

Elite's Grid Verbal Ability



The Pandora's Box of Parajumbles

Series 2

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Parajumbles Series – 2

1.

- A. Branded disposable diapers are available at many supermarkets and drug stores.
- B. If one supermarket sets a higher price for a diaper, customers may buy that brand elsewhere.
- C. By contrast, the demand for private-label products may be less price sensitive since it is available only at a corresponding supermarket chain.
- D. So the demand for branded diapers at any particular store may be quite price sensitive.
- E. For instance, only SavOn Drugs stores sell SavOn Drugs diapers.
- F. Then stores should set a higher incremental margin percentage for private label diapers.

2.

- A. Having a strategy is a matter of discipline.
- B. It involves the configuration of a tailored value chain that enables a company to offer unique value.
- C. It requires a strong focus on profitability and a willingness to make tough tradeoffs in choosing what not to do.
- D. Strategy goes far beyond the pursuit of best practices.
- E. A company must stay the course even during times of upheaval, while constantly improving and extending its distinctive positioning.
- F. When a company's activities fit together as a self-reinforcing system, any competitor wishing to imitate a strategy must replicate the whole system.

3.

- A. As officials, their vision of a country shouldn't run too far beyond that of the local people with whom they have to deal.
- B. Ambassadors have to choose their words.
- C. To say what they feel they have to say, they appear to be denying or ignoring part of what they know.
- D. So, with ambassadors as with other expatriates in black Africa, there appears at a first meeting a kind of ambivalence.
- E. They do a specialized job and it is necessary for them to live ceremonial lives.

4.

- A. "This face-off will continue for several months given the strong convictions on either side," says a senior functionary of the high-powered task force on drought.
- B. During the past week-and-half, the Central Government has sought to deny some of the earlier apprehensions over the impact of drought.
- C. The recent revival of the rains had led to the emergence of a line of divide between the two.
- D. The state governments, on the other hand, allege that the Centre is downplaying the crisis only to evade its full responsibility of financial assistance that is required to alleviate the damage.
- E. Shrill alarm about the economic impact of an inadequate monsoon had been sounded by the Centre as well as most of the states, in late July and early August.

5.

- A. This fact was established in the 1730s by French survey expeditions to Equador near the Equator and Lapland in the Arctic, which found that around the middle of the earth the arc was about a kilometer shorter.
- B. One of the unsettled scientific questions in the late 18th century was that exact nature of the shape of the earth.
- C. The length of one-degree arc would be less near the equatorial latitudes than at the poles.
- D. One way of doing that is to determine the length of the arc along a chosen longitude or meridian at one degree latitude separation.
- E. While it was generally known that the earth was not a sphere but an 'oblate spheroid', more curved at the equator and flatter at the poles, the question of 'how much more' was yet to be established.

6.

- A. A few months ago I went to Princeton University to see what the young people who are going to be running our country in a few decades are like.
- B. I would go to sleep in my hotel room around midnight each night, and when I awoke, my mailbox would be full of replies—sent at 1:15 a.m., 2:59 a.m., 3:23 a.m.
- C. One senior told me that she went to bed around two and woke up each morning at seven; she could afford that much rest because she had learned to supplement her full day of work by studying in her sleep.
- D. Faculty members gave me the names of a few dozen articulate students, and I sent them e-mails, inviting them out to lunch or dinner in small groups.
- E. As she was falling asleep she would recite a math problem or a paper topic to herself; she would then sometimes dream about it, and when she woke up, the problem might be solved.

7.

- A. Four days later, Oracle announced its own bid for PeopleSoft, and invited the firm's board to a discussion.
- B. Furious that his own plans had been endangered, PeopleSoft's boss, Craig Conway, called Oracle's offer "diabolical", and its boss, Larry Ellison, a "sociopath".
- C. In early June, PeopleSoft said that it would buy J.D. Edwards, a smaller rival.
- D. Moreover, said Mr. Conway, he "could imagine no price nor combination of price and other conditions to recommend accepting the offer."
- E. On June 12th, PeopleSoft turned Oracle down.

8.

- A. Surrendered, or captured, combatants cannot be incarcerated in razor wire cages; this 'war' has a dubious legality.
- B. How can then one characterize a conflict to be waged against a phenomenon as war?
- C. The phrase 'war against terror', which has passed into the common lexicon, is a huge misnomer.
- D. Besides, war has a juridical meaning in international law, which has codified the laws of war, imbuing them with a humanitarian content.
- E. Terror is a phenomenon, not an entity—either State or non-State.

9.

- A. I am much more intolerant of a human being's shortcomings than I am of an animal's, but in this respect I have been lucky, for most of the people I have come across have been charming.
- B. Then you come across the unpleasant human animal—the District Officer who drawled, 'We chaps are here to help you chaps,' and then proceeded to be as obstructive as possible.
- C. In these cases of course, the fact that you are an animal collector helps; people always seem delighted to meet someone with such an unusual occupation and go out of their way to assist you.
- D. Fortunately, these types are rare, and the pleasant ones I have met more than compensated for them—but even so, I think I will stick to animals.
- E. When you travel round the world collecting animals you also, of necessity, collect human beings.

10.

- A. To avoid this, the QWERTY layout put the keys most likely to be hit in rapid succession on opposite sides. This made the keyboard slow, the story goes, but that was the idea.
- B. A different layout, which had been patented by August Dvorak in 1936, was shown to be much faster.
- C. The QWERTY design (patented by Christopher Sholes in 1868 and sold to Remington in 1873) aimed to solve a mechanical problem of early typewriters.
- D. Yet the Dvorak layout has never been widely adopted, even though (with electric typewriters and then PCs) the anti-jamming rationale for QWERTY has been defunct for years.
- E. When certain combinations of keys were struck quickly, the type bars often jammed.

11.

- A. The wall does not simply divide Israel from a putative Palestinian state on the basis of the 1967 borders.
- B. A chilling omission from the road map is the gigantic 'separation wall' now being built in the West Bank by Israel.
- C. It is surrounded by trenches, electric wire and moats; there are watchtowers at regular intervals.
- D. It actually takes new tracts of Palestinian and, sometimes five or six kilometres at a stretch.
- E. Almost a decade after the end of South African apartheid this ghastly racist wall is going up with scarcely a peep from Israel's American allies who are going to pay for most of it.

12.

- A. Luckily the tide of battle moved elsewhere after the American victory at Midway and an Australian victory over Japan at Milne Bay.
- B. It could have been no more than a delaying tactic.
- C. The Australian military, knowing the position was hopeless, planned to fall back to the southeast in the hope of defending the main cities.
- D. They had captured most of the Solomon Islands and much of New Guinea, and seemed poised for an invasion.
- E. Not many people outside Australia realize how close the Japanese got.

13.

- A. Call it the third wave sweeping the Indian media.
- B. Now they are starring in a new role, as suave dealmakers who are in a hurry to strike alliances and agreements.
- C. Look around and you will find a host of deals that have been inked or are ready to be finalized.
- D. Then the media barons wrested back control from their editors, and turned marketing warriors with the brand as their missile.
- E. The first came with those magnificent men in their mahogany chambers who took on the world with their mighty fountain pens.

14.

- A. The celebrations of economic recovery in Washington may be as premature as that 'Mission Accomplished' banner hung on the USS Abraham Lincoln to hail the end of the Iraq war.
- B. Meanwhile, in the real world, the struggles of families and communities continue unabated.
- C. Washington responded to the favourable turn in economic news with enthusiasm.
- D. The celebrations and high-fives up and down Pennsylvania Avenue are not to be found beyond the Beltway.
- E. When the third quarter GDP showed growth of 7.2% and the monthly unemployment rate dipped to six per cent euphoria gripped the US capital.

15.

- A. To much of the Labour movement, it symbolises the brutality of the upper classes.
- B. And to everybody watching, the current mess over foxhunting symbolises the government's weakness.
- C. To foxhunting's supporters, Labour's 1991 manifesto commitment to ban it symbolises the party's metropolitan roots and hostility to the countryside.
- D. Small issues sometimes have large symbolic power.
- E. To those who enjoy thundering across the countryside in red coats after foxes, foxhunting symbolises the ancient roots of rural lives.