

## General Instructions

- (i) This booklet contains 28 questions, each provided with a complete, step-by-step solution.
- (ii) It comprises 24 single-correct multiple-choice questions.
- (iii) Attempt each question on your own before reviewing the given solution.

**1. Five jumbled sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence out and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.**

- (A) Developments both technological and sociocultural have afforded us far greater freedom over death than we had in the past, and while we are still adapting ourselves to that freedom, we now appreciate the moral importance of this freedom.
- (B) But I believe that a type of freedom we can call freedom over death—that is, a freedom in which we shape the timing and circumstances of how we die—should be central to this conversation.
- (C) Legalising assisted dying is but a further step in realising this freedom over death.
- (D) Many people endorse, through their opinions or their choices, our freedom over death encompassing a right to medical assistance in hastening our deaths.

**Correct Answer:** (A) Developments both technological and sociocultural have afforded us far greater freedom over death than we had in the past, and while we are still adapting ourselves to that freedom, we now appreciate the moral importance of this freedom.

### **Solution:**

**Approach:** A para-completion blank is fixed by what comes **just before** and **just after** it. The given sentence pins the defect to the X chromosome at p11-12, so it must sit after the family and their behaviours are introduced but before the passage zooms into the precise molecular detail (the MAOA point mutation). Find the seam between "general behaviour" and "exact mutation."

**Step 1 – Map the paragraph's funnel.** It moves from broad to narrow: a 1993 study → the Dutch family with the syndrome → the specific bad behaviours (arson, exhibitionism) → the exact point mutation in the MAOA gene.

**Step 2 – Place the sentence.** Locating the defect to a chromosome region is a level of detail in between "these are the behaviours" and "here is the precise codon change." It narrows from a whole chromosome region down to a single gene mutation – so it belongs right before the MAOA point-mutation sentence, which is blank (3).

**Step 3 – Confirm by flow.** Reading (3): behaviours described, then "the genetic defect was located to the X chromosome region p11-12," then "a point mutation was identified in the MAOA gene." The funnel from region to gene to codon is smooth. Slotting it at (1), (2), or (4) breaks that narrowing order – at (1) and (2) we have not yet met the affected males' details, and at (4) the detail comes after the even-finer

mutation, which reverses the funnel.

**Answer:** Option 3.

**Quick Tip:** To find the odd sentence in para-jumbles, look for breaks in: - Concept introduction order - Logical progression - Thematic consistency A sentence that introduces a concept too early or disrupts flow is usually the odd one out.



2. The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

Often the well intentioned music lover or the traditionally-minded professional composer asks two basic questions when faced with the electronic music phenomena: (1) . . . is this type of artistic creation music at all? and, (2) given that the product is accepted as music of a new type or order, is not such music “inhuman”? . . . As Lejaren Hiller points out in his book *Experimental Music* (co-author Leonard M. Isaacson), two questions which often arise when music is discussed are: (a) the substance of musical communication and its symbolic and semantic significance, if any, and (b) the particular processes, both mental and technical, which are involved in creating and responding to musical composition. The ever-present popular concept of music as a direct, open, emotional expression and as a subjective form of communication from the composer, is, of course still that of the nineteenth century, when composers themselves spoke of music in those terms . . . But since the third decade of our century many composers have preferred more objective definitions of music, epitomized in Stravinsky’s description of it as “a form of speculation in terms of sound and time”. An acceptance of this more characteristic twentieth-century view of the art of musical composition will of course immediately bring the layman closer to an understanding of, and sympathetic response to, electronic music, even if the forms, sounds and approaches it uses will still be of a foreign nature to him.

A communication problem however will still remain. The principal barrier that electronic music presents at large, in relation to the communication process, is that composers in this medium are employing a new language of forms . . . where terms like ‘densities’, ‘indefinite pitch relations’, ‘dynamic serialization’, ‘permutation’, etc., are substitutes (or remote equivalents) for the traditional concepts of harmony, melody, rhythm, etc. . . . When the new structural procedures of electronic music are at last fully understood by the listener the barriers between him and the work he faces

will be removed. . . .

The medium of electronic music has of course tempted many kinds of composers to try their hand at it . . . But the serious-minded composer approaches the world of electronic music with a more sophisticated and profound concept of creation. Although he knows that he can reproduce and employ melodic, rhythmic patterns and timbres of a traditional nature, he feels that it is in the exploration of sui generis languages and forms that the aesthetic magic of the new medium lies. And, conscientiously, he plunges into this search.

The second objection usually levelled against electronic music is much more innocent in nature. When people speak—sometimes very vehemently—of the ‘inhuman’ quality of this music they seem to forget that the composer is the one who fires the machines, collects the sounds, manipulates them, pushes the buttons, programs the computer, filters the sounds, establishes pitches and scales, splices tape, thinks of forms, and rounds up the over-all structure of the piece, as well as every detail of it.

**Correct Answer:** —

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**2.1. The goal of the author over the course of this passage is to:**

- (A) differentiate the modern composer from the nineteenth century composer.
- (B) differentiate between electronic music and other forms of music.
- (C) defend the “serious-minded composer” from Lejaren Hill and Stravinsky.
- (D) defend electronic music from certain common charges.

**Correct Answer:** (D) defend electronic music from certain common charges.

## **Solution:**

**Approach:** A "goal of the author" question is answered by the dominant rhetorical move of the whole passage, not by any single interesting detail. Track what the author keeps doing across paragraphs.

**Step 1:** The passage opens by raising the standard objections to electronic music – that it is not "real" music and that it is "inhuman." The author does not raise these to agree with them; they are set up as charges to be answered.

**Step 2:** Each later paragraph rebuts one charge. Stravinsky's definition of music as "speculation in terms of sound and time" is used to widen the definition so electronic sound qualifies. The "communication problem" paragraph explains that strange new terms are only a surface barrier, not proof that this is non-music. The composer's active role (manipulating, programming, shaping forms) answers the "inhuman" charge.

**Step 3:** The consistent direction is defensive – the author is shielding electronic music from criticism. That points straight to option 4.

### **Why the others fail:**

Option 1 (modern vs nineteenth-century composer) is a contrast the author uses as a tool, not the destination. Option 2 (electronic vs other music) is again a means, used to show electronic music still counts as music, not the goal itself. Option 3 misreads the text – Stravinsky and Hill are invoked as support, not as attackers the author is defending against; nothing is defended "from" them.

**Answer: defend electronic music from certain common charges.**

**Quick Tip:** For “main goal” or “purpose” questions in reading comprehension, focus on:

the opening problem or question raised,  
the author’s repeated emphasis or defence, and  
how the passage concludes.

These usually reveal what the author is {really} trying to do.



**2.2. What relation does the “communication problem” mentioned in paragraph 2 have to the questions that the author recounts at the beginning of the passage?**

- (A) Unfamiliar forms and terms might get in the way of our seeing electronic music as music, but this can be overcome.
- (B) Its unfamiliar “language of forms” and novel terms mean that we cannot see electronic music as music since it does not employ traditional musical concepts.
- (C) None; they are unrelated to one another and form parts of different discussions.
- (D) The communication problem is what allows us to see electronic music as music because music must be difficult to understand.

**Correct Answer:** (A) Unfamiliar forms and terms might get in the way of our seeing electronic music as music, but this can be overcome.

**Solution:**

**Approach:** A "what relation does X have to Y" question wants you to map one part of the passage onto another. Pin down both ends first, then state the link in the author's own spirit – optimistic, not dismissive.

**Step 1:** The opening questions ask whether electronic music is really music and whether it is 'inhuman.' That is the doubt the author is working against.

**Step 2:** The paragraph 2 'communication problem' is the unfamiliar 'language of forms' – terms like 'densities' and 'indefinite pitch relations' that replace the words we are used to. The author presents this as a barrier of vocabulary, a surface difficulty, not as evidence that the thing behind the words is not music.

**Step 3:** So the link is: the strangeness of the terms is one reason listeners hesitate to accept electronic music as music, but the author frames it as a hurdle that understanding can clear. That is exactly option 1.

### **Why the others fail:**

Option 2 turns the barrier into a permanent verdict ('we cannot see it as music') – the author argues the opposite, that it can be overcome. Option 3 ('none, unrelated') is wrong because the communication problem directly feeds the doubt raised at the start. Option 4 inverts the logic, claiming the difficulty is what proves it is music because music 'must be difficult' – the passage never makes difficulty a requirement for music.

**Answer:** Unfamiliar forms and terms might get in the way of our seeing electronic music as music, but this can be overcome.

**Quick Tip:** When relating ideas across paragraphs, look for:

repeated themes,

restated concerns,

explanatory links that address earlier questions.

This helps identify how later sections resolve earlier doubts.



### 2.3. The mention of Stravinsky's description of music in the first paragraph does all the following EXCEPT:

- (A) help us determine which sounds are musical and which are not.
- (B) respond to and expand upon earlier understandings of music.
- (C) complicate our notion of what is communicated through music.
- (D) allow us to classify electronic music as music.

**Correct Answer:** (A) help us determine which sounds are musical and which are not.

#### **Solution:**

**Approach:** For an EXCEPT question, the three wrong options are things the text actually does; the answer is the one statement the text does NOT support. So hunt for the odd one out, not the best one.

**Step 1:** Stravinsky's line is that music is 'a form of speculation in terms of sound and time.' Notice what this does: it gives an abstract, open definition. It deliberately does not draw a line between musical and non-musical sounds – any sound, organised in time, can come under

it.

**Step 2:** Check the three options that should be true. Option 2: it responds to and expands the older, nineteenth-century idea of music – yes, it updates the earlier view. Option 3: it complicates what music 'communicates,' since speculation in sound and time is not the old emotional notion – yes. Option 4: by being so broad, it lets electronic music count as music – yes, this is the author's whole point.

**Step 3:** Option 1 claims the definition helps us sort sounds into musical and non-musical. That is precisely what an open 'speculation in sound and time' does not do – it admits sounds rather than filtering them. So option 1 is the EXCEPT.

**Answer: help us determine which sounds are musical and which are not.**

**Quick Tip:** For “EXCEPT” questions, verify three options that the passage clearly supports. The remaining option—unsupported or contradicted—is the correct answer.

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**2.4. From the context in which it is placed, the phrase “sui generis” in paragraph 3 suggests which one of the following?**

- (A) Particular
- (B) Generic
- (C) Unaesthetic
- (D) Indescribable

**Correct Answer:** (A) Particular

## **Solution:**

**Approach:** For a 'from context, this phrase suggests' question, you do not need the dictionary – you need the contrast the sentence sets up. Find what 'sui generis' is being opposed to.

**Step 1:** The passage says serious composers explore 'sui generis languages and forms.' The point being made is that these languages belong only to electronic music and are not borrowed from traditional music – they are of their own kind, one-of-a-kind.

**Step 2:** 'Of its own kind' means specific, unique, particular to this music – the opposite of shared or common. So the contextual sense is 'particular.'

### **Why the others fail:**

Generic is the direct opposite – it means common to many, exactly what 'sui generis' denies. Unaesthetic (lacking beauty) has nothing to do with uniqueness; the context is about origin and kind, not artistic worth. Indescribable overshoots – sui generis means hard to classify because it is unique, not impossible to describe; the composers are in fact describing these forms.

**Answer: Particular**

**Quick Tip:** To understand unfamiliar phrases, always rely on the surrounding explanation. Words like sui generis typically signal uniqueness, not vagueness or generality.

**3. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4) given below, when properly sequenced, would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the four sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer.**

1. It can in fact be integrated into any function (education, medical treatment, production, punishment); it can increase the effect of this function, by being linked closely with it; it can constitute a mixed mechanism in which relations of power (and of knowledge) may be precisely adjusted, in the smallest detail, to the processes that are to be supervised; it can establish a direct proportion between 'surplus power' and 'surplus production'.

2. It's a case of 'it's easy once you've thought of it' in the political sphere.

3. The panoptic mechanism is not simply a hinge, a point of exchange between a mechanism of power and a function; it is a way of making power relations function in a function, and of making a function function through these power relations.

4. In short, it arranges things in such a way that the exercise of power is not added on from the outside, like a rigid, heavy constraint, to the functions it invests, but is so subtly present in them as to increase their efficiency by itself increasing its own points of contact.

(A) 3142

(B) 1432

(C) 4123

(D) 3241

**Correct Answer:** (A) 3142

**Solution:**

**Approach:** In a parajumble, first find the opener (a sentence that introduces a subject without leaning on something before it), then

chase the pronouns and connectors. Here the connectors 'It can,' 'In short,' and the closing aphorism do most of the work.

**Step 1 – opener:** Sentence 3 names the subject in full – 'The panoptic mechanism' – and defines what it is (a way of making power relations function in a function). The other three all refer back to 'it,' so they cannot start. 3 is first.

**Step 2 – the elaboration:** Sentence 1 begins 'It can in fact be integrated into any function (education, medical treatment, production, punishment)...' This 'it' is the mechanism from 3, and 'in fact' pushes the definition further with concrete examples. So 1 follows 3.

**Step 3 – the wrap-up:** Sentence 4 opens 'In short,' a summarising signal that gathers the detailed claims of 1 into one idea – power is not added from outside but woven in to increase efficiency. 4 follows 1.

**Step 4 – the clincher:** Sentence 2 is the closing comment – 'It's a case of it's easy once you've thought of it in the political sphere' – a stand-back remark that only makes sense after the mechanism has been fully explained. 2 is last.

**Answer: 3142**

**Quick Tip:** For para-jumbles, look for:

the definition or introduction of the central idea (usually first),  
examples or elaborations (middle),

summary markers like “in short” (near the end),  
reflective comments or opinions (often last).



**4. The given sentence is missing in the paragraph below. Decide where it best fits among the options 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicated in the paragraph.**

**Sentence:** “Everything is old-world, traditional techniques from Mexico,” Ava emphasizes.

**Paragraph:**

The sisters embrace the ways their great-grandfather built and repaired instruments. \_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_. When crafting a Mexican guitarrón used in mariachi music, they use tacote wood for the top of the instrument. Once the wood is cut, they carve the neck and heel from a single block using tools like hand saws, chisels and sandpaper rather than modern power tools — and believe that this traditional method improves the tone of the instrument. \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_.

Their store has a three-year waitlist for instruments that take months to create. \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

The family's artisanship has attracted stars like Los Lobos, who own custom guitars made by all three generations of the Delgado family. \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

For the sisters, involvement in the family business started at an early age.

They each built their first instruments at age 9.

- (A) Option 1
- (B) Option 4
- (C) Option 2
- (D) Option 3

**Correct Answer:** (A) Option 1

**Solution:**

**Approach:** For a sentence-insertion question, read the missing sentence for its exact content, then look for the one gap where the sentence before it and the sentence after it both connect. The quote here is a general summary of method, so it belongs next to a general statement of method, not next to a specific technical detail.

**Step 1:** The missing line is Ava's quote: 'Everything is old-world, traditional techniques from Mexico.' It is a sweeping, summarising claim about how the sisters work overall.

**Step 2:** Gap 1 comes right after 'The sisters embrace the ways their great-grandfather built and repaired instruments.' That sentence is also general and about inherited tradition. Ava's quote restates and personalises it – a perfect echo. The paragraph then moves into the specific guitarron example, which works as an illustration of the just-stated principle.

**Step 3:** Check the other gaps. Gap 2 sits inside the technical detail about tacote wood and hand tools – a broad 'everything is traditional' line would interrupt it. Gap 3 is about the three-year waitlist (business, not technique). Gap 4 is about celebrity clients. None of these is about traditional method, so the quote does not belong there.

**Answer: Option 1**

**Quick Tip:** When placing a missing sentence, check whether it provides:

a general statement → fits early,  
an example or detail → fits after specifics,

a conclusion → fits near the end.

Match its function to the surrounding lines for smooth coherence.



**5. The given sentence is missing in the paragraph below. Decide where it best fits among the options 1, 2, 3, or 4 indicated in the paragraph.**

**Sentence:** Historically, silver has been, and still is, an important element in the business of 'show' visible in private houses, churches, government and diplomacy.

**Paragraph:**

\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_. Timothy Schroder put it succinctly in suggesting that electric light and eating in the kitchen eroded this need. As he explained to the author, 'Silver, when illuminated by flickering candlelight, comes alive and almost dances before the eyes, but when lit by electric light it becomes flat and dead.' \_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Domestic and economic changes may have worked against the market, but the London silver trade remained buoyant, thanks to the competition of collectors seeking grand display silver at the top end, and the buyers of 'collectables', like spoons and wine labels and 'novelties', at the bottom. \_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Another factor that came into play was the systematic collection building of certain American museums over the period. Boston, Huntington Art Gallery and Williamsburg, among others, were largely supplied by London dealers. \_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) Option 4
- (B) Option 1
- (C) Option 3
- (D) Option 2

**Correct Answer:** (C) Option 3

**Solution:**

**Approach:** An insertion sentence has to glue the idea before it to the idea after it. Read the orphan for its hinge word, then find the gap where the preceding sentence and the following sentence both align with that hinge.

**Step 1:** The orphan reads: 'Historically, silver has been, and still is, an important element in the business of show visible in private houses, churches, government and diplomacy.' Its core is silver's **enduring importance for display ('show')** despite changing times – the 'and still is' is the hinge.

**Step 2:** Just before Gap 3 the paragraph admits domestic and economic changes worked against the market, yet the London trade 'remained buoyant' because of collectors chasing 'grand display silver.' That is silver surviving as display – the exact theme of the orphan. The orphan generalises this into the broad statement that silver's role in 'show' persists.

**Step 3:** After Gap 3 comes 'Another factor that came into play was the systematic collection building of certain American museums.' The word 'Another' signals one more reason silver stayed important – which needs a prior statement of that ongoing importance for 'Another' to point back to. The orphan supplies it.

### **Why the other gaps fail:**

Gap 1 opens the paragraph and is immediately followed by the electric-light point about silver's need being eroded – starting with 'still is important' clashes with that decline opening. Gap 2 sits between the candlelight quote and the 'buoyant market' sentence, mid-argument about decline-versus-survival, where a broad historical

claim interrupts. Gap 4 is the closing slot after the American-museums detail, with nothing after it for the orphan to set up.

**Answer: Option 3**

**Quick Tip:** When inserting a sentence, check for pronouns like “this need,” “such,” or “these,” which often refer back to the missing statement. This helps identify the correct position quickly.



## 6.

Understanding the key properties of complex systems can help us clarify and deal with many new and existing global challenges, from pandemics to poverty . . . A recent study in Nature Physics found transitions to orderly states such as schooling in fish (all fish swimming in the same direction), can be caused, paradoxically, by randomness, or ‘noise’ feeding back on itself. That is, a misalignment among the fish causes further misalignment, eventually inducing a transition to schooling. Most of us wouldn’t guess that noise can produce predictable behaviour. The result invites us to consider how technology such as contact-tracing apps, although informing us locally, might negatively impact our collective movement. If each of us changes our behaviour to avoid the infected, we might generate a collective pattern we had aimed to avoid higher levels of interaction between the infected and susceptible, or high levels of interaction among the asymptomatic.

Complex systems also suffer from a special vulnerability to events that don’t follow a normal distribution or ‘bell curve’. When events are distributed normally, most outcomes are familiar and don’t seem particularly striking. Height is a good example: it’s pretty unusual for a man to be over 7 feet tall; most adults are between 5 and 6 feet, and there is no known person over 9 feet tall. But in collective settings where contagion shapes behaviour – a run on the banks, a scramble to buy toilet paper – the probability distributions for possible events are often heavy-tailed. There is a much higher probability of extreme events, such as a stock market crash or a massive surge in infections. These events are still unlikely, but they occur more frequently and are larger than would be expected under normal distributions.

What’s more, once a rare but hugely significant ‘tail’ event takes place, this raises the probability of further tail events. We might call them second-order tail events; they include stock market gyrations after a big fall and

earthquake aftershocks. The initial probability of second-order tail events is so tiny it's almost impossible to calculate – but once a first-order tail event occurs, the rules change, and the probability of a second-order tail event increases.

The dynamics of tail events are complicated by the fact that they result from cascades of other unlikely events. When COVID-19 first struck, the stock market suffered stunning losses followed by an equally stunning recovery. Some of these dynamics are potentially attributable to former sports bettors, with no sports to bet on, entering the market as speculators rather than investors. The arrival of these new players might have increased inefficiencies and allowed savvy long-term investors to gain an edge over bettors with different goals. . . .

One reason a first-order tail event can induce further tail events is that it changes the perceived costs of our actions and changes the rules that we play by. This game-change is an example of another key complex systems concept: nonstationarity. A second, canonical example of nonstationarity is adaptation, as illustrated by the arms race involved in the coevolution of hosts and parasites [in which] each has to 'run' faster, just to keep up with the novel solutions the other one presents as they battle it out in evolutionary time.

**Correct Answer:** —



**6.1. All of the following inferences are supported by the passage EXCEPT that:**

(A) examples like runs on banks and toilet paper scrambles illustrate how contagion can amplify local choices into system-wide cascades that surprise participants and lead to patterns they did not intend to create.

(B) learning can change the rules that actors face. So, a rare shock can alter payoffs and raise the odds of subsequent large disturbances within the same system, which supports the idea of second-order tail events.

(C) heavy-tailed events make extreme outcomes more frequent and larger than bell curve expectations. This complicates forecasting and risk management in collective settings shaped by contagion and copying behaviour.

(D) the text attributes the COVID-19 pandemic rebound in financial markets solely to displaced sports bettors and treats their entry as the overriding cause of the rapid recovery across assets and time horizons.

**Correct Answer:** (D) the text attributes the COVID-19 pandemic rebound in financial markets solely to displaced sports bettors and treats their entry as the overriding cause of the rapid recovery across assets and time horizons.

### **Solution:**

**Approach:** This is an EXCEPT inference question, so three options will be faithful paraphrases of the passage and one will overstate or distort what is actually said. Hunt for the option with an absolute word the author never used.

**Step 1:** Test option 1. The passage explicitly lists "a run on the banks, a scramble to buy toilet paper" as collective settings where contagion shapes behaviour and produces "a collective pattern we had aimed to avoid." So local choices cascading into surprising system-wide patterns is directly supported. Keep it.

**Step 2:** Test option 2. The passage says a first-order tail event "changes the perceived costs of our actions and changes the rules that we play by" (nonstationarity), and that this raises the probability of second-order tail events. "Learning can change the rules" plus "rare shock raises odds of later disturbances" is a clean restatement. Supported.

**Step 3:** Test option 3. The passage says heavy-tailed distributions carry "a much higher probability of extreme events" that "occur more frequently and are larger than would be expected under normal distributions," in contagion-driven collective settings. Option 3 mirrors this almost word for word. Supported.

**Step 4:** Test option 4. The passage is deliberately tentative about the sports bettors: "Some of these dynamics are potentially attributable to former sports bettors" and the entry "might have increased inefficiencies." Option 4 claims the rebound is attributed "solely" to displaced bettors and treats them as "the overriding cause." That hardens a hedged, partial conjecture into a single total cause. The passage does not support that.

**Why the trap works:** Words like "solely," "overriding," and "the" single cause are classic CAT distortion markers. The author used "some," "potentially," "might" deliberately.

**Answer: Option 4.**

**Quick Tip:** For EXCEPT questions, identify three options clearly grounded in the text. The remaining choice will either overstate, distort, or add claims the

passage never makes.



## 6.2. Which one of the options below best summarises the passage?

(A) The passage explains how social outcomes generally follow normal distributions. So, extreme events are negligible, and policy should stabilise averages rather than learn from large shocks in fast-changing collective settings.

(B) The passage explains how noise can create order, then shows why complex systems with contagion are vulnerable to heavy-tailed cascades. It also explains why early shocks change rules through nonstationarity with a market illustration during the COVID-19 disruption.

(C) The passage explains how speculative entrants always produce inefficiency after health shocks. Therefore, long-term investors invariably profit when new participants push prices away from fundamentals under pandemic conditions and comparable crises.

(D) The passage explains how nonstationarity works in evolutionary biology and rejects applications in markets or public health because adaptation is exclusive to parasite-host systems and cannot arise in technology-mediated social dynamics.

**Correct Answer:** (B) The passage explains how noise can create order, then shows why complex systems with contagion are vulnerable to heavy-tailed cascades. It also explains why early shocks change rules through nonstationarity with a market illustration during the COVID-19 disruption.

### **Solution:**

**Approach:** A best-summary option must cover the passage's full arc and contradict none of it. Map the passage into its movements first, then reject any option that drops a movement or adds a claim the

author never made.

**Step 1:** Trace the four movements. (a) Noise can paradoxically create order — fish schooling from misalignment. (b) Complex systems with contagion are vulnerable to heavy-tailed events, not bell curves. (c) A first-order tail event raises the odds of further (second-order) tail events. (d) This works through nonstationarity — rules change — illustrated by the COVID market episode and host-parasite coevolution.

**Step 2:** Reject option 1. It claims social outcomes "generally follow normal distributions" and extreme events are "negligible." That is the exact opposite of the heavy-tailed argument. Out.

**Step 3:** Reject option 3. The sports-bettor / market-inefficiency point is one illustrative detail, not the thesis, and the passage hedges it ("potentially," "might"). This option inflates a sub-example into an absolute law ("always," "invariably profit"). Out.

**Step 4:** Reject option 4. The passage applies nonstationarity to markets and public health; it does not "reject applications in markets" or confine adaptation to parasite-host systems. It directly contradicts the text. Out.

**Step 5:** Confirm option 2. "Noise can create order, then... complex systems with contagion are vulnerable to heavy-tailed cascades... early shocks change rules through nonstationarity with a market illustration during COVID-19." That hits movements (a), (b), (c) and (d) in order, without distortion.

**Answer: Option 2.**

**Quick Tip:** A good summary option captures all major themes without exaggerating or omitting key ideas. Reject choices that distort or overgeneralise examples used briefly in the passage.



**6.3. Which one of the following observations would most strengthen the passage's claim that a first-order tail event raises the probability of further tail events in complex systems?**

- (A) In epidemic networks, initial super-spreading episodes are isolated spikes after which outbreak sizes match the baseline distribution from independent contact models across comparable cities with no rise in the frequency or size of later extreme clusters.
- (B) River discharge records show water levels fit a normal distribution with thin tails that match laboratory data, regardless of storms or floods.
- (C) After a major equity crash, researchers find dense clusters of large daily moves for several weeks, with extreme days occurring far more often than in normal circumstances for assets with customarily low volatility profiles.
- (D) Following large earthquakes, regional seismic activity returns to baseline within hours with no aftershock sequence once data are adjusted for reporting effects, which suggests independence across events rather than any elevation in subsequent tail probabilities.

**Correct Answer:** (C) After a major equity crash, researchers find dense clusters of large daily moves for several weeks, with extreme days occurring far more often than in normal circumstances for assets with customarily low volatility profiles.

**Solution:**

**Approach:** The claim to strengthen is: one extreme event makes more extreme events likely afterwards (serial dependence / clustering of tails). The strengthening observation must show that after a big shock, further big events cluster — not return to baseline. Two options describe independence and one describes thin tails; those weaken or are irrelevant. Find the one showing post-shock clustering.

**Step 1:** Restate the target claim precisely. "Once a... 'tail' event takes place, this raises the probability of further tail events" — the example given is aftershocks and post-crash market gyrations. We need evidence of dependence: extreme begets extreme.

**Step 2:** Option 1 says after super-spreading spikes, outbreak sizes return to baseline "with no rise in the frequency or size of later extreme clusters." That is independence — it directly weakens the claim. Reject.

**Step 3:** Option 2 describes river levels fitting a normal distribution with thin tails. No extreme events, no clustering — irrelevant to a claim about heavy-tailed cascades. Reject.

**Step 4:** Option 4 says after big earthquakes activity returns to baseline within hours with "no aftershock sequence," implying "independence across events." This is the textbook counterexample to the claim — it weakens it. Reject.

**Step 5:** Option 3 says after a major equity crash there are "dense clusters of large daily moves for several weeks, with extreme days occurring far more often than in normal circumstances." A first-order tail event (crash) is followed by a burst of further extreme moves — exactly the serial dependence the passage asserts. This strengthens the

claim.

**Answer: Option 3.**

**Quick Tip:** To strengthen a claim about second-order tail events, look for evidence that extreme events cluster — that one big shock increases the likelihood of more shocks.



**6.4. The passage suggests that contact-tracing apps could inadvertently raise risky interactions by altering local behaviour. Which one of the assumptions below is most necessary for that suggestion to hold?**

- (A) Most users uninstall apps within a week, which leaves only highly exposed individuals participating. This neutralises any systematic bias in routing decisions and prevents any predictable change in aggregate contact patterns.
- (B) Individuals base movement choices partly on observed infections and on the behaviour of others. So, local responses interact, which turns many small adjustments into large scale patterns that can frustrate the intended aim of risk reduction.
- (C) App alerts always include precise location to within one metre and deliver real time updates for all users, which ensures that the data feed is perfectly accurate regardless of privacy settings, power limits, or network conditions.
- (D) Urban networks have uniform traffic conditions at all hours, which allows perfectly predictable routing independent of personal choices, social signals, or crowd reactions and, therefore, makes interdependence negligible in city movement decisions.

**Correct Answer:** (B) Individuals base movement choices partly on observed infections and on the behaviour of others. So, local responses interact, which turns many small adjustments into large scale patterns that can frustrate the intended aim of risk reduction.

### **Solution:**

**Approach:** This is a necessary-assumption question. The argument is: apps inform people locally, people change behaviour, and the aggregate result is more risky interaction, not less. For that chain to work, individual choices must feed into each other so small local moves build into a collective pattern. The correct assumption is the bridge that makes interdependence possible; the wrong options each break the chain by making behaviour independent or the apps irrelevant.

**Step 1:** Pin the logic. The passage says "If each of us changes our behaviour to avoid the infected, we might generate a collective pattern we had aimed to avoid." The leap is from individual avoidance to an emergent collective outcome. That leap needs people's responses to interact.

**Step 2:** Apply the negation test to option 2. It assumes individuals base movement on observed infections and on others' behaviour, so local responses interact and aggregate into large patterns. Negate it — suppose choices were fully independent and never reacted to others. Then there is no feedback, small adjustments stay small, and the collective backfire cannot arise. The argument collapses. So option 2 is necessary.

**Step 3:** Reject option 1. If most users uninstall within a week and this

"prevents any predictable change in aggregate contact patterns," the very effect the passage describes is neutralised. It undercuts the suggestion rather than supporting it.

**Step 4:** Reject option 3. Perfect one-metre accuracy and real-time updates concern data precision, not whether behaviour changes interact. The suggestion can hold with imperfect data and fail with perfect data, so this is not necessary.

**Step 5:** Reject option 4. Uniform traffic that makes routing "independent of personal choices, social signals, or crowd reactions" makes interdependence "negligible" — again killing the feedback the argument needs.

**Answer: Option 2.**

**Quick Tip:** For “necessary assumption” questions, look for the option without which the argument collapses. Here, the claim relies on interdependent behaviour—small local decisions must scale into collective patterns.



7. The four sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, and 4) given below, when properly sequenced, would yield a coherent paragraph. Decide on the proper sequencing of the order of the sentences and key in the sequence of the four numbers as your answer.

1. But man, woman or otherwise, there is no denying that the quality of our life and character will be significantly shaped by the way we handle our anger.
2. Once the taboos have been broken, women usually experience letting their fists fly as intensely liberating.
3. Though this might seem a stereotype, women—unlike men, who are frequently applauded for unbridled aggression—are often socialized to keep a lid on their ire.
4. Many of them are so at odds with their aggressive feelings that, as a coach, I often have to stop them from pulling their punches and encourage them to extend their arms so their blows might actually reach their fleshy target.

- (A) 3142
- (B) 3241
- (C) 4123
- (D) 3241

**Correct Answer:** (B) 3241

**Solution:**

**Approach:** Find the opener (a general claim that needs no prior sentence), then chain by connectors and pronouns. "Once... broken," "Many of them," and the contrast "But" are the signposts that lock the order.

**Step 1:** Find the opener. Sentence 3 introduces the topic from scratch

— women, "unlike men," are "socialized to keep a lid on their ire," hedged with "Though this might seem a stereotype." It depends on nothing before it. So 3 starts.

**Step 2:** What follows the socialised-restraint idea? Sentence 2: "Once the taboos have been broken, women usually experience letting their fists fly as intensely liberating." The "taboos" are precisely the socialised lid from sentence 3. So 3 is followed by 2.

**Step 3:** Sentence 4 begins "Many of them are so at odds with their aggressive feelings..." — "them" needs an antecedent (the women) and the coach detail develops the struggle introduced once fists start flying. So 2 is followed by 4. We now have 3-2-4.

**Step 4:** Sentence 1 opens with "But man, woman or otherwise..." — a broadening, concluding contrast that lifts the discussion from women specifically to everyone. It must close. Final order: 3-2-4-1.

**Note:** Options 2 and 4 are both printed as 3241; the keyed correct option corresponds to 3241.

**Answer: 3241.**

**Quick Tip:** In para-jumbles, look for:

the sentence that introduces the main topic (usually first),  
examples or elaborations (middle),  
broad generalisations or moral conclusions (usually last).

**8. The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.**

Zombie cells may contribute to age-related chronic inflammation: this finding could help scientists understand more about the aging process and why the immune system becomes less effective as we get older. Zombie or “senescent” cells are damaged cells that can no longer divide and grow like normal cells. Scientists think that these cells can contribute to chronic health problems when they accumulate in the body. In younger people, the immune system is more effective at clearing senescent cells from the body through a process called apoptosis, but as we age this process becomes less efficient. As a result, there is an accumulation of senescent cells in different organs in the body, either through increased production or reduced clearance by the immune system. The zombie cells continue to use energy though they do not divide, and often secrete chemicals that cause inflammation, which if persistent for longer periods of time can damage healthy cells leading to chronic diseases.

- (A) Senescent “zombie” cells are inactive or malfunctioning cells that can be found throughout the body.
- (B) A younger person’s immune system is healthy and is able to clear the damaged cells, but as people age, the zombie cells resist apoptosis, and start accumulating in the body.
- (C) Aging leads to less effective apoptosis, and therefore zombie cells start to accumulate in the body, causing inflammation, which accelerates aging and leads to chronic diseases.
- (D) Dead cells accelerate chronic inflammation weakening the immune system and lead to aging.

**Correct Answer:** (C) Aging leads to less effective apoptosis, and therefore zombie cells start to accumulate in the body, causing inflammation, which accelerates aging and leads to chronic diseases.

## Solution:

**Approach:** A para-summary answer must preserve the passage's full causal chain and its precise vocabulary. Build the chain once, then reject options that drop a link, weaken the verb, or misname the cells.

**Step 1:** Extract the chain. Aging makes apoptosis less efficient, so senescent ("zombie") cells accumulate, they secrete inflammation-causing chemicals, persistent inflammation damages healthy cells, and that leads to chronic disease and feeds the aging process. Cause and effect must all survive.

**Step 2:** Reject option 1. "Inactive or malfunctioning cells found throughout the body" is a definition, not a summary. It drops apoptosis, inflammation and disease — the entire causal payload. And "inactive" misreads the text, which stresses these cells "continue to use energy" and actively secrete chemicals.

**Step 3:** Reject option 2. It stops at "start accumulating in the body" and never reaches inflammation or chronic disease. A summary that ends one link before the conclusion is incomplete. It also adds "resist apoptosis," which the passage does not claim — the passage says clearance becomes less efficient, not that cells actively resist.

**Step 4:** Reject option 4. It calls them "dead cells," but the passage is explicit that senescent cells are alive — they "can no longer divide" yet "continue to use energy." Wrong premise, so the summary fails at word one.

**Step 5:** Confirm option 3. "Aging leads to less effective apoptosis, and therefore zombie cells start to accumulate... causing inflammation,

which accelerates aging and leads to chronic diseases." Every link of the chain is present in the right order. This is the full essence.

**Answer: Option 3.**

**Quick Tip:** When selecting summaries, choose the option that captures the full causal sequence presented in the passage without adding new claims or omitting key steps.



9. The passage below is accompanied by four questions. Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

How can we know what someone else is thinking or feeling, let alone prove it in court? In his 1863 book, *A General View of the Criminal Law of England*, James Fitzjames Stephen, among the most celebrated legal thinkers of his generation, was of the opinion that the assessment of a person's mental state was an inference made with "little consciousness." In a criminal case, jurors, doctors, and lawyers could watch defendants—scrutinizing clothing, mannerisms, tone of voice— but the best they could hope for were clues. . . . Rounding these clues up to a judgment about a defendant's guilt, or a defendant's life, was an act of empathy and imagination. . . . The closer the resemblance between defendants and their judges, the easier it was to overlook the gap that inference filled.

Conversely, when a defendant struck officials as unlike themselves, whether by dint of disease, gender, confession, or race, the precariousness of judgments about mental state was exposed. In the nineteenth century, physicians who specialized in the study of madness and the care of the insane held themselves out as experts in the new field of mental science. Often called alienists or mad doctors, they were the predecessors of modern psychiatrists, neurologists, and psychologists. . . . The opinions of family and neighbors had once been sufficient to sift the sane from the insane, but a growing belief that insanity was a subtle condition that required expert, medical diagnosis pushed physicians into the witness box. . . . Lawyers for both prosecution and defense began to recruit alienists to assess defendants' sanity and to testify to it in court.

Irresponsibility and insanity were not identical, however. Criminal responsibility was a legal concept and not, fundamentally, a medical one. Stephen explained: "The question 'What are the mental elements of responsibility?' is, and must be, a legal question. It cannot be anything else, for the meaning of responsibility is liability to punishment." . . . Nonetheless, medical and legal accounts of what it meant to be mentally

sound became entangled and mutually referential throughout the nineteenth century. Lawyers relied on medical knowledge to inform their opinions and arguments about the sanity of their clients. Doctors commented on the legal responsibility of their patients. Ultimately, the fields of criminal law and mental science were both invested in constructing an image of the broken and damaged psyche that could be contrasted with the whole and healthy one. This shared interest, and the shared space of the criminal courtroom, made it nearly impossible to consider responsibility without medicine, or insanity without law. . . . Physicians and lawyers shared more than just concern for the mind. Class, race, and gender bound these middle-class, white, professional men together, as did family ties, patriotism, Protestantism, business ventures, the alumni networks of elite schools and universities, and structures of political patronage. But for all their affinities, men of medicine and law were divided by contests over the borders of criminal responsibility, as much within each profession as between them. Alienists steadily pushed the boundaries of their field, developing increasingly complex and capacious definitions of insanity. Eccentricity and aggression came to be classified as symptoms of mental disease, at least by some.

**Correct Answer:** —

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**9.1. The last paragraph of the passage refers to “middle-class, white, professional men”. Which one of the following qualities best describes the connection among them?**

- (A) The borders of criminal responsibility.
- (B) The opinions of family and neighbours.
- (C) Eccentricity and aggression.
- (D) Empathy and imagination.

**Correct Answer:** (A) The borders of criminal responsibility.

### **Solution:**

**Approach:** The question asks what links these men. The trap is to grab a phrase the passage labels as something that **divided** them. Read the question precisely: it wants the shared concern that defines the group, not the harmony or the conflict.

**Step 1 (locate the men):** The last paragraph says physicians and lawyers were bound by class, race, gender, family ties, patriotism, Protestantism, business, alumni networks, and patronage. None of those exact items appears in the options, so the right answer must capture the shared **professional subject matter** that brought them into the same arena.

**Step 2 (what they were all engaged with):** The whole passage is about how law and mental science met in court to decide whether a defendant was responsible. The single thread running through every paragraph, and the thing both professions were arguing over, is the line that separates the responsible from the non-responsible mind, that is, the borders of criminal responsibility. That shared territory is what connects them.

**Step 3 (why the others fail):**

Option 2 (opinions of family and neighbours): the passage says these were once enough but were **displaced** by expert testimony. They describe the old, pre-expert method, not what binds these professionals.

Option 3 (eccentricity and aggression): these are examples of behaviours that alienists reclassified as disease. They are content of a debate, not a bond among the men.

Option 4 (empathy and imagination): this describes how jurors fill the inference gap when judging a defendant. It is about the act of judging an accused, not the connection between physicians and lawyers.

**Answer: Option 1, The borders of criminal responsibility.**

**Quick Tip:** When no option matches the passage perfectly, choose the one least contradicted by the text — but make sure you can justify why the others are clearly incorrect.

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**9.2. According to the passage, who or what was an “alienist”?**

- (A) Professionals who pushed the boundaries of their fields till they became unrecognisable in the nineteenth century.
- (B) Physicians who specialised in the study of madness and the care of the insane in the nineteenth century.
- (C) Physicians and lawyers who were responsible for the condition of immigrants or ‘aliens’ in the nineteenth century.
- (D) Physicians and lawyers who were responsible for examining accounts of extraterrestrials or ‘aliens’ in the nineteenth century.

**Correct Answer:** (B) Physicians who specialised in the study of madness and the care of the insane in the nineteenth century.

**Solution:**

**Approach:** This is a pure detail-location question. The passage defines the word directly, so find the defining sentence and match it word for word, without importing the everyday English sense of alien.

**Step 1 (find the definition):** Paragraph 2 says: physicians who specialized in the study of madness and the care of the insane held themselves out as experts in mental science, and were often called alienists or mad doctors. That sentence is the definition, handed to us on a plate.

**Step 2 (match it):** Option 2 reproduces this almost verbatim, physicians who specialised in the study of madness and the care of the insane in the nineteenth century. Direct hit.

**Step 3 (eliminate the distractors):**

Option 1 (pushed boundaries till their fields became unrecognisable): the passage does say alienists pushed boundaries, but it never says the fields became unrecognisable, and this is an activity, not a definition of who they were.

Option 3 (responsible for immigrants or aliens): this is the false-friend trap, reading alien as foreigner. The passage has nothing to do with immigrants.

Option 4 (examined accounts of extraterrestrials): same trap, reading alien as outer-space being. Nonsensical in context.

**Answer: Option 2, Physicians who specialised in the study of madness and the care of the insane in the nineteenth century.**

**Quick Tip:** For definition-based questions, rely on explicit statements from the passage; avoid options that infer or distort beyond what the text says.

9.3. Study the following sets of concepts and identify the set that is conceptually closest to the concerns and arguments of the passage.

- (A) Empathy, Prosecution, Knowledge, Business.
- (B) Judgement, Belief, Accounts, Patronage.
- (C) Assessment, Empathy, Prosecution, Patriotism.
- (D) Judgement, Insanity, Punishment, Responsibility.

**Correct Answer:** (D) Judgement, Insanity, Punishment, Responsibility.

**Solution:**

**Approach:** A best-set question is won by elimination, not by liking one word. A set wins only if **every** word in it sits at the core of the passage. One weak word sinks the whole set.

**Step 1 (fix the core):** The passage is about deciding a defendant's mental state in court, whether insanity removes criminal responsibility, and how that decides liability to punishment. So the load-bearing ideas are judgement of mind, insanity, responsibility, and punishment.

**Step 2 (test each set for a weak link):**

Option 1 (Empathy, Prosecution, Knowledge, Business): Empathy fits, but Business is named only in a list of social ties and is peripheral. Weak link, reject.

Option 2 (Judgement, Belief, Accounts, Patronage): Judgement fits, but Patronage and Accounts are incidental background items, not central concerns. Reject.

Option 3 (Assessment, Empathy, Prosecution, Patriotism): Assessment and Empathy fit, but Patriotism appears once as a minor bonding factor. Reject.

Option 4 (Judgement, Insanity, Punishment, Responsibility): all four are central. Judgement of mental state, insanity as the medical-legal question, responsibility as liability, and punishment as the stake. No weak link.

**Step 3:** Only Option 4 survives the every-word test.

**Answer: Option 4, Judgement, Insanity, Punishment, Responsibility.**

**Quick Tip:** When matching conceptual sets to a passage, look for the ideas that appear repeatedly and form the backbone of the argument—not merely incidental references.

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9.4. “Conversely, when a defendant struck officials as unlike themselves, whether by dint of disease, gender, confession, or race, the precariousness of judgments about mental state was exposed.” Which one of the following best describes the use of the word “confession” in this sentence?

- (A) Referring to the practice of ‘confession’ in some faiths, here it is a metaphor for the religion of the defendant.
- (B) Referring to the gender, race or disease claimed as a defence by the defendant, here it is a synonym for ‘professing’ a gender, race, or disease.
- (C) Referring to the defendant’s confession of his or her crime as false, because ‘dint’ is an archaic form of ‘didn’t’ or ‘did not’.
- (D) The defendants struck out at the officials and then confessed to the act.

**Correct Answer:** (A) Referring to the practice of ‘confession’ in some faiths, here it is a metaphor for the religion of the defendant.

### **Solution:**

**Approach:** A word-in-context question is solved by the company the word keeps. Look at the list confession sits in and ask what single category all the items belong to; confession must fit that same category.

**Step 1 (read the list):** The defendant is unlike officials by dint of disease, gender, confession, or race. Disease, gender, and race are all markers of identity or personal condition. By the logic of parallel listing, confession must also be a marker of identity, not an admission of guilt.

**Step 2 (which identity-marker fits confession):** In this nineteenth-century setting, sitting beside gender and race, confession most naturally signals one's professed faith, a confession in the religious sense (as in confession of faith). The passage even foregrounds Protestantism among these men, so religion is squarely in play. So confession here stands for the defendant's religion.

### Step 3 (eliminate):

Option 2 reads confession as professing a gender, race, or disease, which is redundant since those three are already separate items in the list. Confession would add nothing.

Option 3 hangs on a false claim that dint means did not. Dint means by force or means of, so this collapses.

Option 4 takes confession literally as admitting to striking officials, but struck here means struck them as, that is, appeared to them. No physical act occurs.

**Answer: Option 1, confession refers to religious confession and stands metaphorically for the defendant's religion.**

**Quick Tip:** In older English, confession often referred to religious denomination. Always consider historical usage when interpreting words in historical passages.



**10. Five jumbled sentences (labelled 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5), related to a topic, are given below. Four of them can be put together to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the odd sentence out and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.**

(A) The Bayeux tapestry was, therefore, an obvious way to tell people about the downfall of the English and the rise of the Normans.

(B) So if we take expert in Anglo-Saxon culture Gale Owen-Crocker's idea that the tapestry was originally hung in a square with certain scenes facing each other, people would have stood in the centre.

(C) Art historian Linda Neagley has argued that pre-Renaissance people interacted with art visually, kinaesthetically (sensory perception through bodily movement) and physically.

(D) That would make it an 11th-century immersive space with scenes corresponding and echoing each other, drawing the viewer's attention, playing on their senses and understanding of the story they thought they knew.

**Correct Answer:** (A) The Bayeux tapestry was, therefore, an obvious way to tell people about the downfall of the English and the rise of the Normans.

### **Solution:**

**Approach:** For an odd-one-out, first build the tightest chain of four that flows without gaps, then the sentence that has no slot in that chain is the misfit. Hunt for a clear opener, then follow the connectors.

**Step 1 (find the opener):** Sentence 3 introduces a general idea with a named authority and no back-reference: pre-Renaissance people interacted with art visually, kinaesthetically, and physically. It depends on nothing before it, so it starts the paragraph.

**Step 2 (chain the rest):** Sentence 5 says the tapestry would have been hung at eye level to enable this, where this points straight back to the physical interaction in 3. So 3 then 5. Sentence 2 opens with So

if we take... the idea that the tapestry hung in a square with scenes facing each other, people would have stood in the centre, extending the staging. So 5 then 2. Sentence 4 begins That would make it an 11th-century immersive space, where That refers to the square arrangement of 2. So 2 then 4. The chain 3-5-2-4 is seamless and complete.

**Step 3 (test the leftover):** Sentence 1 says the tapestry was therefore an obvious way to tell people about the downfall of the English and the rise of the Normans. Its therefore needs a prior point about political messaging, which the immersive-experience chain never supplies. Its theme is the tapestry's propaganda function, a different topic from how viewers physically experienced it.

**Step 4:** Sentence 1 fits nowhere in 3-5-2-4 and breaks the theme.

**Answer: Sentence 1.**

**Quick Tip:** For “odd sentence out” questions, first build the strongest possible mini-paragraph with four sentences; the one that doesn’t fit that structure—by topic or logical flow—is your answer.



**11.** Studies showing that income inequality plays a positive role in economic growth are largely based on three arguments. The first argument focuses on investment indivisibilities wherein large sunk costs are required when implementing new fundamental innovations. Without stock markets and financial institutions to mobilize large sums of money, a high concentration of wealth is needed for individuals to undertake new industrial activities accompanied by high sunk costs.

One study shows the relation between economic growth and income inequality for 45 countries during 1966–1995. (It was found) that the increase in income inequality has a significant positive relationship with economic growth in the short and medium term. Using system GMM, another study estimated the relation between income inequality and economic growth for 106 countries during 1965–2005 period. The results show that income inequality has a positive impact on economic growth in the short run, but a two or more negatively correlated in the long run. The second argument is related to moral hazard and incentives. Because economic performance is determined by the unobservable level of effort that agents make, paying compensations without taking into account the economic performance achieved would reduce the overall optimum effort from the agents. Thus, certain income inequalities contribute to growth by enhancing worker motivation and by giving motivation to innovators and entrepreneurs. Finally, some points out that the concentration of wealth or stock ownership in relation to corporate governance contributes to growth. If stock ownership is distributed and owned by a large number of shareholders, it is not easy to make quick decisions due to the conflicting interests among shareholders, and this may also cause a free-rider problem in terms of monitoring and supervising managers and workers.

Various studies have examined the relationships between income inequality and economic growth, and most of these assert that a negative correlation exists between the two. Analyzing 159 countries for 1980–2012, they conclude that there exists a negative relation between income

inequality and economic growth; when the income share of the richest 20% of population increases by 1%, the GDP decreases by 0.8%; whereas when the income share of the poorest 20% of population increases by 1%, the GDP increases by 0.38%. Some studies find that inequality has a negative impact on growth due to poor human capital accumulation and low fertility rates, while others point out that inequality creates political instability, resulting in lower investment. Some economists argue that widening income inequality has a negative impact on economic growth because it negatively affects social consensus or social capital formation. One important research topic is the correlation between democratization and income redistribution. Some scholars explain that social pressure for income redistribution rises as income inequality increases in a democratic society. In other words, democratization extends suffrage to wider class of people; the increased political power of low- and middle-income voters results in broader support for income redistribution and social welfare expansion. However, if the rich have more political influence than the poor, the democratic system actually worsens income inequality rather than improving it.

**Correct Answer:** —

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**11.1. Which one of the options below best summarises the passage?**

(A) The passage claims that evaluating the effect of income inequality on economic growth without considering both short- and long-term consequences is misguided.

(B) The passage confines its discussion to financing gaps and corporate control while undercutting cross-country evidence and overlooking the significance of concerns regarding human capital accumulation, fertility rates, and income redistribution under democratisation.

(C) The passage argues that income inequality accelerates economic growth while also emphasising the significance of concerns regarding human capital accumulation, fertility rates, and political instability.

(D) The passage outlines investment, incentive, and governance channels through which income inequality may support economic growth and reports short-term gains while noting long-term drawbacks.

**Correct Answer:** (D) The passage outlines investment, incentive, and governance channels through which income inequality may support economic growth and reports short-term gains while noting long-term drawbacks.

### **Solution:**

**Approach:** A passage-summary answer must mirror the passage's **structure and balance**, not just one true sentence from it. This passage does two things: (a) it lays out specific channels by which inequality can **support** growth, and (b) it notes the time split (short-run help, long-run harm). The right summary must carry both halves without distorting the author's neutral stance.

**Step 1** \u2013 **Map the passage skeleton.** First half: three mechanisms inequality may aid growth \u2013 investment indivisibilities (big sunk costs need concentrated wealth),

incentives/moral hazard (pay-for-performance lifts effort), and governance (concentrated ownership eases decisions). Second half: it qualifies this \u2013 short-term gains but long-term drawbacks (human capital, fertility, instability, redistribution pressure).

**Step 2 \u2013 Test Option 4.** "Outlines investment, incentive, and governance channels ... reports short-term gains while noting long-term drawbacks." This names the exact three channels AND the time-split verdict. It matches both the content and the balanced tone. Correct.

**Step 3 \u2013 Kill the other three. Option 1** reduces the whole passage to a methodological claim about "short- and long-term consequences" and drops the three mechanisms entirely \u2013 too narrow and recasts a descriptive passage as an argument about evaluation. **Option 2** says the passage "confines" itself to financing gaps and corporate control and "undercuts" cross-country evidence \u2013 false; it openly discusses incentives, fertility, human capital, redistribution, so "confines" and "overlooking" are contradicted by the text. **Option 3** commits the author to the claim that inequality **accelerates** growth \u2013 an overstatement; the passage stays even-handed and flags negative long-run effects.

**Answer:** Option 4.

**Quick Tip:** A good summary must reflect the full balance of a passage—both the supporting mechanisms and the limitations or counterarguments.



**11.2. The passage refers to "democratization". Choose the one option below that comes closest to the opposite of this process.**

- (A) After the emergency decree, the regime shifted toward authoritarianism as suffrage narrowed and opposition parties were deregistered.
- (B) Corporate donations were capped and parties received public funding which was portrayed as establishing an oligarchy.
- (C) Municipalities adopted participatory budgeting and recall elections which a press release called totalitarianism.
- (D) The coalition imposed term limits and strengthened judicial review in order to further entrench autocratic rule.

**Correct Answer:** (A) After the emergency decree, the regime shifted toward authoritarianism as suffrage narrowed and opposition parties were deregistered.

**Solution:**

**Approach:** "Democratization" means widening political participation \u2013 more suffrage, more competition, more representation. Its opposite is a move **toward** authoritarianism: narrowing the vote, shutting down rivals. The catch in this question is that three options describe democratic-sounding actions but **mislabel** them, while one option describes a genuinely anti-democratic shift. Judge the **action**, not the label.

**Step 1 \u2013 Define the target.** Opposite of democratization = de-democratization / authoritarian turn = fewer voters, fewer parties, less contestation.

**Step 2 \u2013 Option 1.** "Regime shifted toward authoritarianism as

suffrage narrowed and opposition parties were deregistered." Narrowing suffrage and banning the opposition is a textbook reversal of democratization. The label and the action agree. Correct.

**Step 3 \u2013 Reject the mislabel traps. Option 2:** capping corporate donations and giving parties public funding is a democratizing reform; calling it "oligarchy" is a misnomer. **Option 3:** participatory budgeting and recall elections **increase** citizen power; the "totalitarianism" tag is wrong. **Option 4:** term limits and stronger judicial review are checks-and-balances \u2013 democratic devices \u2013 even though the sentence falsely claims they "entrench autocratic rule." In each of these, the described action is pro-democratic, so they are not the opposite we want.

**Answer:** Option 1.

**Quick Tip:** Always match the "opposite process" to the definition provided in the passage, not to misleading labels used in the answer options.

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**11.3. The primary function of the three-part case for a positive income inequality\u2013economic growth link in the first half of the passage is to show that:**

- (A) inequality boosts growth in every period and type of economy, regardless of finance or governance conditions.
- (B) mature stock markets make wealth concentration unnecessary, yet they might still be harmful to investment.
- (C) inequality can aid short-term growth in settings with high sunk costs, incentive alignment, and concentrated ownership.
- (D) dispersed ownership speeds corporate decision-making and removes free rider problems.

**Correct Answer:** (C) inequality can aid short-term growth in settings with high sunk costs, incentive alignment, and concentrated ownership.

### **Solution:**

**Approach:** The question asks for the **function** of the three-part pro-inequality case \u2013 i.e., what those three arguments are collectively trying to establish. The right answer should bundle all three conditions (sunk costs, incentives, ownership) and respect the passage's hedge that this is a **conditional, short-run** effect, not a universal law.

**Step 1 \u2013 Recall the three parts.** (i) Investment indivisibilities: large sunk costs need concentrated wealth when finance markets are thin. (ii) Incentives/moral hazard: pay tied to performance aligns effort. (iii) Governance: concentrated ownership eases decisions and curbs free-riding.

**Step 2 \u2013 Option 3.** "Inequality can aid short-term growth in settings with high sunk costs, incentive alignment, and concentrated ownership." Notice it maps one-to-one onto the three arguments and keeps the cautious word "can" plus "short-term." This is exactly what

the trio is built to show. Correct.

**Step 3 \u2013 Eliminate. Option 1** says inequality boosts growth "in every period and type of economy, regardless of finance or governance" \u2013 the passage does the opposite by making the effect **conditional** on those very factors. **Option 2** claims mature stock markets make concentration unnecessary "yet harmful to investment" \u2013 not the function of the trio, and self-contradictory. **Option 3** survives. **Option 4** praises **dispersed** ownership for removing free-rider problems \u2013 a direct reversal; the passage credits **concentrated** ownership for that.

**Answer:** Option 3.

**Quick Tip:** When a passage lists mechanisms, ask: "What overarching claim are these mechanisms designed to support?" Here, the mechanisms support conditional and short-term benefits of inequality.

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**11.4. According to the incentive or moral hazard argument, which one of the designs below is most consistent with the claim that some inequality can raise growth?**

- (A) Pay rewards on verifiable performance for highly productive workers.
- (B) Rents protected by market power that enlarge top incomes without linking pay to results.
- (C) Wages are determined by tenure rather than output to ensure equity.
- (D) A regime that concentrates stock ownership in relation to corporate governance.

**Correct Answer:** (A) Pay rewards on verifiable performance for highly productive workers.

### **Solution:**

**Approach:** The incentive / moral-hazard argument has one core mechanism: when effort is hard to observe, **tying pay to measurable output** motivates people to work harder, and the resulting income gap is the "good" inequality. So the matching design must link **reward to verifiable performance**. Anything where high pay is **decoupled** from results fails the test.

**Step 1 \u2013 State the criterion.** Inequality helps growth here only if the extra income is **earned through observable productivity** \u2013 that is what fixes the moral-hazard (effort-shirking) problem.

**Step 2 \u2013 Option 1.** "Pay rewards on verifiable performance for highly productive workers." This is the mechanism stated almost word-for-word \u2013 reward follows measurable output, so effort rises. Correct.

**Step 3 \u2013 Eliminate. Option 2:** rents from market power enlarge top incomes "without linking pay to results" \u2013 this is unearned inequality, the exact case the incentive argument does **not** endorse. **Option 3:** wages by tenure, not output, deliberately breaks the pay-performance link \u2013 opposite of the mechanism. **Option 4:** concentrating stock ownership belongs to the **governance** argument, not the incentive one, so it answers a different sub-claim.

**Answer:** Option 1.

**Quick Tip:** For incentive-based arguments, look for designs where pay follows performance, not tenure, power, or unrelated advantages.



**12. The passage given below is followed by four summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.**

In the dynamic realm of creativity, artists often find themselves at the crossroads between drawing inspiration from diverse cultures and inadvertently crossing into the territory of cultural appropriation.

Inspiration is the lifeblood of creativity, driving artists to create works that resonate across borders. In a globalized era of the modern world, artists draw from a vast array of cultural influences. When approached respectfully, inspiration becomes a bridge, fostering understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity. However, the line between inspiration and cultural appropriation can be thin and easily blurred.

Cultural appropriation occurs when elements from a particular culture are borrowed without proper understanding, respect, or acknowledgment. This leads to the commodification of sacred symbols, the reinforcement of stereotypes, and the erasure of the cultural context from which these elements originated. It is essential to recognize that the impact of cultural appropriation extends beyond the realm of artistic expression, influencing societal perceptions and perpetuating power imbalances.

- (A) Artists in a globalised world must navigate between drawing inspiration from diverse cultures respectfully and cultural appropriation that involves borrowing without proper acknowledgement which has broader societal impacts including perpetuating power imbalances.
- (B) In today's world of creativity, artists have to decide between respectfully acknowledging works that are inspired by diverse cultures and appropriating elements without respect for their contexts.
- (C) In a globalised world, artists must draw from diverse cultural influences to create works that appeal to all, and this results in instances of both inspiration and cultural appropriation.
- (D) Artists must navigate the thin line between inspiration and cultural appropriation, where respectful inspiration fosters cultural understanding whereas appropriation involves borrowing without acknowledgement leading to commodification and reinforcement of stereotypes.

**Correct Answer:** (A) Artists in a globalised world must navigate between drawing inspiration from diverse cultures respectfully and cultural appropriation that involves borrowing without proper acknowledgement which has broader societal impacts including perpetuating power imbalances.

### **Solution:**

**Approach:** A para-summary must capture **both paragraphs** in proportion: P1 = artists navigate between respectful inspiration and appropriation; P2 = appropriation's harm **extends beyond art** to societal perceptions and power imbalances. The best option keeps the "navigate" framing AND carries that broader societal consequence \u2013 that second piece is the deciding detail.

**Step 1 \u2013 Extract the two must-haves.** (a) The central tension:

inspiration vs. appropriation in a globalized world. (b) The closing escalation: appropriation's impact reaches society and "perpetuates power imbalances."

**Step 2 \u2013 Option 1.** "Artists ... must navigate between drawing inspiration respectfully and cultural appropriation that involves borrowing without proper acknowledgement, which has broader societal impacts including perpetuating power imbalances." It has the tension AND the societal-impact payoff. Correct.

**Step 3 \u2013 Eliminate. Option 2** states the tension but stops at the artistic level \u2013 it drops the societal/power-imbalance escalation, so it under-summarizes the passage's strongest point. **Option 3** misreads the logic: it claims drawing from cultures "results in **both** inspiration and cultural appropriation" as if appropriation were inevitable \u2013 the passage warns it is avoidable with respect. **Option 4** is close and well-written, but it ends at "commodification and reinforcement of stereotypes" (still within the art frame) and omits the wider societal power-imbalance conclusion that P2 builds to. Between 1 and 4, only 1 reaches the passage's final and broadest claim.

**Answer:** Option 1.

**Quick Tip:** For summary questions, choose the option that includes all central themes without adding extra details or omitting key implications.