

Introduction



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VA - 00

CEX-V-0236/18

Number of Questions : 25

CAT

The Common Admission Test (CAT) is conducted either on the last Sunday of November or the first Sunday of December. Its duration is 180 minutes with sectional time restriction of 60 minutes for each of the three sections i.e. Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VA & RC), Logical Reasoning and Data Interpretation (LR&DI), and Quantitative Ability (QA).

There are 100 questions in total in this paper. The VA and QA sections have 34 questions each and the DI section has 32 questions.

In 2015 and 2016, CAT followed the same pattern in the VA&RC section. There were 24 questions in RC and 10 questions in VA.

CAT 2015 and 2016 pattern (VA&RC section):

Topic	No of questions	Total marks	Negative marking	Word length	Nature of the question
Passage 1 (RC)	6	3 X 6	1 per wrong answer	650-800	MCQ
Passage 2 (RC)	6	3 X 6	1 per wrong answer	650-800	MCQ
Passage 3 (RC)	6	3 X 6	1 per wrong answer	650-800	MCQ
Passage 4 (RC)	3	3 X 3	1 per wrong answer	300-450	MCQ
Passage 5 (RC)	3	3 X 3	1 per wrong answer	300-450	MCQ
Para Jumble	4	3 X 4	NA	5 sentences	Non-MCQ
Para Jumble odd one out	3	3 X 3	NA	5 sentences	MCQ-Non negative
Summary	3	3 X 3	NA	150-200	MCQ-Non negative

The RC passages are generally taken from subjects like Economics, Politics, and Cultural Studies. The longer passages are usually dense and require a thorough reading. The options are quite tricky in nature too. However, the VA section can include questions from Grammar, Vocabulary, Para Completion, and FIJ too. Hence, one must be familiar with all these areas before taking CAT.

Non-MCQ – One has to type in the correct sequence in the online key pad given below each question. There are no options available.

MCQ-Non negative – There are options given. However, one has to type in the option number in the online key pad given below the question.

One must concentrate on the following areas while preparing for the VA&RC section in CAT:

1. **Reading on a computer (soft copy)** – One must practice so that one's speed is not unusually low while reading on a desktop.
2. **Concentration** – Skimming and scanning becomes tough while reading on a computer. Hence, one must develop an appropriate technique to tackle this difficulty.
3. **Vocabulary** – Even though one may not get a vocabulary question in CAT, all the questions require an above average vocabulary. Try to learn at least 1500 new words while preparing for CAT.
4. **Verbal Logic** – It is crucial not only for CAT but also for a career in management. One must develop critical thinking ability. This section might be unfamiliar to many students. It requires additional effort.

XAT

It is the second most popular exam after CAT. It is conducted by the Xavier Association of Management Institutes. The test day is normally the first Sunday of January.

This paper has two parts. The first part is further divided into three sections i.e. Verbal and Logical Ability (VA), Decision Making (DM), and Quantitative

Ability & Data Interpretation (QA&DI). In XAT 2017, there were total 72 questions in the first part and the time limit was 170 minutes. However, there can be a mild variation in this segment. The second part comprises two sections i.e. General Awareness (GK) and Essay Writing. The total time allotted for this part is 35 minutes.

The MCQ questions in XAT have five options each and each question carries equal marks. However, a point of concern is the unusual negative marking pattern. For every incorrect answer the student loses $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mark allotted to that question. Moreover, there is a penalty of 0.05 marks for every un-attempted question after the first 12 questions. All these things are very crucial and should be kept in mind while attempting the paper.

The VA section in XAT is normally difficult and tricky. The RC passages may have 3-4 questions each. XAT generally asks Critical Reasoning questions as well. The other areas that normally come in XAT are Grammar, Para Jumble, Cloze Test, and Analogy. XAT generally asks one question each year on Pronunciation or Phonetics (for a migratory word).

One has to pay special attention to Verbal Logic while preparing for XAT. The DM section depends a lot on one's critical thinking ability.

NMAT

Conducted by Narsee Monjee, Mumbai, NMAT is a very popular MBA entrance exam in India. It typically begins the exam year. The exam is conducted in different time slots (called windows) and a candidate has to book his/her slot. It is a Computer based Test (CBT). It also has sectional time restriction. Hence, it gives a great practice for CAT too. However, unlike CAT, a candidate can choose the order of the sections.

The exam has three sections i.e. Verbal Ability (VA), Logical Reasoning (LR), and Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation (QA&DI). The VA section has 32 questions and the time limit is 22 minutes. It typically includes two passages with 4 questions each. NMAT is famous for asking synonym/antonym questions.

Anyone with an above average vocabulary can answer these questions easily. The other questions asked in NMAT VA section are Para Jumble and Grammar. All questions in the exam carry three marks each and there is no penalty for wrong answers.

The LR section of NMAT has 40 questions and the time limit is 38 minutes. It includes verbal logic questions like Critical Reasoning, Decision making, Statement-Assumption, and Syllogism.

One can retake the exam twice i.e. one can take the exam three times in a calendar year.

IIFT

It is an exam conducted in a week before CAT (normally on the last Sunday of November) by Indian Institute of Foreign Trade. The number of questions in this 120 minute paper keeps fluctuating. For instance, in 2016 the paper had 124 questions, while the year before it had 118 questions. However, this unpredictability is not a matter of real concern. A student must focus on a thorough preparation for this exam by practicing the different types of questions.

This exam is divided into 4 sections i.e. General Awareness; Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension; Quantitative Ability; and Logical Reasoning and Data Interpretation. Also, the marking scheme of each section varies, where for every incorrect answer the student loses 1/3rd of the mark allotted to that question. The difference in the marking scheme indicates that sectional cut-off is crucial in this exam. However, there is no sectional time limit as it is a paper based examination.

The RC passages comprise 4-5 questions each. Every question in this section carries 1 mark. In the Verbal Ability section, the questions are broadly divided into Idioms and Phrasal Verbs, Vocabulary questions like synonyms and antonyms, Figures of Speech, Para Jumble and Para-completion. Each question in this section carries 0.75 mark. Other than this, in the LR section, there are some questions based on syllogism, carrying 0.75 mark each.

TISS NET

TISS NET is an exam conducted by Tata Institute of Social Sciences. This exam usually takes place in the first half of January. The time duration for this paper is 100 minutes.

The exam comprises 100 questions (each carrying 1 mark), which are divided into six sections namely General Awareness (40 Questions), Logical Reasoning (15 questions), Mathematics (7 questions), Data Interpretation (8 questions), Verbal Ability (25 questions), and Reading Comprehension (5 questions). But there is no sectional cut-off. (TISSNET – 2016 pattern)

In the LR section, there are a very few questions from Verbal Logic, but they are often tricky. The Verbal Ability section, consisting of 25 questions, is often dominated by vocabulary. There are questions covering topics like Synonyms, Antonyms, Idioms and Proverbs. Plus there are some Analogy questions and some FIBs as well. The FIBs are a wonderful mix of vocabulary and proverbs. Word Substitution, Antonyms and Odd Word Out are also included in this part. A good number of questions are devoted to Spotting the Error. Apart from these, there is an RC passage, which includes not more than 5 questions: usually an easy to tackle section.

SNAP

Symbiosis National Aptitude Test is an entrance exam conducted by the Symbiosis International University. This 2 hour long paper is conducted once in a year, usually on the third Sunday of December. It has a total of 150 questions. The paper is divided into the following 4 sections- General English: Reading Comprehension, Verbal Reasoning, Verbal Ability; Quantitative, Data Interpretation & Data Sufficiency; Current Affairs; Analytical & Logical Reasoning.

In the English section, there are RC passages, comprising 11 questions in total. There are questions covering Para jumble, some of which have 6 sentences, while some have five sentences. Also there are questions related to Migratory words and

phrases, One Word Substitution along with Synonyms, Antonyms and Verbal Analogy. Some questions are based on Idioms. FIBs based on both vocabulary and grammar are also there. Then there are questions on Figures of Speech and Common Confusables. Apart from this, in the Reasoning section, there are a few questions of Critical Reasoning and Syllogism.

MICAT

Mudra Institute of Communications Admission Test, popularly known as MICAT, is an exam conducted by Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad. This exam is generally conducted twice a year. MICAT I is held in December, while MICAT II is held in February. This paper comprises the following three sections- Descriptive, Psychometric, and Subject based. The Psychometric section is exclusive to this paper. Also, it is a qualifier, which means that if a student fails to clear this section of the exam, his/her exam will not be evaluated. A point of caution for writing this exam is that attempting all the questions in the psychometric test is mandatory, failing which one's paper is not evaluated.

The descriptive section has 4 questions which test one's creative writing skills. The total time given for attempting these questions is 35 minutes. The 1st question asks arguments for the topic. The 2nd question asks arguments against the topic. The 3rd question asks one to give one's opinion (which can't be neutral) in the form of a response written to a newspaper editor. The 4th question consists of four images. A student has to frame a story based on the given pictures and the pictures have to be sequenced as per your storyline.

Section three is further divided into four parts- Reasoning, General Knowledge, Verbal Ability and Quantitative Ability. In the reasoning section, 15 Word Association questions and 2-3 Verbal logic questions come. This section has the 1/4th negative marking pattern. In VA section, there are 25 questions. The grammar concepts tested are: Pronouns, Tenses and Articles. Other than this, there are FIBs with one or two blanks. There are Sentence Correction questions and Para jumble questions as well. A single

RC passage with 4-5 questions is also included in this section. Apart from these, there can also be vocabulary questions.

Some other Entrance exams are:

MAT	CMAT	MHCET
ICFAI	IRMA	

Vocabulary-Based Questions

- For the following question, select the most suitable synonym from among the choices and mark that as your answer.

PERSIFLAGE

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| (1) Mediocrity | (2) Contempt |
| (3) Banter | (4) Performance |

- For the following question, select the most suitable antonym from among the choices and mark that as your answer.

MELLIFLUOUS

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| (1) Dulcet | (2) Discordant |
| (3) Cadence | (4) Harmonious |

- In the following question, identify the meaning of the underlined word from among the choices and mark it as your answer.

However, like all lawyers, he came to the interview carrying copious notes!

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| (1) Pertinent | (2) Abundant |
| (3) Irrelevant | (4) Provocative |

- An expression is followed by four words in the following question. The expression carries the meaning of one of the words in the choices. Identify the word and mark that as your answer.

A thing appropriate to a period other than that in which it exists:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| (1) Chronicle | (2) Polychromatic |
| (3) Anarchy | (4) Anachronism |

5. In the following question, a sentence is given in which an idiom is used. Identify the meaning of the idiom from among the choices and mark that as your answer.

Messi is looking forward to a great day and will probably hang his boots up after the match.

- (1) Associate with the game
- (2) Retire from the activity
- (3) Get a new pair
- (4) Change the strategy

6. A foreign expression is given in the following question. Identify the meaning of the foreign expression from among the choices and mark that as your answer.

Ipso facto

- (1) By that very fact
- (2) Factually incorrect
- (3) Inconsequential fact
- (4) The act of vilifying a fact

7. The following question has a paragraph with one italicized word that does not make sense. Choose the most appropriate replacement for that word from the choices given below the paragraph.

The annual meteor shower is thought to be *perquized* by Earth passing through the tail of rubble that follows behind the small Solar System body 2003 EH1. As these little pieces of debris and space-dust burn up in Earth's atmosphere, they cause spectacular shooting stars – up to 100 every hour.

- (1) witnessed (2) imputed
- (3) triggered (4) ossified

8. The following question has four capitalized words. From among the choices, identify the words that can be associated with all the four capitalized words.

SOUND, ON, DOWN, SIDE

- (1) wave (2) party
- (3) track (4) way

9. A pair of capitalized words is followed by four pairs of words. Choose the pair of words that best expresses a relationship similar to that of the capitalized pair.

SANGUINE : BLOOD

- (1) Animation : Life
- (2) Choler : Bile
- (3) Antlophobia : Floods
- (4) Thaw : Antagonism

10. For the following question, fill in the blanks with the most appropriate pair of words.

Such blockades, generally aimed at _____ harmful mass communication, turn out to be counter-productive, impacting economic growth and _____ social stability.

- (1) restricting ... threatening
- (2) promoting ... saving
- (3) threatening ... exacerbating
- (4) narrowing ... transforming

Directions for questions 11 to 13: Fill in the blanks in the passage with the most appropriate word from among the choices given for each blank.

The Synaptics multi-factor fusion engine __11__ authentication scores from multiple biometrics to determine verification. This increases overall system security as both fingerprint and facial factors have to meet minimum __12__ requirements before authentication. In addition, the fusion engine __13__ usability as lower individual verification thresholds still result in greater security.

- 11. (1) combines (2) digresses
 (3) correlates (4) re-corroborates
- 12. (1) assorted (2) technical
 (3) endorsement (4) threshold
- 13. (1) reproves (2) improves
 (3) deprives (4) contrives

14. For the word given at the top of the table, match correctly the definitions given in the left hand column with their usage given in the right hand column.

MAINTAIN

A	give one's support to; uphold	E	He added that pressure needed to be maintained to ensure the plan was delivered.
B	to state or assert something strongly to be the case	F	The allowance covers the basic costs of maintaining a child.
C	provide with necessities for life or existence	G	He had persistently maintained that he would not stand against his old friend.
D	cause or enable (a condition or situation) to continue	H	Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the laws of God?

(1)

A	H
B	G
C	F
D	E

(2)

A	G
B	E
C	F
D	H

(3)

A	E
B	G
C	F
D	H

(4)

A	H
B	F
C	G
D	E

15. In the following question, a word is used in four different ways. Choose the option in which the usage of the word is INCORRECT or INAPPROPRIATE.

LEFT

- (1) The Green Party leadership appears to believe that the left vote is theirs by right.

- (2) There were only a few seats, and one of them was the place directly to the left of him.
 (3) The proposals, for that reason, left us cold.
 (4) He resumed the story at the point where the previous author had left.

Grammar

16. The following question has a sentence that is split into four parts and one of them has an error. Identify and mark the erroneous part as your answer.

A capital gain is (1)/ the profit made by a person (2)/ when he sells, or disposes off, (3)/ an asset which he owns.(4)

17. The following sentence is written in four different forms. Identify the grammatically correct form and mark that as your answer.

- (1) Her rise and fall says a lot about our brutal political system.
 (2) Her rise and fall say a lot about our brutal political system.
 (3) Her rise and fall says a lots about our brutal political system.
 (4) Her rise and fall say lots about our brutal political system.

18. In the following question, a part of the sentence is underlined and four different ways of phrasing the underlined part are given beneath that sentence. Choose the best alternative and mark that as your answer.

Nothing like this has ever happened in the area before and probably never will again.

- (1) has ever happened in the area before and probably never will
 (2) has never happened in the area before and probably ever will
 (3) has ever happened in the area before and probably will never
 (4) has never happened in the area before and probably will never

19. Identify the incorrect sentence or sentences.

- A. He will go to America next month, if he is ready by then.
- B. My friend is taller than me.
- C. Of the two sisters, the elder is the best.
- D. Scarcely he had locked the door when the key broke.

- (1) Only A (2) B and D
(3) B, C and D (4) C and D

20. In the question below, four sentences or parts of sentences that form a paragraph are given. Identify the sentence(s) or part(s) of sentence(s) that is/are incorrect in terms of grammar and usage. Then choose the most appropriate option.

- A. I was soon appointed for a Fellowship in political economy,
- B. and by means of this and some temporary employment by McGill University, I
- C. survived until I took the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1903. The meaning of this degree is the
- D. recipient of instruction is examined for the last time in his life, and is pronounced completely trained. After this, no new ideas can be imparted to him.

- (1) A and C (2) Only A
(3) B and C (4) B, C and D

Verbal Logic/Reasoning

21. The following question has a set of four jumbled sentences which when properly arranged form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labeled with a letter. Arrange these to make a coherent paragraph and write it as your answer.

- A. That's just an illustration of Ola's ongoing effort to find emotional resonance with its customers as it goes head-to-head with its primary rival Uber, the global pioneer of the taxi aggregation business.

B. Adornment with mehendi is an ornamental part of this festival of faith, and the services of mehendi artists typically come at a premium.

C. To tap into that niche market, India's pioneering taxi aggregator Ola is offering a uniquely Indian service: it will ferry mehendi artists to the homes of women who enrolled as on Tuesday evening.

D. On Wednesday, millions of married women across northern Indian States will observe karvachauth, the traditional festival that is intended to channel cosmic forces in the cause of ensuring longevity to their respective spouses.

22. In the following question, arrange the sentences A, B, C and D to form a logical sequence. Sentences 1 and 6 are in their correct places. Choose the most logical sequence of sentences from among the given choices.

- 1. You are trapped in a room with two doors.
- A. There are two robots guarding the doors.
- B. One leads to certain death and the other leads to freedom and you don't know which is which.
- C. You can, however, ask one robot one question and the problem is one robot always tells the truth, the other always lies and you don't know which is which.
- D. They will let you choose one door but upon doing so you must go through it.
- 6. What is the question you ask?

- (1) ABDC (2) BADC
(3) BCAD (4) ABCD

(Teaser: What question you will ask???)

23. In the following question, four sentences are given. Of these, three sentences need to be arranged in a logical order to form a coherent paragraph/passage. From the given options, choose the one that does not fit the sequence.
- (1) For many old-school foreign-policy pundits in Delhi, those are heresies.
 - (2) Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has shaken his ministry out of nearly a decade of lethargy.
 - (3) Foreign Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who served previously as ambassador in Beijing and Washington, has fashioned a foreign policy that expertly blends continuity with change.
 - (4) Mr. Modi has chosen competent officials to give his strategic instincts policy content.
24. The following question has a paragraph from which the last sentence has been deleted. From the given options, choose the one that completes the paragraph in the most appropriate way.
- To me it has always seemed that the very essence of good humour is that it must be without harm and without malice. I admit that there is in all of us a certain vein of the old original demoniacal humour or joy in the misfortune of another which sticks to us like our original sin. It ought not to be funny to see a man, especially a fat and pompous man, slip suddenly on a banana skin. _____
- (1) But it is.
 - (2) When a skater on a pond who is describing graceful circles and show-ing off before the crowd, breaks through the ice and gets a ducking, everybody shouts with joy.
 - (3) But our sense of humour under civilization has been weakened.
 - (4) Much of the fun of this sort of thing has been lost on us.
25. Four alternative summaries are given below the following text. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the text.
- “Everybody will come and he'll have his own opinion. Often the opinion of a batsman is very different from the opinion of a bowler. But, what you have to do is you have to see what the strength of the batsman is at that point of time, how the wicket is, whether there is some kind of reverse swing or no reverse swing on offer, etc. You need to calculate all these things and I feel what really helps is you listen to all of them.”
- (1) In a situation involving various opinions, it can be chaotic.
 - (2) One must do what one is convinced of without listening to the opinion of others.
 - (3) One must grasp that the inputs of others can be detrimental.
 - (4) In a situation involving diverse opinions, one must take a calculated decision.

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VA - 00 : Introduction

Answers and Explanations

CEX-V-0236/18

1	3	2	2	3	2	4	4	5	2	6	1	7	3	8	3	9	2	10	1
11	1	12	4	13	2	14	1	15	4	16	3	17	1	18	1	19	3	20	1
21	—	22	2	23	1	24	1	25	4										

1. 3 **Persiflage** means a light contemptuous mockery or teasing remarks or **banter**.
2. 2 Mellifluous means pleasingly smooth and musical. Choices (1) and (4) are synonyms. **Discordant** means jarring and harsh and so it is the best antonym. **Cadence** means a modulation of the voice.
3. 2 **Copious** means abundant. **Pertinent** means relevant.
4. 4 **Anachronism** is the apt word. The relevant root is 'CHRON' which refers to 'time'.
5. 2 The idiom, **hang up one's boots**, means to cease or retire from the activity associated with the garment or object specified.
6. 1 The Latin expression **ipso facto** means by that very fact or act.
7. 3 The apt word is **triggered**. According to the paragraph, the annual meteor shower takes place when the Earth passes through the tail of rubble. Hence choice (3) is correct. **Impute** means attribute and **ossify** is to turn into bone or harden.
8. 3 **Track** is the correct word. **Soundtrack**, **on track**, **track down** and **side track** are the associated expressions. The other choices do not associate with all the capitalized words.
9. 2 According to the four humours in medieval science, **sanguine** is associated with **blood**. Similarly, **choleric** is associated with **bile**. The other choices are irrelevant, as they do not express this similarity. Antiphoobia is the fear of floods.
10. 1 For the first blank "generally aimed at" and "turn out to be counter-productive" are the pointers. And the 'counter-productive ...' impacts 'economic growth'. Hence, the word for the first blank has to be stopping

or reducing the 'harmful mass communication'. So the words could be **restricting** or **narrowing**. But, the second blank cannot go with **transforming**, as the required word should be close to the meaning of the word 'impacting'. Hence, choice (1) is the correct answer.

11. 1 The expression 'from multiple biometrics' takes the word **combines** for blank.
12. 4 '... minimum ... requirements' should go with the word **threshold** for blank.
13. 2 'In addition' is indicative of the continuity of the positive tone in the paragraph. So, **improves** is the word for blank.
14. 1 Choice (1) provides the correct match between the two columns.
15. 4 In sentence (4), the use of the phrasal verb 'leave off' is correct.
16. 3 The verb 'dispose' should be followed by 'of' and not 'off'.
17. 1 The phrase 'rise and fall' is treated as a singular subject and hence takes a singular verb. Choice (1) is grammatically correct.
18. 1 The given sentence is grammatically correct. Since the sentence begins with 'nothing', the word 'never' cannot be used in the first clause. And in the second, the word 'never' comes before the verb.
19. 3 Sentence B is erroneous. It should be "My friend is taller than **I (am)**." Sentence C has reference to only 'two sisters'. Hence, the adjective should be 'better' and not 'the best'. In sentence D, the word 'scarcely' should be followed by a question form. The correct form is "**Scarcely had he ...**"

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>20. 1 Choice (1) is the correct answer. In sentence A, the verb 'appoint' should be followed by the preposition 'to' and in sentence C, the conjunction 'that' is necessary after the verb 'is'.</p> <p>21. DBCA. The beginning of sentence D is the pointer for the topic sentence. Also, a quick glance at the sentences gives the idea that DB and CA are mandatory pairs.</p> <p>22. 2 The phrase "two doors" in sentence 1 leads to the additional information about them in sentence B which is to be followed by sentence A. The pronoun 'they' in sentence D is a reference to the two robots, and the reference to 'question' in sentence 6 indicates that this sentence should be preceded by sentence C. BADC is the correct sequence. (<i>The Question: Ask one robot what the other robot would say, if it was asked which door was safe. Then go through the ... door.</i>)</p> | <p>23. 1 Sentence 1 is the one that does not fit the sequence. A quick glance of the sentences says that 4 is the beginning sentence which introduces 'competent officials'. This should be followed by 'Defence minister' (sentence B) and 'Foreign Secretary' (sentence 3) in the hierarchy. So, 423 is the sequence.</p> <p>24. 1 Choice (2) is incorrect as it is another example and changes the tone as well. Sentences 3 and 4 do not fit the context, as the author mentions "...there is in all of us a certain vein of the old original demoniacal humour or joy in the misfortune of another..." This is followed by an illustration saying that 'it ought not to be funny...' and this expression should be followed by a contradiction. Choice (1) is the best answer. Moreover, choice (3) is sweeping and choice (4) goes against the grain of the illustration.</p> <p>25. 4 By the method of elimination, only 4 is the appropriate summary. The other options are either too narrow or too vague.</p> |
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