

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

Artificial intelligence (AI) is all the rage these days. A recent article noted that ‘robots’ — shorthand for AI in the tabloids — will be able to write a fiction bestseller within 50 years. I suppose that would be shocking to me as a novelist if most fiction bestsellers were not already being written by ‘robots’. ... A Chinese company lately offered a collection of poems written by a computer program. So, are poets, generally considered to be suicidal in any case, jumping off the cliffs in droves as a consequence? Well, this is a selection from one of the AI poems I found online: “The rain is blowing through the sea / A bird in the sky / A night of light and calm / Sunlight / Now in the sky / Cool heart / The savage north wind / When I found a new world.”

Yes, there are aspiring poets — and sometimes established ones — who write like this, connecting words to create an effect. I think they should have been pushed off literary cliffs a long time ago. Because this is not poetry; this is just the technique of assembling words like poetry. There is a difference between the intelligence required to write poetry and the skills required to write it. The fact that lines like this ... can be considered poetry does not reflect on the intelligence of AI. It reflects on the intelligence of those readers, writers, critics, editors, publishers and academics who have not yet distinguished between gimmickry and mimicry on the one side and the actual freshness of a chiselled line on the other. ...

One of the major failures here is that of considering intelligence to be something different from and raised above the activity of living. This leads to the misconception that intelligence can be relegated to something else — say, a robot — without becoming something else. ... Even the argument that AI can enable human beings to lead a gloriously workless existence is based on a similar misconception. Because human intelligence is embedded in human existence, ‘work’ as human activity in the world is not something human beings can do without. ... To think that AIs and robots can just create a lifetime of ‘leisure’ for human beings is to not know what human beings are. It shows a lack of intelligence.

It is because human intelligence is embedded in human living and acting that human beings have the ability to adopt contradictory positions, or no position at all. From the perspective of ‘pure’ intelligence, this seems to be a flaw. But it is only a flaw if one divorces intelligence from living and acting in the world, for the latter often throws up situations of unresolvable ambiguity and ambivalence. There is much that we can do with AI, just as there is much that we have done with the wheel. But to consider AI a replacement for human intelligence — or humanity — is to repeat an age-old mistake. This mistake relates to god. No matter whether god exists or not, it has always been a mistake to expect him to ‘solve’ problems without human effort. The prophet of Islam is said to have once told a man who claimed that he believed in Allah so much that he never tied up his camel: “First tie up your camel and then believe in Allah”.

1) The passage supports which of the following inferences? —

- ☐ Human intelligence is inconsistent as it adopts contradictory positions.
- ☐ Human intelligence is unaffected by the changes in the world.
- ☒ Human intelligence cannot be passed on to something else. ✓
- ☐ AI and robots can at best create a lifetime of leisure for human beings.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Refer to the third and the fourth paragraphs: “one of the major failures here is that of considering intelligence to be something different from and raised above the activity of living. This leads to the misconception that intelligence can be relegated to something else — say, a robot — without becoming something else... human intelligence is embedded in human living and acting”. In the light of this information, option 3 becomes true. Option 1 is incorrect; the ability to “adopt contradictory positions” is cited as the strength of human intelligence. Option 2 is contrary to the passage – human intelligence adopts contradictory positions or no position at all reacting to changes in the world. Option 4 is contrary to the passage; the author calls option 4 a misconception’ Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 257 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 248 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 76 %

2) According to the passage, what is the “age-old mistake” (last paragraph) that the advocates of AI may be repeating?

- ☐ They think that AI functions without the ambiguity unlike human intelligence.
- ☒ They believe that Artificial Intelligence will be able to write a fiction bestseller in 50 years. ✗
- ☐ They consider human intelligence to be something that is independent of human living.
- ☐ They think that AI will solve problems independently without human intervention.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

“But to consider AI a replacement for human intelligence — or humanity — is to repeat an age-old mistake. This mistake relates to god. No matter whether god exists or not, it has always been a mistake to expect him to ‘solve’ problems without human effort.” Though Options 1, 2 and 3 are mentioned or implied in the passage, they are not related to the ‘age-old problem’. Hence, [4].

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Time taken by you: 54 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 93 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 80 %

3) “First tie up your camel and then believe in Allah” in relation to AI means:

- ☐ AI is incapable of solving any of our problems.
- ☐ AI makes no difference to the existence of mankind.
- ☐ AI can't replace intelligent human effort.
- ☒ AI is man’s possession; man must take care of it. ❌

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

The quote implies that man must do his part notwithstanding his belief in god. The equivalent to this idea is given in option 3. Option is 1 incorrect because AI is capable of solving problems. Option 2 is vague. The implications of option 2, whatever they may be, cannot be related to the story. Option 4 is not implied in the passage, nor is it related to the quote. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 42 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 43 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 63 %

4) Which of the following is the main argument in the passage?

- ☐ Human intelligence is embedded in human living; it cannot be transferred to something else; what is transferred is a different kind of intelligence.
- ☐ While AI may mimic human behaviour like writing poems or best sellers, it lacks the intelligence associated with creative pursuits.
- ☐ To consider AI as a replacement for human intelligence is to repeat the age-old mistake of expecting god to solve problems without humans making any effort.
- ☒ To think that AIs and robots can create a lifetime of leisure for human beings shows a lack of intelligence on our part. ❌

Video Explanation:

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Options 1, 2 and 4 are aspects of AI or human intelligence explained in the passage. They do not constitute the main argument. The main argument is given in the last few sentences of the passage-- “... to consider AI a replacement for human intelligence is to repeat the age old mistake ... solve problem without human effort. Option 3 repeats this idea almost verbatim. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 52 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 36 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 40 %

5) “There is a difference between the intelligence required to write poetry and the skills required to write it.” [Paragraph 2] What can be inferred from the given statement?

- ☐ Poetic skills are only a part of poetic intelligence; they cannot be equated.
- ☐ Poetic skills cannot exist without the required poetic intelligence, but poetic intelligence can exist on its own.
- ☐ Poetic intelligence can be programmed into AI, but AI cannot be programmed to possess poetic skills.
- ☒ The assembling of words like poetry is poetic intelligence, but poetic skills produce original refreshing works of art. ✖

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Referring to the AI generated lines of ‘poetry’ the author remarks: “... aspiring poets ... write like this, connecting words to create an effect. ... this is not poetry; this is just the technique of assembling words like poetry. There is a difference between the intelligence required to write poetry and the skills required to write it. ... It reflects on the intelligence of those readers... who have not yet distinguished between gimmickry and mimicry on the one side and the actual freshness of a chiselled line on the other.” The “freshness of a chiselled line” is what writer refers to as poetic intelligence. AI and aspiring poets only possess the technique or the skills. Option 2 is incorrect – poetic skills can exist without poetic intelligence – e.g., the algorithm that created the lines. Options 3 and 4 reverse the difference between poetic intelligence and poetic skills. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 47 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 13 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 9 %

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Loading...

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We have recently been basking in the knowledge that India has fared well in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business (EODB) report. Previously rated the worst-performing BRICS economy, India has now become the median economy among BRICS and the best in South Asia.

The greatest improvements have been recorded in 'dealing with construction permits' where the country jumped 129 places to reach 52, and 'trading across borders' where India has moved 66 places to reach 80. However, India slipped in the categories of 'paying taxes' and 'resolving insolvency'. The scope of this EODB index is limited after all and, by the World Bank's own admission, the indicators are not designed to portray the entire macroeconomic scenario of any country or reflect its growth prospects. While this report is a recognition of the positive steps India has taken, our performance here can only be a function of the parameters laid down by the World Bank. This result cannot be extrapolated as an overall improvement in EODB, on the other important parameters.

Policy and regulation remain important factors that must be assessed while measuring the actual EODB. The proposal of retrospective tax was not so long ago and the resultant economic uncertainty should not be forgotten. We also need to deal with the foreign investment reporting format recently instituted by the Reserve Bank of India. This new reporting system is completely contrary to ease of compliance and has served to make foreign investment reporting more confusing and challenging. Similarly, the draft e-commerce policy released last year elicited extensive criticism from across industry.

We should pay heed to several other aspects of our business environment, some of which have been making global news. We can only be attractive to innovative industries if we have in place a robust and predictable system for intellectual property protection. We should introspect about consistently being rated poorly in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. We should be troubled by our position in the Crony Capitalism Index. We should be concerned with our falling rating in the Press Freedom Index which sees our media independence as compromised. We should worry about the anxiety that has loomed most recently, stemming from air pollution in India's capital city and the resultant health effects on its hapless residents. Finally, there is no denying the real and widespread apprehension that has resulted from the steady rise of populist right-wing sentiment across India and which has drawn rebuke from international human rights organisations.

It is understandable that our policy makers would cite the EODB index as a barometer for how easy it is to conduct business in our country and an indicator of the lack of red tape, cost burden and overall entrepreneurial mobility. Of course, a good rank is expected to translate into a better chance of securing foreign investment and the government expects an even better ranking next year, as the reforms' benefits are more fully realised.

1) With reference to the ease of doing business in India, the author would like Indian government to mainly...

- ☐ avoid being complacent with India's improved EODB ranking.
- ☐ reduce red tape in India.
- ☒ assess what else has to be done in other aspects of the economy. ✓
- ☐ be careful and ensure that policy decisions are not taken rashly.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Option 1 may be true by common sense standards. However, the last part of the passage states that 'the government expects an even better ranking next year, as the reforms' benefits are more fully realized' – this is enough to conclude that the government is not complacent; besides, the same is not asserted elsewhere in the passage. The passage mentions red tape only in the last paragraph-- "... EODB index as a barometer for how easy it is to conduct business in our country and an indicator of the lack of red tape...." So, by implication, red tape has already been dealt with by the govt. Option 2 can be rejected. Option 3 is correct. The writer refers to several aspects of the economy where govt. attention is needed and states option 3 almost verbatim in paragraph 2: "This result cannot be extrapolated as an overall improvement in EODB, on the other important parameters", and again in paragraph 4: "We should pay heed to several other aspects of our business environment, some of which have been making global news." Thus, option 3 most accurately answers the question. There is not enough data to conclude Option 4. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **279 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **222 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **64 %**

2) According to the author, which of the following is true about the EODB index of World Bank?

- ☐ It is not credible and accurate.
- ☐ There is a need to recalculate the national rankings of ease of doing business.
- ☒ It does not reflect the state of a country's economy as a whole nor its growth prospects. ✓
- ☐ It should not be used as a guide to secure foreign investment.



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Explanation: ▼

The answer is directly stated in the second paragraph of the passage: “The scope of this EODB index is limited after all and, by the World Bank’s own admission, the indicators are not designed to portray the entire macroeconomic scenario of any country or reflect its growth prospects.” Options 1, 2 and 3 are not suggested in the passage. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 26 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 80 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 93 %

3) The author lists all of the following as unfavourable aspects of our business environment EXCEPT:

- lack of intellectual property protection and encouragement to innovative industries.
- the fact that success in business depends upon close relationship with the government.
- India’s low rank in UN’s Human Development Index related to Human Rights.
- lack of freedom of entrepreneurs to move between locations and occupations.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Options 1, 2 and 3 are mentioned or implied in paragraph 4. “We can only be attractive to innovative industries if we have in place a robust and predictable system for intellectual property protection.” This supports option 1. The mention of “crony capitalism” makes option 2 correct. The last sentence of paragraph 4 mentions the rebuke India draws from human rights organizations. Thus, 3 is not an exception. According to the last paragraph, India has already achieved commendable levels of “overall entrepreneurial mobility” as per the World Bank’s EODB index. Therefore, option 4 can’t be stated as an unfavourable aspect of the Indian business environment. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 172 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 70 secs

Your Attempt: Skipped

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Policy and regulation remain important factors that must be assessed while measuring the actual EODB. The proposal of retrospective tax was not so long ago and the resultant economic uncertainty should not be forgotten. We also need to deal with the foreign investment reporting format recently instituted by the Reserve Bank of India. This new reporting system is completely contrary to ease of compliance and has served to make foreign investment reporting more confusing and challenging. Similarly, the draft e-commerce policy released last year elicited extensive criticism from across industry.

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4) The passage supports all the following EXCEPT:

The World Bank EODB index does not include several important parameters related to overall improvement in EODB.

The EODB Index is a barometer of how much red tapism, cost burden and overall entrepreneurial mobility is present in an economy.

India had the best performance in dealing with construction permits, and it moved up several places in the ease of constructing a business unit.

The proposal of retrospective tax adversely affected India’s rank in the category of ‘paying taxes’ causing it to slip several places.

Video Explanation:

▼

Explanation:

▼

Option 1 is implied at the end of the second paragraph: “This result cannot be extrapolated as an overall improvement in EODB, on the other important parameters.” Option 2 is implied in the last paragraph where it says that our policy makers would cite the EODB index as an indicator of the ... lack of red tape etc. The passage does not suggest that this claim is false. Option 3 is stated in the second paragraph. Retrospective tax mentioned in option 4 is said to have caused some economic uncertainty, but no information is available to infer that it affected India’s ranking in the said category. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer:

▼

Time taken by you: 144 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 77 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 42 %

5) What point does the author want to convey through the example of ‘retrospective tax proposal’?

India ought to improve its ranking in the category of ‘paying taxes’.

India should introspect about being rated poorly in Corruption perceptions index.

Policies and regulations of the government sometimes go against EODB in India.

Foreign investment reporting in India is confusing and challenging.

Video Explanation:

▼

Previous

Next

Exit Review

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It is understandable that our policy makers would cite the EODB index as a barometer for how easy it is to conduct business in our country and an indicator of the lack of red tape, cost burden and overall entrepreneurial mobility. Of course, a good rank is expected to translate into a better chance of securing foreign investment and the government expects an even better ranking next year, as the reforms’ benefits are more fully realised.

The example of the proposal of retrospective tax occurs in the third paragraph. “Policy and regulation remain important factors that must be assessed while measuring the actual EODB. The proposal of retrospective tax was not so long ago and the resultant economic uncertainty should not be forgotten.” Thus, the example is cited in connection with how policy and regulation in India has not always been conducive to creating a friendly business environment unlike what the World Bank EODB report shows. Option 3 states this directly. The author does not relate the example to either tax payment or Corruption Perception Index. Hence, options 1 and 2 are incorrect. Option 4 is another aspect, related to foreign investment, pointing to the inadequacy of policy and regulation of the government. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 58 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 64 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 67 %

Loading...



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

Timbuktu, a byword for exotic remoteness, has loomed large in the western imagination for centuries. In medieval times the city was a stopping-off point for trade caravans, carrying gold, slaves, salt and ivory, that crisscrossed the Sahara on their way from the west-African kingdoms to the Mediterranean. It became fabulously wealthy. In the 14th century the Malian King Mansa Musa I – possibly the richest man the world has ever known – travelled through Timbuktu on a pilgrimage to Mecca with an entourage of 60,000 men and enough gold to cause hyperinflation in Mecca, Cairo and Medina.

The city experienced an intellectual golden age in the 15th and 16th centuries. Scholars from across Africa came to Timbuktu and wrote about almost everything imaginable. Tens of thousands of manuscripts were preserved in beautiful universities and mosques were built out of beige mud and timber. Leo Africanus, a north-African traveller, described Timbuktu in glittering terms, helping the fable grow in Europe till the city was more myth than reality: an El Dorado of the sands.

In the 19th century European explorers furiously competed to be the first to make it to Timbuktu. It was a perilous enterprise: travellers had to contend with not only the Sahara’s beating sun and deadly diseases, but also bands of marauding warriors. Alexander Gordon Laing, a Scottish explorer, was attacked by desert raiders who shot and stabbed him. Somehow he survived and a few months later became the first European known to have reached Timbuktu, whose streets turned out not to be paved with gold, after all. On his way back he was attacked again by Tuaregs, who reportedly strangled him to death with a turban.

If Timbuktu’s glory days were long gone by the 19th century, the Timbuktu of 2019 is an even sorer sight. Decades of neglect by the Malian government and desertification in the surrounding countryside has left it impoverished. Timbuktu used to attract a stream of tourists from Europe and America who’d come to see the magnificent 14th-century Djinguereber Mosque and go for camel tours in the desert. But today, it’s too dangerous for all but the hardest travellers, thanks to an increasingly complicated conflict that is tearing the country apart.

Seven years ago, ethnic Tuareg separatists and jihadists stormed into Timbuktu and took over much of northern Mali. The militants were armed with powerful weapons from Libya’s civil war and enforced a perverse Wahhabi ideology, banning music and destroying or damaging thousands of manuscripts, artefacts and buildings. Alarmed by the militants’ rapid advance in its former colony, France intervened and was soon joined by other international troops. By 2013 the militants had been driven out of the major urban areas and back into the desert.

But the conflict is far from over. What started as a fight between jihadists and the Malian state has become a struggle between a dizzying array of armed groups. Criminal gangs, ethnic militias and groups affiliated to Islamic State and Al Qaeda, are flitting across the region’s porous borders and wreaking havoc. The violence has claimed over 5,000 lives in the Sahel, the belt of land that runs along the southern edge of the Sahara desert, in the last five months alone. Since Timbuktu was liberated, there have been scores of attacks and kidnappings.

1) What is the main idea of the passage?

—

- ☐ Timbuktu serves as a cautionary reminder to how historically famous places decline over long periods.
- ☐ The mythical West African city of Timbuktu can be traced to the current northern Mali and is a dangerous area occupied by an array of armed groups.
- ☒ The city of Timbuktu whose commercial and intellectual glory reached mythical proportions in the medieval times is now a dangerous and impoverished city.
- ☐ The byword for exotic remoteness in the Western imagination, Timbuktu was more a myth than reality akin to the El Dorado of the Sahara.

Video Explanation:

▼

Explanation:

▼

The passage traces the history of Timbuktu from the time it was held in awe, to today, when it is riven by conflict. The first three paragraphs trace the declining past of the city and the fourth paragraph states thus: “If Timbuktu’s glory days were long gone by the 19th century, the Timbuktu of 2019 is an even sorer sight.” The last paragraph outlines the present state of Timbuktu - an unsafe zone constantly charged with violent conflicts. What the passage establishes, therefore, is that Timbuktu has declined dramatically over the centuries. Thus, option 3 is the correct answer. Option 1 is incorrect as the writer focuses on Timbuktu’s decline, without drawing any conclusions or lessons from its history. Option 2 is incorrect as the city is not mythical. Option 4 is also incorrect – ‘more a myth than reality’ in the option is incorrect. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

▼

Time taken by you: 299 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 263 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 84 %

2) According to the author, France:

—

- ☐ was asked to form the current government in Mali.
- ☒ was alarmed by the rapid advance of jihadists in Mali.
- ☐ has close ties with the Malian government.
- ☐ is in charge of the international troops in Mali.

Video Explanation:

▼

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

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Refer the penultimate paragraph: “Alarmed by the militants’ rapid advance in its former colony, France intervened and was soon joined by other international troops.” Thus, the correct answer is option 2. Mali is said to be an ‘erstwhile colony’ of France i.e., the Malian state does not belong to France anymore; neither does the passage mention its possibility in the future. Therefore, option 1 is incorrect. Option 3 is also incorrect – we cannot conclude on the basis of the French intervention that France and the Malian government “have close ties”. Option 4 also cannot be concluded from the fact that other international troops joined France in repelling the militants. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 41 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 97 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 85 %

3) According to the writer, the violence in Mali is:

- ☐ the result of decades of neglect by the Malian government.
- ☒ even more complex after international intervention in 2013.
- ☐ most obvious in the Sahel region.
- ☐ a consequence of the general upheaval in the area surrounding Mali.

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

The penultimate paragraph states that the help received from France and the international troops pushed the militants out of cities and into the desert. But the last paragraph states thus: “What started as a fight between jihadists and the Malian state has become a struggle between a dizzying array of armed groups.” It ends by stating that since Timbuktu was ‘liberated’, there have been scores of attacks and kidnappings. This leads us to conclude, as option 2 states, that “the violence in Mali is even more complex after the international intervention in 2013”. Option 1 is incorrect as the passage states that impoverishment, and not violence is the consequence of ‘decades of neglect’. Option 3 is incorrect as the Sahel region is mentioned as an example, and not as the most disturbed region in terms of violence. Option 4 is incorrect as the passage does not imply that conflict in surrounding regions caused the violence in Mali. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:

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

Timbuktu, a byword for exotic remoteness, has loomed large in the western imagination for centuries. In medieval times the city was a stopping-off point for trade caravans, carrying gold, slaves, salt and ivory, that crisscrossed the Sahara on their way from the west-African kingdoms to the Mediterranean. It became fabulously wealthy. In the 14th century the Malian King Mansa Musa I – possibly the richest man the world has ever known – travelled through Timbuktu on a pilgrimage to Mecca with an entourage of 60,000 men and enough gold to cause hyperinflation in Mecca, Cairo and Medina.

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Avg Time taken by all students: 31 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 29 %

4) One may conclude from the passage that Alexander Gordon Laing’s visit to Mali was at a time when Timbuktu was:

- ☐ prosperous but tending to a decline.
- ☐ regaining its lost glory.
- ☒ well on its way to decline.
- ☐ briefly prosperous after an unfortunate period.

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

Refer paragraph 3: The Scottish explorer Laing is said to visit Timbuktu in the 19th century where, the “streets turned out not to be paved with gold, after all”. The next paragraph states that “Timbuktu’s glory days were long gone by the 19th century”. In other words, the city was ‘well on its way to decline’. Thus, option 3 is correct. Options 1, 2 and 4 are therefore, incorrect. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 46 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 76 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 77 %

5) One may infer all the following about the Tuareg rebels EXCEPT: \_

- ☐ They are violent militants.
- ☐ They used weapons from Libya’s civil war, in the Malian conflict.
- ☐ They are a band of desert raiders.
- ☒ They seek to separate from the Malian state and form an independent government.

Video Explanation:

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Options 1, 2 and 4 can be concluded from the penultimate paragraph– “Seven years ago, ethnic Tuareg separatists and jihadists stormed into Timbuktu and took over much of northern Mali. The militants were armed with powerful weapons from Libya’s civil war.....” In the 3rd paragraph, the Scottish explorer Laing is said to have been attacked by desert raiders, and then he is said to have been attacked again (on his way back), by Tuaregs. From the way the author differentiates desert raiders from Tuaregs, it can be inferred that they are two different groups. Therefore, option 3 is the exception. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 62 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 44 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 36 %

Loading...

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

“Underline a relative clause.” This challenge would give a lot of adults the sweats. It would even—whisper it—flummox many professional writers and editors. Yet in England’s national curriculum, it is asked of ten- and eleven-year-olds. So it is surely proven that this sort of teaching helps young people learn to write. Right? Wrong. Remarkably, nobody knows whether lessons of the “underline the relative clause” type do anything to improve pupils’ prose.

Children use nouns long before they have ever heard the word “noun”. They even produce relative clauses when they are about two and a half, a long time before they have heard the word “clause”. No wonder that adults—and those writers and editors—can use them too, even skilfully, without having a clue as to how to identify one. Still, grammar is more than just a means to an end. It can be thought of as valuable cultural heritage, as a mode of analytical thinking or as a science, and can help in learning a second language. In fact there is a science of language—linguistics—that touches on all of these elements. But it has hardly any influence in classrooms. Done right, explaining how language works might not only improve writing but bring life to what is otherwise a widely loathed subject.

The improvement would first need to reach the teachers. Sadly, grammar instruction for teachers in many Anglophone countries is almost non-existent. In England and America, most English teachers have focused on literature, not language or linguistics, at university. Many literature programmes require some study of language itself, but this might be on poetics or Anglo-Saxon rather than the nuts and bolts of a sentence.

Teachers in England typically do a one-year postgraduate course to qualify to work in state schools. But in these programmes, they may get as little as a single day of grammar instruction—far too little to make up for what they were not taught earlier. So they often approach the task of teaching formal grammar to their charges with trepidation.

One answer is to make language analysis a requirement in university English courses. It has the virtue of being fascinating. Language is a system, with moving, variable parts. The study of that system includes not only the grammar of Standard English, but how it differs from other languages and from non-standard varieties such as minority dialects.

Armed with such knowledge, teachers could impart grammar not as an onslaught of desiccated definitions or things to underline, but puzzles to solve. Why does “She destroyed” not feel like a full sentence? How does Shakespeare use “do” differently from modern writers? Where might you hear “we was” instead of “we were”? One study found that adding this kind of analysis made almost 60% of the pupils want to learn more linguistics, particularly language history. Meanwhile the “Linguistics Olympiad” is a popular extra-curricular contest that instils linguistic thinking; perhaps everyone should take part. Getting real language analysis into classrooms would take work. And it may not pay off in better writing—that would have to be tested, too. But that is not the only measure that matters. The dry naming of the parts in vogue is neither enjoyable nor useful.

1) The author’s view in the first paragraph would be undermined by which of the following research findings?

- ☐ Students who didn’t receive grammar instruction scored much less in grammar tests than those who did.
- ☐ Students who received grammar instruction were more adept at spotting the errors in the language and rectifying them.
- ☐ A study of authors of contemporary bestselling fiction showed that most of them acquired language skills through wide reading.
- ☒ A study of authors of classic literary works showed that very few of them were formally trained in linguistics. ❌

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The author’s view is stated in the first paragraph is: “So it is surely proven that this sort of teaching helps young people learn to write. Right? Wrong. Remarkably, nobody knows whether lessons of the “underline the relative clause” type do anything to improve pupils’ prose.” Option 2 undermines this view by implying that the training improved their prose. Options 1 says that those who didn’t receive grammar instruction scored less in grammar tests; though you may be tempted to mark this as the answer, it doesn’t actually undermine the author’s stand; in fact, it is irrelevant because the author talks in relation to writing skills. What he says doesn’t concern grammar tests. Options 3 and 4 implicitly supports the author’s view, making grammar education irrelevant to writing skills. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 301 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 162 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 55 %

2) According to the author, grammar lessons are likely to be most beneficial to ...

- ☒ teachers in Anglophone countries. ❌
- ☐ teachers specifically in England.
- ☐ university students.
- ☐ learners of second language.

Video Explanation: ▼



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The question is about grammar in general. Therefore, all options are correct— grammar lessons will be beneficial to all of them. The passage specifically talks about English grammar. Second paragraph states that “grammar is more than just a means to an end. It can be thought of as valuable cultural heritage, as a mode of analytical thinking or as a science, and can help in learning a second language.” By stressing how grammar is helpful in ‘learning a second language’, the author implies that the study of grammar is as important to students learning a second language, as grammar itself is a “valuable cultural heritage ... a mode of analytical thinking or as a science.” Options 1, 2 and 3 are mentioned in the context of how grammar is taught in Anglophone nations. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 150 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 68 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 52 %

3) The author’s attitude to the study and teaching of grammar can be best summed up as:

- ☐ It is unnecessary as pupils need not know grammar to use language well.
- ☐ It is necessary to test the impact grammar instruction may have on students’ prose.
- ☒ Teaching and learning of grammar should be made more interesting and fun.
- ☐ Grammar instruction must be a necessary part of University English courses.

Video Explanation:

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One answer is to make language analysis a requirement in university English courses. It has the virtue of being fascinating. Language is a system, with moving, variable parts. The study of that system includes not only the grammar of Standard English, but how it differs from other languages and from non-standard varieties such as minority dialects.

Armed with such knowledge, teachers could impart grammar not as an onslaught of desiccated definitions or things to underline, but puzzles to solve. Why does “She destroyed” not feel like a full sentence? How does Shakespeare use “do” differently from modern writers? Where might you hear “we was” instead of “we were”? One study found that adding this kind of analysis made almost 60% of the pupils want to learn more linguistics, particularly language history. Meanwhile the “Linguistics Olympiad” is a popular extra-curricular contest that instils linguistic thinking; perhaps everyone should take part. Getting real language analysis into classrooms would take work. And it may not pay off in better writing—that would have to be tested, too. But that is not the only measure that matters. The dry naming of the parts in vogue is neither enjoyable nor useful.

The writer does not suggest that grammar is unimportant or useless. Neither does he imply that more research or study is needed. This eliminates options 1 and 2. The second paragraph says that “done right, explaining how language works might not only improve writing but bring life to what is otherwise a widely loathed subject.” And, after talking of how getting language study into classrooms may involve some effort [in the following paragraphs], he concludes by saying “...that is not the only measure that matters. The dry naming of the parts in vogue is neither enjoyable nor useful.” [Paragraph 7] Hence, option 3 expresses the author’s point of view. Option 4 is not correct because the author’s objection is not that grammar is not taught, but that it is taught the wrong way, which he calls the ‘underline-the-relative clause’ method. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 36 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 50 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 63 %

4) In the second paragraph, the author emphasizes the point that:

- ☐ Children have an innate knowledge of grammatical structures even without learning grammar.
- ☒ People can have excellent language skills without being able to explain how. ❌
- ☐ Study of linguistics and grammar can contribute to one’s writing skills.
- ☐ Study of grammar can be compared to the study of history, philosophy, or science.

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

The gist of the paragraph runs like this: Grammar is not essential for acquiring language skills – study of linguistics can be compared to ‘a cultural heritage (the way history is), a mode of analytical thinking (the way philosophy could be), or science. Though linguistics has no influence in the classroom, “done right, explaining how language works might not only improve writing but bring life to what is otherwise a widely loathed subject.” This point is expressed in option 3. Other options are correct, but they don’t express the main point that the author wants to stress in the paragraph. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

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

“Underline a relative clause.” This challenge would give a lot of adults the sweats. It would even—whisper it—flummox many professional writers and editors. Yet in England’s national curriculum, it is asked of ten- and eleven-year-olds. So it is surely proven that this sort of teaching helps young people learn to write. Right? Wrong. Remarkably, nobody knows whether lessons of the “underline the relative clause” type do anything to improve pupils’ prose.

Children use nouns long before they have ever heard the word “noun”. They even produce relative clauses when they are about two and a half, a long time before they have heard the word “clause”. No wonder that adults—and those writers and editors—can use them too, even skilfully, without having a clue as to how to identify one. Still, grammar is more than just a means to an end. It can be thought of as valuable cultural heritage, as a mode of analytical thinking or as a science, and can help in learning a second language. In fact there is a science of language—linguistics—that touches on all of these elements. But it has hardly any influence in classrooms. Done right, explaining how language works might not only improve writing but bring life to what is otherwise a widely loathed subject.

The improvement would first need to reach the teachers. Sadly, grammar instruction for teachers in many Anglophone countries is almost non-existent. In England and America, most English teachers have focused on literature, not language or linguistics, at university. Many literature programmes require some study of language itself, but this might be on poetics or Anglo-Saxon rather than the nuts and bolts of a sentence.

Teachers in England typically do a one-year postgraduate course to qualify to work in state schools. But in these programmes, they may get as little as a single day of grammar instruction—far too little to make up for what they were not taught earlier. So they often approach the task of teaching formal grammar to their charges with trepidation.

One answer is to make language analysis a requirement in university English courses. It has the virtue of being fascinating. Language is a system, with moving, variable parts. The study of that system includes not only the grammar of Standard English, but how it differs from other languages and from non-standard varieties such as minority dialects.

Armed with such knowledge, teachers could impart grammar not as an onslaught of desiccated definitions or things to underline, but puzzles to solve. Why does “She destroyed” not feel like a full sentence? How does Shakespeare use “do” differently from modern writers? Where might you hear “we was” instead of “we were”? One study found that adding this kind of analysis made almost 60% of the pupils want to learn more linguistics, particularly language history. Meanwhile the “Linguistics Olympiad” is a popular extra-curricular contest that instils linguistic thinking; perhaps everyone should take part. Getting real language analysis into classrooms would take work. And it may not pay off in better writing—that would have to be tested, too. But that is not the only measure that matters. The dry naming of the parts in vogue is neither enjoyable nor useful.

Avg Time taken by all students: 30 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 26 %

Loading...

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

It was hard to see the headlines proclaiming that the north magnetic pole is speeding toward Russia and not feel a pang of anxiety. Is Vladimir Putin annexing the North Pole? Or climate change threatening more global chaos? Will malevolent cosmic rays burst through Earth’s magnetic shield?

The stories under the headlines proved less alarming. The sudden lurch of the north magnetic pole turned out to be a phenomenon for which humans bore no responsibility and for which responsible institutions and monitors appeared to have effective solutions.

The magnetic pole is the spot that a compass points to as north; it is distinct from the geographic North Pole, which is where all the lines of longitude meet at the top of the world (and where Santa Claus maintains his workshop). For now, it is situated four degrees south of the geographic North Pole.

The Earth’s magnetic poles, it seems, have always been on the move, and have even swapped places several times over the eons. The reason is that the molten iron deep inside our planet sloshes around, shifting the magnetic field with it. That has not prevented online tabloids from having an apocalyptic field day. The part that feeds their doomsday scenarios is the possibility that the poles are preparing for another polarity reversal, which would cause a compass to point south instead of north. The quirk is normal — over the past 20 million years, it has occurred, on average, every 200,000 to 300,000 years. The last one was about 780,000 years ago, so another may be overdue.

That could lead to a temporary weakening of the magnetic field that protects Earth from cosmic radiation. And that’s where the doomsday scenarios pile in. An article in Undark Magazine declared, “It’s time to wake up to the dangers and start preparing,” evoking a world in which a devastating stream of malevolent cosmic radiation would wreak havoc on lives and power grids.

The spectre of an Earth left without a magnetic shield has come up before, notably during the Mayan apocalypse that predicted the world would end in 2012. Back then, NASA posted a response that explained the science of pole reversals and concluded that “there is nothing in the millions of years of geologic record to suggest that any of the 2012 doomsday scenarios, whether or not in reference to a pole reversal, should be taken seriously.”

As it turns out, the geographic North Pole, the location of the planet’s spin axis, is also shifting east, not as strikingly as its magnetic cousin, but for the wrong reasons. The North and South Poles always wander a bit, but the movements have increased, and scientists theorize that the redistribution of mass on Earth as glaciers and ice sheets melt is one of the major reasons.

We have caused the Earth to wobble, and it’s getting worse. Several recently published studies warn that ice at both ends of the Earth is melting far faster, and oceans are warming far faster, than previously thought, suggesting that scientific estimates of a warming planet have been too conservative. Those are the headlines that should be causing real concern.

1) Which of the following is attributable to human activities in the statement, “we have caused the Earth to wobble?” (Paragraph 8)

- ☐ Movement of the Magnetic North Pole.
- ☐ Earth’s magnetic poles swapping positions.
- ☒ Pole reversal caused by displacement of mass. ❌
- ☐ Drifting of Earth’s spin axis towards East.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The statement appears in paragraphs 8. The previous paragraph describes how the movement of Earth’s geographical poles is more evident than before, and also warns that it’s not a good sign. Paragraphs 7 and 8 hold human actions responsible for the same. Option [1] can be rejected as the motion of Earth’s magnetic poles is not in any way influenced by human beings — “The reason is that the molten iron deep inside our planet sloshes around, shifting the magnetic field with it.” (Paragraph 4) Options [2] and [3], both of which refer to the phenomenon of pole reversal, can also be rejected for the same reason. Refer to the 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph: “As it turns out, the geographic North Pole, the location of the planet’s spin axis, is also shifting east... but for the wrong reasons.” Logically, shifting of either the geographical pole or the spin axis means the same (because the spin axis is located at the geographical pole). Hence, [4].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 405 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 156 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 55 %

2) Which of the following is NOT true about the prediction of apocalypse by the Mayan civilization?

- ☐ Millions of years of geologic record proved the prediction invalid.
- ☒ Pole reversal was assumed to be the cause of the apocalypse. ❌
- ☐ Mayan apocalypse was unrelated to the magnetic field of the Earth.
- ☐ According to Mayan apocalypse prediction, the world would end in 2012.

Video Explanation: ▼

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

It was hard to see the headlines proclaiming that the north magnetic pole is speeding toward Russia and not feel a pang of anxiety. Is Vladimir Putin annexing the North Pole? Or climate change threatening more global chaos? Will malevolent cosmic rays burst through Earth’s magnetic shield?

The stories under the headlines proved less alarming. The sudden lurch of the north magnetic pole turned out to be a phenomenon for which humans bore no responsibility and for which responsible institutions and monitors appeared to have effective solutions.

The magnetic pole is the spot that a compass points to as north; it is distinct from the geographic North Pole, which is where all the lines of longitude meet at the top of the world (and where Santa Claus maintains his workshop). For now, it is situated four degrees south of the geographic North Pole.

The Earth’s magnetic poles, it seems, have always been on the move, and have even swapped places several times over the eons. The reason is that the molten iron deep inside our planet sloshes around, shifting the magnetic field with it. That has not prevented online tabloids from having an apocalyptic field day. The part that feeds their doomsday scenarios is the possibility that the poles are preparing for another polarity reversal, which would cause a compass to point south instead of north. The quirk is normal — over the past 20 million years, it has occurred, on average, every 200,000 to 300,000 years. The last one was about 780,000 years ago, so another may be overdue.

That could lead to a temporary weakening of the magnetic field that protects Earth from cosmic radiation. And that’s where the doomsday scenarios pile in. An article in Undark Magazine declared, “It’s time to wake up to the dangers and start preparing,” evoking a world in which a devastating stream of malevolent cosmic radiation would wreak havoc on lives and power grids.

The spectre of an Earth left without a magnetic shield has come up before, notably during the Mayan apocalypse that predicted the world would end in 2012. Back then, NASA posted a response that explained the science of pole reversals and concluded that “there is nothing in the millions of years of geologic record to suggest that any of the 2012 doomsday scenarios, whether or not in reference to a pole reversal, should be taken seriously.”

As it turns out, the geographic North Pole, the location of the planet’s spin axis, is also shifting east, not as strikingly as its magnetic cousin, but for the wrong reasons. The North and South Poles always wander a bit, but the movements have increased, and scientists theorize that the redistribution of mass on Earth as glaciers and ice sheets melt is one of the major reasons.

We have caused the Earth to wobble, and it’s getting worse. Several recently published studies warn that ice at both ends of the Earth is melting far faster, and oceans are warming far faster, than previously thought, suggesting that scientific estimates of a warming planet have been too conservative. Those are the headlines that should be causing real concern.

Paragraph 6 talks of the prediction of apocalypse that was made by the Mayan civilization. From NASA’s response (paragraph 6) it’s clear that option [1] is true with regard to the prediction. Reject option [1]. The same paragraph states that the spectre of an Earth left without a magnetic shield came up notably during the Mayan apocalypse prediction; this makes option [2] true as well. NASA ruled out the Mayan prediction by explaining that pole reversal was not likely to happen; it implies that Mayan’s visualised the apocalypse as a result of pole reversal. Hence, option 3 is not true. Option [4] states what the prediction was all about. Reject option [4]. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 62 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 87 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 64 %

3) Earth’s Magnetic and Geographic North Poles are comparable in that:

- ☐ they protect Earth from harmful cosmic radiation.
- ☒ they are currently wandering off towards the East. ✓
- ☐ the compass needle always points towards them.
- ☐ they are situated where the Earth’s spin axis is.

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

Refer to paragraphs 4 and 5: “That could lead to a temporary weakening of the magnetic field that protects Earth from cosmic radiation.” Here, that refers to only the swapping of the magnetic poles. Refer to paragraph 7: “...the geographic North Pole...is also shifting east, not as strikingly as its magnetic cousin...” Clearly, both the magnetic and the geographic poles’ motion is towards the East. Retain option [2]. Refer to paragraph 3: “The magnetic pole is the spot that a compass points to as north; it is distinct from the geographic North Pole...” Paragraph 7 states that the geographic North Pole is the location of the planet’s spin axis. Also refer paragraph 3 that states that the magnetic pole is situated four degrees south of the geographic North Pole. Hence, both options [3] and [4] can be rejected. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 114 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 69 secs



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

It was hard to see the headlines proclaiming that the north magnetic pole is speeding toward Russia and not feel a pang of anxiety. Is Vladimir Putin annexing the North Pole? Or climate change threatening more global chaos? Will malevolent cosmic rays burst through Earth’s magnetic shield?

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We have caused the Earth to wobble, and it’s getting worse. Several recently published studies warn that ice at both ends of the Earth is melting far faster, and oceans are warming far faster, than previously thought, suggesting that scientific estimates of a warming planet have been too conservative. Those are the headlines that should be causing real concern.

% Students got it correct: 64 %

- 4) What according to the passage causes pole reversal?
- ☐ Movement of Earth’s Magnetic Poles.

☐ Redistribution of mass on Earth.

☐ Weakening of Earth’s magnetic field.

☒ Redistribution of mass within Earth.

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

Option [1] describes the process of pole reversal instead of stating what causes it. Reject option [1]. Refer paragraph 7: “...the geographic North Pole...is also shifting east...scientists theorize that the redistribution of mass on Earth as glaciers and ice sheets melt is one of the major reasons.” Therefore, option [2] states the reason for the shift of geographic poles, and not that of magnetic poles. Reject option [2]. Option [3] is incorrect as the weakening of Earth’s magnetic field is a result of pole reversal rather than its cause. Refer to paragraph 4: “The Earth’s magnetic poles, it seems, have always been on the move, and have even swapped places several times over the eons. The reason is that the molten iron deep inside our planet sloshes around, shifting the magnetic field with it.” Redistribution of mass within Earth can be explained as the movement of molten iron inside Earth. Retain option [4]. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 9 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 36 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 48 %

Loading...

**The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author’s position. Key in your answer by using the virtual keyboard given below.**

Computers process information – numbers, letters, words, formulas, images. Your brain does not process information, retrieve knowledge, or store memories. In short, your brain is not a computer. However, the information processing (IP) metaphor of human intelligence now dominates human thinking, both on the street and in the sciences. There is virtually no form of discourse about intelligent human behaviour that proceeds without employing this metaphor, just as no form of discourse about intelligent human behaviour could proceed in certain eras and cultures without reference to a spirit or deity. The validity of the IP metaphor in today’s world is generally assumed without question.

1. The Information Processing (IP) metaphor has become an unquestioned way to understand human intelligence on the street and in the sciences.
2. Applying the information processing (IP) metaphor to human intelligence is a current norm that does not find precedence in previous eras or cultures.
3. It is universally accepted that information processing (IP) as a metaphor helps us understand human intelligence and behaviour.
4. The Information Processing (IP) metaphor as a generally accepted way to understand human intelligence is fundamentally flawed.



Oops, you got it wrong!

02:22

### Explanation:



The gist of the paragraph is: Computers process information. Human brain does not. Hence, the common and widely accepted approach to understand human intelligence, through the information processing (IP) metaphor is inherently misconceived. (The paragraph states: However, the information processing (IP) metaphor of human intelligence now dominates....) Option 1 does not include the author's implication that humans are not computers—that the IP metaphor is not apt for human intelligence. Option 2 talks about how the IP metaphor is a current norm but does not capture the author's position (implication) that IP metaphor does not help understand human intelligence. Option 3 is similar to option 1 – only rephrased differently. Option 4 correctly summarises the author's position. Hence, 4.

### Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **109 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **41 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **25 %**



**The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author’s position. Key in your answer by using the virtual keyboard given below.**

An experimental study in Uganda found that providing financial capital, while effective for men, does not have any impact on female-owned enterprise profits. Similarly, a randomized control trial on Tanzania’s Business Women Connect program found that while the mobile savings program substantially increased savings, it did not have an effect on female-owned enterprise profits or sales even when combined with hard business skills, such as business management, basic profitability concepts, and record-keeping. Both studies, however, show that loans paired with business trainings as well as improved access to mobile savings accounts had a positive impact on male-owned microenterprise profits or sales.

1. Studies out of Africa show that women entrepreneurs are in need of business training along with loans, in contrast to male entrepreneurs, who are positively affected by both.
2. Studies show that loans and business trainings positively impact profits for males but do not similarly affect profits for female entrepreneurs.
3. A successful women’s economic empowerment intervention needs more than just access to financial capital and hard business skills.
4. Experimental studies out of Africa show that female entrepreneurs find it harder to turn financial capital assistance and trainings into profits or sales.



Congratulations, you got it correct!



### Explanation:

The paragraph talks about the impact of loans, business trainings and access to savings on women and men as revealed in a study in Uganda and Tanzania (in Africa). It concludes that profits were positively impacted for males but not for women entrepreneurs. This is captured in option 2. Option 1 is incorrect – that woman entrepreneurs are in need of business training along with loans is not supported by the paragraph. Option 3 is incorrect – this is only a possible inference; however author's position is not to suggest that more has to be done. Option 4 is a misrepresentation – loans and business training are said to have less of an impact on female entrepreneurs than on males. Hence, 2.

### Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **113 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **109 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

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



The five sentences labelled (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. And if we incline toward each other, it is against our own physiology.
2. Companionable activities often involve reclining or literally 'inclining' toward each other, breaking the harsh vertical stance.
3. They are built to stand upright and alone; if we need each other, it is because in one way or another we are a kind of physical failure.
4. Standing upright separates us from other human beings, because the strict upright posture expresses austerity, inaccessibility, decisiveness, domination, mercilessness, or unapproachable remoteness.
5. People, in short, aren't built for one another.



Oops, you got it wrong!

### Explanation:

The only standalone sentence in the set is sentence 4; hence, we can be sure that it starts the paragraph. Only sentence 2 makes sense after sentence 4. Put together, the 4-2 pair tells us that the two postures that we adopt - standing upright and reclining toward each other – have physiological as well as psychological implications. ‘Companionable activities often involve ... breaking the harsh vertical stance’ is concluded by sentence 5. So, we get the sequence 4-2-5. Sentence 3 follows next, as “they” in sentence 3 has the antecedent “people,” in sentence 5. The pronoun is not consistent with any other sentences. Sentence 1 closes the paragraph by reasserting what sentence 3 already states. Hence, 42531.

### Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **102 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **4 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

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





The five sentences labelled (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. Europe's history is one of inadequate alliances.
2. The European Union is simply the latest attempt to foster attachment among its inhabitants.
3. The persistent irony of European history is that the nations of Europe only ever discover (or rediscover) their common affinities and interests through their attempted separations and divorces.
4. It is in this respect that the EU is a successor to the Holy Roman Empire.
5. The conflict over how to belong has defined Europe culturally and socially since the early days of its efforts to unify itself.



Oops, you got it wrong!

### Explanation:

Sentences 1, 3 and 5 can be considered for the starter – they all talk about Europe’s history. However, on closer examination, we see that sentences 3 and 5 depend on sentence 1-- the idea introduced in 1 is elaborated in 3 and 5. Hence, sentence 1 is the best starter. The history of ‘inadequate alliances’ [Sentence 1] is elaborated directly in sentence 5 as ‘the conflict over how to belong’ in 5. Sentence 2 follows the 1-5 pair as “The European Union is simply the latest attempt to foster attachment” follows directly from “the early days of its efforts to unify itself”. So, we get 1-5-2. Since sentence 4 continues the idea of the European Union, by likening it to ‘the Holy Roman Empire’ (reference is to the attempts by the Holy Roman Empire to unify Europe), it comes immediately after the sequence 1-5-2. Placing sentence 3 at the end helps to conclude the paragraph most appropriately-- “the persistent irony of European history” refers back to the ‘inadequate alliances’ in spite of the efforts of the Holy Roman Emperor [in the past] and that of the EU [in the present].. Hence, 15243.

### Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **73 secs**

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

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

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



The five sentences labelled (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper sequence of order of the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer.

1. Being true to yourself can, in some cases, contribute to a downward spiral.
2. If you don't feel like getting out of bed, just lie there.
3. If you don't really feel like dressing up, put your jogging bottoms on.
4. If you can't be bothered to put jogging bottoms on, just stay in your pyjamas.
5. If efforts to change involve determination and self-overcoming, then an attitude of being yourself can reinforce the tendency to stay in the comfort zone of your current desires.



Oops, you got it wrong!

### Explanation:

Sentences 1 and 5 can be considered for the starter. Each of sentences 2, 3 and 4 illustrates an instance representing the 'downward spiral'; they can be sequenced as 3-4-2. Now, we have two alternatives-- 13425 and 53421. Comparing the two, you'll find that 13425 is an anti-climax; from a downward spiral one ends up in one's comfort zone. On the contrary, 53421 is a climax – staying in one's comfort zone ends up in a downward spiral [illustrated by the 342 sequence]. This is much more logical than the other sequence. Hence, 53421.

### Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **110 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **7 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **5 %**





The question below has a sentence in which certain words are left blank. Select the appropriate set of words from the options to complete the sentence most meaningfully.

No matter how life-like they are, they have to be \_\_\_\_\_ that your mind is creating, however \_\_\_\_\_ they seem to be.

- ☐ illusions; unreal
- ☐ mirages; illusory
- ☒ visions; mundane ✓
- ☐ figments; familiar



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

### Explanation:

The first blank requires a word that is contrary to “life-like”: no matter how much real something may look like, it has to be something created by the mind (by implication, something unreal). Hence, all options seem to fit. The next blank, however, requires a synonym of ‘life-like’, because as per the sentence, no matter how life-like they are, and however life-like they may appear to be, they are something unreal that your mind is creating. Hence, unreal and illusory can easily be ruled out for the second blank. Familiar does not imply life-like or real. Visions, and mundane (meaning - relating to, or characteristic of the world) produces a meaningful sentence. Hence [3].

### Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **14 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **15 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **17 %**



The question below has a sentence in which certain words are left blank. Select the appropriate set of words from the options to complete the sentence most meaningfully.

The videos in this section are rife with \_\_\_\_\_ pop-culture references that might \_\_\_\_\_ anyone born before 1990.

- ☐ historic; stump
- ☐ ambivalent; confuse
- ☐ philosophical; mystify
- ☒ arcane; baffle ✓



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

### Explanation:



There is a cause-effect relationship between the words in the two blanks: \_\_\_\_ references cause \_\_\_\_ in people born before 1990. Historic (famous in history/ significant) pop culture references ought not to stump (confuse) older people. Hence, option 1 is not suitable. Ambivalent means mixed feelings. The meaning of the expression ‘ambivalent pop culture references’ is vague; hence, option 2 is not suitable. Similarly, ‘philosophical pop culture references’ is also vague. However, “arcane (mysterious/obscure) references to pop culture baffle (confuse) older people” makes the sentence meaningful. Hence, [4].

### Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **13 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **29 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

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





The question below has a sentence in which certain words are left blank. Select the appropriate set of words from the options to complete the sentence most meaningfully.

No one can argue against a development paradigm that is \_\_\_\_\_, a paradigm that \_\_\_\_\_ every individual access to education and health.

- ☐ total; provides
- ☐ egalitarian; prohibits
- ☐ exclusive; enables
- ☒ inclusive; allows ✓



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

### Explanation:



“...every individual (gets) access to education and health” controls the context. Such a development paradigm is inclusive. And, it allows access to everyone to education and health. Hence, [4].

### Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **37 secs**

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

Your Attempt: **Correct**

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



The question below has a sentence in which certain words are left blank. Select the appropriate set of words from the options to complete the sentence most meaningfully.

Given that most deaths due to Cardio Vascular Diseases (CVD) occur in the \_\_\_\_\_ ages, much before the average life expectancy, the \_\_\_\_\_ cost of CVD cannot be reliably estimated.

- ☐ middle; medical
- ☐ older; social
- ☐ productive; economic
- ☒ young; emotional ❌



Oops, you got it wrong!

### Explanation:



The first blank should correspond to the phrase, ‘...much before the average life expectancy...’ Hence, options 2 and 1 can be rejected. Option 4 can be rejected because the word, emotional is contextually incorrect in the second blank. Option 3 is apt in the context—the term productive ages not only justifies the ‘... much before the average life expectancy...’ part, but also explains why the economic cost of CVD becomes indeterminable. Hence, [3].

### Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **39 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **29 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **27 %**



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

1. Herbs can be found fresh or dried, chopped or whole.
2. Oregano is an herb derived from the herbaceous oregano plant.
3. Spices like cinnamon are made from the aromatic seeds, bark, flowers, and roots of plants that have been dried and crushed.
4. Herbs are leaves, and although most come from herbaceous plants, plants that lack woody stems, a few do come from woody plants, such as bay leaf.
5. Basil, rosemary, and parsley are often found in a kitchen's spice rack but actually qualify as herbs because they are aromatic leaves.



Oops, you got it wrong!



### Explanation:

The paragraph is a description of herbs: they are leaves (sentence 4); herbs can be found in various forms-- fresh or dried (sentence 1); oregano is an herb (sentence 2); Basil, Rosemary, and parsley, though stored with spices, are actually herbs (sentence 5). Sentence 3 is about spices, which are distinct from herbs. Hence, [3].

### Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **87 secs**

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

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

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



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

1. Then pastel colors became a fad for babies.
2. Paoletti points to the invention of prenatal testing as the cause of this fad, since parents were able to learn the sex of their baby before the baby's birth.
3. Back before pastels were popular for babies, most parents dressed their kids in white dresses until they were about six.
4. These pastels weren't marketed to a certain sex: both boys and girls were dressed in a wide array of pastels, including blue and pink.
5. Historian Jo B. Paoletti says this outfit was practical: white cotton could be easily bleached, and dresses allowed convenient access for diaper changing.



Oops, you got it wrong!

### Explanation:

The paragraph is about how pastel colors became a fad for babies. Earlier, babies were dressed in white dresses (Sentence 3). Historian Jo B. Paoletti says this outfit was practical: white cotton could be easily bleached, and dresses allowed convenient access for diaper changing (Sentence 5). Then pastel colors became a fad (sentence1). These pastels were not marketed to a certain sex (sentence 4). Sentence 2 is out of context; the fad that sentence 2 refers to is not clear, nor is the idea of ‘prenatal testing’ relevant to the theme. It also contradicts sentence 4. Hence, [2].

### Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **104 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **77 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **38 %**

