

## 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.

The Positivists, anxious to stake out their claim for history as a science, contributed the weight of their influence to the cult of facts. First ascertain the facts, said the positivists, then draw your conclusions from them. . . . This is what may [be] called the common-sense view of history. History consists of a corpus of ascertained facts. The facts are available to the historian in documents, inscriptions, and so on . . . [Sir George Clark] contrasted the "hard core of facts" in history with the surrounding pulp of disputable interpretation forgetting perhaps that the pulpy part of the fruit is more rewarding than the hard core. . . . It recalls the favourite dictum of the great liberal journalist C. P. Scott: "Facts are sacred, opinion is free." . . . What is a historical fact? . . . According to the common-sense view, there are certain basic facts which are the same for all historians and which form, so to speak, the backbone of history—the fact, for example, that the Battle of Hastings was fought in 1066. But this view calls for two observations. In the first place, it is not with facts like these that the historian is primarily concerned. It is no doubt important to know that the

great battle was fought in 1066 and not in 1065 or 1067, and that it was fought at Hastings and not at Eastbourne or Brighton. The historian must not get these things wrong. But [to] praise a historian for his accuracy is like praising an architect for using well-seasoned timber or properly mixed concrete in his building. It is a necessary condition of his work, but not his essential function. It is precisely for matters of this kind that the historian is entitled to rely on what have been called the "auxiliary sciences" of history—archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics, chronology, and so forth. . . .

The second observation is that the necessity to establish these basic facts rests not on any quality in the facts themselves, but on an apriori decision of the historian. In spite of C. P. Scott's motto, every journalist knows today that the most effective way to influence opinion is by the selection and arrangement of the appropriate facts. It used to be said that facts speak for themselves. This is, of course, untrue. The facts speak only when the historian calls on them: it is he who decides to which facts to give the floor, and in what order or context. . . . The only reason why we are interested to know that the battle was fought at Hastings in 1066 is that historians regard it as a major historical event. . . . Professor Talcott Parsons once called [science] "a selective system of cognitive orientations to reality." It might perhaps have been put more simply. But history is, among other things, that. The historian is necessarily selective. The belief in a hard core of historical facts existing objectively and independently of the interpretation of the historian is a preposterous fallacy, but one which it is very hard to eradicate.

**Correct Answer:** —

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**1.1.** If the author of the passage were to write a book on the Battle of Hastings along the lines of his/her own reasoning, the focus of the

historical account would be on:

- (A) producing a detailed timeline of the various events that led to the Battle.
- (B) providing a nuanced interpretation by relying on the auxiliary sciences.
- (C) exploring the socio-political and economic factors that led to the Battle.
- (D) deriving historical facts from the relevant documents and inscriptions.

**Correct Answer:** (C) exploring the socio-political and economic factors that led to the Battle.

### **Solution:**

The passage implies that though collecting basic information is important, historians' primary duty extends beyond this. It highlights how selective and interpretive historical writing is, with historians encouraged to go farther into understanding the context and driving forces of historical events.

**Option A:** The author argues that the historian's primary role exceeds merely establishing the most fundamental chronological facts, regardless of the importance of timelines.

**Option B:** The author emphasizes the historian's selective and creative role in portraying historical events, while acknowledging the importance of auxiliary sciences. It also indicates that the historian's focus should expand beyond relying simply on these sciences for fundamental facts.

**Option C:** This option aligns with the goal of offering a nuanced narrative by delving into the socio-political and economic aspects that preceded the Battle of Hastings. This choice reflects a more thorough

and comprehensive approach to historical writing by prioritizing an awareness of the root causes and factors that shaped the historical event.

**Option D:** While appreciating the value of fundamental facts, the author believes that historians must do more than just gather information.



**1.2.** According to this passage, which one of the following statements best describes the significance of archaeology for historians?

- (A) Archaeology helps historians to ascertain factual accuracy.
- (B) Archaeology helps historians to carry out their primary duty.
- (C) Archaeology helps historians to interpret historical facts.
- (D) Archaeology helps historians to locate the oldest civilisations in history.

**Correct Answer:** (A) Archaeology helps historians to ascertain factual accuracy.

### **Solution:**

According to the passage, historians may depend on fields like archaeology, among others, to find fundamental facts. The part that is pertinent is this one:

*"But [to] praise a historian for his accuracy is like praising an architect for using well-seasoned timber or properly mixed concrete in his building. It is a necessary condition of his work, but not his essential function. It is precisely for matters of this kind that the historian is entitled to rely on what have been called the 'auxiliary sciences' of history—archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics, chronology, and so forth."*

Historians can utilize the "auxiliary sciences" to verify the accuracy of fundamental facts. This list includes archaeology, which suggests that by supplying evidence in the form of artifacts, material remains, and other archaeological findings, archaeology aids historians in determining factual correctness.

As a result, **Option A** accurately depicts how archaeology aids historians in their quest for factual accuracy.



**1.3.** All of the following, if true, can weaken the passage's claim that facts do not speak for themselves, EXCEPT:

- (A) the truth value of a fact is independent of the historian who expresses it.
- (B) facts, like truth, can be relative: what is fact for person X may not be so for person Y.
- (C) a fact, by its very nature, is objective and universal, irrespective of the context in which it is placed.
- (D) the order in which a series of facts is presented does not have any bearing on the production of meaning.

**Correct Answer:** (B) facts, like truth, can be relative: what is fact for person X may not be so for person Y.

**Solution:**

The correct option is **(B): facts, like truth, can be relative: what is fact for person X may not be so for person Y.**

Since it supports the passage's viewpoint that **fact representation is arbitrary** and subject to the impact of other viewpoints, Option B

supports the argument made in the passage—that historians are essential in the selection and interpretation of facts—by pointing out that truth and facts are subject to judgment.

If facts are relative, then **one person's interpretation of a fact might not be the same as another's**. The idea that the historian's interpretation and point of view greatly influence what is deemed a fact is supported by the relativity of facts.

Consequently, if Option B is accurate, it **supports the passage's assertion** that facts are not totally objective and independent of the historian's viewpoint, rather than undermining it.



1.4. All of the following describe the “common-sense view” of history, EXCEPT:

- (A) history can be objective like the sciences if it is derived from historical facts.
- (B) only the positivist methods can lead to credible historical knowledge.
- (C) real history can be found in ancient engravings and archival documents.
- (D) history is like science: a selective system of cognitive orientations to reality.

**Correct Answer:** (D) history is like science: a selective system of cognitive orientations to reality.

**Solution:**

The question asks which statement does **not** align with the "common-sense view" of history as described in the passage. The common-sense view of history is highlighted in the passage as follows: history is seen as a collection of verified facts (a "hard core of facts"), which historians derive conclusions from, aspiring to be as objective as the sciences, mainly through methods like those used by positivists.

Let's analyze each option:

- **Option 1:** History can be objective like the sciences if it is derived from historical facts.

This correlates with the belief that history can be objective when based on facts — consistent with the common-sense view.

- **Option 2:** Only the positivist methods can lead to credible historical knowledge.

This reflects the positivist influence, aligning with the methods emphasized in the common-sense view.

- **Option 3:** Real history can be found in ancient engravings and archival documents.

This supports the idea that historical facts exist independently in physical records — part of the common-sense perspective.

- **Option 4:** History is like science: a selective system of cognitive orientations to reality.

This contrasts with the common-sense view, as it emphasizes subjectivity and interpretation rather than objective fact gathering.

**Correct Answer: Option 4** — it does not align with the common-sense view of history.

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

Umberto Eco, an Italian writer, was right when he said the language of Europe is translation. Netflix and other deep-pocketed global firms speak it well. Just as the EU employs a small army of translators and interpreters to turn intricate laws or impassioned speeches of Romanian MEPs into the EU's 24 official languages, so do the likes of Netflix. It now offers dubbing in 34 languages and subtitling in a few more. . . .

The economics of European productions are more appealing, too. American audiences are more willing than before to give dubbed or subtitled viewing a chance. This means shows such as “Lupin”, a French crime caper on Netflix, can become global hits. . . . In 2015, about 75% of Netflix's original content was American; now the figure is half, according to Ampere, a media analysis company. Netflix has about 100 productions under way in Europe, which is more than big public broadcasters in France or Germany. . . .

Not everything works across borders. Comedy sometimes struggles. Whodunits and bloodthirsty maelstroms between arch Romans and uppity tribesmen have a more universal appeal. Some do it better than others. Barbarians aside, German television is not always built for export, says one executive, being polite. A bigger problem is that national broadcasters still dominate. Streaming services, such as Netflix or Disney+, account for about a third of all viewing hours, even in markets where they are well-established. Europe is an ageing continent. The generation of teens staring at phones is outnumbered by their elders who prefer to gawp at the box. In Brussels and national capitals, the prospect of Netflix as a cultural hegemon is seen as a threat. “Cultural sovereignty” is the watchword of European executives worried that the Americans will eat their lunch. To be fair, Netflix content sometimes seems stuck in an uncanny valley somewhere in the mid-Atlantic, with local quirks stripped out. Netflix originals tend to have fewer specific cultural references than shows

produced by domestic rivals, according to Enders, a market analyst. The company used to have an imperial model of commissioning, with executives in Los Angeles cooking up ideas French people might like. Now Netflix has offices across Europe. But ultimately the big decisions rest with American executives. This makes European politicians nervous. They should not be. An irony of European integration is that it is often American companies that facilitate it. Google Translate makes European newspapers comprehensible, even if a little clunky, for the continent's non-polyglots. American social-media companies make it easier for Europeans to talk politics across borders. (That they do not always like to hear what they say about each other is another matter.) Now Netflix and friends pump the same content into homes across a continent, making culture a cross-border endeavour, too. If Europeans are to share a currency, bail each other out in times of financial need and share vaccines in a pandemic, then they need to have something in common—even if it is just bingeing on the same series. Watching fictitious northern and southern Europeans tear each other apart 2,000 years ago beats doing so in reality.

**Correct Answer:** —

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**2.1.** Based on information provided in the passage, all of the following are true, EXCEPT:

- (A) Netflix has been able to transform itself into a truly European entity.
- (B) national broadcasters dominate in the EU in terms of total television viewing hours.
- (C) European television productions have the potential to become global hits.
- (D) only half of Netflix's original programming in the EU is now produced in America.

**Correct Answer:** (A) Netflix has been able to transform itself into a truly European entity.

**Solution:**

According to the passage, all but option A are true.

The sentence makes **Option B** quite clear: "A bigger problem is that national broadcasters still dominate." Even in well-established areas, nearly one-third of all viewing hours are accounted for by streaming services like Netflix or Disney+.

Based on the sentence, "The economics of European productions are more appealing, too," **Option C** is accurate. Viewers in America are more open than ever to try dubbed or subtitled content. This implies that Netflix original French crime drama "*Lupin*" has the potential to become a worldwide sensation.

**Option D** is also accurate: "According to media analysis firm Ampere, roughly 75% of Netflix's original content was produced in the United States in 2015; that percentage is now only half."

The only thing wrong with **Option A** is that Netflix now has offices all over Europe. But in the end, American CEOs make the major choices.

**The correct option is (A): Netflix has been able to transform itself into a truly European entity.**

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2.2. The author sees the rise of Netflix in Europe as:

- (A) a unifying force.
- (B) a looming cultural threat.
- (C) an economic threat
- (D) filling an entertainment gap.

**Correct Answer:** (A) a unifying force.

### **Solution:**

In the provided comprehension passage, the author discusses the impact of Netflix in Europe and weighs both the challenges and opportunities of its presence. According to the passage:

- Netflix offers dubbed and subtitled content in numerous languages, facilitating cross-border cultural integration.
- There has been a significant increase in European productions on Netflix, promoting local content on a global scale.
- The fear expressed by European executives regarding cultural sovereignty is juxtaposed with the role of Netflix as a facilitator of European integration. The passage suggests that American companies, like Netflix, enhance cross-cultural exchange and understanding in Europe.
- The author concludes that sharing entertainment, such as series on Netflix, can unify Europeans by creating common cultural touchpoints.

Thus, the author's perspective on Netflix's rise in Europe is primarily positive, highlighting its unifying potential amidst fears of cultural hegemony.

Therefore, the correct answer is: **a unifying force.**

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**2.3.** Which one of the following research findings would weaken the author's conclusion in the final paragraph?

- (A) Research shows that older women across the EU enjoy watching romantic comedies on Netflix, whereas younger women prefer historical fiction dramas.
- (B) Research shows there is a wide variance in the popularity and viewing of Netflix shows across different EU countries.
- (C) Research shows that Netflix hits produced in France are very popular with North American audiences.
- (D) Research shows that Netflix has been gradually losing market share to other streaming television service providers.

**Correct Answer:** (B) Research shows there is a wide variance in the popularity and viewing of Netflix shows across different EU countries.

### **Solution:**

**Option A:** Although this result emphasizes viewer choices, it doesn't immediately answer the author's conclusion about Netflix's role in joining Europe across borders.

**Option C:** The author's conclusion that Netflix acts as a unifying factor throughout Europe is not directly related to this finding.

**Option D:** Although the author's conclusion about the finding's potential effects on Netflix's business is made, it does not directly address the topic of cultural unification.

The author concludes in the final paragraph that Netflix is a force for unity in Europe, transforming culture into a "cross-border endeavor." The author's claim that Netflix is well-liked throughout Europe and provides Europeans with something to share across borders is undermined if there is a significant difference in the popularity and amount of time spent watching Netflix series between the various EU nations. The right response is **option B**.

The author's conclusion in the last paragraph has nothing to do with any of the previous possibilities.

**The correct option is (B):** Research shows there is a wide variance in the popularity and viewing of Netflix shows across different EU countries.



**2.4.** Based only on information provided in the passage, which one of the following hypothetical Netflix shows would be most successful with audiences across the EU?

- (A) A murder mystery drama set in North Africa and France.
- (B) A trans-Atlantic romantic drama set in Europe and America.
- (C) An original German TV science fiction production.
- (D) An Italian comedy show hosted by an international star.

**Correct Answer:** (A) A murder mystery drama set in North Africa and France.

**Solution:**

The paragraph discusses which shows are more appealing and says, "Not everything works across borders." Comedy has its ups and downs. There is a greater allure to murderous maelstroms and whodunit stories with arch Romans and uptight barbarians. According to the text, a murder mystery show set in France and North Africa is therefore likely to be popular with viewers throughout the European Union.

**Option D** may be ruled out with ease based on the lines above.

**Option C** is likewise eliminated because the passage states that "German television is not always built for export." The success of

translating European goods is the main topic of the text.

This has nothing to do with **Option B**. The passage doesn't address romantic dramas' attraction, and the transatlantic context might not always support its idea that certain themes work better across borders within Europe.

**The correct option is (A):** A murder mystery drama set in North Africa and France.



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

Over the past four centuries liberalism has been so successful that it has driven all its opponents off the battlefield. Now it is disintegrating, destroyed by a mix of hubris and internal contradictions, according to Patrick Deneen, a professor of politics at the University of Notre Dame. . . . Equality of opportunity has produced a new meritocratic aristocracy that has all the aloofness of the old aristocracy with none of its sense of noblesse oblige. Democracy has degenerated into a theatre of the absurd. And technological advances are reducing ever more areas of work into meaningless drudgery. “The gap between liberalism’s claims about itself and the lived reality of the citizenry” is now so wide that “the lie can no longer be accepted,” Mr Deneen writes. What better proof of this than the vision of 1,000 private planes whisking their occupants to Davos to discuss the question of “creating a shared future in a fragmented world”? . . . Deneen does an impressive job of capturing the current mood of disillusionment, echoing left-wing complaints about rampant commercialism, right-wing complaints about narcissistic and bullying students, and general worries about atomisation and selfishness. But when he concludes that all this adds up to a failure of liberalism, is his argument

convincing? . . . He argues that the essence of liberalism lies in freeing individuals from constraints. In fact, liberalism contains a wide range of intellectual traditions which provide different answers to the question of how to trade off the relative claims of rights and responsibilities, individual expression and social ties. . . . liberals experimented with a range of ideas from devolving power from the centre to creating national education systems.

Mr Deneen's fixation on the essence of liberalism leads to the second big problem of his book: his failure to recognise liberalism's ability to reform itself and address its internal problems. The late 19th century saw America suffering from many of the problems that are reappearing today, including the creation of a business aristocracy, the rise of vast companies, the corruption of politics and the sense that society was dividing into winners and losers. But a wide variety of reformers, working within the liberal tradition, tackled these problems head on. Theodore Roosevelt took on the trusts. Progressives cleaned up government corruption. University reformers modernised academic syllabuses and built ladders of opportunity. Rather than dying, liberalism reformed itself.

Mr Deneen is right to point out that the record of liberalism in recent years has been dismal. He is also right to assert that the world has much to learn from the premodern notions of liberty as self-mastery and self-denial. The biggest enemy of liberalism is not so much atomisation but old-fashioned greed, as members of the Davos elite pile their plates ever higher with perks and share options. But he is wrong to argue that the only way for people to liberate themselves from the contradictions of liberalism is "liberation from liberalism itself". The best way to read "Why Liberalism Failed" is not as a funeral oration but as a call to action: up your game, or else.

**Correct Answer:** —

**3.1.** All of the following statements are evidence of the decline of liberalism today, EXCEPT:

- (A) “The gap between liberalism’s claims about itself and the lived reality of the citizenry’ is now so wide that ‘the lie can no longer be accepted,’ . . .”
- (B) “And technological advances are reducing ever more areas of work into meaningless drudgery.”
- (C) “. . . the creation of a business aristocracy, the rise of vast companies . . .”
- (D) “Democracy has degenerated into a theatre of the absurd.”

**Correct Answer:** (B) “And technological advances are reducing ever more areas of work into meaningless drudgery.”

**Solution:**

To determine which statement does not serve as evidence of the decline of liberalism, we need to identify if each provided option aligns with the stated decline in the passage. Let's analyze each statement:

1. **“The gap between liberalism’s claims about itself and the lived reality of the citizenry’ is now so wide that ‘the lie can no longer be accepted,’ . . .”** This statement highlights the disparity between liberalism's promises and actual societal experiences, indicating a negative perception and thus suggesting evidence of decline.
2. **“And technological advances are reducing ever more areas of work into meaningless drudgery.”** This statement refers to technological changes leading to monotonous jobs. While it discusses a societal issue, it doesn't directly critique liberalism itself as failing; instead, it identifies a byproduct of technological progress, which can occur in any political or economic system.

3. “. . . the creation of a business aristocracy, the rise of vast companies . . .” This reflects concerns about an elite class dominating economic structures, indicative of liberalism failing to provide equality, hence supporting its decline.

4. “Democracy has degenerated into a theatre of the absurd.” This depicts democracy, a core tenet of liberalism, as a farce, clearly underscoring liberalism's perceived decline.

Among these, statement 2 is the exception, as it merely mentions a side effect of technological advancement without attributing this issue to a failure of liberalism. Therefore, the correct answer is:

**“And technological advances are reducing ever more areas of work into meaningless drudgery.”**



3.2. The author of the passage is likely to disagree with all of the following statements, EXCEPT:

- (A) if we accept that liberalism is a dying ideal, we must work to find a viable substitute.
- (B) liberalism was the dominant ideal in the past century, but it had to reform itself to remain so.
- (C) claims about liberalism’s disintegration are exaggerated and misunderstand its core features.
- (D) the essence of liberalism lies in greater individual self-expression and freedoms.

**Correct Answer:** (B) liberalism was the dominant ideal in the past century, but it had to reform itself to remain so.

**Solution:**

The solution to the problem "the author of the passage is likely to disagree with all of the following statements, EXCEPT" involves understanding the author's stance on liberalism based on the passage provided. Let's analyze the information:

1. **If we accept that liberalism is a dying ideal, we must work to find a viable substitute.** The passage argues against liberalism's demise, implying the author disagrees with the notion of liberalism as a dying ideal, thus likely opposing this statement.

2. **Liberalism was the dominant ideal in the past century, but it had to reform itself to remain so.** The passage mentions liberalism's ability to reform, indicating the author agrees with this point, making it the exception.

3. **Claims about liberalism's disintegration are exaggerated and misunderstand its core features.** The passage critiques liberalism's disintegration but highlights its adaptability, which the author might challenge, suggesting disagreement with this statement.

4. **The essence of liberalism lies in greater individual self-expression and freedoms.** The author challenges the oversimplified essence of liberalism, suggesting disagreement with this statement as well.

Considering the passage and the author's perspective, option 2 is the exception the author is likely to agree with: "**Liberalism was the dominant ideal in the past century, but it had to reform itself to remain so.**"



**3.3.** The author of the passage refers to "the Davos elite" to illustrate his views on:

- (A) the fact that the rise in liberalism had led to a greater interest in shared futures from unlikely social classes.
- (B) the hypocrisy of the liberal rich, who profess to subscribe to liberal values while cornering most of the wealth.
- (C) the unlikelihood of a return to the liberalism of the past as long as the rich continue to benefit from the decline in liberal values.
- (D) the way the debate around liberalism has been captured by the rich who have managed to insulate themselves from economic hardships.

**Correct Answer:** (B) the hypocrisy of the liberal rich, who profess to subscribe to liberal values while cornering most of the wealth.

### Solution:

Take note of the context in which the author discusses the "Davos elite": "As members of the Davos elite pile their plates ever higher with perks and share options, the biggest enemy of liberalism is not so much atomization but old-fashioned greed." **Option B** is the only one that mentions the Davos elite's avarice. This is the right response option.

**Option A** is wrong because the passage calls out the hypocrisy of the Davos elite's actions rather than implying that the advent of liberalism has increased interest in shared futures among improbable socioeconomic classes.

**Option C** is inaccurate because the paragraph refers to internal inconsistencies and arrogance rather than directly linking the fall in liberal values to the rich profiting.

**Option D** is wrong since the passage criticizes the Davos elite's activities rather than focusing on how the rich and powerful control the liberal language.

**The correct option is (B):** the hypocrisy of the liberal rich, who profess to subscribe to liberal values while cornering most of the wealth.



3.4. The author of the passage faults Deneen's conclusions for all of the following reasons, EXCEPT:

- (A) its very narrow definition of liberalism limited to individual freedoms.
- (B) its failure to note historical instances in which the process of declining liberalism has managed to reverse itself.
- (C) its repeated harking back to premodern notions of liberty.
- (D) its extreme pessimism about the future of liberalism today and predictions of an ultimate decline.

**Correct Answer:** (C) its repeated harking back to premodern notions of liberty.

### **Solution:**

The passage provides several reasons why the author criticizes Deneen's conclusions regarding liberalism. To accurately identify the correct exception to these criticisms, we will review each option in the context of the passage content.

- Its very narrow definition of liberalism limited to individual freedoms: The passage criticizes Deneen's fixation on the essence of liberalism, implying a narrow view limited to individual freedoms, overlooking its diverse intellectual traditions. Therefore, this reason is mentioned as a criticism.
- Its failure to note historical instances in which the process of declining liberalism has managed to reverse itself: The author

mentions history where liberalism reformed, suggesting Deneen misses these instances. This is another aspect of criticism.

- Its repeated harking back to premodern notions of liberty: While the passage acknowledges the merits of premodern notions like self-mastery, it doesn't explicitly criticize Deneen for harking back to these ideas. Instead, it's posed as a right point. Hence, this is the exception to the criticism.
- Its extreme pessimism about the future of liberalism today and predictions of an ultimate decline: The passage notes Deneen's pessimistic view, signaling a critical stance towards this conclusion.

Based on this analysis, the correct answer is:

**its repeated harking back to premodern notions of liberty.**



4. 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.



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

The Second Hand September campaign, led by Oxfam . . . seeks to encourage shopping at local organisations and charities as alternatives to fast fashion brands such as Primark and Boohoo in the name of saving our planet. As innocent as mindless scrolling through online shops may seem, such consumers are unintentionally—or perhaps even knowingly—contributing to an industry that uses more energy than aviation. . . .

Brits buy more garments than any other country in Europe, so it comes as no shock that many of those clothes end up in UK landfills each year: 300,000 tonnes of them, to be exact. This waste of clothing is destructive to our planet, releasing greenhouse gasses as clothes are burnt as well as bleeding toxins and dyes into the surrounding soil and water. As ecologist Chelsea Rochman bluntly put it, “The mismanagement of our waste has even come back to haunt us on our dinner plate.”

It’s not surprising, then, that people are scrambling for a solution, the most common of which is second-hand shopping. Retailers selling consigned clothing are currently expanding at a rapid rate . . . If everyone bought just one used item in a year, it would save 449 million lbs of waste, equivalent to the weight of 1 million Polar bears. “Thriftig” has increasingly become a trendy practice. London is home to many second-hand, or more commonly coined ‘vintage’, shops across the city from Bayswater to Brixton.

So you're cool and you care about the planet; you've killed two birds with one stone. But do people simply purchase a second-hand item, flash it on Instagram with #vintage and call it a day without considering whether what they are doing is actually effective?

According to a study commissioned by Patagonia, for instance, older clothes shed more microfibres. These can end up in our rivers and seas after just one wash due to the worn material, thus contributing to microfibre pollution. To break it down, the amount of microfibres released by laundering 100,000 fleece jackets is equivalent to as many as 11,900 plastic grocery bags, and up to 40 per cent of that ends up in our oceans. . . . So where does this leave second-hand consumers? [They would be well advised to buy] high-quality items that shed less and last longer [as this] combats both microfibre pollution and excess garments ending up in landfills. . . .

Luxury brands would rather not circulate their latest season stock around the globe to be sold at a cheaper price, which is why companies like ThredUP, a US fashion resale marketplace, have not yet caught on in the UK. There will always be a market for consignment but there is also a whole generation of people who have been taught that only buying new products is the norm; second-hand luxury goods are not in their psyche. Ben Whitaker, director at Liquidation Firm B-Stock, told Prospect that unless recycling becomes cost-effective and filters into mass production, with the right technology to partner it, "high-end retailers would rather put brand before sustainability."

**Correct Answer:** —

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**5.1.** According to the author, companies like ThredUP have not caught on in the UK for all of the following reasons EXCEPT that:

- (A) luxury brands want to maintain their brand image.
- (B) luxury brands do not like their product to be devalued
- (C) the British don't buy second-hand clothing.
- (D) recycling is currently not financially attractive for luxury brands

**Correct Answer:** (C) the British don't buy second-hand clothing.

### **Solution:**

To solve the question, we need to identify the reason why companies like ThredUP have not caught on in the UK, excluding one incorrect option provided. The passage provides insights into consumer behavior and business strategies related to second-hand clothing, particularly focused on the UK market.

The possible reasons mentioned in the passage are:

- Luxury brands prefer not to circulate their latest stock globally to avoid selling at cheaper prices (related to maintaining brand image).
- High-end retailers prioritize brand image over sustainability unless recycling becomes cost-effective (indicating luxury brands' reluctance to devalue their products).
- A generational norm of consuming new products rather than second-hand items is mentioned, but it does not specifically state that the British don't buy second-hand clothing.
- Recycling needs to become financially attractive with compatible technology for luxury brands to consider its benefits.

The options given are:

1. Luxury brands want to maintain their brand image.
2. Luxury brands do not like their product to be devalued.

3. The British don't buy second-hand clothing.
4. Recycling is currently not financially attractive for luxury brands.

Comparing these points with the passage, the statement that "the British don't buy second-hand clothing" is not supported. The passage discusses the preference for new items and the increasing trend of second-hand shopping, indicating that the British do buy second-hand clothing.

Thus, the correct answer is: **the British don't buy second-hand clothing.**



**5.2.** The act of “thrifting”, as described in the passage, can be considered ironic because it:

- (A) is an anti-consumerist attitude.
- (B) has created environmental problems.
- (C) is not cost-effective for retailers.
- (D) offers luxury clothing at cut-rate prices.

**Correct Answer:** (B) has created environmental problems.

### **Solution:**

The irony of "thrifting" as described in the passage lies in its **unintended negative environmental impact**. The passage outlines the Second Hand September campaign promoting second-hand shopping as eco-friendly, contrasting it with fast fashion's energy usage exceeding that of aviation.

Although thrifting aims to reduce garment waste and its harmful ecological effects, it inadvertently introduces environmental issues

through **microfibres shed by aged clothing**, contaminating waterways.

Thus, the irony resides in this practice of presumed sustainability **contributing to ecological harm**, aligning with the choice: **has created environmental problems**.



**5.3.** The central idea of the passage would be undermined if:

- (A) customers bought all their clothes online.
- (B) Primark and Boohoo recycled their clothes for vintage stores
- (C) second-hand stores sold only high-quality clothes.
- (D) clothes were not thrown and burnt in landfills.

**Correct Answer:** (C) second-hand stores sold only high-quality clothes.

### **Solution:**

The passage primarily advocates for **sustainable shopping practices**, particularly second-hand shopping, as a solution to mitigate the adverse environmental impact of the fashion industry. Additionally, it underscores the importance of consumers being conscientious about the environmental consequences of their clothing choices, advocating for the selection of durable items that minimize microfiber shedding.

While emphasizing the potential environmental downside of second-hand clothing due to microfiber pollution, the passage suggests that this issue could be mitigated if second-hand clothes were consistently of higher quality. By purchasing high-quality items that shed fewer fibers and last longer, consumers can address both microfiber pollution and the accumulation of excess garments in landfills.

Therefore, **Option C is correct**.

**Option A** pertains more to the purchasing process rather than the characteristics of the clothing, thus it does not necessarily contradict the central idea of the passage.

**Option B** could potentially align with the sustainability objective and reinforce the central idea, thus it doesn't inherently undermine it.

**Option D** aligns with the central idea by advocating for reduced environmental harm through sustainable shopping practices.

**So, the correct option is (C): second-hand stores sold only high-quality clothes.**



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: And probably much earlier, moving the documentation for kissing back 1,000 years compared to what was acknowledged in the scientific community.

Paragraph: Research has hypothesised that the earliest evidence of human lip kissing originated in a very specific geographical location in South Asia 3,500 years ago. \_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_. From there it may have spread to other regions, simultaneously accelerating the spread of the herpes simplex virus 1. According to Dr Troels Pank Arbøll and Dr Sophie Lund Rasmussen, who in a new article in the journal Science draw on a range of written sources from the earliest Mesopotamian societies, kissing was already a well-established practice 4,500 years ago in the Middle East. \_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_. In ancient Mesopotamia, people wrote in cuneiform script on clay tablets. \_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_. Many thousands of these clay tablets have survived to this day, and they contain clear examples that kissing was considered a part of romantic intimacy in ancient times. \_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_. “Kissing could also

have been part of friendships and family members' relations," says Dr Troels Pank Arbøll, an expert on the history of medicine in Mesopotamia.

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

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

**Solution:**

The sentence fits best in Blank 2. Putting it there adds more detail to the timeline and challenges existing scientific views, making the paragraph flow logically. It doesn't belong in Blank 1 because it doesn't add to the previous sentence.

Placing it in Blank 3 or Blank 4 would disrupt the paragraph's flow because of the connection between the sentences before and after those blanks.

Therefore, the correct option is (D) : option 2.

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

Sentence: Dualism was long held as the defining feature of developing countries in contrast to developed countries, where frontier technologies and high productivity were assumed to prevail.

Paragraph: \_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_. At the core of development economics lies the idea of 'productive dualism': that poor countries' economies are split between a narrow 'modern' sector that uses advanced technologies and a larger

'traditional' sector characterized by very low productivity.\_\_(2)\_\_. While this distinction between developing and advanced economies may have made some sense in the 1950s and 1960s, it no longer appears to be very relevant. A combination of forces have produced a widening gap between the winners and those left behind.\_\_(3)\_\_. Convergence between poor and rich parts of the economy was arrested and regional disparities widened.\_\_(4)\_\_. As a result, policymakers in advanced economies are now grappling with the same questions that have long preoccupied developing economies: mainly how to close the gap with the more advanced parts of the economy.

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

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

**Solution:**

The statement is most appropriate for Blank 2 as it further elucidates the concept of 'productive dualism' previously introduced. It offers supplementary insights into the differentiation between the "modern" and "traditional" sectors within the economies of impoverished nations, emphasizing the historical viewpoint that contrasts developing and developed countries. This sentence lays the groundwork for the ensuing discourse regarding the significance of this differentiation in the contemporary scenario.

So, the correct option is (B): Option 2

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) Self-care particularly links to loneliness, behavioural problems, and negative academic outcomes.

(B) “Latchkey children” refers to children who routinely return home from school to empty homes and take care of themselves for extended periods of time.

(C) Although self-care generally points to negative outcomes, it is important to consider that the bulk of research has yet to track long-term consequences.

(D) In research and practice, the phrase “children in self-care” has come to replace latchkey in an effort to more accurately reflect the nature of their circumstances.

**Correct Answer:** (C) Although self-care generally points to negative outcomes, it is important to consider that the bulk of research has yet to track long-term consequences.

**Solution:**

Sentence 3 stands out as it presents an alternative viewpoint. Sentence 3 highlights the necessity to take into account the fact that the majority of studies has not yet tracked long-term effects, despite the other phrases discussing the bad results linked with children practicing self-care.

This statement presents a more fair or balanced point of view that deviates from the overall topic of the preceding sentences, which emphasizes the drawbacks of kid self-care.

The remaining phrases (one, two, four, and five) can be combined to

create a logical paragraph that addresses the idea of self-care with regard to kids, especially those who are called "Latchkey children."

The correct option is (C): Although self-care generally points to negative outcomes, it is important to consider that the bulk of research has yet to track long-term consequences.



9. 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) The banning of Northern Lights could be considered a precursor to censoring books for “moral”, world view or religious reasons.

(B) Attempts to ban books are attempts to silence authors who have summoned immense courage in telling their stories.

(C) Now the banning and challenging of books in the US has escalated to an unprecedented level.

(D) The widely acclaimed fantasy novel Northern Lights was banned in some parts of the US, and was the second most challenged book in the US.

**Correct Answer:** (B) Attempts to ban books are attempts to silence authors who have summoned immense courage in telling their stories.

### **Solution:**

Sentence 2 stands apart from the rest because it presents a broader notion concerning efforts to prohibit books and stifle authors, diverging from the specific focus of the other sentences on book banning and challenges within the US. Sentences 1, 3, 4, and 5 collectively construct a cohesive paragraph addressing the prohibition

of Northern Lights and the increasing frequency of book challenges in the US. In contrast, Sentence 2 introduces a distinct perspective that doesn't directly enhance the narrative flow concerning the particular incidents and trends outlined in the other sentences.

So, the correct option is (B): Attempts to ban books are attempts to silence authors who have summoned immense courage in telling their stories.



**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. Like the ants that make up a colony, no single neuron holds complex information like self-awareness, hope or pride.
2. Although the human brain is not yet understood enough to identify the mechanism by which emergence functions, most neurobiologists agree that complex interconnections among the parts give rise to qualities that belong only to the whole.
3. Nonetheless, the sum of all neurons in the nervous system generate complex human emotions like fear and joy, none of which can be attributed to a single neuron.
4. Human consciousness is often called an emergent property of the human brain.

- (A) 4132
- (B) 3214.
- (C) 2431
- (D) 4231

**Correct Answer:** (A) 4132

**Solution:**

Sentence 4 sets the stage by introducing the main idea that human consciousness is often regarded as an emergent property of the human brain, providing essential context for the subsequent discussion.

Considering Sentences 1 and 3, Sentence 1 concludes with the statement "no single neuron holds complex information like self-awareness, hope, or pride."

Sentence 3 builds upon this idea by asserting that despite this, the collective activity of all neurons in the nervous system generates complex human emotions like fear and joy, as stated: "Nonetheless, the sum of all neurons...". Thus, it can be inferred that Sentence 3 logically follows Sentence 1. Moreover, Sentence 3 reinforces the notion that emergent properties arise from the interaction of individual components.

Finally, Sentence 2 wraps up the paragraph by explaining that while the precise mechanism of emergence in the human brain remains incompletely understood, neurobiologists concur that complex interconnections among its parts give rise to qualities specific to the whole. This sentence serves to conclude the discussion and strengthen the concept introduced in Sentence 4.

So, the correct sequence is option (A): 4132



**11.** 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. Contemporary African writing like 'The Bottled Leopard' voices this

theme using two children and two backgrounds to juxtapose two varying cultures.

2. Chukwuemeka Ike explores the conflict, and casts the Western tradition as condescending, enveloping and unaccommodating towards local African practice.

3. However, their views contradict the reality, for a rich and sustaining local African cultural ethos exists for all who care, to see and experience.

4. Western Christian concepts tend to deny or feign ignorance about the existence of a genuine and enduring indigenous African tradition.

(A) 4132

(B) 4312

(C) 2431

(D) 4231

**Correct Answer:** (B) 4312

### **Solution:**

The proper sequence is 4-3-1-2.

The clash between indigenous African culture and ideals of Western Christianity is introduced in Sentence 4. This sets the stage for the conversation that will come next.

As we can see, Sentence 3 begins with the word "However," implying that it is contesting the ideas expressed in Sentence 4 by claiming that a rich indigenous African cultural ethos exists. Sentence 3 must so come after Sentence 4.

Sentence 2 adds context to the debate by introducing Chukwuemeka Ike and giving more details about his analysis of the conflict. Sentence 1 presents a piece of modern African literature that delves into the struggle. It makes logical to provide an example and then go into

further detail after that.

Sentence 1 presents the book and makes the logical assumption that Ike is the author. Sentence 2 therefore needs to come after Sentence 1.

The correct sequence is option(B): 4321



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

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

Heatwaves are becoming longer, frequent and intense due to climate change. The impacts of extreme heat are unevenly experienced; with older people and young children, those with pre-existing medical conditions and on low incomes significantly more vulnerable. Adaptation to heatwaves is a significant public policy concern. Research conducted among at-risk people in the UK reveals that even vulnerable people do not perceive themselves as at risk of extreme heat; therefore, early warnings of extreme heat events do not perform as intended. This suggests that understanding how extreme heat is narrated is very important. The news media play a central role in this process and can help warn people about the potential danger, as well as about impacts on infrastructure and society.

(A) Heatwaves pose an enormous risk; the media plays a pivotal role in alerting people to this danger.

(B) People are vulnerable to heatwaves caused due to climate change, measures taken are ineffective.

(C) Protection from heat waves is important but current reports and public policies seem ineffective.

(D) News stories help in warning about heatwaves, but they have to become more effective.

**Correct Answer:** (A) Heatwaves pose an enormous risk; the media plays a pivotal role in alerting people to this danger.

**Solution:**

The passage addresses the escalating frequency and severity of heatwaves attributable to climate change, affecting various vulnerable demographics disparately. It underscores the necessity of adapting to heatwaves as a significant public policy concern. Research findings indicate that even vulnerable individuals may not recognize themselves as susceptible to extreme heat, underscoring the importance of comprehending how extreme heat is communicated. Specifically, the passage highlights the pivotal role of the news media in forewarning the populace about the potential hazards of heatwaves and their repercussions on infrastructure and society.

**Option (A)** implies a general significance of protection without specifically emphasizing the media's role in alerting people to the dangers of heatwaves.

**Option (B)** acknowledges vulnerability to heatwaves but fails to stress the media's role in alerting people, instead suggesting a broader critique of measures taken.

**Option (C)** effectively conveys the central focus on the substantial risk posed by heatwaves and the crucial function of the media in alerting the public to this peril.

**Option (D)** mentions the necessity for news stories to enhance effectiveness but does not highlight the central role of the media in alerting people to the risk of heatwaves, as the passage does.

So, the correct option is (A): Heatwaves pose an enormous risk; the media plays a pivotal role in alerting people to this danger.



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

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

People spontaneously create counterfactual alternatives to reality when they think “if only” or “what if” and imagine how the past could have been different. The mind computes counterfactuals for many reasons.

Counterfactuals explain the past and prepare for the future, they implicate various relations including causal ones, and they affect intentions and decisions. They modulate emotions such as regret and relief, and they support moral judgments such as blame. The ability to create counterfactuals develops throughout childhood and contributes to reasoning about other people's beliefs, including their false beliefs.

(A) Counterfactuals help people to prepare for the future by understanding intentions and making decisions.

(B) People create counterfactual alternatives to reality for various reasons, including reasoning about other people's beliefs.

(C) Counterfactual alternatives to reality are created for a variety of reasons and is part of one's developmental process.

(D) Counterfactual thinking helps to reverse past and future actions and reason out false beliefs.

**Correct Answer:** (C) Counterfactual alternatives to reality are created for a variety of reasons and is part of one's developmental process.

### **Solution:**

The paragraph discusses counterfactual thinking, highlighting how people create hypothetical alternatives to reality for various purposes. These include explaining historical events, planning for the future, understanding relationships (including cause and effect), eliciting emotions, and supporting ethical conclusions. It also mentions that the ability to generate such counterfactuals develops during childhood

and helps in understanding others' beliefs. Option C summarizes these key points effectively and accurately.

The preparation for the future is the main focus of Option A, and it ignores the larger motivations for developing counterfactual alternatives.

The developmental aspect and different reasons for creating are not highlighted in Option B.

Option D oversimplifies the function of counterfactuals and falsely implies that counterfactual reasoning aids in reversing past and future actions. This is not the passage's primary purpose.

The correct option is (C): Counterfactual alternatives to reality are created for a variety of reasons and is part of one's developmental process.