutritional cycle.

Option B): While this option partially captures the essence of the problem, it is not entirely accurate. The "metabolic ghetto" involves more than just limited access to nutritious food. It specifically refers to the interplay between past undernutrition and current overnutrition, leading to obesity. This option misses the critical aspect of historical and generational undernutrition that contributes to the cycle.

Option D): This option is too broad. It does not mention obesity or metabolism, which are the specific conditions being referred to in the passage. It also fails to highlight the cyclical nature of the term as described in the passage. Therefore, this option misinterprets the argument presented by Wells.

Video Solution:



Q8. Text Solution:

Essence of the Question

The question asks about the implications of the "unifying logic of capitalism" leading to



"profit-led manipulations of the global supply and quality of food" in addressing the obesity crisis. This involves understanding how economic incentives and the profit-driven nature of capitalism influence food production and marketing, and how these factors contribute to the prevalence of unhealthy food choices. The answer options suggest various approaches to mitigating the obesity crisis, including regulatory reforms, public education, consumer behavior shifts, economic incentives, transparency in the food industry, and alternative food system models.

Explanation for the Correct Answer

Option (B): This answer is correct because it directly addresses the core issue highlighted in the passage: the economic incentives within a capitalist system that drive the production and marketing of unhealthy food. The "unifying logic of capitalism" prioritizes profit, which often leads to the manipulation of food supply and quality to maximize revenue. This has significant implications for the obesity crisis, as it means that unhealthy food is often more available, more affordable, and more heavily marketed than healthier options. To achieve long-term solutions to the obesity crisis, it is crucial to address these economic incentives. This might involve changing the way food production is incentivized, regulating marketing practices, or implementing policies that promote the availability and affordability of healthy food.

Explanations for Incorrect Answers

Option (A): While this option is partially correct in recognizing the need for a comprehensive strategy, it doesn't capture the essence of the passage, which emphasizes the underlying economic incentives. The passage specifically highlights how profit-driven motives influence food production and marketing, suggesting that merely shifting consumer behavior or implementing regulatory reforms without

addressing these core incentives might not be sufficient. Therefore, this is not the right answer.

Option (C): Transparency and clear labeling are indeed important for helping consumers make better choices. However, these factors are not explicitly mentioned in the passage. Also, the option does not address the deeper issue of profit-driven incentives that lead to the production and marketing of unhealthy food. Transparency alone may not be enough to counteract the powerful economic forces at play. The passage implies that without addressing these incentives, transparency measures might fall short of making a significant and sustainable impact on the obesity crisis.

Option (D): This answer is relevant but less direct about the passage's focus on economic incentives. While re-evaluating the food system and considering alternative models is a valuable approach, the passage specifically discusses how the profit-driven nature of capitalism manipulates food supply and quality. This option does not mention economic incentives or the quality of food. Therefore, it misses the mark.

Trap of the Question

The trap in this question lies in the nuanced differences between the answer choices, all of which suggest plausible approaches to addressing the obesity crisis. The key is to identify the option that most accurately reflects the implications of the "unifying logic of capitalism" and its impact on food production and marketing. While all answers present valid points, option (B) is the most precise because it directly connects the issue of economic incentives with the need for long-term solutions. The other options, while relevant, either don't address the core issue directly or propose broader, less focused approaches.



Video Solution:



Q9. Text Solution:

Explanation:

- **Option A (Incorrect):** The author discusses Dardistan's cultural homogeneity and mentions the region's unique linguistic diversity, but does not suggest that cultural homogeneity is the reason for preserving linguistic diversity. However, this option is plausible given the content.
- **Option B (Incorrect):** The author emphasises the role of Dardistan's geographic isolation in preserving its linguistic diversity, making this inference likely to be supported by the author.
- **Option C (Incorrect):** The author mentions that Dardistan's linguistic diversity is under threat, which aligns with this inference, making it a correct interpretation.
- **Option D (Correct):** The author presents arguments from Liljegren that challenge the idea of Dardistan as a conventional "linguistic area" as defined by Emeneau. Liljegren suggests that Dardistan is a "convergence zone" rather than a traditional linguistic area, making this inference the least likely to be agreed upon by the author.

Video Solution:



Q10. Text Solution:

Explanation:

- **Option A (Correct):** This option correctly identifies that the author mentions Liljegren's suggestion to introduce a contrasting viewpoint that challenges the traditional concept of a "linguistic area" as defined by earlier linguists, which aligns with the passage's intention.
- **Option B (Incorrect):** While this option touches on the complexity of linguistic classification, it is broader than the specific purpose of mentioning Liljegren's contrasting viewpoint.
- **Option C (Incorrect):** Although the passage discusses the uniqueness of Dardistan's linguistic diversity, the purpose of the specific sentence is to introduce Liljegren's contrasting perspective, not to reinforce the idea of uniqueness.
- **Option D (Incorrect):** This option implies a more skeptical tone than what is conveyed by the author. The purpose of the sentence is not to question the validity of Dardistan's classification but to present an alternative viewpoint.

Video Solution:





Q11. Text Solution:

Explanation:

- **Option A (Correct):** This option directly strengthens the passage's argument that Dardistan is a "convergence zone" by providing evidence that supports the idea of shared linguistic features among the region's languages.
- **Option B (Incorrect):** Although this option suggests the possibility of linguistic exchange, it does not directly strengthen the specific argument of the passage regarding Dardistan being a unique "convergence zone."
- **Option C (Incorrect):** This option emphasizes isolation rather than linguistic convergence, which does not align with the passage's argument about shared linguistic features.
- **Option D (Incorrect):** While this option underscores the importance of preserving linguistic diversity, it does not directly strengthen the passage's argument about the unique linguistic characteristics of Dardistan.

Video Solution:



Q12. Text Solution:

Explanation:

- **Option A:** This option, although relevant, includes "Trade Routes" and "Colonisation," which are less central to the passage compared to the other options.
- **Option B:** This option covers key concepts such as linguistic diversity, the specific region (Dardistan), and relevant terms like "Convergence Zone" and "Mountainous Geography" which are central to the passage.
- **Option C:** This option is strong, but the exclusion of terms like Indo-European and Phylogenetic Identity, slightly weakens this option compared to option B.
- **Option D:** This option brings in various important terms, but it dilutes the focus with broader references to cultural and European colonisation rather than sticking closely to the linguistic core.

Video Solution:





Q13. Text Solution:

Correct Answer:

Antarctica is now simultaneously the most protected and the most threatened place on Earth, highlighting the contradictions in its environmental governance.

- **Explanation:** This option correctly captures the paradox described in the passage. The passage discusses how Antarctica, despite being one of the most protected environments on Earth due to stringent international regulations, is also one of the most threatened due to the impacts of climate change. This contradiction between protection and threat is the essence of the "paradox" the author mentions.

Incorrect Answers:

The increasing scientific activities and environmental protection measures in Antarctica are paradoxically accelerating its ecological degradation.

Explanation: This option introduces the idea that scientific activities and protection measures are contributing to ecological degradation, which is not directly stated in the passage. The paradox the author refers to is not about the impact of these activities, but rather the broader contradiction between the

protected status of Antarctica and the threats it faces from climate change.

Despite rigorous international treaties, the geopolitical interests in Antarctica are creating a situation where protection efforts and exploitation coexist uneasily.

Explanation: This option suggests that geopolitical interests are causing a conflict between protection and exploitation, which is not the focus of the paradox mentioned in the passage. The passage emphasizes the contradiction between environmental protection and the effects of global climate change, rather than a tension between protection and exploitation.

The environmental protection measures in place for Antarctica are so extreme that they are paradoxically leading to unintended negative consequences, such as disrupting native species' natural adaptations.

Explanation: This option introduces a specific idea that the extreme protection measures are causing negative consequences, which is not supported by the passage. The passage does not discuss unintended negative consequences of the protection measures themselves but rather the broader paradox of protection in the face of external climate threats.

Video Solution:



Q14. Text Solution:**Explanation of Options:**

- **Option A (Correct):** This option accurately reflects both the political and environmental exceptionalism of Antarctica. It highlights the continent's extreme environmental conditions alongside its unique governance structure, which is marked by international cooperation focused on scientific research and the suspension of sovereignty claims.
- **Option B (Incorrect):** This option is partially correct as it refers to the absence of permanent human habitation, which is a factor in Antarctica's environmental exceptionalism. However, it fails to capture the political dimension of Antarctica's exceptionalism, making it incomplete.
- **Option C (Incorrect):** This option is incorrect because, while it touches on the environmental protection laws, it incorrectly asserts that all industrial and tourism activities are halted, which is not the case. The passage mentions restrictions but does not claim a total cessation of such activities.
- **Option D (Incorrect):** While this option accurately describes the continent's extreme physical conditions and its role as a scientific hub, it does not fully capture the political aspect of Antarctica's exceptionalism, particularly the unique international governance structure and the 'frozen' sovereignty claims.

Video Solution:**Q15. Text Solution:****Explanation of Options:**

The question essentially asks us to find which of the following options if true would not strengthen (neutral/weaken) the arguments of the passage.

- **Option A (Strengthens):** This option strengthens the passage's argument by highlighting the impact of non-native species on Antarctica's ecosystem, supporting the idea that the continent's environment is under severe threat.
- **Option B (Strengthens):** This option emphasizes a more alarming scenario, suggesting that the effects of Antarctic melting are even more significant than previously thought. It reinforces the argument that Antarctica is becoming increasingly vulnerable due to climate change.
- **Option C (Strengthens):** The option introduces new evidence of severe and less reversible ice loss, making it a stronger contender by suggesting that the threats to Antarctica are even greater and more immediate than current models indicate.
- **Option D (Neutral/Weakens):** This option is more about potential future actions and doesn't directly strengthen the passage's arguments about the



current threats and paradoxes facing Antarctica.

Video Solution:



Q16. Text Solution:

Explanation of Options:

- **Option A (Not Suitable):** This title suggests that Antarctica is a completely untouched frontier, which doesn't capture the paradox of increasing threats despite stringent protections discussed in the passage.
- **Option B (Most Suitable):** This title accurately reflects the passage's main argument about the paradox of Antarctica being both the most protected and the most threatened environment due to climate change.
- **Option C (Not Fully Suitable):** Although it covers the evolution of Antarctica, it does not fully encapsulate the paradoxical situation of heightened threats despite strong protections.
- **Option D (Partially Suitable):** This title emphasizes the Antarctic Treaty and Cold War context but doesn't fully capture the environmental paradox and ongoing challenges highlighted in the passage.

Video Solution:



Q17. Text Solution:

Explanation:

Answer (A)

- **Option A:** This strengthens the central argument because it emphasizes the subjective nature of consciousness. The passage argues that conscious experiences are private and only accessible through introspection, not observable by others. If research shows that meditation enhances introspective accuracy, it reinforces the claim that individuals have a unique, internal method of accessing their own conscious states, strengthening the idea of privacy.
- **Option B:** This option weakens the argument. If twins separated at birth can sense each other's emotional states, it suggests that conscious experiences could be shared, which contradicts the passage's central idea that consciousness is inherently private and unique to each individual. The claim challenges the fundamental assertion of privacy in conscious experience.
- **Option C:** Similarly, this option introduces the idea of a brain implant that allows two people to share thoughts. This scenario undermines the argument that



consciousness is intrinsically private. If technology allows people to consciously share thoughts, it would challenge the concept that conscious experiences are only accessible by the individual, making the case against the passage's argument.

- **Option D:** While it might seem neutral, this option could weaken the argument slightly. If people rely on external cues for validating their emotions, it suggests that introspection alone might not provide full access to conscious experiences. This would imply that consciousness may not be completely private and might rely on external validation, which weakens the notion of total introspective access to one's own conscious states.

Video Solution:



Q18. Text Solution:

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Option A:** While the Hogan twins provide a unique case, the passage does not claim that conscious experiences are generally shared between individuals. It emphasizes the exceptional nature of their connection, making this option a

misunderstanding of the general argument.

- **Option B:** The passage differentiates empathy from literally sharing another's experience. Empathy helps us understand another's emotional state but does not allow for full access to their conscious experiences, making this inference inaccurate.
- **Option C:** This is a valid inference. The passage explains that consciousness is **intrinsically private** but acknowledges the rare exception of the Hogan twins, which challenges the general rule. This aligns with the broader argument.
- **Option D:** While the passage speculates about future technologies potentially enabling mind-merging, it does not assert this as a definite conclusion, making it more speculative than a valid inference from the current argument.

Video Solution:



Q19. Text Solution:

Why Option C is Correct:

1. **"Sensory experiences"** – The passage discusses how individuals perceive their own conscious states versus how others do. The case of the Hogan twins



highlights shared **sensory experiences**, making this a central theme.

2. **"Conscious states"** – A core discussion in the passage is about the private nature of conscious experiences.
3. **"Technology"** – The passage speculates on future possibilities where technology might allow interconnected minds.
4. **"Introspection"** – The passage contrasts introspection (direct awareness of one's own mental state) with external cues.
5. **"Privacy"** – A fundamental argument in the passage is that consciousness is private, with an exception in the case of the twins.
6. **"Twins"** – The Hogan twins' example challenges the conventional understanding of consciousness being entirely private.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- **Option A:** Overemphasizes personal choice, which the passage explicitly rejects (consciousness is private by nature, not choice).
- **Option B:** Prioritizes mind-meld and technology, which are only speculative and not central to the discussion.
- **Option D:** Focuses on empathy, pain, and interaction, which are only mentioned briefly rather than forming the core argument.

Video Solution:



Q20. Text Solution:

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Option B:** This is the correct answer as it captures the key idea that privacy in conscious experiences is inherent and not subject to personal control. The statement emphasizes that privacy is a fundamental characteristic of consciousness.
- **Option A:** This option is trickier and incorrect because it falsely implies that conscious experiences can sometimes be shared or interpreted through external signs. While there may be external cues for emotional states, the passage emphasizes the privacy of conscious experience, which isn't directly observable.
- **Option C:** This is incorrect answer. Although it captures the central argument of the passage: that the privacy of conscious experience is involuntary, contrasting with the ability to voluntarily share or disclose thoughts. But this distinction is not what the statement aims to clarify. The statement just focuses on the fact that consciousness is not a choice, it is beyond voluntary control.



- **Option D:** This option introduces ambiguity by suggesting that conscious experiences, while private, can still be communicated through social interaction. However, the passage clearly indicates that conscious experiences remain private, regardless of interaction, which makes this option incorrect but harder to eliminate.

Video Solution:



Q21. Text Solution:

Explanation of Options:

Correct Option:

- **B. To explain the origins, meanings, and growing popularity of the term 'polycrisis.'**
The passage delves into the history, multiple interpretations, and widespread adoption of the term, providing examples from various contexts to outline its evolution and significance.

Incorrect Options:

- **A. To critique the overuse and lack of clarity surrounding the term 'polycrisis.'**
While the passage acknowledges some criticisms of the term, it does not

primarily focus on critiquing its overuse or lack of clarity. The author's tone is explanatory rather than critical.

- **C. To argue that the term 'polycrisis' is redundant and adds little value to discussions of global crises.**

The passage highlights the term's complexity and utility in understanding interconnected crises, rather than dismissing it as redundant or unnecessary.

- **D. To highlight how historical and geopolitical factors have shaped the concept of 'polycrisis.'**

Although the passage mentions historical moments and geopolitical risks, its focus is not on how these shaped the concept, but rather on explaining the term's meaning and usage.

Video Solution:



Q22. Text Solution:

Explanation of Options:

Correct Option:

- **C. The popularity of the term 'polycrisis' reflects its relevance in addressing interconnected global risks.**
The author discusses how the term



gained prominence due to its ability to capture the interconnections between crises, highlighting its usefulness in understanding the complexities of modern global challenges.

Incorrect Options:

- **A. The term 'polycrisis' is too ambiguous to be useful in understanding global challenges.**
Although the passage acknowledges the diversity of meanings associated with 'polycrisis,' it does not dismiss the term as useless. Instead, the author implies that its flexibility allows it to address the multifaceted nature of modern crises.
- **B. The multiple meanings of 'polycrisis' undermine its validity as a conceptual tool for research.**
The author notes the diversity of meanings but does not argue that this undermines its validity. Rather, they suggest that the term's adaptability is a strength in capturing interconnected crises.
- **D. The rise of the term 'polycrisis' is a result of exaggerated alarmism in global discourse.**
The passage does not portray the term as a product of alarmism but as a reflection of genuine attempts to understand and address complex, interconnected global issues.

Video Solution:



Q23. Text Solution:

Explanation of Options:

Correct Option:

- **C. The adaptability of language to reflect interconnected and multifaceted ideas.**
The last line underscores that words evolve and adapt, reflecting the complexity of phenomena like 'polycrisis' rather than conforming to rigid definitions.

Incorrect Options:

- **A. The difficulty of maintaining a fixed meaning for terms in an ever-evolving discourse.**
While the line suggests that fixed meanings are unattainable, the focus is on celebrating the fluidity of language, not lamenting this difficulty.
- **B. The inevitable failure of language to fully encompass complex historical phenomena.**
This option misinterprets the tone of the last line, which appreciates the open-endedness of language rather than seeing it as a failure.
- **D. The growing skepticism about the practical utility of ambiguous terms in**



intellectual debates.

Skepticism is mentioned earlier in the passage, but the last line moves beyond doubt to embrace the creativity of language.

Video Solution:**Q24. Text Solution:****Explanation of Options:****Correct Option:**

- **B. The Evolution and Controversy of the Term 'Polycrisis'**
This title captures the essence of the passage, which focuses on the origin, rise, diverse interpretations, and debates surrounding the term "polycrisis."

Incorrect Options:

- **A. Polycrisis: A Historical Analysis of Global Risks**
While the passage touches on interconnected crises, its primary focus is not a detailed historical analysis but the concept of the term itself.
- **C. Understanding the Polycrisis: A Concept for Modern Times**
This option oversimplifies the passage, which not only explains the concept but

also critiques and examines its diverse meanings and utility.

- **D. The Role of Language in Defining Historical Epochs**

Though the passage mentions language, the emphasis is on the term "polycrisis" rather than a broad discussion of language's role in defining history.

Video Solution:**Q25. Text Solution:****Correct Answer:**

D. Illustrating an early attempt to explain interconnected crises and their compounding effects.

Explanation of Options:**Correct Option:**

- **D. Illustrating an early attempt to explain interconnected crises and their compounding effects.**
This aligns with the passage, which describes Juncker's speeches as an effort to define how crises overlap and feed into each other, emphasizing their interconnectedness.

Incorrect Options:

- **A. Demonstrating how political leaders have played a significant role in defining the term "polycrisis."**

The passage focuses on Juncker's explanation of interlinked crises rather than presenting him as a key figure in coining or popularizing the term.

- **B. Highlighting the complexities of geopolitical risks in Europe during his tenure.**

While geopolitical risks are mentioned, the focus of Juncker's example is broader, relating to interconnected crises rather than just European geopolitical risks.

- **C. Critiquing the lack of clarity in the definition of "polycrisis" as used by global leaders.**

Juncker's example is not a critique but an illustration of the attempt to define and explain interconnected crises.

Video Solution:



Q26. Text Solution:

Correct Answer: C) The natural world demonstrates forms of advanced mathematical principles without the need for higher intelligence.

Explanation:

- **Option A:** Incorrect. The passage refutes the idea that understanding or

manifesting mathematics requires a highly developed brain, citing examples like sea slugs and coral.

- **Option B:** Incorrect but tricky. While human abstraction played a role in discovering hyperbolic geometry, the passage emphasizes that nature has been manifesting these principles without human intervention or understanding, making this statement misleading.
- **Option C:** Correct. This aligns with the main argument that mathematical forms like hyperbolic geometry are present in nature without requiring higher intelligence.
- **Option D:** Incorrect but plausible. Although Gauss's hesitation is mentioned, it is not the central theme of the passage, which focuses on the natural manifestations of mathematics.

Video Solution:



Q27. Text Solution:

Correct Answer:

A) Sea slugs and coral demonstrate the existence of hyperbolic geometry without possessing the cognitive ability to understand it.



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Explanation of Each Option:

- **Option A:** Correct. The passage highlights that organisms like sea slugs and coral embody hyperbolic geometry naturally, despite lacking the brainpower to comprehend abstract mathematical concepts.
- **Option B:** Incorrect. Gauss did not disprove hyperbolic geometry; rather, he validated it but hesitated to publish his findings due to potential backlash.
- **Option C:** Incorrect. The passage refutes this idea, emphasizing that hyperbolic geometry is evident in the natural world, not just as a human abstraction.
- **Option D:** Incorrect. The passage explicitly states that Euclid's axioms, such as the sum of angles in a triangle being 180 degrees, do not hold true on hyperbolic surfaces.

Video Solution:



Q28. Text Solution:

Correct Answer:

A) Nature's Mathematical Masterpiece: Hyperbolic Geometry in Coral Reefs and Sea Slugs

Explanation of Each Option:

- **Option A:** Correct. This title captures the essence of the passage, emphasizing the

natural occurrence of hyperbolic geometry in organisms like coral and sea slugs and its connection to mathematical understanding.

- **Option B:** Incorrect. While the passage mentions Gauss, his role is secondary, and the passage primarily focuses on nature's embodiment of hyperbolic geometry.
- **Option C:** Incorrect. Although the passage contrasts cognitive ability with mathematical discovery, the central theme is about hyperbolic geometry in nature, not a general cognitive paradox.
- **Option D:** Incorrect. While this is related, the passage leans more heavily on the natural examples of hyperbolic geometry rather than debating whether it is a human invention.

Video Solution:



Q29. Text Solution:

Correct Answer:

B) Coral colonies can create complex mathematical structures despite lacking a brain.

Explanation of Each Option:

- **Option A:** Incorrect. The passage does not imply that coral colonies possess



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collective intelligence akin to brain functions; it highlights their lack of a brain.

- **Option B:** Correct. This aligns with the passage, which emphasizes that coral colonies naturally exhibit hyperbolic geometry without any cognitive processes.
- **Option C:** Incorrect. Coral colonies do not actively calculate or intentionally construct hyperbolic surfaces; these forms emerge naturally.
- **Option D:** Incorrect. While the colonies' forms are non-Euclidean, the passage does not suggest that they actively contradict Euclidean geometry; it simply notes their natural alignment with hyperbolic geometry.

Video Solution:



Q30. Text Solution:

Correct Answer:

A) Illustrating the challenges mathematicians faced when grappling with

the concept of hyperbolic geometry.

Explanation of Each Option:

- **Option A:** Correct. The passage describes Gauss's hesitation to publish his findings on hyperbolic geometry due to its controversial nature, illustrating the intellectual challenges and resistance he faced.
- **Option B:** Incorrect. The passage does not indicate that hyperbolic geometries were rejected as flawed, but rather that their acceptance was fraught with difficulty.
- **Option C:** Incorrect. The passage does not suggest that hyperbolic geometry was discovered through experimentation but highlights the theoretical challenges.
- **Option D:** Incorrect. While natural forms like coral are mentioned, Gauss's example is not used to connect human intelligence to natural forms.

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