

Verbal Test 1

Solutions Booklet

Instructions

This verbal reasoning test comprises 30 questions, and you will have 25 minutes in which to correctly answer as many as you can.

You will be presented with a passage to read, and a statement about that passage. For each statement you must select one of the following answers:

True: The statement follows logically from the information contained in the passage.

False: The statement is logically false from the information contained in the passage.

Cannot Say: It is not possible to determine whether the statement is true or false without further information.

You will have to work quickly and accurately to perform well in this test. If you don't know the answer to a question, leave it and come back to it if you have time.

Try to find a time and place where you will not be interrupted during the test. When you are ready, begin the test.

Checked shirts are now synonymous with the technology entrepreneur. Whilst nobody can be attributed with starting the craze, this criss-crossed personal statement has since been adopted by technology whiz-kids from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg to Twitter co-founder Eva William. The open-necked checked shirt look is beginning to be emulated by American teenagers. The important question being asked by fashion retailers is whether this trend will grow beyond its currently niche audience to the mass market. Fashion trends are fickle and if retailers get it wrong they are quickly punished through falling revenue. That is why fashion outlet Dicies often attends social gatherings and exhibitions where they expect to find lots of young people; their thinking is that if they can observe fashion trends and be ahead of the curve they will get a larger slice of the retail pie.

Q1 Twitter was founded by more than one person.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The second sentence says "Twitter co-founder Eva William..." so if Eva was a co-founder there must have been at least one other person named as a company founder.

Q2 Mark Zuckerberg started the trend for wearing checked shirts.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The second sentence tells us that "whilst nobody can be attributed with starting the craze, this...has now been adopted by technology whiz-kids from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg". So firstly the trend cannot be attributed to any one person, but also important is the fact that the passage tells us Mark Zuckerberg has "since" started wearing these shirts.

Q3 Trends in fashion can be said to remain steady over time.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The first sentence of the second paragraph tells us that "Fashion trends are fickle...". If something is fickle, it is not true to say that it is steady; in fact fickle should be associated with the opposite of stable.

In an effort to preserve fishing stocks, the European Union uses a quota system to regulate the amount of fish that can be taken out of the North Sea. This involves defining the tonnage of the various types of North Sea fish that each EU member country can take. As soon as the catch is landed - but not before – fishermen can be fined for landing more fish at their port than their quota permits. Each year fishermen dump thousands of tonnes of fish back into the sea either because they have reached their quota and don't want to be fined or because the fish are too small to be caught legally. Some environmental groups feel that existing approaches are not working since these fish are already dead and throwing them back serves no real purpose. They believe that other steps need to be taken to conserve North Sea fishing stocks and avoid depletion.

Q4 Fish stocks in the North Sea are nearly exhausted.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The passage tells us only that the EU are seeking to preserve existing stocks and environmentalists wish to avoid depletion. The passage does not tell us if fish stocks are near to depletion or indeed if they are plentiful, so we must answer Cannot Say.

Q5 Some environmental groups think new fish conservation methods are required.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The passage states that environmental groups believe “existing approaches are not working” and “other steps need to be taken”. So if measures other than existing are called for, this must mean new methods are called for.

Q6 Fishermen can be fined for catching too many fish.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The passage states that fishermen can be fined “as soon as the catch is landed -but not before-” so they cannot be fined for catching too many fish.

Biofuels are now being used worldwide and supporters claim that they are a sustainable, renewable and cleaner alternative to traditional fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum, supplies of which are becoming depleted. Biofuels are increasingly used in the transportation sector. The main producers of biofuels are in Asia, Europe and America. They can be produced from any carbon source including landfill gasses and recycled vegetable oil but most of the biofuel produced around the world is derived from photosynthetic plants grown in Brazil. The two main types of plant used in production are those high in sugar, which are fermented to produce ethanol, and those high in oil, which have the oil extracted and heated to reduce viscosity before the oil is used. Advocates explain that burning biofuels releases the same amount of CO₂ that the plants took out of the environment during their growth so there is no net increase in levels of atmospheric carbon.

Q7 Biofuels can be used to power aircraft.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The passage tells us that “supporters claim that they are a ... alternative to traditional fossil fuels like coal and petroleum”. So this tells us what supporters claim, but not what is necessarily the case.

The passage also tells us that “Biofuels are increasingly used in the transportation sector”. So this does not tell us either way if they are used specifically for air travel.

Since the passage does not tell us either way if this statement is definitely true or definitely false, we must answer Cannot Say.

Q8 Oil from some plants will flow more easily if it is heated.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The passage says that one type of plant used in the production of biofuels has its oil “extracted and heated to reduce viscosity”. Reducing viscosity means making a liquid less thick and more free-flowing.

Q9 Ethanol can be produced from photosynthetic plants with high oil content.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - This is a sneaky one. The passage tells us that plants with high oil content "have the oil extracted and heated to reduce viscosity before the oil is used". The passage also tells us about plants which are high in sugar which are fermented to produce ethanol. However the passage does not tell us specifically if plants with high oil content can or cannot be used to produce ethanol.

Many businesses now recognise that there are wide-ranging benefits to be gained from offering their workforce flexible working arrangements. These arrangements can include being able to work from home, job sharing, part-time working and being able to choose when to complete agreed hours, for example through working fewer but longer days, or working flexitime. Employees able to adopt flexible working are better able to balance work and family commitments and are therefore happier at work, experiencing greater job satisfaction. They are also more motivated and less likely to leave which is important because staff recruitment costs are not insignificant to businesses. For businesses, they reap the benefits through productivity increases, and greater cost-effectiveness. Customers can benefit too as businesses are better able to react quickly to changes in the market. All employees have a statutory right to request flexible working arrangements; the law extends no further than insisting employers consider and respond to these requests within a predefined timescale.

Q10 Flexible working arrangements are conducive to better job satisfaction for employees.

True

False

Cannot say

True - This statement is essentially a summary of the third sentence: "Employees able to adopt flexible working are better able to balance work and family commitments and are therefore happier at work, experiencing greater job satisfaction".

Q11 Employees are legally entitled to work flexible hours if they request to do so.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The passage states that "All employees have a statutory right to request flexible working arrangements; the law extends no further than insisting employers consider and respond to these requests within a predefined timescale". So the passage is telling us that the law requires the employer to consider the employee's request but that is as far as the law goes; i.e. it does not go as far as saying they have to honour the request.

Q12 Employers may save on recruitment costs if they introduce flexible working hours.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The passage tells us that by adopting flexible working hours, staff are "more motivated and less likely to leave". We are also told that "Staff recruitment costs are not insignificant to businesses." So the passage says that by improving staff retention, businesses are more likely to save money on recruitment costs by adopting flexible working hours.

While most forms of discrimination in the workplace have been outlawed, discrimination or bias against some employees seeking career advancement still happens. This discrimination is both unwritten and unacknowledged. A 'glass ceiling' is the term used to describe this type of discrimination and refers to the invisible barrier that people hit when they try to progress beyond a certain level in some businesses and organisations. Originally coined to illustrate the hidden use of sexual discrimination against women in professional environments, it is now used to describe any form of discrimination, such as racism or ageism, which prevents qualified or experienced employees reaching even basic levels within their organisation. Some reports and studies now suggest that change is happening and that cracks are beginning to appear in the glass. The studies also claim however that change is happening slowly and that the cracks are small.

Q13 There is no legislation covering discrimination at work so employers have to develop their own ways of preventing it.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The first sentence tells us that "most forms of discrimination in the workplace have been outlawed". So even though not all forms of discrimination have been outlawed (made illegal), it is not true to say that no legislation exists.

Q14 Males are less likely to experience the glass ceiling effect than females.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The third sentence tells us what the glass ceiling is and the fourth sentence tells us: "Originally coined to illustrate the hidden use of sexual discrimination against women in professional environments, it is now used to describe any form of discrimination". So if we know it covers all sorts of discrimination and the passage doesn't go on to say if females are more likely to suffer than males, we cannot say for sure whether this statement is true or false, so we have to answer Cannot Say.

Q15 A glass ceiling can prevent qualified people from getting to the top of their field.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The passage tells us that the glass ceiling describes discrimination which is “both unwritten and unacknowledged” and also that the term applies to “any form of discrimination, such as racism or ageism, which prevents qualified or experienced employees reaching even basic levels within their organisation”. So it is indeed possible that a ‘glass ceiling’ can prevent a qualified person getting to the top of their field.

The Flying Shuttle and the Spinning Jenny are two early 18th century British inventions that revolutionised the textile industry. They increased productivity by automating some key processes thereby reducing the amount of manual operation needed. The Flying Shuttle, for example, raised the productivity of manual weaving by around 50 percent by returning the shuttle automatically meaning that one worker could do the work that previously had to be done by two. The Spinning Jenny invented a couple of decades later similarly automated processes allowing one spinner to do more. Reducing the amount of manual intervention needed for these tasks also meant that they were more suitable for adaptation to mechanical power such as waterpower and steam which had become the new means of propulsion shortly before their invention.

Q16 Automating the production process of weaving was a necessary precursor to the invention of steam power.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The passage tells us that automating these weaving processes meant that they were better suited to steam power, "which had become the new means of propulsion shortly before their invention" So if steam power was developed before automated weaving, the automation cannot have been a necessary precursor.

Q17 The invention of the Flying Shuttle and the Spinning Jenny led to job losses in the textile industry

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - Whilst this might be an assumption one makes, the passage does not say this explicitly. For example it would be that the same workforce took on different jobs within the textile industry or that they helped produce an increase in output. The passage does not tell whether these inventions did or didn't lead to job losses, so we must answer Cannot Say.

Q18 The textile industry was heavily dependent on manual labour before the arrival of the Flying Shuttle and Spinning Jenny.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The passage talks about these inventions reducing the manual labour required, but it does not tell us what levels of manual labour were required before (or after for that matter) the Flying Shuttle and Spinning Jenny came along. Since this information is not covered in the passage, we have to answer Cannot Say.

Proponents of recycling are adamant that we must preserve the world's precious natural resources by reducing our consumption of new raw materials. They say that to accomplish this all we need to do is to reuse or recycle many materials that traditionally would be thrown away and end up in landfill sites. Many local authorities have designed and implemented full end-to-end recycling programmes to help encourage recycling. A critical factor in the success of any waste management and recycling programme is the ability to clearly communicate waste disposal and depositing policy to the public. The majority of people are willing to participate, but they are more likely to participate if they can easily understand what goes where. They are also less likely to make errors and put something in the wrong place, which can cause costly problems. Supporters claim that the more we recycle the less it costs, however some critics counter-claim that recycling actually consumes more resources than it saves and in the long-run is doing more harm than good.

Q19 Most local authorities have end-to-end recycling facilities

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The passage tells us that "Many local authorities have designed and implemented full end-to-end recycling programmes", however the passage does not tell us if these are the majority or the minority, so we have to answer Cannot Say.

Q20 Some people say that recycling is a wasteful use of resources.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The last sentence of the passage says that "some critics counter-claim that recycling actually consumes more resources than it saves". Consuming more resources than it saves would be considered as being wasteful, so the statement is true.

Q21 Most of the public are reluctant to participate in recycling because they do not know what goes where.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The fifth sentence tells us “the majority of people are willing to participate, but are more likely to participate if they can easily understand what goes where”. So we are told that the majority of the public are willing to participate in recycling. The second part of the statement about not knowing what goes where is not important since we have already established that the majority of people are willing to recycle and therefore that the statement is false.

Some scientists now claim that the low, wide debris-covered formations first observed on radar images of Mars as far back as the 1970s are in fact glaciers around 1km thick. The large formations were first seen on images sent back by NASA's Viking orbiters. There are many similar apron-shaped formations dotted all over the Martian landscape but the latest reconnaissance images from Mars have lead some scientists to believe that the bigger rounded slopes and ridges have features which suggest they were formed by a flow of thick ice-covered rubble. There are other known deposits of ice at the polar caps where temperatures are much lower. These newest discoveries are at much lower latitudes than those previously known about and some scientists believe that there could be enough water held in these formations to support humans in future Mars missions.

Q22 The presence of ice in these debris-covered formations would be the first discoveries of ice on Mars.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The fourth sentence tells us "There are other known deposits of ice at the polar caps where temperatures are much lower". So we are told that the discoveries being reported are not the first instances of ice on Mars.

Q23 NASA believes that there could be enough water on Mars to support human life.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The passage does not tell us about NASA's view on whether Mars has enough water to support human life; the passage says only "some scientists believe that there could be enough water held in these formations to support humans in future Mars missions". We are not told whether these scientists are from NASA or not.

Q24 Radar technology existed prior to the 1980s.

True

False

Cannot say.

True - The first sentence tells us that radar images were used as far back as the 1970s, so radar technology must have existed in the 1980s.

Construction companies have to deal with a mountain of energy efficiency legislation as governments try to move to a low-carbon future. Buildings account for 45% of all UK greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide and methane, so the drive for new energy efficient building stock is understandable. However it is important to remember that an estimated 70% of existing buildings will still be in use by 2080, so the focus on new-build is perhaps misguided. Some people claim that the low-hanging fruit is to be found by spending time and effort up-rating the efficiency of existing building stock. Whilst policy makers are aware of the huge potential of reducing carbon emissions by writing legislation on existing buildings, they admit that this would involve more heavy-handed intervention and public resistance than if they levelled their sights on the construction of new buildings. All new building construction requires approval from authorities and regulating bodies, so this naturally lends itself to an expansion of rules on energy and carbon emissions. As with most things, the issue comes down to cost and political convenience.

Q25 Buildings cause 45% of all the carbon emissions in the UK.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The second sentence tells us that "Buildings account for 45% of all UK greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide and methane". So don't be caught out; greenhouse gas emissions can include carbon and can include methane, or other greenhouse gasses. But we are not told the makeup of "greenhouse gas emissions" emitted from buildings. Many greenhouse gasses are not carbon based (water vapour as an example). But since we are not told by the article, we cannot say for sure.

Q26 Energy efficiency legislation for new construction is more onerous than for existing buildings.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - Whilst the passage explains how it would be easier to legislate more heavily on new construction than for existing buildings, the passage does not tell us what the current level of legislation is for each category.

Q27 The construction of some new buildings is exempt from legislation.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The sixth sentence says "All new building construction requires approval from authorities and regulating bodies". So according to the passage it is not true that some building construction is exempt.

In the USA there are on average 2 million hectares of land cleared by 120,000 wildfires per annum. These uncontrolled blazes can travel at up to 23 kilometres per hour and destroy everything in their path. Prolonged drought and dry conditions produce tinder-dry vegetation that can be ignited by a single spark and can rapidly become a raging inferno when fed by hot dry winds. The sad fact is that humans start eighty per cent of all wildfires, either intentionally or accidentally. Embers from campfires and discarded cigarettes are common causes. Nature plays its part too with fires starting via lightning and even the direct heat of the sun. Naturally-occurring wildfires can play an important role in the ecosystem of some forest environments since the fires destroy dead or rotting vegetable matter, returning beneficial nutrients to the ground and killing disease. There are even some seeds that can only germinate if they have been heat-treated by such fires.

Q28 Wildfires can be beneficial to the natural environment.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The penultimate sentence tells us that "wildfires can play an important role in the ecosystem... returning beneficial nutrients to the ground and killing disease". So we are told that there can be some benefits to the natural environment in certain circumstances.

Q29 One quarter of wildfires are started naturally.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The fourth sentence tells us that "humans start eighty per cent of all wildfires". So if humans are responsible for 80% of wildfires, it cannot be true that 25% are started naturally.

Q30 In the USA there are typically 10,000 wildfires each month.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The passage says that there is an average annual rate of 120,000 wildfires, but it does not state that these are evenly distributed through the year. Therefore one cannot divide this figure by 12 to get an average monthly figure (e.g. perhaps 50% happen in July or August). Since we are not told the monthly figure, we have to answer Cannot Say.

-- End of Test --