

## General Instructions

- (i) This booklet contains 24 questions, each provided with a complete, step-by-step solution.
- (ii) It comprises 24 single-correct multiple-choice questions.
- (iii) The questions are grouped under 4 reading comprehension / data sets; read each passage or data set before its questions.
- (iv) 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.

For early postcolonial literature, the world of the novel was often the nation. Postcolonial novels were usually [concerned with] national questions. Sometimes the whole story of the novel was taken as an allegory of the nation, whether India or Tanzania. This was important for supporting anti-colonial nationalism, but could also be limiting - land-focused and inward looking.

My new book "Writing Ocean Worlds" explores another kind of world of the novel: not the village or nation, but the Indian Ocean world. The book describes a set of novels in which the Indian Ocean is at the centre of the story. It focuses on the novelists Amitav Ghosh, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Lindsey Collen and Joseph Conrad [who have] centred the Indian Ocean world in the majority of their novels. . . Their work reveals a world that is outward-looking full of movement, border-crossing and south-south interconnection. They are all very different - from colonially inclined (Conrad) to radically anti-capitalist (Collen), but together draw on and shape a wider sense of Indian Ocean space through themes, images,

metaphors and language. This has the effect of remapping the world in the reader's mind, as centred in the interconnected global south. ... The Indian Ocean world is a term used to describe the very long-lasting connections among the coasts of East Africa, the Arab coasts, and South and East Asia. These connections were made possible by the geography of the Indian Ocean. For much of history, travel by sea was much easier than by land, which meant that port cities very far apart were often more easily connected to each other than to much closer inland cities. Historical and archaeological evidence suggests that what we now call globalisation first appeared in the Indian Ocean. This is the interconnected oceanic world referenced and produced by the novels in my book. For their part Ghosh, Gurnah, Collen and even Conrad reference a different set of histories and geographies than the ones most commonly found in fiction in English. Those [commonly found ones] are mostly centred in Europe or the US, assume a background of Christianity and whiteness, and mention places like Paris and New York. The novels in [my] book highlight instead a largely Islamic space, feature characters of colour and centralise the ports of Malindi, Mombasa, Aden, Java and Bombay. . . . It is a densely imagined, richly sensory image of a southern cosmopolitan culture which provides for an enlarged sense of place in the world. This remapping is particularly powerful for the representation of Africa. In the fiction, sailors and travellers are not all European. . . African, as well as Indian and Arab characters, are traders, nakhodas (dhow ship captains), runaways, villains, missionaries and activists. This does not mean that Indian Ocean Africa is romanticised. Migration is often a matter of force; travel is portrayed as abandonment rather than adventure, freedoms are kept from women and slavery is rife. What it does mean is that the African part of the Indian Ocean world plays an active role in its long, rich history and therefore in that of the wider world.

**Correct Answer:** —

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1.1. All of the following claims contribute to the "remapping" discussed by the passage, EXCEPT:

- (A) the global south, as opposed to the global north, was the first centre of globalisation.
- (B) cosmopolitanism originated in the West and travelled to the East through globalisation
- (C) Indian Ocean novels have gone beyond the specifics of national concerns to explore rich regional pasts
- (D) the world of early international trade and commerce was not the sole domain of white Europeans

**Correct Answer:** (B) cosmopolitanism originated in the West and travelled to the East through globalisation

**Solution:**

The passage refers to the "**Indian Ocean world**" as the interconnected oceanic region of the global south, which includes East Africa, the coasts of the Arab world, South and East Asia, and other regions. These linkages are long-lasting and are made possible by maritime traffic in the Indian Ocean.

According to the passage, white Europeans were not the only ones involved in early international trade and commerce; the global south was also the first hub of globalization: *"historical and archaeological evidence suggests that what we now call globalisation first appeared in the Indian Ocean"*.

The passage also critiques common global imaginaries: *"Those [commonly found ones] are mostly centered in Europe or the US, assume*

*a background of Christianity and whiteness, and mention places like Paris and New York."*

Instead, the novels referenced in the book highlight a fundamentally Islamic space. Thus, **Options A, C, and D** are accurate.

**Option B** is incorrect as it contradicts the message conveyed in the passage.



**1.2.** On the basis of the nature of the relationship between the items in each pair below, choose the odd pair out:

- (A) Postcolonial novels : Anti-colonial nationalism
- (B) Indian Ocean novels : Outward-looking
- (C) Indian Ocean world : Slavery
- (D) postcolonial novels : Border-crossing

**Correct Answer:** (D) postcolonial novels : Border-crossing

### **Solution:**

To determine the odd pair out, let's analyze the nature of each relationship based on the passage:

- **Postcolonial novels : Anti-colonial nationalism**

The passage indicates that early postcolonial novels were closely linked to national questions, often promoting anti-colonial nationalism. Thus, this pair is consistent.

- **Indian Ocean novels : Outward-looking**

The passage describes Indian Ocean novels as being outward-looking, focusing on cross-border and intercontinental connections. This pair also fits well.

- **Indian Ocean world : Slavery**

The passage suggests that slavery is a significant theme in the depiction of the Indian Ocean world due to historical interconnectedness. Hence, this pair is also logical.

- **Postcolonial novels : Border-crossing**

The passage contrasts postcolonial novels as nation-focused, implying they were more land-focused and possibly inward-looking. Border-crossing attributes are more associated with Indian Ocean novels. Therefore, this pair is inconsistent.

Based on these analyses, the odd pair out is:

Postcolonial novels : Border-crossing



**1.3.** All of the following statements, if true, would weaken the passage's claim about the relationship between mainstream English-language fiction and Indian Ocean novels EXCEPT:

(A) the depiction of Africa in most Indian Ocean novels is driven by a postcolonial nostalgia for an idyllic past.

(B) most mainstream English-language novels have historically privileged the Christian, white, male experience of travel and adventure.

(C) the depiction of Africa in most Indian Ocean novels is driven by an Orientalist imagination of its cultural crudeness.

(D) very few mainstream English-language novels have historically been set in American and European metropolitan centres.

**Correct Answer:** (B) most mainstream English-language novels have historically privileged the Christian, white, male experience of travel and adventure.

## Solution:

The statement asserts that books from the Indian Ocean and mainstream English-language fiction are distinct and take place in different universes.

**Option B supports the passage's assertion**—if true, it highlights the contrast by showing that mainstream English-language novels have historically privileged the Christian, white, male experience of travel and adventure.

If accurate, none of the other statements strengthen the passage's argument.

If the Orientalist perception of Africa's cultural coarseness drives the majority of Indian Ocean novels' depictions of the continent, then

**Option C undermines** the passage's assertion by aligning these works with mainstream fiction.

According to the text, American and European metropolitan centers have historically served as the backdrop for most mainstream English-language books. **Option D, if accurate, undermines** the contrast drawn by the passage.

The passage claims that the portrayal of Africa in Indian Ocean novels is not idealized. **Option A, if true, does not support the passage's distinction.**

Therefore, the **correct option is (B)**: most mainstream English-language novels have historically privileged the Christian, white, male experience of travel and adventure.



1.4. Which one of the following statements is not true about migration in the Indian Ocean world?

- (A) The Indian Ocean world's migration networks were shaped by religious and commercial histories of the region.
- (B) Migration in the Indian Ocean world was an ambivalent experience
- (C) Geographical location rather than geographical proximity determined the choice of destination for migrants.
- (D) The Indian Ocean world's migration networks connected the global north with the global south.

**Correct Answer:** (D) The Indian Ocean world's migration networks connected the global north with the global south.

### **Solution:**

The chapter makes no mention of or suggests anything about the migration networks that linked the global north and south over the Indian Ocean region. **It is not true that Option D is incorrect.**

**Option C is accurate.** Because it was easier to travel by sea than by land for a large portion of history, port cities located far apart were frequently more easily connected to one another than they were to much closer interior communities.

**Option A is also true.** As stated in the paragraph, the Indian Ocean world refers to a distinct set of histories and geographical areas compared to those commonly seen in English-language fiction, which “assume a background of Christianity and whiteness, and cite places like Paris and New York.” A predominantly Islamic space can be found in the networked cities of the global south.

**Option D is accurate as well.** “Migration is often a matter of force; travel is portrayed as abandonment rather than adventure, freedoms are kept from women, and slavery is rife,” the paragraph says in reference to migration in the Indian Ocean region.

Therefore, **Option D** is the correct response.



2. [Fifty] years after its publication in English [in 1972], and just a year since [Marshall] Sahlins himself died—we may ask: why did [his essay] "Original Affluent Society" have such an impact, and how has it fared since? ... Sahlins's principal argument was simple but counterintuitive: before being driven into marginal environments by colonial powers, huntergatherers, or foragers, were not engaged in a desperate struggle for meager survival. Quite the contrary, they satisfied their needs with far less work than people in agricultural and industrial societies, leaving them more time to use as they wished. Hunters, he quipped, keep bankers' hours. Refusing to maximize, many were "more concerned with games of chance than with chances of game." . . . The so-called Neolithic Revolution, rather than improving life, imposed a harsher work regime and set in motion the long history of growing inequality ...

Moreover, foragers had other options. The contemporary Hadza of Tanzania, who had long been surrounded by farmers, knew they had alternatives and rejected them. To Sahlins, this showed that foragers are not simply examples of human diversity or victimhood but something more profound: they demonstrated that societies make real choices. Culture, a way of living oriented around a distinctive set of values, manifests a fundamental principle of collective self-determination. . .

But the point [of the essay] is not so much the empirical validity of the data—the real interest for most readers, after all, is not in foragers either today or in the Paleolithic—but rather its conceptual challenge to contemporary economic life and bourgeois individualism. The empirical served a philosophical and political project, a thought experiment and stimulus to the imagination of possibilities.

With its title's nod toward *The Affluent Society* (1958), economist John

Kenneth Galbraith's famously skeptical portrait of America's postwar prosperity and inequality, and dripping with New Left contempt for consumerism, "The Original Affluent Society" brought this critical perspective to bear on the contemporary world. It did so through the classic anthropological move of showing that radical alternatives to the readers' lives really exist. If the capitalist world seeks wealth through ever greater material production to meet infinitely expansive desires, foraging societies follow "the Zen road to affluence": not by getting more, but by wanting less. If it seems that foragers have been left behind by "progress," this is due only to the ethnocentric self-congratulation of the West. Rather than accumulate material goods, these societies are guided by other values: leisure, mobility, and above all, freedom. . .

Viewed in today's context, of course, not every aspect of the essay has aged well. While acknowledging the violence of colonialism, racism, and dispossession, it does not thematize them as heavily as we might today. Rebuking evolutionary anthropologists for treating present-day foragers as "left behind" by progress, it too can succumb to the temptation to use them as proxies for the Paleolithic. Yet these characteristics should not distract us from appreciating Sahlins's effort to show that if we want to conjure new possibilities, we need to learn about actually inhabitable worlds.

**Correct Answer:** —



**2.1.** The author of the passage mentions Galbraith's "The Affluent Society" to:

- (A) document the influence of Galbraith's cynical views on modern consumerism on Sahlins's analysis of pre-historic societies.
- (B) show how Galbraith's theories refute Sahlins's thesis on the contentment of pre huntergatherer communities.
- (C) show how Sahlins's views complemented Galbraith's criticism of the consumerism and inequality of contemporary society.
- (D) contrast the materialist nature of contemporary growth paths with the pacifist content ways of living among the foragers.

**Correct Answer:** (C) show how Sahlins's views complemented Galbraith's criticism of the consumerism and inequality of contemporary society.

### **Solution:**

**The passage directly states** that Sahlins's essay, "The Original Affluent Society," offered a critical viewpoint on modern consumerism and inequality, echoing similar themes found in John Kenneth Galbraith's work, "The Affluent Society." It highlights that Sahlins's essay compares the values of foraging societies with the capitalist drive for wealth, indicating a parallel with Galbraith's skeptical portrayal of postwar affluence and inequality. **Consequently, Option C correctly represents the passage's discussion** of the connection between Sahlins's perspective and Galbraith's critique of contemporary society.

**Option B:** The passage doesn't propose that Galbraith's theories contradict Sahlins's thesis, but rather emphasizes their compatibility.

**Option D:** The passage doesn't center on comparing the lifestyle of foragers with Galbraith's perspectives on modern development paths.

**Option A:** The passage doesn't detail the impact of Galbraith's views on Sahlins's analysis; rather, it underscores how Sahlins's essay complements Galbraith's critical stance on modern society.

**Correct Option:** (C) — Show how Sahlins's views complemented Galbraith's criticism of the consumerism and inequality of contemporary society.



2.2. The author mentions Tanzania's Hadza community to illustrate:

- (A) how two vastly different ways of living and working were able to coexist in proximity for centuries.
- (B) how pre-agrarian societies did not hamper the emergence of more advanced agrarian practices in contiguous communities
- (C) that forager communities' lifestyles derived not from ignorance about alternatives, but from their own choice.
- (D) that hunter-gatherer communities' subsistence-level techniques equipped them to survive well into contemporary times.

**Correct Answer:** (C) that forager communities' lifestyles derived not from ignorance about alternatives, but from their own choice.

### **Solution:**

**Option C is the correct choice** because the passage cites the Hadza community in Tanzania to demonstrate that forager societies, like the Hadza, don't fit into a straightforward narrative of human diversity or victimization. Instead, they actively make decisions about their lifestyle. The passage notes that despite living among farmers, the Hadza were aware of other options and deliberately chose to reject them. This example underscores that forager communities aren't limited by a lack of knowledge about alternatives; rather, their way of life stems from their own conscious decisions. Therefore, **Option C**

**accurately captures the essence of the Hadza example** provided in the passage.

**Option A:** The passage doesn't particularly focus on the survival strategies of hunter-gatherer communities in modern times; instead, it highlights their decision-making processes and principles.

**Option B:** The passage doesn't address the Hadza community in relation to agricultural practices in nearby communities, rendering this option irrelevant to the example provided.

**Option D:** The passage doesn't indicate that the Hadza community lived alongside drastically different lifestyles and occupations for extended periods.

**Correct Option:** (C) — That forager communities' lifestyles derived not from ignorance about alternatives, but from their own choice.



**2.3.** The author of the passage criticises Sahlins's essay for its:

- (A) cursory treatment of the effects of racism and colonialism on societies.
- (B) failure to supplement its thesis with robust empirical data.
- (C) outdated values regarding present-day foragers versus ancient foraging communities.
- (D) critique of anthropologists who disparage the choices of foragers in today's society.

**Correct Answer:** (A) cursory treatment of the effects of racism and colonialism on societies.

**Solution:**

The comprehension passage critically examines Sahlins's essay, "*Original Affluent Society*," highlighting several aspects of its content and impact over time. The review appreciates Sahlins's challenge to conventional economic thought, acknowledging hunter-gatherer societies' alternative to contemporary materialistic pursuits.

However, it also points out shortcomings, notably the **inadequate emphasis on the consequences of racism and colonialism**. This is evident in the passage's concluding remarks: "*While acknowledging the violence of colonialism, racism, and dispossession, it does not thematize them as heavily as we might today,*" indicating the author's criticism of the essay's **superficial engagement with these themes**.

Based on this analysis, the critique centered on Sahlins's treatment of these issues aligns with the first option: *cursory treatment of the effects of racism and colonialism on societies*. **Thus, this option is the correct answer.**



2.4. We can infer that Sahlins's main goal in writing his essay was to:

- (A) hold a mirror to an acquisitive society, with examples of other communities that have chosen successfully to be non-materialistic.
- (B) highlight the fact that while we started off as a fairly contented egalitarian people, we have progressively degenerated into materialism.
- (C) counter Galbraith's pessimistic view of the inevitability of a capitalist trajectory for economic growth.
- (D) put forth the view that, despite egalitarian origins, economic progress brings greater inequality and social hierarchies.

**Correct Answer:** (A) hold a mirror to an acquisitive society, with examples of other communities that have chosen successfully to be non-materialistic.

## Solution:

The passage highlights that Marshall Sahlins's primary intention when writing the essay was to **serve as a mirror for an acquisitive society**, which includes bourgeois individualism and contemporary economic life. The essay does this by giving instances of foraging societies that chose to prioritize values like **freedom, mobility, and leisure** over material possessions.

Sahlins compares the **capitalist pursuit of wealth** through material production and consumerism with the *Zen path to affluence*, which is attained by **desiring less**. As a result, Sahlins's objective—as stated in the passage—aligns with the notion of **criticizing acquisitive societies** by offering examples of communities that have successfully chosen non-materialistic paths. **Thus, Option A is the correct answer.**

**Option B:** Rather than claiming a progressive breakdown of society, the main focus is on exhibiting the values and choices of foraging societies.

**Option C:** Though Sahlins's essay criticizes parts of modern economic theories, its main goal is to illustrate alternatives through examples of non-materialistic civilizations, not to directly refute Galbraith's pessimistic viewpoint.

**Option D:** Sahlins's essay focuses more on drawing comparisons between foraging societies and modern economic life, even though it acknowledges the rise in inequality and social hierarchies brought about by the Neolithic Revolution.

**So, the correct option is (A):** hold a mirror to an acquisitive society, with examples of other communities that have chosen successfully to be non-materialistic.



**3. RESIDENTS** of Lozère, a hilly department in southern France, recite complaints familiar to many rural corners of Europe. In remote hamlets and villages, with names such as Le Bacon and Le Bacon Vieux, mayors grumble about a lack of local schools, jobs, or phone and internet connections. Farmers of grazing animals add another concern: the return of wolves. Eradicated from France last century, the predators are gradually creeping back to more forests and hillsides. "The wolf must be taken in hand," said an aspiring parliamentarian, Francis Palombi, when pressed by voters in an election campaign early this summer. Tourists enjoy visiting a wolf park in Lozère, but farmers fret over their livestock and their livelihoods.

As early as the ninth century, the royal office of the Luparii-wolf-catchers was created in France to tackle the predators. Those official hunters (and others) completed their job in the 1930s, when the last wolf disappeared from the mainland. Active hunting and improved technology such as rifles in the 19th century, plus the use of poison such as strychnine later on, caused the population collapse. But in the early 1990s the animals reappeared. They crossed the Alps from Italy, upsetting sheep farmers on the French side of the border. Wolves have since spread to areas such as Lozère, delighting environmentalists, who see the predators' presence as a sign of wider ecological health. Farmers, who say the wolves cause the deaths of thousands of sheep and other grazing animals, are less cheerful. They grumble that green activists and politically correct urban types have allowed the return of an old enemy.

Various factors explain the changes of the past few decades. Rural depopulation is part of the story. In Lozère, for example, farming and a once-flourishing mining industry supported a population of over 140,000 residents in the mid- 19th century. Today the department has fewer than 80,000 people, many in its towns. As humans withdraw, forests are

expanding. In France, between 1990 and 2015, forest cover increased by an average of 102,000 hectares each year, as more fields were given over to trees. Now, nearly one-third of mainland France is covered by woodland of some sort. The decline of hunting as a sport also means more forests fall quiet. In the mid-to-late 20th century over 2m hunters regularly spent winter weekends tramping in woodland, seeking boars, birds and other prey. Today the Fédération Nationale des Chasseurs, the national body, claims 1.1 m people hold hunting licences, though the number of active hunters is probably lower. The mostly protected status of the wolf in Europe-hunting them is now forbidden, other than when occasional culls are sanctioned by the state-plus the efforts of NGOs to track and count the animals, also contribute to the recovery of wolf populations.

As the lupine population of Europe spreads westwards, with occasional reports of wolves seen closer to urban areas, expect to hear of more clashes between farmers and those who celebrate the predators' return. Farmers' losses are real, but are not the only economic story. Tourist venues, such as parks where wolves are kept and the animals' spread is discussed, also generate income and jobs in rural areas.

**Correct Answer:** —



**3.1.** Which one of the following has NOT contributed to the growing wolf population in Lozère?

- (A) The granting of a protected status to wolves in Europe.
- (B) A decline in the rural population of Lozère.
- (C) The shutting down of the royal office of the Luparii.
- (D) An increase in woodlands and forest cover in Lozère

**Correct Answer:** (C) The shutting down of the royal office of the Luparii.

## **Solution:**

The passage states that in the ninth century, France created the royal office of the Luparii, or wolf-catchers, to handle the wolf problem. However, this office became unnecessary once the last wolf was killed. Therefore, the resurgence of wolves can't be blamed on the office shutting down.

Other options provide clearer explanations:

**Option A:** The protected status of wolves in Europe, which makes hunting them illegal except for occasional state-sanctioned culls, and efforts by NGOs to track and count them, also contribute to their recovery.

**Option B:** Rural depopulation is a factor. For example, in Lozère, the population dropped from over 140,000 in the mid-19th century to fewer than 80,000 today as farming and mining declined.

**Option D:** As humans withdraw, forests are expanding. From 1990 to 2015, France's forest cover increased by 102,000 hectares per year, with nearly one-third of mainland France now covered by woodland.

**The correct option is (C):** The shutting down of the royal office of the Luparii.



**3.2.** The author presents a possible economic solution to an existing issue facing Lozère that takes into account the divergent and competing interests of:

- (A) politicians and farmers.
- (B) tourists and environmentalists
- (C) environmentalists and politicians.
- (D) farmers and environmentalists.

**Correct Answer:** (D) farmers and environmentalists.

**Solution:**

"As the lupine population of Europe spreads westwards, with occasional reports of wolves seen closer to urban areas, expect to hear of more clashes between farmers and those who celebrate the predators' return. Farmers' losses are real, but are not the only economic story. Tourist venues, such as parks where wolves are kept and the animals' spread is discussed, also generate income and jobs in rural areas."

The passage mentions that farmers in Lozère are worried about wolves returning and causing livestock losses. Meanwhile, environmentalists see wolves as a sign of broader ecological health. The proposed economic solution involves creating tourist attractions related to wolves, like parks. These attractions help address farmers' economic concerns by generating income and align with environmentalists' interests in the return of wolves. Therefore, **Option D** accurately reflects the collaboration between farmers and environmentalists in the proposed solution.

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**3.3.** The inhabitants of Lozère have to grapple with all of the following problems, EXCEPT:

- (A) decline in the number of hunting licences.
- (B) poor rural communication infrastructure.
- (C) livestock losses.
- (D) lack of educational facilities.

**Correct Answer:** (A) decline in the number of hunting licences.

### **Solution:**

Residents of Lozère, a hilly area in southern France, share common rural complaints. In remote villages like Le Bacon and Le Bacon Vieux, mayors grumble about the lack of local schools, jobs, and phone and internet connections. Farmers are also worried about the return of wolves, which were eradicated from France last century but are now gradually returning to the forests and hills. Francis Palombi, an aspiring parliamentarian, addressed this issue during an election campaign, saying, "**The wolf must be taken in hand.**" While tourists enjoy visiting a wolf park in Lozère, farmers are concerned about their livestock and livelihoods.

**Options B, C, and D can be clearly inferred from this paragraph:**

- **Option B:** Rural depopulation is a factor, as local complaints include a lack of jobs and services.
- **Option C:** The return of wolves is causing concern among farmers.
- **Option D:** The increase in forested areas is implied by the return of wolves to more forests and hillsides.

The passage also mentions that while many people still hold hunting licenses, few actively hunt. Therefore, **Option A**, which states there is a decline in the number of hunting licenses, is **incorrect**.

3.4. Which one of the following statements, if true, would weaken the author's claims?

- (A) Unemployment concerns the residents of Lozère.
- (B) The old mining sites of Lozère are now being used as grazing pastures for sheep.
- (C) Having migrated out in the last century, wolves are now returning to Lozère.
- (D) Wolf attacks on tourists in Lozère are on the rise

**Correct Answer:** (D) Wolf attacks on tourists in Lozère are on the rise

**Solution:**

To weaken the author's claim, we need to identify a statement that challenges the assertions or implications made in the passage. The author discusses the return of wolves to Lozère, noting:

1. Farmers are concerned about attacks on livestock.
2. The return of wolves has sparked conflict between environmental and agricultural interests.
3. Despite the challenges, wolves may boost tourism in the region.

An effective way to undermine these points is by presenting consequences of wolf return that contradict the author's optimistic view, especially regarding tourism.

The statement "**Wolf attacks on tourists in Lozère are on the rise**" directly challenges the third point. If wolves pose a danger to tourists, this would deter visitors, leading to a **negative economic and social impact**, thereby **weakening the author's positive portrayal of tourism potential**.

**Conclusion:** This statement introduces a serious concern that the author overlooks, making it a strong contender to weaken the overall argument.

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

Many human phenomena and characteristics - such as behaviors, beliefs, economies, genes, incomes, life expectancies, and other things - are influenced both by geographic factors and by non-geographic factors. Geographic factors mean physical and biological factors tied to geographic location, including climate, the distributions of wild plant and animal species, soils, and topography. Non-geographic factors include those factors subsumed under the term culture, other factors subsumed under the term history, and decisions by individual people.... [T]he differences between the current economies of North and South Korea ... cannot be attributed to the modest environmental differences between [them] ... They are instead due entirely to the different [government] policies ... At the opposite extreme, the Inuit and other traditional peoples living north of the Arctic Circle developed warm fur clothes but no agriculture, while equatorial lowland peoples around the world never developed warm fur clothes but often did develop agriculture. The explanation is straightforwardly geographic, rather than a cultural or historical quirk unrelated to geography. . . Aboriginal Australia remained the sole continent occupied only by hunter/gatherers and with no indigenous farming or herding ... [Here the] explanation is biogeographic: the Australian continent has no domesticable native animal species and few domesticable native plant species. Instead, the crops and domestic animals that now make Australia a food and wool exporter are all nonnative (mainly Eurasian) species such as

sheep, wheat, and grapes, brought to Australia by overseas colonists. Today, no scholar would be silly enough to deny that culture, history, and individual choices play a big role in many human phenomena. Scholars don't react to cultural, historical, and individual-agent explanations by denouncing "cultural determinism," "historical determinism," or "individual determinism," and then thinking no further. But many scholars do react to any explanation invoking some geographic role, by denouncing "geographic determinism" ... Several reasons may underlie this widespread but nonsensical view. One reason is that some geographic explanations advanced a century ago were racist, thereby causing all geographic explanations to become tainted by racist associations in the minds of many scholars other than geographers. But many genetic, historical, psychological, and anthropological explanations advanced a century ago were also racist, yet the validity of newer non-racist genetic etc. explanations is widely accepted today. Another reason for reflex rejection of geographic explanations is that historians have a tradition, in their discipline, of stressing the role of contingency (a favorite word among historians) based on individual decisions and chance. Often that view is warranted . . . But often, too, that view is unwarranted. The development of warm fur clothes among the Inuit living north of the Arctic Circle was not because one influential Inuit leader persuaded other Inuit in 1783 to adopt warm fur clothes, for no good environmental reason. A third reason is that geographic explanations usually depend on detailed technical facts of geography and other fields of scholarship ... Most historians and economists don't acquire that detailed knowledge as part of the professional training.

**Correct Answer:** —

4.1. The author criticises scholars who are not geographers for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- (A) the importance they place on the role of individual decisions when studying human phenomena.
- (B) their outdated interpretations of past cultural and historical phenomena.
- (C) their labelling of geographic explanations as deterministic.
- (D) their rejection of the role of biogeographic factors in social and cultural phenomena.

**Correct Answer:** (B) their outdated interpretations of past cultural and historical phenomena.

**Solution:**

The question asks us to choose the option that does not explain why the author criticizes scholars who are not geographers. Let's analyze the provided options:

- Option 1:  
the importance they place on the role of individual decisions when studying human phenomena.  
The author criticizes non-geographers for emphasizing individual decisions and chance too much. The passage mentions historians' traditional focus on contingency based on individual decisions, which is sometimes unwarranted.
- Option 2:  
their outdated interpretations of past cultural and historical phenomena.  
This option is the correct answer because the passage does not specify that non-geographers hold outdated views on cultural and

historical phenomena. The criticism in the passage focuses on their response to geographic explanations, not their interpretation of past phenomena.

- Option 3:

their labelling of geographic explanations as deterministic.

The author criticizes scholars for unfairly labeling geographic explanations as determinism, while not doing the same for cultural, historical, or individual-agent explanations.

- Option 4:

their rejection of the role of biogeographic factors in social and cultural phenomena.

The passage criticizes scholars for reflexively rejecting geographic explanations, including biogeographic factors.

Therefore, option 2 is the correct choice as it is not a reason the author criticizes non-geographers.



**4.2.** The examples of the Inuit and Aboriginal Australians are offered in the passage to show:

(A) that despite geographical isolation, traditional societies were self-sufficient and adaptive.

(B) how physical circumstances can dictate human behaviour and cultures.

(C) how environmental factors lead to comparatively divergent paths in livelihoods and development.

(D) human resourcefulness across cultures in adapting to their surroundings.

**Correct Answer:** (B) how physical circumstances can dictate human behaviour and cultures.

**Solution:**

**Option B** is the correct choice since the passage uses examples such as those of the Inuit and Aboriginal Australians to demonstrate how physical conditions, notably environmental factors, shape human behavior and cultural norms. The narrative delves into the emergence of insulated fur attire among the Inuit due to Arctic conditions and the absence of indigenous agriculture in Aboriginal Australia owing to the dearth of domesticable local species. These instances underscore how physical conditions wield influence over certain facets of human conduct and mold cultural adjustments. Consequently, Option B accurately captures the main idea conveyed by the examples provided in the passage.

**Option D** lacks explicit emphasis within the passage, which concentrates more on the impact of environmental factors on behavior and cultures.

**Option A:** The passage does not expressly address self-sufficiency but rather elucidates the influence of specific environmental factors on societal development.

**Option C** is not entirely erroneous, yet Option B more precisely captures the focus on physical conditions shaping human behavior and cultures within the framework of the provided examples.

**Correct Answer: Option B:** how physical circumstances can dictate human behaviour and cultures.



4.3. All of the following can be inferred from the passage EXCEPT:

- (A) several academic studies of human phenomena in the past involved racist interpretations.
- (B) agricultural practices changed drastically in the Australian continent after it was colonised.
- (C) individual dictat and contingency were not the causal factors for the use of fur clothing in some very cold climates
- (D) while most human phenomena result from culture and individual choice, some have biogeographic origins.

**Correct Answer:** (D) while most human phenomena result from culture and individual choice, some have biogeographic origins.

### **Solution:**

**Option A:** The author notes that certain geographical explanations proposed a century ago carried racial undertones, leading to a tarnishing of all geographical theories by association with racism in the eyes of many scholars.

**Option B:** The author analyzes the present state of agricultural methodologies in Australia, highlighting that the agricultural produce and livestock contributing to Australia's status as a food and wool exporter today primarily comprise non-native species (predominantly Eurasian) introduced to the continent by foreign settlers. The usage of "non-native" suggests a departure in agricultural practices from the original flora and fauna indigenous to Australia.

**Option C:** The author examines the evolution of insulated fur garments among the Inuit populace residing north of the Arctic Circle, attributing it not to a specific individual decision or historical circumstance in 1783, but rather as a reaction to environmental stimuli.

**Option D:** This cannot be directly extrapolated from the passage. While the text delves into the impact of both geographical elements (such as biogeography) and non-geographical factors (including culture, history, and individual decisions) on human phenomena, it does not explicitly quantify or compare the predominance of these influences by asserting that "most human phenomena stem from culture and individual choice."

**Correct Answer: Option C**



4.4. All of the following are advanced by the author as reasons why non-geographers disregard geographic influences on human phenomena EXCEPT their:

- (A) belief in the central role of humans, unrelated to physical surroundings, in influencing phenomena.
- (B) dismissal of explanations that involve geographical causes for human behaviour.
- (C) lingering impressions of past geographic analyses that were politically offensive.
- (D) disciplinary training which typically does not include technical knowledge of geography

**Correct Answer:** (B) dismissal of explanations that involve geographical causes for human behaviour.

**Solution:**

**Option B** is not explicitly presented by the author as a rationale for the dismissal of geographic influences by non-geographers. The author implies that scholars often react unfavorably to explanations involving

geography by condemning "geographic determinism." However, the specific notion of dismissal is not overtly articulated in the passage. On the other hand, the remaining options can be inferred from the text:

**Option A** can be inferred from the following passage: "Another reason for reflex rejection of geographic explanations is that historians have a tradition, in their discipline, of stressing the role of contingency (a favorite word among historians) based on individual decisions and chance."

**Option C** can be deduced from the following excerpt: "One reason is that some geographic explanations advanced a century ago were racist, thereby causing all geographic explanations to become tainted."

**Option D** can be derived from the concluding paragraph of the passage: "Geographic explanations usually depend on detailed technical facts of geography and other fields of scholarship... Most historians and economists don't acquire that detailed knowledge as part of the professional training."

So, the correct option is (B): dismissal of explanations that involve geographical causes for human behaviour.



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: The discovery helps to explain archeological similarities between the Paleolithic peoples of China, Japan, and the Americas.

Paragraph: The researchers also uncovered an unexpected genetic link between Native Americans and Japanese people. (1) \_\_ . During the

deglaciation period, another group branched out from northern coastal China and travelled to Japan.

(2) \_\_. "We were surprised to find that this ancestral source also contributed to the Japanese gene pool, especially the indigenous Ainus," says Li. \_ (3) \_\_. They shared similarities in how they crafted stemmed projectile points for arrowheads and spears.

\_\_(4)\_\_. "This suggests that the Pleistocene connection among the Americas, China, and Japan was not confined to culture but also to genetics," says senior author Qing-Peng Kong, an evolutionary geneticist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

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

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

**Solution:**

Option 3 is the most suitable selection to integrate into the provided sentence. The preceding sentence discusses a significant discovery: researchers identified an ancestral source that influenced the Japanese gene pool. Moreover, the subsequent sentence addresses "archaeological similarities" among the Paleolithic populations of China, Japan, and the Americas. Hence, option 3 is the correct answer. Therefore, the correct option is (A) : Option 3.

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6. 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 philosophical cut at one's core beliefs, values, and way of life is difficult enough.

Paragraph: The experience of reading philosophy is often disquieting. When reading philosophy, the values around which one has heretofore organised one's life may come to look provincial, flatly wrong, or even evil. \_\_ (1)\_\_. When beliefs previously held as truths are rendered implausible, new beliefs, values, and ways of living may be required. \_\_ (2) . What's worse, philosophers admonish each other to remain unsutured until such time as a defensible new answer is revealed or constructed. Sometimes philosophical writing is even strictly critical in that it does not even attempt to provide an alternative after tearing down a cultural or conceptual citadel. (3). The reader of philosophy must be prepared for the possibility of this experience. While reading philosophy can help one clarify one's values, and even make one self-conscious for the first time of the fact that there are good reasons for believing what one believes, it can also generate un-remediated doubt that is difficult to live with.

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

**Correct Answer:** (B) Option 2

**Solution:**

The sentence "This philosophical cut at one's core beliefs, values, and way of life is difficult enough." is best placed in Option 2. Here's how the paragraph should read:

The experience of reading philosophy is often disquieting. When reading philosophy, the values around which one has heretofore

organised one's life may come to look provincial, flatly wrong, or even evil.

When beliefs previously held as truths are rendered implausible, new beliefs, values, and ways of living may be required. **This philosophical cut at one's core beliefs, values, and way of life is difficult enough.**

What's worse, philosophers admonish each other to remain unsutured until such time as a defensible new answer is revealed or constructed. Sometimes philosophical writing is even strictly critical in that it does not even attempt to provide an alternative after tearing down a cultural or conceptual citadel. The reader of philosophy must be prepared for the possibility of this experience. While reading philosophy can help one clarify one's values, and even make one self-conscious for the first time of the fact that there are good reasons for believing what one believes, it can also generate un-remediated doubt that is difficult to live with.

This enhancement provides a logical flow as it directly follows the notion of destabilized beliefs, emphasizing the difficulty of facing such a profound personal challenge.



7. 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) Having an appreciation for the workings of another person's mind is considered a prerequisite for natural language acquisition, strategic social interaction, reflexive thought, and moral judgment.

(B) It is a 'theory of mind' though some scholars prefer to call it 'mentalizing' or 'mindreading', which is important for the development of one's cognitive abilities

(C) Though we must speculate about its evolutionary origin, we do have indications that the capacity evolved sometime in the last few million years.

(D) This capacity develops from early beginnings in the first year of life to the adult's fast and often effortless understanding of others' thoughts, feelings, and intentions.

**Correct Answer:** (B) It is a 'theory of mind' though some scholars prefer to call it 'mentalizing' or 'mindreading', which is important for the development of one's cognitive abilities

### **Solution:**

Option B is the odd one out because it diverges into a discussion about the terminology surrounding the concept of understanding others' mental states. While the other sentences delve into explaining and expanding upon this capacity, Option B takes a meta-discussion approach, exploring scholars' preferences for terms like "mentalizing" or "mindreading." Unlike the others, it doesn't directly contribute to the substantive discussion of perceiving and interpreting other people's behavior in terms of their mental states. Thus, within the context of forming a coherent paragraph, Option B emerges as the outlier.

So, the correct option is (B): It is a 'theory of mind' though some scholars prefer to call it 'mentalizing' or 'mindreading', which is

important for the development of one's cognitive abilities



8. 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) In English, there is no systematic rule for the naming of numbers; after ten, we have "eleven" and "twelve" and then the teens: "thirteen", "fourteen", "fifteen" and so on.

(B) Even more confusingly, some English words invert the numbers they refer to: the word "fourteen" puts the four first, even though it appears last.

(C) It can take children a while to learn all these words, and understand that "fourteen" is different from "forty".

(D) For multiples of 10, English speakers switch to a different pattern: "twenty", "thirty", "forty" and so on.

**Correct Answer:** (C) It can take children a while to learn all these words, and understand that "fourteen" is different from "forty".

### **Solution:**

Sentence 3 stands out as it diverges from the main topic explored in the other sentences. While the rest of the sentences delve into the naming conventions of numbers in English, particularly highlighting the irregularities and variations within the system, sentence 3 shifts the focus to children's learning process and their comprehension of distinctions between numbers such as "fourteen" and "forty." The remaining sentences all contribute to the discourse on the

complexities of English number naming, rendering sentence 3 somewhat disconnected from the central theme of the paragraph.

So, the correct option is (C): It can take children a while to learn all these words, and understand that "fourteen" is different from "forty".



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

1. What precisely are the "unusual elements" that make a particular case so attractive to a certain kind of audience?
2. It might be a particularly savage or unfathomable level of depravity, very often it has something to do with the precise amount of mystery involved.
3. Unsolved, and perhaps unsolvable cases offer something that "ordinary" murder doesn't.
4. Why are some crimes destined for perpetual re-examination and others locked into permanent obscurity?

- (A) 4123
- (B) 4321
- (C) 1432
- (D) 2314

**Correct Answer:** (A) 4123

**Solution:**

**Sentence 4** initiates an inquiry into why certain crimes hold a lasting allure and why some cases are repeatedly revisited.

**Sentence 1** expands on this inquiry, delving into the specific "unusual

elements" that capture the interest of a particular audience, narrowing the focus.

**Sentence 2** proposes potential factors, such as extreme depravity or enigmatic circumstances, that contribute to the appeal of these cases.

**Sentence 3** then broadens the concept, suggesting that unresolved cases, which may defy solution, offer a distinct appeal absent in "ordinary" murder cases, highlighting the enduring fascination with unsolved mysteries within the realm of crime.

So, the correct option is (A): 4123



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

1. Algorithms hosted on the internet are accessed by many, so biases in AI models have resulted in much larger impact, adversely affecting far larger groups of people.
2. Though "algorithmic bias" is the popular term, the foundation of such bias is not in algorithms, but in the data; algorithms are not biased, data is, as algorithms merely reflect persistent patterns that are present in the training data.
3. Despite their widespread impact, it is relatively easier to fix AI biases than human-generated biases, as it is simpler to identify the former than to try to make people unlearn behaviors learnt over generations.
4. The impact of biased decisions made by humans is localised and geographically confined, but with the advent of AI, the impact of such decisions is spread over a much wider scale.

- (A) 4123
- (B) 4321
- (C) 1432
- (D) 2314

**Correct Answer:** (A) 4123

**Solution:**

Sentence 4 introduces the concept that while biased human decisions have localized effects, the emergence of AI, represented by AI, expands these impacts on a broader scale, providing context for the ensuing discussion.

Considering Sentences 1 and 2, Sentence 1 elaborates on the repercussions of biased decisions within the AI domain, emphasizing that algorithms hosted online and accessed by many lead to more significant adverse effects on larger populations. Sentence 2 clarifies "algorithmic bias," emphasizing that bias stems from the data rather than the algorithms themselves, explaining how algorithms mirror persistent patterns within training data. Therefore, Sentence 2 logically follows Sentence 1.

Sentence 3 notes that despite the widespread influence of AI biases, rectifying them is comparatively easier than addressing biases generated by humans, as it is simpler to identify and correct biases in algorithms than to change deeply ingrained human behaviors. This progression logically follows from the explanation provided in Sentence 2.

So, the correct sequence is option (A): 4123



**11.** The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries.

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

Colonialism is not a modern phenomenon. World history is full of examples of one society gradually expanding by incorporating adjacent territory and settling its people on newly conquered territory. In the sixteenth century, colonialism changed decisively because of technological developments in navigation that began to connect more remote parts of the world. The modern European colonial project emerged when it became possible to move large numbers of people across the ocean and to maintain political control in spite of geographical dispersion. The term colonialism is used to describe the process of European settlement, violent dispossession and political domination over the rest of the world, including the Americas, Australia, and parts of Africa and Asia.

(A) Colonialism surged in the 16th century due to advancements in navigation, enabling British settlements abroad and global dominance. (B) As a result of developments in navigation technology, European colonialism, led to the displacement of indigenous populations and global political changes in the 16th century. (C) Colonialism, conceptualized in the 16th century, allowed colonizers to expand their territories, establish settlements, and exercise political power. (D) Technological advancements in navigation in the 16th century, transformed colonialism, enabling Europeans to establish settlements and exert political dominance over distant regions.

**Correct Answer:** (D) Technological advancements in navigation in the 16th century, transformed colonialism, enabling Europeans to establish settlements and exert political dominance over distant regions.

### **Solution:**

**Option A** introduces British settlements, which is a narrower focus compared to the broader context of European colonialism discussed in the passage.

**Option B**, on the other hand, focuses on the displacement of indigenous populations, which isn't the central focus of the passage.

**Option C** mentions the expansion of territories and political power but fails to highlight the significance of navigation technology.

**Option D** is the correct answer because it accurately summarizes the primary theme of the passage. It emphasizes how advancements in navigation technology during the sixteenth century were instrumental in reshaping colonialism, allowing Europeans to establish settlements and assert political control over distant regions such as the Americas, Australia, and parts of Africa and Asia.

So, the correct option is (D): Technological advancements in navigation in the 16th century, transformed colonialism, enabling

Europeans to establish settlements and exert political dominance over distant regions.

12. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage. Manipulating information was a feature of history long before modern journalism established rules of integrity. A record dates back to ancient Rome, when Antony met Cleopatra and his political enemy Octavian launched a smear campaign against him with "short, sharp slogans written upon coins." The perpetrator became the first Roman Emperor and "fake news had allowed Octavian to hack the republican system once and for all". But the 21st century has seen the weaponization of information on an unprecedented scale. Powerful new technology makes the fabrication of content simple, and social networks amplify falsehoods peddled by States, populist politicians, and dishonest corporate entities. The platforms have become fertile ground for computational propaganda, 'trolling' and 'troll armies'.

- (A) People need to become critical of what they read, since historically, weaponization of information has led to corruption.
- (B) Octavian used fake news to manipulate people and attain power and influence, just as people do today
- (C) Disinformation, which is mediated by technology today, is not new and has existed since ancient times.
- (D) Use of misinformation for attaining power, a practice that is as old as the Octavian era, is currently fueled by technology.

**Correct Answer:** (D) Use of misinformation for attaining power, a practice that is as old as the Octavian era, is currently fueled by technology.

## Solution:

The passage explores the historical utilization of misinformation for political ends, tracing it back to ancient Rome with Octavian's smear campaign against Antony. It then underscores how the 21st century has witnessed an unparalleled expansion of information weaponization, facilitated by advanced technology and amplified through social networks. Option D effectively conveys the ongoing use of misinformation for political influence across different historical periods, now intensified by modern technology. Therefore, **Option D** is the appropriate choice.

**Option A:** This option emphasizes the importance of critical reading but does not explicitly highlight the historical context and the weaponization of information for power.

**Option B:** This option fails to emphasize the broader historical and contemporary context of misinformation for political purposes.

**Option C:** While the passage acknowledges the historical dimension of disinformation, it emphasizes the unprecedented scale in the 21st century, which is not captured in this option.

So, the correct option is (D): Use of misinformation for attaining power, a practice that is as old as the Octavian era, is currently fueled by technology.