

VA Sectional Test

Directions for questions 1 to 10: The passages given below are followed by a set of questions. Choose the best answer to each question.

PASSAGE – 1

What is the function of transportation? What place does locomotion occupy in the whole spectrum of human needs? Perhaps, the first step in developing an adequate transportation policy would be to clear our minds of technocratic cant. Those who believe that transportation is the chief end of life should be put in orbit at a safe lunar distance from the earth. They are probably living in their make believe world by placing so much importance to transportation itself.

Though physical movement of people and goods is an important function of transportation, the prime purpose of passenger transportation is not to increase the amount of physical movement but to increase the possibilities for human association, cooperation, personal intercourse, and choice.

A balanced transportation system, accordingly, calls for a balance of resources and facilities and opportunities in every other part of the economy. Neither speed nor mass demand offers a criterion of social efficiency. Hence such limited technocratic proposals as that for high-speed trains between already overcrowded and overextended urban centers would only add to the present lack of functional balance and purposeful organization viewed in terms of human need. Variety of choices, facilities and destinations, not speed alone, is the mark of an organic transportation system. And, incidentally, this is an important factor of safety when any part of the system breaks down. Even confirmed air travelers appreciate the railroad in foul weather.

If we took human needs seriously in recasting the whole transportation system, we should begin with the human body and make the fullest use of pedestrian movement, not only for health but for efficiency in moving large crowds over short distances. The current introduction of shopping malls, free from wheeled traffic, is both a far simpler and far better technical solution than the many costly proposals for introducing moving sidewalks or other rigidly automated modes of locomotion. At every stage we should provide for the right type of locomotion, at the right speed, within the right radius, to meet human needs. Neither maximum speed nor maximum traffic nor maximum distance has by itself any human significance.

With the over-exploitation of the motor car comes an increased demand for engineering equipment, to roll over wider carpets of concrete over the bulldozed landscape and to endow the petroleum magnates of Texas, Venezuela and Arabia with fabulous capacities for personal luxury and political corruption. Finally, the purpose of this system, abetted by similar concentration on planes and rockets, is to keep an increasing volume of motorists and tourists in motion, at the highest possible speed, in a sufficiently, comatose state not to mind the fact that their distant destination has become the exact counterpart of the very place they have left. The end product everywhere is environmental desolation.

If this is the best our technological civilization can do to satisfy genuine human needs and nurture man's further development, it's plainly time to close up shop. If indeed we go farther and faster along this route, there is plenty of evidence to show that the shop will close up without our help. Behind our power blackouts, our polluted environments, our transportation breakdowns, our nuclear threats, is a failure of mind. Technocratic anesthesia has put us to sleep. Results that were predictable — and predicted! — half a

century ago without awakening any response still find us unready to copy with them — or even to admit their existence.

1. It can be inferred that the author would oppose
 - a. a balanced transportation system.
 - b. shopping malls.
 - c. expansion of the interstate highway system.
 - d. less emphasis on speed and mass demand
 - e. a transportation system with a variety of choices
2. The author predicts that if we continue our present transportation setup
 - a. we will succumb to speed and technology
 - b. our society may not survive
 - c. we will attain a balanced transportation system.
 - d. rockets and planes will be extinct.
 - e. human associations would increase.
3. According to the article, the reframing of the transportation system would require
 - a. far greater use of walking.
 - b. more resources devoted to transportation.
 - c. abandoning the profit system.
 - d. a better legislative policy.
 - e. more high speed trains
4. It is stated in the article that safety in transportation is aided by the existence of
 - a. remote air-to-ground control for airplanes.
 - b. technological sophistication.
 - c. a variety of transport modes.
 - d. full-proof systems.
 - e. speedy modes of transport.
5. The word 'comatose' means:
 - a. insensible and inert
 - b. drowsy; sleepy
 - c. astonished
 - d. infatuated
 - e. unconscious and not able to be awakened, usually becomes of illness or injury.

PASSAGE – 2

The explosion of the video game industry in the past decade has had many people questioning the content of the games being released. The main concern is that of violence and violent acts within the games. The newest generation of games is so realistic that the line between “simulations” and video games has greatly been blurred. They are so realistic that the United States government has even released a game, entitled America’s Army, to help train the next generation of military specialists. In the late 1990’s a large number of high-school shootings were blamed on violent video games, the most devastating being the shooting at

Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999. These shootings raise a valid concern that violent video games may be affecting the aggression of children and developing adolescents.

The term aggression is very general and can refer to and influence a large number of personality traits and behaviors. Connor and Steingard defined two specific types of aggression. Reactive aggression is an angry, defensive response to a threat or frustration. Proactive aggression is a deliberate behavior that is controlled by external reinforcements and is usually a means of reaching a desired goal. An example of this type would be robbing a bank to get money. There have yet to be any studies that take into account these two specific types, but most studies in the past have focused on both in some way.

Video games made their first appearance in the early 1970s. The first generation of games used simple shapes and had minimal interaction. The first game, Pong, attempted to simulate ping pong using two rectangles as paddles, and a small square as the ball. The paddles could be controlled by a human player. This game displayed no violent acts or situations though. The first of popular games to be considered violent was Pac Man. This game consisted of a small circle with a mouth that tried to eat pills and destroy ghosts. Although this hardly seems violent by today's standards, it was one of the first games to involve destruction of any kind.

With the release of the Nintendo Entertainment System in the 1980s and Sony's Playstation in the 1990s came new generations of games, with better graphics and more capabilities. Game developers were no longer as limited by their media, and tried to simulate reality as best as possible. New innovations in technology meant more realistic violence and gore. All these new capabilities meant developers could focus more on details. One example is the game Soldier of Fortune, released in 2000 for the personal computer. In this game each character has 26 "kill zones," or areas that the character can be hit by a bullet. The game also employs a first-person perspective, making it seem as though the player is seeing through the eyes of the in-game character.

Until the recent resurgence in interest in video games in the past decade, research on the topic was minimal. There were few correlations found, and several had conflicting results. There were three studies which used self report data. Dominick found that the amount of video games played had a positive correlation with one of three measures of aggression among tenth and eleventh grade boys. However, Gibb and Bailey, found no relation in a larger study of 12-34 year olds. Another study found a correlation between use of arcade games and teachers' ratings of aggressiveness. Due to the conflicting results of these studies, no conclusive correlations could be drawn. Most data seemed to show a positive correlation between videogame play and aggression, yet Gibb's study showed otherwise.

6. Which one of these is a correct example of reactive aggression as defined in the passage?
- a. Beating someone up to prove that you are a bully
 - b. Insulting someone who you think is useless.
 - c. Severing contacts with people and being passive-aggressive
 - d. Participating in a boxing match
 - e. Attacking someone who points a gun at you and threatens to kill you

7. Which one of these is an apt title for the passage?
- Video Games lead to violence
 - Video games and violence: Nature of Correlation?
 - The Myth of Video game inspired violence
 - Virtual violence
 - Society and violence
8. What is the most probable opinion of the author towards the first-person perspective used in 'Soldiers of Fortune'?
- It was the reason for spreading more violence in society
 - It heightened the player's ability to relate to the aggression
 - It was an aspect added after research
 - It was the best way for someone to train to be a soldier
 - It made the players less aggressive.
9. What is the author trying to highlight by mentioning the release of a game by the American army?
- The American establishment believes in promoting violence
 - The American Army is using popular games to encourage conscription
 - The extent to which video games can emulate real-life
 - These games have now become a part of American mainstream life
 - American Army believes that the need for stimulation is high during adolescence.
10. The word 'gore' in the passage means.
- a piece of cloth that is generally triangular or tapering
 - a skirt
 - a panel
 - blood shed from a wound
 - None of the above

Directions for questions 6 to 10: The sentences given in each question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a letter. Choose the most logical order of sentences from among the given choices to construct a coherent paragraph.

11. 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.
- a. ADCBFE b. ACBDEF c. DCBEFA d. ABCEDF e. ACEDBF

12. 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.
- a. EBCDA b. DBACE c. BDCAE d. ECBDA e. EBDAC
13. A. This fact was established in the 1730s by French survey expeditions to Equator 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.
- a. BECAD b. BEDCA c. EDACB d. EBDCA e. EBCAD

Directions for questions 14 to 16: Fill the gaps in the passage below with the most appropriate word from the options given for each gap. Be guided by the author's overall style and meaning when you choose the answers.

Von Nuemann and Morgenstern assume a decision framework in which all options are thoroughly considered, each option being independent of the others, with a numerical value derived for the utility of each possible outcome (these outcomes reflecting, in turn, all possible combinations of choices). The decision is then made to maximize the expected utility.

____ **14** ____ such a model reflects major simplifications of the way divisions are made in the real world. Humans are not able to process information as quickly and effectively as the model assumes; they tend not to think ____ **15** ____ as easily as the model calls for; they often deal with a particular option without really assessing its ____ **16** ____ and when they do assess alternatives, they may be extremely nebulous about their criteria of evaluation.

14. a. Regrettably b. Firstly c. Lastly d. Apparently e. Obviously

15. a. quantitatively b. systematically c. scientifically d. analytically e. historically
16. a. implications b. disadvantages c. utility d. alternatives e. assumptions

Directions for questions 17 to 20: In each of the following questions, the underlined part has an error. From the options choose the grammatically correct option to replace the underlined part in the question.

17. Pakistan's political crisis deepened on Thursday with a defiant Nawaz Sharif rebuffing ruling PPP government's offers for talks as police lathicharged activists and detained politicians and lawyers which demanded immediate reinstatement of sacked judges
- a. which demanded b. who demanded c. that demanded
d. who have demanded e. who would demand
18. The Dwarka Police station is larger than usual for a police station, with a recreation room for policemen and a waiting room for visitors.
- a. usual b. being usual c. to be usual d. is usual e. usually
19. Had the minister's party not been seen as a Communist party, he would have easily won the elections.
- a. Had the minister's party not been seen as a Communist party, all of those would have easily won the elections
b. Had the minister's party not been seen as a Communist party, they would have easily won the elections.
c. Had the minister's party not been seen as a Communist party, he could easily have won the elections.
d. Had the minister's party not been seen as a Communist party, the minister could easily have won the elections
e. Had the minister's party not been seen as a Communist party, the minister could have easily won the elections.
20. The increase in the number of crimes in Gurgaon indicate the poor law and order situation there and therefore that the citizens need to be vigilant.
- a. indicate the poor law and order situation there and therefore that
b. indicate the poor law and order situation there and therefore
c. that indicate the poor law and order situation there and therefore
d. indicates the poor law and order situation there and therefore
e. indicates the poor law and order situation there and therefore that

VA Sectional Test

Answers and Explanations

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| <p>1. c Option (a) is incorrect because clearly the author supports a balanced transportation system. This is evident from paragraph 3 where the author explains what makes a balanced transportation system and how 'limited technocratic proposals as that for high-speed trains between already overcrowded and overextended urban centers would only add to the present lack of functional balance'.</p> <p>Option (b) is incorrect because, in paragraph 4, the author states that 'the current introduction of shopping malls, free from wheeled traffic, is both a far simpler and far better technical solution'. This explains that the author supports shopping malls.</p> <p>Option (c) is the best choice because, in paragraph 5, the author explains that 'with the over-exploitation of the motor car comes an increased demand for engineering equipment, to roll over wider carpets of concrete over the bulldozed landscape'. Hence the author agrees that the motor car is over-exploited and that the landscape is under threat.</p> <p>Option (d) is incorrect because in paragraph 3 the author explains that 'neither speed nor mass demand offers a criterion of social efficiency.' Hence, the author 'supports' less emphasis on speed and mass demand.</p> <p>Option (e) is incorrect because the author prefers to have an organic transport system which has a 'variety of choices', as mentioned in paragraph 3.</p> | <p>3. a Option (a) is the best choice because the author explains in paragraph 4 that 'if we took human needs seriously in recasting the whole transportation system, we should begin with the human body and make the fullest use of pedestrian movement, not only for health but for efficiency in moving large crowds over short distances.'</p> <p>Option (b) is incorrect because the need for more resources is not mentioned anywhere by the author. He/she only mentions the need for 'balancing the resources' in paragraph 3.</p> <p>Option (c) is incorrect because it cannot be justified from the passage. The author does not suggest that profit system is the cause of problems.</p> <p>Option (d) is out of scope because legislative policy is not discussed by the author.</p> <p>Option (e) is clearly incorrect because the author does not support high speed trains. In paragraph 3, it is explained that 'limited technocratic proposals as that for high-speed trains.... would only add to the present lack of functional balance and purposeful organization viewed in terms of human need.'</p> |
| <p>2. b Option (a) cannot be justified from the passage because the author does not suggest this will be the ultimate outcome of following the present transportation policy.</p> <p>Option (b) is the best choice because, in the last paragraph, the author predicts that, 'If indeed we go farther and faster along this route, there is plenty of evidence to show that the shop will close up without our help.'</p> <p>Option (c) is incorrect because throughout the passage the author clearly suggests that the present system is faulty and fails to fulfill human needs.</p> <p>Option (d) is incorrect because the author clearly suggests, in paragraph 5, that 'this system, abetted by similar concentration on planes and rockets.' This justifies that the present system encourages the invention and use of rockets and planes.</p> <p>Option (e) is incorrect because according to the author the present system does not increase human associations. This is clearly explained as a central flaw in the present setup in paragraph 2.</p> | <p>4. c Option (a) is incorrect because it is not mentioned anywhere in the passage.</p> <p>Option (b) is incorrect because the author does not refer to technological sophistication.</p> <p>Option (c) is the best choice because the author mentions in paragraph 3 that 'Variety of choicesis an important factor of safety when any part of the system breaks down.'</p> <p>Option (d) is incorrect because the author does not discuss fool-proof systems anywhere.</p> <p>Option (e) contradicts the views of the author who believes that speed alone is not the mark of an organic transport system.</p> |

5. e 'comatose' means in a state of deep and prolonged unconsciousness, usually because illness or injury. Hence (e).
6. e Option (a) is incorrect because, the author explains in paragraph 2, that proactive aggression is where the behaviour is deliberate and is undertaken to reach a particular goal. Bullying someone is deliberate and intentional.
Option (b) is incorrect because here the behaviour is deliberate. This act of proactive aggression displays the deliberate intention of a person to insult the other.
Option (c) is incorrect because the action of cutting contact with other people is intentional. This option does not explain clearly whether the person was truly provoked to severe contacts or he/she did that deliberately. Hence, this option is vague and cannot be justified.
Option (d) is incorrect because participating in boxing is definitely intentional and has a purpose. This is opposite of reactive aggression.
Option (e) is the correct choice because, in paragraph 2, the author explains "Reactive aggression is an angry, defensive response to a threat or frustration." So, an action that is taken in order to defend oneself from a threat is reactive aggression. Hence, this example is appropriate.
7. b Option (a) is an inappropriate title because the author throughout the passage discusses the connection between video games and violence. The author does not present with any certainty that video games lead to violence. The studies discussed in the last paragraph show video games may or may not be leading to violence.
Option (b) is an appropriate title for the passage because throughout the passage the author is trying to find out the correlation between video games and violence. This can be justified from the first paragraph itself where the author explains in what possible ways video games could be influencing children – graphics, simulations etc. Also, he/she presents the example of the shootout in a school. Also, the last paragraph provides the hint where the author tries to find how studies are correlating the two and their results. Some studies have found that there is a relation while some have not.
Option (c) is incorrect because the author does not consider that the influence of video games on children's behaviour is a 'myth'.
Option (d) pertains to 'virtual violence' whereas the author is trying to understand the relation between the violence shown virtually and the violence resulting in real life. Hence, this is a one-sided option.
Option (e) is incorrect because the option is too broad in nature. Also, it only refers to the relationship between society and the violence whereas 'video games' is the most important component of the given passage. This option does not do justice to the passage.
8. b Option (a) is incorrect because it cannot be justified from the passage that one particular video game was responsible for increasing the level of violence in society.
Option (b) is the best choice because, in paragraph 4, the author states that game developers 'tried to simulate reality as best as possible. New innovations in technology meant more realistic violence and gore. All these new capabilities meant developers could focus more on details.' The author emphasizes on the realism present in this game. The fact that the game was more realistic and the player could see from a first person's perspective made him/her feel like the protagonist of the game - it was also more relatable. Hence, this option is the best choice.
Option (c) is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage that suggests that the first person perspective was added after research.
Option (d) is incorrect because it cannot be justified from the passage. Whether it really was the best way to train soldiers or not is unclear.
Option (e) suggests that this first person perspective made players less aggressive. This cannot be justified from the passage.
9. c Option (a) is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage that justifies that the American establishment promotes violence.
Option (b) is incorrect because the American Army is not using these games to enroll candidates. In paragraph 1, the author clearly states the purpose behind releasing these games 'to help train the next generation of military specialists.'
Option (c) is the best choice because, in paragraph 1, the author states that 'the newest generation of games is so realistic that the line between "simulations" and video games has greatly been blurred. They are so realistic that the United States government has even released a game, entitled America's Army, to help train the next generation of military specialists.'
Option (d) is incorrect because even though it is a correct inference, the author is not trying to highlight this by giving the example of the American Army.
Option (e) is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage that justifies this option.
10. d The word 'gore, in para 4 of the passage, means blood, usually from a violent injury. Hence the answer is (d).
11. e (c) is a haphazard choice with no definite beginning, middle or end. Discipline goes better with strong focus as in AC. E further elaborates. DBF talks about making strategy foolproof through the value chain. Hence the required sequence is ACEDBF. Thus the answer is (e).

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| <p>12. d Only E can start the paragraph. C continues with the temporal reference. BD gives the specific opinions of the two parties. A gives the expert opinion. Hence the correct answer is (d).</p> <p>13. b Given B, E cannot start the paragraph. Rather, E follows with the question. D offers an answer to E. C supports with facts. A ends with the discoverers of the fact. Thus the answer is (b).</p> <p>14. e Option (a) 'Regrettably' is unneeded as there is not regret/sorrow displayed. Options (b) and (c) are unfitting as there are no first or last points sequenced. The word 'apparently' is used to say you have read or been told something although you are not certain it is true. Option (d) contradicts the tone of the author and option (e) 'obviously' will befit the blank in a better way. 'Obviously implies clearly or evidently visible. Obviously is the right answer as it matches the tone of great simplifications.</p> <p>15. a Numerical value in the earlier paragraph points to quantitatively as the answer. Hence the answer is (a).</p> | <p>16. d Assess alternatives that follows the blank gives the answer alternatives. Hence the answer is (d).</p> <p>17. b Since the reference is to lawyers, who is correct as compared to which and that. Also the action of demanding was over. Hence option (b) is more appropriate as compared to options (d) and (e).</p> <p>18. d Apart from option (d) the correct usage, the other options are incorrect or excessive/redundant.</p> <p>19. e In option (a), the sentence uses 'all of those' and is ambiguous as even a party can win an election. Option (b) incorrectly uses 'they', still retaining the ambiguity. In Options (c) and (d), the order of the words 'easily have' is incorrect; 'have easily' is better. Option (e) leaves no room for ambiguity; hence the best option.</p> <p>20. d Since 'indicate' should agree with 'increase'- it should be indicates; also use of 'that' after 'therefore' is unneeded. Only option (d) satisfies both these conditions.</p> |
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