

The passage below is accompanied by a set of 5 questions. Choose the best answer for each question.

‘We are drowning in information, while starving for wisdom.’ Those were the words of the American biologist E O Wilson at the turn of the century. Fast-forward to the smartphone era, and it’s easy to believe that our mental lives are now more fragmentary and scattered than ever. The ‘attention economy’ is a phrase that’s often used to make sense of what’s going on in the ‘smartphone era’: it puts our attention as a limited resource at the centre of the informational ecosystem, with our various alerts and notifications locked in a constant battle to capture it.

That’s a helpful narrative in a world of information overload, and one in which our devices are intentionally designed to get us hooked. Besides our own mental wellbeing, it offers a way of looking at some important social problems: from the worrying declines in measures of empathy through to the ‘weaponisation’ of social media.

Nevertheless, this narrative assumes a certain kind of attention. An economy, after all, deals with how to allocate resources efficiently in the service of specific objectives. Talk of the attention economy relies on the notion of attention-as-resource: our attention is to be applied in the service of some goal, which social media and other ills are bent on diverting us from. Our attention, when we fail to put it to use for our own objectives, becomes a tool to be used and exploited by others.

However, conceiving of attention as a resource misses the fact that attention is not just useful. It’s more fundamental than that: attention is what joins us with the outside world. ‘Instrumentally’ attending is important, sure. But we also have the capacity to attend in a more ‘exploratory’ way: to be truly open to whatever we find before us, without any particular agenda.

Treating attention as a resource, as implied by the attention-economy narrative, tells us only half of the overall story. An instrumental mode of attention tends to divide up whatever it’s presented with into component parts: to analyse and categorise things so that it can utilise them towards some ends.

By contrast, an exploratory mode of attending adopts a more embodied awareness, one that is open to whatever makes itself present before us, in all its fullness. This mode of attending comes into play when we pay attention to other people, to the natural world and to works of art. None of those fare too well if we attend to them as a means to an end.

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1) Which of the following is the assumption underlying the ‘attention economy’ narrative? —

- ☐ The constant demands for attention imposed on an individual by social media and other technological devices.
- ☐ The idea that the whole of our attention, i.e. both exploratory and instrumental modes of it, is a limited resource.
- ☒ Attention is viewed as a limited resource, the allocation of which has to be done efficiently to achieve specific ends. ✓
- ☐ In its non-instrumental forms, attention is viewed as a tool that promotes better experience of the world by its application.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Refer to the 1st paragraph: The ‘attention economy’... puts our attention as a limited resource... Paragraph 3 states that ‘an economy, after all, deals with how to allocate resources efficiently in the service of specific objectives.’ Thus, option [3] is an apt description of ‘attention economy’. Option 1 is irrelevant as it talks of the constant demands placed on attention by social media and devices. Option 2 incorrectly regards the exploratory mode of attention to be a limited resource. Option 4 is incorrect in corresponding non-instrumental forms of attention (attention-as-experience) with the concept of attention economy. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **334 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **234 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **65 %**

2) What is the main argument of the passage? —

- ☒ As well as being a resource, attention broadens our experience of the world. ✓
- ☐ Exploratory mode of attention is as important as its instrumental counterpart.
- ☐ The attention-economy narrative is highly inadequate in the ‘smartphone era’.
- ☐ Attention economy has made our mental lives fragmentary and scattered.

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Explanation:

The first paragraph states that “...‘attention economy’ is a phrase that’s often used to make sense of what’s going on in the ‘smartphone era’: it puts our attention as a limited resource at the centre of the informational ecosystem....” The implication is that treating attention as a resource is quite the right thing to do. The author admits that the narrative – of attention as resource – is helpful in a world characterised by information overload. The last paragraph states that, “... the exploratory mode of attention...can connect us to our deepest sense of purpose.” The author then invokes spirituality. From this point of view option 1 best expresses the main argument of the passage. Option 2 is factually correct; however the main argument is not to show that one mode of attention is more important than the other. They are mentioned only to drive home the fallacy of treating attention as a resource. Option 4 highlights only a part of the argument; it does not mention the broader experience that attention brings. Option 3 is contrary to the passage. The passage mentions the narrative as helpful. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **63 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **42 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **33 %**

3) The author considers all of the following as features of attention EXCEPT:

- ☒ It is a limited resource; hence it needs to be applied judiciously. ✓
- ☐ It helps us become more open to the world around us.
- ☐ It analyses and categorises things to be used as means to an end.
- ☐ Through attention we become aware of others and the natural world around us.

Video Explanation:

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The idea of ‘attention as a limited resource’ is part of the attention-economy narrative. The writer is unlikely to consider it as a feature of attention itself. He explains the significance of attention as something that ‘connects us to our deepest sense of purpose’ rather than a limited resource to be used for specific ends. Hence, option 1 is an exception. Options 2, 3 and 4 are implied or stated in the passage. Option 3 is the function of ‘instrumental mode of attention’. Hence, the author is likely to approve of it. Option 4 is stated in the 6th paragraph. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **69 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **61 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **49 %**

4) “‘Instrumentally’ attending is important...,” (Paragraph 4) means:

- ☐ Attention can be undirected and purposeless and used for its own sake.
- ☐ Attention may be exploited by others if it is not used for one’s own purposes.
- ☐ Attention has its practical uses in the attention-economy narrative.
- ☒ Attention is what joins us to the outside world. ❌

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

The fourth paragraph states that, “...conceiving of attention as a resource misses the fact that attention is not just useful. It’s more fundamental than that: attention is what joins us with the outside world. ‘Instrumentally’ attending is important, sure. But we also have the capacity to attend in a more ‘exploratory’ way: to be truly open to whatever we find before us, without any particular agenda.” Hence, option 4 is more than the ‘instrumental’ use of attention. Option 1 is a contradiction to the same as it talks of undirected and purposeless attention. Option 2 talks about why attention should be used rather than about its instrumental use. Option 3 correctly explains the meaning – that attention has its practical uses. Hence [3].

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Time taken by you: 52 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 41 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 38 %

5) The last paragraph of the passage highlights which of the following?

- ☒ The spiritual significance of attention. ❌
- ☐ The importance of attending without an agenda.
- ☐ Without attention, it is an unenlightened existence.
- ☐ Attention is prayer in its pure form.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The penultimate paragraph tells us what is stressed in the last paragraph: “None of those fare too well if we attend to them as a means to an end.” [In other words, when we apply attention with an agenda] Option 1 is tricky – the author isn’t directly stressing the spirituality of attention – He says “non-instrumental forms ...lie at the heart of many spiritual traditions.” Spirituality is only one aspect of the “exploratory mode.” Similarly, option 4 is another aspect. Option 3 is incorrect – the unenlightened existence is not the highlight. The author’s direct purpose is to highlight the importance of attending not as a means to an end, i.e., without any agenda. Options 1 and 4 may follow from this. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 48 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 23 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 25 %

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Choose the best answer for each question.**

Loading...

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Nowhere more than in Asia do states and their rulers tend to think they represent not just, say, defined territories or peoples with a shared language, but rather whole civilizations, often cosmically ordained. Strongmen running Central Asian states erect monuments to themselves as heirs to ancient empires. In Cambodia the autocrat, Hun Sen, collects innumerable titles for himself in emulation of the former god-kings of Hindu and Buddhist cosmology. And in Japan, the emperor is supposedly a direct descendant of the goddess of the sun. Just being a simple nation-state is not always enough these days.

No country plays up the idea of representing a civilization more than China does. Visitors to Zhongnanhai, the leadership compound in Beijing, are rarely spared a lecture on how, uniquely, China is an “ancient civilisation with over 5,000 years of history”. Lucian Pye, a sinologist, called China a civilisation masquerading as a state, which helps explain the modern autocratic state’s durability in the face of many predictions of its demise. China’s affairs of state are conducted in near-total secrecy in Zhongnanhai, with dark scandals always present. Yet the projected grandeur of government gives all Chinese, as Pye put it, a right to pride and dignity. China’s sense of itself as a glorious civilisation encompasses a long history, a vast geography, a huge population and the incorporation of lesser cultures and peoples.

India offers many parallels, and it is no surprise that notions of a civilizational state are on the rise there, too. In particular, they are embraced by the current prime minister, and the supporters of his political party, for whom the ancient scriptures of Hinduism represent the glory and essence of India. The Hindu nationalists decry the Western rationalism and universal values embraced by Jawaharlal Nehru and his political heirs. In China enthusiasts of a civilizational state go further, and credit it with the country’s development success. Zhang Weiwei of Fudan University in Shanghai argues that the Communist Party’s pragmatism and its gradual approach to reforms are rooted in an ancient awareness of China’s vast size and complexity, and in a hard-wired imperial aversion to chaos. Arguments like these provide a convenient primordial imprimatur for all manner of abuses, from the suppression of civil liberties to the rejection of any external criticism.

But history is messy. Those trying to maintain a civilizational mindset must willfully debase big portions of it. In India, it is not just colonialism that has distorted the true culture in the eyes of Hindu nationalists. They also resent earlier waves of Muslim conquest and seek to expunge their legacy. Though undoing 800-odd years of Islamic influence is impossible, the Right has used the idea as a successful organizing principle. The Chinese government, too, often chooses to disregard inconvenient episodes. The violent upheaval of the Cultural Revolution sits awkwardly with the claim that the Communist Party is upholding China’s time-honoured preference for stability. The reformist movement of 1919, which gave birth to the Communist Party itself, was profoundly critical of Confucianism and other conservative aspects of Chinese culture.

1) The author invokes Lucian Pye’s remark, ‘China is a civilization masquerading as a state’ (Paragraph 2), in order to point out that: —

- ☐ China is a state that is cosmically ordained.
- ☒ China exploits its history to perpetuate its authoritarian rule. ✓
- ☐ China is an ancient civilization with over 5000 years of history.
- ☐ China uses its history to hide its status as a nation state.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The second paragraph states that “No country plays up the idea of representing a civilization more than China does.” The author then invokes Lucian Pye’s remark that “China is a civilization masquerading as a state, which explains the modern autocratic state’s durability in the face of many predictions of its demise.” The implication is that the civilizational aspect is cried up in order to sustain the autocratic rule. Option 1 is a general remark made in the first paragraph, and not particularly related to China. Option 3, though not contradicted by the author, is used to express his view that the ‘ancient civilization’ part is exaggerated for securing vested interests. The option is incorrect as the author’s intention in invoking the remark is not to support what people like Lucian Pye claim. Option 4 is not suggested by the author – the exaggeration of the notion of civilizational state does not point at an effort to hide the status of a nation state. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 287 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 199 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 60 %

2) According to the author, the ‘civilizational state enthusiasts’ in China... —

- ☐ are less enthusiastic than their Indian counterparts.
- ☐ attribute China’s reforms and their success to the Communist party.
- ☐ base their enthusiasm on the pragmatism of the Communist party.
- ☒ endorse China’s abuse of its people and suppression of civil liberties. ✓

Video Explanation: ▼

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Option 1 is a distractor – the enthusiasts in the two countries are mentioned as parallels. They are not directly compared. Option 2 is incorrect – the enthusiasts claim that the Communist Party functions with ‘an ancient awareness of China’s vast size and complexity...’ The passage states that “In China enthusiasts of a civilizational state go further, and credit it with the country’s development success.” Here, “It” stands for the civilization and not the Communist Party. Option 3 is incorrect for a similar reason-- the advocates are not said to ‘base their enthusiasm’ on the Communist Party, but on the civilization itself. Option 4 is stated in paragraph 3. Arguments of the civilizational enthusiasts “provide a convenient primordial imprimatur for all manner of abuses, from the suppression of civil liberties to the rejection of any external criticism.” Hence, [4].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 114 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 34 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 19 %

3) “History is messy” (Paragraph 4) implies that: —

- ☐ the virtues of ancient civilizations are imaginary and exaggerated.
- ☒ states that trumpet their history ignore large parts of it. ✓
- ☐ the history of a nation is not a source of glory and pride.
- ☐ modern nation states use history to polarize the population.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Paragraph 4 states, “But history is messy. Those trying to maintain a civilizational mindset must willfully debase big portions of it.” Hence, option 2 is correct. Option 1 is incorrect – there is no effort on the part of the writer to underplay the significance or virtues of ancient civilizations. For similar reasons, option 3 is also incorrect. Both imply that the past is not worth it. The passage highlights the over glorification of it for political purposes; it does not mean that the past is without merit. Option 4 is incorrect – the passage states history is used as an organizing principle, rather than a polarizing one. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼

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4) According to the author, which of the following undermines China’s “time honoured preference for stability”?

- ☐ Suppression of civil liberties
- ☒ The rejection of external criticism
- ☐ The Cultural Revolution
- ☐ The legacy of Confucianism

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

In the last paragraph, the writer states: “The Chinese government, too, often chooses to disregard inconvenient episodes. The violent upheaval of the Cultural Revolution sits awkwardly with the claim that the Communist Party is upholding China’s time honoured preference for stability.” Options 1 and 2 , Suppression of civil liberties and the rejection of external criticism are not related to the claim of ‘stability’ and could even be argued to be for maintaining stability. Hence, they can be eliminated. The legacy of Confucianism could strengthen the claim of stability and not undermine it. But the Cultural Revolution “sits awkwardly with the claim” means it made China unstable and hence undermines the claim. Hence, [3]

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 106 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 65 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 69 %

5) Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument that China’s ‘civilizational mind-set’ is an exaggeration?

- ☐ The history of ancient China as a continuous state can be traced back to over 4000 years.
- ☒ Modern China’s development success can be attributed to the values of ancient civilization.
- ☐ The external criticism of China comes from Western countries biased against Asian cultures.
- ☐ China’s civilizational mind-set is a reaction to the national humiliation by the West and Japan.

Video Explanation:

The passage below is accompanied by a set of 5 questions. Choose the best answer for each question.

Nowhere more than in Asia do states and their rulers tend to think they represent not just, say, defined territories or peoples with a shared language, but rather whole civilizations, often cosmically ordained. Strongmen running Central Asian states erect monuments to themselves as heirs to ancient empires. In Cambodia the autocrat, Hun Sen, collects innumerable titles for himself in emulation of the former god-kings of Hindu and Buddhist cosmology. And in Japan, the emperor is supposedly a direct descendant of the goddess of the sun. Just being a simple nation-state is not always enough these days.

No country plays up the idea of representing a civilization more than China does. Visitors to Zhongnanhai, the leadership compound in Beijing, are rarely spared a lecture on how, uniquely, China is an “ancient civilisation with over 5,000 years of history”. Lucian Pye, a sinologist, called China a civilisation masquerading as a state, which helps explain the modern autocratic state’s durability in the face of many predictions of its demise. China’s affairs of state are conducted in near-total secrecy in Zhongnanhai, with dark scandals always present. Yet the projected grandeur of government gives all Chinese, as Pye put it, a right to pride and dignity. China’s sense of itself as a glorious civilisation encompasses a long history, a vast geography, a huge population and the incorporation of lesser cultures and peoples.

India offers many parallels, and it is no surprise that notions of a civilizational state are on the rise there, too. In particular, they are embraced by the current prime minister, and the supporters of his political party, for whom the ancient scriptures of Hinduism represent the glory and essence of India. The Hindu nationalists decry the Western rationalism and universal values embraced by Jawaharlal Nehru and his political heirs. In China enthusiasts of a civilizational state go further, and credit it with the country’s development success. Zhang Weiwei of Fudan University in Shanghai argues that the Communist Party’s pragmatism and its gradual approach to reforms are rooted in an ancient awareness of China’s vast size and complexity, and in a hard-wired imperial aversion to chaos. Arguments like these provide a convenient primordial imprimatur for all manner of abuses, from the suppression of civil liberties to the rejection of any external criticism.

But history is messy. Those trying to maintain a civilizational mindset must willfully debase big portions of it. In India, it is not just colonialism that has distorted the true culture in the eyes of Hindu nationalists. They also resent earlier waves of Muslim conquest and seek to expunge their legacy. Though undoing 800-odd years of Islamic influence is impossible, the Right has used the idea as a successful organizing principle. The Chinese government, too, often chooses to disregard inconvenient episodes. The violent upheaval of the Cultural Revolution sits awkwardly with the claim that the Communist Party is upholding China’s time-honoured preference for stability. The reformist movement of 1919, which gave birth to the Communist Party itself, was profoundly critical of Confucianism and other conservative aspects of Chinese culture.

Option 1, in effect, challenges the criticism that the civilizational mind-set explains China’s stability and durability. If China as a state has an unbroken history of 4000 years, it means that China was stable for a long time, and the civilizational mind-set is not merely an exaggeration. Option 2 talks about the development success of China and not about its stability and durability. Option 3 and 4 attack the western countries and not the author’s argument. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 26 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 12 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 13 %

Loading...

The passage below is accompanied by a set of 5 questions. Choose the best answer for each question.

The scientific understanding of humans as physical creatures has progressed in leaps and bounds during the last four centuries. Its successes in comprehending musculature, circulation, the nervous system and the brain, digestion, cellular chemistry, genes, and the like, as well as the sources and progression of diseases that beset human existence, is astounding. Yet the “science of man,” as David Hume put it—understanding human beings as human beings, both individually and collectively—has been something of an embarrassment.

And it is one that persists. Hume’s own effort “to introduce the experimental method of reasoning into moral subjects” to give but one example, has been revitalized in recent decades by the new moral science, really a congeries of sciences that includes sociobiology, positive psychology, and various neurosciences. But the new efforts to find a strictly physicalist explanation of humankind’s moral dispositions and decisions—to reduce them, for example, to functions of neurochemistry—fall as far short as Hume’s did. No one would deny that moral thinking involves some grounding in our physical being as adaptive organisms developing, surviving, and reproducing in an environment. But is that it? That would be akin to saying that Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech was a function of King’s lungs pushing air through the vocal folds in the larynx (and that its reception among his listeners was a function of an elaborate combination of neurons encoding information into the auditory cortex). All perfectly true, but utterly banal, because it tells us nothing about what makes something binding or compelling, beautiful and inspiring—nothing about those things, in other words, that make King’s speech a singular, and signal, human event.

Charles Darwin and his heirs are largely behind the new reductionist project. Darwin’s bold idea, however flawed in its particulars, remains one of the great achievements of science, and those who have followed in his footsteps have come some distance in correcting and refining the original theory. Yet what Darwin and neo-Darwinians achieved was rooted in a concern with continuities among species, in showing how human beings evolved from animal predecessors. Among later Darwinians in particular, this concern led to the conviction that human beings share the same essential nature with other species. The evolution from anthropoid to human was simply a function of the contingencies of adaptation and survival needs within different environments. This increasingly exclusive focus on biological similarities tended, on the one hand, to fold the human being entirely within the continuum of the animal order and, on the other hand, to minimize, downplay, or ignore altogether the distinguishing characteristics of the human species.

1) The author uses the example of Martin Luther King’s speech to argue that... —

- ☐ human beings’ moral thinking is grounded in their physical being as adaptive organisms.
- ☒ the speech and its reactions constituted a singular and signal political event. ✗
- ☐ the new moral science is as ineffective as science in explaining human events.
- ☐ moral subjects must incorporate experimental methods of reasoning.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The answer is based on the second paragraph. In the first paragraph, the author claims that science has not been able to explain (understand) “human beings as human beings” or the totality of human existence. Paragraph 2: “And it is one that persists. Hume’s own effort “to introduce the experimental method of reasoning into moral subjects” ..., has been revitalized in recent decades by the new moral science... But the new efforts to find a strictly physicalist explanation of humankind’s moral dispositions and decisions—to reduce them, ... to functions of neurochemistry —fall as far short as Hume’s did.” So, the efforts of science, of David Hume, and now of the new moral science have all failed; they all ended up reducing “human events” to processes of simple evolutionary or biological process. The author takes Martin Luther King’s speech as an example for how human beings are capable of ‘singular, and signal human events’, rather than merely biological or neurochemical processes. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **321 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **183 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **57 %**

2) “Charles Darwin and his heirs are largely behind the new reductionist project” (Paragraph 3). Which of the following is closest in meaning to the term “reductionist” as used in the context? —

- ☒ Simplistic ✓
- ☐ Trivial
- ☐ Flawed
- ☐ Revisionist

Video Explanation: ▼

The passage below is accompanied by a set of 5 questions. Choose the best answer for each question.

The scientific understanding of humans as physical creatures has progressed in leaps and bounds during the last four centuries. Its successes in comprehending musculature, circulation, the nervous system and the brain, digestion, cellular chemistry, genes, and the like, as well as the sources and progression of diseases that beset human existence, is astounding. Yet the “science of man,” as David Hume put it—understanding human beings as human beings, both individually and collectively—has been something of an embarrassment.

And it is one that persists. Hume’s own effort “to introduce the experimental method of reasoning into moral subjects” to give but one example, has been revitalized in recent decades by the new moral science, really a congeries of sciences that includes sociobiology, positive psychology, and various neurosciences. But the new efforts to find a strictly physicalist explanation of humankind’s moral dispositions and decisions—to reduce them, for example, to functions of neurochemistry—fall as far short as Hume’s did. No one would deny that moral thinking involves some grounding in our physical being as adaptive organisms developing, surviving, and reproducing in an environment. But is that it? That would be akin to saying that Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech was a function of King’s lungs pushing air through the vocal folds in the larynx (and that its reception among his listeners was a function of an elaborate combination of neurons encoding information into the auditory cortex). All perfectly true, but utterly banal, because it tells us nothing about what makes something binding or compelling, beautiful and inspiring—nothing about those things, in other words, that make King’s speech a singular, and signal, human event.

Charles Darwin and his heirs are largely behind the new reductionist project. Darwin’s bold idea, however flawed in its particulars, remains one of the great achievements of science, and those who have followed in his footsteps have come some distance in correcting and refining the original theory. Yet what Darwin and neo-Darwinians achieved was rooted in a concern with continuities among species, in showing how human beings evolved from animal predecessors. Among later Darwinians in particular, this concern led to the conviction that human beings share the same essential nature with other species. The evolution from anthropoid to human was simply a function of the contingencies of adaptation and survival needs within different environments. This increasingly exclusive focus on biological similarities tended, on the one hand, to fold the human being entirely within the continuum of the animal order and, on the other hand, to minimize, downplay, or ignore altogether the distinguishing characteristics of the human species.

Simplistic means ‘simple’ and implies ‘an act of oversimplifying a problem to a false simplicity by ignoring complicating factors’. The author implies that human events, explained through evolution (Charles Darwin and his heirs) miss the significance of events like Martin Luther King’s speech – “because it tells us nothing about what makes something binding or compelling, beautiful and inspiring—nothing about those things, in other words, that make King’s speech a singular, and signal, human event.” Hence, simplistic is closest in meaning to reductionist as it’s used in the context. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 47 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 45 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 46 %

3) Which of the following appraisals about Charles Darwin’s theory is the author most likely to agree with?

- ☐ It is one of the great achievements of science and of moral reasoning.
- ☐ It ignores the distinguishing characteristics of human species.
- ☐ Its focus on biological similarities is fundamentally flawed.
- ☒ The original theory calls for far greater correcting and refining. ❌

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Option 1 is incorrect as moral reasoning and Darwin’s theory are not correlated in the passage. Option 2 is stated in the last lines of the passage: “This increasingly exclusive focus on biological similarities tended ... to fold the human being entirely within the continuum of the animal order and ... ignore altogether the distinguishing characteristics of the human species.” The author appreciates the focus (of evolutionary theory) on biological similarities (and its success in that area) – hence, the author will not agree that the theory is fundamentally flawed. Option 4 is incorrect as the author’s concern is not to refine evolutionary theory to improve it; his intention is most likely to point out the inability of science to understand ‘human beings as human beings’ – he doesn’t expect scientists to refine Darwin’s theory for this purpose. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 80 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 55 secs

The passage below is accompanied by a set of 5 questions. Choose the best answer for each question.

The scientific understanding of humans as physical creatures has progressed in leaps and bounds during the last four centuries. Its successes in comprehending musculature, circulation, the nervous system and the brain, digestion, cellular chemistry, genes, and the like, as well as the sources and progression of diseases that beset human existence, is astounding. Yet the “science of man,” as David Hume put it—understanding human beings as human beings, both individually and collectively—has been something of an embarrassment.

And it is one that persists. Hume’s own effort “to introduce the experimental method of reasoning into moral subjects” to give but one example, has been revitalized in recent decades by the new moral science, really a congeries of sciences that includes sociobiology, positive psychology, and various neurosciences. But the new efforts to find a strictly physicalist explanation of humankind’s moral dispositions and decisions—to reduce them, for example, to functions of neurochemistry—fall as far short as Hume’s did. No one would deny that moral thinking involves some grounding in our physical being as adaptive organisms developing, surviving, and reproducing in an environment. But is that it? That would be akin to saying that Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech was a function of King’s lungs pushing air through the vocal folds in the larynx (and that its reception among his listeners was a function of an elaborate combination of neurons encoding information into the auditory cortex). All perfectly true, but utterly banal, because it tells us nothing about what makes something binding or compelling, beautiful and inspiring—nothing about those things, in other words, that make King’s speech a singular, and signal, human event.

Charles Darwin and his heirs are largely behind the new reductionist project. Darwin’s bold idea, however flawed in its particulars, remains one of the great achievements of science, and those who have followed in his footsteps have come some distance in correcting and refining the original theory. Yet what Darwin and neo-Darwinians achieved was rooted in a concern with continuities among species, in showing how human beings evolved from animal predecessors. Among later Darwinians in particular, this concern led to the conviction that human beings share the same essential nature with other species. The evolution from anthropoid to human was simply a function of the contingencies of adaptation and survival needs within different environments. This increasingly exclusive focus on biological similarities tended, on the one hand, to fold the human being entirely within the continuum of the animal order and, on the other hand, to minimize, downplay, or ignore altogether the distinguishing characteristics of the human species.

% Students got it correct: **49 %**

4) Which of the following assertions about the foundations of our moral reasoning is the author most likely to endorse? —

- ☐ Moral reasoning ought to focus on unique human experiences.
- ☐ Moral reasoning ought to rely on experimental methods of reasoning.
- ☐ Moral reasoning is utterly banal and devoid of aesthetic considerations.
- ☐ Moral reasoning ought to be grounded in our physical being as adaptive organisms.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Refer to paragraph 2. “No one would deny that moral thinking involves some grounding in our physical being as adaptive organisms developing, surviving, and reproducing in an environment. But is that it? That would be akin to saying that Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech was a function of King’s lungs etc. All perfectly true, but utterly banal, because it tells us nothing about what makes something binding or compelling, beautiful and inspiring—nothing about those things, in other words, that make King’s speech a singular, and signal, human event.” The author would thus endorse moral reasoning that is focused on human experiences of beauty, inspiration etc. Options 2, 3 and 4 highlight the inadequacies of the current understanding of moral reasoning. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **86 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **31 secs**

Your Attempt: **Skipped**

% Students got it correct: **36 %**

5) According to the later Darwinians... —

- ☐ the evolution of man is irreducible to the concern for continuity of species.
- ☒ there is no unique characteristic that separates humans from other species. ✔
- ☐ the evolution of apes into humans was an accidental phenomenon.
- ☐ the distinguishing characteristics of human species were crucial in evolution.

Video Explanation: ▼

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Refer to the last paragraph: “Among later Darwinians in particular, this concern led to the conviction that human beings share the same essential nature with other species,” imply that there is no unique ‘human nature’. This makes option 2 correct. Option 1 is eliminated because of ‘irreducible’; the passage states the opposite about Darwinians in general. Option 3 is eliminated because of the word ‘accidental.’ The passage explains the evolution of anthropoid to human as a function of the contingencies of adaptation, rather than an accident. Option 4 is incorrect as evolutionary scientists do not acknowledge the distinguishing features of human species. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: 42 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 63 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 62 %

Loading...

The passage below is accompanied by a set of 4 questions. Choose the best answer for each question.

One of the founding axioms of linguistic theory, articulated by Ferdinand de Saussure in the early 19th century, is that any particular linguistic sign – a sound, a mark on the page, a gesture – is arbitrary, and dictated solely by social convention. Save those rare exceptions such as onomatopoeias, where a word mimics a noise – e.g., ‘cuckoo’, ‘achoo’ or ‘cock-a-doodle-doo’ – there should be no inherent link between the way a word sounds and the concept it represents; unless we have been socialised to think so, nurunuru shouldn’t feel more ‘slimy’ any more than it feels ‘dry’.

Yet many world languages contain a separate set of words that defies this principle. Known as ideophones, they are considered to be especially vivid and evocative of sensual experiences. Crucially, you do not need to know the language to grasp a hint of their meaning. Studies show that participants lacking any prior knowledge of Japanese, for example, often guess the meanings of ideophones better than chance alone would allow. For many people, nurunuru really does feel ‘slimy’; wakuwaku evokes excitement, and kurukuru conjures visions of circular rather than vertical motion. That should simply not be possible, if the sound-meaning relationship was indeed arbitrary.

How and why do ideophones do this? Despite their prevalence in many languages, ideophones were once considered linguistic oddities of marginal interest. As a consequence, linguists, psychologists and neuroscientists have only recently started to unlock their secrets. Their results pose a profound challenge to the foundations of Saussurean linguistics. According to this research, language is embodied: a process that involves subtle feedback, for both listener and speaker, between the sound of a word, the vocal apparatus and our own experience of human physicality. Taken together, this dynamic helps to create a connection between certain sounds and their attendant meanings. These associations appear to be universal across all human societies.

This understanding of language as an embodied process can illuminate the marvel of language acquisition during infancy. It might even cast light on the evolutionary origins of language itself – potentially representing a kind of ‘proto-world’, a vestige of our ancestors’ first utterances.

How should we define an ideophone? All languages contain powerfully emotive or sensual words, after all. But ideophones share a couple of characteristics that make them unique. For one, they constitute their own unique class, marked with their own linguistic rules – in the same way that, say, nouns or verbs also follow their own rules in how they are formed and used. In Japanese, for instance, ideophones are easy to recognise because they most often take the form of a two-syllable root that is then repeated – such as gochagocha (messy), nurunuru (slimy) or tsurutsuru (smooth).

1) Select a suitable title for the passage from the following options: —

- ☐ Japanese Ideophones
- ☐ The role of onomatopoeic words in meaning and communication
- ☐ Saussurean linguistics and the arbitrariness of signs
- ☒ Ideophones as a language class ✔

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The passage focuses on ideophones-- words that are not like arbitrary words. The passage is an enquiry into the nature of ideophones - their function, and the difference between them and other words. There are several sentences in the passage that point to this- Sentences 1,2 and 3 of paragraph 2 are examples. Paragraph 3 is also about how ideophones work in the spectrum of word, feedback and meaning. Option 4 is a succinct compression of these ideas and is therefore a suitable title for the passage. Option 1 speaks merely of Japanese ideophones. Hence, Option 1 is not an apt title. Option 2, speaks of onomatopoeic words. While the passage brings up this set or type of words in sentence 2 of paragraph 1, there is no other reference made to them in the rest of the passage. Hence Option 2 is not the appropriate choice. Option 3, is about Saussurean linguistics, which although the author brings up to build an argument about ideophones, is not what the passage is centrally about. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **232 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **217 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **82 %**

2) Which of the following, if true, would weaken the author’s argument? —

- ☐ An ideophone is a fully fledged word type that integrates sensory experiences and language.
- ☐ The Ewe word ?abo?abo, translates as ‘duck’; which evokes an uneven walk, and its sounds are accompanied by an exaggerated waddling motion.
- ☒ The evocative power of ideophones might be a reflection of an inherent sound symbolism understood by all humans. ✖
- ☐ Every language has a definite number of sounds and rules for their combination to form different words.

Video Explanation: ▼

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Yet many world languages contain a separate set of words that defies this principle. Known as ideophones, they are considered to be especially vivid and evocative of sensual experiences. Crucially, you do not need to know the language to grasp a hint of their meaning. Studies show that participants lacking any prior knowledge of Japanese, for example, often guess the meanings of ideophones better than chance alone would allow. For many people, nurunuru really does feel ‘slimy’; wakuwaku evokes excitement, and kurukuru conjures visions of circular rather than vertical motion. That should simply not be possible, if the sound-meaning relationship was indeed arbitrary.

How and why do ideophones do this? Despite their prevalence in many languages, ideophones were once considered linguistic oddities of marginal interest. As a consequence, linguists, psychologists and neuroscientists have only recently started to unlock their secrets. Their results pose a profound challenge to the foundations of Saussurean linguistics. According to this research, language is embodied: a process that involves subtle feedback, for both listener and speaker, between the sound of a word, the vocal apparatus and our own experience of human physicality. Taken together, this dynamic helps to create a connection between certain sounds and their attendant meanings. These associations appear to be universal across all human societies.

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The argument is founded on the difference between ideophones as words that are linked with sensory human experience as reflected in their connection with sounds that tie in with the meanings of these words. Option 4 destroys the link between phonetic symbol and the experience, and hence the meaning of the word. If ideophones were based on a certain ‘feel’, all languages should have similar ideophones. Option 4 states that the words are not based on the “feel” but on the number of sounds available in a language and the rules for their combination – the symbol (word) thus is arbitrary. As per the passage ideophones prove that language is not arbitrary. Thus, if option 4 was correct, it would nullify the argument made by the author. Let’s consider the other options- option 1 strengthens the author’s argument. This can be deduced from sentence 1 & 2 of paragraph 2 - “Yet many world languages contain a separate set of words that defies this principle. Known as ideophones, they are considered to be especially vivid and evocative of sensual experiences.” It states precisely what option 1 states of ideophones being a word class that evoke sensory experiences. Option 2 too would strengthen the argument--if the Ewe word dāboḍābo, does translate into the sensory representation of a duck walking, it is an example of what the author is saying about ideophones i.e. words are capable of reflecting a sensory experience merely through their sounds. Option 3 too would strengthen the author’s argument. This can be confirmed from sentence 5 of paragraph 3- “According to this research, language is embodied: a process that involves subtle feedback, for both listener and speaker, between the sound of a word, the vocal apparatus and our own experience of human physicality. Taken together, this dynamic helps to create a connection between certain sounds and their attendant meanings. These associations appear to be universal across all human societies.” The above sentences establish the inherently physical nature of sounds and words, as is stated in Option 3. Hence, 4.

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 145 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 45 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 42 %

3) Based on the passage, which of the following is NOT true about Saussurean linguistic theory?

- ☐ The meaning of a word has no connection with its phonetic sounds or spelling.
- ☐ Linguistic signs are based on social convention.
- ☒ The association between certain sounds and their attendant meanings is universal across all human societies.
- ☐ There is no intrinsic reason behind the choice of a sound to refer to a particular concept.

Video Explanation:

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Option 3 is the challenge posed by the new research to the Saussurean theory of arbitrariness. The option implies that Saussure’s theory that points towards words that do not have arbitrary meanings is not true. Option 1 is true about Saussurean linguistic theory. The passage opens by explaining how the theory propounds the arbitrariness of words and their meanings: “there should be no inherent link between the way a word sounds and the concept it represents” (Paragraph 1). Option 2 is also true about Saussurean theory based on the passage. This is explicitly stated in sentence 1 of paragraph 1 - “One of the founding axioms of linguistic theory, articulated by Ferdinand de Saussure in the early 19th century, is that any particular linguistic sign – a sound, a mark on the page, a gesture – is arbitrary, and dictated solely by social convention.” Option 4 too is true based on the information provided in the passage. Indeed, ideophones, described in detail in the passage, are a set of words that do not meet the findings of Saussurean theory. Hence, 3.

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 191 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 57 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 53 %

4) According to the passage, which of the following is NOT an ideophone?

- ☐ Kurukuru
- ☐ Gochagocha
- ☒ Achoo
- ☐ Wakuwaku

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

The word is mentioned in paragraph 1, sentence 2, as an example of an onomatopoeic sound, which mimics noise. Onomatopoeias are different from ideophones, which are sounds that tie in with our sensory experience. Option 1, 2 and 4 are all examples of ideophones, based on the passage. Of these kurukuru and wakuwaku appear in paragraph 2 and gochagocha appears in the last paragraph. Hence, 3.

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 5 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 77 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 80 %

The passage below is accompanied by a set of 4 questions. Choose the best answer for each question.

One of the founding axioms of linguistic theory, articulated by Ferdinand de Saussure in the early 19th century, is that any particular linguistic sign – a sound, a mark on the page, a gesture – is arbitrary, and dictated solely by social convention. Save those rare exceptions such as onomatopoeias, where a word mimics a noise – e.g., ‘cuckoo’, ‘achoo’ or ‘cock-a-doodle-doo’ – there should be no inherent link between the way a word sounds and the concept it represents; unless we have been socialised to think so, nurunuru shouldn’t feel more ‘slimy’ any more than it feels ‘dry’.

Loading...

Yet many world languages contain a separate set of words that defies this principle. Known as ideophones, they are considered to be especially vivid and evocative of sensual experiences. Crucially, you do not need to know the language to grasp a hint of their meaning. Studies show that participants lacking any prior knowledge of Japanese, for example, often guess the meanings of ideophones better than chance alone would allow. For many people, nurunuru really does feel ‘slimy’; wakuwaku evokes excitement, and kurukuru conjures visions of circular rather than vertical motion. That should simply not be possible, if the sound-meaning relationship was indeed arbitrary.

How and why do ideophones do this? Despite their prevalence in many languages, ideophones were once considered linguistic oddities of marginal interest. As a consequence, linguists, psychologists and neuroscientists have only recently started to unlock their secrets. Their results pose a profound challenge to the foundations of Saussurean linguistics. According to this research, language is embodied: a process that involves subtle feedback, for both listener and speaker, between the sound of a word, the vocal apparatus and our own experience of human physicality. Taken together, this dynamic helps to create a connection between certain sounds and their attendant meanings. These associations appear to be universal across all human societies.

This understanding of language as an embodied process can illuminate the marvel of language acquisition during infancy. It might even cast light on the evolutionary origins of language itself – potentially representing a kind of ‘proto-world’, a vestige of our ancestors’ first utterances.

How should we define an ideophone? All languages contain powerfully emotive or sensual words, after all. But ideophones share a couple of characteristics that make them unique. For one, they constitute their own unique class, marked with their own linguistic rules – in the same way that, say, nouns or verbs also follow their own rules in how they are formed and used. In Japanese, for instance, ideophones are easy to recognise because they most often take the form of a two-syllable root that is then repeated – such as gochagocha (messy), nurunuru (slimy) or tsurutsuru (smooth).

The passage below is accompanied by a set of 5 questions. Choose the best answer for each question.

In a bit of rare good news for the world's oceans, distressed populations of green sea turtles near Hawaii and other American Pacific island territories are bouncing back.

Between 2002 and 2015, research divers surveyed coral reefs around 53 islands and atolls in U.S. Pacific waters, tallying up all the turtles they found.... In total, they found 3,400 turtles and of those, about 90 percent were green sea turtles. The survey shows that around the Hawaiian islands, the turtles have increased about 8 percent per year, and around American Samoa and the Mariana Islands, they've increased around 4 percent per year. From a conservationist's point of view, that's pretty phenomenal.

However, other species are not on the rise. Hawksbill sea turtles, which dwell in similar coral reef habitats, only made up about 8.6 percent of the turtles identified and researchers could not gather enough data to estimate population trends, a sign that the critically endangered species is still struggling. The new study complements other surveys of turtle nests on beaches. While the number of nests has increased over the last few decades, that doesn't necessarily mean more baby turtles are making it into the ocean and surviving to maturity.

That's why researchers decided to systematically count the turtles swimming around in coral reefs. Every April for 13 years, pairs of scuba-diving researchers attached themselves to a rope attached to a slow moving boat that dragged them through coral reef ecosystems for a total of 4,660 miles. The dangling researchers kept their eyes open, noting habitat, tallying other wildlife and counting all the turtles they spotted. ... They saw other, less wonderful things as well, like fishing nets snagged on reefs that continue to trap turtles and fish as well as shipwrecks leaking iron and other contaminants, altering the ecosystems around them.

Green sea turtles were pushed onto the endangered species list primarily by meat and egg hunters; for example, green sea turtle soup was particularly popular 100 years ago. Hawksbill turtles, on the other hand, were extensively hunted for their beautiful shells, which when processed is called tortoiseshell. It was used in things like combs, ornaments, jewellery boxes and other objects. Another recent study found that up to 9 million hawksbills were killed over 150 years for the tortoiseshell trade.

Today, hunting isn't the main problem for either species. Coastal development and human disturbance interfere with their nesting grounds, while unregulated fishing nets and coral reef destruction are their main threats in the water.

1) What is the main idea that the author is trying to highlight in the passage?

- ☐ In a rare finding, surveys show that the decline of endangered green turtle populations around Hawaii has been arrested by conservation biologists.
- ☐ Conservation biologists are surprised that the endangered populations of turtles near Hawaii and other American Pacific island territories are now bouncing back.
- ☐ Surveys indicate that there is a phenomenal increase in the population of the endangered turtle species around the US Pacific islands.
- ☒ There is evidence that the population of the endangered green sea turtles is increasing near Hawaii and elsewhere, though hawksbill turtles aren't doing well. ✓

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The main point of the passage is stated in the first few sentences of the passage: "In a bit of rare good news for the world's oceans, distressed populations of green sea turtles near Hawaii and other American Pacific island territories are bouncing back ... The survey shows that around the Hawaiian islands, the turtles have increased ... However, other species are not on the rise. Hawksbill sea turtles... made up about 8.6 percent of the turtles ... a sign that the critically endangered species is still struggling." These ideas are summarized in option 4. Option 1 is incorrect in saying that the decline was "arrested by conservation biologists." Option 2 is incorrect due to the faulty generalization about the turtles: phenomenal increase of the endangered populations of turtles; the passage says this specifically about green sea turtles. Similarly, option 3 is incorrect in claiming a "phenomenal increase in the population of the endangered turtle species". Hence, [4].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **247 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **249 secs**

% Students got it correct: **78 %**

The passage below is accompanied by a set of 5 questions. Choose the best answer for each question.

In a bit of rare good news for the world’s oceans, distressed populations of green sea turtles near Hawaii and other American Pacific island territories are bouncing back.

Between 2002 and 2015, research divers surveyed coral reefs around 53 islands and atolls in U.S. Pacific waters, tallying up all the turtles they found.... In total, they found 3,400 turtles and of those, about 90 percent were green sea turtles. The survey shows that around the Hawaiian islands, the turtles have increased about 8 percent per year, and around American Samoa and the Mariana Islands, they’ve increased around 4 percent per year. From a conservationist’s point of view, that’s pretty phenomenal.

However, other species are not on the rise. Hawksbill sea turtles, which dwell in similar coral reef habitats, only made up about 8.6 percent of the turtles identified and researchers could not gather enough data to estimate population trends, a sign that the critically endangered species is still struggling. The new study complements other surveys of turtle nests on beaches. While the number of nests has increased over the last few decades, that doesn’t necessarily mean more baby turtles are making it into the ocean and surviving to maturity.

That’s why researchers decided to systematically count the turtles swimming around in coral reefs. Every April for 13 years, pairs of scuba-diving researchers attached themselves to a rope attached to a slow moving boat that dragged them through coral reef ecosystems for a total of 4,660 miles. The dangling researchers kept their eyes open, noting habitat, tallying other wildlife and counting all the turtles they spotted. ... They saw other, less wonderful things as well, like fishing nets snagged on reefs that continue to trap turtles and fish as well as shipwrecks leaking iron and other contaminants, altering the ecosystems around them.

Green sea turtles were pushed onto the endangered species list primarily by meat and egg hunters; for example, green sea turtle soup was particularly popular 100 years ago. Hawksbill turtles, on the other hand, were extensively hunted for their beautiful shells, which when processed is called tortoiseshell. It was used in things like combs, ornaments, jewellery boxes and other objects. Another recent study found that up to 9 million hawksbills were killed over 150 years for the tortoiseshell trade.

Today, hunting isn’t the main problem for either species. Coastal development and human disturbance interfere with their nesting grounds, while unregulated fishing nets and coral reef destruction are their main threats in the water.

2) Based on the information available in the passage, we can conclude all of the following EXCEPT:

- ☒ The green sea turtles are no longer on the list of endangered species. ✓
- ☐ Human activities and lifestyles have an impact on turtle nesting sites.
- ☐ The increase in green sea turtle population is a reflection of the increased turtle nests on beaches.
- ☐ Hunting is no longer the main threat to the survival of the endangered sea turtles.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The passage provides no information about whether or not the green sea turtles are on the list of endangered species still. The fifth paragraph says that “Green sea turtles were pushed onto the endangered species list primarily by meat and egg hunters; for example, green sea turtle soup was particularly popular 100 years ago.” The passage also says that there is an 8 percent increase in the population around the Hawaiian islands and 4 % elsewhere. Hence, the data is inadequate to conclude that they are no longer on the list of endangered species. Therefore, option 1 is an exception. Option 2 is supported by the penultimate paragraph: “Coastal development and human disturbance interfere with their nesting grounds...” Option 3 is supported by the 3rd paragraph of the passage: “The new study complements other surveys of turtle nests on beaches... while the number of nests has increased over the last few decades...” Option 4 is supported by the penultimate paragraph: “Today, hunting isn’t the main problem for either species” Hence, [1].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **107 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **58 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

The passage below is accompanied by a set of 5 questions. Choose the best answer for each question.

In a bit of rare good news for the world’s oceans, distressed populations of green sea turtles near Hawaii and other American Pacific island territories are bouncing back.

Between 2002 and 2015, research divers surveyed coral reefs around 53 islands and atolls in U.S. Pacific waters, tallying up all the turtles they found.... In total, they found 3,400 turtles and of those, about 90 percent were green sea turtles. The survey shows that around the Hawaiian islands, the turtles have increased about 8 percent per year, and around American Samoa and the Mariana Islands, they’ve increased around 4 percent per year. From a conservationist’s point of view, that’s pretty phenomenal.

However, other species are not on the rise. Hawksbill sea turtles, which dwell in similar coral reef habitats, only made up about 8.6 percent of the turtles identified and researchers could not gather enough data to estimate population trends, a sign that the critically endangered species is still struggling. The new study complements other surveys of turtle nests on beaches. While the number of nests has increased over the last few decades, that doesn’t necessarily mean more baby turtles are making it into the ocean and surviving to maturity.

That’s why researchers decided to systematically count the turtles swimming around in coral reefs. Every April for 13 years, pairs of scuba-diving researchers attached themselves to a rope attached to a slow moving boat that dragged them through coral reef ecosystems for a total of 4,660 miles. The dangling researchers kept their eyes open, noting habitat, tallying other wildlife and counting all the turtles they spotted. ... They saw other, less wonderful things as well, like fishing nets snagged on reefs that continue to trap turtles and fish as well as shipwrecks leaking iron and other contaminants, altering the ecosystems around them.

Green sea turtles were pushed onto the endangered species list primarily by meat and egg hunters; for example, green sea turtle soup was particularly popular 100 years ago. Hawksbill turtles, on the other hand, were extensively hunted for their beautiful shells, which when processed is called tortoiseshell. It was used in things like combs, ornaments, jewellery boxes and other objects. Another recent study found that up to 9 million hawksbills were killed over 150 years for the tortoiseshell trade.

Today, hunting isn’t the main problem for either species. Coastal development and human disturbance interfere with their nesting grounds, while unregulated fishing nets and coral reef destruction are their main threats in the water.

3) In the sea, the main threat to the turtles’ survival is ...

- ☐ Climate change and plastic pollution.
- ☒ Coastal development and human activities. ❌
- ☐ Habitat destruction and unregulated fishing nets.
- ☐ Hunting for food and tortoise shell.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The penultimate paragraph states, “Today, hunting isn’t the main problem for either species. Coastal development and human disturbance interfere with their nesting grounds, while unregulated fishing nets and coral reef destruction are their main threats in the water.” Hence, option 3 is correct. Option 1, though advanced as one of the threats, is not the chief one. Option 2 is a threat to their nesting grounds. Passage categorically denies option 4 as the major threat. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 19 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 57 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 67 %

4) In the second paragraph the author uses the word “phenomenal” to describe the increase in the populations of sea turtles around the Hawaiian islands because ...

- ☒ It signals that the conservationists’ efforts to save the turtles are beginning to pay off. ❌
- ☐ The ‘endangered’ green turtle species could be on a bounce back trail.
- ☐ Populations of green sea turtles in other parts have consistently declined for decades.
- ☐ It confirms an older survey, which observed an increase in the number of turtle nests on beaches.

The passage below is accompanied by a set of 5 questions. Choose the best answer for each question.

In a bit of rare good news for the world's oceans, distressed populations of green sea turtles near Hawaii and other American Pacific island territories are bouncing back.

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That's why researchers decided to systematically count the turtles swimming around in coral reefs. Every April for 13 years, pairs of scuba-diving researchers attached themselves to a rope attached to a slow moving boat that dragged them through coral reef ecosystems for a total of 4,660 miles. The dangling researchers kept their eyes open, noting habitat, tallying other wildlife and counting all the turtles they spotted. ... They saw other, less wonderful things as well, like fishing nets snagged on reefs that continue to trap turtles and fish as well as shipwrecks leaking iron and other contaminants, altering the ecosystems around them.

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Today, hunting isn't the main problem for either species. Coastal development and human disturbance interfere with their nesting grounds, while unregulated fishing nets and coral reef destruction are their main threats in the water.

Explanation: ▼

The inference can be made from the first sentence of the passage: "In a bit of rare good news for the world's oceans, distressed populations of green sea turtles near Hawaii and other American Pacific island territories are bouncing back." Options 1 and 3 may be factually correct and compatible with common sense or common knowledge – however, the passage does not either mention the efforts of the conservationists or provide data about turtle populations in other parts of the world; hence, these options are untenable in the light of the information available in the passage. Option 4 is not related to the purpose of using the word 'phenomenal.' Besides, according to the passage, an increase in the number of turtle nests on beaches may not accurately reflect increased survival of turtles. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **38 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **54 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **49 %**

5) According to the passage, scuba-diving researchers — physically count the turtles swimming around in coral reefs to ascertain their population because...

- ☒ Baby turtles hatched on beaches do not generally make it to the ocean and survive. ✖
- ☐ Land based estimates of sea turtle populations from their nesting sites are not reliable.
- ☐ It helps researchers to also observe the threats to turtle populations in their habitats.
- ☐ Green sea turtles and Hawksbill sea turtles do not migrate to nesting areas on land.

Video Explanation: ▼

The passage below is accompanied by a set of 5 questions. Choose the best answer for each question.

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Between 2002 and 2015, research divers surveyed coral reefs around 53 islands and atolls in U.S. Pacific waters, tallying up all the turtles they found.... In total, they found 3,400 turtles and of those, about 90 percent were green sea turtles. The survey shows that around the Hawaiian islands, the turtles have increased about 8 percent per year, and around American Samoa and the Mariana Islands, they’ve increased around 4 percent per year. From a conservationist’s point of view, that’s pretty phenomenal.

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Today, hunting isn’t the main problem for either species. Coastal development and human disturbance interfere with their nesting grounds, while unregulated fishing nets and coral reef destruction are their main threats in the water.

Explanation:

The third paragraph begins thus: ‘that’s why researchers decided to systematically count the turtles swimming around in coral reefs...’ The reason is stated in the preceding paragraph: “While the number of nests has increased over the last few decades, that doesn’t necessarily mean more baby turtles are making it into the ocean and surviving to maturity.” This implies that there are land-based as well as sea-based studies of turtle populations. Option 2 correctly states the reason behind the physical counting of turtles in their habitat. Option 1 is misleading as it says that the baby turtles ‘do not generally make it to the sea’. The passage states, “While the number of nests has increased over the last few decades, that doesn’t necessarily mean more baby turtles are making it into the ocean and surviving to maturity.” From this information, it is not possible to conclude that they ‘do not generally make it....” Option 3 is something that the researchers observe by chance, and not the reason behind preferring the underwater survey. Option 4 is contrary to the passage. Hence, [2]

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **48 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **38 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **42 %**

Loading...

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. Though food can segregate people along class, ethnic, and religious lines, it can also bring together and solidify communities.
2. Eating enhances our moral sensibilities and enlivens our spirits and obliges us to acknowledge our own dependency and reminds us of the fragility of life.
3. However long humans have been eating, they have been doing it together.
4. Anthropologists have for some time observed that food is a window into a how society functions.
5. From the first hunter-gatherer societies to our contemporary haute cuisine, food has always been enmeshed in elaborate social rituals, codes, mores, and expectations.



Oops, you got it wrong!



Explanation:



Sentence 3 states the theme explicitly – that eating is a communal activity. Except sentence 2, the others are related to this theme. Sentence 5 traces the custom or habit to hunter gatherers’ elaborate social rituals. Sentence 4 talks about the anthropologists’ view of the same. Sentence 1 highlights how food solidifies communities. Sentence 2 is unrelated to this theme. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **63 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **89 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **58 %**

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. Researchers have, however, known that a species of ant called Azteca sericeasur is adept at keeping berry-borer populations at bay.
2. Their adults mate there; only pregnant females seeking another berry to lay their eggs actually see the light of day.
3. Berry borers spend most of their lives inside the berries, their eggs hatch there, and their larvae feed, grow and pupate there.
4. This makes attacking the beetles with insecticides tricky.
5. Few pests wreak more havoc on coffee plantations than the berry-borer beetle.



Oops, you got it wrong!



Explanation:



The connection most easily noticeable is between sentences 2 and 3. Both describe the life of berry borers. "This makes attacking the beetles with insecticides tricky" is related to the description in sentences 2 and 3 – that "berry borer beetles spend most of their lives inside the berries ... only the pregnant females seeking another berry to lay their eggs actually see the light of day." Hence, sentences 2, 3 and 4 are related. Now, sentences 1 and 5 need to be evaluated for the answer choice. Sentence 5 introduces the paragraph logically – that berry borer beetles are pests that wreak more havoc on coffee plantations. Sentence 1, though on the same topic, would not help the reader understand which beetles or berries the passage is talking about. Also, the idea of "a species of ant and its ability to keep berry-borer populations at bay," is not developed in the paragraph. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **98 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **22 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **19 %**

Five sentences related to a topic are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a meaningful and coherent short paragraph. Identify the odd one out. Choose its number as your answer and key it in.

1. Modern art is that which was created sometime between the 1860s and the late 1960s.
2. Art was called “modern” because it did not build on what came before it or rely on the teachings of the art academies.
3. The difference between modern and contemporary art is based on rough date ranges established by art historians, art critics, curators, art institutions, and the like.
4. Art made thereafter; e.g., conceptual, minimalist, postmodern, feminist is considered contemporary.
5. They recognized a distinct shift that took place, marking the end of Modernism and the beginning of the contemporary age.



Congratulations, you solved the question correctly and took less than average time!



Explanation:



The paragraph is about the distinction between modern and contemporary art. Specifically, it's about the time-frame that differentiates the two. So, sentence 3 introduces the theme – the difference is based on the date ranges established by art historians etc. Sentence 5 continues this idea that the historians etc., recognized a distinct shift in the two defined time periods. Sentences 1 and 4 provide the dates. Sentence 2 describes modern art from a different point of view. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **45 secs**


Avg Time taken by all students: **59 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **44 %**

The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

When people need more water, they often build dams to increase supply. But dams increase water use in an unsustainable way, leading communities to live beyond their water means. Reservoirs can indeed create a “false sense of abundance” in places where the natural water availability does not fit the population it's hosting. Dams and other water-supply infrastructure can also make communities less resilient because they mask droughts. Communities may be less likely to reduce their water use until shortages get dire, forcing a sharp reckoning.

- ☒ Manmade reservoirs create a false sense of water abundance and make water use by local communities unsustainable. 
- ☐ Artificial reservoirs as well as water-supply infrastructure create a false sense of water security and lead to unsustainable water use.
- ☐ Dams and water supply infrastructure mask droughts and people are less likely to reduce their water use until droughts occur.
- ☐ Water supply infrastructure makes water use by communities unsustainable as they tend to waste water.



Oops, you got it wrong!



Explanation:



The author's position is that Dams and water supply infrastructure give people a false sense of abundance (especially in places natural source of water is not sufficient) and they live beyond their means, making their water use unsustainable. Option 1 is incorrect. Water-supply infrastructure is missing in this option and 'local communities' is ambiguous. Option 4 has the word "waste" in it. "Unsustainable use" and "waste" are different ideas. Besides, there is no mention of dams. Option 3 is specific about droughts – general 'unsustainable use' owing to false abundance' does not get highlighted. Option 2 captures the essence or the author's intended purpose. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: 84 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: **67 secs**

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 43 %

The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

The world's advanced economies are suffering from a number of deep-seated problems. In the United States, in particular, inequality is at its highest since 1928, and GDP growth remains woefully tepid compared to the decades after World War II. After promising annual growth of "4, 5, and even 6%," U.S. President Donald Trump and his congressional Republican enablers have delivered only unprecedented deficits. According to the Congressional Budget Office's latest projections, the federal budget deficit will reach \$900 billion this year, and will surpass the \$1 trillion mark every year after 2021. And yet, the sugar high induced by the latest deficit increase is already fading, with the International Monetary Fund forecasting US growth of 2.5% in 2019 and 1.8% in 2020, down from 2.9% in 2018.

- ☐ Inequality and slow growth are among the key problems in advanced economies, particularly in the United States where growth is expected to decline despite the increasing deficit.
- ☐ The world's advanced economies are suffering from deep-seated inequality and slow growth, particularly in the United States where deficit is projected to surpass \$1 trillion soon.
- ☒ Inequality and slow growth are among the key problems in advanced economies, particularly in the United States where the political system has failed to address these problems. ✖
- ☐ Inequality and slow growth are deep seated problems in the world's advanced economies with annual growth projected to decline even in the United States.



Oops, you got it wrong!

Explanation:

The author's purpose and position is stated in the first sentence – The world's advanced economies are suffering from a number of deep-seated problems. He cites United States as an example to substantiate his position – the details of the political and economic situation are advanced to show how deep seated the problems are. Option 1 best brings out the author's position. Options 2, 3 and 4, correctly highlight the author's position in the first part. But, the second part in these options fails to capture the essence. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **92 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **76 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **44 %**

The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

These are difficult days for liberal democracy. But of all the threats that have arisen in recent years – populism, nationalism, illiberalism – one stands out as a key enabler of the rest: the proliferation and weaponization of disinformation. The threat is not a new one. Governments, lobby groups, and other interests have long relied on disinformation as a tool of manipulation and control. What is new is the ease with which disinformation can be produced and disseminated. Advances in technology allow for the increasingly seamless manipulation or fabrication of video and audio, while the pervasiveness of social media enables false information to be rapidly amplified among receptive audiences.

- ☐ The spread of disinformation has in recent years exacerbated the threats to liberal democracy especially from populism, nationalism, and illiberalism.
- ☐ Liberal democracy is under threat from manipulated or fabricated audio and video spread through social media.
- ☐ The threats to liberal democracy from populism, nationalism, and illiberalism are now exacerbated by the spread of disinformation through social media.
- ☒ The ease with which disinformation can be produced and disseminated to receptive audiences has exacerbated the threats to liberal democracy in recent years. ✓



Congratulations, you got it correct!



Explanation:



The author points out that liberal democracy is under threat. Among the threats in recent years (like, populism, nationalism, and illiberalism), the most important is spread of disinformation and its use as a weapon against liberal democracy. Technology and social media have made the spread of disinformation easy and amplified. Option 4 concisely expresses the same idea. The difference between options 1 and 4 is that option 4 clearly mentions the ease with which disinformation can be produced etc. In comparison, option1 is too brief. Option 2 is specific about audio and video. Option 3 is too specific about “the threats to liberal democracy from populism, nationalism, and illiberalism”.Though it’s factually correct, the option fails to bring in the ease with which disinformation spreads now. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **104 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **88 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **63 %**

The four sentences labelled (1, 2, 3, 4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer.

1. The challenge for such democracies is to allow for inequalities while citizens from the various classes can see themselves as parties to a social contract of common good.
2. A great deal has lately been made about the widening inequality in America and its various effects not only on the poor but on those struggling to remain in the middle class.
3. Yet modern democracies accept market economies that introduce disparities in wealth and power and the class differences that go with them.
4. Unlike aristocracies, modern liberal democracies are designed to avoid the rule of the few who have a monopoly on wealth and power.



Oops, you got it wrong!

Explanation:

“Such democracies” in sentence 1, and ‘yet’ in sentence 3 make them unsuitable for the starter. If you start with sentence 4, the paragraph develops logically in the sequence 431. Sentence 2 has two positions – either at the beginning or at the end. At the beginning, sentence 2 serves as an introduction to the inequality prevalent in America and provides the contrast to the “unlike aristocracies modern liberal democracies (like America)” mentioned in sentence 4. Hence, sentence 2 is appropriate at the beginning. Hence, 2431

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **101 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **30 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **21 %**

The four sentences labelled (1, 2, 3, 4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer.

1. To make it work, he had to leave gaps—missing elements—and in 1871 he used the patterns of the table to predict the properties of the elements that might fill some of them.
2. Dmitri Mendeleev, a Russian chemist, devised the periodic table 150 years ago.
3. Gallium was discovered in 1875, scandium in 1879, and germanium in 1886 - all three matched Mendeleev's predictions.
4. It assigned positions to the 63 elements known in his day, arranged in order of increasing atomic weight and aligned by similar chemical characteristics.



Oops, you got it wrong!



Explanation:



The starter is easy to identify. Sentence 2 states that, Dmitri Mendeleev, a Russian chemist, devised the periodic table 150 years ago. Sentences 1 and 4 can be considered for the next sentence – since the pronoun ‘it’ in these sentences refers to the periodic table. The choice is not difficult because sentence 4 is describes the periodic table further after it is mentioned in sentence 2. So, 24 is better than 21. 2-4 is then followed logically by sentence 1. “...to predict the properties of the elements that might fill some of them,” in sentence 1 relates to “... all three matched Mendeleev’s predictions” in sentence 3. Hence, 2413.

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **79 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **71 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **73 %**

The four sentences labelled (1, 2, 3, 4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer.

1. As in most of the rich world, one or two companies dominate Britain's markets for online search, advertising, social media and phone operating systems.
2. But digital markets are also highly concentrated.
3. Britain's dozen most digital-intensive industries generate 16% of its GDP and 10% of employment.
4. The experts agree that there are benefits of big tech: its products are wildly popular.



Oops, you got it wrong!

Explanation:



All sentences except 2 may be considered for the starter. The paragraph talks about digital markets. Sentence 1 states that, in Britain, the digital market is dominated by just two companies. This aptly follows sentence 2, which talks about how the digital markets are so concentrated. Thus, we get a mandatory pair 2-1. Sentence 4 deals with another characteristic of the ‘big-tech’ or ‘the digital intensive industries’—the popularity of their products. Sentence 5 testifies this by numbering the percentage of GDP and employment generated by this industry. Thus, we get another mandatory pair, 4-3. Bringing them together, we get the sequence, 4-3-2-1. Hence, 4321.

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **82 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **10 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **8 %**

The four sentences labelled (1, 2, 3, 4) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of four numbers as your answer.

1. But I wonder about the idea that Britain doesn't value intellectuals.
2. Radio Four seems to have a slot at 12.30 every day reserved for people who don't know the difference between being funny and being half-witted.
3. The BBC's fondness for second-rate comedians is one of the great puzzles of our age.
4. The British have built palaces for at least some of the most prominent examples of the species in the form of Oxford and Cambridge colleges.



Oops, you got it wrong!



Explanation:



Sentence 3 is the only possible starter. The ‘fondness for second-rate comedians is one of the great puzzles of our age,’ is related to ‘a slot ... every day reserved for people who don’t know the difference between being funny and being half-witted.’ Hence, sentences 3 and 2 go together; they also start the paragraph. The 3-2 pair is followed by sentence 1, which states the author’s opinion on whether Britain values intellectuals or not. The justification for his belief is given in sentence 4-- the existence of places like Oxford and Cambridge. Here, ‘the species’ in 4 refers to the ‘intellectuals’ in 1. Hence, 3214.

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **97 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **31 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **23 %**

