

VARC CAT 2025 Question Paper with Solutions

1. Reading Comprehension – Inference

Passage:

Introducing new technology in workplaces often fails not because it is inefficient but because it disrupts informal social norms that shape cooperation and workflow. Workers resist changes that alter these unwritten norms even when the technology itself may be superior.

Q: Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

1. Employees resist all types of new technology.
2. Social norms strongly influence technological adoption.
3. Inefficient tools are preferred for emotional reasons.
4. Most technology decreases cooperation.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the central idea of the passage. The passage states that new technology often fails because workers resist disruptions to informal social norms.

Step 2: Evaluate the options. Only option (B) is logically supported by the information given.

Correct Answer: (B)

Quick Tip

When dealing with inference questions, select the option that must be true based on the passage, not something that is merely possible or generally true.

2. Para-Jumble

Arrange the sentences in a coherent order:

1. Knowledge acquired early in life is often treated as fixed.
2. Yet, true mastery requires continuously learning, unlearning, and relearning.
3. In rapidly changing environments, old frameworks become obsolete.
4. People often cling to outdated assumptions even when proven wrong.

- a) A–D–C–B
- b) A–C–D–B
- c) C–A–D–B
- d) D–A–C–B

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the sentence that introduces the theme. Sentence A introduces the idea that early knowledge is treated as fixed.

Step 2: Look for a logical continuation. Sentence D follows naturally, explaining that people cling to outdated assumptions.

Step 3: Add the contextual development. Sentence C shows why outdated frameworks fail in changing environments.

Step 4: Conclude with the recommended approach. Sentence B offers the solution: learning, unlearning, relearning.

Correct Order: A–D–C–B

Quick Tip

For para-jumbles, first identify the opening sentence, then check for logical connectors (cause–effect, general–specific, problem–solution) to build the sequence.

3. Odd One Out

1. Revolutionary scientific theories often face resistance from institutions protecting existing models.
2. Subscription fees for major science journals have risen significantly.
3. Researchers with unconventional approaches often struggle for recognition.
4. Major paradigm shifts frequently originate from work that challenges traditional beliefs.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the theme connecting most statements. Statements (A), (C), and (D) all discuss challenges faced by unconventional or revolutionary scientific ideas.

Step 2: Identify the statement that does not fit the theme. Option (B) discusses journal subscription fees, which is unrelated to resistance toward unconventional science.

Odd One Out: (B)

Quick Tip

In Odd-One-Out questions, find the dominant theme across options. The correct answer is the statement that does not logically connect to this theme.

4. Critical Reasoning – Assumption

Argument:

“Flexible working hours will increase employee productivity because people perform best during the hours when they feel most energetic.”

Which of the following is a necessary assumption?

1. Employees can accurately identify the hours when they are most productive.
2. Productivity depends only on the time of day.
3. Employees dislike rigid schedules.
4. Flexible hours reduce overall work time.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the core reasoning. The argument claims flexible hours increase productivity because employees work best when they feel energetic.

Step 2: Determine what must be true for this logic to hold. For employees to work during their most energetic hours, they must be able to *identify* when those hours are.

Necessary Assumption: (A)

Quick Tip

A necessary assumption is something that *must* be true for the argument to work. Try using the negation test: if negating the statement weakens the argument, it is a necessary assumption.

5. Para-Summary**Paragraph:**

Public debates often oversimplify complex issues into binary choices such as right/wrong or safe/unsafe. This reductive framing limits nuanced thinking, discourages dialogue, and pushes people to defend positions rather than understand diverse viewpoints.

Which sentence best summarizes this paragraph?

1. Public debates today have become unnecessarily aggressive.
2. Oversimplifying issues into binaries prevents meaningful discussion.
3. People avoid nuanced thinking due to lack of education.
4. Complex issues should always involve experts.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the central message of the paragraph. The paragraph emphasizes that reducing complex issues to binary choices harms nuanced thinking and meaningful dialogue.

Step 2: Choose the option that captures this essence. Only option (B) captures both the oversimplification and its negative impact on discussion.

Correct Answer: (B)

Quick Tip

A good summary captures the core idea without adding examples, opinions, or details. Look for the option that expresses the paragraph's main claim in the most concise form.

6. Critical Reasoning – Strengthen**Argument:**

“Cities with higher public-transport usage typically experience lower air pollution levels.”

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?

1. Cars emit significantly more pollutants per passenger compared to public buses.
2. Public transport systems are cheaper than personal vehicles.

3. People prefer using their own vehicles for convenience.
4. Pollution levels vary with weather conditions.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the claim being made. The argument links higher public-transport usage with lower air pollution.

Step 2: Look for evidence that supports this link. Option (A) directly strengthens the argument by showing that private cars produce more pollution per passenger, implying that shifting to public transport lowers pollution levels.

Correct Answer: (A)

Quick Tip

To strengthen an argument, choose the option that provides direct evidence supporting the causal link or reduces alternative explanations.

7. RC – Main Idea

Passage:

Human decision-making relies on cognitive shortcuts known as heuristics. While these shortcuts allow rapid decisions in uncertain situations, they also cause predictable errors. Understanding how heuristics shape judgment can help in designing better decision-making environments.

What is the main idea?

1. Heuristics should be eliminated from human thinking.
2. Heuristics are more harmful than useful.
3. Understanding heuristics helps improve decision systems.
4. Human decisions cannot be improved.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the central theme of the passage. The passage explains what heuristics are, how they help, how they cause errors, and why understanding them is valuable.

Step 2: Choose the option that captures the overall message. Option (C) summarizes the passage: understanding heuristics helps improve decision-making systems.

Correct Answer: (C)

Quick Tip

For main-idea questions, avoid extreme or one-sided statements. Look for the option that captures the author's overall purpose, not just an example or detail.