



Verbal Reasoning Practice Test 9

Solution Booklet

Today, the term surreal is used to denote a curious imaginative effect. The word's provenance can be traced back to the revolutionary surrealism movement which grew out of Dadaism in the mid-1920s. Surrealism spread quite quickly across European arts and literature, particularly in France, between the two world wars. The movement's founder - French poet Andre Breton - was influenced heavily by Freud's theories, as he reacted against reason and logic in order to free the imagination from the unconscious mind. Surrealist works, both visual and oral, juxtaposed seemingly unrelated everyday objects and placed these in dreamlike settings. Thus, the popularity of surrealist paintings, including Salvador Dali's, lies in the unconventional positioning of powerful images such as leaping tigers, melting watches and metronomes. Surrealist art is widely known today, unlike the less easily accessible works of the French surrealist writers who, ignoring the literal meanings of words, focused instead on word associations and implications. That said, the literary surrealist tradition still survives in modern-day proponents of experimental writing.

Q1 Salvador Dali's work is more popular than Andre Breton's output.

True

False

Cannot say

This can be inferred from the passage. Breton was a French surrealist poet and the surrealist's written work is described as "less easily accessible", compared to the "popularity" of Dali's paintings.

Q2 Some experimental writing is surreal.

True

False

Cannot say

Some of the surrealists from whose work the word is derived practiced experimental writing.

Q3 Surrealist painting is renowned for the arbitrary portrayal of everyday objects.

True

False

Cannot say

As the sixth sentence of the passage describes.

Q4 Salvador Dali was a French surrealist painter.

True

False

Cannot say

The passage mentions Dali, as well as emphasising the movement's French focus, but does not link the two together. In fact Dali was Spanish.

Q5 At one time Dadaism and Surrealism were closely affiliated.

True

False

Cannot say

The passage notes that Surrealism “grew out of Dadaism.”

Huge controversy surrounded the construction between 1994 and 2006 of what was the world's largest hydroelectric dam, the Three Gorges Dam. Spanning China's 1.4-mile wide Yangtze River in the Hubei province with twenty-six state-of-the-art turbines, the dam has been heralded by the Chinese state as a symbol of China's modernisation and engineering prowess. It supports China's economic development by supplying over ten percent of its electricity. However, over 1.3 million people were deliberately displaced as part of the Gorges flooding project that created the dam's 660km-long reservoir. Hundreds of archaeological sites, initially above and below ground level, were lost under the reservoir's water. Questions remain as to whether the dam - as a source of renewable energy - benefits the surrounding environment, or depletes it by causing, for example, landslides and the death of fish species in the Yangtze. Supporters argue that the Dam's deepening of the river has made the Yangtze easier for large ships to navigate and has reduced the risk of flooding downstream. As the only other viable Chinese energy source continues to be non-renewable coal power, the hydroelectric power generated by the dam may be the lesser of two evils.

Q6 The passage suggests that energy supplies are critical to economic development.

True

False

Cannot say

We are told in the third sentence that electricity from the dam "supports China's economic development" but we are not told whether electricity is critical to its economic development. Note the statement is "the passage suggests..." so we must respond False, instead of Cannot Say.

Q7 The Three Gorges Dam is China's largest and most controversial dam

True

False

Cannot say

Certainly it once was the largest in the world according to the first sentence, however the sentence is written in the past tense.

Q8 The environmental impacts of the Three Gorges Dam have been more positive than negative

True

False

Cannot say

The passage lists both the positive and negative environmental impacts and argues for both sides, concluding "the dam may be the lesser of two evils".

Q9 The 660km length of the Three Gorges Dam spans the Yangtze River

True

False

Cannot say

The passage states that it is the dam's reservoir that is 660km long.

Q10 The Dam's monetary benefits were prioritised over any social and environmental costs.

True

False

Cannot say

The Dam's construction was designed to support China's economic development, in spite of some social and environmental costs.

Outsourcing - purchasing services from an external supplier rather than performing the work internally - is a popular but politically sensitive means of cutting costs. There has been an increasing use of third parties for HR functions, such as managing payroll and other employee data, and for traditional Finance functions, such as invoice services. The manufacture of goods has even become part of this trend; though the design function is typically kept in-house. Third party call centre operatives can offer customer service expertise that may be more expensive to provide in-house. "Offshoring", when functions are moved abroad, often to India or China, where the average wage is considerably lower raises job protection issues. The potential profits from outsourcing operations encourage underdeveloped countries to invest in the necessary educational infrastructure and skills training that are required to support such business. Still, higher corporate profits may be seen to be at the expense of low-wage economies, and the cost benefits are not always passed on to the consumer. Additionally the consumer may not benefit from an improved quality of customer service. Outsourcing decreases prices in another way - the competitive marketplace in which service providers companies operate gets squeezed.

Q11 Offshoring is synonymous with outsourcing.

True **False** Cannot say

The passage gives offshoring as an example of a particular type of outsourcing, but the two are not the same thing.

Q12 Low wage countries may need to enhance their infrastructure to attract outsourcing contracts.

True False Cannot say

This can be inferred from the statement "encourage underdeveloped countries to invest in the necessary educational infrastructure... required to support such business".

Q13 Outsourcing providers compete aggressively for client contracts.

True False Cannot say

This can be inferred from the last sentence.

Q14 The outsourcing trend has led to a reduction in the cost of consumer goods.

True

False

Cannot say

*The passage states that "cost benefits are not always passed on to the consumer".
The passage does not say explicitly though whether this has led to a reduction in the cost of consumer goods.*

Q15 Outsourcing refers to the use of a third party supplier to provide either HR or Finance functions.

True

False

Cannot say

The passage also mentions the outsourcing of manufacturing capability

Hydrogen-fuelled cars are not reliant upon petrol or diesel, which potentially makes them safer. Hydrogen fuel can be produced from renewable sources, such as wind or solar power, and does not have the ordinary car's dependency on burning fossil fuels. Since cars account for roughly a third of greenhouse gas emissions, these futuristic vehicles could form part of an effective strategy to combat global warming. This is an idealistic scenario and there are many barriers to be overcome first. The existing designs for hydrogen fuelled cars are extremely expensive. The National Research Association also estimates that £8 billion would be needed to set-up the refuelling stations required by hydrogen-fuelled cars. For a mass market product to be developed there needs to be increased cooperation between governments and industry to allow the infrastructure to lead the manufacture. In fact, hybrid and hybrid-electric car designs may prove to be a more worthwhile long-term investment for governments. Compared to ordinary cars, hybrids emit reduced levels of carbon dioxide, whereas hydrogen-fuelled cars emit only water and so are 100% clean.

Q16 The first hydrogen-fuelled car was too expensive for consumers

True

False

Cannot say

The passage states that existing designs are extremely expensive but does not refer to a retail price for the first hydrogen fuelled car.

Q17 The passage questions the viability of hydrogen-fuelled cars as a solution to global warming.

True

False

Cannot say

The passage states that "this is an idealistic scenario" and that they "could form part of an effective strategy to combat global warming".

Q18 High infrastructure costs have deterred the manufacture of hydrogen-fuelled cars.

True

False

Cannot say

The passage refers to an £8 billion estimate of what "would be needed to set-up the refuelling stations required by hydrogen-fuelled cars". The passage also says that cooperation is needed "to allow the infrastructure to lead the manufacture".

Q19 Hybrids are the cleanest form of transport.

True

False

Cannot say

The passage compares hydrogen-fuelled cars more favourably than hybrids which emit some carbon dioxide.

Q20 Hydrogen is universally available and is not a greenhouse gas.

True

False

Cannot say

These facts are not presented in the passage.

Rising worldwide demand for champagne has meant that champagne producers have needed to increase supply by creating more wineries and planting more grapes. The Champagne region has been producing sparkling wines since the 16th century from the variety of grapes found across the region. Traditionally served at the coronations of French kings, the drink's association with opulence grew throughout the 19th century. Following on from 1891's Treaty of Madrid, the Treaty of Versailles after World War 1 reaffirmed the Champagne region's legal right for sole usage of the term "champagne". Time-consuming and costly, the Champenoise method of production involves a second fermentation process. However this process has been replicated outside the French region. Champagne's grapes are not unique to the region either - they can be grown elsewhere if their seeds are planted in a virtually identical climate. Currently, bottles that are labelled as using the Champenoise method may cause some consumer confusion as to whether they are real champagne or not. Clear labelling of a sparkling wine's origin on the bottle is needed to tell consumers whether or not it came from Champagne.

- Q21** A sparkling wine's entitlement to the Champagne name lies solely with its country of origin.

True **False** Cannot say

Only sparkling wine from the French region of Champagne can be called Champagne. So the wine's entitlement to the Champagne name stems from the region in which it originated, not solely the country.

- Q22** The French monopoly on champagne production has led to worldwide shortages of the drink.

True False **Cannot say**

The passage does not state this argument explicitly.

- Q23** Champagne has built its luxurious connotations over time.

True False Cannot say

It was initially served at the coronation of French kings and its "association with opulence grew throughout the 19th century".

- Q24** The Treaty of Versailles established legal protection for the term champagne".

True **False** Cannot say

This was established by the Treaty of Madrid. The Treaty of Versailles "reaffirmed" it.

Q25 A single type of grape is found across the Champagne region.

True

False

Cannot say

The second sentence refers to the “variety of grapes found across the region”.

Levels of passive surveillance have increased recently. For example, many companies monitor their employees' use of the Internet or of any campaign group activities that may have operational implications. State surveillance now processes huge amounts of information that is collected from a variety of sources to produce profiles of individuals and groups. There are now reportedly more closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras per head of the UK population than any other country in the world. Such a rapid expansion of CCTV surveillance in particular has raised questions about whether this is economically justifiable, whether one's right to confidentiality is compromised and whether the public are in support of it. In public places it is harder to argue that video surveillance is an invasion of privacy. The sheer presence of CCTV cameras should deter some criminals when they know that police officers are surveying their actions. However, some criminologists claim that criminal activity is simply diverted elsewhere. CCTV footage may offer unbiased court evidence and so contribute towards keeping many criminals off the streets, but footage needs to be stored securely - even if most of what is filmed does not get to be seen.

Q26 CCTV surveillance is an invasion of privacy.

True False **Cannot say**

The passage raises this issue as part of a much broader debate and singles out the surveillance of public places as less invasive.

Q27 Public security, CCTV costs and an individual's right to privacy are three factors raised within the passage.

True False Cannot say

All three issues are raised in the passage.

Q28 It is difficult to justify CCTV surveillance if most of the footage remains unseen.

True False **Cannot say**

The passage raises this point but doesn't state explicitly that CCTV surveillance is therefore "difficult to justify".

Q29 The public's main concerns about increases in surveillance have been around CCTV.

True False Cannot say

This can be inferred from the fifth sentence's "in particular".

Q30 Passive surveillance refers only to company monitoring of Internet usage.

True

False

Cannot say

Monitoring of Internet usage is the one example of passive surveillance which the passage presents.