

## 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.

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

In the summer of 2022, subscribers to the US streaming service HBO MAX were alarmed to discover that dozens of the platform’s offerings – from the Covid-themed heist thriller *Locked Down* to the recent remake of *The Witches* – had been quietly removed from the service . . . The news seemed like vindication to those who had long warned that streaming was more about controlling access to the cultural commons than expanding it, as did reports (since denied by the show’s creators) that Netflix had begun editing old episodes of *Stranger Things* to retroactively improve their visual effects.

What’s less clear is whether the commonly prescribed cure for these cultural ills – a return to the material pleasures of physical media – is the right one. While the makers of Blu-ray discs claim they have a shelf life of 100 years, such statistics remain largely theoretical until they come to pass, and are dependent on storage conditions, not to mention the continued availability of playback equipment. The humble DVD has already proved far less resilient, with many early releases already beginning to deteriorate in quality. Digital movie purchases provide even less security. Any film “bought” on iTunes could disappear if you move to another territory with a different rights agreement and try to redownload it. It’s a bold new frontier in the commodification of art: the birth of the product recall. After a man took to Twitter to bemoan losing access to *Cars 2* after moving from Canada to Australia, Apple clarified that users who downloaded films to their devices would retain permanent access to those downloads, even if they relocated to a hemisphere where the [content was] subject to a different set of rights agreements. Thanks to the company’s ironclad digital rights management technology, however, such files cannot be moved or backed up, locking you into watching with your Apple account.

Anyone who does manage to acquire Digital Rights Management free (DRM-free) copies of their favourite films must nonetheless grapple with ever-changing file format standards, not to mention data decay – the gradual process by which electronic information slowly but surely corrupts. Only the regular migration of files from hard drive to hard drive can delay the inevitable, in a sisyphian battle against the ravages of digital time. In a sense, none of this is new. Charlie Chaplin burned the negative of his 1926 film *A Woman of the Sea* as a tax write-off. Many more films have been lost through accident, negligence or plain indifference. During a heatwave in July 1937, a Fox film vault in New Jersey burned down, destroying a majority of the silent films produced by the studio. Back then, at least, cinema was defined by its ephemerality: the sense that a film was as good as gone once it left your local cinema. Today, with film studios keen to stress the breadth of their back catalogues (or to put in Hollywood terms, the value of their IPs), audiences may start to wonder why those same studios seem happy to set the vault alight themselves if it'll help next quarter's numbers.

**Correct Answer:** —

---

**1.1.** Which one of the following statements about art best captures the arguments made in the passage?

(A) In the age of online subscription services, it is time to change our understanding of classic works of art being primarily immutable and easily available to the public.

(B) Accepting retroactive changes to works of art is dangerous because it will encourage creators to not put enough effort into the original attempt, given that they can always edit or update their work later.

(C) Works of art belong to the cultural commons and hence must remain available in perpetuity, irrespective of who pays for access to them.

(D) As art is increasingly created, stored and distributed digitally, access to it is counterintuitively likely to be made more difficult by the rapid churn in technology and the whims of host platforms.

**Correct Answer:** (D) As art is increasingly created, stored and distributed digitally, access to it is counterintuitively likely to be made more difficult by the rapid churn in technology and the whims of host platforms.

### **Solution:**

The passage primarily discusses the complexities and potential drawbacks of digital art distribution, particularly through streaming services. It highlights how rapidly changing technology and corporate decisions can impact public access to cultural works. Several incidents are described, such as the removal of works from HBO MAX and the modifications to shows on Netflix, which demonstrate a push towards controlling art access rather than expanding it. Additionally, concerns around the longevity and accessibility of both digital and physical media are raised, emphasizing uncertainties in ownership and access rights.

In analyzing the options, we find that all other statements address issues not fully emphasized in the passage, like creator efforts or perpetual availability. However, the correct answer directly captures

the core argument: **As art is increasingly created, stored, and distributed digitally, access to it is counterintuitively likely to be made more difficult by the rapid churn in technology and the whims of host platforms.** This reflects the passage's exploration of the ironies and challenges in the digital age of art.

1.2. “Netflix had begun editing old episodes of Stranger Things to retroactively improve their visual effects.” What is the purpose of this example used in the passage?

- (A) To show a practice that justifies the fears of people who feel streaming services cannot be trusted to be custodians of cultural artefacts like film.
- (B) To show that streaming services are controlling access to the cultural commons rather than expanding it.
- (C) To show how unsubstantiated reports are leading to an increase in the level of distrust towards streaming services.
- (D) To show that art in the digital age, specifically film, is no longer sacrosanct, and may be changed to suit changing tastes or technology.

**Correct Answer:** (A) To show a practice that justifies the fears of people who feel streaming services cannot be trusted to be custodians of cultural artefacts like film.

### **Solution:**

The paragraph discusses the concerns about streaming services, particularly highlighting how Netflix edited old episodes of "Stranger Things" to improve visual effects. The mention of this action serves to illustrate a practice that aligns with fears some people have regarding streaming platforms' reliability as custodians of cultural artifacts like films.

The act of altering previously released material without wide public knowledge or consent raises questions about the integrity and preservation of cultural content in the digital age. This aligns with the idea that streaming services might prioritize their control and adaptability over safeguarding historical authenticity and originality. Therefore, the most fitting purpose of the Netflix example in the passage is to show a practice that justifies the fears of individuals who believe streaming services cannot be trusted to maintain the integrity of cultural artifacts. Hence, the correct answer is: To show a practice that justifies the fears of people who feel streaming services cannot be trusted to be custodians of cultural artefacts like film.



**1.3.** Which one of the following statements, if true, would best invalidate the main argument of the passage?

- (A) Improved cloud storage services have made it possible for movie collections to now be preserved in perpetuity, without the need to keep migrating the files.
- (B) When moving to a different geographical location, customers can easily use Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) to bypass geo-blocking and regain access to their content on any streaming service.
- (C) Recent research has irrefutably proven that Blu-Ray discs have a shelf life of at least 100 years.
- (D) Studios and streaming services have committed to giving customers perpetual and platform independent access to the original digital content they have paid for.

**Correct Answer:** (D) Studios and streaming services have committed to giving customers perpetual and platform independent access to the original digital content they have paid for.

### Solution:

The passage highlights concerns about the control and access limitations in digital media, particularly through streaming services. It questions the durability and long-term reliability of both digital and physical media for preserving movies.

In this context, to invalidate the main argument—concern over the ephemerality and restricted access to digital content—any statement promising permanent and universal access to digital purchases would do so.

The correct choice is "**Studios and streaming services have committed to giving customers perpetual and platform independent access to the original digital content they have paid for.**"

This statement directly addresses and nullifies the concerns by promising permanent access without platform dependency, countering the argument that streaming serves to restrict rather than expand access.



1.4. Which of the following statements is suggested by the sentence “Back then, at least, cinema was defined by its ephemerality: the sense that a film was as good as gone once it left your local cinema”?

- (A) Cinema is now no longer as ephemeral as it used to be earlier, because the technology used for creating and preserving films has improved manifold.
- (B) Presently, there is no reason why film studios should remove access to films once they have left the local cinema.
- (C) Today, films are expected to be available for a long time, since they are no longer tied solely to their stay at the local cinema.
- (D) Around a century ago, people were more accepting of not having access to films once they left the local cinema.

**Correct Answer:** (C) Today, films are expected to be available for a long time, since they are no longer tied solely to their stay at the local cinema.

### **Solution:**

The solution to the given question lies in understanding the statement: "Back then, at least, cinema was defined by its ephemerality: the sense that a film was as good as gone once it left your local cinema." The keyword here is "ephemerality," implying that films were once temporary and fleeting.

Analyzing the options, we are searching for a statement that contrasts this historical view of cinema's temporary nature with the present state.

The correct option is: **Today, films are expected to be available for a long time, since they are no longer tied solely to their stay at the local cinema.** This statement suggests that in the modern context, films are not confined to their run in local cinemas and can be accessed in various formats over a longer period, thus lacking the ephemeral characteristics they once had.



2. Five jumbled up 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 and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.

(A) Urbanites also have more and better options for getting around: Uber is ubiquitous; easy-to-rent dockless bicycles are spreading; battery-powered scooters will be next.

(B) When more people use buses or trains the service usually improves because public-transport agencies run more buses and trains.

(C) Worsening services on public transport, terrorist attacks in some urban metros and a rise in fares have been blamed for this trend.

(D) It seems more likely that public transport is being squeezed structurally as people's need to travel is diminishing as a result of smartphones, video conferencing, online shopping and so on.

**Correct Answer:** (B) When more people use buses or trains the service usually improves because public-transport agencies run more buses and trains.

### **Solution:**

Identifying the coherent paragraph requires examining how each sentence relates to the topic of urban public transport trends. Let's analyze the sentences:

1. Urbanites also have more and better options for getting around: Uber is ubiquitous; easy-to-rent dockless bicycles are spreading; battery-powered scooters will be next.

2. When more people use buses or trains, the service usually improves because public-transport agencies run more buses and trains.

3. Worsening services on public transport, terrorist attacks in some urban metros, and a rise in fares have been blamed for this trend.

4. It seems more likely that public transport is being squeezed structurally as people's need to travel is diminishing as a result of smartphones, video conferencing, online shopping, and so on.

5. There has been a puzzling decline in the use of urban public transport in many countries in the west, despite the growth in urban populations and rising employment.

**Analysis:** Sentence 5 serves as an introduction to the phenomenon being discussed - the puzzling decline in urban public transport usage in the west. Sentence 3 elaborates on potential causes, such as worsening transport services and other factors contributing to the decline, directly aligning with the introductory observation. Sentence 4 continues the explanation by suggesting structural changes (like reduced need to travel due to technology) also contribute to the decline. Sentence 1 supports the idea that there are better alternatives in urban transportation contributing to the decline of public transport. However, Sentence 2 deviates from this narrative, discussing an unrelated concept where increased usage leads to better service, thus not coherently fitting into the paragraph discussing decline. Therefore, the odd sentence out is:

**When more people use buses or trains, the service usually improves because public-transport agencies run more buses and trains.**



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

. . . [T]he idea of craftsmanship is not simply nostalgic. . . . Crafts require distinct skills, an all round approach to work that involves the whole product, rather than individual parts, and an attitude that necessitates devotion to the job and a focus on the communal interest. The concept of craft emphasises the human touch and individual judgment.

Essentially, the crafts concept seems to run against the preponderant ethos of management studies which, as the academics note, have long prioritised efficiency and consistency. . . . Craft skills were portrayed as being primitive and traditionalist.

The contrast between artisanship and efficiency first came to the fore in the 19th century when British manufacturers suddenly faced competition from across the Atlantic as firms developed the “American system” using standardised parts. . . . the worldwide success of the Singer sewing machine showed the potential of a mass-produced device. This process created its own reaction, first in the form of the Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19th century, and then again in the “small is beautiful” movement of the 1970s. A third crafts movement is emerging as people become aware of the environmental impact of conventional industry.

There are two potential markets for those who practise crafts. The first stems from the existence of consumers who are willing to pay a premium price for goods that are deemed to be of extra quality. . . . The second market lies in those consumers who wish to use their purchases to support local workers, or to reduce their environmental impact by taking goods to craftspeople to be mended, or recycled.

For workers, the appeal of craftsmanship is that it allows them the autonomy to make creative choices, and thus makes a job far more satisfying. In that sense, it could offer hope for the overall labour market. Let the machines automate dull and repetitive tasks and let workers focus purely on their skills, judgment and imagination. As a current example, the

academics cite the “agile” manifesto in the software sector, an industry at the heart of technological change. The pioneers behind the original agile manifesto promised to prioritise “individuals and interactions over processes and tools”. By bringing together experts from different teams, agile working is designed to improve creativity.

But the broader question is whether crafts can create a lot more jobs than they do today. Demand for crafted products may rise but will it be easy to retrain workers in sectors that might get automated (such as truck drivers) to take advantage? In a world where products and services often have to pass through regulatory hoops, large companies will usually have the advantage.

History also suggests that the link between crafts and creativity is not automatic. Medieval craft guilds were monopolies which resisted new entrants. They were also highly hierarchical with young men required to spend long periods as apprentices and journeymen before they could set up on their own; by that time the innovative spirit may have been knocked out of them. Craft workers can thrive in the modern era, but only if they don't get too organised.

**Correct Answer:** —



**3.1.** The author questions the ability of crafts to create substantial employment opportunities presently because

- (A) the low scale of crafts production will not be able to absorb the mass of redundant labour.
- (B) regulatory requirements could make it difficult for small crafts outfits to compete.
- (C) workers made redundant by automation are unlikely to opt for crafts-related work.
- (D) crafts guilds tend to resist new entrants and are unlikely to accept large numbers of trainees.

**Correct Answer:** (B) regulatory requirements could make it difficult for small crafts outfits to compete.

### **Solution:**

The author's skepticism about the capability of crafts to provide significant employment opportunities in the current era centers on the challenges posed by regulatory requirements. These regulations can hinder the ability of small crafts outfits to compete effectively against larger companies.

According to the provided comprehension passage, crafts emphasize a hands-on approach, requiring unique skills and creativity, offering certain satisfactions and environmental benefits. However, the concern arises regarding whether crafts can generate a substantial number of jobs. While demand for crafted products may grow, retraining redundant workers poses a challenge.

Among the options, the correct answer is: **Regulatory requirements could make it difficult for small crafts outfits to compete.** This option aligns with the passage's implication that large companies often have the upper hand when navigating regulatory processes, creating barriers for smaller craft businesses aiming to scale up employment.

In summary, while crafts have potential appeal, especially in offering autonomy and satisfaction to workers, the broader question as to whether they can serve as a major employment solution is complicated by regulatory challenges that favor larger enterprises over smaller craft operations.



**3.2.** We can infer from the passage that medieval crafts guilds resembled mass production in that both

- (A) did not necessarily promote creativity.
- (B) did not always employ egalitarian production processes.
- (C) focused excessively on product quality.
- (D) discouraged innovation by restricting entry through strict rules.

**Correct Answer:** (A) did not necessarily promote creativity.

### **Solution:**

The passage explores the dichotomy between craftsmanship and mass production, highlighting key characteristics of both approaches. It elucidates how crafts are associated with skill, autonomy, and creativity, whereas mass production typically emphasizes efficiency and consistency. In the context of medieval crafts guilds, we understand that, while they embodied certain craft values, they also shared similarities with mass production in their resistance to innovation. The medieval guilds were hierarchical and monopolistic, which stifled creativity and innovation.

The question asks us to identify the similarity between medieval crafts guilds and mass production. The passage indicates that mass

production does not necessarily promote creativity due to its focus on efficiency and standardization. Similarly, medieval crafts guilds, by being monopolistic and hierarchical, also did not necessarily promote creativity or innovation. They imposed strict rules and a hierarchical structure that could suppress individual creativity. Therefore, the correct similarity inferred from the passage is:  
**did not necessarily promote creativity.**

3.3. The most recent revival in interest in the crafts is a result of the emergence of all of the following EXCEPT:

- (A) a greater interest in buying locally produced goods.
- (B) concerns about the environmental impact of mass production.
- (C) support for individual creations as opposed to mass-produced objects.
- (D) a niche market for discerning buyers of quality products.

**Correct Answer:** (C) support for individual creations as opposed to mass-produced objects.

### **Solution:**

The question requires finding an option that doesn't align with the recent revival interest in crafts. The passage mentions various reasons for this revival, including: an awareness of the environmental impact caused by conventional industries, existence of markets willing to pay extra for high-quality goods, support for local workers, and the broader appeal to workers due to creativity and job satisfaction. Let's analyze the options:

- a greater interest in buying locally produced goods: The passage states that one market for crafts stems from consumers who want

to support local workers, thus this aligns with the revival interest.

- concerns about the environmental impact of mass production: The passage clearly links the emerging crafts movement to environmental concerns, so this is aligned.
- support for individual creations as opposed to mass-produced objects: Although the passage discusses the significance of individual judgment in craftsmanship, it does not specifically present this as a reason for the recent revival.
- a niche market for discerning buyers of quality products: The passage mentions consumers paying a premium for high-quality goods, aligning with the revival interest.

Therefore, the correct answer is **support for individual creations as opposed to mass-produced objects**, as it's not directly mentioned as a reason for the recent interest in the crafts.



**3.4.** Which one of the following statements is NOT inconsistent with the views stated in the passage?

- (A) The Arts and Crafts movement was initially inspired by the “American system” of production.
- (B) We need to support the crafts; only then can we retain the creativity intrinsic to their production.
- (C) The agile movement in software is a throwback to the tenets of the medieval crafts guilds.
- (D) Creativity in the crafts could be stifled if the market for artisan goods becomes too organised.

**Correct Answer:** (D) Creativity in the crafts could be stifled if the market for artisan goods becomes too organised.

## Solution:

The given passage discusses the nature of craftsmanship and its contrast to mass production and efficiency-driven industry. To determine which statement is NOT inconsistent with the views stated in the passage, we analyze each option in the context of the passage's ideas:

- The passage explains that crafts contrast with the "American system" of production, which emphasizes standardization and mass production (*Option 1* is inconsistent).
- The passage emphasizes the value of creativity and autonomy in craftsmanship and the human touch, suggesting the importance of supporting crafts (*Option 2* is consistent but not the highlighted inconsistency).
- The passage references the agile movement as a modern example prioritizing creativity and individual interaction, not directly related to medieval crafts guilds (*Option 3* is inconsistent).
- The passage states that "craft workers can thrive in the modern era, but only if they don't get too organised" and warns about the hierarchical nature of medieval guilds inhibiting creativity (*Option 4* aligns with this cautionary note and is NOT inconsistent).

Therefore, the statement that is NOT inconsistent with the views in the passage is: **Creativity in the crafts could be stifled if the market for artisan goods becomes too organised.**



4. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries.

Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Scientific research shows that many animals are very intelligent and have sensory and motor abilities that dwarf ours. Dogs are able to detect diseases such as cancer and diabetes and warn humans of impending heart attacks and strokes. Elephants, whales, hippopotamuses, giraffes, and alligators use low-frequency sounds to communicate over long distances, often miles. Many animals also display wide-ranging emotions, including joy, happiness, empathy, compassion, grief, and even resentment and embarrassment. It's not surprising that animals share many emotions with us because we also share brain structures, located in the limbic system, that are the seat of our emotions.

- (A) Animals are more intelligent than us in sensing danger and detecting diseases.
- (B) The similarity in brain structure explains why animals show emotions typically associated with humans.
- (C) Animals can show emotions which are typically associated with humans.
- (D) The advanced sensory and motor abilities of animals is the reason why they can display wide-ranging emotions.

**Correct Answer:** (B) The similarity in brain structure explains why animals show emotions typically associated with humans.

**Solution:**

The passage discusses the intelligence and emotional capacity of animals, highlighting their sensory and motor abilities as well as their emotional range. It also draws a connection between these attributes and the shared brain structures found in the limbic system, which is

associated with emotions. Among the given options, the one that best captures the essence of the passage is:

The similarity in brain structure explains why animals show emotions typically associated with humans.

This option accurately reflects the passage's core idea that the shared brain structures are a reason for the emotional similarities between animals and humans.



5. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide where (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: Understanding central Asia's role helps developments make more sense not only across Asia but in Europe, the Americas and Africa.

Paragraph: The nations of the Silk Roads are sometimes called 'developing countries', but they are actually some of the world's most highly developed countries, the very crossroads of civilization, in advanced states of disrepair. \_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_. These countries lie at the centre of global affairs: they have since the beginning of history. Running across the spine of Asia, they form a web of connections fanning out in every direction, routes along which pilgrims and warriors, nomads and merchants have travelled, goods and produce have been bought and sold, and ideas exchanged, adapted and refined. \_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_. They have carried not only prosperity, but also death and violence, disease and disaster. \_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_. The Silk Roads are the world's central nervous system, connecting otherwise far-flung peoples and places.... \_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_. It allows us to see patterns and links, causes and effects that remain invisible if one looks only at Europe, or North America.

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

**Correct Answer:** (C) Option 4

### **Solution:**

The correct placement of the sentence in the paragraph is **Option 4**. Let's analyze the structure and context of the paragraph to understand why this placement is suitable:

- The opening of the paragraph discusses the misconception that Silk Road nations are simply "developing" countries.
- The paragraph then transitions to discuss the historical and global significance of these nations, illustrating their central role in connecting different parts of the world (Option 1).
- This is followed by a description of the routes as channels for diverse influences, both positive and negative (Option 2).
- Adding the sentence "Understanding central Asia's role helps developments make more sense not only across Asia but in Europe, the Americas and Africa." at **Option 4** emphasizes the broader impact of comprehending these nations' roles, contributing to a greater understanding of global patterns and interactions.
- The paragraph concludes by reinforcing the metaphor of the Silk Roads as a central nervous system, suggesting a deeper insight into global links and effects.

Thus, placing the sentence at Option 4 successfully connects the preceding description to a wider context, enhancing comprehension of

the Silk Roads' global relevance.



6. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries.

Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.

Cartographers design and create maps to communicate information about phenomena located somewhere on our planet. In the past, cartographers did not worry too much about who was going to read their maps. Although some simple “usability” research was done—like comparing whether circle or bar symbols worked best—cartographers knew how to make maps. This has changed now, however, due to all kinds of societal and technological developments. Today, map readers are more demanding—mostly because of the tools they use to read maps. Cartographers, who are also influenced by these trends, are now more interested in seeing if their products are efficient, effective, and appreciated.

(A) Today, cartographers also need to look into the usability of maps because of the new technological developments.

(B) New technological developments have prompted cartographers to experiment with their maps by applying these new innovations.

(C) Maps are being used for a variety of reasons and therefore map readers have become more demanding.

(D) Modern mapmakers evaluate a map’s effectiveness efficiency and satisfaction of the user through a series of experiments.

**Correct Answer:** (A) Today, cartographers also need to look into the usability of maps because of the new technological developments.

**Solution:**

The passage describes how technological and societal changes have influenced cartographers' approach to map-making. Previously, they focused more on the map's content rather than who would read it. Now, the demand for usability has increased along with advancements in technology, leading cartographers to pay more attention to how effectively their maps communicate information to the user. The summary that best captures this essence is: **Today, cartographers also need to look into the usability of maps because of the new technological developments.**



7. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide where (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: The brain isn't organized the way you might set up your home office or bathroom medicine cabinet.

Paragraph: \_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_. You can't just put things anywhere you want to. The evolved architecture of the brain is haphazard and disjointed, and incorporates multiple systems, each of which has a mind of its own.

\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_. Evolution doesn't design things and it doesn't build systems—it settles on systems that, historically, conveyed a survival benefit. There is no overarching, grand planner engineering the systems so that they work harmoniously together. \_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_. The brain is more like a big, old house with piecemeal renovations done on every floor, and less like new construction. \_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_.

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

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

**Solution:**

The sentence "The brain isn't organized the way you might set up your home office or bathroom medicine cabinet." fits best at the beginning of the paragraph. This placement introduces the topic discussed in the paragraph, setting the stage for the comparison of the brain's organization to an office or medicine cabinet. It contrasts with the organized, planned setup of a home office, setting the context for the paragraph's explanation of the brain's haphazard and evolutionary nature. Therefore, the sentence should be inserted at position 1, seamlessly integrating with the ideas that follow about the brain's evolved and disorganized architecture. Here is how it should be placed:

The brain isn't organized the way you might set up your home office or bathroom medicine cabinet. (1) You can't just put things anywhere you want to. The evolved architecture of the brain is haphazard and disjointed, and incorporates multiple systems, each of which has a mind of its own. (2) Evolution doesn't design things and it doesn't build systems—it settles on systems that, historically, conveyed a survival benefit. There is no overarching, grand planner engineering the systems so that they work harmoniously together. (3) The brain is more like a big, old house with piecemeal renovations done on every floor, and less like new construction. (4)



8. There is a sentence that is missing in the paragraph below. Look at the paragraph and decide where (option 1, 2, 3, or 4) the following sentence would best fit.

Sentence: Comprehending a wide range of emotions, Renaissance music nevertheless portrayed all emotions in a balanced and moderate fashion.

Paragraph: A volume of translated Italian madrigals were published in London during the year of 1588. This sudden public interest facilitated a surge of English Madrigal writing as well as a spurt of other secular music writing and publication. \_\_\_(1)\_\_. This music boom lasted for thirty years and was as much a golden age of music as British literature was with Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth I. \_\_\_(2)\_\_. The rebirth in both literature and music originated in Italy and migrated to England; the English madrigal became more humorous and lighter in England as compared to Italy. Renaissance music was mostly polyphonic in texture. \_\_\_(3)\_\_. Extreme use of and contrasts in dynamics, rhythm, and tone colour do not occur. \_\_\_(4)\_\_. The rhythms in Renaissance music tend to have a smooth, soft flow instead of a sharp, well-defined pulse of accents.

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

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

**Solution:**

To determine the best placement for the sentence, consider the context provided in the paragraph:

- The paragraph discusses the popularity and characteristics of Renaissance music, alongside its cultural significance in England,

particularly in comparison to Italy.

- The given sentence specifically describes the balanced and moderate portrayal of emotions in Renaissance music.
- The placement should logically complement the surrounding sentences.

An analysis of the paragraph shows:

- Option 1: Comes after a statement on the sudden public interest and creation of music, which does not directly connect to the portrayal of emotions.
- Option 2: The sentence regarding the cultural impact of music's golden age followed by its humorous nature in England does not align naturally with the description of emotional portrayal.
- Option 3: Follows the sentence about polyphonic texture, creating a flow into the topic of how emotions are presented in Renaissance music.
- Option 4: Discusses dynamics, rhythm, and tone, which are elements of music composition rather than emotional expression.

Thus, the sentence fits most logically in **Option 3**:

The paragraph then reads:

"A volume of translated Italian madrigals were published in London during the year of 1588. This sudden public interest facilitated a surge of English Madrigal writing as well as a spurt of other secular music writing and publication. This music boom lasted for thirty years and was as much a golden age of music as British literature was with Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth I. The rebirth in both literature and music originated in Italy and migrated to England; the English madrigal became more humorous and lighter in England as compared to Italy. Renaissance music was mostly polyphonic in texture.

**Comprehending a wide range of emotions, Renaissance music nevertheless portrayed all emotions in a balanced and moderate fashion.** Extreme use of and contrasts in dynamics, rhythm, and tone colour do not occur. The rhythms in Renaissance music tend to have a smooth, soft flow instead of a sharp, well-defined pulse of accents."



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

Oftentimes, when economists cross borders, they are less interested in learning from others than in invading their garden plots. Gary Becker, for instance, pioneered the idea of human capital. To do so, he famously tackled topics like crime and domesticity, applying methods honed in the study of markets to domains of nonmarket life. He projected economics outward into new realms: for example, by revealing the extent to which humans calculate marginal utilities when choosing their spouses or stealing from neighbors. At the same time, he did not let other ways of thinking enter his own economic realm: for example, he did not borrow from anthropology or history or let observations of nonmarket economics inform his homo economicus. Becker was a picture of the imperial economist in the heyday of the discipline's bravura. Times have changed for the once almighty discipline. Economics has been taken to task, within and beyond its ramparts. Some economists have reached out, imported, borrowed, and collaborated—been less imperial, more open. Consider Thomas Piketty and his outreach to historians. The booming field of behavioral economics—the fusion of economics and social psychology—is another case. Having spawned active subfields, like judgment, decision making and a turn to experimentation, the field aims to go beyond the caricature of Rational Man to explain how humans make decisions.... It is important to underscore how this flips the way we think about economics. For generations, economists have presumed that people have interests —“preferences,” in the neoclassical argot—that get revealed in the course of peoples' choices. Interests come before actions and determine them. If you are hungry, you buy lunch; if you are cold, you get a sweater. If you only have so much money and can't afford to deal with both your growling stomach and your shivering, which need you choose to meet using your scarce savings reveals your preference. Psychologists take one look at this simple formulation and shake their heads. Increasingly, even some

mainstream economists have to admit that homo economicus doesn't always behave like the textbook maximizer; irrational behavior can't simply be waved away as extra economic expressions of passions over interests, and thus the domain of other disciplines.... This is one place where the humanist can help the economist. If narrative economics is going to help us understand how rivals duke it out, who wins and who loses, we are going to need much more than lessons from epidemiological studies of viruses or intracranial stimuli. Above all, we need politics and institutions. Shiller [the Nobel prize winning economist] connects perceptions of narratives to changes in behavior and thence to social outcomes. He completes a circle that was key to behavioral economics and brings in storytelling to make sense of how perceptions get framed. This cycle (perception to behavior to society) was once mediated or dominated by institutions: the political parties, lobby groups, and media organizations that played a vital role in legitimating, representing, and excluding interests. Yet institutions have been stripped from Shiller's account, to reveal a bare dynamic of emotions and economics, without the intermediating place of politics.

**Correct Answer:** —



**9.1.** We can infer from the passage that the term "homo economicus" refers to someone who

- (A) believes in borrowing and collaborating with other disciplines in their work.
- (B) maximises their opportunities based on nonmarket choices.
- (C) makes rational decisions based on their own preferences.
- (D) is not influenced by the preferences and choices of others.

**Correct Answer:** (C) makes rational decisions based on their own preferences.

**Solution:**

The term "homo economicus" traditionally refers to a theoretical individual or agent who makes rational decisions based on personal preferences and utility maximization. In the provided passage, the concept of "*homo economicus*" is described in the context of Gary Becker's approach to economics, emphasizing rational decision-making and marginal utility calculations in nonmarket situations, without borrowing methodologies from other disciplines. The passage contrasts traditional economic models, which presume rational behavior, with newer approaches like behavioral economics that acknowledge deviations from rationality due to other factors such as emotion.

Given the context of the passage and the concept of "*homo economicus*," the correct answer is that "*homo economicus*" refers to someone who **makes rational decisions based on their own preferences.**



9.2. "Times have changed for the once almighty discipline." We can infer from this statement and the associated paragraph that the author is being

- (A) sarcastic about how economists, who earlier shunned other disciplines, are now beginning to incorporate them in their analyses.
- (B) critical of economists' openly borrowing and collaborating across disciplines to explain how humans make decisions.
- (C) disparaging of economists' inability to precisely predict market behaviour, and are now borrowing from other disciplines to remedy this.
- (D) judgemental about the ability of economic tools to accurately manage crises leading to the downfall of this lofty science.

**Correct Answer:** (A) sarcastic about how economists, who earlier shunned other disciplines, are now beginning to incorporate them in their analyses.

### **Solution:**

The statement "Times have changed for the once almighty discipline" suggests a shift in the status and approach of economics as a discipline. To understand the author's tone, let's examine the provided comprehension. Historically, economists, represented by figures like Gary Becker, extended economics into non-market areas without integrating insights from other disciplines. However, the passage discusses recent changes, highlighting a collaborative turn in economics where economists are now incorporating insights from disciplines like history and psychology to explain human behavior more comprehensively.

The author references the emergence of behavioral economics as an example of this shift: economists now recognize that traditional economic models based on rational decision-making do not capture all human behavior. They integrate insights from fields that consider emotional and psychological factors, reflecting a more open and interdisciplinary approach.

The statement about "times have changed" implies surprise or irony about economists' newfound willingness to borrow from other disciplines, a contrast to their previous "imperial" stance of extending economics into other fields without reciprocity.

Therefore, the author's tone is best captured by the option: "sarcastic about how economists, who earlier shunned other disciplines, are now beginning to incorporate them in their analyses."



**9.3.** In the first paragraph the author is making the point that economists like Becker

- (A) benefitted from the application of their principles and concepts to non-economic phenomena.
- (B) used economics to analyse non-market behaviour, without incorporating perspectives from other areas of inquiry.
- (C) tended to guard their discipline from poaching by academics from other subject areas.
- (D) had begun to borrow concepts from other disciplines but were averse to the latter applying economic principles.

**Correct Answer:** (B) used economics to analyse non-market behaviour, without incorporating perspectives from other areas of inquiry.

**Solution:**

In the first paragraph of the comprehension passage, the author describes the attitude of economists like Gary Becker towards applying economic principles. The author suggests that Becker, and similar economists of his time, would apply economic methods to non-economic phenomena such as crime and domesticity. They extended these methods typically used in market analysis to non-market life,

such as how individuals calculate marginal utilities in personal choices. However, Becker did not incorporate insights or perspectives from other disciplines like anthropology or history into his economic analyses. This indicates a one-sided application of economics without integrating ideas from other areas of inquiry.

Therefore, the correct option is: **used economics to analyse non-market behaviour, without incorporating perspectives from other areas of inquiry.**



**9.4.** The author critiques Schiller's approach to behavioural economics for

- (A) linking emotions and rational behaviour without considering the mediation of social institutions.
- (B) denigrating the role of institutions while creating a link between behavioural economics and perceptions.
- (C) relying excessively on storytelling as the main influence on the formation of perceptions.
- (D) ignoring the marginal role that media and politics play in influencing people's behaviour.

**Correct Answer:** (A) linking emotions and rational behaviour without considering the mediation of social institutions.

### **Solution:**

The question requires identifying the critique against Schiller's approach to behavioral economics as described in the given passage.

The correct answer is: **linking emotions and rational behavior without considering the mediation of social institutions.**

Let's break down the reasoning:

1. The passage discusses how behavioral economics is a fusion of economics and social psychology, focusing on how humans make decisions beyond the classic Rational Man model.
2. Schiller's approach involves connecting perceptions and narratives to changes in behavior, leading to social outcomes, incorporating storytelling as a tool for understanding how perceptions are framed.
3. The key critique mentioned in the passage is Schiller's neglect of political and institutional factors. It states: "Yet institutions have been stripped from Schiller's account, to reveal a bare dynamic of emotions and economics, without the intermediating place of politics."
4. This critique highlights that Schiller's model directly links emotions and behavior without acknowledging the intermediary role played by political institutions and social structures, which have traditionally mediated this relationship.

Therefore, the answer highlighting this flaw is: **linking emotions and rational behavior without considering the mediation of social institutions.**



**10.** Five jumbled up 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 and key in the number of that sentence as your answer.

- (A) Animals have an interest in fulfilling their basic needs, but also in avoiding suffering, and thus we ought to extend moral consideration.
- (B) Singer viewed himself as a utilitarian, and presents a direct moral theory concerning animal rights, in contrast to indirect positions, such as welfarist views.
- (C) He argued for extending moral consideration to animals because, similar to humans, animals have certain significant interests.
- (D) The event that publicly announced animal rights as a legitimate issue within contemporary philosophy was Peter Singer's Animal Liberation text in 1975.

**Correct Answer:** (D) The event that publicly announced animal rights as a legitimate issue within contemporary philosophy was Peter Singer's Animal Liberation text in 1975.

### Solution:

To determine which sentence does not fit in a coherent paragraph, we examine the logical flow and content of each sentence:

#### 1. Sentence Analysis:

- **Sentence 1:** "Animals have an interest in fulfilling their basic needs, but also in avoiding suffering, and thus we ought to extend moral consideration."
- **Sentence 2:** "Singer viewed himself as a utilitarian, and presents a direct moral theory concerning animal rights, in contrast to indirect positions, such as welfarist views."
- **Sentence 3:** "He argued for extending moral consideration to animals because, similar to humans, animals have certain significant interests."
- **Sentence 4:** "The event that publicly announced animal rights as a legitimate issue within contemporary philosophy was Peter

Singer's Animal Liberation text in 1975."

- **Sentence 5:** "As such, we ought to view their interests alongside and equal to human interests, which results in humans having direct moral duties towards animals."

## **2. Logical Sequence:**

Examining the sentences, Sentences 1, 3, and 5 discuss moral consideration for animals and align with the views of animals' interests and human responsibilities. Sentence 2 gives context to Singer's utilitarian views on animal rights, which further supports the discussion. However, Sentence 4 purely describes the historical context of Singer's work being a groundbreaking text in the philosophy of animal rights.

## **3. Conclusion:**

Sentence 4 is focused on the historical significance rather than the thematic development of the argument presented in the other sentences. Thus, Sentence 4 is the odd one out and does not fit well within the coherent paragraph focused on the moral arguments concerning animal rights.



**11.** The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage. Certain codes may, of course, be so widely distributed in a specific language community or culture, and be learned at so early an age, that they appear not to be constructed – the effect of an articulation between sign and referent – but to be ‘naturally’ given. Simple visual signs appear to have achieved a ‘near-universality’ in this sense: though evidence remains that even apparently ‘natural’ visual codes are culture specific. However, this does not mean that no codes have intervened; rather, that the codes have been profoundly naturalized. The operation of naturalized codes reveals not the transparency and ‘naturalness’ of language but the depth, the habituation and the near-universality of the codes in use. They produce apparently ‘natural’ recognitions. This has the (ideological) effect of concealing the practices of coding which are present.

- (A) All codes, linguistic and visual, have a natural origin but some are so widespread that they become universal. This is what hides the mechanism of coding behind signs.
- (B) Not all codes are natural but certain codes are naturalized and made to appear universal. Ideology aims to hide the mechanism of coding behind signs.
- (C) Learning linguistic and visual signs at an early age makes all such codes appear natural. This naturalization of codes is the effect of ideology.
- (D) Language and visual signs are codes. However, some of the codes are so widespread that they not only seem naturally given but also hide the mechanism of coding behind the signs.

**Correct Answer:** (D) Language and visual signs are codes. However, some of the codes are so widespread that they not only seem naturally given but also hide the mechanism of coding behind the signs.

## Solution:

The passage explores the phenomenon of codes within linguistic and visual systems. It argues that while many codes might appear inherent or 'naturally' given within a culture, this perception is actually the result of certain codes becoming deeply integrated or 'naturalized'. This naturalization is so profound that it makes the underlying practices of coding seem invisible, causing people to perceive them as universal truth. However, this perception obscures the cultural and ideological processes involved in coding. The key point is the difference between codes that are truly natural and those that have been made to appear so through widespread use and early learning, thus concealing the coding mechanisms.

### Option

### Explanation

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | This option incorrectly suggests all codes have a natural origin, whereas the passage talks about some codes being perceived as natural due to their extensive use. |
| 2 | Focuses on ideology and some codes being naturalized, but the passage's emphasis is on the deep integration of codes making them seem natural.                      |
| 3 | Highlights learning at an early age; however, it misconstrues the passage's main point about the universal appearance of certain codes.                             |
| 4 | <b>Correct.</b> Accurately captures how some codes are so widespread that they appear natural and obscure the coding process.                                       |

Thus, **Option 4** is the most accurate summary as it encapsulates the essence of how both linguistic and visual signs, when widely accepted, seem naturally given while concealing their constructed nature.



## 12. Comprehension:

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

Landing in Australia, the British colonists weren't much impressed with the small-bodied, slender-snouted marsupials called bandicoots. "Their muzzle, which is much too long, gives them an air exceedingly stupid," one naturalist noted in 1805. They nicknamed one type the "zebra rat" because of its black-striped rump.

Silly-looking or not, though, the zebra rat—the smallest bandicoot, more commonly known today as the western barred bandicoot—exhibited a genius for survival in the harsh outback, where its ancestors had persisted for some 26 million years. Its births were triggered by rainfall in the bone-dry desert. It carried its breath-mint-size babies in a backward-facing pouch so mothers could forage for food and dig shallow, camouflaged shelters.

Still, these adaptations did not prepare the western barred bandicoot for the colonial-era transformation of its ecosystem, particularly the onslaught of imported British animals, from cattle and rabbits that damaged delicate desert vegetation to ravenous house cats that soon developed a taste for bandicoots. Several of the dozen-odd bandicoot species went extinct, and by the 1940s the western barred bandicoot, whose original range stretched across much of the continent, persisted only on two predator-free islands in Shark Bay, off Australia's western coast.

"Our isolated fauna had simply not been exposed to these predators," says Reece Pedler, an ecologist with the Wild Deserts conservation program. Now Wild Deserts is using descendants of those few thousand island survivors, called Shark Bay bandicoots, in a new effort to seed a mainland bandicoot revival. They've imported 20 bandicoots to a preserve on the edge of the Strzelecki Desert, in the remote interior of New South Wales. This sanctuary is a challenging place, desolate much of the year, with one of the world's most mercurial rainfall patterns—relentless droughts

followed by sudden drenching floods.

The imported bandicoots occupy two fenced “exclosures,” cleared of invasive rabbits (courtesy of Pedler’s sheepdog) and of feral cats (which slunk off once the rabbits disappeared). A third fenced area contains the program’s Wild Training Zone, where two other rare marsupials (bilbies, a larger type of bandicoot, and mulgaras, a somewhat fearsome fuzzi-ball known for sucking the brains out of prey) currently share terrain with controlled numbers of cats, learning to evade them. It’s unclear whether the Shark Bay bandicoots, which are perhaps even more predator-naïve than their now-extinct mainland bandicoot kin, will be able to make that kind of breakthrough.

For now, though, a recent surge of rainfall has led to a bandicoot joey boom, raising the Wild Deserts population to about 100, with other sanctuaries adding to that number. There are also signs of rebirth in the landscape itself. With their constant digging, the bandicoots trap moisture and allow for seed germination so the cattle-damaged desert can restore itself.

They have a new nickname—a flattering one, this time. “We call them ecosystem engineers,” Pedler says.

**Correct Answer:** —

---

**12.1.** Which one of the following options does NOT represent the characteristics of the western barred bandicoot?

(A) Long thin nose, black striped back, pouch for joeys

(B) Shallow diggers having an elongated muzzle

(C)

Smallest black striped marsupial that uses camouflage and dig

(D)

Look of a rat but with a baby pouch and a slender snout

**Correct Answer:** (C)

Smallest black striped marsupial that uses camouflage and dig

### **Solution:**

The correct answer to the question about the characteristics of the western barred bandicoot is the option that states it is the “*Smallest black striped marsupial that uses camouflage and dig.*” This does not represent the characteristics of the western barred bandicoot because:

- The passage describes the western barred bandicoot as being nicknamed the “zebra rat” due to its black-striped rump, but it does not state it is the smallest black-striped marsupial.
- The passage mentions that western barred bandicoots use camouflage by digging shallow shelters to protect themselves and their young from predators, but it focuses more on the challenges they face due to the introduction of foreign animals and does not emphasize them as being specifically small marsupials that use camouflage.
- Other characteristics more fitting to the description in the passage include their survival abilities in harsh environments, the use of a backward-facing pouch for their young, and their impact as

“ecosystem engineers” due to their digging habits which renew the landscape.



**12.2.** The text uses the word ‘exclosures’ because Wild Deserts has adopted a measure of

- (A) restoring cattle damaged deserts to green landscapes.
- (B) excluding animals to make the islands predator-free.
- (C)

barring the entry of invasive species.

(D)

ridding the main desert of feral cats and large bilbies.

**Correct Answer:** (C)

barring the entry of invasive species.

**Solution:**

The passage discusses how Wild Deserts is working to reintroduce the western barred bandicoot to mainland Australia using fenced areas called "exclosures." These exclosures are crucial because they are specifically designed to exclude invasive species that threaten native wildlife. The text highlights the problem caused by imported British animals like rabbits and cats, which have disrupted the ecosystem and pushed some bandicoot species to extinction. By barring the entry of such invasive species, Wild Deserts aims to create a safe environment for the bandicoots to thrive and multiply. Consequently, the correct answer is:

**barring the entry of invasive species.**

---

**12.3.** Which one of the following statements provides a gist of this passage?

- (A) The onslaught of animals, such as cattle, rabbits and housecats, brought in by the British led to the extinction of the western barred bandicoot
- (B) The negligent attitude of the British colonists towards these bandicoots evidenced by the names given to them led to their annihilation.
- (C) A type of bandicoots was nearly wiped out by invasive species but rescuers now pin hopes on a remnant island population.
- (D) Marsupials are going extinct due to the colonial era transformation of the ecosystem which also destroyed natural vegetation.

**Correct Answer:** (C) A type of bandicoots was nearly wiped out by invasive species but rescuers now pin hopes on a remnant island population.

**Solution:**

The comprehension passage discusses the impact of British colonization on the western barred bandicoot population in Australia. It details how these small marsupials, initially regarded as silly-looking by the British, were vulnerable to invasive species introduced by the colonists, leading to their near-extinction. The passage highlights efforts by the Wild Deserts conservation program to revive the bandicoot population using descendants from a predator-free island. The correct statement that encapsulates the passage is: **"A type of bandicoots was nearly wiped out by invasive species but rescuers now pin hopes on a remnant island population."** This option precisely summarizes the key themes: the impact of invasive species

on the bandicoots and current conservation efforts leveraging a surviving island population to boost their numbers.



**12.4.** According to the text, the western barred bandicoots now have a flattering name because they have

(A)

aided in altering an arid environment.

(B) led a revival in preserving the species.

(C)

led to a surge and increase of rainfall.

(D)

grown fivefold in terms of population.

**Correct Answer:** (A)

aided in altering an arid environment.

**Solution:**

The passage describes the historical context and recent conservation efforts surrounding the western barred bandicoots in Australia. Initially dismissed and humorously named by British colonists as "zebra rats," these marsupials showed remarkable survival skills in Australia's harsh environment. However, they were not prepared for the changes brought by colonial-era introductions of non-native species, leading to many bandicoot species' extinction and the western barred bandicoot remaining only on predator-free islands. The conservation program, Wild Deserts, is now working to reintroduce bandicoots to the mainland by creating secure environments for them, free from predators like feral cats and invasive species like rabbits.

Pedler's efforts have not only increased the number of bandicoots but also positively impacted the ecology of their environment. The bandicoots' digging activities have been crucial in trapping moisture and promoting seed germination, helping restore the damaged desert landscape. Thus, their adaptive environmental impacts have earned them the new, complimentary nickname "ecosystem engineers." This directly answers why western barred bandicoots have a flattering name: **aided in altering an arid environment.**