

CATapult Courseware

Module 4
Verbal Ability

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VA-4.1 | SYLLOGISMS



Standard Form of Syllogisms

Introduction

In which of the three sets A, B and C, do the first two statements logically lead to the third statement?

A	B	C
Earth is a planet.	All planets revolve around the Sun.	All planets revolve around the Sun.
The Earth revolves around the Sun.	The Earth revolves around the Sun.	Earth is a planet.
All planets revolve around the Sun.	Earth is a planet.	The Earth revolves around the Sun.

SET A:

The third statement in Set A — ‘All planets revolve around the Sun’ — does not follow from the first two. One cannot deduce that ‘all’ planets revolve around the Sun merely based on the fact that planet Earth revolves around the Sun.

Set B:

In Set B, the third statement does not follow from the first two. It is not explicitly stated that ‘only’ planets revolve around the Sun. Other objects may also revolve around the Sun.

SET C:

Only in Set C does the third statement follow logically from the first two statements: All planets revolve around the Sun, Earth is a planet, and hence the Earth revolves around the Sun.

An Aristotelian syllogism is a set of three statements, like Set C, where one statement (Conclusion) is *logically* derived from the other two statements (Premises).

For example:

Premise: All men are mortal.

Premise: Socrates is a man.

Conclusion: Socrates is mortal.

Each of the premises can be in one of the four standard forms:

NAME	FORM	SYMBOL	EXAMPLE
Universal Affirmatives	All A are B	A	All Men are Mortal
Universal Negatives	No A are B	E	No Man is Perfect
Particular Affirmatives	Some A are B	I	Some Men are Wise
Particular Negatives	Some A are not B	O	Some Men are not Clever

In the above forms A and B are called categorical terms. In each of the forms listed above, A is the subject (S) and B is the predicate (P). The predicate of the *Conclusion* is called the **major term (P)**; the subject of the conclusion is called the **minor term (S)**. In the example above, *Mortal* is the major term and *Socrates* is the minor term.

The premise containing the major term is called the *major premise* and premise containing the minor term is called the *minor premise*.

In syllogism of three statements there will be a third term that links the major and the minor term, the **middle term (M)**. In the example above, *Man* is the middle term.

Each of the premises has one term in common with the conclusion: in a major premise, this is the major term (i.e., the predicate of the conclusion); in a minor premise, it is the minor term (the subject) of the conclusion. For example:

Major premise: All men are mortal.

Minor premise: Socrates is a man.

Conclusion: Socrates is mortal.

As seen from the above example, the *middle term* always appears twice in the premises.

Using Rules and Fallacies to Test the Validity of Syllogisms

Aristotle first expressed the idea that valid syllogisms conform to certain rules. There are 5 general rules that can be used to test the validity of syllogisms. If any one of these rules is violated, a specific formal fallacy is committed and, accordingly, the syllogism is invalid. Conversely, if none of the rules are broken, the syllogism is valid.

Of the five rules presented in this section, the first two depend on the concept of *distribution*, the last three on the combination of different forms of propositions.

A categorical term is said to be *distributed* if all individual members of that category are accounted for.

In a statement like 'All A are B' the term A is distributed, because all elements of the set A are pinpointed (All of them are B). The term B is not distributed because there might be Bs that are not A and about which we have no information.

In a statement like 'Some C are D', neither C nor D are distributed because nothing is said about the remaining Cs (that are not D) and nothing about the Ds that are not C.

In a categorical syllogism the distribution of terms depends on the subject:

- In A: *All A are B* propositions, the subject (A) is distributed.
- In E: *No A is B* propositions, both the subject (A) and the predicate (B) are distributed.
- In I: *Some A are B* propositions, neither the subject nor the predicate are distributed.
- In O: *Some A are not B* propositions, the predicate (B) is distributed (*all points of B are outside the points of A which are not B*)

Rule 1: The middle term must be distributed at least once.

Fallacy: *Undistributed middle*.

Examples

Premise: All eagles are birds.

Premise: All doves are birds

Conclusion: All doves are eagles

In this standard-form categorical syllogism the middle term is 'birds'. In both premises 'birds' occurs as the predicate of an **A type** proposition and therefore it is not distributed in either premise. Thus, the syllogism commits the fallacy of undistributed middle and is invalid. If the major premise were rewritten to read 'All birds are eagles', then 'birds' would be distributed in that premise and the syllogism would be valid.

Rule 2: If a term is distributed in the conclusion, then it must be distributed in a premise.

Fallacies: *Illicit major/minor*.

Examples

1. All donkeys are animals.
Some foxes are not donkeys.
Some foxes are not animals.
2. All lions are mammals.
All mammals are animals.
All animals are lions.

In the first example the major term, 'animals', is distributed in the conclusion but not in the major premise, so the syllogism commits the fallacy of illicit major. In the second example the minor term, 'animals', is distributed in the conclusion but not in the minor premise. The second example therefore commits the fallacy of illicit minor, or 'illicit process of the minor term'.

In applying this rule, one must always examine the conclusion first. If no terms are distributed in the conclusion, Rule 2 cannot be violated. If one or both terms in the conclusion are distributed, then the appropriate premise must be examined. If the term distributed in the conclusion is also distributed in the premise, then the rule is not violated. But, if the term is not distributed in the premise, the rule is violated and the syllogism is invalid. In applying Rule 2 (and also Rule 1), you may find it helpful to begin by marking all the distributed terms in the syllogism—either by circling them or by labeling them with a small letter 'd'.

Rule 2 becomes intuitively plausible when it is recognized that distribution is a positive attribute. Granting this, an argument that has a term distributed in the conclusion but not in the premises has more in the conclusion than it does in the premises and is therefore invalid. Of course, it is always permissible to have more in a premise than appears in the conclusion, so it is perfectly all right for a term to be distributed in a premise but not in the conclusion.

Rule 3: Two negative premises are not allowed.

Fallacy: *Exclusive premises.*

Example

No birds are mammals.

Some wolves are not birds.

Some wolves are not mammals.

This syllogism may be seen to be invalid because it has true premises and a false conclusion. The defect is attributable to the fact that it has two negative premises. Upon reflection, Rule 3 should be fairly obvious. Let 'S', 'P' and 'M' once again designate the minor, major, and middle terms. Now, if the *P* class and the *M* class are separate either wholly or partially, and the *S* class and the *M* class are separate either wholly or partially, nothing is said about the relation between the *S* class and the *P* class. These two classes may either be distinct or identical in whole or in part.

Rule 4: A negative premise requires a negative conclusion, and a negative conclusion requires a negative premise.

Fallacy: *Drawing an affirmative conclusion from a negative premise.*

OR

Drawing a negative conclusion from affirmative premises.

These arguments may be seen to be invalid because each has true premises and a false conclusion. The first draws an affirmative conclusion from a negative premise, and the second draws a negative conclusion from affirmative premises.

An alternate formulation of Rule 4 is: Any syllogism having exactly one *negative statement* is invalid. Thus, if the conclusion alone is negative, or if one premise is negative while the other premise and the conclusion are affirmative, the syllogism is invalid.

Conversely, a negative conclusion asserts that the *S* class is separate either wholly or partially from the *P* class. But if both premises are affirmative, they assert class inclusion rather than separation. Thus, a negative conclusion cannot be drawn from affirmative premises.

Rule 5: No valid syllogism can have two particular premises.

As a result of the interaction of these first four rules, it turns out that no valid syllogism can have two particular premises. This result is convenient to keep in mind, because it allows us to identify as invalid any standard-form syllogism in which both premises start with 'Some'.

Summary of Rules

Rule 1: The middle term must be distributed in one of the premises.

Rule 2: If a term is distributed in the conclusion it must be distributed in one of the premises.

Rule 3: Two negative premises (*No + No*, *No + Some Not*, *Some Not + Some Not*) are not allowed.

Rule 4: A negative premise requires a negative conclusion, and a negative conclusion requires a negative premise (*No* or *Some Not* in the premise must be followed by *No* or *Some Not* in conclusion and vice-versa)

Rule 5: No valid syllogism can have two particular premises (*Some + Some*, *Some + Some Not*).

Note

- There is no fixed order in which the rules have to be applied.
- The order depends on the form of the premises and conclusions. In case the premises or conclusion are in the form of *Some A is not B* or *No A is B*, Rule 4 should be applied first.
- The only rules that need to be applied are 1 and 2, violation of the rest of the rules can be seen just by observation.

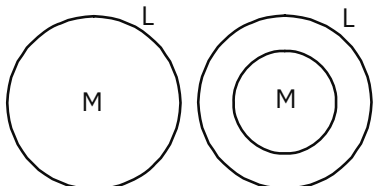
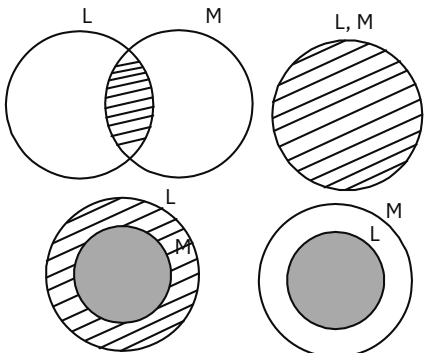
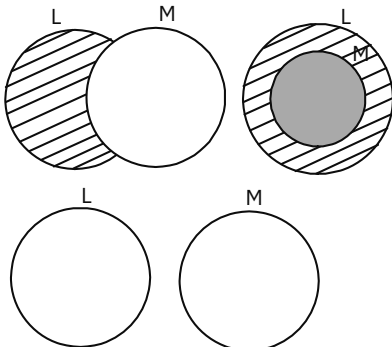
While syllogisms can be solved equally accurately using Venn-diagrams, a proper understanding of the rules will prove to be a faster method.

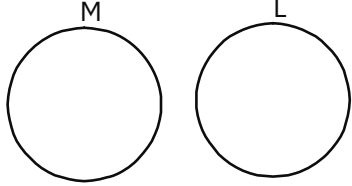
Please remember that syllogisms need not be literally true - i.e. statements like 'all black is white' or 'no fish can swim' are perfectly valid as premises or conclusions, as long as they follow the rules listed above.

Venn Diagrams

The validity of the conclusion depends on the form of the premises. One of the best ways of testing the validity of syllogisms is by representing the form of the premises using Venn diagrams. The following is the representation of the four standard forms of the propositions using Venn-Diagrams.

Each type of premise implies more than one possibility. The Venn diagrams shown below represent all possibilities arising from a particular proposition. The valid conclusions are those that will apply to all the possibilities.

Men = M & Liars = L	VALID CONCLUSION	INVALID CONCLUSION
All M are L 	<i>Some Liars are Men</i> <i>All Liars may be Men</i> <i>Some Liars may not be Men</i>	<i>All Liars are Men</i> <i>Some Liars are not Men</i>
Some L are M 	<i>Some Liars are Men</i> <i>All Liars may be Men</i> <i>Some Men may not be Liars</i> <i>All Men may be Liars</i>	<i>Some Liars are not Men</i> <i>All Liars are Men</i>
Some L are not M 	<i>Some Men may not be Liars</i> <i>All Men may be Liars</i> <i>No Men may be Liars</i> <i>No Liars may be Men</i>	<i>Some Men are Liars</i> <i>Some Liars are Men</i>

<p>No L are M</p> 	<p>No Men are Liars</p>	
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Difference Between Some and All

The difference between the quantifiers *Some* and *All* as used in logic as opposed to ordinary language needs to be clearly understood. In logic, *Some A is B* does not mean *Only* some A is B, it represents the fact that there is information only about some parts of A and that they are in B; the rest of the A might or might not be in A and nothing can be said with certainty about them.



CLASS EXERCISE

Directions: Use the five rules to determine in which of the following sets of statements the third statement logically follows from the first two statements.

1. All wines are expensive.
All expensive things are exclusive.
Some exclusive things are not wines.
2. No commercial movies are art-movies.
No art-movies are big-budget movies.
No big-budget movies are commercial movies.
3. All popular novels are bestsellers.
Some literary novels are not best sellers.
Some literary novels are not popular.
4. All high-calories diets are diets high in cholesterol.
Some diets high in cholesterol are not healthy diets.
Some healthy diets are not high-calorie diets.
5. All plants have chlorophyll.
All plants have leaves.
Some leaves have chlorophyll.
6. Some convicted are not offenders.
All offenders are guilty.
Some guilty are not convicted.
7. All companies that overprice their products are unethical.
Some unethical businesses are owned by investors.
Some companies owned by investors overprice their products.
8. All dinosaurs are extinct.
All extinct animals lived before the ice age.
Some of the animals living before the ice age were dinosaurs.
9. No wire-tapping of phones based on suspicion is unlawful.
Some wire-tapping of phones is unlawful.
Some wire-tapping of phones is not based on suspicion.

10. All persuaders are masters at eye contact.
All masters at eye contact are confident.
Some confident people are persuaders.

Directions: Represent the four statements given below using Venn diagrams.

11. All men are liars.
12. Some men are liars.
13. Some men are not liars.
14. No men are liars.

Using rules and fallacies to test the validity of syllogisms:

15. Rule 1:

Fallacy:

Example:

P1: All eagles are birds. P2: All doves are birds. C: All doves are eagles.

16. Rule 2:

Fallacies:

Example 1:

P1: All dogs are animals. P2: Some foxes are not dogs.

C: Some foxes are not animals.

Example 2:

P1: All lions are mammals. P2: All mammals are animals.

C: All animals are lions.

17. Rule 3:

Fallacy:

Example:

P1: No birds are mammals. P2: Some wolves are not birds.

C: Some wolves are not mammals.

18. Rule 4:

Fallacy:

19. Rule 5:

Directions: In each question below, three statements (I, II and III) are followed by four conclusions (A, B, C and D). You have to take the given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which logically follow/s from the given statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

20. **Statements:**

- I. Some drivers are technicians.
- II. All technicians are engineers.
- III. Some engineers are lecturers.

Conclusions:

- A. Some technicians are lecturers.
- B. Some lecturers are drivers.
- C. All engineers are technicians.
- D. Some engineers are drivers.
- 1) Only C follows.
- 2) Only D follows.
- 3) Only C and D follow.
- 4) None of these

Directions: This question contains six statements followed by four sets of combinations of three statements. Choose the set in which the statements are logically related. **(Past CAT Questions)**

21. A. All roses are fragrant. B. All roses are majestic.
C. All roses are plants. D. All roses need air.
E. All plants need air. F. All plants need water.
1) CED 2) ACB 3) BDC 4) CFE
22. A. All men are men of scientific ability.
B. Some women are women of scientific ability.
C. Some men are men of artistic genius.
D. Some men and women are people of scientific ability.
E. Some men of artistic genius are men of scientific ability.
F. Some women of artistic genius are women of scientific ability.
1) ACD 2) ACE 3) DEF 4) ABC
23. A. No fishes breathe through lungs. B. All fishes have scales.
C. Some fishes breed up-stream. D. All whales breathe through lungs.
E. No whales are fishes. F. All whales are mammals.
1) ABC 2) BCD 3) ADE 4) DEF
24. A. All those who achieve great ends are happy.
B. All young people are happy.
C. All young people achieve great ends.
D. No young people achieve great ends.
E. No young people are happy,
F. Some young people are happy.
1) ADE 2) ABF 3) ACB 4) ADF

25. A. Some of my closest friends disapprove of me.
B. Some of my closest friends are aardvarks.
C. All of my closest friends disapprove of me.
D. All who disapprove of me are aardvarks.
E. Some who disapprove of me are aardvarks.
F. Some of my closest friends are no aardvarks.
1) BCD 2) ABD 3) BCE 4) ABE
26. A. Some mammals are carnivores. B. All whales are mammals.
C. All whales are aquatic animals. D. All whales are carnivores.
E. Some aquatic animals are mammals. F. Some mammals are whales.
1) ADF 2) ABC 3) AEF 4) BCE
27. A. First-year students of this college like to enter for the prize.
B. All students of this college rank as University students.
C. First-year students of this college are entitled to enter for the prize.
D. Some who rank as University students are first-year students.
E. All University students are eligible to enter for the prize.
F. All those who like to enter are entitled to enter for the prize.
1) AEF 2) ABC 3) BEC 4) CDF
28. A. All candid men are persons who acknowledge merit in a rival.
B. Some learned men are very candid.
C. Some learned men are not persons who acknowledge merit in a rival.
D. Some learned men are persons who are very candid.
E. Some learned men are not candid.
F. Some persons who recognize merit in a rival are learned.
1) ABE 2) ACF 3) ADE 4) BAF
29. A. Some beliefs are uncertain. B. Nothing uncertain is worth dying for.
C. Some beliefs are worth dying for. D. All beliefs are uncertain.
E. Some beliefs are certain. F. No belief is worth dying for.
1) ABF 2) BCD 3) BEF 4) BDF
30. A. No lunatics are fit to serve on a jury.
B. Everyone who is sane can do logic.
C. None of your sons can do logic.
D. Some who can do logic are fit to serve on a jury.
E. All who can do logic are fit to serve on a jury.
F. Everyone who is sane is fit to serve on a jury.
1) BDE 2) BEF 3) BDF 4) ADE

31. A. Different hues are obtained from primary colours.
B. A rainbow consists of several hues.
C. Blue and red can give different hues.
D. Red is a primary colour.
E. Blue can give different hues.
F. Red can give different hues.
1) ACE 2) AEF 3) ADF 4) CDF
32. A. Mathew and Paul are brothers. B. Siblings are known to quarrel often.
C. Mathew and Paul do not quarrel. D. All those who quarrel are siblings.
E. Paul and Mathew quarrel often. F. Mathew and Paul cannot be siblings.
1) BDE 2) ADF 3) CDE 4) ABE
33. A. Painting and music are forms of art. B. Art is a symptom of culture.
C. Culture and art are complementary. D. Music is a form of art.
E. Painting is a form of art. F. Music shows culture.
1) BDF 2) AEF 3) ACE 4) CEF
34. A. Metal is good material for desks. B. Desks are made of metal.
C. This object is not a desk. D. This object is a desk.
E. This object is not made of metal. F. This is made of metal.
1) ADF 2) BCE 3) ABD 4) BDF
35. A. Some men are bald. B. Bald people are intelligent.
C. Raman is a man. D. Raman is bald.
E. Raman is intelligent. F. All men are intelligent.
1) ABF 2) BDE 3) BCD 4) BEF
36. A. No barbarian is a gentleman. B. Some gentlemen are barbarians.
C. Some gentlemen are rude. D. No gentlemen are rude.
E. Some barbarians are not rude. F. All barbarians are rude.
1) ABE 2) BCE 3) ADF 4) BDE
37. A. All leaves are green. B. All leaves have chlorophyll.
C. Chlorophyll is green. D. All plants have leaves.
E. All plants have chlorophyll. F. Only leaves have chlorophyll.
1) BDE 2) BEF 3) BDF 4) AEF

38. A. All good bridge players play good chess.
B. Many good chess players are not bridge players.
C. Goren is a good bridge player.
D. Goren plays chess well.
E. Spassky plays chess well.
F. Spassky plays bridge badly.
1) ABD 2) BEF 3) ACE 4) ACD
39. A. All snakes are reptiles. B. All reptiles are not snakes.
C. All reptiles are cold blooded. D. All snakes lay eggs.
E. All reptiles lay eggs. F. Snakes are cold blooded.
1) ADE 2) BDE 3) ABE 4) ACF
40. A. College students are intelligent. B. Intelligence is a collegian's attribute.
C. Ram's sister is a college student. D. Ram goes to college.
E. All intelligent persons go to college. F. Ram is an intelligent person.
1) ADF 2) BCD 3) ABF 4) ABD



PRACTICE EXERCISE-1

Directions: Use the five rules to determine in which questions the third statement logically follows from the first two statements.

1. Some juries are not unbiased.
All unbiased are just.
Some just are not juries.
2. All celebrities who endorse unhealthy products are unethical.
Some unethical people are driven by commercial motives.
Some celebrities driven by commercial motives endorse unhealthy products.
3. All religions are antiquated.
All antiquated beliefs predate science.
Some of the antiquated beliefs that predate science were religious.
4. No crash diets based on starvation are healthy.
Some crash diets are healthy.
Some crash diets are not based on starvation.
5. All masqueraders are skilled at voice modulation.
All skilled at voice modulation are charming.
Some charming people are masqueraders.

Directions: Use Venn diagrams to determine in which questions the third statement logically follows from the first two statements.

6. No frogs are toads.
All toads are amphibians.
No frogs are amphibians.

7. Some books are mystery.
No mystery is adventure.
Some books are adventure.
8. All social are networks.
Some networks are not media.
Some media are not social.
9. All bands are ribbons.
No ribbons are scarves.
Some scarves are bands.
10. All wires are plastic.
All wires are copper.
Some plastic is copper.

Directions: In each question below, three statements (I, II and III) are followed by four conclusions (A, B, C and D). You have to take the given statements to be true even if they seem to be at variance with commonly known facts. Read all the conclusions and then decide which logically follow/s from the given statements, disregarding commonly known facts.

11. **Statements:**

- I. Some barbers are fashion designers.
- II. No fashion designers are businessmen.
- III. Some businessmen are traders.

Conclusions:

- A. No fashion designers are traders.
 - B. Some traders are not fashion designers.
 - C. Some fashion designers are traders.
 - D. Some barbers are not businessmen.
- 1) Either A, B and D or C, B and D follow.
 - 2) Either A and D or C and D follow.
 - 3) Either A and B or C and B follow.
 - 4) None of the above

Directions: Each question contains six statements followed by four sets of combinations of three. Choose the set in which the statements are logically related.

12. A. Reena and Meena are sisters. D. All those who quarrel are sisters.
B. Sisters are often known to quarrel. E. Reena and Meena quarrel often.
C. Reena and Meena do not quarrel. F. Reena and Meena cannot be sisters.
1) BDE 2) ADF 3) CDE 4) ABE
13. A. All crows are birds. D. All crows lays eggs.
B. All birds are not crows. E. All birds lay eggs.
C. All birds are warm blooded F. Crows are warm blooded.
1) ADE 2) BED 3) ABE 4) ACF

Directions: Each of the questions below contains four arguments of three sentences each. Choose the set in which the third statement is a logical conclusion of the first two. **(Past CAT Questions)**

14. A. All Ts are square; All square are rectangular; All Ts are rectangular.
B. Some fat are elongated; Some elongated things are huge; Some fat are huge.
C. Idiots are bumlbers; Bumlbers fumble; Idiots fumble.
D. Water is good for health; Health foods are rare; Water is rare.
1) D only 2) C only 3) Both A and C 4) A, B, C and D
15. A. Some Xs are Ps; Some Ps are Ys; Some Xs are Ys.
B. All Sonas are bright; Some bright are crazy; Some Sonas are crazy.
C. No faith is strong; No strong have biceps; No faith has biceps.
D. All men are weak; Some weak are strong; Some strong are weak.
1) A and D 2) C only 3) D only 4) None of these
16. A. Some icicles are cycles; All cycles are men; Some icicles are men.
B. All girls have teeth; No teeth are yellow; No girls are yellow.
C. No hand is foot; Some foot are heads; Some hands are heads.
D. Every man has a wife; All wives are devoted; No devoted has a husband.
1) A, B and C only 2) A and B
3) C and B 4) A, B, C and D
17. A. No sun is not white; All moon is sun; All moon is white.
B. All windows are open; No open space is allocated; All window is closed space.
C. No German can fire; All Americans bombard; Both, Germans and Americans can fight.
D. No X is Z; No Z is Y; No X is Y.
1) A only 2) B only 3) C only 4) D only

18. A. No cowboys laugh; Some who laugh are sphinxes; Some sphinxes are not cowboys.
B. All ghosts are fluorescent; Some ghosts do not sing; Some singers are not fluorescent.
C. Cricketers indulge in swearing; Those who swear are hanged; Some who are hanged are not cricketers.
D. Some crazy people are pianists; All crazy people are whistlers; Some whistlers are pianists.
1) A and B 2) C only 3) A and D 4) B only
19. A. All good people are knights; All warriors are good people; All knights are warriors.
B. No footballers are ministers; All footballers are tough; Some ministers are players.
C. All pizzas are snacks; Some meals are pizzas; Some meals are snacks.
D. Some barkers are musk-deer; All barkers are sloth bears. Some sloth bears are musk-deer.
1) C and D 2) B and C 3) A only 4) C only

Directions: Each question consists of five statements followed by options consisting of three statements put together in a specific order. Choose the option which indicates a valid argument, that is, where the third statement is a conclusion drawn from the preceding two statements. **(Past CAT Questions)**

Example:

A. All cigarettes are hazardous to health.

B. Brand X is cigarette.

C. Brand X is hazardous to health.

ABC is a valid option, where statement C can be concluded from statements A and B.

20. A. All software companies employ knowledge workers.
B. Tara Tech employs knowledge workers.
C. Tara Tech is a software company.
D. Some software companies employ knowledge workers.
E. Tara Tech employs only knowledge workers.
1) ABC 2) ACB 3) CDB 4) ACE
21. A. Traffic congestion increases carbon monoxide in the environment
B. Increase in carbon monoxide is hazardous to health.
C. Traffic congestion is hazardous to health.
D. Some traffic congestion does not cause increased carbon monoxide.
E. Some traffic congestion is not hazardous to health.
1) CBA 2) BDE 3) CDE 4) BAC

22. A. Apples are not sweets. B. Some apples are sweets.
C. All sweets are tasty. D. Some apples are not tasty.
E. No apple is tasty.
1) CEA 2) BDC 3) CBD 4) EAC
23. A. Some towns in India are polluted. B. All polluted towns should be destroyed.
C. Town Meghana should be destroyed. D. Town Meghana is polluted.
E. Some towns in India should be destroyed.
1) BDE 2) BAE 3) ADE 4) CDB
24. A. No patriot is a criminal B. Bundledas is not a criminal.
C. Bundledas is a patriot. D. Bogasdas is not a patriot.
E. Bogasdas is a criminal
1) ACB 2) ABC 3) ADE 4) ABE
25. A. Ant eaters like ants. B. Boys are ant eaters.
C. Balaram is an ant eater. D. Balaram likes ants.
E. Balaram may eat ants.
1) BCA 2) ADC 3) ABE 4) ACD
26. A. All actors are handsome. B. Some actors are popular.
C. Ram is handsome. D. Ram is popular actor.
E. Some popular people are handsome.
1) ACD 2) ABE 3) DCA 4) EDC
27. A. Modern industry is technology driven. B. BTI is a modern industry.
C. BTI is technology driven. D. BTI may be technology driven.
E. Technology driven industry is modern.
1) ABC 2) ABD 3) BCA 4) EBC
28. A. All Golmal islanders are blue coloured people.
B. Some smart people are not blue coloured people.
C. Some babies are blue coloured.
D. Some babies are smart.
E. Some smart people are not Golmal islanders.
1) BCD 2) ABE 3) CBD 4) None of these
29. A. MBAs are in great demand.
B. Ram and Sita are in great demand.
C. Ram is in great demand.
D. Sita is in great demand.
E. Ram and Sita are MBAs.
1) ABE 2) ECD 3) AEB 4) EBA

8. A. Akhet is a ship's crew. B. Ashet is a ship's crew.
C. All ship's crew are submarine crew. D. Akhet and Ashet are friends.
E. Ashet is a submarine crew. F. Akhet is a submarine crew.
1) BCE 2) BCA 3) EFD 4) BEC
9. A. All green is white. B. All white is black.
C. All green is black. D. All black is white.
E. All white is green. F. All black is green.
1) CDA 2) ADC 3) EFB 4) DEB
10. A. Some cricket players are golfers. B. All golfers are cricket players.
C. Susheel is a cricket player. D. Sohail is a golfer.
E. Susheel is a golfer. F. Sohail is a cricket player.
1) ACE 2) BCE 3) DBC 4) EBC
11. A. Some Sioux are Indians. B. Some Sioux do not carry Tomahawks.
C. All Mohicans carry Tomahawks. D. All Indians carry Tomahawks.
E. No Sioux are Mohicans. F. No Indians carry Tomahawks.
1) CEB 2) ADB 3) FAB 4) DEC
12. A. All monoliths are caged. B. All monoliths are menageries.
C. Some menageries are monstrous. D. Some monoliths are monstrous.
E. Some caged are menageries. F. Some monoliths are caged.
1) BDC 2) FED 3) AEF 4) BFD

Directions: Each question has a set of three or four statements. Each statement has three segments. Choose the option where the third segment in the statement can be logically deduced using both the preceding two, but not just one of them.

13. A. All chairs are desks. Some tables are desks. Some chairs are desks.
B. Some umbrellas are pencils. All chocolates are pencils. Some chocolates are umbrellas.
C. Some watches are pins. No cap is a pin. No watch is a cap.
1) B only 2) A and C 3) A and B 4) None of these
14. A. All singers can dance. Some animals can dance. Some animals are singers.
B. Only heroes act in a movie. Gautam acts in movies. Gautam is a hero.
C. Some brave are famous. All famous are handsome. Some brave are handsome.
1) B and C 2) B only 3) A and C 4) A and B

15. A. No doctor is an engineer. Some managers are engineers. Some managers are not doctors.
B. All black are green. Yellow are black. Some yellow are not green.
C. All companies are making profits. Werner is making profits. Werner is a company.
1) A and B 2) B and C 3) A only 4) C only
16. A. No yankees have brains. Some who have brains are donkeys. Donkeys are not yankees.
B. All movies are watchable. Some movies do not have songs. Movies without songs are not watchable.
C. All players play cricket. Ravi plays cricket. Ravi is a player.
D. No bus stops have queues. Bandra bus stop has a queue. Bandra bus stop does not have buses.
1) A and B 2) C only 3) C and D 4) None of these
17. A. Many juices are concentrates. Some juices are not fresh. No fresh are concentrates.
B. No lattes are espressos. Some cappuccinos are not lattes. Some cappuccinos may be espressos.
C. Some sodas are ice-creams. All milkshakes are ice-creams. All milk-shakes are sodas.
1) A only 2) B only 3) A and C 4) B and C
18. A. A few cucumbers are zucchinis. All zucchinis are not asparagus. Some asparagus are cucumbers.
B. Some broccolis are cauliflowers. Some cabbages are cauliflowers. Some cabbages are broccolis.
C. Some carrots are not radishes. No potatoes are carrots. Some potatoes are not radishes.
1) A only 2) C only 3) A and B 4) None of the above
19. A. Some eggs are boiled. Some eggs are poached. No boiled are poached.
B. All eggs are omelettes. Some omelettes are not fried. Some eggs are not fried.
C. A few eggs are coddled. All coddled are scrambled. Some eggs are scrambled.
1) A and B 2) B only 3) C only 4) A and C
20. A. Not all psychology is sociology. Only anthropology is sociology. Some psychology may be anthropology.
B. No botany is biology. No biology is zoology. No zoology is botany.
C. Only algebra is geometry. All algebra is mathematics. All geometry is mathematics.
1) A and B 2) A and C 3) B and C 4) A, B and C
21. A. Some thieves are notorious. Many thieves are assassins. Some assassins are thieves.
B. All assassins are spies. All spies are stealthy. Only assassins are stealthy.
C. Some murderers want revenge. No murderers are assassins. Some assassins do not want revenge.
1) A and B 2) B and C 3) A and C 4) None of the above

Directions: Each question has a main statement followed by four statements labelled A, B, C and D. From the options, choose that ordered pair of statements where the first statement implies the second, and the two statements are logically consistent with the main statement.

22. The library allows you to borrow a second book only if you return the first one.
- A. I borrowed a second book from the library.
 - B. I returned the first book to the library.
 - C. I did not borrow a second book from the library.
 - D. I did not return the first book to the library.
- 1) BA 2) AD 3) CD 4) DC
23. Snow falls when the temperature is below freezing.
- A. It is snowing.
 - B. It is not snowing.
 - C. The temperature is below freezing.
 - D. The temperature is not below freezing.
- 1) BD 2) DB 3) AC 4) BC
24. Riddhi will go to the party if her friends Riya and Ritika go as well.
- A. Riddhi goes to the party.
 - B. Riddhi does not go to the party.
 - C. Ritika goes to the party.
 - D. Riya goes to the party.
- 1) CA 2) AD 3) DB 4) None of the above
25. You must use the gift voucher to shop online or at the mall.
- A. You used the gift voucher to shop at the mall.
 - B. You did not use the gift voucher to shop online.
 - C. You used the gift voucher to shop online.
 - D. You did not use the gift voucher to shop at the mall.
- 1) DB 2) CA 3) DC 4) Both (1) and (2)
26. If the clock strikes, the cuckoo will not come out.
- A. The clock does not strike.
 - B. The cuckoo does not come out.
 - C. The clock strikes.
 - D. The cuckoo comes out.
- 1) CB 2) AD 3) AB 4) CD

Directions: Each question has some statements followed by a set of conclusions. Choose the conclusions that logically follow from both the given statements.

27. **Statements:**

Some nomads are wanderers. Not all wanderers are lost.

Conclusions:

A. Some nomads are lost.

B. Not all nomads are lost.

- 1) Only A 2) Only B 3) Both A and B 4) Neither A nor B

28. **Statements:**

Most cyclists are athletic. All athletic people can run marathons.

Conclusions:

A. Some cyclists can run marathons.

B. Some cyclists are athletic people.

- 1) Only A 2) Only B 3) Both A and B 4) Neither A nor B

29. **Statements:**

All bubblegum is pink. All bubblegum is green.

Conclusions:

A. Some green is pink.

B. All bubblegum is pink and green.

- 1) Only A 2) Only B 3) Both A and B 4) Neither A nor B

30. **Statements:**

All rocks are stones. Some stones may be gems.

Conclusions:

A. Some gems are rocks.

B. Some rocks may be stones.

- 1) Only A 2) Only B 3) Both A and B 4) Neither A nor B



PRACTICE EXERCISE-3

Directions: From the six statements choose the set of three statements where the third statement can be logically drawn from the first two statements.

1. A. Only puddings are pies. B. No pies are cheesecakes.
C. No cheesecakes are waffles. D. Only waffles are pies.
E. Some cheesecakes are not puddings. F. Only waffles are puddings.
1) ADF 2) BAE 3) CFE 4) DCB
2. A. No cash is credit. B. Some cheque is credit.
C. Some debit is credit. D. Some cash is not cheque.
E. All cash is cheque. F. Some debit is not cash.
1) ACF 2) DFB 3) EAB 4) FCA
3. A. No Starks are Lannisters. B. Some Baratheons are Targaryens.
C. Some Starks are Targaryens. D. Some Lannisters are Baratheons.
E. Some Starks may be Baratheons. F. No Lannisters are Baratheons.
1) AFC 2) CBE 3) DAF 4) EBC
4. A. Some wolves are deer. B. Some deer are lions.
C. No wolves are lions. D. All lions are deer.
E. Some lions are wolves. F. No deer are wolves.
1) CBF 2) ABE 3) DCF 4) EDA
5. A. All dragons can fly. B. Some dragons cannot swim.
C. No krakens can fly. D. Some krakens are not dragons.
E. Some dragons are krakens. F. All krakens can swim.
1) CAD 2) EFB 3) FBD 4) BCE
6. A. Some wives are good. B. Some wives are politicians.
C. No politicians are good. D. Some wives may be lawyers.
E. Some lawyers may be good. F. Some lawyers are politicians.
1) ACB 2) CEF 3) FBD 4) Both (1) and (3)
7. A. Many carbon are sulphur. B. Sulphur are never phosphorus.
C. Phosphorus are always carbon. D. Some sulphur are not carbon.
E. No carbon are phosphorus. F. All phosphorus are sulphur.
1) ACF 2) BAE 3) EBD 4) None of the above

8. A. Only Odins are Lokis. B. Only Lokis are Thors.
C. Some Odins are Lokis. D. Some Lokis may be Odins.
E. Some Odins may be Thors. F. All Thors are Odins.
1) BFC 2) BAF 3) CED 4) Both (1) and (2)
9. A. Some rings are evil. B. Some power is evil.
C. All power is cursed. D. Some rings are cursed.
E. All rings are power. F. All evil are rings.
1) AEB 2) DCF 3) FBE 4) None of the above
10. A. Some teas are earl grey. B. No teas are lemon.
C. Only lemon are teas. D. All earl grey are lemon.
E. No earl grey are teas. F. Some lemon may be earl grey.
1) CAF 2) BFA 3) DBE 4) EDC

Directions: Each question has a main statement followed by four statements labelled A, B, C and D. From the options, choose that ordered pair of statements where the first statement implies the second, and the two statements are logically consistent with the main statement.

11. When the bell rings, the students leave the classroom.
A. The bell rang.
B. The bell did not ring.
C. The students left the classroom.
D. The students did not leave the classroom.
1) AB 2) CA 3) DB 4) BD
12. Harry could take up only one subject: either Transfiguration or Potions.
A. Harry took up Potions.
B. Harry did not take up Potions.
C. Harry took up Transfiguration.
D. Harry did not take up Transfiguration.
1) AC 2) AD 3) CB 4) Both (2) and (3)
13. Only when her mobile buzzes, does Kajal pick it up.
A. Kajal's mobile is buzzing.
B. Kajal picks up her mobile.
C. Kajal does not pick up her mobile.
D. Kajal's mobile is not ringing.
1) AB 2) BA 3) CD 4) DC

14. The flight will be delayed if this fog does not clear up.
 A. The flight is delayed.
 B. The fog clears up.
 C. The fog does not clear up.
 D. The flight is not delayed.
 1) BA 2) AC 3) DC 4) DB
15. We can order pizza from Pizza Hut or Domino's.
 A. We ordered from Domino's.
 B. We ordered from Pizza Hut.
 C. We did not order from Pizza Hut.
 D. We did not order pizza.
 1) CA 2) CD 3) BA 4) None of the above
16. Ram does not drive when he drinks.
 A. Ram drove. B. Ram didn't drink.
 C. Ram didn't drive. D. Ram drank.
 1) BA 2) CA 3) CD 4) DC
17. Only intelligent investors manage money well.
 A. Harsh manages money well.
 B. Harsh is an intelligent investor.
 C. Harsh does not manage money well.
 D. Harsh is not an intelligent investor.
 1) DC 2) AD 3) CD 4) CB
18. The computer moves when the mouse clicks.
 A. The computer moved.
 B. The mouse did not click.
 C. The mouse clicked.
 D. The computer did not move.
 1) AC 2) CA 3) CD 4) DC
19. Good girls go to heaven.
 A. Sheela is a good girl.
 B. Sheela will go to heaven.
 C. Sheela is not a good girl.
 D. Sheela will not go to heaven.
 1) AC 2) CD 3) DC 4) None of these

Directions: Each question has some statements followed by a set of conclusions. Choose the conclusions that logically follow from both the given statements.

20. **Statements:**

Some leather is tanned. No hide is tanned.

Conclusions:

A. Some leather is not hide.

B. Some hide is not leather.

1) A only

2) B only

3) Both A and B

4) Neither A nor B

Directions: Use the five rules to determine in which questions the third statement logically follows from the first two statements.

21. All philosophers are intellectuals.
All intellectuals are valuable.
Some valuable things are not philosophers.
22. No comic books are literature.
No literature is populist.
No populist books are comic books.
23. All constellations have stars.
Some stellar objects are not stars.
Some stellar objects are not part of constellations.
24. All dairy products are foods high in calcium.
Some foods high in calcium are not easily digestible.
Some easily digestible foods are not dairy products.
25. All math involves problems.
All math involves axioms.
Some axioms have problems.

Directions: Use Venn diagrams to determine in which questions the third statement logically follows from the first two statements.

26. All apples are red.
All red are flowers.
Some apples are flowers.

27. Some yellow is orange.
All orange is fruit.
All fruit is orange.
28. Some panes are clear.
Some clear are lucid.
Some panes may be lucid.
29. Some shirts are pants.
No pants are trousers.
No trousers are shirts.
30. Some rugs are carpets.
Some carpets may be red.
Some rugs may be red.

Directions: Each question has a set of three or four statements. Each statement has three segments. Choose the option where the third segment in the statement can be logically deduced using both the preceding two, but not just one of them.

31. A. Superstars have massive egos. Arnold has a massive ego. Arnold is a superstar.
B. All milkshakes are alcoholic. Beer is alcoholic. Beer is a milkshake.
C. Some baskets have oranges. Some baskets have apples. Baskets have either apples or oranges.
D. No Briton wants to lie. Grant wants to lie. Grant is not a Briton.
1) A and D 2) B only 3) D only 4) C and D
32. A. No fruits have vitamins. All vegetables have vitamins. Vegetables are not fruits.
B. Some plants are money plants. Rubber plants are money plants. Money plants are rubber plants.
C. Superman will destroy all evil. Satan is evil. Satan will destroy Superman.
D. All's well that ends well. The play did not end. The play was not well.
1) A only 2) A and C 3) A and D 4) None of these
33. A. All thunderstorms are accompanied by hail. There is hail. There is a thunderstorm.
B. Some who talk do not smile. Nishi talks. Nishi does not smile.
C. All things made of glass are transparent. Photo frames are made of glass. Photo frames are transparent.
D. No murderer is human. Ram is human. Ram is not a murderer.
1) A only 2) B only 3) C and D 4) C only

34. A. All parkour is dangerous. Not all freerunning is dangerous. Some parkour is not freerunning.
B. All faiths are creeds. All creeds are religions. Some religions are faiths.
C. Some sands are grainy. Some sands are not pebbly. No grainy are pebbly.
1) A only 2) B only 3) C only 4) A and B
35. A. Only portals are orange. Only portals are blue. Some blue may be orange.
B. Some princes are Persian. All princesses are Indian. Some Persian are Indian.
C. Some Lara raid tombs. All those who raid tombs are Croft. Some Croft are Lara.
D. No Ezio are Altair. All Desmond are Altair. Some Desmond are Ezio.
1) A and B 2) A and C 3) C and D 4) B and D

Directions: Each question has some statements followed by a set of conclusions. Choose the conclusions that logically follow from the given statements.

36. **Statements:**
All princes are kings. Only queens are kings.
Conclusions:
A. All queens are princes.
B. All princes are queens.
1) A only 2) B only 3) Both A and B 4) Neither A nor B
37. **Statements:**
All silk is satin. All cotton is satin.
Conclusions:
A. All cotton is silk.
B. Some silk may be cotton.
1) A only 2) B only 3) Both A and B 4) Neither A nor B
38. **Statements:**
No coconuts are pumpkins. Some papayas are not pumpkins.
Conclusions:
A. No coconuts are papayas.
B. Some papayas are coconuts.
1) A only 2) B only 3) Both A and B 4) Neither A nor B

39. **Statements:**

All Jons know nothing. No Ygrittes know nothing.

Conclusions:

A. No Jons are Ygrittes.

B. Some Jons may be Ygrittes.

- 1) A only 2) B only 3) Both A and B 4) Neither A nor B

40. **Statements:**

All swords have edges.

All swords have hilts.

Conclusions:

A. All swords have both edges and hilts.

B. Some of those that have hilts have edges.

- 1) A only 2) B only 3) Both A and B 4) Neither A nor B



PRACTICE EXERCISE-4

Directions: From the six statements, choose the set of three statements where the third statement can be logically drawn from the first two statements. (Past CAT questions)

1. A. Smoking causes cancer.
B. All cigarettes are hazardous to health.
C. Smoking does not cause cancer sometimes.
D. One brand of cigarettes is Cham-cham.
E. Brand X causes cancer.
F. Cham-cham is bad for health.
1) ABE 2) BDF 3) ABD 4) ABC
2. A. Laxman is a man.
C. Some women are islands.
E. Meera is not an island.
1) ADE 2) ABE 3) ADF 4) CDE
B. Meera is Laxman's wife.
D. No man is an island.
F. Laxman is not an island.
3. A. All bosses are fragrant.
C. All bosses are pious.
E. All bosses need air.
1) ABC 2) BCD 3) CDE 4) CEF
B. All bosses are majestic.
D. All pious need air.
F. All pious need water.
4. A. No attendants are qualified.
C. Some nurses are not qualified.
E. All attendants are qualified.
1) ABF 2) CDF 3) BDF 4) BDE
B. Some nurses are qualified.
D. All nurses are attendants.
F. Some attendants are qualified.
5. A. Mary is John's wife.
C. Mary wears John's ring.
E. John loves Mary.
1) ADF 2) ABD 3) ACE 4) AEF
B. Mary and John danced together.
D. Husbands and wives danced the last waltz.
F. John danced last with Mary.
6. A. Some college athletes are professionals.
B. No college athlete is a professional.
C. Some professionals are well-paid.
D. All professionals are well-paid.
E. All well-paid persons are professionals.
F. No well-paid person is a college athlete.
1) BEF 2) ABF 3) BDF 4) ACF

7. A. Some intolerant are poor thinkers.
B. Some poor thinkers are intolerant.
C. All people with high ideals are intolerant.
D. No poor thinker is intolerant.
E. No poor thinker has high ideals.
F. Some people with high ideals are poor thinkers.
1) CDE 2) CDF 3) ABD 4) BCF
8. A. All engineers can sing. B. No music lover can sing.
C. All who can sing are music lovers. D. All music lovers can sing.
E. Some who can sing are engineers. F. All engineers are music lovers.
1) ACE 2) ACF 3) ABF 4) ACD
9. A. Some well-dressed people are sociable.
B. All sociable people are well-dressed.
C. Some well-dressed people are dull.
D. No dull person is well-dressed.
E. Some sociable people are dull.
F. Some dull ones are well-dressed.
1) ACE 2) BCE 3) ADE 4) BEF
10. A. Iran and Iraq are members of the UN.
B. Iran and Iraq are not friends.
C. Iran and Iraq are neighbours.
D. Some UN members are friends.
E. Not all members of the UN are friends.
F. All neighbours are not friends.
1) ABE 2) ABD 3) CDF 4) AEF
11. A. Good managers are intuitive. B. Some managers are women.
C. Supriya is a good manager. D. Supriya is a woman.
E. Some women are intuitive. F. Supriya is intuitive.
1) BCE 2) ABD 3) ACF 4) ADF
12. A. All who are sincere are graduates. B. Some graduates are not sincere.
C. All who are sincere are dull. D. All graduates are dull.
E. Some who are dull are graduates. F. No one who is dull is sincere.
1) BEF 2) ADF 3) ABF 4) ADC
13. A. Sham won a lottery.
B. Sham lost in a chess game.
C. Sham is not intelligent.
D. One need not be intelligent to win a lottery.
E. One need not be intelligent to win a chess game.
F. Sham plays chess.
1) BEF 2) ACD 3) BDE 4) BDF

14. A. All boys are good. B. Some girls are bad.
C. Good people are educated. D. Boys are educated.
E. Ram is an educated boy. F. Lata is an educated girl.
1) BCF 2) ACD 3) DEF 4) ADF
15. A. All vegetarians eat meat.
B. All those who eat meat are not vegetarians.
C. All those who eat meat are herbivorous.
D. All vegetarians are carnivorous.
E. All those who eat meat are carnivorous.
F. Vegetarians are herbivorous.
1) BCE 2) ABE 3) ACD 4) ACF
16. A. All roses have thorns. B. All roses have nectar.
C. All plants with nectar have thorns. D. All shrubs have roses.
E. All shrubs have nectar. F. Some roses have thorns.
1) BEF 2) FEB 3) BDE 4) ACF
17. A. Some abra are dabra. B. All abra are cabra.
C. All dabra are abra. D. All dabra are not abra.
E. Some cabra are abra. F. Some cabra are dabra
1) AEF 2) BCF 3) ABD 4) BCE
18. A. No spring is a season. B. Some seasons are springs.
C. Some seasons are autumns. D. No seasons are autumns.
E. Some springs are not autumns. F. All springs are autumns.
1) DFA 2) BEF 3) CEB 4) DEB
19. A. All falcons fly high. B. All falcons are blind.
C. All falcons are birds. D. All birds are yellow.
E. All birds are thirsty. F. All falcons are yellow.
1) ABC 2) CDF 3) DEF 4) BCA
20. A. No wires are hooks. B. Some springs are hooks.
C. All springs are wires. D. Some hooks are not wires.
E. No hook is a spring. F. All wires are springs.
1) AED 2) BCF 3) BEF 4) ACE
21. A. No plane is a chain. B. All manes are chains.
C. No mane is a plane. D. Some manes are not planes.
E. Some planes are manes. F. Some chains are not planes.
1) ACD 2) ADF 3) ABC 4) CDF

22. A. All rolls are nice.
C. All toys are dolls.
E. Some nice things are dolls.
1) CDE 2) CEF 3) ACD 4) BEF
23. A. Some buildings are not sky-scrapers.
B. Some sky-scrapers are not buildings.
C. No structure is a sky-scaper.
D. All sky-scrapers are structures.
E. Some sky-scrapers are buildings.
F. Some structures are not buildings.
1) ACE 2) BDF 3) CDE 4) ACF
24. A. All bins are buckets.
C. No bin is a basket.
E. Some bins are baskets.
1) BDE 2) ACB 3) CDF 4) ABF
25. A. Some men are bad.
C. All bad things are men.
E. Some sad things are men.
1) AFE 2) BCF 3) BDA 4) BCE
26. A. Some bubbles are not dubbles.
C. No one who is rubbles is dubbles.
E. Some dubbles are bubbles.
1) ADF 2) DEF 3) ABC 4) BDF
27. A. All Toms are bright.
C. Some Toms are Dicks.
E. No Tom is a Dick.
1) ABC 2) BEF 3) ABF 4) CDA
28. A. All witches are nasty.
C. All witches are devils.
E. Some nasty are devils.
1) BCD 2) CDA 3) DEC 4) FEC
29. A. No tingo is a bingo.
C. No jingo is a tingo.
E. Some tingoes are jingoes.
1) ABC 2) ACB 3) DFA 4) BDA

30. A. Some pins are made of tin.
C. All copper is used for pins.
E. Some pins are used for tin.
1) ABC 2) CEF 3) CDA 4) ABE
B. All tin is made of copper.
D. Some tin is copper.
F. Some copper is used for tin.
31. A. An ostrich lays eggs.
C. Some birds can fly.
E. An ostrich is a bird.
1) BEA 2) ABE 3) DEC 4) ECB
B. All birds lay eggs.
D. An ostrich cannot fly.
F. An ostrich cannot swim.
32. A. Some paper is wood.
C. All that is good is wood.
E. All paper is good.
1) BED 2) BDF 3) FAB 4) FBA
B. All wood is good.
D. All wood is paper.
F. Some paper is good.
33. A. All bricks are tricks.
C. Some that are shrieks are bricks.
E. All tricks are shrieks.
1) EAC 2) BCD 3) ABC 4) EDC
B. Some tricks are shrieks.
D. Some tricks are not bricks.
F. No tricks are shrieks.
34. A. No wife is a life.
C. Some wife is strife.
E. All wife is strife.
1) BEF 2) FCB 3) ABF 4) BDE
B. All life is strife.
D. All that is wife is life.
F. No wife is strife.
35. A. Some crows are flies.
C. All mosquitoes are flies.
E. All owls are mosquitoes.
1) ABC 2) CEF 3) ADE 4) EDB
B. Some flies are mosquitoes.
D. Some owls are flies.
F. Some mosquitoes are not owls.
36. A. Six is five.
C. Some five is ten.
E. Some twelve is five.
1) ADE 2) ABC 3) AEF 4) EDC
B. Five is not four.
D. Some six is twelve.
F. Some ten is four.
37. A. Poor girls want to marry rich boys.
B. Rich girls want to marry rich boys.
C. Poor girls do not want to marry rich girls.
D. Rich boys want to marry rich girls.
E. Poor girls want to marry rich girls.
F. Rich boys want to marry poor girls.
1) ADE 2) ABC 3) BCD 4) DEF

38. A. Some sand is sandal.
C. All band is sand.
E. No band is sand.
1) BCA 2) AFE 3) DEC 4) CED
B. All sandal is band.
D. No sand is sandal.
F. Some band is sandal.
39. A. No bird is viviparous.
C. Bats are viviparous.
E. No bird is a mammal.
1) ADC 2) ABE 3) FBA 4) AFC
B. All mammals are viviparous.
D. No bat is a bird.
F. All bats are mammals.
40. A. No mother is a nurse.
C. No woman is a prude.
E. Some nurses are women.
1) ABE 2) CED 3) FEB 4) BEF
B. Some nurses like to work.
D. Some prude are nurses.
F. All women like to work.
41. A. Oranges are sweet.
C. Some sweet things are apples.
E. All sweet are sour.
1) DAC 2) CDA 3) BCA 4) FEC
B. All oranges are apples.
D. Some oranges are apples.
F. Some apples are sour.
42. A. Zens are Marutis.
C. Marutis are fragile.
E. Marutis can beat Opels.
1) ACB 2) EFD 3) CEA 4) ABC
B. Zens are fragile.
D. All stable are weak.
F. Opels are stable.
43. A. Dogs sleep in the open.
C. Dogs are like sheep.
E. Some dogs are not sheep.
1) DEF 2) DCA 3) ABE 4) FBD
B. Sheep sleep indoors.
D. All indoors are sheep.
F. Some open are not sheep.

Directions: Each question consists of five statements followed by options consisting of three statements put together in a specific order. Choose the option which indicates a valid argument, that is, where the third statement is a conclusion drawn from the preceding two statements.

Example:

- A. All cigarettes are hazardous to health.
B. Brand X is cigarette.
C. Brand X is hazardous to health.

ABC is a valid option, where statement C can be concluded from statements A and B.

44.

- A. Dinosaurs are pre-historic creatures. Water-buffaloes are not dinosaurs. Water-buffaloes are not pre-historic creatures.
- B. All politicians are frank. No frank people are crocodiles. No crocodiles are politicians.
- C. No diamond is quartz. No opal is quartz. Diamonds are opals.
- D. All monkey like bananas. Some GI Joes like bananas. Some GI Joes are monkeys.
- 1) C only 2) B only 3) A and D 4) B and C

45.

- A. MD is an actor. Some actors are pretty. MD is pretty.
- B. Some men are cops. All cops are brave. Some brave are cops.
- C. All cops are brave. Some men are cops. Some men are brave.
- D. All actors are pretty. MD is not an actor. MD is not pretty.
- 1) D only 2) C only 3) A only 4) A, B and C

46.

- A. Citizens of Yes Islands speak only the truth. Citizens of Yes Islands are young people. Young people speak only the truth.
- B. Citizens of Yes Islands speak only the truth. Some Yes Islands are in the Atlantic. Some citizens of Yes Islands are in the Atlantic.
- C. Citizens of Yes Islands speak only the truth. Some young people are citizens of Yes Islands. Some young people speak only the truth.
- D. Some people speak only the truth. Some citizens of Yes Islands speak only the truth. Some people who speak only the truth are citizens of Yes Islands.
- 1) A only 2) B only 3) C only 4) D only

47.

- A. All mammals are viviparous. Some fish are viviparous. Some fish are mammals.
- B. All birds are oviparous. Some fish are not oviparous. Some fish are birds.
- C. No mammal is oviparous. Some creatures are oviparous and some not. Some creatures are not mammals.
- D. Some creatures are mammals. Some creatures are viviparous. Some mammals are viviparous.
- 1) A only 2) B only 3) C only 4) D only

48.

- A. Many singers are not writers. All poets are singers. Some poets are not writers.
 B. Giants climb beanstalks. Some chicken do not climb beanstalks. Some chicken are not giants.
 C. All explorers live in snowdrifts. Some penguins live in snowdrifts. Some penguins are explorers.
 D. Amar is taller than Akbar. Anthony shorter than Amar. Akbar is shorter than Anthony.
- 1) A only 2) B only 3) B and C 4) D only

49.

- A. A few farmers are rocket scientists. Some rocket scientist catch snakes. A few farmers catch snakes.
 B. Poonam is a kangaroo. Some kangaroo are made of teak. Poonam is made of teak.
 C. No bulls eat grass. All matadors eat grass. No matadors are bulls.
 D. Some skunks drive Cadillacs. All skunks are polar bears. Some polar bears drive Cadillacs.
- 1) B only 2) A and C 3) C only 4) C and D

Directions: Each question consists of five or six statements followed by options consisting of three statements put together in a specific order. Choose the option which indicates a valid argument, that is, when the third statement is a conclusion drawn from the preceding two statements.

50.

- I. All bikes are scooters.
 II. Some scooters are not mopeds.
 III. Some mopeds are bikes.
 IV. Some mopeds are not bikes.
 V. All mopeds are bikes.
 VI. No bike is a moped.
- 1) V, IV, III 2) I, III, IV 3) VI, V, II 4) I, VI, II

51.

- I. All pens are pencils.
 II. All pencils are erasers.
 III. All erasers are pens.
 IV. All scales are pens.
 V. All pencils are scales.
 VI. All erasers are scales.
- 1) III, I, II 2) II, V, IV 3) VI, IV, III 4) V, I, IV

VA-4.2 | SUMMARY AND PARAGRAPH COMPLETION



Summary Questions

Introduction

As an independent question construct, summary questions had first appeared in CAT in the 2003 retest (they had appeared a couple of times before as part of critical reasoning questions). There were four questions that asked students to choose the option that best captured the essence of the text, from the four alternative summaries. Then, five of these questions appeared in the 2004 CAT. After that, these questions recently made a reappearance in the 2014 CAT. They also make an appearance, at times, in other exams. The skills required to solve these questions are essentially the same as those required to solve general RC questions that ask for the main idea or title.

Certain points to keep in mind while solving these questions:

- Read the paragraph first and then highlight what you think are the most crucial points that must appear in the correct answer.
- Remember that it is not necessary for illustrations and examples to be included in the summary. But the point that these examples are trying to make (the purpose of the argument) must be present.
- Eliminate options that miss out on the essential information, contain information that contradicts the paragraph, or introduce new information.
- Remember not to choose options that contain any new information, no matter how reasonable or logical it may seem. In such questions, the answer should only summarize the paragraph, not draw inferences from it.
- Sometimes, the only difference between two options may be that one is more direct and establishes clearer relationships between the main actors and their environment.
- Remember that the answer should be a summary, so it should be pithy and to the point, not unnecessarily long and rambling.

Paragraph Completion

Introduction

Paragraph Completion is a question type that has appeared in the CAT from 2005 to 2013.

The question includes a short paragraph of 3 to 5 lines followed by 4 sentences. The task is to identify the sentence that completes the theme of the short paragraph. It can be viewed as a paragraph whose last sentence has been removed and you have to identify the deleted sentence from a set of 4 options.

As you will see, it tests the same skills of understanding paragraphs in terms of content, style and tone as Jumbled Paragraphs.

Sample Question

Directions: *The following question has a paragraph from which the last sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the option that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate way.*

Economics has long spurred exploration on Earth. Medieval merchants risked the hazards of the Silk Road to reach the markets of China; Portuguese caravels in the 15th century sailed beyond the bounds of the known world, searching less for knowledge than for gold and spices. Historically, the driver for opening frontiers has always been the search for resources. Science and curiosity are weak drivers compared with wealth generation.

- (1) So the best way to really encourage space exploration is to identify the economic benefits of doing so.
- (2) So the only way that space exploration will ever become a reality if there are resources to be extracted from space.
- (3) So space exploration, which does not offer enough economic benefits to compensate for the economic costs, will never really take off.
- (4) So space exploration, which is far riskier than exploration on Earth, will never be more than an idle curiosity.

According to the paragraph, economics is a better motivator for exploration than science and curiosity. The paragraph gives examples of exploration on Earth; all the options talk about space. So the correct option should be one that suggests that space exploration should also be economically motivated. (4), which does not mention economics at all, can therefore be ruled out. (3) is too negative – it cannot be inferred from the paragraph that there are not enough economic benefits of exploring space. Between (1) and (2), the former is a better answer, as the latter is too extreme: according to the paragraph, ‘science and curiosity are weak drivers’ of exploration, so economics is not the only motivation for space exploration, merely the *best* one. Hence, (1).

Types of Paragraph Completion Questions

Paragraph Completion questions over the years have broadly fallen into two types based on the types of options:

- Similar Options
- Independent Options

Similar Options

This type of question usually has options that give a clear indication of the logical direction the correct option is supposed to take. So the students' task is simplified since the logical direction need not be determined.

Example

Would a Digital Public Library of America solve all the other problems—the inflation of journal prices, the economics of scholarly publishing, the unbalanced budgets of libraries, and the barriers to the careers of young scholars? No. Instead, it would open the way to a general transformation of the landscape in what we now call the information society. Rather than better business plans (not that they don't matter), we need a new ecology, one based on the public good instead of private gain. It's not an answer to the problem of sustainability.

- (1) It's a fight against capitalism.
- (2) It's a return to knowledge for knowledge's sake.
- (3) It's an appeal to change the system.
- (4) It is a plea from the old-fashioned.

In this question, the paragraph talks about the need for a Digital Public Library of America, the problems it will and will not solve and the need for a new way of ecology based on public good. The penultimate sentence says that it is not an answer to the problem of sustainability. The options clearly indicate the direction of the concluding sentence, it's a...so the answer must sum up the essence of the author's demand for a DPLA. The essence is a demand to change the way we look at things, a new ecology based on a different premise, in other words, a systemic change. Option (3) best captures this. Option (1) has an aggressive tone that is different from that of the paragraph. Options (2) and (4) talk about a return and about being old-fashioned, neither of which are referred to in the paragraph. Hence, (3).

Independent Options

Unlike the 'Similar Options' format, these questions have options that do not have any common phrases. All options are completely different in terms of content and logical direction. Based on the content, logical structure and tone of the passage the test-taker has to determine the content, logical structure and tone that the correct answer option has to follow in order to complete the theme of the paragraph.

So the key here lies in correctly understanding the content, identifying the logical direction and tone of the passage.

Broadly the structure of the passages with independent options can be classified into two types based on the thought flow.

- Main Idea to Supporting Idea
- Supporting Ideas to Main Idea

Main Idea to Supporting Idea

In such paragraphs the main idea is usually stated in the first two lines and the sentences thereafter are supporting arguments.

Example

One of the things that photographs do is bring us close—closer than anything else I can think of—to physical suffering and to bodily harm. People often talk about the horror of war, and about the necessity of building a politics of human rights, in extremely abstract terms. I think we need to engage, far more concretely, a series of questions: What does war actually do to people? What does political oppression, defeat, physical suffering do? How are people broken? Perhaps that's an uninspiring and un-triumphant approach, but it may be one that we need. We need to understand the horrific histories that we have inherited, and that continue to be made.

- (1) We need to find a way to confront the crimes of our ancestors and our own as we commit them.
- (2) And for me, photographs are a way into those realities in ways that are truly of its kind.
- (3) If there were any other way, we would have found it by now.
- (4) Photographs are part of that horrific history, for to photograph a crime is to not prevent it.

In the very first sentence the main idea is put forth: photographs are a medium that brings us closest to physical harm or suffering. The next sentences talk about how war results in physical suffering and the need to understand war crimes, our inheritance, in real terms rather than in abstract terms. So the concluding sentence must reflect the main idea expressed in the first sentence, the role or value of photographs, while adding to it. If the concluding sentence is not

about photographs then the first sentence has no role in the paragraph and it can be entirely about war crimes. Options (1) and (3) do not talk about photographs and hence do not conclude the paragraph. Option (4) paints photography in a negative light, which is not the intention of the author. Option (2) best completes the paragraph. Hence, (2).

Supporting Idea to Main Idea

In these type of paragraphs the idea is not stated in the beginning but is slowly built up. Sometimes they might not even contain the main idea. The option that completes the theme might state the main idea or be a logical extension of the idea mentioned in the last sentences of the paragraph.

Example

In broadcasting your audience is conjectural, but it is an audience of one. Millions may be listening, but each is listening alone, or as a member of a small group, and each has (or ought to have) the feeling that you are speaking to him individually. More than this, it is reasonable to assume that your audience is sympathetic, or at least interested, for anyone who is bored can promptly switch you off by turning a knob.

- (1) The essential point was that our literary broadcasts were aimed at the university students, a small and hostile audience.
- (2) But what use is the supposedly sympathetic audience that doesn't appreciate finer nuances of the art?
- (3) But though presumably sympathetic, the audience has no power over you; it is just here that a broadcast differs from a speech or a lecture.
- (4) Listening is so much different from hearing, though they are often, often incorrectly used interchangeably.

The paragraph is about the relationship between the speaker and the audience in broadcasting. Each of the sentences is adding on to the preceding sentence and building towards a point since there has been no main idea that has been put forth. So, the next statement has to make a major statement about broadcasting while continuing the idea contained in the last sentence. This idea is about the audience being sympathetic. Only options (2) and (3) continue this idea. Option (2) does not complete the paragraph since it moves directly from broadcasting to the finer nuances of art. There is no reference to art that the author makes in the passage. Option (3) best completes the paragraph since it says how a broadcast is different from a lecture or a speech. The audience has no power over the speaker, since they cannot interrupt him while he is speaking, unlike in a speech or a lecture. Hence, (3).

Strategies to Tackle Paragraph Completion Questions

1. **Read the paragraph, and without looking at the options, try to imagine how it will continue.** Ask yourself what the theme of the paragraph is, what the author is driving at, how he/she will round off the ideas in the paragraph. This is particularly helpful in case of questions which have a Supporting Ideas to Main Idea type structure. Once you look at the options, you can eliminate the ones that do not fit with what you have already imagined. If none fit, then reread the paragraph, and try to understand it better.
2. **Identify the structure of the paragraph.** If the structure proceeds from Main Idea to Supporting Idea, then the correct option will have to deal with the main idea in some way: restating or extending the main idea with modification or emphasis or providing another supporting argument that would complete the theme. If the structure proceeds from Supporting Ideas to Main Idea, then the correct option will be the logical extension of the sequence of ideas in the paragraph.
3. **Identify the tone of the paragraph.** You need not assign a precise term to the tone (as in Reading Comprehension questions) but it is certainly useful to identify the tone in terms of general categories such as 'positive', 'negative', 'neutral', etc. So if the paragraph has a generally positive tone, a negative option is unlikely to be the answer; a neutral or optimistic paragraph is unlikely to end on a pessimistic note; a straightforward or sincere paragraph will probably not be concluded with a sarcastic quip; etc.
4. **Eliminate options that introduce points not mentioned in the paragraph.** If most of the options include a certain point, but only one does not, then that one is likely to be incorrect. Look for options that are similar in structure to sentences in the paragraph, especially the last sentence of the paragraph. In case of questions with similar options, concentrate on the parts of the options that are different.
5. **Beware of extreme options.** This is not a hard-and-fast rule, but rather a rule of thumb. Unless the paragraph itself deals with extremes or absolutes, you should be wary of choosing options that involve an extreme stance for or against something, or deal in absolutes with words such as 'always', 'never', 'all', 'none', 'only', etc. By the same token, avoid choosing vague options that seem to be only tangentially related to the paragraph.
6. **Pay attention to the last sentence of the incomplete paragraph.** The answer will be a sentence that follows this sentence, so the two should flow together naturally. If an option contradicts the last sentence (without the use of connectors such as 'but', 'however', 'on the contrary', etc.), it can be ruled out. On the other hand, even if an option does not seem to fit with the rest of the paragraph, if it flows logically from the last sentence, it could conceivably be the answer.
7. **The correct option should ideally be such that it completes the theme of whole paragraph** – the question type is also called 'Complete the Theme'. The point is that if a paragraph makes multiple dissimilar points, you should look for an option that unites them as a group, or points out the overarching theme running through all the points. Also, if an option starts a new topic, it can be eliminated, as it does not complete the theme of the given paragraph.



CLASS EXERCISE

Directions: Four alternative summaries are given below each text. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.

1. George R.R. Martin has always maintained that his fantasy novels have been influenced at least as much by history and historical fiction as by the traditional epic fantasy of writers like J.R.R. Tolkien. Aficionados know that his novels are loosely based on the Wars of the Roses, a vicious series of battles of succession that took place in 15th-century England. It would probably surprise several generations of British schoolchildren to learn that the dynastic politics of the 1400s could be transformed into anything coherent, let alone entertaining. ('It's worse than the Wars of the Roses!' young Lucy Pevensie cries in dismay when someone tries to explain a particularly complicated bit of Narnian history in *Prince Caspian*. She speaks for many.)
 - 1) George R.R. Martin's fantasy novels have been inspired by the Wars of the Roses, 15th century English battles of succession, though schoolchildren might not consider the topic interesting.
 - 2) George R.R. Martin's fantasy novels are based on history as much as fantasy, though their historical background – the 15th century English Wars of the Roses – is not particularly entertaining.
 - 3) British schoolchildren such as Lucy Pevensie would be surprised to learn that the Wars of the Roses, 15th century English battles of succession, could be interesting, as shown by George R.R. Martin in his fantasy novels.
 - 4) Though George R.R. Martin's fantasy novels are inspired by the Wars of the Roses, battles of succession in 15th-century England, British schoolchildren do not find them entertaining.
2. In general, conifer trees are light lovers – an odd thought, as you wander through the green shade of the redwood forest, or peer through the close-set boles of some spruce plantation, or contemplate the long, dark winter months that the spruces and pines endure in the subboreal forests of the Baltic or the truly boreal forests of Alaska and Canada, Scandinavia and Russia.
 - 1) It is odd that conifer trees love light, given that they generally grow in dark forests or cold, dark places.
 - 2) Conifer trees are generally light lovers, which may seem odd given that they grow in shady forests and dark places.
 - 3) Conifer trees are usually light lovers, even though they grow in shady forests and places with long, dark winters.
 - 4) Though conifer trees love light, they can sometimes even grow in dark forests in cold places.

3. There's been a gradual, yet growing sense in the last year that the golden age of TV, so named for the recent decade of dark, cable antiheroes and intricate serialization, is coming to an end. I've seen this crop up in more and more places this summer. The primary idea driving this is that *Mad Men* will be halfway through its final season, and *Breaking Bad* will be long over by the time I write a fall TV season preview next year, and those two shows are some of the last remaining links to the age *The Sopranos* kicked off. (Indeed, a former *Sopranos* writer created *Mad Men*.) There are still antihero-driven shows out there, from the good – *Boardwalk Empire* – to the bad – *Ray Donovan* – but the dominant form of the TV drama is slowly moving away from dark men in dark times doing dark things.
 - 1) A new golden age of TV will come about when the current crop of dark and depressing shows about antiheroes such as *Breaking Bad* and *Mad Men* end.
 - 2) It will be the end of an era when the decade-long run of TV shows about antiheroes, which started with *The Sopranos*, concludes with *Breaking Bad* and *Mad Men*.
 - 3) A golden age of TV began a decade ago with shows about antiheroes like *The Sopranos*, and will end when *Breaking Bad* and *Mad Men* are over.
 - 4) There is a sense that the golden age of TV, characterized by shows about antiheroes, is coming to an end, with shows like *Breaking Bad* and *Mad Men* getting over.

4. The human race is spread all over the world, from the polar regions to the tropics. The people of whom it is made up eat different kinds of food, partly according to the climate in which they live, and partly according to the kind of food which their country produces. In hot climates, meat and fat are not much needed; but in the Arctic regions they seem to be very necessary for keeping up the heat of the body. Thus, in India, people live chiefly on different kinds of grains, eggs, milk, or sometimes fish and meat. In Europe, people eat more meat and less grain. In the Arctic regions, where no grains and fruits are produced, the Eskimo and other races live almost entirely on meat and fish.
 - 1) Food eaten by people in different regions of the world depends on the climate and produce of the region, and varies from meat and fish in the Arctic to predominantly grains in the tropics.
 - 2) Hot climates require people to eat grains while cold regions require people to eat meat and fish.
 - 3) In hot countries people eat mainly grains while in the Arctic, they eat meat and fish because they cannot grow grains.
 - 4) While people in Arctic regions like meat and fish and those in hot regions like India prefer mainly grains, they have to change what they eat depending on the local climate and the local produce.

(Past CAT question)

5. Physically, inertia is a feeling that you just can't move; mentally, it is a sluggish mind. Even if you try to be sensitive, if your mind is sluggish, you just don't feel anything intensely. You may even see a tragedy enacted in front of your eyes and not be able to respond meaningfully. You may see one person exploiting another, one group persecuting another, and not be able to get angry. Your energy is frozen. You are not deliberately refusing to act; you just don't have the capacity.

- 1) Inertia makes your body and mind sluggish. You become insensitive to tragedies, exploitation and persecution because it freezes your energy and de-capacitates it.
- 2) When you have inertia you don't act although you see one person exploiting another or one group persecuting another. You don't get angry because you are incapable.
- 3) Inertia is of two types — physical and mental. Physical inertia restricts bodily movements. Mental inertia prevents mental response to events enacted in front of your eyes.
- 4) Physical inertia stops your body from moving; mental inertia freezes your energy, and stops your mind from responding meaningfully to events, even tragedies, in front of you.

(Past CAT question)

6. Modern bourgeois society, said Nietzsche, was decadent and enfeebled — a victim of the excessive development of the rational faculties at the expense of will and instinct. Against the liberal-rationalist stress on the intellect, Nietzsche urged recognition of the dark mysterious world of instinctual desires — the true forces of life. Smother the will with excessive intellectualizing and you destroy the spontaneity that sparks cultural creativity and ignites a zest for living. The critical and theoretical outlook destroyed the creative instincts. For man's manifold potential to be realized, he must forego relying on the intellect and nurture again the instinctual roots of human existence.

- 1) Nietzsche urges the decadent and enfeebled modern society to forego intellect and give importance to creative instincts.
- 2) Nietzsche urges the decadent and enfeebled modern society to smother the will with excessive intellectualizing and ignite a zest for living.
- 3) Nietzsche criticizes the intellectuals for enfeebling the modern bourgeois society by not nurturing man's creative instincts.
- 4) Nietzsche blames excessive intellectualization for the decline of modern society and suggests nurturing creative instincts instead.

(Past CAT question)

7. A safari holiday should be on everyone's wish list of life's greatest adventures. In the age of Hemingway, going on a safari meant going up-country, setting off with a tent and a rifle into the back of beyond where the wild things are. Now the day of the hunter is done. Guns are out, cameras are in and ecotourism is the buzzword in the bush. People have always wanted to reach out and touch the wild, to spend time in the sun and under the stars and come face to face with Africa's storybook animals, not behind bars but moving free as the wind across the savannah. Doing all this will make it a holiday like no other.
- 1) Everyone should try to go on a safari holiday as it will be a unique adventure. Though the meaning of 'safari' has changed over the years, the reasons for going on one have not.
 - 2) A safari is the greatest adventure you can go on. You will get to shoot animals with your cameras instead of rifles and will be able to enjoy nature and free wildlife in abundance.
 - 3) All of us should go on a safari holiday once in our lives as it promises to be an excellent opportunity to enjoy Mother Nature's gifts in all their glory. We can capture wildlife in our cameras and be close to nature.
 - 4) The meaning of the word 'safari' has evolved over the ages as hunting is not legal anymore. People are now happy to meet animals face-to-face and enjoy nature. This is what makes a safari one of life's greatest adventures.
8. Once upon a time, online news priorities were different. Rather than optimizing for 'viral', sharable content—and all the unique visitors that followed—outlets optimized for page views. They aimed to build engaged, repeat readers who spent long hours on the site. Instead of readers who moved from website to website, never staying long—like so many cattle roaming fallow hills—they tried to build return readers who felt rewarded by their long-term relationship with the site. It was the age of blogs. Then search engine optimization and the big social sharing networks came around. They could each deliver much more traffic than the experienced, intrepid blog readership that preceded them, and news organizations began to shift their focus away from rewarding repeat readers to browsers.
- 1) Earlier online news companies had different priorities: they aimed for page views optimization, not search engine optimization and they valued repeat readers, not browsers. The shift happened as big social sharing networks gained popularity.
 - 2) In the erstwhile age of blogs, online news companies optimized page views and valued repeat readers. But with the advent of search engine optimization and big social networks, which could provide much more traffic, news companies began shifting their focus to browsers.
 - 3) Before the era of search engine optimization and the big social sharing networks, in the age of blogs, online news companies engaged and valued repeat readers. Now they value browsers, who quickly move from website to website but increase the traffic on their sites.
 - 4) After search engine optimization and the big social sharing networks came around, online news companies shifted their focus from page views and regular readers to increased traffic and browsers respectively.

9. Who's the greatest American movie critic? A lot of folks probably would say Pauline Kael or David Bordwell or Manny Farber; some might argue for more academic writers like Linda Williams, Stanley Cavell or Carol Clover. For me, though, it's an easy question. The greatest film critic ever is James Baldwin. His book-length essay, *The Devil Finds Work*, is one of the most powerful examples ever of how writing about art can, itself, be art. It's a memoir of Baldwin's life watching, or influenced by, or next to cinema. It's a critique of the racial politics of American films. What makes the essay sing, and not sadly or in bitterness, is its sheer power of description, and its audacity in treating self, society and art as a whole, to be argued with and lived with and loved all at once.
 - 1) For me, the greatest American movie critic is James Baldwin. His book-length essay, *The Devil Finds Work*, is an audacious and powerful work of art about racial discrimination in the American film industry. It is a very descriptive essay that unifies the self, society and art even though they share a love-hate relationship.
 - 2) His book-length essay, *The Devil Finds Work*, makes James Baldwin the greatest American movie critic for me, though other people may disagree. The essay critiques the racial politics of American films and joins self, society and art to create a new whole world that can be quite disquieting.
 - 3) The greatest American movie critic is James Baldwin, though others may believe differently. His book-length essay, *The Devil Finds Work*, is a memoir in which he critiques racial politics in American films. It is a powerful and bold work of art which associates the self with society and art though they may not share a peaceful relationship.
 - 4) James Baldwin's memoir, *The Devil Finds Work*, is a potent critique of racial discrimination in the American film industry. It is a sheer work of art, with a strong narrative, that treats as one the competing elements of self, society and art. Essays such as this make him the greatest American movie critic for me at least.

10. Present college guidance for low-income students involves a host of tasks, including helping students to identify college matches that offer robust support structures and adequate funding; working with students as they draft and revise personal essays; arranging campus visits; and providing individualized guidance to students and families through the financial aid process. What schools don't realise is that the college application season is a fraught, vulnerable time for students and families, a moment of transition, which can catalyse crises even for students with broad networks of support. Low-income students are making choices with even higher stakes. They require not only better information, resources and advocacy through the process, but also need mentors and counsellors who can take the time to help them work through the complex personal struggles they face both before and after the acceptance letters arrive.
 - 1) Applying to colleges is a very challenging and emotional process for poorer students. Guidance counsellors should help students not only with the operational aspects of the process but also through the psychological ones.
 - 2) The college application season is a psychologically difficult time for students. Schools do not realise this and thus end up focusing on providing process-oriented college guidance instead of providing mentors that will help the students deal with their personal struggles.

- 3) Underprivileged students have a harder time while applying to colleges than their richer counterparts and thus need more emotional guidance from their counsellors. This has been ignored by schools till now and they really need to step up to the challenge.
 - 4) Schools are focusing on process-oriented college guidance for low-income students but ignoring the psychological tumult that they go through while applying to colleges. Students need counsellors who can help them get through this difficult time.
11. It's hard out there for the 1 percent. Okay, that's not true at all. But they think it is. If you talk to people on Wall Street, most of them—even, in my experience, the ones shopping for Lamborghinis—will tell you that they're 'middle class'. Their lament, the lament of the HENRY (short for "high-earner, not rich yet"), goes something like this. You try living on \$350,000 a year when you have to pay taxes, the mortgage on the house in an elite zip code, the nanny who knows how to cook ethnic cuisine, the private school tuition from pre-K on, the appropriately exclusive vacation expenses, and so on. There just isn't that much cash left over each month once you've spent it all!
- 1) The richest 1 percent of the population does not feel rich after paying for its extravagant lifestyle that others can only dream about.
 - 2) Many of the richest 1 percent feel that they are not rich yet. They complain that there isn't much money left over after they have paid their bills for sustaining the lifestyle they are accustomed to.
 - 3) Even the richest 1 percent of the population, especially people on Wall Street, is not rich enough to have adequate money left over once it has paid its monthly bills.
 - 4) Many people that earn enough to be counted in the richest 1 percent feel that they are still not rich enough as after paying taxes, mortgages, fees, employee and vacation expenses, etc. they do not have money left to invest.
12. Greek and Shakespearian tragic drama exhibits human suffering, desolation, unmotivated ruin and even physical horror (those blindings, mutilations and murders). Yet we do not leave the playhouse (or the reading) crushed, despairing and hoping to avoid such display in future. On the contrary. Our sensibility is complexly enriched and, somehow, rewarded. We register, in Nuttall's thoughtful phrase, 'a strange sweetness of grief and fear'. Unquestionably, this 'strange sweetness' has positive elements. It can provoke, at great depths of consciousness and understanding, a kind of dynamic peace, a tensed equilibrium.
- 1) Though tragic drama exhibits human suffering, we do not avoid their displays in the future. But we are rewarded with a kind of peace that we do not otherwise experience.
 - 2) Though tragic drama exhibits human suffering, we are enriched in some positive ways by watching it. The mixture of fear and grief can arouse a dynamic equilibrium.
 - 3) Tragic drama helps us in a positive way by giving us an equilibrium which we cannot avoid in the future. So we are enriched by watching human suffering and horror.
 - 4) Though tragic drama exhibits suffering, it has positive elements to it which we hope to avoid in the future. It gives us inner peace which is enriching.

Directions: The last sentence is missing in each paragraph. Choose the most logical option to complete the paragraph meaningfully.

13. Cultural evolution as a theory in anthropology was developed in the 19th century, and it was an outgrowth of Darwinian evolution. Cultural evolution presumes that over time, cultural change such as the rise of social inequalities or emergence of agriculture occurs as a result of humans adapting to some non-cultural stimulus, such as climate change or population growth.
 - 1) Today, the theory of cultural evolution is an (often unstated) underpinning for other, more complex explanations for cultural change.
 - 2) For the most part anthropologists believe that social changes are not only driven by biology or a strict adaptation to change, but by a complex web of social, environmental and biological factors.
 - 3) However, unlike Darwinian evolution, cultural evolution was considered directional, that is, as human populations transform themselves, their culture becomes progressively complex.
 - 4) Cultural evolution can often be a result of genetic constitution of people that varies from one group of people to other.

14. The rise of China can often seem inevitable. It is the world's most populous country, now reclaiming its long-lost power. Its economy recently passed Japan's as the second-biggest in the world, leaving economists to debate whether China was on pace to overtake the United States by the year 2025 or 2030.
 - 1) Yet China has a raft of problems to address before it can really pride itself.
 - 2) Yet China's rise has been anything but inevitable.
 - 3) Yet China might not be the role model that other developing countries should emulate.
 - 4) Yet China needs to transform its human rights landscape before it can be truly envied.

15. We should make freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and academic freedom universal, thereby guaranteeing that citizens can be informed and can exercise their right of political supervision. These freedoms should be upheld by a Press Law that abolishes political restrictions on the press. The provision in the current Criminal Law that refers to 'the crime of incitement to subvert state power' must be abolished.
 - 1) We should end the practice of viewing words as crimes.
 - 2) Subverting state power if state power becomes tyrannical is essential.
 - 3) If people need to be incited to rise up against tyranny then so be it.
 - 4) The press is that which mediates between the people and the state.

16. With the exception of the imperial offspring of the Ming dynasty and the dauphins of pre-Revolutionary France, contemporary American kids may represent the most indulged young people in the history of the world. It's not just that they've been given unprecedented amounts of stuff – clothes, toys, cameras, skis, computers, televisions, cell phones, PlayStations, iPods. They've also been granted unprecedented authority. Parents want their kids' approval, a reversal of the past ideal of children striving for their parents' approval. In many middle-class families, children have one, two, sometimes three adults at their beck and call.
- 1) At the other end of the scale, the children of so-called 'primitive' peoples in Africa and South America are among the most self-sufficient and mature kids in the world.
 - 2) This is a social experiment on a grand scale, and one that it isn't likely to end too well.
 - 3) There is no doubt about it: American children are spoiled rotten, and nothing short of a miracle is going to change this fact.
 - 4) However, the adults' indulgence of their progeny's whims is somewhat understandable, considering the great amount of competition that American children have to face.
17. Can small, temporary cultural cues really change the way we perceive the world? You may think a culture would affect you only if you've spent some time immersed in it, but that's not the case. Culture influences you more easily than you realise. Thanks to the Internet and the rise of global commerce and travel over the past 15 to 20 years, we've all become more aware of foreign ideas and symbols. Our cities are peppered with the latter. And as you're exposed to them, you're inevitably swayed.
- 1) When you're in Chinatown or at an Asian supermarket, you cannot avoid noticing how the culture is different from your own.
 - 2) When you're in Chinatown or at an Asian supermarket, you feel like trying out the local cuisine.
 - 3) When you're in Chinatown or at an Asian supermarket, your worldview becomes more Asian.
 - 4) When you're in Chinatown or at an Asian supermarket, you cling to your culture more strongly to avoid getting influenced.
18. College provides the right platform to cultivate the ability to find a wide-angle view. Here, for the first time in your life, you are faced with choices and decisions. What subject should you specialise in? Should you participate in the forthcoming event? What topic should you speak on in the class seminar? Should you apply for the project position advertised on the notice board or just concentrate on preparing for the semester exams? Should you look at research and academics or go for that super-paying corporate job?
- 1) An intelligent person will ask himself "what will prove to be best for me in the long-run?"
 - 2) Use these opportunities to practise the skill of getting a broader perspective.
 - 3) While making these decisions, do not shy away from that which makes you uncomfortable.
 - 4) If you carefully consider these questions, you will be able to introspect and know yourself better.

19. Some people are so rude. Really, who sends an email or text message that just says “Thank you”? Who leaves a voice mail message when you don’t answer, rather than texting you? Who asks for a fact easily found on Google? Don’t these people realise that they are wasting your time? Of course, some people might think me the rude one for not appreciating life’s little courtesies.
 - 1) But many social norms just don’t make sense to people drowning in digital communication.
 - 2) They would be wrong. I appreciate politeness, but it is not required in non-verbal communication.
 - 3) But in this dog-eat-dog world, courtesies do not matter; rather time is of the essence.
 - 4) Haven’t we all realised that life is too short to waste on being courteous?
20. Drugs that allow for mood manipulation are already on the market. Prozac and chemicals like oxytocin have the ability to make some people calmer, more empathetic, and more altruistic. Calm, empathetic, and altruistic people are far more likely to act morally than anxious, callous, and selfish people. But does that mean mood manipulation is going to let us force people to be moral?
 - 1) And if it does, will it make more people moral?
 - 2) And if it does, would more people like to be moral?
 - 3) And if it does, will society as a whole benefit from it?
 - 4) And if it does, is it moral to force people to be moral?
21. A social network is crucially different from a social circle, since the function of a social circle is to curb our appetites and of a network to extend them. Everything once inside is outside, a click away; much that used to be outside is inside, experienced in solitude. And so the peacefulness, the serenity that we feel away from the Internet, has less to do with being no longer harried by others than with being less oppressed by the force of your own inner life.
 - 1) Your social network, unlike a social circle, endangers your calm.
 - 2) It is thus time to choose between your social circle and your social network.
 - 3) Shut off your computer, and your self stops raging quite as much or quite as loud.
 - 4) Technological disruption has now entered our private lives.
22. By denigrating “foodwork”—everything involved in putting meals on the family table—we have unthinkingly wrecked one of the nurseries of democracy: the family meal. It is at “the temporary democracy of the table” that children learn the art of conversation and acquire the habits of civility—sharing, listening, taking turns, navigating differences, arguing without offending—and it is these habits that are lost when we eat alone and on the run.
 - 1) Civility and eating are not very far off from each other.
 - 2) Civility is not needed when one is by oneself.
 - 3) To be civilized is to be a part of civilization.
 - 4) It is more than food that is at stake at the dinner table.

23. “Gentrification”: the term evokes the political and mental life of two generations of city-dwellers. According to one interpretation, it was the forced displacement of the urban working class by mobile, college-educated professionals. According to another, it was the restoration of city life in the imagination of a West that had supposedly given it up for suburban sprawl. An entire understanding of what cities were for and where they were going was bound up in the ambiguous word.
- 1) Now it has altogether disappeared from the urban lexicon.
 - 2) It is only after decades that its varying interpretations have been reconciled.
 - 3) Cities, in the meantime, went on proliferating, oblivious to the meaning of the word.
 - 4) All the energies of urban thought went into debating its meaning.
24. In Bolaño, literature is a helpless, undignified, and not especially pleasant compulsion, like smoking. At one point you started and now you can’t stop; it’s become a habit and an identity. Nothing is so consistent across Bolaño’s work as the suspicion that literature is chiefly bullshit, rationalizing the misery, delusions, and/or narcissism of various careerists, flakes, and losers. Yet Bolaño somehow also treats literature as his and his characters’ sole excuse for existing. This basic Bolaño aporia—literature is all that matters, literature doesn’t matter at all—can be a glib paradox for others.
- 1) He seems to have meant it sincerely, even desperately, something one would feel without knowing the first thing about his life.
 - 2) He seems to have worn this paradox lightly on his sleeve, being able to produce literature instead of getting caught in its contradictions.
 - 3) He seems to have found a resolution to this paradox; treading along the border where the meaning and meaninglessness of literature intersect.
 - 4) He turned this very paradox into the *raison d’être* of his literature.
25. The strength of *An Ideal Husband* is in its dialogue. Despite some incidents of old fashioned blackmailing, all players are true ladies and gentlemen. Even when insulting each other face to face, an air of formality is maintained and it is in this subtle humour that the movie prevails. There are no physical threats and no outwardly lewd behaviour.
- 1) The ornate detail of old English houses comes alive throughout the movie sets the salon, the conservatory, the library.
 - 2) A simple biting remark is all the retaliation anyone needs.
 - 3) The story is somewhat Shakespearean.
 - 4) It makes for a great test for the range of one’s sense of humour.



PRACTICE EXERCISE-1

Directions: Four alternative summaries are given below each text. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.

1. The film actors' creation is by no means all of a piece; it is composed of many separate performances. In particular, the presentation of an event that, on the screen, unfolds as a rapid and unified scene is a sequence of separate shootings which may take hours at the studio. Thus a jump from the window can be shot in the studio and the ensuing flight, can be shot weeks later when outdoor scenes are taken. Let us assume that an actor is supposed to be startled by a knock at the door. If his reaction is not satisfactory, the director can resort to an expedient: when the actor happens to be at the studio again, he has a shot fired behind him without his being forewarned of it. The frightened reaction can be shot now and be cut into the screen version. Nothing more strikingly shows that art has left the realm of the 'beautiful semblance' which, so far, had been taken to be the only sphere where art could thrive.
 - 1) The film actors' creations are varied. Their sequences are shot separately though they are seen as one shot on screen. Thus, films have an unreal appearance, which was unimaginable till now.
 - 2) The scene that we see as a unified sequence is shot over different locations and periods of time. The actors' reactions can be changed as per the shot's requirements. Thus the truthful appearance of art has changed forever.
 - 3) Film scenes that may look unified are actually shot over different locations and time periods. As film actors' emotions can be manipulated, it goes on to show that art need no longer resemble reality.
 - 4) The unreal appearance of art has come about due to films, as film actors can change their reactions as per the requirement of the scene. Films scenes are also spread over different times and places, though we see each of them as a continuous scene.

2. In principle, a work of art has always been reproducible. Man-made artefacts could always be imitated by men. Mechanical reproduction of a work of art, however, represents something new. Historically, it advanced intermittently and in leaps at long intervals, but with accelerated intensity. The Greeks knew only two procedures of technically reproducing works of art: founding and stamping. Bronzes, terra cottas and coins were the only art works which they could produce in quantity. All others were unique and could not be mechanically reproduced. With the woodcut, graphic art became mechanically reproducible for the first time, long before script became reproducible by print. The enormous changes which printing, the mechanical reproduction of writing, has brought about in literature are a familiar story. However, within the phenomenon which we are here examining from the perspective of world history, print is merely a special, though particularly important, case.

- 1) Art has always been reproducible and mechanical reproduction allows reproducing it in large quantities. The Greeks knew only two ways of producing art. Then came woodcut and printing. The latter is most important from the point of view of world history.
 - 2) While the Greeks knew only two ways of reproducing art, mechanical reproduction of art increased over time. Though there were other art works like bronzes and terracottas that could be reproduced, printing was one of their most important discoveries as it brought about enormous changes in literature.
 - 3) Mechanical reproduction of art has increased exponentially and steadily over time. Throughout world history, printing is an important case of mechanical reproduction as it brought about significant changes in literature, though woodcut graphic art came before printing.
 - 4) Mechanical reproduction of art is relatively new but it has advanced faster over time, though sporadically. The Greeks knew only two ways of doing so. Though woodcut was used to reproduce graphic art before printing, the latter is more significant as it brought about great changes in literature.
3. Translation of poetry is believed to be impossible, for any unfaithful elements would be taken as failure, be it content or form. The arguments include linguistic elements and cultural elements. Most importantly, the myth of untranslatability looks upon poetry as beauty itself which is untouchable for once it is touched it is destroyed. But as translation of poetry has never been stagnant though sometimes vigorous and sometimes not, there is strong evidence in both translation history and present day practice that poetic translation, a literary form as distinguished from fiction, drama and prose, is translatable.
- 1) Though poetry cannot be translated as its beauty is untouchable, poetic translations have been practised as a different literary form.
 - 2) Even with the problems of untranslatability of poetry, it has been translated in fits and bounds throughout history as a separate literary form.
 - 3) Due to its linguistic and cultural elements, poetry is believed to be untranslatable. But, poetic translations have been carried out as a separate literary form.
 - 4) The translation of poetry is a separate literary form. Though it is untranslatable due to its linguistic and cultural elements, it has been practised.
4. The story of Confucianism does not really begin with Confucius, nor was Confucius the founder of Confucianism in the same way that Buddha was the founder of Buddhism. Rather, Confucius considered himself a transmitter who consciously tried to retrieve the meaning of the past by breathing vitality into seemingly outmoded rituals. Confucius' love of antiquity was motivated by his strong desire to understand why certain rituals, such as the ancestral cult, reverence for Heaven, and mourning ceremonies, had survived for centuries. He had faith in the cumulative power of culture. Confucius' sense of history was so strong that he saw himself as a conservationist responsible for the continuity of the cultural values and the social norms that had worked so well for the civilization of the Chou dynasty.

- 1) Confucius thought of himself as a conservationist and transmitter responsible for the continuity of culture and rituals that had worked for the Chou dynasty's civilization.
 - 2) Confucius was not the founder of Confucianism like Buddha was of Buddhism. He was a historian who transmitted the ancestral culture of the Chou dynasty.
 - 3) Confucius was a transmitter of history. He conserved the cultural values which had become outmoded and also preserved the Chou dynasty's civilization.
 - 4) Confucius loved antiquity and this love led him to bring to life the cultural values and social norms of the outmoded rituals.
5. The *Vakyapadiya* expounds on the idea that the spoken word appears to have differentiation but it really does not - it exists in the mind of the speaker as a 'unitary gestalt', or *sphota*. Bhartrhari does not subscribe to this idea fully; he says that the 'spoken words serve only as the stimulus to reveal or uncover the meaning which was already present in the mind of the hearer'. Bhartrhari explains this idea by suggesting that the mind understands sound in two aspects: word-sound (*dhvani*) and word-meaning (*artha*). *Sphota* is the undifferentiated whole, of which *dhvani* and *artha* are two sides of the same coin. There is a deep spiritual connection between the communicable word and the thought that inspired it; they develop simultaneously according to this philosophy.
- 1) The *Vakyapadia* and Bhartrhari relate to the spoken word in different ways. The former does not divide *sphota* but the latter mentions that it is made of two distinct parts - *dhvani* and *artha* - both necessary to understand *sphota*.
 - 2) The *Vakyapadia* universalizes *sphota*, while Bhartrhari distinguishes it as *dhvani* and *artha*. The deep spiritual connection between these two parts developed simultaneously and is necessary to understand the spoken word.
 - 3) Bhartrhari considers the spoken words as a stimulus with two aspects - *dhvani* and *artha* - which has a deep spiritual connection with the communicable word. The *Vakyapadia* does not make this distinction and considers it to be a unitary pattern.
 - 4) The *Vakyapadia* and Bhartrhari distinguish between spoken word and communicable word. While the former considers it as a whole meaning understood by the speaker, the latter believes that it has two distinct parts with a deep spiritual connection.
6. Sometimes called action painting, abstract expressionism was influenced by European art movements such as surrealism and cubism, and rejected the aesthetics of social realism. Abstract expressionism was not distinguished by a cohesive style and the painters associated with the movement rejected the idea that they were a 'school' of art. Despite the variety of styles and techniques, there were some unifying characteristics to abstract expressionism. The work was mostly but not exclusively non-representational and typically features strong colours and large canvases. Abstract expressionism celebrated the very act of painting, freedom of expression and aspired to convey pure emotion visually.

- 1) Abstract expressionism was influenced by European art movements but rejected their aesthetics of social realism. It was non-representational and celebrated painting the freedom of the painters. They expressed it on large canvases with strong colours.
 - 2) Abstract expressionism celebrated the freedom of the painters from the aesthetics of social realism and conveyed this emotion visually. Though it was influenced by European art movements, it had its own distinct styles and techniques with some unifying characteristics.
 - 3) Abstract expressionism was influenced by European art movements. It is not distinguished by a single style but has some unifying characteristics. It is more about conveying emotions visually rather than being restricted by aesthetics of social realism.
 - 4) Abstract expressionism was influenced by European art movements but did not restrict itself to social realism. It was meant to convey emotion on large canvases with strong colours with unifying techniques of style.
7. Stipple launched in 2010, when founders Rey Flemings and Michael Dungan set out to provide a solution to the Internet's 'orphaned image problem'. The fact that when an image is moved from one location to another on the Web, it loses all of its metadata, or information associated with that image. That's a significant problem considering that images account for two-thirds of all content on the Web, that 70% of all Facebook activity is image-based, and that articles with images are viewed 94% more than articles sans image. Stipple not only enables information associated with an image to travel with it across the Web, but it also enables users to access additional content, such as a YouTube video or links to a Facebook page or Twitter account, by simply rolling their mouse over the image.
- 1) Stipple provided a solution to the loss of metadata of images as they account for a majority of Web content. Thus, the information associated with the image is accessible to viewers.
 - 2) Stipple has tried to solve the problem of losing the metadata of images since they account for two-thirds of all content on the Web. It also allows users to access additional information.
 - 3) Stipple succeeded in solving the problem of loss of metadata of images. It also enabled viewers to get additional information about these images on their Facebook and Twitter accounts.
 - 4) Stipple was successful in stopping the loss of metadata and giving viewers additional content about images that account for nearly two-thirds of the content on the Web.
8. *The Fall* is famous for more than its interesting narrative technique. For one, it was written by Albert Camus, a French thinker known for his philosophy of the absurd, a close cousin to existentialism, and his frenemy status with Jean-Paul Sartre, another French philosopher of the mid-1900s. Camus is most famous for three big novels: *The Stranger*, *The Plague* and *The Fall*. Through these three novels, Camus establishes and explores several ideas of his philosophy. It's fascinating to see the way his ideas grow over time. In many ways, *The Fall* can be seen as the high point of Camus's thinking. His ideas increase in complexity over the course of his novels. You'll probably notice that interpreting and analysing *The Plague* is more difficult than taking on *The Stranger*, and likewise, *The Fall* is more challenging than the works which precede it. But don't take our word for it.

- 1) Albert Camus was a French thinker known for existentialism and also his three famous novels which are known for their complex philosophy.
 - 2) Albert Camus was a French thinker who was famous for three novels in which he explores his ideas of the philosophy of the absurd in an increasingly complex manner.
 - 3) The three novels of Albert Camus, known for his philosophy of the absurd, are a gateway to his increasingly complex philosophy of existentialism.
 - 4) Albert Camus was the trendsetter of the philosophy of the absurd which can be read in his three famous novels in increasing complexity.
9. The Large Hadron Collider is, essentially, a super-microscope that will use the largest energies ever generated to examine trillionth-of-a-millimetre bits of matter and record evanescent blinks of energy that last for only trillionths of a trillionth of a second. It's also a kind of time machine, in the sense that it will reproduce the conditions that prevailed 14 billion years ago, giving scientists a look at the universe as it existed a trillionth of a second after the big bang. The goal – and it's a hope, a dream, a set of strong suspicions, rather than a certainty – is to achieve a deeper, better, truer understanding of the fundamental structure and nature of existence.
- 1) The Large Hadron Collider is a time-machine which will give scientists a look at the conditions of the universe a trillionth of a second after the big bang and help to understand its structure.
 - 2) The Large Hadron Collider is essentially a super-microscope, which will enable scientists to learn more about the fundamental structure and nature of the existence of the universe.
 - 3) The Large Hadron Collider has cutting edge intensity which will allow it to fulfil the goal of the scientists to understand the fundamental structure and nature of the universe.
 - 4) Scientists believe that the Large Hadron Collider would certainly give them a deeper understanding of the fundamental structure and nature of the universe.
10. Depending on where you are on the spectrum of epicurean cultural politics, you may consider Whole Foods to be a righteous grocer or a cynical con, a prod to self-improvement or a gateway to decadence, a neighbourhood boon or a blight, a force for social good or a place to pick up chicks. To the likes of Wal-Mart and Costco, it has been an impetus to carry healthier, more judiciously sourced food. To small neighbourhood natural- or gourmet-food shops, it has sometimes been an impetus to go out of business. It has enabled organic and artisanal producers to scale up, and put pressure on the giants to at least pretend that they are scaling down. It has less than a one-per-cent share of the American grocery market, yet it has unquestionably transformed the way Americans produce, buy and eat food.
- 1) Whole Foods has captured the grocery market and changed the way Americans produce, buy and eat food. Depending on where you are in the food chain supply chain, you may have to scale down or go out of business.
 - 2) Whole Foods has changed the epicurean cultural politics of America and transformed the way Americans source their food. It gave the big business houses a reason to scale down (or pretend to do so) while giving an impetus to the neighbourhood shops to improve or shut shop.

- 3) The Whole Foods business has forced the epicurean cultural politics to change its perspective. It has changed the dynamics of the grocery market (either by scaling up or down) and transformed the way Americans produce, buy and eat food.
 - 4) Whole Foods was instrumental in changing the grocery market and transformed the way food is sourced. It represented a boon or a bane depending on whether you are a small neighbourhood shop or a big business house.
11. The cradle of civilization is a term which refers to the geographical areas home to the first recognizable civilizations. Arguably, the first civilization was the Sumerian civilization, in modern day Iraq, which developed the true system of writing in the third millennium BC. The Sumerian civilization was among the first to build permanent settlements (as opposed to the hunter gatherer lifestyle typical at the time) in order to allow extensive agricultural practices, such as irrigation. This along with the use of pottery, the adoption of the wheel and development of copper tools highlighted the shift from the Neolithic period to the Chalcolithic period.
- 1) Only the use of the copper tools in the Sumerian civilization allowed humanity to shift from the Neolithic to the Chalcolithic period. This civilization put an end to the nomadic way of life and developed the system of writing.
 - 2) The Sumerian civilization is credited for starting the Chalcolithic period. It is the first civilization to use copper in its day-to-day life. The development of writing enabled its development and allowed permanent settlements to flourish.
 - 3) The Sumerian is the first civilization that built permanent settlements and thus put an end to the people's nomadic lifestyle. It also used pottery, the wheel and copper tools, thus starting the Chalcolithic period.
 - 4) The Sumerian civilization is considered to be the first civilization to build permanent settlements, practise irrigation and develop writing. It marked the change from the Neolithic to the Chalcolithic period due to the use of copper tools, pottery and the wheel.

Directions: *The last sentence is missing in each paragraph. Choose the most logical option to complete the paragraph meaningfully.*

12. The term 'directly competitive or substitutable' describes a particular type of relationship between two products, one imported and the other domestic. It is evident from the wording of the term that the essence of that relationship is that the products are in competition. The context of the competitive relationship is necessarily the marketplace since this is the forum where consumers choose between different products.
- 1) Competition in the market place is a dynamic, evolving process.
 - 2) Particularly in a market where there are regulatory barriers to trade or to competition, there may well be latent demand.
 - 3) It is also true that consumer responsiveness to products may vary from country to country.
 - 4) Indeed, products which are competitive, may not be actually competing with each other in the marketplace.

13. After September 11th, as it became apparent that the United States would bomb Afghanistan, an open letter written by an Afghan appeared on the Internet. It pleaded with Americans to realize that Afghanistan was already a devastated country.
 - 1) *The Kite Runner* portrays the Afghans as an independent and proud people.
 - 2) The letter ends with a note of optimism.
 - 3) It needed food, not vengeance; sympathy, not hate.
 - 4) It was a hopeless place.

14. While there is no institutional segregation, Jews and Arabs have chosen to live separately in all but a handful of cities. Israelis all recognize that Arab villages have historically received less funding than Jewish areas and this has affected the quality of Arab schools, infrastructure and social services.
 - 1) Israeli Jews and Arabs have surprisingly little contact with each other.
 - 2) Arabs are also under-represented in higher education and most industries.
 - 3) Arabs have adopted Hebrew as a second language and Israeli culture as an extra layer in their lives.
 - 4) Arabs do have an advantage obtaining some jobs during the years Israelis are in the military.

15. The environment in which people work has a tremendous effect on their level of pride for themselves and for the work they are doing. Do everything you can to keep your equipment and facilities up to date. Even a nice chair can make a world of difference to an individual's psyche. Also, if possible, avoid overcrowding and allow each employee his or her own personal space, whether it is a desk, a locker, or even just a drawer.
 - 1) Although employees will never feel a great sense of motivation or satisfaction due to your policies, you can decrease dissatisfaction in this area by making sure your policies are fair and apply equally to all.
 - 2) If you already have a manual, consider updating it (again, with staff input).
 - 3) To decrease dissatisfaction in this area, you must begin by making wise decisions when you appoint someone to the role of supervisor.
 - 4) If you've placed your employees in close quarters with little or no personal space, don't be surprised if there is tension among them.

16. In her best-selling book *The Beauty Myth*, the American feminist Naomi Wolf famously compared the contemporary ideal of beauty to the medieval torture device called the Iron Maiden, which enclosed victims in a spike-lined box shaped like a woman. Wolf pointed out how, like the Maiden, the ideal of beauty enforces conformity to a rigid shape.
 - 1) Fifteen years on, sadly, it continues to hold true.
 - 2) It must be a fabulous life.
 - 3) There is a supposed link between pointless advertising and products that sell.
 - 4) Both, the ideal and the device, cause their victims a lot of suffering.

17. People kill each other over diamonds; countries go to war over oil. But the world's most expensive commodities are worth nothing in the absence of water. Fresh water is essential for life, with no substitute.
- 1) Hence, there is so much of it found all over the world.
 - 2) Yet we find that water is mostly low priced due to its relative abundance.
 - 3) Knowing this, it is baffling that countries go to war over oil.
 - 4) Isn't it evident then, what people and countries should be trying hard to acquire?
18. Any article on fear or phobia will inform you that in case of social phobia a person feels awkward when present in a social get-together. The person feels too shy to eat, drink or even to speak to anyone while present among several individuals. Agoraphobia is the most common instance of feeling afraid particularly when one has to depart from familiarities and settle among a group of unknown individuals.
- 1) A person suffering from agoraphobia finds it difficult to speak to people around and get along with those individuals.
 - 2) The fear aggravates if the person is asked questions or becomes the centre of attention.
 - 3) A person suffering from agoraphobia is cursed for life; without hope of ever making friends.
 - 4) The fear goes away in moments and the person soon becomes comfortable.
19. Although the vast majority of people around the world are raised within the structure of an established religion, there are few who can honestly say that they are completely satisfied with all that their religion teaches. People who seek to understand the world around them inevitably come into contact with people whose religious beliefs are entirely different from their own.
- 1) Those who are narrow-minded strongly criticize such people.
 - 2) They think of such people as agnostics.
 - 3) They deem these people to be either misguided or fanatical.
 - 4) In time many such people also try and understand alternative belief systems.
20. Mobile phones are becoming an increasingly popular way to make all sorts of payments. In America, fans of the Atlanta Hawks have been testing specially adapted handsets linked to their credit cards to enter their local stadium and to buy refreshments. In fact, you can comfortably pass the entire day in many European cities without carrying cash, credit or debit cards by paying for everything, including consumer goods, with a mobile phone.
- 1) It is estimated that the worldwide payments using mobile phones should grow at a easy 300% over the next 3 years.
 - 2) Most payments by mobile phones are considered safer than those by cash by users.
 - 3) Studies show that the average American or European consumer is more likely to carry his mobile phone than he is to carry cash.
 - 4) To live a credit card-free life is yet a distant dream!

21. The environmentalist's vision is a world with less of carbon dioxide and more windmills, forests, smart grids and the like. In the distant future – in 2050 – the world is expected to look very different indeed. Overall, carbon dioxide emissions would be less than half of what they are today and in today's developed countries they would have fallen by 90% or so.
 - 1) This means that the use of automobiles should be reduced as it decreases the carbon dioxide emission.
 - 2) This obviously shows that environmentalists are quite far from reality!
 - 3) This means that our goal should be oriented towards making the earth greener by planting more trees.
 - 4) This means that we could expect entirely new infrastructure and technologies, and perhaps an entirely new lifestyle, too.

22. On a video monitor, one can see a number of animals whose faces bear a mark of fear and large unhealed scars. The animals appear in a 21-minute exposé called *Cutting Edge*, shot in an International University by animal rights activists campaigning for the Abolition of Vivisection in research. The animals had been deliberately put through pain in experiments meant to simulate the symptoms of stroke and Parkinson's disease.
 - 1) It is the kind of journalistic manoeuvre that has the power to move the masses from ignorance to action in a matter of minutes.
 - 2) *Cutting Edge* is an appeal to the government for continued research in finding drugs for stroke and Parkinson's disease.
 - 3) The coverage raises serious doubts about whether laws related to ethical treatment of animals even exist.
 - 4) This video was secretly filmed in 2001 and later received generous critical acclaim from the film community and the audience.

Directions: A sentence is missing in each paragraph given below. Choose the most logical option to complete the paragraph meaningfully.

23. India seems to have acquired the dubious distinction of being the front-runner in regressive trends, be it child labour or underage marriage. Slavery is the latest addition to this list. Although the practice had been abolished long ago, a new study shows that an estimated 29.8 million people live in slavery around the world. _____. Fourteen million Indians, the highest number in the world, live in conditions of slavery.
 - 1) This number isn't expected to diminish any time soon.
 - 2) And nearly half this number is in India.
 - 3) Despite enacting several legislations to curb this menace, India still has a long way to go in eradicating slavery.
 - 4) Many countries around the world are witnessing the resurgence of slavery.

24. A gharana indicates a comprehensive musicological ideology. The concept gained currency in the nineteenth century when the royal patronage enjoyed by performers weakened. _____ . To retain their respective identities, they fell back on the names of the regions they hailed from. Therefore, even today, the names of many gharanas refer to places; some of the gharanas well known for singing khayals are Agra, Gwalior, Patiala, Kirana, Indore, Mewati, Sahaswan, Bhendibazar and Jaipur.
- 1) Performers were then compelled to move to urban centres.
 - 2) Due to this, performers changed their style to suit audiences unlettered in music.
 - 3) This marked the beginning of a low phase in Indian classical music.
 - 4) Performers found it very difficult to adapt to the changed scenario.
25. The postcards were the first pieces of mail Ruma had received from her father. _____ . In her thirty-eight years, she'd never had the opportunity to reply. His trips were brief enough so that there was no time for Ruma to write back. Besides, he was not in a position to receive any mails, even from family.
- 1) "Be happy, love Baba," he signed them, as if the attainment of happiness were as simple as that.
 - 2) Her father's penmanship was small, precise and slightly feminine.
 - 3) It was a one-sided correspondence.
 - 4) The cards were addressed to Ruma; her father never included her husband or son.



PRACTICE EXERCISE-2

Directions: Four alternative summaries are given below each text. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.

1. At first glance, the disciplines of philosophy and music appear to have little in common. Whereas philosophers strive to create clear arguments using definable concepts, musicians compose melodies and symphonies that resist linguistic understanding. Whereas philosophy is hyper-verbal, music is predominantly non-verbal. When commenting on music, philosophers often speak in roundabout or simplistic ways (e.g. Schopenhauer once wrote that ‘music is the answer to the mystery of life’). Likewise, many composers explicitly allude to philosophical texts but few musicians would say that their philosophy-inspired compositions have added to the substantive philosophical arguments or discussions surrounding the thinker’s work. Despite these difficulties, philosophers and musicians have long studied each other’s disciplines for both inspiration and new understanding.
 - 1) Though there is nothing in common between philosophy and music, many musicians have worked with philosophers and vice-versa to understand the nuances between these two subjects.
 - 2) Though philosophy is non-verbal and music is verbal, they have some common ground which has been studied by musicians and philosophers, for better understanding as well as inspiration.
 - 3) Though some musicians have used philosophy in creating their music, the same cannot be said about philosophers using music to create their compositions. Many philosophers dismiss music as simplistic.
 - 4) Though philosophy and music have little in common and there are difficulties in relating the two fields, philosophers and musicians have studied each others’ disciplines for better understanding and inspiration.

2. As for defining an American compositional style, Dvorak looked to the musical materials of indigenous Native American populations and the spirituals and plantation songs of the African-Americans. Unfortunately, this strategy, which had worked so well in his native country, was not well received in America. The young United States was a country built on geographic and political unity, but was ethnically and culturally quite diverse. Many who considered themselves American did not consider the music of Native Americans and slaves to be their music, and were opposed to having these materials form a new American voice.
 - 1) The songs of the Native Americans and African-Americans formed the basis of Dvorak’s compositions. But he was opposed by the Native Americans in the United States.
 - 2) Dvorak took inspiration from the Native American and African-American music for his compositions. However, he was opposed by the culturally diverse Americans because of his plagiarism of American music.
 - 3) The songs of the Native Americans and the African-Americans were considered to be the voice of the new America. Thus, when Dvorak used this music in his compositions, it was opposed by the diverse Americans.

- 4) Dvorak looked at the native music and songs of the Native Americans and African-Americans for defining American style music. However, due to the cultural diversity of the United States, many did not consider this music as the new American voice.
3. The eighteenth century was a period of economic growth as a result of new methods for agricultural production. It was a period of individual rights, social reform and universal education. Scientific developments led to the idea that human reason and the observation of nature could reveal knowledge of our world. A growing middle class with a better education meant a larger audience for new scientific theories, literature and the arts, which had to be addressed differently than as by the previous century's connoisseurs. This, combined with a cosmopolitan international culture and a preference for naturalness of expression, led to a very different style of music.
 - 1) The eighteenth century resulted in new methods of agriculture which in turn led to universal education. Scientific developments as well as the increasing educated middle class forced the arts like literature, music, etc. to change their target audience.
 - 2) The eighteenth century witnessed a lot of social upheavals. Chief amongst them was the rise of the educated middle class. Thus, all the fields of art had to address an audience different from the connoisseurs of the previous centuries.
 - 3) The eighteenth century led to various reforms in science, literature, arts, etc. Due to the increase in the number of middle class people, music was also transformed as their tastes were different than those of the connoisseurs.
 - 4) The eighteenth century was a period of growth and change. Scientific developments and the increasing number of educated middle class people led to a change in audience tastes for scientific theories, literature, arts, etc., resulting in a different style of music.
4. Since the 1980s, Smetacek has taken regular expeditions from his home port of Bremerhaven to the Southern Ocean aboard the sturdy icebreaker Polarstern. He goes to study the plankton that fill the sea from top to bottom, extending even into the sediments of the sea floor. Plankton is our planet's most prolific life form, and the food it generates makes up the base layer of the global food chain. The variety of shapes among plankton species shames plants on land, showing more range in size than the difference between moss and redwood trees. There are more plankton cells in the sea than our current count of stars in the entire universe. Indeed, it is precisely this abundance that leads Smetacek to suspect that plankton could be used to change Earth's environment.
 - 1) Smetacek studied the various species of plankton and came to the conclusion that plankton can be used to change the Earth's environment.
 - 2) The fact that plankton is at the base of the global food chain has the potential to change the Earth's environment, according to Smetacek.
 - 3) Plankton is at the bottom of the global food chain. Due to its abundance and diversity, Smetacek believes that it is possible to change the Earth's environment with its help.
 - 4) Plankton is the most prolific life form on Earth, and is at the base of the global food chain. According to Smetacek, it is therefore ideal for changing the Earth's environment.

5. Although the word 'rights' appears in 'natural rights' and 'human rights', the two concepts are profoundly different. One seeks to restrict the power of government and the other seeks to expand it. Whereas natural rights seek freedom from the state, human rights seek the state's protection and assistance. More importantly, and this is the point rarely appreciated by today's human-rights industry, whereas natural rights made democracy possible, the human-rights discourse is securing democracy's emasculation. Democracy can only thrive if three conditions are satisfied: (a) man is treated as rational, (b) the state is restrained and (c) politics is freed of legal constraints. Whereas the natural-rights advocate champions each condition, the human-rights advocate assumes the first condition is impossible and the next two are undesirable.
 - 1) The two concepts of natural rights and human rights are inherently different ideologies. The former make democracy possible while the latter's discourse tries to weaken it.
 - 2) Natural rights and human rights are different concepts. Advocates of the former consider that all the three conditions needed for democracy are possible while those of the latter think they are impossible.
 - 3) Natural rights strengthen democracy while human rights weaken it. Advocates of the former seek freedom from the state while those of the latter think it's impossible to obtain freedom.
 - 4) Natural rights seek freedom while human rights protect it. Natural rights can fulfil all the conditions of democracy while human rights emasculate it.

6. The Government of Bombay introduced the 1878 Act partly in response to criticisms of government alcohol policy by temperance advocates. These activists argued that colonial excise policy had prompted an increase in alcohol production and that constitutional reform was needed to curb this. However, the dilemma for the colonial state was that excise revenues from the sale of liquor production and sale licenses represented a significant part of the revenues of each of the presidencies. Although inimical to the ideas of the temperance activists, the Bombay Act provided the presidency another way to increase its revenue.
 - 1) The temperance advocates argued that colonial excise policy resulted in increase in alcohol production. Though the 1878 Act was passed to appease these critics, it provided another route for the Bombay presidency to increase its revenue.
 - 2) The Government of Bombay passed the 1878 Act to curb alcohol production and consumption. Though the presidency made constitutional changes in its excise policy, the temperance activists used this Act to increase the excise revenues.
 - 3) The colonial excise policy favoured the production and consumption of foreign alcohol which was criticized by the temperance advocates, who passed the 1878 Act. However, the presidency found another way to increase its excise revenue.
 - 4) The 1878 Act was passed not only to curb the production of liquor but also to appease the temperance activists. However, the presidency found a way to get around this act and increase its revenue.

7. Taoists taught that all straining, all striving are not only vain but counterproductive. One should endeavour to do nothing (wu-wei). It means not to literally do nothing, but to discern and follow the natural forces – to follow and shape the flow of events and not to pit oneself against the natural order of things. First and foremost, to be spontaneous in one's actions. In this sense the Taoist doctrine of wu-wei can be understood as a way of mastering circumstances by understanding their nature or principal, and then shaping one's actions in accordance with these. On the one hand, the Taoists rejected the Confucian attempts to regulate life and society and counselled instead to turn away from it to a solitary contemplation of nature. On the other hand, they believed that by doing so one could ultimately harness the powers of the universe. By 'doing nothing' one could 'accomplish everything'.
- 1) The Taoists wanted to follow the natural forces without being counterproductive. But they were against the Confucian attempts of regulating life and believed in the spontaneity of their actions.
 - 2) The Taoists taught that one should follow the natural order of things and be spontaneous. Unlike the Confucians, they advised turning away from life and society in order to harness the powers of the universe.
 - 3) The Taoists philosophy follows a circular reasoning. Though they wanted to harness the powers of the universe, they wanted to achieve this without challenging the natural order of things.
 - 4) Unlike the Confucians, the Taoists thought that all work against the universe was counterproductive. It was only when one stopped regulating one's actions and was spontaneous that the powers of the universe could be harnessed.
8. Given 64 codons and 20 amino acids plus a punctuation mark, there are 1083 possible genetic codes. What's so special about the one code that – with a few minor variations – rules all life on Planet Earth? The answer to this question came from Francis Crick, who argued that the code need not be special at all; it could be nothing more than a 'frozen accident'. The assignment of codons to amino acids might have been subject to reshuffling and refinement in the earliest era of evolution, but further change became impossible because the code was embedded so deeply in the core machinery of life. A mutation that altered the codon table would also alter the structure of every protein molecule, and thus would almost surely be lethal. In other words, the genetic code is the qwerty keyboard of biology - not necessarily the best solution, but too deeply ingrained to be replaced or improved.
- 1) Just like the qwerty keyboard has alternatives but is the most widely used, similarly, the genetic code is the best possible arrangement due to a frozen accident.
 - 2) The genetic code has been subject to reshuffling and then frozen in a special manner since the earliest era of evolution. A mutation in the code is lethal and cannot be improved.
 - 3) Though there can be hundreds of variations in the genetic code, the one special code that rules all life on Earth may not be special, but it has become ingrained in the machinery of life from the earliest era of evolution.
 - 4) The one special genetic code is nothing but a frozen accident after the earliest era of evolution. It can be lethal if altered by the structure of the protein molecules.

9. X-rays are today a humble diagnostic tool but in their infancy were considered nothing short of miraculous. Thomas Edison at one point announced a public demonstration in which he would take an X-ray photograph of the living brain, showing actual thoughts as they darted here and there. Within a year after the rays' discovery, Parisian hucksters were selling tickets to sideshows purporting to show ghosts captured as X-ray images. In 1896, a New York newspaper reported that over at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons, X-rays were being used to project anatomical diagrams directly into the brains of students, 'making a much more enduring impression'.
 - 1) In their infancy, X-rays were not thought of as diagnostic tools, but rather considered sources of miraculous abilities.
 - 2) In their infancy, X-rays were considered almost miraculous, with a number of people making extraordinary claims about their powers.
 - 3) X-rays evoked such wonder during their early days, that people believed that they were capable of performing miracles.
 - 4) X-rays have been used for diagnostic purposes since their early days, but they were also used for a number of miraculous purposes at that time.

10. It is possible for a building with no artistic accomplishment to become meaningful and significant for large numbers of people, simply by having been there all their lives. In the same way that people feel at home in their house, they feel a bond of recognition when they see a familiar landmark, and some buildings have been designed with that role in mind. For example the very prominent city hall in Philadelphia has this role for the inhabitants of the city. Artistically it is quite an odd building, and it has not been widely imitated by architects in other parts of the world. Its principal significance is local, but locally it is very significant indeed.
 - 1) The city hall in Philadelphia is, artistically speaking, an odd building, but it provides a familiar landmark for the local people, making it significant to them.
 - 2) Buildings such as the city hall in Philadelphia play an important role in the life of the local people, as they are designed to be recognizable landmarks.
 - 3) Odd-looking buildings like the city hall in Philadelphia are architecturally significant, as they become familiar landmarks for the people living in that area.
 - 4) Buildings that are not artistically accomplished may still become significant to the local residents due to their familiarity, e.g. the city hall in Philadelphia.

11. Virginia Woolf's serious joke that 'on or about December 1910 human character changed' was a hundred years premature. Human character changed on or about December 2010, when everyone, it seemed, started carrying a smartphone. For the first time, practically anyone could be found and intruded upon, not only at some fixed address at home or at work, but everywhere and at all times. Before this, everyone could expect, in the ordinary course of the day, some time at least in which to be left alone, unobserved, unsustained and unburdened by public or familial roles. That era now came to an end.
- 1) Though Virginia Woolf claimed that human nature changed in December 1910, it actually did so in December 2010, when everyone started carrying a smartphone.
 - 2) Human nature did not change in December 1910, but it did in December 2010 when everyone started carrying a smartphone, as now everyone was constantly connected.
 - 3) Smartphones caused a change in human nature when everyone started carrying them around December 2010, because now people no longer had any privacy.
 - 4) December 2010 marked the end of an era, because at this time, everyone started carrying smartphones, which meant that they could be reached at all times.
12. Water and other liquids that are mostly water have high surface tension. That means that the molecules prefer to bond more strongly to each other than to most of the things you might spill them on. A liquid with lower surface tension, like alcohol, won't bead up on a fabric the way water will; it soaks right in. A bead of water is a molecular huddle, a withdrawal inward, a refusal to join hands with strangers. Confronted with air, the surface of water pulls together powerfully enough to form a weak skin. At the far high end of the surface-tension spectrum is mercury. Mercury beads up and rolls off pretty much any surface you drop it on without leaving a trace.
- 1) Liquids can be classified as those with high surface tension, such as water and other water-based liquids, and those with low surface tension, such as alcohol. The former roll off a surface, while the latter soak in.
 - 2) Liquids can be classified into two types: those that have high surface tension, like water and mercury, and those that have low surface tension, like alcohol. The former bead up on fabric, while the latter soak in.
 - 3) Liquids with high surface tension, like water and mercury, bead up on fabric because their molecules bond strongly to each other, while liquids with low surface tension, like alcohol, soak into fabric.
 - 4) Liquids like water and mercury have high surface tension, as their molecules bond strongly to each other, while liquids like alcohol have low surface tension, and thus roll off a surface.

Directions: The following questions have a paragraph from which the last sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the option that completes the paragraphs in the most appropriate way.

13. During much of the Obama administration's first year – reversing the approach of the George W. Bush administration – the White House withheld action on unilateral economic sanctions and other measures seen as challenging Iran's regime.
 - 1) This was done with the aim of opposing the George W. Bush administration.
 - 2) The main objective of this reversal in approach was to establish peace in Iran.
 - 3) As part of its revised strategy, however, the State Department is funding some aggressive institutions offering services intended to aid Iran's opposition.
 - 4) This was done with a hope to engage Iran diplomatically instead.

14. A nation lives contrary to nature, surely, if it is unable to perpetuate itself by bringing new citizens into the world. So the European nations, everyone knows, are endangered by their strangely unnatural dearth of births. Americans still replace themselves in sufficient numbers. But if one takes a closer look at the data, then even their fertility rate is dropping or just remaining low among all their ethnic groups.
 - 1) The demographic facts of the European nations are also contrary to nature.
 - 2) Even immigrant groups tend not to have lots of kids for more than a generation.
 - 3) That fact is as important as any other for our national security.
 - 4) By contrast, only 27 percent of those who seldom attend church want a lot of kids.

15. Cumbre Vieja normally erupts at intervals of 20 to 200 years and has not done so since 1971. The next eruption may dislodge an unstable 12-mile-long slab of rock – the size of the Isle of Man, which will crash to the sea bed, causing a dome of water to go a mile high.
 - 1) The trigger is a volcano on La Palma in the Canary Islands.
 - 2) The rock is already slipping down by infinitesimal degrees and when it goes, it is likely to collapse in 90 seconds.
 - 3) However, nothing would be as bad as the 2004 tsunami because it was one of the first in recent times.
 - 4) Cumbre Vieja is most likely to erupt in 2117.

16. Is it right to use bad means for good ends or use bad means to avoid worse ends? Is moral choice possible between kind but ineffective means and unkind but effective means? For example, is it right to send people into unemployment and redundancy by installing a labour-saving plant and ensure a competitive future for the corporation?
 - 1) Is it possible to judge between what is good and what is bad?
 - 2) We have forgotten about electronic typewriters and switched to PCs and laserprinters.
 - 3) Is it right to wear international brands when there are competitive brands within the country?
 - 4) Ultimately, it all depends on one's point of view, so there are no 'right' answers.

17. The story of the movie is set in a classic drama genre. It follows Nash's life from the beginnings of his academic studies at Princeton all the way to his later years in life when he is awarded the Nobel Prize. What makes this story unique compared to other movies in the drama genre is that the audience sees that the protagonist and antagonist is the same person.
- 1) That Nash is the protagonist is evident but who the antagonist is remains for the audience to decipher.
 - 2) Nash is the protagonist of the story but he also creates the conflict within and against himself.
 - 3) The director expects the audience to be intelligent enough to identify these personas in Nash at all times during the movie.
 - 4) The story takes quite a commonplace approach towards drama by dedicating a significant amount of screen time to Nash's love-life.
18. Video games are an unusual medium in that they carry a heavy stigma among non-gamers. Not everybody likes ballet, but most non-ballet fans don't accuse ballet of leading to violent crime and mental backwardness. Video games aren't so lucky. There's a sharp divide between gamers and non-gamers, and the result is a market that, while being large and devoted is also deeply stagnant.
- 1) That is the reason people complain so much about video games.
 - 2) The medium's borders are sharply defined, and it does not find many new takers.
 - 3) Therefore, after a certain amount of gaming, gamers turn to other activities like ballet for change.
 - 4) However, this is not the case with ballet.
19. You may not think that there is anything wrong with current video discs. But electronics engineers are busily inventing new families of smarter, more computer-like media devices which are of same size as DVDs, yet can hold over five times more information and will not just play movies but will also make it easier to record television shows and store music, digital-photo albums and home videos.
- 1) DVDs will no longer be in the market when these products are introduced.
 - 2) DVDs as we know them just aren't up to the mark.
 - 3) These new devices will definitely cost much more than DVDs.
 - 4) Similarly, DVDs are technologically superior to CDs.

20. We define the aura of natural objects as the unique phenomenon of a distance, however close it may be. If, while resting on a summer afternoon, you follow with your eyes a mountain range on the horizon or a branch which casts its shadow over you, you experience the aura of those mountains, of that branch. It rests on two circumstances, both of which are related to the increasing significance of the masses in contemporary life. Namely, the desire of contemporary masses to bring things 'closer' spatially and humanly, which is just as ardent as their bent towards overcoming the uniqueness of every reality by accepting its reproduction.
 - 1) The manner in which human sense perception is organized is determined not only by nature but by historical circumstances as well.
 - 2) The concept of aura with reference to natural objects may usefully be illustrated with reference to the aura of historical ones.
 - 3) Over long periods of time, the aura of human sense perception changes with humanity's entire mode of existence.
 - 4) Every day the urge grows stronger to get hold of an object at very close range by way of its likeness, its reproduction.
21. Was there a common set of rules, Ekman wondered, that governed the facial expressions that human beings made? Tomkins said that there were. But most psychologists said that there weren't. The conventional wisdom of the time held that expressions were culturally determined – that we simply used our faces according to a set of learned social conventions.
 - 1) Ekman didn't know whom to believe.
 - 2) Ekman was sure now.
 - 3) Ekman realized that conventional wisdom held the answer.
 - 4) Tomkins had arrived at a conclusion.
22. Bars in Eastern Europe are different. There are drinks on offer that you rarely see elsewhere. They are not unusual because of the ingenuity of their composition, though one barman in Tallinn used to offer a 'Molotov cocktail', a lethal combination of vodka and locally made whisky: it was better thrown at a Soviet tank than imbibed, he would explain.
 - 1) On the other hand, the cocktails served in the bars of the Caribbean Islands are made of a blend of various popular liquors.
 - 2) The fruit juices are simply delicious.
 - 3) The bars are different because of their architecture.
 - 4) Instead, the tipples are unfamiliar because they are the traditional drinks of the region, largely unknown in the outside world.

23. Diesel engines, with their rough-and-ready, spark-plug-free method of fuel ignition, had a reputation for being smoky and smelly. These days, that is a bit untrue. Fussy consumers and even fussier regulations have ensured that the sophisticated diesel engines used to propel modern luxury cars are pretty much as clean as their petrol-powered, sparked-up equivalents.
- 1) However, petrol is still costlier than diesel.
 - 2) However, people still prefer cars that use diesel compared to cars that use petrol.
 - 3) However, the heavy-duty diesel engines employed in larger vehicles still have a long way to go.
 - 4) However, some consumers are still reluctant to buy cars that lack spark plugs.
24. While renewed confidence in corporate-bond markets has allowed big companies to raise a record amount of money, many are still hesitant to spend the cash on hiring or expansion amid doubts about the strength of the recovery.
- 1) They are also cautious in buying new properties to expand their business.
 - 2) Most of them are confident about the improving market conditions and are looking forward to big investments.
 - 3) They want to keep some cash on hand in case Europe's debt troubles lead to a new market freeze.
 - 4) They want to keep some cash on hand in case the market gathers momentum and fetches them more profit.



PRACTICE EXERCISE-3

Directions: *The passage given below is followed by four alternative summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.*

1. In the world of consumable products, such as food and news, there is always a need for more food and news. When the product is consumed, then the consumers want more. It's a never-ending cycle. In the world of services, the same applies. Someone has to cook and serve the food in a restaurant, take care of us when we are sick, do the daily transactions we all need. Services can be self-sustaining because the need is always there. But a business that makes and sells durable goods faces a problem: as soon as everyone who wants the product has it, then there is no need for more. Sales will cease. The company will go out of business.
 - 1) Consumable products and services are produced in a continuous cycle, but the same cannot be said of durable goods, which are produced only once.
 - 2) The sale of consumable products and services is self-sustaining as consumers always need more of them, but the same is not true for durable goods.
 - 3) Unlike in the case of consumable products and services, the sale of durable goods is not self-sustaining, which may result in their sellers going out of business.
 - 4) The world of consumable products and services is not like that of durable goods, as there is no risk of going out of business in the former, given the constant demand.

Directions: *Each question is a logical sequence of statements with a missing link, the location of which is shown parenthetically. From the four choices available you are required to choose the one which best fits the sequence logically. (Past CAT questions)*

2. People arguing for a position have been known to cast the opposite in an unnecessarily feeble light (.....). People who indulge in this fallacy may be fearful or ignorant of a strong counter argument. Detecting this fallacy often depends on having already heard a better refutation, or having information on which to construct one.
 - 1) Casting the opposite as weaker than it really is, is a very effective strategy.
 - 2) This portrayal of a refutation as weaker than it really is, is a sure way of proving your point.
 - 3) Casting the opposite as weaker than it really is, is not a very effective strategy.
 - 4) This portrayal of refutation as weaker than it really is, is unwarranted.

3. A deliberation is a form of discussion in which two people begin on different sides of an issue (.....). Then each decides, in the light of the other argument whether to adopt the other position, to change his or her position somewhat or to maintain the same position. Both sides realise that to modify one's position is not to lose, the point is to get closer to truth of the matter.
 - 1) Each person argues his or her position most sincerely.
 - 2) The prerequisite for deliberation to be productive is that persons involved must keep an open mind.
 - 3) The purpose is to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of both parties.
 - 4) The trick is to state your viewpoint from a position of strength.
4. The question of what rights animals should enjoy is a vexatious one. Hundreds of millions of animals are put to death for human use each year. Contrariwise, it can be argued that slowing down scientific research would retard discovery of antidotes to diseases such as cancer which kill humans and animals alike (.....). What if super intelligent beings from Alpha Centauri landed on earth and decided to use us for their experiments, arguing that they could save far more of their and our lives by so doing?
 - 1) It will benefit both in the long run.
 - 2) Is the argument truly fair to animals?
 - 3) But the progress of human civilization cannot be made contingent on some hypothetical rights of animals.
 - 4) There is no question of equating human rights with those of animals.
5. Many of us live one-eyed lives. We rely largely on the eye of the mind to form our images of reality. It is a mechanical world based on fact and reason (.....). So today more and more of us are opening the other eye, the eye of the heart, looking for realities to which the mind's eye is blind. This is a world warmed and transformed by the power of love, a vision of community beyond the mind's capacity to see. Either eye alone is not enough. We need "wholesight", a vision of world in which mind and heart unite.
 - 1) It has lead to unprecedented scientific growth and material well-being.
 - 2) In the nuclear age, our mind-made world has been found flawed and dangerous, even lethal.
 - 3) The question is irrelevant, whether or not there can be seen and reasoned.
 - 4) We have built our lives based on it because it seemed predictable and safe.

6. Briggs, I fancy, in his way did like it. Briggs was a full-blooded, up-apt, awkward, sanguine man, who was able to like anything, from gin and water upwards. But with how many a wretched companion of Briggs' are we not familiar? Men as to whom any girl of eighteen would swear from the form of his visage and the carriage of his legs as he sits on his horse that he was seeking honour where honour was not to be found, and looking for pleasure
- 1) in places where no honour lay for him
 - 2) wherever he could find it
 - 3) in places where honour led him to
 - 4) where no pleasure lay for him

Directions: *The following questions have a paragraph from which the last sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the option that completes the paragraphs in the most appropriate way.*

7. The more frequently language learners are exposed to foreign vocabulary, the more likely they are to remember it. Studies suggest that most learners need between 5-16 'meetings' with a word in order to retain it. Byki does an excellent job providing this repeated exposure. Every word and phrase must be correctly identified multiple times to obtain the highest score, while the variety of exercises and activities prevents this repetition from being boring. Language learners are thus more likely to use and enjoy the program long enough to accomplish a sufficient number of 'meetings' to master the new vocabulary terms. At the same time, a proprietary algorithm tracks each learner's progress and presents the words that need the most work more often than those that have already been mastered.
- 1) In that way, language learners get more exposure to the words that they find most difficult.
 - 2) In order for learners to successfully make the association between a foreign language word and its meaning, that meaning must be conveyed in a comprehensible manner.
 - 3) When language learners who use Byki do feel ready to form sentences on their own, they will have a solid base of vocabulary with which to do so.
 - 4) Language learners who take that time are far more likely to use the words correctly when they do choose to form sentences.
8. Language is learned. As a small child you learned to listen and to speak from the example set by parents, adults and siblings in your environment. Because the patterns of sounds held no internal meaning initially, you began by emulating them. Perhaps you were delighted that you could make the same sound you heard, or were amazed that others responded to your vocalizations. Because you didn't know that you could learn. And, because there wasn't a formal rigour to learning how to speak and to listen, you learned by experience. Like riding a bicycle or driving a car, it soon became second nature.
- 1) Because communication is so important, time spent in developing new skills rather than depending on these second nature reactions will have real payback.
 - 2) Now, as a competent adult, you generally use those second nature skills without much conscious thought.

- 3) The ability to use both precise and vague language builds flexibility and creates a wide range of options.
 - 4) The most difficult kinds of communication became easier.
9. People tend to choose to complete tasks that they are confident in doing and choose not to partake in tasks that are new to them or they are not confident in. We also tend to overestimate and underestimate our abilities, which can lead to increasing or decreasing our self-efficacy. When an individual is confident in a task that they do not have the ability to complete, it becomes a bad experience; when an individual is not confident in a task and therefore does not attempt it, growth and development are thereby discouraged. The best level of self-efficacy, supported by research, is when an individual's self-efficacy is slightly above their ability to complete the task.
- 1) This means that people would tend to take a wider view of a task in order to determine the best plan to complete it.
 - 2) This means that people would take control of their learning and display higher motivation than those with low self-efficacy.
 - 3) This means that people would be encouraged to complete challenging tasks and gain experience in the process.
 - 4) This means that people will be stimulated to greater efforts when they encounter obstacles.
10. Our very physiology as humans was created by our being predators. Most of what predators do is simply sit and wait for opportunity. Doing nothing actively is a great way to describe hunting. When I slip into the woods with a weapon in hand – the weapon is critical because no camera will ever make food for you, and that is a fine but defining difference – and settle in, several things happen physiologically. The first is an immediate heightening of all my senses, and pointed attention to those senses. Every sound, smell, caress of wind, and movement is scrutinized for importance, nothing is ignored. The heightening is followed by relaxation where my breathing and heart rate both slow. This then leads to a state of measured attentiveness that is complete but relaxed.
- 1) I realize that sitting perfectly still in wait for game is a normal, if not necessary, aspect of being human.
 - 2) The essence of hunting is that meditation actually shortens time, and makes hours seem like minutes.
 - 3) I am like an Inuit on the ice waiting for a seal to stick his nose into an air hole for hours on end.
 - 4) I observe everything but steal away inside myself and let my thoughts wander.

11. The historian should describe what has happened but the poet should say what sorts of thing might happen, that is, the things possible according to likelihood or necessity. The difference is not between fiction and non-fiction: some past events could have happened according to likelihood and are thereby candidates for poetic representation. Rather, the poet differs from the historian with respect to the level of abstraction at which he considers the actions and experiences of agents. The historian should engage in accurate and thorough research by carefully recording his or others' observations of particular events.
 - 1) The historian should report what happened, whether or not the events exhibit explanatory coherence.
 - 2) This is Aristotle's general view of the historian but the poet's still needs explanation.
 - 3) The poet, on the other hand, may discern in the historian's materials some causally related events fit for dramatic or epic representation.
 - 4) The poet, on the other hand, looks for causal relations among events, for he cares whether his composition has a plot with events that happen because of other events and not merely after them.
12. We have not yet been able to establish whether poetry gives us specifically propositional knowledge, whether it tells us facts about the world in the same way that science does. We should be careful here, though. It might be that poetry does indeed provide us with propositional knowledge, but that it does so in a very different way from science. The two disciplines are obviously quite distinct, which is precisely why the suggestion that poetry might teach us facts initially sounded so odd. The whole point of poetry, it seems, is not to state facts, but to use language in a creative and imaginative way to express thoughts, feelings and impressions.
 - 1) Maybe if you read a lot of poetry you also develop another skill, namely how to write poetry.
 - 2) When you study poetry, presumably you develop many skills, like learning how to interpret a poem, how to measure meter, and so on.
 - 3) Whether or not this could ultimately lead to propositional knowledge is an open question.
 - 4) Perhaps through its creative use of language, poetry provides a unique window into subjective experience.
13. If poetic language is not an enemy but an ally of philosophy, can poetry be used for writing philosophy? Poetry is a powerful literary form that can do many things, from expressing love, declaring war, to advertising toothpaste (some say that the best of modern poetry is in advertisement, and this is not entirely a joke). The tradition that poetry does not engage in reasoning is based on the understanding that logical rigour and poetic vividness are undermining each other. But, does poetry have to be image after image, all the time, so as to exclude reasoning?
 - 1) There were philosophers who wrote philosophy through poetry successfully.
 - 2) There is no such literary rule, and what is required is that the reasoning involved should be so interesting that it can be appreciated poetically.
 - 3) The importance of an appropriate image to an abstract theory cannot be overestimated.
 - 4) Poetry, as a literary form, is used for describing feelings or stories, presented through images and imaginative language.

14. How can a genealogical history serve perspectivism? To begin with, genealogy sets out to demonstrate that 'meaning' and 'matter' ('signifier' and 'signified') cannot possibly exist independently of each other. On the contrary, meanings (viz. ideas or morals) are always embedded in processes and as such are dynamic creations, not static givens. It will always be a certain social group who will define a specific set of values, which will be overthrown when another group will re-evaluate these same values.
 - 1) The material circumstances that give rise to 'meanings' are, therefore, the relationships of domination and power.
 - 2) The history of morality is itself a script which has to be subjected to the most vigorous textual analysis if its meaning is to be deciphered.
 - 3) The significance of a genealogical history lies in its ability to distinguish 'origin' from 'purpose'.
 - 4) Genealogy demonstrates that, although procedures remain relatively unchanged through the ages, the purposes to which they are put are fluid.

15. War was also widely seen before 1914 by the upper classes across Europe as an assertion of masculine honour, like a duel, as it were, only on a much bigger scale. Duelling was a common way of avenging real or imagined slights to a man's honour in virtually every European country at the time. Only in Britain had it died out: the point of a duel was to vindicate one's manly honour by standing unmoving as your opponent fired a bullet at you at twenty or thirty paces, and the invention of modern cricket, in which a man was required to face down a different kind of round, hard object as it hurtled towards him from the other end of the wicket, was a satisfactory (and comfortingly legal) substitute.
 - 1) Such codes of male behaviour appear almost incomprehensible a century later.
 - 2) Strength of will, self-assertion and standing firm against an enemy were all part of a code of behaviour of the upper-class men whose actions brought Europe to war in 1914.
 - 3) Yet, at the same time, in 1914, the leaders of almost every European nation were racked with anxiety about the future.
 - 4) The war appeared as a release, a liberation of manly energies long pent up, a resolution to all the insoluble problems that had plagued European politics and society.

16. In Nietzsche's view, Socratic culture was a response to the breakdown and fragmentation of tragic Greek culture which it attempted to replace with a set of shared, homogeneous ethical values, theoretical norms, and methodological procedures, based on Socratic logic and reasoning, which would replace the warring gods of the Greeks with a more unified rational culture. In a sense, Socratic culture thus provided a cure for a cultural emergency with extreme rationalism coming to curb the strong, warring impulses that had been released and that Socrates believed were out of control. The result was an equation of reason and knowledge and virtue, making reason the instrument of both truth and morality.
 - 1) Thus, Socratic culture replaced the tragic vision of suffering and redemption through culture with the optimism that reason can discover truth and produce a good life.
 - 2) Thus, Socratic culture replaced tragic Greek culture with the formative force of the modern period, with life-changing results.

- 3) Thus, the triumph of Socratic theoretic man, which was counterpoised to a tragic pessimism, provided the origins of modern rationalism and Enlightenment optimism.
 - 4) Thus, Socratic culture was seen as an alternative to the earlier tragic Greek culture, which had become a symbol of decay and atrophying life-instincts.
17. The romantics made nature even more central to their work than the metaphysical poets, treating it as an elusive metaphor in their work. They sought a freer, more personal expression of passion, pathos and personal feelings, and challenged their readers to open their minds and imaginations. Through their voluminous output, the romantics' message was clear: life is centred in the heart, and the relationships we build with nature and others through our hearts define our lives.
- 1) Ironically, the poets held distinctly different religious beliefs and led divergent lifestyles.
 - 2) Romantic poets shared an interest in metaphysical subjects and practised similar means of investigating them.
 - 3) The Romantic movement would have likely extended further but the premature deaths of the younger poets brought the period to an end.
 - 4) They anticipated and planted the seeds for free verse, transcendentalism and countless other artistic, musical and poetic expressions.
18. Poetry, as an art form, predates literacy. In preliterate societies, poetry was frequently employed as a means of recording oral history, storytelling (epic poetry), genealogy, law and other forms of expression or knowledge that modern societies might expect to be handled in prose. *The Ramayana*, a Sanskrit epic which includes poetry, was probably written in the 3rd century BCE in a language described by William Jones as 'more perfect than Latin, more copious than Greek and more exquisitely refined than either'. Poetry is also often closely identified with liturgy in these societies, as the formal nature of poetry makes it easier to-remember priestly incantations or prophecies.
- 1) Preliterate societies, lacking the means to write down important cultural information, used oral learning to preserve it.
 - 2) Other forms of poetry include narrative poetry and dramatic poetry, both of which are used to tell stories and so resemble novels and plays.
 - 3) The greater part of the world's sacred scriptures are made up of poetry rather than prose.
 - 4) In preliterate societies, all these forms of poetry were composed for, and sometimes during, performance.

19. The changes in the world of macroscopic objects are caused by rearrangements of the atomic clusters. Atoms can differ in size, shape, order and position (the way they are turned); they move about in the void, and – depending on their shape – some can temporarily bond with one another by means of tiny hooks and barbs on their surfaces. Thus the shape of individual atoms affects the macroscopic texture of clusters of atoms, which may be fluid and yielding or firm and resistant, depending on the amount of void space between and the coalescence of the atomic shapes.
- 1) The atoms are unchangeable and contain no internal differentiation of a sort that would allow for division.
 - 2) Since the atoms are separated by a void, they cannot fuse, but must rather bounce off one another when they collide.
 - 3) Though the atoms themselves persist through all time, everything in the world of our experience is transitory and subject to dissolution.
 - 4) The relative density and fragility of different materials are also accounted for by the same means.
20. It remains unknown precisely how children acquire the nuanced contexts for a given expletive. But we do know that by the time a child is old enough for college, his memory for taboo words in psychology experiments is excellent. Taboo words tend to be emotional words, and emotional things attract our attention and keep it. The distinctiveness of taboo words also helps us remember them. In many contexts – church, classrooms, and dare I say psychology experiments – we simply don't expect to encounter swearing. So when we do, it stands out.
- 1) Taboo words have a hold on us that goes beyond their emotional impact and we use them as a survival strategy.
 - 2) All taboo words are not created equal, nor are they equal-opportunity offenders.
 - 3) Thus, changing the context in which swearing occurs can change how we experience it.
 - 4) Alternatively, though not incompatibly, we may swear simply because it makes us feel better.
21. On my bedside table, there's a precarious column of half-read paperbacks that taunts me with the evidence of my own readerly promiscuity. The reason I don't finish books is not that I don't like reading enough; it's that I like reading too much. I can't say no. I'll be reading a novel and thoroughly enjoying it. Then I'll be in a bookshop and I'll see something I've been anticipating, and I'll buy it. I'll start reading the new book on the bus home that evening, and that will be the end of the original affair.
- 1) Abandoning books was just something I did and something I was increasingly unable to stop myself from doing.
 - 2) I'll start a book, get about halfway through it, and then, even if I'm enjoying it, put it down in favour of something else.
 - 3) I have invested in the relationship with the book I'm currently reading, but I can't help myself from pursuing whatever new interest happens to turn my head.
 - 4) This is partly due to contemporary conditions: the degenerative disorder of the attention span that now affects pretty much anyone with an Internet connection.

22. Fans of quaint and kitschy postcards spend their entire vacations on the lookout for some especially outrageous example to amuse their friends back home. Once they find the right card, they are faced with the problem of what to write on the other side. A conventional greeting won't do. A few details about the trip and an opinion or two are okay, but even better is to come up with something clever, since every postcard is written with a particular person in mind. No doubt, one writes differently to one's friends than to one's parents, who always fear the worst when one is away.
 - 1) Thus, instead of a postcard of the Sistine Chapel, send them one of a neighbourhood pizzeria's elderly owner and his wife wiping their hands and smiling broadly.
 - 2) Thus, it's tempting, when one sits down to send news home, to do the unconventional and use the small space allotted for writing to have a little fun.
 - 3) Thus, postcards continue to be used by people of modest means even though emails are a more popular medium of communication these days.
 - 4) Thus, if you come across some poor soul sitting alone over a postcard and visibly struggling with what to write, take pity on him or her.
23. At that very moment, Washington was planning with the French government to launch an invasion of Vietnam, designed to overthrow the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and restore French colonial rule. This would be a joint French-American project. The United States would supply the weapons and the financing. A dozen US troopships would be diverted from bringing soldiers home from Europe to carrying the French invasion army – equipped with American weapons, tanks, warplanes and jeeps – to Vietnam. This was arguably the beginning of America's Vietnam War.
 - 1) Just as kids believed in America's peaceful future, the Vietnamese believed that Americans were their friends and allies.
 - 2) Vietnam's war for independence was at the vanguard of a global revolution that destroyed the colonial form of imperialism.
 - 3) As the French war against Vietnam went on, with increasing US covert involvement, opposition to this Franco-American war grew and intensified.
 - 4) It was also, as it turns out, the beginning of the American people's movement against that war.
24. For all the tadpoles that perish, some still make it to become frogs, and have been doing so for at least 200 million years. Those that don't are the stuff of life for countless other creatures, from the littlest insect larvae to grand old storks. Indeed, frogs are regarded as a keystone species, which means that the death of their multitudinous offspring, along with the death that they themselves deal out, is crucial to the flourishing of the community of life.
 - 1) We too are built on a bedrock of old men's bones: our evolution to *Homo sapiens* is a product of the endless winnowing out of the unfit and the unfortunate.
 - 2) In the language of ecology, life and death are obligate symbionts, each wholly dependent on the other.
 - 3) This party of death is, of course, at the same time a cork-popping party of life.
 - 4) It seems rather an outrage; a cosmic crime; a reason to raise one's fist and rebel against the regime that necessitates this slaughter of innocents.

25. Adorno's account of import and function distinguishes his sociology of art from both hermeneutical and empirical approaches. He argues that, both as categories and as phenomena, import and function need to be understood in terms of each other. On the one hand, an artwork's import and its functions in society can be diametrically opposed. On the other-hand, one cannot give a proper account of an artwork's social functions if one does not raise import-related questions about their significance. So too, an artwork's import embodies the work's social functions and has potential relevance for various social contexts.
- 1) Social functions are primarily intellectual functions rather than straightforwardly political or economic functions.
 - 2) In general, Adorno gives priority to import, understood as societally mediated and socially significant meaning.
 - 3) Adorno claims that an artwork's functions are social antitheses while its import is instrumental to reason.
 - 4) Typically, Adorno elaborates that import and functions are categorized as polarities or dialectical pairs.
26. For centuries, a small number of writers were confronted by many thousands of readers. This changed toward the end of the last century. With the increasing extension of the press, which kept placing new political, religious and local organs before the readers, an increasing number of readers became writers. It began with the daily press opening space to its readers for 'letters to the editor'. And today, there is hardly a gainfully employed European who could not, in principle, find an opportunity to publish comments on his work, grievances, documentary reports, or that sort of thing, some where or other.
- 1) Thus, the distinction between author and public is losing its basic character.
 - 2) Thus, literary license is now founded on polytechnic rather than specialized training.
 - 3) Thus, the same public now responds in a progressive manner rather than in a reactionary manner.
 - 4) Thus, the critical and the receptive attitudes of the public coincide – they are in a position to judge as well as be judged.

VA-4.3 | CRITICAL REASONING 1



Critical Reasoning

Introduction

Critical Reasoning is an area that is used in national and international tests to test reasoning skills. It is an invaluable tool for any one taking competitive exams like the CAT, to sharpen his/her reasoning skills. Critical Reasoning questions usually include short passages of three to four sentences followed by questions such as:

- Which of the following conclusions can be best drawn from the statements above?
- The conclusion above depends on which of the following assumptions?
- Which of the following must be true if the above statements are true?
- Which of the following strengthens/weakens the argument made above?

Structure of an argument

The components of an argument are defined as:

A **premise** is a statement, fact or evidence, stated in the passage, which is presumed to be true in the context of the passage. Premises are explicitly stated.

When a premise is not stated, or the author has taken it for granted, it becomes an **assumption**.

A **conclusion** is an opinion or an assertion that the author wants to prove, using premises and assumptions.

The strength of the conclusion/assertion depends on the validity of the premises.

- I. A and B are two households with the same income.
- II. Household A saves more than Household B.
- III. Household A spends less than Household B.

Statement III is a logical deduction from statements I and II. Such logical deductions are called inferences. An **inference** is a logical certainty that can be derived from the facts presented in the argument.

It is very important to understand the difference between Assumptions, Inferences and Conclusions. Many students have a tendency to get confused between the three terms, or rather they find it difficult to understand how each one is different from the other. In order to understand the difference between the three, you have to understand the role played by each of the three in the construction of an argument.

Assumptions, Conclusions and Inferences follow a consecutive sequence in the construction of an argument.

Premise A + Premise B \longrightarrow Conclusion

As you can see from the line diagram, it is impossible to reach the conclusion unless the premises are valid. When the author draws the conclusion without stating one of the premises, that particular premise becomes an assumption, i.e. the author has assumed the premise to be valid. The moment the *assumption* ceases to be valid, the *conclusion* is invalidated.

Inferences as defined earlier are logical certainties that can be deduced based on premises (Statements/ Facts/ Evidence).

Critical Reasoning Question Types

The following are the most frequently asked Critical Reasoning question types:

- Conclusion
- Assumption
- Inference
- Strengthen
- Weaken
- Parallel Reasoning
- Explain/Resolve
- Flawed Reasoning

Conclusion Questions

Example

Anyone familiar with the prisons knows that some inmates behave little better than brute beasts. If the death penalty had been truly effective as a deterrent, such prisoners would have vanished long ago.

Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the passage above?

- (1) There would have been more such prisoners if it were not for the presence of capital punishment as a deterrent.
- (2) The prison system has managed to reform many prisoners from brutish beasts to citizens who can return back to society.
- (3) The way capital punishment is administered might have to be made more horrific in order to deter people from behaving like brutish beasts.
- (4) Capital punishment has not been able to deter individuals from perpetrating gruesome crimes against their fellow men.

Strategy

- Conclusion should clearly follow only from the premises stated and should not make any additional assumptions.
- Conclusions should not be treated as questions that require exploring of all possible scenarios arising from the premises.

Explanation: Option (1) cannot be concluded since there is no evidence in the premises that supports this; it is just an opinion but not a conclusion that can be drawn from the premises. Evidence that shows that, since the introduction of capital punishment the crime rate has dropped will support such a conclusion. Similarly the premises do not support options (2) and (3): much more information would be needed before either of these can be concluded from this paragraph. Only option (4) is a conclusion that can be safely made from the given premises. Hence, (4).

Assumption Questions

Example

Since the good is that which furthers a person's real interests and not his/her self-interest, it follows that in any given case when the good is known, men will seek it.

The argument above is based on which of the following assumptions?

- (1) Men can differentiate between their real interests and self-interests.
- (2) Men would prefer to choose actions that are in their real interests to those in their self-interest.
- (3) Good is something that is not desirable in itself.
- (4) Men should seek the good rather than the bad.

Strategy

- An assumption is something that has been considered to be true by the author while arriving at his conclusion on the basis of the facts that are available to him. It is something he has taken for granted and hence, it is not stated. So, it is like an unstated fact. It serves to bolster the author's argument.
- By negating the assumption the conclusion should fail, so negate each option and see if the conclusion still holds true. Choose the option which when negated makes the conclusion fail.

Explanation: Negating option (1) will mean that men cannot differentiate between real interests and self-interests but it does not mean that they will not seek good (even if it is inadvertently, not knowing that they are seeking their real interests). Negating option (2) will mean that they would prefer self-interests to real interests thus negating the conclusion that they will seek the good since the good caters to real interest. So option (2) is the assumption. Negating option (3) would mean that good is something that is desirable in itself but that does not mean that people will not seek good if they know the good. Negating option (4) would mean that men should seek the bad instead of the good, but this is a prescription, i.e. what they *should* do, not what they *would* do. Hence, (2).

Inference Questions

Example

The revenues of a certain automobile company increased dramatically after they launched a new model that consumes significantly less fuel than all of its previous models as well as those of its competitors. Despite this, the profitability (profit as a percentage of revenues) of the company fell by almost 10 percentage points, while its competitors maintained their profitability levels.

Which of the following can be inferred from the statements above?

- (1) The company greatly increased its advertising budget to promote its new model that brought in more revenue.
- (2) The overall costs increased at a rate higher than the rate of increase in revenues.
- (3) The company's market share has not increased despite increased revenues from the new model.
- (4) The company has not been able to charge a significantly higher price for the new model over its existing models as well as those of its competitors.

Strategy

- An inference is something implied by the text (and not explicitly stated). If you read between the lines or put two and two together, the inference will seem to be true. Unlike the conclusion, which seems to be 'definitely true', an inference may seem to be 'probably true'. While the conclusion ought to be the main point of the argument, an inference (there can be many) could just be a minor detail that is implied. Look for an option that you can deduce to be reasonably true on the basis of the information provided.
- For an inference question, all statements in the paragraph become premises.
- Since an inference has to follow logically from the premises, negating the inference should result in the premises being negated. Negate each option and see if the premises still hold true. Choose the option which when negated makes a premise fail.

Explanation: Negating option (1) means that the company decreased its advertising budget; but this does not mean that profitability should not have fallen since the new product could have incurred other costs, like manufacturing, which drastically increased costs. Negating option (2) would mean the rate of increase of costs is slower than the rate of increase of revenue, which means that the profitability could not have fallen. So option (2) is the valid inference that can be drawn from the premises. Negating option (3) would mean that the company's market share has increased but this does not mean that its profitability has also increased since market share is share of the company's revenue in the industry's revenue. Negating option (4) would mean that the company was able to charge a significantly higher price but this does not mean profitability should also have increased since costs could also have increased correspondingly. Hence, (2).

Strengthen Questions**Example**

In our personal lives, most of us are familiar with social software tools, but most of us have not experienced them extensively in the enterprise. While social software may well improve relationships, build trust and community, and tap into a greater diversity of ideas, these vague promises do little to convince sceptical executives concerned primarily with business performance. This is a shame because social software can be tightly linked to business performance improvement.

Which of the following strengthens the argument made in the passage above?

- (1) The only way to accelerate and sustain usage of social software in the enterprise is to target implementations against very specific operating performance levers.
- (2) Social software advocates haven't done a very good job of communicating the value these tools bring to the enterprise.
- (3) By using social software, employees have more interactions and both their explicit knowledge and their expertise is exposed to others who need them but were not looking for them.
- (4) Many executives are wary of the potential loss of confidentiality and expanded opportunity for airing personal grievances.

Strategy

- Differentiate between options that are related to the argument and those that clearly strengthen or weaken the argument.
- Reject options that are only related to the argument (neither strengthening nor weakening it) in general.
- Reject options that do not specifically strengthen the conclusion in the argument with additional evidence.

Explanation: The argument is that social software can be used for business performance improvement. So to strengthen it, the options must show how social software can add to business performance improvement. Option (1) does not strengthen the argument since it talks about how social software should be used, not how it is useful. Option (2) is incorrect since it talks about why its benefits are not known and not the benefits themselves. Option (3) shows how employees can benefit from using social software, thus strengthening the argument. Option (4) indirectly casts doubts on social software instead of supporting it. Hence, (3).

Weaken Questions

Example

Recently schools in a major city have decided to ban the use of mobile phones by students while they are at school. The schools contend that usage of mobile phones is the only reason behind the reduced attention levels of their students.

Which of the following most weakens the plan of action of the schools to combat the low attention levels of their students?

- (1) Students in schools of neighbouring cities have not been reported to have low attention levels despite having similar mobile phone usage patterns while at school.
- (2) Students in schools of neighbouring cities have been reported to have low levels of attention despite the fact that they have significantly lower levels of mobile phone usage.
- (3) Adults have also reported a decline in attention levels due to the increased usage of mobile phones at the workplace.
- (4) Most of the students of the schools in the major city spend a lot of their post-school time watching television or playing video games.

Strategy

- Clearly identify the line of reasoning used, X causes Y or X will improve Y, etc.
- Choose options that invalidate this line of reasoning. For example, *If X then Y*, is weakened by *X but no Y* and not *Y but no X*.
- Identify reasoning fallacies committed in the argument.

Explanation: The argument says that only usage of mobile phones causes attention deficit, or only X is Y, where X is mobile phone usage and Y is attention deficit. Only X is Y does not mean All X is Y; option (1) makes this mistake and tries to weaken the argument by showing that Some X is not Y. Only X is Y means that All Y is X; to weaken this is it should be shown that Some Y is not X; option (2) does this. Options (3) and (4) are only indirectly related to the argument and do not weaken them in any way. Hence, (2).

Parallel Reasoning Questions**Example**

Developed countries have no right to ask developing countries to cap their carbon emissions in order to curtail global warming since the former have been instrumental in releasing large amounts of carbon to fuel their development and bringing the environment to its current stage.

Which of the following statements uses a line of reasoning that is most similar to the argument above?

- (1) The green movement which seeks to save the environment by urging companies to practise sustainable manufacturing is forgetting that such products will be more expensive, thus marginalizing the poor.
- (2) It is unfair to ask drivers to compulsorily wear seat belts, since the cost of not wearing seat belts is always borne exclusively by the drivers themselves.
- (3) The ban on smoking in public places is unwarranted since non-smokers can choose not to go to places that allow smoking in their premises.
- (4) He has no right to ask me to not to pay bribes to reduce corruption, since he is part of a generation which grew up paying bribes to get things done, thus institutionalizing it.

Strategy

- Convert the whole argument into a simple one-line statement. For example, it is ok to do X since even if I do not do it, some else will do it.
- Try to fit each of the options into the one line statement that mirrors the logic of the paragraph.
- Reject options that do not fit into the one-line statement.

Explanation: The argument is of the following form: A cannot ask me not to do X in order to decrease Y, since A himself is responsible for causing Y. It can be seen that only (4) can be fit into the form of reasoning the argument uses. Hence, (4).

Explain/Resolve Questions**Example**

Ask CEOs about their top priorities and inevitably they will cite talent as one of their top priorities. If this is the case, how do we explain the enormous popularity of *Dilbert and The Office*, which so eloquently describe the stultifying effect of our work environments on talent?

Which of the following provides the best explanation for the paradox cited above?

- (1) Executives tend to focus on talent acquisition and retention, but do not invest much time on talent development throughout the firm.
- (2) Executives tend to not offer their employees significant pay rises in the first year to offset the raises given to new recruits vis-à-vis their previous jobs.
- (3) *Dilbert and The Office* are exaggerations and not an accurate depiction of the effect that workplace environment has on talent.
- (4) Most employees tend to have an inflated sense of their own talent that is often at odds with the ways their superiors perceive them.

Strategy

- Clearly define the two premises that are contradictory. For example, X is supposed to cause an increase in Y but it is causing a decrease in Y.
- Look for options that clearly offer an explanation for the paradoxical relationship between the two premises.
- More often, the correct option is related to the way X and Y have been defined or generally understood.

Explanation: The paradox: CEOs (executives) say that talent is their top requirement; yet employees feel that the workplace environment is killing their talent. So the problem lies either in the CEO's interpretation of talent or the employees' evaluation of the workplace environment. Option (1) best explains the paradox, CEOs focus on hiring talent but not on talent development, which is why employees feel that their talent is being killed. Option (2) diverts the issue by talking about pay and does not address the talent paradox. Option (3) states that *Dilbert and The Office* are exaggerations but that does not mean that the paradox does not exist. Option (4) makes a generalization about most employees; also the paradox is not that their superiors do not recognize their subordinates' talent, but that the workplace environment does not foster or harness it, which it is supposed to do if talent was a top priority. Hence, (1).

Flawed Reasoning**Example**

Statistics reveal that there are significantly more purchasers of video games in the 35 to 50 age-group than in the 15 to 30 age-group, thus refuting the popular misconception that it is the latter demographic group that is most addicted to video games.

The argument above is flawed because it:

- (1) assumes that both demographic groups are equally proficient at playing video-games.
- (2) ignores the fact that videogames can be played irrespective of one's age.
- (3) assumes that the purchasers and the players of the game are the same.
- (4) discounts the fact that older people might be purchasing video-games to appear to be in sync with the times.

Strategy

- Focus on the relationship between the premise and the conclusion and try to find a mismatch.
- Look for the reasoning fallacies listed in the next section.

Explanation: The argument above makes the mistake of assuming that the people who purchase the product are the people who use the product. Adults might be the main purchasers of ice-creams but the consumers can be their children at home; similarly men can be main purchasers of diamonds but women will be the main users. Option (3) identifies this flaw. The rest of the options do not precisely capture this flaw of reasoning. Hence, (3).



CLASS EXERCISE

Directions: Each passage below is followed by a question. Read the passage carefully and answer the question that follows.

1. Financial dissatisfaction might negatively influence tax morale. Such dissatisfaction might create a sense of distress, especially when taxes have to be paid and there is a discrepancy between the actual and the aspired financial situation.

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

- 1) Taxes might be perceived as a strong restriction that increases financial dissatisfaction and thus the likelihood of tax dishonesty.
- 2) Factors that are more closely related to taxation might have a stronger impact on tax morale than other factors.
- 3) If tax revenues were spent more in accordance with the preference of tax payers, tax morale might improve.
- 4) Measures to prevent tax evasion need to become more stringent and punishment for the guilty should be more severe.

2. According to Plato, the critic functions as a kind of philosophical traffic cop, admitting certain “useful” kinds of literature to the republic but banishing the rest. Archetypal critics believe that humans experience reality in terms of certain basic fears, desires, images (symbols) and stories (myths). They conclude that audiences will react to such writing patterns forcefully and almost automatically and that critics should therefore study the ways such patterns affect writers, texts and readers.

Which of the following is assumed by the archetypal critics?

- 1) They assume that writers will inevitably employ such patterns.
- 2) They assume that no other patterns have such a strong impact on readers.
- 3) They assume that it is their duty to banish worthless literature.
- 4) They assume that a person’s fears and desires shape the individual he is to become.

3. About 96% of Scandinavian moths have ears tuned to the ultrasonic pulses that bats, their predators, emit. But the remaining 4% do not have ears and are deaf. However, they have a larger wingspan than the hearing moths, and also have higher wing-loadings—the ratio between a wing’s area and its weight—meaning higher manoeuvrability.

Which one of the following can be best inferred from the above passage?

- 1) A higher proportion of deaf moths than hearing moths fall prey to bats.
- 2) Deaf moths may try to avoid bats by frequent changes in their flight direction.
- 3) Deaf moths are faster than hearing moths, and so are less prone to becoming a bat’s dinner than hearing moths.
- 4) The large wingspan enables deaf moths to better receive and sense the pulses of their bat predators.

4. Although in the limited sense of freedom regarding appointments and internal working, the independence of the Central Bank is unequivocally ensured, the same cannot be said of its right to pursue monetary policy without co-ordination with the central government. The role of the Central Bank has turned out to be subordinate and advisory in nature.

Which one of the following best supports the conclusion drawn in the passage?

- 1) A decision of the chairman of the Central Bank to increase the bank rate by two percentage points sent shock-waves in industry, academic and government circles alike.
- 2) The government has repeatedly resorted to monetisation of debt despite the reservations of the Central Bank.
- 3) The Central Bank does not need the central government's nod for replacing soiled currency notes.
- 4) The inability to remove coin shortage was a major shortcoming of this government.

(Past CAT question)

5. The offer of the government to make iodised salt available at a low price of one rupee per kilo is welcome, especially since the government seems to be so concerned about the ill effects of non-iodised salt. But it is doubtful whether the offer will actually be implemented. Way back in 1994, the government, in an earlier effort, had prepared reports outlining three new and simple but experimental methods for reducing the costs of iodisation to about five paise per kilo. But these reports have remained just these—reports on paper.

Which one of the following, if true, most weakens the author's contention that it is doubtful whether the offer will be actually implemented?

- 1) The government proposes to save on costs by using the three methods it has already devised for iodisation.
- 2) The chain of fair-price distribution outlets now covers all the districts of the state.
- 3) Many small-scale and joint-sector units have completed trials to use the three iodisation methods for regular production.
- 4) The government which initiated the earlier effort is in place even today and has more information on the effects of non-iodised salt.

(Past CAT question)

6. As medicine and life extension advances, the life expectancy of the population increases somewhat each year, and this process may accelerate given new technologies or new knowledge. The longer you live, the more medical advances will occur during your lifetime which extend your life expectancy. If the increase in life expectancy becomes greater than one year longer life/year lived then the break-even point is reached and there is a finite chance of living indefinitely.

Which of the following is a situation analogous to the one depicted in the passage?

- 1) In a cost/benefit analysis the break-even point is reached when the benefit of making a decision becomes greater than the cost of making the decision.
- 2) At boiling point the break-even point is reached when water is just about to be converted to vapour.

- 3) In a fusion reaction the break-even point is reached when additional energy produced by the reaction becomes greater than that used to drive the reactor.
- 4) In a thermal plant the break-even point is reached when the water level in the reactor becomes greater than that supplied to the turbines.
7. Over the last years, Bank of Bharat has seen the number of its retail customer accounts drop by over 40 percent. Over the same period, the share price of Bank of Bharat has increased by more than 80 percent. This has amazed a few investors, who believe that a bank's share price should drop if its number of customers drops.

Which of the following, if true over the last years, best accounts for the observed movement in the price of Bank of Bharat's equity shares?

- 1) Two years ago, Securities and Exchange Board started an investigation on the bank for accounting irregularities, but last year the company was cleared of all charges.
 - 2) The bank recently implemented a highly publicized program for free home loans.
 - 3) The bank has been switching its customer base from retail customers to commercial customers, which now accounts for over 75 percent of the bank's revenues.
 - 4) There have been many new banks, which have entered retail banking business over the last 5 years.
 - 5) The bank is known to be the best paymaster in the industry.
8. A research study recorded that the number of unemployed educated youth was equal to the number of unemployed uneducated youth. It was concluded by the researchers that being educated does not enhance the probability of being employed.

Which of the following information would be required to validate the above conclusion?

- 1) The number of unemployed educated and uneducated people in other age groups.
 - 2) The number of organisations employing youth.
 - 3) The percentage of unemployment in educated youth versus percentage of unemployment in uneducated youth.
 - 4) The percentage increase in the number of educated youth in the current year versus last year.
9. These days industries have to follow rigid environmental standards while building new plants. However, standards that must be met can change and construction that was once acceptable can now be halted if it conflicts with newly-passed regulations. In such a case new factories will not be built.

Which of the proposals, if accepted, would reduce the threat to the construction of new factories?

- 1) Environmental regulations must be published as soon as they are made.
- 2) The government should pay to bring up recently constructed factories to new environmental standards.
- 3) Industries must immediately comply to new environmental standards.
- 4) Environmental standards for any factory should not be altered once construction is underway.

10. A couple of years ago, the government introduced the self-employment scheme to guarantee the graduate youth an alternative to government jobs. Today, over 1,50,000 twenty-five to thirty-year-olds are still queuing outside employment exchanges in the hope of an office job. Each of the following, if true, could account for the above except:
- 1) The programme is uninteresting and not challenging enough to attract the youth.
 - 2) Some prefer the security that a government job offers.
 - 3) The number of 25 to 30-year-old graduates has grown over the last couple of years.
 - 4) The graduates are unaware of the potential benefits of the programme.
11. CitiBank will be sending specially-bound gift copies of a new book, *Bollywood: Popular Indian Cinema*, to its most favoured NRI account holders all over the world. 'We wanted to give them something special, something Indian, and most Indians love Bollywood.'
- What assumptions are implicit in this passage?
- 1) NRIs love similar things that Indians love.
 - 2) NRIs love Hindi films more than anything else from India.
 - 3) NRIs accounts are the most favoured accounts for CitiBank.
 - 4) *Bollywood: Popular Indian Cinema* is the best book on Indian films.
12. Risks of cardiovascular disease have been associated, in previous studies, with both saturated fats and trans-fatty acids. The controversy, so it goes, involves the argument over which one is worse. Studies funded by the margarine industry have declared trans-fats safer than saturated fats; studies funded by the butter industry show the opposite.
- Which of the statements is definitely not true as per the passage?
- 1) Studies regarding cardiovascular disease are fraught with controversy.
 - 2) The margarine and butter industries are competitors.
 - 3) Research data is unreliable.
 - 4) Earlier, cardiovascular disease was not attributed to trans-fatty acids.
13. The Union government has decided to remove all customs duties on second-hand computers and peripherals like printers, scanners, monitors, etc., when imported by a recognized school run on a non-commercial basis. The exemption is presently available to only government-run schools.
- The Union government's decision would prove to be counterproductive if:
- 1) government-run schools are well funded and most of them have patrons giving huge donations.
 - 2) indigenous PCs and peripherals are of a superior quality and cost less.
 - 3) government-run schools appoint the worst of teachers.
 - 4) Both (2) and (3).

14. Growth is a process of change: it requires flexibility, adaptability, and the willingness to experiment. Above all, it is a process of trial and error that requires an effective system for ruthlessly weeding out errors and for generously backing successful experiments. But centralized economic planning tends to be cumbersome and rigid.

Which of the following, is the most likely conclusion of the above passage?

- 1) Growth cannot be brought about by rigid and inefficient experimentation.
 - 2) Successful experiments are not given enough encouragement in centralized economic planning.
 - 3) Any process of trial and error that does not provide space for mistakes is unlikely to be an efficient model of planning.
 - 4) Growth cannot be wrought in an environment like the one provided by centralized economic planning.
15. Cigarettes constitute a mere 20% of tobacco consumption in India, and fewer than 15% of the 200 million tobacco users consume cigarettes. Yet these 15% contribute nearly 90% of the tax revenues to the Exchequer from the tobacco sector. The punitive cigarette taxation regime has kept the tax base narrow, and reducing taxes will expand this base.

Which one of the following best bolsters the conclusion that reducing duties will expand the tax base?

- 1) The cigarette manufacturers' association has decided to indulge in aggressive promotion.
- 2) There is a likelihood that tobacco consumers will shift to cigarette smoking if cigarette prices were to reduce.
- 3) The cigarette manufacturers are lobbying for a reduction on duties.
- 4) An increase in duties on non-cigarette tobacco may lead to a shift in favour of cigarette smoking.

(Past CAT question)

16. Thomas Malthus, the British clergyman turned economist, predicted that the planet would not be able to support the human population for long. His explanation was that human population grows at a geometric rate, while the food supply grows only at an arithmetic rate.

Which one of the following, if true, would not undermine the thesis offered by Malthus?

- 1) Population growth can be slowed down by the voluntary choices of individuals and not just by natural disasters.
- 2) The capacity of the planet to feed a growing human population can be enhanced through biotechnological means.
- 3) Human systems, and natural systems like food supply, follow natural laws of growth which have remained constant, and will remain unchanged.
- 4) Human beings can colonize other planetary systems on a regular and on-going basis to accommodate a growing population.

(Past CAT question)

17. The company's coffee crop for 1998-99 totalled 8079 tonnes, an all-time record. The increase over the previous year's production of 5830 tonnes was 38.58%. The previous highest crop was 6089 tonnes in 1970-71. The company had fixed a target of 8000 tonnes to be realized by the year 2000-01, and this has been achieved two years earlier, thanks to the emphasis laid on the key areas of irrigation, replacement of unproductive coffee bushes, intensive refilling and improved agricultural practices. It is now our endeavour to reach the target of 10000 tonnes in the year 2001-02.

Which one of the following would contribute most to making the target of 10000 tonnes in 2001-02 unrealistic?

- 1) The potential of the productivity enhancing measures implemented up to now has been exhausted.
- 2) The total company land under coffee has remained constant since 1969 when an estate in the Nilgiri Hills was acquired.
- 3) The sensitivity of the crop to climatic factors makes predictions about production uncertain.
- 4) The target-setting procedures in the company have been proved to be sound by the achievement of the 8000 tonne target.

(Past CAT question)

18. Animals in general are shrewd in proportion as they cultivate society. Elephants and beavers show the greatest signs of this sagacity when they are together in large numbers, but when man invades their communities they lose all their spirit of industry. Among insects, the labours of the bee and the ant have attracted the attention and admiration of naturalists, but all their sagacity seems to be lost upon separation and a single bee or ant seems destitute of every degree of industry. It becomes the most stupid insect imaginable, and it languishes and soon dies.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above passage?

- 1) Humankind is responsible for the destruction of the natural habitat of animals and insects.
- 2) Animals, in general, are unable to function effectively outside their normal social environment.
- 3) Naturalists have great admiration for bees and ants, despite their lack of industry upon separation.
- 4) Elephants and beavers are smarter than bees and ants in the presence of human beings.

(Past CAT question)



PRACTICE EXERCISE

Directions: Each passage below is followed by a question. Read the passage carefully and answer the question that follows.

1. One can make an analogy comparing the law and order scene today with that of a fishing net. It may catch the salmon and mackerel but always lets the whales and the sharks break through.

The author most probably believes:

- 1) The law must be brutal and use the theory 'guilty before proven otherwise'.
- 2) Capital punishment is the only way to deter crime
- 3) The author is very concerned about environmental hazards that fish face.
- 4) The more powerful members of society invariably get away with their crimes.

2. Mr. Gates is a futuristic high technology visionary first and a philanthropist next. The developing world looks to people like him to blend social development and information technology. The synergy can only have a positive fall-out for the disadvantaged whom Mr. Gates seeks to help.

Mr. Gates's strengths in technology are:

- 1) rivalled by his belief on philanthropy.
- 2) a useful asset to the disadvantaged.
- 3) likely to prove more useful if combined with social development.
- 4) Both (2) and (3).

3. Indians are not as creative as they should be. It goes back to their education system based on the memorization of facts. That is important, but we tend to overemphasize it. What we need is right-brain thinking, questioning and out-of-the-box ideas. Innovation is more than creativity. Creativity is more about good ideas, but innovation is about bringing this creativity into the market, which is entrepreneurial activity. On the entrepreneurial side we have some strengths. But, creativity is perhaps where we need to develop more, since as a country, we are not as innovative as we could be.

The argument presupposes which of the following?

- 1) Creativity is necessary for being more entrepreneurial as a nation.
- 2) Entrepreneurship is necessary for being more creative as a nation.
- 3) Creativity is necessary for being more innovative as a nation.
- 4) All of the above.

4. Even educated professionals may know the basics but see no need to keep up to date – having no idea of the interest rates on their credit cards, the fees on their mutual funds or how their investments are doing. But in both America and Britain low personal saving rates (negative in America, indeed) and record numbers of personal bankruptcies do not bode well. If people are to take charge of their pensions, shouldn't they know a little more?

Which of the following is probably the conclusion towards which the author is moving?

- 1) Educated professionals are finding it increasingly difficult to understand the intricacies of the savings and investments scenario.
- 2) The government in America and Britain should take corrective measures to prevent the increasing events of personal bankruptcies.
- 3) People should increase their financial literacy, in order to take prudent decisions on financial matters.
- 4) Educated professionals should spread the word about better financial planning.

5. The current spate of sting operations against politicians only serves to boost the viewership of the channels. Little or no money is ever recovered. The common man, crushed under the burden of taxes, gains nothing from such exposes. If TV channels are genuinely interested in addressing corruption, they need to target the various departments of municipal corporations.

Which of the following assumption is made in the above passage?

- 1) Sting operations are the best means to keep a check on corruption.
- 2) The common man deals more often with municipal bodies rather than those operating at higher levels of government.
- 3) The need to create awareness among the viewers is important to tackle the issue of corruption.
- 4) Sting operations are effective as they make the politicians cough up the money they had embezzled.

6. One is surprised by the hue and cry created over the issue of the use of human bones in making ayurvedic preparations at Ramdev pharmacy. The Indian politicians indeed maintain a double standard – they can tolerate the pesticides used in Coke and Pepsi, but they are allergic to useful traces of animal organs in Indian ayurvedic medicines.

Which of the following statements is most likely to weaken the above argument?

- 1) Coke and Pepsi are consumed by a large number of people as compared to ayurvedic medicines which are consumed by a relatively smaller section of Indians.
- 2) Medicines play a more vital role in saving human lives and maintaining a healthy body as against beverages.
- 3) The quantity of pesticides used in Coke and Pepsi has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration of India as being safe for human consumption.
- 4) Beverage companies are multinationals and thereby exercise a greater economic influence than Ramdev pharmacy.

7. When Herodotus wrote the history of the ancient world, he mixed the lives of the famous with those of the ordinary, for, he wanted not only to record the events that shaped his world but also to give his readers a taste of life in past times and far-away places.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above?

- 1) Herodotus performed the tasks of both historian and journalist.
- 2) Only historians are equipped to reconstruct times and social lives.
- 3) Herodotus' history was based on scanty historical evidence and more on hearsay and gossip.
- 4) Herodotus lived in interesting times.

8. The incidence of stress-related diseases in management workers is increasing at an alarming rate. Between 1990 and 1995, the increase in lost working days in industry for men was up by more than 13% for cardiac disease, 12% for cerebrovascular disease, 16% for psychosis, more than 4% for hypertensive disease and 3% for neurosis.

For women workers, comparable figures were a 25% increase for cardiac disease, 73% for cerebrovascular disease, 1% for psychosis, more than 3% for hypertensive disease, 2% for neurosis and 6% for ulcers.

Prime causes of these increases tend to be corporate merger mania – takeover, acquisitions, amalgamations, buyouts and co-ventures.

Which of the following conclusions cannot be deduced from the above?

- 1) More women suffer from cerebrovascular diseases related to stress than men.
- 2) Stress in industry has a direct effect on the health of management staff.
- 3) More and more working days are being lost due to stress-related disease.
- 4) The rate at which the incidence of cardiac disease for men is increasing is less than the rate for women.

9. From 1920 to 1950, the amount of food production per worker and per hour increased two fold. From 1950 to 1980, food production per worker and per hour increased 2.3 times.

Each of the following, if true, could help to account for this trend except:

- 1) The number of farm workers increased.
- 2) The use of mechanical technology in food production increased.
- 3) The use of chemical fertilisers increased.
- 4) Introduction of genetically modified crops resulted in greater yields.

10. Depression is explained as the deepest crest of sadness. It usually occurs during drastic times of people's lives – after a loss (death, for example), relationship problems, school, grades, stress, etc. Anything can trigger depression – big or small. It depends on the person, the situation and the events that are happening within the person's life.

Which of the following is the author least likely to agree with?

- 1) Depression is caused by events that disturb the sufferer emotionally.
- 2) All kinds of anxiety can culminate in depression.
- 3) "Drastic times" are events that have the potential to shake you up.
- 4) Failure in examinations drives all people to depression.

11. California is home to thousands of health clubs where people go to get rid of their energy. Let us capture that energy by adding an electric generator to every treadmill. Health clubs would then become mini-power plants and working out would reduce your electricity bill as well as your weight.

Which of the following, if true, would most cast doubts on the conclusion in the passage?

- 1) It would be expensive to transmit the power generated from such a method.
- 2) Such an idea may not necessarily work in areas where there aren't many health clubs.
- 3) The reduction in electricity bill may not be very much considering the small amounts of power the treadmills will be able to generate.
- 4) Not all health clubs are equipped with sophisticated instruments like treadmills.

12. In one-third of the schools inspected last year, there was "substantial underachievement" in the teaching of computing. Why does teaching computing remain such an uphill struggle for many schools after years on the curriculum? Though IT infiltrates every aspect of everyday life, applying it effectively to lessons is another matter.

Which of the following would constitute the most important reason for the underachievement in teaching computing?

- 1) School teachers are essentially novices and are not competent enough to teach young students.
- 2) Most students are computer-literate and do not find computing courses very interesting.
- 3) Computer infrastructure at many schools is not up-to-date, with schools having to operate on a limited budget.
- 4) Teaching at schools is not a high-paying job and therefore many people prefer other careers to teaching.

13. It's an idea as old as fashion retail itself – big companies hire young, talented designers to create for lines that are targeted to the not-quite-ready-for designer set. Ideally it's a win-win situation for everyone involved: the designers get a salary with which they can start their own lines.

Which of the following statements is likely to logically conclude the passage?

- 1) It used to be one of fashion's little secrets but today's young egalitarian designers are proud of creating clothes for every segment of the market.
 - 2) The labels get new talent, while consumers get designer products for less.
 - 3) Even ordinary people get to wear labels at a discounted price.
 - 4) However, some of the new designers can never realize their goals.
14. Opponents of laws that prevent heart patients from participating in any adventure sports argue that society should accord people the right to take risks as long as they do not harm others.

Which of the following reasons would induce the opponents of the law to accept it?

- 1) Adventure sports have, on many occasions, led to the death of participants.
 - 2) The insurance companies will have to pay if these patients get injured or killed.
 - 3) Suicide is considered illegal and adventure sports are akin to suicide for heart patients.
 - 4) None of the above.
15. Technical experts flout a fundamental scientific guideline – good applied science requires a high degree of certainty about the basic facts at hand, and especially their meaning. We have not yet reached this point with regard to our understanding of the cause and effects of earthquakes. How then can we allow experts to certify a Tehri dam safe in spite of its being built over a known earthquake zone?

The writer is mistrustful of expert opinion on the Tehri dam because:

- 1) the experts have a vested interest in supporting the Tehri dam project.
 - 2) the experts do not understand the ecology of the Tehri dam site.
 - 3) there is not enough knowledge about earthquakes to decide the issue of safety.
 - 4) the experts do not take the issue of safety of residents seriously.
16. The walkers that many parents buy for their infants may do more harm than good, according to the Academy of Pediatrics, which has decided on banning their manufacture and sale. There is no evidence that these devices help infants to learn to walk independently; on the contrary, they say, they can delay normal motor development.

Which of the following effectively questions the decision taken by the Academy of Pediatrics?

- 1) Apart from one or two reports of serious injury, the majority of infants who have walkers learn to walk eventually.
- 2) For infants who show mental and physical lag in development, walkers help them become self-reliant.
- 3) A statutory warning would be more effective in tackling the situation.
- 4) None of the above.

17. Singapore is now an affluent and rapidly ageing society. It is also now searching for ways to regain competitiveness in the face of globalization and competition. Even as the need for adequate social security provision is growing, Singapore's strong revealed preference for use of the cultural provident fund for socio-economic engineering and for political control are creating many dilemmas centring around governance, design of schemes, investment policies and whether to shift to a more appropriate multi-tier system that takes care of such concerns in a more effective manner.

The premise for the author's assertion that Singapore is looking for a change in its way of functioning is:

- 1) Singapore is seeking a more effective way of governance to meet its social obligations within the country and to regain its competitive edge in the global set-up.
 - 2) Over the years, apart from retirement benefits, there have been other financing arrangements such as housing and health care benefits which have also eaten into the finances of the government.
 - 3) From the way retirement benefits are dispensed with in Singapore, it can be assumed that Singapore does not look after its aged very well and is hoping to change that image with a new multi-tier system in force.
 - 4) The dilemmas emerging from the current system of governance can only be resolved by substituting the old single-tier system with a new-multi-tiered one.
18. *Nemoria arizonaria*, a kind of inchworm found on oak trees in the southwestern United States and Mexico, produces two broods a year. When the first brood hatches in the spring, the oaks are covered with fuzzy, spiky flowers called catkins. The caterpillars eat these flowers and end up looking like the catkins. A few months later, a second brood hatches. By this time, the catkins are gone, and the new brood of caterpillars eat leaves. Instead of resembling catkins, the summer brood ends up looking like oak twigs.

Which of the following best explains this strange phenomenon?

- 1) Twigs provide a better camouflage than leaves.
- 2) The butterfly that the caterpillar finally metamorphoses into looks a bit like catkins and a bit like leaves.
- 3) With the changing season each brood of caterpillars changes its appearance to blend in better with the changing surroundings.
- 4) The form that a caterpillar takes is determined by what it eats.

19. Cultured pearls are pearls grown under tightly controlled conditions by pearl farmers. When people hear cultured, they tend to think fake. But they are no more inauthentic than an apple picked from a tree in an orchard. The seed may not have landed there by accident and grown into a tree unnoticed, but that doesn't make the fruit any less real.

What is this argument trying to prove?

- 1) An artificially grown thing can be even more authentic than one that grows naturally on its own.
 - 2) That which grows naturally is generally considered more authentic than that which is grown artificially.
 - 3) The authenticity of a thing is not dependent on whether it was deliberately or accidentally grown.
 - 4) The difference between a fake thing and an authentic one is like the difference between a deliberately and an accidentally grown thing.
20. Charles Darwin's hypothesis was that all present-day life traces back to one or a few original progenitors. Modern biologists are on the same page when they point to the near universality of the genetic code as strongly favouring the hypothesis of universal common ancestry over the hypothesis of multiple ancestors. The shared code would be a surprising coincidence if different groups of organisms stemmed from different start-ups. It would be much more probable if all current life traced back to a single origination.

If a form of life were discovered that had a very different sort of genetic code than the rest, how would this affect the above argument?

- 1) It would weaken the argument.
 - 2) It would strengthen the argument.
 - 3) It would have no effect on the argument.
 - 4) Its effect cannot be determined from the given information.
21. India is strangely deprived of wild, native coniferous trees. Conifers grow very well in India – on plantations. But apart from a few Eurasian types in the Himalayas, the only living native conifer is *Nageia wallichiana* of the Southern Hemisphere podocarp family in the Western Ghats in the southwest of the country.

Which of these is most likely to be the reason for the lack of native conifers in India?

- 1) Conifers are native to colder climates, and cannot grow in tropical countries like India.
- 2) Conifers do not grow well in the type of soil found throughout most of India.
- 3) Conifers need regular rainfall, so they are unsuited to India, where it rains almost exclusively during the monsoon months.
- 4) Non-coniferous trees are more commonly grown in India instead of conifers, as the former are more important in Indian culture.

VA-4.4 | CRITICAL REASONING 2



Fallacies in Reasoning

Fallacies are common errors in reasoning that will undermine the logic of the argument. Fallacies can be either illegitimate arguments or irrelevant points. Some of the common fallacies are:

Hasty generalization

(Dicto Simpliciter, also called 'Jumping to Conclusions' or 'Converse Accident')

Hasty generalization occurs when assumptions about a whole group or range of cases are based on a sample that is inadequate (usually because it is atypical or too small). Stereotypes about people, for example: *Film stars are immoral*, *Wealthy people are snobs*, etc. are a common example of the principle underlying hasty generalization.

Missing the point

(Ignoratio Elenchi or 'Irrelevant Conclusion')

The premises of an argument may support a particular conclusion—but not the conclusion that the arguer actually draws.

Example: I say we should support Reservation. Upper castes have run the country for years. They run most of the government and industry today. You can't deny that this sort of discrimination is intolerable.

(The author has proven that there is discrimination, but not that Reservation will end that discrimination or that we should support Reservation.)

False Cause

(Post hoc ergo propter hoc)

This fallacy gets its name from the Latin phrase *post hoc, ergo propter hoc*, which translates as 'after this, therefore because of this'. In *post hoc* if event B occurs after event A, the arguer assumes that event A has caused event B. A temporal relationship is taken to be cause-effect. But sometimes two events that seem related in time aren't really related as cause and event. That is, correlation isn't the same thing as causation.

Example: The shutdown of internet in the state has contributed to a decrease in crime.

The shutdown of internet might or might not be a factor in the decreasing crime, but the argument hasn't shown us that one caused the other.

Slippery slope

The arguer claims that a sort of chain reaction, usually ending in some dire consequence, will take place, but there's really not enough evidence for that assumption. The arguer asserts that if we take even one step onto the 'slippery slope,' we will end up sliding all the way to the bottom; he or she assumes we can't stop partway down the hill.

Example: Legalizing prostitution is undesirable because it would cause more marriages to break up, which would in turn cause the breakdown of the family, which would finally result in the destruction of civilization.

Appeal to authority**(Ad verecundiam)**

The *ad verecundiam* fallacy concerns appeals to authority or expertise. Fundamentally, the fallacy involves accepting as evidence for a proposition the pronouncement of someone who is taken to be an authority but is not really an authority —when, for example, celebrities endorse commercial products or social movements. Similarly, when there is controversy, and authorities are divided, it is an error to base one's view on the authority of just some of them.

Appeal to popularity**(Ad populum)**

The fallacy *ad populum* is similar to the *ad verecundiam*, the difference being that the source appealed to is popular opinion, or common knowledge, rather than a specified authority.

Example: iPhones are the most popular handsets in the market today. Why don't you buy an iphone? It is the best phone you can buy today.

Often in arguments like this, if the premises are generally true, they may provide only scant support for their conclusions because something that is widely practised or believed is not compelling evidence that it is true or that it should be done. There are few subjects on which the general public can be said to hold authoritative opinions. Another version of the *ad populum* fallacy is known as 'playing to the gallery' in which a speaker seeks acceptance for his view by arousing relevant prejudices and emotions in his audience in lieu of presenting it with good evidence.

Appealing to feelings or prejudices**(Ad hominem and tu quoque)**

Like the appeal to authority and *ad populum* fallacies, the *ad hominem* ('against the person') and *tu quoque* ('you, too!') fallacies focus our attention on people rather than on arguments or evidence. In both of these arguments, the conclusion is usually "You shouldn't believe someone's argument." The reason for not believing someone is that he/she is either a bad person (*ad hominem*) or a hypocrite (*tu quoque*). In an *ad hominem* argument, the arguer attacks his or her opponent instead of the opponent's argument. In a *tu quoque* argument, the arguer points out that the opponent has actually done the thing he or she is arguing against, and so the opponent's argument shouldn't be listened to.

Example:

Imagine that your parents have explained to you why you shouldn't smoke, and they've given a lot of good reasons—the damage to your health, the cost, and so forth. You reply, "I won't accept your argument, because you used to smoke when you were my age. You did it, too!"

The fact that your parents have done the thing they are condemning has no bearing on the premises they put forward in their argument (smoking harms your health and is very expensive), so your response is fallacious.

Straw man

One way of making our own arguments stronger is to anticipate and respond in advance to the arguments that an opponent might make. In the straw man fallacy, the arguer sets up a weak version of the opponent's position and tries to score points by knocking it down. But just as being able to knock down a straw man (like a scarecrow) isn't very impressive, defeating a watered-down version of your opponent's argument isn't very impressive either. Straw man fallacy, occurs when an opponent's point of view is distorted in order to make it easier to refute.

For example, suppose your argument is: 'Industrialization is the cause of global warming.' The opponent would resort to straw man fallacy and state that you believe that all ills that beset mankind are due to industrialization and prove that it is false; hence global warming is not due to industrialization. And even if you also believed that "all ills that beset mankind are due to industrialization", your original argument that "Industrialization is the cause of global warming" is not false.

Red herring

Red herring is going off on a tangent to distract one away from the argument.

Example:

Son: "Dad, it's really hard to make a living on my salary." Father: "Consider yourself lucky, son. When I was your age, my salary was less than one tenth of what you are getting today."

When we lay it out this way, it's pretty obvious that the arguer went off on a tangent—the fact that dad's salary was one tenth of the son's salary sidetracks the issue that son is unable to make ends meet today.

False dichotomy

In false dichotomy, the arguer sets up the situation so it looks like there are only two choices. The arguer then eliminates one of the choices, so it seems that we are left with only one option: the one the arguer wanted us to pick in the first place. But often there are really many different options, not just two—and if we thought about them all, we might not be so quick to pick the one the arguer recommends.

Example: "We can either stop using cars or destroy the earth."

Begging the question

A complicated fallacy; it comes in several forms and can be harder to detect than many of the other fallacies we've discussed. Basically, an argument that begs the question asks the reader to simply accept the conclusion without providing real evidence; the argument either relies on a premise that says the same thing as the conclusion ('circular reasoning'), or simply ignores an important (but questionable) assumption that the argument rests on. Sometimes people use the phrase 'beg the question' as a sort of general criticism of arguments, to mean that an arguer hasn't given very good reasons for a conclusion, but that's not the meaning we're going to discuss here.

Example: Active euthanasia is morally acceptable. It is a decent, ethical thing to help another human being escape suffering through death.

Premise: It is a decent, ethical thing to help another human being escape suffering through death.

Conclusion: Active euthanasia is morally acceptable.

If we 'translate' the premise, we'll see that the arguer has really just said the same thing twice: 'decent, ethical' means pretty much the same thing as 'morally acceptable', and 'help another human being escape suffering through death' means something pretty similar to 'active euthanasia'. So the premise basically says, 'active euthanasia is morally acceptable', just like the conclusion does. The arguer hasn't yet given us any real reasons why euthanasia is acceptable; instead, she has left us asking "well, really, why do you think active euthanasia is acceptable?" Her argument 'begs' (that is, evades) the real question.



CLASS EXERCISE

Directions: *Identify the fallacies, if any, in the statements given below.*

Fallacy 1:

Studies have shown that women who were taking combined Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) also had a lower-than-average incidence of Coronary Heart Disease (CHD). Leading doctors now propose that HRT is protective against CHD.

Fallacy 2:

The stock markets in the country crashed immediately after the results of the election were declared. It is evident that the markets are not in favour of the new government that the people have elected.

Fallacy 3:

My uncle drank alcohol all his life and never suffered from a single stroke or liver disease. He died at ninety, when he got hit by a truck, so drinking alcohol is not as injurious as it is made out to be.

Fallacy 4:

She is the most intelligent person I know because she is much smarter than everyone else I know.

Fallacy 5:

It is safer to fly a plane than to drive a motorbike since there are fewer airplane accidents than motorbike accidents.

Fallacy 6:

His demands for raising the taxes do not make any economic sense because he is a lazy and vain man!

Fallacy 7:

If you were a patriotic Indian, you would vote for the Aam Aadmi Party.

Fallacy 8:

Smoking may be harmful for smokers, but what other employment can we provide to the millions of workers employed by tobacco companies?

Fallacy 9:

If we give in to our employers' demands today, tomorrow they will make us do everything they want. We will practically be their slaves!

Directions: Each passage below is followed by a question. Read the passage carefully and answer the question that follows.

1. Organic farming, on an average, has lower input costs than conventional farming because it excludes or strictly limits the use of pesticides and insecticides. But the yields are lower than conventional farming since it is very knowledge-intensive and many farmers are still relatively inexperienced with respect to the principles of organic farming.

Which of the following best supports the idea that organic farming can be profitable?

- 1) Many organic farms are coming up not only in developed countries, where there is a movement towards sustainable development, but also in developing countries.
- 2) The yields from conventional agriculture have reached their limits and will not increase further.
- 3) Spurred by the movement towards environmentally sustainable and pesticide-free food, many consumers and restaurants are willing to pay high prices for organic products.
- 4) Prolonged use of pesticides is known to make pests resistant to them and call for increased dosage and hence increased costs.

2. Normally, an increase in the price of a product decreases its sales except when the price increase accompanies an improvement in the product. Veblen goods are commodities for which people's preference for buying them increases with an increase in their price, even if there is no change in the product itself.

Which of the following, if true, best explains the anomaly described above?

- 1) The market for Veblen goods is characterized by an extremely wide range of competing products.
- 2) Consumers selecting Veblen goods in a store often use the price charged as their main guide to the product's quality.
- 3) Retailers and producers of Veblen goods can generally increase the sales of a particular product temporarily by introducing a price discount.
- 4) Consumers who purchase Veblen goods regularly generally have strong opinions about the brands they prefer.

3. In order to reduce non-biodegradable waste, the municipality of a certain town is promoting the widespread use of paper rather than plastic. The municipality plans to ban the sale of disposable plastic goods for which substitutes made of paper exist. The municipality argues that paper goods are environmentally preferable, since most paper is entirely biodegradable. Which of the following, if true, indicates that the plan to ban the sale of disposable plastic goods is ill-suited to the municipality's environmental goals?

- 1) The paper factory at which most of the townspeople are employed plans to increase production of biodegradable paper goods.
- 2) After other towns enacted similar bans on the sale of plastic goods, the environmental benefits were not discernible for several years.
- 3) Since most townspeople prefer plastic goods to paper goods in many instances, they are likely to purchase them in neighbouring towns where plastic goods are available for sale.
- 4) Products other than those derived from wood pulp are often used in the manufacture of paper goods that are entirely biodegradable.

4. One of the major problems faced by companies is the absentee rate. Studies have shown that the more frequently employees exercise during working hours each week, the fewer sick days they take. Even employees who exercise only once a week during working hours take less sick time than those who do not exercise. Therefore, if companies started fitness programs the absentee rate in those companies would decrease significantly.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument above?

- 1) Employees who exercise during working hours occasionally fall asleep for short periods of time after they exercise.
- 2) Employees who are frequently absent are the least likely to cooperate with or to join a corporate fitness program.
- 3) Employees who exercise in their company's fitness program use their working time no more productively than those who do not exercise.
- 4) Employees who exercise during working hours take slightly longer lunch breaks than employees who do not exercise.

5. There are no unselfish acts; even acts of philanthropy give mental satisfaction to the donor and thus are, in effect, selfish acts.

Which of the following arguments most resembles the above argument in its line of reasoning?

- 1) People who adopt children are benefitting as much as the children whom they adopted, since the pleasure from having parents and having children is one and the same.
- 2) Even abstaining from voting or not being interested in politics is a political act, since it expresses one's stance with respect to the process of collective decision-making.
- 3) Possessing firearms means assenting to the right to use them, since there is no reason why one would have them if one would not use them.
- 4) To take up helping others as a way life, one should first be no longer in need of help oneself.

6. During the last financial year, the profits of a car manufacturer fell drastically; yet its stock price rose, contrary to the general trend of stock prices moving in the same direction as profits.

Which of the following best explains the apparent discrepancy stated above?

- 1) The company's profits fell by a lower rate than that of its competitors.
- 2) The company invested in a new production facility that was expected to double its capacity and this reflected positive long-term prospects of the company.
- 3) The automobile market grew by a greater percentage last year, compared to the year before that.
- 4) With the economy poised to grow at a healthy rate next year, automobile sales are expected to also grow considerably.

7. A meritocracy, where the best and most hardworking minds stand to gain the most monetarily, is the only way to ensure that each person contributes his/her best to society.

The above argument is flawed because it assumes that:

- 1) Many people are interested in contributing their best to society.
- 2) Money is the only factor that will motivate the best and most hardworking minds.
- 3) Society needs people to contribute their best to it.
- 4) Society needs all people to contribute their best to it.

8. Management experts have long predicted the demise of the standard 9-to-5 workday. Thanks to the Internet and mobile technology, we can now work where and when we want, they argue. The reality is that while flexible work arrangements have become more popular, few companies have an official policy or program. Traditionally, managers were reluctant to have people work remotely because of lack of trust. Even those bosses who trust their employees worry about allowing productivity to decline. Still, more managers and organisations are seeing the benefits of non-traditional schedules.

Which of the following best supports the idea of businesses encouraging non-traditional schedules?

- 1) Non-traditional schedules can be introduced on a trial and error basis before businesses can formulate a formal policy.
- 2) Research has shown that when people are given the flexibility they need, they meet goals more easily, they're absent or tardy less often, and their morale goes up.
- 3) Not all employees will want a flexible schedule; studies have shown that a significant number of people still prefer a traditional schedule.
- 4) Businesses need to assess the impact of flexible schedules before they offer the option to their employees.

9. Group discussions (GDs) are an essential part of the selection process for management schools since they help institutes decide whether candidates have the requisite interpersonal and communication skills for a career in management.

The argument above is flawed because:

- 1) It uses interpersonal and communication skills interchangeably without accounting for the difference in their meanings.
- 2) It assumes that people who do well in group discussions can maintain the same level of performance throughout their careers.
- 3) It assumes that the kind of the interpersonal and communication skills required for a career in management are similar as well as limited to those brought out in group discussions.
- 4) It assumes that candidates who do not exhibit interpersonal and communication skills in the group discussions can never develop them later.

10. With more and more people eating out and growing increasingly obese, several state governments are trying to help people eat healthier by forcing fast-food restaurants to divulge nutritional information on their menus.

Which of the following, if true, casts most serious doubts on the effectiveness of the suggested plan of action to make people eat healthier?

- 1) Studies have shown that people tend to eat fast food for convenience rather than for taste.
- 2) Studies have shown that eating habits die hard and adding the calorie count to menus has no impact on diners' choices.
- 3) As more and more states debate such laws, food vendors are pre-emptively modifying their menus to both lighten existing options and add healthier foods.
- 4) Food choices are cultural choices and the changing food preferences reflect a change in culture rather than a change in awareness about health.

11. It has long been the natural order that the teen and young adults should be dishonest in their dealings with their parents – for example, loudly announcing that they're going studying at Ciara's house only to shed their uniforms in the nearest bush and go drinking in a field. As it was, and always will be. They are much more forthright with their older siblings though, who always seem to know what they are up to. The parents, however, remain woefully uninformed.

Which of the following has been assumed to arrive at the above conclusion?

- 1) Teens are more forthright with their older siblings than their parents because the generation gap is less with the former.
- 2) Parents take it for granted that their children will lie to them and hide things from them.
- 3) Teenagers don't want their parents to know what they are up to only when they are up to something forbidden.
- 4) Parents cannot get to know what kids are actually up to, unless their kids tell them.

12. In the book of John (4:24), the scriptures state: “The Supreme Being is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”. Again, in the book of Genesis (1:2), the scriptures state: “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of the Supreme Being moved upon the face of the waters”.

Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the information above?

- 1) The scriptures believe that it was the Supreme Being that formed the earth.
- 2) From the perspective of religion, just as it is from the perspective of science, the earth existed before any living entity.
- 3) From the perspective of religion, the term ‘spirit’ can be used to identify the existence of different types of entities.
- 4) The scriptures talk about how the Supreme Being came into existence and how he created man.

13. *How I Met Your Mother’s* (HIMYM) title sequence starts with a dated image—of a 20-something Lily Aldrin holding a disposable camera. But that datedness actually fits the show perfectly. Since 2005, the year HIMYM premiered, sitcoms have gotten pretty innovative. *30 Rock* infused the format with unprecedented levels of snarky dialogue and clever satire. Single-camera shows like *The Office* and *Modern Family* introduced new stylistic sensibilities and satirized reality TV tropes. Non-network comedies like *Louie* and *Girls* used stark realism to achieve biting poignancy. And all this while, HIMYM has been the old soul of network comedy, and that’s why it’s so beloved—even if critics often scoffed at it.

Which of the following inferences cannot be drawn from the argument above?

- 1) The audience craved new sitcom genres around 2005.
- 2) HIMYM is not a single-camera show.
- 3) The datedness of HIMYM is what made it work.
- 4) A disposable camera is considered an old-fashioned device today.

14. Using new computer software to observe and record people’s faces, scientists mapped no fewer than 21 emotional states, including apparently contradictory examples such as “happily disgusted” and “sadly angry”. The research more than triples the number of known emotional facial expressions and could help medical specialists improve the diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders.

The above conclusion depends on which of the following assumptions?

- 1) These 21 emotions are expressed in nearly the same way by everyone, irrespective of their mental health.
- 2) The six basic emotions – happy, sad, fearful, angry, surprised and disgusted – did not substantially cover the range of feelings we convey with our facial expressions.
- 3) Tagging prominent landmarks for facial muscles, such as the corners of the mouth or the outer edges of the eyebrows, will enable scientists to match emotions to movement.
- 4) The brain is like a computer and scientists want to decode the algorithm in our brains that makes us recognise facial expressions.

15. If we reduce the number of hours we spend in front of our television or computer screens, and step out of the house and do some physical activities, very soon we will start enjoying our outdoor pursuits and will not want to be restricted to the four walls of our homes for long.

Which of the following mimics the reasoning of the main argument?

- 1) If Sheetal starts studying for her exam early this time, rather than wait till the last minute, she will score well and that will motivate her to do even better next time.
- 2) If organisations spend more on their employees than they do on marketing, their employees will be more than happy to act as endorsers for the organisations.
- 3) If you stop fighting with your little sister and talk to her instead, you will realize she is a wonderful person and you will cease to have any problems with her.
- 4) If a farmer overfeeds his cows he will soon realise that instead of giving more milk they will bloat and eventually die of suffocation caused by the pressure of unreleased frothy gas on their heart or lungs.



PRACTICE EXERCISE-1

Directions: Read the short passages and answer the questions that follow.

1. Scientists studying how diseases spread believe that there are many parallels between computer viruses and biological ones. Contrary to the idea that computer viruses immediately explode into a pandemic, the scientists found the infection rate starts out very slowly among a small group of friends. A computer virus can exhibit clique behaviour, with pairs of connected individuals sharing many common neighbours, reducing the opportunities for secondary infection events.

Which of the following can be logically inferred from the passage?

- 1) Certain computer viruses, which can mail themselves from one computer to another, may spread very fast.
- 2) A disease is also in the nature of a program whose objective is to reproduce itself as many times as possible.
- 3) Contagious diseases can now be cured by studying how computer viruses spread among Internet users.
- 4) Diseases may spread more slowly when contact is mainly local, compared to well-mixed populations.

2. The convergence of media and technology, long predicted but not yet fulfilled, is at last showing signs of happening – with high-speed Internet access making much of it possible. With more households going in for broadband, faster Internet connections are changing the movie, music, telephone, computer and cable businesses. The battles brought on by these changes are likely to occupy the media and technology industries in the coming years.

Which one of the following does NOT illustrate the battle between media and technology?

- 1) Record companies ratcheted up the copyright battles in 2004 by suing people who share music files over the Internet.
- 2) The movie industry is searching for technologies that will make copying movies more difficult, even as high-speed Internet connections make downloading movies more feasible.
- 3) Electronics manufacturers are beginning the fight over the technical standard that will apply to the next generation of DVD's for use with high-definition television.
- 4) Music aficionados are concerned that the current popularity of MP3 players is resulting in the deterioration of the sound quality of music.

3. Moral action was to flow from reason and not be controlled by any external power. Therefore, the Confucian idea of group can be called ethical and normative. These notions of group and ethics tended to relate the characters of individuals from different social levels and were of great perduring force. This enabled feudal economies to develop and flourish. On the basis of this education in a strong sense of the group, there emerged in Chinese history many people with lofty ideas. This notion of group became a pillar for the harmony of families, the unity of the state and the survival of the nation.

Which of the following options would weaken the argument made in the passage above?

- 1) Confucianism was marked by a strong sense of hierarchical and patriarchal relations.
 - 2) Should an individual's words and deeds violate the rules of his social status the individual must be severely punished.
 - 3) The idea of the group and ethics as a whole did not strive for individual rights, suppressed individuality and deprived inferiors of rights, which, in turn, generated social instability.
 - 4) The obligations one was called to fulfil became tools to preserve the privileges of the upper hierarchy.
4. The problem comes from the sharing of the pie. The pie may grow faster with appropriate-policies, but some may get a smaller share or even less than before in absolute terms. For example, land reforms may benefit a country, but large landowners are bound to lose. Trade liberalization may enhance efficiency and promote growth, but producers and workers in hitherto protected and inefficient sectors are likely to suffer. Reducing high public expenditure per student in higher education and correspondingly increasing the public outlay on primary education are likely to yield high dividends in terms of human skill formation and growth.

Which of the following would be a strain in which the author would have continued?

- 1) But those at whom such a move is directed will still work as child labourers without attending school.
- 2) Yet it places a burden on the middle class which are the greatest beneficiaries of higher education.
- 3) But the poor will still not get jobs.
- 4) All of the above.

5. Joshua Silver, a socially conscious Oxford University physics professor, has invented a pair of corrective glasses that can be adjusted on the spot to fit 90% of prescriptions. The glasses have hollow fluid-filled lenses whose curvature can be altered pneumatically with the turn of a knob. Silver has dubbed his invention Adaptive Spectacles, and he hopes they can be distributed in parts of the world where optometrists and prescription lenses are hard to come by.

In spite of this great breakthrough Adaptive Spectacles did not create as much of a dent in the market. Which of the following, if true, could explain this?

- 1) The knob can be adjusted only at an ophthalmologist's dispensary.
 - 2) Since fluid expands with increase in temperature, a fluctuation in the temperature affects the spectacles' adaptability.
 - 3) The fluid used in the lenses has to be changed after a given period of time as it tends to get milky, affecting vision.
 - 4) All of the above.
6. Nearly all scientists agree that global warming is taking place. But, scientists will also readily tell you that our weather forecasting tools are too primitive for accurate forecasts 100 years ahead. They use simplistic computer models, not because these tell the truth, but because they have nothing better. These typically predict some warming. But they represent assumptions, not scientific truth.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the argument against accurate forecasts?

- 1) 100 countries across the globe recorded abnormality in seasons but no forecast had been made.
- 2) The weather forecasting tools used today were unheard of even a few decades ago.
- 3) A 100 year period forecast is based on computer simulations using millions of variables that reflect real complexities.
- 4) A number of forecasts made a decade ago for the current decade have proved to be accurate.

7. Farmers have failed as stewards of the UK countryside. The last century saw increased pollution, destruction of hedgerows, declining song-bird numbers. The farming industry receives £3 billion in subsidies every year (DEFRA). Moreover, it is cheaper and more efficient to grow food abroad, in places like Eastern Europe. It is suggested, the land would be better used for tourism, recreation and conservation.

Which statement, if true, would suggest that the UK should be using its countryside to grow food?

- 1) Current agricultural practices date back to the post-war period. Food security and increased efficiency is less of an issue in today's society.
 - 2) Farming contributes £6.65 billion to the British economy every year whereas countryside tourism is currently worth £1.2 billion.
 - 3) Currently 70% of food in UK is imported. Only 30% of the food consumed comes from the UK.
 - 4) Farmers are not the only ones to blame for the pollution and other problems affecting UK's countryside.
8. Followers can be defined by their behaviour – doing what others want them to do. They are low in the hierarchy and have less power, authority and influence than their superiors. They generally go along to get along, particularly with those in higher positions. In the workplace, they may comply so as not to put money or stature at risk. In the community, they may comply to preserve collective stability and security – or simply because it's the easiest thing to do. In other words, subordinates follow their leaders all the time.

Which of the following, if true, would undermine the argument in the passage?

- 1) When the leader has gone astray, it has been observed that the followers have decided the course of action by withholding support from the bad leaders and throwing their weight behind good ones.
- 2) The collapse of communism and other totalitarian regimes shows that followers need not always be the dependent partner in the leader-follower relationship.
- 3) Followers now want power for themselves and so think of themselves as free agents, not as dependent underlings.
- 4) In an era dominated by knowledge workers rather than manual workers, expertise more often trumps position, indicating that the line dividing leaders from followers is blurring.

9. At a time when companies should be taking bigger – but smart – innovation risks, their bias is in the other direction. From 1990 to 2004, the percentage of major innovations in development portfolios dropped from 20.4 to 11.5 – even as the number of growth initiatives rose. The result is internal traffic jams of safe, incremental innovations that delay all projects, stress organizations and fail to achieve revenue goals.

Which of the following is a conclusion that can be drawn from the passage?

- 1) Minor innovations eat into the profit-making goals of a company and impede overall progress of the company.
 - 2) Companies should increase the proportion of major innovations while carefully managing the risk.
 - 3) Companies focus on minor innovations instead of major innovations, but these rarely generate the growth companies seek.
 - 4) Little innovations are necessary for continuous improvement but don't give companies a competitive edge.
10. Global financial markets froze in the morning New York trade on Wednesday as projections of a Republican sweep of the White House and Congress came unstuck over a recount in the pivotal state of Florida, leaving the presidential election result in balance. The dollar firmed but pared earlier gains against the Euro after the White House race was put on hold.

In the event of a clear Republican win in America, which of the following predictions about the dollar is most likely to come true?

- 1) It will be at an advantage against the Euro.
 - 2) It will rise to some advantage but will eventually slide.
 - 3) It will be stable.
 - 4) It will continue to be volatile and unstable.
11. Inefficiency and its natural corollary, corruption still persists, and nothing symbolizes this better than the stacks of files that continue to choke the system. But the department of Income Tax is moving towards computerization in a bid to speed up processes and improve productivity. But are these developments enough? Why not go a step forward and free the individual from the whole cumbersome process of filing returns?

Which of the following would most effectively meet the author's aim?

- 1) Allowing the individual to make payments through the internet and thus avoiding paperwork.
- 2) Introducing a tax on consumption at the point of sale of goods and abolishing income tax.
- 3) Introducing a system whereby the government and not the individual is responsible for correct evaluation and payment of income tax.
- 4) All of the above.

12. The adversarial machinery deserves enormous respect. It has been refined over centuries as the most thorough, even elegant, formal means of discerning truth and arriving at effective, balanced judgments in matters of conflict of interest or ethics. It is also extremely expensive, time-consuming, unpleasant and alienating. What is called adversarialism may be defined as a profound tendency on the part of individuals, organizations, or societies to routinely resort to adversarial machinery when it is unnecessary and unproductive, even uncivil. But why? Why on earth would anyone – particularly an organization – want to employ procedures that are so unpleasant and alienating, time consuming and expensive?

Which of these statements would best answer the query raised by the passage?

- 1) People are inherently destructive in nature – and court methods that delay, cost more or are unpleasant in nature.
- 2) People are islands and want to be alienated from other human beings.
- 3) People want to get rid of tension fast and this is the proper and seemingly safest way to proceed.
- 4) People do not believe in litigation or democratic processes.

13. Three airlines – IA, JA and SA – operate on the Delhi-Mumbai route. To increase the number of seats sold, SA reduced its fares and this was emulated by IA and JA immediately. The general belief was that the volume of air travel between Delhi and Mumbai would increase as a result.

Which of the following if true would add credence to the general belief?

- 1) Increase in profitability of three airlines.
- 2) Extension of the discount scheme to other routes.
- 3) A study that shows that air travellers in India are price-conscious.
- 4) A study that shows that as much as 80% of air-travel in India is company-sponsored.

(Past CAT question)

14. According to McNeill, a Brahmin priest was expected to be able to recite at least one of the Vedas. The practice was essential for several centuries when the Vedas had not yet been written down. It must have had a selective effect, since priests would have been recruited from those able or willing to memorize long passages. It must have helped in the dissemination of the work, since a memorized passage can be duplicated many times.

Which one of the following can be inferred from the above passage?

- 1) Reciting the Vedas was a Brahmin's obligation.
- 2) The Vedic priest was like a recorded audio cassette.
- 3) McNeil studied the behaviour of Brahmin priests.
- 4) Vedic hymns had not been scripted.

(Past CAT question)

15. Developed countries have made adequate provisions for social security for senior citizens. State insurers (as well as private ones) offer medicare and pension benefits to people who can no longer earn. In India, with the collapse of the joint family system, the traditional shelter of the elderly has disappeared. And a State faced with a financial crunch is not in a position to provide social security. So, it is advisable that the working population give serious thought to building a financial base for itself.

Which one of the following, if it were to happen, weakens the conclusion drawn in the above passage the most?

- 1) The investible income of the working population, as a proportion of its total income, will grow in the future.
- 2) The insurance sector is underdeveloped and trends indicate that it will be extensively privatized in the future.
- 3) India is on a path of development that will take it to a developed country status, with all its positive and negative implications.
- 4) If the working population builds a stronger financial base, there will be no need to revive the joint family system.

(Past CAT question)

16. Various studies have shown that our forested and hilly regions and, in general, areas where biodiversity as reflected in the variety of flora - is high, are the places where poverty appears to be high. And these same areas are also the ones where educational performance seems to be poor. Therefore, it may be surmised that, even disregarding poverty status, richness in biodiversity goes hand in hand with educational backwardness.

Which one of the following statements, if true, can be said to best provide supporting evidence for the surmise mentioned in the passage?

- 1) In regions where there is little variety in flora, educational performance is seen to be as good as in regions with high variety in flora, when poverty levels are high.
- 2) Regions which show high biodiversity also exhibit high educational performance, at low levels of poverty.
- 3) Regions which show low biodiversity reveal high levels of poverty and poor educational performance.
- 4) In regions where there is low biodiversity, at all levels of poverty, educational performance is seen to be good.

(Past CAT question)

17. The audience of CEOs and finance managers many of whom have joined the growing list of firms offering stock options to staff – would've been uneasy listening to Joel Stern at a seminar on Economic Value Added (EVA) in the capital last week. The founder-partner of consultancy firm Stern Stewart and the reputed academic who conceived EVA wasn't a person they could ignore. It isn't easy to build accountability for performance in a stock option plan, said Stern. As a result, it gives rise to the free-rider problem. People avoid work and ride the gravy train secure in the knowledge that their co-workers work hard and drive up share values, thereby making everyone richer. Stock options have other pitfalls. For instance, many employees don't understand how their own work impacts the firm's performance, leave alone the share value. 'So,' they question, 'I may work hard, but if the market doesn't like the stock, I'm sunk.'

What is the point that the author is trying to make in this passage?

- 1) Stock options are not motivating enough for the employees to give their best to their work.
 - 2) Most employees know nothing about the stock market.
 - 3) Stock options only give rise to the free rider problem.
 - 4) Offering employees stock options can sometimes be detrimental to both the firm and its employees.
18. Reductionism implies that real stuff lies at the bottom, at the level of mere matter: with the help of this bottom level, every higher form of empirical nature can be fully explained. A few reductionists assert that not only human consciousness, but also human culture as a whole, can be explained materialistically. According to them, our genes hold our social life and all of human culture on a leash. One may infer from the passage that a reductionist would be most unlikely to:
- 1) overestimate the importance of the material aspect of life.
 - 2) view human culture as a natural fallout of man's innate tendencies.
 - 3) view the progress of mankind as a measure of his spiritual progress.
 - 4) disbelieve in the existence of the human soul.

19. China's national legislature moved to amend the Constitution to protect private property rights, the first time the Communist Party has formally protected private wealth since coming to power 55 years ago. The change, expected to be enacted early next year, is a milestone in China's 25-year economic reform effort. It marks a victory for advocates of China's emerging class of entrepreneurs, who have argued for years that the Marxist Constitution discriminates against them and gives leeway to the police and the courts to seize their property according to party dictates.

In which case would this legislation be invalid?

- 1) Government leaders have long warned against steps that would make it easier for well-established people to take control of public property and treat it as their own.
 - 2) The changes do not have a direct impact on China's peasant class. Farm land is still owned and controlled by the State and leased to farmers.
 - 3) The amendment specifies that only legally obtained property will be thus protected, but the Communist Party itself determines what is considered 'legally obtained'.
 - 4) In spite of this amendment, the Communist Party still turns a blind eye to what the police do on their own initiative.
20. More UK farms are switching to organic management. There is a growing demand for organic produce. In fact, even the take up of government organic farming schemes would indicate that farmers are in favour. Between 1999 and 2001, more than 2,000 farmers converted their land to organic farms. Environmentally as well, organic farming improves biodiversity, both on the farm itself and in uncultivated areas nearby.

Which statement, if true, would suggest that switching to organic farming is in fact bad?

- 1) The Food Standards Agency has not identified any health benefits from switching to organic food.
- 2) Sustainable crops (such as willow plantations that are cultivated for biomass fuel) can match organic farms in terms of biodiversity.
- 3) Since organic farming is a relatively new phenomenon, it is difficult to gauge its long-term benefits and ill-effects accurately.
- 4) With growing world populations, it is vital that a farmland produces as much food as possible, but as organic farming is less efficient, more wilderness will be lost.



PRACTICE EXERCISE-2

Directions: *The passages given below are followed by questions. Choose the best answer for each question. (Past CAT Questions)*

1. It is sometimes mooted that there can be democracy in a two-party system. That would be correct if politics were a game like cricket or football; but politics is not a sport.
Which of the following would strengthen the argument?
 - 1) A two-party system functions well.
 - 2) Politics is a dirty game.
 - 3) Two political parties limit the choice of the voters.
 - 4) None of these.

2. It is sometimes mooted that there can be democracy in a two-party system. That would be correct if politics were a game like cricket or football; but politics is not a sport.
Which of the following would weaken the argument?
 - 1) The game of politics is played like any other game, for example, football.
 - 2) Politics is not a sport.
 - 3) Political parties struggle for power.
 - 4) None of these

3. There can be no civilization without music, dance or art, for one is not fully, vibrantly alive without them.
Which of the following would weaken the argument?
 - 1) Music is the life of man.
 - 2) Living persons like music.
 - 3) Art has no relation with civilisation.
 - 4) None of these

4. There can be no civilization without music, dance or art, for one is not fully, vibrantly alive without them.
Which of the following would strengthen the argument?
 - 1) Music, dance and art are human activities.
 - 2) Only the vibrantly alive can contribute to civilisation.
 - 3) Music injects new life in man.
 - 4) None of these.

5. We have planned development with a view to raising the standard of living of our teeming millions. Hence, our economic development is inspired by social justice.

Which of the following will weaken the argument?

- 1) Without economic development, the standard of living cannot be raised.
- 2) Social justice implies economic prosperity.
- 3) Development cannot be planned.
- 4) Planning for development requires expert inputs.

6. We have planned development with a view to raising the standard of living of our teeming millions. Hence, our economic development is inspired by social justice.

Which of the following will strengthen the argument?

- 1) Social justice can be done by raising the standard of living.
- 2) Economic planning is necessary for every state.
- 3) For economic development production should be increased.
- 4) None of these

7. We will have to take more interest in hydroelectric projects. As the prices of oil have increased, it has become vital that such renewable sources of energy are tapped.

Which of the following will weaken the argument?

- 1) Generation of hydroelectric power is more costly than oil.
- 2) OPEC increased oil prices.
- 3) Without energy we cannot manage.
- 4) None of these.

8. Unless you devote your whole life to it, you will never learn to speak the language of another country to perfection; you will never know its people and its literature with complete intimacy.

Which of the following is likely to undermine the above argument?

- 1) I can speak ten foreign languages already.
- 2) I do not travel to foreign countries.
- 3) I am happy with the languages I know and do not need any other languages.
- 4) I should spend time to understand my own people and literature first, only then can I appreciate other languages and cultures.

9. The writer can only be fertile if he renews himself and he can only renew himself, if his soul is constantly enriched by fresh experience.

Which of the following is most likely to support the above thought?

- 1) Only out of fresh experience can the writer get germs for new writing.
- 2) The writer can meet new people.
- 3) The writer must see new places.
- 4) None of these

10. But because the idea of private property has been permitted to override with its selfishness the common good of humanity it does not follow that there are no limits within which that idea can function for the general convenience and advantage.

Which of the following is most likely to weaken the argument?

- 1) All the people of the society should progress at an equitable rate and there should be no disparities and private property does bring about a tremendous disparity.
- 2) One should not strive for the common good of humanity at all; instead one should be concerned with maximising one's own wealth.
- 3) One should learn from the experiences of former communist nations and should not repeat their mistakes at all.
- 4) Even prosperous capitalist countries like the USA have their share of social problems.

11. Now the audience is a very curious animal. It is shrewd rather than intelligent. Its mental capacity is less than that of its most intellectual members. If these were graded from A to Z, decreasing with succeeding letters to the zero of the hysterical shop-girl, I should say its mental capacity would come around about the letter O.

According to the above statements:

- 1) Some members in the audience are more intelligent than any of its other members.
- 2) The net intelligence of the audience is a little less than average.
- 3) Neither (1) nor (2)
- 4) Both (1) and (2)

12. I have been studying it, consciously and subconsciously, for forty years and I still find men unaccountable; people I know intimately can surprise me by some action of which I never thought them capable or by the discovery of some trait that exhibits a side of themselves that I never even suspected.

The idea in this sentence can be best summarised as ...

- 1) Men are inconsistent and therefore one should not be confident even about one's closest friends.
- 2) Men are unpredictable, one can never tell what they will do next; hence, one should be very careful in one's dealings.
- 3) No matter how closely you know somebody there still exists an unknown facet of his personality.
- 4) None of these.

13. In order to ease the traffic congestion, the transport planners decided to have a sophisticated system of elevated monorail travel in the city. However, it was pointed out by somebody that a metro rail system would be a more effective solution to the traffic problem. The plan was thus stalled. Moreover, since a budget had not been drawn up for the project, it was deemed fit to stall the work of the monorail for some time. In the meanwhile, the traffic planners of the city decided to build an efficient system of subways and flyovers in the city with the aim of easing the same problem. At the instant when the planners were preparing to award the contracts to the concerned parties, the transport planners came up with the contention that the subways interfered with the site of a pillar of the monorail system. The traffic planners had to give up the idea and think of other possible solutions.

Which of the following can be inferred from the above passage?

- 1) The city authorities felt that the monorail system was essentially impractical.
 - 2) There is ongoing communication between the two groups of planners in the city.
 - 3) The projects would be stalled for an indefinite period.
 - 4) All of the above
14. The company encourages its managers to interact regularly, without a pre-set agenda, to discuss issues concerning the company and society. This idea has been borrowed from the ancient Indian concept of religious congregation, called *Satsang*. Designations are forgotten during these meetings; hence, it is not uncommon in these meetings to find a sales engineer questioning the CEO on some corporate policy or on his knowledge of customers.

Based on the information provided in the above passage, it can be inferred that ...

- 1) The company is concerned about its reputation among its employees.
- 2) The company believes in fostering the spirit of dialogue without letting it degenerate into a positioning-based debate.
- 3) The company had some inter-personnel problems in the past due to which it felt the need for these corporate *Satsangs*.
- 4) All of the above

15. From Cochin to Shimla, the new culture vultures are tearing down acres of India's architectural treasures. Ancestral owners are often fobbed off with a few hundred rupees for an exquisitely carved door or window, which fetches fifty times that much from foreign dealers, and yet more from the drawing room sophisticates of Europe and the U.S. The reason for such shameless rape of the Indian architectural wealth can perhaps, not wrongly, be attributed to the unfortunate blend of activist disunity and local indifference.

It can be inferred from the above passage that ...

- 1) The environment created by the meeting between activist disunity and local indifference is ideal for antique dealers to thrive in India.
- 2) Only Indians are not proud of their cultural heritage and are hungry for the foreign currency that is easily available through the return of artifacts.
- 3) Most Indians families have heirlooms which can be sold at high prices to Europeans and Americans.
- 4) India provides a rich market for unscrupulous antique dealers.

16. Deepa Mehta's *Fire* is under fire from the country's self-appointed moral police. Their contention is that the film is a violation of Indian cultural mores and cannot be allowed to influence the Indian psyche. According to them, such films ruin the moral fabric of the nation. This moral fabric must be protected and defended against such intrusions at all cost, even at the cost of cultural dictatorship.

Based on the information in the above passage, it can be inferred that ...

- 1) The assumption underlying the moral police's critique of *Fire* is that the Indian audience is vulnerable to all types of influence.
- 2) The assumption underlying the moral police's critique of *Fire* is that the Indian audience is impressionable and must be protected against 'immoral' influences.
- 3) The moral police thinks it has the sole authority to pass judgement on films screened in India.
- 4) None of the above

17. The dominant modern belief is that the soundest foundation of peace would be universal prosperity. One may look in vain for historical evidence that the rich have regularly been more peaceful than the poor, but then it can be argued that they have never felt secure against the poor; that their aggressiveness stemmed from fear; and that the situation would be quite different if everybody were rich.

It can be inferred from the above passage that ...

- 1) A lot of aggression in the world stems from the desire of the haves to defend themselves against the have-nots.
- 2) Universal prosperity as a fool-proof measure of peace can no longer be accepted.
- 3) Both (1) and (2)
- 4) Neither (1) nor (2)

18. The effect produced on the mind by travelling depends entirely on the mind of the traveller and on the way in which he conducts himself. The chief idea of one very common type of traveller is to see as many objects of interest as he possibly can. If he can only after his return home say that he has seen such and such a temple, castle, picture gallery, or museum, he is perfectly satisfied. Far different is the effect of travels upon those who leave their country with their minds prepared by culture to feel intelligent admiration for all the beauties of nature and art to be found in foreign lands. When they visit a new place, instead of hurrying from temple to museum to picture gallery, they allow the spirit of the place to sink in to their minds, and only visit such monuments as the time they have at their disposal allows them to contemplate without haste.

It can be inferred from the above passage that ...

- 1) The writer prefers the second type of traveller.
- 2) The first type of traveller is the lay traveller who does not understand the worth of any place he travels to.
- 3) The objective of the second type of traveller is not to see much, but to see well.
- 4) All of the above.

19. Whether we look at the intrinsic value of our literature, or at the particular situation of this country, we shall see the strongest reason to think that of all foreign tongues the English tongue is that which would be the most useful to our native subjects.

It can be inferred that ...

- 1) The speaker is a die-hard colonist.
- 2) The speaker has the good of the nation at heart.
- 3) The speaker is addressing an issue related to a colonial empire.
- 4) None of the above

20. Aspiration is nothing new. Neither is the debate over what the Indian middle class is, what it wants and what it buys. Since the mid-80s, that has been the focus of the economic policy papers' so called pro- and anti-poor budgets and marketing strategies that have successfully broken the barrier of urban selling and reached deeper into rural India with increasing income levels and aspirations.

Based on the above passage it can be inferred that ...

- 1) The Indian middle class has been the focus of economic policies for a long time.
- 2) The Indian middle class has graduated from being the 'deprived' middle class to the 'pampered' middle class.
- 3) Both (1) and (2)
- 4) Neither (1) nor (2)