

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

One of today's biggest fads (in management) is the 'bossless company'. According to proponents of this idea, management is passé. The American management guru Gary Hamel declared: 'First, let's fire all the managers ... Think of the countless hours that team leaders, department heads, etc. devote to supervising the work of others.' He suggested that all management is waste and, implicitly, that all that managers do is 'supervise.'

There are three specific problems with the bossless-company critique. First, it doesn't offer systematic evidence for delayering and radical decentralisation across firms in general, but rather a few cherry-picked examples. In many cases, these firms already had in place a technology that makes decentralisation easy. One of these examples, Valve relies on heavily modularised software development that can easily be delegated to self-managing teams, and others like Apple (under its late CEO Jobs) and Tesla are run by heavy-handed, even overpowering, top managers. Charismatic figures such as Elon Musk fill the headlines in the business press, though they are often better known for their visionary leadership than their managerial effectiveness. Musk urges his employees at Tesla to interact freely, without regard to divisional boundaries or any sort of chain of command. Communicating through layers of management, he wrote in a company memo a few years ago, 'is incredibly dumb'. The media fawned and yet, as Tesla continues to struggle to meet its production targets for the Model 3 electric car, the company's extreme reduction in hierarchy levels and Musk's continual micromanagement, unwillingness to delegate and insistence on doing things differently, are taking some heat.

Also, companies that have survived major shocks to their markets or technology have often benefited from having strong leaders with almost authoritarian leadership styles; think of Disney, Xerox and IBM. There is a lesson to be learned: centralising the authority to make decisions is usually a more effective way to adapt to unanticipated change than more collaborative, consensus-driven approaches. This is particularly the case for firms with heavily interdependent resources and activities. A lateral, consensus-driven approach will likely lead to those delays that can harm the survival of the firm.

Second, academic research on delayering paints a more complex picture than the cartoon version in the bossless-company literature. One important study observed 300 'Fortune 500' companies for 14 years and found that firms were getting flatter, but were doing so to concentrate authority in the hands of senior managers, not to empower workers.

Third, while technological miracles such as the internet have induced sweeping changes in all sectors, the laws of economics are still the laws of economics. And human nature hasn't changed. The basic problem of management and business is still the same. Since the industrial revolution, entrepreneurs have been regularly organising extremely complex activities in firms that are neither completely centralised nor completely flat. Imagine the complexity involved in operating a national railroad or a steel mill. These are all 'knowledge-based activities' and are conducted in teams organised in various structures.

The bossless-company narrative has been badly oversold by its proponents. Yes, there are conditions under which nearly bossless companies can exist and thrive. However, they are and will remain exceptions. Therefore, the basic message of coordination by designated managers usually works better in all sense than any other known method, including the bottom-up, spontaneous coordination among peers stressed in the bossless company literature.

1) In paragraph 2, the phrase '...taking some heat...' has been used to point out that:

- ☐ autocratic corporate managers are ineffective leaders.
- ☐ self-managing teams work better in bossless firms.
- ☐ dictatorial visionaries tend to set impossible targets.
- ☒ decentralisation may undermine productivity. ✓

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

To take some heat means 'to receive criticism for a perceived mistake'. The phrase appears towards the end of the 2nd paragraph: "The media fawned and yet, as Tesla continues to struggle to meet its production targets, the company's extreme reduction in hierarchy levels...are taking some heat." The passage states that "Charismatic figures such as Elon Musk fill the headlines in the business press, though they are often better known for their visionary leadership than their managerial effectiveness." Option 1 misrepresents this information. Option 2 is neither implied nor stated in the passage. Option 3 is likely to be the answer, but the passage does not provide sufficient information to conclude that the targets set by Musk were impossible. The end of the second paragraph mentions that Elon Musk's style of functioning (extreme decentralisation and micromanagement among others) has resulted in the company 'struggling to meet its production targets for the Model 3 ... car'. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 393 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 233 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 62 %

2) The author rejects the critique of 'bossless company' as flawed for all the following reasons EXCEPT:

- ☐ The only credible examples for such an organization are either run on highly modularised systems or have powerful leaders.
- ☐ An exclusively collaborative approach is unable to cater to the needs of complex, knowledge-based activities like operating a steel mill.
- ☒ Majority of the 'Fortune 500' companies are getting flatter and are delayering to empower their employees. ✓
- ☐ Companies that had to go through great difficulties were sometimes saved by the timely action of an authoritarian managerial system.

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Explanation:

▼

The author states that a critique in favour of 'boss less company' is flawed. Refer to 2nd paragraph: 'There are three specific problems with the bossless-company critique.' The same paragraph talks of the first problem: '...it doesn't offer systematic evidence ...but rather a few cherry-picked examples.' And these include "Valve [that] relies on heavily modularised software development that can easily be delegated to self-managing teams, and others like Apple...and Tesla [that] are run by heavy-handed, even overpowering, top managers." Option 1 correctly states one of the reasons for why the critique is flawed. Refer to paragraph 5: "...extremely complex activities in firms that are neither completely centralised nor completely flat...These are all 'knowledge-based activities' and are conducted in teams organised in various structures." Option 2 states another point of criticism. Option 4 is another reason for the author questioning the efficiency of Bossless Companies [Paragraph 3]. Option 3 is false; it misrepresents the passage – firms were getting flatter, but were doing so to concentrate authority in the hands of senior managers, not to empower workers [Paragraph 4]. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

▼

Time taken by you: **123 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **92 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **61 %**

3) Elon Musk's claim that communicating through layers of management 'is incredibly dumb' is in contradiction to ...

- ☐ his endeavours to make his company as flat as possible.
- ☒ his image of being a visionary leader rather than an efficient manager. ✗
- ☐ his tendency to micromanage and reluctance to delegate.
- ☐ his eagerness to encourage unconventional ideas.

Video Explanation:

▼

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The 2nd part of the 2nd paragraph talks of Elon Musk and his company, Tesla. All the options correctly describe Elon Musk. According to the passage, Tesla is one of the exceptions that follow the ‘Bossless Company’ model of management. Option 1 is not contradictory to the ‘bossless company’ concept, according to which all management is waste and, implicitly... all that managers do is ‘supervise.’ Option 2 is also in tune with the idea of Bossless Companies: ‘Musk urges his employees at Tesla to interact freely, without regard to divisional boundaries or any sort of chain of command.’ Option 4 too doesn’t contradict the author’s notion of a ‘Bossless Company’ as it can be related to the concept itself, which is another of his unconventional ideas. Option 3, however, reads along the lines of the traditional management system: ‘...centralising the authority to make decisions is usually a more effective way to adapt to unanticipated change than more collaborative, consensus-driven approaches ...’ [Paragraph 3]. While advocating the uselessness of management, he himself indulges in micromanagement and concentration of authority. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 88 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 57 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 57 %

4) Which of the following would weaken the argument put forward by the author?

- ☐ The flat structure organization gives employees the freedom to work with each other without any hierarchy.
- ☒ Equality in pay, privileges, and authority at workplace create a motivated workforce leading to faster decision making, and improved efficiency, productivity, and profits. ✓
- ☐ A non-hierarchical system based on interconnection among workers that is free from bosses leads to fewer problems and conflicts among the workforce.
- ☐ 75 per cent of the salaries in a hierarchical organisation are paid to 10 per cent of the workforce who are managers.

Video Explanation:

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The central argument of the passage is roughly summed up in the last paragraph: “... the basic message of coordination by designated managers usually works better in all sense than any other known method, including the bottom-up, spontaneous coordination among peers stressed in the bossless company literature.” Option 1 does not weaken or strengthen the argument. It merely describes the flat structure organisation. Option 3 - ‘fewer problems and conflicts’ may not necessarily contribute to any further benefits forceful enough to weaken the author’s argument. Similarly, option 4 that talks of differences in salaries also need not lead to any disadvantage to the hierarchical system, favoured by the author. Option 2 lists the various benefits of a ‘bossless company’, implicitly comparing it with hierarchical companies; thus, it weakens the author’s argument against bossless companies. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 73 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 38 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 39 %

5) The primary purpose of the passage is to: —

- ☐ Argue in favour of the authoritarian leadership style.
- ☒ Evaluate the argument against bossless companies. ✖
- ☐ Critique the concept of ‘bossless company’.
- ☐ Examine the arguments in favour of bossless companies.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Paragraph 2 explicitly states the purpose of the passage: “There are three specific problems with the bossless-company critique.” ‘To critique’ means to evaluate (a theory or practice) in an analytical way. This “bossless-company critique” (which the author criticises) is in favour of bossless companies. The author’s conclusion is that “... coordination by designated managers usually works better.” So, the critique he mentions is in favour of bossless companies, while his opinion is contrary to it. Option 4 states this purpose. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 46 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 10 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

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Loading...

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

Maurice Merleau-Ponty coined the term ‘sedimentation’ in 1945. He uses it to describe the process of taking on information about our bodies and environment in a form that enables us to act intelligently without much attention, effort or thought. Just as a river accumulates particles and deposits them as sedimented structures that direct the river’s flow, argued Merleau-Ponty, so we accumulate information as we go about our lives, which gradually and unconsciously builds into contoured bedrock of understanding that guides our behaviour.

Merleau-Ponty’s work helps us to see how our behaviour can be influenced by stereotypes that we do not agree with. As this sedimentation process is insensitive to whether we are interacting with the world itself or with media representations of it, stereotypes occurring regularly in our media will become integrated into our worldview along with knowledge of the real world. Because he focused on knowledge, Merleau-Ponty did not develop a theory of the sedimentation of goals and motivations. For a unified account of how our behaviour can be effortlessly influenced by our own repeatedly endorsed motivations and by social stereotypes that we do not endorse, we can turn to the existentialist writings of Simone de Beauvoir and Frantz Fanon. De Beauvoir focuses on how we develop our goals and values. Girls and boys are raised with different expectations and inducements, and so are continually encouraged to think and act in ways that fit their assigned gender. Girls are required to respond to their environments in pleasing and helpful ways, whereas boys are encouraged to explore and dominate theirs.

These expectations shape the goals and values that we pursue across childhood and adolescence. De Beauvoir argued that this repeated endorsement of the same goals and values embeds them into our cognitive systems through sedimentation. Because girls and boys are subject to different expectations, we develop gendered sets of goals and values. Our goals and values become sedimented through repetition, and so do our strategies for achieving them.

Fanon presented a similar account of the origins of racial identity. He described the stories and films common to childhoods across France and the French colonies in the first half of the 20th century, including anecdotes from

1) How is Simone de Beauvoir’s version of sedimentation different from that of Maurice Merleau-Ponty?

- ☐ De Beauvoir explained sedimentation in the context of human experience, unlike Merleau who explained it in terms of knowledge.
- ☒ De Beauvoir advanced the idea that social stereotypes influence behaviour even without being endorsed in our reasoning. ✖
- ☐ De Beauvoir proposed the existentialist idea of how representation of stereotypes in popular media influences one’s goals and values.
- ☐ De Beauvoir differentiated the progress of goals and values when they’re endorsed by our reasoning from when they are not.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Option 2 states a foundational principle of the process of sedimentation as put forward by Maurice Merleau-Ponty. Reject option [2]. Option [3] is incorrect as it’s not Simone De Beauvoir, but Fanon who proposed the existentialist idea of how representation of stereotypes in popular media influences one’s goals and values. The passage doesn’t deal with *the difference in the progress of goals and values when they’re endorsed by our reasoning from when they are not*. Reject option [4]. Refer paragraph 2: “Because he focused on knowledge, Merleau-Ponty did not develop a theory of the sedimentation of goals and motivations. For a unified account of how our behaviour can be effortlessly influenced by our own repeatedly endorsed motivations... we can turn to the existentialist writings of Simone de Beauvoir and Frantz Fanon.” “The version of sedimentation that de Beauvoir and Fanon argued for is specifically existentialist” [Paragraph 4]. Human experience in the option means human life on earth, and hence relates to existentialism. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer: ▼

Avg Time taken by all students: 177 secs

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Merleau-Ponty's work helps us to see how our behaviour can be influenced by stereotypes that we do not agree with. As this sedimentation process is insensitive to whether we are interacting with the world itself or with media representations of it, stereotypes occurring regularly in our media will become integrated into our worldview along with knowledge of the real world. Because he focused on knowledge, Merleau-Ponty did not develop a theory of the sedimentation of goals and motivations. For a unified account of how our behaviour can be effortlessly influenced by our own repeatedly endorsed motivations and by social stereotypes that we do not endorse, we can turn to the existentialist writings of Simone de Beauvoir and Frantz Fanon. De Beauvoir focuses on how we develop our goals and values. Girls and boys are raised with different expectations and inducements, and so are continually encouraged to think and act in ways that fit their assigned gender. Girls are required to respond to their environments in pleasing and helpful ways, whereas boys are encouraged to explore and dominate theirs.

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Your Attempt: **Wrong**% Students got it correct: **47 %**

2) The passage supports all the following inferences EXCEPT:

- ☐ Character develops through sedimentation.
- ☐ It's impossible to attribute fixed qualities to identities.
- ☐ Individual behaviour is a reflection of the goals one chooses.
- ☒ Individuals cannot transcend the effects of sedimentation. ✓

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Option [1] is inferable. Maurice Merleau-Ponty called sedimentation 'contoured bedrock of understanding that guides our behaviour. De Beauvoir and Fanon extended the same to goals and values, and racial identity. Thus, sedimentation helps develop our character. Option [2] is inferable from the same information: if gender, race etc... are by-products of sedimentation they can't be defined in advance using a set of fixed qualities. Option [3] is inferable from the third paragraph that talks of how 'repeated endorsement of the same goals and values embeds them into our cognitive systems through sedimentation'. The passage doesn't support the inference that sedimentation cannot be transcended. Refer the last paragraph: 'But it also indicates how we can take control of the intuitions and feelings that drive these aspects of our behaviour.' Hence, [4].

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These expectations shape the goals and values that we pursue across childhood and adolescence. De Beauvoir argued that this repeated endorsement of the same goals and values embeds them into our cognitive systems through sedimentation. Because girls and boys are subject to different expectations, we develop gendered sets of goals and values. Our goals and values become sedimented through repetition, and so do our strategies for achieving them.

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Avg Time taken by all students: 49 secs

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **50 %**

3) "...our behaviour can be influenced by social stereotypes we do not endorse" (Paragraph 2) means that:

- ☐ Our behaviour is never at variance with the way we want to behave.
- ☐ We are unable to exercise our free will in certain circumstances.
- ☐ An individual may behave contrary to his own 'sedimented' values.
- ☒ Individuals are not born with a fixed personality. ✖

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Paragraph 2 talks of how sedimentation can influence our behaviour such that we internalize stereotypes we don't endorse. Option [1] contradicts this idea by stating that our behaviour is always under our control. Option [2] distorts facts: never does the passage claim that sedimentation or social stereotypes forcefully restrict our freedom to act the way we want (as the option suggests); it's more of a subtle or latent influence than a forced one. Option [3] correctly rephrases the given statement. Though factually in accordance with the passage, option [4] doesn't explain the given statement. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **70 secs**

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

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **54 %**

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Maurice Merleau-Ponty coined the term ‘sedimentation’ in 1945. He uses it to describe the process of taking on information about our bodies and environment in a form that enables us to act intelligently without much attention, effort or thought. Just as a river accumulates particles and deposits them as sedimented structures that direct the river’s flow, argued Merleau-Ponty, so we accumulate information as we go about our lives, which gradually and unconsciously builds into contoured bedrock of understanding that guides our behaviour.

Merleau-Ponty’s work helps us to see how our behaviour can be influenced by stereotypes that we do not agree with. As this sedimentation process is insensitive to whether we are interacting with the world itself or with media representations of it, stereotypes occurring regularly in our media will become integrated into our worldview along with knowledge of the real world. Because he focused on knowledge, Merleau-Ponty did not develop a theory of the sedimentation of goals and motivations. For a unified account of how our behaviour can be effortlessly influenced by our own repeatedly endorsed motivations and by social stereotypes that we do not endorse, we can turn to the existentialist writings of Simone de Beauvoir and Frantz Fanon. De Beauvoir focuses on how we develop our goals and values. Girls and boys are raised with different expectations and inducements, and so are continually encouraged to think and act in ways that fit their assigned gender. Girls are required to respond to their environments in pleasing and helpful ways, whereas boys are encouraged to explore and dominate theirs.

These expectations shape the goals and values that we pursue across childhood and adolescence. De Beauvoir argued that this repeated endorsement of the same goals and values embeds them into our cognitive systems through sedimentation. Because girls and boys are subject to different expectations, we develop gendered sets of goals and values. Our goals and values become sedimented through repetition, and so do our strategies for achieving them.

Fanon presented a similar account of the origins of racial identity. He described the stories and films common to childhoods across France and the French colonies in the first half of the 20th century, including anecdotes from

4) “Sedimentation” as conceptualized by Maurice Merleau-Ponty...

- ☐ allows us to make sense of the world and to act meaningfully.
- ☐ does not permit freedom of behaviour.
- ☒ is fundamental to the theory of goals and motivations. ❌
- ☐ is inconsistent with De Beauvoir’s and Fanon’s theory of sedimentation.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The 1st paragraph briefly explains Merleau-Ponty’s concept of ‘sedimentation’. He uses it to describe “...the process of taking on information ... that enables us to act intelligently without much attention ... He focused on knowledge ...” or the process of gathering knowledge (which in turn guides our behaviour). Option [1] correctly provides a defining character of “sedimentation” as conceptualized by Maurice Merleau-Ponty. Option [2] is not in tune with the concept of sedimentation itself; it doesn’t take away an individual’s freedom of behaviour as the option claims. It’s more of a subconscious process of taking in certain qualities from the surroundings: “...so we accumulate information as we go about our lives, which gradually and unconsciously builds into contoured bedrock of understanding that guides our behaviour.” Option [3] is clearly wrong, as Merleau-Ponty hadn’t expanded his theory on sedimentation to the domain of goals and motivations; these concerns were addressed by De Beauvoir and Fanon, whose theory was more existential (or related to our existence in the world). Option [4] can be rejected as the passage doesn’t suggest anywhere that the existential version of sedimentation (proposed by De Beauvoir and Fanon) was in contradiction to that of Merleau-Ponty. It’s more correct to call it an expansion of what Merleau-Ponty put forward. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer: ▼

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Avg Time taken by all students: 44 secs

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **51 %**

5) Which among the following statements is true according to the passage? —

- ☐ Both De Beauvoir and Fanon explored the effects of media on our world view.
- ☐ Our cognitive systems do not discriminate among the sources of inputs.
- ☒ Our behaviour is exclusively shaped by social stereotypes that we don't endorse. ✗
- ☐ Stereotypes we do not endorse do not influence our behaviour.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Option 1 is incorrect. Paragraphs 3 and 4 discuss about the ideas put forward by De Beauvoir and Fanon respectively. Though both argued for a specifically existentialist version of sedimentation, the former did so by focusing on societal expectation rather than stereotypical representations in media; it's Fanon who explored the effects of media on our world view. The word exclusively, which means 'as the only source', eliminates option [3]; refer paragraph 2: "...a unified account of how our behaviour can be effortlessly influenced by our own repeatedly endorsed motivations and by social stereotypes that we do not endorse..." Option 4 is contrary to the passage. Refer paragraph 2: "As this sedimentation process is insensitive to whether we are interacting with the world itself or with media representations of it..." The above statement validates option [2]. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼

Your Attempt: **Wrong**% Students got it correct: **42 %**

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

Maurice Merleau-Ponty coined the term ‘sedimentation’ in 1945. He uses it to describe the process of taking on information about our bodies and environment in a form that enables us to act intelligently without much attention, effort or thought. Just as a river accumulates particles and deposits them as sedimented structures that direct the river’s flow, argued Merleau-Ponty, so we accumulate information as we go about our lives, which gradually and unconsciously builds into contoured bedrock of understanding that guides our behaviour.

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Loading...

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

“The first few days are a little rough,” Andrew told me about his sugar-free adventure. “It almost feels like you’re detoxing from drugs. I found myself eating a lot of carbs to compensate for the lack of sugar.”

There are four major components of addiction: bingeing, withdrawal, craving, and cross-sensitisation (the notion that one addictive substance predisposes someone to becoming addicted to another). All of these components have been observed in animal models of addiction – for sugar, as well as drugs of abuse.

A typical experiment goes like this: rats are deprived of food for 12 hours each day, then given 12 hours of access to a sugary solution and regular chow. After a month of following this daily pattern, rats display behaviours similar to those on drugs of abuse. They’ll binge on the sugar solution in a short period of time, much more than their regular food. They also show signs of anxiety and depression during the food deprivation period. Many sugar-treated rats who are later exposed to drugs, such as cocaine, demonstrate dependent behaviours towards the drugs compared to rats who did not consume sugar beforehand.

Like drugs, sugar spikes dopamine release in the brain. Over the long term, regular sugar consumption actually changes the gene expression and availability of dopamine receptors in the brain. Specifically, sugar increases the concentration of a type of excitatory receptor called D1, but decreases another receptor type called D2, which is inhibitory.

In short, this means that repeated access to sugar over time leads to prolonged dopamine signalling, greater excitation of the brain and a need for even more sugar to activate all of the dopamine receptors like before. The brain becomes tolerant to sugar – and more is needed to attain the same “sugar high.”

In a related study, rats that had undergone a typical sugar dependence protocol then underwent “sugar withdrawal.” This was facilitated by either food deprivation or treatment with naloxone, a drug used for treating opiate addiction which binds to receptors in the brain. Both withdrawal methods led to physical problems, including teeth chattering, paw tremors, and head shaking. Naloxone treatment also appeared to make the rats more anxious, as they spent less time on an elevated apparatus that lacked walls on either side.

Another study reports that sugar withdrawal is also linked to impulsive behaviour. Initially, rats were trained to receive water by pushing a lever. After training, the animals returned to their home cages and had access to a sugar solution and water, or just water alone. After 30 days, when rats were again given the opportunity to press a lever for water, those who had become dependent on sugar pressed the lever significantly more times than others.

These are extreme experiments, of course. We humans aren’t depriving ourselves of food for 12 hours and then allowing ourselves to binge on sugar at the end of the day. However, it’s not far-fetched to say that the same primitive processes are occurring in the human brain, too. They certainly give us insight into the neuro-chemical underpinnings of sugar dependence, withdrawal, and behaviour.

1) Which of the following CANNOT be inferred from the passage?

- ☐ Rats, like human beings, exhibit addictive behaviour towards sugar.
- ☐ The effect of sugar and drugs in humans and rats are comparable.
- ☐ Sugar has the potential to make one susceptible to other addictions.
- ☒ Sugar, like other drugs, contains an addictive component called Dopamine ✓

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The passage talks about the experiments conducted to study the nature of sugar-addiction in rats, their results and conclusions. Options 1, 2 and 3 can be inferred from the passage. Andrews’s example and the experiments show that humans and rats are susceptible to sugar addiction and that the effects are similar. Hence, options 1 and 2 are inferable. ‘Cross-sensitisation’ [Paragraph 2] makes option 3 true. Option 4 is not correct. Sugar triggers dopamine release in the brain; it is not a constituent of sugar. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **198 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **174 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **53 %**

2) The experiment in which the rats were trained to receive water by pushing a lever shows that ...

- ☐ withdrawal causes aggressive behaviour.
- ☐ craving is a sign of addiction.
- ☐ addiction causes irrational behaviour.
- ☒ withdrawal causes impulsive behaviour. ✓

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Answer is directly stated in paragraph 7. “Another study reports that sugar withdrawal is also linked to impulsive behaviour. Initially, rats were trained to receive water by pushing a lever.” The experiment was conducted to establish the relation between withdrawal and impulsive behaviour. Hence, [4].

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

“The first few days are a little rough,” Andrew told me about his sugar-free adventure. “It almost feels like you’re detoxing from drugs. I found myself eating a lot of carbs to compensate for the lack of sugar.”

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In short, this means that repeated access to sugar over time leads to prolonged dopamine signalling, greater excitation of the brain and a need for even more sugar to activate all of the dopamine receptors like before. The brain becomes tolerant to sugar – and more is needed to attain the same “sugar high.”

In a related study, rats that had undergone a typical sugar dependence protocol then underwent “sugar withdrawal.” This was facilitated by either food deprivation or treatment with naloxone, a drug used for treating opiate addiction which binds to receptors in the brain. Both withdrawal methods led to physical problems, including teeth chattering, paw tremors, and head shaking. Naloxone treatment also appeared to make the rats more anxious, as they spent less time on an elevated apparatus that lacked walls on either side.

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These are extreme experiments, of course. We humans aren’t depriving ourselves of food for 12 hours and then allowing ourselves to binge on sugar at the end of the day. However, it’s not far-fetched to say that the same primitive processes are occurring in the human brain, too. They certainly give us insight into the neuro-chemical underpinnings of sugar dependence, withdrawal, and behaviour.

Time taken by you: 118 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 74 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 84 %

3) According to the passage, dopamine... —

- ☒ keeps the brain in an excited state. ❌
- ☐ is associated with the brain's pleasure system.
- ☐ suppresses the excitatory receptors in the brain.
- ☐ excites the inhibitory receptors in the brain.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Option 1 is incorrect – there is no information to conclude that the normal function of dopamine is to keep the brain in an excited state. Spiked level of dopamine causes an excited state. Otherwise dopamine may be harmless. Option 2 is correct – ‘sugar high’ mentioned in paragraph 5 helps to conclude the association between dopamine and brain’s pleasure system. Options 3 and 4 are incorrect as they state the reverse of what is stated in the passage. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 99 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 19 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 17 %

4) According to the passage, all of the following are true about sugar, EXCEPT: —

- ☐ Sugar is as addictive as cocaine or other drugs of abuse.
- ☐ It has a direct influence on the way the brain functions.
- ☒ Withdrawal symptoms of sugar and drugs of abuse are similar. ❌
- ☐ Sugar dependence is akin to drug addiction.

Video Explanation: ▼

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There are four major components of addiction: bingeing, withdrawal, craving, and cross-sensitisation (the notion that one addictive substance predisposes someone to becoming addicted to another). All of these components have been observed in animal models of addiction – for sugar, as well as drugs of abuse.

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In short, this means that repeated access to sugar over time leads to prolonged dopamine signalling, greater excitation of the brain and a need for even more sugar to activate all of the dopamine receptors like before. The brain becomes tolerant to sugar – and more is needed to attain the same “sugar high.”

In a related study, rats that had undergone a typical sugar dependence protocol then underwent “sugar withdrawal.” This was facilitated by either food deprivation or treatment with naloxone, a drug used for treating opiate addiction which binds to receptors in the brain. Both withdrawal methods led to physical problems, including teeth chattering, paw tremors, and head shaking. Naloxone treatment also appeared to make the rats more anxious, as they spent less time on an elevated apparatus that lacked walls on either side.

Another study reports that sugar withdrawal is also linked to impulsive behaviour. Initially, rats were trained to receive water by pushing a lever. After training, the animals returned to their home cages and had access to a sugar solution and water, or just water alone. After 30 days, when rats were again given the opportunity to press a lever for water, those who had become dependent on sugar pressed the lever significantly more times than others.

These are extreme experiments, of course. We humans aren’t depriving ourselves of food for 12 hours and then allowing ourselves to binge on sugar at the end of the day. However, it’s not far-fetched to say that the same primitive processes are occurring in the human brain, too. They certainly give us insight into the neuro-chemical underpinnings of sugar dependence, withdrawal, and behaviour.

The author tries to show that consumption of sugar sets in motion a similar process in the brain as drugs do. The phrase, ‘sugar-high’ implies that consumption of sugar produces an effect just as drugs do. However, whether ‘sugar-high’ is comparable to ‘cocaine high’, or whether sugar is as addictive as cocaine is not asserted in the passage. Option 1 is not true by common sense standards too. Options 2, 3 and 4 are asserted at different places in the passage. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 36 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 29 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 30 %

5) Which of the following assumptions forms the basis of the main argument of the passage?

- ☐ There is commonality in how brain responds to all kinds of drugs.
- ☐ Cross- sensitisation is the most adverse impact of sugar addiction.
- ☒ Mice and humans share genetic and behaviour characteristics.
- ☐ Consumption of sugar technically amounts to substance-abuse.

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

The studies mentioned in the essay are conducted on mice (rats), and their conclusions are then extrapolated to humans. The experiments detail the genetic (gene expression), biological (dopamine) and behavioural (withdrawal symptoms) make-up of rats. However, the main argument is about human’s response to sugar. This is not possible unless mice and humans share similar genetic, biological and behaviour characteristics. Hence, option 3 is correct. Option 1 is eliminated because of the phrase, “all kinds of drugs”. Option 2 is unsustainable because of “most adverse”. Option 4 is not correct because sugar is not an ‘addictive’ drug, i.e. something that leads to substance abuse. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 58 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 24 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

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

What is it like to be a cow? Researchers such as Jeremy Bailenson, the director of the Virtual Human Interaction Lab in California, and his colleagues at Stanford University created a simulation of a slaughterhouse. In a series of experiments, Bailenson invited people to don virtual reality (VR) headsets, and walk around on all fours to experience ‘what it’s like to be a cow that’s raised for dairy and for meat’. You go down to a trough, you put your head down and pretend to drink some water. You amble over to a pile of hay, you put your head down and you pretend to eat hay. For a time after their VR experience, people found themselves eating less meat. One subject remarked: ‘I truly felt like I was going to the slaughterhouse ... and felt sad that as a cow I was going to die.’

But we should be skeptical of these claims. While VR might help us to cultivate sympathy, it fails to generate true empathy. Empathy is what we use when we engage in perspective-taking. Sympathy, meanwhile, involves the capacities that help us feel for another.

Empathy is very, very hard – and sometimes, it’s simply impossible. In his classic 1974 essay, the American philosopher Thomas Nagel argued that humans could not imagine what it was like to be a bat, even if we went to great lengths to try and live like one. A gap of understanding arises because our evolved way of being embodied and our very human, very self-reflective, and very personal life experiences shape the way the world seems to us.

VR is a powerful tool, but it cannot alter basic biological embodiment or psychology. Human experiences are sufficiently unlike cow or bat experiences that it’s impossible for us to know what those experiences are like. But can’t VR at least help us take on the perspective of other people – such as those experiencing homelessness or racial discrimination? After all, two humans are much more alike than humans and cows.

Conscious experiences acquire their meanings in part via panoply of nonconscious processes. These include not only your biology, but also your cultural concepts, past experiences, emotions, expectations and even features of the specific situations in which you find yourself. As the philosopher Alva Noë explains: perception is something we actively do, not something we passively experience. Our expectations, along with other background processes, help to determine how we understand the things that we see, hear, feel and think, and these processes vary from person to person. They are powerful enough to affect even seemingly nonconscious empathic processes.

Imagine if I came to the conclusion that homelessness wasn’t that big a deal because I enjoyed the challenging puzzle elements in the VR experience ‘Becoming Homeless.’ Imagine if I believed I now had better insight into homelessness, and that it wasn’t as bad as I feared. I might change the way I thought about homelessness, and the sorts of policies I voted for. Such failures of sympathy, grounded in false beliefs about our VR’s ability to produce empathy, can be avoided. VR is an important tool, and research shows that it can radically affect the way we think about the world. But we shouldn’t be so quick to assume that it endows us with true, first-person, empathetic understanding. That would be bovine indeed.

1) The main argument of the passage is ...

- ☐ Virtual Reality cannot let us see what it's like to experience the life of an animal primed for butchering.
- ☐ Technologically-enabled empathy through virtual reality will not help us to become more understanding or better people.
- ☒ While virtual reality can at best induce a sense of sympathy, it cannot endow us with true empathetic understanding. ✓
- ☐ While simulations cannot help us see what it means to be an animal, it can help us experience what it's like to be homeless or a victim of racism.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The main argument is explicitly stated in this passage. Refer to the second paragraph: “While VR might help us to cultivate sympathy, it fails to generate true empathy.” This argument is then developed and substantiated in the passage. Option 1 is limited to the study done by the Virtual Human Interaction Lab in California, mentioned in the first paragraph. Option 2 mentions ‘technologically enabled empathy’ while the passage argues empathy cannot be technologically enabled. Option 4 is incorrect as the passage treats both simulations—that of animal and human experiences-- as equally ineffective to generate true empathy. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 254 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 268 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 89 %

2) According to the passage, “for a time after their VR experience, people found themselves eating less meat,” (Paragraph 1) shows that ...

- ☐ VR experience generated empathetic understanding of the cows.
- ☒ VR experience generated sympathy for the cows. ✓
- ☐ VR experience of eating hay influenced their dietary habits.
- ☐ VR experience made the subjects make false claims.

Video Explanation: ▼

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Refer the second paragraph: “While VR might help us to cultivate sympathy, it fails to generate true empathy... Sympathy, meanwhile, involves the capacities that help us feel for another.” This is the only explanation that the passage offers for the reduced consumption of meat after the VR experience. The possibility of feeling empathetic, as claimed in option 1 is thus eliminated. Options 3 and 4 are distractors, and against common sense. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 26 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 66 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 87 %

3) According to the author, ‘empathy is very very hard – and, sometimes, it’s simply impossible’ because: —

- ☐ Empathy is what we use when we engage in perspective taking.
- ☐ Nothing can alter our basic biological and psychological makeup.
- ☐ We have to go great lengths to try to live like another person or animal.
- ☒ Humans by nature are very self-reflective and unlike other individuals. ✖

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Refer to the third and the fourth paragraphs. The argument that empathy is hard and sometimes simply impossible is because we are not what we feel empathy for. “A gap of understanding arises because our evolved way of being embodied and our very human, very self-reflective, and very personal life experiences shape the way the world seems to us. VR is a powerful tool, but it cannot alter basic biological embodiment or psychology.” [Paragraph 3] In other words, we cannot overcome our biology and personal life experiences, which make up our psychology and worldview. Hence, it is not possible to be in someone else’s shoes fully. This is best expressed in option 2. Option 1 defines empathy, but doesn’t explain the reason. Options 3 and 4 are similar in that they don’t explain why generating empathy is impossible.Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 69 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 33 secs

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

What is it like to be a cow? Researchers such as Jeremy Bailenson, the director of the Virtual Human Interaction Lab in California, and his colleagues at Stanford University created a simulation of a slaughterhouse. In a series of experiments, Bailenson invited people to don virtual reality (VR) headsets, and walk around on all fours to experience ‘what it’s like to be a cow that’s raised for dairy and for meat’. You go down to a trough, you put your head down and pretend to drink some water. You amble over to a pile of hay, you put your head down and you pretend to eat hay. For a time after their VR experience, people found themselves eating less meat. One subject remarked: ‘I truly felt like I was going to the slaughterhouse ... and felt sad that as a cow I was going to die.’

But we should be skeptical of these claims. While VR might help us to cultivate sympathy, it fails to generate true empathy. Empathy is what we use when we engage in perspective-taking. Sympathy, meanwhile, involves the capacities that help us feel for another.

Empathy is very, very hard – and sometimes, it’s simply impossible. In his classic 1974 essay, the American philosopher Thomas Nagel argued that humans could not imagine what it was like to be a bat, even if we went to great lengths to try and live like one. A gap of understanding arises because our evolved way of being embodied and our very human, very self-reflective, and very personal life experiences shape the way the world seems to us.

VR is a powerful tool, but it cannot alter basic biological embodiment or psychology. Human experiences are sufficiently unlike cow or bat experiences that it’s impossible for us to know what those experiences are like. But can’t VR at least help us take on the perspective of other people – such as those experiencing homelessness or racial discrimination? After all, two humans are much more alike than humans and cows.

Conscious experiences acquire their meanings in part via panoply of nonconscious processes. These include not only your biology, but also your cultural concepts, past experiences, emotions, expectations and even features of the specific situations in which you find yourself. As the philosopher Alva Noë explains: perception is something we actively do, not something we passively experience. Our expectations, along with other background processes, help to determine how we understand the things that we see, hear, feel and think, and these processes vary from person to person. They are powerful enough to affect even seemingly nonconscious empathic processes.

Imagine if I came to the conclusion that homelessness wasn’t that big a deal because I enjoyed the challenging puzzle elements in the VR experience ‘Becoming Homeless.’ Imagine if I believed I now had better insight into homelessness, and that it wasn’t as bad as I feared. I might change the way I thought about homelessness, and the sorts of policies I voted for. Such failures of sympathy, grounded in false beliefs about our VR’s ability to produce empathy, can be avoided. VR is an important tool, and research shows that it can radically affect the way we think about the world. But we shouldn’t be so quick to assume that it endows us with true, first-person, empathetic understanding. That would be bovine indeed.

% Students got it correct: 36 %

4) According to the philosopher Alva Noe:

- ☐ True empathy is possible if perception is an active process.
- ☐ How we understand things depends on conscious experiences.
- ☐ True empathy between two human beings is not possible.
- ☒ Panoply of nonconscious processes determines empathy. ❌

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

The author quotes Alva Noe in connection with the idea that true empathy for other human being may be possible (paragraph 4) because “two humans are much more alike than humans and cows. The fifth paragraph talks of the philosopher Alva Noe and his views on perception and empathic process. First, he says that one’s perception is based “not only on your biology, but also your cultural concepts, past experiences, emotion, expectations and even features of the specific situations in which you find yourself.” In short, each individual’s perception of the world is unique. This uniqueness of perception is “powerful enough to affect even seemingly nonconscious empathic process.” This shows that true empathy between two human beings is not possible. Option 1 is factually incorrect – the passage states that true empathy is not possible because perception is not an active process. Similarly, option 2 is factually incorrect because how we understand things partially depends on “panoply of nonconscious processes.” Option 4 is also a misinterpretation; it’s not one’s empathy, but perception that is influenced by the nonconscious processes. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 52 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 7 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 6 %

5) “That would be bovine indeed,” (Last sentence) - the use of the word bovine in the context is ...

- ☐ Moralistic
- ☐ Absurd
- ☒ Satirical ✓
- ☐ Condescending

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

What is it like to be a cow? Researchers such as Jeremy Bailenson, the director of the Virtual Human Interaction Lab in California, and his colleagues at Stanford University created a simulation of a slaughterhouse. In a series of experiments, Bailenson invited people to don virtual reality (VR) headsets, and walk around on all fours to experience ‘what it’s like to be a cow that’s raised for dairy and for meat’. You go down to a trough, you put your head down and pretend to drink some water. You amble over to a pile of hay, you put your head down and you pretend to eat hay. For a time after their VR experience, people found themselves eating less meat. One subject remarked: ‘I truly felt like I was going to the slaughterhouse ... and felt sad that as a cow I was going to die.’

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Conscious experiences acquire their meanings in part via panoply of nonconscious processes. These include not only your biology, but also your cultural concepts, past experiences, emotions, expectations and even features of the specific situations in which you find yourself. As the philosopher Alva Noë explains: perception is something we actively do, not something we passively experience. Our expectations, along with other background processes, help to determine how we understand the things that we see, hear, feel and think, and these processes vary from person to person. They are powerful enough to affect even seemingly nonconscious empathic processes.

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Explanation: ▼

The passage begins with the VR experiment of trying to simulate the experience of a cow through VR. “In a series of experiments, Bailenson invited people to don virtual reality (VR) headsets, and walk around on all fours to experience ‘what it’s like to be a cow that’s raised for dairy and for meat’. You go down to a trough, you put your head down and pretend to drink some water. You amble over to a pile of hay, you put your head down and you pretend to eat hay.” The essay then explains that it is not possible for a human being to understand the experience of a cow, or that of another human being for that matter, because of the uniqueness of our biology and psyche. So, the last sentence is a come-back to this VR story. “But we shouldn’t be so quick to assume that it endows us with true, first-person, empathetic understanding. That would be bovine indeed.” It is a satirical take on our false belief that true empathy may be possible. Moralistic (concern with morality), absurd (illogical or foolish) or condescending (patronizing) are not applicable in the context. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 54 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 20 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 31 %

Loading...

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

Everyone is in favour of happiness. Some psychologists argue that it’s the key to physical health and longevity. Canny employers promote “workplace happiness” as the cheapest way to boost productivity – other than, of course, cutting wages. Some economists propose, humanistically enough, that the G.D.P. (Gross Domestic Product), as a measure of national success, should be replaced by a measure of national happiness.

But happiness is too shaky a concept to bear so much weight. In one psychological experiment, subjects were asked to fill out a questionnaire on life satisfaction — but only after they had performed the apparently irrelevant task of photocopying a sheet of paper. For some of the subjects, a dime had been left on the copy machine, and these lucky ones reported “substantially” higher levels of happiness than those who had not found a dime. This, other researchers noted, was “clearly not an income effect.”

Then there are the biases implicit in questionnaires and evaluations. One well-known test wants to know if I’m “pessimistic about the future.” But whose future – mine or the species? Choosing the latter, I confessed to pessimism, and thereby knocked my happiness score down from a possible 5 to a less-than-jubilant 3.67. Weeks later, when I told this to the psychologist who had designed the test, he suggested I undergo “optimism training” to improve my score.

Most of the happiness tests, including those used for population surveys, conflate “happiness” with “life satisfaction,” or contentment. In a widely used questionnaire from the University of Illinois, respondents are asked to agree or disagree with such statements as “I am satisfied with my life,” and “So far I have gotten the important things I want in life.”

Well, sadly, I’m not satisfied with what I’ve accomplished so far in my life, largely because it doesn’t include such “important things” as world peace.

But does this make me unhappy? Not if happiness involves a deep engagement with the world and its people. Albert Camus concluded his essay on the perpetually unsuccessful Sisyphus by saying, “The struggle itself toward the heights is enough to fill a man’s heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy.”

1) Which of the following statements best expresses the overall argument of this passage? —

- ☐ The GDP should be replaced by a measure of national happiness.
- ☐ Optimism can be learned by aiming to be more optimistic.
- ☒ There is no unbiased way to measure happiness. ✓
- ☐ G.D.P. does not adequately reflect a country’s success.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Options 1 and 4 are mentioned at the beginning of the passage as the view of some economists, “Some economists propose, humanistically enough, that the G.D.P. (Gross Domestic Product), as a measure of national success, should be replaced by a measure of national happiness.” This serves as an introduction to the argument. It is not the main argument itself. The reference to the ‘optimism training’ in the third paragraph is in relation to ambiguities that may be built into questionnaires. Option 3 is the main argument of the passage. The passage begins with “Everyone is in favour of happiness including employers and economists. Then it explains that “happiness is too shaky a concept,” to measure. In other words, the questionnaires trying to capture the measure of happiness are biased and ineffective. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 241 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 210 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 82 %

2) The researchers’ assertion that ‘this ... was “clearly not an income effect”’ (2nd paragraph) indicates that ... —

- ☒ There are biases inherent in the reported levels of happiness. ✓
- ☐ Cutting wages may help improve productivity.
- ☐ Questionnaire on life satisfaction elicits accurate responses.
- ☐ An increase in income contributes to higher levels of happiness.

Video Explanation: ▼

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

Everyone is in favour of happiness. Some psychologists argue that it’s the key to physical health and longevity. Canny employers promote “workplace happiness” as the cheapest way to boost productivity – other than, of course, cutting wages. Some economists propose, humanistically enough, that the G.D.P. (Gross Domestic Product), as a measure of national success, should be replaced by a measure of national happiness.

But happiness is too shaky a concept to bear so much weight. In one psychological experiment, subjects were asked to fill out a questionnaire on life satisfaction — but only after they had performed the apparently irrelevant task of photocopying a sheet of paper. For some of the subjects, a dime had been left on the copy machine, and these lucky ones reported “substantially” higher levels of happiness than those who had not found a dime. This, other researchers noted, was “clearly not an income effect.”

Then there are the biases implicit in questionnaires and evaluations. One well-known test wants to know if I’m “pessimistic about the future.” But whose future – mine or the species? Choosing the latter, I confessed to pessimism, and thereby knocked my happiness score down from a possible 5 to a less-than-jubilant 3.67. Weeks later, when I told this to the psychologist who had designed the test, he suggested I undergo “optimism training” to improve my score.

Most of the happiness tests, including those used for population surveys, conflate “happiness” with “life satisfaction,” or contentment. In a widely used questionnaire from the University of Illinois, respondents are asked to agree or disagree with such statements as “I am satisfied with my life,” and “So far I have gotten the important things I want in life.”

Well, sadly, I’m not satisfied with what I’ve accomplished so far in my life, largely because it doesn’t include such “important things” as world peace.

But does this make me unhappy? Not if happiness involves a deep engagement with the world and its people. Albert Camus concluded his essay on the perpetually unsuccessful Sisyphus by saying, “The struggle itself toward the heights is enough to fill a man’s heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy.”

Paragraph3 details the psychological experiment in which the responses to questions about life satisfaction were influenced by the presence of a dime. The reported life-satisfaction was substantially higher with the discovery of the coin on the copy machine. This indicates that the reported levels of happiness depended on temporary factors, because the dime is not significant enough to be considered as income. This supports the thesis that no accurate measurement of happiness is possible. Thus, option 1 is true. Cutting wages is related to income effect – but no data is available about its effect on productivity. Option 3 is contrary to the passage. Option 4 may be generally true; but, the researchers assert that the result is ‘clearly not an income effect’ as a dime can’t be considered as income. Therefore, option 4 is incorrect owing to inadequate data. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 101 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 73 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 72 %

3) The psychologists who recommended “optimism training” to the author to improve (her) score assumed which of the following?

- Optimism is the tendency to expect things to turn out better than probability predicts.
- Pessimism can be overcome merely by aiming to be more optimistic.
- Optimism is the tendency to attribute the causes of adversity to forces that are outside our control.
- Pessimism is the tendency to attribute the causes of adversity to forces that are within our control.

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

Some psychologists recommend ‘optimism training’ to improve one’s score – in the context of the passage, get a higher score in ‘levels of happiness’ – under the assumption that the causes of a lower score can be understood and controlled. This idea is well expressed in option 4. Option 2, which may be considered for the answer, is vague as it is unclear about what ‘aiming to be optimistic’ means. Hence, it cannot be the assumption. Option 3 states that optimism is the belief that the causes of adversity are outside our control – this is pessimism, and not optimism. Option 1 is unrelated to ‘optimism training’. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 84 secs

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

Everyone is in favour of happiness. Some psychologists argue that it’s the key to physical health and longevity. Canny employers promote “workplace happiness” as the cheapest way to boost productivity – other than, of course, cutting wages. Some economists propose, humanistically enough, that the G.D.P. (Gross Domestic Product), as a measure of national success, should be replaced by a measure of national happiness.

But happiness is too shaky a concept to bear so much weight. In one psychological experiment, subjects were asked to fill out a questionnaire on life satisfaction — but only after they had performed the apparently irrelevant task of photocopying a sheet of paper. For some of the subjects, a dime had been left on the copy machine, and these lucky ones reported “substantially” higher levels of happiness than those who had not found a dime. This, other researchers noted, was “clearly not an income effect.”

Then there are the biases implicit in questionnaires and evaluations. One well-known test wants to know if I’m “pessimistic about the future.” But whose future – mine or the species? Choosing the latter, I confessed to pessimism, and thereby knocked my happiness score down from a possible 5 to a less-than-jubilant 3.67. Weeks later, when I told this to the psychologist who had designed the test, he suggested I undergo “optimism training” to improve my score.

Most of the happiness tests, including those used for population surveys, conflate “happiness” with “life satisfaction,” or contentment. In a widely used questionnaire from the University of Illinois, respondents are asked to agree or disagree with such statements as “I am satisfied with my life,” and “So far I have gotten the important things I want in life.”

Well, sadly, I’m not satisfied with what I’ve accomplished so far in my life, largely because it doesn’t include such “important things” as world peace.

But does this make me unhappy? Not if happiness involves a deep engagement with the world and its people. Albert Camus concluded his essay on the perpetually unsuccessful Sisyphus by saying, “The struggle itself toward the heights is enough to fill a man’s heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy.”

Your Attempt: Skipped

% Students got it correct: 9 %

4) The writer of this essay is likely to agree with all the following statements, EXCEPT: —

- ☐ Happiness and life satisfaction are important dimensions of national success that is missed by objective measures like GDP.
- ☐ Economists should no longer consider "happiness" as a philosophical experience but as something that can be monitored and measured.
- ☐ Poor women in India are much more likely than men to say they are well, even when a doctor’s examination suggests otherwise.
- ☐ If happiness involves a deep engagement with daily life, an unsuccessful person can also be deeply happy.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The author is likely to agree with statement 1 – her only point is that one cannot measure happiness. She does not disagree with the economists’ view that GDP should be replaced by GNH. Option 2 is directly against the author’s argument; hence, it is the exception, and therefore, the answer. Option 3 is the other side of the copy machine example (biased reporting of happiness/wellbeing owing to environmental factors) – hence, the author is likely to agree with it. Option 4 is supported by her last paragraph and the quote from Albert Camus. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 49 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 31 secs

Your Attempt: Skipped

% Students got it correct: 29 %

Loading...

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

When we open our mouths to yawn, our jaws stretch down to their near-lowest position, heightening blood flow in the area that is then cooled by the quick intake of air. A 2007 study by psychology professor Andrew Gallup showed that when participants in the study were warmed, the rate of yawning increased. But when participants were in a cooler environment, or had placed cold ice packs on their foreheads, the rate of yawning was noticeably lower. At the end of a long tiring day of heated brain activity, yawning functions as a coolant to the literal sleepyhead.

- ☐ Yawning helps to heighten the blood flow in the jaw and cools our brain.
- ☐ We tend to yawn more in warmer rather than cooler environment.
- ☒ Yawning functions as a coolant to a tired, heated and sleepy brain. ❌
- ☐ Yawning serves as a coolant to a warmer body and brain.



Oops, you got it wrong!

Explanation:

The gist of the passage is that yawning helps to cool our body and brain – body because, “when participants in the study were warmed, the rate of yawning increased. ...when participants were in a cooler environment ... the rate of yawning was noticeably lower.” and brain, because the last sentence mentions that “...at the end of a long tiring day of heated brain activity, yawning functions as a coolant to the literal sleepyhead.” Option 4 captures this essence – includes both body and the brain. Option 1 mentions only the brain. Option 2 mentions only an observation in the study. Option 3 is similar to option 1, and therefore incorrect. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **58 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **26 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **16 %**

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

It is a primitive attitude which made us invest with a human mind everything that moved and changed in a way adapted to perpetuate itself or its kind. In the natural sciences, we have gradually shed this attitude and have learned that the interaction of different tendencies may produce what we call an order, without any mind of our own kind regulating it. But we still refuse to recognize that the spontaneous interplay of the actions of individuals may produce something which is not the deliberate object of their actions, but an organism in which every part performs a necessary function for the continuance of the whole, without any human mind having devised it.

- ☒ Though we may still refuse to accept, the spontaneous interplay of individual actions can produce an overall order without any human mind having devised it. ✓
- ☐ In spite of natural sciences showing otherwise, we still refuse to recognize that order may exist by mechanical causation without any human mind having devised it.
- ☐ Though not entirely, natural sciences have helped us shed anthropomorphism - that everything that sustains itself is invested with a human mind.
- ☐ It is natural to assign a human mind to the ordered outcomes of various individuals acting on their own and without the intention to create a larger outcome.



Congratulations, you got it correct!

Explanation:



The paragraph states that primitives attributed human qualities (mind) to everything that could perpetuate itself. With development in natural sciences we have gradually given up this belief and come to realize that order can come into being without any human mind having devised it – the interplay of individual actions can create order without the presence of a human mind. In short, for order to exist a human mind is not necessary. However, we still refuse to recognize it and show a tendency to resort to our primitive belief. This is best expressed in option 1. Option 2 goes beyond the scope of the passage – ‘mechanical causation’ is incorrect – the passage says “spontaneous interplay of the actions of individuals” – essentially referring to living individuals or a society. Option 3 is correct about anthropomorphism but it summarizes only the first part of the paragraph. Option 4 is incorrect in saying ‘it is natural to assign’ and ‘without the intention to create...’ Hence, [1].

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **128 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **80 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **46 %**

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

Minimally, Hindu Philosophy stands for a tradition of Indian philosophical thinking. However, it could be interpreted as designating one comprehensive philosophical doctrine, shared by all Hindu thinkers. The term "Hindu philosophy" is often used loosely in this philosophical or doctrinal sense, but this usage is misleading. There is no single, comprehensive philosophical doctrine shared by all Hindus that distinguishes their view from contrary philosophical views associated with other Indian religious movements such as Buddhism or Jainism on issues of epistemology, metaphysics, logic, ethics or cosmology. Historians of Indian philosophy typically understand the term "Hindu philosophy" as standing for the collection of philosophical views that share a textual connection to certain core Hindu religious texts (the Vedas).

- ☐ The lack of a comprehensive philosophical doctrine shared by all Hindus makes the historians' description of Hindu Philosophy inaccurate.
- ☐ Hindu philosophy can be defined only in a broad sense as the tradition of Indian philosophical thinking.
- ☐ Hindu Philosophy loosely refers to a doctrine based on various religious texts, and philosophical and cosmological issues.
- ☒ The term "Hindu philosophy" is ambiguous and cannot be identified with a particular comprehensive philosophical doctrine. ✓

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

**Explanation:**

The first part of the paragraph states that Hindu philosophy simply is a tradition –it can also be understood as a comprehensive philosophical doctrine, shared by all Hindu thinkers. The writer then says that this definition of Hindu philosophy is misleading as Hindu philosophy cannot be clearly distinguished from ... “religious movements such as Buddhism or Jainism on issues of epistemology, metaphysics, logic, ethics or cosmology.” The historians hold a still different view of Hindu Philosophy and associate it with the Vedas. The author’s position briefly is that the definition of Hindu Philosophy is vague and cannot be understood as a single or unique philosophical doctrine. Option 4 best summarizes this idea. Option 1 emphasizes the historians’ view – which is not the thrust of the author’s position. Option 2 refers only to the minimalist definition of Indian philosophy – not the complexity of the author’s position. Option 3 is erroneous as it states “based on various religious texts,” The paragraph does not imply this. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **72 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **87 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **50 %**

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. We perceive the meaning directly.
2. It's for this reason that a beanbag and a stump both fall into the latter category, despite having little objectively in common.
3. We don't see valueless entities and then attribute meaning to them.
4. We see floors to walk on, and doors to duck through, and chairs to sit on.



Oops, you got it wrong!

Explanation:



On a read-through, the paragraph is clearly about how objects are viewed in terms of the meanings attached to them. It is also evident that 3 begins the sequence and introduces the idea of entities with meanings attributed to them. 1 follows 3 as 1 agrees with 3-- instead of first seeing and then attributing meaning, the meaning is attributed directly. Statement 2 follows 4 as the 'latter category' in 2 refers to 'chairs' mentioned in 4. So 31 and 42 are mandatory pairs. Since 2-4 cannot begin the paragraph, ("It's for this reason...." in 2 has to be preceded by some other sentence stating the reason) 3-1 has to be placed before it. Hence, 3142.

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **76 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **35 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **26 %**

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 efforts of America's highest-earning 1% have been one of the more dynamic elements of this global economy.
2. While individual cases of overpayment definitely exist, in general, the determinants of CEO pay are not so mysterious and not so mired in corruption.
3. The best model for understanding the growth of CEO pay, though, is that of limited CEO talent in a world where business opportunities for the top firms are growing rapidly.
4. In fact, overall CEO compensation for the top companies rises pretty much in lockstep with the value of those companies on the stock market.



Oops, you got it wrong!



Explanation:



Both sentences 1 and 2 can be considered for the starter. ‘Though’ in sentence 3, and ‘in fact’ in sentence 4 make them danglers. Sentence 1, which talks about ‘the efforts of America’s highest earning 1% ...’ has reference to the CEOs mentioned in all the other three sentences; hence would be an abrupt start. Also, placing it at the start would be begging the question—it logically follows the fact that there is ‘limited CEO talent in a world where business opportunities for the top firms are growing rapidly’ [Sentence 3]. Besides, no other sentence can possibly follow 1 – ‘... dynamic elements of the global economy’ cannot be related to ‘cases of overpayment’ or ‘determinants of CEO pay.’ In contrast, sentence 2 introduces the theme: cases where CEOs are overpaid. So, sentence 2 is the best starter. Both sentences 3 and 4 can be considered to follow sentence 2. However, ‘though’ in sentence 3 does not logically connect it well with sentence 2. Sentence 4, on the other hand, upholds what is stated in sentence 2. Thus 2-4 is a mandatory pair. ‘the best model..., though, is that of’ in sentence 3 connects well with the fact that CEO compensation for top companies is in direct relation to their value on the stock market [sentence 4]. Hence, 2-4-3 is a logical sequence. The narrative goes thus: The exorbitant CEO pay is not because of corruption. In fact, the pay ‘rises’ in relation to the value of the company’s stock – however, (the sentence uses ‘though’) the best model to understand the growth of CEO pay is by considering the limited CEO talent that is available to exploit the growing opportunities. This narrative is then closed by the ‘efforts of the top 1%’, pointing to the minority that is but ‘one of the more dynamic elements of this global economy. Hence, 2431.

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **66 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **5 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **4 %**

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. When their eggs are first laid, every embryo has the capacity to become either a male or a female.
2. The driving force for sexual development is the incubation temperature of the egg because turtles lack sex chromosomes in their genome.
3. Reproduction in tortoises and many other reptiles are uniquely vulnerable to even minuscule fluctuations in temperature.
4. Other reptiles, including alligators and lizards, and many fish, also have their sex determined by environmental conditions, especially temperature.



Congratulations, you got it correct!

Explanation:



Clearly, sentences 1 and 4 are dangles. Sentences 2 and 3 talk of reproduction in turtles [tortoise forms a sub-category of turtles]. Out of these, sentence 3 introduces the theme and, therefore, is the apt starter. At this point, there are two possibilities—3-1 and 3-2. Although 2 logically follows 3, because the relation between temperature and reproduction in turtles [Sentence 3] is explained in sentence 2, sentence 1 will end up with no place in the final sequence. Thus, the second possibility can be rejected, and we get the mandatory pair 3-1. Now, 2 can logically follow this pair—‘the driving force for sexual development’ in the ‘sexless embryo’ [Sentence 1] is the ‘incubation temperature’. Thus, we get the sequence 3-1-2. Sentence 4 supports this by stating that many other creatures too ‘have their sex determined by environmental conditions, especially temperature’. Hence, 3124.

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **65 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **53 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **43 %**

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 image of her as a sultry seductress likely stems from a contrary narrative originally pushed by Octavian to rationalize his rivalry with fellow Roman Marc Antony, who was portrayed as having been manipulated by a foreign temptress.
2. More than 2,000 years after her death in 30 BCE, the Egyptian queen Cleopatra still looms large in the popular imagination.
3. Today, many historians subscribe to the theory that Cleopatra’s looks were ancillary to her considerable intelligence, learning, foresight, and strategic skills.
4. Despite what is known of her brilliance and charm, in mass media depictions what often comes to the forefront is Cleopatra as a ravishingly seductive proto-femme fatale.



Oops, you got it wrong!

Explanation:

Sentences 2, 3 and 4 can be considered for the starter. 2 and 4 are a possible combination at the beginning. 3 and 1 are a possible combination. 4, 1 and 4, 3 are also possible combinations. Except the 2,4 combination, the other combinations run into dead-ends. Also, in comparison, 2-4 pair introduces the Cleopatra as the Egyptian queen who died in 30 BCE and her image as depicted by the media without relying on prior knowledge. Hence 24 is the best starter. Sentence 1 talks about “a contrary narrative pushed by Octavian....’ - The narrative is contrary to “her considerable intelligence, learning, foresight, and strategic skills.” Hence sentence 1 can only come after sentence 3. Hence, 2431.

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **145 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **2 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **2 %**

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. The Western mass culture that predominates the world currently inspires anorexic, photoshopped ideals of beauty, instigating malcontent and insecurity in people.
2. An empirically beautiful person might have an easier time getting a job, finding a mate, and being taken seriously.
3. Artists, scientists and philosophers concur that beauty is an inherently undefinable characteristic.
4. This insecurity often leads to detrimental personality changes, further marginalizing the physically less-than-ideal individual.
5. But let's not forget the detrimental effect that the concept of beauty has on others who are perceived to lack the quality.



Oops, you got it wrong!

Explanation:

'This insecurity...' in sentence 4 can be immediately linked to sentence 1 – These two sentences, (1 and 4) put together, can be summarized this way: The Western culture which has a great influence on the rest of world propagates an artificial idea of beauty which instigates discontent and insecurity among people. And this insecurity has detrimental effects on these people. The next clue is sentence 5 that begins with "but"; this can be associated with 2—both draw a contrast between the situations of those who are 'empirically beautiful' and those who are perceived to lack the quality. So, we see that sentences 1-4 and sentences 2 -5 form two pairs. Also, it is possible to form a coherent paragraph (2514), the theme of which is 'how an artificial concept of physical beauty affects people who are physically less-than-ideal individuals'. Sentence 3 is not related to this theme. 'The undefinable characteristic of beauty' in sentence 3 is not relevant. Hence, 3.

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **54 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **49 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **45 %**

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. According to a 2018 World Travel & Tourism Council report, it will support 52.3 million jobs in 2028 against 42.9 million currently.
2. Tourism brings revenue to the exchequer, creates jobs by way of direct and indirect employment and provides an incentive to preserve our heritage and environment.
3. Travel and tourism currently accounts for 9.6% of India's GDP, 88% of which comes from domestic travel.
4. International arrivals have remained relatively low, at 9 million, providing India with a unique opportunity to consider how to create demand.
5. It supports 9.3% of the country's total jobs.



Oops, you got it wrong!

Explanation:

Sentences other than sentence 4 discuss the importance of tourism. The theme is introduced by sentence 2 – “Tourism brings revenue to the exchequer, creates jobs by way of direct and indirect employment and provides an incentive to preserve our heritage and environment.” Sentences 1, 3, and 5 explain the contribution of tourism to the economy. From this point of view sentence 2 has no place in the paragraph as it talks about international arrivals in India. Hence, 4.

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **122 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **45 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **47 %**

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. To put it crudely banks stand as a guarantor for the currency that is exchanged between a payer and a payee.
2. To remain relevant in the future, the banks should formally adopt cryptocurrency without drastic consequences to the economy.
3. The most important objective of crypto currency is to eliminate the role of banks.
4. The guarantee and the record maintained by the bank are considered sacrosanct due to the fact that it's a bank.
5. They debit the receiver and credit the giver in what is called the double entry method of bookkeeping.



Oops, you got it wrong!

03:44

Explanation:

We can establish connection between sentences 1, 4 and 5, though not necessarily in that order. Sentence 1 states the function of banks in very simple terms – ‘crudely... banks stand as guarantor for currency transactions.’ How they do it is explained in sentence 5 (again in very simple words) that they use double entry bookkeeping and debit the receiver and credit the giver. Sentence 4 then concludes by stating that the guarantee and the record of debit and credit are sacrosanct because they are banks. Sentences 2 and 3 need to be evaluated to see which one is related to the theme, which is the function of banks. Sentence 3 can be related to the function of banks because it says cryptocurrency tries to do away with the ‘role of banks.’ Then, sentences 1, 5 and 4 in that order, explain the ‘role of banks’, in terms of what they do. Sentence 2 is not related to this narrative – neither the threat to banks (the need for banks to remain relevant against cryptocurrency, though its aim is to eliminate banks), nor the need to formally adopt cryptocurrency, nor the ‘drastic consequences to the economy’ are relevant to the narrative. Hence, 2.

Correct Answer:Time taken by you: **91 secs**Avg Time taken by all students: **11 secs**Your Attempt: **Wrong**% Students got it correct: **9 %**

