

READING COMPREHENSION

PASSAGE

Hume held likewise that moral judgements are not the "offspring of reason." Scrutinize an act of murder as closely as you can, he said. Do you find anything in the facts of the case that reveal that the act is morally wrong? The facts, he said, are simply that one person has terminated the life of another in a certain way at a particular time and place. Reasoning can disclose how long it took for death to occur, whether the victim suffered great pain, what the motives of the killer were, as well as the answers to many other factual questions such as these. But it will not show the moral wrongfulness of the act. The judgement that an act is immoral, Hume maintained, comes not from reason but from emotion. Perhaps this idea has occurred to you as well.

It is the same, Hume believed, with all value judgements. Is the judgement that a portrait is beautiful founded on reason? Of course not. Reason can disclose the chemical composition of the paints and canvas, the monetary value of the work, and many similar factual things. But whether the portrait is beautiful is an issue that cannot be settled by reason.

Thus, for Hume, moral judgements, and all value judgements, are based on emotion. Actions that we find morally praiseworthy or blameworthy create within us feelings of pleasure or displeasure, respectively. Now, obviously, these feelings are different in kind from aesthetic pleasures and pleasures of the palate. Humans clearly have a capacity for moral pleasure as well as for other types of pleasure: we are morally sensitive creatures. Behaviour that pleases our moral sensibilities elicits our approval and is deemed good, right, just, virtuous, and noble. Behaviour that offends our moral sense is deemed bad, wrong, unjust, base, and ignoble.

But just what is it about behaviour that elicits our moral approval? What do virtuous, good, right, and noble acts have in common? Hume's answer was that the type of act we deem morally praiseworthy is one taken by an agent out of concern for others. The act that pleases our moral sensibilities is one that reflects a benevolent character on the part of the agent, he said. By "agent," philosophers mean the person who did the act.

Why does benevolence bring pleasure to us when we witness or read about or contemplate it? A cynical answer is that we imagine ourselves as benefiting from the benevolent activity, and imagining this is pleasant. Do you get a warm glow when you read about someone coming to the aid of a fellow person? Well, according to the cynical view that's because you picture yourself on the receiving end of the exchange.

But this cynical theory is really quite unnecessarily complex, said Hume. The reason you get that pleasant feeling when you read about or see someone helping someone else is just simply that you sympathize with others. It just plainly upsets a normal person to see others suffering, and it pleases a normal person to see others happy. True, there are people around who suffer from the emotional equivalent of color blindness and lack the capacity to sympathize with others. But these people aren't the norm. The normal human being is a sympathetic creature, maintained Hume.

This aspect of Hume's moral philosophy may well have some significance for us today. On the one hand, we tend to believe that you should care for others but, on the other hand, that you must also certainly look out for yourself. And we are inclined to think that there is a problem in this because self-concern and other-concern seem mutually exclusive. But if Hume is correct, they are not. Looking out for your own interests includes doing that which brings you pleasure. And if Hume is correct, caring for others will bring you an important kind of pleasure. Indeed, if Hume is correct, when you praise an action as good, it is precisely because it brings you this kind of pleasure.

Hume's idea that goodness consists in traits and actions that promote the welfare of people was appropriated and developed in the nineteenth century by some of the most influential ethical theorists of all time, the utilitarians. There is every possibility that you yourself are a utilitarian.

1. Which of the following would best agree with what is stated in the passage?

- A. Moral and all value judgements are based on reason.
 - B. The moral human being is a not sympathetic creature.
 - C. Any behaviour which offends the moral sense is bad, ignoble, wrong and unjust.
 - D. Humans are insensitive to morality.
2. All of the following are true with respect to the passage, except that :
- A. Behaviour that pleases one's moral sensibilities elicits the approval and is deemed good.
 - B. Sympathy is the reason which upsets a normal person to see others suffering and pleases upon seeing others happy.
 - C. Goodness consists in traits and actions that promote the welfare of people.
 - D. None of the above.
3. The 'agent' as appearing in the passage, is closest in meaning to :
- A. the person performing the act.
 - B. the person who counsels and guides one when in doubt.
 - C. the person who is in constant touch with the Divine and interprets signals and signs.
 - D. the person who mediates to solve a problem.
4. Which of the following would go against the author's contention, as gathered from the passage ?
- A. Emotion, not reason, shows the moral wrongfulness of the act.
 - B. Human beings clearly evidence a capacity for moral pleasure as well as for other types of pleasure.
 - C. Sympathy is an intrinsic quality of a normal human being.
 - D. Facts of a case make one conclude that the act is morally wrong.
5. The passage describes a benevolent act as :
- A. one that the religious head approves of.
 - B. one which is in accordance with the laws of the land.
 - C. one which pleases the moral sensibilities.
 - D. one that causes benefit to the doer.
6. Value judgments, as brought out in the passage :
- A. have an ethical basis.
 - B. are spiritually based.
 - C. have precedents
 - D. have emotional leanings.
7. The central idea of the passage is reflected best by which of the following ?
- A. Praising an act is not necessarily an indication of pleasure.
 - B. Sympathy is the basic feeling which brings joy when others are happy and sadness when others are so.
 - C. The judgement that an act is right or wrong stems from reason, by piecing together facts & information.
 - D. A bad behaviour is that which displeases God.

8. The passage is at best an extract from :

- A. abstract writings of ancient healers which had got buried but were retrieved recently.
- B. an exposition on 'Moral and Value Judgements,' as propounded by recent thinkers.
- C. a presentation during a debate on 'Good vs Bad', organised by the local city club.
- D. a chapter in a moral science book for students of high school classes.

9. The passage is handled in a manner which is :

(1) religious

(2) logical

(3) didactic

(4) agnostic

10. A suitable caption for the passage could be :

- A. Value Judgements Are Not Reason Based But Are Emotion-Linked.
- B. A Normal Human Being Has Empathy.
- C. Moral Acts Are Done For Grabbing Praise.
- D. Self-Concern Is Embedded In Concern For Others.

ANSWER KEYS

1.(C) 2.(D) 3.(A) 4.(D) 5.(C) 6.(D) 7.(B) 8.(B) 9.(B) 10.(A)

SENTENCE IMPROVEMENT

11. In October, the chairman of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata, gifted \$50 million for his alma mater, the Harvard Business School to give back to the school a little bit of what it had given him

- A. In October, the chairman of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata, gifted \$50 million for his alma mater, the Harvard Business School to give back to the school a little bit of what it
- B. In October, the chairman of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata, has gifted \$50 million to his alma mater, the Harvard Business School, which is an attempt to give back to the school a little bit of what it
- C. In October, the chairman of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata, gifted \$50 million to his alma mater, the Harvard Business School, in an attempt to give back to the school a little bit of what they
- D. In October, the chairman of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata, gifted \$50 million to his alma mater, the Harvard Business School, in an attempt to give back to the school a little bit of what it
- E. In October, the chairman of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata, decided to gift \$50 million to his alma mater, the Harvard Business School, it being an attempt to give back to the school a little bit of what it

Answer – D

12. The proposed simplification of the tax code would repeal or modify a number of popular tax breaks, including the deductibility of mortgage interest payments, so that income tax rates could be reduced across the board.

- A. would repeal or modify a number of popular tax breaks, including the deductibility of mortgage interest payments, so that income tax rates could be reduced
- B. will repeal or modify a number of popular tax breaks, including the deductibility of mortgage interest payments, so that income tax rates can be reduced
- C. will repeal or modify a number of popular tax breaks, which includes the deductibility of mortgage interest payments, so that income tax rates could be reduced
- D. would repeal or modify a number of popular tax breaks, including the deductibility of mortgage interest payments, so as to reduce income tax rates
- E. would repeal and modify a number of popular tax breaks, including the deductibility of mortgage interest payments, so that income tax rates could be reduced

Answer – B

13. The analysis of results on the national tests found that math scores for black boys were not much different than those for black girls, but black boys lagged behind Hispanics of both sexes and that they fell behind white boys by at least 30 points, which is sometimes interpreted as three academic grades.

- A. found that math scores for black boys were not much different than those for black girls, but black boys lagged behind Hispanics of both sexes and that they fell behind white boys by at least 30 points, which is sometimes interpreted as three academic grades.
- B. has found that math scores for black boys were not much different from those for black girls, and that black boys lagged behind Hispanics of both sexes and that they fell behind white boys by at least 30 points, sometimes interpreted as three academic grades.
- C. found that math scores for black boys are not much different than black girls, but that black boys lagged behind Hispanics of both sexes and that they fell behind white boys by at least 30 points, a gap sometimes interpreted as three academic grades.
- D. found that math scores for black boys were not much different from those for black girls, but that black boys lagged behind Hispanics of both sexes and that they fell behind white boys by at least 30 points, a gap sometimes interpreted as three academic grades.
- E. found that math scores for black boys were not much different as compared to black girls, but that black boys lagged behind Hispanics of both sexes and that they fell behind white boys by at least 30 points, a gap sometimes interpreted as three academic grades.

Answer – D

14. In what labour officials and lawyers view to be a ground-breaking case that involved workers and social media, the National Labour Relations Board has accused a company of illegally firing an employee after she criticized her supervisor on her Facebook page.

- A. In what labour officials and lawyers view to be a ground-breaking case that involved workers and social media, the National Labour Relations Board has accused
- B. In what labour officials and lawyers view to be a ground-breaking case involving workers and social media, the National Labour Relations Board accused
- C. Labour officials and lawyers view as a ground-breaking case that involves workers and social media, the National Labour Relations Board has accused
- D. In what labour officials and lawyers view as a ground-breaking case involving workers and social media, the National Labour Relations Board has accused
- E. In what labour officials and lawyers are viewing as a ground-breaking case involving workers and social media, the National Labour Relations Board is accusing

Answer – D

15. For years, employees had seen what they pay toward health care increases as companies ask them to contribute more for premiums and deductibles.

- A. had seen what they pay toward health care increases as companies ask them to contribute more for premiums and deductibles
- B. saw what they pay toward health care increased as companies ask them to contribute more to premiums and deductibles
- C. have seen what they pay toward health care increase as companies ask them to contribute more to premiums and deductibles
- D. have been seeing what they pay toward health care increases as companies asks it to contribute more to premiums and deductibles
- E. have seen what they pay toward health care increasing as companies are asking them to contribute more to premiums and deductibles

Answer – C

16. Despite the financial setbacks of the last three years, Ms. Hanson bets that there are still many East Coast women with considerable capital that are ready to redeploy part of them

- A. bets that there are still many East Coast women with considerable capital that are ready to redeploy part of them
- B. is betting that there are still many East Coast women with considerable capital who are ready to redeploy part of it
- C. is betting that there are still many East Coast women having considerable capital who are ready to redeploy part of that
- D. has been betting that there were still many East Coast women with considerable capital who are ready to redeploy part of it
- E. is betting that there will still be many East Coast women with considerable capital who would be ready to redeploy part of these

Answer – B

17. Consumer advocates are worrying that the competing agendas of economic policy makers, who want uniform international standards, and federal regulators, who are trying to balance consumer protection and commercial rights, would neglect the interests of people most affected by the privacy policies

- A. are worrying that the competing agendas of economic policy makers, who want uniform international standards, and federal regulators, who are trying to balance consumer protection and commercial rights, would neglect the interests of people
- B. worry that the competing agendas of economic policy makers, wanting uniform international standards, and federal regulators, trying to balance consumer protection and commercial rights, neglects the interests of people
- C. worried that the competing agendas of economic policy makers, who wanted uniform international standards, and federal regulators, who were trying to balance consumer protection and commercial rights, was neglecting the interests of people
- D. worry that the competing agendas of economic policy makers, that want uniform international standards, and federal regulators, that are trying to balance consumer protection and commercial rights, would neglect the interests of people
- E. worry that the competing agendas of economic policy makers, who want uniform international standards, and federal regulators, who are trying to balance consumer protection and commercial rights, will neglect the interests of people

Answer – E

18. The White House, meanwhile, has set up its own interagency panel that would look at how to protect consumers while also make United States companies more competitive internationally.

- A. that would look at how to protect consumers while also make
- B. that will look at the protection of consumers while also making
- C. for looking at how to protect consumers while also making

- D. that will look at how to protect consumers while also making
E. for looking at protecting consumers and also making

Answer – D

SPOT THE ERROR

19. As he had taken only a few sips (a) / there was still little water (b) / left in the glass. (c) / No error (d)
Correct Option : B.
20. To perform this experiment, (a) / drop little sugar (b) / into a glass of water. (c) / No error (d)
Correct Option : B.
21. It is written in Gita (a) / that God incarnates (b) / Himself (c) / in times of trouble. (d) / No error (e)
Correct Option : A.
22. Troy was taken by Greeks ; (a) / this formed the basis of a story (b) / which has become famous. (c) / No error (d)
Correct Option : A.
23. These facts make it very clear (a) / that he had hand in the robbery, (b) / though he still (c) / pleads innocence. (d) / No error (e)
Correct Option : B.
24. A nationwide survey (a) / has brought up an (b) / interesting finding (c) / regarding infant mortality rate in India. (d) / No error.
Correct Option : D.
25. The man (a) / cannot live (b) / by bread alone. (c) / No error (d)
Correct Option : A.
26. I go to the bed (a) / at ten (b) / every night. (c) / No error (d)
Correct Option : A.

FILL IN THE BLANK

27. I've just that the price has gone up again.
(a) am told (b) have told (c) been told (d) was told

ANSWER-C

28. She was annoyed that she spoken to like that.
(a) had been (b) has been (c) was been (d) will have been

ANSWER-A

29. I've just been here that man has been released.
(a) reads (b) reading (c) read (d) have read

ANSWER-B

30. If you were stopped by the police for speeding, what you do?
(a) will (b) shall (c) do (d) would

ANSWER-D

31. Long the King!
(a) live (b) lives (c) living (d) lived

ANSWER-A

32. If I get there early enough, I you a seat.
(a) did save (b) do save (c) am saving (d) shall save

ANSWER-D

33. When I'm in town, I listening to the birds.
(a) missing (b) miss (c) misses (d) missed

ANSWER-B

34. India's largest bank, the State Bank of India, has managed to merge five of its associate banks _____ the newly formed Bharatiya Mahila Bank.

- (a) Beside (b) Besides (c) by (d) before

ANSWER-B

CRITICAL REASONING

35. The government is considering a ban on the sale of electronic cigarettes, a vapour device that delivers a nicotine hit minus the smoke.

Which of the following statements substantiates the fact expressed in the above statement?

- a) India does not have laws that deal directly with the sale of ecigarettes.
- b) Unlike conventional cigarettes, e-cigarettes release vapor — and not smoke — when a nicotine-laced liquid is heated.
- c) An expert panel has found it could lead to addiction, particularly among the youth.
- d) Punjab banned e-cigarettes last year and Maharashtra is considering a similar move.
- e) None of these

36. Statement: The Ministry of Urban Development has launched a Smart National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) model to enable seamless travel by different metros and other transportation systems across the country besides being used for shopping as well.

Which of the following statements need not be true according to the given statement?

- (a) The card will help people travel hassle-free across the country
- (b) Only one type of card will be used across the country
- (c) People travelling across the country can save time and money
- (d) Shopping and travelling will become easier for the people
- (e) Only (b) and (d)

37. Statement: It has been reported in a recent study that intake of moderate quantity of milk chocolate reduces the risk of suffering from central nervous system-related illnesses.

Which of the following would weaken the findings of the study reported in the above statement?

- (a) People generally prefer to eat chocolate when they are young.
- (b) Majority of those not diagnosed with diseases related to central nervous system have stayed away from eating chocolates in their lives.
- (c) Chocolates contain certain elements which strengthen the functions of the central nervous system.
- (d) Majority of those suffering from central nervous system related diseases are middle-aged.
- (e) Many of those who suffer from diabetes also suffer from other major ailments.

38. The project of the road construction (work) has crossed its first deadline as far as pre-monsoon road work are concerned. In the major city the road works are given great emphasis and these are the places where road work has been completed.

Which of the following can be concluded from the statements given above?

- (a) To start the work of the road one has to go through a lot of tiresome paperwork before starting the repair work which delays the whole work of the road.
- (b) It takes several hours travelling via these roads.
- (c) The work of the road is going on
- (d) They will start the road works well in advance
- (e) None of the above

39. Statement: The Railways has earmarked two berths -one lower and one middle - in sleeper classes under the handicapped

quota for physically challenged people travelling on concession.
Which of the following can be concluded from the above statement?

- (a) Physically handicapped people can have hassle-free journey in trains.
- (b) Handicapped people need some privilege in trains.
- (c) Handicapped people will now not need any attendant while travelling in the trains.
- (d) A good initiative by the railway for the handicapped people.
- (e) Only a) and d)

40. Statement: After providing LPG in easy-to-carry 5-kg cylinders, the government launched 2-kg bottles at local kirana stores and introduction of online booking of new connections for subsidised cooking fuel.

Which of the following can be concluded from the above statement?

- (a) Online booking will end hassles of customers running to gas agencies for getting a new LPG connection.
- (b) The 2-kg cylinder will cater to the LPG requirements for all sections of society, including economically weaker families
- (c) The online booking will help the customers get new cylinders delivered quickly
- (d) The scheme will be particularly beneficial for the rural people and poor who cannot afford to pay the price of a 14.2-kg or even 5-kg cylinder
- (e) All of the above

ANSWERS

- 35. (c);
- 36. Answer: (b)
- 37. Answer is (b)
- 38. Ans.(c)
- 39. Answer:(b)
- 40. Answer: (a)