

## Contents

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# VA - 04

CEX-V-0240/18

Number of Questions : **24**

### Test Drive

Time Limit

3 Minutes

**Directions for questions 1 to 6:** Choose the pair of words from the options that best represents a similar relationship as the one expressed in the following pair of words.

- Inclement : Stormy :: Fissure : \_\_\_\_\_  
(SNAP, 2015, MB)  
(1) Brag (2) Righteous  
(3) Fresh (4) Rift
- Taciturn : Garrulous :: Enfeeble : \_\_\_\_\_  
(SPAN, 2015, MB)  
(1) Enervate (2) Diminish  
(3) Fortify (4) Debilitate
- Accede : Dissent :: Exonerate : \_\_\_\_\_  
(TISSNET 2015, MB)  
(1) Liberate (2) Condemn  
(3) Exalt (4) Annihilate
- Theology : Religion :: Phenology : \_\_\_\_\_  
(1) Pheromones (2) Psychology  
(3) Climate (4) Language
- Bouquet : Flower :: Woodpile : \_\_\_\_\_  
(1) Snow (2) Sticks  
(3) Husk (4) Logs

- Follow : Chase :: Nudge : \_\_\_\_\_  
(1) Plunge (2) Pursue  
(3) Catch (4) Precede

### Types of questions in RC

Reading Comprehension questions can be broadly categorized into two types i.e. Idea based and Fact based. They can further be subdivided into different categories. Each type of question requires a special approach. Different entrance examinations stress on different aspects of RC skills. CAT normally focuses on inferential skills and one's ability to tackle tricky options. This demands a thorough understanding of the logic employed by the author of the passage. These questions are the most challenging ones. NMAT and IIFT normally focus on fact based questions. They check a student's ability to skim through the passage and find the correct answer.

A basic understanding of the question types would help you tackle the RC section. It is also a tool you can use to analyze your performance; evaluate what kind of questions you struggle with; take steps to overcome the weak areas.

Idea Based Questions	Fact Based Questions
Main Idea	Specific Idea
Implied Idea	Contextual Meaning
Further Application	Example based
Logical Structure	
Tone/Style	

## 1. Main Idea Questions

The main idea refers to the primary purpose of the author behind writing the passage. It is difficult to answer unless you have understood the essence of the author's intention in the passage. Title question falls under this category too as the title of a passage means the main idea in a concise form.

Common question stems for these types of questions are:

- Which of the following is the main idea of the passage?
- The primary purpose of the passage is to....
- The author is primarily concerned with ....
- The thematic highlight of the passage is ....
- The best line to capture the content of the passage is ....
- A suitable title for the passage is....

### Approach:

- Typically, the main idea appears at the beginning or the end of the passage; so, pay special attention to these parts.
- Eliminate any option that is either too general or too specific.
- Don't read or skim the entire passage to find the answer.
- Eliminate ornamental or vague options.

## 2. Specific Idea Questions

These questions ask specific information mentioned or stated in the passage. These are normally the easiest questions to answer. The answers are normally mentioned explicitly within the passage. However, watch out for tricky options.

Common question stems for these types of questions are:

- The author mentions which of the following?
- Which of the following is true according to the passage?

- The author provides information that would answer which of the following questions?

### Approach:

- Locate where the answer is mentioned in the passage. Don't answer it unless you have located that section.
- Skim and find the portion from which the question has been asked.
- Don't hesitate to regress. This will ensure accuracy.

## 3. Implied Idea Questions

These are the kind of questions where the answers are not explicitly stated in the passage. They are hinted or implied though. This demands a higher level of comprehension.

An example of this question could be found in a passage where an author points out various critiques of the US's foreign policy, especially its role in Iraq. Though the anti-US stance here is not stated explicitly, it is implied. CAT normally loves to ask such questions.

Common question stems for these types of questions are:

- It can be inferred that the author believes...
- The author uses... to imply....
- Which of the following can/cannot be inferred from the passage

### Approach:

- In this case, the emphasis is on testing your ability to read between the lines i.e. to infer the author's purpose in stating something.
- Use elimination method to ensure accuracy
- Make sure that the inference matches the author's tone in the passage

#### 4. Contextual Meaning Questions

In these questions, the meaning of a given word, phrase, or sentence in the passage is asked. These are easy to answer if one has good command over vocabulary and the ability to understand contextual usage of words.

Common question stems for these types of questions are:

- What does the author mean by the line...
- What word can best substitute the word...in the passage?
- The word/phrase ... in the passage implies...

##### Approach:

- Go back to the passage and read the context in which this word/phrase/sentence has been used.
- Make sure to find out any element of sarcasm or satire in the usage.
- The meaning must match the author's intention.
- These questions typically test your vocabulary too. So make sure to improve your vocabulary.

#### 5. Example Based Questions

In these questions, you are asked to find out the reason behind a particular example given in the passage. These are easy questions. The approach and method should remain the same as that in the contextual meaning questions.

Common question stems for these types of questions are:

- The author talks about ... in the passage in order to ....
- The author gives the example of ... in order to...
- The instance of ... has been mentioned in order to...

##### Approach:

- The author always gives example to back up his main idea.
- Find the main idea of the passage.
- Find the main idea of the paragraph where this example appears.
- Choose an option that matches both.

Logical Structure/Tone/Further Application Questions: These will be covered in VA 6.

##### Practice Exercise:

**Direction for questions 7 to 24:** Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow.

##### Passage – 1

There are a great many symbiotic relationships in the marine environment. A popular one, often noted for the striking beauty of the juxtaposition, is that of the sea anemone and the clown fish. The anemone has poison tentacles which—when they contact passing fish—paralyze the fish and drag the prey in for a meal. The clown fish uses the anemone's tentacle “garden” as a safe haven while attracting prey for the anemone to capture, for it alone is immune to the sting of the anemone.

Another symbiotic relation that remains the subject of scientific puzzlement concerns the relationship between Scleractinia, the coral type whose colonization produces reefs, and their symbiotic partners the zooxanthellae, the unicellular algae present in the corals' endodermic tissues. It is known that each symbiont plays an integral part in the formation of a reef's protective limestone foundation. The coral polyps secrete calcareous exoskeletons which cement themselves into an underlayer of rock, while the algae deposit still more calcium carbonate, which reacts with sea salt to create an even tougher limestone layer.

It is also known that, due to the algal photosynthesis, the reef environment is highly oxygen-saturated, while the similarly high amounts of carbon dioxide are carried off rapidly. All this accounts for the amazing renewability of coral reefs despite the endless erosion caused by wave activity. However, the precise manner in which one symbiont stimulates the secretion of calcium carbonate by the other remains unclear.

Scientists have also proposed various theories to explain the transformation of “fringing reefs”, those connected above sea level to land masses, into “barrier reefs” that are separated from shorelines by wide lagoons, and then into free-floating atolls. Though the theory postulated by Charles Darwin is considered at least partially correct, some scientists today argue that the creation of the reef forms has more to do with the rise of sea level that accompanied the end of the Ice Age. However, recent drillings at Enewetak atoll have uncovered a large underlay of volcanic rock, which suggests that Darwin’s explanation may have been more valid after all.

Even the name given to the reefs is something of a misnomer. The Scleractinia themselves generally comprise no more than 10 percent of the biota of the average reef community: zooxanthellae can account for up to 90 percent of the reef mass, along with foraminifera, annelid worms, and assorted mollusks. Moreover, reefs can flourish only in shallow, highly saline waters above 70°F., because the algae require such circumstances; yet non-reef-building corals occur worldwide under various environmental conditions, from the Arctic to the Mediterranean, home of the red coral prized for jewellery. The most likely reason that the term “coral reefs” persists is that the brilliant variety of coral shapes and colours makes aesthetic considerations more vivid than biological ones.

7. Why, according to many scientists, has the name ‘coral reef’ been used inaccurately?
  - (1) Because of the low contribution of Scleractinia to the composition of the reef
  - (2) Because of the absence of corals on the reef
  - (3) Because of the not so direct link of the reef’s survival to that of the corals
  - (4) Because of the contribution of Scleractinia in beautifying the reef by adding colour and shape to it
8. The author gives the example of Darwin in order to:
  - (1) highlight the significance of Darwin and his theory.
  - (2) explain the relevance of Darwin in today’s academic world.
  - (3) explain how Darwin’s theory helps in explaining a puzzling situation.
  - (4) highlight Darwin’s contribution in solving an anomaly.
9. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
  - (1) The many mysterious symbiotic relationships in the environment create a logical conundrum for the scientists studying it.
  - (2) The Darwinian theory of evolution can be rejected by recent findings.
  - (3) Reefs can flourish only in shallow, highly saline waters above 70°F.
  - (4) The creation of reef has some relation to the end of the Ice age.

### Passage – 2

Most diseases or conditions improve by themselves, are self-limiting, or even if fatal, seldom follow a strictly downward spiral. In each case, intervention can appear to be quite efficacious. This becomes all the more potent if you assume the point of view of a knowing practitioner of fraudulent medicine.

To take advantage of the natural ups and downs of any disease (as well as of any placebo effect), it's best to begin your treatment when the patient is getting worse. In this way, anything that happens can more easily be attributed to your wonderful and probably expensive intervention. If the patient improves, you take credit; if he remains stable, your treatment stopped his downward course. On the other hand, if the patient worsens, the dosage or intensity of the treatment was not great enough; if he dies, he delayed too long in coming to you.

In any case, the few instances in which your intervention is successful will likely be remembered (not so few, if the disease in question is self-limiting), while the vast majority of failures will be forgotten and buried. Chance provides more than enough variation to account for the sprinkling of successes that will occur with almost any treatment; indeed, it would be a miracle if there weren't any miracle cures.

Even in outlandish cases, it's often difficult to refute conclusively some proposed cure or procedure. Consider a diet doctor who directs his patients to consume two whole pizzas, four birch beers, and two pieces of cheesecake for every breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and an entire box of fig bars with a quart of milk for a bedtime snack, claiming that other people have lost six pounds a week on such a regimen. When several patients follow his instructions for three weeks, they find they've gained about seven pounds each. Have the doctor's claims been refuted?

Not necessarily, since he might respond that a whole host of auxiliary understandings weren't met: the pizzas had too much sauce, or the dieters slept sixteen hours a day, or the birch beer wasn't the right brand. Number and probability do, however, provide the basis for statistics, which, together with logic, constitutes the foundation of the scientific method, which will eventually sort matters out if anything can. However, just as the existence of pink does not undermine the distinction between red and white, and dawn doesn't indicate that day and night

are really the same, this problematic fringe area doesn't negate the fundamental differences between science and its impostors.

The philosopher Willard Van Orman Quine ventures even further and maintain that experience never forces one to reject any particular belief. He views science as an integrated web of interconnecting hypotheses, procedures, and formalisms, and argues that any impact of the world on the web can be distributed in many different ways. If we're willing to make drastic enough changes in the rest of the web of our beliefs, the argument goes, we can hold to our belief in the efficacy of the above diet, or indeed in the validity of any pseudoscience

10. Which of the following is not a defence given by the pseudo doctor for his failure?
  - (1) The time taken by the patient to come for a consultation with him
  - (2) The inadequacy of the dosage administered
  - (3) The prescription given by his predecessor
  - (4) The delay that the patient caused in coming to consult with him
11. Which of the following statement is true according to the passage?
  - (1) Proper medication administered by a competent physician always leads to a successful result.
  - (2) Experience may not dictate or shape one's belief system.
  - (3) Medical science is full of grey areas; nothing is either black or white.
  - (4) Placebo effects are an integral part of the natural cycle of any disease.
12. Which of the following is the correct meaning of "placebo effect"?
  - (1) Lack of an actual drug
  - (2) Humorous effect
  - (3) Pacifying effect
  - (4) Psychiatric manipulation

### Passage – 3

By regarding the expanding universe as a motion picture, you can easily imagine “running the film backward. If you do so, you find the universe getting smaller and smaller, and eventually you come to the moment when its whole mass is crammed into an infinitely dense point. Before that time it didn’t exist, or at least it didn’t exist in its present form.

Though there is some controversy about its exact age, most cosmologists would be inclined to agree that the universe has existed for about ten to twenty billion years. For scale, this can be compared to the four-and-a-half-billion-year age of the solar system, the time since the disappearance of the dinosaurs (sixty-five million years), and the age of the human race (about three million years).

The event that marked the beginning of the universe was christened the Big Bang; the term has now entered the vernacular of our culture. Originally the name referred only to the single initiating event; now, however, astronomers have come to use it to mean the entire developmental process of the birth and expansion of the cosmos.

The simple statement that the universe had a beginning in time is by now so obvious to astrophysicists that few give it a second thought. Yet it is a statement that has profound implications. Most civilizations embrace one of two opposite concepts of time. Linear time has a beginning, duration, and end; cyclical time, as its name suggests, continues around and around forever. In a universe that functions through cyclical time, the question of creation never arises; the universe always was and always will be. The minute you switch to linear time you immediately confront the vexing question not only of creation, but also of the Creator. Although there is no logical reason for the assumption, many people believe that if something comes into existence, it must do so in response to the actions of some rational being. Because of that

belief, astronomers, even though they resist becoming involved in theological discussion, find themselves in one when they posit the Big Bang universe. It puts them squarely in the middle of an age-old debate.

One common misconception about the Big Bang that should be disposed of immediately is the notion that the universal expansion is analogous to the explosion of an artillery shell. The galaxies are not like bits of shrapnel speeding away from a central explosion. The raisin-in-dough analogy is a more satisfactory way to think about the whole process.

13. In the context of the passage, the phrase “Big Bang” refers to:
  - (1) Cosmology
  - (2) the beginning of God
  - (3) birth and expansion of the cosmos
  - (4) universal Ennui
14. According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true?
  - (1) The exact time period of the universe has been established beyond any debate.
  - (2) The definition of Big Bang has certainly evolved with newer cosmological evidences.
  - (3) The concept of time has two different interpretations.
  - (4) Cyclical concept of time posits a challenge for the believers of the Big Bang.
15. A common misconception regarding the Big Bang is that:
  - (1) it cannot be defined in the temporal sense.
  - (2) expansion of the universe is similar to the explosion of arteries.
  - (3) Big Bang does not follow a linear time sequence.
  - (4) Big Bang is still refuted by a large number of astrophysicists.

#### Passage – 4

The person, who, with inner conviction, loathes stealing, killing, and assault, may find himself performing these acts with relative ease when commanded by authority. Behaviour that is unthinkable in an individual who is acting of his own volition may be executed without hesitation when carried out under orders. An act carried out under command is, psychologically, of a profoundly different character than spontaneous action.

The important task, from the standpoint of a psychological study of obedience, is to be able to take conceptions of authority and translate them into personal experience. It is one thing to talk in abstract terms about the respective rights of the individual and of authority; it is quite another to examine a moral choice in a real situation. We all know about the philosophic problems of freedom and authority. But in every case where the problem is not merely academic there is a real person who must obey or disobey authority. All musing prior to this moment is mere speculation, and all acts of disobedience are characterized by such a moment of decisive action.

When we move to the laboratory, the problem narrows: if an experimenter tells a subject to act with increasing severity against another person, under what conditions will the subject comply, and under what conditions will he disobey? The laboratory problem is vivid, intense, and real. It is not something apart from life, but carries to an extreme and very logical conclusion certain trends inherent in the ordinary functioning of the social world. The question arises as to whether there is any connection between what we have studied in the laboratory and the forms of obedience we have so often deplored throughout history. The differences in the two situations are, of course, enormous, yet the difference in scale, numbers, and political context may be relatively unimportant as long as certain essential features are retained.

To the degree that an absence of compulsion is present, obedience is coloured by a cooperative mood; to the degree that the threat of force or punishment against the person is intimated, obedience is compelled by fear. The major problem for the individual is to recapture control of his own regnant processes once he has committed them to the purposes of others. The difficulty this entails represents the poignant and in some degree tragic element in the situation, for nothing is bleaker than the sight of a person striving yet not fully able to control his own behaviour in a situation of consequence to him.

The essence of obedience is the fact that a person comes to view himself as the instrument for carrying out another's wishes, and he therefore no longer regards himself as culpable for his actions. Once this critical shift of viewpoint has occurred, all of the essential features of obedience—the adjustment of thought, the freedom to engage in cruel behaviour, and the types of justification experienced by the person (essentially similar whether they occur in a psychological laboratory or on the battlefield)—follow. The question of generality, therefore, is not resolved by enumerating all of the manifest differences between the psychological laboratory and other situations, but by carefully constructing a situation that captures the essence of obedience—a situation in which a person gives himself over to authority and no longer views himself as the cause of his own actions.

16. According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT false?
- (1) For a psychologist, studying moral choices in real situation is quite a simple task.
  - (2) Acts of immorality under authority is easily undertaken by the perpetrator even if such acts would be shunned by the individual subjectively.
  - (3) Obedience cannot be compelled by fear.
  - (4) Persons who have given themselves over to authority still retain an individual viewpoint.

17. With respect to the passage, every study of authority and disobedience is difficult since:
- (1) it is hard to command individuals as a psychologist.
  - (2) it is irrational to come up with an impartial judgment on these issues.
  - (3) it requires the subject of the study to bring in their parents too which becomes a practical issue.
  - (4) in the laboratory the stakes are not as high and the subject is not under a lot of duress.
18. Which of the following can be inferred from the first paragraph?
- (1) Spontaneous immoral acts cannot be dissociated from immoral acts performed under command.
  - (2) Immoral acts performed under command should not be equated to the individual's personal moral leanings.
  - (3) Psychologists are deceptive and manipulative.
  - (4) Soldiers can be accounted as common criminals.

### Passage – 5

It is generally agreed among scholars and policy makers alike that the dazzling development of the Internet and its wide-range of applications during the past five years are going to change various facets of our society in very fundamental ways as we move into the 21st century (Castells, 1998). Among the many transformations the Internet brings to society, the most conspicuous, and perhaps the most important, is the so-called emerging (indeed, e-merging) digital economy as evidenced by the growth of Internet-based businesses for the delivery of goods and services on a global scale.

According to the two latest national studies released by the Department of Commerce, e-commerce is quickly becoming the engine for economic growth in

the new millennium. This e-commerce-led growth could accelerate in the coming years not only in the information technology (IT) sector itself, but across all sectors of the economy as the number of people connected to the Internet multiplies and as its commercial use grows. The U.S. Department of Commerce (2000) reports that the percentage of U.S. companies that sell their products over the Internet has jumped from 24% in 1998 to 56% by 2000. About \$2.2 billion worth of business-to-consumers goods and services were sold over the Internet in 1997, and \$5.3 billion for the fourth quarter of 1999 alone. By 2018, it is forecasted that online retail sales may reach \$ 40 to 80 billion. However, business-to-consumer (B2C) transactions represent only 20% of the e-commerce, the remaining 80% is business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce. B2B transactions were \$43 billion in 1998, expected to rise over to \$1.3 trillion by 2003. There are currently 304 million Internet users worldwide, up almost 80% from 1999. Also, for the first time the U.S. and Canada account for less than 50% of the global online population in fourth quarter of 1999. In the U.S., there are currently 30 million online house-holds, and by 2018, it is estimated that nearly 75% of American families (53 million) will be surfing the Net and buying products and services directly from the manufacturer or distributor. The amount of information available online has increased tenfold over the last few years, to more than one billion discrete pages.

There is growing evidence that firms are moving their supply networks and sales channels online and participating in new online marketplaces. Firms are also expanding their use of networked systems to improve internal business processes, such as coordinating product design, managing inventory, improving customer services, and reducing administrative and managerial costs. More and more B2B transactions are being conducted online electronically as well. Intel's Andy Grove even predicted "In five years' time, all companies will be



Internet companies or they won't be companies at all." For the consumers, this means quick, unparalleled access to goods and services at a global scale with only the click of a mouse. For example, Buyer's Index alone provides a search engine to over 20,000 companies with 300 million products. Indeed, the Internet is quickly becoming the modern Agora freed from the limitations of space and time.

19. Which of the following is the thematic highlight of the above passage?
  - (1) It is a cautionary note on the potential positive impacts of technological innovations and the deeper cultural roots of environmental degradation caused by increasing consumption.
  - (2) It is a discussion on the recent and the expected future developments of the emerging digital economy
  - (3) Major technological innovations have not only brought fundamental change to the economic system but also far-reaching environmental impacts, for better or worse.
  - (4) Discussion on the environmental policy initiatives during the age of Internet.
20. The author gives the example of Buyer's Index in order to:
  - (1) showcase the ease to customers due to the presence of the internet.
  - (2) showcase that Buyer's Index is an Agora.
  - (3) showcase the forfeit of innovative technologies.
  - (4) showcase the birth and progress of Buyer's Index.
21. Which of the following can best replace the word "AGORA" used in the last sentence of the passage?
  - (1) Culture
  - (2) Age
  - (3) Arcade
  - (4) Technique

## Passage – 6

The Centre would like us to believe that the Smart Cities Mission will transform urban life in the agglomerations that enter the elite club. With the latest inclusions, there are 90 cities in the list, each of which proposes to turn 'smart', utilizing core funding from the Centre and other resources. By all accounts, the provision of basic services in urban India has been worsening, and this is clearly reflected in the winning city proposals: 81 of the selected plans seek funds for affordable housing, new schools and hospitals, and redesign of roads. This is at best a partial list, and there are many more aspects to achieving inclusivity. There is a high-visibility campaign around the Smart Cities Mission, but there is little evidence to suggest that State and local governments have either the fine-grained data or the capability to analyze them in order to understand the evolving needs of their communities. The Centre has apparently decided to skirt such a fundamental problem by adopting a 'managed urbanization' approach in the chosen cities, with the powers of municipal councils delegated to a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), under the Companies Act, that will act in its own wisdom. Given that this is the model adopted by the two-year-old Mission, the Centre must present a status report on what the SPVs have achieved so far.

Any serious attempt at improving the quality of life in cities would depend on how governments approach data. It would be smart, for instance, to use sensors to estimate the flow of vehicles and pedestrians, and create smartphone applications for the public to report on a variety of parameters. Making such data open would enable citizen groups to themselves come up with analysis to help city administrators make decisions, boost transparency and make officials accountable. There are several international examples now, such as the Array of Things sensors being installed on Chicago streets, which let people download the raw data on air quality, transport, pedestrian movement and standing water. Although

India's Smart Cities Mission has identified more than 20 priority areas, interventions by the respective agencies are weak. Access to special funding should make it mandatory for all public transport providers — city bus corporations, Metro Rail and suburban trains — to provide real-time passenger information in the form of open data, an inexpensive global standard that raises both access and efficiency through smartphone applications. Making street-level waste management data public would lead to a heat map of the worst sites, compelling managers to solve the problem. Clearly, there is a lot of low-hanging fruit on the road to smartness, and a nimble policy approach can tap this quickly. Most importantly, the ideology that guides the plan should recognize that the vibrant life of cities depends on variety and enabling environments, rather than a mere technology-led vision.

22. The primary purpose of the passage is to:
- (1) show the importance of introducing a plan that enables environment along with using technologies for waste management and traffic control.
  - (2) show how the environment can be protected from further wreckage.
  - (3) show that complying with the government's ideas and rules is the only way to accomplish the Smart Cities Mission.
  - (4) show that for the success of the Smart Cities Mission additional sources of funding will be required than the funds government usually provides.

23. With which of the following would the author most agree?

- (1) The most effective way for the government to improve life quality in Indian cities is by installing Chicago's Array of Things sensors.
- (2) Indian cities can turn out to be the best in the world by having an approach that is technology-centric, so that it would give public the access to information like waste management.
- (3) A Smart Cities Mission having smart phone applications for accessing data would include the general public and will therefore not be a failure in Indian cities.
- (4) A Smart Cities Mission having smart phone applications will be a total disaster.

24. Which of the following can best replace the word "VIBRANT" used in the last line of the passage?

- (1) Barren
- (2) Hurried
- (3) Colorful
- (4) Enervated

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**Visit "Test Gym" for taking Topic Tests / Section Tests on a regular basis.**

# VA - 04 : RC - 2

## Answers and Explanations

CEX-V-0240/18

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

1. 4 Inclement means stormy. Fissure means a rift.
2. 3 Taciturn or reserved is the antonym of Garrulous or talkative. Enfeeble means to weaken, enervate, diminish, or debilitate. Fortify or Strengthen is its antonym.
3. 2 Accede is the antonym of dissent. Exonerate means to free someone from guilt. Condemn is its antonym.
4. 3 Theology is the study of religion. Phenology is the study of seasonal or cyclical phenomena such as climate.
5. 4 A bouquet consists of flowers. A woodpile consists of logs. Husk refers to the outer covering on seeds or fruits.
6. 1 To follow is less intense than to chase, and to nudge is less intense than to plunge.
7. 1 Refer to the lines "Even the name given to the reefs is something of a misnomer.....of the average reef community". Options (2) and (3) are irrelevant. Option (4) justifies the name "coral reef" which is the opposite of what the question asks.
8. 3 It is mentioned in the fourth paragraph. The author describes how scientists have tried to explain the creation of the barrier reefs. Darwin's theory is given as a part of these explanations. Options (1) and (2) go beyond the scope of this passage. Option (4) is wrong because there is no anomaly or incongruity mentioned in this context. Hence, option (3) is the answer as Darwin's theory looks to be more valid after certain findings.

9. 4 Option (1) is wrong because this passage focuses on marine environment and a mystery related to it. The environment is beyond the scope of this passage. Option (2) is wrong because the paragraph provides evidence to support Darwin's theory. Option (3) is a fact directly mentioned in the passage. It can't be called an inference. Option 4 can be derived from the fourth paragraph. There is some relation (whether direct or indirect) between the end of the Ice age and the creation of these reefs.
10. 3 Refer to the second paragraph. Options (1) and (4) are the same excuse. Option (2) is mentioned too. However, option 3 is not mentioned in this context.
11. 2 Option (1) is too broad and is not supported by the passage. It can't even be inferred. Option (2) is mentioned in "Willard Van Orman Quine ventures even further and maintain that experience never forces one to reject any particular belief". Option (3), too, is beyond the scope of this passage. Option (4) is wrong because the passage is silent on placebo effect being an "integral part" of any disease cycle.
12. 3 A placebo drug is a drug that shows psychological effect whereas it lacks any actual therapeutic value. Option (1) is wrong because a drug exists. It simply is not a real drug. Option (2) is vague. A placebo pill is given to humour someone for sure but humorous effect is misleading. Option 3 is the best answer. Option (4) is wrong because "psychological" and "psychiatric" are not the same thing.
13. 3 The correct answer is option (3). In the passage it is mentioned that, 'Originally the name referred only to the single initiating event; now, however, astronomers have come to use it to mean the entire developmental process of the birth and expansion of the cosmos'. The other options shall be eliminated since they are factually incorrect with respect to the passage.

14. 1	The correct answer is option (1). In the passage it is stated clearly that, 'Though there is some controversy about its exact age. . .' The other options can be well established from the passage to be true and hence shall be eliminated.	20. 1	Option (1) is the correct answer. Option (3) is absolutely incorrect. The passage highlights the triumph of internet and not its failure. Option (4) is incorrect as the passage nowhere mentions these details about Buyer's Index. Option (2) is a close answer but is incorrect because it has a narrow scope. The example of Buyer's Index is given to show how comfortable it has become for people to sell and purchase goods at a click of the mouse. Because of the same reason, option (1) is the best answer.
15. 2	In the concluding paragraph it is mentioned that, 'One common misconception about the Big Bang that should be disposed of immediately is the notion that the universal expansion is analogous to the explosion of an artillery shell'. Option (1) is incorrect as it has some relation with the temporal sense. Options (3) is wrong. That is a problem, not a misconception. Option (4) doesn't answer the question.	21. 3	The word 'Agora' means a market or a bazaar. 'Arcade' means the same. And hence option (3) is the best answer.
16. 2	Option (2) is the crux of the passage and the entire first paragraph justifies it. The other options are all false or logically irrelevant with respect to the passage.	22. 1	Option (2) is incorrect because saving environment is not the main aim of the passage. Option (3) is incorrect as it is an extreme option. Option (4) is incorrect. Even though the given statement is true, it is not the main aim of the passage.
17. 4	In the passage it is mentioned that, 'When we move to the laboratory, the problem narrows: if an experimenter tells a subject to act with increasing severity against another person, under what conditions will the subject comply, and under what conditions will he disobey?' Hence, option (4) is the correct answer.	23. 3	Option (1) is incorrect because Chicago's Array of Things is just a comparative example cited by the author, of a smart solution, but it is not the perfect solution. The passage states that the governments should not drive their strategies with an ideology that is just technology driven. Several factors like basic civic services, walk-ability, healthy environment are equally important for the health of a city. Hence option (2) is incorrect. Option (4) is incorrect as it is an extreme option. Option (3) is the most appropriate as the passage states – "to provide real-time passenger information in the form of open data, an inexpensive global standard that raises both access and efficiency through smart-phone applications."
18. 2	The correct answer is option (2). This statement sums up the entire theme of the passage. Option (1) can be eliminated since it states that only immoral individuals comply with authority's demands of perpetrating immoral acts. The other two options can be eliminated since they are logically irrelevant to the passage.	24. 3	Option (3) is the correct answer. The word 'vibrant' means colorful and active. 'Enervated' is its antonym. 'Barren' is an extreme option. 'Hurried' is partially correct, but 'colorful' is the most appropriate.
19. 2	Option (2) is the correct answer. Option (1) is incorrect as there is no note of caution. The author is simply giving us information about the internet and its expected growth, which makes option (2) correct. Options (3) and (4) are ruled out as nothing about the effects of internet age on the environment is discussed in the passage.		