



## Preface

Chapter 1 - Application of Logic in Types of Questions



Chapter 2 - Approaches for solving Reading Comprehension questions and other FAQs



Chapter 3 – The Final Take



Answer Key



Explanations



## Logic and Reading ....

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In this book we will be dealing with areas which require a combination of Logic and Reading.

Logic can be defined as a step by step, rational approach to thinking. If we look at the metamorphosis which the Reading Comprehension section in CAT has undergone, the following points would be clearly evident -

- A movement away from long, easy-moderate level reading passages and fact based questions.
- A movement towards dense reading passages with inferential questions which test in-depth logic and understanding.

There is a greater need for a student now to fine-tune his/her logic. Without flexing or taxing the nerves of your left brain(the logic domain), it would be difficult for you as a student to *understand the passage*. Once that barrier is crossed, you need logic to *understand the type of question being asked*.

It will not happen naturally that you land up on the day of the test and your logical side functions like a well oiled machine. You need to refine and sharpen your logical side. This book is an attempt to make you appreciate the importance of logic while handling Reading Comprehension questions.

**All the Best!**

**The CL Educate Team**

## Steps to success...

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**Logic is the beginning of wisdom, not the end.**

*... Leonard Nimoy*

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In this book, we continue the journey left off in Book -1. In this book you are expected to appreciate the importance of Logic in Reading. We will also deal with question types which involve a combination of Logic and Reading skills. Continue Reading newspapers and novels. At the same time, pay attention to Logic and its applications as regards Reading. Logic can be sharpened through practice.

The Reading comprehension Book- 2 (Module 2) is divided into three chapters, which define the steps to success. As a user of this book you are expected to follow these steps in sequence and understand the essence of the book. Each chapter has test/s to hone your skills. The last part of the book has 24 Tests to strengthen your test taking skills.

**Continuing the journey ...**

**Chapter 1...**

- Recognizing the different types of questions in Reading Comprehension.
- Realizing the importance of Logic in understanding the Types of questions.
- Logic and the strategies to ensure accuracy.
- Practice Passages

**Chapter 2...**

- Different modes and approaches to reading and cracking reading comprehension passages and questions.
- FAQs about Reading Comprehension Tests in Competitive Examinations.

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**Chapter 3...**

- To apply the concepts learnt in the earlier chapters in test taking.
- Tests

## Application of Logic in Types of Questions

1

### Learning Objectives

- Recognizing the different types of questions in Reading Comprehension.
- Applying the logic and the strategies that will help you ensure accuracy to your answers in the Reading Comprehension questions.

This chapter will list out the various types of questions that are set on a Reading Comprehension passage and the logic required to answer each of these question types. Not recognizing the question type and adopting a wrong approach can result in not marking the correct option as well as in wasting time. Hence, it becomes imperative that one properly recognizes what the question really means. Some of you may think that you can work instinctively without all these strategies and still get the answers right. Instinct does play a large role in the selection of the right option with some people, but there are others who may rely on these strategies to ensure accuracy. One can improve one's accuracy tremendously by giving up the instinctive way of attempting the questions and by adopting conscious methodologies after identifying each question type. This can help in saving a great deal of time too. When you go through the exercises in this chapter it becomes essential that you experiment with these methodologies and stop yourself from unconsciously slipping into the instinctive way of answering questions. The benefits will be clearly there for you to see!

### The different types of questions Reading Comprehension

The questions asked in competitive examinations fall into these categories:

- Main Idea Question
- Specified Detail Questions or Direct Questions.
- Implied Idea Questions.
- Logical Structure Questions
- Tone or Attitude Questions
- Continued Idea Questions or Further Application Questions
- I, II, III Questions

### The Sixth Step...

#### I. The Main Idea Question

This question can be asked in one of these various forms -

What is the main idea/central idea of this passage?

Which of the following is the thematic highlight of the passage?

What is the primary purpose of author?

The author of the passage is primarily concerned with which of the following? Etc ...

#### Approach:

The answer to the main idea question can only be found in the answer choices. The main idea is may be stated by the author at various places in a variety of ways.

The best way to accurately answer this question is to familiarize yourself with the various arguments that the author has presented in the passage .Try to understand author's purpose in writing this passage.

Read the first and the last paragraphs carefully. The author would outline his argument/main idea mostly in these paragraphs as these serve as the introduction and conclusion respectively to the passage.

**Example:**

A historian, to make a mark, must show some originality somewhere in his work. The originality may be in a method of investigation; it may be in the employment of some sources of information open to everybody, but not before used, or it may be in a fresh combination of well-known facts. Everyone who writes should have something to add to the world's stock of knowledge or literary expression. If he falls unconsciously into imitation or quotation, he takes away from his originality. No matter if some great writer has expressed the thought in better language than you can use, if you take his words you detract from your own originality. Express your thought feebly in your own way rather than with strength by borrowing the words of another.

This same principle may be applied to the art of writing history. "Follow your own star," said Emerson, "and it will lead you to that which none other can attain. Imitation is suicide. You must take yourself for better or worse as your own portion." "A practical knowledge," wrote Niebuhr, "must support historical jurisprudence, and if anyone has got that he can easily master all scholastic speculations." A man's knowledge of everyday life in some way fits him for a certain field of historical study—in that field lies success.

Which of the following options best describes the central theme of the passage?

- a. A well written history book must be original in terms of method of investigation or source or even a novel combination of facts.

- b. A history book has to have some originality in some area- either in the method of investigation or the source.
- c. A good historian should display originality in some aspect of his work.
- d. Imitation is bad both for a writer and a historian.

**Solution: (c)**

The author's main point is about what a historian should be like—and that he should display originality in some aspect of his work. Options (a) and (b) talk about a well written history book— while the author's main theme is about historians and how they can be successful.

**II. Specific Detail Question**

This question can be asked in one of these various forms -

Which of the following options is the author most likely to agree/disagree with?

Which of the following options is true/false according to the passage?

" \_\_\_\_\_ " in the context of the passage means- etc

**Approach:**

Often, these questions provide very direct clues about where the answer may be found, such as line references or some text that links up with the passage structure. What you've got to remember here is that the correct answer is generally two lines above or below the line where the question has been asked from and also that the correct answer will, more often than not, be a paraphrase and not actually quoted from the passage.

When you have identified a question to be of this type, make sure that you check back in the passage and eliminate the wrong choices and choose the right one. It is possible that you may feel that "Oh, I know the answer to this question. There is no need to check and

waste time." However, it is better that you still go back to the passage, verify, and then mark your option. The time that you have spent to verify the answer is not a waste because you are scoring — the mark is assured. Remember that however sure you are it is no harm spending a few more seconds to score. That time is well spent.

**Example 1:**

It is evident from the allusions throughout the plays that Shakespeare was a reader rather than a scholar. In other words, he used books for what interested him; he did not study them for complete mastery; and many and varied as are the traces of his literary interests, they have

the air of being detached fragments that have stuck in a plastic and retentive mind, not pieces of systematic erudition. It is true that many books have been written to show that Shakespeare had the knowledge of a professional in law, medicine, navigation, theology, conveyancing, hunting and hawking, horsemanship, politics, and other fields; but such works are usually the products of enthusiasts in single subjects, who are apt to forget how much a man of acute mind and keen observation can pick up of a technical matter that interests him for the time, and how intelligently he can use it. The cross-examination of an expert witness by an able lawyer is an everyday illustration; and in the literature of our own day this kind of versatility is strikingly exemplified in the work of such a writer as Mr. Kipling.

Which of the following options is the author most likely to agree with?

- a. The only difference between a scholar and a reader is that a scholar learns in a systematic manner while a reader does not.
- b. The main difference between a scholar and a reader is that a reader enjoys what he reads while a scholar studies his subjects thoroughly.
- c. Shakespeare's works display his knowledge of various subjects which he picked up as a keen student of these disciplines.

- d. Shakespeare was to the Elizabethan age what Kipling is to the modern age- both versatile and keenly observant authors.

**Solution: (d)**

The author states that Shakespeare was most likely only a reader and not a great scholar—and in that context he gives his reasons. He does not state or imply option (a) or (b). Option (c) is incorrect as the author states that Shakespeare read books on various disciplines— he was not a student or a scholar.

**Example 2:**

When the Constitution was established, a new form of government was created, but it was neither speculative nor experimental as to the principles on which it was based. The government founded upon them was destined to an influence that would continue while the liberties it was intended to preserve should be valued by the human family.

They were consecrated theories, but no government had been previously established for the purpose of their preservation and enforcement. That which was experimental in our plan of government was the question whether democratic rule could be so organized and conducted that it would not degenerate into license and result in the tyranny of absolutism, without saving to the people the power so often found necessary of repressing or destroying their enemy, when he was found in the person of a single despot.

When, in 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville came to study Democracy in America, the trial of nearly a half-century of the working of our system had been made, and it had been proved, by many crucial tests, to be a government of "liberty regulated by law," with such results in the development of strength, in population, wealth, and military and commercial power, as no age had ever witnessed

(208 words)

According to the passage, the system of government in America can be best described as:

- a. A government based on principles which preserved the liberties of the individual.
- b. A government which was conducted in such a way that it did not degenerate into tyranny.
- c. A system where law and liberty both existed and were not mutually exclusive concepts.
- d. A system based on the highest ideals valued by human beings from time immemorial.

**Solution: (c)**

Options (a), (b), and (d) are only partly correct. The system is one where liberty is regulated by law - where law and individual liberty coexist.

**Example 3:**

The passage below is followed by the two types of questions discussed above viz., The Main Idea/Title Question, and Specified Idea Question. Apply the strategy and method you have just learnt and ensure accuracy to your responses. Timing is not as important as accuracy. However, work as quickly as you can. **Nothing less than 100% accuracy is acceptable.**

I have been particularly influenced by a sustained association with Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) in Rajasthan and, more recently, with Akal Sangharsh Samiti. The latter is an all-Rajasthan network of about 50 grass roots organizations that came together in late 2000 to defend the rights of drought-affected people, especially the right to employment. This campaign involved a good deal of action-oriented (even 'action based') research, focussing for instance on living conditions in drought-affected areas, the government's response to the crisis, and corruption in relief works.

My association with this campaign was an eye-opening experience in many ways. I discovered, for instance, that my painstakingly accumulated academic baggage was not always as useful as I had expected in this venture. After 15 years of research on hunger and famines, one is perhaps entitled to feel like an 'expert' of sorts on these matters. Yet I

did not always find myself better equipped than others to understand the practical issues that arose in this situation. At times, I even felt embarrassingly ignorant compared with local people who had little formal education but sharp understanding of the real world. Some of them were curious about my collaborative work with Amartya Sen (who had become a household name in India after winning the Nobel Prize for Economics), but when I tried to explain to them the main insights of this work, they were not exactly impressed. Though they did not disagree, there was no enthusiasm in their approval, no acknowledgment of depth or importance.

This made me realize that social scientists are chiefly engaged in arguing with each other about issues and theories that often bear little relation to the real world. It is in this foggy environment that common sense ideas have a cutting edge. Their power, such as it is, springs not so much from great originality or profundity as from their ability to bring some basic clarity in the confused world of academia. It is no wonder that these common sense ideas often fail to capture the imagination of people who are not exposed to that confusion in the first place. To illustrate, an article in defense of rationality would fit well in a distinguished academic journal, but it is of little use to people for whom rational thinking is a self-evident necessity - indeed a matter of survival.

The proliferation of fanciful theories and artificial controversies in academia arises partly from the fact that social scientists thrive on this confusion. It also reflects the frequent absence of a 'reality check' in the academic world. In seminar halls in Delhi, or for that matter in London or Harvard, one hears all kinds of weird ideas that would never pass muster in an Indian village. It is no wonder that 'academic' has become a bit of a synonym for 'irrelevant' (as 'this point is purely academic').

My Rajasthan days also drew my attention to the deep inadequacies of mainstream economics in making sense of the world we live in. We do not even seem to have the basic concepts required for such an understanding. For instance, 'exploitation' does not belong to the standard vocabulary of mainstream economics. It is quite possible to complete a PhD in a leading economics department without having heard about this notion. Yet exploitation is a pervasive aspect

of the life experience of the underprivileged in India. I am not thinking here of the specialized Marxist notion of exploitation, which has serious flaws, rooted as it is in the labour theory of value. I am thinking of how people are routinely exploited in government offices, at the workplace, within the family, and elsewhere. Even commercial advertisement appears to me a form of exploitation, invisible in modern economics. I am very much in favour of a revival of old-fashioned political economy, of a kind that was an accepted part of mainstream economics right up to the Second World War, when the centre of gravity of the profession shifted to the US. (663 words)

1. In this passage with which of the following is the writer chiefly concerned with?

**(Main Idea Question)**

- a. The value of scientific research can, in many circumstances, be enhanced if it is combined with real world involvement and action.
- b. Academic achievements are an entirely useless baggage one tugs along in the world of practical issues.
- c. His association with MKSS in Rajasthan was an eye-opening experience.
- d. Commercial advertisements are a form of exploitation that the modern economics has failed to recognize.
- e. The author abhors academicians.

2. As stated in the passage, which of the following helped the writer discover his involvement in the project with MKSS? **(Specific Detail Question)**

- I. The living conditions in the drought-affected areas of Rajasthan.
- II. The divergence between theory and reality in social sciences.
- III. The inadequacies of mainstream economics.

- a. II and III only
- b. I and II only
- c. I and III only
- d. All three of them
- e. None of them

3. According to the passage, in which of the following matters the writer considers himself 'entitled to feel like an expert'? **(Specific Detail Question)**

- I. Crises arising out of drought
  - II. Famine and hunger
  - III. Rational thinking
  - IV. Action oriented research
- a. I and IV only
  - b. I, II and III only
  - c. II only
  - d. IV only
  - e. All of them

4. '... this point is purely academic', in the context of the passage, means:

**(Specific Detail Question)**

- a. the point is useless

- b. the point is merely common sense
- c. the point has nothing to do with reality
- d. the point is not supported by research or proof.
- e. the point represents the feelings of the masses.

5. Choose the best title for the passage. (**Main Idea Question**)

- a. On Research and Action
- b. The Economics of Drought
- c. On the Inadequacies of Mainstream Economics
- d. The Ivory Towers in Social Sciences
- e. On Social Welfare and Critical Theory.

**Solutions:**

1. a This is a main idea question. No particular part of the passage will support this answer specifically. The first option best summarizes the main idea. If you had made an error in choosing, read the passage again. You will then be able to eliminate the wrong options.
2. d I, II and III. (I is the focus of the project (1st Para); II is stated in the third Para. III is stated in the last Para.)
3. c Stated clearly in the second paragraph. "After 15 years ... on these matters."
4. c The passage says 'irrelevant', i.e. extraneous, unrelated, neither here nor there, etc. in relation to the context. Hence, (c) is the best option.

5. a Option (b) is too narrow. Option (d) is too general. Option (c) is only partly right (discussed in the last paragraph).

**III. Implied idea or Inference Question**

This question can be asked in one of these various forms -

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

Why does the author criticize the .....

Which one of the following is an assumption made by the author in writing this passage ?

**Approach:**

These questions have turned out to be the most difficult for most students. That is because in most cases what is being asked is not stated explicitly but is implied.

Such a question will ask you to infer from a particular instance or from something stated in the passage.

Once you have identified an inference question, this is what you must do. Go back to the passage and locate the part of the passage from where the question is asked. Then read and assimilate all the facts related to that particular question. Once you have mastered all the facts required to make the correct inference, look at the options and eliminate the choices that are obviously wrong, or far removed from the facts. From the remaining couple of options see which one is the best inference that can be made from the facts already known to you. This method is essential to ensure accuracy to this question type. You cannot leave it to your instincts alone. Is it a waste of time to go back to the passage and spend time reading carefully the facts related to the assumption/inference? Unless you are well familiar with the facts required to identify the assumption/inference, you will not know what to choose from the options. Hence, reading with this focus is not a waste of time. Also, remember that the answer to this question is not there in the passage, but is there only in the options. However, the passage has all the facts required to make this

inference. Hence, you go back to the passage, gather the facts, and come to the options and choose the inference. This process is essential to ensure accuracy.

#### Example 1:

Men of genius follow where instinct leads them; and the public life of a nation is the life of successive generations of statesmen who act from day to day as immediate interests suggest. The popular leader of the hour deals with each question as it arises, leaving future consequences to those who are to come after him.

The life of a nation, like the life of a man, may be prolonged in honor into the fullness of its time, or it may perish prematurely, for want of guidance, by violence or internal disorders. And thus the history of national revolutions is to statesmanship what the pathology of disease is to the art of medicine. Where disease has laid hold upon the constitution the physician cannot expel it. But he may check the progress of the evil if he can recognize the symptoms in time. And so with nations: amidst the endless variety of circumstances there are constant phenomena which give notice of approaching danger; there are courses of action which have uniformly produced the same results; and the wise politicians are those who have learnt from experience the real tendencies of things, or from foresight of what is coming can be cool when the peril is upon them.

(208 words)

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about a nation which has existed for long?

- a. It has been led by men of genius who followed their instincts.
- b. It has had good guidance
- c. It has survived violence and internal disorders.
- d. It has been led by sagacious statesmen.

#### Solution: (d)

The author states that the life of a nation can be prolonged or truncated - it may be cut short for want of guidance due to violence or internal disorders. Therefore options (b) and (c) can be eliminated as they describe factors whose absence can shorten a nation's life. We cannot conclude that they extend the life of a nation. The passage also mentions that. — it can survive dangers if it is led by wise statesmen who learn from experience—Hence (d).

#### Example 2:

The passage below is followed by the three types of questions discussed above viz., The Main Idea/Title Question, Specified Idea Question, and the Implied Idea Question. Apply the strategy and method you have just learnt and ensure accuracy to your responses. Timing is not as important as accuracy. However, work as quickly as you can. **Nothing less than 100% accuracy is acceptable.**

If poetry in its higher reaches is more philosophical than history, because it presents the memorable types of men and things apart from unmeaning circumstances, so in its primary substance and texture poetry is more philosophical than prose because it is nearer to our immediate experience. Poetry breaks up the trite conceptions designated by current words into the sensuous qualities out of which those conceptions were originally put together. We name what we conceive and believe in, not what we see; things, not images; souls, not voices and silhouettes. This naming, with the whole education of the senses which it accompanies, subserves the uses of life; in order to thread our way through the labyrinth of objects which assaults us, we must make a great selection in our sensuous experience; half of what we see and hear we must pass over as insignificant, while we piece out the other half with such an ideal complement as is necessary to turn it into a fixed and well-ordered conception of the world. This labour of perception and understanding, this spelling of the material meaning of experience, is enshrined in our workaday language and ideas; ideas which are literally poetic in the sense that they are

'made' (for every conception in an adult mind is a fiction), but which are at the same time prosaic because they are made economically, by abstraction, and for use.

When the child of poetic genius, who has learned this intellectual and utilitarian language in the cradle, goes a field and gathers for himself the aspects of nature, he begins to encumber his mind with the many living impressions which the intellect rejected, and which the language of the intellect can hardly convey; he labours with his nameless burden of perception, and wastes himself in aimless impulses of emotion and reverie, until finally the method of some art offers a vent to his inspiration, or to such part of it as can survive the test of time and the discipline of expression.

The poet retains by nature the innocence of the eye, or recovers it easily; he disintegrates the fictions of common perception into their sensuous elements, gathers these together again into chance groups as the accidents of his environment or the affinities of his temperament may conjoin them; and this wealth of sensation and this freedom of fancy, which make an extraordinary ferment in his ignorant heart, presently bubble over into some kind of utterance.

The fullness and sensuousness of such effusions bring them nearer to our actual perceptions than common discourse could come; yet they may easily seem remote, overloaded, and obscure to those accustomed to think entirely in symbols, and never to be interrupted in the algebraic rapidity of their thinking by a moment's pause and examination of heart, nor ever to plunge for a moment into that torrent of sensation and imagery over which the bridge of prosaic associations habitually carries us safe and dry to some conventional act. How slight that bridge commonly is, how much an affair of trestle and wire, we can hardly conceive until we have trained ourselves to an extreme sharpness of introspection. But psychologists have discovered, what laymen generally will confess, that we hurry by the procession of our mental images as we do by the traffic of the street, intent on business, gladly forgetting the noise and movement of the scene, and looking only for the corner we would turn or the door we would enter. Yet in our alertest moment the depths of the soul are still dreaming; the real world stands drawn in bare outline against a background of chaos and unrest. Our logical thoughts dominate experience only

as the parallels and meridians make a checkerboard of the sea. They guide our voyage without controlling the waves, which toss forever in spite of our ability to ride over them to our chosen ends. Sanity is a madness put to good uses; waking life is a dream controlled.

Out of the neglected riches of this dream the poet fetches his wares. He dips into the chaos that underlies the rational shell of the world and brings up some superfluous image, some emotion dropped by the way, and reattaches it to the present object; he reinstates things unnecessary, he emphasizes things ignored, he paints in again into the landscape the tints which the intellect has allowed to fade from it. If he seems sometimes to obscure a fact, it is only because he is restoring an experience. The first element which the intellect rejects in forming its ideas of things is the emotion which accompanies the perception; and this emotion is the first thing the poet restores. He stops at the image, because he stops to enjoy. He wanders into the bypaths of association because the bypaths are delightful. The love of beauty which made him give measure and cadence to his words, the love of harmony which made him rhyme them, reappear in his imagination and make him select there also the material that is itself beautiful, or capable of assuming beautiful forms. The link that binds together the ideas, sometimes so wide apart, which his wit assimilates, is most often the link of emotion; they have in common some element of beauty or of horror.

( 883 words)

1. In the first paragraph the writer establishes that poetry is more philosophical than...
  - a. history because the function of poetry is to sift through the circumstances and choose only the significant for its theme.
  - b. prose because prose deals with our immediate experiences whereas poetry deals with the sublime experiences.
  - c. Both a and b.

- d. Both b and c.
- e. None of the above.
2. According to the writer, the process of 'naming' in relation to our conception and belief, applies to ...
- I. all that we see including images and silhouettes.
- II. objects and the material meaning of experiences.
- III. voices and souls and silhouettes.
- a. All the three above
- b. I only
- c. II only
- d. III only
- e. II and III
3. The second and third paragraphs can best be summarized as:
- a. the poetic genius attempts to generate expressions for the truths that the utilitarian mind and language have in the first place rejected.
- b. the poetic genius entirely wastes himself in directionless instincts and dreaming in order to give expression to the partly experienced truths.
- c. the poetic genius continuously endeavours to attribute meaning to the apparently meaningless objects and visions, through a language familiar to all.
- d. the poetic genius makes use of the intellectual and utilitarian language that exists in order to create another form of language suitable to express the common perceptions and sensuous elements.
- e. the poetic genius lives in his 'Ivory tower' unaware of realism.
4. "Sanity is a madness put to good uses; waking life is a dream controlled." Which of the following, according to the passage reinforces the quotation?
- a. We are able to successfully conduct ourselves in the business of the material world by ignoring the mysteries and complexities of the world around us.
- b. Every human, as he moves through the material world, does carry deep within himself, a perception of the complexities and the mysteries of the world around him even though unmindful of them at the moment.
- c. Poetry is generally not fully understood by a person unless he is slightly 'insane' in a way and is a 'dreamer' to an extent.
- d. Sanity is only when one completely ignores the mysteries and complexities of life, and when one consistently rejects the 'dreamer' in oneself to reach the practical goal that one has set for oneself in the real world.
- e. When one is free to do what he likes creativity is unleashed.
5. Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the last paragraph of the passage?
- I. Poetry essentially deals with the grandeur of life in all its aspects.
- II. Poetry may deal with the insignificant and the non-obvious in everyday life.
- III. Poetry attempts to relate the contrary and even the opposite ideas through emotion.
- IV. Poetry may turn even horror into beauty.
- a. All of the above
- b. I & II only

- c. I & IV only
  - d. II & III only
  - e. None of the above.
6. Choose from the options the most suitable title for the passage
- a. Poetry and Prose
  - b. Elements of Poetry
  - c. A Portrait of the Poet as a Genius
  - d. Functions of Poetry
  - e. Sanity defined

**Solutions:**

1. e Specified Idea Question. Option (a) is true only for the 'higher reaches' of poetry as stated in the first sentence. Option (b) is false in that it is contrary to the passage. The passage states that poetry deals with 'immediate experience'.
2. c II only. Specified Idea Question. You can verify by reading the first paragraph again carefully and eliminate the wrong choices.
3. a Main Idea Question. The gist of the mentioned paragraphs.
4. b Inference Question. The other options can be eliminated when the paragraph is read more carefully.
5. d II & III only. Inference Question. Statement I cannot be inferred. IV is irrelevant.
6. b Main Idea Question. The writer examines the various elements/characteristics of poetry.

**IV. Logical structure question**

This question can be asked in one of these various forms -

Which one of the following approach is used by the author in order to develop the passage ?

The author has mentioned \_\_\_\_\_ in order to - etc

Which one of the following literary tools has been used by the author to talk about.....?

**Approach:**

These questions ask about the overall development of the passage or about why the author introduces a specific point:

The difference between Logical Structure and Specified Idea Question is that while the latter asks you what is the information in the passage, the former asks you how or why that information is presented. Which is to say that these type of questions ask you in what way has the author presented his views, how has he formed his structure, what was going on in his mind, and so on, and the reason for stating an idea or using a term.

If the question is related to a particular point in the passage it will prove useful to go back to the passage (like the methodology for Specified Idea Question) to the point where the information occurs and find the rationale of the writer for mentioning the point in question. If the question asks you about the overall development of the passage you have to understand that going back to the passage will require you to read the entire passage again, which will be a waste of time. The manner in which the author has developed the passage is clear only when you have paid attention to its structure at the very first reading of the passage. In that case deal with this question like you would deal with a main idea question. It differs from the main idea question in that you are not required to summarize the main ideas but have to see the structure and the rationale behind these ideas. However, at this point, it may be useful to understand the various ways in which an author can present his views:

**Chronological Pattern:** When the focus of a text is a change, a transformation, or a sequence of actions unfolding over time, then chronological order is the pattern of choice for that text.

**Spatial Pattern:** This pattern organizes information by location, orientation or configuration.

**Hierarchical Pattern:** Passages organized by hierarchy, a ranked series, create an order where no natural relationship (such as chronological or spatial relationship) exists. For example, if no natural chronological or spatial characteristic is a critical aspect of the matter described, then the text may designate a grouping according to a system of some sort.

**Argumentative pattern:** Argumentative writing makes a general argument, develops it by a grouping of specific examples that give evidence for the claim, and concludes by restating the general argument.

**Specific-to-General Pattern:** Specific-to-general pattern presents a series of related examples whose relationship is unclear until the passage draws them to a conclusion or general claim.

The strategy and methodology related to this question defy generalization. Hence, whether to refer back to the passage to identify and scrutinize the point in question, or to wait till one gets a fair level of familiarity with the structure of the passage and its underlying principle is a decision that you have to make after the question is understood. In any case, identifying the question type before attempting to struggle with the options will be crucial to ensure accuracy.

#### Example:

It is difficult to predict revolutions. George Rude, the leading left-wing historian of the French Revolution once wrote that an intelligent observer of the French scene, native or foreign, would hardly have predicted in 1787 the coming of the revolution despite a

variety of straws in the wind. There was probably no closer student of France at the time than Arthur Young, the leading British expert on agriculture, who visited France three times for extended periods on the eve of the revolution. While he saw a number of things that were wrong with the country, he certainly did not realize that a great revolution was coming.

Not as unusual as one might think. In Russia, there was no more ardent a protagonist of the revolution than Vladimir Ilich Lenin, who had devoted his whole life to the cause. And yet Lenin, in a lecture in Bern in January 1917, was quite pessimistic about the prospects of the masses rising up, telling his audience that the great event might not even happen in his lifetime. But it did happen just one month later. And by the end of the year, his party, the Bolsheviks, had taken power.

In our age it seems to have become even more difficult to make these sorts of predictions, perhaps because there has not been a revolution for a long time. The term is bandied about rather freely and carelessly. When I was asked many years ago to prepare the entry "revolution" for the *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences* there was broad agreement that a revolution was something *sui generis*; today it seems to have become a synonym for rebellion, coup d'état, mutiny, uprising and half a dozen other forms of upheaval. All too often we forget a once generally-accepted principle: namely that a true revolution involves a number of preconditions.

First, there is the spark needed to trigger the uprising. In 1917 it was a strike in Petrograd; the revolution in Munich in 1848 broke out because an umbrella had fallen (or was thrown down) from the top seats of a theater and the public mistook the noise for a gunshot; in Brussels in 1830 the performance of a romantic opera (*La Muette de Portici*) in which the aria of Masaniello, a Napolitan fisherman, denounced the injustices which had been committed by the Spanish Habsburg rulers, led to the division between Belgium and Holland.

In the case of the Arab awakening of 2011, 46-year-old policewoman Fedia Hamdi struck Mohamed Bouazizi, a Tunisian stallholder in a market, and in protest he burned himself

alive (in the subsequent investigation it appeared that in fact Hamdi had not struck him—and she was acquitted). But there was enough tension and discontent within the country—and in particular with Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali—that had it not been for the unfortunate Bouazizi, some other incident might well have caused the overthrow of the regime.

Next, for a revolution to succeed, it needs a revolutionary movement capable of making use of it. And unless the party in power, the establishment, has been greatly weakened—lost its self-confidence and the popular support on which it rests—the revolutionary movement may still be defeated. Extreme and efficient dictatorships—such as that of Hitler or Stalin—leave no room for maneuver. Even in the case of Tsarist Russia it took a lost war (1904/5) and three years of heavy losses (close to two million killed) in another to bring about a revolution. Tocqueville observed that a dictatorial regime faces the greatest danger when it is trying to reform itself.

1. Why does the author mention Lenin in the passage?

a. To show that Lenin was unaware of his party's plans to bring about a revolution a month later.

b. To show that even the main proponent of a revolution was unable to anticipate when the revolution would occur.

c. To show a similarity between the French Revolution with the Russian Revolution.

d. To present the view that Revolutions take place spontaneously.

2. The author states, "All too often we forget a once generally-accepted principle" in order to

a. show his disagreement with the definition of a revolution in the *Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*.

b. assert that the term 'revolution' has been used loosely.

c. demonstrate that the term revolution cannot be applied to incidents like Arab awakening.

d. support the view that it is impossible to predict a revolution during our times.

3. According to the passage, which of the following is a precondition of a Revolution?

a A military uprising against the government.

b. A strong ideology to counter the dictates of the repressive regime.

c. An incident to instigate masses against the authorities.

d. Absolute failure of the authoritarian institutions.

#### Solutions:

1. b There is no information in the passage to support (a). (b) is the right answer as the second paragraph states that "there was no more ardent a protagonist of the revolution... might not happen in his lifetime. But it did happen a month later." (c) This answer option is too broad and the author in no way tries to compare the two revolutions. (d) is incorrect because the author does not mention or imply that revolutions happen spontaneously.

2. b (a) is incorrect because the author does not disagree with the Encyclopedia. On the contrary, he states that there was broad disagreement. (b) is the correct answer as in the third paragraph, the author states that earlier "revolution" meant something "sui generis" which means "unique" and "today it seems to have become a synonym for rebellion". The author does not discuss if the "Arab awakening" is a revolution or not and therefore (c) is incorrect. (d) is a wrong answer option because this part of the passage is concerned with idea that revolutions are difficult to predict. Also the word "impossible" makes it an extreme answer option and hence completely wrong.

3. c (a) is not mentioned as a precondition of a revolution, rather is differentiated from a revolution. There is no mention of a strong ideology in the passage and so (b) is incorrect. (c) is the correct answer as the author states "a spark is needed to trigger the uprising" and goes on to enumerate some of the incidents which led to a revolution. (d) is incorrect as the destabilization of authoritarian regime can also be considered a revolution . This regime may or may not be completely displaced.

#### V. Tone Question

This question can be asked in one of these various forms -

Tone of the passage -

Tone of the author in a particular line -

The passage can be categorised as - etc

#### Approach :

Tone questions ask you to identify the writer's attitude or perspective.

If you did not get a feel of the writer's attitude on the first reading, check the adjectives that he chooses. Adjectives and, to a lesser extent, adverbs express our feelings toward subjects. For instance, if we agree with a person who holds strong feelings about a subject, we may describe his opinions as 'impassioned'. On the other hand, if we disagree with him, we may describe his opinions as excitable, which has the same meaning as 'impassioned' but carries a negative connotation. The strategy remains the same as Main Idea Questions. In case the choices are still close, then you can choose a tone, which is the tone of most of the paragraphs in the passage.

When you find that after eliminating a few options the two very close options remain, e.g. objective vs. neutral or scholarly vs. analytical, etc. try to mentally define these words as the dictionary would and try to apply this meaning to the passage, rather than be baffled by the closeness of the options. For example, neutral would mean 'not engaged on either

side' – this can be true even when one is criticizing both the sides; objective would mean 'an observation of facts as they are' rather than expressing one's views on them. After having distinguished the meanings of the words this way, think which of the meaning you would apply to the passage. Making a choice then becomes a little easier. However, tone questions in competitive exams are usually not very easy.

Words	Meaning	Words	Meaning
Admiring	respectful, approving	Optimistic	hopeful
Belittling	making small, depreciating	Praising	commending, laudatory
Cynical	unbelieving, sneering	Reverential	exalted, regarding as sacred
Denigrating	blackening, defamatory	Ridiculing	deriding, mocking, scornful
Didactic	instructive, authoritarian	Saddened	sorrowful, mournful
Ebullient	exuberant, praising	Sanguine	confident, hopeful
Lampooning	satirical, making fun of	Sarcastic	bitter, ironic
Laudatory	praising	Sardonic	mocking, bitter, cynical
Mendacious	untruthful, lying	Satiric	ridiculing, mocking
Objective	factual	Tragic	sad

#### Example:

She has also a rich and racy humor, sensitive and sober, refined and delicate. She does not caricature folly with Dickens, or laugh at weakness with Thackeray; but she shows us the limitations of life in such a manner as to produce the finest humor .Her humor is the very quintessence of human experience, strikes deadly blows at what is unjust and untrue. It is both intellectual and moral. She laughs at all, but sneers at no one,—for she has keen sympathy with all.

George Eliot is not so good a satirist as she is a humorist. Her humor is fresh and delightful, but her satire is nearly always labored. She is too much in sympathy with human nature to laugh at its follies and its weaknesses. Its joys, its bubbling humor and delight she can appreciate, as well as all the pain and sorrow that come to men and women; and she can fully enter into the life of her characters of every kind, and portray their inmost motives and impulses; but the foibles of the world she cannot treat in the

vein of the satirist. In her earlier books she is said to have been under the influence of Thackeray, but her satire is heavy, and lacks his light touch and his tender undertone of compassion.

The passage can best be categorized as:

- a. Critical
- b. Analytical
- c. Cavilling
- d. Descriptive

**Solution: (b)**

The author analyses George Eliot as a satirist and a humorist concluding that her humor and character sketches were good but her satire was heavy. This makes the passage analytical in tone. It is not critical as the author also praises Eliot. Cavilling, which means finding petty faults is also inappropriate here. It is not purely descriptive either as the author does give his own view point.

## VI. Further Application Questions or Continued Idea Questions

This question can be asked in one of these various forms -

A suitable title for the passage would be ....

The given passage has been taken from which of the following sources?

If the author chooses to write further, which of the following will the next paragraph deal with?

Which of the following is a possible solution to the problem discussed in the passage ?

**Approach:**

These questions, as explained in the earlier chapter, ask you to take what has been learnt from the passage and apply it to a new situation. They ask you to go a little beyond the passage in various ways. The test writer then has the freedom to frame this question in anyway that will test what you

have learnt from the passage to see how careful a reader you are. Hence, he can ask you to merely state 'what will continue the passage?' 'Where is it from?' 'What is the strategy contained in this essay?' Who is the writer of this passage?' 'Who do you think are the readers?' 'What can you compare this passage with?' 'What will make the argument stronger/ weaker?' ...., and so on.

Application questions differ from inferential questions only in degree. Inference questions ask you to apply what you have learned from the passage to derive new information about the same subject, whereas application questions go one step further, asking you to apply what you have learned from the passage to a different or hypothetical situation.

Well, if I give you a methodology to ensure accuracy to this question, I am doing justice neither to this question type nor to you. The only thing that has to be strictly followed is: Do not go back to the passage to find the answer. Unless you are prepared to read the entire passage again, you are merely wasting time trying to narrow in on specific bits of information that will help you answer such a question. Based on your understanding of the whole reading evaluate the options to the best of your reasoning, keep eliminating the options through reasoning until you are left with one option that cannot be eliminated. Most probably that is the answer. If the question asks you 'What will continue the passage?' merely choose the option that contains the last idea mentioned in the passage. Do not make any assumptions to the effect that "this is how the passage should be written".

**Example:**

Dr Deslauriers's lab rats were a group of 850 undergraduate engineering students taking a compulsory physics course. The students were split into groups at the start of their

course, and for the first 11 weeks all went to traditionally run lectures given by well-regarded and experienced teachers. In the 12th week, one of the groups was switched to a style of teaching known as deliberate practice, which inverts the traditional university model. Class time is spent on problem-solving, discussion and group work, while the absorption of facts and formulae is left for homework. Students were given reading assignments before classes. Once in the classroom they spent their time in small groups, discussing specific problems, with the teacher roaming between groups to offer advice and respond to questions.

At the end of the test week, Dr Deslauriers surveyed the students and gave them a voluntary test (sold as useful exam practice, and marked on a 12-point scale) to see how much they had learned in that week and what they thought of the new teaching method. The results were striking. The traditionally taught group's average score was 41%, compared with 74% for the experimental group—even though the experimental group did not manage to cover all the material it was supposed to, whereas the traditional group did.

1. Which of the following, if true, would weaken the argument that the experimental group learned more than the traditional group?
  - a. In another test taken a week later the traditional group outscored the experimental group.
  - b. The traditional group was more successful in teaching the subject to new students than the experimental group.
  - c. The test taken during the experiment had more questions on theories and facts and less on problem solving.
  - d. In another test taken a week before the 12<sup>th</sup> week (Experiment week) the students in the experimental group outscored the traditional group.

2. Which one of these is not likely to be a feature of a class conducted in the experimental study method?
  - a. Experienced and well-regarded teachers.
  - b. Experiments and their analysis
  - c. Flashcards to memorize formulae
  - d. Unstructured group discussions

#### Solutions:

1. d Option (d) weakens the argument. If the students in the experimental group had outscored the traditional group even before the new learning method was introduced it might mean that they have brighter students who always get higher grades. This would mean that the new learning method may have not affected how much they had learned. Option (a) is incorrect because it cannot be inferred whether the effect of the study /experiment was suppose to have a long lasting effect that goes beyond the designated period.

2. c According to the passage the class revolves around discussions and solving specific problems. Memorizing is unlikely to be a part of this.

#### VII. I, II, III Questions

These questions ask you to choose the correct combination of options. These types are essentially time consuming. Hence, it becomes important that you use the proper strategy to narrow down on the correct answer choice without wasting time. The strategy involves working with the options. In other words, if you are sure that the idea indicated by I is a part of the answer eliminate all the choices that do not contain I. This may sometimes even lead to the elimination of all the other options leaving only one.

For example:

- a. I and III only
- b. II and III only
- c. III only
- d. II only
- e. None of the above.

**Approach:**

If you see that I is correct and is a part of your answer, you know that the correct answer choice should contain I. Options b, c, and d do not contain I, hence are eliminated. Whether III is a part of the answer or not is not an issue at all because, even if you feel that III is not a part of the answer, there is no other option that you can choose. Hence, the answer has to be Option a.

But, instead of being sure about I being part of the answer, suppose you are sure that II is wrong. In such cases eliminate all the options that contain II, and then study the options to decide which statement indicated by Roman numerals you should examine. Not that this trick will work all the time. There can be answer choices, which require you to examine all the statements indicated by Roman numerals. However, more often than not, being aware of this method of working helps to save time.

**Example :**

Toskavat, verb, to long for. Toska, noun, a longing, darker than nostalgia, verging on depression. Russian culture is embedded in a matrix of toska. When in Three Sisters, by Anton Chekhov (who owned a dacha in Crimea), Irina wistfully says, "Oh, to go to Moscow, to Moscow!" that is toska. If Sevastopol, where 70 percent of the population is ethnic Russian, could talk, I imagine it too saying, To Moscow, to Moscow. In a 2009 poll by the Razumkov Centre, a top Ukrainian think tank, nearly a third of the Crimean

respondents said they wanted their region to secede from Ukraine and become part of Russia.

In some ways it still is. But not just Russia. Crimea is practically a throwback to the old Soviet Union: the Early Concrete Bunker style of architecture, the rusting hulls of Russian warships in the harbor, the hammer-and-sickle medallions on the iron gates of Primorsky Park. It's also attitude. Brusque, rigid, humorless: the worst kind of Soviet hangover. You can take Crimea out of the Soviet Union; to pry the Soviet Union out of Crimea is something else. When I asked Yelena Nikolayevna Bazhenova, director of a Sevastopol-based tour company, why Crimea with its lovely seaside didn't attract more tourists, she hesitated. "We are not accustomed to greeting people with a smile," she finally said.

Crimea also sounds Russian. Ukrainian may be the official language, but Russian is the lingua franca, even in city hall. Of 60 secondary schools in Sevastopol, only one holds classes completely in Ukrainian.

A quirk of history had swept Crimea away from Russia, leaving Moscow with its own share of toska. As a former Russian deputy foreign minister told Steven Pifer, a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine: "In my head, I know Ukraine is an independent nation. In my heart, it is quite another thing." An inventory of Russian forfeiture in Crimea: the vineyards of Massandra and Inkerman; champagne the color of rubies; Yevpatoriya and Feodosiya, the briny health resorts of the west and east coasts; sun-bleached Yalta and Foros on the south coast; orchards heavy with peaches, cherries, and apricots; fields tawny with wheat.

Finally, harbors that never freeze. Unlike Russia, Crimea has the blessing of warmth. Sixty-five percent of Russia is covered in permafrost. None of Crimea is. A fifth of Russia is above the Arctic Circle. None of Crimea is. In February, when it is 14°F in Moscow, it can be 43 in Yalta. "Russia needs its paradise," Prince Grigory Potemkin, Catherine the Great's general and lover, wrote in urging annexation. Nearly every European power had carved slices of Asia, Africa, and the Americas for their imperial platters; Russia was no

different in its appetite to expand. In 1783, Catherine declared Crimea to be forever Russian, adding 18,000 square miles to the empire, extending its border to the Black Sea, paving the way for its rise as a naval power. Russia had claimed its paradise.

1. Which of the following best characterizes present-day Crimea on the basis of the information given in the passage?

- 1. Crimea - A land from a different time.
- 2. Crimea - A unique experience.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

2. Which of the following is/ are the reason(s) for Russia to long for Crimea?

- 1. Yevpatoriya and Feodosiya, the seaside health resorts.
- 2. Strategic harbors for use when the most of Russia is covered in permafrost.
- 3. Agricultural produce, like wheat and fruits, which are not readily available in Russia.
- 4. Temperate climate.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 2 and 4 only

c. 3 and 4 only

d. 1, 2 and 4

3. Which of the following is a symptom of the 'Soviet Hangover'?

- 1. The brusque and rigid attitude of the people of Crimea.
- 2. Architectural styles of the buildings in Crimea.
- 3. Signs and symbols leftover from the Soviet era.
- 4. The dominance of the Russian language.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3
- c. 3 and 4 only
- d. 1, 2 and 4

4. Why does the passage start with a definition of the Russian word 'toska'?

- a. The author wanted to get the reader's attention by starting with something unfamiliar and new.
- b. The author wants to bring in the Russian language, which is a very important part of the passage.
- c. The word completely captures the author's tone as he/she writes this piece.

c. 3 and 4 only

d. 1, 2 and 4

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2. Architectural styles of the buildings in Crimea.

3. Signs and symbols leftover from the Soviet era.

4. The dominance of the Russian language.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

a. 1 and 3 only

b. 1, 2 and 3

c. 3 and 4 only

d. 1, 2 and 4

4. Why does the passage start with a definition of the Russian word 'toska'?

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b. The author wants to bring in the Russian language, which is a very important part of the passage.

c. The word completely captures the author's tone as he/she writes this piece.

d. The word expresses the atmosphere in Crimea and is also a dominant theme throughout the passage.

#### Solutions:

1. a Statement 1 can be used to describe Crimea, which according to the passage "is practically a throwback to the old Soviet Union". Statement 2 is incorrect as the culture in Crimea is predominantly Russian.

2. d Except statement 3, all the other options are mentioned in the passage. When the author writes "orchards heavy with peaches, cherries, and apricots; fields tawny with wheat" the tone seems to be nostalgic, however It is not clear whether these would be missed for their utility or their beauty. In any case we cannot infer that they are not readily available in Russia.

3. b Except statement 4, all the other options bring out aspects of the Soviet era. The Russian language is not discussed in this context. Although the author mentions the prominence of Russian language, but this is a mere similarity. It cannot be attributed as a symptom of Soviet hangover.

4. d Option (a) does not completely capture the reason why the word was used. Option (b) is incorrect, as the author does not focus on the Russian language throughout the passage. Also, the tone of the author is not one of longing. Therefore (c) can be eliminated.

## Practice Passages

**DIRECTIONS for Questions:** Each of the following passages given below is followed by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

### Passage - I

Ladies and Gentlemen of the class of '97... wear sunscreen.

If I could offer you only one tip for the future, sunscreen would be it.

The long-term benefits of sunscreen have been proved by scientists whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering experience.

I will dispense this advice now.

Enjoy the power and beauty of your youth. Never mind. You will not understand the power and beauty of your youth until they have faded. But trust me, in 20 years you'll look back at photos of yourself and recall in a way you can't grasp now how much possibility lay before you and how fabulous you really looked.

You are NOT as fat as you imagine.

Don't worry about the future; or worry, but know that worrying is as effective as trying to solve an algebra equation by chewing bubblegum. The real troubles in your life are apt to be things that never crossed your worried mind; the kind that blindsight you at 4 pm on some idle Tuesday.

Do one thing every day that scares you.

Sing.

Don't be reckless with other people's hearts, don't put up with people who are reckless with yours.

Floss.

Don't waste your time on jealousy; sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind. The race is long, and in the end, it's only with yourself.

Remember compliments you receive, forget the insults; if you succeed in doing this, tell me how.

Keep your old love letters; throw away your old bank statements.

Stretch.

Don't feel guilty if you don't know what you want to do with your life. The most interesting people I know didn't know at 22 what they wanted to do with their lives, some of the most interesting 40 year olds I know still don't.

Get plenty of calcium.

Be kind to your knees, you'll miss them when they're gone.

Maybe you'll marry, maybe you won't, maybe you'll have children, maybe you won't, maybe you'll divorce at 40, maybe you'll dance the funky chicken on your 75th wedding anniversary. Whatever you do, don't congratulate yourself too much or berate yourself, either. Your choices are half chance, so are everybody else's. Enjoy your body, use it every way you can. Don't be afraid of it, or what other people think of it, it's the greatest instrument you'll ever own.

Dance. Even if you have nowhere to do it but in your own living room.

Read the directions, even if you don't follow them.

Do not read beauty magazines, they will only make you feel ugly.

Get to know your parents; you never know when they'll be gone for good.

Be nice to your siblings; they are your best link to your past and the people most likely to stick with you in the future.

Understand that friends come and go, but for the precious few you should hold on. Work hard to bridge the gaps in geography in lifestyle because the older you get, the more you need the people you knew when you were young.

Live in New York City once, but leave before it makes you hard; live in Northern California once, but leave before it makes you soft.

Travel.

Accept certain inalienable truths, prices will rise, politicians will philander, you too will get old, and when you do you'll fantasize that when you were young prices were reasonable, politicians were noble and children respected their elders.

Respect your elders.

Don't expect anyone else to support you. Maybe you have a trust fund, maybe you'll have a wealthy spouse; but you never know when either one might run out.

Don't mess too much with your hair, or by the time you're 40, it will look 85.

Be careful whose advice you buy, but, be patient with those who supply it. Advice is a form of nostalgia, dispensing it is a way of fishing the past from the disposal, wiping it off, painting over the ugly parts and recycling it for more than it's worth.

But trust me on the sunscreen.

1. The tone of the author in the entire passage has

a. expressed carelessness mixed with open mindedness.

b. an all pervading reassuring warmth with spurts of lackadaisicalness.

c. a carefree touch blended with wariness.

d. a clear optimistic shade subdued by a hint of moderate expectation.

e. an imaginative shade bordering on surrealism.

2. Which of the following is not true according to the passage?

a. The author does not have the slightest inkling as to ways of sieving out scurrility from his retention.

b. The author considers every occurrence as a probabilistic windfall or mishap.

c. The author advises to harbour affectionate admiration for one's physical capabilities and to profit by the same.

d. The author does not advise against attempting algebra problems while chewing bubblegum.

e. None of these

3. Which of the following statements is not an assumption made by the author in writing the passage?

a. The audience is of average looks and capabilities.

b. The audience will develop a habit of worrying about day to day matters.

c. The audience will be emotionally vulnerable in the time to come.

d. The audience will not develop a tendency to become dependant on others in some way or the other.

e. The audience has a tendency to take those who address it very seriously.

4. What does the author seek to achieve by mentioning sunscreen repeatedly in the passage?
- a. To give his piece a humorous touch.
  - b. To compare the certainty of its goodness to the fickle nature of the advice he has to offer.
  - c. To avoid taking responsibility for his deliberations as his advice is highly contextual in nature which might not hold true for everybody.
  - d. All of the above
  - e. None of the above

#### Passage - II

PepsiCo Inc.'s Chief Financial Officer Indra Nooyi made an impression on former Chairman Roger Enrico in 2000 when she talked him into trimming a bid for Quaker Oats Co. "just a little bit." The \$14 billion offer was low enough for PepsiCo to afford and high enough to keep Quaker's executives from balking, Enrico said in an interview yesterday. Nooyi got the deal done, giving PepsiCo control of Gatorade and the dominant share of the market for sports drinks. "It ended up being one of the best decisions in Pepsi Co's history," Enrico said. Nooyi, 50, will replace Steve Reinemund as chief executive officer in October, making PepsiCo the largest U.S. company to be run by a woman. She follows two other female PepsiCo executives, whose decision-making won them top jobs at public companies, turning the soft-drink maker into the top incubator of women CEOs at the 250 largest U.S. companies.

Irene Rosenfeld, 53, who ran PepsiCo's Frito-Lay division, left in June to ready Kraft Foods Inc. for a spin-off from Altria Group Inc. Brenda Barnes, 52, leading the restructuring of Sara Lee Corp. as its CEO, was chief of Pepsi-Cola North America in the 1990s. Nooyi "is coming from a nice pool of women that has been developed over time,"

said Debbie Soon, head of executive leadership initiatives for New York research firm Catalyst. Last year, 27 percent of PepsiCo's corporate officers were women, compared with an average of 16 percent for Fortune 500 companies, according to Catalyst. There are 11 female CEOs in the Fortune 500 today. There were none in 1990.

The highest percentage of female executives among Fortune 500 companies is at San Francisco-based clothing retailer Gap Inc., with 46 percent, according to Catalyst. "Pepsi is a great meritocracy," said Gerard Roche, senior chairman of executive recruiter Heidrick & Struggles International Inc. "They say, 'Let's get somebody good and if she happens to be a gal, that's all the better.'"

Shares of PepsiCo, the world's second-largest soft-drink maker, rose 62 cents to a historic high of \$63.95 yesterday in New York Stock Exchange composite trading, while No. 1 Coca-Cola Co. gained 23 cents to \$43.99. Since the Quaker Oats deal was completed in August 2001, PepsiCo stock has jumped 44 percent, while Coca-Cola has lost 1.6 percent.

Reinemund, 58, said yesterday on a call with analysts that he has "worked shoulder-to-shoulder" with Nooyi for the past five years and "considered her my partner in leading PepsiCo." Nooyi declined to comment for this story, spokeswoman Lynn Markley said. Nooyi serves on the boards of Motorola Inc. and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and is known for doing extensive research before any decision.

Three years ago, she spent the Christmas holiday learning about a new technology system that Purchase, New York-based PepsiCo was about to install, said Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, senior associate dean at the Yale University School of Management. He has known Nooyi, Reinemund and other PepsiCo executives for a decade. "She knew the whole system and its capabilities inside and out, almost as well as the technicians," Sonnenfeld said.

Nooyi joined PepsiCo 12 years ago after working as a strategic planning executive at Asea Brown Boveri Inc., Motorola Inc. and Boston Consulting Group. One of her first jobs at the soft-drink maker was to help Enrico decide what to do about the company's restaurant unit, which included KFC, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut.

"The central part of her proposition was that we weren't retailers ourselves, and we didn't have the expertise to run them the way they could and should be run," said Enrico, 61, who is now chairman of Glendale, California-based Dreamworks Animation SKG.

A couple of years later, Enrico sold shares of the restaurant group to the public, creating Yum! Brands Inc. Nooyi was involved in more than a dozen other acquisitions when she was CFO, including PepsiCo's 1998 purchase of Tropicana Products Inc. for \$3.3 billion, giving it the top-selling juice in the U.S. with a 32 percent share of the market. PepsiCo now gets less than 20 percent of sales from soft drinks, compared with 80 percent for Atlanta-based Coca-Cola. PepsiCo leads in non-carbonated drinks with a 79 percent U.S. market share for Gatorade, compared with 19 percent for Coca-Cola's Powerade, according to industry journal Beverage Digest. PepsiCo's Aquafina holds 15 percent of the bottled water market in the U.S., while Coca-Cola's Dasani has 9 percent. Total non-soda drink sales in the U.S. amounted to approximately \$30 billion this year, which last year was one-third less than it, according to Beverage Digest. On the other hand the soda market is approximately \$75 billion, which last year was one-fifth smaller than it.

Nooyi was raised in Chennai, India, formerly called Madras, and is married to Raj Nooyi. They have two adult daughters. She completed her bachelor's degree at Madras Christian College and received a master's of business administration at the Indian Institute of Management. She came to the U.S. to attend Yale University, where she completed a master's of public and private management. Nooyi, who likes to sing, once arranged for musician Don McLean to appear at a party in Enrico's honour and play his favourite song, *American Pie*. "She remembers things like that," Enrico said. "It's part of what will make her one of the finest CEOs in corporate America."

5. If there is a global ban on the consumption of soft drink, then which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- a. PepsiCo and Coca Cola will be equally affected in terms of profitability.
- b. There will be no impact on the profitability of PepsiCo and Coca Cola.

- c. The profitability of PepsiCo will not be as affected as that of Coca Cola.
  - d. Yum! Brands Inc. will be most affected.
  - e. The profits of PepsiCo and Coca Cola put together will out weigh KFC's profits.
6. Nooyi's unwillingness to comment on Reinemund's statement that he has "worked shoulder-to-shoulder" with Nooyi for the past five years and "considered her my partner in leading PepsiCo." implies
- a. that she is too modest to admit that she has been virtually leading the company from before her appointment as the CEO.
  - b. that she is not comfortable in acknowledging Reinemund's contribution to her career.
  - c. that she does not want to make a hue and cry about it, as it was in the normal course of business.
  - d. that she is unwilling to accommodate any controversy whatsoever at this stage.
  - e. that she does not want to raise a tempest in the tea cups and considers it pretty much part of the routine.
7. According to the passage which of the following statements is definitely true with respect to the soft drinks market?
- a. The rate of growth of the non-soda market registered on the previous year's figures is roughly double of the rate registered by the soda market.
  - b. The non-carbonated drinks market in the US is growing at an incredible pace.
  - c. Tropicana products contribute the most to PepsiCo's leading market share.
  - d. The soda market is not as lucrative as it was in the past decade.
  - e. The soda market is being dominated by new terta pack fruit juice brands.

8. All of the companies mentioned in the passage are with reference to women executives except

- a. Kraft Foods
- b. Gap Inc
- c. Motorola Inc.
- d. Sara Lee Corp.
- e. Heidrick & Struggles Inc

### Passage - III

About a year ago I attended a meeting of the P.E.N. Club, the occasion being the tercentenary of Milton's *Aeropagitica* — a pamphlet, it may be remembered, in defence of freedom of the press.

Out of this concourse of several hundred people, perhaps half of whom were directly connected with the writing trade, there was not a single one who could point out that freedom of the press, if it means anything at all, means the freedom to criticize and oppose. Significantly, no speaker quoted from the pamphlet which was ostensibly being commemorated. Nor was there any mention of the various books which have been 'killed' in England and the United States during the war. In its net effect the meeting was a demonstration in favour of censorship.

There was nothing particularly surprising in this. In our age, the idea of intellectual liberty is under attack from two directions. On the one side are its theoretical enemies, the apologists of totalitarianism, and on the other its immediate, practical enemies, monopoly and bureaucracy. Any writer or journalist who wants to retain his integrity finds himself thwarted by the general drift of society rather than by active persecution. The sort of things that are working against him are the concentration of the press in the hands of a few rich men, the grip of monopoly on radio and the films, the unwillingness of

the public to spend money on books, making it necessary for nearly every writer to earn part of his living by hackwork, the encroachment of official bodies like the M.O.I. and the British Council, which help the writer to keep alive but also waste his time and dictate his opinions, and the continuous war atmosphere of the past ten years, whose distorting effects no one has been able to escape. Everything in our age conspires to turn the writer, and every other kind of artist as well, into a minor official, working on themes handed down from above and never telling what seems to him the whole of the truth.

Freedom of thought and of the press are usually attacked by arguments which are not worth bothering about. Anyone who has experience of lecturing and debating knows them off backwards. Here I am

not trying to deal with the familiar claim that freedom is an illusion, or with the claim that there is more freedom in totalitarian countries than in democratic ones, but with the much more tenable and dangerous proposition that freedom is *undesirable* and that intellectual honesty is a form of anti-social selfishness. Although other aspects of the question are usually in the foreground, the controversy over freedom of speech and of the press is at bottom a controversy of the desirability, or otherwise, of telling lies.

The enemies of intellectual liberty always try to present their case as a plea for discipline versus individualism. The issue truth-versus-untruth is as far as possible kept in the background. Although the point of emphasis may vary, the writer who refuses to sell his opinions is always branded as a mere *egoist*. He is accused, that is, of either wanting to shut himself up in an ivory tower, or of making an exhibitionist display of his own personality, or of resisting the inevitable current of history in an attempt to cling to unjustified privilege. The Catholic and the Communist are alike in assuming that an opponent cannot be both honest and intelligent. Each of them tacitly claims that 'the truth' has already been revealed, and that the heretic, if he is not simply a fool, is secretly aware of 'the truth' and merely resists it out of selfish motives. In Communist literature the attack on intellectual liberty is usually masked by oratory about 'petty-bourgeois individualism', 'the illusions of nineteenth-century liberalism', etc., and backed up by words of abuse such as 'romantic' and 'sentimental', which, since they do not have any agreed meaning, are difficult to answer. In this way the controversy is maneuvered away

from its real issue. One can accept, and most enlightened people would accept, the Communist thesis that pure freedom will only exist in a classless society, and that one is most nearly free when one is working to bring such a society about. But slipped in with this is the quite unfounded claim that the Communist Party is itself aiming at the establishment of the classless society, and that in the U.S.S.R. this aim is actually on the way to being realized. If the first claim is allowed to entail the second, there is almost no assault on common sense and common decency that cannot be justified. But meanwhile, the real point has been dodged. Freedom of the intellect means the freedom to report what one has seen, heard, and felt, and not to be obliged to fabricate imaginary facts and feelings. The familiar tirades against 'escapism' and 'individualism', 'romanticism', and so forth, are merely a forensic device, the aim of which is to make the perversion of history seem respectable.

Fifteen years ago, when one defended the freedom of the intellect, one had to defend it against Conservatives, against Catholics, and to some extent — for they were not of great importance in England — against Fascists. Today one has to defend it against Communists and 'fellow-travelers'. One ought not to exaggerate the direct influence of the small English Communist Party, but there can be no question about the poisonous effect of the Russian mythos on English intellectual life. Because of it known facts are suppressed and distorted to such an extent as to make it doubtful whether a true history of our times can ever be written. Let me give just one instance out of the hundreds that could be cited. When Germany collapsed, it was found that very large numbers of Soviet Russians — mostly, no doubt, from non-political motives — had changed sides and were fighting for the Germans. Also, a small but not negligible portion of the Russian prisoners and displaced persons refused to go back to the U.S.S.R., and some of them, at least, were repatriated against their will. These facts, known to many journalists on the spot, went almost unmentioned in the British press, while at the same time Russophile publicists in England continued to justify the purges and deportations of 1936-38 by claiming that the U.S.S.R. 'had no quislings'. The fog of lies and misinformation that surrounds such subjects as the Ukraine famine, the Spanish civil war, Russian policy in Poland, and so forth, is not due entirely to conscious dishonesty, but any writer or journalist who is fully

sympathetic for the U.S.S.R. — sympathetic, that is, in the way the Russians themselves would want him to be — does have to acquiesce in deliberate falsification on important issues.

9. Why does the author qualify the P.E.N. Club meeting as being a demonstration in favour of censorship?

- a. He found the people to be paid proponents of censorship.
- b. They were overtly defending instances of censorship.
- c. They were censoring each other during the course of the meeting.
- d. The subject matter of the meeting resulted from succumbing to censorship.
- e. The censor board was giving lenience to classified content.

10. What assumption does author notice in the Communist thesis regarding the definition of pure freedom?

- a. He disputes the belief that freedom exists only in a classless society.
- b. He doubts the implicit belief that the communist party wants a classless society.
- c. He does not see the Communist thesis bearing out exactly as planned in case of USSR.
- d. He questions the definition of freedom from a theoretical perspective.
- e. He sees capitalism embedded in communism.

11. Why does the author criticise the use of words such as "romantic" and "sentimental" which are used to attack intellectual liberty?

- a. He considers them to be abstract terms that cannot be argued against.

- b. He feels that making a value judgement against being romantic and sentimental is incorrect.
  - c. He believes that this is a vague way to categorise people.
  - d. He thinks political arguments are best discussed in a political forum.
  - e. He considers them terms that melt the heart.
12. According to the author, how do enemies of intellectual liberty obfuscate the debate?
- a. By making it a political argument with countries as the point of focus.
  - b. By creating a schism between the people and the Party.
  - c. By moving the debate to questions of selfishness and egotism.
  - d. By using historical precedents to establish their case.
  - e. By relying extensively on political allegories.

#### Passage - IV

Imagine a crushing sadness so severe it keeps you from eating, sleeping, or socializing. Though you can't sleep, you lack the energy and the will to get out of bed. Everyday decisions, like which clothes to wear, leave you paralyzed. You've no desire to do the things you once thought were fun; in fact, you can't bring yourself to do much of anything. Now, add to all that the realization that you've tried everything known to medicine, it hasn't worked, and there's a good chance you won't feel any different. Ever.

"I had nothing to lose," says Karmen McGuffee, who suffered from severe depression for a decade and was hospitalized five times for it. So she had surgeons cut open her neck, gently wrap an electrode around one of the nerves there, and plug the electrode into a pulse generator, which they slipped under the skin of her chest. About every 5 minutes,

the pocket-watch-size device sends a buzz of current through the nerve and into her brain.

Six months after doctors switched on the pulse generator, called a vagus nerve stimulator, McGuffee's world looked totally different. "I had no idea that life didn't have to have a dark veil over it all the time," she says. Once unable to concentrate enough to read a newspaper, McGuffee is now an executive secretary.

Depression is distressingly common, affecting more than 120 million people around the world and sucking tens of billions of dollars out of the global economy through the cost of care and lost productivity. It's also deadly. Every year 850 000 people worldwide take their own lives, and 9 out of 10 of them are suffering from depression, another mental illness, or substance abuse. Statistics show that of those who had had treatment for depression just through visits to a doctor's office, 2 percent ultimately committed suicide, as did 4 percent of those who had to be hospitalized for depression.

Twenty-five percent of people with depression have no access to any form of mental health care; of those who do have access to care, only a quarter seek treatment. Of those who consult doctors, some 80 percent find relief in the form of drugs or some kind of talk therapy, such as cognitive therapy. But for the rest—people like McGuffee, prone to the most severe and chronic forms of depression, about 11 million of them in the developed world alone—drugs don't work.

For decades, the only other option for these people was electroconvulsive therapy, which because of the frightening side effect of amnesia is often rejected by patients. But this grim outlook is at last beginning to change. McGuffee was one of the first to benefit from a new crop of electromagnetic brain stimulation technologies that psychiatrists are testing, with the hope of curing—or at least helping—patients for whom little else works. By electrically manipulating specific portions of the brain with implanted electrodes, electric current, or magnetic fields, doctors aim to succeed where drugs fail, by producing long-lasting changes in the brain—and to do it without electroshock's significant side effects.

For a variety of reasons, including the large number of potential patients and the accumulated knowledge of how the disease works, depression is the primary target of most of these technologies. But some of these methods are already showing great promise for treating such other mental maladies as bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and bulimia.

The technology McGuffee uses, vagus nerve stimulation, was the first to enter routine clinical use.

A pacemakerlike device about the size of a pocket watch, implanted under the skin of the chest, pulses a nerve in the neck. In about 16 percent of patients like McGuffee, according to clinical studies, that electric pulsing completely quashes the symptoms of depression. It was approved as a depression therapy by government regulators in the European Union and Canada in 2001. Last June, it became the first psychiatric device to be reviewed and approved in the United States, which has more stringent requirements for medical devices. Nevertheless, a number of psychiatrists remain unconvinced that the therapy works in enough people to outweigh the risk and cost of surgery.

Vagus nerve stimulation isn't the only technology being touted for treatment of the severely depressed. Another technique, repetitive transcranial stimulation, uses powerful magnets to generate current in well-defined portions of the brain. Many research groups around the world have experimented with the technology. At last count the results of more than 60 depression trials performed in Australia, Israel, Taiwan, the United States, Europe, and elsewhere had been published. But clinical use is just beginning. The technology is winding its way toward a review by U.S. regulators, and the company behind it, Neuronetics Inc., in Malvern, Pa., says it could be approved within the year.

And these two are just the ones closest to the clinic. Researchers are exploring three other, more experimental technologies. One uses direct current to produce a change in the brain similar to that of magnetic stimulation. Another uses transcranial magnetic stimulators to spark seizures just as electroconvulsive therapy does but, it is hoped, without the amnesia that can accompany it. The third experimental technology borrows a device used to control the tremors of Parkinson's disease. Surgeons have begun

implanting electrodes in patients' brains to switch off malfunctioning brain circuits involved in depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

The coming clutch of medical devices, if proven to work, could represent not just hope for the hopeless but a profound change in psychiatry. "I think it's not too big a jump to say we haven't had a new [nondrug] treatment for 40 years," says Paul Fitzgerald, an associate professor of psychiatry at Monash University, and deputy director of the Alfred Psychiatry Research Center, both in Melbourne, Australia. Fitzgerald, who does transcranial magnetic stimulation research, notes that even the drug therapies are largely derivative of each other. "Now we're really faced with the potential for a significant expansion of treatments, as long as they are introduced carefully," he adds. Noting psychiatry's often disastrous history of nondrug treatments, such as the embrace of prefrontal lobotomy in the mid-20th century, he thinks the field is approaching a watershed, for the better.

13. According to the passage it can be inferred that

- a. drug-based treatments are slowly going to be phased seeing the success of newer and safer non-drug treatments.
- b. drug-therapies are usually non-derivative in nature.
- c. treatments for certain psychological disorders are not being discovered, for such disorders are not very common.
- d. psychiatrists are convinced that vagus nerve stimulation works in enough people to outweigh the risk and cost of surgery.
- e. psychological disorders are very generic.

14. The technique that uses powerful magnets to generate current in well-defined portions of the brain is called

- a. repetitive transcranial stimulation.

- b. electroconvulsive therapy.
  - c. vagus nerve stimulation.
  - d. electromagnetic nerve stimulation.
  - e. The quantum leap therapy.
15. According to the passage, drug therapy for depression
- a. has major side-effects that do not make it viable today.
  - b. has failed to work in cases that are too severe.
  - c. is usually not efficacious.
  - d. is being successfully used in conjunction with more radical therapies.
  - e. has entertained addiction.
16. The function of electrodes implanted in the brain is
- a. to switch off malfunctioning brain units.
  - b. to stimulate the dead nerve cells.
  - c. to prevent the formation of free radicals in the brain.
  - d. to deactivate the brain cells that have been damaged by neurotoxins.
  - e. to stimulate the pituitary gland.

### Passage V

Since when is "n-tier architecture combined with Web services frameworks in order to provide a seamless distributed application environment" something that mere mortals can master? If this jargon looks like gobbledegook, let me tell you that the underlying

truth is much, much worse. The Web is not a friendly place for software developers—not in conception, development, or (especially) actual use. There are so many elements to take into consideration—clients, servers, databases, XML, HTML, scripts, and more. The industry is fraught with perils including broken connections, bad performance, unruly users, and hackers who delight in breaking your software.

Thinking about future technology tells me a great deal about the difficulties that lie ahead for software. Take nanotechnology. Big things are in store for this tiny realm, but everywhere I look it's the equipment side that people talk about: the tunneling microscopes, nanotube circuits, and other devices. They simply presume that the software will be there to control and organize this ultra-complex and vastly numerous group of nanites.

On the other hand, I hear great bastions of software development such as IBM bewail the fact that software is getting out of hand: i.e., it's too complicated and too difficult to be reliable. We all know about the problems Microsoft had and is having with providing secure and reliable operating systems. Yet we have people basically shrugging and assuming that software to manage the potentials (dangers too) of nanotechnology is a "given." Well, it's not a given, or a gimme, or even a maybe-get.

A crisis in software is a buck a bundle. I've been hearing for decades about how hard it is to make good software. The principle of "muddle through" seems to have taken hold long ago, and is still hanging on for dear life. Among other things we've invented modular programming, object orientation, and Xtreme programming to solve the software bottleneck. And yet, people are still decrying the lack of progress. That's probably because programmers continue to avoid "good programming practices" in favor of trying to get the job done—quick and dirty, if necessary.

Lord knows I've done enough preaching about good software development practices. But from the point of view of successful projects, programming today doesn't look a whole lot better than it did in the days of assembly languages. Recent surveys continue to show that only one out of five or six software projects is considered successful. We can do more with

software, but more isn't necessarily a big improvement—for the user or the developer. Meanwhile, the rush of technological development continues to up the ante on software complexity.

It isn't that we can't write good, even great, software. Give a clutch of hotshots a lot of money and a single, relatively well-focused project and watch the code fly! Put another way, we can demo any kind of software—real one-of-a-kind brilliance. The problem is in replicating good software over many different projects, and especially in dealing with very large and long-term projects.

So software development, which is intimately linked to the success of most other future technologies, must get itself together before we get too much further down the road. When you evaluate new computer technology (or almost any other kind) be sure to ask, "Where's the software? How good is the software?" It's bad enough to have a premier channel of communication (the Internet) mucked up by faulty and poorly designed software security, but when it comes to splicing human genes or unleashing trillions of tiny robots...

If you think this diatribe is anomalous, take a gander at the IBM Web site. IBM is too chivalrous to use my kind of language, but the idea is similar: We cannot produce software to manage the kind of complexity we see now (much less the future) without radical change in the way hardware and software is designed and the way it functions.

What changes? In a nutshell, "Computer, fix thyself." IBM calls the approach autonomic computing, which is sufficiently esoteric to appeal to academics and digital theoreticians—the target audience of the first round of research. The reason for the research is that we don't really know how to make hardware and software self-managing and self-maintaining. Heck, we have a hard enough time getting humans to do those jobs. Maybe that's the point.

The example IBM likes to use for autonomic computing is the human nervous system. Unless there's a problem, breathing, blood circulation, digestion, and other functions carry on 24/7/365 under nervous-system control but without conscious effort. So it

should be with hardware and software systems. The key word here is systems. By software, we're not talking about your "Quake" game or genealogy program, but larger software applications such as computer and network operating systems. The underlying principle is that systems, particularly software systems, should relieve both programmers and users of much of the work of developing and maintaining software by doing the routine tasks automatically.

I don't know if autonomic computing is the technology to watch in the near future. I do believe it's the kind of software technology we must keep an eye on. I would feel a lot better about the concept if somebody would turn its principles on the next big thing in software—Web services.

In the future (say, three to five years) vendors like Microsoft, IBM, Oracle, and Sun see Web services as the main delivery system for software. This has many implications: The Internet will become the standard arena for software; if it isn't on the Net, then it's old hat. Applications of many kinds will be concocted more or less ad hoc by connecting Web services, in theory from many vendors all over the world. To make this work, there must be a payment system, such as micro payments, to handle the jillions of transactions involved in millions of people using multiple Web services. Compatible services must be delivered to the user in a timely fashion to coordinating software. Users will want to have their services properly validated (bug- and virus-free) and have assurances that any data they put through the services is secured and handled reliably.

17. According to the author, IBM

- a. is bemoaning its foray into nano technology.
- b. has turned its attention away from software to hardware in recent years because it has found the former too complex.
- c. considers changes in development of hardware essential to manage burgeoning complexities.

- d. has launched the most complicated programming software in recent years.  
e. considers changes in development of hardware essential to manage the complexities of the proletariat.

18. It can be inferred that

- a. autonomic computing is the technology that is going to solve software problems in the future.  
b. Microsoft has largely solved its problems that it had in providing secure and reliable operating systems.  
c. it has been assumed by many that software is good enough to tackle advancements in technology.  
d. autonomic computing is initially likely to be isolated to genealogy programmes rather than being system based.  
e. nanotechnology is going to allay the concerns of big companies by establishing micro-level planning.

19. According to the passage, good software can only be made nowadays

- a. if autonomic computing is used in software applications.  
b. if the project involves huge finances and big names.  
c. if software developers are conversant with the latest technology.  
d. if software developers stop using outdated programming practices.  
e. if software developers start making good data flowcharts.

20. Which of the following statements about Web services is not validated by the passage?

- a. With the onset of Web services, most of the software will be available on the Internet.

- b. Micro payments are likely to be used for the many transactions involved while using Web services.

- c. Emphasis on providing virus-free services will have to increase with the onset of Web services.

- d. The advent of Web services will reduce the complexity of software.

- e. The advent of Web services will become the standard arena for biotechnology software.

21. Programmers avoid 'good programming practices' because

- a. it turns out to be more cost-effective to them in the long run.  
b. they are not convinced of its advantages.  
c. they are often bribed to do so.  
d. obsolete software does not support 'good programming practices'.  
e. they favour getting the job done quicker and easier.

## Passage VI

Political campaigns are about power: who gets it, why and how, as the political scientist Harold Lasswell once put it. No presidential campaign in America can take place without one or another self-proclaimed Machiavelli reminding those who will listen that power is its own reward.

Yet Americans care relatively little about which candidate wins and a great deal about what kind of person he is and what sorts of policies he will pursue. In that sense, political campaigns are about ideas. During campaigns, candidates condense a particular point of view about the world and try to build a majority around it. Not Machiavelli, but the great

ethical and moral philosophers of the West, from Plato to John Stuart Mill, posed timeless questions of truth, justice, and right and wrong that all political candidates, however hesitatingly, have to try to answer.

The presidential campaign of 2000 managed to keep philosophy fairly well hidden. Afraid that any traits of character could later be used as evidence of bad character, both Al Gore and George W. Bush refused to offer even a glimpse of themselves as flesh-and-blood human beings, obfuscating any hints of how their personal attributes might translate into conceptions of the right way to act. Seeking to rally their base while attracting as many of the undecided voters as possible, both chose reiteration over reflection, avoiding statements of principle and purpose at any cost. This was a campaign so scripted that no debate, press conference or gaffe could deter the candidates from remaining, as they liked to say, on message.

How extraordinary, then, that the most predictable presidential campaign in American history was followed by the most unpredictable finish of our times. Facing a tie vote that no one anticipated, Democratic and Republican operatives found themselves having to react quickly and spontaneously to real-world events, and to do so without the benefit of focus groups and tracking polls. And what we saw as a result, beyond the endless discussions of tactics and endgames, were hints about the underlying philosophies of each camp.

Take, for example, the question of truth. For more than 2,000 years, Western philosophy has been premised on the notion that it is possible to make accurate claims about what is true. At one level, of course, politics has little to do with the pursuit of truth as philosophers understand it: candidates for office are not expected to say what they really believe and, once in office, they would be remiss if they did not disguise their intentions and confuse their enemies. During the campaign, both George W. Bush and Al Gore proved themselves adept at that kind of politics; understanding full well that voters might not like the actual details of their tax cuts or plans for Social Security and prescription drug benefits, they adopted the rosiest economic assumptions or simply ignored

discrepancies. Had the campaign ended with a clear victory for either man, he would have taken office as just one more politician who was less than forthright in his campaign.

In the campaign's aftermath, Gore, relentless in his quest to challenge the Florida secretary of state's certification of the election, necessarily upheld the proposition that the truth of who had won could be established. Bush, by contrast, revealed something deeper than the typical politician's willingness to manipulate the truth for his own purposes. In his determined effort to prevent anyone from ever knowing who actually won the state, he implicitly endorsed the notion that there was no truth even worth manipulating. When promulgated by left-wing academics skeptical of truth claims held to be timeless and universal — such claims, they argued, denied the proclivity of dominant groups to impose their values on the oppressed or the marginalized — postmodern skepticism has faced derisive rebuttal from political conservatives. But when it was expressed by George W. Bush and his supporters in their efforts to explain why it was unnecessary to count votes, conservatives applauded. Bush will be our first truly postmodern president, the first of whom it can be said that when asked how he came to be the winner, he can respond that it all depends on the perspective one brings to the question.

We know, because President Clinton reminded us, that politicians who lie too flagrantly are hobbled in their exercise of authority, for if they are willing to lie under oath or in front of a camera, why should we ever believe them again? Yet the very fact Bill Clinton was caught in a lie underscored truth's priority. Only when we agreed that something happened in that case — that Clinton had an affair with an intern — could we punish Clinton. As a postmodern president, Bush will face a challenge to his authority far greater than Clinton's, for the foundation of his legitimacy will hinge on the proposition that ultimately it did not matter whether his victory was real or not.

22. According to the passage, it can be inferred that Bush's tenure as President will be more difficult than Clinton's because
- he is the first President who gets postmodern philosophy to bear upon his actions.
  - his victory was unreal, for it was built upon a foundation of lies.

- c. he will find it tough to convince Americans after having declared truth to be a matter of perception.
- d. his victory, unlike Clinton's, was highly unpredictable and threw up lot of unexpected questions.
- e. his ideas of federalism were not up to the mark.

23. It can be inferred that

- a. Bush was more vocal than Gore in his efforts to stop the election results in Florida from being disclosed.
- b. Gore was less adept at hiding facts about his personal life and thus lost.
- c. everyone's expectations regarding the elections were belied by the unforeseen finish.
- d. the influence of philosophy on the speeches of Gore and Bush was pretty obvious.
- e. Gore and Bush were not championing the cause of democracy.

24. The passage is mainly about

- a. influence of Western philosophy on American politics.
- b. the difference between Gore's and Bush's political philosophy.
- c. the relationship of politics with the pursuit of truth.
- d. the vacillating nature of truth in the American Presidential election.
- e. American hegemony.

25. The political campaigns of Bush and Gore were marked by

- a. an emphasis on personal charisma over objectivity.

- b. a strict adherence to a pre-determined campaign strategy.
- c. slandering the opponent by isolating aspects of personal life.
- d. an intermingling of philosophy with usual political rhetoric.
- e. a strategy based on Sun Tsu's Art of War.

26. The author mentions the example of Clinton to show

- a. that it is tough for the President of a nation to hide the truth for long after he has committed an immoral act.
- b. his elusive idea about presidential democracy that has overshadowed libertarianism.
- c. that Clinton's acceptance of the importance of truth made it easy for him to go through the ignominy of his affair becoming known.
- d. that the differences between Bush's postmodern and Clinton's more conservative way of conducting affairs.
- e. that even though truth is hardly associated with the Presidential office, its importance to the latter cannot be underestimated.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
26					

#### Learning Outcomes:

You learnt the different types of questions asked in Reading Comprehension in competitive examinations, how to identify them, what is the best strategy and logic to

answer each one of them. Following these will help you to ensure accuracy in Reading Comprehension questions.

#### Things to do:

I. Further reading: *Instructor's Edition Ten Steps to Advancing College Reading Skills* - John Langan: The book is divided into three main parts covering the author's 10 steps for reading skill advancement followed by reading selections and finally, further study suggestions.

Part 1 includes the following:

1. Vocabulary in Context
2. Main Ideas
3. Supporting Details
4. Implied Main Ideas and the Central Point
5. Relationships
6. Fact and Opinion
7. Inferences
8. Purpose and Tone
9. Argument

II. General Reading: Check out the web site [www.bartleby.com](http://www.bartleby.com) for great and rare books. Or [www.bartleby.com/hc/](http://www.bartleby.com/hc/) for Harvard Classics. You can read them online.

III. Check out some of the CAT bulletins, or the test papers of earlier years, and study the Reading Comprehension passages and the questions.

#### Further reading:

Some more classics for your reading pleasure. All these books also have been banned or challenged while still in print.

*Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin; *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding;

*Deliverance* by James Dickey; *Point Counter Point* by Aldous Huxley;

*The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway; *The Rainbow* by D.H. Lawrence;

*Women in Love* by D.H. Lawrence; *Tropic of Cancer* by Henry Miller;

*The Naked and the Dead* by Norman Mailer; *Portnoy's Complaint* by Philip Roth;

*From Here to Eternity* by James Jones; *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger;

*A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess; *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway;

*The Call of the Wild* by Jack London; *Sophie's Choice* by William Styron.

## Approaches for solving Reading Comprehension questions and other FAQs

2

### Learning Objectives

- In this chapter we will discuss different modes and approaches to reading and cracking reading comprehension passages and questions.
- We will also answer some FAQs about Reading Comprehension Tests in Competitive Examinations.

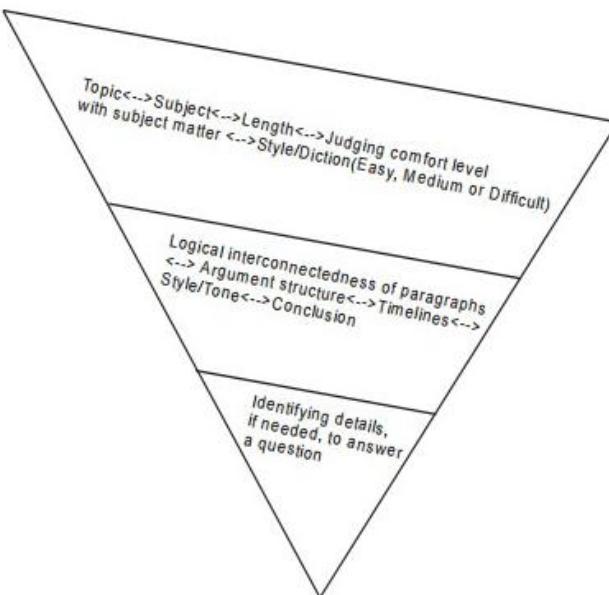
We will answer the following questions in this chapter.

- Do we need to read the entire passage to answer the questions?
- Do we adopt the same approach to reading all types of passages?
- Is it better to read the passage first or the questions first?
- Should we skim and scan? Won't that reduce accuracy?
- Should we answer some questions from all passages or all questions from some passages?
- Should we attempt as many questions as possible as fast as we can and get majority of them right or attempt a limited number and concentrate on accuracy?
- Should we underline while reading?

- Should we use a pacer while reading?
- Should we summarize in the margins we read?
- What do we do if we realize that the passage is difficult when we already have spent sometime reading and trying to understand it?
- How can we recognize whether the passage is easy or not?, etc.

### A concise guide to effective reading

**The cone of attention:** This concept describes a drill down exercise that all effective readers go through every time they attempt a set of reading comprehension questions.



**Stage 1:** This is the initial engagement with the reading comprehension passage. In any aptitude test it is critical to decide whether to attempt a set of questions or not. It is also important to make rough estimates of how long it will take you to solve a set of questions and gauge what to expect from the passage. Stage 1 describes the initial set of impressions and takeaways from a passage. The adjacent figure enumerates the points readers need to concentrate on at this stage. Once through with this stage you should have an initial estimate of how comfortable you will be attempting the passage, whether the subject matter is something you are comfortable with or not, whether the style/diction used is simple enough or will take too much time to comprehend. Depending on the nature of the examination you can also glance at the questions at this stage to figure out if they are fact-based or inferential. But in an examination like CAT, where passages are short and where most reading comprehension questions are inferential and require an understanding of the passage over and above some specific details, you should leave the questions for later and move on to the next stage.

**Stage 2:** This is where you begin reading the passage thoroughly. You should be on a constant lookout for patterns. What are the author's main arguments? How does s/he go about developing it? How does each paragraph contribute to the passage as a whole? While you can benefit from using speed reading techniques, especially by identify main points in a passage, your primary goal should be to read the passage thoroughly enough. By the time you are through with this stage you should have a clear mental map of the RC passage. This does not mean you need to memorize every detail in the passage. But it does mean that you are ready to reasonably attempt inference-based questions and know where to refer back to in the passage in case any specific portion is being dealt with in the question. By the end of this stage you should be ready to attempt most inferential and tone/style questions.

**Stage 3:** You are working in this stage when you attempt questions and need to refer back to the passage to identify some specific details. Ideally you need to keep the time in such exercises to a minimum and will have no trouble doing so if you have a clear idea of how the passage is arranged —the structure of it from the preceding stages.

Now we will take a look at this process in action. Remember that this is just an illustration of how the process can work. With consistent practice you will be able to fine-tune your drill down approach to a passage. The passage below is followed by three questions.

**Empathy orients you toward moral action, but it doesn't seem to help much when that action comes at a personal cost.** You may feel a pang for the homeless guy on the other side of the street, but the odds are that **you are not going to cross the street to give him a dollar.**

There have been piles of **studies investigating the link between empathy and moral action.** Different scholars come to different conclusions, but, in a recent paper, Jesse Prinz, a philosopher at City University of New York, summarized the research this way: "**These studies suggest that empathy is not a major player when it comes to moral motivation. Its contribution is negligible in children, modest in adults, and nonexistent when costs are significant.**" Other scholars have called empathy a "fragile flower," easily crushed by **self-concern.**

Some influences, which we think of as trivial, are much stronger — **such as a temporary burst of positive emotion.** In one experiment in the 1970s, researchers planted a dime in a phone booth. Eighty-seven percent of the people who found the dime offered to help a person who dropped some papers nearby, **compared with only 4 percent who didn't find a dime.** Empathy doesn't produce anything like this kind of effect.

Moreover, Prinz argues, **empathy often leads people astray.** It influences people to care more about cute victims than ugly victims. It leads to nepotism. It subverts justice; juries give lighter sentences to defendants that show sadness. It leads us to react to shocking incidents, like a hurricane, but not longstanding conditions, like global hunger or preventable diseases.

Nobody is against empathy. Nonetheless, **it's insufficient. These days empathy has become a shortcut. It has become a way to experience delicious moral emotions without confronting the weaknesses in our nature that prevent us**

**from actually acting upon them.** It has become a way to experience **the illusion of moral progress** without having to do the nasty work **of making moral judgments.** In a culture that is inarticulate about moral categories and touchy about giving offense, teaching empathy is a safe way for schools and other institutions **to seem virtuous without risking controversy or hurting anybody's feelings.**

Stage 1: A cursory look tells you that the passage explores the link between empathy and moral action. The language is lucid.

Stage 2: The portions bolded in the passage are places that can serve as anchors of attention in a fairly detailed read. These are the phrases/portions that should register on the first read and that would help you get a grasp on the concerns of and arguments in the passage. The key here is to be in the flow of the passage. The illustrative story of your "pang for the homeless guy" should not require too much interpretation. You already know the moot point here is empathy vs. personal cost. So the story should fit into the scheme of things. There is no one way when it comes to predicting, identifying and confirming logical patterns in a passage. Note that you do not need to pore over every word in the passage. For example in the third paragraph, after learning that some influences which we think of as trivial are stronger than empathy, you can glance at the study situation and the first statistic mentioned in the study (eighty seven percent helped the person) and safely move over to the next paragraph. With consistent practice, you will develop a knack for honing in on key points in a passage.

[With this read behind us, let's try attempting the questions none of which require us to remember any details from the passage]

1. Which of the following is the primary reason why empathy does not lead to moral action?

- a. Empathy does not come naturally to humans.
- b. Human beings are selfish by nature and hence cannot experience true empathy.

- c. Empathy always subverts justice.
  - d. Self concern always gets more importance than empathy.
2. The author is most likely to agree with which of the following?
- a. The effect of empathy in human beings decreases with age.
  - b. It is universally acknowledged that there is no link between empathy and moral action.
  - c. A burst of positive emotion may lead to moral action more frequently than empathy.
  - d. Extinction of a species may generate less empathy than global warming.
3. How, according to the author, has empathy become a shortcut?
- a. Empathy is something that makes everyone seem virtuous.
  - b. Empathy has become a false virtue and it is overshadowing moral action.
  - c. Experiencing empathy makes people less responsible about moral action.
  - d. Empathy makes people incapable of making judgements.

#### Solutions:

1. d Option (a) is not supported by the passage. Option (b) is incorrect as the passage states that people do experience empathy. Option (c) is incorrect. We need not even refer back to the passage. The question makes us look for a link between empathy and moral action. While the passage talks about justice it is mentioned where the passage talks about the harmful effects of empathy. The question here is why empathy doesn't lead to moral action. The passage repeatedly states that empathy becomes secondary to personal costs/self-concern etc. So it cannot by itself lead to moral concern. Option (d) is the correct choice.

2. c Here options (a), (b) and (d) are eliminated easily. The passage states that empathy is not vital in prompting moral action—that it is negligible in children, modest in adults. The passage doesn't suggest that there is no link between empathy and moral action. The studies quoted here only say that it's not a very strong link. Option (d) is irrelevant. Option (c) follows from the study mentioned about a 'positive burst of emotion' leading to moral action—'Some influences, which we think of as trivial, are much stronger.'

3. b Option (a) is ambiguous. Empathy is described as some sort of false virtue in the passage, but we cannot be sure whom 'everyone' refers to here—those practicing empathy? To whom? We cannot be sure. So option (a) is eliminated. The passage indicates that many institutions and individuals use empathy as a means of evading moral decisions—that empathy has become a false virtue in itself. So only option (b) is correct.

## FAQs

### Do we need to read the entire passage to answer the questions?

Before we examine the implications of this question, have a look at the table overleaf to understand the different modes of reading and their purpose. The mode of reading should be determined by the purpose for which you are reading. The level of difficulty of the material and the personal familiarity with the subject/ topic also determine your mode and speed of reading.

Let us assume that you are fairly familiar with the topic. In that case you will use a combination of scanning, skimming, and rapid reading to answer the questions. That means the entire passage will not be read. All reading will be only to answer the questions.

Suppose you are not familiar with the topic and you find the reading difficult. In such a case it becomes difficult to skim and scan. You will read as fast as you can to build

familiarity. And then you can skim and scan for the answers. The time taken to build familiarity with the topic will be extra in your case. However, you will also see that the entire passage is not read carefully.

The answer to the above question is thus simple. You will not read the entire passage to answer the questions. Your reading in the examination will be driven by the single purpose to answer the questions, and not to study and master the essay! Why read the unnecessary material and waste time?

### Do we adopt the same approach to reading all types of passages?

Look at the table 'different modes of reading'. The mode of reading is decided largely by the purpose for which you are reading rather than by the type of material you are reading. For example, you have to read the instruction manual of a stereo system. Suppose it belongs to your friend, and if you are never going to operate the system you will read through the manual only to understand the features and main functions of the system. You will not bother to read the parts that explain to you how you have to programme the system. However, if you have to programme/ operate the system your reading will be more careful and systematic. The same goes for philosophy too! Hence, do not worry about the type of the passage but understand that you are reading in the examination only to answer the questions. Hence, use a combination of scanning, skimming to locate the answer and read to understand the facts required to answer the question. Effectiveness of such reading will not depend on the type of the passage, but largely on the mode of reading, and to a great extent on the schema (prior knowledge). Hence, make it a point to have the reading habit and read widely to be familiar with various subjects/topics.

### Is it better to read the passage first or the questions first?

This is one of the most frequently asked questions about reading comprehension. Some of you are ready to bet your life on 'questions first', and others vehemently assert that this practice has no particular advantage. Hence, let me answer this question upfront: All methods are correct. Your preference merely points to the comfort level that you have already built with a particular method.

### Should we skim and scan? Won't that reduce accuracy?

You should be answering a question correctly in about a minute and a half (90 seconds) in the examinations, i.e. you should be scoring a mark in about 90 seconds in Reading Comprehension questions. That means in 8 minutes you have to score 5 marks. If you take 4 minutes to read the passage, you have 4 minutes left to attempt 5 questions - with 100% accuracy. You have roughly 48 seconds per question. What generally guarantees accuracy is the time you spend to locate the answer, understand the facts, their implications, etc. In other words, the greater the time you spend to answer a question the greater are the chances of accuracy. Hence, suppose you spend 60 seconds instead of 48 seconds to answer each question. This will improve the chances of accuracy. From where will you bring this extra minute? It has to be taken from the 4 minutes that you have taken to read to begin with. Skim and scan in 2 minutes and answer the questions in 6 minutes.

So you are examining two methods:

- I. Read for 4 minutes; answer 5 questions in 4 minutes
- II. Skim scan for 2 minutes; answer 5 questions in 6 minutes.

You can understand that the second method will give you a better accuracy than the first. For two reasons, first your reading (scanning, skimming) is more focussed towards answering the questions. Second, you are not wasting time reading unnecessary material. Remember questions are answered by referring back to the passage in both the methods.

The simple answer to the above question is, if anything, skimming and scanning is a must in the exams, and it improves your accuracy.

### Should we answer some questions from all passages or all questions from some passages?

In other words, the question is how should we meet the cut off — by answering some questions from all passages, or by answering all questions from some passages? In such a

case it is best answered after you see the paper.

If by answering all questions from some passages (that you are most comfortable with) you have ensured that the number of questions attempted and the accuracy will guarantee the score you require, you do not have to take risk with the passages that you are not comfortable with. On the other hand if you find that easy questions (questions that are most likely to give you the marks — e.g. specified idea questions) are spread across passages, it is advisable to attempt some of the questions (easy ones) from all the passages to ensure that the number of attempts and accuracy will get you the cut off score. The idea is to meet the cut off and not clutch to a thumb rule. The decision to answer some questions from all the passages or all questions from some passages must be made in the exam hall after you have gone through the question paper.

### Should we attempt as many questions as possible as fast as we can and get majority of them right or attempt a limited number and concentrate on accuracy?

The answer is simple and straight: Concentrate on accuracy. Attempt a limited number and ensure that you are meeting the cut off.

First decide how many questions you need to attempt to meet the cut off. Make a conservative estimate. Or go by the arithmetic of a mark per 1.5 to 2 minutes. If you can attempt the required number of questions with 100% accuracy in the stipulated time, do not explore further, move on to the next section. But for any reason if you feel that you cannot ensure 100% accuracy to your attempts you can switch to the other strategy of attempting as many questions as possible as fast as you can and get a majority of them right.

### Should we underline while reading?

There are several people who merely read and answer the questions and get most of them correct! And then there are people who underline text (important points) as they read, and make it easier for themselves to locate the points later on. Whichever class you

belong to, my suggestion is that since there is no thorough study of the text in the examinations, as you come across an important point/fact highlight (underline) this quickly and scan for the next important points/facts and as you locate them underline them. Some of you may not like this idea. However, you will find that while answering questions later, it becomes easy to locate these points. Also, you will see that it helps in committing these facts to short term memory effectively. Without the underline one has to memorize these points as well as one can, and there may not be any questions based on these points.

However, underlining while reading is not such a serious issue. It is not necessary that one formulates a strategy with regard to this. But an important thing to remember is that, if you underline do not fill the passage with lines. That defeats the very purpose for which you underline. Hence, it should be done as little as possible so that the points thus highlighted truly stand out in the text and not get lost in a sea of underlines.

### Should we use a pacer while reading?

A pacer will help you get rid of some negative reading habits. It can regulate your eye movements and help you avoid regression. A pacer will aid in concentration. If you have such problems (you are not a habitual reader) use the pacer to your advantage in the examination.

### Should we summarize in the margins as we read?

It is a good habit to summarize in the margins — write brief notes — when it is necessary for you to come back to the text later either to answer questions or to memorize the facts, as part of study. However, in competitive examinations time is most scarce. Hence, such note taking methods are not recommended in competitive examinations. However, do make use of this habit while you study your academic stuff, and experience the usefulness and convenience of it.

### What do we do if we realize that the passage is difficult only when we have spent sometime reading and trying to understand it?

Probably you have read a couple of paragraphs, that too slowly, spending considerable amount of time, when you realize that spending more time on this passage is useless. This is not your kind of topic at all! This passage is best left out. And you have already spent a few precious minutes, a gigantic waste in any competitive exam! The best you can do under such circumstances is to quickly scan through the questions to see if a question is asked from anything that you have read so far. If there is a couple of questions related to what you have read, go back to the passage verify the answers and mark your options before leaving the passage. Remember to spend this extra few minutes to answer the questions because otherwise the entire time is a great waste. If there are no questions related to what you have read, the decision to leave the passage is anyhow wise, hence hope for the best and try to make up for the lost time elsewhere.

### How can we recognize whether the passage is easy or not?

There is no litmus test. What is easy and what is difficult are relative and subjective. What one person finds difficult, another person finds very easy. You are the only person who can categorize what is easy for you and what is difficult. However, you need to have the skill to quickly skim through the text to judge whether it is your kind of passage or not. Hence, spend a few seconds skimming through each passage to see if it is what you would like to read. Make the decision yourself after skimming through. Nobody else can decide what is easy and what is difficult for you. Only you can.

### What are the factors that affect reading rate, flexibility, and concentration in an examination?

Though the factors mentioned below affect all reading performance, they are important in specific context of examinations too. The four main factors are:

Purpose for Reading - To answer questions.

Familiarity and Interest in the Material - How much you have read earlier

Training - How much effort did you put in to develop the skill.

Probably you have read a couple of paragraphs, that too slowly, spending considerable amount of time, when you realize that spending more time on this passage is useless. This is not your kind of topic at all! This passage is best left out. And you have already spent a few precious minutes, a gigantic waste in any competitive exam! The best you can do under such circumstances is to quickly scan through the questions to see if a question is asked from anything that you have read so far. If there is a couple of questions related to what you have read, go back to the passage verify the answers and mark your options before leaving the passage. Remember to spend this extra few minutes to answer the questions because otherwise the entire time is a great waste. If there are no questions related to what you have read, the decision to leave the passage is anyhow wise, hence hope for the best and try to make up for the lost time elsewhere.

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#### **What are the factors that affect reading rate, flexibility, and concentration in an examination?**

Though the factors mentioned below affect all reading performance, they are important in specific context of examinations too. The four main factors are:

Purpose for Reading - To answer questions.

Familiarity and Interest in the Material - How much you have read earlier

Training - How much effort did you put in to develop the skill.

Practice - How much practice did you put in.

Hence, your preparation for Reading Comprehension should take account of these four factors. All these are to be incorporated into your daily reading.

#### **Where do I get my questions answered?**

Ask your mentor or e-mail your questions to [helpme@careerlauncher.com](mailto:helpme@careerlauncher.com)

## Practice Passages

**Directions for Questions:** Each of the following passages given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

### Passage I

At a time when more and more history is focused on less and less, one has to admire any totalising attempt at the 20th century. Tying in with a new Channel 4 series, Harvard professor and Sunday Telegraph columnist Niall Ferguson has delivered just that: a deftly paced, continent-crossing account of the last century's "age of hatred". But how much of it is new?

His thesis is clear: what makes the 20th century remarkable is its exceptional violence. "The hundred years after 1900 were without question the bloodiest century in history, far more violent in relative as well as absolute terms than any previous era." Why? Well, not for the old textbook explanations of economic crises, class warfare, nationalism or ideological fervour. Rather, in good historical fashion, for three new reasons.

According to Ferguson, the 20th-century bloodbath was down to the dreadful concatenation of ethnic conflict, economic volatility and empires in decline. Despite genetic advances that revealed man's essential biological similarities, the 1900s saw wave upon wave of ethnic strife thanks (pace Richard Dawkins) to a race "meme" entering public discourse. Across the world, the idea of biologically distinct races took hold of the 20th century mindset to deadly effect.

Tensions along increasingly conscious ethnic faultlines (in regions such as the eastern edges of Germany) frequently spilt over into conflict during periods of economic volatility. For extremities of wealth and poverty proved far more incendiary than the steady, immiserating effects of economic depression. When ethnicity and financial

turbulence then occurred in the context of retreating or expanding empires - British, German, or Soviet - the capacity for bloodshed proved even greater. And, as a final thought, the 20th century witnessed not the triumph of the west, but its inexorable descent.

With that, Ferguson is off on his whirlwind history of the 1900s. And, as expected, it is gripping stuff. Almost unique among popular historians, Ferguson is especially at ease with the number-crunching of economic history. It may be a dying subject in university lecture rooms, but here he shows how it can be done. Graphs, tables and statistics abound, from the bond prices of the major European powers to official Soviet productivity figures. All are subtly woven into the narrative thread.

Similarly, his concentration and contextualisation of the Jewish experience in the 20th century is expertly done. He does not seek - as his theatrical doppelganger, Irwin, attempts in Alan Bennett's

The History Boys - to belittle the place of the Holocaust. But he does place the Nazi racial ideology within a broader, European intellectual lineage - in the process, making an interesting argument about some of the racial debates within the British appeasement movement. Furthermore, there is a much stronger concentration on the racial underpinnings of imperialism than was apparent in his last multimedia project, Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World.

However, what made Empire such a successful book and TV series was its polemical drive combined with clear contemporary resonance. Whether one concurred with his sympathetic analysis or not, Ferguson did a great service in putting the legacy of empire back on the popular historical map as well as helping to promote a more detailed study of its ramifications in classroom teaching. He also developed some telling historical parallels in light of modern American imperial ambitions - not least the invasion of Iraq through the prism of British colonialism in Egypt.

But The War of the World lacks a sustained polemical thrust as well as any exceptional historical relevance. For despite Ferguson's interesting tripartite take on the causes of the

20th century's high bodycount, he fails to develop that analysis through the text. Instead, what we end up with is a well-written but intensely familiar account of 20th-century international relations and military history, from the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand to the Versailles treaty to the rise of Hitler to Hirohito to Stalin to the Iron Curtain. There are unexpected episodes within it - not least Himmler's grisly butchering of Polish boy scouts - but it feels like historical terrain already well covered by the work of Richard Evans, Ian Kershaw, Richard Overy, even the late Alan Bullock. Further, any detailed analysis of ethnicity, economic volatility or imperial disengagement is frequently overshadowed by the book's ready retreat into the pornography of violence - from the Holocaust to the gulag.

The postwar era of imperial decline, cold war and then new world disorder seems equally well-trodden territory. Again, there are flashes of surprise - for instance, the ethnic underpinnings behind much of Guatemala's dirty war - but do we really need another account of the Cuban missile crisis or Nixon's visit to China?

As such, the visual, dramatic demands of TV might well do his thesis more justice than does this book. Not least because of Ferguson's near-total reliance upon secondary sources as well as the assistance of some 12 research assistants and a further four translators. Indeed, such backroom support lends the book the feel of a Renaissance fresco, "from the studio of Ferguson", rather than the signed product of the great man himself.

1. Which of these is likely to be the author's answer to the question he raises to himself, "But how much of it is new"?

a. Not a lot, since historical events remain the same.

b. A lot, because the historical events that Ferguson is taking into account are those that have been hidden from public debate.

c. A lot, because Ferguson looks at the subject matter from a different perspective.

d. Not a lot, though the author begins with a different line of reasoning.

e. Not a lot since it was not combined with clear contemporary resonance.

2. According to Ferguson, what was the cause behind the 20<sup>th</sup> century bloodbath?

a. The advances in genetics which offended certain races about all humans sharing their ancestors.

b. The evolutionary debate which made many intellectuals wonder about the value of human life.

c. The predominant importance given to race as a topic of consideration.

d. The racism of the intellectual elites, which was further stoked by the evolutionary advances that revealed surprising truths.

e. The descent of the West.

3. According to the author, what exacerbated the conflicts caused by ethnic differences?

a. The squalor resulting from the period of economic depression.

b. The poverty experienced by all members of the society.

c. The moral bankruptcy among the political leadership.

d. The widening chasm between the rich and the poor.

e. The widespread and uncontrollable evils of the burgeoning society.

4. Which of these best states the author's tone while he makes the remark about the "Studio of Ferguson"?

a. Offending b. Conspiratorial c. Sycophantic d. Ebullient e. Sarcastic

## Passage II

A few weeks ago, Sony and Nintendo both revealed their newest video-game systems to great fanfare, complete with slicker graphics and motion sensors. But not everyone was pleased. An increasingly noisy chorus of critics charge that the video-game industry—whose receipts now top the Hollywood box office—threatens to transform American kids into drooling zombies or out-and-out sociopaths. "We're trying to keep children away from R-rated violent movies that last 90 minutes," grumbles conservative media critic Brent Bozell, "but in too many basements and kids' bedrooms in America, children are role-playing murderers for hours on end, ad infinitum."

Raunchy, blood-soaked video games, unleashing "a silent epidemic of media desensitization," are "stealing the innocence of our children," agrees Hillary Clinton. That's why she and fellow senators Joe Lieberman and Evan Bayh have introduced legislation to regulate the video-game industry, codifying its voluntary rating system and making it a federal crime for retailers to sell or rent inappropriate games to minors. Even the latest edition of Dr. Spock's famous guide to childrearing deems gaming a "colossal waste of time" at best, anger-stoking at worst.

The hysteria isn't surprising. New media have always met with suspicion: As *The Economist* editorialized a while back, a "neophobic" tendency dates from antiquity, with Plato's argument in the "Phaedrus" that the relatively newfangled medium of writing corrupted the memory-building powers of oral culture. Of course sometimes the new is bad. Yet the critics of video games are not only conjuring up a threat where none exists; they're ignoring the positive moral lessons and cognitive benefits that many of today's sophisticated games offer.

Most video games aren't violent or racy. A recent survey from the Progress and Freedom Foundation, a free-market think tank, found that more than 80% of the top-selling titles for the past five years came with the video-game industry's "Everyone" or "Teen" ratings, meaning that parents can assume reasonably inoffensive game content. About 15% of

2005's games received "Mature" or "Adults Only" ratings—surprisingly few, given that 65% of gamers are 18- to 34-year-olds.

The industry's self-imposed rating system is informative, featuring not only the rating but also a description of what might be offensive in the game. A T-rated game for example, might warn: "Blood and Gore, Intense Violence, Strong Language and Suggestive Themes." The content reports are accurate, at least in my experience as the father of two young video-playing boys. And with many titles selling for \$50 or \$60 a pop, how many children can get a hold of games without mom's or dad's consent in the first place?

But even if your 13-year-old is spending a lot of time offing enemies thrown at him by Tom Clancy's new *Ghost Recon*, there's no hard evidence that he'll want to try homicide in real life. The most comprehensive study yet on the social effects of such kill-or-be-killed games, conducted by researchers at the University of Illinois and the University of Michigan, found that prolonged playing of *Asheron's Call 2*—a gory online multiplayer fantasy—didn't make study participants more belligerent. Some observers speculate that playing violent video games may be cathartic, channeling pre-existing violent impulses into virtual reality, where they can do no harm. It's worth noting that the emergence of video games as a major youth enthusiasm has occurred at the same time as a striking drop in juvenile violence. Maybe Sen. Clinton should be encouraging more gaming instead of calling for a federal crackdown on it.

The truth is, critics are often ignorant of the moral universe of video games—violent games included. Yes, the wildly popular *Grand Theft Auto* series, in which the gamer plays a criminal on the make in the big city, is pretty amoral. But most violent games put the player in a familiar hero's role, notes Judge Richard Posner in a 2001 Seventh Circuit appeals-court decision overturning an Indianapolis anti-video-game ordinance. "Self-defense, protection of others, dread of the 'undead,' fighting against overwhelming odds—these are the age-old themes of literature, and ones particularly appealing to the young," Mr. Posner observes.

Nonviolent games like The Sims franchise, an open-ended computer simulation of suburban life likened by visionary creator Will Wright to a "digital dollhouse," teach players bourgeois virtues. Blogger Glenn Reynolds, who devotes a chapter to gaming in his recent book on technology and society, "An Army of Davids," overheard his young daughter chatting with a friend about The Sims (a favorite among female gamers). "You have to have a job to buy food and things, and if you don't go to work, you get fired," she said matter-of-factly. "And if you spend all your money buying stuff, you have to make more." In SimWorld, he notes, "narcissism, hedonism and impulsiveness are punished" and "traditional middle-class virtues, like thrift and planning, generally pay off."

Video games can also exercise the brain in remarkable ways. I recently spent (too) many late-night hours working my way through X-Men: Legends II: The Rise of Apocalypse, a game I ostensibly bought for my kids. Figuring out how to deploy a particular grouping of heroes (each of whom has special powers and weaknesses); using trial and error and hunches to learn the game's rules and solve its puzzles; weighing short-term and long-term goals—the experience was mentally exhausting and, when my team finally beat the Apocalypse, exhilarating.

Technology writer Steven Johnson likens the intellectual process at work in video gaming to "the basic procedure of the scientific method." True, I might have better used my time reading Phillip Roth's new novel, but as mind-aerobics this exercise surely beat watching the tube. As for my kids navigating the game, wouldn't it be comparable with their playing chess for hours?

A growing number of innovators recognize the intellectual benefits of gaming and seek to use video games for educational or therapeutic ends. The Serious Games Initiative, USA Today recently reported, got its start in 2002, when the U.S. Army released America's Army, a free online game that allows players to "live" the Army. More than five million people have registered to play. Venture capital and philanthropic dollars are now pouring into Serious Games projects in health care, mathematics and government and corporate training. One encouraging early result is Free Dive, a game that distracts children

suffering from chronic pain or undergoing painful operations in real life with a calming underwater virtual reality.

With the next generation of high-powered consoles on the market or soon to appear, gamers will have even richer, more complex virtual environments, many of them nonlinear, to explore. Working through these worlds alone, with friends or—in the ever more popular "massively multiplayer online role-playing games," or MMOs—with thousands of strangers is far from a "colossal waste of time." Video games are popular culture at its best. Critics would do better to drop the hysterical laments and pick up a joystick.

5. The author cites Plato's argument in the 'Phaedrus' in order to show that
  - a. people have always been skeptical of media.
  - b. media affects everyone and people recognize this fact.
  - c. video games with their own vocabulary are a menace.
  - d. new forms of media have always had allegations raised against them.
  - e. the media has been elusively manufacturing consent.
6. Which one of these arguments is not offered by the author while countering the belief that video games cause children to become violent?
  - a. Studies show a drop in violence during the period of emergence of video games.
  - b. Many experts believe that video games provide an arena for children to let out their angst safely.
  - c. Studies do not reveal a heightened tendency for violence after playing video games.
  - d. Family violence is seen to have a higher impact of children becoming violent than video games.

- e. Video games are robbing children of their innocence.
7. Mr Reynolds' daughter's conversation supports the author's point by highlighting -
- how some video games have banal themes that have no correlation with reality.
  - how some video games teach essential life skills.
  - the power of video games to change the player's thinking.
  - the peer factor in making video games popular.
  - how some video games teach mathematics.
8. Which of these is most likely to be the author's advice to anti-video gamers?
- They should understand the complete scope of the impact and try playing it themselves.
  - They should remember that this is a powerful media that may also bring about positive changes.
  - They should think positive about the beneficial impact of these games.
  - They should start looking at the games from a child's point of view.
  - They should master these games and design new games.

### Passage III

Lurking deep below the surface in California and Wyoming are two hibernating volcanoes of almost unimaginable fury. Were they to go critical, they would blanket the western U.S. with many centimeters of ash in a matter of hours. Between them, they have done so at least four times in the past two million years. Similar supervolcanoes smolder underneath Indonesia and New Zealand.

A supervolcano eruption packs the devastating force of a small asteroid colliding with the earth and occurs 10 times more often—making such an explosion one of the most dramatic natural catastrophes humanity should expect to undergo. Beyond causing immediate destruction from scalding ash flows, active supervolcanoes spew gases that severely disrupt global climate for years afterward.

Almost all volcano experts agree that those of us living on the earth today are exceedingly unlikely to experience an active supervolcano. Catastrophic eruptions tend to occur only once every few hundred thousand years. Yet the sheer size and global effects of such episodes have commanded scientific attention since the 1950s.

One of geologists' first discoveries was the existence of enormous circular valleys—some 30 to 60 kilometers across and several kilometers deep—that looked remarkably similar to the bowl-shaped calderas located atop many of the planet's most well-known volcanoes. Calderas typically form when the chamber of molten rock, or magma, lying under a volcanic vent empties out, causing the ground above it to collapse. Noting that these calderalike valleys sit close to some of the earth's largest deposits of volcanic rocks laid down during a single event, those early investigators realized they were seeing the remnants of volcanoes hundreds or even thousands of times larger than the familiar Mount St. Helens in Washington State. From the extreme scale of the calderas and the estimated volume of erupted material, researchers knew that the magma chambers below them had to be similarly monstrous.

Because the thick continental crust and heat sources needed to create such massive magma chambers are rare, supervolcanoes themselves are also uncommon. In the past two million years, a minimum of 750 cubic kilometers of magma has exploded all at once in only four regions: Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, Long Valley in California, Toba in Sumatra and Taupo in New Zealand. The search for similarly large eruptions continues in other areas of thick continental crust, including in western South America and far eastern Russia.

By the mid-1970s, investigations of past events revealed some ways that the chambers can form and become dangerous. Under the surface of Yellowstone, the North American tectonic plate is moving over a buoyant plume of warm, viscous rock rising through the mantle, the 2,900-kilometer-thick layer of the earth's interior that is sandwiched between the molten core and the relatively thin veneer of outer crust. Functioning like a colossal Bunsen burner, this so-called hot spot has melted enough overlying crust to fuel catastrophic eruptions for the past 16 million years. In Toba, the source of the chamber is different. That region lies above a subduction zone, an area where one tectonic plate is slipping under another; the convergence produces widespread heating, mainly through partial melting of the mantle above the sinking plate.

No matter the heat source, pressure in the magma chambers builds over time as more magma collects under the enormous weight of overlying rock. A supereruption occurs after the pressurized magma raises overlying crust enough to create vertical fractures that extend to the planet's surface. Magma surges upward along these new cracks one by one, eventually forming a ring of erupting vents. When the vents merge with one another, the massive cylinder of land inside the ring has nothing to support it. This "roof" of solid rock plunges down—either as a single piston or as piecemeal blocks—into the remaining magma below, like the roof of a house falling down when the walls give way. This collapse forces additional lava and gas out violently around the edges of the ring.

Yet mysteries remained. Notably, as researchers soon realized, not every large magma chamber will necessarily erupt catastrophically. Yellowstone, for example, is home to three of the world's youngest supervolcano calderas—they formed 2.1 million, 1.3 million and 640,000 years ago, one nearly on top of the other—but in the gaps between these explosive events, the underlying chamber released similar volumes of magma slowly and quietly. Why magma sometimes oozes slowly to the surface is still uncertain.

A look at the composition of tiny crystals trapped inside erupted lava and ash at Yellowstone has suggested a partial answer, by providing new insight into how magma forms. For decades, geologists assumed that magma sits as a pool of liquefied rock for millions of years at a time and that each time some of it pours out onto the earth's

surface, new liquid rises up from below to refill the chamber immediately. If that conception were correct, one would expect many more catastrophic, voluminous eruptions, because it is mechanically and thermally infeasible to keep monster magma bodies in the crust without emptying them frequently.

The old idea was based largely on so-called whole-rock analyses in which researchers would obtain a single set of chemical measurements for each fist-size piece of volcanic rock they

collected. Those data provided important general patterns of magma evolution, but they were insufficient for determining the age of the ejected magma and the depth at which it formed.

Every chunk of rock is actually made up of thousands of tiny crystals, each with its own unique age, composition and history. So when technological advances made it possible in the late 1980s to analyze individual crystals with good precision, it was like being able to read individual chapters in a book rather than relying on the jacket blurb to explain the story. Investigators began to see that some crystals—and thus the magmas in which they originally formed—arose much earlier than others, for instance, and that some formed deep underground.

9. Why are big calderas a symptom of big magma chambers?

- a. Because calderas are created from magma.
- b. Because the size of the calderas is related to the size of the magma.
- c. Because magma slowly oozes out through the calderas.
- d. Because calderas are formed by cooled magma.
- e. Because a caldera is filled with ignimbrite, tuff, rhyolite and other igneous rocks.

10. What is so special about the subduction zone at Toba?

- a. Here the tectonic plates are not moving.
- b. The magma here is very viscous creating many problems for the geologists.
- c. Two tectonic plates are slipping by.
- d. Geologists consider this to be the most active volcano site.
- e. Toba is the only place where subduction is known to occur.
11. How are the rings formed in the erupting vents?
- a. Through repeated volcanic eruptions.
- b. As a result of the movement of magma through rocks.
- c. Due to the crystalline nature of magma.
- d. Because magma flows upwards through these vents one by one.
- e. Because of the difference in density between lithosphere and asthenosphere.
12. Why does the author say "it was like being able to read individual chapters in a book rather than relying on the jacket blurb" to describe the impact of technological advancements?
- a. It allowed the geologist to understand how different rocks were created at different time.
- b. It enabled the geologist to analyse various parts of the rock.
- c. It made the geologist believe in the power of technology.
- d. It now made it possible for the geologist to enter a volcano.

- e. It enabled the geologists to write books on Geology.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
12					

#### Learning Outcomes:

- You are now familiar with different modes and approaches to reading and cracking reading comprehension passages and questions.
- You have got answers to some FAQs about Reading Comprehension Tests in Competitive Examinations.

#### Things to do:

Further reading: Cultivate the reading habit. Several titles and authors are suggested throughout this book. Begin. Some more books are suggested here: These are for pure fun - meant for

rapid reading and enjoyment:

Any of the 'Jeeves' series by P.G Wodehouse;

*East of Eden* - John Steinbeck;

*The Princess Bride* - William Goldman;

*A Short History Of A Small Place* - T.R. Pearson;

*The Stand* - Stephen King;

Any of the 'Narnia' Series - C.S. Lewis;

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*The Stand* - Stephen King;

Any of the 'Narnia' Series - C.S. Lewis;

*Half Magic* - Edward Eager;

*A Wrinkle in Time* or Any book by Madeline L'engle;

*Harry Potter and the...* Any book in the series by J.K. Rowling.

#### Further reading:

Indian Writing in English — Due to the peculiar currency of English in India, several works of fiction have been written by Indians in English. These books provide excellent reading material, most of which are rooted in the various aspects of the Indian ethos. Some contemporary authors who are 'Indian' and write in English are: Mulk Raj Anand, Amit Chaudhari, Nirad C Chaudhari, Anita Desai, Farukh Dhondy, Amitav Ghosh, Kashiprasad Gosh, Manju Kapoor, Jhumpa Lahiri, Gita Mehta, Bharati Mukherjee, R K Narayan, Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Vikram Seth, Khushwant Singh, Shashi Tharoor, Shashi Warrior, etc.

## The Final Take

3

### Learning Objectives

- To apply the concepts learnt in the earlier chapters in test taking.

**Total questions: 14**

**Test - 1**

**Time: 20 minutes**

**DIRECTIONS for Questions 1 to 14:** Each of the three passages given below is followed by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

#### Passage - I

Students in our colleges and universities live constantly in a tension between two authority systems: one more or less vaguely associated with science and the other with religion. Both systems impose edicts on thought and behaviour that are never, for the vast majority of people, reduced to anything close to understanding, verification, or proof. An illustration comes from a recent experience reported by one of my students.

This student was walking across campus with a professor whose field is religious studies. In their conversation, the student happened to mention the resurrection of Christ. The professor's response: The resurrection is inconsistent with the laws of physics. Now, in fact, the laws of physics lie at a considerable conceptual distance from phenomena such as human death and decay and their possible reversal. This particular professor in any

case, would have little if any idea where to begin *showing* that resurrection conflicts with physics—or why it matters, if it does conflict. Indeed, who would? Very few, I would imagine. "Science" was vaguely invoked to end the discussion, just as in other contexts; "religion" is used for the same purpose.

But then the professor probably will never be confronted with the task of actually demonstrating how the resurrection is inconsistent with the laws of physics. The student in question, an extremely bright as well as devout young man, was too gracious (and perhaps stunned) to force the issue; and certainly he would have found it difficult to show that the resurrection and physics are *not* inconsistent or why it doesn't matter if they are.

It is painful to observe that our culture provides no friendly meeting place for the authorities of science and religion to engage in goodfaith efforts to understand the truth about our life and our world. How many people seek or find the preparation required to deal profitably with issues such as resurrection and the laws of physics? To be genuinely open to truth and able to seek it effectively is surely one of the greatest human attainments. I am convinced that it can come only as a gift of grace. It implies faith in a cosmic context where one no longer feels the need to hide, to invoke *explanations* that really explain nothing at all but simply enable one to hold a position with an *appearance* of reasonableness.

The professor who invoked physics is surrounded constantly with things and events for which no physical explanation yet exists, nor even the beginnings of one. Just look at the physics texts and see. A most obvious case is the existence of the physical universe itself, as well as of life and human consciousness. When confronted with the *de facto* inability of physics in this respect, the academically sanctified dodge is to invoke chance, along with huge spans of time, for everything to "work," and further, to invoke the promise of what science (really, physics) supposedly *will* be able to explain in the future as it continues to make progress. But chance is not something that can produce or explain anything. Rather, it is invoked precisely at the point where there is no known explanation or cause. And if something is, indeed, impossible, it will not help to have more time to get it done. We need a demonstration of the possibility, for example, of life's

emerging from the inorganic, and *then* we can talk about time. But the assumptions of this "scientific" evasion are so complicated and culturally protected that most people confronting it do not realize they have been handed intellectual sawdust instead of bread.

Unfortunately, religion frequently invokes its own nonexplanations as a means of holding its ground. Usually these involve the idea that God's power is so great that we can say with reference to *anything* simply that *He* did it and thus have an explanation that protects us. There's no need to look further or think further.

Now God's act as an explanatory principle has an advantage over chance in that we all know something of what it is like for an act or choice to bring something about. Nothing comparable can be said of chance. Personality is a source of energy and causation with an intelligible structure. It simply is not a *physical* structure. But there is no good reason it should be, and once you think about it, every reason it should not. For if it were, the fundamental feature of human life and consciousness would be destroyed or reduced to illusion. As long as we recognize that knowledge does not reduce to physics, and as long as we understand that *science* is just knowledge, we have every right to speak of the possibility of a science that encompasses consciousness in divine and human forms *along with* the physical and whatever else there may be.

The impasse of authorities confronting authorities (or intimidating others) begins to dissolve when prepared and thoughtful people devote themselves to the humble examination of facts and evidence rather than to defending their positions. It is difficult to imagine anything more necessary and Godlike than this. We must escape the cultural deadlock that is turning universities—and churches—into places of "right views," rather than thought and knowledge, and producing a Christian personality split into a religious side and a professional, intellectual side, which never come into contact.

1. The author wants to prove by giving the example of the student walking with his professor

a. that professors nowadays are not competent enough to handle intelligent queries posed by students

b. that it does not fall within the domain of science to explain away such religious phenomena as Resurrection

c. that religion and science are largely incompatible

d. that proponents of both science and religion dogmatically espouse their own explanations as the final say

e. that religion has paved the way for science

2. Personality, according to the author

a. is an essentially corporeal entity

b. is reducible to a series of chimeral assumptions

c. has a metaphysical aspect to it

d. derives from the knowledge one gains

e. is made up of the OCEAN dimensions

3. An appropriate title for the passage will be

a. Blind Science vs. Blind Faith - breaking the deadlock

b. Religion vs. Science - which side will win?

c. Religious bigotry - a blow to science

d. Religion or science - a subjective choice

e. Mind over Matter

4. It can be inferred from the passage that

- a. The promise that science holds for the future is not something that can be banked upon now
- b. Religion has been reduced to nothing more than a punching bag by supporters of science
- c. Academic status quo has ensured that chance is acceptably invoked where no scientific explanation is possible
- d. Churches have now become institutes that now perpetrate debauchery and vice in the name of religious beliefs
- e. Religion has been the cornerstone of scientific enquiry

### Passage - II

History, contrary to popular assumption, is not the past. The terms are commonly, but incorrectly, used interchangeably. The past, simply put, is *what happened*. History, in contrast, is the historian's *interpretation of what happened*. As Michael Howard stressed, history is merely what "historians write." Carl Becker, the renowned American historian of the early 20th century, put it somewhat differently when he noted that history is little more than the collective "memory of things said and done." Thus, history is just like human memory—fallible and prone to selective recall. As such, it is also highly idiosyncratic, and inevitably imperfect. Hence, as E. H. Carr, a British historian of considerable note, warned, one must "study the historian before studying the facts."

The rub for historians is that the available evidence concerning the past is rarely sufficient, or is too abundant, to permit of only one interpretation. (Of course, one could say the same of the present.) Indeed, historians sometimes resort to educated guesses to fill the gaps left by insufficient evidence. Natalie Zemon Davis, a respected historian at Princeton University and author of the widely acclaimed historical work *Return of Martin Guerre*, used her "historical imagination" to compensate for a lack of evidence about the feelings and motives of her central character, Martin Guerre's wife. Davis essentially

invented what Guerre's wife said and did based on her assessment of the attitudes of other women of that period; Davis remains convinced that her historical imagination, cultivated by extensive immersion in the available sources, led her to a correct interpretation. However, the lack of hard evidence to support her view means that other interpretations are certainly possible. Thus, while historians may be certain of the correctness of their interpretations, those views are not necessarily universal and would not necessarily hold up under cross-examination.

The fundamental problem for historians is that, aside from being able to refer to such demonstrable facts as do exist, they have no objective references for determining (beyond a reasonable doubt) to what extent the histories they write either capture or deviate from the past. Put differently, they have nothing resembling the scientific method to aid them in determining whether what they have written is somewhat right, mostly right, or altogether wrong about the past. Quantitative history, intellectual history, "history from below," and oral history, for example, each employ different methods. Yet none of those procedures can lay claim to the reliability of the scientific method—that is, developing a question or a hypothesis, conducting experiments to test it, revising the original hypothesis, then conducting further experiments to confirm the revised hypothesis, and finally reaching a conclusion.

Although historians may begin their research with a question or hypothesis, they cannot conduct the various experiments necessary to determine whether the main conclusions they have drawn about what happened are in fact valid. They cannot duplicate Pickett's charge at the battle of Gettysburg with all the variables exactly as they were, for instance, and then change a few of them to determine whether the Confederate assault might have succeeded under different circumstances: earlier or later in the day, perhaps, or further to the left, or more to the right. Nor can they isolate the variables in a past event for closer study in the same way scientists—chemists, for example—can separate the key elements in a compound. Removing all the elements surrounding Pickett's charge does not make the charge any easier to understand. In fact, without the historical context, the past is likely to remain essentially mute, unable to tell us much about itself. We might not be able to recognize Pickett's charge itself as a charge.

To be sure, historians do have recourse to certain *subjective* measures—such as their abundant reviews of each other's books and access to the advice of others, perhaps more accomplished, historians—to aid them in capturing the past. However, subjective measures tend merely to reinforce a veritable Cartesian circle of interpretation: historians write what they do based in part on the fragments of the past, but how they see those fragments is largely influenced by knowledge they have gained in the present, including the works of other historians who may indeed only be offering their best guesses as to what those fragments mean. This proved to be the case with historical interpretations of military thinking before the First World War; historians tended to view that era's military theory and doctrine through a "lens colored red by the seemingly prolonged and futile slaughter of 1914-18," and thus reinforced one another in a series of misunderstandings. In addition, the impact of recent events or experiences sometimes causes historians to focus on factors and values that are quite different from what the historical actors had in mind—perhaps giving those factors and values an artificial existence. Hence, the present, as historian Christopher Bassford once noted, serves as "prologue" to the past. As Carl Becker said, "Left to themselves, the facts do not speak. . . ." . Thus, historians tend to see in the past what they have been trained to see, or—for those inclined to buck convention (which requires a certain training of its own)—what they want to see. Neither tendency is necessarily wrong. Yet neither is necessarily right, either.

5. It can be inferred from the passage that

- a. Historical Truth remains in the eye of the beholder
- b. Statements made by historians can be seldom relied upon
- c. The ambiguity of Historical Truth makes historical training a thing of little use
- d. Search for Historical Truth has now given way to the search for Plausibility
- e. Historical truth is collective memory of things said and done

6. To whom does the passage attribute the statement 'Study the historian before studying the facts'?

- a. Michael Howard
- b. Natalie Zemon Davis
- c. Carl Becker
- d. Christopher Bassford
- e. E.H. Carr

7. The statement 'Left to themselves, the facts do not speak' implies

- a. There is no fact until someone's interpretation is affirmed as one
- b. A truth remains hidden to humanity until someone uncovers it
- c. A fact needs to be publicized before it gains public acceptance
- d. Facts need to be empirically verified in changing circumstances
- e. None of the above

8. According to the author, history lags behind science in

- a. not having the same level of training imparted to its practitioners
- b. its inability to confirm its hypotheses through experimentation
- c. its failure to adopt an interdisciplinary approach
- d. the inability of historians to be as open-minded as scientists are
- e. its inability to use syllogistic reasoning effectively

9. An appropriate title for the passage will be

- a. Difference between History and the Past
- b. The Subjective nature of History
- c. History- Reliable no more

d. Looking beyond the Past

e. Historionics

### Passage - III

In December of 1923 a piece of doggerel appeared in *Punch*, poking fun at Albert Einstein's newly famous theory of relativity.

The piece was unsigned, but years later A.H. Reginald Buller stepped forward to claim authorship. He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and came from a different field of science: he was editor of the seven-volume *Researches in Fungi*.

In the early years, experimental support for relativity theory was meager: full vindication of Albert Einstein's ideas was still to come. Relativity theory had drawn startling conclusions concerning the four most basic physical quantities-length, time, mass, and energy. In the course of the century, these results would receive direct and very striking experimental confirmation. The relativistic effects also became the basis for new technologies, such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS), whose continued functioning would verify these effects every day and every passing hour.

The disruption of time was the most fundamental conclusion. Both in Einstein's technical paper of 1905 and in *Relativity Clear and Simple*, the relativity of simultaneity formed the basis for all subsequent discussion. In particular, Einstein showed that moving clocks as compared with stationary clocks would run slow as a result of their motion.

As Einstein was philosophically committed to the idea that time was nothing more nor less than what you could measure with standardized clocks, he necessarily concluded that time itself passed more slowly in a moving frame of reference and the faster the motion of the reference frame, the slower the passage of time. This was called time dilation: time slows down, stretches out, in a moving reference frame. This was the most revolutionary conclusion of relativity theory. It was also, for a period of more than thirty years, completely unsupported by any direct experimental evidence.

Critics of relativity theory, of course, jumped on Einstein: Wasn't it ridiculous to make the claim on the basis of no direct evidence whatsoever—that time itself could slow down? And wouldn't various paradoxes and absurdities result from this kind of elasticity of time? Would an astronaut who travelled in a rocket ship at high velocity age less than his twin who stayed at home? If time could slow down as a result of motion at high speed, would time reverse if one went fast enough?

Discussion of time dilation left the realm of the fanciful when it became possible to verify this effect in a direct manner.

This first occurred in 1941, when time dilation was detected in experiments on cosmic rays. The earth is continually bombarded by atomic particles from outer space. These swiftly moving particles are the "primary" cosmic rays. When the particles reach the top of the atmosphere, they collide with atomic nuclei. Subatomic debris is produced, constituting the "secondary" cosmic rays, which then travel downward toward the surface of the earth. In particular, particles called muons are produced in the upper atmosphere and move downward toward the surface.

Muons are highly unstable particles, having an average lifetime of about a millionth of a second. Given the short lifetimes of the muons and the long distances they have to travel to get down to the surface of the earth, one can calculate that, given the velocities at which they travel, very few of them should actually make it down to sea level. However, large numbers can be detected—many more than expected. It appears that, somehow, the moving muons have longer lifetimes than expected, so that they can travel longer distances than expected. This is exactly what would be expected on the basis of time dilation. The muons are traveling at velocities comparable to the velocity of light, and their internal "clocks" should slow down as a result—in accordance with Einstein's prediction—so that many more are able to reach the surface of the earth than would be otherwise expected. Precise experiments on muons gave results exactly in accord with Einstein's equation for time dilation, verifying the effect quite convincingly. Experimental technologies used in particle physics have come to rely on time dilation for their successful day-to-day operation.

For those who are not particle physicists, verification of time dilation has become possible with the development of a device known as an atomic clock, which can measure time intervals to a precision of one part in a trillion.

Consider flying in an airplane at five hundred miles per hour. This produces minimal time dilation, and air travelers have not noticed their watches running slow as a result of this effect. Calculations on the basis of Einstein's equation for the time dilation, however, show that the expected effect is a slowing down by about one part in a trillion, which should be measurable by an atomic clock.

In 1971, a team of scientists who were experts in the use of atomic clocks set out to detect and measure time dilation and other relativistic effects. The research team was able to devise a cheap and effective plan, which received some support from the Office of Naval Research. We are told that the researchers purchased three around-the-world tickets on regularly scheduled commercial airliners—two tickets for the accompanying scientists and one for an array of four atomic clocks. The clock array had its own seat; it sat, belted in for safety, between its two caretakers. Before leaving on the trip, the clocks were synchronized with a master clock at the U.S. Naval Observatory. The four clocks then went around the world, following which they were compared again with their counterpart, which had stayed behind at the Naval Observatory. After correcting for the rotation of the earth and

the variation of the force of gravity with altitude, it was found that the clocks that had been in motion in their journey around the earth had in fact slowed as compared with the clock at the Naval Observatory, and by exactly the amount predicted by the theory of relativity. The result was further confirmed in a second around-the-world flight in the opposite direction.

10. It can be inferred from the passage that

a. the functioning of GPS has unarguably proved that the veracity of the Relativity Theory is under doubt

b. experiments in recent years have to major extent verified the conclusions of the Relativity Theory

c. Relativity Theory, though proven to be right, has been of little practical use in advanced technologies

d. the Relativity Theory still continues to be ridiculed by many scientists worldwide

e. The Theory of Relativity has led to quantum mechanics

11. Which of the following statements about muons is validated by the passage?

a. They have an average life span of about a second

b. Very few muons actually travel down to the surface of the earth

c. They travel at velocities comparable to that of light

d. They are the only known stable elementary particle

e. They travel at velocities comparable to that of sound

12. Which of the following statements about the experiment conducted by scientists in 1971 is supported by the passage?

a. Although successful, the experiment turned out to be a very costly affair

b. The experiment proved that time dilation happens only under laboratory-induced conditions

c. The results of the experiment were verified by another similar one

d. The experiment was conducted by scientists from the Office of Naval Research

e. The experiment was not replicable owing to hidden variables

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13. According to the passage, Einstein's theory

a. sees time as an entity that transcends what can be measured with standardized clocks.

b. considers relativity of simultaneity as the basis for any discussion on time.

c. concludes that faster the motion of the reference frame, faster is the passage of time.

d. drew startling conclusions about all the basic physical quantities except mass.

e. considers the thermodynamic arrow of time as the most important aspect of time.

14. In which year did it become possible to verify the conclusions reached by Relativity Theory?

a. 1972 b. 1971 c. 1923 d. 1905 e. 1941

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
14					

Total questions: 10

## Test - 2

Time: 20 minutes

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**DIRECTIONS for Questions 1 to 10:** Each of the 3 passage given below is followed by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

### Passage I

These days, being a Muslim woman means being saddled with what can only be referred to as the "burden of pity." The feelings of compassion that we Muslim women seem to inspire emanate from very distinct and radically opposed currents: religious extremists of our own faith, and evangelical and secular supporters of empire in the West.

Radical Islamist parties claim that the family is the cornerstone of society and that women, by virtue of their reproductive powers, are its builders. An overhaul of society must therefore begin with reforming the status of women, and in particular with distinguishing clearly their roles from those of men. Guided by their "true" interpretations of the faith, these radicals want women to resume their traditional roles of nurturers and men to be empowered to lead the family. If we protect women's rights in Islam, they assure us, the *umma*, the community of believers, will be lifted from its general state of poverty and backwardness.

Meanwhile, the abundant pity that Muslim women inspire in the West largely takes the form of impassioned declarations about "our plight"—reserved, it would seem, for us, as Christian and Jewish women living in similarly constricting fundamentalist settings never seem to attract the same concern. The veil, illiteracy, domestic violence and gender apartheid have become so many hot-button issues that symbolize our status as second-class citizens in our societies. These expressions of compassion are often met with cynical

responses in the Muslim world, which further enrages the missionaries of women's liberation. Why, they wonder, do Muslim women not seek out the West's help in freeing themselves from their societies' retrograde thinking? The poor things, they are so oppressed they do not even know they are oppressed.

The sympathy extended to us by Western supporters of empire is nothing new. In 1908 Lord Cromer, the British consul general in Egypt, declared that "the fatal obstacle" to the country's "attainment of that elevation of thought and character which should accompany the introduction of Western civilization" was Islam's degradation of women. The fact that Cromer raised school fees and discouraged the training of women doctors in Egypt, and in England founded an organization that opposed the right of British women to suffrage, should give us a hint of what his views on gender roles were really like. Little seems to have changed in the past century, for now we have George W. Bush, leader of the free world, telling us, before invading Afghanistan in 2001, that he was doing it as much to free the country's women as to hunt down Osama bin Laden and Mullah Omar. Five years later, the Taliban is making a serious comeback, and the country's new Constitution prohibits any laws that are contrary to an austere interpretation of Sharia. Furthermore, among the twenty-odd reasons that were foisted on the American public to justify the invasion of Iraq in 2003 was, of course, the subjugation of women; this, despite the fact that the majority of Iraqi women were educated and active in nearly all sectors of a secular public life. Three years into the occupation, the only enlightened aspect of Saddam's despotic rule has been dismantled: Facing threats from a resurgent fundamentalism, both Sunni and Shiite, many women have been forced to quit their jobs and to cover because not to do so puts them in harm's way. Why Mr. Bush does not advocate for the women of Thailand, the women of Botswana or the women of Nepal is anyone's guess.

This context-competing yet hypocritical sympathies for Muslim women—helps to explain the strong popularity, particularly in the post-September 11 era, of Muslim women activists like Ayaan Hirsi Ali and Irshad Manji and the equally strong skepticism with which they are met within the broad Muslim community. These activists are passionate and no doubt sincere in their criticism of Islam. But are their claims unique and

innovative, or are they mostly unremarkable? Are their conclusions borne out by empirical evidence, or do they fail to meet basic levels of scholarship? The casual reader would find it hard to answer these questions, because there is very little critical examination of their work. For the most part, the loudest responses have been either hagiographic profiles of these "brave" and "heroic" women, on the one hand, or absurd and completely abhorrent threats to the safety of these "apostates" and "enemies of God," on the other.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali was born in Mogadishu, Somalia. Her father, Hirsi Magan Isse, was a prominent critic of the Siyad Barre regime, and the family had to flee the country, first to Saudi Arabia and then to Ethiopia and Kenya. When Hirsi Ali was 22, her father arranged a marriage for her with a distant relation. On a layover in Germany en route to Canada, where the man lived, Hirsi Ali escaped to the Netherlands, where she applied for and received asylum. She worked as an interpreter for Somali refugees and studied political science at the University of Leiden. Hirsi Ali first came into the public eye in 2002, with the publication of *De Zontjesfabriek* (The Son Factory), whose vehement criticisms of Islam made her the subject of death threats. She joined a think tank affiliated with the social-democratic Labor Party but a year later switched membership to the right-wing VVD Party, which had invited her to run for a seat in Parliament. She won, and became a member of Parliament in January 2003. Hirsi Ali explained her shifting allegiance by saying that the VVD granted her greater ability to advocate for the rights of Muslim women. Then in 2004, she wrote the script to the short film *Submission*, which was directed by Theo van Gogh, a man who was known for his virulently anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim statements. That fall, van Gogh was slaughtered in Amsterdam, in broad daylight, by a Dutch man named Mohammed Bouyeri, whose parents had emigrated from Morocco. A letter left on van Gogh's body made it clear that Hirsi Ali was the next target. She immediately went into hiding and has needed heavy protection ever since. A few years ago, Hirsi Ali admitted to lying on her asylum application, but a Dutch TV documentary challenged her on other details of her life, including whether or not she was forced into marriage. The revelations sparked a row that culminated when Rita Verdonk, the Minister of Integration and a member of Hirsi Ali's own party, informed her that she

could no longer consider herself a Dutch citizen. Although there has been no specific move to strip her of citizenship, Hirsi Ali has already announced that she is resigning from Parliament and moving to the United States, where she will take up a position at the right-wing American Enterprise Institute.

1. The author's comment about the West's pity being reserved for Islamic women indicates
  - a. her gratitude for the world's attention to such an important cause.
  - b. her annoyance at their hypocrisy.
  - c. her irritation at the selfish manners of the politicians.
  - d. her grouse against the world media for highlighting only a part of the problem.
  - e. her consideration whether European and Islamic values are compatible.
2. The author is most likely to use which word to describe Cromer?
  - a. selfish b. forgiving c. preposterous d. irrational e. double-faced
3. Which of the following can be inferred as a possible answer to the question: "Why Mr. Bush does not advocate for the women of Thailand?"
  - a. He is ignorant about the condition of women in these countries.
  - b. The status of women in Iraq is just a convenient ruse for the attack.
  - c. He cannot jeopardize America's trade relations with Thailand.
  - d. The Thai President and Bush are close friends.
  - e. Because he thinks that Thai women are capable of handling themselves.
4. The author uses the example of Ayaan Hirsi Ali to demonstrate

- a. the disappointing reality behind the thoughtless veneration for women icons from the Islamic world
- b. the trials and tribulations faced by an outspoken Muslim woman
- c. the pressures of the system against an independent-thinking woman like Hirsi
- d. the inability of most countries to aid a victim like Hirsi
- e. the hypocritical attitude of the members of the Dutch Parliament

### Passage II

Capgemini, one of the world's foremost providers of Consulting, Technology and Outsourcing services, and Kanbay International, a global IT services firm focused on the financial services industry, announced today that they have entered into a definitive merger agreement. Under the terms of the merger agreement, Capgemini will acquire all of the outstanding common shares of Kanbay for \$29 per share in cash. This represents a premium of 15.9% to Kanbay's closing share price on Wednesday October 25 and 28.3% to the average price during the month prior to announcement. The transaction values Kanbay's share capital including vested stock options, warrants and restricted shares at \$1.25 billion. The Boards of Directors of Capgemini and Kanbay have approved the transaction. The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including Kanbay's shareholders approval and anti-trust clearance. It is expected that the transaction will close by early 2007. In addition, Capgemini has entered into share purchase agreements to acquire 14.9% of Kanbay's outstanding shares from certain core shareholders.

This acquisition is fully in line with Capgemini's expansion strategy, namely, it significantly increases Capgemini's presence in India (+89% based on Q3 figures). The combined company would have headcount reaching 12,000 employees by the end of 2006 in India which would therefore become the second largest country (with 16% of total headcount); it strengthens Capgemini's presence in North America and confirms the

Group's ambition in this market; it positions Capgemini as a leader in the Financial Services sector - which accounts for 22% of the global IT market - and enhances its domain expertise.

This transaction is expected to have a positive impact on Capgemini's earnings per share. The anticipated EPS accretion is in excess of 5% in 2007 and 10% in 2008. Capgemini is in a position to fully finance this transaction with its significant end of year net cash position. It doesn't exclude to raise up to 500 million euros in equity to rebuild room for manoeuvre and participate to a possible further movement of consolidation. Both decision and timing will be subject to the then prevailing market conditions.

Raymond J. Spencer, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Kanbay, will join the top management of Capgemini. Mr. Spencer stated: "The combination of Kanbay with Capgemini is very exciting news for our shareholders, customers and employees. While this transaction creates excellent value for shareholders, Capgemini also shares our existing vision and stated strategy.

Thus, this deal represents a continuation of our existing approach. In addition, the two organizations will benefit from complementary business philosophies and cultures."

Capgemini Chief Executive Officer, Paul Hermelin noted: "The acquisition of Kanbay, a world-class IT services provider, supports our growth strategy and significantly enhances our global Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) practice, particularly in North America and India, where Kanbay has over 5,000 associates. The acquisition also gives us valuable capabilities in Consumer and Industrial Products, Telecommunications, Media, Life Sciences and the Travel & Leisure verticals."

"The acquisition of Kanbay is excellent news for our shareholders, our clients and our people. It fits in perfectly with the Group's expansion program called I cubed which focuses on three levers: industrialization, intimacy with our clients and innovation" underlines Mr. Hermelin. "This acquisition occurs in a context of strong momentum for Capgemini: after releasing good H1 results, the Group posts a 13.5% revenue growth at constant rates and perimeter in the 2006 third quarter."

The combination of Kanbay and Capgemini creates a top-tier global IT services firm with unparalleled domain knowledge in the financial services vertical, seamless consulting and technology expertise, and market leading offshore resources. Paul Hermelin and Raymond Spencer concluded: "We believe this is a landmark transaction in the global IT services industry. This event can fundamentally transform the professional services industry by enabling efficient global services delivery via an integrated single point solution delivered in a seamless fashion resulting in a lower total cost of ownership for the client."

Lazard Freres and Morgan Stanley acted as financial advisors to Capgemini in connection with the transaction. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, and Latham & Watkins (as special anti-trust counsel) acted as legal advisers to Capgemini in connection with the transaction. UBS Securities LLC acted as financial adviser to Kanbay and provided a fairness opinion in connection with the transaction. Winston & Strawn LLP acted as legal adviser to Kanbay in connection with the transaction.

5. Which of the following statements cannot be inferred from the above paragraph?

- a. An anti-trust clearance is mandatory for a merger agreement.
- b. Kanbay and Capgemini individually are in complementary lines of businesses.
- c. The merger is a landmark event in the IT services industry
- d. Kanbay and Capgemini have strong presence in India
- e. The fundamental values of Kanbay and Capgemini overlap each other

6. According to the passage after the transaction is concluded:

- a. Kanbay International will probably cease to exist as an entity
- b. Capgemini will undergo a change in branding
- c. the new entity will realize its expansion programmes

d. Capgemini will cease to exist as an entity

e. none of the above will take place.

7. One of the prime reason behind Capgemini's acquisition of Kanbay is

- a. the strong presence Kanbay commands in India.
- b. the expected rise in EPS of Capgemini post-merger.
- c. the strong presence Capgemini commands in North America.
- d. the lower total cost of ownership for the client post-merger.
- e. the clout of Kanbay in North America.

### Passage III

First of all, the tragic catharsis might be a purgation. Fear can obviously be an insidious thing that undermines life and poisons it with anxiety. It would be good to flush this feeling from our systems, bring it into the open, and clear the air. This may explain the appeal of horror movies, that they redirect our fears toward something external, grotesque, and finally ridiculous, in order to puncture them. On the other hand, fear might have a secret allure, so that what we need to purge is the desire for the thrill that comes with fear. The horror movie also provides a safe way to indulge and satisfy the longing to feel afraid, and go home afterward satisfied; the desire is purged, temporarily, by being fed. Our souls are so many-headed that opposite satisfactions may be felt at the same time, but I think these two really are opposite. In the first sense of purgation, the horror movie is a kind of medicine that does its work and leaves the soul healthier, while in the second sense it is potentially addictive, more like a drug. Either explanation may account for the popularity of these movies among teenagers, since fear is so much a fact of that time of life. For those of us who are older, the tear-jerker may have more appeal, offering a way to purge the regrets of our lives in a sentimental outpouring of pity. As with fear, this purgation too may be either medicinal or drug-like.

This idea of purgation, in its various forms, is what we usually mean when we call something cathartic. People speak of watching football, or boxing, as a catharsis of violent urges, or call a shouting match with a friend a useful catharsis of buried resentment. This is a practical purpose that drama may also serve, but it has no particular connection with beauty or truth; to be good in this purgative way, a drama has no need to be good in any other way. No one would be tempted to confuse the feeling at the end of a horror movie with what Aristotle calls "the tragic pleasure," nor to call such a movie a tragedy. But the English word catharsis does not contain everything that is in the Greek word. Let us look at other things it might mean.

Catharsis in Greek can mean purification. While purging something means getting rid of it, purifying something means getting rid of the worse or baser parts of it. It is possible that tragedy purifies the feelings themselves of fear and pity. These arise in us in crude ways, attached to all sorts of objects. Perhaps the poet educates our sensibilities, our powers to feel and be moved, by refining them and attaching them to less easily discernible objects. There is a line in *The Wasteland*, "I will show you fear in a handful of dust." Alfred Hitchcock once made us all feel a little shudder when we took showers. The poetic imagination is limited only by its skill, and can turn any object into a focus for any feeling. I suppose some people turn to poetry to find delicious and exquisite new ways to feel old feelings, and consider themselves to enter in that way into a purified state. I have heard it argued that this sort of thing is what tragedy and the tragic pleasure are all about, but it doesn't match up with my experience. Sophocles does make me fear and pity human knowledge when I watch the *Oedipus Tyrannus*, but this is not a refinement of those feelings but a discovery that they belong to a surprising object. Sophocles is not training my feelings, but using them to show me something worthy of wonder.

I believe that the word *catharsis* drops out of the *Poetics* because the word *wonder*, *to rhaumaston*, replaces it, first in chapter 9, where Aristotle argues that pity and fear arise most of all where wonder does, and finally in chapters 24 and 25, where he singles out wonder as the aim of the poetic art itself, into which the aim of tragedy in particular merges. Ask yourself how you feel at the end of a tragedy. You have witnessed horrible things and felt painful feelings, but the mark of tragedy is that it brings you out the other

side. Aristotle's use of the word *catharsis* is not a technical reference to purgation or purification but a beautiful metaphor for the peculiar tragic pleasure, the feeling of being washed or cleansed.

The tragic pleasure is a paradox. As Aristotle says, in a tragedy, a happy ending doesn't make us happy. At the end of the play the stage is often littered with bodies, and we feel cleansed by it all. Are we like Clytemnestra, who says she rejoiced when spattered by her husband's blood, like the earth in a Spring rain? Are we like Iago, who has to see a beautiful life destroyed to feel better about himself? We all feel a certain glee in the bringing low of the mighty, but this is in no way similar to the feeling of being washed in wonderment. The closest thing I know to the feeling at the end of a tragedy is the one that comes with the sudden, unexpected appearance of something beautiful. In a famous essay on beauty, Plotinus says two things that seem true to me: "Clearly [beauty] is something detected at a first glance, something that the soul... recognizes, gives welcome to, and, in a way, fuses with". What is the effect on us of this recognition? Plotinus says that in every instance it is "an astonishment, a delicious wonderment". Aristotle is insistent that a tragedy must be whole and one, because only in that way can it be beautiful, while he also ascribes the superiority of tragedy over epic poetry to its greater unity and concentration. Tragedy is not just a dramatic form in which some works are beautiful and others not; tragedy is itself a species of beauty. All tragedies are beautiful.

By following Aristotle's lead, we have now found five marks of tragedy: (1) it imitates an action, (2) it arouses pity and fear, (3) it displays the human image as such, (4) it ends in wonder, and (5) it is inherently beautiful. We noticed earlier that it is action that characterizes the distinctively human realm, and it is reasonable that the depiction of an action might show us a human being in some definitive way, but what do pity and fear have to do with that showing? The answer is, I think, everything.

8. According to the passage 'Purgation' means the same as
  - a. a release of emotional tension
  - b. an emotional turmoil

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8. According to the passage 'Purgation' means the same as

- a. a release of emotional tension
- b. an emotional turmoil

c. the act of clearing yourself

d. the act of surgery

e. the withdrawal of a natural tendency

9. The writer in this passage has referred to "Horror movies" as

a. Medicine for the old

b. Repentance for the old

c. Addictive in nature

d. Drug for those who are addicts

e. repulsive to the general audience

10. The line, "I will show you fear in a handful of dust" implies that

a. there is fear everywhere

b. the soil around us is what can scare us

c. fear can be relatively associated with sand

d. fear rules over other emotions

e. we tend to associate fear with the things around us

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
10					

Total questions: 9

### Test - 3

Time: 25 minutes

---

**Directions for questions 1 to 4 :** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

How is the internet changing the way you think?

There are the idealists, grateful for a tool that has enabled them to think globally. They are now plugged into a range of sources, access to which would once have required effort, expense and long delays. It's not just faraway information that is within reach, but faraway people - activists are able to connect with like-minded allies on the other side of the world.

It's this possibility of cross-border collaboration that has the internet gurus excited, as they marvel at open-source efforts such as the Linux computer operating system, with knowledge traded freely across the globe. Richard Dawkins even imagines a future when such co-operation is so immediate, so reflexive, that our combined intelligence comes to resemble a single nervous system: "A human society would effectively become one individual," he writes.

No less hopeful are the egalitarians who believe the internet, and social media in particular, have flattened the old hierarchies that put purveyors of information at the top of the pyramid and consumers down below. "I think that social boundaries have become more porous," mused one tweeter. "Without it I wouldn't be able to have this informal chat with you." The end of deference is a theme, with several suggesting that where once they had to believe what they were told, they can now check for themselves.

But in my unscientific survey the Pollyannas were outnumbered by the Cassandras, even among people whose Twitter habit might suggest internet zeal. There were laments for what more than one essayist in the anthology calls the "outsourcing of the mind". As a respondent to my Twitter appeal put it: "Sadly I think less and google more."

Others raised the now hoary question of anonymity and its tendency to remove the usual social inhibitions that encourage courtesy. Just as the car windscreen makes people ruder than they would ever dare to be exposed as mere pedestrians, so the presence of a computer screen can release a darker side, coarsening relations between strangers. For reasons not yet fully understood, the internet seems to have robbed many of embarrassment.

But these were mere side notes. The biggest complaint, in both my Twitter sample and the expert essays, was about the quality of thinking in the online era. What the internet has done, say the dissenters, is damage our ability to concentrate for sustained periods. Being connected meant being constantly tempted to look away, to hop from the text in front of you to another, newer one. One tweeter replied that he now thought "about more things for shorter amounts of time. It's like ADHD." Anyone who has Tweetdeck fitted on their desktop, chirruping like a toddler tapping you on the shoulder urging you to come and play, will know what he means.

This, the worriers fear, is not just irritating; it might even damage our civilisation. How capable will people be of creating great works if they are constantly interrupted, even when alone? "What the net seems to be doing is chipping away my capacity for concentration and contemplation," angst Nicholas Carr, who believes the internet is steering us toward "the shallows".

1. Which of the following cannot be inferred as a benefit of the internet?
  - a. The relaxation of social boundaries which makes it easier to communicate with people.
  - b. The ease with which information is available and the breadth of this information across the globe.

c. The anonymity of a computer screen allows a person to express himself or herself completely.

d. The access to people across geographical boundaries so that they may be united for a cause.

2. Which of the following is most likely to be a result of "the end of deference" cited in the passage?

a. People have less respect for others because of the internet.

b. People have less respect for authority because of the internet.

c. People are more likely to have their own opinions because of the internet.

d. People are less likely to believe information coming from various sources because of the availability of the internet.

3. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

a. The author himself fears that the internet has a negative influence on people's thinking.

b. The internet has paved the way for new technological breakthroughs and scientific discoveries.

c. The author's survey was dominated by people who cited negative effects of the internet.

d. People are rude to pedestrians because of car windscreens.

4. According to the passage, how can the internet damage our civilization?

a. The internet is robbing people of the ability to contemplate and concentrate for long periods and they are unable to work.

b. Being constantly connected ensures constant interruption and hence a person's concentration, which is required for creating great works, is always broken.

c. People are increasingly thinking about more things but for shorter amounts of time and are therefore easily distracted and unable to create great works.

d. The quality of thinking has deteriorated sharply and people are now unable to create great works.

**Directions for questions 5 & 6 :** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

In *Le système des objets*, Baudrillard analyzed consumption through a critique of the sign. The prejudice in favor of production as the active moment and consumption as passive originated with the political economy but was confirmed by Marx. This productivist ideology produces an absence in social theory: it cannot account for the articulated complexity of a symbolic exchange in consumption. Baudrillard asserts that consumption is as "active" an exchange as production. In consumption there is an active appropriation of signs, not the simple destruction of an object. What is consumed is not simply a material object that satisfies an all too rational need, but a symbolic meaning in which the consumer places himself in a communication structure where an exchange occurs which is profoundly tied to the whole system of political economy. In order for the system to be reproduced there must be not simply the reproduction of labor power but the continuous reproduction of the code.

To Baudrillard, the present system of signs in consumption entails a serious distortion of human exchange. Under political economy, every level of social exchange is reduced from symbolic reciprocity to the "terrorism" of the "code." Baudrillard's critique of political economy leads not simply to another productivist ideology, but penetrates the system in a radical way: the abstraction from the symbolic reciprocity of exchanges to the abstract, discontinuous manipulation of the code. It is the very genius of political economy, a genius that makes it immune to traditional Marxist critiques, that the signs exchanged in communication have no referent. Capitalism detaches the signifier from the signified, making the signifier its own signified. What is crucial about, say, a given underarm deodorant, is not that it has a given exchange value or a given use value, not that the

workers who produced it were alienated or exploited. The secret of this commodity is that it can totally transcend all of these "referents," that it can become a totally detached object of exchange and that the person who consumes it can find a "meaning" in it to be appropriated that is totally divorced from the mechanisms of production and distribution.

5. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- a. Capitalism transforms the signifier into its own signified by translating all objects into a productivist ideology.
- b. According to Baudrillard, what is consumed is not a material object at all but a code.
- c. The signifier and the signified are often identical in a capitalistic society.
- d. A commodity can only exist in a productivist ideology.

6. According to Baudrillard, the "genius of political economy" is that it

- a. Isolates the consumer from economic and political realities.
- b. Has managed to neutralize traditional Marxist critiques of labor exploitation.
- c. Distorts the given exchange value of a commodity and reduces it to the status of a referent.
- d. Collapses the gap between what a commodity signifies and what that commodity itself is.

**Directions for questions 7 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

While admitting luck, time and chance figure prominently in literary awards, it still is worth asking: does Mr Roth deserve it? Rick Gekoski, a rare book dealer who chaired the panel of judges, made a pretty strong case that he does: in 1959 Mr Roth wrote "Goodbye, Columbus"; 51 years later he remains in fine form with "Nemesis", his most recent novel.

In between the two were some real stinkers ("The Breast", "When She Was Good", "Our Gang" and "The Humbling"), but rare is the author who hits a cultural nerve early in his career, as Mr Roth did with Columbus and "Portnoy's Complaint", and does it again later, as he did with "American Pastoral", "The Human Stain" and "I Married a Communist" in the 1990s. The searing, satirical anger of his early work mellowed into something more melancholy but no less bitter. Rage became disappointment, sadness that occasionally opened (as in "Everyman") to admit a clear-eyed, Larkinesque terror at death's implacability. ("Old age isn't a battle," he wrote in that novel. "It's a massacre.")

And yet he was always himself. What he and Saul Bellow did better than anyone was make you feel that you, as a reader, had a portal directly into their minds, and that what was happening inside their minds was interesting. Occasionally they fell short of the latter ("The Humbling" and "Exit Ghost" were dreadful—boring, repetitive, lurid—while Bellow had "Mr Sammler's Planet" and "The Dean's December", crabbed and crotchety works devoid of the sense of joy and wonder that pervade Bellow at his best), but never the former. That is harder than it sounds. It also risks overshadowing Mr Roth's formal excellence. He is not a showy experimentalist, but neither does he stick to traditional beginning-middle-end stories. "The Plot Against America" was a rare work of alternative-history that was not science fiction. "Operation Shylock" (my favourite of his works, for whatever that's worth) is part mystery and part diatribe. "The Breast" is a tribute to Kafka and Gogol. And so on.

Of course, it would not be a literary prize without some controversy: Carmen Callil, one of the three judges on the panel, quit after they gave the award to Mr Roth. She said she "did not rate him as a writer... He goes on and on about the same subject in almost every book. It's as though he's sitting on your face and you can't breathe." Yes, well, Mr Roth can be a little priapic in his preoccupations. Sometimes that works (Portnoy) and sometimes it doesn't (Humbling, Ghost). But authors have themes, and sex and Judaism are two of his. Some have argued that Ms Callil's having published "Leaving a Doll's House", Claire Bloom's account of her nightmarish marriage to Mr Roth, creates a conflict of interest. It does not. But it does create someone who probably does not like Philip Roth.

7. What will be the author's answer to the question "Does Mr Roth deserve it?"

- a. Yes, the author has praised many aspects of Roth's writing.
- b. Cannot be determined, the author's own opinion cannot be isolated in the passage.
- c. Yes, the author is a vehement supporter and does not admit any criticism of Roth.
- d. No, the author concedes various points to Roth's critics.

8. Which one of these can be inferred from the passage?

- a. Ms.Calil may have been privy to information that made her prejudiced against Roth as a person.
- b. Ms.Calil had a conflict of interest and should not have been judging the award.
- c. Ms.Calil knew Claire Bloom and was therefore not in favour of Roth getting the award.
- d. Ms.Calil was prejudiced against Roth's works because of their themes.

9. Which one of these is a constant characteristic of Philip Roth's writing?

- a. He's a showy experimentalist.
- b. He has always been able to convey his thoughts to the reader clearly.
- c. He's fond of using the traditional beginning-middle-end structure.
- d. His works feature searing satire.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

Total questions: 9

## Test - 4

Time: 25 minutes

**Directions for questions 1 to 4:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

What is today's reader offered by the work of Kingsley Amis? This may not seem an especially pertinent question to ask of a writer who died only in 1995, but in art the recent past can sometimes appear more outmoded and inaccessible than distant history. The living writer is close to the common well of experience; once the writer has died, and can no longer articulate our contemporary world for us, he is exposed to the more brutal judgment of time. What in his work is timeless? What, if anything, makes it worth preserving?

Of course, definitive answers to these questions aren't always found: dead writers continue to go in and out of fashion, their work suddenly meaningful again in one era then failing to make sense in the next. It is often the most passionately contemporary writers - Kingsley Amis was one - whose reputations decline most steeply in their absence, for obvious reasons.

Relevance becomes irrelevance; the same devotion to the here and now that brought them popularity and fame ensures their obscurity once here and now have become there and then. Yet the observation of ordinary life nearly always forms the cornerstone of great and lasting art. It is the quality of that observation that is put to the test over time, that will determine whether the work is trivial or lastingly true.

Kingsley Amis made his name in the Fifties with his first novel, *Lucky Jim*, a work that seemed to define a new era not just in its portrayal of the evolving world of higher

education that is its setting, but in literary values too. It advanced a more youthful and democratic conception of literary style and subject matter that reflected changing modes of social behaviour.

In *Lucky Jim*, Amis reprised the black comedy of Evelyn Waugh and reclothed it in the provincial workaday garb of the ordinary middle classes, and if in doing so he belied something of his artistic seriousness, he was rewarded for it with instant acclaim.

1. Which of the following best describes the tone of the author?
  - a. Laudatory
  - b. Descriptive
  - c. Analytical
  - d. Inquisitive
2. Why does the author use the statement "What is today's reader offered by the work of Kingsley Amis?" at the start of the passage?
  - a. To highlight that though Kingsley Amis is dead his work should not be neglected.
  - b. To initiate the discussion on what the present generation of readers can gain from the works of Kingsley Amis.
  - c. To broach the issue of whether Kingsley Amis' writing is relevant today.
  - d. To make the reader understand Kingsley Amis' influence on contemporary literature.
3. With which of the following is the author most likely to agree with?
  - a. As Amis was a contemporary writer, he would have been able to make a mark for himself in the field of literature in any other era as well.

- b. Depicting contemporary reality in one's writing can prove to be a double edged sword for a writer.
- c. The works of art that involve observation of ordinary life have enduring appeal.
- d. Lucky Jim lacks the gravitas characteristic of Amis' artistic expression.
4. Which of the following can be a suitable title to the passage?
- a. Why Kingsley Amis is relevant even today?
- b. What makes for lasting art?
- c. Why Remember Kingsley Amis?
- d. Is Kingsley Amis relevant today?

**Directions for questions 5 to 7:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

China has been a united country with a single central authority throughout its history, with short periods of regional resurgence. India has been the other way around. It has had short periods of strong central rule—empires as they were called—Maurya, Gupta, Mughal etc. Even imperial rulers had to seek collaborators who were only nominally their subordinates. Eventually these collaborators would grow big and the empire would break up.

This history made Indian nationalism fearful of weak central governments. The idea was that independent India would be strong and united; it led to a Constitution, which was highly centralized. But unlike the old empires, new India was a democratic republic. What passed for imperial rule was exercised by a political party, the only one with any legitimacy from the independence struggle—the Congress Party. For Congress, unity meant control from the top and rule by a single party. Nehru hated the idea of linguistic states but had to concede to it. Even so the Congress could be in power everywhere and

assure India's unity. The first non-Congress government in Kerala was dismissed disgracefully using sinister tactics. Any sniff of difference was suspected to be a bid for disunity.

Now sixty-four years on, we see a new confident India emerging. Unity does not have to mean uniformity or a single party rule across India. The election results show that the winning formula is a powerful regional leader. The model is of regional strength, even autonomy, but without any desire for independence. Regional strength does not have to mean national disunity.

Tamil Nadu was the first state way back in late 60s which displaced the Congress by its own local party which soon became two parties. Congress has played second fiddle ever since in Tamil Nadu. In Kerala, the Congress is locally no different from the Communists as far as governance or political culture is concerned. Now, Mamata Banerjee has shown that West Bengal will also be like Tamil Nadu. There will be a regional party of Bengal which will rule without much of a role for the Congress. In Bihar, Nitish Kumar is his own boss without a national party hovering over him and Narendra Modi does not have to listen to his national party. In Assam, Tarun Gogoi was clever enough in his victory speech to give credit to the Congress but that is diplomatic. He too will be a regional satrap.

This is the way a true federation should work. India is as large as Europe and there is no reason to expect uniform political cultures. Local interests, local class structures and local geography determine the shape of politics. The Center has the financial wherewithal to cement its hold on the States but it can do so without discriminating against governments of a different party from that at the Center. The big struggle for establishing proper rules for federal finance were fought in the 80s and 90s by the West Bengal Left Front government against the Congress rule at the Center. Now the rules are known and adhered to. Central help depends on good governance and good quality projects. There is still a bit of politics at election time when non-Congress governments are accused of not spending central funds while the governments demand more assistance. But eventually it all works out.

5. Which one of the following best represents the main idea of the passage?
- The emergence of regional political parties in India.
  - The attitude of the central government towards regional politics over the years.
  - How are regional political parties a threat to a strong federation?
  - Autonomy in the states strengthens India as a federation.
6. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?
- Opinionated
  - Descriptive
  - Analytical
  - Effusive

7. According to the author, all of them are instances that signify 'a new confident India', except:
- Displacement of Congress in Tamil Nadu in the 60s.
  - Tarun Gogoi giving credit to the Congress in his victory speech.
  - Dismissal of Non-Congress party in Kerela.
  - Mamta Banerjee taking the lead in West Bengal.

**Directions for questions 8 & 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Modern physics began with a sweeping unification: in 1687 Isaac Newton showed that the existing jumble of disparate theories describing everything from planetary motion to tides

to pendulums were all aspects of a universal law of gravitation. Unification has played a central role in physics ever since. In the middle of the 19th century James Clerk Maxwell found that electricity and magnetism were two facets of electromagnetism. One hundred years later electromagnetism was unified with the weak nuclear force governing radioactivity, in what physicists call the electroweak theory.

This quest for unification is driven by practical, philosophical and aesthetic considerations. When successful, merging theories clarify our understanding of the universe and lead us to discover things we might otherwise never have suspected. Much of the activity in experimental particle physics today, at accelerators such as the Large Hadron Collider at CERN near Geneva, involves a search for novel phenomena predicted by the unified electroweak theory. In addition to predicting new physical effects, a unified theory provides a more aesthetically satisfying picture of how our universe operates. Many physicists share an intuition that, at the deepest level, all physical phenomena match the patterns of some beautiful mathematical structure.

8. Which of the following statements is not true according to the passage?
- Electricity, magnetism and the nuclear force governing radioactivity are interlinked.
  - All disparate theories are aspects of a universal law of gravitation.
  - Many physicists believe that all physical phenomena are related to mathematics.
  - The birth of modern physics can be traced back to 1687.
9. Why does the author believe that "Unification has played a central role in physics ever since"?
- Because unification helped James Clerk Maxwell to find that electricity and magnetism were two facets of electromagnetism.
  - Because the quest for unification is driven by practical, philosophical and aesthetic considerations.

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- d. The birth of modern physics can be traced back to 1687.

9. Why does the author believe that "Unification has played a central role in physics ever since"?

- a. Because unification helped James Clerk Maxwell to find that electricity and magnetism were two facets of electromagnetism.
- b. Because the quest for unification is driven by practical, philosophical and aesthetic considerations.

c. Because unification clarifies the understanding of the universe and leads us to discover things for ourselves.

d. Because unification brings all laws under one roof and gives a meaning to them.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

Total questions: 9

## Test - 5

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 & 2:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

The story starts with a tragedy. On the evening of Feb. 6, 1958, a chartered plane carrying United's young team — England's champions, known as the Busby Babes, after their manager, Matt Busby — stopped off in Munich on its way back from Belgrade, where United had drawn with Red Star, securing a place in the semifinals of the European Cup (the precursor to the Champions League). Conditions were dire, with slush on the runway and snow in the air, but after two failed attempts to take off, the pilots tried again. The plane never made it, clipping a house at the end of the runway and crashing. Seven of United's players were among those who died in the crash. An eighth, Duncan Edwards, just 21, who men of a certain age will tell you with iron conviction was the greatest footballer England ever produced, died two weeks later. Busby was terribly injured and was administered last rites but survived.

The horror shocked Britain. Even those who didn't follow football or weren't from Manchester had loved the Babes, who had brought a sense of glamour to a nation that was still struggling to lift itself from the drabness of the postwar years. I can remember, when I got home from school the day the news broke, feeling a child's surprise at seeing adults so visibly distressed. A few weeks later, we all crowded into the only house on our street with a TV to watch United's second string try to win the FA Cup, only to cruelly lose to Bolton Wanderers.

Yet out of the ashes, Busby rebuilt the club. By the mid-1960s, he had formed a thrilling new team around three players known in United legend as "the Holy Trinity": George

Best, Denis Law and Bobby Charlton, who was just 20 when he was hauled from the wreckage of Munich. Even I, a die-hard Liverpool fan loved seeing them play. In 1968, 10 years after Munich, they positively murdered Portuguese champions Benfica to become the first English side to win the European Cup. As the game ended, Busby marched across the field to embrace Charlton, two survivors united in a moment of shared joy and grief.

1. The tone of the passage is
  - a. nostalgic b. tragic c. narrative d. laudatory
- 2 Which of the following options would come close to describing what the author meant when he called three players of his team "the Holy Trinity"?
  - a. The three players had survived a fatal crash and were perceived to be surrounded by a divine grace.
  - b. The three players had survived a fatal crash and were perceived as the comeback trio.
  - c. The new team had been created around the three players and they were seen as its powerful core.
  - d. Just like the Holy Trinity, the three players created legend, preserved it and helped bury their past.

**Directions for questions 3 to 5:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

It is impossible to grasp the true significance of the teachings of Socrates unless we perfectly understand how he characteristically mingled in himself two opposite currents of thought. His teachings were given to the world close on the heels of the sophistic doctrines. They share the free spirit of inquiry, which formed the essential feature of Sophisticism, and yet the views embodied in them are in complete opposition to the agnosticism and skepticism of the Sophists.

There were two ways in which the perplexities occasioned by the argumentations of the Sophists could be encountered and rebutted. The one way was to abjure the very spirit of free inquiry, which had pulled down everything objective, and to fall back in blind faith on authority. This was the course adopted by the conservative party represented by Aristophanes. They set their faces against the freedom of thought, which the Sophists had inaugurated. The other way was to point out that, strange as it might appear, the Sophistic inquiry was not as free as it proposed to be, and to ask that free thought be carried still further. This was exactly what Socrates did. He cordially agreed with the Sophists as to the propriety and the necessity of subjecting the institutions of society, and everything in which Man was interested, to the ordeal of a rigorous examination. No Sophist was ever more keenly bent upon a free and searching inquiry than he. But he demanded further that the inquiry should be thoroughgoing and complete, more so since it had been under the direction of the Sophists. He protested that their inquiry had been partial, inadequate and superficial; he proposed to carry out a more radical and comprehensive inquiry.

This peculiar relation in whom Socrates stands to the Sophists may be expressed in another way. Pointing to the fact that there were hopeless divergencies between the finding of the philosophers who had attempted to ascertain the principles of the universe and the Sophists who despaired of all objective knowledge. They thought that it was vain to hope for a knowledge of the truth for neither truth nor any absolute moral law existed. Socrates went with the Sophists so far as the consciousness of the littleness of man's knowledge was concerned. In fact, he made it part of the mission of his life to bring home to people the profundity of their ignorance. But while preaching this philosophy of the littleness of man's knowledge, he always kept aloof from agnosticism; and rather bravely fought against all the nihilistic tendencies of his times. He was genuinely impressed with the notion that not only he, but all men live, for the most important to be known, the nature of the Good, the True and the Beautiful. But he used this profession of ignorance, on the one hand as a weapon of offence to expose the hollowness of the self-styled knowledge of the so-called wise men, and on the other hand to gradually unfold the

nature of truth by use of a characteristic method which later on came to be known as 'the Socratic method.'

Socrates thus really resembled the Sophists neither in the spirit of his philosophy nor in the tendency and method of thought, nor in the manner of his life. And yet he was confused as one of them. In this connection, Windelband remarks, "On the one hand, he brought the principle underlying the sophistic movement to its clearest and most comprehensive expression; on the other, he set himself in the most vigorous manner against its outcome. Nevertheless, they stand in the most exact and rigidly consistent connection; for just by depth did, Socrates succeed in giving it a constructive and fruitful turn."

3. According to the passage, Socrates has tried
  - a. to advocate for the necessity of putting societal institutions through an interrogative process.
  - b. to give the basis of all thought and rationale to authority and wait for their verdict.
  - c. to advocate the agnostic and skeptical beliefs of the Sophists.
  - d. to establish that it was essential to hope for a knowledge of the truth for neither truth nor any absolute moral law existed.
4. What according to you is the primary purpose of the author?
  - a. To bring out the contrast between the Sophists and Socrates.
  - b. To understand the foundation for Socrates' philosophy and the inspiration that he drew from.
  - c. To explore and understand the divergent thought patterns that Socrates' retained.
  - d. To trace the Socratic method and the influence that the Sophists bequeathed on this method.

5. Which of the following is the paradox that is most crucial in the passage?
- Adjuring the free spirit of enquiry Vs the free spirit of enquiry.
  - Socrates acceptance of Sophistic beliefs Vs Socrates criticism of Sophistic beliefs.
  - The hope for the knowledge of truth vs the non-existence of truth or an absolute moral law.
  - None of the above

**Directions for questions 6 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

In thinking about truth we must first answer the question, "Is there a real world 'out there' that exists independent of me, that acts in a certain way whether I want it to or not?" If you answer this question, "Of course!" then you are a *realist*. You may be surprised to learn that some philosophers are not realists; they would argue that no one can answer this question, and perhaps everything is just your imagination. If everything is my imagination, then in a sense everything is my own creation, and I am God. That concept is very appealing to many people, especially in some Eastern or New Age philosophies.

Western thinking has historically been dominated by realism, and this position is taught by Christianity. In the teaching of the Bible, God created the world and it depends on him, not us. In the realist worldview, *truth* is defined as words, which accurately represent (within the limits of our language) what is real. No language can perfectly represent reality, but we can all agree that some words represent reality accurately and some words represent only someone's imagination.

There are two basic approaches to how we find truth. One says that we start with *universals* and move from them to *particulars*, while the other says that we start with *particulars* and move from them to *universals*. Other words for these terms are:

particulars universals, experiences generalities, data theories, observations axioms, measurements presuppositions.

The school of thought that says we move from universals to particulars started (as far as we know) with the Greeks, in particular, Plato. Plato and many philosophers after him believed that there is an independent world of *ideals*, which are "pure forms" or "essences" of things. Many people equate this world with the spirit world. In this view, all of the things we see in nature around us are lesser things, derived from this higher world of ideals as a sort of echo. When we think, we somehow connect to this higher world and tap into these ideals. Therefore, even though it may take us years to learn a concept, once we have learned it, we may call it the "starting point" because the concept was always there waiting for us, even before we thought of it.

On the other hand, the view that we move from particulars to universals is based on the view that our bodies and minds are strongly connected, and that the spirit world is not to be equated with either body or mind. In this view, the starting point is our sense experience. This includes our feelings (such as happiness or guilt), our input from the five senses (seeing, hearing, feeling, touching, and smelling), and more general senses of things like order (for instance, a baby recognizing a face is different from other things), time (our sense that time is passing), and correlation (our sense that something always happens when something else happens).

The Bible puts a lot of emphasis on sense experience; for instance, the first chapter of 1 John talks at length of things the disciples "heard" and "saw" and "felt" when they were with Jesus. In this second view, universals are not strongly divorced from the particulars; our experiences, language, and ideas all exist in this world, not some other perfect world. Universals are simply general concepts that help us to organize our sense experience. For example, saying "All men have two legs" (a universal statement) is easier to say than "Joe has two legs, Bob has two legs, Jim has two legs, . . ." (particular observations).

6. Which of the following can be connected to the two approaches of how to find truth?
- There is a higher world of ideals and individuals tap into this world when they think.

2. The body and mind are connected and sense experiences lead to the truth.
3. Everything is in the imagination and everything is one's own creation.
4. There is a dependent world of *ideals*, which are "pure forms" or "essences".
- a. Only 1 b. Both 1 and 2 c. 1, 2 and 3 d. 3 and 4
7. Which of the following is a suitable title for the passage?
- a. The Universal and the Particular Approaches
- b. Realism: Towards the Truth
- c. How do We find the Truth?
- d. The Truth is not Far Away
8. Which one of the following options can help achieve a sense of balance between the two approaches?
- a. Sense experiences can be put into perspective using general concepts.
- b. Our bodies and minds are connected and the spirit world is at the periphery of this connection.
- c. Concepts related to the universal already existed before we even thought of it. It is these concepts that fill the gap between the two approaches.
- d. By using the concepts preached by the realists and deleting any representation of imagination.
9. Which of the following would be a "starting point" under the universal to particular approach?
- a. My first performance at the discus throw was a perfect one and I have held my own against my competitors ever since.
- b. I delivered my 100<sup>th</sup> lecture today and even though I have a great future ahead of me, I feel I cannot go on any longer.
- c. I started as a novice restaurateur and in ten years have seen the closure of four restaurants.
- d. I may draw many circles, and none of them is perfectly round. There exists in the world of ideals a perfect circle from which all of these lesser circles are derived.

**Scoring table**

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

Total questions: 9

## Test - 6

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 & 2:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

The Germans had brought with them over the Rhine none of the heroic virtues attributed to them by Tacitus when he wrote their history, with the evident intention of making a satire on his countrymen. Amongst the degenerate Romans whom the Germans had subjugated, civilization was reconstituted on the ruins of vices common in the early history of a new society.

When the Franks took root in Gaul, their dress and institutions were adopted by the Roman society. This had the most disastrous influence and civilization did not emerge from this chaos until the Teutonic spirit disappeared from the world. As long as this spirit reigned, neither private nor public liberty existed. Individual patriotism only extended as far as the border of a man's family, and the nation became broken up into clans. Gaul soon found itself parceled off into domains, which were almost independent of one another. It was thus that Germanic genius became developed.

The advantages of acting together for mutual protection first established itself in families. If any one suffered from an act of violence, he laid the matter before his relatives for them jointly to seek reparation. The question was then settled between the families of the offended person and the offender, without recognizing any established authority, and without appealing to the law. In any case the King only interfered when the safety of his person or the interests of his dominions were threatened.

Penalties and punishments were to be averted by a money payment. The tariff of indemnities or compensations to be paid for each crime formed the basis of the code of laws amongst the principal tribes of Franks. Such was the spirit of inequality among the German races, that justice was often subservient to the rank of individuals. The more powerful a man was, the more he was protected by the law; the lower his rank, the less the law protected him.

The life of a Frank was worth twice that of Roman; the life of a servant of the King was worth three times that of an ordinary individual who did not possess that protecting tie. Punishment was the more prompt and rigorous according to the inferiority of position of the culprit.

1. It can be inferred that the author calls Tacitus' history of Germany a satire on his countrymen because

- a. Tacitus' hatred of Germany is evident in his mordant remarks on Germans and their virtues.
- b. Tacitus mentions virtues in the Germans which in reality the Germans do not possess.
- c. the Germans were heroic and no book of history other than a satire could reflect all their heroics, hence the author calls Tacitus' work a satire.
- d. the author exaggerates the virtues and heroics of the Germans.

2. Which of the following would be in line with the system of justice among the German races?

- a. In a case of theft, the punishment given to a man of rank was lighter and prompter compared to the punishment given to an ordinary man.
- b. In a case of theft a king's servant was given harsh punishment to act as a deterrent to all criminals.

c. In a case of theft a man of rank was given little or no punishment while an ordinary man was given rigorous and prompt punishment.

d. The king and his family were above law while the punishment given to a man of rank and an ordinary man was rigorous and prompt.

**Directions for questions 3 to 6:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Little does the subject interest me! Can we not do without the society of our gossips a little while under these circumstances - have our own thoughts to cheer us? Confucius says truly, "Virtue does not remain as an abandoned orphan; it must of necessity have neighbors."

Regarding thinking, we may be beside ourselves in a sane sense. By conscious effort of the mind, we can stand aloof from actions and their consequences; and all things, good and bad, go by us like a torrent. We are not wholly involved in Nature. I may be affected by a theatrical exhibition; on the other hand, I may not be affected by an actual event, which appears to concern me much more. I only know myself as a human entity; the scene, so to speak, of thoughts and affections; and am sensible of a certain doubleness by which I can stand as remote from myself as from another. However intense my experience, I am conscious of the presence and criticism of a part of me, which, as it were, is not a part of me, but spectator, sharing no experience, but taking note of it, and that is no more I than it is you. When the play, it may be the tragedy, of life is over, the spectator goes his way. It was a kind of fiction, a work of the imagination only, so far as he was concerned. This doubleness may easily make us poor neighbors and friends sometimes.

For the greater part of the time, I find it wholesome to be alone. To be in company, even with the best, is soon wearisome and dissipating. I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude. A man thinking or working is always alone; let him be where he will. Solitude is not measured by the miles of space that intervene between a man and his fellows. The really diligent student in one of the crowded hives of Cambridge College is as solitary as a dervish in the desert. The farmer can work alone in the field or

the woods all day, hoeing or chopping, and not feel lonesome, because he is employed; but when he comes home at night, he cannot sit down in a room alone, at the mercy of his thoughts, but must be where he can "see the folks" and recreate and, as he thinks, remunerate himself for his day's solitude.

Society is commonly too cheap. We meet at very short intervals, not having had time to acquire any new value for each other. We have had to agree on a certain set of rules, called etiquette and politeness, to make this frequent meeting tolerable and that we need not come to open war. We meet at the post office and about the fireside every night; we live thick and are in each other's way and stumble over one another, and I think that we thus lose some respect for one another. Certainly less frequency would suffice for all important and hearty communications. It would be better if there

were but one inhabitant to a square mile, as where I live. The value of a man is not in his skin, that we should touch him!

I have a great deal of company in my house; especially in the morning, when nobody calls. Let me suggest a few comparisons, that someone may convey an idea of my situation. What company has that lonely lake, I pray? And yet it has not the blue devils, but the blue angels in it, in the azure tint of its waters. The sun is alone, except in thick weather, when there sometimes appear to be two, but one is a mock sun. God is alone - but the devil, he is far from being alone; he sees a great deal of company; he is legion. I am no more lonely than a single mullein or dandelion in a pasture, or a bean leaf, or sorrel, or a horse-fly, or a bumblebee. I am no more lonely than the Mill Brook, or a weathercock, or the North Star, or the south wind, or an April shower, or a January thaw, or the first spider in a new house.

3. As per the author's perception, people interact the way they do because they
  - a. tend to harbour a belief that no man is an island.
  - b. try to adhere to the accepted societal do's and don'ts.
  - c. do not want to become cheap in the eyes of their acquaintances.

- d. usually meet one another only for a short time.
4. As understood from the passage, the author's company is
- nature b. any other living entity c. loneliness d. solitude
5. According to the author, what makes us 'poor neighbors and friends' sometimes?
- Our thought that we have as much right to criticize as to participate.
  - We split ourselves, psychologically, into a doer and a spectator.
  - Our partial detachment to the things we are given to behold.
  - Our lack of willingness to participate in the activities of life.
6. How does the author justify his choice of solitude?
- The author says that his mind is always thinking.
  - He says that too much of interaction with others may rub at least some people in a wrong way, thus ruining his reputation.
  - He can effortlessly bifurcate his consciousness into a spectator and a doer, in other words, his 'doubleness'.
  - He says that he finds it tiresome and enervating to make a charade of enjoying company.

**Directions for questions 7 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

The Bt technology, therefore, has little direct role in determining crop yield, except through the plant protection route. Crop output depends on the inherent yield potential of the cotton hybrid in which this gene has been incorporated. That apart, the current cotton glut in the country, thanks to a record cotton harvest of 33.4 million bales in 2010-

11, does not bear testimony to any perceptible slowdown in output growth. But the chances of such a decline cannot be ruled out. There is a possibility that the existing Bt-cotton hybrids will run out of their useful life over a period, which normally happens in the case of all hybrids and even non-genetically engineered varieties. Besides, many illegal and unapproved seeds are in circulation. Their below-par performance does sully the image of Bt technology. Moreover, once one pest is suppressed effectively, as bollworm has been owing to the prevalence of Bt hybrids, others tend to turn aggressive, necessitating newer approaches to combat them.

Therefore, there is a need to regularly replace existing Bt hybrids with better ones with higher innate yield potential and a capacity to withstand emerging threats. The onus lies on private seed companies, which virtually monopolize the cotton seed business, as well as the public sector farm research network. At present, most of the 35-odd companies marketing Bt seeds have licensing arrangements with technology developers, a handful of multinationals. Unfortunately, many companies with resources and the know-how to develop new gene-altered plant types are wary of investing in this cost-intensive pursuit. This is because of the cumbersome process of getting government approval for commercialization of their technology. Moreover, the unreasonable price caps placed by state governments on genetically modified seeds have become a disincentive for investors, given the large overhead cost of technology development. These issues need to be addressed to facilitate a constant flow of investment into new technology development even with new Bt and other biotech hybrids or non-hybrid varieties. This will ensure that seeds are replaced at shorter intervals. Finally, public funding of research can play a constructive role in facilitating greater competition, ensuring that privately-funded research is more forthcoming

7. The given passage, as a part of a larger article, seeks to answer which of the following questions?
- Has Bt cotton delivered on its promises?
  - Is Bt cotton a good investment?

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7. The given passage, as a part of a larger article, seeks to answer which of the following questions?

- a. Has Bt cotton delivered on its promises?
- b. Is Bt cotton a good investment?

- c. Will Bt cotton run out of steam?
- d. Is enough being done for the development of Bt cotton?
- 8. Why does the author present a case for regular replacement of Bt cotton hybrids with better ones?
  - a. Their functional use is exhausted over time.
  - b. Newer technology brings in better hybrids.
  - c. Pests become aggressive and new varieties help tackle them.
  - d. The hybrids get exhausted over time.
- 9. According to the passage, what is the main reason for the companies being wary of investing in developing better Bt cotton hybrids?
  - a. Unreasonable price caps are placed by state governments on genetically modified seeds.
  - b. Obtaining government approval for commercialization is cumbersome.
  - c. The existing BT hybrids need to be replaced with better ones on a regular basis.
  - d. There is a lack of public funding of research.

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

**Total questions: 9****Test - 7****Time: 25 minutes**

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**Directions for questions 1 to 4:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

The recent 2011 Provisional Census figures for Rajasthan show an alarming drop in sex ratio in the 0-6 age group from 909 in 2001 to 883 in 2011. A decline of 26 points is indicative of a clear bias against the girl child in a cultural milieu mediated by a range of factors - a feudal history, stringent patriarchy, rigid gender norms and deep-rooted disadvantages which pervade all spheres of domestic and social life. The state has also witnessed considerable action from civil society beginning with media exposure to the more recent scaled up action against the unscrupulous ultrasound clinics. However, the insidious trend has not been reversed and unless strong action is taken, it will lead to disastrous consequences.

For the past decade several networks, coalitions and individual NGOs active in the field have been addressing the issue of declining sex ratio and female foeticide along with ensuring that the PCPNDT Act is implemented in all its seriousness. They have focused on campaigns, community based programmers and initiatives involving religious and caste leaders. Decoy operations carried out in various districts by NGOs have succeeded in identifying unscrupulous doctors. However, no action has been taken against them and district-level authorities continue to shield those involved in this malpractice. Under the larger rubric of addressing issues of violence against women and girls, some groups have also tried to identify and create awareness on the various types of violence and discrimination women and girls in the state face throughout the life cycle.

Declining sex ratio is seen as a symptom of the discrimination meted out to women. Several risk factors have come to fore as a result of the campaign on the implementation of the PCPNDT Act launched in the last few years. These risk factors must be recognized and mitigated because they could compromise some of the gains of the women's rights movements. On its part the state has for long claimed promotion of women's empowerment beginning with the Women's Development Project (WDP) in 1984. However, the systematic dismantling of the WDP which had a network of change agents at the grass-roots level is indicative of the lackadaisical approach of the state towards issues of women's equality and dignity. The *sathins* (grass-roots workers, literally "companions") could have played a proactive role in creating an environment for empowering the girl child and acted as catalysts for monitoring the implementation of the act at the district level provided their activities had not been curtailed. Today no alternative programme which addresses women's empowerment and issues of violence against them exists. The lack of coordination between different line departments working on women and child related issues also add to the woes. Despite the rhetoric, an obvious lack of political will to save the girl child shows that the development graph of the state is on the brink of disaster.

1. Which of the following is a factor(s) for the bias against the girl child?
  1. Feudal lords
  2. Patriarchal culture
  3. Fixed gender rules
  4. Discordial domestic and social life.
    - a. 1, 2 and 3 b. Both 1 and 4
    - c. Both 2 and 3 d. Only 3
2. Which of the following issue(s) have also got covered by the larger issue of violence against women and girls?

- a. Declining sex ratio and female foeticide
  - b. Various types of discrimination against women and girls
  - c. Identification of unscrupulous doctors
  - d. Women's equality and dignity
3. According to the passage, which of the following governance-related problems can be viewed as the "last straw" that could compromise the gains in the women's rights movements?
- a. Lack of political will to save the girl child.
  - b. Lack of coordination between different line departments.
  - c. No alternative programmed to address women's empowerment.
  - d. The systematic dismantling of the WDP.
4. It can be inferred that the author would have continued the passage with the following:
- a. Discussion on how the PCPNDT Act, 1994 can be made more effective.
  - b. Discussion on another institutional mechanism that is currently defunct.
  - c. Discussion on strategies the state can use to address the issue mentioned in the passage.
  - d. Discussion on strategies to ensure that the girl child is protected.

**Directions for questions 5 & 6:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

Rising high from the cultural landscape this week are tributes to two of the most powerful British women artists born in the 20th century. It's an accident of the calendar that a

£35m museum dedicated to Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975) is admitting its first visitors in Wakefield on Saturday, so soon after the opening of a major London retrospective of work by Tracey Emin (born 1963), but the collision is entirely fitting.

The two artists have little obviously in common apart from the fact that their work grows precisely from the sites of their childhood: Hepworth's sculptures are rooted in the rock and soil of West Yorkshire as immovably as Emin's videos, installations and drawings are from the sands and promenade of Margate. But the art encouraged by these locales looks very different, not least because Hepworth's work is largely abstract while Emin's is narrative and figurative, the figure in question frequently being her own. However, what unites Hepworth and Emin is that both have

been at different times the dominant woman artist of their generation: an exposed and lonely position that sometimes seems to be subject to different critical rules from those affecting men. So the simultaneous opening of the Hepworth Wakefield and Tracey Emin: Love is What You Want at the Hayward Gallery in London usefully raises the question of whether it is sexist or critically sensible to consider work by women as a separate artform.

Hepworth didn't think it should be. In common with many female pioneers of her period, she was a feminist more by example than manifesto. Strikingly, she always called herself a "sculptor", in preference to the "sculptress" favoured by critics and academics of the time - although her term can be seen as a political statement, rejecting the potentially patronising tone of the lady alternative. Emin may feel relieved that there is no discriminating noun such as "artess".

Yet Hepworth would also in interviews use phrases such as "a sculptor and his work", which suggests something darker: an acceptance that she was an exception in the profession and that she must work in a masculine context. Certainly, in remaining torrentially productive as an artist while also having four children, she can be seen as a classic instance of the demand on those to whom it falls to be workplace pioneers to work harder than anyone else.

5. The primary purpose of the passage is

- a. to highlight the similarities between the works of Hepworth and Emin.
  - b. to state the reasons why the two female artists have gained prominence.
  - c. to discuss whether creative works should be classified on the basis of gender.
  - d. to explain why Hepworth does not consider herself to be a "sculptress".
6. From the use of the term "something darker", it can be inferred that the author believes
- a. that the perception of woman artists is derogatory in the world of fine arts.
  - b. that it is futile to challenge the male dominated sphere of fine arts.
  - c. that Hepworth considered her works to be in the tradition of male predecessors.
  - d. that Hepworth's perception of herself is reflective of the masculine predominance in her profession.

**Directions for questions 7 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

True innovators have a mantra: "The enemy of the best is the good." They are constantly daring to make things better. What others call impossible they see as probable. They live out of their imaginations – not their memories. They live to challenge the commonly accepted. They assume nothing. They see no limits. To them, everything's possible.

If you want to be a leader, I have a simple suggestion. Just keep innovating. Innovate at work. Innovate at home. Innovate in your relationships. Innovate in the way you run your life. Innovate in terms of the way you see the world. To become stagnant is to begin to die. Growth, evolution and reinvention sustain life.

There's no safety in being the same person today that you were yesterday. That's an illusion that ends up breaking your heart when you reach the end of your life and realize that you missed out on

living it boldly. Lasting fulfillment lives out in the unknown. When I was a kid, my dad used to tell me: "Robin, it's risky out on the limb. But, son — that's where all the fruit is." And to play out on the skinny branch, you need to innovate. Daily, relentlessly.

Of course, the more you innovate, the more you will fail. Not every risk you take and not everything you try will work out as planned. Failure is essential to success. Failure has been so helpful to me. It's taken me closer to my dreams, equipped me with more knowledge and toughened me up so I'm prepared. Success and failure go hand in hand. They are business partners.

One of pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline's organising values is 'disturb'. Makes me think of the words of Motorola CEO Ed Zander: "At the heights of success, 'break' your business. Companies that don't innovate don't survive. The lesson is especially important when things are going well. Though it's counterintuitive, successful companies actually need to be more innovative than the competition. It's like kids playing 'king of the hill' – everyone aims for the kid at the top. Leaders that don't innovate are displaced by those willing to take risks."

So go to work each day and refuse to do the same thing you did yesterday. Shake things up. Confront your limitations. Refuse to be average. Commit to be breathtakingly great in all you do. And that's what you'll become.

7. What does the author mean by " 'break' your business"?
- a. Destroy your business to test whether it can hold the worst.
  - b. Stop your business to check whether it can re-emerge on its own.
  - c. Reengineer all departments of your organization.
  - d. Innovate and do business differently than you were doing earlier.
8. Why does the author advise "refuse to do the same thing you did yesterday"?

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- b. Stop your business to check whether it can re-emerge on its own.
- c. Reengineer all departments of your organization.
- d. Innovate and do business differently than you were doing earlier.

8. Why does the author advise "refuse to do the same thing you did yesterday"?

a. Because refusing to do the same thing that you did yesterday leads to creativity, which in turn leads to innovation.

b. Because refusing to do the same thing that you did yesterday leads you to accept failure which in turn leads to innovation.

c. Because refusing to do the same thing that you did yesterday leads you to challenge your limitations, which in turn leads to innovation.

d. Because refusing to do the same thing that you did yesterday leads you to commit to be breathtakingly great in all you do which in turn leads to innovation

9. Which of the following is an appropriate title for the passage?

- a. Importance of creativity.
- b. What great leaders do.
- c. How successful leaders remain successful.
- d. Importance of innovation in life and in business.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

**Total questions: 9****Test - 8****Time: 25 minutes**

**Directions for questions 1 & 2:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the desire for love, the search for knowledge, and great sadness at the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have sent me from one task to another, over a deep ocean of sadness, to the very edge of despair.

I have sought love, first, because it brings ecstasy — a pleasure so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness — that terrible loneliness that exists in the absence of love. I have sought it, finally, because in love I have seen a small part of the vision of heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and though it might seem too good for human life, this is what — at last — I have found.

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. I have wished to understand the hearts of men.

I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to understand the mysteries of mathematics. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved. Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led upward toward the heavens. But always great sadness brought me back to earth. Sounds of cries of pain fill my heart. Children in famine, victims being tortured, helpless old people a heavy burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty, and pain make human life less than it should be. I want to lessen the

suffering of mankind, but I cannot, and I too suffer. This has been my life. I have found it worth living, and would gladly live it again if the chance were offered me.

1. A suitable title for the passage would be
  - a. Three Passions of Life b. What I Have Lived For
  - c. Life Worth Living d. None of the above
2. Which of these have been mentioned by the author as reason(s) for why he sought love?
  1. It brings short-lived joy
  2. It brings one back to earth
  3. It reduces loneliness
  4. It provides a path to heaven
  - a. 1 and 3 b. 2 and 4
  - c. 3 and 4 d. Only 3

**Directions for questions 3 to 5:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Pacifism is perceived as being antithetical to real politics, because those in government view pacifism as a weak strategy. Offence is not the best form of defence. It requires far more courage to stand up for peace than for war.

The so-called differences in religious scriptures lead to conflict. We need to find commonalities and highlight them for our greatest common benefit. Science and spirituality could come together towards expanding human consciousness, taking us on the path of Oneness. For example, electricity is a scientific invention; it gives light and

heat. But it is not restricted to only the person or place of invention; it is available to people worldwide. Similarly, religious doctrines have in them ways to acquire peace, not just for the followers of one guru or religion, but also for everyone to live in harmony and peace.

Talk of peace is valuable when it refers to inner peace. Only then it will aid a great transformation, bringing about harmony as we realise we are all One. Teach Peace is joining hands with Deepak Chopra's Alliance for a New Humanity and many other renowned masters and gurus so that as Sahabhusis, we can make progress on a path of inner peace that is long awaited.

The need of the hour is a Peace Alliance of Spiritual Masters. We have academies and centres that train students to fight for peace but none to train people to love for peace, to resolve conflicts through dialogue and understanding in practice rather than theory.

The art of life, of learning how to coexist peacefully, to respect all religions and faiths, is something that needs to be taught and inculcated from childhood. Children should learn that there are different ways of reaching the human destination through perfection that is, to experience the utmost flowering, the Oneness. After all, what do we have besides us? All we have is 'us'. It is important to teach children the peaceful way of life. Teach Peace will show the way of life where there is little or no room for conflict. Teach Peace will create harmony and Oneness among all and nature.

3. The tone of the passage is

- a. argumentative b. persuasive c. advisory d. objective

4. From the information in the passage, which of these can you infer would not replace the example in the second paragraph?

- a. Mobile Phones b. A Music Concert

- c. Social Networking Sites d. An International Awards Show

5. According to the author, which of the following will help aid "a great transformation"?
- a. Teach Peace
  - b. Alliance for a New Humanity
  - c. Peace Alliance of Spiritual Masters
  - d. Inner Peace

**Directions for questions 6 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Fox's new reality TV series "Murdoch & Son" premiered July 19th with a two-hour debut featuring the 'Old Man' Rupert Murdoch testifying (but not under oath) and answering questions with his son James before a committee of the British Parliament. While there were occasional moments of hilarity, such as Rupe — a billionaire known for micromanaging his global media empire to the extent that he has fired low-level employees in remote outposts for minor offences — claiming he had no idea what the top officers of his corporation were up to because, well, he was just so busy doing something else. James himself made impassioned, if preposterous, pleas of his boneheaded ignorance of crimes committed before his very eyes, but he couldn't match Dad on the giggle-meter. The question is, will audiences believe this kind of broad farce that seems more scripted than real, and Rupert's declarations that he's been humbled, and that he is happy to accept the blame as long as there aren't any consequences? Moreover, will anyone buy Rupe's logic that, after confessing he was blind to everything happening in his organization, including large payouts for lawsuits involving illegal hacking and arrests of prominent reporters, he is just the man to put things right? That requires a brand of faith available only to those who also worship a Flying Spaghetti Monster as creator of the universe.

Following "Murdoch & Son" we were greeted by the one-hour kick-off of "Rebekah with a 'K,'" a reality-pod nod to the classic Mary Tyler Moore/His Girl Friday genre. The plot:

henna-haired post-feminist Rebekah Brooks finally lands the editor's job at one of the world's largest-circulation newspapers but, once she's achieved her ambition, her underlings hilariously sabotage her future as they engage in wrongdoing behind her back. Forced to resign and ultimately arrested for their criminal behaviour, Rebekah fights back in the only way she knows how — by alluding she was unfit for her high-powered position by dint of her extraordinary obliviousness and neglect. In this writer's opinion, Fox made a blunder by unveiling this show in the same 'testifying before Parliament' format as "Murdoch & Son," and it shows a real lack of imagination that the producers saddled her with the same sort of incredible excuses used by Rupert and James. Still, the contents of a laptop computer, some personal papers, and a cell phone 'accidentally' disposed of in a trash bin near Rebekah's house and traced to her husband may render enough surprises in future episodes to keep viewers coming back.

But seriously, Rupert — with a history of corrupting politicians, bribery to have laws changed in his favour, deprecating the profession of journalism, and advancing his political agenda disguised as news to the detriment of the public — will ironically be brought down by the same celebutard sleaze-tabloid compost that built his success — this is the pathetic black hole that will engulf Murdoch's News Corporation, first in England and then in the United States.

Ruthless sociopath Murdoch has collected enemies over the years, many of them former friends who helped him in his rise to media prominence, but none of them as powerful as Prince Harry's grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II. To the upper-crust British royal family, the Murdoch's will always be provincial toads; low-crust louts permitted to peddle their swill as long as they didn't step too hard on Buckingham Palace toes, and occasionally useful as a way to plant tsk-tsk stories

against those the Queen doesn't particularly care for, such as the late Lady Diana Spencer. But hacking into the private conversations of the royals is another matter, and what will destroy Murdoch's operations in the UK, as well as bring down the conservative Cameron government Rupert helped put in place. The Queen's family will not be mocked in lurid 72-pt. headlines.

6.What is the tone of the Author in the first two paragraphs?

- a. Sarcastic
- b. Critical
- c. Derogatory
- d. Humorous

7. "...by alluding she was unfit for her high-powered position by dint of her extraordinary obliviousness and neglect." What does the author imply through this line?

- a. Rebekah Brooks' testament feigning ignorance of the wrongdoings also implies that she was unfit for her job.
- b. Rebekah Brooks' testament alongwith the Murdochs' testaments implies that Fox made a mistake in giving her the job.
- c. Rebekah Brooks is a post-feminist who lacks moral clout and her testament feigning ignorance implies that she was unfit for her job.
- d. Rebekah Brooks' testament feigning ignorance implies that Fox made a mistake in trying to strengthen her case with unimaginative excuses.

8. A suitable title for the passage would be:

- a. The Trilogy: Fall of the Murdoch Empire
- b. Rupert & Son
- c. What Goes Around Comes Around
- d. Demise of the Murdoch Media Empire

9. It can be best inferred that the author will move on to

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a. state the details of the testaments presented by the Murdochs and Rebekah Brooks in parliament.

b. discuss the process in which the Murdoch empire will fall in the United States as well.

c. present a case as to how the Murdoch empire will fall in England and then in the United States.

d. discuss the questionable rise of the Murdoch's News Corporation and the reasons that have led to the creation of many enemies for it.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

Total questions: 9

## Test - 9

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 to 4:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Authors including Aldous Huxley and E.B. White have long warned of advertising's elusive, tenacious, and manipulative nature; language and communication researchers including S.I. Hayakawa, Mario Pei, and Frank Smith have urged educators to consider the strength of advertising discourse, particularly in relation to the limited opportunity it affords for viewer/listener reflection. But only in the past two decades has advertising language, and particularly the vernacular of TV advertising, gained consideration as a worthy area for linguistic research.

Scholars in linguistics have now taken a comprehensive look at advertising language, but the advertising industry itself has conducted a more formidable amount of research on this topic. From this vantage, Stern describes the means and motive of advertising language and portrays this text type as a portfolio worthy of literary criticism. These analyses offer a more holistic understanding of the literary devices utilized within the advertising domain. Her honest perspective, though somewhat contrary to the goals of the advertising and marketing industries, is a gentle reminder to those involved in the creation and distribution of language that is often considered deceitful.

Traditional education has routinely infused literary analysis into language arts curricula, yet advertising as a form of applied literature has been virtually ignored. Recently, however, calls for a media literacy curriculum have strengthened, with mass media-related criteria now included in state and proposed national reading and language arts standards (International Reading Association and National Council of Teachers of

English, 1996). Similarly, an "adbuster" mentality has recently gained favor with many educators who are concerned with the information processing of advertising and its effects on the critical thinking abilities of their students (Curry-Tash, 1998).

Although a speech event such as a TV commercial is normally considered one-sided, with all context and meaning delivered by a single party (the advertiser), there is still a communicative transaction to be considered: Viewers are ultimately responsible for interpreting consumer messages and constructing meaning. Similarly, novelists and essayists often allude to concepts and themes as they guide readers to make inferences. Discriminating among speaker or author assertions and implications is no simple feat. Critical thinking abilities are taxed as the reader/viewer is challenged by cleverly encrypted information. Perhaps by recognizing and understanding the clever methods used by marketing professionals, we may develop more efficient critical comprehension, particularly in the area of inference formation.

Television advertisements pose a particular comprehension challenge since they are constructed, often purposely, to induce viewers to construct invalid inferences. Geis offers a psycholinguistic analysis of TV commercials as he illustrates the often-inaccurate meaning making that results from transactions between advertising language and the recipients of these marketing messages. Positing a comprehension stance analogous to Rosenblatt's (1994) transactional theory, Geis emphasizes the information-processing responsibilities of viewers and listeners as they confront the multiple implications found in television advertisements.

Under U.S. law, any formal assertion or claim made in an advertisement requires substantive evidence. Marketers therefore avoid making assertions of fact and provide product information through less exact implications. Advertising writers expect viewers to perceive and process these implications in favorable ways that may culminate in a behavioral reaction at the store shelves and cash register. Advertisers deny responsibility for any inferences drawn by the viewers or listeners by arguing that all consumers infer their own meanings. Unsurprisingly, implication has become a valued advertising

technique; weak and unsubstantiated product claims are easily reworked into convincing sales pitches that potentially can mislead consumers to infer more than is actually said.

1. What does the author mean when he says, "involved in the creation and distribution of language that is often considered deceitful"?

- a. Advertisements may frequently use literary devices to say one thing and mean another.
- b. Advertisements avoid transferring messages through direct statements of fact because each of these has to be substantiated.
- c. Advertisements are a comprehension challenge as they induce viewers to construct invalid inferences.
- d. Advertisements have constraints of time and space and cannot include the entire message of the advertiser.

2. Why do marketers in the US avoid making assertions of fact?

- a. The legal system in the US allows customers to sue product manufacturers easily and so manufacturers are afraid of taking any risk.
- b. US law requires that any formal assertion or claim made in an advertisement be substantiated.
- c. Manufacturers in the US deliberately mislead customers to lure them into buying their product.
- d. They challenge the US consumer to think inferentially thereby increasing their comprehension skills.

3. The style used by the author in writing this passage is

- a. analytical
- b. informative
- c. argumentative
- d. descriptive

4. Why does the author uses the term 'cleverly encrypted information' to describe messages in advertising?

- a. These messages are difficult to interpret as they use very high level of language.
- b. In these messages, poetic licence is exercised to deliberately make the message difficult.
- c. These messages serve to conceal the information.
- d. These messages deliberately tax the thinking abilities of the viewers.

**Directions for questions 5 & 6:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

The Medieval Period saw the emergence of literature in the British Isles. Although there are records of earlier writings—the most prominent of which is the classic epic Beowulf—literature and writing did not become truly popular until this time period.

One of the most distinguishing characteristics of medieval literature is the setting. Most classic pieces of medieval literature are set in a world much unlike the one that the writers lived in. These fantasy realms were often perfect lands—with chivalrous knights, beautiful damsels, and magical powers. There were many popular characters, which appeared and reappeared, including the ever-popular King Arthur.

Arthurian and other fantasy tales were commonplace in medieval literature, when people wanted to forget the very real horrors of everyday life. With an extremely poor lower class, few sanitation laws, and diseases like the Black Death running rampant throughout villages and countryside, tales such as these were needed escapes from everyday life. People in this time period desired times of respite, where they could "break free" of the real world and break into a world all of their own.

One of the more popular Arthurian legends was Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. In this tale, King Arthur and his knights are approached and challenged to a test of bravery by a

ghostly figure that is referred to only as the Green Knight. The challenge is set forth as thus: Any knight who thinks himself valiant shall be allowed to strike one blow upon the Green Knight with an axe. But if the Green Knight survives, then one year later that knight must travel to the Green Chapel and allow the same to be done to him. This work has much in it that is representative of the medieval period. The first representative element that presents itself in this piece is the issue of chivalry. Chivalry was a code of conduct in the Middle Ages, which knights and members of noble families were expected to follow. Being chivalrous meant following your conscience, defending moral values, respecting others and their weaknesses, being loyal, brave, trustworthy, and obedient, and waging constant war against the enemy. Sir Gawain is an idealized example of a chivalrous knight. Even though Gawain fears for his life, he fulfills the promise that he made to the Green Knight that fateful day.

Many classic works of literature from this era come from oral stories that were eventually written down. In this period, literacy was only commonplace among the upper classes, so many stories were still spread the way they had been for centuries, through word of mouth. The best example of this is the Canterbury Tales; a collection of stories that were originally oral presentations, until recorded by Geoffrey Chaucer in the late 14th century.

The framework of this collection of tales is a spring pilgrimage to the shrine of Saint Thomas A Becket in Canterbury. It is decided by the host that, in order to pass the time, each of the 31 pilgrims (Chaucer and the host included), are to tell four individual stories. Although that means that there should have been 124 tales in all, only 24 were ever recorded, as Chaucer died before the tales were completed.

These tales provide a good account of what life and literature was like in the Middle Ages, since the stories told were about people from all walks of life. Again, we see the distinguishing characteristics of medieval literature: fantasy realms, chivalry, magic, and the like. In addition, there are also some stories with very strong morals, such as the Pardoner's Tale, which cautions strongly against the consequences of giving in to avarice.

The medieval period was an important time for literature in Britain. The works of this period helped to distract people from their everyday fears; today they also provide us with doorways through which we can see what everyday early English life was like. By the mid 15th century, as this period of British history was coming to a close, Gutenberg finished development of his printing press, thereby giving lower and middle class people their first opportunity to be able to afford to purchase books and other literary works; and expanded literacy in Britain, leading to the emergence of the Renaissance.

5. What reason(s) does the author give for stating the importance of the medieval period on literature?

- (a) It helped create a world, which the readers could escape to.
- (b) It was a wide medium that was able to reach out to all classes of people.
- (c) It highlighted the importance of following one's conscience and defending moral values.
- (d) It provided a record of British life in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

a. (a), (b) and (c) b. (a) and (c) c. (b) and (d) d. (a) and (d)

6. A suitable title for the passage would be:

- a. British Medieval Literature: A Reflection of Life in Medieval Times
- b. British Literature and its Influence
- c. Medieval Literature of the British Isles
- d. Medieval Literature: A Tale of Fantasy and Morals

**Directions for questions 7 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Launched in the Indian capital on February 20, 2009, *State of Food Insecurity in Rural India* tries to give a broad indicative picture of the level of food insecurity in different states of the country and the operation of the nutrition safety net programmes. The report says that the number of undernourished people is rising, reversing gains made in the 1990s. Slowing growth in food production, rising unemployment and declining purchasing power of the poor in India are combining to weaken the rural economy.

"The report suggests priority areas of action to help achieve the national and Millennium Development Goal of reducing hunger and malnutrition," said Mihoko Tamamura, WFP Representative and Country Director for India. The report also examines the effectiveness of some of the important food-based interventions like the Public Distribution System (PDS), the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), and the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), and recommends measures for improved performance.

"There is a need to create a universal PDS with uniform prices affordable to the poor and the allocation should be based on the number of consumption units in the household," remarked Professor Venkatesh Athreya who coordinated this research. He pointed out that many of the agriculture production programmes can ensure the availability and access to food.

Food security has three components: availability of food in the market, access to food through adequate purchasing power, and absorption of food in the body. "However, even if the required quantities of macro and micro nutrients are met, a serious handicap in achieving nutrition security arises from poor sanitation and environmental hygiene and lack of clean drinking water," added Athreya. The study also highlights larger challenges of climate change and global food price rise.

At the global level, the South Asian region is home to more chronically food insecure people than any other region in the world and India ranks 94th in the Global Hunger Index of 119 countries. While famines and starvation deaths remain the popular representation of the contemporary problem of hunger, one of the most significant yet understated and perhaps less visible area of concern today is that of chronic or persistent

food and nutrition insecurity. This is a situation where people regularly subsist on a very minimal diet that has poor nutrient and calorific content as compared to medically prescribed norms.

This report uses seven indicators, which directly or indirectly affect the food security and nutritional status of a person. These are based on amount of calories consumed, access to safe drinking water and toilets, and women and children who are anemic. On the composite index of food insecurity of rural India, states like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are found in the 'very high' level of food insecurity, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan. The better performers include Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. Even economically developed states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka find themselves in the category of high food insecurity - a reflection perhaps of the manifestation of the agrarian crisis in the states and its consequent negative impact on the health and well being of the rural population.

"Nutrition security involving physical, economic and social access to balanced diet, clean drinking water, sanitation and primary health care for every child, woman and man is fundamental to giving all our citizens an opportunity for a healthy and productive life," said Professor MS Swaminathan, Chairman, MSSRF.

Unless this aspect of food security is attended to with the involvement of local bodies, the food security situation in India will not show the desired improvement. To address availability, access and sustainability concerns, the report calls for reorienting India's economic policies to provide adequate support for agriculture and its vast rural population. Also, appropriate attention should be paid to conservation of common property and biodiversity resources and rehabilitation of wastelands.

7. Which among the following is the author most likely to agree with?
  - a. The PDS needs to be revamped and made more accessible to the poor in rural India.
  - b. Priority areas of action need to be set to address the problem of food insecurity in rural India.

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7. Which among the following is the author most likely to agree with?

- a. The PDS needs to be revamped and made more accessible to the poor in rural India.
- b. Priority areas of action need to be set to address the problem of food insecurity in rural India.

c. India's economic policies need to be reoriented to focus on conservation of biodiversity resources and rehabilitation of wastelands.

d. Food security in India leaves much to be desired and policies have to be strengthened.

8. How does the author develop his argument?

a. He introduces a concept, dwells on its complexities and discusses possible solutions.

b. He introduces an issue, discusses its context and urges action.

c. He introduces an issue, discusses its elements and urges action.

d. He brings in a concept, enlists the several indicators of this and discusses each one in brief.

9. The author mentions all the following as issues related to food insecurity except for?

a. The need to create a universal PDS with uniform prices.

b. Rising unemployment and declining purchasing power.

c. Chronic or persistent food and nutrition insecurity.

d. Provision of adequate support for agriculture.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

Total questions: 9

Test - 10

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 to 3:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Conducted during a period of high economic growth in India, the Krishnaswamy study found that multiple borrowers, representing 7-10% of clients in his sample, consisted primarily of highly motivated entrepreneurs seeking to raise more capital than what was offered by any one MFI. This is unsurprising - due to the nature of their cycle-based lending model, MFIs knowingly underfund their borrowers, thus assembling funds from multiple MFIs is a logical strategy that Krishnaswamy suggests is simply a replacement for the informal funding sources the individuals would have tapped otherwise. This is also consistent with the money management practices documented by Collins et. al. in **Portfolios of the Poor**. However, as the market heats up and multiple borrowing becomes increasingly widespread, the number of multiple borrowers grows beyond these standout individuals. The immediate risk is that some of these borrowers may be falling into a debt spiral, borrowing from one MFI to repay another. However, the less immediate but greater risk is that increasingly many clients are carrying debts that leave little room for absorbing even relatively moderate economic shocks. Multiple lending on such a large scale has a minimal track record, and the examples that exist (e.g. Bolivia in 1999) should not inspire imitation. By ignoring clients' outstanding debts, MFIs in India and elsewhere are abandoning their responsibility for prudential lending.

Let me state upfront that even if one accepts the existence of a significant micro finance bubble in South India, that doesn't guarantee that Andhra Pradesh or any other geographic area is bound to have a crisis. However, I would argue that these areas show

vastly increased sector-wide risk, and thus, significant probability of a large-scale crisis. In fact, the Krishna district in AP already had a repayment crisis in 2006, and though many attribute it to political interference, a number of voices have pointed out that politicians were tapping into existing borrower resentment towards the MFIs - after all, it's hard to inflame a happy crowd. Moreover, among the other countries with high micro finance penetration, Bosnia and Nicaragua are already undergoing repayment crises. Given these examples, risk managers should heed carefully the community aspect of micro finance, which makes the sector so effective during normal times yet can also turn what otherwise would manifest as default spikes into en masse defaults that can engulf entire countries. The normal rules of risk management don't apply then - of all their problems, the one US banks don't have to deal with is heavily distressed American borrowers taking to the streets demanding cancellation of their debts.

In their pursuit of growth, many MFIs have continued to add large numbers of new customers in Andhra Pradesh and other highly saturated regions - I believe that is irresponsible. While rapid growth in the north is a commendable strategy for continuing expansion of financial access, pursuing the same in the south (with the exception of remote, still unserved areas) puts short-term gain not only above the long-term financial soundness of the sector, but, more importantly, above the long-term interests of the very poor the MFIs are seeking to serve. The spark that sets off a large-scale delinquency crisis can be anything and could come at any time - a rapid drop in economic growth, a populist political movement, a religious decree, or a collections effort gone bad. One can't control the spark, but one can control how much fuel that spark can ignite.

With micro finance, we can't afford to hope that there will be no spark. For when it does come, I'll shed no tears for investor losses, nor for MFI managers' pain - it'll be the global unbanked poor who I fear will find themselves without financial access once again. India is no Bolivia - if the bubble bursts there, the entire global micro finance sector will find itself reeling. When the media swoop in for their favorite headline buzzwords, and the killer banes of illiquidity and capital flight seize the sector, there will be no rescue from development agencies then. Instead, one will hear the righteous indignations of politicians decrying "deceptions" and "manipulations". And they will be right - micro

finance rests on its reputation as a socially motivated industry, and when the biggest market in the sector comes crashing down from a crisis of its own making, it'll bury that reputation and the rest of the industry with it.

1. What can one infer when the author says, "India is no Bolivia"?

- a. The Bolivian economy and the Indian economy function in diametrically different ways.
- b. India's micro finance sector has a greater ability as compared to that of Bolivia's.
- c. The Bolivian micro finance crisis did not produce a large-scale impact.
- d. Indian borrowers are prone to agitations and have greater demands.

2. The style of the passage is

- a. argumentative
- b. analytical
- c. instructional
- d. predictive

3. According to the author what is/are the reason(s) for the high risk he associates with the micro finance sector in India.

- (a) New customers in saturated regions.
- (b) Repayment crisis.
- (c) Multiple lending on a large scale.
- (d) Lack of financial access.

- a. Only (a)
- b. (b) and (d)
- c. (a), (b) and (c)
- d. (a) and (c)

**Directions for questions 4 & 5:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Over 75% of Mexico's forests, which range from temperate spruce and fir to tropical rainforest, are controlled by local communities, either *ejidos* or indigenous groups. Though much of this forest is technically owned by the state, the communities have strong rights to it. They won control of logging permits in the late 1970s after protests by *ejidatarios* against commercial loggers had brought Mexico's timber industry to its knees. The communities are not allowed to clear or sell their woods; otherwise they can do with them more or less as they please.

This makes Mexico a remarkable case study in what some consider as the best form of forest management. Most forests are claimed and mismanaged by governments. That can also mean dispossessing local people who, denied ownership of a forest they may have considered their own for centuries, tend to become protagonists in its destruction. An obvious solution is to put the forest back in local hands. Once they have tenure, it is argued, local people will regain their incentive to manage the forest sustainably, and trees and people will both flourish.

This is more radical than it may sound. Not long ago it was widely accepted that communally owned resources inevitably get overexploited because a few spoilers, or even a suspicion of them, are sufficient to make other users abandon prudential rules. Known as the "tragedy of the commons", after a hugely influential 1968 essay by an American ecologist, Garrett Hardin, this theory was often cited by governments to justify their takeover of forests in the 1970s and 1980s.

But the tide may be turning. In the past two decades the area of forest in developing countries that is wholly or partly controlled locally has more than doubled, to over 400 million hectares, or 27% of the total. That is partly due to a growing recognition that most governments make lousy forest conservationists, and a corresponding hope that locals

will do better. That helps explain why 450,000 hectares of Guatemala's Maya rainforest have been made over to 13 communities living there.

Most reforms share three features: an emphasis on conserving forest; a prohibition on selling or clearing it; and a tendency to deliver less change than they promise. That is often because governments try to claw back control, in myriad ways. They may restrict forest pursuits such as collecting firewood or hunting. They may make it hard to obtain logging licences and other permits, either through incompetence or spite, or they may invent new ones for fun.

In most of the examples studied, at least some benefit had accrued to some community members, but local control was not in itself a guarantee of better forest management. Where communities were given degraded forest and instructed to regenerate it, they generally did so. But where devolving forest rights provoked local conflict, as quite often happens, the forest usually suffered.

This does not mean that community forest management is no good. There is rarely a better way to balance the interests of poor people and forests. But to do a good job, communities need strong property rights and often-technical help. Such assistance should not stifle their ideas on forest management, which are often, though not always, based on a deep understanding of the local ecosystem. Outcomes that are good for both trees and people will also depend on external factors such as law enforcement and access to timber markets. And in the way of forests, these conditions will vary greatly from place to place.

4. What is the primary purpose of the passage?

- a. To discuss the benefits of community forest management through a case study from Mexico.
- b. To present a case for joint forest management from the viewpoints of the government and the community.

c. To highlight cases of mismanagement of forest resources governments.

d. To present an argument in favor of community forest management.

5. What can one infer the phrase "tragedy of the commons" to mean?

a. Overexploitation of communally owned resources.

b. A theory cited by governments to justify takeover of forests.

c. The negative effect that a few influential members in a group have on the others.

d. Communities are not allowed to clear or sell their wood.

**Directions for questions 6 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Peter Singer was in Oxford last week. The best-selling advocate of utilitarianism was the star contributor to a conference in which he talked with a group of Christian ethicists. Given Singer's inflammatory views on matters such as euthanasia and infanticide, the dialogue was striking for its agreements, particularly the common cause that can be made between Christians and utilitarians when tackling global poverty, animal exploitation and climate change.

However, it was on the last issue that the conference demonstrated real philosophical interest too. Singer admitted that his brand of utilitarianism - preference utilitarianism - struggles to get to grips with the vastness of the problem of climate change. Further, there is an element that comes naturally to Christian ethics, which his ethics might need in order to do so. It has to do with whether there are moral imperatives that can be held as objectively true.

Climate change is a challenge to utilitarianism on at least two accounts. First, the problem of reducing the carbon output of humanity is tied to the problem of rising human populations. The more people there are, the greater becomes the difficulty of tackling

climate change. This fact sits uneasily for a preference utilitarian, who would be inclined to argue that the existence of more and more sentient beings enjoying their lives - realizing their preferences - is a good thing. As Singer puts it in the new edition of his book, *Practical Ethics*: "I have found myself unable to maintain with any confidence that the position I took in the previous edition - based solely on preference utilitarianism - offers a satisfactory answer to these quandaries."

Second, preference utilitarianism also runs into problems because climate change requires that we consider the preferences not only of existing human beings, but also of those yet to come. And we can have no confidence about that, when it comes to generations far into the future. Perhaps they won't much care about Earth because the consumptive delights of life on other planets will be even greater. Perhaps they won't much care because a virtual life, with its brilliant fantasies, will seem far more preferable than a real one. What this adds up to is that preference utilitarianism can provide good arguments not to worry about climate change, as well as arguments to do so.

This brings us to the issue that comes to Christians naturally, namely the claim that there exist objective moral truths. In recent moral philosophy, such an assertion has been unfashionable. The Enlightenment thinker David Hume can be blamed. He argued that the reasons anyone has for action will always actually be based upon their desires. "'Tis not contrary to reason to prefer the destruction of the whole world to the scratching of my finger," he asserted. Further, as wants and desires cannot be said to be true or false, so it makes no sense fundamentally to assert that moral judgments are true or false too.

6. What is the central idea of the passage?

- a. To indicate that Peter Singer's brand of utilitarianism struggles with the challenge of climate change in a way that Christian ethics does not.
- b. To laud the Christian concept of moral objectivity and to discuss the problems that other philosophies have as they do not follow this concept.

c. To discuss how Peter Singer's brand of utilitarianism can be revised to help resolve the issue of climate change.

d. To indicate that utilitarian philosopher Peter Singer is leaning favorably towards the Christian concept of moral objectivity.

7. What does the author mean when he says in the first paragraph that "the dialogue was striking for its agreements"?

a. The dialogue helped bring in an agreement between Christians and utilitarians on the weaknesses of utilitarianism with respect to the challenges of climate change.

b. Peter Singer is known to have refrained from making inflammatory statements on euthanasia and infanticide.

c. The dialogue brought out a common cause between Christians and utilitarians despite Singer's past record of making inflammatory statements on specific issues.

d. The dialogue helped establish beyond doubt the Christian concept that object moral truths do exist.

8. According to Singer what needs to be done so that one may come to grips with the vastness of the problem of climate change?

a. To refrain from asserting that moral judgments are true or false.

b. Encourage preference utilitarianism to provide good arguments against and in favor of worrying about climate change.

c. Discuss climate change in conjunction with global poverty and animal exploitation.

d. To accept that objective moral truths exist.

9. According to the author which of these are reason (s) why climate change is a direct challenge to utilitarianism?

c. To discuss how Peter Singer's brand of utilitarianism can be revised to help resolve the issue of climate change.

d. To indicate that utilitarian philosopher Peter Singer is leaning favorably towards the Christian concept of moral objectivity.

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b. Encourage preference utilitarianism to provide good arguments against and in favor of worrying about climate change.

c. Discuss climate change in conjunction with global poverty and animal exploitation.

d. To accept that objective moral truths exist.

9. According to the author which of these are reason (s) why climate change is a direct challenge to utilitarianism?

1. The rising human populations and their preferences.

2. The compatibility between preference utilitarianism and Christian ethics.

3. The greater consumptive delights of life on other planets.

4. Consideration of preferences of future populations.

a. Only 4 b. 1, 2, and 3 c. 1 and 4 d. 2 and 3

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

**Total questions: 8****Test - 11****Time: 25 minutes**

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**Directions for questions 1 & 2:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Anthropologists have assumed that organized religion began as a way of salving the tensions that inevitably arose when hunter-gatherers settled down, became farmers, and developed large societies. Compared to a nomadic band, the society of a village had longer term, more complex aims—storing grain and maintaining permanent homes. Villages would be more likely to accomplish those aims if their members were committed to the collective enterprise. Though primitive religious practices—burying the dead, creating cave art and figurines—had emerged tens of thousands of years earlier, organized religion arose, in this view, only when a common vision of a celestial order was needed to bind together these big, new, fragile groups of humankind. It could also have helped justify the social hierarchy that emerged in a more complex society: Those who rose to power were seen as having a special connection with the gods. Communities of the faithful, united in a common view of the world and their place in it, were more cohesive than ordinary clumps of quarreling people.

Göbekli Tepe suggests a reversal of that scenario: The construction of a massive temple by a group of foragers is evidence that organized religion could have come *before* the rise of agriculture and other aspects of civilization. It suggests that the human impulse to gather for sacred rituals arose as humans shifted from seeing themselves as part of the natural world to seeking mastery over it. When foragers began settling down in villages, they unavoidably created a divide between the human realm—a fixed huddle of homes with

hundreds of inhabitants—and the dangerous land beyond the campfire, populated by lethal beasts.

French archaeologist Jacques Cauvin believed this change in consciousness was a "revolution of symbols," a conceptual shift that allowed humans to imagine gods—supernatural beings resembling humans—that existed in a universe beyond the physical world. Schmidt sees Göbekli Tepe as evidence for Cauvin's theory. "The animals were guardians to the spirit world," he says. "The reliefs on the T-shaped pillars illustrate that other world."

Schmidt speculates that foragers living within a hundred-mile radius of Göbekli Tepe created the temple as a holy place to gather and meet, perhaps bringing gifts and tributes to its priests and craftspeople. Some kind of social organization would have been necessary not only to build it but also to deal with the crowds it attracted.

1. Which of the following options best describes the author's main argument?
  - a. The recent anthropological findings cast a doubt in the previously held belief that agriculture gave rise to religion.
  - b. Anthropologists believed that agriculture gave rise to religion and the recent discovery of a temple reiterates that belief.
  - c. Recent anthropological studies assert that organized religion rose as a method to resolve tensions between societies.
  - d. There are conflicting schools of thought on how organized religion arose and what was its purpose in ancient societies.
  
2. Which of the following options is a suitable title for the passage?
  - a. The fight among sociologists
  - b. The great divide
  - c. Religion and civilization
  - d. The birth of religion.

**Directions for questions 3 to 6:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Writers don't make up myths; they take them over and recast them. Even Homer was telling stories that his audience already knew. If some individuals present weren't acquainted with Odysseus's wanderings or the Trojan War, and were listening in for the first time (as I was when a child, enthralled by the gods and goddesses in H.A. Guerber's classic retelling), they were still aware that this was a common inheritance that belonged to everyone. Its single author - if Homer was one at all - acted as a conduit of collective knowledge, picking up the thread and telling it anew.

In an inspired essay on 'The Translators of *The Arabian Nights*', Jorge Luis Borges praises the murmuring exchanges of writers across time and cultures, and points out that the more literature talks to other literatures, and reweaves the figures in the carpet, the richer languages and expression, metaphors and stories become. Borges wasn't a believer in anything - not even magic - but he couldn't do without the fantastic and the mythological. He compiled a wonderfully quixotic and useful bestiary, *The Book of Imaginary Beings*, to include the fauna of world literature: chimeras and dragons, mermaids and the head-lolling catoblepas whose misfortune is to scorch the earth on which he tries to graze with his pestilential breath. But Borges also included some of his own inventions - The Creatures who live in Mirrors, for example, a marvelous twist on the idea of the ghostly double.

Borges liked myth because he believed in the principle of 'reasoned imagination': that knowing old stories, and retrieving and reworking them, brought about illumination in a different way from rational inquiry. Myths aren't lies or delusions: as Hippolyta the Amazon queen responds to Theseus' disparaging remarks about enchantment: 'But all the story of the night told o'er, / And all their minds transfigured so together, / More witnesseth than fancy's images / And grows to something of great constancy' (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, V.i.24-7). One of Borges's famous stories, 'The Circular Ruins', unfolds a pitch-perfect fable of riddling existence in the twentieth century: a

magician dreams a child into being, and then discovers, as he walks unscathed through fire in the closing lines of the tale, that he himself has been dreamed.

Borges here annexed and revised accounts of shamanic trance voyaging that had been noted down in the depths of the Siberian winter wastelands and transmitted by ethnographers to the great Parisian school of scholars of the sacred (Georges Dumézil, Marcel Mauss, Marcel Granet). Borges translates his protagonist to a ruined temple in a South American jungle, thus grafting the shamans from Siberia onto closer, Latin American Indian counterparts who also held that men and women could metamorphose in their sleep and travel out of their bodies and out of time. Myths are not only held in common; they connect disparate communities over great distances through our common fabulist mental powers - what Henri Bergson called the 'fonction fabulatrice': the myth-making faculty.

The word 'myth' is usually used to evoke a dead religion (the Greeks' Olympians, the Norse pantheon) but it's also applied rather heedlessly to the sacred stories of peoples who are still unconsciously counted as primitive, and therefore somehow unadulteratedly ancient (the Sanskrit epics of the Hindus, Australian aborigines' tales, Brazilian Indians' myths). Both Jung and Freud's diagnostic uses of myth make this assumption - that pure, pre-historical human tendencies, drives and fears, will be detectable through myths.

3. The author implies that myths are
  - a. nothing but collective wisdom of generations told in different ways by writers.
  - b. nothing but methods to evoke dead religion.
  - c. methods of diagnosis used by psychoanalysts and psychologists.
  - d. effective substitutes for rational inquiry.
4. According to the passage "reasoned imagination" means

- a. knowledge of old stories and myths and retelling them
- b. knowing old stories, retrieving and reworking them
- c. knowing and retelling old stories brought about a unique kind of consciousness or knowledge.
- d. rational inquiry, which is conducted in one's mind and imagination rather than in reality.

5. According to the author, communities separated geographically and culturally

- a. hold different myths which have some common threads.
- b. exchange myths and stories through common legendary storytellers.
- c. have myths in common and are connected by the myth creating faculties of people.
- d. have disparate myths, which highlight their myth-making faculty.

6. Why did Freud and Jung use myths for diagnosis?

- a. Because myths reveal pre-historical human tendencies.
- b. Because Freud and Jung discovered that myths detect pre-historical tendencies, drives and fears.
- c. Because Freud and Jung assumed that pre-historical tendencies, drives and fears can be detected through myths.
- d. Because Freud and Jung assumed that myths are based on prehistoric tendencies, fears and drives.

**Directions for questions 7 & 8:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Is there an alternative? Consider what other countries do. Britain, for example, has had its share of serial killers, homicidal rapists, and prisoners who have taken hostages and repeatedly assaulted staff. The authorities resorted to a harshly punitive approach to control, including, in the mid-seventies, extensive use of solitary confinement. But the violence in prisons remained unchanged, the costs were phenomenal and the public outcry became intolerable. British authorities therefore looked for another approach.

Beginning in the nineteen-eighties, they gradually adopted a strategy that focused on preventing prison violence rather than on delivering an ever more brutal series of punishments for it. The approach starts with the simple observation that prisoners who are unmanageable in one setting often behave perfectly reasonably in another. This suggested that violence might, to a critical extent, be a function of the conditions of incarceration. The British noticed that problem prisoners were usually people for whom avoiding humiliation and saving face were fundamental and instinctive. When conditions maximized humiliation and confrontation, every interaction escalated into a trial of strength. Violence became a predictable consequence.

So the British decided to give their most dangerous prisoners more control, rather than less. They reduced isolation and offered them opportunities for work, education, and special programming to increase social ties and skills. They were allowed to air grievances. And the government set up an independent body of inspectors to track the results and enable adjustments based on the data.

The results have been impressive. The use of long-term isolation in England is now negligible. And the other countries of Europe have, with a similar focus on small units and violence prevention, achieved a similar outcome.

In this country, in June of 2006, a bipartisan national task force, the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons, released its recommendations after a yearlong investigation. It called for ending long-term isolation of prisoners. Beyond about ten days, the report noted, practically no benefits can be found and the harm is clear—not just for

inmates but for the public as well. The report said we should follow the preventive approaches used in European countries.

The recommendations went nowhere, of course.

I spoke to a state-prison commissioner who has publicly defended the use of long-term isolation everywhere that he has worked. Nonetheless, he said, he would remove most prisoners from long-term isolation units if he could and provide programming for the mental illnesses that many of them have. Commissioners in nearly every state in the country share the same views.

Commissioners are not powerless. They could eliminate prolonged isolation with the stroke of a pen. So, I asked, why haven't they? He told me what happened when he tried to move just one prisoner out of isolation. Legislators called for him to be fired and threatened to withhold basic funding. Corrections officers called members of the crime victim's family and told them that he'd gone soft on crime. Hostile stories appeared in the tabloids. It is pointless for commissioners to act unilaterally, he said, without a change in public opinion.

7. What is the alternative the author refers to in the first line?

- a. The alternative to serial killers and violence.
- b. The alternative to violence in prisons.
- c. The alternative to long term solitary confinement of prisoners.
- d. The alternative to abuse in American prisons.

8. Which of the following options best expresses the thematic highlight of the passage?

- a. Criticism of the effects of long-term punishment on the society.
- b. Europe's changing perspective towards effective punishment on criminals.

c. The alternative to solitary confinement suggested by the author cannot be easily affected in countries other than Europe.

d. Contradictions between perspectives of Europe and the U.S on the issue of alternative to the punishment of solitary confinement.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
8					

Total questions: 9

## Test - 12

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 to 3 :** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

In "A Cat in the Rain," Hemingway demonstrates his ability to portray real women with problems and to respond to their unhappiness with real sympathy. "A Cat in the Rain" is, on the surface, a simple tale of an American couple in Italy.

However, the reader soon realizes that this uncomplicated story illuminates much deeper meanings. This seemingly mundane plot becomes symbolic and purposeful under the reader's gaze. With the introduction of a single paragraph, Hemingway sets out a long description of the environment in good weather, which means spring or summer; then a description of the momentary situation in the rain. The photographic description of the place is absorbing and, in it, the weather plays an important role. Weather descriptions usually constitute substantial part in Hemingway's writing and introduce the readers into the atmosphere of the story. This description creates an atmosphere that is sad, cold and unfriendly. To create this atmosphere, the author uses words such as "empty" or "the motorcars were gone". Later on, we will see this as a kind of advanced mention to the state of the couple's relationship. Another symbolic hint in this introduction is the "war monument", which is mentioned three times, probably, to tell us that a conflict is to be expected.

In order to introduce the main characters and set up the situation, Hemingway uses short sentences, dialogues and descriptions of movements and gestures, which, at first sight, seem to be pointless but are highly relevant to the plot. The language used is very simple. In this part of the story the main characters are presented: "The American wife" and "the

husband". Each seems to be isolated from the other. We see the different paradigms: she is looking out of the window and he is reading all the time: "The husband went on reading, lying propped up with the two pillows at the foot of the bed." "George was on the bed reading." "George was reading again." "He was reading again." It has been highlighted by those repetitions that George is reading. We see the opposition in the things they are doing. The American wife is looking out the window and sees a cat in the rain, which she wants to protect from the raindrops. When she goes out of the hotel and wants to get the cat, she finds it is gone.

After returning to the hotel, she starts a conversation with her husband, George, who keeps on reading. He seems to be annoyed and not interested at all in what she is saying: "Oh, shut up and get something to read, George said. He was reading again."

The husband's crass words in conjunction with his inattentive attitude, characterize him as a stereotypical male who sees little benefit in taking his wife seriously. He ignores her needs. The way the husband is and the way he is acting shows the marriage coming apart. The story reflects certain strains in marriage, the most important of which is communication: "George was not listening. He was reading his book." He is alienated while his marriage is disintegrating.

1. It can be inferred that the passage is an excerpt from
  - a. an Analysis of Hemingway's writing style
  - b. a Book Review
  - c. an Analysis of the Symbolism in "A Cat in the Rain"
  - d. a Journal on Modern Literature
  
2. Hemingway uses a regular reference to which of the following to heighten the symbolism in his writings?
  - a. The war monument b. The weather

- c. George's reading d. The word "empty"
3. Based on the passage, the American wife's and the husband's attitudes would best be represented by which of the following actions?
- a. Her attempts at conversation and his resistance to it.
  - b. Her boredom and his inattentiveness.
  - c. Her desire for attention and his annoyance.
  - d. Her lack of wisdom and his impatience.

**Directions for questions 4 & 5:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

When we cut open an orange we are presented with certain sensory impressions, shapes, colors and textures with which we were not previously presented. However, we also firmly believe that those parts of the orange were there even when we were not perceiving them. Our experience has so formed our habits of expectation that we not only form the conception of those things as existing when they were not being perceived but firmly believe them so to exist. These are things, parts of the orange, existing unperceived; they are possible sensations, which, through our expectations, have become conditional certainties. Mill refers to these possibilities which are conditional certainties as "permanent possibilities", thus distinguishing them from mere vague possibilities which experience gives us no warrant for reckoning upon.

It is important to note that, while we do not experience these permanent possibilities, they are not mere fictions. To the contrary, as just indicated, Mill carefully distinguishes between the permanent possibilities that constitute ordinary things from the mere or "vague" possibilities that we conjure up in our imagination. The acceptance of these permanent possibilities is a matter of certainty, though, to be sure, a certainty that is conditional, based on inference from what we do actually experience. With regard to the

ontology of ordinary objects, Mill is a phenomenalist, but among the parts of those things are unexperienced phenomena.

Ordinary things, physical objects, are clusters of sensations, actual and possible, that is, permanent, in Mill's sense. These clusters are lawfully ordered; it is our knowledge of these laws or regularities that make the permanent sensations conditional certainties. The clusters include not only visual but also tactal and other forms of sensation. Ideas of depth (Mill agrees with Berkeley here) arise from associations of kinaesthetic sensations that arise as we move from here to there. At a certain point, here, there are visual sensations of color and shape. At another point there are different visual sensations, perhaps the same color, but a different shape—things are seen in perspective. Also at the other point that shape is presented not only visually but tactually. Relative to the actual experience of the former the others are conditionally certain possibilities located at the appropriate distance.

When we perceive an orange we have certain visual sensations which through our expectations we refer to a collection that includes not only these actual sensations but also the permanent possibilities that are there but which we are not sensing. A perceiving is in effect an associational inference from given sensations to things taken as clusters of sensory parts, most of which are there as unperceived but permanent parts. Like all inferences those inferences are associations of ideas. But these perceiving are so ingrained as to be in effect instantaneous. The ideas which are their parts fuse into a single whole. Through the chemistry of association the perceiving of an ordinary thing is an emergent unity, a new whole which has that thing as its cognitive or intentional object.

4. Which of the following would best fall under the category of 'permanent possibility' as defined in the passage?
- a. Abraham Lincoln's ghost that is supposed to be seen in the White House whenever the US is in crisis.
  - b. The image of the godzilla( a mythical sea creature) that we see on the screen in the movie "Godzilla",released in the early nineties.

- c. The phantom limb-a sensation(caused rather by anxiety than anything else) that an amputated or missing limb is still attached to the body.
  - d. The human soul- the incorporeal essence of all living things, which leaves the human body when one passes away.
5. Which of the following best describes the approach of the author?
- a. Description- where he only reports somebody else's ideas.
  - b. Commentary- where he also gives his opinion's/judgements on the reported idea.
  - c. Explanatory- where he not only reports but also explains the reported ideas.
  - d. Hortatory- where he exhorts us to believe in a particular idea.

**Directions for questions 6 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

In what has been a façade of an election, the IMF board will end up choosing Lagarde as its next chief and thereby maintain the six-decade-long tradition of having a European as its managing director. The election process did as little credit to the developing countries - the "emerging powers" in particular - as to the traditional powers at the IMF, the United States and the west European bloc. The one had little stomach to effect change and the other paid lip service to change. The more things change, the more things remain the same.

In the post-second world war division of spoils, the chiefs of the two Bretton Woods institutions have been distributed between the United States (at the World Bank) and (west) Europe (at the IMF). The imminent selection of a managing director from France at a time when global growth is being supported by the developing world is not exactly in tune with current economic reality. Besides, to support the candidature of a French national on the pretext that she would be able to handle the Euro Area debt crisis better is ridiculous. Selecting Lagarde on this ground

could be counterproductive because of a possible conflict of interest between European concerns and global interests (which the IMF represents). Ever since 2004 when Horst Kohler of Germany stepped down as IMF chief, there has been talk of an open election and an end to the cozy post-second world war arrangement. But despite the two token elections that have taken place thereafter and the third now in progress, the old arrangement continues. Was the outside world naïve in assuming that winds of change would, at least in 2011, swept through the IMF? At a time when the global economy is struggling to emerge from the Great Recession caused by the financial fundamentalism of the major economic powers and global growth is being supported primarily by the emerging countries, we could have expected something different.

But such expectations are naïve. The selection of the IMF chief reflects the power structure within the organisation which has undergone only a marginal shift over the years and continues to suffer from a democratic deficit. For example, as a result of a tacit understanding between France and the United Kingdom, the two countries continue to have the same "quota" in the IMF, so much so that even after the recent quota reform, parity has been maintained between the two countries. If power within the IMF does not reflect the economic reality of the world outside, then is it surprising that the distorted quota distribution between the members of the IMF influences the selection of who is to administer the organisation? So despite all the talk of true merit and true representation, the IMF selection process remains, for now, cast in stone. The criteria of merit, the familiar bogey of change, has been trotted out this time as well to justify the preference for Lagarde - as if suitable candidates for the managing director post are always to be found only in west Europe.

The process of selecting a successor to Dominique Strauss-Kahn also reflects the failure of the major developing/emerging countries to decide among themselves on a candidate, thereby signalling their weakness inside the IMF and an unwillingness to take on the advanced economies. Two factors appear to have prevented a will to power. One, in line with their colonial past, the worldview of these countries remains tilted towards the superpowers of the past. Two, and more important, there could, of course, be an inconsistency between the interests of a particular emerging power and those of a bloc of

such countries. When power within the IMF is exercised through backroom lobbying and behind the scenes negotiations, each of the larger developing countries (India, China, Brazil, and South Africa) may be trapped in its own insecurities - fears that supporting the candidate of another may not only push it down in the pecking order but also lower it in the eyes of the advanced economies. Therefore, the anxiety of each such country to preserve whatever limited influence it has in the IMF stands in the way of change at the top.

In the end, one should not read too much into the possibilities emerging from having a developing country national as managing director of the IMF. In the current process, the one independent (and not consensus) candidate from a developing country, Caarstens of Mexico who has also served in the IMF, has been known in his own country for faithfully implementing the policies decreed by economic orthodoxy. And in other institutions of global economic policy, a developing country chief has made little difference. Supachai Panitchpakdi, a Thai, who became director general of the World Trade Organization in 2002 after a bitter developed-developing country tussle, showed no desire during his term in office to change the existing order, he instead demonstrated an anxiety to protect the status quo.

6. What is the primary purpose of the passage?

- a. To comment on the European candidates as the cynosure of the IMF board.
- b. To comment on the current functioning of the IMF and its hesitation in choosing a chief from the developing world.
- c. To comment on how the IMF chief maintains the status quo in the organization's functioning.
- d. To comment on the process of election of the IMF and its hesitation in choosing a chief from the developing world.

7. Why does the author suggest that selecting Lagarde would be counterproductive?

a. There would be a possible conflict of interest between European concerns and French interests.

b. There would be a possible conflict of interest between European concerns and the United States' global interests.

c. There would be a possible conflict of interest between European concerns and global interests.

d. There would be a possible conflict of interest between the concerns of the first world and the third world.

8. Which of the following would most weaken the author's subtle argument for the election of an IMF chief from the emerging countries?

- a. In the past, candidates from emerging countries have worked at maintaining the status quo of the institutions they were heading.
- b. The candidates of the emerging countries have themselves expressed an interest in maintaining the status quo within the IMF.
- c. In other institutions of global economic policy, it has been observed that an emerging country chief has made little difference.
- d. The process of selecting the IMF chief also reflects the failure of the major emerging countries to decide on a candidate.

9. The style used in the passage is

- a. analytical b. critical c. pedantic d. casual

**Scoring table**

- a. There would be a possible conflict of interest between European concerns and French interests.
- b. There would be a possible conflict of interest between European concerns and the United States' global interests.
- c. There would be a possible conflict of interest between European concerns and global interests.
- d. There would be a possible conflict of interest between the concerns of the first world and the third world.
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- a. In the past, candidates from emerging countries have worked at maintaining the status quo of the institutions they were heading.
- b. The candidates of the emerging countries have themselves expressed an interest in maintaining the status quo within the IMF.
- c. In other institutions of global economic policy, it has been observed that an emerging country chief has made little difference.
- d. The process of selecting the IMF chief also reflects the failure of the major emerging countries to decide on a candidate.
9. The style used in the passage is
- a. analytical b. critical c. pedantic d. casual

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

**Scoring table**

Total questions: 9

## Test - 13

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 & 2:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

INTENSIFYING agriculture is never going to be the new rock 'n' roll, but the idea is pretty fashionable right now. Last week a major study led by the UK government's chief scientist John Beddington warned that the only way to feed the world is to produce more food from the same amount of land.

Some say that misses the point: we already produce enough food to feed 10 billion people, if only we didn't waste so much. But there is another argument for intensifying agriculture: to save the rainforests. At last December's climate conference in Cancún, Mexico, many delegates called for investment in farming to be included in REDD, the fund that will pay tropical countries to protect their rainforests and the carbon they lock away.

The argument runs like this. As demand for food increases, farmers - already the biggest destroyers of forest - are likely to chop down yet more trees. So to prevent further destruction, we urgently need to intensify agriculture. As climate economics guru Nicholas Stern put it in Cancún: "Cattle pasture in Brazil has only one animal per hectare. Raise that to two and you can save the Amazon rainforest." The Brazilian government's strategy is based on exactly that premise. The World Bank, which will run the fund, made the same pitch.

The idea that intensifying agriculture relieves pressure on land is sometimes called the Borlaug hypothesis after Norman Borlaug, the pioneer of the green revolution, who first

articulated it. But before we go ahead we had better be sure that it is true.

The counter-argument is that farmers don't clear forests to feed the world; they do it to make money. So helping farmers become more efficient and more productive - especially those living near forests - won't reduce the threat. It will increase it.

Tony Simons, deputy director of the World Agroforestry Center in Nairobi, put it this way in Cancún. "Borlaug thought that if you addressed poverty in the forest border, they'd stop taking their machetes into the forest. Actually, they get enough money to buy a chainsaw and do much more damage."

One recent study seems to bear out this contrarian view. Thomas Rudel of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, compared trends in national agricultural yields with the amount of land under crops since 1990. If Borlaug was right then where yields rose fastest, the rise in cropland should be least. It might even go into reverse.

No such luck. Mostly, yields and cultivated area rose together. Rudel compared the finding to the Jevons paradox, named after the 19th-century economist William Jevons who found that increasing the efficiency of coal burning led to more, not less, coal being burned.

That's not to say intensification isn't needed - the world has to be fed, after all. But it won't necessarily save the forests. Any climate protection scheme that assumes it does is likely to be handing out money for nothing.

1. It can be readily inferred from the passage that 'Bourlag's hypothesis
  - a. primarily focuses on poverty of the farmers in the forest order.
  - b. has enabled the Brazilian to devise a strategy for saving its cattle pastures.
  - c. is inconsistent with the findings of the Jevon paradox.

d. is weakened by the argument that the greatest threat to rainforests is the farmers residing near them.

2 The author's attitude to the idea that you can save the natural world by increasing the efficiency of the agriculture can be best described as

- a. unqualified approval b. reasoned analysis
- c. reasoned disapproval d. unreserved criticism

**Directions for questions 3 to 6:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

It hasn't always been this way. From William Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, through the heyday of the Restoration, the comedy of manners was used to mock the inadequacies of the status quo with an attempt to gain wisdom through wit. Under the stern eye of Queen Victoria, the scabrous cartoonists of *Punch* lampooned the political and royal figures of the day, while the delightful Gilbert and Sullivan mercilessly highlighted the upper-class absurdities they perceived with a deadly quip. Oscar Wilde, Noël Coward, the list goes on. So why is there such a paucity of home-grown theatrical satire on a large scale now?

If we look to somewhere with a blooming satirical ecology, such as German cabaret, it seems that an answer could lie in immediacy. In Berlin, these sketches and skits are impossible to understand unless you're fully briefed on current German affairs. People feel that satire needs to be bang up to the minute, with scripts changing daily to reflect the news. While this is not impossible, with productions such as *The Prisoner of Windsor* turned around in a mere two weeks, and the Edinburgh Fringe being fit to burst with satirical light bites, we appear more constricted on a big stage. West End shows need a long time in preproduction and after a short run they could be irrelevant.

But the immense critical and box office success of Bruce Norris's *Clybourne Park* flies in the face of this charge. By satirizing a racial tension that is sadly an established and long-

running social prejudice, it can be both current and universal. We've got plenty of such issues on this side of the Atlantic that are ripe and ready for ridicule, it just seems that we are missing the writers to tackle them.

Perhaps they are afraid of offending the ticket buyer. As Richard Bean's *England People Very Nice* found to its detriment, there's an increasingly fine line between being perceived as intelligent and mindlessly provocative. And yet, in America, the outrageous *The Book of Mormon* by South Park creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker is going down a storm, despite mocking religion in one of the most religious countries on the planet. Maybe audiences are more robust than producers think.

Are satires on issues as large as racism or class considered too intimidating for new playwrights who are already accused of never thinking big enough? This could be a valid reason, albeit a disappointing one. Perhaps they simply don't feel that comedy is a serious weapon any more. But as it stands, one thing is certain: for a nation so proud of its famed quick wit and irony, the British seem to be continually losing out to the Americans on this one.

3. What is the central idea of the passage?

- a. An attempt to understand theatrical satire in Britain.
  - b. An attempt to discuss the potential of theatrical satire on different issues.
  - c. An attempt to analyze the present scarcity of satirical acts in Britain.
  - d. An attempt to establish the need for immediacy in theatrical satire.
4. What can one infer from the examples that the author cites in the first paragraph?
- a. In the past, the British audience was amply entertained by its satirical playwrights.
  - b. In the past, Britain had a significant number of satirical playwrights.

- c. Queen Victoria disapproved of satire and playwrights in her time wrote under nom de plumes.
- d. The contrast in the quality of theatrical satire, of the past and the present, in Britain.
5. According to the passage, how could a satirical playwright tackle the problem of immediacy?
- By understanding the difference between writing that is intelligent or mindlessly provocative.
  - By avoiding writing about issues related to racism and caste.
  - By writing about issues that are both universal and fashionable.
  - By writing about an issue that is both contemporary and universal.
6. A suitable title for the passage would be

- The End of British Satire
- Lampooning: a British Theatre Tradition
- Theatre's Stage Fright
- Why is British Theatre afraid of Satire?

**Directions for questions 7 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

When it comes to profanity, I hail from what you might call a mixed background. My father swears freely and exuberantly—although, when I was a child, he did so exclusively in Polish. In moments of paternal irritation, an entire shtetl sprang to life in our suburban home. *Psia krew, cholera, szmata*: excrement, cholera, rags. (Predictably, that gritty archipelago of my father's native tongue is all the Polish I ever learned.) My mother, by contrast, swears approximately never. Moreover, some years ago, she confessed that she hates it when I do so. I was startled and abashed, and cleaned up my act immediately—which is to say, I stopped swearing in front of her.

As that concession suggests, all cursing is contextual. My mother's aversion to profanity has everything to do with being born female in the forties, and her primary objection to my own occasional expletive was that it seemed "unfeminine." (In context, speaking of context, that objection struck me as faintly comedic and overwhelmingly kind: This is a woman who didn't miss a beat when I first brought home a girlfriend.) My father, meanwhile, reverted to Polish to swear because he knew that imported expletives lose their shock value—which is, of course, almost all the value they ever had.

In addition to this mixed family background, I also enjoy a mixed geography of profanity. Like Mansbach, I live in New York, which surely deserves the prize for most foulmouthed city in the nation. Profanity flows from New Yorkers as the East River flows into the sea: constant, filthy, strangely magnificent. It's not just our ability to cuss each other out; it's the blasé and cheerful vulgarity of everyday speech. I was once in a packed midtown crosswalk at rush hour when a guy next to me retrieved something from the street and sprinted ahead, shouting, "Yo, lady, you dropped your \*\*\*\*\*' wallet!"

This endless, extemporized profanity has had an unmistakable effect on my own speech. Before I moved to New York, I lived in Oregon; nowadays, when I go back to visit, I feel like a sailor on shore leave at a Raffi concert. On the other hand, I blush when I return to Chile, where I also once lived, and where the locals speak a famously profanity-happy version of Spanish. You know those nice respectable Midwesterners who say "sugar" when they mean "s\*\*\*"? Nice respectable Chileans sit down at the breakfast table, look at the sugar bowl, and say, "Pass me that s\*\*\*."

7. The tone that the author uses when she states "—which is, of course, almost all the value they ever had" is best described as
- caustic
  - satirical
  - critical
  - hypocritical
8. The author feels "like a sailor on shore leave at a Raffi concert" probably because
- in New York people use more profane language than they do in Oregon, so she feels out of place in Oregon.

As that concession suggests, all cursing is contextual. My mother's aversion to profanity has everything to do with being born female in the forties, and her primary objection to my own occasional expletive was that it seemed "unfeminine." (In context, speaking of context, that objection struck me as faintly comedic and overwhelmingly kind: This is a woman who didn't miss a beat when I first brought home a girlfriend.) My father, meanwhile, reverted to Polish to swear because he knew that imported expletives lose their shock value—which is, of course, almost all the value they ever had.

In addition to this mixed family background, I also enjoy a mixed geography of profanity. Like Mansbach, I live in New York, which surely deserves the prize for most foulmouthed city in the nation. Profanity flows from New Yorkers as the East River flows into the sea: constant, filthy, strangely magnificent. It's not just our ability to cuss each other out; it's the blasé and cheerful vulgarity of everyday speech. I was once in a packed midtown crosswalk at rush hour when a guy next to me retrieved something from the street and sprinted ahead, shouting, "Yo, lady, you dropped your \*\*\*\*\* wallet!"

This endless, extemporized profanity has had an unmistakable effect on my own speech. Before I moved to New York, I lived in Oregon; nowadays, when I go back to visit, I feel like a sailor on shore leave at a Raffi concert. On the other hand, I blush when I return to Chile, where I also once lived, and where the locals speak a famously profanity-happy version of Spanish. You know those nice respectable Midwesterners who say "sugar" when they mean "s\*\*\*"? Nice respectable Chileans sit down at the breakfast table, look at the sugar bowl, and say, "Pass me that s\*\*\*."

7. The tone that the author uses when she states "—which is, of course, almost all the value they ever had" is best described as

- a. caustic
- b. satirical
- c. critical
- d. hypocritical

8. The author feels "like a sailor on shore leave at a Raffi concert" probably because

- a. in New York people use more profane language than they do in Oregon, so she feels out of place in Oregon.

b. in Oregon people use profanity more than they do in New York, so she feels out of place in Oregon.

c. she feels totally at home like a sailor on shore leave because in both places they use profane language.

d. sailors on leave, people of Oregon and Raffi all use profane language.

9. Which of the following CANNOT be attributed to the effect of profanity on the author's own speech?

a. The author is used to vulgarity in everyday speech.

b. The author is not against the use of vulgar and profane language in everyday speech.

c. The author finds some expressions of vulgarity discomfiting.

d. The author avoided swear-words and vulgar expressions in front of her mother.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
8					

**Total questions: 8****Test - 14****Time: 25 minutes**

**Directions for questions 1 & 2:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Are all our ideas the result of experience, or are they an original possession of the mind? Are they received from without (by perception), or produced from within (by self-activity)? Is knowledge a product of sensation or of pure thought?

If the claim of empiricism is true, that all our concepts arise from perception, then not only the science of the suprasensible, which it denies, but also the science of the objects of experience, about which it concerns itself, is impossible. For perception informs us concerning single cases merely, it can never comprehend all cases, it yields no necessary and universal truth; but knowledge which is not apodictically valid for every reasoning being and for all cases is not worthy the name. The very reasons which were intended to prove the possibility of knowledge give a direct inference to its impossibility. The empirical philosophy destroys itself, ending with Hume in skepticism and probabilism.

Rationalism is overtaken by a different, and yet an analogous fate—it breaks up into a popular eclecticism. It believes that it has discovered an infallible criterion of truth in the clearness and distinctness of ideas, and a sure example for philosophical method in the method of mathematics. In both points it is wrong. The criterion of truth is insufficient, for Spinoza and Leibnitz built up their opposing theories—the pantheism of the one and the monadology of the other—from equally clear and distinct conceptions; tried by this standard individualism is just as true as pantheism. Mathematics, again, does not owe its unquestioned acceptance and cogent force to the clearness and distinctness of its conceptions, but to the fact that these are capable of construction in intuition. The

distinction between mathematics and metaphysics was overlooked, namely, that mathematical thought can transform its conceptions into intuitions, can generate its objects or sensuously present them, which philosophical thought is not in a position to do. The objects of the latter must be given to it, and to the human mind they are given in no other way than through sensuous intuition. Metaphysics seeks to be a science of the real, but it is impossible to conjure being out of thought; reality cannot be proved from concepts, it can only be felt.

1. Which of the following is a suitable title for this passage?
  - a. The origins of empiricism
  - b. The fundamental philosophy of empiricism
  - c. The rise of rationalism
  - d. Empiricism and Rationalism
2. According to the passage, empiricism is self-contradictory because
  - a. it destroys itself ending in skepticism and probabilism.
  - b. it stresses that the source of knowledge is only perception and ignores the role of understanding and thought, thus limiting the sources and scope of knowledge.
  - c. it claims that thought is the source of knowledge and ignores the role of experience.
  - d. it claims that reason alone is knowable and neglects the validity of experience and observation.

**Directions for questions 3 to 5:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Fashion advertising is an excellent example of identity-image producing media. The nature of the product is tied directly to identity—those objects with which we encase our

bodies for public display—and fashion is acknowledged as a cultural language of "style". In the realm of High Fashion advertising—those products and identity-image advertisements at the top of the socio-economic spectrum: products such as Dolce Gabanna, Gucci, Prada, media such as runway shows, W Magazine, Zoom, Allure—the goal of producing an attractive identity product is pursued with an affluence of money and artistic talents drawn internationally to create the most emotive and entrancing imagery possible within their media outlets. Taken as a whole, High Fashion media and advertising describe a spectrum of identity, unified in general types of signifiers—young women, high status, high sexuality—and through the constant repetition and variation of images on these themes serve to create this identity spectrum. This conglomeration of imagery, created by some of the most highly paid artists, designers, models, and photographers, pursues two inter-related ends: to advertise those products on the basis of a manufactured, image-based identity, and to promote these image identities to the general public. This can be seen clearly in High Fashion, where the products are marketed to a select few because of their cost, but the identity images connected to those products are promoted to a wide audience through magazines and product placement. In this way, High Fashion media provides a service to the consumers of their products by promoting to the public the cultural and socio-economic significance of their clothing: who is stylish, who is not, who is rich and powerful, who is not. This provides predictability and control of the moment of encounter for their "clients" who can afford a service that promotes the appearance of a select few; the product—the clothing, makeup, and accessories—act as both the point of consumption of the advertised identities, and as the point of identification with those identities within the public sphere.

Though High Fashion brands are motivated to compete with each other in advertisement of similar products, they are unified in the goal of promoting the set of values and lifestyle connected with High Fashion. In this way, analyzing High Fashion advertising as a whole, one can deconstruct an identity spectrum that is being promoted. *W* magazine is a print manifestation of this unified promotional effort. Within the boundaries of its pages, there is a consistency to the imagery and products that outlines an alter-reality of beautiful young women, expensive things, and art. The abundant advertising and scarce

editorial content flow together. To take, as an example, the September issue of *W* magazine, 279 of the 544 pages are direct, logoed advertisement; of the remaining pages, more than half are devoted to "spreads": a series of fashion photographs featuring products from multiple designers, unified by theme, by photographer, or by model (these themes, designers, photographers, and models basically identical to those in the advertisements). These spreads include in inset the name of the brands featured, and frequently their prices, seeming more like advertisements than the advertising spreads by Prada where you have to search the image to find the logo. This is to say that the images produced for advertisement *are* the content of the magazine, brought together into a physically unified (bound) image universe.

3. It can be inferred that the main aim of the author is to
  - a. understand fashion advertising.
  - b. understand the identity-image producing aspect of fashion advertising.
  - c. understand fashion as an identity-image producing industry.
  - d. understand the difference between print-media of High Fashion and other media.
4. In what way does High Fashion media provide a service to the consumers?
  - a. The products are marketed to a select audience but the identity image associated with these products is promoted to a general audience.
  - b. By promoting to the public the cultural and socio-political significance of their clothing.
  - c. By marketing their products to an exclusive audience while ensuring that the general audience is always reminded that these products are out of their reach.
  - d. By marketing their products to a select audience while ensuring that the products are promoted to a wide audience to drive market trends.
5. It can be inferred that the main aim of the second paragraph is

- a. to describe the sections and features of *W* magazine as important to High Fashion advertising.
- b. to provide an example of the contents of a High Fashion magazine such as *W*.
- c. to highlight that High Fashion brands compete with each other and yet are also unified in creating the identity-image of High Fashion brands.
- d. to analyze whether the images produced for advertisement are the content of the magazine.

**Directions for questions 6 to 8:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

God, at least according to the cult's founder, David Berg, did not want his followers to have jobs, maintain a nuclear family, or stay too long in one place. His philosophy, developed in Huntington Beach, California, in the sixties, blended apocalyptic Christianity with a hippie-inspired ethos. In the 40-odd years of the cult's existence, approximately 35,000 people have filtered through its network; over 13,000 of those were children who, like Stevens, were born into it.

For Stevens, growing up in the Children of God (as the cult was initially known) meant a nomadic existence. By the time she was three, she had lived in California, Florida, Georgia, Colorado, and Texas. By fourteen, she had lived in Mexico, Germany, Austria, France, Switzerland, Japan, and South Korea. It may sound like a cosmopolitan life, but "home" was often a trailer parked in a camp with fellow disciples. The younger members of the Children of God rarely mixed with the local populace, except to solicit donations on the street, and attended school only sporadically. When they did, they were carefully counseled on what to say. "We lived a double life," says Stevens. "Even as a child, I knew not to talk about what went on."

Within the communes, children were required to do the bulk of the work—cooking, cleaning, and taking care of children not much younger than themselves. Privacy and

personal property did not exist. At one point, in Osaka, Japan, Stevens remembers, she shared a closet-size bedroom with six people and a bathroom with 20. Her "most prized possession" as a child was a tiny micro cassette recorder she would hold to her ears at night, listening to a tape of Greek classical music when she craved some diversion.

In order to create the "family" of the cult, Berg believed it was necessary to obliterate the parent-child bonds that most of us take for granted. Stevens was twelve when she was first separated from her parents and four siblings. "That was when my education and what little childhood I'd had ended completely," she says. "Like a pawn, I was moved from place to place by the leaders' whims, sometimes living in the same location as one of my parents or a sibling, other times not." Stevens had no idea that the parent-child relationship should be any other way. "That was all that I knew," she says.

Like the other children in the cult, Stevens was taught the rudiments of reading, but books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, music, and movies were forbidden—she kept the volume on her recorder as low as possible. To this day she has only a scattershot sixth-grade-level education. "Our prophet's words were the only education we needed," he said.

- 6. The style used by the author in the passage is
  - a. analytical
  - b. descriptive
  - c. narrative
  - d. conversational
- 7. Which of these mainly characterize existence within the cult?
  - 1. Nomadic existence
  - 2. Nuclear families
  - 3. Lack of parent-child bonds
  - 4. Fast-paced life
- a. only 1
- b. both 1 and 4
- c. both 1 and 3
- d. 1, 3, and 4

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  3. Lack of parent-child bonds
  4. Fast-paced life
- a. only 1
- b. both 1 and 4
- c. both 1 and 3
- d. 1, 3, and 4

8. "Even as a child, I knew not to talk about what went on." This statement could be taken to indicate which of the following?

- a. Some of the cult's activities were frowned upon by non-members and children were seen as the weakest link of the cult.
- b. The cult members rarely interacted with the outside world and due to their lack of interpersonal skills children were trained not to talk to non-members.
- c. The cult followed a lifestyle that in contrast to its non-members and fearing a backlash from non-supportive groups they trained their children not to talk to non-members.
- d. Some of the cult's activities were frowned upon by non-members and children were coached not to reveal anything.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
8					

**Total questions: 9****Test - 15****Time: 25 minutes**

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**Directions for questions 1 & 2:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

It is the central contention of Rawls that the principles of justice essential to the structure of constitutional democracy must be characterized as *political* in contrast to more comprehensive moral, philosophical and religious doctrines on which agreement is not possible within the pluralism of modernity. And that the concept of justice is not its being true to an antecedent moral order, but its congruency with our self-understanding within history and traditions embedded in our public life. But Rawls emphasizes that the concept of justice as political is not a mere *modus vivendi*, for it embodies an overlapping consensus by specifying the fair terms of cooperation between citizens that are regarded as free and equal. This consensus encompasses the concept of primary goods: basic right and liberties, powers and prerogatives of office; income and wealth; the basis of self-respect. It also encompasses the "difference principle": in which economic inequalities are allowed so long as this improves everyone's situation including that of the least advantaged. The overlapping consensus, Rawls further specifies, is not a consensus simply in accepting a certain authority, or simply as compliance with certain institutional arrangements. "For all those who affirm the political conception start from within their own comprehensive view and draw on the religious, philosophical and moral grounds it provides."

Critical reaction to Rawls' approach to defining the concept of justice as fairness has centered upon an alleged incoherency or problematic in his contention that principles of justice must be seen as political in opposition to a more comprehensive view of the good,

while yet also believing that justice as political does have a moral basis. In the view of Patrick Neal, Rawls' theory of justice involves an unresolved tension between political and metaphysical implications. Rawls, on the one hand, speaks of justice as fairness as a political concept independent of controversial philosophical, moral and religious doctrines, and arising from an interpretive understanding within the traditions of constitutional democracy. Yet Rawls believes, at the same time, that justice as fairness is not to be interpreted as a Hobbesian *mosus vivendi*; it has a moral component, serving as a political agreement between citizens viewed as free and equal persons, an "overlapping consensus" which more comprehensive philosophical, moral and religious doctrine can accept in their own way.

1. According to the passage, the conflict between Rawls and his critics is that
  - a. Rawls believes that justice is political while his critics believe that it has a moral basis.
  - b. Rawls believes that justice can have both a political and moral basis, which, according to his critics, is contradictory and problematic.
  - c. Rawls claims that his theory of justice is original while critics point out that it is essentially Hobbesian.
  - d. Rawls theory of justice wavers between the political and metaphysical and is ambiguous.
2. It can be inferred from the passage that Hobbesian theory of justice
  - a. was not a mere modus vivendi.
  - b. was very similar to Rawls' theory.
  - c. had a moral component.
  - d. did not have a moral component.

**Directions for questions 3 to 5:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Like everyone, scientists immersed in their specialist topics can become blinkered to the bigger picture. Experts focused on particular tasks have been documenting in fine detail the ways in which aspects such as over fishing, pollutants or warming waters are affecting the seas. A panel of top specialists was recently convened to compare notes on each of their investigations and to take stock of widespread disruptions to ocean systems. They found that individually their lines of evidence were cause for concern, but taken as a whole the evidence was alarming.

The marine scientists assessed the cumulative effects of human impacts - by linking their findings they found that the oceans are in a much worse state and deteriorating at a faster pace than they had previously thought. The International Programme on the State of the Ocean (IPSO) panel now warns that ocean life is "at high risk of entering a phase of extinction of marine species unprecedented in human history".

The crux of the problem is that the rate of changes in ocean systems is accelerating and outstripping what was expected just a few years ago. Destructive fishing practices, pollution, biodiversity loss, spreading low-oxygen "dead zones" and ocean acidification are having synergistic effects across the board - from coastal areas to the open ocean, from the tropics to the poles.

The report highlights that the fundamental disturbances to the carbon cycle, acidification and oxygen depletion being recorded in the oceans today were all associated with the five mass extinctions that occurred in the past history of life on Earth, and that the rates of change we are recording today exceed those found in the fossil record. Fortunately, there is a rapidly expanding global awareness of both the interconnectedness and the wonder of ocean systems - for many, videos of the deep abyss or uninhabited coral atolls are just a mouse click away. With this growing awareness comes an empowering sense of stewardship.

IPSO offers clear solutions to fixing the worst problems facing ocean governance, such as creating well managed protected areas, reducing the input of pollutants - including plastics and agricultural fertilizers - and making sharp reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Technical means to achieve many of these solutions already exist, although outdated societal values are holding us back from putting them in place effectively. Overcoming these barriers is core to the fundamental changes needed to achieve a sustainable and equitable future for the generations to come: a future that preserves the natural ecosystems of the Earth that we benefit from and enjoy today.

3. How does the author primarily develop the passage?
  - a. The author describes the many dangers that the oceans are facing and the steps that need to be taken.
  - b. The author describes the impact of various factors on marine life and the measures that need to be taken to save it.
  - c. The author discusses the findings and recommendations of an IPSO report.
  - d. The author argues for timely intervention before a phase of mass extinction begins again.
4. Which of the following can be concluded from the passage?
  - A. Scientists are always engaged in their own field of research and never pay attention to the bigger picture.
  - B. Technology has brought people closer to the oceans and instilled a sense of responsibility.
  - C. The growing awareness of the wonders of the ocean systems will support efforts to help save them.

D. We lack the technical means to implement most of the solutions outlined in the IPSO report.

- a. B & A b. C & D c. B & C d. Only B

5. Which one of the following has not been cited as a reason for the deterioration of oceans?

- a. Plastics and agricultural fertilizers b. Destructive fishing practices
- c. Ocean acidification d. Disturbances to the carbon cycle

**Directions for questions 6 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

One of the most significant changes in policies after the liberalization of the economy in the early 1990s has been the shift away from land reform to that of the removal of government protection to agricultural land in order to use it for a variety of industrial/commercial purposes. This fundamental change has attracted much controversy and in fact a large number of problems. However, just stating it as a "nexus of legality, state power and neo-liberal capital" (Sampath 2008) or a form of "corporate imperialism" (Srivastava 2010) or the "biggest land-grab movement in the history of modern India" does not throw up a solution in itself. The purpose of land acquisition from farmers and the issue of alternate livelihood for them remain unanswered.

In the competitive electoral politics of the day, any and all episodes of agitation and demands are politicized in such a way that instead of a solution the masses make do with a few more dharnas and bandhs, only to politicize them further. Farmers allege that they are entrapped in a situation where leaders rush to encourage and support their agitations but do very little to tackle these problems. Despite a bill pending in Parliament since 2007, there has been little effort by political parties to evolve a consensus on the political economy of land acquisition - when, why, how, how much and what kind of land should be acquired? The only issue that is raised time and again is compensation. Political

parties, in the name of supporting the demand of the agitators and in the name of democratic and peaceful movements, only intend to create space for their divisive politics in order to ensure their vote bank based on apolitical affiliations. And in the process even the genuine struggles to expose those hungry for power get marginalized. There is an urgent need to decide the purpose for which prime agricultural land has to be acquired - special economic zones (SEZs), infrastructure and industry or housing projects for the upper/middle class.

The mainstream media seems to be intent only on looking for opportunities to get video footage of episodes of violence to create space for studio discussions later. "Nandigram of Uttar Pradesh" was the caption that several news channels used to describe the recent agitation in Bhatta-Parsaul. There are very few discerning viewers who critically examine what appears in the media especially on television. The news stories instead of providing the socio-economic and political context personalize and politicize the events. The role of the media in obfuscating these issues does need to be probed. It also leads us to question the fate of democracy in a society where the fourth estate subverts the reality.

6. Which of the following is the most suitable title for the passage?

- a. The Politics of Land Acquisition
- b. The Battle for Land: Unaddressed Issues
- c. Obfuscating Issues in Land Acquisition
- d. Land Acquisition: Are Dharnas Enough?

7. What is the author's attitude on the role of the mainstream media?

- a. Pessimistic
- b. Investigative
- c. Disapproving

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- d. Land Acquisition: Are Dharnas Enough?

7. What is the author's attitude on the role of the mainstream media?

- a. Pessimistic
- b. Investigative
- c. Disapproving

d. Objective

8. According to the passage, which of these is an issue that needs to be addressed immediately?

- a. The issue of compensation to be paid to farmers in exchange of the land.
- b. Inclusion of the socio-economic and political context in news stories.
- c. Provision of alternate livelihood for farmers.
- d. Non-politicization of issues related to land acquisition.

9. According to the passage, which of these could have led to what is called the "biggest land-grab movement in the history of modern India"?

- a. Changes in policies after the liberalization of the economy in the early 1990s.
- b. Little effort by political parties to evolve a consensus on the political economy of land acquisition.
- c. The removal of government protection to agricultural land in order to use it for a variety of industrial/commercial purposes.
- d. The intention of political parties to create space for their divisive politics in order to ensure their vote bank based on apolitical affiliations.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

Total questions: 9

## Test - 16

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 to 3:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

On Dec. 1, 1955 Mrs. Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old Negro seamstress, was ordered by a Montgomery City Lines bus driver to get up and make way for some white passengers. She refused, was arrested and fined \$10 under an Alabama law making it a misdemeanor for any person to disobey a bus driver's seating instructions. But that was not the last of the Rosa Parks case: it has since been used to prove that economic reprisal, as advocated against Negroes by the white Citizens' Councils of the South, is a double-edged blade.

Within 48 hours after Rosa Parks had been arrested, mimeographed leaflets were being circulated in Montgomery's Negro sections, calling for a one-day boycott of the city buses. The strike was so successful that Negro leaders decided to continue it until their demands were met. The demands: that Negroes be seated on a first-come, first-served basis without having to vacate their places for white passengers; that white bus drivers show more courtesy toward Negro passengers; that Negro drivers be employed on buses traveling mostly through Negro districts. The bus company agreed only to instruct its drivers to treat Negroes more politely.

The boycott continued, and last week, as it entered its second month, was still 95% effective. Rallies were held twice a week in Negro churches, where crowds gathered to receive the latest information on car-pool schedules (the motor pool includes more than 200 cars operating from 40 regular pickup points).

The boycott's economic punch has been staggering, because the 25,000 Negroes who ordinarily ride Montgomery's buses make up some 75% of the company's patronage. Company officials refused to reveal the size of their losses, because "that's exactly what they want to know."

Last week the city commission granted the desperate company's request for a fare increase: adult prices went up from 10¢ to 15¢, school fares from 5¢ to 8¢, and transfers, which had been free, were priced at 5¢. The strike spirit showed no signs of flagging. A Negro minister, working for the car pool, stopped to pick up an old woman who had obviously walked a long way. "Sister," said he, "aren't you getting tired?" Her reply: "My soul has been tired for a long time. Now my feet are tired, and my soul is resting."

1. "It has since been used to prove that economic reprisal, as advocated against Negroes by the white Citizens' Councils of the South, is a double-edged blade." These lines indicate that

- a. Rosa Parks was a powerful Black woman and the treatment meted out to her had sparked a row of protests in the Black community of Montgomery.
  - b. the protest against Rosa Parks led to a list of demands from Negro leaders, which if fulfilled, would have served to economically weaken the bus company.
  - c. the Rosa Parks incident proved that any method of monetary punishment against the Blacks could backfire on those supporting that punishment.
  - d. the boycott after the Rosa Park incident delivered an economic blow that shook Montgomery's bus company.
2. The style of the passage is
- a. critical b. descriptive c. didactic d. narrative
3. One can infer that the strike was successful because

- a. the movement received support from most blacks, in Montgomery, who felt a personal connection to the strike.
- b. the anti-white lobby was very strong and the blacks had had enough of being ill treated.
- c. it was supported by Negro leaders who were loved and respected by the community.
- d. the blacks made up 75% of the Montgomery bus company's patronage and were able to deliver a strong economic blow through their strike.

**Directions for questions 4 to 6:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

The attitude of the Academy is, of course, reflected in the history of the citations of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Almost every third prize citation in the first three decades makes use of words like *idealistic*(ly) in one way or another.

However, other aspects gradually came to the fore. Using available sources, like reports and correspondence, Kjell Espmark has investigated, the criteria behind the choices. His informative study has disclosed a sequence of notions underlying the decisions in different periods, such as literary neutralism (in the days of the First World War, incidentally favoring Scandinavian writers), the great style (in the wake of Goethe), universal interest (as opposed to national or restricted in some other way), pioneers (recognizing innovative and exclusive writing), and a pragmatic attitude (drawing attention to a significant but unknown writer, since none is best where there is no common measure). Thus, these are different types of internal arguments used in prize discussions over the years.

The external citations, on the other hand, form an official source of information, making up the Academy's explicit statements of motives. A study of these reveals, quite naturally, some reflections of the underlying arguments just exemplified. However, these reflections are not abundant and the picture is somewhat complex. Still, a number of recurrent arguments can be observed.

By far the most common element in the prize citations is a reference to the writer's native country or, sometimes, continent. This applies to more than one out of three citations, from Grazia Deledda's plastic picture of life on her native island Sardinia, Anatole France's Gallic temperament and Yasunari Kawabata's great sensibility expressing the essence of the Japanese mind, to Toni Morrison's visionary force giving life to an essential aspect of American reality and Pablo Neruda's elemental force that brings alive a continent's destiny and dreams.

Only once is a laureate referred to, in the prize citations, as a pioneer: T. S. Eliot. Conversely, Bunin, Pasternak, and Solzhenitsyn were cited for having pursued the classical/great/ indispensable traditions of Russian literature.

The notion most often brought out in the last fifty years - a dozen times since Gide 1947 - is the depiction of human conditions. This is found in the lines to, e.g., Beckett, whose writing acquires its elevation in the destitution of modern man to Singer, who brings universal human conditions to life.

4. Which of the following is the most appropriate title for the passage?
  - a. The Nobel Prize for Literature: An Idealistic Turn
  - b. Nobel Prize for Literature: Aspects
  - c. History of the Nobel Prize Citations
  - d. The Nobel Prize for Literature and its citations.
  
5. Which of these has been mentioned as characteristics that helped the Academy decide the Nobel Prize for Literature?
  - a. Idealism and a pragmatic jury
  - b. Universal interest
  - c. Pursuit of classical traditions of Russian literature

- d. Revival of a dying art form
- 6. What approach has the author used in order to best bring out his central idea?
  - a. Presenting an analytical framework for the aspects
  - b. Presenting defining statements for the aspects
  - c. Presenting detailed description of the aspects
  - d. Presenting illustrative examples to highlight the aspects

**Directions for questions 7 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Within the context of supporting democratic transitions, the goal of media development generally should be to move the media from one that is directed or even overtly controlled by government or private interests to one that is more open and has a degree of editorial independence that serves the public interest. If the media is to have any meaningful role in democracy, then the ultimate goal of media assistance should be to develop a range of diverse mediums and voices that are credible, and to create and strengthen a sector that promotes such outlets. Credible outlets enable citizens to have access to information that they need to make informed decisions and to participate in society.

A media sector supportive of democracy would be one that has a degree of editorial independence, is financially viable, has diverse and plural voices, and serves the public interest. The public interest is defined as representing a plurality of voices both through a greater number of outlets and through the diversity of views and voices reflected within one outlet.

Some of the most important questions to consider when designing media support activities that strengthen democracy are, "Who holds the power to communicate in a society, who has access to the means of communication, and who is communicated to?"

Answers to these questions will help to shape media sector support strategies by targeting obstacles and pinpointing opportunities for reform.

For example, in some countries the state has exclusive control over the media, directly or indirectly, and dictates the terms of public debate. Egypt has one news agency, the Middle East News Agency, which is the property of the state. Radio and television are state monopolies, and, as a result, news is presented as policy dictates. In Mexico, freedom of expression is constitutionally guaranteed, but the government controls the distribution of paper. In these cases, a suitable sector support strategy might be geared around civil society organizations which are publishing or broadcasting alternative viewpoints, or it might be focused on training state journalists to cover news in a more objective fashion. If it is a particularly innovative strategy, it might include a training component for government ministers in an effort to raise their awareness about how a balanced and objective press contributes to political and economic well-being.

- 7. The primary purpose of this passage is
  - a. to discuss media support strategies to strengthen democracy.
  - b. to discuss how democracy can be more inclusive to the media.
  - c. to discuss the role of media in democracy.
  - d. to discuss media strategy in a democratic set up.
- 8. According to the passage, which of these has been mentioned in order to ensure that the role of the media can be made more meaningful?
  - a. By introducing varied mediums and credible voices.
  - b. By bringing in credible voices that help serve public interest.
  - c. By allowing for editorial independence that helps serve public interest.
  - d. By ensuring that radio and television are state-owned monopolies.

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- d. By ensuring that radio and television are state-owned monopolies.

9. According to the passage, which of the following would be a media support strategy if the government controlled the media?

- a. Acknowledging public interest in news reporting.
- b. Training government ministers to handle questions from a balanced press.
- c. Support of civil society organizations in developmental aspects.
- d. Training of state journalists to view news more objectively.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

Total questions: 9

## Test - 17

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 to 3:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

In 1911, Mondrian moved to Paris. While in Paris, the influence of the Cubism style of Picasso and Braque appeared almost immediately in Mondrian's work. Paintings such as *The Sea* (1912) and his various studies of trees from those years are dominated by the geometric shapes and interlocking planes commonly found in Cubism. While Mondrian was eager to absorb the Cubist influence into his work, however, it seems clear that he saw Cubism as 'port of call' on his artistic journey, rather than as a destination.

Unlike the Cubists, Mondrian still attempted to reconcile his painting with his spiritual pursuits, and in 1913, he began to fuse his art and his theosophical studies into a theory that signalled his final break from representational painting.

Mondrian published "De Nieuwe Beelding in de schilderkunst" ("The New Plastic in Painting") in twelve instalments during 1917 and 1918. This was his first major attempt to express his artistic theory in writing. Mondrian's best and most often-quoted expression of this theory, however, comes from a letter he wrote to H.P. Bremmer in 1914:

"I construct lines and colour combinations on a flat surface, in order to express general beauty with the utmost awareness. Nature (or, that which I see) inspires me, puts me, as with any painter, in an emotional state so that an urge comes about to make something, but I want to come as close as possible to the truth and abstract everything from that, until I reach the foundation (still just an external foundation!) of things

I believe it is possible that, through horizontal and vertical lines constructed with awareness, but not with calculation, led by high intuition, and brought to harmony and rhythm, these basic forms of beauty, supplemented if necessary by other direct lines or curves, can become a work of art, as strong as it is true."

When the war ended in 1919, Mondrian returned to France. Immersed in the crucible of artistic innovation that was post-war Paris, he flourished in an atmosphere of intellectual freedom that enabled him to embrace an art of pure abstraction for the rest of his life. Mondrian began producing grid-based paintings in late 1919, and in 1920, the style for which he came to be renowned began to appear.

In the early paintings of this style the lines delineating the rectangular forms are relatively thin, and they are gray, not black. The lines also tend to fade as they approach the edge of the painting, rather than stopping abruptly. The forms themselves, smaller and more numerous than in later paintings, are filled with primary colours, black, or gray, and nearly all of them are coloured; only a few are left white.

During late 1920 and 1921, Mondrian's paintings arrive at what is their definitive and mature form to casual observers. Thick black lines now separate the forms, which are larger and fewer in number, and more of them are left white than was previously the case. Although the refinements became more subtle, Mondrian's work continued to evolve during his years in Paris. As Mondrian's work evolved further he began to use fewer and fewer coloured forms, favouring white instead.

1. The author says Mondrian "saw Cubism as 'port of call' on his artistic journey, rather than as a destination." From this statement we can assume that
  - a. Cubism and its influence was a useful but transitory phase in Mondrian's artistic career.
  - b. Cubism greatly influenced Mondrian but he could never reach his destination in perfecting the art form.

- c. Cubism was the means and the end of Mondrian's artistic endeavours.
  - d. Mondrian could become a great artist because of the influence of cubism which acted like a port of call.
2. According to the author, the difference between Cubism and Mondrian's art is that
- a. Cubism was representational while Mondrian's art was not.
  - b. Cubism could not reconcile its art with representational art while Mondrian could make a complete break.
  - c. Mondrian could break from representational painting while Cubism could not make a complete break.
  - d. Cubists did not make their painting and spiritualism compatible while Mondrian tried to reconcile art with his spiritual interests.

3. According to the author what was the main feature of Mondrian as a mature artist?
- a. Grid based paintings b. Continued use of thick black lines
  - c. Predominance of white forms d. Larger black lines

**Directions for questions 4 to 6:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Japan's nuclear-power crisis is reviving long-held doubts about the strength of the nation's nuclear regulatory system. The problems at the Fukushima Daiichi complex put a spotlight on Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, which oversees design and regulation of Japan's nuclear plants.

It also highlights past problems with falsified safety records at the Fukushima Daiichi plant and with its parent company, Tokyo Electric Power Co., or Tepco.

The Japanese nuclear safety agency, known as NISA, is part of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. The larger ministry, known as METI, has in recent months revved up a push to help Japanese power companies, including Tepco, win deals to build nuclear reactors abroad.

In August, Masayuki Naoshima, then Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, led a delegation to Vietnam to promote the sale of nuclear power plants to the Southeast Asian country for the second phase of its atomic power project.

Japan will likely win a contract to build Vietnam's second nuclear power plant, following a joint statement late last year by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan saying, "Vietnam confirms that the Vietnamese government chooses Japan as a cooperation partner to build two nuclear reactors."

The Fukushima Daiichi plant has a black mark on its record from earlier in the last decade, when a scandal involving falsified safety records led to Tepco briefly shutting down its entire nuclear fleet in Japan. In 2002, Tepco admitted to the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency that it had falsified the results of safety tests on the containment vessel of the No. 1 reactor, which is now one of three reactors that workers are struggling to keep from overheating. The test took place in 1991-1992.

The scandal was the latest in a string of nuclear safety records cover-ups by Tepco, including the revelation that the company's doctoring of safety records concerning reactor shrouds, a part of the reactors themselves, in the 1980s through the early 1990s.

In 2003, Tepco shut down all of its nuclear reactors for inspections, acknowledging the systematic cover-up of inspection data showing cracks in reactors.

Japanese regulators already have some credibility issues after previous episodes in which the strength of the response was called into question. In Japan in 1999, an uncontrolled nuclear chain reaction at a uranium-reprocessing plant killed two employees and spewed radioactive neutrons over the countryside.

In 2007, an earthquake heavily damaged Tepco's Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant. The company initially said there was no release of radiation, but admitted later that the quake released radiation and spilled radioactive water into the Sea of Japan.

The recent problems have prompted new rounds of warnings from anti-nuclear groups. "A nuclear disaster which the promoters of nuclear power in Japan said wouldn't happen is in progress," the Tokyo-based Citizens' Nuclear Information Centre said in a statement on its website. "It is occurring as a result of an earthquake that they said would not happen."

4. What is the main theme of the passage?

- a. Japan's ongoing nuclear power crisis was due to an earthquake that was unexpected.
- b. The various scandals and cover-ups at Japan's nuclear plants are a matter of concern.
- c. Role of Tepco in the problems at Fukushima Daiichi plant.
- d. The nuclear crisis in Japan revives doubts on the regulatory system.

5. The author mentions various problems and cover-ups of nuclear safety records in Japan in order to

- a. highlight the difficulty of running nuclear power plants.
- b. highlight the fact that problems are inevitable even for a near-perfect system like Japan's.
- c. question the credibility of Japanese regulatory agencies.
- d. highlight the rampant corruption and nepotism in Japan.

6. The statement of the Tokyo-based Citizens' Nuclear Information Centre implies which of the following?

- a. The promoters of nuclear power in Japan underestimated the fury of nature.
- b. The promoters of nuclear power in Japan misled people on the possibility of a nuclear disaster in the event of a natural disaster.
- c. The promoters of nuclear power in Japan were ignorant of the vagaries of nature.
- d. The promoters of nuclear power in Japan are not to be blamed for the nuclear crisis in Japan.

**Directions for questions 7 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

You hear it all the time: We humans are social animals. We need to spend time together to be happy and functional, and we extract a vast array of benefits from maintaining intimate relationships and associating with groups. Collaborating on projects at work makes us smarter and more creative.

Spending time alone, by contrast, can look a little suspect. In a world gone wild for wikis and interdisciplinary collaboration, those who prefer solitude and private noodling are seen as eccentric at best and defective at worst, and are often presumed to be suffering from social anxiety, boredom, and alienation.

But an emerging body of research is suggesting that spending time alone, if done right, can be good for us — that certain tasks and thought processes are best carried out without anyone else around, and that even the most socially motivated among us should regularly be taking time to ourselves if we want to have fully developed personalities, and be capable of focus and creative thinking. There is even research to suggest that blocking off enough alone time is an important component of a well-functioning social life.

One ongoing Harvard study indicates that people form more lasting and accurate memories if they believe they're experiencing something alone. Another indicates that a certain amount of solitude can make a person more capable of empathy towards others. And while no one would dispute that too much isolation early in life can be unhealthy, a

certain amount of solitude has been shown to help teenagers improve their moods and earn good grades in school.

Figuring out what solitude is and how it affects our thoughts and feelings has never been more crucial. The latest Census figures indicate there are some 31 million Americans living alone, which accounts for more than a quarter of all US households. And at the same time, the experience of being alone is being transformed dramatically, as more and more people spend their days and nights permanently connected to the outside world through cell phones and computers. In an age when no one is ever more than a text message or an e-mail away from other people, the distinction between "alone" and "together" has become hopelessly blurry, even as the potential benefits of true solitude are starting to become clearer.

Solitude has long been linked with creativity, spirituality, and intellectual might. The leaders of the world's great religions — Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed, Moses — all had crucial revelations during periods of solitude. The poet James Russell Lowell identified solitude as "needful to the imagination;" in the 1988 book "Solitude: A Return to the Self," the British psychiatrist Anthony Storr invoked Beethoven, Kafka, and Newton as examples of solitary genius.

But what actually happens to people's minds when they are alone? As much as it's been exalted, our understanding of how solitude actually works has remained rather abstract, and modern psychology — where you might expect the answers to lie — has tended to treat aloneness more as a problem than a solution.

7. How has the experience of being alone changed in the modern age?

- a. People who prefer solitude are seen as being either eccentric or defective.
- b. Solitude is treated more as a problem than a solution.
- c. People might be alone but are still connected to others through technological devices.
- d. Alone and together mean the same thing in the modern age.

- 8. What does the author feel about modern psychology's approach towards solitude?
  - A. It regards solitude more as a problem than a solution.
  - B. Modern psychology has no answers on what happens to the brain when we are alone.
  - C. Abstract notions on the brain and its functioning have led modern psychologists to regard solitude as a problem.
- a. Only A
- b. Both A & B
- c. Both A & C
- d. A, B and C

- 9. From the opinions expressed in the passage, the author is most likely to agree with which of the following conclusions about solitude (being alone)?
  - a. Too much isolation is not a bad thing.
  - b. Great religious leaders became great because they chose a life of solitude.
  - c. Being alone does not mean being lonely: solitude means spending time with yourself.
  - d. We are as sick as we are alone: Loneliness is a sign of mental defectiveness.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

**Total questions: 9****Test - 18****Time: 25 minutes**

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**Directions for questions 1 to 3:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

In my book on the subject I define hope as a specific form of wishing but with some important distinguishing features that separate it from mere wishful thinking. First, it is motivated by felt needs or some degree of anxiety or concern, as opposed to fantasy or simple desire. Second, it implies a judgment that what is hoped for is something good for the person hoping. Third, it is directed towards a future outcome that the person who hopes considers uncertain and that they cannot bring about by their own means. Fourth and fifth, and these are ethical features, it ought to lead to appropriate action on the part of the person who hopes when such action is available, and it ought to be rational and realistic.

But it is a sixth feature that is the most problematic. This is that hope has the psychological structure of supplication. Even when we go for a walk and hope that it does not rain, we are implicitly appealing to the forces that control the weather to prevent rain from spoiling our day.

What this means is that, when someone hopes, they are both committing themselves to act in whatever way possible to realise their hope, and also casting their fate onto other powers. These powers might be other people, natural forces or supernatural beings. When a person suffering an illness hopes for a cure they are implicitly appealing to the powers of medicine and of doctors to bring about that cure. In other circumstances the powers appealed to may be less rational. In pre-modern societies a sick person may appeal to a witch doctor to lift the curse that they believe has brought them low or may pray to their

god for a miracle. By modern standards these strategies would fail the requirement that hopes be realistic and rational, but they do serve to illustrate the element of supplication that, I argue, is present in all genuine cases of hope.

In the political sphere, this element of supplication becomes apparent in the trust that people place in charismatic leaders. The case of Barack Obama is illustrative. Hope was a central theme of his campaign for the presidency and his many promises to bring about positive change in the American polity elicited in his followers a form of hope heavily impregnated with supplication. He was to be their saviour. Once again, this case highlights the tension between the importance of hope for motivating meaningful action and the tendency of hope to become less than rational and realistic. The greater the power in which hope is placed is conceived to be, the less realistic and rational that hope is likely to become. The great tyrants of 20th-century Europe could not have wielded the power they did if significant numbers of their subjects had not placed their hopes in them.

1. Which of the following can be classified as hope according to the definition given by the author?
  - a. A tyrant who hopes to rule the world after his latest ongoing conquest.
  - b. A student who hopes that the school gets destroyed by an earthquake when he has not finished his homework.
  - c. An out of shape athlete who hopes to break the world record in her next race.
  - d. A tired wayfarer hopes to see an oasis in the middle of a desert.
2. The author cites Barack Obama as an example of which of the following?
  - I. A form of hope greatly invested with supplication.
  - II. A genuine case of hope.
  - III. A situation where hope was less rational and realistic.

a. I and II b. I and III c. only I d. I, II and III

3. Which of the following is true about hope?

- a. Hoping for something has to be followed by appropriate action; otherwise it will not be a genuine case of hope.
- b. If people have more hope in someone they are likely to have unrealistic expectations of him/her.
- c. The more people hope the less likely they are to achieve what they hope for.
- d. Powerful tyrants need to crush people's hopes to achieve their ends.

**Directions for questions 4 to 6:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

The first meaning which can be derived from contemporary literature is the most common; hence this section rehearses many well-known connotations. 'The Diaspora' was of course, at one time, a concept referring almost exclusively to the experiences of Jews, invoking their traumatic exile from a historical homeland and dispersal throughout many lands. With this experience as reference, connotations of a 'diaspora' situation were usually rather negative as they were associated with forced displacement, victimisation, alienation, loss. Along with this archetype went a dream of return. These traits eventually led by association to the term's application toward populations such as Armenians and Africans.

Martin Baumann indicates three quite different referential points with respect to the historical Jewish experience 'in the diaspora': these are the *process* of becoming scattered, the *community* living in foreign parts, and the *place* or geographic space in which the dispersed groups live. Useful as it is to realize, at any time, to which of these reference points a discourse refers, for the purposes of this essay I suggest that these distinctions nevertheless all ultimately concern 'diaspora' as a social form in that the

emphasis remains upon an identified group characterized by their relationship—despite-dispersal.

Other common points attributed to a general social category of diaspora, drawing upon yet going beyond the classic Jewish model, can be compiled from a range of descriptive and theoretical works. These traits include specific kinds of *social relationships* cemented by special ties to history and geography. They also include a tension of *political orientations* given that diasporic peoples are often confronted with divided loyalties to homelands and host countries. The *economic strategies* of transnational groups represent an important new source and force in international finance and commerce. This domain comprises the focus of Joel Kotkin's portrayal of how, among specific groups, a sense of collectivism on a world-wide scale provides a key to their success in the new global economy.

The economic achievements of certain diasporic groups are seen to result from the mutual pooling of resources, transfer of credit, investment of capital and provision of services among family, extended kin, or co-ethnic members.

Practically all of the general works concerning South Asian communities (including specifically religious groups) outside of South Asia concentrate, in one way or another, on 'diaspora' as social form, particularly by way of the kinds of *social relationships* noted above. The homeland *political orientations* of South Asian religious groups are ever rapidly evolving and, in some quarters, intensifying. Arjun Appadurai suggests that the process of deterritorialization among diasporic groups sometimes creates exaggerated and intensified senses of criticism or attachment to politics in the home-state. Further, deterritorialization, whether of Hindus, Sikhs, Palestinians or Ukrainians, is now at the core of a variety of global fundamentalisms, including Islamic and Hindu fundamentalism.

4. This passage is an excerpt from a larger article. Based on the information in the passage, one can infer that the primary purpose of the author in the context of the larger article would be to

a. analyze the interpretation of diaspora through the classic Jewish model and apply it to interpret the developments affecting South Asian religions outside of South Asia.

b interrelate the economic achievements of diasporic groups with the developments affecting South Asian religions outside of South Asia.

c. discuss the different meanings of diaspora that help interpret the processes and developments affecting South Asian religions outside of South Asia.

d. discuss the historical processes related to South Asian diaspora that have led to the developments that affect this group outside of South Asia.

5. According to the passage, which of the following definitions of "diaspora" would the author most agree to?

a. A social form in that the emphasis remains upon an identified group characterized by their relationship-despite-dispersal.

b. Communities in a negative situation associated with forced displacement, victimization, alienation, and loss.

c. Communities that have traits that include specific kinds of *social relationships*, a tension of *political orientations*, and use *economic strategies* of transnational groups.

d. Communities that live in foreign parts and experience the process of getting scattered.

6. It can be inferred that the author would go on to bring in

a. examples of Islamic fundamentalism among the South Asian diaspora.

b. examples of Hindu fundamentalism among the South Asian diaspora.

c. both (a) and (b)

d. none of the above

**Directions for questions 7 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

President Obama will consult with 20 CEOs of major U.S. companies today to get their advice on how to stimulate U.S. economic growth and create more American jobs.

The premise of these kinds of meetings is that the heads of American headquartered companies have a special concern for the fate of the U.S. economy and useful advice on how to fix it. But do they? Are these really American companies in any way other than that they happen to be incorporated in some U.S. state, and do these CEOs have the best interests of the American economy at heart?

Most of these companies sell and produce far more outside the United States than inside. They often have many more employees outside the United States than inside and a large proportion of their shareholders are also not American. They must deal in most cases with more than 100 presidents and prime ministers of countries in which they have major interests.

Also remember that these companies have greater financial power and greater production capacity than all but a handful of countries. They are quasi-sovereign entities and their CEOs are in many respects more akin to powerful heads of state than to your average everyday businessman. Their interests may or may not be congruent with America's interests.

A particularly troubling aspect of the global business situation is the effect of the asymmetry of global political organization. In democratic Washington, for instance, the CEOs of these companies are major political players. They have their legions of lawyers and lobbyists, and ready access to the highest levels of government. Moreover, they can take the U.S. government to court anytime and win. In authoritarian Beijing, on the other hand, not only are the CEOs not political players, they need to pay careful attention to which way the winds are blowing. So in a funny way, they may have to be more responsive to the wishes of the authoritarian governments than to those of the democracies. And

certainly it is easier for them to lay off workers and close facilities in the U.S. than it is in most other countries in which they operate including the EU and Japan.

This is not to say that Obama should not be meeting with them. It will no doubt be informative for Obama to listen to what they all have to say. Indeed, rather than listening too much, the President ought to use this occasion to tell the CEOs that they really need to invest in America. He could remind them that when they need help in protecting their intellectual property and in protesting discriminatory policies abroad, it is not to the Chinese or the other authorities to whom they turn for help. Rather it is to Washington. He could also remind them that more of their innovation

comes out of U.S. laboratories and universities than anywhere else and that to keep it going more investment and U.S. based production is also necessary. He should make it clear that he'll be watching their investment announcements and that while he will strive to make America more attractive for their investments, he also expects the companies to do their best to make it or provide the service in America.

After all, what America makes (including services provision) makes America.

7. From the passage we can assume that the author thinks that the interests of major US companies are

- a. congruent with the interests of US and its economy.
- b. not congruent with the interests of the developing countries and their economy.
- c. more likely to be congruent with the interests of the US and its economy.
- d. less likely to be congruent with the interests of the US and its economy.

8. What does the author mean by the expression "asymmetry of global political organization"?

- a. The CEOs of large corporations are apolitical players and as such do not have much political or legal clout in the US or Japan or EU, while they dance to the tune of

authoritarian regimes.

b. The CEOs of large corporations are political players in democracies and have great political and legal clout while they defer to the wishes of authoritarian governments of some countries.

c. The CEOs of large corporations are more responsive to the wishes of the authoritarian regimes and are used by them to influence the more democratic western governments.

d. The CEOs of large corporations are lobbyists of the authoritarian governments and are therefore more responsive to their wishes.

9. The author's opinion about the meeting of Obama with the CEOs of major corporations can be best described as

- a. Scathing
- b. critical
- c. biased
- d. Objective

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

Total questions: 9

## Test - 19

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 to 4:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

The exercise of dominion over plants and animals is arguably the most consequential event in human history. Along with cultivated agriculture, the ability to raise and manage domesticated fauna altered the human diet, paving the way for settlements and eventually nation-states to flourish. By putting humans in close contact with animals, domestication also created vectors for the diseases that shaped society.

Yet the process by which it all happened has remained stubbornly impenetrable. Animal bones and stone carvings can sometimes shed light on the *when* and *where* each species came to live side by side with humans. More difficult to untangle is the *how*. Did a few curious boar creep closer to human populations, feeding off their garbage and with each successive generation becoming a little more a part of our diet? Did humans capture red jungle fowl, the ancestor of the modern chicken, straight from the wild—or did the fowl make the first approach? Why have we been able to tame and breed horses for thousands of years, but never their close relative the zebra, despite numerous attempts?

In fact, scientists have even struggled to define domestication precisely. Individual animals can be trained to exist in close contact with humans. A tiger cub fed by hand, imprinting on its captors, may grow up to treat them like family. But that tiger's offspring, at birth, will be just as wild as its ancestors. Domestication, by contrast, is not a quality trained into an individual, but one bred into an entire population through generations of living in proximity to humans. Many if not most of the species' wild instincts have long since been lost. Domestication, in other words, is mostly in the genes.

A growing body of evidence shows that historically, domesticated animals likely played a large part in their own taming, habituating themselves to humans before we took an active role in the process.

Identifying a precise genetic footprint involved in tameness, however, is proving extremely tricky science. First the researchers need to find the genes responsible for creating friendly and aggressive behaviors. Such general behavior traits, however, are actually amalgamations of more specific ones—fear, boldness, passivity, curiosity—that must be teased apart, measured, and traced to individual genes or sets of genes working in combination. Once those genes are identified, the researchers can test whether the ones influencing behavior are also behind the floppy ears and piebald coats and other features that characterize domesticated species. One theory among the scientists is that the genes guiding the animals' behavior do so by altering chemicals in their brains. Changes to those neurochemicals, in turn, have "downstream" impacts on the animals' physical appearance.

Ultimately, the biggest payoff of the research may come from finding similar genes in the most thoroughly domesticated species of all: human beings.

1. What is the thematic highlight of the passage?
  - a. The findings of the research on domestication of animals is that human beings are the most thoroughly domesticated species of all.
  - b. The science of identifying genetic footprints in tameness is tricky and scientists have not been able to unriddle the mystery of tameness.
  - c. Recent studies indicate that man had been able to domesticate only a few species of animals because tameness is a genetic trait.
  - d. There are various theories on animal behavior that explain why man could domesticate animals.
2. The author cites the example of the tiger cub to

- a. illustrate the fact that domestication is a trained quality.
- b. counter the fact that domestication is bred into a population through generations of living in a particular environment.
- c. highlight the fact that domestication is a quality that is bred into a population over a long period of living in a particular environment.
- d. dismiss genetic theories of domestication and show the role of training in domestication.

3. The word "payoff" in the context of the passage means

- a. profit b. benefit c. compensation d. retribution

4. Which of the following would be true if domestication was a quality that can be trained?

- a. A captured tiger cub would treat its captors as family over a period of time.
- b. Man would have been able to tame and breed Zebras.
- c. Man would not have been able to tame and breed horses
- d. Capturing tigers and their offspring and training them would have been easier.

**Directions for questions 5 & 6:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

It is usual to charge Cicero with a want of originality as a philosopher. The charge is true, but still absurd, for it rests on a misconception, not merely of Cicero's purpose in writing, but of the whole spirit of the later Greek speculation. The conclusion drawn from the charge is also quite unwarranted. If the later philosophy of the Greeks is of any value, Cicero's works are of equal value, for it is only from them that we get a clear view of it. The outcry is largely due to the want of any clear exposition of the variations in doctrine

which the late Greek schools exhibited during the last two centuries before the Christian era. Originality is a virtue which Cicero never claims. There is scarcely one of his works which he does not freely confess to be taken wholly from Greek sources. Indeed at the time when he wrote originality would have been looked upon as a fault rather than an excellence. For two centuries, if we omit Carneades, no one had propounded anything substantially novel in philosophy: there had been simply one eclectic combination after another of pre-existing tenets. It would be hasty to conclude that the writers of these two centuries are therefore undeserving of our study, for the spirit, if not the substance of the doctrines had undergone a momentous change, which ultimately exercised no unimportant influence on society and on the Christian religion itself.

When Cicero began to write, the Latin language was a destitute of a philosophical literature. Philosophy was a sealed study to those who did not know Greek. It was his aim, by putting the best Greek speculation into the most elegant Latin form, to extend the education of his countrymen, and to enrich their literature. He wished at the same time to strike a blow at the ascendancy of Epicureanism throughout Italy. The doctrines of Epicurus had alone appeared in Latin in a shape suited to catch the popular taste. There seems to have been a very large Epicurean literature in Latin. C. Amafinius was the first to write, and his books seem to have had an enormous circulation. He had a large number of imitators, who obtained such a favourable reception, that, in Cicero's strong language, they took possession of the whole of Italy.

Cicero assigns various reasons for their popularity: the easy nature of the Epicurean physics, the fact that there was no other philosophy for Latin readers, and the voluptuous blandishments of pleasure. It is remarkable that the whole of the Roman Epicurean literature dealt in an overwhelmingly greater degree with the physics than with the ethics of Epicurus. The explanation is to be found in the fact that the Italian races had as a strong practical basis for morality in the legal and social constitution of the family, and did not feel the need of any speculative system; while the general decay among the educated classes of a belief in the supernatural accompanied as it was by an increase of superstition among the masses, prepared the way for the acceptance of a purely mechanical explanation of the universe.

5. The author believes early Greek philosophers deserve to be read even though their writings were not original because

- a. their influence on society and Christianity was very significant.
- b. they were honest and never claimed that their works were original.
- c. they changed the spirit of the doctrines significantly and had a tremendous influence on society and Christianity.
- d. they only borrowed the substance not the spirit of the doctrine.

6. According to the passage, there is more literature on the physics of Epicurus than on the ethics of Epicurus

- a. because the conditions in Italy were favourable for people to accept Epicurean physics while there was no necessity for epicurean ethics.
- b. as a consequence of the masses becoming increasingly superstitious.
- c. as a consequence of a growing disbelief in the supernatural among the educated lot.
- d. because the Italians had a firm moral foundation, they did not need a philosophy of ethics.

**Directions for questions 7 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Educational systems exist not to train the individual to develop his powers and capacity simply as an individual unit, but rather to fit him effectively to carry on the social life before he actively participates in it. In other words, the social function of education is to guide and control the formation of habit and character on the part of the individual, as well as to develop his capacity and powers, so that he shall become an efficient member of society. This work is necessary for the survival of large and complex groups. Otherwise the conflicts in the acquirement of habit and character on the part of individuals would be

so great that there would be no possibility of their working together harmoniously in a common social life. Just so far as the system of education is defective, is insufficient to meet social needs, in so far may we expect the production of individuals who are socially maladjusted, as shown in pauperism, defectiveness, and crime.

Education is the chief means to which society must look for all substantial social progress. It is the instrument by which human nature may be modified, and hence, also, the instrument by which society may be perfected.

The sociological study of past civilizations shows quite conclusively that all of them have depended in one way or another upon educational processes, not only for continuity, but also for their development. The life history of a culture or a civilization is frequently the life history of a religion. But religious beliefs, together with the moral and social beliefs, which become attached to them, were effectively transmitted only through the instruction of the young. The religious element did scarcely more than afford a powerful sanction for the moral and social beliefs upon which the social organization of the past rested; hence, when we ascribe great importance to the religious factor in social evolution, we also ascribe great importance to education, because it was essentially the educational process, together with religious sanction, which made possible most of the civilizations and social progress of the past.

Indeed, culture has been passed down in human history essentially by educational processes. These educational processes have controlled the formation of habits and character, of ways of thinking and ways of acting, in successive generations of individuals. The educational processes have had much more to do, therefore, with the civilizations and social organization of the past than industrial conditions. Industrial conditions have been relatively external factors in the social environment. In the same way, political authority has rested on, and been derived from, the social traditions rather than the reverse. It is therefore not too much for the sociologist to say that education is the last and highest method of social evolution. The lowest method of evolution was by selection. The next method of social evolution was the method of adaptation by organized authority in society, but the latest and highest method of social evolution is not through biological

selection nor through the exercise of despotic authority, but through the education of the individual, so that he shall become adjusted to the social life in habits and character before he participates in it.

7. Education, as conceptualized in the passage, can be best described as
- a system to train individuals to fit into society and participate in it.
  - a system which moulds itself to make individuals effective participants in it and its progress
  - the effective and traditional means to achieve the end of social progress
  - the chief means of social progress or evolution.
8. Which of the following best represents the relationship between education and religion as argued in the passage?
- Religion is the foundation and education is the superstructure of social progress.
  - Religion and education are two faces of the same coin of social progress.
  - Religion and education are the two wheels of the chariot of social progress.
  - Religion and education are mutually exclusive concepts.
9. Which of the following statements about education is the author most likely to support?
- Education exists to adapt individuals to their social life.
  - Social history disagrees with claims for education as a factor in social development.
  - Religion is a powerful deterrent to social progress.
  - Social evolution by selection is insignificant as a method of progress and development.

**Scoring table**

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

Total questions: 9

## Test - 20

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 to 3:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Recent studies show the steady progress of athletic achievement through the first half of the 20th century, and into the latter half. Then, suddenly, achievement flatlines.

"We're reaching our biological limits," said Geoffroy Berthelot, one of the co-authors of both studies and a research specialist at the Institute for Biomedical Research and Sports Epidemiology in Paris. What he predicts for the future of sport is a great stagnation for the rest of fans' lives. The implicit question that his work poses is larger than track and field, or swimming, or even sport itself.

Do we dare to acknowledge our limitations? And what happens once we do?

In the early 1950s, the scientific community thought Roger Bannister's attempt to break the four-minute mile might result in his death.. But Bannister broke the four-minute mark in 1954, and within three years 30 others had done it. Limitations, it seemed, existed only in the mind.

Except when they don't. Geoffroy Berthelot began looking at track and field and swimming records in 2007. These were the sports that quantified the otherwise subjective idea of athleticism. There are no teammates in these sports, and improvement is marked scientifically, with a stopwatch or tape measure. In almost every other game athletic progression can't be measured, because teammates and opponents temper results. What is achieved on these playing fields, then, doesn't represent — can't represent — the totality

of achievement. By contrast, track and field and swimming are pure, the sporting world's equivalent of a laboratory.

Berthelot wanted to know more about the progression of athletic feats over time in these sports, how and why performance improved in the modern Olympic era. So he plotted it out, every world record from 1896 onward. When placed on a L-shaped graph, the record times fell consistently, as if down a gently sloped hill. They fell because of improving nutritional standards, strength and conditioning programs, and the perfection of technique. But once Berthelot's L-shaped graphs reached the 1980s, something strange happened: Those gently sloping hills levelled into plains. In event after event, record times began to hold.

The trend continued through the 1990s, and into the last decade. Today 64 percent of track and field world records have stood since 1993. When Berthelot published his study last year in the online journal PLoS One, he made the simple but bold argument that athletic performance had peaked. On the whole, Berthelot said, the pinnacle of athletic achievement was achieved around 1988. We've been watching a virtual stasis ever since.

Berthelot argues that performance plateaued for the same reasons it improved over all those decades. Or, put another way, because it improved over all those decades. Records used to stand because some athletes were not well nourished. And then ubiquitous nutritional standards developed, and records fell. Records used to stand because athletes had idiosyncratic forms and techniques. And then through an evolution of experimentation, the best practices were codified and perfected, and now a conformity of form rules sport. Records used to stand because only a minority of athletes lifted weights and conditioned properly. Here, at least, the reasoning is a bit more complicated. Now everybody is ripped, yes, but what strength training also introduced was steroid use. Berthelot doesn't name names, but he wonders how many of todays records stand because of pharmacological help, the records broken during an era of primitive testing, before a foundation established the World Anti-Doping Agency in 1999.

1. Which of the following is the best expression of the main argument of the passage?

- a. Limitations are not just a matter of perception.
  - b. Athletic records stand today because of the WADA.
  - c. Human athletes have reached their limits.
  - d. Modern athletes are not as good as the athletes of yore.
2. The author believes that "now everyone is ripped" because
- a. everyone is fooled by athletes who take performance-enhancing drugs.
  - b. everyone performs well because of steroid use.
  - c. most athletes have well developed muscular bodies.
  - d. everyone is boosted by strength training and steroids.
3. Berthelot's findings can be called paradoxical because
- a. in the modern times when everything has become better, athletic performances have not improved.
  - b. athletics has revealed human weakness instead of showcasing human excellence.
  - c. the factors that caused performances to peak in the past are the same as the ones that have caused the stasis.
  - d. records stood only after the WADA was set up.

**Directions for questions 4 to 6:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

IN 1948 Lewis Fry Richardson, a British scientist, published what was probably the first rigorous analysis of the statistics of war. Richardson had spent seven years gathering data

on the wars waged in the century or so prior to his study. When he plotted his results, he found that these diverse events fell into a regular pattern.

Richardson found that wars with low death tolls far outnumber high-fatality conflicts. But the link between the severity and frequency of conflicts follows a smooth curve, known as a power law. One consequence is that extreme events such as the world wars do not appear to be anomalies.

They are simply what should be expected to occur occasionally, given the frequency with which conflicts take place.

The results have fascinated mathematicians and military strategists ever since. But they have not had much impact on the conduct of actual wars. It is one thing to show that a pattern exists, another to do something useful with it.

In a paper currently under review at *Science*, however, Neil Johnson of the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, and his colleagues hint at what that something useful might be. Dr Johnson's team is one of several groups who have shown that Richardson's power law also applies to attacks by terrorists and insurgents. They and others have broadened Richardson's scope of inquiry to include the timing of attacks, as well as the severity. The new paper outlines a method for forecasting the evolution of conflicts.

Dr Johnson's proposal rests on a pattern he and his team found in data on insurgent attacks against American forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. After the initial attacks in any given province, subsequent fatal incidents become more and more frequent. The intriguing point is that it is possible, using a formula Dr Johnson has derived, to predict the details of this pattern from the interval between the first two attacks.

Though the fit between the data and the prediction is not perfect, the match is close enough that Dr Johnson thinks he is onto something. Progress curves are a consequence of people adapting to circumstances and learning to do things better. And warfare is just as capable of productivity improvements as any other activity. The twist in warfare is that two antagonistic groups of people are doing the adapting. The insurgents and the occupiers, each is constantly adjusting to each other's tactics.

The data come from 23 different provinces, each of which is, in effect, a separate theatre of war. In each case, the gap between fatal attacks shrinks, more or less according to Dr Johnson's model. Eventually, an equilibrium is reached, and the intervals become fairly regular.

4. Which of the following can be inferred about the results of Richardson's studies?

- a. They outline a method for predicting the evolution of conflicts.
- b. The results have fascinated mathematicians and scientists.
- c. Military strategies can easily be chalked out using Richardson's analysis of the statistics of war.
- d. Richardson's statistics have not had much impact on the conduct of actual wars.

5. The author is most likely to agree with which of the following statements?

- a. There is no use in establishing that a pattern exists in military warfare.
- b. Neil Johnson's contribution has been far greater than Richardson's in the field of military strategy.
- c. Johnson's paper on forecasting the evolution of conflicts would result in high fatality in future conflicts.
- d. Richardson's analysis has great scope as it applies to both military and non-military attacks.

6. Which of the following options is analogous to the situation described by Johnson about two antagonistic groups adapting to each other's strategies?

- a. Parasites and hosts in constant competition against each other which leaves the hosts outnumbered.

b. Adaptations of prey constantly countered by the predators leading to a stasis.

c. Adaptations and evolution of predators countered by prey leading to extinction of predators.

d. Adaptations by insurgents countered by occupiers leading to negating the threat of insurgency.

**Directions for questions 7 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

The antagonism we witness between Religion and Science is the continuation of a struggle that commenced when Christianity began to attain political power. A divine revelation must necessarily be intolerant of contradiction; it must repudiate all improvement in itself, and view with disdain that arising from the progressive intellectual development of man. But our opinions on every subject are continually liable to modification, from the irresistible advance of human knowledge.

Can we exaggerate the importance of a contention in which every thoughtful person must take part whether he will or not? In a matter so solemn as that of religion, all men, whose temporal interests are not involved in existing institutions, earnestly desire to find the truth. They seek information as to the subjects in dispute, and as to the conduct of the disputants.

The history of Science is not a mere record of isolated discoveries; it is a narrative of the conflict of two contending powers, the expansive force of the human intellect on one side, and the compression arising from traditional faith and human interests on the other.

No one has hitherto treated the subject from this point of view. Yet from this point it presents itself to us as a living issue—in fact, as the most important of all living issues.

A few years ago, it was the politic and therefore the proper course to abstain from all allusion to this controversy, and to keep it as far as possible in the background. The tranquility of society depends so much on the stability of its religious convictions, that no

one can be justified in wantonly disturbing them. But faith is in its nature unchangeable, stationary; Science is in its nature progressive; and eventually a divergence between them, impossible to conceal, must take place. It then becomes the duty of those whose lives have made them familiar with both modes of thought, to present modestly, but firmly, their views; to compare the antagonistic pretensions calmly, impartially, philosophically. History shows that, if this be not done, social misfortunes, disastrous and enduring, will ensue. When the old mythological religion of Europe broke down under the weight of its own inconsistencies, neither the Roman emperors nor the philosophers of those times did any thing adequate for the guidance of public opinion. They left religious affairs to take their chance, and accordingly those affairs fell into the hands of ignorant and infuriated ecclesiastics, parasites, eunuchs, and slaves.

The intellectual night which settled on Europe, in consequence of that great neglect of duty, is passing away; we live in the daybreak of better things. Society is anxiously expecting light, to see in what direction it is drifting. It plainly discerns that the track along which the voyage of civilization has thus far been made, has been left; and that a new departure, on all unknown sea, has been taken.

7. By "intellectual night" the author means

- a. a period of gloom and despair
- b. a period of ignorance
- c. a night of confusion
- d. a night of learning

8. Which of the following is incorrect in the light of the information given in the passage?

- a. Faith is characterized by stability.
- b. Religious convictions have an effect on the society.

c. Neglect on the part of people with both religious and scientific knowledge is detrimental to the interests of the society.

d. A lot of people have tried but failed to treat the subject of science and religion as a narrative of the conflict between the two powers.

9. According to the passage, the result of Roman emperors' inability to guide public opinion on religious contradictions was that

- a. Christianity assumed political power.
- b. intellectuals took over the political power.
- c. religion fell into the hands of ignorant and undeserving people.
- d. slaves and eunuchs took over the political reins of society.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

Total questions: 9

## Test - 21

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 to 3:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

So, it was that the family sat huddled, reviewing the year gone by, discussing resolutions, setting goals and methodology to achieve them. Looking back, year after year, we had fixed physical, professional, financial, social, family and intellectual goals. Many were achieved, some goals became meaningless and new ones emerged.

It becomes apparent that a major portion of time was spent on fulfilling responsibilities and equipping ourselves to live more comfortably and peacefully. 'Intellectual goals' were the ones which stood out: reading, reflection and analysis were in the realm of challenging the mind and understanding life.

The most interesting aspect of looking back is that 'yoga' gently entered life under the head 'physical goals' and slowly made way to 'intellectual goals' in terms of understanding life and self. And, finally, yoga emerged as a means of 'spiritual goal', adding a new dimension to our lives. In some ways, intellectual and spiritual goals merged.

Over the years, this 'nectarine' aspect of life, though always present and experienced in parts, was not fully tapped. Yoga brings with it a lifestyle based in the 'spirit of the self' which pervades all other aspects of life.

Yoga teaches us that this body is essentially an instrument for realising the '*Param Atman*'- the ultimate. Besides the physical body, there is an immensely powerful yet soft

and gentle 'spiritual body'. To build a spiritual body is a goal. The question is how to put this concept in 'actionable'? Here is where yoga as a discipline and as a 'body of knowledge' comes to our help.

Though conceptually, the spiritual body would be one 'established in its pure pristine self' we can take its outward manifestation and try to achieve them. Thus, a well developed spiritual body would manifest in this world with many attributes. And this list is not exhaustive. It is just a means to understand that deep within when the spiritual body will evolve what would be its manifestation in the outer physical world.

The above inputs and assiduous development of *vivek, vairagya*, always making conscious *sattvic* choice and considered speech would lead to an output of a calm, serene, emotionally stable, physically fit and a magnetic personality which is constantly learning and improving itself.

1. The author's flow of thought can be summed up through which of the following options?
  - a. The first and second paragraphs help to lead into the third paragraph in which the author presents the subject.
  - b. The third paragraph helps refute the information given in the first and second paragraphs.
  - c. The second and third paragraph help put into perspective the point that the author makes in the first paragraph.
  - d. The first and second paragraphs present a problem while the third paragraph brings in a solution.
2. According to the author, how does yoga as a discipline help?
  - a. It pervades all aspects of life.
  - b. It helps to build a spiritual body.

- c. It helps merge the intellectual and spiritual goals.
  - d. It helps its followers to lead a healthier life.
3. Which of the following has not been mentioned as a realization that comes through\can be attributed to yoga?
- a. The "vibrational" powers of the yogic mantra make the spirit free-flowing.
  - b. It induces a lifestyle that is ensconced in the individual's true self.
  - c. It helps one understand that the body can be used to achieve the Supreme.
  - d. It helps one to make conscious choices and use considered speech.

**Directions for questions 4 to 6:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Today, we honour the bicentenaries of Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln, British biologist and American president respectively. Of course, the 'we' is mainly the media, states and universities. Should the general public wish to get involved, however, there is an entertainment spree on offer. A petition for a day off work on 'Darwin Day' is online and a museum's worth of displays about the great naturalist is open. Cambridge University is hosting a festival while panel debates and lectures are being held from Gujarat to Cornell. A bicentennial commission will commemorate the good president, with some of the largest events to be held in Washington DC. The state he represented, Illinois, and the state where he was born, Kentucky, both have events like travelling shows, the unveiling of statues, speech making and plays. Both bicentenaries give jobs to pundits and PR workers to eulogize and pontificate on the meaning of the men's lives. Anniversaries have become industries, generating employment for which this hack is, in fact, quite grateful. Yet, the noise about the individuals also shows how their biographies have become iconic, overpowered by our need to turn each man's life into a symbol.

The story of Lincoln is the American Dream, an ascent from birth in a log cabin to president. He is seen as the man who saved America by winning the Civil War and ending slavery. His Gettysburg address is one of the most famous speeches in history, a ringing declaration of equality and liberty. His myth has a Hollywood ending in his assassination with a bullet to the brain. Darwin's story is the legend of the Beagle, the voyage to the Galapagos and his genius for understanding the meaning of the wild variety of animal and plant life he saw. He made the link between mankind and our monkey ancestors, explaining evolution and natural selection. He stands for scientific objectivity, in his struggle with himself to accept his own conclusions and the controversy they would cause in a deeply religious society. The stories we tell about our ancestors are the tales we want to believe about ourselves. What the *tamasha* tells us is that these men have entered the realm of mythology. Their myths tell us that liberty, equality and scientific objectivity are worth making some noise about.

4. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- a.use the backdrop of the bicentenaries of Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln to contrast their lives.
  - b. use the backdrop of the bicentenaries of Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln to contrast their contributions.
  - c.use the backdrop of the bicentenaries of Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln to discuss the need for symbolic examples.
  - d. use the backdrop of the bicentenaries of Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln to discuss the need for symbolism.
5. The comparison between Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin is best summed up in the following analogy:-
- a. Scientific Logic: Hollywood Drama
  - b. American Dream : Scientific Objectivity

c. Hollywood Charm: Scientific Objectivity

d. Politician: Biologist

6. "Both bicentenaries give jobs to pundits and PR workers to eulogize and pontificate on the meaning of the men's lives." Paraphrased this would mean -

a. The bicentenary celebrations will allow pundits and PR workers to laud the achievements of each individual.

b. The bicentenary celebrations will result in employment for pundits and PR workers who will bring out the symbolism of both lives.

c. The bicentenary celebrations will be symbolic and result in employment for pundits and PR workers.

d. The bicentenary celebrations will help enhance the mysticism of both individuals and will result in employment for pundits and PR workers.

**Directions for questions 7 to 9:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Scientists have carried out an extraordinary magic trick - converting light into matter and back again - they have turned a light beam into matter and then converted the matter back into light at another location. Because matter can be manipulated much more easily than light, the experiments provide a powerful new tool to control optical information and exploit the extraordinary possibilities of quantum computers that, in theory, will be able to solve problems millions of times faster than current machines.

The findings, published by Harvard University researchers in the journal Nature, could in the short term present an entirely new way for scientists and engineers to manipulate the light pulses used in fibre-optic communications, the technology at the heart of our highly networked society.

"We demonstrate that we can stop a light pulse in a supercooled sodium cloud, store the data contained within it, and totally extinguish it, only to reincarnate the pulse in another cloud two-tenths of a millimeter away," says Prof Lene Vestergaard Hau, the head of the team.

The feat exploits quantum theory - a highly mathematical theory, of how atoms and molecules behave, which has been shown to work again and again even though it is baffling, counterintuitive and impossible to understand with simple metaphors and analogies.

The new work rests on an implication of quantum theory worked out in the 1920s by Albert Einstein and the Indian physicist Satyendra Bose who found that if a gas of atoms were cooled sufficiently, atoms would "spread" out - so they shed their identities and condense into one "superatom", called a Bose-Einstein condensate.

Prof Hau created two condensates - clouds of around two million sodium atoms cooled to just billionths of a degree above absolute zero. When one cloud was bathed in laser light, it extinguished an injected light pulse and, in effect, stored it as a small holographic imprint in the atoms.

The atomic imprint carrying this stored copy of the laser pulse moved out of the first cloud at 200 meters per hour. This is a snail's pace when compared with the speed of light which is around one million meters per hour.

The matter imprint of the pulse was then readily converted back into light when it entered the second supercooled cloud around 160 millionths of a meter away (or two tenths of a millimeter), a vast distance in the atomic world. The fidelity with which it can spit out the laser pulse is a consequence of the strange properties of the Bose-Einstein condensate. By the standard of light, an eternity passes between the moment the pulse of light is stored in the first cloud and then revived in the second, offering vast opportunities to manipulate optical information.

7. The primary purpose of the passage is

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7. The primary purpose of the passage is

a. to introduce information on an experiment and discuss its implications.

b. to introduce information on a new theory and discuss its implications.

c. to discuss an innovative experiment and its implications.

d. to analyze how the new work rests on an implication of quantum theory.

8. The passage could have been taken from which of the following?

a. A science journal

b. A research paper

c. A news article

d. A university quarterly

9. What role do the last three paragraphs of this passage perform?

a. Incisive b. Instructive c. Investigative d. Informational

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

Total questions: 8

## Test - 22

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 to 3:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

"FEAR", the lady used to say, "is a habit." This week, inspired in part by the lady herself, Aung San Suu Kyi, partly by the heroic example set by Buddhist monks, Myanmar's people kicked the addiction.

Defying the corrupt, inept, brutal generals who rule them, they took to the streets in their hundreds of thousands to demand democracy. They knew they were risking a bloody crackdown, like the one that put down a huge popular revolt in 1988, killing 3,000 people or more. In 1988 Burma's people were betrayed not just by the ruthlessness of their rulers, but also by the squabbling and opportunism of the outside world, which failed to produce a coordinated response and let the murderous regime get away with it. This time, soldiers are once again shooting and killing unarmed protesters.

In New York for the United Nations General Assembly, Western leaders, led by George Bush, harangued the junta, and threatened yet more sanctions. They have probably already shot their bolt. Western sanctions have been tried and have failed, in part because Myanmar's neighbors have for years followed a different approach. Its fellow members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations waffled about "constructive engagement" while making economic hay in Myanmar from the West's withdrawal. India, too, anxious about China's growing influence, and hungry for oil and gas, has swallowed its democratic traditions and courted the generals.

China itself has built an ever-closer relationship. The two countries, after all, have a lot in common beyond a shared border. Since the 1980s a wave of "people-power" revolutions has swept aside tyrannies around the world. Mercifully few regimes, and few armies, are willing to kill large numbers of their own people to stay in power. Two big exceptions have been Myanmar and China, whose government in 1989 likewise stayed in power through a massacre.

Yet it is China that now offers the best hope the outside world has of changing Myanmar for the better. Admittedly, it is a thin hope. There are plenty of reasons to doubt China's willingness to upset Myanmar's generals. China's traditional posture, heard again this week, is to oppose any "interference in the internal affairs of another country". It trotts out this formula so often when foreigners criticize its own behavior that, even if it supports change, it is hard for it to utter more than platitudes, as it has this month, about the desirability of a "democracy process that is appropriate for the country".

China has also been the chief beneficiary of the partial Western boycott. Myanmar offers two of the prizes China values most in its foreign friends: hydrocarbon resources and a friendly army, willing to give it access to facilities on its coast on the Bay of Bengal. China has become the junta's biggest commercial partner and diplomatic supporter.

1. To what does the author attribute the failure of the revolt in 1988?
  - a. The Burmese were let down by the lack of response from their own rulers and the United Nations General Assembly.
  - b. The Burmese were let down by their own rulers and by the lack of coordinated response from the United States.
  - c. The Burmese were let down by their own rulers and by the lack of coordinated response from the outside world.
  - d. The Burmese were let down by their own rulers and by the lack of direction of the United States.

2. According to the passage, why have the western sanctions on Burma failed?
- Burma's neighbors have valued their economic relationship with the country and have protected it from the sanctions of the West.
  - Burma's neighbors have been wary of China's influence on the country and have protected it from the sanctions of the West.
  - Burma's neighbors have valued the economic relationship with the country and have looked towards it for supply of oil and gas.
  - Burma's neighbors have valued the economic relationship with the country and the West has been unable to break through the varied approaches of these neighbors.

3. It can be inferred that the passage will move on to a

- discussion on the hopes that China has for a peaceful transition in Myanmar.
- discussion on the prescription that China can make for a peaceful transition in Myanmar.
- discussion on the terms that China can dictate for a peaceful transition in Myanmar.
- discussion on why a peaceful transition in Myanmar would be beneficial for China.

**Directions for questions 4 & 5:** The passage given below is followed by a set of two questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

The best books provide an insight into how business revolutionizes the world. Why is the centre of growth shifting from the developed to the developing countries? Why do some companies succeed and others fail? Why are we swapping the white collar for the no-collar workplace? Why do managers say the astonishing things that they say? The answers to these questions lie in the business books that many literary editors so casually toss out.

Some business writers pass Karl Marx's test of changing the world as well as interpreting it. Peter Drucker's 1946 classic, "Concept of the Corporation", made people think of companies as communities rather than just productive units. "The Machine That Changed the World" (1990) by James Womack et al popularised Toyota's manufacturing system with its emphasis on just-in-time parts and proactive workers. Michael Hammer and James Champy's "Reengineering the Corporation" (1993) encouraged companies to sack large numbers of workers even as their profits soared.

This week *The Economist* launches a quarterly review which will highlight a selection of new business books. To introduce this feature we re-examine six classics published over the past half-century or so that illustrate the wide variety of books that march under the banner of business. They also show how the best books help both to shape the business world and to make sense of it.

Henry Ford is rightly credited with inventing the assembly line—and with it mass production. But it was his great rival at General Motors (GM), Alfred Sloan, who really invented modern professional management. Sloan organised his company into divisions that specialised in cars "for every purse and purpose" and he fashioned a managerial class that turned GM into the world's biggest company. His 1964 book, "**My Years with General Motors**", is a cool explanation of how he did it ("management has been my specialisation," he wrote flatly). It is a book that puts subsequent business autobiographies to shame.

4. According to the passage, what do the best books do ?

- They help people think of companies as communities rather than productive units.
- They help businesses revolutionize the world.
- They help to understand the business world as well as to influence it.
- They provide answers to the questions that many business people have.

5. Which of the following describes an attitude that the author may have towards the literary editors?

- a. Sardonic
- b. Ironical
- c. Critical
- d. Caustic

**Directions for questions 6 to 8:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

For more than a decade-and-a-half now, the battle for India's soul has been relentless in every aspect of the nation's life. But in few places has the conflict been as brutal as in the mainstream Hindi film industry. Once a great theatre of the masses, frontier Bollywood has undergone a paradigm shift in the new millennium. With a middle-class market of more than 300 million, Bollywood felt it could bypass the hinterland as well as middle India. The multiplexes, set up to create the right ambience for this cash-rich class, not only became a meeting place for India Happy, but by the sheer brutality of economics, excluded the masses that had created Bollywood in the first place.

The multiplex culture created a new cinema elite - of filmmakers and filmgoers. Which is why Hindi films began changing form. Since 1931 when they got talking, Hindi cinema has been a thali service of sorts where the navrasa of life is served over three hours. It had its own independent and unique grammar, its own benchmark of excellence. The new Bollywood is a Hollywood wannabe. Which is why Hindi films have got shorter. Which is why we have more song-less movies.

Which is why we have so many more Hindi movies with English names. Which is why there's not a single frame of India Crying in most Bollywood flicks. Which is why even when the location of a town is Nainital, the film is shot in New Zealand. And also why

even straight-lifts like Bheja Fry and Aamir are applauded as the shining face of brave new Bollywood.

It is largely Bollywood's indifference to middle India that has caused the recent rise in varying degrees of small north Indian regional cinema: Bhojpuri, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Garhwali, Kumaoni, Chattisgarhi, Angika. These movies will not win Oscars. But made in local dialects and woven around familiar subjects, they evoke feelings of association within the target audience. Even western Uttar Pradesh has its own version of Bollywood. Not all of these films make it to the theatres. But with cheap VCD players available, who cares? It's a straight case of demand and supply.

If there's one thing that Slumdog Millionaire has exposed, it is the rootlessness of India's social elite. Isn't it ironic that the same multiplex class that booted out rural India, urban slums and every other vestige of India Crying from mainstream Bollywood in its lust for feel-good cinema, now claims to be enjoying Danny Boyle's movie? Appreciating Slumdog isn't a sign of its maturity and confidence; it is more an indicator of what the multiplexed class is: a people trying to be someone else, hoping to be someplace else.

This is not to say that the film doesn't work. Like a great trapeze artist, director Boyle has pulled off an engaging yarn that distils India's worst even while juggling a love story and a tale of two brothers.

6. Which of the following is the central idea of the passage?

- a. Bollywood's hypocrisy and the separation between the film industry and its elite viewers.
- b. Bollywood's class separation of film viewers and the hypocrisy of the film industry and its elite viewers.
- c. Bollywood's hypocrisy within and separation between the film industry and its elite viewers.
- d. Bollywood's separation with other film industries and separation of film viewers.

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- c. Bollywood's hypocrisy within and separation between the film industry and its elite viewers.
- d. Bollywood's separation with other film industries and separation of film viewers.

7. Which of these has not been mentioned as having been brought about by the multiplex culture?

- a. Shorter length of Hindi films
  - b. Independent grammar
  - c. Rise of small North Indian regional cinema
  - d. Unique and engaging plots
8. The tone of the passage is
- a. Caviling b. Laudatory c. Critical d. Derogatory

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
8					

Total questions: 9

Test - 23

Time: 25 minutes

**Directions for questions 1 to 4:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Such, in outline, but even more purposeless, more void of meaning, is the world which Science presents for our belief. Amid such a world, if anywhere, our ideals henceforward must find a home. That Man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the grave; that all the labors of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius, are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of Man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins—all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain, that no philosophy which rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built.

How, in such an alien and inhuman world, can so powerless a creature as Man preserve his aspirations untarnished? A strange mystery it is that Nature, omnipotent but blind, in the revolutions of her secular hurryings through the abysses of space, has brought forth at last a child, subject still to her power, but gifted with sight, with knowledge of good and evil, with the capacity of judging all the works of his unthinking Mother. In spite of Death, the mark and seal of the parental control, Man is yet free, during his brief years, to examine, to criticize, to know, and in imagination to create. To him alone, in the world

with which he is acquainted, this freedom belongs; and in this lies his superiority to the irresistible forces that control his outward life.

The savage, like ourselves, feels the oppression of his impotence before the powers of Nature; but having in himself nothing that he respects more than Power, he is willing to prostrate himself before his gods, without inquiring whether they are worthy of his worship. Pathetic and very terrible is the long history of cruelty and torture, of degradation and human sacrifice, endured in the hope of placating the jealous gods: surely, the trembling believer thinks, when what is most precious has been freely given, their lust for blood must be appeased, and more will not be required. The religion of Moloch—as such creeds may be generically called—is in essence the cringing submission of the slave, who dare not, even in his heart, allow the thought that his master deserves no adulation. Since the independence of ideals is not yet acknowledged, Power may be freely worshipped, and receive an unlimited respect, despite its wanton infliction of pain.

1. According to the passage, which of these beliefs have been brought about by science?
  - a. Man is the product of causes which had a prevision of the end they were achieving.
  - b. Intense sacrifice and love can help preserve a man even beyond his mortal years.
  - c. Man will cease to exist with the demise of the solar system.
  - d. Only on the firm foundation of faith can man's future be built safely.
2. It can be inferred that the purpose of the second paragraph is to
  - a. introduce nature as a free spirited energy that has gifted her child with sight and knowledge.
  - b. introduce nature as one who brought about a man that is free to examine and create.
  - c. present counter arguments to the points given in the first paragraph.
  - d. present the other side of human nature - one that freely examines and creates.

3. With reference to the last paragraph, which of these is the author *least likely* to agree with?

- a. Man is a dependent being and must rely on the higher powers for guidance and understanding.
- b. Man is willing to prostrate before his gods without inquiring whether they are worthy of his worship.
- c. Degradation and human sacrifice are endured in the hope of placating the gods.
- d. Man should have independent ideals and should not subject himself to unwanted misery.

4. It can be inferred that the passage is part of writing that is

- a. ecclesiastic
- b. a narrative
- c. an exposition
- d. a memoir

**Directions for questions 5 to 8:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

"Hello darkness, my old friend..."?— Simon & Garfunkel, "The Sounds of Silence"

By nature, I'm usually an optimist. I've experienced and studied enough history to understand its cyclical nature and its ability to house enormous positive/negative contradictions. The worst of times can also lead to the best of times. What goes around can come around. Every cloud can have a silver lining.

But those more positive views are overshadowed these days by a quickly darkening horizon. As with so many citizens dedicated to positive activism, I am politically discouraged, demoralized, depressed. We want to find solace and hope enough to pull us through the pit of despair yet again, but instead we run headlong into a brick wall of voters' voluntary ignorance, a growing authoritarian fascism, continuing imperialist military policies, an appalling lack of backbone in our leaders, politicians and pundits who brazenly lie and get away with it.

This has happened so often in the past several years that we find ourselves beset by futility, dejection, despondency. Nothing seems to work to turn our self-destructive system from disaster.

To a significant degree, it doesn't seem to matter which political party is seemingly in control. The dysfunctional rot is so deep, the habitual patterns so ingrained, the lying and manipulation so widespread, the corporate master's so powerful that meaningful change seems impossible. To them, a little reform tinkering around the edges is tolerable, but don't even think about major structural reconstructions.

Of course, it's precisely the major structural changes that are absolutely necessary if the U.S. is somehow to avoid catastrophe and emerge back into the light. Similarly, the world must start moving immediately to try to ameliorate the worst aspects of human-caused global climate change before it's too late. Indeed, it may already be too late. Cheney Bush, who effectively turned over the Department of Energy to lobbyists for polluting industries, wasted eight long years doing nothing to diminish the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

A huge number of Americans know all this in their bones, but feel powerless to do anything about it. They're just happy to get through another week, another month, without falling off the economic or psychological cliffs. Anger and resentment roil beneath the surface and occasionally boil over into the public debate. Even if it's evident that the Democrats are not nearly as bad as the Republicans — indeed, polls show that

most Americans favour Democratic initiatives — still the system almost seems designed to yield little if any real progress.

5. "Hello darkness, my old friend..." What is the significance of this line at the beginning of the passage?

- a. It creates a sense of apprehension in the reader's mind.
- b. It helps bring contrast to the author's introduction of an optimistic self.
- c. It indicates the pessimistic overtone of the passage.
- d. It lends credence to the fact that these days more positive views are overshadowed.

6. Which of these best reflects the central idea of the passage?

- a. The bigot state of the American system and the lack of political will to make any significant change.
- b. The appalling state of the American system and the lack of political will to make any significant change.
- c. The appalling state of the American system and the political will to make a significant change.
- d. The inexcusable state of the American system and the need for political will especially regarding climate change.

7. Which of these has *not been mentioned* as a factor that pulls down those dedicated to positive activism?

- a. The voluntary ignorance of voters.
- b. The authoritarian fascism of political parties.
- c. The lack of independent strength in America's leaders.

d. The anger and resentment of the American people.

8. It can be inferred that the Americans are not able to do anything about the system because

- a. they are happy to go through another week.
- b. of the fact that a fascist government that will not allow them to speak their mind rules them.
- c. of their feeling of powerlessness and their energy being spent up in managing their economic and psychological state.
- d. of their lack of confidence in the system and growing apprehension that things will get worse.

**Directions for question 9:** The passage given below is followed by a question. Choose the most appropriate answer to the question.

At the very beginning, the founders and fathers of the nation were under the delusion that it was possible to unite in one land two antagonistic principles,—liberty and slavery. The founders believed that every man must give an account of himself to God, and because his responsibility was so great, they felt that he must be absolutely free. Since no king, no priest, and no master could give an account for him, he must be self-governing in politics, self-controlling in industry, and free to go immediately into the presence of God with his penitence and his prayer. The fathers sought religious and political freedom,—not money or lands. But the new temple of liberty was to be for the white race alone, and these builders of the new commonwealth never thought of the black man, save as a servant in the house. For more than two centuries, therefore, the wheat and the tares grew together in the soil. When the tares began to choke out the wheat, the uprooting of the foul growth became inevitable. Perhaps the Civil War was a necessity,—for this reason, the disease of slavery had struck in upon the vitals of the nation and the only cure was the surgeon's

- d. The anger and resentment of the American people.
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knife. Therefore God raised up soldiers, and anointed them as surgeons, with "the ointment of war, black and sulphurous."

9. Which of the following is a possible criticism that the author may have towards the 'founders of the nation'?
- a. The idea of freedom that the 'founders' had was associated only with the white man.
  - b. 'Founders' treated blacks as a lowly servant in the household.
  - c. 'Founders' did not conceive the idea of civil war until it was too late.
  - d. They discarded the necessity of any form of governance and advocated 'The Free Man'.

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
9					

Total questions: 10

Test - 24

Time: 25 minutes

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**Directions for questions 1 to 3:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Nixon was right about Kennedy. Surely, the greatest political actor of the twentieth century was President Kennedy. His handsome face and beautiful wife gave the illusion of a modern day Camelot. As the movie "Naked Washington" suggested, Kennedy "seduced the media" and thus American public with his perfect image. "For the mob is always impressed by appearances and by results, and the world is composed of the mob." He always appeared to have the "soul of clemency, faithfulness, frankness, humanity, and religion." (Both quotations from the Chapter of The Prince: *In what way Princes Should Keep their Words*)

Did Kennedy really have the qualities that the public thought he had, or unlike Nixon was he just able to impress the mob with these qualities?

Looking back further in history, what caused President Harry Truman to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki? The casualties reached approximately 120,000 with the extending effects of radiation. To quote the Machiavellian Henry Kissinger, was the survival of the United States so threatened that the use of such marginal means was necessary? How many American lives did they save because the war was ended by this extreme means?

It has been stated that the strategies of Machiavelli show no prejudices for good or evil means. They have disregard for the principles establishing the power structure. President

Truman used Machiavellian principles to support democracy but others have used his tactics for other ideals.

Lenin used Machiavellian tactics for a communist revolution, for Machiavellian was not only interested in the survival of a principality but the way the principality acquired its power. The communist revolution led by Lenin is a modern example of the destruction of an old principality to a new. Machiavelli outlines the unfailing process to be followed for a modern revolution. As outlined in chapters VI-IX: *VI-Concerning New Principalities acquired by one's own arms and ability, VII-Concerning those who become Princes by Evil Means, IX-Concerning Civil Principality*, a leader guiding his fellow citizens as a citizen must stamp out the old principality, establish new government, appoint new officials, and instill respect and gradually fear for the principal leadership.

Were these not the blue prints for the Russian revolutionary followed by Lenin? After he became leader of the Bolsheviks, he led them in a successful revolution. With his communist ideals pushing them, the Bolsheviks threw out the Provisional Government at the Winter Palace, a symbol of the old principality. Once the complete destruction of the old principality was over, Lenin appointed a new hierachic system. He established himself as head of that system and developed a reputation of cruelty.

1. The primary objective of the author of the passage is:
  - a. to emphasize that the leaders can go to any extent to justify their power or course of action.
  - b. to highlight that the ultimate objective of the leaders is to acquire power.
  - c. to trace Machiavelli in contemporary leaders.
  - d. to illustrate how a lot of Modern leaders employ the strategies of Machiavelli.
2. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
  - a. Nixon, Truman, Kennedy and Lenin employed Machiavellian strategies.

- b. Machiavellian principle find supporters in many political ideologies.
  - c. Truman Kennedy and Lenin are similar in their approaches towards politics.
  - d. Lenin wanted to stamp out principality
3. Which of the following is true in context of the passage?
- a. Both Nixon and Truman were successful at impressing the mob.
  - b. President Truman strictly adhered to the ideology of Machiavelli.
  - c. Machiavelli inspired many modern revolutions.
  - d. None of the above.

**Directions for questions 4 to 7:** The passage given below is followed by a set of four questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Imagine this. A notorious multinational is on the lookout for new business. From somewhere in their R&D division comes an idea: "personal lifestyle security services" for millions across the planet. The wheeze is simple enough: sign up and hand them your personal correspondence, financial records, bank details, ID documents, and more. They'll have all your stuff, and you'll have a unique password whenever you want a look. And just think: more clutter shunted out of your life, leaving you to glide through the minimalist bliss of 21st century living.

You would have to be out of your mind. But this is the world we are hurtling towards, although it's not defence conglomerates who are in charge - yet - but private technology giants. The key is cloud computing, whereby just about anything that can be digitised is stored in remote servers, leaving us to access it from wherever we fancy. If you have a Gmail or Hotmail account, you'll already be a practised cloud user.

Up until the late 20th century the history of the industry was partly the mass transfer of data from hulking mainframes to ever smaller personal computers. Now the momentum

is in the other direction, and what you might think of as digital centralism is back, in a world awash with prying governments, hackers, corporations that seem as prone to skulduggery as they ever were - and terrorists who may well eye data centres as mouthwatering targets.

So why aren't we worried? Inspired branding undoubtedly does its work. First, there is the term "cloud computing" itself, whose uncertain etymology is less important than its implicit suggestion of an innovation with all the unremarkable ordinariness of the weather. Consider also the cuddly, kids'-TV-esque Google logo, or the way that so much of the Microsoft brand is synonymous with the humanitarian work of Bill Gates.

Such revelations as the iPhone's surreptitious tracking of its users' movements point to slightly more on their minds than the breezy convenience of their customers. While we're here, take note: all messages on Gmail are automatically scanned so Google knows where to place any relevant ads - and deleted messages and accounts "may take up to 60 days to be deleted from our active servers and may remain in our offline backup systems".

The world's more authoritarian states know exactly what the cloud allows them to do: in late 2009, for instance, Google's servers were breached by Chinese hackers, presumed to be under government orders, who tried to break into the email accounts of human rights activists. We all know how even democratic states tend to view the kind of informational riches that the cloud contains. Our own Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act is in the process of being partly reformed, but even more invasive data-gathering powers seem in the pipeline.

There is, perhaps, a worrying time lag at work here. The computer industry came of age in the 1990s, that giddy phase of American and European history when authoritarianism was assumed to be on the wane. For sure, it's still nice to live in a liberal democracy, but given that the world has since moved in no end of sinister directions, isn't our unthinking embrace of the cloud an ill-advised throwback? And what of the long view: looking ahead 50 years, how certain are we that the surveillance state will not have extended its

tentacles; that nasty, illiberal politics will not be all the rage; or that Google, Microsoft et al will not have learned dangerous new tricks?

4. Which of the following aptly captures the theme of the above passage?
  - a. The use of cloud computing as a surveillance tool.
  - b. Emergence of cloud computing and its possible repercussions.
  - c. Role of cloud computing in day-to-day life.
  - d. Security is more important than convenience.
5. Which of the following best describes the tone of the author?
  - a. Cautious b. Apprehensive c. Objective d. Optimistic
6. What is the most appropriate title for the given passage?
  - a. Cloud computing: Boon or Bane?
  - b. Why you should be afraid of Cloud Computing?
  - c. Cloud computing, the new surveillance tool.
  - d. Privacy no longer a privilege.
7. What is the author trying to imply when he mentions the following lines "the cuddly, kids'-TV-esque Google logo....."?
  - a. People are weary of companies and are not easily fooled by their tactics.
  - b. Companies are genuinely concerned about their customers and therefore want to reflect a similar kind of image.
  - c. Companies build trust by projecting a certain kind of image.

- d. None of these

**Directions for questions 8 to 10:** The passage given below is followed by a set of three questions. Choose the most appropriate answer to each question.

Ever since about 1998, when humankind began fast-forwarding through the gradually-unfolding history of progress, like someone impatiently zipping through a YouTube clip in search of the best bits, we've grown accustomed to machines veering from essential to obsolete in the blink of a trimester. VHS, the Walkman, fax machines, CD-Roms, pagers, dial-up modems . . . all consigned to the same wing of the museum housing the mangle and the horse-drawn plough.

Now it's almost time to hurl another outmoded device down the historical garbage chute: your body. Last week, researchers at Washington University unveiled a new mind-control computer system. Traditional mind-control systems - and the fact that any mind-control system can be referred to as "traditional" shows you how nuts-deep into the future we already are - require the user to don an EEG skullcap before thinking very hard about specific actions. The resultant brainwaves are then crudely interpreted and the device reacts accordingly. But practical use is severely restricted thanks to the human skull, which muffles some signals and amplifies others.

Which is where electrocorticography comes in. Electrocorticography basically means "sticking sensors directly on to the surface of the brain". Once you've done that, you get a far more reliable signal. Already they've had volunteers controlling an onscreen cursor by imagining different vowel sounds. As soon as they refine it further, giving the user the ability to steer the pointer around and click on things, the days of mass-market Wi-Fi mind-controlled iPads will be upon us before you can smother your kids in their sleep to protect them from precisely such a future.

But is this really so sinister? All computers are mind-controlled already. My hand may steer the mouse and my fingers may punch the keys, but none of this takes place without my mental say-so. My brain runs things round here. All a mind-controlled interface does is cut out the corporeal middleman then what's the problem?

The problem is that the body is the final, crucial buffer between the skittish human mind and the slavish machine servant. Think of how many furious email responses you've composed in haste, only to halt and reflect at the final moment as your finger hovers over the "send" button. The simple fact that a small physical action is required to actually deliver the actual thing is often enough to give pause for thought.

When mind-controlled computers become a commonplace reality, you'll have typed and sent that message in the time it takes to stub a toe; as quick as pulling a facial expression.

And while your brain might be great at controlling machines, how great are you at controlling your brain? Let's face it, if you're honest, there's also a bulk load of nonsense routinely fizzing and popping around in your head that you wouldn't want a computer to unquestioningly act on. Remember: when they triumphantly unveil an iPhone that lets you dial your sweetheart simply by thinking about their face, don't be fooled into thinking it's wonderful. It's a slippery slope. Resist the mind probe. Thicken your skull. Staple a doormat around it if necessary. Keep those thoughts trapped inside where they belong. Because if the imp of the mind ever sidesteps the body and gets its hand directly on the steering wheel, humankind can look forward to six months of unpredictable chaos, then doomsday.

8. Which of the following best describes the tone of the author?

- a. Cautious
- b. Apprehensive
- c. Palliative
- d. Preferential

9. What is the most appropriate title for the given passage?

- a. Risks of mind controlled computers

b. Your brain may control the computer but who's controlling your brain?

c. Demise of the body: Beginning of the end?

d. Importance of being in control

10. Which of the following will the author agree with the most?

- a. The evil in the mind is here to stay and no one can do anything about it.
- b. Man should be wary of a mind without a body as it can lead to extinction .
- c. Man controls his thoughts by ensuring that the body doesn't become obsolete.
- d. None of these

#### Scoring table

Total questions	Total attempted	Total correct	Total wrong	Score	Time taken
10					

#### Learning Outcomes:

- You must have applied the concepts learnt earlier in the tests. You must have scored yourself in the tests and got an assessment of where you stand as regards Reading Comprehension.

## Answer key

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### Chapter 1 - Practice Passages

1	d	2	d	3	d	4	b	5	c	6	d	7	a	8	e	9	d	10	b	11	a	12	c
13	c	14	a	15	b	16	a	17	c	18	c	19	b	20	d	21	e	22	c	23	c	24	d
25	b	26	e																				



**Chapter 2 - Practice Passages**

1 d 2 c 3 d 4 e 5 d 6 d 7 b 8 a 9 b 10 c 11 d 12 b



**Chapter - 3****Test - 1**

1	d	2	c	3	a	4	c	5	a	6	e	7	a	8	b	9	b	10	b
11	c	12	c	13	b	14	e												



**Test - 2**

1	b	2	e	3	b	4	a	5	e	6	a	7	a	8	a	9	c	10	e
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**Test - 3**

1	c	2	d	3	c	4	b	5	c	6	d	7	b	8	a	9	b
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Test - 4

1	c	2	c	3	d	4	d	5	d	6	c	7	c	8	b	9	d
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Test - 5

1	c	2	c	3	a	4	c	5	b	6	b	7	c	8	a	9	d
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## Test - 6

1	c	2	c	3	b	4	d	5	c	6	d	7	c	8	a	9	b
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Test - 7

1	c	2	b	3	a	4	c	5	c	6	d	7	d	8	c	9	d
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Test - 8

1	b	2	d	3	c	4	b	5	d	6	a	7	a	8	d	9	c
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## Test - 9

1	a	2	b	3	a	4	c	5	d	6	c	7	b	8	c	9	a
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



**Test - 10**

1	c	2	a	3	d	4	d	5	c	6	a	7	c	8	d	9	c
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



**Test - 11**

1	a	2	d	3	a	4	c	5	d	6	c	7	c	8	d
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Test - 12

1	c	2	b	3	a	4	b	5	c	6	d	7	c	8	b	9	b
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Test - 13

1	c	2	c	3	c	4	b	5	d	6	d	7	b	8	a	9	d
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Test - 14

1	d	2	b	3	b	4	a	5	c	6	b	7	c	8	d
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Test - 15

1	b	2	d	3	c	4	d	5	d	6	b	7	c	8	c	9	c
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## Test - 16

1	c	2	d	3	a	4	b	5	b	6	d	7	c	8	a	9	d
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Test - 17

1	a	2	d	3	c	4	d	5	c	6	b	7	c	8	c	9	c
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## Test - 18

1	d	2	c	3	b	4	c	5	a	6	c	7	d	8	b	9	b
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Test - 19

1	c	2	c	3	b	4	b	5	c	6	a	7	d	8	c	9	a
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



**Test - 20**

1	c	2	c	3	c	4	d	5	d	6	b	7	b	8	d	9	c
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Test - 21

1	a	2	b	3	a	4	c	5	b	6	b	7	a	8	c	9	d
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



## Test - 22

1	c	2	a	3	d	4	c	5	c	6	b	7	d	8	c
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## Test - 23

1	c	2	b	3	a	4	c	5	c	6	b	7	d	8	c	9	a
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## Test - 24

1	d	2	b	3	a	4	d	5	b	6	b	7	c	8	b	9	b	10	b
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## Explanations: Fundamentals of Reading Comprehension (Part II)

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### Chapter 1 - Practice Passages

1. d The question asks about the tone across the *entire* passage. The author maintains an optimistic approach throughout the passage but at the same time cautions not to over expect.
2. d The author mentions solving algebra equations while chewing bubblegum is not effective.
3. d The author advises against becoming dependant. This makes option (d) correct.
4. b This comes through in the opening and closing statements
5. c It is said in the passage that PepsiCo gets less than 20 percent of its sales from soft drinks as compared to the 80 percent of Coca Cola.
6. d Option (a) makes an assumption on Nooyi's modest nature, which is not valid (there is nothing in the passage to say she is 'too' modest) Option (b) can be ruled out right away. From the passage it cannot be concluded that there will be a hue and cry if she had commented. Thus option (c) is based on an unsupported assumption.

Thus option (d) is the best option.

7. a

	This year	Change	Last year	Rate of Growth
Non soda Market	\$30 billion	less by 1/3rd of this year	\$20 billion	50%
Soda Market	\$75 billion	less by 1/5th of this year	\$60 billion	25%

8. e Heidrick & Struggles Inc does not have anything to do with women executives.
9. d The author mentions the P.E.N. Club meeting as being held around the idea of freedom of the press and censorship. But, the proceedings at the meetings did not reflect it. At the end of the second paragraph, he mentions how the "the meeting was a demonstration in favour of censorship." In the second paragraph, he mentions how the real instances of censorship were not addressed and the fact that the subject matter was carefully selected or censored was ironical. This observation makes Choice (d) correct.
10. b The author raises his doubts in the fifth paragraph when he talks about the Communist thesis "pure freedom will only exist in a classless society, and that one is most nearly free when one is working to bring such a society about. But slipped in with this is the quite unfounded claim that the Communist Party is itself aiming at the establishment of the classless society, and that in the U.S.S.R. this aim is actually on the way to being realized." He mentions how the unfounded claim of the Communist Party aiming at creating a classless society is slipped in and this makes Choice (b) correct. As an assumption which is a part of the thesis, he is unsure about its veracity.
11. a The author mentions this in the fifth paragraph. "...'the illusions of nineteenth-century liberalism', etc., and backed up by words of abuse such as 'romantic' and 'sentimental', which, since they do not have any agreed meaning, are difficult to answer." This makes Choice (a) correct. Choice (c) also mentions them as vague, but the author's problem with the vagueness does not have to do with how it categorises people, but how it can be argued against.

12. c The author mentions this aspect of the censorship issue in the fourth and fifth paragraph. "The enemies of intellectual liberty always try to present their case as a plea for discipline versus individualism. The issue truth-versus-untruth is as far as possible kept in the background." By making the debate about something else other than the main issue - truth, they manage to derail it. This makes Choice (c) correct.

13. c The passage states, 'For decades, the only other option for these people was electroconvulsive therapy, which because of the frightening side effect of amnesia is often rejected by patients.'

14. a The passage states, 'Another technique, repetitive transcranial stimulation, uses powerful magnets to generate current in well-defined portions of the brain.'

15. b The passage states, 'But for the rest—people like McGuffee, prone to the most severe and chronic forms of depression, about 11 million of them in the developed world alone—drugs don't work.'

16. a The passage states, 'Surgeons have begun implanting electrodes in patients' brains to switch off malfunctioning brain circuits involved in depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder.'

17. c The passage states, 'IBM is too chivalrous to use my kind of language, but the idea is similar: We cannot produce software to manage the kind of complexity we see now (much less the future) without radical changes in the way hardware and software is designed and the way it functions.'

18. c The passage states, 'Yet we have people basically shrugging and assuming that software to manage the potentials (dangers too) of nanotechnology is a "given." Well, it's not a given, or a gimme, or even a maybe-get.'

19. b The passage states, 'It isn't that we can't write good, even great, software. Give a clutch of hotshots a lot of money and a single, relatively well-focused project and watch the code fly!'

20. d The passage nowhere states that the complexity of software will reduce with the advent of Web services.

21. e The passage states, 'That's probably because programmers continue to avoid "good programming practices" in favour of trying to get the job done—quick and dirty, if necessary.'

22. c The passage states, 'As a postmodern president, Bush will face a challenge to his authority far greater than Clinton's, for the foundation of his legitimacy will hinge on the proposition that ultimately it did not matter whether his victory was real or not.' This implies that truth is a matter of perception for Bush, and dissenting voices will be much greater in number against such a stance.

23. c The passage states, 'How extraordinary, then, that the most predictable presidential campaign in American history was followed by the most unpredictable finish of our times.'

24. d The passage mainly deals with how truth has become a thing subject to personal interpretations in the American Presidential election held recently.

25. b The passage states, 'This was a campaign so scripted that no debate, press conference or gaffe could deter the candidates from remaining, as they liked to say, on message.'

26. e The passage states, 'We know, because President Clinton reminded us, that politicians who lie too flagrantly are hobbled in their exercise of authority, for if they are willing to lie under oath or in front of a camera, why should we ever believe them again? Yet the very fact Bill Clinton was caught in a lie underscored truth's priority.' This proves that the author considers truth to be of paramount importance.

## Chapter 2 - Practice Passages

1. d The author raises the question at the end of the first paragraph. At the end of the second paragraph, he mentions "Well, not for the old textbook explanations of economic crises, class warfare, nationalism or ideological fervour. Rather, in good historical fashion, for three new reasons." But later in the passage towards the end, he mentions that inspite of the tripartite reasons, the book fails to throw up anything new, making Choice (d) correct.
2. c The author mentions this in the third paragraph, while talking about the three reasons that Ferguson identifies as being the causes for the 20<sup>th</sup> century bloodbath. ".....a race "meme" entering public discourse. Across the world, the idea of biologically distinct races took hold of the 20th century mindset to deadly effect". making Choice (c) correct.
3. d The author makes this point in the third paragraph while talking about how the presence of wealth and poverty at the same time was far more provocative than the steady period of economic depression. This makes Choice (d) correct.
4. e Mentioning this in the last paragraph, the author makes this a point of critique and mentions how an entire team worked on the book, making it a work of a collective, in the process robbing it off the personal touch. This makes Choice (e) correct.
5. d The author makes the point about the critics of the video games in the first few paragraphs of the passage. In the third passage, he mentions Plato to show how neophobia has existed for a long time. The author emphasizes the fear of new media, relating it to the fear of video games making choice (d) correct.
6. d The author lists some of the counter arguments in the sixth paragraph. He mentions all choices except (d) making this the correct option.
7. b The author cites this example in the eighth paragraph while putting across the point that video games also help in developing skills that teach virtues to children. Reynolds' daughter's conversation - "You have to have a job to buy food and things, and if you don't

go to work, you get fired, she said matter-of-factly" is about issues that make sense in the real world making choice (b) correct.

8. a The author has presented many sides of the debate, most of which he believes the anti-video gamers do not quote or acknowledge. To him, their stance is a bit ignorant. Also, he has quoted many personal experiences also hinting at the fact that these people have not personally experienced these games. The last line of the passage further strengthens this and makes choice (a) correct.

9. b The author mentions calderas in the fourth paragraph "Calderas typically form when the chamber of molten rock, or magma, lying under a volcanic vent empties out, causing the ground above it to collapse.", indicating how the size of the collapse is related to the amount of magma. This makes Choice (b) correct.

10. c The author mentions this in the sixth paragraph. "...where one tectonic plate is slipping under another; the convergence produces widespread heating, mainly through partial melting of the mantle above the sinking plate." This makes Choice (c) correct.

11. d The author mentions this in the seventh paragraph "Magma surges upward along these new cracks one by one, eventually forming a ring of erupting vents.", making Choice (d) correct.

12. b The author makes this point in the last paragraph. "...to analyze individual crystals with good precision, it was like being able to read individual chapters in a book rather than relying on the jacket blurb to explain the story. Investigators began to see that some crystals—and thus the magmas in which they originally formed...", making Choice (b) correct.

## Chapter 3

## Test - 1

1. d The author clearly wants to prove through this example that science as well as religion are being used as means to irrationally propagate the biased views that one holds.
2. c The author makes it clear that marking out personality as a physical entity amounts to denying human life of all concrete meaning. According to the author, personality is thus a metaphysical entity.
3. a The passage mainly talks about the unreasonable imposition of scientific principles or religious belief at the expense of rational inquiry into both science and religion and the need to bring about an interaction between practitioners of each of these fields.
4. c The passage states, 'When confronted with the *de facto* inability of physics in this respect, the academically sanctified dodge is to invoke chance...' this makes option (c) correct.
5. a The passage makes it clear that the constituting elements of a Historical Truth presented by a historian depend on his or her own interpretation of the past.
6. e The passage states, '...as E. H. Carr, a British historian of considerable note, warned, one must "study the historian before studying the facts"'
7. a This statement implies that a historian's interpretation of the past is what comes to be accepted as fact.
8. b The passage states, 'Although historians may begin their research with a question or hypothesis, they cannot conduct the various experiments necessary to determine whether the main conclusions they have drawn about what happened are in fact valid.'
9. b The passage mainly talks about how the historian's own interpretation of the past comes to be constituted as historical truth. This makes option (b) correct.
10. b The passage states, 'In the course of the century, these results would receive direct and very striking experimental confirmation.'
11. c The passage states, 'The muons are traveling at velocities comparable to the velocity of light...'
12. c The passage states, 'The result was further confirmed in a second around-the-world flight in the opposite direction.'
13. b The passage states, 'Both in Einstein's technical paper of 1905 and in Relativity Clear and Simple, the relativity of simultaneity formed the basis for all subsequent discussion.'
14. e The passage states, 'Discussion of time dilation left the realm of the fanciful when it became possible to verify this effect in a direct manner. This first occurred in 1941, when time dilation was detected in experiments on cosmic rays.'

**Test - 2**

1. b The author makes the remark about the reservation in the third paragraph. She finds it patronizing and hypocritical on part of the West to sympathize and pity women in Islamic countries while ignoring similar problems closer home. This makes option (b) correct.

2. e The author mentions Cromer in the fourth paragraph while talking about Cromer who on the one hand talks about Islam's degradation of women and then implements rules which marginalize women in his own country. This makes option (e) the best option.

3. b The author takes this point at the end of the fourth paragraph, while citing Bush's comment on the status of women in Iraq being one of the reasons for the invasion. The author is not convinced, as she believes that in reality a majority of Iraqi women are fairly independent. Also, there are other countries where women are in deplorable state, but because he has no other interest in these countries, Bush would not engage there making it obvious that his statement was just another excuse. This makes option (b) the best option.

4. a The author provides a detailed account of Hirsi's life. From the fifth paragraph, one can understand the author's attitude towards these women who are either fated as heroes or are victims of hatred. From the account of Hirsi's life, especially towards the end of the paragraph, one can understand that the author is showing the reality behind such "heroes". This makes option (a) correct.

5. e This statement is neither mentioned nor implied anywhere in the passage; only vision and stated strategies are similar.

6. a Refer fourth paragraph which states Spencer joining the top management of Capgemini and seventh paragraph which states that a new company would be formed post-merger.

7. a According to the passage one of the prime reasons for Capgemini's acquisition is Kanbay's strong presence in India (refer second paragraph).

8. a (b), (c) & (d) can be easily ruled out.

9. c In line 9 of the first paragraph, the writer mentions such movies being 'potentially addictive' in nature. Also, he uses 'medicine' in a general sense, not mentioning the young; and in the case of old people, he calls it a way to 'purge past regrets'. Lastly, he calls it a 'drug' without mentioning any addicts as such.

10. e Refer to the preceding line to the given line, in third paragraph, where it clearly mentions, "our sensibilities, our powers to feel and be moved by refining and attaching them to easily discernible objects".

**Test - 3**

1. c The author has highlighted this aspect of the Internet as a negative. Refer to the lines "...*Others raised the now hoary question of anonymity and its tendency to remove the usual social inhibitions that encourage courtesy*". All the others are present in the passage. Options (b) and (d) can be found in the lines "... *It's not just faraway information that is within reach, but faraway people - activists are able to connect with like-minded allies on the other side of the world.*" Option (a) can be found in the third paragraph "...*the internet, and social media in particular, have flattened the old hierarchies...*"
2. d The passage mentions that "...*The end of deference is a theme, with several suggesting that where once they had to believe what they were told, they can now check for themselves*". From this we can conclude that people want to verify information themselves and are less likely to believe something just because it has been reported.
3. c Option (c) can be inferred from the line "...*But in my unscientific survey the Pollyannas were outnumbered by the Cassandras,...*". Option (a) is incorrect, as the author does not speak about his own views on the subject. Option (b) also cannot be based on anything that is given in the passage. The passage simply mentions that collaboration in knowledge sharing will become more immediate and reflexive. It has not been linked to scientific progress. Option (d) is incorrect. People are not rude because of the windscreens; they are ruder when they are behind one.
4. b Option (b) best explains the reason why the Internet can have a damaging influence. Refer to the lines "*This, the worriers fear, is not just irritating; it might even damage our civilization. How capable will people be of creating great works if they are constantly interrupted, even when alone?*"
5. c Option (c) follows directly from the passage- " Capitalism detaches the signifier from the signified, making the signifier its own signified." Option (a) is incorrect. The passage talks about how the productivist ideology cannot account for the symbolic exchange

involved in consumption and hence Capitalism. Option (b) cannot be inferred from the passage since we cannot conclude that there is absolutely no material aspect to consumption. Option (d) cannot be inferred, as "only exist" is not given in the passage.

6. d Option (d) follows from the passage. The passage describes how a signifier and the commodity it signifies become identical i.e. "the signs exchanged in communication have no referent." Options (a) and (c) are not mentioned in the passage. Option (b) does not follow from the passage. It is only mentioned that it is this "genius that makes it immune to traditional Marxist critiques."
7. b Although the author has repeatedly defended Roth against criticism, he does not directly answer the question of whether Roth deserves the award or not. The question posed in the first line signifies that despite all allowances given to Roth, the author is undecided about if the award was given to the correct person. Option (b) is correct. Option (c) is too extreme and can be eliminated. The author does admit to some criticism of Roth, but his overall view of Roth remains positive; therefore option (d) cannot be the answer.
8. a The answer can be inferred from the last few lines of the passage. Refer to "... *But it does create someone who probably does not like Philip Roth.*" Option (b) is incorrect as it is contradictory to what the author says. "*Some have argued that Ms.Callil's having published "Leaving a Doll's House", Claire Bloom's account of her nightmarish marriage to Mr. Roth, creates a conflict of interest. It does not.*" Option (c) is beyond the scope of the passage. We cannot say whether Ms.Callil knew Claire Bloom. Option (d) is also incorrect as Ms.Callil was not prejudiced against Roth's themes. Her criticism of the themes was that they were repeated.
9. b Options (a) and (c) can be eliminated, as they are contrary to what is mentioned in the passage. Refer to "*He is not a showy experimentalist, but neither does he stick to traditional beginning-middle-end stories.*" Option (d) is incorrect as searing satire is only a feature of his earlier works. Option (b) can be inferred from "... *make you feel that you, as a reader, had a portal directly into their minds.... but never the former.*"

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**Test - 4**

1. c The author examines whether Kingsley Amis's works continue to be relevant or not. To this end he discusses at length what makes a work of art 'lastingly true.' The tone is analytical as various facets of Amis's works and their reception are appraised. The tone is not descriptive since the author goes beyond simply describing Amis's works and analyzes their significance. The tone is not laudatory. The author does not express unqualified admiration for Amis's works. The tone of the passage is not inquisitive since it doesn't make any inquiries.

2. c The main concern of the passage is to reflect on whether Amis's works continue to be relevant. The passage is not primarily concerned about what the present generation of readers can 'gain' from his works, but more on how relevant it is today.

3. d Option (d) follows directly from the last paragraph of the passage-'he belied something of his artistic seriousness.' 'belied' in this case means 'contradicted.' 'Gravitas' means 'dignity; seriousness.' Option (b) is a generalization that does not follow from the passage, especially since it's stated that 'the observation of ordinary life...lasting art.'

4. d Option (a) is incorrect as the purpose of the author is not to find if Kingsley Amis is relevant today or not. In fact, the lack of his relevance with respect to present times is a part of the larger argument. Option (b) is incorrect as it is one specific point of discussion within the larger perspective of the relevance of Kingsley Amis' art. Option (c) is also incorrect as it is a generalization. The scope is clearly Amis' art and not the person per se. Option (d) brings out the main theme of the passage aptly as the passage is an analysis on why Kingsley Amis is not relevant today. Thus, option (d) is the right answer.

5. d Option (c) can be eliminated, as it is completely the opposite of what the author has been arguing throughout the passage. Options (a) and (c) can be considered but they do not convey the entire idea. Throughout the passage the author sees the development of

regional strength as a positive. Refer to lines "... *This is the way a true federation should work...*". Option (d) is the only one that captures this aspect.

6. c The passage is not purely factual or descriptive as the author gives his/her own analysis and opinion. Although the author does seem pleased with the developments 'effusive' would be an overstatement.

7. c Out of the options only option (c) is an instance where a regional party has not displaced Congress successfully.

8. b Refer to the lines, "...electricity and magnetism were two facets of electromagnetism....electromagnetism was unified with the weak nuclear force..." Thus, option (a) is true according to the passage. Options (c) and (d) find reference in the last sentence and the first sentence of the passage respectively. Thus, option (b) is the answer as it is not the author's point of view presented in the passage but that of Newton.

9. d Options (a) and (b) are examples mentioned to support the statement and not the reason for the author's belief on the role of unification. Option (c) is only partially correct as unification leads us to discover things otherwise we might "never have suspected." Option (d) is correct as it rightly indicates the impact of unification after 1687.

**Test - 5**

1. c The author has narrated an incident that took place in 1958 and mentioned the sequence of events after that. This is the narrative style of writing. Option (c) is the answer. Tragic would be used to describe the incident that took place in 1958 but not a style of writing. Option (a) is ruled out because nostalgia refers to sentimental yearning for the happiness of a former place or time. Since the incident narrated is tragic, there is no element of nostalgia in the passage. Option (d) is also ruled out because the author's style does hint at admiration; however his main aim is not to praise the team but to narrate how the team has risen out of a tragedy.
2. c The author's reference to the three players as the Holy Trinity indicates the power which he associates them with. Option (a) can be ruled out because there is no reference in the passage to the perception that the three players were surrounded by a divine grace. Option (d) can also be ruled out as there is no reference to the role that the Holy Trinity performs and one can't then infer the similarity of the role performed by the three players. Option (b) can also be ruled out because there is no reference in the passage to the three being perceived as the comeback trio. Option (c) is the correct answer as the passage suggests that Busby created the new team around the three players and one can infer that they were the powerful core as the author attributes the European Cup win largely to these three.
3. a In the second paragraph it is mentioned that Socrates felt that the Sophistic enquiry was not as free as it should be. He planned to carry out a more radical and comprehensive enquiry. Option (b) was the course adopted by the conservative party represented by Aristophanes but not by Socrates. The paragraph clearly mentions that Socrates beliefs were opposite to the agnostic and skeptical beliefs of the Sophists. Option (d) is incorrect as Socrates agrees with Sophist that it is vain to hope for Knowledge. Socrates disagreed on the idea of adopting Nihilistic tendencies.
4. c Option (a) is incorrect because though the author does mention the difference in the perspectives of the Sophists and Socrates, he mentions in paragraph one that

understanding this difference is primary in grasping the true meaning of Socrates' teachings. Option (b) has not been discussed in the passage. Option (d) also is not within the scope of the passage. The author never traces the Socratic method but only discusses it.

5. b In the last paragraph it is stated that Socrates "brought the principle underlying the sophistic movement to its clearest and most comprehensive expression" and it also goes on to say that he opposed the outcome of these principles. Options (a) and (c) have been mentioned, they are supporting points but they are not vital to the central idea of the passage. Option (a) has been mentioned in paragraph 2 to indicate the two courses that can be used while rebutting

a Sophistic argument. Option (c) is an understanding that Socrates has, however, this is not necessarily a perspective that the author agrees on.

6. b In paragraph 4, option (a) has been mentioned as an aspect of the first approach. Option (b) has been mentioned in paragraph 5 as an aspect of the second approach. Option (c) has been mentioned in the first paragraph but it is something that is not connected to the two approaches. Option (d) is incorrect based on paragraph 4.

7. c The main aim of the author is to discuss the two approaches to finding the truth. The passage does bring up a quest for truth in the first paragraph itself. Option (a) though mentioned in the passage is only the tool that the author puts down in thinking about the approaches to finding the truth. Option (b) has been mentioned in the first paragraph as a position taken by a few philosophers. The author also discusses the definition of truth in realist terms but this is not the main idea. Option (d) is beyond the scope of the passage because there is no mention as to how close or far the individual is to accessing the truth.

8. a While the author has never directly mentioned that he is looking at a balance between the two approaches, the last paragraph does go onto mention how universals can help put into perspective the particular (sense experience). In the penultimate paragraph the author does mention the connection between the body and mind but also goes on to assert that the spirit world cannot be equated with either one. Option (b) can neither be

understanding this difference is primary in grasping the true meaning of Socrates' teachings. Option (b) has not been discussed in the passage. Option (d) also is not within the scope of the passage. The author never traces the Socratic method but only discusses it.

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8. a While the author has never directly mentioned that he is looking at a balance between the two approaches, the last paragraph does go onto mention how universals can help put into perspective the particular (sense experience). In the penultimate paragraph the author does mention the connection between the body and mind but also goes on to assert that the spirit world cannot be equated with either one. Option (b) can neither be

confirmed nor denied based on the information in the passage. The first sentence of option (c) is mentioned in paragraph 4, however, it is not the way to achieve balance between the two approaches. The second sentence of this option is also incorrect. Option (d) is incorrect as there is no mention of this in the passage.

9. d Paragraph 4 discusses the "starting point" as follows - "Therefore, even though it may take us years to learn a concept, once we have learned it, we may call it the "starting point" because the concept was always there waiting for us, even before we thought of it." It indicates a betterment process and option (d) reflects this very well. Option (a) never indicates a betterment process - it only speaks about maintaining a good record. Option (b) is incorrect because it goes against the betterment process. Option (c) is also incorrect for the same reasons as option b.

### Test - 6

1. c Refer to the first few lines of the passage. The author says that the Germans displayed none of the heroics attributed to them by Tacitus— hence he feels that Tacitus' narration of their heroics must have been a satire- the author obviously does not agree with Tacitus' version of the Germans and their great qualities and dismisses Tacitus' history as a satire.

2. c Refer to the last few lines of the passage. The severity and promptness of the punishment varied according to the rank of the accused. A higher-ranking person would get a lighter punishment or no punishment while an inferior person would get rigorous and prompt punishment. Hence (c) is the correct option.

3. b The answer is (b). In the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, the author talks of 'etiquette and politeness'.

4. d The answer is (d). It can be inferred from paragraph 3. He enjoys his own company. So it is 'solitude' and not 'loneliness'.

5. c The answer is (c). Refer to paragraph 2; "...which, as it were, **is not a part of me**, but spectator, **sharing no experience**, but taking note of it...", "When the play, of life is over, **the spectator goes his way**."

Option (b) is not the answer because it states the process of splitting ourselves into the doer and the spectator. The problem doesn't lie with the 'process'. It is the effect on our surroundings of our adaptation to the role of a spectator, which makes us 'poor neighbors and friends'.

6. d The answer is (d). Refer to Para 3 -" For the greater part of the time, I find it wholesome to be alone. To be in company, even with the best, is soon wearisome and dissipating."

7. c The first paragraph discusses the fact that hybrids run out of their useful life. The second paragraph is about regularly replacing Bt hybrids with better ones. The author also discusses that there are not many incentives for investors to pursue better and

regular developments in Bt cotton hybrids. The author ends by discussing which issues related to lack of incentives could be pursued. It is clear option (c) is the answer. Option (a) is incorrect as there is no indication on the promises of Bt cotton. Option (b) could have been inferred had the passage discussed the indirect effect on crop yields that have taken place because of Bt cotton, the profit a Bt cotton farmer/seller makes and the costs involved in this venture. The only discussion is on investment on pursuing development of better Bt cotton hybrids. Option (d) is beyond the scope of the passage.

8. a The first paragraph discusses the fact that functionality of Bt cotton hybrids will be exhausted over time. The author also states that when one pest is suppressed effectively by the hybrid, other pests become more aggressive. It is also necessary to bring out hybrids to combat these aggressive pests. However, this (option c) is a secondary as compared with option (a). Option (b) is incorrect. Newer technology is needed to bring in better hybrids but this is does not answer why newer hybrids are needed. Option (d) is incorrect as it is ambiguous and indicates that the supply of hybrids gets exhausted over time. This has not been indicated from the information in the passage.

9. b The last paragraph discusses the reasons for why companies are wary of investing in developing better Bt cotton hybrids. Option (b) has been mentioned as the main reason in the passage. Options (a) has been mentioned as an additional reason. Option (d) is a broad inference made on a solution and it cannot be inferred as a reason. Option (c) expresses the need and reason for technological improvements but fails to answer the issue at hand.

**Test - 7**

1. c The first paragraph lists out the factors that have contributed to the bias against the girl child. A feudal history has been mentioned as one factor - however, this cannot be taken as a synonym for option (a). The feudal lords themselves may not have contributed to the bias - the passage indicates it was the entire feudal system. Option (b) and (c) have both been mentioned. Option (d) cannot be inferred on the basis of the information in the passage. The answer is option (c).

2. b The last lines of paragraph 2 discuss the other issues that have been addressed due to the larger issue of violence against women and girls. It is indicated that the various types of violence and discrimination that women and girls face in their life cycle are also being addressed due to this larger issue. Option (a) is an issue that is being addressed, however, it does not answer the context of the question. Option (c) has been mentioned in the paragraph as an issue on which no action has been taken. Option (d) is also mentioned as an issue on which no action is being taken by the state. The answer is option (b).

3. a In the last paragraph, the author mentions the various governance-related failures/problems that could compromise some of the gains of the women's rights movement. The last line of this paragraph states that the lack of political will to save the girl child shows that the development graph of the state is on the brink of disaster. Option (a) is the answer. Option (b), (c) and (d) have been mentioned as risk factors but they are cannot be taken in the sense of the "last straw" as option (a).

4. c The passage starts by discussing the reducing sex ratio in Rajasthan mentions addressing the larger issue of violence against women and girls and then ends by discussing the risk factors that could compromise some of the gains of the women's rights movements. It ends by stating that the "development graph of the state is on the brink of disaster". Once the author has made this point, option (b) will be a redundancy. Option (a) is incorrect, as it cannot be inferred that the author is concerned with improving the implementation of the PCPNDT Act, 1994. Option (d) is too narrow. Option (c) is the best answer.

5. c (a), (b), and (d) are too narrow in scope and do not deal with the entire passage (c) is the correct answer as it is the author's main concern. The first two paragraphs lead up to his primary purpose and the next two present one of the artists' take on the question "whether it is sexist or critically sensible to consider work by women as a separate artform."

6. d (a) is not supported by the passage as nowhere in the passage is it mentioned that the perception of women is derogatory. The passage does not discuss any kind of challenge to the sphere of fine arts and hence (b) is incorrect. (c) is also not supported by the passage. (d) is the correct answer as the author clearly states that Hepworth accepted that she "must work in a masculine context." Hepworth has used the term "his work" not to compare her work to that of her male contemporaries but to highlight the dominance of male artists in this field.

7. d Refer to the fifth paragraph, "companies that don't innovate don't survive. This makes option (d) correct. Options (a) and (b) are both not mentioned in the passage and hence out of scope. Option (c) can be eliminated as the passage doesn't indicate anything about reengineering of departments of any organization.

8. c Refer to the last paragraph, "...refuse to do the same thing you did yesterday. Shake things up. Confront your limitations. Refuse to be average." Thus, option (c) is correct. Option (a) can be ruled out as 'creativity' is not mentioned directly by the author. Option (b) is incorrect as "to accept failure" is not his advice here. Option (d) is also incorrect as refusal to do what you did yesterday doesn't directly lead you to commit to be breathtakingly great.

9. d The passage is about innovation and its role in successful life and business. Option (d) is, therefore, correct. The underlying theme is innovation. Thus option (a) is incorrect. Options (b) and (c) are also incorrect as the main focus of the passage is not on great leaders or how they remain successful, though that finds mention in the passage.

**Test - 8**

1. b The passage is about the three passions of the author's life, but not life in general. Option (a) can be ruled out because it is not specific to the author. The author uses the first person and is specific about his three passions. In the second paragraph he also discusses the mysteries of life and says that he would gladly live his life again. He also sums up the paragraph by stating, "This has been my life." Option (c) is close, however, it does not again make itself specific to the author - instead option (b) is the best answer because the passage discusses what the author has lived for (three passions). This is clearly indicated in option (b).

2. d The first paragraph of the passage presents the answer to this question. Option (1) is incorrect because the author does not mention that he has sought love because it brings in short-lived joy. Instead he says that he has sought it because it brings ecstasy and he would "sacrifice all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy". This does not indicate that the joy is short-lived. Option (2) goes against the information in the passage - in the second paragraph the author mentions that he is brought back to earth because of great sadness; not love. Option (3) has been mentioned in the first paragraph. Option (4) is incorrect because the author mentions in the first paragraph that in love he has seen a vision (or a glimpse) of heaven. It cannot be inferred that love provides a path to heaven.

3. c The author brings in her opinions throughout the passage. Option (d) can be ruled out. The author also does not try to prove that one side is better than the other. She does not weigh one side over the other. Option (a) can also be ruled out. What the author does is to provide information on how to lead a peaceful life. In the first two paragraphs she discusses why pacifism is viewed negatively and the need to find commonalities in scripture. In the next three paragraphs she mainly discusses Teach Peace and the fact that it will help move people towards harmony and oneness. In all this the author's tone is persuasive. Option (c) is incorrect because more than being advisory, she gives reasons for us to act on the advice. This makes the passage persuasive.

4. b The author uses the example of electricity to substantiate her point that science and spirituality can come together and take humans on the path of oneness. Refer to the line "But it is not restricted to only the person or place of invention; it is available to people worldwide." This helps one rule out options (a), (c) and (d) because each of these is a way to bring people together and they do so worldwide too. Whereas, option (b), is a little ambiguous as one can't infer from the option what scale this concert is held at - if it is an international concert or region specific. The paragraph also discusses the need to find commonalities and each of the options (a), (c) and (d) substantiate this point.

5. d The first line of the third paragraph reveals that talk of peace is valuable when it refers to inner peace and it is then that it will aid a great transformation. Option (d) is the correct answer. Options (a), (b) and (c) are all organizations that exist or are proposed by the author but she has not referred to them as those that will aid a great transformation.

6. a The passage has a sarcastic tone set from the first paragraph onwards. From the lines in the first paragraph "claiming he had no idea what the top officers of his corporation were up to because, well, he was just so busy doing something else. James himself ...he couldn't match Dad on the giggle-meter." the author brings out his sarcasm on the testaments of Rupert, James and Rebekah. Option (b) indicates that the author criticises - however, he also goes a step further to make fun of the testaments. The attempt is sarcastic. Option (c) is incorrect as the author does not make derogatory statements and limits himself to commenting on the testimonies and revelations that have been made known. Option (d) is also incorrect as the author does not maintain a humorous tone - there is a negative feeling towards the situation and though he makes fun, it is not light in nature.

7. a The second paragraph can be referred to for the answer to this question. The author is sceptical as to how the editor of a paper can claim that her subordinates sabotaged her job by engaging in wrongdoings that she was not aware of. In making this statement, the author states that Rebekah implies that she herself was not fit for the editor's post. Option (a) is the answer. Option (b) is incorrect as it states that Fox made a mistake in giving Rebekah the job, whereas the passage indicates that the latter's testimony proves her

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unworthy of the job. Option (c) cannot be inferred as there is no information to link Rebekah Brooks with post-feminism and lacking moral clout. Option (d) has been clearly stated in the passage but it does not answers the question asked.

8. d The passage mentions Rupert, James and Rebekah and discusses their testimonies however, there is not enough information to suggest that it is only these three to have led to the fall of the Murdoch empire. Option (a) can be ruled out as the word 'trilogy' refers to a relay where the elements are connected by a common theme. Option (b) again limits itself to only Rupert Murdoch and his son, whereas the passage mentions Rebekah Brooks and other subordinates as partners in crime. Option (c) is very general even though it refers to the crimes committed by the Murdoch Empire in the past and its fall by the very same methods it used against others. Option (d) is the best answer and best sums up the author's assertion in the last line of the passage.

9. c The last lines of the passage concentrate on asserting the inevitable fall of the Murdoch empire. This comes in after he has sarcastically dismissed the testaments of the Murdochs and Rebekah Brooks in the previous two paragraphs. It can be inferred that the author will move on to presenting details on why and then how the Murdoch empire will fall in England and then in the United States. Option (c) is the answer. In the penultimate paragraph, the author comes to the conclusion that the Murdoch Empire will fail first in England and then in the U.S.A. In the last Para, the author describes how this failure has already began in U.K and in the subsequent paragraph, he will talk about how the same will continue in the U.S. Option (a) can be ruled out as it will be disjointed to the last paragraph. Option (b) cannot be inferred because the author has briefly mentioned some of the factors that will lead to the fall of the Murdoch Empire. He would go on to present a case on why the empire will fall before he discusses the process of its demise. Option (d) does not logically fit in after the last paragraph.

**Test - 9**

1. a In paragraph 2, the author mentions the use of literary devices within advertising. He also goes on further to speak about the deception that is brought in through advertisers and marketers in their use of language. Option (b) is mentioned in the last paragraph but specific to US law. It cannot be directly related to the creation and distribution of language that is often considered deceitful. Option (c) is mentioned (para 5) with direct reference to television advertisements only. Option (d) may be taken as a reason for why the author made the statement under question, however it is not an interpretation of this statement. Also, the author never mentions a perspective similar to the one in option(d) throughout the passage.

2. b Option (a) has never been mentioned in the passage and is beyond the scope of the discussion. Option (b) has been directly mentioned in the last paragraph as the reason that marketers avoid making assertions and is thus the answer. Options (c) has also never been mentioned in the passage. In paragraph 4 the author says "Critical thinking abilities are taxed as the reader/viewer is challenged by cleverly encrypted information" however, this is a deduction that the author makes and is not a reason for why US marketer avoids making assertions of fact. Hence option (d) can be ruled out.

3. a The style used by the author is analytical as the author has discussed advertising language, its link with linguistics, the comprehension challenge in advertisements and why advertisements leave the viewer to infer the message as opposed to stating it directly. The author does not take on an argumentative stance during the entire passage. Hence, not (c). The purpose of the author is not only to deliver information but to also analyse his observations related to advertising language. And so the answer is not (b). The author does not attempt to use the passage to describe characteristic elements of ads and their language and hence (d) is not the answer.

4. c Option (a) is incorrect as these messages use convoluted language and not 'high level of language'. Option (b) is incorrect as the author does not mention use of poetic licence by advertisement writers. The word encrypted means coded. Although the author states

that these messages tax the critical thinking abilities of viewers but his purpose of calling these messages 'cleverly encrypted' is to illustrate the fact that information more often than not is concealed by these messages .

5. d The main strain that runs through the passage is the influence that the medieval period had on British literature. Paragraph 2 mentions that writers in this period wrote tales of fantasy that created a world that the readers could escape to (paragraph 3). Option b is incorrect because it was only after the invention of the printing press that literature in the form of books was available to the masses. The last paragraph also mentions how literature of this kind was important because it helped understand everyday british life in this period. Option c is only mentioned as one of the elements of medieval literature, however, it nowhere stated that the medieval period was an important influencer because of this. Since options a and b are correct, the answer is d.

6. c The main idea of the passage is that the medieval period saw the emergence of British Literature. Option (a) is incorrect. Though many books of this period reflect the life in this period, this is not the main idea of the passage. Option b is also ruled out since it does not mention the medieval period which is an important part of the passage. Option c comes closest to the main idea of the passage as it focuses on the influence the medieval period had on British literature. Option d is ruled out as fantasy and morals were only elements of medieval literature in Britain but not the main reason for writing this passage. The answer is c.

7. b The passage brings in the author's perspective on food insecurity in India. The author feels that much needs to be done and though he may agree with option (a) it is very specific. Also, in paragraph 4 the author lists the three components of food security and PDS is linked to only two of these. Option (b) is more broad based, but the author is most likely to agree with this statement because throughout the passage, his name is to list the issues related to food insecurity in rural India and to urge action on these. Option 3 has not been mentioned and it is not the most vital part of the point the author is presenting. The author would agree with option 4, however, he is speaking specifically about food

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insecurity in rural India and has also put in a call for action. This is best addressed by option (b)

8. c The author introduces an issue and goes on to discuss its various elements (components of food security, indicators and performance of Indian states). He ends his passage by urging action on specific areas. The author specifically introduces an issue/problem. Option d) is ruled out because the author does not discuss each indicator in brief. Option (a) is ruled out as the author does not consider this as a complex problem instead describes the issue very clearly.

9. a The author mentions option (b) in the first paragraph. Option (c) has been mentioned in paragraph 5. Option (d) has been mentioned in the last paragraph. Option (a) though mentioned in the passage has been quoted from Prof. Venkatesh Athraya and has not been directly mentioned by the author.

**Test - 10**

1. c The last paragraph mentions that the Indian micro finance sector can affect the entire global micro finance sector. In paragraph 2, it is stated that Bolivia is undergoing a repayment crisis in the micro finance sector. It can therefore be inferred that the Bolivian crisis has not had a large-scale impact. Option (a) has not been stated in the passage. Option (b) cannot be inferred on the basis of the information given in the passage. Option (d) also cannot be inferred though the author does hint at the end of paragraph 2 that, in the event of a crisis, Indian borrowers may agitate and demand a waiver in their debts. However, this cannot be generalized.

2. a The author discusses and analyses the risks associated with MFIs in India. His understanding is that MFIs, especially in South India are at grave risk and need to ensure prudential lending to avoid any negative impact. The passage does not come close to the instructional style of writing. The author has discussed the possibilities if the micro finance bubble bursts, however this is also not the main argument that he is making. The answer is (a).

3. d The author has mentioned a few reasons for the heightened risk in the micro finance sector. He also mentions c in the third paragraph. The author brings up the repayment crisis as an outcome of a micro finance crisis. Lack of financial access has been mentioned in the last paragraph as a possible outcome of a crisis but not the reason for it. The answer is (d).

4. d Option (a) is eliminated as Mexico has been treated only as an example and is not the focus of the argument. The author discusses community forest management from both the government's and communities' points of view. He introduces this discussion by taking an example from Mexico. However, the rest of the passage discusses community forest management. The author does not discuss joint forest management and there is no evidence to prove that it is used synonymously for community forest management. Option (c) has been mentioned in paragraph 2 but it is not the main idea behind this

passage. In the last paragraph of the passage, the author lists some of the elements to strengthen community forest management. Hence option (d).

5. c The third Para states that a few negative individuals within a group may influence the rest to abandon prudential rules. Option (a) is an outcome of the tragedy. Option (b) only states the use of the theory but does not present an inferential understanding of it. Option (d) is mentioned in the first paragraph and is related to the successful case study of Mexico but not to the phrase in question. Options (c) is the answer.

6. a In the second paragraph it is mentioned that Peter Singer finds it difficult to come to grips with the problem of climate change with his brand of utilitarianism. In the third and fourth paragraphs, the author discusses the reasons why climate change is a challenge to utilitarianism. In the second paragraph and in the last paragraph the author clearly mentions/indicates that Christians ethics does not find it difficult to face the challenge of climate change. The answer is option (a). Option (b) has not been indicated by the author - the author does not laud the Christian concept of moral objectivity nor does he discuss the problems that exist with other philosophies. Option (c) is beyond the scope of the passage. Option (d) cannot be inferred as even though the author indicates that Christian ethics can handle the problem of climate change, this cannot be assumed to mean that Peter Singer is leaning favorably towards it.

7. c In the first paragraph, the author establishes that Peter Singer has "inflammatory views on matters such as euthanasia and infanticide" and that it was striking that the dialogue (between Singer and the Christian ethicists) had agreements. Option (c) is the answer. Option (a) has not been indicated and it is an incorrect inference. Option (b) draws away from the issue as it states that Peter Singer refrained from making inflammatory statements. However, it is known that the agreements took place mainly because of a common cause "between Christians and utilitarians when tackling global poverty, animal exploitation and climate change." Option (d) is incorrect as this statement cannot be inferred from the passage.

passage. In the last paragraph of the passage, the author lists some of the elements to strengthen community forest management. Hence option (d).

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8. d In the last line of the second paragraph the author states, "It has to do with whether there are moral imperatives that can be held as objectively true." indicating that Christian ethics can handle the challenge of climate change because it claims that objective moral truths exist. Option (a) is incorrect as this is related to the assertion of David Hume which itself was opposed to the Christian assertion (as inferred from the last paragraph). Option (b) has never been indicated and is an incorrect inference. Option (c) is also incorrect as one can't infer that climate change must be discussed in conjunction with global poverty and animal exploitation just because all three were discussed mentioned in the first paragraph.

9. c In paragraphs three and four, the author mentions options (1) and (4) respectively. Option (3) is a hypothetical argument presented in the scope of the preferences of future generations. Again it is not the challenge that is posed. Hence the answer is option (c). Option (b) is not the answer. Although Christian ethics and preference utilitarianism are mentioned by the passage but not as challenges.

**Test - 11**

1. a (a) is correct . The first paragraph mentions the hitherto belief that organized religion arose when "a common vision of a celestial order was needed to bind together —big, new, fragile groups of humankind. It could also have helped justify the social hierarchy that emerged in a more complex society" In the next paragraph the author mentions the view among anthropologists after the discovery of the temple at Gobekli Tepe that "—organized religion could have come *before* the rise of agriculture and other aspects of civilization" and that t"—the human impulse to gather for sacred rituals arose as humans shifted from seeing themselves as part of the natural world to seeking mastery over it"

(b) is incorrect as the findings contradict the earlier belief and not reiterate it.

(c) states the earlier view on how religion started. it is not the author's main argument.

(d)The presence of conflicting schools of thought can be inferred but is not the main idea.

2. d Options (a) and (b) are incorrect as the passage is not about the groups with differing views on religion and how it started.

(c)is incorrect as the passage is not just about religion and civilization but also about how religion started in human society.

(d)is a suitable title as the passage is indeed about the birth of religion - the earlier theory and the more recent theory.

3. a Refer to the lines where the author says "WRITERS don't make up myths; they take them over and recast them. Even Homer was telling stories that his audience already knew."

In the third paragraph, he says "knowing old stories, and retrieving and reworking them, brought about illumination in a different way from rational inquiry." These and the views on myths and stories he presents in the passage make (a) the correct choice.

4. c The author says "Borges liked myth because he believed in the principle of 'reasoned imagination': that knowing old stories, and retrieving and reworking them, brought about illumination in a different way from rational inquiry.

5. d Refer to the lines where the author says" Myths are not only held in common; they connect disparate communities over great distances through our common fabulist mental powers - what Henri Bergson called the 'fonction fabulatrice': the myth-making faculty. Hence (d)

6. c The author says that Jung and Freud assumed that pure, pre-historical human tendencies, drives and fears, will be detectable through myths.

7. c In the first Para , The author talks about possibility of an alternative to the method used by law enforcing authorities for managing prisoners. This method primarily used solitary confinement for dangerous prisoners.

8. d The primarily discusses how Europe's perspective on alternate punishment for solitary confinement is changing . He stresses that the U.S should also follow suit.

**Test - 12**

1. c The focal point of the passage is the symbolism that can be seen in Hemingway's "A Cat in the Rain". Option (c) is the best answer. Option (a) is incorrect as the author does not discuss this at all in the passage. Option (b) is also incorrect as one cannot infer if "A Cat in the Rain" is a book or a short story. Option (d) is too general and cannot be determined from the information in the passage.

2. b The second paragraph starts to discuss Hemingway's use of symbolism. The author brings out the references that the author makes. Option (b) is the best answer as the paragraph itself mentions that "the weather plays an important role." This sets a base on which the plot unfolds. Option (a) is a reference that is made thrice in the story but only for a particular situation. Option (c) is used as a reference to the constant opposition in the things the husband and the wife are doing. Option (d) is incorrect as we cannot infer that the author has made regular references to this. Options (c) and (a) can be seen as regular references in this passage but not in Hemingway's writings.

3. a Option (a) can be inferred from the penultimate paragraph. The third paragraph highlights the two characters - the husband and the wife. "We see the different paradigms: she is looking out of the window and he is reading all the time" highlights that the two main characters are in opposition to what they are doing. Option (b) is incorrect as her boredom is not implicit in the passage. Option (c) is incorrect as the wife's desire for attention cannot be inferred. Option (d) is incorrect as the wife's lack of wisdom also can't be inferred.

4. b Permanent possibilities are defined in the first two paragraphs. What distinguishes them from vague possibilities is that they are based on inference from what we really experience or go through. The Godzilla is a mythical creature, no doubt, but the image we see on screen is something that we experience and can be called a 'permanent possibility'. Option (a) cannot be the answer as the ghost is most likely to be a figment of one's imagination. Option c might seem quite close, as one might argue that the sensation is experienced and therefore real. But, the sensation is at best an illusory one as it is

caused by anxiety. Option d can also be eliminated, as what happens after death cannot be accounted for by experience.

5. c The approach of the author comes closest to c . The author definitely describes/reports ideas of Mill., but then , he also takes due care to explain them at length. The first part of the 1<sup>st</sup> para and the last para are good examples of this explanation. Moreover when he takes the example of the orange, he is explaining Mill's ideas. But he does not go to the extent of passing his judgments on the same ideas.

6. d The passage is a comment on the status quo in the election of the IMF chief. The author discusses how this status quo has been maintained and how the IMF board wants to choose its chief only from the European countries. Option (a) is ruled out as the main aim of the passage is not to only discuss the European candidates being the focus of the IMF board. Option (b) is incorrect, as the passage does not comment on the current functioning of the IMF. Option (c ) is also incorrect as it goes beyond the scope of the passage. The correct answer is option (d).

7. c Paragraph 2 clearly states option (c) as the reason for why selecting Lagarde would be counterproductive. Options (a) and (b) are factually incorrect. Option (d) is ambiguous because it only mentions the "continent's concerns" and it is not clear which continent it being referred to.

8. b The author has presented an argument to consider the election of an IMF chief on the basis of merit and not quota. In the last lines of the second paragraph he also hints at a process of change with a focus on emerging countries. Option (a) is incorrect because it uses a parallel argument by viewing past data of candidates of other institutions. This may not be true for the IMF. Option (b) is correct as it indicates that it would be futile to choose a chief from the emerging countries. Option (c), like option (a) presents a parallel argument and this may not be true for the IMF. Option (d) cannot be related to the question and does not present a logical answer.

9. b The style used in the passage is critical. The author attempts to view a few details on the selection of the IMF chief - even looking at tradition and the post-Second World War

caused by anxiety. Option d can also be eliminated, as what happens after death cannot be accounted for by experience.

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9. b The style used in the passage is critical. The author attempts to view a few details on the selection of the IMF chief - even looking at tradition and the post-Second World War

trend. He then goes on to give his opinions, which do not approve of the current process of selection. Option (a) is incorrect, as the author has not focused so much on analyzing why the process of selection of the chief of the IMF is the way it is, instead he uses words (like naive, bogey of change, and token elections) that strongly reflected his judgment and introduces the critical element in the passage. Option (c) pedantic has a range of meanings - however, in neither form does it adhere to the style used by the author. There is no childlike style or finicky temperament reflected by the author. Option (d) is incorrect. 'Casual' means an informal style of writing , which the author has not adhered to.

**Test - 13**

1. c Option (a) is wrong because the author just talks about addressing poverty in the forest border as one way to protect rain forests. Option (b) is wrong because it cannot be inferred from the information given whether the Brazilian government relied on Bourlag's hypothesis. Option (d) is wrong as well because the author just states that farmers living near the rain forests are a threat to them. Great or small, we don't know. Option (c) is the correct choice because Rudel compared Bourlag's hypothesis with Jevon's findings and got results that were inconsistent with Bourlag's hypothesis.

2. c Option (a) is incorrect because the author feels that intensification of agriculture is needed but it won't necessarily save the rainforests. So his approval is out of question. Option (b) is incorrect because in the end the author has a conclusion of his own and he is not merely analyzing. Option (d) is too extreme because although the author debates over the effectiveness of intensifying agriculture to save the rainforests, he is not extremely critical about it. Option (c) clearly reflects the author's attitude since he discusses reasons and his reservations regarding the ineffectiveness of intensification of agriculture for the purpose of saving the rain forests.

3. c In the last line of the first paragraph, the author states "So why is there such a paucity of home-grown theatrical satire on a large scale now?" This line establishes the central idea of the passage and the author goes on to bring in examples of German cabaret and American satire in an attempt to understand the scarcity of satirical acts in Britain. Option (a) is too general. The potential of theatrical satire on different issues has been mentioned to understand the paucity that exists. However, this is not the central theme of the passage. Option (d) can be ruled out, as this has never been established as the aim of the author. Instead he mentions (d) as a parameter to understand the paucity that he has mentioned in the first paragraph.

4. b The author starts the passage by stating "It hasn't always been this way." And then he brings in past examples of playwrights in Britain, ending the paragraph by asking why paucity exists in "home-grown theatrical satire". It can be inferred that Britain had its

share of satirical playwrights. Option (a) cannot be inferred, as there is no information to substantiate it. Option (c) also cannot be inferred as it goes beyond the scope of the passage. Option (d) mentions the quality of theatrical satire, whereas the author discusses the lack of homegrown theatrical satire.

5. d In the third paragraph the author states, "By satirizing a racial tension that is sadly an established and long-running social prejudice, it can be both current and universal." According to him this is an answer to the problem of immediacy or the need for immediacy as discussed in the previous paragraph. Option (a) is not the answer as the author has mentioned this specifically as a need for Richard Bean's England People Very Nice. Option (b) goes against the information in the passage. Option (c) incorrectly mentions that the issues should be fashionable.

6. d The title of a passage follows from the central idea. The paucity of theatrical satire has been discussed. In the rest of the passage the author also mentions that playwrights may be intimidated to explore issues for a satirical act. Option (d) aptly sums up the passage. Option (c) is too general. Option (b) does not explore the scope of the passage correctly as the author does not discuss satire as a tradition of British theatre. Option (a) is very pessimistic and the author has never indicated that British satire has come to an end.

7. b The author is humorously criticizing his father and his use of Polish. Hence the term satirical which means sarcasm with a touch of humor is the word that best describes the tone? Caustic means biting or stinging—is a word to describe severe criticism— which is not the author's tone in the sentence or the passage. A tone can be called critical when one tends to look at something carefully with an intention to find faults or flaws— here the author is teasingly finding fault with her father's use of a language which no one in the house understands— hence it cannot be called critical or hypocritical (false/ calming feelings one doesn't have)

8. a Raffi is a Canadian singer and songwriter who is famous as a children's entertainer. It is common knowledge that sailors use very profane language. A sailor in a Raffi concert

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8. a Raffi is a Canadian singer and songwriter who is famous as a children's entertainer. It is common knowledge that sailors use very profane language. A sailor in a Raffi concert obviously means someone who is out of place. If a student does not know who is Raffi, - "*Before I moved to New York, I lived in Oregon; nowadays, when I go back to visit, I feel like a sailor on shore leave at a Raffi concert. On the other hand, I blush when I return to Chile, where I also once lived,*" - show that in the first instance the author feels strange – but in Chile even the author "blushes' when she hears the language used.

Hence (a)

(b) is wrong as the author clearly indicates that New York uses more profane language than Oregon.

(c) Is incorrect as the author indicates how in each place the context is different. She is used to the free flowing profanity in New York— when she goes to visit Oregon she feels like a sailor in a children's concert- totally out of depth— and in Chile even she blushes when she hears the language.

(d) Is not mentioned in the passage and what is implied is opposite to what is stated in the option.

9. d The author in the last paragraph mentions the first three options. (d) - the author stopped swearing in front of her mother because her mother told her she did not like. This did not affect the author's own speech.

**Test - 14**

1. d Options (a) and (b) are incorrect as the title has to reflect the idea contained in the entire passage. The passage is about both empiricism and rationalism.

(c) is incorrect as the passage describes what is rationalism- it does not trace the rise of rationalism.

(d) is correct- The passage talks of the conflict between rationalists and empiricists on the origin of human knowledge.

2. b (a) does not answer the question why empiricism is self-contradictory and why it destroys itself.

(b) is correct. Refer to the lines where the author states "For perception informs us concerning single cases merely, it can never comprehend all cases, it yields no necessary and universal truth; but knowledge which is not apodictically valid for every reasoning being and for all cases is not worthy the name. The very reasons which were intended to prove the possibility of knowledge give a direct inference to its impossibility". Our perception leads to knowledge of some cases only and can never comprehend all cases. (c) and (d) are features of rationalism and are negated.

3. b The passage starts by asserting that "Fashion advertising is an excellent example of identity-image producing media". The rest of the passage explains how this is so. The author also uses examples in order to put his point across. Option (b) is the best answer. Option (a) is incorrect as it is too general. Option (c) looks at the fashion industry

whereas the author discusses fashion advertising. Option (d) is out of the scope of the passage.

4. a The last few lines of the first paragraph clearly state option (a). Option (b) is incorrect as this is a partial answer. Option (c) is also incorrect because the passage does not indicate the desire to create a negative association in the minds of the general audience. In the last line of the first paragraph, the author mentions that the product that is promoted by High Fashion media is a point of identification/association for the general audience. It thus also cannot be inferred that the products are promoted to drive market trends. Hence option (d) is also incorrect.

5. c The first sentence of the second paragraph is the topic sentence and provides a gist of what the paragraph is about. Option (c) clearly rewords this topic sentence. Option (a) and (b) are incorrect as understanding the content or features of W magazine is not the aim of the paragraph and neither has the author given any indication of this. Option (d) is part of an understanding that the author reaches at the end of the paragraph but this is not the main aim.

6. b The main aim of the author is to share certain aspects of her life in the Children of God. She describes these aspects in brief and within the second paragraph there are elements of description. However, the overall style used by the author is descriptive. The author does not aim to analyze herself or her life in the cult and option (a) can be ruled out. Option (d) is also ruled out because the author has not used elements of conversational style and retains a note of formality in the passage. Correct answer is option (b). The author is trying to describe the lifestyle of a cult. He uses the life of Steven

whereas the author discusses fashion advertising. Option (d) is out of the scope of the passage.

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only as an example to highlight this description. Option (c) is incorrect as the passage lacks an element of story telling and connected flow that is associated with the narrative style of writing.

7. c The first line of the passage states some of the features of the cult - "David Berg, did not want his followers to have jobs, maintain a nuclear family, or stay too long in one place." Option (a) can be concluded to be one of the characteristics of the cult. Option (b) goes against the stated characteristics of the cult. Option (c) is found in the first line of the fourth paragraph. Option (d) cannot be inferred from the information in the passage. Hence, option (c) i.e. both 1 and 3 is the answer.

8. d Paragraph two clearly states that the younger members of the cult did interact with the outside world though not on a regular basis. However, the children were counseled on what to say in their interactions with non-members. Stevens also states that they lived a double life indicating that efforts were made to hide the actual life in the cult. Option (d) fits in with the nuances of this statement. Option (a) cannot be inferred, as there is no suggestion that children were viewed as the weakest link. Option (b) is incorrect because there is no information in the passage to support the statement that children lacked interpersonal skills and so was trained not to speak with non-members. Option (c) lacks a basis in the passage and can be ruled out as it goes beyond the boundaries of the given text.

**Test - 15**

1. b (a) is incorrect. Rawl believes that justice is political and at the same time it has a moral basis- the critics find this argument of Rawls to be problematic. (b) is correct. Refer to Para 2 , line 1 where the author states "Critical reaction to Rawls' approach to defining the concept of justice as fairness has centered upon an alleged incoherency or problematic in his contention that principles of justice must be seen as political in opposition to a more comprehensive view of the good, while yet also believing that justice as political does have a moral basis". Thus according to the author, the critics claim that there is incoherency in his contention of justice being political as well as moral. (c) is incorrect. The passage does not state anything about Rawls' claims about the originality of his theory. (d) states the opinion of Patrick Neals.

2. d From the passage it is clear that Rawls' theory was different from that of Hobbes— it was not a mere modus vivendi- a way of life or a temporary agreement— and it had a moral component. From this we can infer that Hobbesian theory was a modus vivendi and that it had no moral component.

3. c The entire passage is dedicated to the IPSO report. Although options (a) and (b) may seem to be correct they are discussed only in the context of the report.

4. d The answer can be concluded from these lines "*With this growing awareness comes an empowering sense of stewardship.*" Statement A is incorrect as the author states "scientists can become blinkered" we cannot conclude that they always do. Statement B is correct, as technology has instilled a sense of stewardship, which in effect means

responsibility. This sense has developed because of the growing awareness of the interconnectedness and the wonders of the ocean systems. Statement D is incorrect as it is directly contradicted in the last paragraph of the passage.

5. d Disturbances to the carbon cycle are mentioned as being associated with five mass extinctions that have happened before. However, it is not directly mentioned as a contributing factor to the deterioration of the oceans while all the other options do.

6. b The main aim of the author is to discuss some of the problems that have arisen in land acquisition due to significant changes in policy. In the last line of the first paragraph the author also states some unanswered areas related to land acquisition. The next two paragraphs also bring out some of the issues that need to be addressed. Option (b) is the best answer. Option (a) is incorrect because the author mentions politicization of dharnas and bandhs but does not dwell on them in detail. Option (c) is a complaint the author has against the media but again he does not spend the entire passage on this. Option (d) goes beyond the scope of the passage.

7. c The last paragraph of the passage discusses the role of the media. The author mentions that the media obfuscates issues and subverts reality. It is clear that the author disapproves the present role that the media plays. Option (a) is incorrect because the author is not universally negative towards the media - he substantiates his argument against the role that they perform and also presents the role he thinks they should be performing. Option (b) is incorrect as the author is not in an analytical or exploratory mode. Option (d) is incorrect because the author clearly mentions his judgment against the media role.

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8. c In the first paragraph of the passage, the author mentions two issues that remain unanswered- "the purpose of land acquisition from farmers and the issue of alternate livelihood for them". Option (c) mentions one of the main issues the author is concerned with. Option (b) and (d) are issues mentioned by the author but they are sub-issues as compared with the two mentioned in the first paragraph. The author will prefer (in the second paragraph) political parties to evolve a consensus on the political economy of land acquisition rather than readdressing the issue of compensation. Hence option (a) is incorrect. Option (d) is incorrect as author objects to making this issue a political agenda. He wants politicians to look at this as a wider concern. This does not imply non-politicization.

9. c The first paragraph indicates that option (c) has led to what is called the "biggest land-grab movement in the history of modern India". Options (b) and (d) are incorrect as they are mentioned as issues/problems but they have not been stated as having led to the land-grab movement. These options help criticize the role of political parties in issues related to the acquisition of land. Option (a) does not specifically answers the question asked.

**Test - 16**

1. c The first paragraph of the passage introduces the Rosa Park incident and the rest of the passage serves to explain the last line of this paragraph. This line indicates that the economic punishment that was supported by the white Citizens' Councils of the South also started a string of events that eventually resulted in losses for Montgomery's bus company (which can be inferred to have been run by the whites). Option (a) cannot be inferred as there is not enough information on Rosa Park's influence on the black community. Option (b) also cannot be inferred - it is known that the bus company agreed to only one demand of the Negro leaders. Option (c) best explains the lines from the paragraph. Option (d) is incomplete as it only mentions the economic blow to the bus company.

2. d The passage follows a sequence of events - this style is definitely narrative. The critical style looks critiquing a subject - usually a book or a movie. In this case, it is clear the passage is not critiquing or viewing something in detail. The descriptive style would have looked at creating imagery in the mind of the reader through the words in the passage. However, this is clearly not the case. A didactic style follows the central idea of intending to teach the reader. This also can be ruled out as an answer option.

3. a The last paragraph brings the answer to this question. The lines, "The strike spirit showed no signs of flagging. A Negro minister... resting." can be referred to arrive at the correct answer. It can be inferred that the author quotes the black woman to reflect the sentiment of each protestor. Option (a) best reflects the information in the last paragraph. Option (b) cannot be inferred correctly - there is no information in the passage about the

anti-white lobby. Option (c) is beyond the scope of the passage - the love and respect earned by the Negro leaders is not within the perimeters of the passage. Option (d) tells us the effect of the strike but not the reason for why the strike was successful.

4. b The passage discusses the aspects or characteristics for the Nobel Prize for Literature. The author mentions a few internal and also external aspects that the Academy has taken into account in the past. The answer should be option (b). Option (a) is incorrect because even though the Academy is idealistic the author mentions that there are other aspects to the Nobel Prize for Literature. The passage discuss the aspects of the Prize and not the history of the citations. So option (c) is negated.

5. b Option (a) is incorrect because the author never mentions the pragmatism of the jury as an aspect - instead he mentions the pragmatic attitude of a writer. Option (b) is the correct answer as both the aspects have been mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 4 respectively. Option (c) has not been cited as an aspect - it is a specific example given in contrast to the award to a pioneer or for innovative work. Option (d) has not received mention in the passage and is thus incorrect.

6. d The author has clearly followed option (d) where he presents examples or illustrative (clarifying) examples to highlight the aspects. This can be seen in all paragraphs except in 1 and 3. Option (a) is incorrect because the author does analyze to the extent of what the aspects are but he never presents an analytical framework for them. Option (b) is incorrect as the author never brings in defining statements for the aspects. Option (c) is also incorrect because the author never goes into a detailed description of the aspects.

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7. c The passage starts by mentioning media development in a democratic set up. The first paragraph speaks about media playing a meaningful role in democracy. The rest of the passage discusses media activities that help strengthen a democracy. Option (a) is too specific and does not cover the entire central idea. Option (b) is beyond the scope of the passage. Option (d) is also incorrect as it is never discussed in the passage.

8. a In the first paragraph the author states how the role of the media can be made more meaningful. Option (a) fits in with this. Option (b) and (c) have been confused with serving public interest. The first paragraph discusses credibility and editorial independence. However, they have not been mentioned in tandem with serving public interest. Option (d) is opposite to the author's point of view and has been indicated as such in the second paragraph.

9. d The last lines of paragraph two contain the answer. Option (a) has never been indicated in the passage. Option (b) is incorrect - the paragraph discusses training government ministers to raise their awareness of how a balanced press contributes to political well-being. Option (c) is also incorrect as the paragraph suggests support to civil society organizations that publish or broadcast alternative viewpoints. Option (d) has been clearly stated in the paragraph.

**Test - 17**

1. a A port of call is an intermediate, temporary stop for a ship in its sailing itinerary. For Mondrian, cubism was just an intermediate point before his final aim or objective in his journey as an artist.

2. d Refer to paragraph 1 "—Unlike the Cubists, Mondrian still attempted to reconcile his painting with his spiritual pursuits."

3. c Refer to the last paragraph, last few lines—"Mondrian's work continued to evolve during his years in Paris. As Mondrian's work evolved further he began to use fewer and fewer coloured forms, favouring white instead." Option (b) is incorrect as the thick black lines were not a part of the paintings in his earlier works.

4. d The first paragraph of the passage provides an insight about the main idea of the passage. The passage deals with the Japan's nuclear crisis and Japan's nuclear regulatory system. Hence, option (d) is the correct option. Option (a) is too specific in nature and is negated. Option (b) is incomplete, as it does not highlight the regulatory system flaws. Option (c) is incorrect because Tepco and Fukushima plant has been discussed in the passage as an example to highlight the nuclear crisis and the weakness of the regulatory system. It is a part of the larger idea. Thus it being too specific, it is rejected.

5. c Various problems and cover-ups have been mentioned to raise doubts on the credibility of the regulatory agencies in Japan. Option (a) and (b) are not mentioned in the passage and option (d) is out of scope.

6. b Refer to the last paragraph of the passage. It can be inferred that the promoters of nuclear power mislead people by rejecting the possibility of an earthquake and a possible nuclear crisis that it can trigger.

7. c Refer to paragraph 5 where the author says "—the experience of being alone is being transformed dramatically, as more and more people spend their days and nights permanently connected to the outside world through cell phones and computers. In an age when no one is ever more than a text message or an e-mail away from other people, the distinction between "alone" and "together" has become hopelessly blurry".

8. c In the last 3 lines of the passage where the author says "—As much as it's been exalted, our understanding of how solitude actually works has remained rather abstract, and modern psychology — where you might expect the answers to lie — has tended to treat loneliness more as a problem than a solution." We can infer from this that the author sees that modern psychology has no answers to the question of how the brain functions when we are alone.

9. c Author emphasises that being alone does not mean being lonely. Solitude means spending time with yourselves.

**Test - 18**

1. d Option (a) is not hope as the expectation is a little extreme and cannot be called realistic. Option (b) is also similar; in fact, in option (b) it is questionable whether the outcome hoped for is for the good of the person. Option (c) can be eliminated as in a genuine case of hope the outcome needs to be hoped for along with suitable action being taken. If the athlete is out of shape it is unlikely that she has been training for the race.

2. c Statement I can be found in paragraph four. Refer to the lines "...in his followers a form of hope heavily impregnated with supplication". Statement II cannot be logically concluded. Use deductive logic. The author says "...the element of supplication that, I argue, is present in all genuine cases of hope." However, just because we see the element of supplication in a case, does not make it a genuine case of hope. Statement III also cannot be concluded. The author uses the example of Obama to bring out the tension between two elements of hope. We cannot categorically say that people's hopes were unrealistic.

3. b Option (b) can be found in the last paragraph. Refer to the lines "... The greater the power in which hope is placed is conceived to be, the less realistic and rational that hope is likely to become." Options (c) and (d) are not supported by the passage. Option (a) is also incorrect as the passage mentions action should be taken where it is available.

4. c The passage starts by discussing the first meaning of diaspora indicating that the author will go on to discuss other meanings of diaspora too. The author moves on to further interpret the word and then ends by bringing this in the context of South Asian

communities. The last line of the paragraph indicates that the author will move further to discuss the processes and developments (certainly ideologies) that affect South Asian religions. Option (a) is ruled out because it limits itself to the classic Jewish model. Option (b) is incorrect as it is also limited by reference to economic achievements. Option (d) is factually incorrect in referring to the historical processes related to South Asian diaspora.

5. a At the end of the second paragraph, the author mentions the definition that he feels encompasses all the others. Option (a) is the correct answer. Option (b) refers to the historical Jewish experience. Option (c) mentions the traits but this can't be substituted for a definition. Option (d) is incomplete in light of the information presented in the passage.

6. c The last paragraph of the passage refers to global fundamentalism and mentions both Islamic and Hindu fundamentalism. It can be inferred that the author would move on to discuss examples to substantiate the assertion he has made in this paragraph. However, there is insufficient information to decide on options (a) or (b) and so one can assume that the author would discuss option (c) as he has not presented his preference to discuss either one over the other.

7. d Refer to lines where the author says that the premise of a meeting between the CEOs and Obama is that the CEOs have the same concerns as the President—the rest of the passage is the answer to "is that so"? The author clearly thinks the interests of the CEOs is in many cases the opposite to that of the US.

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8. b The author says the CEOs have a lot of clout in the US and can take the government to courts but in authoritarian regimes they are docile and have to follow the dictates of authoritarian governments.

9. b The author is critical of the CEOs. He chooses words carefully in his criticism of the CEOs — so scathing is a very strong word to describe his tone. Critical best describes his attitude towards the CEOs.

**Test - 19**

1. c (a) is not the main theme of the passage. The passage is about genes holding the key to domestication. The author concludes that the research may even find similarity in genes of human beings and domesticated animals— it does not reflect the theme of the entire passage.

Option (b) is close but is incorrect. The answer behind tameness lies in genes. But scientists are finding it difficult to go further in their studies as genetic foot printing in tameness is tricky. Option (c) is the correct answer. The studies are not yet conclusive— scientists believe that tameness is in the genes— they are doing genetic foot printing and hope to soon have conclusive answers. (d) is incorrect. The passage is mainly concerned with one theory which feels that tameness is genetic.

2. c Option (a) is incorrect .The point made by the author is opposite to the one given in this option - the example of the tiger cub and its offspring is used to show that domestication is quality that can be trained— it has to be an internal process.

(b) is incorrect. The example supports the point- does not counter it. (c) is correct. Refer to lines In Para 3, where the author says "A tiger cub fed by hand, imprinting on its captors, may grow up to treat them like family. But that tiger's offspring, at birth, will be just as wild as its ancestors. Domestication, by contrast, is not a quality trained into an individual, but one bred into an entire population through generations of living in proximity to humans." Thus the author uses the example to show that the tiger cub could

be trained to be tame but its offspring continued to have wild traits. (d) is wrong as the example supports the genetic theory.

3. b 'Payoff' can be used to mean a return on an investment, profit or benefit. Since the author is talking of results of research on a subject, the word here means *benefit*.

4. b (a) is incorrect as the author says a captured cub can be trained but its offspring continues to be wild— this shows that taming is not a trained quality. (b) is correct. The author says tameness must have a genetic element— which is why man could tame and breed horses but could not, despite many attempts, tame and breed Zebras. (c) is factually incorrect. Horses have been successfully tamed and bred by man. (d)The passage does not state anything about the ease or difficulty of taming and training captured tiger cubs.

5. c Refer to the last part of the first paragraph where the author says "It would be hasty to conclude that the writers of these two centuries are therefore undeserving of our study, for the spirit, if not the substance of the doctrines had undergone a momentous change, which ultimately exercised no unimportant influence on society and on the Christian religion itself." Option (a) is close but incomplete.

6. a Refer to the last paragraph where the author says the Italians had a sound system of morals in place and hence did not feel the need for a theory or philosophy on ethics but the decreasing belief in the supernatural among the educated class combined with the increasing belief in superstitions among the masses made it a perfect time for the acceptance of Epicurean physics. Options (b) , (c) and (d) are only parts of the required answer.

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7. d (a) is partly correct- refer to the first line where the author says -"Educational systems exist not to train the individual to develop his powers and capacity simply as an individual unit, but rather to fit him effectively to carry on the social life before he actively participates in it". (b) The passage talks of how education moulds a person, not how it moulds itself. (c) is ambiguous— is education the means to end social progress or the means to achieve its aim of social progress. Option (d) is the correct option and can be inferred from the lines "The lowest method of evolution...before he participates in it."

8. c Refer to the last sentence of the third Para, where the author states "it was essentially the educational process, together with religious sanction, which made possible most of the civilizations and social progress of the past". Also earlier in the same Para, the author says, "The religious element did scarcely more than afford a powerful sanction for the moral and social beliefs upon which the social organization of the past rested.

9. a The first few lines of the passage can be summed up to state that education is a process of adapting individuals to society. Other options are the opposite of what has been stated in the passage.

**Test - 20**

1. c The author's main argument is that we have reached our biological limits and the records in athletics, which have stood for the last decade, prove it.
2. c 'Ripped' means having a muscular body. It can also mean being drunk but here the reference is obviously to the former meaning.
3. c Refer to the first two lines of the last paragraph of the passage "Berthelot argues that performance plateaued for the same reasons it improved over all those decades. Or, put another way, because it improved over all those decades". Hence, option (c) brings out the paradox appropriately.
4. d (a) is incorrect. Neil Johnson's studies use Richardson's analysis and outline a method for predicting the outcomes of conflicts. (b) is factually incorrect. (c) The passage does not suggest that strategies can be chalked out easily—in fact the last paragraph suggests the opposite.  
(d) can be inferred from the lines "The results have fascinated mathematicians and military strategists ever since. But they have not had much impact on the conduct of actual wars. It is one thing to show that a pattern exists, another to do something useful with it".
5. d Refer to Para 4 where the author says "Dr Johnson's team is one of several groups who have shown that Richardson's power law also applies to attacks by terrorists and

insurgents. They and others have broadened Richardson's scope of inquiry to include the timing of attacks, as well as the severity." Hence (d) is the correct option.

6. b The passage states—"The twist in warfare is that two antagonistic groups of people are adapting. The insurgents and the occupiers, each is constantly adjusting to each other's tactics." Again in lines—"Eventually, an equilibrium is reached, and the intervals become fairly regular." The situation described is one where there is a co-evolution of both sides of the conflict leading to equilibrium. Only option (b) is analogous to this. In options (a), (c) and (d), one side has a clear advantage and no equilibrium or stasis is implied in the situation.

7. b 'Intellectual night' means a period of intellectual darkness or ignorance.
8. d Refer to the line "No one has treated the subject from this point of view. Yet from this point it presents itself to us as a living issue—in fact, as the most important of all living issues." Option (d) is incorrect as the author does not talk about people trying but failing to treat the subjects as a narrative of conflict.
9. c Refer to the line "They left religious affairs to take their chance, and accordingly those affairs fell into the hands of ignorant and infuriated ecclesiastics, parasites, eunuchs, and slaves."

**Test - 21**

1. a In the first and second paragraphs the author starts with information about a family gathering and an analysis of the contents of the discussion. It is in the third paragraph that he brings in the subject of the passage - yoga. Option (a) is the answer. Option (b) is incorrect as the first and second paragraphs lead into the third paragraph and are not in opposition to it. Option (c) is incorrect as the second paragraph also helps lead into the third paragraph. Option (d) is incorrect because there is no problem presented in the first two paragraphs.
2. b In the fifth paragraph the author mentions that yoga as a discipline helps to build a spiritual body. Option (b) then is the answer. Option (a) is incorrect as it is mentioned as a characteristic of yoga and the lifestyle it brings with it. Option (c) cannot be inferred as the author does not attribute the merger of spiritual and intellectual goals to yoga. Option (d) can be ruled out as the author mentions that yoga helps one become physically fit but it is one of the attributes of a spiritually advanced (one with a spiritual body) being.
3. a Option (a) has not been mentioned in the passage. Option (b) can be inferred from paragraph four. Option (c) can be inferred from paragraph five. Option (d) has been mentioned in the last paragraph.
4. c The last lines of both the paragraphs discuss the need to turn the biographies of each man into a symbol (paragraph 1) and to state that the stories of their lives have been turned into a myth (paragraph 2). Options (a) and (b) are incorrect because the main aim of the passage is not to bring out the contrast between Charles Darwin and Abraham

Lincoln but to show two different examples in order to explain one point. Option (d) is incorrect because the author does not mention the need for symbolism but for symbolic entities. Option (c) thus is the correct answer.

5. b In the last paragraph of the passage the author sums up what Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin each stand for. He never uses the term Hollywood drama or charm to describe Abraham Lincoln. Hence options (a) and (c) are ruled out. The question also is not asking for each individual's profession and the comparison between the two is only mentioned in the second paragraph. Hence the answer is not option (d) but option (b).
6. b In the last few lines of the first paragraph the author explains this selected text in the question. He says that, "Anniversaries have become industries, generating employment ...need to turn each man's life into a symbol." Option (b) is clearly the answer. Option (a) is incomplete as it does not discuss the matter of employment/gain. Option (c) is also incorrect because the passage does not discuss the symbolic nature of the bicentenary celebrations. Option (d) is incorrect as it mentions the mysticism of both individuals being enhanced due to the celebrations. This cannot be inferred from the information given in the passage.
7. a The passage primarily concerns itself with bringing in information about an experiment (including its link with quantum theory) and then discussing its implications. Option (a) is the answer. Options (c) can be ruled out because they describe the experiment as innovative, whereas there is no information in the passage to substantiate this. Option (d) is incorrect as it is part of the passage but not the main idea. Option (b) is incorrect as the theory discussed is not true.

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8. c The paragraph follows the style of a news article, by presenting information (in this case a recent experiment) and substantiating it with facts and a quote. Options (a) and (b) cannot be the correct answers as the passage does not use highly technical language. The passage has been written in a style that can be understood by a lay person (refer particularly to the start of the passage). Option (d) can be ruled out because there is no information in the passage to infer that it has been taken from a university quarterly - this would have been a very specific assumption based on no concrete fact.

9. d The last three paragraphs provide details on what the experiment entailed. The answer is option (d). Option (a) is incorrect as it means sharp and insightful. Option (b) is incorrect as there are no instructions given on how to perform the experiment. Option (c) is also incorrect as the author does not take on an investigative/interrogatory stance in the last three paragraphs.

**Test - 22**

1. c Paragraph two contains the answer to this question. The Burmese were let down by the ruthlessness of their rulers and not by the lack of response from their rulers. This indicates that option (a) is not the answer. Another reason the revolt failed was that the Burmese were also let down by the lack of coordinated response from the outside world. This cannot be used synonymously with the United States or the United Nations General Assembly. Therefore options (a, b and d) can be ruled out.

2. a In paragraph three we find the answer to this question. The author states that Burma's neighbors have followed a different approach and this is why the western sanctions have failed. The author clearly mentions the importance of the economic relationship that Burma's neighbors share with it. Option (a) clarifies the point that the author has made. Option (b) is incorrect because there is no information to suggest that Burma's neighbors are wary of the Chinese influence. We are only told that this is the case with India. Option (c) is also incorrect as there is not enough information to suggest that all neighboring countries of Burma lean towards it for supply of oil and gas. Option (d) states that the West is unable to break through the varied approaches of Burma's neighbors. However, this has also not been indicated in the passage.

3. d The last paragraph of the passage brings out information on how China has benefited from the western boycott on Myanmar. The penultimate paragraph mentions two main points - that China is the best hope to bring about positive change in Myanmar. It also mentions that China is reluctant to interfere in the internal politics of Myanmar. Having said this, the last paragraph of the passage is a substantiation of China's reluctance -

because of the gains it has got from the western boycott. However, it can be inferred that the author would go on to complete the argument he has made in the penultimate paragraph by presenting his case for why it will be beneficial for China if Myanmar undergoes a peaceful transition to democracy. Option (a) can be ruled out as this goes against the Chinese stance mentioned in the penultimate paragraph. Options (b) and (c) can also be ruled out as we are told that China does not want to interfere in the politics of Myanmar.

4. c The first line of the first paragraph provides information on what the best books do. The author adds more to this in the first line of the second paragraph. It is in the last line of the third paragraph that one finds the answer. Option (c) is correct. Option (a) is incorrect as it is mentioned in context of a specific book. Option (b) is also incorrect because one cannot infer that the best books help revolutionize the world. Option (d) cannot be inferred from the passage, as there is not enough information to suggest that the best books provide answers to the many questions that 'business' people have.

5. c Refer to the last line of the first paragraph where the author very clearly disapproves of the actions of literary editors who do not give enough credit to the business books. Hence the answer is critical.

6. b The author writes with a sense of disapproval about the way the Bollywood industry has separated its viewers - ignoring the masses that helped create it. He also discusses how the social elite have reacted positively to the movie Slumdog Millionaire when they have all along preferred feel-good cinema. In the second and third paragraphs he also moves onto discuss the hypocrisy that exists in Bollywood. The best answer option is (b).

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The author does not discuss the separation between the film industry and its elite viewers and thus options (a) and (c) can be ruled out. Option (d) incorrectly highlights the separation of Bollywood from other film industries - this has not been discussed in the passage.

7. d Paragraphs one, two and four present the information for this question. Options (a) and (b) have been mentioned in paragraph two. Option (c) is mentioned in paragraph four and has a basis in paragraph one. Option (d) cannot be inferred from the information given in the passage.

8. c It is clear that the author disapproves of the Bollywood of today, the multiplexes, and the social elite. He finds fault with each of them and this is clearly a critical (one of criticism) tone. Option (b) is in an opposite direction as it means to praise. Option (d) also cannot be inferred because the author does not demean anyone.

**Test - 23**

1. c The first paragraph answers this question. Option (a) is incorrect as it goes against the information in the passage - the option discusses "a prevision" whereas the passage discusses "no prevision". Option (b) is beyond the

scope of the passage as there is no discussion to this effect. Option (c) has been mentioned in the first paragraph. Option (d) is incorrect as the author mentions that the soul's future habitation can be built only on the foundation of unyielding despair.

2. b The second paragraph comes in as an answer to the unyielding despair that the author mentions in the first paragraph. This paragraph introduces the role that nature has played in bringing forth a man that is blessed with sight, knowledge and the capacity to judge. He alone is given the power to examine and to create. Option (b) presents the best answer to the question. Option (a) cannot be inferred, as we do not have information on nature being a free spirited energy. Option (c) is incorrect as the first line of paragraph two indicates it is an answer to the despair and not a counter argument. Option (d) is also incorrect, as the passage does not present two sides of human nature.

3. a Refer to the lines "Pathetic and very terrible is the long history of cruelty and torture... more will not be required." and to the last lines of the passage. From the use of words, the author is clearly not in favor of a man who is dependent and who relies for guidance on higher powers without understanding if they are worthy of his worship. So option (d) can be inferred. Options (b) and (c) have been mentioned in the passage and are presented as the behavioral aspects of man in general. Option (a) goes against the hints that the author has given in the paragraph and is thus the correct answer.

4. c Option (b) is not the answer, as a narrative would have used a sequence of events. An exposition provides information such as an explanation or directions. A memoir would focus on the significance of a relationship with an individual person, place, animal, or thing. Option (d) thus does not fit in as an answer. It presents an idea and takes it forward.

5. c The first line of the passage has been used more as a subtitle or indicator of the overtone of the contents. Option (a) can't be inferred because the author goes on to contrast this line with his own usual optimistic self. Also, the passage is more a pessimistic view on the politics in the US and there is a feeling of weariness and pessimism as opposed to fear. Option (b) would have been considered had the first line been part of the first paragraph. However, it stands alone in the passage indicating that it sets a general tone. Option (d) cannot be inferred, as there is no information in the first line to lend credence to present day events.

6. b The passage has a pessimistic overtone. The author discusses the appalling state of the American system - that it is self-destructive and has a dysfunctional rot. In the second and fourth paragraphs the author indicates the lack of political will to bring about positive changes in the system. The best answer is option (b). Option (a) can be ruled out as it mentions the inexcusable state of the American system - however, this does not present a correct idiomatic meaning as it indicates that the American system is in a state that cannot be pardoned. Option (d) is also ruled out. The author has clearly discussed that the rest of the world needs to look at this issue and not the US. The second half of option (c) goes against the information in the passage.

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7. d Paragraph two mentions all the factors that the question refers to. Option (a) has been directly mentioned. Option (b) can be inferred - fascism is of the political parties as in the last lines of the paragraph and in the rest of the passage he indicates the lack of will of these parties to make any changes. Option (c) is also a paraphrasing of the lack of backbone in America's leaders. Option (d) finds mention only in the last paragraph while discussing the powerlessness and resentment that the American people feel and is the correct answer.

8. c Option (a) is partly correct but fails to provide the complete reason. Option (b) cannot be inferred - there is no information to suggest a fascist government even though "a growing authoritarian fascism" has been mentioned in the second paragraph. Option (c) is the answer as it rightly provides the reason. Option (d) cannot be inferred from the information in the passage.

9. a The author's criticism of the 'Founders of the nation' was that their vision did not include 'The black man'.

**Test - 24**

1. d Option (a) may be true in context of some leaders stated in the passage but this is not the primary objective of the author option (b) is wrong because of the words 'acquire power' and 'ultimate'. Option (c) is wrong because of the usage of 'Contemporary'. Option (d) is correct because reference of Machiavellian practices has been made in context of the leaders stated except Nixon.
2. b Option (a) is wrong because of the inclusion of the name of Nixon. Option (b) is correct refer to 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph. Option (c) is wrong because it is too general. Truman Kennedy and Lenin were governed by Machiavellian strategies to certain extent but the usage of the word 'politics' in this context is wrong. Option (d) is wrong refer to the last 3 lines of the passage.
3. a Option (a) is correct refer to last two lines of 1<sup>st</sup> Para. Both were at least able to impress the mob. Option (b) is too general. President Truman definitely employed Machiavellian tactics but the reference is to certain extent and this does not make him the support of Machiavelli. Option (c) is not correct refer to 3<sup>rd</sup> Para. 'Machiavelli out lines ... a modern revolution is not the same as Machiavelli inspired revolutions.'
4. d Option (a) and (c) are incomplete, as it does not mention anything about the emergence of cloud computing also these options have a positive connotation whereas the author has talked about cloud computing in negative sense. Option (b) is correct as author is apprehensive about the various ways in which this technology could be

exploited. Option (d) is incorrect as it is general and does not talk about cloud computing at all.

5. b Option (c) can be rejected because the author has extreme views on cloud computing and does not even consider its positive aspects. Option (d) goes against the tone of the passage and is thus rejected. Option (a) is close but option (b) is a better answer because the author has accepted cloud computing as a way of life but is actually scared of the kind of future it will bring.

6. b Option (a) can be negated because no advantages of cloud computing have been discussed in the passage. Option (c) has a neutral connotation whereas the overall tone of the passage is negative. Option (d) is too generic and hence rejected. Option (b) is the best option as throughout the passage the author is trying to highlight why cloud computing can be detrimental.

7. c The author is trying to imply that the companies are always trying to influence potential customers by projecting a certain kind of image by using various means. This also helps to shift the focus of the people away from their other activities, activities that might bring the companies into disrepute. Option (c) is the only option that reflects this.

8. b Option (b) is more relevant as compared to option (a). The author is extreme in his views and refuses to consider the possible positive implications of the emerging technologies. Because of this Option (c) is rejected. Option (d) goes against the tone of the passage and can be negated.

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9. b Options (d) is too generic and do not give any insight into the passage. Option (c) is rejected as it is misleading. The main point of concern as per the passage is the emergence of mind control and its possible repercussions; demise of body is a secondary aspect. Option (b) is the best answer as the author is trying to lay emphasis on this throughout the passage.

10. b Option (a) is rejected because according to the last lines of the passage, there is a possibility that mankind can prevent the devil in the mind from wrecking havoc. Option (c) is a close option but since it is a definite statement, it is rejected. The author mentions in the passage that the mind cannot be controlled but what goes on in the mind can be prevented from coming out by having a body in place. Option (b) is the correct answer .Refer to the last paragraph of the passage.