

Verbal Test 2

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.

In a new study of 3,000 employed men in the 19-70 age range over a period of 10 years, researchers found that those working for inconsiderate bosses were more likely to suffer from stress and stress-related illness than those working for more considerate and enlightened bosses. Previous research had shown that employees with inconsiderate bosses suffered from high blood pressure, which is known to increase the risk of heart disease. In this latest survey the researchers asked employees to assess the competence of their bosses as leaders. They found that those who had categorised their boss as incompetent were 25% more at risk of serious heart disease and that this level of risk increased the longer they continued to work for the same boss. The statistics took into account external factors such as social class, educational background, lifestyle and any existing illness. The researchers recommended that should their findings be confirmed, managers should be given training to help them improve their working relationships.

Q1 People who think their boss is incompetent are twenty five percent more likely to suffer stress.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The passage tells us about research in which 3,000 men were studied, and these men were 25% more likely to suffer stress if they rated their boss as incompetent. However the passage tells us just about the study; it is not telling us anything about people outside the study group, so we cannot say without further information.

Q2 This latest study is the first to suggest a link between the behaviour of bosses and the blood pressure of their employees.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The second sentence tells us that "Previous research had shown that employees with inconsiderate bosses suffered from high blood pressure".

Q3 Managers should be given training to help them improve their working relationships.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The passage states that recommendations from the study are subject to confirmation. Even then, these would be just a recommendation from one viewpoint' the passage does not tell us explicitly that managers should or should not be given training.

The European Space Agency (ESA) is the body which decides the scope and direction of European space initiatives. It is funded by its participating states, currently 18 in number. Each state contributes funding according to its own economic strength. The ESA controls the funding of existing activities such as the Planar rocket and space station projects but is also responsible for the initiation of new projects like the next generation of weather satellites. Some of the ESA projects are compulsory but others are not, in which case member states are free to choose whether they become involved. There is a direct correlation between the amount of money that a member state agrees to invest in a programme and the amount of benefit it can expect in return through contracts awarded to its domestic space industry. ESA directors are keen to maintain a high level of funding from its member states even in times of global economic downturn since they believe that a longer-term view is needed to preserve the reputation of European space technology.

Q4 Efforts toward the Planar rocket have not yet begun.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The fourth sentence says "The ESA controls the funding of existing activities such as the Planar rocket". So if the activities are "existing" they must have already started, even if it is just concept stage.

Q5 Financial support provided to the ESA is proportional to each member state's gross domestic product.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The third sentence says "Each state contributes funding according to its own economic strength". However gross domestic product (GDP) is not definitely the same as "economic strength". The phrase "economic strength" could mean many things linked to money or reserves but since the passage does not tell us explicitly that financial support is linked to GDP, we cannot say for sure.

The other sticking point is the possible difference between "according to" and "proportional to". These are not directly comparable terms and so again means we cannot say for sure without further information.

Q6 ESA member states are obliged to contribute to some of the projects managed by the ESA.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The fifth sentence tells us that "Some of the projects are compulsory but others are not". So if a project is compulsory, we are being told that member states must contribute in some way.

Some commentators argue that in times of global economic uncertainty governments should be boosting flagging economies by investing in major infrastructure projects. Governments should grasp the opportunities presented to tackle global climate change, at the same time as stimulating the economy, by using this public sector investment to move towards a new low-carbon economy. Investment is needed in low-carbon (popularly referred to as 'green') projects like renewable energy generation, adapting buildings to be more energy efficient, improving transport networks and even building pipelines to carry captured CO₂ to undersea storage facilities. No country is untouched by the effects of climate change and everyone acknowledges that the political will has to be found if we are to see any real changes.

Q7 Government investment in green infrastructure projects will promote economic growth.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The first sentence says that "Some commentators argue that...governments should be boosting flagging economies by investing in major infrastructure projects". So we are told that this is the view of some people, but this sentence alone does not tell us if the statement is definitely true. Let's look at the rest of the passage. The next sentence says governments should "stimulate the economy" by moving towards a new low-carbon economy. This doesn't really equate to what the statement is saying. And if we read on, nothing in the passage tells us that this statement is definitely true or definitely false. So we have to answer Cannot Say.

Q8 Many people anticipate that a flagging economy will benefit green projects.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - Whilst this conclusion might be speculated from the contents of the passage, we are not told explicitly that this is what many people expect will happen. It might be what they hope, but the passage does not tell us that this is or is not the expectation of many people. Thus we have to answer Cannot Say.

Q9 Some countries are not yet affected by climate change.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The last sentence says that "No country is untouched by the effects of climate change..." so this is False.

Tourism is big business. The annual profit and popularity of several top tourist attractions in the United Kingdom has been researched and presented by visitengland.com. Almost 30 million international visitors travel to London every year, marking the city as the most popular international travel destination in the world. In 2011, London's most popular tourist attraction was the British Museum. The second most popular destination was Madame Tussauds. Outside of the capital, popular tourist destinations include Alton Towers and the Cadburys Factory. Tourist attractions contribute over two billion pounds to the UK economy and can be seen as one of the most profitable sectors. This information has not bypassed local authorities keen to bolster their income; some are spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on publicity drives. Whilst Essex County Council won't receive a penny from ticket sales, they are part-funding a new stadium in the hope that the increased spending by visitors will filter through to them in the form of business rates and local taxes.

Q10 In 2011 the British Museum received the most visits of any tourist attraction in the UK.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The passage says that "In 2011, London's most popular tourist attraction was the British Museum" and that London is the most popular international travel destination in the world. However, the statement asks about the UK as a whole. The passage doesn't tell us how many visitors the British Museum received relative to other attractions.

Q11 Whilst tourism brings in lots of money, the industry is one of the least profitable.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The seventh sentence tells us that "Tourist attractions contribute over two billion pounds to the UK economy and can be seen as one of the most profitable sectors".

Q12 New York typically receives less than 30 million international visitors each year.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The third passage says that "Almost 30 million international visitors travel to London every year, marking the city as the most popular international travel destination in the world". So if we are told that London receives the world's highest number of international visitors, we know that New York will receive less than "almost 30 million".

The right of those working in the public sector to strike splits opinion. Many private sector workers are of the opinion that the cost to tax payers and the consequences of delays or closures in services outweighs any benefit that may be achieved through industrial action. In addition to this, public sector employers have been criticised for their inability to prevent their workers from striking since it is the responsibility of government to provide for the continual smooth running of public services, many of which provide a vital aspect of day to day life. An example of this can be seen in the transport industry, where severe delays can have a knock-on effect on the functioning of other industries, both public and private. Unions should be encouraged to find a less disruptive way of settling disputes, and it is said by some that unions in the public sector shouldn't exist at all. But then how does the voice of the employee get heard if there is no union, or at least none which gets taken seriously?

Q13 Government has a responsibility to deliver uninterrupted public services.

True

False

Cannot say

True - According to the third sentence of the passage "it is the responsibility of government to provide for the continual smooth running of public services". And uninterrupted equates to continually smooth running, so we must say this statement is true based on the information contained within the passage.

Q14 There is general consensus that all employees should have the right to strike.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The first passage tells us that "The right of those working in the public sector splits opinion." So if it splits opinion, there cannot be general consensus.

Q15 Some strikes are not disruptive to the economy.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The passage does not tell us either way whether this is true or false. The passage concentrates on strikes which do cause disruption, and gives an example of transport. But the passage doesn't tell us if all of these necessarily have an effect on the economy or whether some strikes are completely undisruptive. Since we are not told for certain, we have to answer Cannot Say.

Britain is still firmly committed to the EXOMars Robot project even though the scope and the cost have grown since it was first initiated. The scope of the project has changed dramatically, mainly due to the inflated expectations of scientists. According to the European Space Agency (ESA), this change in direction justifies the almost doubling of the original budget. The increased cost will however have to be met by the participating countries that originally signed up to fund this programme. Both Italy, the project leader which provided much of the initial programme funding, and Britain, will have to significantly increase their contribution of funding for the EXOMars project. Britain does not begrudge its contributions as it considers that this project makes the most of its expertise in robotics. To date Britain has not been involved in other high-profile ESA programmes such as the Columbus science laboratory and the Arius Rocket project, which could explain why they are not dragging their heels on this. The ESA now hopes to send the robot to Mars by 2020.

Q16 Britain is the project leader for the EXOMars project.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The fifth sentence says that "Both Italy, the project leader which provided much of the initial programme funding...". So we are told that Italy is the project leader. "The leader" means there is only one, so Britain cannot be the leader of this project.

Q17 Britain feels reluctant about its spending on the EXOMars project.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The sixth sentence says that "Britain does not begrudge its contributions [to the EXOMars project]". The passage then goes on to say "they are not dragging their heels on this". So we are told that Britain is not reluctant about the EXOMars project.

Q18 Historically, Britain has tried to avoid ESA high-profile missions.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The seventh sentence says "To date Britain has not been involved in other high-profile ESA programmes". However the passage does not tell us if this is because Britain has or has not tried to avoid being involved. No explanation is given for Britain's non-participation in other ESA high-profile missions. Therefore based on the information in the passage alone, we cannot say for sure if Britain has or hasn't tried to avoid these missions.

Predicting earthquakes using observable phenomena like phases of the moon, cloud formations, weather conditions or animal behaviour is a controversial and, some would say, impossible task. There is little or no verifiable evidence to link any of these phenomena to predictions of actual seismic activity. Early detection, as a means of advance warning, is far more reliable than future prediction and can be done by measuring primary waves (referred to as P-Waves). Prediction is much flakier science than detection. These non-destructive waves travel faster through the earth's crust than the harmful and destructive secondary waves and so can provide a valuable, albeit short, advance warning. This effect of different speed waves can be likened to the relationship between light and sound; we see lightning before we hear the thunder. Some people believe that animals can detect P-Waves and that this is what causes them to start behaving strangely. Other possibilities of animal's behaviour shortly before an earthquake are that they are reacting to the low-frequency electromagnetic signals caused by the fracturing of crystalline rock during the early stages of an earthquake.

Q19 Methods of detecting earthquakes are more reliable than methods of predicting earthquakes.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The third sentence tells us that "Early detection, as a means of advance warning, is far more reliable than future prediction". The passage goes on to say "Prediction is much flakier science than detection".

Q20 Primary waves travel at a similar speed to sound waves.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The fifth sentence says "This effect of different speed waves can be likened to the relationship between light and sound". However the passage makes no mention of the velocity of a P-Wave nor a sound wave, so we cannot say if they are similar. All we are told is that primary waves travel faster than the harmful secondary waves of an earthquake, which is the same concept as sound vs. light waves.

Q21 Electromagnetic energy can be caused by the fracturing of crystalline rock.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The last sentence says that “the low-frequency electromagnetic signals caused by the fracturing of crystalline rock...”. So we are told that the fracturing of crystalline rock causes low-frequency electromagnetic signals.

Scientists have been able to successfully genetically modify plants, animals and micro-organisms for a number of years. They do this by manipulating genes to produce genetic changes, which could in theory occur naturally. Supporters of genetically modified (GM) organisms claim that the benefits, such as being able to produce crops that are resistant to disease, will help alleviate world food shortages. Many environmentalists believe that the accidental release of genetically modified organisms into the environment is genetic pollution and they fear that the uncontrolled interbreeding of modified organisms with those occurring naturally will contaminate the environment in unforeseen and possibly dangerous ways. They point out that experiments done by researchers to reassure the public about the safety of GM crops have been carried out under scientifically-controlled conditions which are far-removed from the actual working conditions of food producers.

Q22 There have been no experiments involving GM crops which have been carried out in a scientifically-controlled environment.

True

False

Cannot say

False - The last sentence of the passage states that the results of experiments “done by researchers to reassure the public about the safety of GM crops have been carried out under scientifically-controlled conditions...”. So we are told that there have been such experiments undertaken in a scientifically-controlled environment.

Q23 Genetic change in plants could occur without the intervention of humans.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The second sentence of the passage refers to the manipulation of genes to produce genetic changes “which could in theory occur naturally”

Q24 Some people expect global food shortages without the use of GM crops

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The passage does not tell us if this view is or is not held by anyone. The passage comments only that supporters of genetic modification claim that GM crops could help alleviate current shortages. Helping to alleviate shortages is not the same as expecting food shortages, so we are not told whether this statement is true or false and must answer Cannot Say.

The carbonated soft-drinks industry is the most profitable drinks industry. There are three reasons for this. Firstly, the cost of producing carbonated drinks, such as cola and lemonade, costs the producer a fraction of the item's selling price to make. Secondly, carbonated soft-drinks are purchased by the largest cross-section of society. Not only are soft-drinks popular amongst children and teenagers, they are a common addition to alcoholic beverages and often chosen by adults wishing to avoid alcohol. So the large target-audience of soft-drinks is another factor which contributes to the profitability of such products. Finally, research suggests that certain carbonated soft-drinks contain chemicals which have a mildly addictive quality. Caffeine is one such substance but there may be others. Therefore, many consumers of carbonated drinks are likely to be affected by such substances, leading to repeat purchases and even dependence. Such factors are to the advantage of the industry and lead to the increased profitability of their products but are frowned upon by industry regulators.

Q25 Adults are more likely to buy a soft drink than an alcoholic drink.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The passage does not tell us how likely an adult is to buy either a soft drink or an alcoholic drink. We are told that "carbonated soft-drinks are purchased by the largest cross-section of society" and that "they are a common addition to alcoholic beverages and often chosen by adults wishing to avoid alcohol".

Q26 A can of carbonated soft drink will make more profit than a can of non-carbonated drink.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The first sentence tells us that "The carbonated soft-drinks industry is the most profitable drinks industry". However this statement refers to the industry as a whole and does not tell us how profitable each unit sold is. Also, the statement is a sweeping one covering every single can of soft drink – whereas again the passage just generalises about the industry as a whole.

Q27 Caffeine is mildly addictive.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The eighth sentence says "Caffeine is one such substance" referring to the previous sentence on mildly addictive chemicals. So we are told that caffeine is a mildly addictive substance.

There are statistics which suggest that in some of the most underdeveloped countries almost one half of the population is aged between 10 and 19. These countries have experienced a much smaller decrease in birth rates than has been seen in more developed countries. Charities and other agencies are calling for additional funds to be made available to provide improved education for these young people as well as easier access to contraception. Aside from this is also a global increase in the number of people aged 65 or older. In the next 50 years, 95% of this increase will happen in developing countries like India, while in countries such as Japan, Germany and Italy the percentage of the population aged 65 or more is set to rise to 40%. Increases in the numbers of the very young and the very old place stress on societies, and governments may find it difficult to cope with the demands of an increasing number of dependent elderly citizens in addition to providing healthcare and education for the young.

Q28 The percent of the population under the age of 19 is higher in developing countries than it is in developed countries.

True

False

Cannot say

Cannot say - The first sentence says "suggest that in some of the most underdeveloped countries almost one half of the population is aged between 10 and 19". However this percentage is not compared with the percentage in developed countries, so we are not able to say for sure whether the figure is higher for developing countries or for developed countries.

Q29 The world as a whole is seeing more people over the age of 65.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The fourth sentence says "Aside from this is also a global increase in the number of people aged 65 or older". So regardless of what is happening in developing countries we are told that overall globally the number of over 65 year olds is increasing.

Q30 Declines in birth rates are not limited to developed countries.

True

False

Cannot say

True - The second sentence says that "These countries [underdeveloped countries] have experienced a much smaller decrease in birth rates than has been seen in more developed countries". So we are told that both developed and underdeveloped countries are seeing a reduction in birth rate, albeit to differing degrees.

-- End of Test --