

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


The past may be a surprisingly useful guide for predicting responses to future climate change. This is especially important for places where extreme weather has been the norm for a long time, such as the Indian subcontinent. The onset of India’s summer monsoon is linked to heat differences between the warmer land and cooler ocean, which causes a shift in prevailing wind direction. Winds blow over the Indian Ocean, picking up moisture, which falls as rain over the subcontinent from June to September. When we researched this weather system’s ancient past, we found it was highly sensitive to climate warming 130,000 years ago. The study showed that the Indian summer monsoon pulled heat and moisture into the northern hemisphere when Earth was entering a warmer climate around 130,000 years ago. This caused tropical wetlands to expand northwards – habitats that act as sources of methane, a greenhouse gas. This amplified global warming further and helped end the ice age.

The rate at which today’s climate is changing is unprecedented in the geological record, but our study shows how sensitive the Indian summer monsoon was during a global transition into warming in the past and may still be. Over the last one million years, the climate fluctuated between a cold glacial – known as an ice age – and a warm interglacial as the Earth’s position relative to the sun wobbled in its orbit. The last transition from an ice age into the warm climate of the present – known as the Holocene – occurred around 18,000 years ago.

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Ice-core records show that Antarctica began to warm first during the penultimate deglaciation. Southern Hemisphere warming provided a source of heat and moisture which fuelled the strengthening of the Indian summer monsoon, as seen in our records of surface freshening and river runoff from the northern Bay of Bengal. The Indian summer monsoon pulled heat and moisture northwards, driving glacial melting in the northern hemisphere and helping tropical wetlands expand their range. These expanding tropical wetlands resulted in more methane release into the atmosphere which caused even more warming, setting changes in motion which ended the global ice age.

1) All these statements are true about the Indian summer monsoon EXCEPT:

- ☒ It is linked to the altering of Earth’s climate from glacial to interglacial. 
- ☐ It acts as source of methane which contributes to global warming.
- ☐ It has an impact on the global climate.
- ☐ It has contributed to the glacial melting in the northern hemisphere.

Video Explanation: 

Explanation: 

Last paragraph talks of the role that the Indian Summer Monsoon played during penultimate deglaciation; it accelerated the process by both ‘driving glacial melting in the northern hemisphere’ and ‘helping tropical wetlands expand their range’. Thus, both options 1 and 4 are true statements. The validity of option 1 would naturally verifies option 3; besides, paragraph 1 says that “...study shows how sensitive the Indian summer monsoon was during a global transition into warming in the past and may still be.” And, the last paragraph talks about how “...the Indian summer monsoon pulled heat and moisture northwards, driving glacial melting in the northern hemisphere and helping tropical wetlands expand their range ... which caused even more warming, ... which ended the global ice age.” All of these points to how the Indian Summer Monsoon had, and may continue to have, a crucial role in the global climate. Hence, option 3 is correct. Option 2 incorrectly says that the weather system produces methane, whereas it only expands the tropical wetlands, which in turn produces methane. Therefore, option 2 is the exception. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: 


Time taken by you: 328 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 183 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 53 %

2) Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- ☐ Indian Monsoon is currently more sensitive than it was 130,000 years ago.
- ☐ It has not yet been discovered if global warming induces monsoon or vice-versa.
- ☒ The Indian summer monsoon and global warming are interrelated. 
- ☐ The Indian Summer Monsoon determines the current high rate of global warming.

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Explanation: ▼

Options 1 and 4 cannot be conclusively inferred from the passage. The passage briefly explains how Indian monsoon led to global warming 130,000 years ago that ended the last ice age. Whether currently the weather system is “more sensitive than it was 130,000 years ago” cannot be conclusively inferred. Similarly, that the “high rate of global warming is determined by Indian summer monsoon” [Sentence 4] cannot be concluded as well. Both of them are at best conjectures. For example, human activities could be driving the change, rather than the monsoon. Option 2 is irrelevant because it misreads the author’s actual intention, which is to show how closely associated the Indian Summer Monsoon was with global warming, and may still be. The purpose of the passage is to highlight that places with extreme weather provide useful guide to predicting future climate change as these phenomena are interrelated. It is from this point of view that the author takes the example of Indian summer monsoon. Hence, [3] .

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 34 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 83 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 80 %

3) What did the fossilised shells of the plankton species, *foraminifera* reveal about Indian Summer Monsoon? —

- ☐ The role of weather systems on deglaciation and global warming.
- ☒ The link between Indian summer monsoon and the penultimate deglaciation. ✓
- ☐ An approximate time frame when Antarctica began warming for the first time.
- ☐ The role of the weather system on the glacial melting in both the hemispheres.

Video Explanation: ▼

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Refer to paragraph 3: “We detected [in the plankton species, *foraminifera*] the ocean surface water freshening from river discharge induced by the rains of the Indian summer monsoon from 140,000 to 128,000 years ago. This occurred when the Earth was coming out of a glacial state and into the interglacial ...” Option 2 rephrases the idea. Also refer to the last paragraph: “...fuelled the strengthening of the Indian summer monsoon, as seen in our records of surface freshening and river runoff....” Retain option 2. Though they may be facts, options 1, 3 and 4 side-track the question—option 1 is vague in that it doesn’t mention the Indian Summer Monsoon; option 3 is unrelated to what the study learnt from observing the plankton species—besides, it was the ‘ice records’ that pointed to when Antarctica started warming [last paragraph]; option 4 is too specific—we don’t have enough evidence to claim that the plankton species pointed to how the weather phenomenon was crucial in the warming of both the hemispheres. None of the options except 2 addresses the relation between the fossils and the Indian summer monsoon. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: 107 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 119 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 82 %

4) The passage supports all of the following statements EXCEPT: __

- ☐ Natural factors, and not human activities, are key contributors to global warming.
- ☐ Sea water freshening and river runoff are durable indicators of climate change.
- ☐ The Indian summer monsoon had contributed to ancient worldwide rise in sea levels.
- ☐ Tropical wetlands are habitats that thrive under interglacial climatic conditions.

Video Explanation:



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All options, except option 1, have been stated in the passage. The passage doesn’t touch upon human-induced factors. Hence, option 1 can be considered the exception. Option 2 is supported by the 3rd and 4th paragraphs: “We detected the ocean surface water freshening from river discharge induced by the rains of the Indian summer monsoon from 140,000 to 128,000 years ago [in the plankton species called foraminifera]”. Option 3 can be inferred from the fourth paragraph: “This occurred when the Earth was coming out of a glacial state and into the interglacial ... During this period ... sea levels rose from six to nine metres worldwide.” Here, ‘this’ refers to the Indian Summer Monsoon. Option 4 can be inferred from 1st and last paragraphs —“...the Indian summer monsoon pulled heat and moisture into the northern hemisphere when Earth was entering a warmer climate around 130,000 years ago. This caused tropical wetlands to expand northwards...” [Paragraph 1] Hence, [1].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 141 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 61 secs

Your Attempt: Skipped

% Students got it correct: 77 %

5) What is the central idea of the passage?

- ☐ Earth’s internal climate system is intrinsically linked and abrupt changes at one place can have significant consequences over time elsewhere.
- ☒ Indian monsoon played a pivotal role in ending the ice age 130,000 years ago and may still be a useful guide in predicting future climate change. ✓
- ☐ Study of climate changes in the past can help prevent future climate change.
- ☐ The Indian summer monsoon, though confined to the tropics, is sensitive to climatic conditions in both hemispheres.

Video Explanation:

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Options 1 is a general statement – it fails to mention the specific example of Indian summer monsoon, and how it helped end the ice 130,000 years ago by driving global warming. Though apparently true, option 1 goes far beyond the scope of the passage and make a sweeping generalisation. Option 2 limits its scope to the details in the passage and expresses its central idea. Option 3 is incorrect in the assertion that studying climate changes can ‘help prevent future climate change’. Option 4 fails to highlight the importance of Indian monsoon in global climate change as a whole. Option 2 correctly summarises the intent of the passage. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 52 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 48 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 71 %

Loading...

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

A new practice of production has emerged in all the major economies of the world. The simplest and most telling of its many names is the knowledge economy. It holds the promise of changing, to our benefit, some of the most deep-seated and universal regularities of economic life and of dramatically enhancing productivity and growth.

Its effects, however, have so far proved modest. Instead of spreading widely, it has remained restricted to vanguards of production, employing few workers. Entrepreneurial and technological elites control it. A handful of large global firms have reaped the lion's share of the profits that it has yielded. It appears in every part of the production system; the habit of equating it with high-technology industry is unwarranted. In every sector of the economy, however, it remains a narrow fringe, excluding the vast majority of the labour force. Even though its products are used ever more widely, its revolutionary practices continue to be quarantined.

The true character and potential of the new practice of production remain disguised: by virtue of being insular, the knowledge economy is also undeveloped. The technologies with which it is most recently associated, such as robots and artificial intelligence, have riveted worldwide attention. Nevertheless, we have barely begun to grasp its significance for economic and social life or gained insight into its possible futures.

The established body of economic ideas is useful and even indispensable but also insufficient to an understanding of these problems. Received economic theory leaves us short of the insights that we need to guide the institutional and policy changes required to take us from the insular knowledge economy that we have to the inclusive one that we need. The effort to think through the agenda of an inclusive vanguardism prompts us to reassess the alternative futures of economics as well as the alternative futures of the economy.

1) What is the main idea of the passage?

- ☐ In spite of the potential benefits that can be derived from knowledge economy, it remains the prerogative of the elite.
- ☐ Knowledge economy, as a practice of production, has the potential to radically alter the regularities of economic life and to dramatically enhance productivity and growth.
- ☐ 'Inclusive vanguardism' of knowledge economy must be extended from small high- productivity zones to the whole sweep of economic life.
- ☒ Knowledge economy, a new form of production, remains isolated, and unleashing its economic power requires institutional and policy changes. ✓

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

All the options are factually correct. However, options 1, 2 and 3 miss out of important details of the main idea. The short passage introduces knowledge economy as a new practice of production that has emerged in all the major economies of the world. The second and third paragraphs explain how it remains 'insular' in spite of its potential to 'dramatically increase productivity and growth.' The last paragraph states that we lack the insights to bring the "institutional and policy changes required to take us from the insular knowledge economy that we have to the inclusive one that we need." These ideas are summarized in option 4. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **285 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **174 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **66 %**

2) Which of the following can be inferred from the second paragraph?

- ☒ In spite of being pervasive in the production system, advanced technologies of the knowledge economy are controlled by a fringe. ✓
- ☐ Knowledge economy can be easily identified by its characteristics such as those that are typical of high-technology industries.
- ☐ The products of knowledge economy technologies are available only to entrepreneurs and technological elites.
- ☐ The advanced technologies of knowledge economy are unsuitable to the production system of small businesses.

Video Explanation: ▼

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“It appears in every part of the production system In every sector of the economy, however, it remains a narrow fringe, excluding the vast majority of the labour force.” Option 1 is an inference drawn from this sentence. Option 2 is in fact a roundabout way of stating the opposite of what is stated in the paragraph-- “It appears in every part of the production system; the habit of equating it with high-technology industry is unwarranted.” Option 3 is incorrect; as per the passage, the products are widely available to everyone, but entrepreneurial and technological elites control it. Option 4 is incorrect. The paragraph does not mention small business, and by implication knowledge economy is widely applicable – i.e. it does not exclude small businesses. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 74 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 98 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 73 %

3) In the third paragraph, the author uses the term “disguised” to describe the potential of the new practice of production because, according to him: —

- ☐ Knowledge economy is associated only with robotics and artificial intelligence.
- ☐ No progress has been made in the cutting edge technologies of knowledge economy.
- ☒ The insularity of knowledge economy has prevented its economy-wide presence. ✓
- ☐ The benefits of knowledge economy are kept hidden by technological elites.

Video Explanation: ▼

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Refer the third paragraph: "The true character and potential of the new practice of production remain disguised: by virtue of being insular, the knowledge economy is also undeveloped. The technologies with which it is most recently associated, such as robots and artificial intelligence, have riveted worldwide attention. Nevertheless, we have *barely begun to grasp its significance for economic and social life or gained insight into its possible futures.*" Option 3 best expresses the intended meaning of the author. Option 1 does not explain the use of the term. Option 2 may appear correct but by the use of the term “undeveloped” [Paragraph 3], the author does not mean that ‘no progress has been made.’ The intended meaning most likely is that it’s “not developed to the extent it should be.” The passage does not state or imply that the technological elites hide the benefits from the rest. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: 


Time taken by you: 28 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 64 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 71 %

4) “Inclusive vanguardism” (paragraph 4) most likely means which of the following? 

- ☐ Limiting knowledge economy to small high-productivity areas of economic activity.
- ☐ A reassessment of alternative futures of economics and the economy.
- ☐ Expansion of knowledge economy to wider economic and social life.
- ☒ A reassessment of the established and indispensable body of economic ideas. 

Video Explanation: 

Explanation: 

Refer the last paragraph. “Received economic theory leaves us short of the insights that we need to guide the institutional and policy changes required to take us from the insular knowledge economy that we have to the inclusive one that we need. The effort to think through the agenda of an inclusivevanguardism prompts us to reassess...” ‘Inclusive vanguardism’ is thus the opposite of ‘insular knowledge economy’; it means ‘to include everyone in the benefits of knowledge economy’. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: 

Time taken by you: 57 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 54 secs

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

Loading...

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There is a connection between emotional relationships and learning. We used to have this top-down notion that reason was on a teeter-totter with emotion. If you wanted to be rational and think well, you had to suppress emotions. And, teaching consisted of dispassionately downloading knowledge into students’ brains. Then work by cognitive scientists like Antonio Damasio showed us that emotion is not the opposite of reason; it’s essential to reason. Emotions assign value to things. If you don’t know what you want, you can’t make good decisions. Furthermore, emotions tell you what to pay attention to, care about and remember. It’s hard to work through difficulty if your emotions aren’t engaged. Information is plentiful, but motivation is scarce.


That early neuroscience breakthrough reminded us that a key job of a school is to give students new things to love — an exciting field of study, new friends. It reminded us that what teachers really teach is themselves — their contagious passion for their subjects and students. It reminded us that children learn from people they love, and that love in this context means willing the good of another, and offering active care for the whole person.

Over the last several years our understanding of the relationship between emotion and learning has taken off. Neuroscientists today spend less time trying to locate exactly where in the brain things happen and more time trying to understand the different neural networks and what activates them.

Everything is integrated. Mary Helen, of the University of Southern California, shows that even “sophisticated” emotions like moral admiration are experienced partly by the same “primitive” parts of the brain that monitor internal organs and the viscera. Our emotions literally affect us in the gut. Patricia Kuhl, of the University of Washington, has shown that the social brain pervades every learning process. She gave infants Chinese lessons. Some infants took face-to-face lessons with a tutor. Their social brain was activated and they learned Chinese sounds at an amazing clip. Others watched the same lessons through a video screen. They paid rapt attention, but learned nothing.

Extreme negative emotions, like fear, can have a devastating effect on a student’s ability to learn. Fear amps up threat perception and aggression. It can also subsequently make it hard for children to understand causal relationships, or to change their mind as context changes. Even when conditions are ideal, think of all the emotions that are involved in mastering a hard subject like algebra: curiosity, excitement, frustration, confusion, dread, delight, worry and, hopefully, perseverance and joy. You’ve got to have an educated emotional vocabulary to manoeuvre through all those stages. And students have got to have a good relationship with teachers. Suzanne Dikker of New York University has shown that when classes are going well, the student brain activity synchronizes with the teacher’s brain activity. In good times and bad, good teachers and good students co-regulate each other.

1) According to the passage, children learn best when: —

- ☐ they are taught by teachers who love their subjects.
- ☒ they are taught by people whom they love. 
- ☐ when their reasoning skill is engaged.
- ☐ when information is plentiful and motivation is high.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Refer to the second paragraph. “That early neuroscience breakthrough reminded us that a key job of a school is to give students new things to love ... It reminded us that children learn from people they love, and that love in this context means willing the good of another, and offering active care for the whole person.” Option 2 is correct. Option 1 is possible only if they love the students also, and when this love is reciprocated by the students. Option 3 is a possible answer, only if their emotions are also engaged. Option 4 is also conditional to the emotional connect between the teacher and the students. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer: ▼


Time taken by you: **260 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **232 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **81 %**

2) All of the following can be inferred from the passage EXCEPT: —

- ☐ Emotion, and not reason, is conducive to effective learning.
- ☐ A student’s choice of a subject to study is based on emotions.
- ☒ Face-to-face lessons are better than video lessons. 
- ☐ Mastering a subject involves contrary emotions.

Video Explanation: ▼

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

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Extreme negative emotions, like fear, can have a devastating effect on a student’s ability to learn. Fear amps up threat perception and aggression. It can also subsequently make it hard for children to understand causal relationships, or to change their mind as context changes. Even when conditions are ideal, think of all the emotions that are involved in mastering a hard subject like algebra: curiosity, excitement, frustration, confusion, dread, delight, worry and, hopefully, perseverance and joy. You’ve got to have an educated emotional vocabulary to manoeuvre through all those stages. And students have got to have a good relationship with teachers. Suzanne Dikker of New York University has shown that when classes are going well, the student brain activity synchronizes with the teacher’s brain activity. In good times and bad, good teachers and good students co-regulate each other.

Emotions are conducive to effective learning; however, the passage does not rule out the importance of reason – but states that emotions are “essential to reason” [Paragraph 1] Hence, option 1 cannot be inferred. Option 2 is inferable form the first paragraph: “Emotions assign value to things. If you don’t know what you want, you can’t make good decisions. Furthermore, emotions tell you what to pay attention to, care about and remember. It’s hard to work through difficulty if your emotions aren’t engaged.” Option 3 is suggested in paragraph 4: “Others watched the same lessons through a video screen. They paid rapt attention, but learned nothing.” Option 4 is supported by paragraph 5: “Even when conditions are ideal, think of all the emotions that are involved in mastering a hard subject like algebra: curiosity, excitement, frustration, confusion, dread, delight, worry and, hopefully, perseverance and joy.” Hence, [1].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 28 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 55 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 46 %

3) Which of the following is the conclusion of Patricia Kuhl’s study (Paragraph 4)?

- ☐ Video lessons have only entertainment value.
- ☐ Infants learn faster when face-to-face with a tutor.
- ☐ Emotions have a fundamentally physical basis.
- ☒ Learning is essentially a social process.✔

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

Paragraph 4 states this explicitly: “Patricia Kuhl ... has shown that the social brain pervades every learning process. She gave infants Chinese lessons. Some infants took face-to-face lessons with a tutor. Their social brain was activated and they learned.” The conclusion is that ‘social brain pervades every learning process.” Option 1 is incorrect – as the entertainment value of video lessons was not a subject matter of the experiment. Option 2 was the method used, or rather the outcome of the experiment, rather than the conclusion made from it. Option 3 is incorrect as the experiment did not directly address the emotional aspect. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 37 secs

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

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Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **72 %**

4) According to the passage, Mary Helen established that ...

- ☐ The brain controls internal organs and experience of emotions.
- ☐ Brain has a direct effect on emotions, which are in turn wired to the stomach.
- ☒ Sophisticated emotions like moral admiration are deeply physical.
- ☐ The same parts of the brain monitor internal organs and emotions.

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

Option 1 is a distractor – it is simply a common sense statement that brain controls the organs and emotions; brain controls generally everything concerned with the body. Option 2 is a misrepresentation of the light-hearted comment that the author makes in paragraph 4: “our emotions literally affect us in the gut”; this is based on Mary Helen’s finding that the same parts of the brain control the organs as well as our emotions. Even if option 2 is correct scientifically, it is not what the particular researcher established. Hence, option 2 can be rejected. Option 3 is a close answer. However, the passage states, “even “sophisticated” emotions...”-- the dropping of the word ‘even’ changes the meaning of the sentence. According to paragraph 4, “Mary Helen shows that ... emotions ... are experienced partly by the same “primitive” parts of the brain that monitor internal organs and the viscera.” Hence, [4].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **58 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **63 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **70 %**

5) Based on the passage, the author is likely to recommend which_ of the following reforms in schools?

- ☒ Create a setting in which students and teachers co-regulate each other.
- ☐ Establish a metric for measuring student-teacher relationship quality.
- ☐ Establish mechanisms for the dispassionate exchange of knowledge.

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Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Option 1 is stated in the last paragraph as the default setting: “In good times and bad, good teachers and good students co-regulate each other.” Hence, correct intervention would ensure that the ‘co-regulation’ is healthy and mutually beneficial. Option 1 is not a reform that the author would recommend. Option 2 will at the most measure the quality of existing relationship, but will not help improve it; hence, it is not a reform. Option 3 is stated in the first paragraph as the current state of affairs, “... teaching consisted of dispassionately downloading knowledge into students’ brains”, hence would not be recommended, plus the author is not against the various emotions that are involved in mastering something [Paragraph 5]: “You’ve got to have an educated emotional vocabulary to manoeuvre through all those stages...” Option 4 is a reform that the author would recommend – as the passage lays great emphasis on a scientific understanding of the dynamics of teaching and learning based on relationship. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 37 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 28 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 40 %

Loading...

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

A sort of risk-averseness now pervades every aspect of childhood. Playgrounds are designed to be safer and less exciting. Governments in litigious societies have tightened up their rules requiring parents to supervise young children far more closely.

Large-scale urbanisation, smaller and more fluid families, the move of women into the labour market and the digitisation of many aspects of life have changed the way that people bring up their children. But the child-rearing practices embraced by affluent parents go far beyond an adjustment to changes in external conditions. They amount to a bid to ensure that the advantages enjoyed by the parents' generation are passed on to their offspring. Since success in life now turns mainly on education, such parents will do their utmost to provide their children with the schooling, the character training and the social skills that will secure access to the best universities and later the most attractive jobs. To some extent that has always been the case. But there are more such parents now, and they are competing with each other for what economists call "positional goods"—things that are in limited supply and that money cannot always buy, like those places at top universities. This competition starts even before the children are born. The prosperous classes will take their time to select a suitable spouse and get married, and will start a family only when they feel ready for it.

Children from less advantaged backgrounds, by contrast, often appear before their parents are ready for them. In America 60% of births to single women under 30, are unplanned, and over 40% of children are born outside marriage. And even if those children have two resident parents who are doing their best for them, they are still handicapped by a lack of funds, knowledge and connections. The result has been to widen already massive social inequalities yet further.

Children from poorer backgrounds are at a disadvantage almost as soon as they are born. By the age of five or six they are far less "school-ready", so any attempts to help them catch up have to start long before they get to school. America has had some success with various schemes involving regular home visits by nurses or social workers to low-income families with new babies. It also has some success with programmes that combine support for parents with good-quality child care. Without extra effort, children from low-income families are much less likely to attend preschool education. Children need at least two years of early (preschool) education to perform at their best when they are 15.

So the most promising way to ensure greater equity may be to make early-years education and care more widely available and affordable. Some governments are rethinking their educational priorities, shifting some of their spending to the early years. Most rich countries decided more than a century ago that free, compulsory education for all children was a worthwhile investment for society. Before the Industrial Revolution it was the whole village that minded the children, not individual parents. In the face of crushing new inequalities, a modern version of that approach is worth trying.

1) Which of the following is the main argument of the passage? —

- ☒ Parenting methods are exacerbating social inequalities. ✓
- ☐ Childhood is a determinant of individual attitudes towards risk.
- ☐ Compulsory schooling increases parental education and lowers the risk-aversion of their offspring.
- ☐ Longer years of early education and care ensure greater equity in society.

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The first two paragraphs describe the parenting trends among affluent families. The last three paragraphs focus on children from poorer backgrounds, and on what needs to be done to 'ensure greater equity'. At the end of the third paragraph the author explicitly states that "the result has been to widen already massive social inequalities yet further" – this conveys the main argument of the passage. Option 2 is mentioned as an introduction to the theme. Option 3 mentions an increase in parental education, which is not mentioned anywhere in the passage. Option 4 is a possible answer, but it misses the major part of the passage-- the differences in parenting. Early education is stated as one of the features that contribute to this. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: 321 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 92 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 32 %

2) The passage makes all of the following claims EXCEPT: —

- ☒ Allowing children to play unsupervised is considered a sign of irresponsible parenting. ✗
- ☐ Hands-on intensive parenting is the best for children across the socio-economic spectrum.
- ☐ Children are greatly benefitted from a longer pre-school education.
- ☐ Intensive and competitive parenting may begin even before the children are born.

Video Explanation: ▼

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

A sort of risk-averseness now pervades every aspect of childhood. Playgrounds are designed to be safer and less exciting. Governments in litigious societies have tightened up their rules requiring parents to supervise young children far more closely.

Large-scale urbanisation, smaller and more fluid families, the move of women into the labour market and the digitisation of many aspects of life have changed the way that people bring up their children. But the child-rearing practices embraced by affluent parents go far beyond an adjustment to changes in external conditions. They amount to a bid to ensure that the advantages enjoyed by the parents’ generation are passed on to their offspring. Since success in life now turns mainly on education, such parents will do their utmost to provide their children with the schooling, the character training and the social skills that will secure access to the best universities and later the most attractive jobs. To some extent that has always been the case. But there are more such parents now, and they are competing with each other for what economists call “positional goods”—things that are in limited supply and that money cannot always buy, like those places at top universities. This competition starts even before the children are born. The prosperous classes will take their time to select a suitable spouse and get married, and will start a family only when they feel ready for it.

Children from less advantaged backgrounds, by contrast, often appear before their parents are ready for them. In America 60% of births to single women under 30, are unplanned, and over 40% of children are born outside marriage. And even if those children have two resident parents who are doing their best for them, they are still handicapped by a lack of funds, knowledge and connections. The result has been to widen already massive social inequalities yet further.

Children from poorer backgrounds are at a disadvantage almost as soon as they are born. By the age of five or six they are far less “school-ready”, so any attempts to help them catch up have to start long before they get to school. America has had some success with various schemes involving regular home visits by nurses or social workers to low-income families with new babies. It also has some success with programmes that combine support for parents with good-quality child care. Without extra effort, children from low-income families are much less likely to attend preschool education. Children need at least two years of early (preschool) education to perform at their best when they are 15.

So the most promising way to ensure greater equity may be to make early-years education and care more widely available and affordable. Some governments are rethinking their educational priorities, shifting some of their spending to the early years. Most rich countries decided more than a century ago that free, compulsory education for all children was a worthwhile investment for society. Before the Industrial Revolution it was the whole village that minded the children, not individual parents. In the face of crushing new inequalities, a modern version of that approach is worth trying.

The first paragraph says that “playgrounds are designed to be safer ... Governments have tightened up their rules, requiring parents to supervise young children far more closely.” This supports option 1. The fourth paragraph states that “children need at least two years of early (preschool) education to perform at their best ...” This supports option 3. Option 4 is stated at the end of paragraph 2. The author, however, does not claim that intensive parenting is the best. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 41 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 53 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 46 %

3) Which of the following interventions would the author most strongly support?

- ☐ Lowering the age for preschool education.
- ☐ Playgrounds designed to have all the excitement, with no safety constraints.
- ☐ Discouraging the trend of time-intensive and child-centred parenting.
- ☒ Ensuring an equitable distribution of “positional goods”. ❌

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

The second paragraph states that “success in life now (depends) on education” and that affluent parents provide their children with “schooling, the character training and the social skills...” to ensure success. The next two paragraphs show a contrary picture — that of children and parents from less advantaged backgrounds. The author emphasizes the importance of early education and concludes that “children need at least two years of early (preschool) education to perform at their best when they are 15.” Hence, the author will support 1. ‘With no safety constraints’ in option 2 eliminates it. Option 3- The author is not against time-intensive, child-centred parenting. In fact, he is likely to support such qualitative parenting; his concern is about the lack of parenting/resources that poorer children face. Option 4- ‘Positional goods’, by definition, cannot be equitably distributed. Hence, [1].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 17 secs

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

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Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **28 %**

4) In the third paragraph, the author uses the statistics of ‘unplanned and outside-marriage births’ in America to:

- ☐ show that programmes that combine support for parents with good-quality child care can help low income families.
- ☐ support his argument that a modern version of community parenting that existed prior to industrial revolution may be worth trying.
- ☐ support that, in America, the child rearing practices of different strata of society have contributed to the widening of social inequality.
- ☒ point out that the massive and widening social inequality in America has to be seen also from a cultural and moral viewpoint. ❌

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

The third paragraph cites the statistics to show the percentage of unplanned and, perhaps, ‘unwanted’ children. In most cases, parents are unprepared for such children, and lack the resources to take care of them. The paragraph concludes thus: “The result has been to widen already massive social inequalities yet further”. This is in contrast to the case of those born to well-planned parents belonging to a different stratum of society (described in the second paragraph). The other options side-track this purpose. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **52 secs**

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

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **79 %**

5) According to the passage, competition among affluent parents is triggered mainly by...

- ☒ the changes in the social environment. ❌
- ☐ a desire to provide their offspring with the best opportunities.
- ☐ the need to pass on their advantages to their offspring.
- ☐ limited opportunities at top positions.

Video Explanation: ▼

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The reason is stated explicitly in paragraph 2: “...But there are more such parents now, and they are competing with each other for what economists call “positional goods”—things that are in limited supply and that money cannot always buy, like those places at top universities.” Hence, [4].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 83 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 35 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 41 %

Loading...

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

Today, it feels as if our privacy is under attack like never before. Governments and private corporations alike seem to be able to learn whatever they want to about us from the data they collect in the course of our interactions. The sophisticated algorithms they run are able to infer more about who we are than we can. It feels like the walls we built to protect our personal space are slowly but surely being torn down by digital businesses that know more about us than we do ourselves.

Every business, no matter how big or small, understands the value of data today. Firms recognize the benefits that can be gained from leveraging personal data and are eager to exploit it in order to provide various innovative services that their increasingly mobile customers have begun to demand. If they did not initially understand the impact that this pivot towards data would have on the personal privacy of their customers, given the heightened sensitivity to issues relating to privacy, they are now alive to its many consequences. Why then do they still look to develop newer and more complex data-driven businesses despite the privacy risks posed by it?

In order to understand why this is happening, we need to examine these developments in the context of the economic foundations on which our modern notion of personal privacy is based. Since privacy is fundamentally a capitalist construct, its continued existence as a right worth fighting for depends on the forces of wealth control remaining aligned in favour of ensuring its preservation. So long as it is in our economic interests to continue to protect privacy, we will do so, but the moment that changes, any expectation that we might currently have of being able to continue to exercise our right to privacy comes under threat.

In the past, wealth was used to preserve personal privacy. Today, it is impossible to remain profitable if your business does not do what is needed to incorporate data into the core of your offering. If you do not embrace this new reality, your competitors will, regardless of the privacy consequences of doing so. It is rapidly becoming clear that capitalist interests are no longer aligned with protecting personal privacy. To the contrary, it is in the commercial interests of modern businesses to wring as much out of the personal data of their customers as is commercially feasible.

It is precisely because of the capitalist origins of our notion of privacy that there is such an indifference towards privacy concerns. If we think there is a benefit to preserving personal privacy and want to encourage behaviour that preserves privacy, we will need to find commercial disincentives that outweigh the financial benefits.

1) According to the passage, the current threat to personal privacy arises mainly from...

- ☐ people's interactions with governments and private corporations.
- ☐ the prevalence of sophisticated algorithms that collect data.
- ☐ the commercial benefits that businesses gain from personal data.
- ☒ the lack of consumer interest to protect their right to privacy. ❌

Video Explanation: ▼

Explanation: ▼

Refer to paragraph 3: "So long as it is in our economic interests to continue to protect privacy, we will do so, but the moment that changes, any expectation that we might currently have of being able to continue to exercise our right to privacy comes under threat." The argument is rationalized by describing the current scenario in the commercial sector [Paragraph 4]: "In the past, wealth was used to preserve personal privacy. Today, it is impossible to remain profitable if your business does not do what is needed to incorporate data into the core of your offering." Option 3 that rephrases this, answers the question. Options 1 and 2 appear in first paragraph—both are mentioned as indicators supporting the author's argument that the personal privacy is under threat; they are not the cause. Option 4 is factually incorrect—the passage doesn't state anywhere that consumers are uninterested in privacy preservation. On the contrary, paragraph 2 makes a reference to 'the heightened sensitivity to issues relating to privacy'. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer: ▼

Time taken by you: **356 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **174 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **65 %**

2) Despite privacy risks, why do businesses "still look to develop _ newer and more complex data driven services" [Paragraph 2]?

- ☐ They are unaware of the risks posed by these services to personal privacy.
- ☐ The demand for such services from increasingly mobile consumers.
- ☒ The eagerness of firms to offer innovative services for greater profit. ❌
- ☐ Consumers are unaware of the impact of these products on their privacy.

Video Explanation: ▼

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

Today, it feels as if our privacy is under attack like never before. Governments and private corporations alike seem to be able to learn whatever they want to about us from the data they collect in the course of our interactions. The sophisticated algorithms they run are able to infer more about who we are than we can. It feels like the walls we built to protect our personal space are slowly but surely being torn down by digital businesses that know more about us than we do ourselves.

Every business, no matter how big or small, understands the value of data today. Firms recognize the benefits that can be gained from leveraging personal data and are eager to exploit it in order to provide various innovative services that their increasingly mobile customers have begun to demand. If they did not initially understand the impact that this pivot towards data would have on the personal privacy of their customers, given the heightened sensitivity to issues relating to privacy, they are now alive to its many consequences. Why then do they still look to develop newer and more complex data-driven businesses despite the privacy risks posed by it?

In order to understand why this is happening, we need to examine these developments in the context of the economic foundations on which our modern notion of personal privacy is based. Since privacy is fundamentally a capitalist construct, its continued existence as a right worth fighting for depends on the forces of wealth control remaining aligned in favour of ensuring its preservation. So long as it is in our economic interests to continue to protect privacy, we will do so, but the moment that changes, any expectation that we might currently have of being able to continue to exercise our right to privacy comes under threat.

In the past, wealth was used to preserve personal privacy. Today, it is impossible to remain profitable if your business does not do what is needed to incorporate data into the core of your offering. If you do not embrace this new reality, your competitors will, regardless of the privacy consequences of doing so. It is rapidly becoming clear that capitalist interests are no longer aligned with protecting personal privacy. To the contrary, it is in the commercial interests of modern businesses to wring as much out of the personal data of their customers as is commercially feasible.

It is precisely because of the capitalist origins of our notion of privacy that there is such an indifference towards privacy concerns. If we think there is a benefit to preserving personal privacy and want to encourage behaviour that preserves privacy, we will need to find commercial disincentives that outweigh the financial benefits.

Option 1 can be rejected on the basis of paragraph 2: “If they did not initially understand the impact that this pivot towards data would have on the personal privacy of their customers, given the heightened sensitivity to issues relating to privacy, they are now alive to its many consequences.” Option 3 is incorrect due to faulty generalization; all ‘innovative services’ may not be data-driven. I.e. their eagerness to provide innovative services will not involve a privacy risk if the services aren’t data-driven. Option 4 is irrelevant; whether they are aware or not, privacy preservation doesn’t seem to be in their control. Option 2 is the answer—‘such services’ refers to ‘newer and more complex data-driven services’ that “their increasingly mobile customers have begun to demand” [Paragraph 2] Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 67 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 31 secs

Your Attempt: Wrong

% Students got it correct: 22 %

3) According to the passage, the indifference towards privacy concerns is a result of ...

- ☐ lack of economic foundations to the modern notion of personal privacy.
- ☐ privacy being basically a capitalist construct.
- ☒ capitalists being no longer interested in protecting personal privacy.
- ☐ consumers having no economic interest in protecting their privacy.

Video Explanation:

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

Today, it feels as if our privacy is under attack like never before. Governments and private corporations alike seem to be able to learn whatever they want to about us from the data they collect in the course of our interactions. The sophisticated algorithms they run are able to infer more about who we are than we can. It feels like the walls we built to protect our personal space are slowly but surely being torn down by digital businesses that know more about us than we do ourselves.

Every business, no matter how big or small, understands the value of data today. Firms recognize the benefits that can be gained from leveraging personal data and are eager to exploit it in order to provide various innovative services that their increasingly mobile customers have begun to demand. If they did not initially understand the impact that this pivot towards data would have on the personal privacy of their customers, given the heightened sensitivity to issues relating to privacy, they are now alive to its many consequences. Why then do they still look to develop newer and more complex data-driven businesses despite the privacy risks posed by it?

In order to understand why this is happening, we need to examine these developments in the context of the economic foundations on which our modern notion of personal privacy is based. Since privacy is fundamentally a capitalist construct, its continued existence as a right worth fighting for depends on the forces of wealth control remaining aligned in favour of ensuring its preservation. So long as it is in our economic interests to continue to protect privacy, we will do so, but the moment that changes, any expectation that we might currently have of being able to continue to exercise our right to privacy comes under threat.

In the past, wealth was used to preserve personal privacy. Today, it is impossible to remain profitable if your business does not do what is needed to incorporate data into the core of your offering. If you do not embrace this new reality, your competitors will, regardless of the privacy consequences of doing so. It is rapidly becoming clear that capitalist interests are no longer aligned with protecting personal privacy. To the contrary, it is in the commercial interests of modern businesses to wring as much out of the personal data of their customers as is commercially feasible.

It is precisely because of the capitalist origins of our notion of privacy that there is such an indifference towards privacy concerns. If we think there is a benefit to preserving personal privacy and want to encourage behaviour that preserves privacy, we will need to find commercial disincentives that outweigh the financial benefits.

Option 1 contradicts the passage, according to which, “...it is in the commercial interests of modern businesses to wring as much out of the personal data of their customers as is commercially feasible.” [Paragraph 4] Option 2 states only a characteristic of ‘privacy’. ‘Privacy’ has always been a capitalist construct; it’s the ‘capitalist interests’ that have redirected themselves in such a way that they are no longer “aligned with protecting personal privacy” [Paragraph 4]. We have no sufficient data to talk about option 4 as the passage doesn’t deal with ‘the economic interests of consumers’. Option 3 is the answer — as per the passage, the moment our economic interests cease to favour privacy preservation, “any expectation that we might currently have of being able to continue to exercise our right to privacy comes under threat.” [Paragraph 3] Cementing the validity of the option further, the passage states that the capitalist interests are no longer “aligned with protecting personal privacy”. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

▼

Time taken by you: **115 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **30 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **30 %**

4) All of the following can be inferred from the passage, EXCEPT: —

- ☐ In the past, the forces of wealth control were interested in preserving personal privacy.
- ☐ Modern society is not sufficiently sensitized towards matters of personal privacy.
- ☐ Market competition among corporates puts individual privacy at risk.
- ☐ Modern businesses exploit personal data of their customers for profits.

Video Explanation:

▼

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

Today, it feels as if our privacy is under attack like never before. Governments and private corporations alike seem to be able to learn whatever they want to about us from the data they collect in the course of our interactions. The sophisticated algorithms they run are able to infer more about who we are than we can. It feels like the walls we built to protect our personal space are slowly but surely being torn down by digital businesses that know more about us than we do ourselves.

Every business, no matter how big or small, understands the value of data today. Firms recognize the benefits that can be gained from leveraging personal data and are eager to exploit it in order to provide various innovative services that their increasingly mobile customers have begun to demand. If they did not initially understand the impact that this pivot towards data would have on the personal privacy of their customers, given the heightened sensitivity to issues relating to privacy, they are now alive to its many consequences. Why then do they still look to develop newer and more complex data-driven businesses despite the privacy risks posed by it?

In order to understand why this is happening, we need to examine these developments in the context of the economic foundations on which our modern notion of personal privacy is based. Since privacy is fundamentally a capitalist construct, its continued existence as a right worth fighting for depends on the forces of wealth control remaining aligned in favour of ensuring its preservation. So long as it is in our economic interests to continue to protect privacy, we will do so, but the moment that changes, any expectation that we might currently have of being able to continue to exercise our right to privacy comes under threat.

In the past, wealth was used to preserve personal privacy. Today, it is impossible to remain profitable if your business does not do what is needed to incorporate data into the core of your offering. If you do not embrace this new reality, your competitors will, regardless of the privacy consequences of doing so. It is rapidly becoming clear that capitalist interests are no longer aligned with protecting personal privacy. To the contrary, it is in the commercial interests of modern businesses to wring as much out of the personal data of their customers as is commercially feasible.

It is precisely because of the capitalist origins of our notion of privacy that there is such an indifference towards privacy concerns. If we think there is a benefit to preserving personal privacy and want to encourage behaviour that preserves privacy, we will need to find commercial disincentives that outweigh the financial benefits.

Option 1 is explicitly stated in paragraph 4: “In the past, wealth was used to preserve personal privacy.” Option 3 is also stated in the passage, in the same paragraph: “If you do not embrace this new reality, your competitors will, regardless of the privacy consequences of doing so.” Here, the ‘the new reality’ is one in which one’s ‘personal data’ is utilized for financial gains. Option 4 can also be inferred from the same excerpt given above. However, option 2 makes an incorrect claim as far as the passage is concerned: “If they did not initially understand the impact that this pivot towards data would have on the personal privacy of their customers, given the heightened sensitivity to issues relating to privacy, they are now alive to its many consequences.” [Paragraph 2] Here, the author implies the society’s ‘heightened sensitivity’. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 0 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 48 secs

Your Attempt: Skipped

% Students got it correct: 69 %

5) According to the passage, which of the following is likely to help preserve privacy?

- ☐ Making personal data free for commercial use.
- ☐ Stricter government regulation on the use of personal data by corporates.
- ☒ Making the use of personal data commercially unviable.
- ☐ Employment of individual wealth to protect personal privacy.

Video Explanation:

Explanation:

Refer to the last paragraph. “If we think there is a benefit to preserving personal privacy and want to encourage behaviour that preserves privacy, we will need to find commercial disincentives that outweigh the financial benefits.” Option 3 restates this in different words. Option 1 is incorrect – if personal data is made free, it does just the opposite of discouraging its use. Option 2 is appears plausible, however, the 1st paragraph blames both private as well as government corporations to be learning ‘whatever they want to about us from the data they collect in the course of our interactions’. Option 4 is impractical and illogical – individuals may not have the means to protect their privacy against the onslaught of governments and private corporations. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

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

Today, it feels as if our privacy is under attack like never before. Governments and private corporations alike seem to be able to learn whatever they want to about us from the data they collect in the course of our interactions. The sophisticated algorithms they run are able to infer more about who we are than we can. It feels like the walls we built to protect our personal space are slowly but surely being torn down by digital businesses that know more about us than we do ourselves.

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In order to understand why this is happening, we need to examine these developments in the context of the economic foundations on which our modern notion of personal privacy is based. Since privacy is fundamentally a capitalist construct, its continued existence as a right worth fighting for depends on the forces of wealth control remaining aligned in favour of ensuring its preservation. So long as it is in our economic interests to continue to protect privacy, we will do so, but the moment that changes, any expectation that we might currently have of being able to continue to exercise our right to privacy comes under threat.

In the past, wealth was used to preserve personal privacy. Today, it is impossible to remain profitable if your business does not do what is needed to incorporate data into the core of your offering. If you do not embrace this new reality, your competitors will, regardless of the privacy consequences of doing so. It is rapidly becoming clear that capitalist interests are no longer aligned with protecting personal privacy. To the contrary, it is in the commercial interests of modern businesses to wring as much out of the personal data of their customers as is commercially feasible.

It is precisely because of the capitalist origins of our notion of privacy that there is such an indifference towards privacy concerns. If we think there is a benefit to preserving personal privacy and want to encourage behaviour that preserves privacy, we will need to find commercial disincentives that outweigh the financial benefits.

Avg Time taken by all students: 46 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 67 %

loading...

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. Under UPA-2 in 2009-14, job growth rose a bit to 1% per year; yet, UPA was thrashed in the 2014 election.
2. While unemployment has always been an issue, no political party has offered a credible solution for decades.
3. When Atal Bihari Vajpayee was prime minister, jobs grew at a respectable 2.3% per year; yet, he lost the 2004 election.
4. Then, in UPA-1, under Manmohan Singh, job growth dropped to just 0.8% per year; yet, UPA won the 2009 election hands down.
5. Not being a policy differentiator, employment has historically shown no correlation with election outcomes.



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

Explanation:

Sentence 5 sets out the argument –‘there is no correlation between unemployment and election results’. Sentences 1, 3 and 4 provide three examples in favour of it. Hence, none of them is the odd one out. However, sentence 2 is about how no political party has been able to provide a credible solution to unemployment. This doesn’t go with the theme of the paragraph. Hence, 2.

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **56 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **83 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **84 %**

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. Now we speak to our buddy sitting next to us in the car and say, 'Hey, check the GPS and see whether we are going in the right direction.'
2. Then the new era arrives!
3. While driving our car to reach to any hotel or any city and sometimes even while visiting our friends and relatives, there was no choice but to stop at the various corner to ask for directions.
4. You may have heard many stories stating GPS routes ended into lakes, ponds or closed roads!
5. Once upon a time, we depended on passers-by to seek direction while trying to reach to any 'not-so-known' destination.



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



Explanation:



Sentence 5 introduces the narrative—how GPS has changed our habits. “Once upon a time...” [Sentence 5] is a good clue that puts us on this track. Sentence 3 comes after sentence 5. Both talk about how, in the past, we used to depend on the locals to move around in a new place. Sentences 2 and 1 follow the 3-5 pair, in that order. The paragraph thus talks about how from having to ask directions from passers-by, times have changed to checking GPS for directions. The sentence that highlights the inaccuracy of GPS [Sentence 4] has no place in this narrative. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **43 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **59 secs**

Your Attempt: **Correct**

% Students got it correct: **89 %**

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. Even Hinduism talks about the same concept of destiny being super powerful.
2. This raises an obvious question about the role of action in human life: is everything destined?
3. The role of destiny as the centrality to the events happening around human beings cannot be discarded.
4. Buddhism blamed human desires for all the sorrows of human life and their destruction would lead to the ultimate goal of salvation.
5. Ajivika religion, one of the oldest religions non-existent in today's society, emphasizes that no one can change destiny by any means.



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

Explanation:

Sentence 3 sets out the theme of the paragraph: ‘destiny is central to the events happening around us’. One of the oldest religions emphasized it (sentence 5), and even Hinduism talks about its power (sentence 3). They are directly related to the theme set forth by sentence 3. Between sentences 2 and 4, sentence 2 presents another aspect of the idea of ‘destiny’; the sentence introspects about the role of actions in human lives, thus thematically connecting itself with the rest of the paragraph. The remaining sentence, which talks about Buddhism and its concept of sorrow and salvation [sentence 4], is the odd man out as it doesn't deal with ‘destiny’. Hence, [4].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 37 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 59 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 82 %

The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

History teaches us that the pursuit of knowledge is often a digressive process. Unlike the natural sciences where knowledge and learning are generally linear, experimentation and research leading to new insights and replacing previous conclusions, humanistic knowledge proceeds haltingly. In the natural sciences, one often draws the conclusion that new knowledge is better than old knowledge. In the humanities, we value the ancient, the antique, the quaint, and the outmoded all in the interest of thickening and enriching our understanding of human life.

- ☐ The pursuit of knowledge in humanities and natural sciences follow different methods and purposes.
- ☐ While pure sciences replace the old knowledge with the new through experimentation and research, humanities are digressive and enrich our understanding of human life.
- ☒ The pursuit of knowledge in sciences is linear with new insights improving and replacing the old ones while humanities build on the old to enrich our understanding of life. ✓
- ☐ In sciences the old humanistic knowledge is discarded; humanities, on the other hand, discard nothing but thicken and enrich the old.



Congratulations, you got it correct!

Explanation:

The paragraph talks about the ‘difference between natural sciences and humanities’.Option 1 is incorrect in stating that the pursuit of knowledge in sciences and humanities differs in ‘purposes’-- the implication in the passage is that both improve our knowledge. Option 2 is incorrect; besides not mentioning the ‘linearity’ [of natural sciences] and the importance that old knowledge is attributed [in humanities], the option also seems to suggest that ‘the enrichment of our understanding of life’ is a concern of only humanities. On the other hand, in option 3, “...to enrich our understanding ...” doesn’t apply exclusively to humanities. Option 4 seems to emphasize more on the rejection of old knowledge; it doesn’t talk about how the pursuit of knowledge differs in both w.r.t. the direction of movement of knowledge and learning [linear in natural sciences and digressive in humanities]. Hence, [3].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 222 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 104 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 74 %

The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author's position.

Art and finance have a natural affinity and a long historical connection. Evaluation is particularly difficult when involving unique, nonstandard products in fragmented markets, such as artworks or financial derivatives. The prices these fetch always depend on the perception of other market participants. In both art and financial markets, collective judgment looms large. Assembling an art collection is akin to financial investment in constituting a series of bets on what others would think as valuable and how the perception of it will evolve in the future. Value is formed on the basis not only of the formal properties of the artworks but also of the expectations and beliefs of others.

- ☐ The natural affinity between art and finance is based on similarities between their products, prices, perception and value, and their historical connection.
- ☒ The similarities between art and finance are based on the organization of their markets and the nature of product evaluation in them. ✓
- ☐ Historically, art and finance are similar in that they depend on the perception of other market participants, and their expectations and beliefs.
- ☐ Art and finance are examples of fragmented markets in which evaluation happens based not on the properties of the product but on the expectations of others.



Congratulations, you got it correct!

Explanation:

The paragraph highlights the similarities between art and finance. Both have ‘unique, nonstandard products in fragmented markets’. The rest of the paragraph highlights the similarity in product evaluation in both the markets; value is relative to many aspects— not just formal properties but also the expectations and beliefs of others, i.e. the perception and judgement of other market participants as well. From this point of view, option 2 best summarizes the author’s position after leaving out the details. ‘A long historical connection’ between them is mentioned in the first sentence; but, there are no further details in the paragraph; hence, we can ignore it while summarizing the paragraph. Option 1 is incorrect – it misses the similarity of the markets they operate in. Option 3 highlights only one aspect of the similarity – the perception of others. Option 4, besides not mentioning their products [unique, nonstandard products], also distorts the meaning by changing ‘not only ... but also’ to ‘not ... but’. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 114 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 22 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 14 %

The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the author’s position.

41% of high-growth companies are already implementing Artificial Intelligence (AI), as against only 19% of those defined as low growth. And their experience so far has not discouraged them. Almost all the high-growth companies (93%) intend to invest in AI in the next 1-3 years, and more than half of them expect to use AI to improve their decision-making over the coming year. So what are the ways in which managers hope to benefit from AI? The first is based around customers; identifying for example, which customers are likely to “churn”, allowing the company to find ways to keep them on board. A second approach is to use AI to optimize business processes. Third, AI can be used to make hiring decisions. Fourth, managers can use AI to identify new products or areas of expansion.

- ☐ The experience of high-growth companies with AI has encouraged almost all of them to invest in AI in the near future to systematize their business tasks.
- ☐ High-growth companies are showing confidence in AI, and most of them intend to invest in AI to improve several of their business functions and prospects.
- ☒ AI is expected to aid managers of high-growth companies in customer retention, business process optimization, and identification of new products and areas of expansion. ✖
- ☐ Aided by their past experience, almost all the high-growth companies intend to use AI in the near future to improve their business decisions and strategies.



Oops, you got it wrong!



Explanation:



The paragraph deals with ‘how AI is transforming businesses’.The paragraph has three major ideas—popularity of AI among high-growth companies; future prospects of the same; potential uses of AI. The first two sentences state how high growth companies have become believers in AI. The next is about their decision to invest in AI in the next 1- 3 years. The rest of the paragraph outlines how AI is expected to benefit their managers. These ideas are adequately captured in option 2. Option 1 is not the best précis – ‘to systematize their business tasks’ is problematic as there is nothing in the paragraph to justify ‘systematization’—rather, it’s more demanding roles, which involve decision-making, that AI is expected to fill . Option 3 is partial. It summarizes only the second part of the paragraph. Option 4 is a distortion. ‘Almost all the high-growth companies’ are not influenced by their past experience, as per the paragraph – only some of them, i.e. 41% intend to invest in AI in the next 1-3 years. Option 4 can be eliminated. Hence, [2].

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **136 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **48 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **32 %**

The four sentences labelled (1, 2, 3, 4) 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 four numbers as your answer.

1. If we don't take their perceptual systems into account, we may overlook sources of social information for that species.
2. Solving the mysteries of animal behaviour involves immersing ourselves in that perceptual world.
3. If they're birds, it means taking a literal bird's eye view of their behaviours.
4. Animals experience the world in ways that are beyond human capacities.



Oops, you got it wrong!



Explanation:



Sentence 4 is the only standalone sentence – hence, sentence 4 starts the paragraph. Sentence 2 follows sentence 1—‘that perceptual world’ in 2 corresponds to ‘sources of social information for that species’ [in sentence 2] taken in through their perceptual systems. Thus we get the mandatory pair, 1-2. It talks about the importance of studying a creature’s perceptual system in solving the mysteries of its behaviour. Sentence 3 provides an example—in case of birds, one should literally take a bird’s eye view of their behaviours. Therefore, it logically follows the 1-2 pair. Thus we get the sequence 1-2-3. The sequence forms a coherent paragraph when combined with the starter, sentence 4. Hence, 4123.

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: **97 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **11 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

% Students got it correct: **11 %**

The four sentences labelled (1, 2, 3, 4) 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 four numbers as your answer.

1. There is little that politicians can do to promote human prosperity other than secure peace, keep taxes low, and administer justice.
2. That is the best situation any society can attain.
3. Politicians are not pilots of a ship of state, and yet public rhetoric makes them appear to be just that.
4. If they stick to this principle, they will avoid harming the society.



Congratulations, you got it correct!



Explanation:



“This principle” in sentence 4 refers to the list mentioned in sentence 1 about what politicians can do—‘secure peace, keep taxes low, and administer justice’. So, 1-4 is a mandatory link. Sentence 3 precedes 1-4 as 3 refers to politicians as not really ‘pilots of a ship of state’ [unlike what their public rhetoric portrays them to be]; sentence 1 follows this, without the metaphor of ‘ship and pilots’, and emphasizes why politicians can do little to promote human progress – ‘there is little that politicians can do to promote human prosperity’. Now we have the sequence 3-1-4. Sentence 2 ends the paragraph by concluding that the principle mentioned in the previous sentences is ‘the best situation any society can attain’. Hence, 3142.

Correct Answer:



Time taken by you: 95 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 62 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 66 %

The four sentences labelled (1, 2, 3, 4) 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 four numbers as your answer.

1. For most scientists this growth of knowledge is progress.
2. Most practicing scientists scarcely harbour any doubts that science makes progress.
3. Indeed, to deny either the possibility or actuality of progress in science is to deny its *raison d'être* or 'reason for being'.
4. For, what they see is that despite the many false alleys into which science has strayed across the centuries, the history of science is one of steady accumulation of scientific knowledge.



Oops, you got it wrong!

Explanation:

The only standalone sentence is 2: 'this growth of knowledge' in sentence 1, 'indeed' in sentence 3 and 'what they see' in sentence 4 make them inadequate starters. Sentence 1 talks about practicing scientists who firmly believe that science is making progress. Sentence 4 follows sentence 2; it talks about why 'they' or the practicing scientists [in sentence 2] believe so: "... the history of science is one of steady accumulation of scientific knowledge." Thus, we have the mandatory pair, 2-4 at the start of the sequence. Sentence 1, which equates 'growth of knowledge' to 'progress' logically follows 2-4. Sentence 3 reinforces what the sequence 2-4-1 states: "indeed, to deny ... progress in science is to deny its ... 'reason for being'." Hence, 2413.

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: **106 secs**

Avg Time taken by all students: **42 secs**

Your Attempt: **Wrong**

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

The four sentences labelled (1, 2, 3, 4) 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 four numbers as your answer.

1. Despite naysayers, the science on climate change reflects wide consensus and is the outcome of extensive collaboration.
2. If the evidence is overwhelming and countries are willing to set themselves national targets to limit emissions, why is international coordination on the issue difficult to achieve?
3. Its impact has begun to show up as an increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme events.
4. An IPCC special report on climate change observed that human activities are estimated to already have caused 1°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels.



Congratulations, you got it correct!

Explanation:

Sentences 4 and 1 are likely starters. Sentence 3 will come after sentence 4 as “its impact’ in 3 refers to the “1°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels...” mentioned in sentence 4. 4-3 pair is then followed by sentence 2 because ‘if the evidence is overwhelming...’ in 2 refers to the “intensity of extreme events’ mentioned in 3. Thus 4-3 is mandatory pair and the sequence 432 is logical. (Sentence 2 is a rhetorical question that the paragraph leaves unanswered.) Since this sequence cannot be broken, sentence 1 can be placed either at the beginning or the end of 432. It is illogical to place sentence 1 after 432 sequence because “...the science on climate change reflects wide consensus...” and “is the outcome of extensive collaboration” (sentence 1) will contradict the rhetorical question in sentence 2. However if placed before 432. The wide consensus on climate change and the “extensive collaboration” will refer directly to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report which attributed climate change to human activities. Hence, 1432.

Correct Answer:

Time taken by you: 78 secs

Avg Time taken by all students: 28 secs

Your Attempt: Correct

% Students got it correct: 18 %

