

## General Instructions

- (i) This booklet contains 27 questions, each provided with a complete, step-by-step solution.
- (ii) It comprises 23 single-correct multiple-choice questions.
- (iii) Attempt each question on your own before reviewing the given solution.

1. 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) To create a synapse, the neuron has specialized structures, often seen as tiny swellings, at its terminal end of the axon where it stores the chemicals that are emitted to transmit a signal to the next neuron.
- (B) This fetal warm-up act—the soldering of neural connections before the eyes actually function—is crucial to the performance of the visual system.
- (C) The reasons for this paring back of synapses is a mystery, but synaptic pruning is thought to sharpen and reinforce the “correct” synapses, while removing the weak and unnecessary ones.
- (D) Neural connections between the eyes and the brain are formed long before birth, establishing the wiring and the circuitry that allow a child to begin visualizing the world the minute she emerges from the womb.

**Correct Answer:** (A) To create a synapse, the neuron has specialized structures, often seen as tiny swellings, at its terminal end of the axon where it stores the chemicals that are emitted to transmit a signal to the next neuron.

### **Solution:**

The sentences provided revolve around the theme of neural development and synaptic activity. To identify which sentence does not belong, we evaluate how each sentence contributes to a coherent narrative:

- Sentence 1 discusses neural synapses and their specialized structures.
- Sentence 2 refers to prenatal neural development and visual system preparation.
- Sentence 3 talks about synaptic pruning, a natural process in neural development.
- Sentence 4 concerns the formation of neural connections between the eyes and brain before birth.
- Sentence 5 elaborates on synapses being generated in excess and later pruned.

Sentences 2, 3, 4, and 5 collectively focus on fetal development, synaptic overproduction, and pruning as part of the visual system's maturation process. Sentence 1, however, shifts the focus to the physical structure of synapses without relating to the theme of neural development and visual system priming in early life. Therefore, the odd sentence is:

**To create a synapse, the neuron has specialized structures, often seen as tiny swellings, at its terminal end of the axon where it**

stores the chemicals that are emitted to transmit a signal to the next neuron.



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

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

When the tradwife puts on that georgic, pinstriped dress, she is not just admiring the visual cues of a fantastical past. She takes these dreams of storybook bliss literally, tracing them backward in time until she reaches a logical conclusion that satisfies her. And by doing so, she ends up delivering an unhappy reminder of just how much our lives consist of artifice and playacting. The tradwife outrages people because of her deliberately regressive ideals. And yet her behaviour is, on some level, indistinguishable from the nontradwife's. The tradwife's trollish genius is to beat us at our own dress-up game. By insisting that the idyllic cottage daydream should be real, right down to the primitive gender roles, she leaves others feeling hollow, cheated. The hullabaloo and headaches she causes may be the price we pay for taking too many things at face value: our just deserts, served Instagram-perfect by a manicured hand on a gorgeous ceramic dish, with fat, mouthwatering maraschino cherries on top.

- (A) By promoting an idealized past, the tradwife exposes the artifice of contemporary values and mocks societal norms.
- (B) The tradwife, with her vintage dress and traditional roles, highlights the superficiality of modern life and challenges current societal norms.
- (C) The tradwife's commitment to outdated gender roles and retro fashion critiques the superficiality of today's societal ideals.
- (D) The tradwife's vintage dress and adherence to traditional roles reveal the artificial nature of modern life and its superficial values.

**Correct Answer:** (B) The tradwife, with her vintage dress and traditional roles, highlights the superficiality of modern life and challenges current societal norms.

**Solution:**

The passage describes the concept of a "tradwife," who embodies an idealized past by donning vintage dresses and conforming to traditional gender roles. This behavior serves as a critique of modern life, revealing it as superficial and artificial. The tradwife's actions outrun contemporary norms by highlighting the inconsistencies and shallowness of these norms through her retro appearance and outdated ideals. Among the provided summary options, the best choice is: *The tradwife, with her vintage dress and traditional roles, highlights the superficiality of modern life and challenges current societal norms.* This captures the essence of the passage by acknowledging the tradwife's role in exposing modern artifice and questioning prevailing societal values.

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

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

Humans have managed to tweak the underlying biology of various plants and animals to produce high-tech crops and microbes. But regulating these entities is complicated, as the framework of policies and procedures are outdated and not flexible enough to adapt to emerging technology. The question is whether regulation will ever be able to keep up with human innovation, to regulate living things, which are apt to be unpredictable and unique; to capture all the potential risks when new biological entities are introduced, or when they pass on variations of their genes?

- (A) Current regulation of biotechnology is outdated, but it is debatable if we can create a framework, imaginative and flexible, to cover all contingencies in this fast-changing area.
- (B) The mercurial nature of biological entities calls for scientists to shape the regulations governing emerging technology, with regular calibration to handle variations in the field.
- (C) The problem with formulating regulation for innovation in the scientific arena is that it is impossible to imagine the outcomes or risks related to the outcomes of all the research.
- (D) A new framework of rules and procedures for regulating the most recent research emerging from biotechnology is urgently needed, to keep up with this rapidly changing discipline.

**Correct Answer:** (A) Current regulation of biotechnology is outdated, but it is debatable if we can create a framework, imaginative and flexible, to cover all contingencies in this fast-changing area.

### **Solution:**

The passage discusses the advancement in biotechnology and the associated challenges in regulating these innovations. It emphasizes that while humans have made significant strides in altering the biology of plants and animals, the regulatory frameworks in place are insufficiently modernized to address the complexities introduced by new technologies. The passage questions if regulation can ever adequately match the pace of human innovation, given the unpredictability and individuality of living organisms and the potential risks when introducing new biological entities or genetic variations. The answer options present different perspectives on this issue. The correct summary must encapsulate the essence of the passage, highlighting the outdated nature of current regulations and the

challenges in creating a regulatory system that is both innovative and flexible, suitable to address the fast-paced developments in biotechnology.

The best summary is: **Current regulation of biotechnology is outdated, but it is debatable if we can create a framework, imaginative and flexible, to cover all contingencies in this fast-changing area.** This option aligns well with the key points of the passage, acknowledging the outdated regulation and posing a challenge on creating a new adaptable framework that can keep up with biotechnology innovations.



4. 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) Part of the appeal of forecasting is not just that it seems to work, but that you don't seem to need specialized expertise to succeed at it.
- (B) The tight connection between forecasting and building a model of the world helps explain why so much of the early interest in the idea came from the intelligence community.
- (C) This was true even though the latter had access to classified intelligence.
- (D) One frequently cited study found that accurate forecasters' predictions of geopolitical events, when aggregated using standard scientific methods, were more accurate than the forecasts of members of the US intelligence community who answered the same questions in a confidential prediction market.

**Correct Answer:** (B) The tight connection between forecasting and building a model of the world helps explain why so much of the early interest in the idea came from the intelligence community.

### **Solution:**

The challenge here is to identify the sentence that does not cohesively integrate into a logical paragraph when combined with the others. To do this, we evaluate thematic consistency and logical flow among the given sentences.

1. Part of the appeal of forecasting is not just that it seems to work, but that you don't seem to need specialized expertise to succeed at it.
2. The tight connection between forecasting and building a model of the world helps explain why so much of the early interest in the idea came from the intelligence community.
3. This was true even though the latter had access to classified intelligence.
4. One frequently cited study found that accurate forecasters' predictions of geopolitical events, when aggregated using standard scientific methods, were more accurate than the forecasts of members of the US intelligence community who answered the same questions in a confidential prediction market.
5. The aggregated opinions of non-experts doing forecasting have proven to be a better guide to the future than the aggregated opinions of experts.

The key topic of discussion seems to be about forecasting, focusing on its effectiveness and how non-experts can sometimes outperform experts, specifically in intelligence predictions.

Upon analysis:

1 - Addresses the appeal of forecasting due to its effectiveness and the non-necessity of expertise.

3 - Supports the theme by indicating this realization despite available intelligence.

4 - Presents a study comparing non-experts and experts, directly related to forecasting accuracy.

5 - Reinforces the finding that non-experts may outperform experts, tying back to the core topic.

2 - Focuses on the link between forecasting and intelligence interest, which although related, does not precisely contribute to the theme of non-experts outperforming experts in forecasting.

Thus, the correct odd sentence is sentence 2 as it deviates from the primary focus. Therefore, the answer is:

The tight connection between forecasting and building a model of the world helps explain why so much of the early interest in the idea came from the intelligence community.



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: Taken outside the village of Trang Bang on June 8, 1972, the picture captured the trauma and indiscriminate violence of a conflict that claimed, by some estimates, a million or more civilian lives.

Paragraph: The horrifying photograph of children fleeing a deadly napalm attack has become a defining image not only of the Vietnam War but the 20th century. Dark smoke billowing behind them, the young subjects' faces are painted with a mixture of terror, pain and confusion. (2) Soldiers from the South Vietnamese army's 25th Division follow helplessly behind. (3) The picture was officially titled "The Terror of War," but the photo is better known by the nickname given to naked 9-year-old at its centre "Napalm Girl". (4)

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

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

**Solution:**

The sentence in question provides specific historical context and details about the photograph mentioned in the paragraph. To determine the best fit for this sentence, we should examine the logical flow and content of the paragraph:

- The first part of the paragraph introduces the photograph as a defining image of the Vietnam War.

- The second part describes the expressions on the children's faces and the situation immediately after the napalm attack with soldiers following behind.
- Option 3 currently introduces the title and nickname of the photograph without detailed context.
- The final part does not contain additional context.

To ensure a coherent flow, the detailed sentence mentioning the date, location, and the photograph's significance would logically be placed where it serves as an informative transition between the description of the scene and the introduction of the title. Therefore, inserting the sentence at Option 3 would provide the necessary background before discussing the title and nickname of the photograph. Thus, the correct placement is Option 3.



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

Fears of artificial intelligence (AI) have haunted humanity since the very beginning of the computer age. Hitherto these fears focused on machines using physical means to kill, enslave or replace people. But over the past couple of years new AI tools have emerged that threaten the survival of human civilisation from an unexpected direction. AI has gained some remarkable abilities to manipulate and generate language, whether with words, sounds or images. AI has thereby hacked the operating system of our civilisation.

Language is the stuff almost all human culture is made of. Human rights, for example, aren't inscribed in our DNA. Rather, they are cultural artefacts we created by telling stories and writing laws. Gods aren't physical realities. Rather, they are cultural artefacts we created by inventing myths and writing scriptures....What would happen once a non-human intelligence becomes better than the average human at telling stories, composing melodies, drawing images, and writing laws and scriptures? When people think about Chatgpt and other new AI tools, they are often drawn to examples like school children using AI to write their essays. What will happen to the school system when kids do that? But this kind of question misses the big picture. Forget about school essays. Think of the next American presidential race in 2024, and try to imagine the impact of AI tools that can be made to mass-produce political content, fake-news stories and scriptures for new cults...

Through its mastery of language, AI could even form intimate relationships with people, and use the power of intimacy to change our opinions and worldviews. Although there is no indication that AI has any consciousness or feelings of its own, to foster fake intimacy with humans it is enough if the AI can make them feel emotionally attached to it....

What will happen to the course of history when AI takes over culture, and begins producing stories, melodies, laws and religions? Previous tools like

the printing press and radio helped spread the cultural ideas of humans, but they never created new cultural ideas of their own. AI is fundamentally different. AI can create completely new ideas, completely new culture.... Of course, the new power of AI could be used for good purposes as well. I won't dwell on this, because the people who develop AI talk about it enough....

We can still regulate the new AI tools, but we must act quickly. Whereas nukes cannot invent more powerful nukes, AI can make exponentially more powerful AI.... Unregulated AI deployments would create social chaos, which would benefit autocrats and ruin democracies. Democracy is a conversation, and conversations rely on language. When AI hacks language, it could destroy our ability to have meaningful conversations, thereby destroying democracy....And the first regulation I would suggest is to make it mandatory for AI to disclose that it is an AI. If I am having a conversation with someone, and I cannot tell whether it is a human or an AI—that's the end of democracy. This text has been generated by a human. Or has it?

**Correct Answer:** —

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**6.1.** We can infer that the author is most likely to agree with which of the following statements?

- (A) One of the biggest casualties from the spread of unregulated AI is likely to be the democratic process.
- (B) Apart from its drawbacks, AI tools have been beneficial in boosting technological and industrial advance worldwide.
- (C) The commonly expressed fear that future AI developments will fatally harm humans is unfounded.
- (D) People's fears of the dangers of students using ChatGPT and other new AI tools are unfounded.

**Correct Answer:** (A) One of the biggest casualties from the spread of unregulated AI is likely to be the democratic process.

### **Solution:**

The comprehension passage reveals the author's concerns about the impact of unregulated Artificial Intelligence (AI), primarily focusing on its potential to influence language and communication significantly. These are the clues we get from the passage:

- The author indicates fears of AI's manipulation of language, which is integral to human culture, possibly leading to severe societal changes.
- There is an explicit emphasis on AI's potential to generate political content, fake news, and influence democracy negatively by disrupting meaningful conversations.
- The passage discusses how AI could be exploited by autocrats, thereby damaging democratic processes.
- Furthermore, it warns about advances of AI in cultures and ideas, contributing to social chaos if unregulated.
- The author mentions the necessity for AI regulation specifically to safeguard democracy.

Given these points, the statement the author would most likely agree with is: **One of the biggest casualties from the spread of unregulated AI is likely to be the democratic process.** This aligns with his concerns about AI's influence and the danger it poses to democratic dialogues and operations.



6.2. The tone of the passage could best be described as

- (A) alarmist, because the passage discusses scenarios of the influence of new AI tools on language and human emotions.
- (B) cautionary, because the author lays out some adverse effects of the proliferation of unregulated AI tools.
- (C) prescient, as the author analyses the future impact of the use of new AI tools on crucial areas of our society and culture.
- (D) quizzical, as the passage poses several questions, concluding with the question of whether or not the passage content has been generated by AI.

**Correct Answer:** (B) cautionary, because the author lays out some adverse effects of the proliferation of unregulated AI tools.

**Solution:**

The tone of the passage is best described as **cautionary**. The author outlines several potential negative consequences resulting from the unregulated proliferation of AI tools. Throughout the passage, the focus is on the threats these tools pose to human civilization, particularly in the manipulation of language and its implications for culture, politics, and democracy. The author's language suggests a need for regulation to prevent these adverse outcomes, thereby aligning with a cautionary tone rather than prescient, alarmist, or quizzical tones. This aligns with the option stating: "*cautionary*,

*because the author lays out some adverse effects of the proliferation of unregulated AI tools."*



**6.3.** The author terms language “the operating system of our civilization” for all the following reasons EXCEPT that it

- (A) has laid the foundation for the creation of cultural artefacts through writing and telling of stories.
- (B) is the basis of AI tools like ChatGPT which can be used to generate academic content and opinion.
- (C) can influence political views and opinions as it engenders close emotional ties among people.
- (D) is fundamental to the articulation and spread of human values and culture in our society.

**Correct Answer:** (B) is the basis of AI tools like ChatGPT which can be used to generate academic content and opinion.

### **Solution:**

In order to address the question about why the author considers language as “the operating system of our civilization,” we need to analyze the given options in the context of the provided comprehension passage. The passage highlights various roles of language, focusing on the intrinsic value of language in shaping culture, human rights, and politics, and the societal impact AI can have when interfacing with language.

Let's examine each option:

1. Language has laid the foundation for the creation of cultural artefacts through writing and telling of stories.

The passage supports this by stating that human rights and gods are cultural artefacts created through stories and writing.

2. Language is the basis of AI tools like ChatGPT which can be used to generate academic content and opinion.

This option refers specifically to AI tools, which the passage acknowledges but does not present as a reason why language is the operating system of civilization.

3. Language can influence political views and opinions as it engenders close emotional ties among people.

The passage discusses AI's ability to impact political opinions and create fake intimacy with humans through language.

4. Language is fundamental to the articulation and spread of human values and culture in our society.

The passage highlights language's role in spreading cultural ideas and values, comparing AI's potential impact to tools like the printing press and radio.

Based on this breakdown, the correct answer to why language is NOT considered the operating system of civilization is option two, as it mainly highlights the development of an AI tool like ChatGPT, which is a derivative aspect rather than a foundational reason.



**6.4.** The author identifies all of the following as dire outcomes of the capture of language by AI EXCEPT that it could

(A) eventually subvert democratic processes through the mass creation and spread of fake political content and news.

(B) apply its mastery of language to create strong emotional ties which could exacerbate the polarization of political views.

(C) spawn a completely new culture through its ability to create new ideas and opinions.

(D) out-strip human creativity and endeavours in the spheres such as art and music and, in the formulation of laws.

**Correct Answer:** (B) apply its mastery of language to create strong emotional ties which could exacerbate the polarization of political views.

### **Solution:**

Based on the provided passage, the author discusses various negative outcomes of AI capturing language, which include:

- Subverting democratic processes by spreading fake political content and news.
- Spawning new cultural ideas through creativity that surpasses human efforts.
- Threatening democracy by making it hard to distinguish between AI-generated and human-generated content.

However, the author does not explicitly mention the negative impact of AI utilizing its language capabilities to create emotional ties that could exacerbate political polarization. The focus is more on the broader implications of AI manipulating language to affect cultural and democratic structures.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

apply its mastery of language to create strong emotional ties which could exacerbate the polarization of political views.



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

There is a group in the space community who view the solar system not as an opportunity to expand human potential but as a nature preserve, forever the provenance of an elite group of scientists and their sanitary robotic probes. These planetary protection advocates [call] for avoiding “harmful contamination” of celestial bodies. Under this regime, NASA incurs great expense sterilizing robotic probes in order to prevent the contamination of entirely theoretical biospheres. . . .

Transporting bacteria would matter if Mars were the vital world once imagined by astronomers who mistook optical illusions for canals. Nobody wants to expose Martians to measles, but sadly, robotic exploration reveals a bleak, rusted landscape, lacking oxygen and flooded with radiation ready to sterilize any Earthly microbes. Simple life might exist underground, or down at the bottom of a deep canyon, but it has been very hard to find with robots. . . . The upsides from human exploration and development of Mars clearly outweigh the welfare of purely speculative Martian fungi. . . . The other likely targets of human exploration, development, and settlement, our moon and the asteroids, exist in a desiccated, radiation-soaked realm of hard vacuum and extreme temperature variations that would kill nearly anything. It’s also important to note that many international competitors will ignore the demands of these protection extremists in any case. For example, China recently sent a terrarium to the moon and germinated a plant seed—with, unsurprisingly, no protest from its own scientific community. In contrast, when it was recently revealed that a researcher had surreptitiously smuggled super-resilient microscopic tardigrades aboard the ill-fated Israeli Beresheet lunar probe, a firestorm was unleashed within the space community. . . .

NASA’s previous human exploration efforts made no serious attempt at sterility, with little notice. As the Mars expert Robert Zubrin noted in the *National Review*, U.S. lunar landings did not leave the campsites cleaner

than they found it. Apollo's bacteria-infested litter included bags of feces. Forcing NASA's proposed Mars exploration to do better, scrubbing everything and hauling out all the trash, would destroy NASA's human exploration budget and encroach on the agency's other directorates, too. Getting future astronauts off Mars is enough of a challenge, without trying to tote weeks of waste along as well.

A reasonable compromise is to continue on the course laid out by the U.S. government and the National Research Council, which proposed a system of zones on Mars, some for science only, some for habitation, and some for resource exploitation. This approach minimizes contamination, maximizes scientific exploration . . . Mars presents a stark choice of diverging human futures. We can turn inward, pursuing ever more limited futures while we await whichever natural or manmade disaster will eradicate our species and life on Earth. Alternatively, we can choose to propel our biosphere further into the solar system, simultaneously protecting our home planet and providing a backup plan for the only life we know exists in the universe. Are the lives on Earth worth less than some hypothetical microbe lurking under Martian rocks?

**Correct Answer:** —

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**7.1.** The contrasting reactions to the Chinese and Israeli “contaminations” of lunar space

- (A) are evidence of China's reasonable approach towards space contamination.
- (B) are valid as the contamination of the lunar environment from animal sources is far greater than from plants.
- (C) indicate that national scientists may have different sensitivities to issues of biosphere protection.
- (D) reveal global biases prevalent in attitudes towards different countries.

**Correct Answer:** (C) indicate that national scientists may have different sensitivities to issues of biosphere protection.

### **Solution:**

The passage presents a debate about the exploration and potential contamination of celestial bodies by Earth-origin microbes. It mentions the contrasting reactions to China's germination of a plant seed on the moon and Israel's accidental release of tardigrades. These differing reactions highlight that national scientists may have different sensitivities to issues of biosphere protection.

In the passage, it is noted that China's actions did not provoke protests from its scientific community, implying a different threshold or concern level compared to other countries, such as Israel, where the issue of contamination stirred significant controversy. This distinction emphasizes that national scientific communities are not uniform and may prioritize biosphere protection with varying degrees of sensitivity, likely influenced by cultural, political, or scientific perspectives.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

indicate that national scientists may have different sensitivities to issues of biosphere protection.

7.2. The author's overall tone in the first paragraph can be described as

- (A) equivocal about the reasons extended by the group of scientists seeking to limit space exploration.
- (B) indifferent to the elitism of a few scientists aiming to corner space exploration.
- (C) approving of the amount of money NASA spends to restrict the spread of contamination in space.
- (D) sceptical about the excessive efforts to sanitise planets where life has not yet been proven to exist.

**Correct Answer:** (D) sceptical about the excessive efforts to sanitise planets where life has not yet been proven to exist.

### **Solution:**

The question asks for the author's tone in the first paragraph of the passage. To determine the tone, we need to analyze the language and perspective expressed by the author.

The passage discusses a group within the space community that wants to protect celestial bodies from contamination, involving significant costs to NASA for sterilizing probes. The author refers to "entirely theoretical biospheres" and "speculative Martian fungi," indicating skepticism about the reasons for excessive caution when life has not been proven on these planets.

Given this analysis, the author's tone is best described as skeptical regarding the extensive efforts to sanitize planets where life has not been confirmed. Therefore, the correct option is: **sceptical about the excessive efforts to sanitise planets where life has not yet been proven to exist.**

**7.3.** The author mentions all of the following reasons to dismiss concerns about contaminating Mars EXCEPT:

- (A) efforts to contain contamination on Mars are likely to be derailed as competitor countries may not follow similar restrictions.
- (B) the use of similar probes on astronomical bodies like the moon have had little effect on the environment.
- (C) the lack of evidence of living organisms on Mars makes possible contamination from earthly microbes a moot point.
- (D) earlier explorations have already contaminated pristine space environments.

**Correct Answer:** (B) the use of similar probes on astronomical bodies like the moon have had little effect on the environment.

**Solution:**

The given comprehension brings forth arguments related to space exploration and contamination concerns, particularly focusing on Mars and its potential implications. The challenge is to identify the option that is not mentioned as a reason to dismiss concerns about contaminating Mars.

The comprehension explores several points:

- *International Competitors:* The passage mentions that international competitors, such as China, often ignore the stringent contamination protocols, undermining efforts to contain contamination. This is reflected in the option about efforts likely being derailed by competitors.
- *Lack of Evidence of Life:* It argues that Mars, with its harsh environment, shows no evidence of Martian life, making the

contamination by Earth microbes a moot point. This aligns with the option about the lack of evidence of living organisms on Mars.

- *Past Contaminations*: It mentions that previous missions, like the U.S. lunar landings, have already led to contamination without serious outcomes, fitting the option about earlier explorations contaminating space environments.

However, it does not provide any specific evidence or mention that the use of similar probes on astronomical bodies like the moon has had little effect on the environment. This makes this option the outlier compared to the other arguments presented in the passage.

Therefore, the correct answer is:

**The use of similar probes on astronomical bodies like the moon have had little effect on the environment.**



7.4. The author is unlikely to disagree with any of the following EXCEPT:

- (A) the exorbitant costs of continuing to keep the space environment pristine may be unsustainable.
- (B) that while NASA's earlier missions were not ideal in their approach to space contamination, they likely did no grave damage.
- (C) the proposal for a zonal segregation of the Martian landscape into regions for different purposes.
- (D) space contamination should be minimised until the possibility of life on the astronomical body being explored is ruled out.

**Correct Answer:** (D) space contamination should be minimised until the possibility of life on the astronomical body being explored is ruled out.

**Solution:**

Based on the passage, the author discusses different views regarding space contamination and the exploration of celestial bodies. Let's analyze each option and determine which statement the author is unlikely to disagree with:

- **Option 1:** "The exorbitant costs of continuing to keep the space environment pristine may be unsustainable." The passage indicates concerns about costs and impracticality of maintaining sterility in space missions, especially considering the author mentions that "scrubbing everything and hauling out all the trash, would destroy NASA's human exploration budget."
- **Option 2:** "That while NASA's earlier missions were not ideal in their approach to space contamination, they likely did no grave damage." The passage suggests that earlier missions made no serious attempt at sterility, but there was little notice or uproar over it, implying minimal perceived damage.
- **Option 3:** "The proposal for a zonal segregation of the Martian landscape into regions for different purposes." The author describes a zonal approach as a reasonable compromise, suggesting a preference for this system to maximize scientific exploration and minimize contamination.
- **Option 4:** "Space contamination should be minimised until the possibility of life on the astronomical body being explored is ruled out." Although the author acknowledges the need to consider potential life, the passage criticizes unnecessary expense and extremism in protection measures, focusing instead on human exploration benefits, which suggests disagreement with this statement.

**Conclusion:** Given the passage's context, the author would likely not disagree with the practicality of options 1, 2, and 3. However, the

author would possibly disagree with option 4's focus on minimizing contamination over exploration benefits, making it the correct exception.



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: This reality is putting stress on employees who have to pay for transport, desk lunches, more childcare, clothing and that after-work socialisation – costs they haven't incurred for nearly two years.

Paragraph: \_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_. Prices are rising at their fastest rate in 40 years, consequently, return-to-office-related costs have shot up – think petrol and food, for instance. \_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_. Yet wages haven't kept up with inflation – even despite the salary growth many workers have enjoyed during a favourable pandemic labour market. \_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_. This is especially jarring for workers who were able to save during remote work, when these expenditures weren't a factor. \_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_. In April 2022, Umus, a London university lecturer, told BBC Worklife that they were spending nearly a quarter of what they made every day on return-to-work costs.

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

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

**Solution:**

The sentence "This reality is putting stress on employees who have to pay for transport, desk lunches, more childcare, clothing and that after-work socialisation – costs they haven't incurred for nearly two years." should be inserted into the paragraph. Let's analyze where it fits best by examining the context and flow:

1. The paragraph starts with a statement about rising prices and increased return-to-office costs.
2. It mentions the lag between wages and inflation, despite some salary growth.
3. Followed by emphasizing the disparity felt by workers who saved during remote working periods when these costs weren't present.
4. Finally, it presents an example from a London lecturer about personal experiences with increased costs.

The sentence about the stress on employees fits best at **Option 3**, between the mention of wage inflation and the savings that remote workers accumulated. It provides a specific reason why these rising costs are problematic, offering a logical transition to the mention of savings during remote work.

Incorporating the sentence at Option 3, the paragraph would be: Prices are rising at their fastest rate in 40 years, consequently, return-to-office-related costs have shot up – think petrol and food, for instance. Yet wages haven't kept up with inflation – even despite the salary growth many workers have enjoyed during a favourable pandemic labour market. **This reality is putting stress on employees who have to pay for transport, desk lunches, more childcare, clothing and that after-work socialisation – costs they haven't incurred for nearly two years.** This is especially jarring for workers who were able to save during remote work, when these expenditures weren't a factor. In April 2022, Umus, a London university lecturer,

told BBC Worklife that they were spending nearly a quarter of what they made every day on return-to-work costs.



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

Moutai has been the global booze sensation of the decade. A bottle of its Flying Fairy which sold in the 1980s for the equivalent of a dollar now retails for \$400. Moutai's listed shares have soared by almost 600% in the past five years, outpacing the likes of Amazon. . . . It does this while disregarding every Western marketing mantra. It is not global, has meagre digital sales and does not appeal to millennials. It scores pitifully on environmental, social and governance measures. In the Boy Scout world of Western business it would leave a bad taste, in more ways than one.

Moutai owes its intoxicating success to three factors—not all of them easy to emulate. First, it profits from Chinese nationalism. Moutai is known as the “national liquor”. It was used to raise spirits and disinfect wounds in Mao's Long March. It was Premier Zhou Enlai's favourite tippie, shared with Richard Nixon in 1972. Its centuries-old craftsmanship—it is distilled eight times and stored for years in earthenware jars—is a source of national pride. It also claims to be hangover-proof, which would make it an invention to rival gunpowder....

Second, it chose to serve China's super-rich rather than its middle class. Markets are littered with the corpses of firms that could not compete in the cut-throat battle for Chinese middle class wallets. And the country's premium market is massive—at 73m-strong, bigger than the population of France, notes Euan McLeish of Bernstein, an investment firm, and still less crowded with prestige brands than advanced economies. Moutai is to these well-heeled drinkers what vintage champagne is to the rest of the world.....

Third, Moutai looks beyond affluent millennials and digital natives. The elderly and the middle aged, it found, can be just as lucrative. Its biggest market now is (male) drinkers in their mid 30s. Many have no siblings, thanks to four decades of China's one-child policy—which also means their elderly parents can splash out on weddings and banquets. Moutai is often a guest of honour.

Moutai has succeeded thanks to nationalism, elitism and ageism, in other words—not in spite of this unholy trinity. But it faces risks. The government is its largest shareholder—and a meddlesome one. It appears to want prices to remain stable. Exorbitantly priced booze is at odds with its professed socialist ideals. Yet minority investors—including many foreign funds —lament that Moutai’s wholesale price is a third of what it sells for in shops. Raising it could boost the company’s profits further. Instead, in what some see as a travesty of corporate governance, its majority owner has plans to set up its own sales channel.....

In the long run, its biggest risk may be millennials. As they grow older, health concerns, work life balance and the desire for more wholesome pursuits than binge-drinking may curb the “Ganbei!” toasting culture [heavy drinking] on which so much of the demand for Moutai rests. For the time being, though, the party goes on.

**Correct Answer:** —

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**9.1.** The phrase “would make it an invention to rival gunpowder” has been used in the passage in a sense that is

- (A) synonymical
- (B) metaphorical
- (C) substantive
- (D) literal

**Correct Answer:** (B) metaphorical

**Solution:**

The phrase “would make it an invention to rival gunpowder” is described as being used in a **metaphorical** sense in the passage. This usage is not literal, as Moutai is not an invention like gunpowder, nor

does it have similar applications. Instead, the metaphor suggests that Moutai's significance or impact, particularly its cultural and economic influence, is comparable to the historical importance of gunpowder. Metaphors are frequently employed in literature and writing to draw comparisons between two different things in order to highlight particular qualities or effects.



9.2. Which one of the following is both a reason for Moutai's success as well as a possible threat to that success?

- (A) Its appeal to the rich.
- (B) Chinese love of liquor filled celebration.
- (C) Government involvement in its business
- (D) Its appeal to the older age group

**Correct Answer:** (D) Its appeal to the older age group

### **Solution:**

Moutai is a unique case of a company's success stemming from several factors that also double as potential threats. One such factor, as mentioned in the passage, is its "appeal to the older age group." This appeal is both a reason for success and a possible threat for the following reasons:

- **Reason for Success:** Moutai targets the older demographic, particularly the elderly and middle-aged individuals who are financially capable, largely due to the socio-economic backdrop in China. As mentioned, many of these individuals are only children, benefiting from the one-child policy, thus having more disposable

income for luxury purchases like Moutai for special occasions and family gatherings.

- **Potential Threat:** The reliance on the older demographic presents a risk as societal norms and cultural preferences evolve. With the rise of millennials who may prioritize health and wellness over heavy drinking, Moutai's traditional market could shrink. The passage highlights concerns about millennials' shifting priorities away from binge-drinking towards more holistic lifestyles, which could undermine the current demand model focused on traditional celebratory drinking.

Given this analysis, the correct choice "Its appeal to the older age group" captures both the benefit and the inherent risk associated with that target market.



**9.3.** In the context of the passage we can infer that to succeed in the liquor industry in China, a marketing firm must consider all of the following factors affecting the Chinese liquor market EXCEPT that

- (A) there are few competitors to meet the demands of high end liquor consumers.
- (B) there is money to be made from marketing to the middle class.
- (C) the government may control the pricing of products.
- (D) the competition for winning over the middle class is very stiff.

**Correct Answer:** (B) there is money to be made from marketing to the middle class.

**Solution:**

The passage describes the success of Moutai in the Chinese liquor market due to distinct factors such as nationalism, elitism, and ageism. To deduce the factor that a marketing firm doesn't need to consider for success, we analyze each option:

- **Few competitors for high-end consumers:** The passage mentions the 'less crowded' premium market, indicating fewer competitors at the high-end level. This factor is acknowledged.
- **Money from marketing to the middle class:** The passage explicitly states that Moutai serves the super-rich rather than focusing on the middle class, pointing out 'cut-throat battle' difficulties related to the middle class. Therefore, money made from the middle class is not a core factor for success.
- **Government price control:** The passage discusses the government's influence over prices, indicating it as a critical consideration.
- **Stiff competition for the middle class:** The difficulty of penetrating the middle class market is clearly stated, making it a significant factor to consider.

Therefore, the factor '**money to be made from marketing to the middle class**' is the correct exception because focusing on the middle class is not indicated as beneficial for succeeding in the Chinese liquor market according to the passage.



9.4. In the context of the passage, it is most likely that the author refers to Moutai's marketing strategy as "the unholy trinity" because

- (A) it exposes the firm to long term risks.
- (B) there is nothing holy about marketing techniques for liquor.
- (C) it contradicts the Western strategy of marketing.
- (D) it profits from Chinese nationalist feelings.

**Correct Answer:** (C) it contradicts the Western strategy of marketing.

### **Solution:**

Based on the passage, the author refers to Moutai's marketing strategy as "the unholy trinity" because it directly contradicts the established norms of Western marketing strategies. The passage explicitly states that Moutai's success disregards every Western marketing mantra, as it is not global, has limited digital presence, fails to appeal to millennials, and scores poorly on environmental, social, and governance criteria. These characteristics would generally be considered detrimental in Western business contexts. Therefore, the phrase "the unholy trinity" suggests a stark contrast to Western approaches and norms, emphasizing an unconventional yet successful strategy.

Analyzing the given options:

- **It exposes the firm to long term risks.** Although risks are mentioned in the passage, they are not directly tied to the reason the strategy is called "the unholy trinity".
- **There is nothing holy about marketing techniques for liquor.** This option doesn't capture the specific contrast with Western marketing.
- **It contradicts the Western strategy of marketing.** This aligns perfectly with the passage's emphasis on Moutai's divergence from Western norms, accurately reflecting why the strategy is labeled as such.

- **It profits from Chinese nationalist feelings.** While true, this is only one element of the strategy and not the reason for the specific term "unholy trinity".

The correct choice is the one that best describes the inconsistency with Western marketing norms: **it contradicts the Western strategy of marketing.**

10. 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: Many have had to leave their homes behind, with more than 1.3 million people being displaced due to the drought.

Passage: Somalia has been dealing with an enormous humanitarian catastrophe, driven by the longest and most severe drought the country has experienced in at least 40 years. \_\_\_(1)\_\_. Five consecutive rainy seasons have failed, causing more than 8 million people - almost half of the country's population - to experience acute food insecurity. \_\_\_(2)\_\_. More than 43,000 people are believed to have lost their lives, with half of the lives lost likely being children under five. The damage the drought has caused is far-reaching. \_\_\_(3)\_\_. Farmers have lost all their agricultural income, while pastoralists have lost more than 3 million livestock, impoverishing entire communities, and leaving them on the brink of famine. \_\_\_(4)\_\_. Some, like the pastoralists, may never be able to go back as their livelihoods have been irreversibly wiped out.

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

## Correct Answer: (A) Option 4

### Solution:

To determine where the sentence fits best within the passage, we need to consider the logical flow and content of the existing text. Let's examine each option:

- Option 1: "Somalia has been dealing with an enormous humanitarian catastrophe, driven by the longest and most severe drought the country has experienced in at least 40 years. Many have had to leave their homes behind, with more than 1.3 million people being displaced due to the drought..." **Inserting the sentence here disrupts the introduction of the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the drought, which sets the context for the entire passage.**
- Option 2: "...Five consecutive rainy seasons have failed, causing more than 8 million people - almost half of the country's population – to experience acute food insecurity. Many have had to leave their homes behind, with more than 1.3 million people being displaced due to the drought..." **Placing the sentence here interrupts the transition from the broader impact on food security to the specifics of life loss and infrastructure damage.**
- Option 3: "...More than 43,000 people are believed to have lost their lives, with half of the lives lost likely being children under five. The damage the drought has caused is far-reaching. Many have had to leave their homes behind, with more than 1.3 million people being displaced due to the drought..." **Adding the sentence here overlaps with information about casualties and damage, potentially interrupting the coherence.**
- Option 4: "...Farmers have lost all their agricultural income, while pastoralists have lost more than 3 million livestock, impoverishing

entire communities, and leaving them on the brink of famine. Many have had to leave their homes behind, with more than 1.3 million people being displaced due to the drought. Some, like the pastoralists, may never be able to go back as their livelihoods have been irreversibly wiped out." **This placement effectively follows the mention of loss of livelihood and precedes the discussion of irreversible changes to communities, maintaining logical continuity.**

Thus, the optimal placement of the sentence is after the discussion of the impact on agriculture and livestock but before contemplating the permanence of these effects on the communities, making **Option 4** the best fit.



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

Languages become endangered and die out for many reasons. Sadly, the physical annihilation of communities of native speakers of a language is all too often the cause of language extinction. In North America, European colonists brought death and destruction to many Native American communities. This was followed by US federal policies restricting the use of indigenous languages, including the removal of native children from their communities to federal boarding schools where native languages and cultural practices were prohibited. As many as 75 percent of the languages spoken in the territories that became the United States have gone extinct, with slightly better language survival rates in Central and South America . . .

Even without physical annihilation and prohibitions against language use, the language of the "dominant" cultures may drive other languages into extinction; young people see education, jobs, culture and technology associated with the dominant language and focus their attention on that language. The largest language "killers" are English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Russian, Hindi, and Chinese, all of which have privileged status as dominant languages threatening minority languages. When we lose a language, we lose the worldview, culture and knowledge of the people who spoke it, constituting a loss to all humanity. People around the world live in direct contact with their native environment, their habitat. When the language they speak goes extinct, the rest of humanity loses their knowledge of that environment, their wisdom about the relationship between local plants and illness, their philosophical and religious beliefs as well as their native cultural expression (in music, visual art and poetry) that has enriched both the speakers of that language and others who would have encountered that culture. . . . As educators deeply immersed in the liberal arts, we believe that educating students broadly in all facets of language and culture . . . yields immense rewards. Some individuals

educated in the liberal arts tradition will pursue advanced study in linguistics and become actively engaged in language preservation, setting out for the Amazon, for example, with video recording equipment to interview the last surviving elders in a community to record and document a language spoken by no children.

Certainly, though, the vast majority of students will not pursue this kind of activity. For these students, a liberal arts education is absolutely critical from the twin perspectives of language extinction and global citizenship. When students study languages other than their own, they are sensitized to the existence of different cultural perspectives and practices. With such an education, students are more likely to be able to articulate insights into their own cultural biases, be more empathetic to individuals of other cultures, communicate successfully across linguistic and cultural differences, consider and resolve questions in a way that reflects multiple cultural perspectives, and, ultimately extend support to people, programs, practices, and policies that support the preservation of endangered languages.

There is ample evidence that such preservation can work in languages spiraling toward extinction. For example, Navajo, Cree and Inuit communities have established schools in which these languages are the language of instruction and the number of speakers of each has increased.

**Correct Answer:** —

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**11.1.** It can be inferred from the passage that it is likely South America had a slightly better language survival rate than North America for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- (A) the colonial government was unable to mainstream the locals.
- (B) locals were provided job opportunities in the colonial administration.
- (C) European colonists allowed children of native speakers to stay at home with their families.
- (D) not many native speakers were killed by European colonists.

**Correct Answer:** (B) locals were provided job opportunities in the colonial administration.

### Solution:

The passage discusses the reasons behind the extinction of languages and mentions that South America had a slightly better language survival rate than North America. The correct answer to the question about the reasons behind this is related to the exception, which is: "locals were provided job opportunities in the colonial administration." Here's the breakdown:

- **Colonial Government's Influence:** The suppression of indigenous languages by the colonial powers in North America is discussed, implicating that a less forceful approach in South America could lead to better survival rates. The option 'the colonial government was unable to mainstream the locals' aligns with this reasoning.
- **Cultural Environment:** The allowance for children to stay with their families might result in a more nurturing environment for native languages, corresponding with the option: 'European colonists allowed children of native speakers to stay at home with their families.'
- **Survival from Violence:** Fewer killings of native populations would naturally result in a better survival rate for native

languages, matching with 'not many native speakers were killed by European colonists.'

- **Job Opportunities:** The passage does not specifically detail how providing job opportunities in the colonial administration might improve language survival, thus 'locals were provided job opportunities in the colonial administration' is the exception as it does not fit the context of the passage regarding language survival.

Therefore, the correct answer is: 'locals were provided job opportunities in the colonial administration.'



**11.2.** The author believes that a liberal arts education combined with participation in language preservation empower students in all of the following ways EXCEPT that they will

- (A) overcome cultural barriers to communication.
- (B) establish schools to preserve languages spiralling towards extinction.
- (C) learn different languages.
- (D) develop a better understanding of their own culture.

**Correct Answer:** (B) establish schools to preserve languages spiralling towards extinction.

### **Solution:**

The question seeks to identify the statement that is not supported by the author's view on the empowerment of students through a liberal arts education combined with language preservation efforts. Let's analyze each option based on the passage to determine the excluded empowerment aspect:

1. Overcome cultural barriers to communication: The passage emphasizes how studying different languages helps students articulate insights into cultural biases and successfully communicate across linguistic and cultural differences. Thus, students are indeed empowered to overcome cultural barriers.
2. Establish schools to preserve languages spiraling towards extinction: While the passage mentions communities establishing schools to preserve languages, the author highlights that only a few students will directly engage in such preservation activities. The vast majority will merely support preservation efforts rather than establish schools themselves. Therefore, this activity is not an empowerment resulting directly from a liberal arts education.
3. Learn different languages: The author discusses broad language study in a liberal arts education, which undoubtedly includes learning different languages, contributing to cultural understanding and empathy. Thus, it is a form of empowerment emphasized by the author.
4. Develop a better understanding of their own culture: By studying different languages and cultures, students are more informed about their own cultural biases and perspectives. This is an aspect of empowerment directly promoted by the author.

Based on the above analysis, the correct answer is: "establish schools to preserve languages spiraling towards extinction," as this activity is not directly linked to the empowerment from merely receiving a liberal arts education combined with language preservation.

**11.3.** In the context of the passage, which one of the following hypothetical scenarios, if true, is NOT an example of the kind of loss that occurs when a language becomes extinct?

(A) The Andamanese language has a word to describe someone who has lost a step sister. When the language dies, we will lose the concept of the word and the emotions it evokes.

(B) The Lamkangs of Manipur have only 3 remaining native speakers of the language. When they die, we will lose one more group from the government list of indigenous tribes.

(C) The Inuits of Alaska have 35 different words to describe the texture of snow. When the language becomes extinct, we will lose that understanding of nature.

(D) The Nicobarese language describes 20 different moods of the ocean. By the time the last speaker is educated in a Central Board school, they will have forgotten their language.

**Correct Answer:** (B) The Lamkangs of Manipur have only 3 remaining native speakers of the language. When they die, we will lose one more group from the government list of indigenous tribes.

**Solution:**

The question asks us to identify a scenario that is **NOT** an example of the kind of loss that occurs when a language becomes extinct. In the passage, it is stated that when a language becomes extinct, we lose the worldview, culture, knowledge of the people, understanding of environment, and their cultural expressions.

Let's evaluate each option:

1. **The Andamanese language:** The loss described is emotional and conceptual, which aligns with the passage on what is lost when a language dies.

2. **The Lamkangs of Manipur:** The loss here pertains to the administrative listing of indigenous tribes, not the cultural or knowledge aspects of the language. This does not match the type of loss described in the passage.

3. **The Inuits of Alaska:** The described loss includes understanding of nature, which is consistent with what the passage suggests is lost.

4. **The Nicobarese language:** The described situation illustrates the loss of cultural knowledge about the ocean, which is again consistent with the passage.

Based on this analysis, the correct answer is: **The Lamkangs of Manipur have only 3 remaining native speakers of the language. When they die, we will lose one more group from the government list of indigenous tribes.** This option does not describe a cultural or knowledge loss caused by language extinction, making it NOT an example of the kind of loss outlined in the passage.



11.4. Which one of the following hypothetical scenarios, if true, would most strongly undermine the central ideas of the passage?

(A) Schools that teach endangered languages can preserve the language only for a generation.

(B) Most liberal arts students will pursue jobs in publishing and human resource management rather than doctorates in linguistics.

(C) Recording a dying language that has only a few remaining speakers freezes it in time: it stops evolving further.

(D) A liberal arts education requires that, in addition to being fluent in English, students gain fluency in two of the top five most spoken languages globally.

**Correct Answer:** (D) A liberal arts education requires that, in addition to being fluent in English, students gain fluency in two of the top five most spoken languages globally.

### **Solution:**

The central idea of the passage revolves around the preservation of endangered languages and the role of liberal arts education in fostering cultural empathy and appreciation for linguistic diversity. The passage suggests that exposing students to various languages and cultures can help combat language extinction and promote global citizenship. Let's evaluate the given options to understand which scenario most undermines this central idea:

#### **Option**

Schools that teach endangered languages can preserve the language only for a generation.

Most liberal arts students will pursue jobs in publishing and human resource management rather than doctorates in linguistics.

Recording a dying language that has only a few remaining

#### **Analysis**

This option suggests a limitation in language preservation efforts, but it aligns with the passage's recognition of the challenges in preventing language extinction. Thus, it doesn't undermine the central idea.

This scenario acknowledges the likely career paths of liberal arts students, which doesn't contradict the passage, as it mentions that the majority will not pursue academic linguistics but still benefit from their education's cultural exposure.

While this highlights a potential downside of documenting languages, it doesn't counter the

speakers freezes it in time: it stops evolving further.

broader educational and cultural insights and support the passage advocates.

A liberal arts education requires that, in addition to being fluent in English, students gain fluency in two of the top five most spoken languages globally.

This requirement detracts from the passage's emphasis on students learning a range of languages, particularly endangered ones, to nurture cultural understanding and empathy. It undermines the argument that liberal arts education should support endangered languages rather than focus on dominant ones.

Therefore, the scenario that most strongly undermines the central ideas of the passage is: "A liberal arts education requires that, in addition to being fluent in English, students gain fluency in two of the top five most spoken languages globally."