VA - 4: Reading Comprehension - 1



Workshop

Number of Questions: 24

WSP-0011/18

Identifying Genres:

The main genres which have contributed to CAT and NON-CAT reading comprehension passages are:

Business and Economics, Political Theory, Current Affairs, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Science and Technology, Environmental studies, Cultural Studies, Social Science (History, Geography, Politics), Arts and Humanities, Current Affairs/Trend, Reviews, Abstract or inter-disciplinary subjects and so on...

The list is not exhaustive. A guide to understanding the different genres is available on your SIS. Kindly go through the entire article.

The aim of this class is to make you familiar with the different genres. Hence, the questions are primarily aimed at testing your basic comprehension of the passage.

Directions for questions 1 to 24: Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow.

Passage – 1

Philosophy

Enlightenment is man's emergence from his self-imposed nonage. Nonage is the inability to use one's own understanding without another's guidance. This nonage is self-imposed if its cause lies not in lack of understanding but in indecision and lack of courage to use one's own mind without another's guidance. Dare to know! (Sapere aude.) "Have the

courage to use your own understanding," is therefore the motto of the enlightenment.

Laziness and cowardice are the reasons why such a large part of mankind gladly remain minors all their lives, long after nature has freed them from external guidance. They are the reasons why it is so easy for others to set themselves up as guardians. It is so comfortable to be a minor. If I have a book that thinks for me, a pastor who acts as my conscience, a physician who prescribes my diet, and so on—then I have no need to exert myself. I have no need to think, if only I can pay; others will take care of that disagreeable business for me.

Thus it is very difficult for the individual to work himself out of the nonage which has become almost second nature to him. He has even grown to like it, and is at first really incapable of using his own understanding because he has never been permitted to try it. Dogmas and formulas, these mechanical tools designed for reasonable use—or rather abuse—of his natural gifts, are the fetters of an everlasting nonage. The man who casts them off would make an uncertain leap over the narrowest ditch, because he is not used to such free movement. That is why there are only a few men who walk firmly, and who have emerged from nonage by cultivating their own minds.

It is more nearly possible, however, for the public to enlighten itself; indeed, if it is only given freedom, enlightenment is almost inevitable. There will always be a few independent thinkers, even among the self-appointed guardians of the multitude. Once such men have thrown off the yoke of nonage, they will

spread about them the spirit of a reasonable appreciation of man's value and of his duty to think for himself. It is especially to be noted that the public which was earlier brought under the yoke by these men, afterwards forces these very guardians to remain in submission, if it is so incited by some of its guardians who are themselves incapable of any enlightenment. That shows how pernicious it is to implant prejudices: they will eventually revenge themselves upon their authors or their authors' descendants. Therefore, a public can achieve enlightenment only slowly. A revolution may bring about the end of a personal despotism or of avaricious tyrannical oppression, but never a true reform of modes of thought. New prejudices will serve, in place of the old, as guide lines for the unthinking multitude.

This enlightenment requires nothing but *freedom*—and the most innocent of all that may be called "freedom": freedom to make public use of one's reason in all matters. Now I hear the cry from all sides: "Do not argue!" The officer says: "Do not argue—drill!" The tax collector: "Do not argue—pay!" The pastor: "Do not argue—believe!" Only one ruler in the world says: "Argue as much as you please, but obey!" We find restrictions on freedom everywhere. But which restriction is harmful to enlightenment? Which restriction is innocent, and which advances enlightenment? I reply: the public use of one's reason must be free at all times, and this alone can bring enlightenment to mankind.

- 1. Which of the following is closest to being an example of 'self-imposed nonage'?
 - (1) A young boy refusing to do his homework without the guidance of his mother
 - (2) A cricketer not using an aggressive batting style during a run chase as he is waiting for his coach's permission
 - (3) A teenage girl not obeying her father's order to return home by 7 in the evening
 - (4) A senior employee refusing to follow the guidelines to improve productivity set by the upper management due to creative differences

- 2. Which of the following best captures the main idea of the passage?
 - (1) To highlight the perils of freedom without enlightenment
 - (2) To trace the path from nonage to freedom
 - (3) To evaluate the attainment of enlightenment
 - (4) To elucidate the factors behind enlightenment
- 3. What is the author trying to instruct us through this passage?
 - (1) S/he wants us to think freely and act judiciously and wisely.
 - (2) S/he is promoting the tolerance of diverse viewpoints attain freedom.
 - (3) S/he is instructing us that while expressing our opinions, we should not forget to discharge our duties.
 - (4) S/he encourages us to be free in mind and spirit at all cost.
- 4. Which of the following can be inferred from the given passage?
 - (1) There needs to be an emphasis on the public to blindly follow and comply with the desires of the government.
 - (2) For the public to be enlightened, the leaders should be enlightened.
 - (3) Human nature allowed men to be selfish and yet act in common self-interested harmony.
 - (4) The need of leaders and guardians dictate the righteous intimidation of their subjects.
- 5. Which of the following is not discussed in the passage?
 - (1) Men thought it cumbersome to reason.
 - (2) Simple obedience was less onerous to the minds of men.
 - (3) Freedom to express honestly is the only requirement for enlightenment.
 - (4) Self-imposed nonage is a factor behind enlightenment.

- 6. Which of the following is true about the given passage?
 - (1) The author is caustic towards the lazy and indecisive people.
 - (2) The author is wondering about the efficacy of Enlightenment.
 - (3) The author is insisting on not being enslaved.
 - (4) The author is concerned about the future of humankind under threat from tyrants and despots.

Passage - 2

Women's Studies / Political Theory

The term "Gender" is used to define all the things one says or does in order to disclose himself or herself as having been a boy or man, girl or woman sexually, socially and etc. Gender role refers to all personal and social characteristics including the clothing, speech pattern, behaviors, actions, occupations, activities, etc. Since the women have been considered as the subordinated sex, the wave of feminism has resulted in a new phenomenon known as "gender consciousness". Consequently, the women gradually have become determined to find ways to undermine such subordination. They have tried to prove that although they are different but they are not inferior. They want to prove their abilities and for this purpose, they have decided to defy the socially constructed beliefs. They have made attempts to establish equality with men, both politically and socially. Most of the feminist critics believe that the society is the main cause of imposing genders distinctions.

A person's sex is a primary state of anatomic or physiologic parameters. A person's gender is a conclusion reached in a broad sense when individual gender identity and gender role are expressed. An often-used phrase to point out the difference, it has some merit when dealing with these definitions. Sexual identity is in the perineum; gender identity is in the cerebrum. Increasingly, the more subjective sense of gender identity takes precedence in evaluating patients' needs. In instances when a

discrepancy exists between sex and gender, compassion and empathy are essential to foster better understanding and an appropriate relationship between the physician and the patient. Conceptually, professionals dealing with development may fairly state that sex is biologically determined, whereas gender is culturally determined.

Proponents of social learning theory criticize biological approaches for neglecting to consider the way in which behavior is affected by social influences. Markbank and Letherby, in their book entitled Introduction to Gender: Social Science Perspective, Second Edition, assert:

"As biological approaches assume a biological dichotomy, they are unable, according to their critics, to explain diversity among women and among men. In addition, if we look at different cultures, be that across geographical or across history, it is clear that what it means to be woman or a man differs. In fact gender roles are exceedingly changeable across societies with certain tasks being assigned to the female in one society and to the male in another. Social learning theory purports that women and men are products not of biology but of culture and society that boys and girls learn gender —appropriate behavior from birth as we are all surrounded by gender socialization messages from our families."

De Beauvoir (1908-1986) in The Second Sex (1949), claims: "one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman, later. No biological, psychological, or economic fate determines the figure that the human female presents in society; it is civilization as a whole that produces this creature, intermediate between male and eunuch, which is described as a feminine" (De Beauvoir 1949). In Gender Trouble (1990), Judith Butler makes a comment in this respect and states: If there is something right in Beauvoir's claim that 'one is not born, but rather becomes a woman later, it follows that woman itself is a term in process, a becoming, a constructing that cannot rightfully be said to originate or to end. As an ongoing discursive practice, it is open to intervention and resignation. Even when gender seems to congeal into the most reified forms, the

'congealing' is itself an insistent and insidious practice, sustained and regulated by various social means.

According to Butler, feminism doesn't accept biology as a destiny, but opposing this idea, it develops an account of patriarchal culture which maintains that masculine and feminine genders would inevitably be built upon bodies (male and female) by cultural bias; it insists that being a man or a woman on the basis of being male or female is inevitably a culturally made idea and as a consequence there will be no choice, difference or resistance. Being biologically a male, and not feeling like a man, is considered as a sign indicating that "the experience of a gendered cultural identity is considered an achievement". She rejects the "sex/gender distinction in order to argue that there is no sex that is not always already a gender".

- 7. Which of the following is the main idea of the given passage?
 - (1) To show how gender roles vary under different contexts
 - (2) To show the different definitions given by different writers for the term 'gender'
 - (3) To show that neither genetic nor any economic fate determines the place that women present in society
 - (4) To show that femininity and masculinity are culturally created and accepted concepts
- 8. Which of the following is a fact from the given passage?
 - (1) Biological dichotomy restricts diversity among men and women.
 - (2) In her book *Gender Trouble*, Butler recognizes the persisting self-division in a man or a woman.
 - (3) According to De Beauvoir, the category of woman does not have an initial substance or existence, other than its subsequent emergence.
 - (4) Butler believes that feminism is subservient to destiny.

- 9. Judge the nature of the author's tone on the basis of the given passage.
 - There is a hint of contempt in the author's tone.
 - (2) The author feels dejected because of the pitiable condition of women.
 - (3) The author is baffled because of the lookalike in the terms 'gender' and 'sex'.
 - (4) The author shows no bias towards the anatomical or cultural interpretation of sexuality.
- 10. Which of the following cannot be inferred from the given passage?
 - (1) Gender refers to the way a society encourages and teaches a man and a woman to behave in different ways through socialization.
 - (2) Sex refers to the cultural, sociallyconstructed differences between male and female.
 - (3) There has been a conscious effort on the part of female sex to prove that men are in no way superior to them.
 - (4) The prejudice pertaining to gender is resultant of the acts of the surrounding community.
- 11. Which of the following represents a similar relation as the pair in question?

MASCULINITY : SOCIALLY

(1) Gender : Anthropologically

(2) Sex : Culturally
(3) Femininity : Biologically
(4) Male : Aesthetically

- 12. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
 - A true identification of one's sexuality will require a conscious effort from those in power.
 - (2) It is nearly impossible to define the difference between the definitions of sex and gender.
 - (3) Gender consciousness requires an acknowledgement of one's anatomical identifications.
 - (4) Cultural definitions sometimes clash with biological identifications when it comes to understanding human behaviours.

Passage - 3

Literature

As the Heart of Darkness makes its way into the savage shadows of the African continent, Joseph Conrad exposes a psycho-geography of the collective unconscious in the entangling symbolic realities of the serpentine Congo. Conrad's novella descends into the unknowable darkness at the heart of Africa, taking its narrator, Marlow, on an underworld journey of individuation, a modern odyssey toward the center of the Self and the center of the Earth. Ego dissolves into soul as, in the interior; Marlow encounters his double in the powerful image of ivory-obsessed Kurtz, the dark shadow of European imperialism. The dark meditation is graced by personifications of anima in Kurtz' black goddess, the savagely magnificent consort of the underworld, and in his porcelain -skinned Persephone, innocent intended of the upper world.

"Africa," wrote Graham Greene, "will always be the Africa in the Victorian atlas, the blank unexplored continent in the shape of the human heart." The African heart described by Greene "acquired a new layer of meaning when Conrad portrayed the Congo under King Leopold as the *Heart of Darkness*, a place where barbarism triumphs over humanity, nature over technology, biology over culture, id over super ego."

The unknown and uncharted topography of the African continent first beckoned Conrad's narrator, Marlow, into its depths in his boyhood: "Now, when I was a little chap I had a passion for maps. I would look for hours at South America, or Africa, or Australia, and lose myself in all the glories of exploration". When Marlow was grown and Africa was no longer a blank space on the map, but rather "a place of darkness," there was still one river there that drew him especially, "a mighty big river, that you could see on the map, resembling an immense snake uncoiled, with its head in the sea, its body at rest curving afar over a vast country, and its tail lost in the depths of the land". This same deep place,

the Congo, that had seduced Conrad's ivory hunting Kurtz into the horrors of its savage embrace had, in 1890, lured Conrad himself into adventure that turned him from sailor to writer and severely affected his health for the rest of his life. As the voyage up the Congo pro ved fateful for the development of Conrad's narrator, Marlow, it was equally fateful for Conrad's individuation, as he reflects in his letters "Before the Congo I was just a mere animal."

Hillman, in "Notes on White Supremacy" reminds us that, like Conrad, both Freud and Jung were called to venture into the shadowed continent and vestiges of their journeys still colour our psychological language:

The convention informing geographical discoveries and the expansion of white consciousness over Africa continue to inform psychic geography. The topological language used by Freud for "the unconscious" as a place below, different, timeless, primordial, libidinal and separated from the consciousness recapitulates what white reporters centuries earlier said about West Africa. From Conrad's Heart of Darkness to van der Post's Venture to the Interior, Africa and the unconscious allegorize the other place.... "Just don't stay in the topical colonies too long; you must reign at home," writes Freud in 1911 to Jung, who himself made the African journey fourteen years later, describing the vast lands and dark peoples he encountered in language he applies as well to the immemorial unconscious psyche.... Part of psychology's myth is that the unconscious was "discovered" as its contents are "explored".

Thus Africa has become a topology of the mind—its location, its shape, its cultures, its textures, its rhythms, its foliage, its hues, its wildness—all calling forth something lost in the psychology of the white European. It is with an understanding of our destiny to explore that symbolic lost continent within ourselves that we can begin to appreciate the prescience of Jungian psychology in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.

- 13. Which of the following can be inferred about the above given passage?
 - (1) The given passage is a psychological analysis of the novel *Heart of Darkness*.
 - (2) The above passage presents the different themes of the novel *Heart of Darkness*.
 - (3) The above passage is a summary of a portion of the novel *Heart of Darkness*.
 - (4) The purpose of the above passage is to criticize Conrad's novel *Heart of Darkness*
- 14. Which of the following is not in alliance with the representation of 'Africa' as in Conrad's Heart of Darkness?
 - a) Conrad portrays Africa (Congo) as being inhibited by people who are primitive and uncivilized.
 - b) Civilization is shown to be non-existent in the depths of Africa.
 - c) Africa is portrayed as a place full of delights and charms, which attracts the attention of Marlow.
 - (1) Both a and c
 - (2) a, b, and c
 - (3) Only c
 - (4) Only b
- 15. The author compares Congo to an animal/a reptile. What is this figure of speech called?
 - (1) Onomatopoeia
 - (2) Metaphor
 - (3) Alliteration
 - (4) Euphemism
- 16. According to the passage, which of the following is not true about The Congo?
 - (1) Congo was responsible for the deteriorating health of Conrad.
 - (2) Congo was a powerful force that enabled the change of profession of people.
 - (3) Congo's power is compared to the devouring powers of a snake.
 - (4) Congo proved itself fatalistic for different characters in the novel.

- 17. Identify the nature of author's tone in the above passage.
 - (1) Simply Caustic
 - (2) Sincerely Idealistic
 - (3) Descriptive
 - (4) Argumentative
- 18. Which of the following is most likely to be the profession of the author?
 - (1) A movie critic
 - (2) A newspaper analyst
 - (3) A college Professor
 - (4) An English literature scholar

Passage – 4

Biology (CAT 2017, Slot 1)

Scientists have long recognized the incredible diversity within a species. But they thought it reflected evolutionary changes that unfolded imperceptibly, over millions of years. That divergence between populations within a species was enforced, according to Ernst Mayr, the great evolutionary biologist of the 1940s, when a population was separated from the rest of the species by a mountain range or a desert, preventing breeding across the divide over geologic scales of time. Without the separation, gene flow was relentless. But as the separation persisted, the isolated population grew apart and speciation occurred.

In the mid-1960s, the biologist Paul Ehrlich – author of The Population Bomb (1968) – and his Stanford University colleague Peter Raven challenged Mayr's ideas about speciation. They had studied checkerspot butterflies living in the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve in California, and it soon became clear that they were not examining a single population. Through years of capturing, marking and then recapturing the butterflies, they were able to prove that within the population, spread over just 50 acres of suitable checkerspot habitat, there were three groups that rarely interacted despite their very close proximity.

Among other ideas, Ehrlich and Raven argued in a now classic paper from 1969 that gene flow was not as predictable and ubiquitous as Mayr and his cohort maintained, and thus evolutionary divergence between neighbouring groups in a population was probably common. They also asserted that isolation and gene flow were less important to evolutionary divergence than natural selection (when factors such as mate choice, weather, disease or predation cause better-adapted individuals to survive and pass on their successful genetic traits). For example, Ehrlich and Raven suggested that, without the force of natural selection, an isolated population would remain unchanged and that, in other scenarios, natural selection could be strong enough to overpower gene flow...

- 19. Which of the following best sums up Ehrlich and Raven's argument in their classic 1969 paper?
 - Ernst Mayr was wrong in identifying physical separation as the cause of species diversity.
 - (2) Checkerspot butterflies in the 50-acre Jasper Ridge Preserve formed three groups that rarely interacted with each other.
 - (3) While a factor, isolation was not as important to speciation as natural selection.
 - (4) Gene flow is less common and more erratic than Mayr and his colleagues claimed.
- 20. All of the following statements are true according to the passage EXCEPT:
 - (1) Gene flow contributes to evolutionary divergence.
 - (2) The Population Bomb questioned dominant ideas about species diversity
 - (3) Evolutionary changes unfold imperceptibly over time.
 - (4) Checkerspot butterflies are known to exhibit speciation while living in close proximity.

- 21. The author discusses Mayr, Ehrlich and Raven to demonstrate that:
 - (1) evolution is a sensitive and controversial topic.
 - (2) Ehrlich and Raven's ideas about evolutionary divergence are widely accepted by scientists.
 - (3) the causes of speciation are debated by scientists.
 - (4) checkerspot butterflies offer the best example of Ehrlich and Raven's ideas about speciation.

Passage - 5

Technology / Abstract

Typewriters are the epitome of a technology that has been comprehensively rendered obsolete by the digital age. The ink comes off the ribbon, they weigh a ton, and second thoughts are a disaster. But they are also personal, portable and, above all, private. Type a document and lock it away and more or less the only way anyone else can get it is if you give it to them. That is why the Russians have decided to go back to typewriters in some government offices, and why in the US, some departments have never abandoned them. Yet it is not just their resistance to algorithms and secret surveillance that keeps typewriter production lines – well one, at least – in business (the last British one closed a year ago). Nor is it only the nostalgic appeal of the metal body and the stout well-defined keys that make them popular on eBay. A typewriter demands something particular: attentiveness. By the time the paper is loaded, the ribbon tightened, the carriage returned, the spacing and the margins set, there's a big premium on hitting the right key. That means sorting out ideas, pulling together a kind of order and organising details before actually striking off. There can be no thinking on screen with a typewriter. Nor are there any easy distractions. No online shopping.

No urgent emails. No Twitter. No need even for electricity – perfect for writing in a remote hideaway. The thinking process is accompanied by the encouraging clack of keys, and the ratchet of the carriage return. Ping!

- 22. Which one of the following best describes what the passage is trying to do?
 - (1) It describes why people continue to use typewriters even in the digital age.
 - (2) It argues that typewriters will continue to be used even though they are an obsolete technology.
 - (3) It highlights the personal benefits of using typewriters.
 - (4) It shows that computers offer fewer options than typewriters.

- 23. According to the passage, some governments still use typewriters because:
 - (1) they do not want to abandon old technologies that may be useful in the future.
 - (2) they want to ensure that typewriter production lines remain in business.
 - (3) they like the nostalgic appeal of typewriter.
 - (4) they can control who reads the document.
- 24. The writer praises typewriters for all the following reasons EXCEPT:
 - (1) unlike computers, they can only be used for typing.
 - (2) you cannot revise what you have typed on a typewriter.
 - (3) typewriters are noisier than computers.
 - (4) typewriters are messier to use than computers.

WSP-0011/18 VA - 4: Reading Comprehension - 1 Workshop Answers and Explanations

1	2	2	4	3	1	4	2	5	3	6	3	7	4	8	3	9	4	10	2
11	1	12	4	13	1	14	3	15	2	16	4	17	3	18	4	19	3	20	2
21	3	22	1	23	4	24	4												

- 1. 2 Refer to the lines "Nonage is the inability to use one's own...indecision and lack of courage to use one's own mind without another's guidance." There are two components here: a inability to use one's knowledge without guidance; b no lack of understanding. Only option 2 clearly shows the two things. The batsman knows how to bat aggressively; he is simply indecisive. In 1, the boy might not know the answer to questions of the homework. 3 is irrelevant. 4 has not component of indecisiveness. The employee is quite decisive.
- 2. 4 The author, in the passage, takes an explanatory approach. S/he defines the various reasons that are holding the public back from achieving enlightenment. S/he also analyses the prices to be paid for freedom without enlightenment. Hence, option 4 is the correct answer. Option 1 is too narrow. Option 2 is wrong as the author doesn't focus on freedom. Option 3 is distorted. The author can't evaluate something which has not been attained.
- 3. 1 This can be inferred from both the opening and the last paragraphs of the given passage. It is stated in the opening passage- "Have the courage to use your own understanding". And in the last passage it is stated- "the public use of one's reason must be free at all times". 2 is distorted. There is no method of attaining freedom mentioned in the passage. Option 3 is beyond the scope of the passage. Option 4 is wrong because of 'all cost'.
- 4. 2 Options 1 and 4 are ruled out as exactly their opposite has been stated in the passage. Option 3 is incorrect since it is not stated in the passage. Option 2 can be inferred from the following information in the second last paragraph- "It is especially to be noted that ...Therefore, a public can achieve enlightenment only slowly."
- 5. 3 Option 1 is ruled out since it can inferred from the following sentence in the opening paragraph-" This nonage is self-imposed if its cause lies not in lack of understanding but in indecision and lack of courage to use one's own mind without another's guidance. Dare to know!" Option 2 is ruled out since it can be inferred from the second paragraph-"It is so comfortable to be a minor". Option 3 is the most appropriate since according the passage, "This enlightenment requires nothing but freedom", meaning

- freedom is paramount for Enlightenment but not the only requirement. Option 4 is mentioned in the first paragraph.
- 6. 3 1 is too extreme. The author is mildly critical towards people who have self-imposed nonage. 2 is wrong as the author doesn't wonder. S/he is very sure of the values of enlightenment. 3 is an important factor as the author promotes freedom throughout the passage. 4 is too farfetched.
- 7.4 Option 1 is ruled out since we are not given any different contexts. Option 2 is ruled out since we are not given different definitions for the term 'gender'. What we have in the passage is different comments by different writers. Option 3 is ruled out since it is simply the paraphrasing of De Beauvoir's comment in her book, given in 4th paragraph of the passage. Hence it cannot be the main idea. Option 4 is the most appropriate as it is repeated in the passage. 'Femininity' and 'masculinity' refer to the different ways in which men and women behave. Hence it can be inferred from- "Most of the feminist critics believe that the society is the main cause of imposing genders distinctions" and from "whereas gender is culturally determined."
- 8. 3 Option (3) is the correct answer. Options 1 is factually the opposite of what the author says. Due to dichotomy, there is diversity. Option 2 is not mentioned in the passage. The following statement from paragraph 4- "one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman, later" proves that option 3 is stated in the passage. Option 4 is contradicted by the first line of the last paragraph.
- 9. 4 The author uses a neutral tone in dealing with the concepts. S/he is neither contemptuous nor dejected. These are extreme words. Similarly, the author is not baffled or puzzled about the definitions. S/he is competent enough to clarify the terms. Hence, option 4 is the correct answer.
- 10. 2 Option 3 can be inferred from the following sentence. "They have tried to prove that although they are different but they are not inferior". Option 4 can be inferred from the following sentence-"Most of the feminist critics believe that the society is the main cause of imposing genders distinctions." Consider the following sentence given in the passage-

"Conceptually...determined, whereas gender is culturally determined." Clearly, option 1 can be inferred, since the given option means gender is determined by the society and the culture. Option 2 is incorrect because the passage states that sex is determined biologically.

- 11. 1 Option 1 is the correct answer. The pair in the question is a pair, which is a fact taken from the passage. The passage states that gender is constructed socially. Masculinity and femininity are terms for defining gender. Option 2 is incorrect since according to the passage, sex is biologically or genetically defined. Option 3 is incorrect since according to the passage, femininity is constructed culturally. Option 4 is a vague option. 'Anthropologically' means socially and hence option 1 is the most appropriate.
- 12. 4 It is the main idea of the passage. Option 1 is irrelevant. The passage doesn't talk about 'those in power'. Options 2 and 3 go against the vein of the passage.
- 13. 1 Option (1) is the correct answer. Option (2) is ruled out since no themes are discussed in the passage. The above passage is not a summary of a portion of the novel, since there are several things mentioned, which will definitely not fall in the spectrum of the novel, like the views of Hillman and Graham Greene. Option (4) is incorrect since the author does not attack or criticize the novel. He simply analyses the novel, the representation of Africa and Congo, and portrayal of Kurtz and Marlow.
- 14. 3 Option (3) is the correct answer. Statements (a) and (b) can be inferred from the passage. In paragraph 2, the author calls Africa as "a place where barbarism triumphs". Barbarism points towards presence of uncivilized people and lack of civilization. Statement (c) is the most appropriate as it is nowhere stated in the passage. What Marlow was attracted to, was a river in Africa. Calling Africa as a place of delights and charms will be too mainstream.
- 15. 2 Option (2) is the correct answer. Metaphor is a figure of speech that means implied comparison. The author uses the metaphor of a snake to describe Congo. Alliteration is the repetition of the beginning sounds of neighboring words. Euphemism is a mild, indirect, or vague term substituting for a harsh, blunt, or offensive term. Onomatopoeia is the formation of a word from a sound associated with what is named.
- 16. 4 Option (4) is the correct answer. Options (1) and (2) can be inferred from the following sentence in paragraph 4- "this same deep place.....lured Conrad himself into adventure that turned him from sailor to writer and severely affected his health for the rest of his life." Option (3) can be inferred from the opening sentence in the passage, where the author calls the Congo as 'serpentine'. Serpentine

- means snake like. Option (4) is incorrect since it is beyond the scope of the passage. Though Congo is shown as affecting the health of the people, it does not state that Congo took lives of the people.
- 17. 3 Option (3) is the correct answer. Clearly the passage is providing us information about the representation of Africa and Congo in Conrad's Heart of Darkness. Option (1) is incorrect because there are no signs of sarcasm or attack. Options (2) and (4) are also invalid as the author is neither idealizing anything nor arguing over something.
- 18. 4 The author can be a professor but the subject is missing. Hence, the most likely answer is 4 where the author's background in English literature is clearly visible.
- 19. 3 Mayr's contention was that speciation takes place due to factors like geographical isolation. However the 1969 paper challenges this notion and places the emphasis on natural selection.
- 20. 2 2 has neither been stated in the passage nor has it been implied. The other options can be directly verified from the passage.
- 21. 3 Mayr placed the emphasis of speciation on isolation. This notion was challenged and discarded by Ehrlich and Raven. This shows that speciation is a topic of contention.
- 22. 1 Option 1 is the correct answer as the author provides examples of the US and Russia to tell that these countries have taken up the use of typewriter. The author also supports their using of typewriters by providing us with positive aspects of the typewriters. Option 2 is beyond the scope of the passage. Option 3 is incorrect since clearly it is not the main aim of the passage. There is no hint to make that claim. Option 4 is incorrect since this difference has nowhere been made.
- 23. 4 "Type a document and lock it away and more or less the only way anyone else can get....... some departments have never abandoned them". This information, which says that using of typewriters helps one control who views the document, makes option 4 correct.
- 24. 4 Towards the end of the passage, it is written- "Nor are there any easy distractions." i.e that typewriters can be used only for one single thing- writing. Hence 1 is stated in the passage and is therefore not the answer. It is also stated- "there's a big premium on hitting the right key." This means that once something has been typed, it cannot be revised. Hence option 2 is also stated. It is also stated- "....encouraging clack of keys". This is associated with typewriters making more noise than computers. Hence option 3 is also stated. Nothing in the passage points towards option 4. Therefore, it is the correct answer.