

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.

In 2006, the Met [art museum in the US] agreed to return the Euphronios krater, a masterpiece Greek urn that had been a museum draw since 1972. In 2007, the Getty [art museum in the US] agreed to return 40 objects to Italy, including a marble Aphrodite, in the midst of looting scandals. And in December, Sotheby's and a private owner agreed to return an ancient Khmer statue of a warrior, pulled from auction two years before, to Cambodia.

Cultural property, or patrimony, laws limit the transfer of cultural property outside the source country's territory, including outright export prohibitions and national ownership laws. Most art historians, archaeologists, museum officials and policymakers portray cultural property laws in general as invaluable tools for counteracting the ugly legacy of Western cultural imperialism.

During the late th 19 and early th 20 century - an era former Met director Thomas Hoving called "the age of piracy" - American and European art museums acquired antiquities by hook or by crook, from grave robbers or

souvenir collectors, bounty from digs and ancient sites in impoverished but art-rich source countries. Patrimony laws were intended to protect future archaeological discoveries against Western imperialist designs. ...

I surveyed 90 countries with one or more archaeological sites on UNESCO's World Heritage Site list, and my study shows that in most cases the number of discovered sites diminishes sharply after a country passes a cultural property law. There are 222 archaeological sites listed for those 90 countries. When you look into the history of the sites, you see that all but 21 were discovered before the passage of cultural property laws. ... Strict cultural patrimony laws are popular in most countries. But the downside may be that they reduce incentives for foreign governments, nongovernmental organizations and educational institutions to invest in overseas exploration because their efforts will not necessarily be rewarded by opportunities to hold, display and study what is uncovered. To the extent that source countries can fund their own archaeological projects, artifacts and sites may still be discovered. . . . The survey has far-reaching implications. It suggests that source countries, particularly in the developing world, should narrow their cultural property laws so that they can reap the benefits of new archaeological discoveries, which typically increase tourism and enhance cultural pride. This does not mean these nations should abolish restrictions on foreign excavation and foreign claims to artifacts.

China provides an interesting alternative approach for source nations eager for foreign archaeological investment. From 1935 to 2003, China had a restrictive cultural property law that prohibited foreign ownership of Chinese cultural artifacts. In those years, China's most significant archaeological discovery occurred by chance, in 1974, when peasant farmers accidentally uncovered ranks of buried terra cotta warriors, which are part of Emperor Qin's spectacular tomb system.

In 2003, the Chinese government switched course, dropping its cultural property law and embracing collaborative international archaeological

research. Since then, China has nominated 11 archaeological sites for inclusion in the World Heritage Site list, including eight in 2013, the most ever for China.

Correct Answer: —

1.1. From the passage we can infer that the author is likely to advise poor, but archaeologically rich source countries to do all of the following, EXCEPT:

- (A) to find ways to motivate other countries to finance archaeological explorations in their country.
- (B) adopt China's strategy of dropping its cultural property laws and carrying out archaeological research through international collaboration.
- (C) allow foreign countries to analyse and exhibit the archaeological finds made in the source country.
- (D) fund institutes in other countries to undertake archaeological exploration in the source country reaping the benefits of cutting-edge techniques.

Correct Answer: (D) fund institutes in other countries to undertake archaeological exploration in the source country reaping the benefits of cutting-edge techniques.

Solution:

Option A: The author acknowledges that **strict cultural property laws** may **deter foreign funding** of archaeological expeditions.

Hence, it is logical that the author would support **efforts to persuade international organizations** to continue funding such research in source countries.

Option B: The passage presents China as a successful example of **transitioning from strict regulation to international collaboration**, which resulted in **more archaeological discoveries**. Thus, this is a **valid and supported suggestion**.

Option C: The text supports **global cooperation in archaeology** and implies that allowing **foreign examination and exhibition** of artifacts can be beneficial. This aligns with the author's concerns about the **restrictive nature of cultural property rules**.

Option D: Although the passage promotes international collaboration, it does not support the idea that **outsourcing research to foreign nations** (i.e., conducting research entirely outside the source country) is beneficial. Rather, the author argues for **collaborative work within the nation of origin**. Thus, Option D is **not consistent with the author's likely recommendations**.

Therefore, the correct answer is: Option D — it is *not* a suggestion the author would likely support.



1.2. It can be inferred from the passage that archaeological sites are considered important by some source countries because they:

- (A) are a symbol of Western imperialism.
- (B) generate funds for future discoveries.
- (C) give a boost to the tourism sector.
- (D) are subject to strict patrimony laws.

Correct Answer: (C) give a boost to the tourism sector.

Solution:

The passage indicates that archaeological sites hold value for source countries not only for their cultural and historical significance but also due to their **economic and societal benefits**. Specifically, the text states that countries should consider modifying strict cultural property laws so they can “**reap the benefits of new archaeological discoveries, which typically increase tourism and enhance cultural pride.**”

This clearly shows that archaeological sites are viewed as a **means to attract tourism** and boost national pride. Therefore, it can be inferred that **some source countries see these sites as important because they give a boost to the tourism sector.**

Correct inference: Archaeological sites are considered important by some source countries because they give a boost to the tourism sector.



1.3. Which one of the following statements, if true, would undermine the central idea of the passage?

- (A) Museums established in economically deprived archaeologically-rich source countries can display the antiques discovered there.
- (B) Affluent archaeologically-rich source countries can afford to carry out their own excavations.
- (C) Western countries will have to apologise to countries for looting their cultural property in the past century.
- (D) UNESCO finances archaeological research in poor, but archaeologically-rich source countries.

Correct Answer: (D) UNESCO finances archaeological research in poor, but archaeologically-rich source countries.

Solution:

The passage argues that **strict rules protecting cultural property**—while well-intentioned and widely supported—could **reduce the willingness of international organizations to fund archaeological research** abroad. This, in turn, might **negatively affect discoveries, tourism, and national pride** in the source countries.

Option D challenges this reasoning by suggesting that **external financial support continues despite the rules**, thereby weakening the link between regulation and decreased funding. If true, this implies that the **lack of archaeological discoveries** might be due to *other unrelated factors* not considered by the author.

Therefore, the correct answer is: Option D — it introduces an alternative explanation that **counters the passage's main point**.

1.4. Which one of the following statements best expresses the paradox of patrimony laws?

- (A) They were intended to protect cultural property, but instead resulted in the neglect of historical sites.
- (B) They were aimed at protecting cultural property, but instead reduced business for auctioneers like Sotheby's.
- (C) They were aimed at protecting cultural property, but instead reduced new archaeological discoveries.
- (D) They were intended to protect cultural property, but instead resulted in the withholding of national treasure from museums.

Correct Answer: (C) They were aimed at protecting cultural property, but instead reduced new archaeological discoveries.

Solution:

The paradox of patrimony laws, as discussed in the passage, lies in the contrast between **their intended purpose** and **their actual outcome**. These laws were enacted to safeguard a nation's cultural heritage by preventing artifacts from being removed and held abroad. However, the passage highlights that such protective measures have led to an **unintended decline in archaeological exploration**, especially by foreign institutions.

Since these laws make it difficult for external organizations to retain or display discovered artifacts, they **discourage investment and participation in excavations**. As a result, fewer new sites are unearthed, undermining the very goal of preserving and understanding cultural history.

Best expression of the paradox: They were aimed at protecting cultural property, but instead reduced new archaeological discoveries.

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

Steven Pinker's new book, "Rationality: What It Is, Why It Seems Scarce, Why It Matters," offers a pragmatic dose of measured optimism, presenting rationality as a fragile but achievable ideal in personal and civic life. ... Pinker's ambition to illuminate such a crucial topic offers the welcome prospect of a return to sanity. ... It's no small achievement to make formal logic, game theory, statistics and Bayesian reasoning delightful topics full of charm and relevance.

It's also plausible to believe that a wider application of the rational tools he analyzes would improve the world in important ways. His primer on

statistics and scientific uncertainty is particularly timely and should be required reading before consuming any news about the [COVID] pandemic. More broadly, he argues that less media coverage of shocking but vanishingly rare events, from shark attacks to adverse vaccine reactions, would help prevent dangerous overreactions, fatalism and the diversion of finite resources away from solvable but less-dramatic issues, like malnutrition in the developing world.

It's a reasonable critique, and Pinker is not the first to make it. But analyzing the political economy of journalism - its funding structures, ownership concentration and increasing reliance on social media shares - would have given a fuller picture of why so much coverage is so misguided and what we might do about it.

Pinker's main focus is the sort of conscious, sequential reasoning that can track the steps in a geometric proof or an argument in formal logic. Skill in this domain maps directly onto the navigation of many real-world problems, and Pinker shows how greater mastery of the tools of rationality can improve decision-making in medical, legal, financial and many other contexts in which we must act on uncertain and shifting information. ..

Despite the undeniable power of the sort of rationality he describes, many of the deepest insights in the history of science, math, music and art strike their originators in moments of epiphany. From the 19th-century chemist Friedrich August Kekulé's discovery of the structure of benzene to any of Mozart's symphonies, much extraordinary human achievement is not a product of conscious, sequential reasoning. Even Plato's Socrates - who anticipated many of Pinker's points by nearly 2,500 years, showing the virtue of knowing what you do not know and examining all premises in arguments, not simply trusting speakers' authority or charisma - attributed many of his most profound insights to dreams and visions. Conscious reasoning is helpful in sorting the wheat from the chaff, but it would be interesting to consider the hidden aquifers that make much of the grain grow in the first place.

The role of moral and ethical education in promoting rational behavior is also underexplored. Pinker recognizes that rationality "is not just a cognitive virtue but a moral one." But this profoundly important point, one subtly explor

Correct Answer: —

2.1. The author endorses Pinker's views on the importance of logical reasoning as it:

- (A) provides a moral compass for resolving important ethical dilemmas.
- (B) equips people with the ability to tackle challenging practical problems.
- (C) focuses public attention on real issues like development rather than sensational events.
- (D) helps people to gain expertise in statistics and other scientific disciplines.

Correct Answer: (B) equips people with the ability to tackle challenging practical problems.

Solution:

The passage underscores Pinker's emphasis on sequential reasoning and the tools of rationality, suggesting that mastering these tools can enhance decision-making in various practical scenarios where individuals must navigate "uncertain and shifting information." The author's endorsement or support for Pinker's work revolves around the concept that logical reasoning "equips people with the ability to tackle challenging practical problems" [**Option B**].

Option A is inaccurate - although the author acknowledges Pinker's perspective on rationality as a moral virtue, they note that Pinker's exploration of the role of moral and ethical education is lacking.

Option C focuses on a specific application of Pinker's views and fails to capture the broader message.

Option D similarly confines the discussion to the broader utility of rationality in decision-making.

So, the correct option is (B): equips people with the ability to tackle challenging practical problems.



2.2. According to the author, for Pinker as well as the ancient Greek philosophers, rational thinking involves all of the following EXCEPT:

- (A) arriving at independent conclusions irrespective of who is presenting the argument.
- (B) the belief that the ability to reason logically encompasses an ethical and moral dimension.
- (C) the primacy of conscious sequential reasoning as the basis for seminal human achievements.
- (D) an awareness of underlying assumptions in an argument and gaps in one's own knowledge.

Correct Answer: (C) the primacy of conscious sequential reasoning as the basis for seminal human achievements.

Solution:

According to the discussion, the option **not aligned** with Pinker's perspective on rational thinking (and that of the ancient Greek philosophers) is **Option C**. The passage suggests that while sequential

reasoning has its merits, many human breakthroughs arise from moments of *epiphany or insight*, not solely from deliberate, step-by-step reasoning.

Rational thought, as emphasized by Pinker and prefigured by Plato's Socrates, involves recognizing the **limits of one's knowledge** (Option D) and **arriving at independent conclusions** (Option A), rather than depending on the authority or charisma of speakers.

Additionally, the passage acknowledges an **ethical and moral dimension** to rationality (Option B), which Pinker touches upon, though not in great depth.

Thus, Option C is the correct answer, as it diverges from Pinker's outlined approach to rational thinking.



2.3. The author refers to the ancient Greek philosophers to:

- (A) highlight the influence of their thinking on the development of Pinker's arguments.
- (B) show how dreams and visions have for centuries influenced subconscious behaviour and pathbreaking inventions.
- (C) reveal gaps in Pinker's discussion of the importance of ethical considerations in rational behaviour.
- (D) indicate the various similarities between their thinking and Pinker's conclusions.

Correct Answer: (C) reveal gaps in Pinker's discussion of the importance of ethical considerations in rational behaviour.

Solution:

The author of the passage refers to **ancient Greek philosophers** to point out the **gaps** in **Steven Pinker's** argument about rationality. While Pinker views rationality as both a *cognitive* and *moral virtue*, the author suggests that he does not fully explore the role of **moral and ethical education** in shaping rational behavior.

By mentioning philosophers like **Plato's Socrates**, who valued *dreams and visions* alongside reasoning, the author emphasizes that ethical and non-logical dimensions were integral to their understanding of rationality — aspects that Pinker largely overlooks.

Therefore, the correct answer is: Reveal gaps in Pinker's discussion of the importance of ethical considerations in rational behaviour.



2.4. The author mentions Kekules discovery of the structure of benzene and Mozart's symphonies to illustrate the point that:

- (A) Pinker's conclusions on sequential reasoning are belied by European achievements which, in the past, were more rooted in unconscious bursts of genius.
- (B) unlike the sciences, human achievements in other fields are a mix of logical reasoning and spontaneous epiphanies.
- (C) it is not just the creative arts, but also scientific fields that have benefitted from flashes of creativity.
- (D) great innovations across various fields can stem from flashes of intuition and are not always propelled by logical thinking.

Correct Answer: (D) great innovations across various fields can stem from flashes of intuition and are not always propelled by logical thinking.

Solution:

The passage discusses **Steven Pinker's** views on rationality, particularly emphasizing its importance in both **personal** and **civic life**. While Pinker highlights the value of *conscious, sequential reasoning*, the passage also presents a contrast by acknowledging that many major achievements arise through **creative intuition or sudden insight**.

Examples such as **Kekulé's discovery** of the benzene structure and **Mozart's symphonies** illustrate how breakthrough ideas often emerge from *flashes of intuition* rather than from strict logical processes.

Therefore, the correct answer is: Great innovations across various fields can stem from flashes of intuition and are not always propelled by logical thinking.



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

The biggest challenge [The Nutmeg's Curse by Ghosh] throws down is to the prevailing understanding of when the climate crisis started. Most of us have accepted ... that it started with the widespread use of coal at the beginning of the Industrial Age in the 18th century and worsened with the mass adoption of oil and natural gas in the 20th .

Ghosh takes this history at least three centuries back, to the start of European colonialism in the 15th century. He [starts] the book with a 1621 massacre by Dutch invaders determined to impose a monopoly on nutmeg cultivation and trade in the Banda islands in today's Indonesia. Not only do the Dutch systematically depopulate the islands through genocide, they also try their best to bring nutmeg cultivation into plantation mode. These are the two points to which Ghosh returns through examples from around the world. One, how European colonialists decimated not only indigenous

populations but also indigenous understanding of the relationship between humans and Earth. Two, how this was an invasion not only of humans but of the Earth itself, and how this continues to the present day by looking at nature as a 'resource' to exploit. ...

We know we are facing more frequent and more severe heatwaves, storms, floods, droughts and wildfires due to climate change. We know our expansion through deforestation, dam building, canal cutting - in short, terraforming, the word Ghosh uses - has brought us repeated disasters ... Are these the responses of an angry Gaia who has finally had enough? By using the word 'curse' in the title, the author makes it clear that he thinks so. I use the pronoun 'who' knowingly, because Ghosh has quoted many non-European sources to enquire into the relationship between humans and the world around them so that he can question the prevalent way of looking at Earth as an inert object to be exploited to the maximum.

As Ghosh's text, notes and bibliography show once more, none of this is new. There have always been challenges to the way European colonialists looked at other civilisations and at Earth. It is just that the invaders and their myriad backers in the fields of economics, politics, anthropology, philosophy, literature, technology, physics, chemistry, biology have dominated global intellectual discourse....

There are other points of view that we can hear today if we listen hard enough. Those observing global climate negotiations know about the Latin American way of looking at Earth as Pachamama (Earth Mother). They also know how such a framing is just provided lip service and is ignored in the substantive portions of the negotiations. In *The Nutmeg's Curse*, Ghosh explains why. He shows the extent of the vested interest in the oil economy - not only for oil exporting countries, but also for a superpower like the US that controls oil drilling, oil prices and oil movement around the world. Many of us know power utilities are sabotaging decentralised solar power generation today because it hits their revenues and control. And how the other points of view are so often drowned out.

Correct Answer: —

3.1. All of the following can be inferred from the reviewer's discussion of "The Nutmeg's Curse", EXCEPT:

- (A) academic discourses have always served the function of raising awareness about environmental preservation.
- (B) the contemporary dominant perception of nature and the environment was put in place by processes of colonialism.
- (C) environmental preservation policy makers can learn a lot from non-European and/or pre colonial societies.
- (D) the history of climate change is deeply intertwined with the history of colonialism.

Correct Answer: (A) academic discourses have always served the function of raising awareness about environmental preservation.

Solution:

The given passage and the question require us to infer what can be gathered from the review of "The Nutmeg's Curse" by Amitav Ghosh. We are to identify which statement cannot be inferred from the discussion. Let's evaluate each option against the text.

Option 1: "academic discourses have always served the function of raising awareness about environmental preservation." This option suggests that academia has consistently raised awareness about environmental issues. However, the passage indicates that European colonialists dominated global intellectual discourse, implying that contrary viewpoints, such as indigenous and non-European perspectives on environmental preservation, have often been

suppressed or marginalized. Thus, this statement cannot be inferred from the passage.

Option 2: "the contemporary dominant perception of nature and the environment was put in place by processes of colonialism." The passage discusses how colonial practices started in the 15th century and have influenced current perceptions of nature as a resource to exploit. Thus, this statement is a valid inference.

Option 3: "environmental preservation policymakers can learn a lot from non-European and/or pre-colonial societies." The passage mentions that non-European sources offer different perspectives on the human-Earth relationship, which challenges the prevalent exploitative viewpoint. Therefore, this is a plausible inference.

Option 4: "the history of climate change is deeply intertwined with the history of colonialism." The passage indicates that Ghosh traces the roots of the climate crisis to European colonialism, suggesting a deep connection. Thus, this is also a correct inference.

Based on the above analysis, the statement that cannot be inferred from the passage is Option 1: "academic discourses have always served the function of raising awareness about environmental preservation." This choice misrepresents the dominant influence of colonial and European perspectives in the academic discourse described in the passage.



3.2. Which one of the following best explains the primary purpose of the discussion of the colonisation of the Banda islands in "The Nutmeg's Curse"?

- (A) To illustrate how systemic violence against the colonised constituted the cornerstone of colonialism.
- (B) To illustrate how colonialism represented and perpetuated the mindset that has led to climate change.
- (C) To illustrate the role played by the cultivation of certain crops in the plantation mode in contributing to climate change.
- (D) To illustrate the first instance in history when the processes responsible for climate change were initiated.

Correct Answer: (B) To illustrate how colonialism represented and perpetuated the mindset that has led to climate change.

Solution:

The consideration centres on understanding the primary objective of the Banda islands' colonisation discussion in "The Nutmeg's Curse." Analyzing the passage, it focuses on European colonialism's long-term impact, where colonial mindsets initially laid the foundations for contemporary climate change rather than simply promoting systemic violence or establishing agricultural practices.

The passage elucidates Ghosh's argument that the climate crisis roots trace back to colonial times, emphasizing how colonizers viewed Earth as a resource to be exploited, which persists in modern practices. This view directly links past colonialism with present environmental challenges, illustrating that the systemic exploitation mindset initiated during colonial times continues to affect how natural resources are treated, facilitating climate change.

Therefore, the correct explanation of the Banda islands' colonisation discussion in the book is: **To illustrate how colonialism represented and perpetuated the mindset that has led to climate change.**

3.3. Which one of the following, if true, would make the reviewer's choice of the pronoun "who" for Gaia inappropriate?

(A) Non-European societies have perceived the Earth as a non-living source of all resources.

(B) There is a direct cause-effect relationship between human activities and global climate change.

(C) Ghosh's book has a different title: "The Nutmeg's Revenge".

(D) Modern western science discovers new evidence for the Earth being an inanimate object.

Correct Answer: (A) Non-European societies have perceived the Earth as a non-living source of all resources.

Solution:

The reviewer's choice of the pronoun "who" for Gaia implies treating the Earth as a sentient entity, often recognized in various non-European cultural narratives as having agency or a personality. Let's analyze the provided options to determine which, if true, would make the usage of "who" inappropriate:

- **Non-European societies have perceived the Earth as a non-living source of all resources.**

If this statement is true, it implies that non-European societies regard the Earth as an inanimate object, opposing the notion of Gaia as a living entity. This would undermine the basis for using the pronoun "who," making it inappropriate. In contrast, the other options either discuss historical insights or scientific views that do not directly negate the animistic view implied by "who."

- There is a direct cause-effect relationship between human activities and global climate change.
- Ghosh's book has a different title: "The Nutmeg's Revenge".
- Modern western science discovers new evidence for the Earth being an inanimate object.

These do not challenge the choice of pronoun referring to Gaia, as they focus on climate change causes, a book title variation, or western science perspectives, which do not directly negate the narrative of Earth as a sentient being.

3.4. On the basis of information in the passage, which one of the following is NOT a reason for the failure of policies seeking to address climate change?

- (A) The greed of organisations benefiting from non-renewable energy resources.
- (B) The global dominance of oil economies and international politics built around it.
- (C) The decentralised characteristic of renewable energy resources like solar power.
- (D) The marginalised status of non-European ways of looking at nature and the environment.

Correct Answer: (C) The decentralised characteristic of renewable energy resources like solar power.

Solution:

To determine which option is NOT a reason for the failure of policies addressing climate change based on the passage, we need to analyze

the underlying reasons discussed.

The passage suggests several reasons for policy failures:

- European colonialism's legacy and its impact on climate perceptions and indigenous practices.
- Dominance of oil economies and global politics centered around them, which maintain vested interests in the current system.
- The marginalization of non-European perspectives on nature, often ignored or given only lip service.

The passage does mention the decentralization of renewable energy resources like solar power; however, it associates it with sabotage by power utilities, not as a reason for policy failure. Instead, it highlights how existing power structures hinder these resources.

Thus, the correct option that is NOT a reason for the failure of climate change policies is:

The decentralised characteristic of renewable energy resources like solar power.

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

Understanding romantic aesthetics is not a simple undertaking for reasons that are internal to the nature of the subject. Distinguished scholars, such as Arthur Lovejoy, Northrop Frye and Isaiah Berlin, have remarked on the notorious challenges facing any attempt to define romanticism. Lovejoy, for example, claimed that romanticism is "the scandal of literary history and criticism"... The main difficulty in studying the romantics, according to him, is the lack of any "single real entity, or type of entity" that the concept "romanticism" designates. Lovejoy concluded, "the word 'romantic' has come to mean so many things that, by itself, it means nothing"...

The more specific task of characterizing romantic aesthetics adds to these difficulties an air of paradox. Conventionally, "aesthetics" refers to a theory concerning beauty and art or the branch of philosophy that studies these topics. However, many of the romantics rejected the identification of aesthetics with a circumscribed domain of human life that is separated from the practical and theoretical domains of life. The most characteristic romantic commitment is to the idea that the character of art and beauty and of our engagement with them should shape all aspects of human life. Being fundamental to human existence, beauty and art should be a central ingredient not only in a philosophical or artistic life, but also in the lives of ordinary men and women. Another challenge for any attempt to characterize romantic aesthetics lies in the fact that most of the romantics were poets and artists whose views of art and beauty are, for the most part, to be found not in developed theoretical accounts, but in fragments, aphorisms and poems, which are often more elusive and suggestive than conclusive.

Nevertheless, in spite of these challenges the task of characterizing romantic aesthetics is neither impossible nor undesirable, as numerous thinkers responding to Lovejoy's radical skepticism have noted. While warning against a reductive definition of romanticism, Berlin, for example, still heralded the need for a general characterization: "[Although] one does have a certain sympathy with Lovejoy's despair...[he is] in this instance mistaken. There was a romantic movement...and it is important to discover what it is" ...

Recent attempts to characterize romanticism and to stress its contemporary relevance follow this path. Instead of overlooking the undeniable differences between the variety of romanticisms of different nations that Lovejoy had stressed, such studies attempt to characterize romanticism, not in terms of a single definition, a specific time, or a specific place, but in terms of "particular philosophical questions and concerns" ...

While the German, British and French romantics are all considered, the

central protagonists in the following are the German romantics. Two reasons explain this focus: first, because it has paved the way for the other romanticisms, German romanticism has a pride of place among the different national romanticisms ... Second, the aesthetic outlook that was developed in Germany roughly between 1796 and 1801 02 – - the period that corresponds to the heyday of what is known as "Early Romanticism" ...- offers the most philosophical expression of romanticism since it is grounded primarily in the epistemological, metaphysical, ethical, and political concerns that the German romantics discerned in the aftermath of Kant's philosophy.

Correct Answer: —

4.1. According to the romantics, aesthetics:

- (A) is primarily the concern of philosophers and artists, rather than of ordinary people.
- (B) is widely considered to be irrelevant to human existence.
- (C) should be confined to a specific domain separate from the practical and theoretical aspects of life.
- (D) permeates all aspects of human life, philosophical and mundane.

Correct Answer: (D) permeates all aspects of human life, philosophical and mundane.

Solution:

The passage discusses the inherent complexity in defining romantic aesthetics and the multitude of interpretations surrounding the concept of romanticism. Prominent scholars such as Arthur Lovejoy and Isaiah Berlin have noted the challenges and debates regarding the definition of romanticism. Lovejoy argues that romanticism lacks a

single definitive entity, making it difficult to pin down, while Berlin acknowledges the need for a broader characterization. Romantic aesthetics, as per the passage, is tied to the philosophy that beauty and art should influence all aspects of human life, not just the domains of philosophy and art. This contrasts with the idea that aesthetics should be restricted to a specific area separate from the practical and theoretical aspects of life. The most distinctive romantic commitment is the belief that engagement with art and beauty should shape the entirety of human existence.

Among the options provided:

- The idea that aesthetics "is primarily the concern of philosophers and artists, rather than of ordinary people" is not endorsed by the romantics, as they believe in its widespread relevance.
- The notion that aesthetics "is widely considered to be irrelevant to human existence" contradicts the romantics' belief in its fundamental importance.
- The statement that aesthetics "should be confined to a specific domain separate from the practical and theoretical aspects of life" is directly opposed to the romantic view.
- The correct option is that aesthetics "permeates all aspects of human life, philosophical and mundane," aligning with the romantics' ideology that art and beauty should be central to all aspects of life, influencing both ordinary and philosophical pursuits.

4.2. According to the passage, recent studies on romanticism avoid "a single definition, a specific time, or a specific place" because they:

- (A) prefer to highlight the paradox of romantic aesthetics as a concept.
- (B) prefer to focus on the fundamental concerns of the romantics.
- (C) understand that the variety of romanticisms renders a general analysis impossible.
- (D) seek to discredit Lovejoy's scepticism regarding romanticism.

Correct Answer: (B) prefer to focus on the fundamental concerns of the romantics.

Solution:

The passage explains the complexity of defining **romanticism** due to its varied interpretations across different contexts. According to Lovejoy, romanticism is so diverse that it defies a singular definition, making its analysis challenging.

While recent studies acknowledge this diversity, they do not attempt to confine romanticism to a strict definition, time, or place. Instead, they address it through "*particular philosophical questions and concerns*", aligning with the passage's note on German romantics' focus on epistemological, metaphysical, ethical, and political issues.

Therefore, the correct conclusion is: Recent studies prefer to focus on the fundamental concerns of the romantics.

4.3. Which one of the following statements is NOT supported by the passage?

- (A) Many romantics rejected the idea of aesthetics as a domain separate from other aspects of life.
- (B) Characterising romantic aesthetics is both possible and desirable, despite the challenges involved.
- (C) Recent studies on romanticism seek to refute the differences between national romanticisms.
- (D) Romantic aesthetics are primarily expressed through fragments, aphorisms, and poems.

Correct Answer: (C) Recent studies on romanticism seek to refute the differences between national romanticisms.

Solution:

To determine which statement is NOT supported by the passage, we need to examine each option against the information provided in the passage:

- **Option 1: Many romantics rejected the idea of aesthetics as a domain separate from other aspects of life.**

This statement is supported by the passage. It mentions that many romantics rejected aesthetics as a separate domain and believed it should shape all aspects of human life.

- **Option 2: Characterising romantic aesthetics is both possible and desirable, despite the challenges involved.**

This is supported by the passage's claim that despite challenges, characterizing romantic aesthetics is neither impossible nor undesirable, as noted by thinkers in response to Lovejoy's skepticism.

- **Option 3: Recent studies on romanticism seek to refute the differences between national romanticisms.**

This statement is NOT supported by the passage. The passage

indicates that recent attempts focus on characterizing romanticism without overlooking differences between national romanticisms. It does not state they seek to refute these differences.

- **Option 4: Romantic aesthetics are primarily expressed through fragments, aphorisms, and poems.**

The passage supports this statement, describing how most romantics expressed their views through fragments, aphorisms, and poems.

The option that is NOT supported by the passage is **Option 3**, where recent studies are said to seek refutation of differences between national romanticisms, contrary to the passage's content.



4.4. The main difficulty in studying romanticism is the:

- (A) absence of written accounts by romantic poets and artists.
- (B) elusive and suggestive nature of romantic aesthetics.
- (C) lack of clear conceptual contours of the domain.
- (D) controversial and scandalous history of romantic literature.

Correct Answer: (C) lack of clear conceptual contours of the domain.

Solution:

To determine the main difficulty in studying romanticism, we analyze the comprehension passage provided, which elaborates on the complexity inherent in the subject of romanticism. The passage identifies several challenges posed by romantic aesthetics:

- Notorious challenges in defining romanticism are highlighted, with scholars like Arthur Lovejoy, Northrop Frye, and Isaiah Berlin noting the absence of any "single real entity, or type of entity" that romanticism designates. Lovejoy expresses that "the word 'romantic' has come to mean so many things that, by itself, it means nothing," showcasing the difficulty in finding clear conceptual contours.
- The romantic aesthetics often feature in fragments, aphorisms, and poems, making their views elusive and suggestive rather than conclusive.
- The romantic aesthetic movement rejects the identification of aesthetics with a circumscribed domain, complicating definitions within established theoretical frameworks.

The question focuses on the "main difficulty" in studying romanticism. Among the options provided, the correct answer is the **lack of clear conceptual contours of the domain**. This aligns with Lovejoy's perspective that romanticism is marked by the absence of a definitive entity or type. Thus, it is the ambiguous boundaries and lack of a singular, cohesive definition that are the primary challenges in studying romanticism.



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: For theoretical purposes, arguments may be considered as freestanding entities, abstracted from their contexts of use in actual human activities.

Paragraph : (1). An argument can be defined as a complex symbolic structure where some parts, known as the premises, offer support to

another part, the conclusion. Alternatively, an argument can be viewed as a complex speech act consisting of one or more acts of premising (which assert propositions in favor of the conclusion), an act of concluding, and a stated or implicit marker ("hence", "therefore") that indicates that the conclusion follows from the premises.. (2)_. The relation of support between premises and conclusion can be cashed out in different ways: the premises may guarantee the truth of the conclusion, or make its truth more probable; the premises may imply the conclusion; the premises may make the conclusion more acceptable (or assertible).(3)__. But depending on one's explanatory goals, there is also much to be gained from considering arguments as they in fact occur in human communicative practices.

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

Correct Answer: (D) Option 3

Solution:

Paragraph Summary and Analysis:

This paragraph offers a conceptual explanation of what constitutes an argument in logic and philosophy. It not only defines an argument in structural terms but also explores its nature as a communicative act and how arguments function in theoretical and practical contexts.

1. **Sentence (1):** *“An argument can be defined as a complex symbolic structure...”*

This introduces the core definition of an argument as a symbolic structure with premises supporting a conclusion. It then presents an alternative, speech-act-based perspective — where arguing

involves performing acts such as premising and concluding, often marked by linguistic indicators (like “therefore,” “hence”).

2. **Sentence (2):** *“The relation of support between premises and conclusion can be cashed out in different ways...”*

This elaborates on the types of logical relationships that can exist between premises and conclusions. It introduces the idea that arguments differ in strength and nature — from deductive (guaranteeing truth) to inductive (increasing probability) to pragmatic (assertibility or acceptability).

3. **Sentence (3):** *“For theoretical purposes, arguments may be considered as freestanding entities...”*

This shifts from the abstract to the contextual. It acknowledges that while arguments can be analyzed in isolation, much insight is gained by situating them in actual human communicative settings. This bridges formal logic and practical discourse.

Purpose and Coherence: The paragraph develops in a logical sequence:

- First defining the concept of an argument from two perspectives (structural and communicative),
- Then exploring the types of logical relationships between premises and conclusions,
- And finally discussing how arguments are treated in theory vs. practice.

This coherent flow provides a nuanced understanding suitable for philosophical or analytical discussions about argumentation.



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: Beyond undermining the monopoly of the State on the use of force, armed conflict also creates an environment that can enable organized crime to prosper.

Paragraph:

(1) Linkages between illicit arms, organized crime, and armed conflict can reinforce one another while also escalating and prolonging violence and eroding governance.

(2) ___

Financial gains from crime can lengthen or intensify armed conflicts by creating revenue streams for non-State armed groups (NSAGs).

(3) ___

In this context, when hostilities cease and parties to a conflict move towards a peaceful resolution, the widespread availability of surplus arms and ammunition can contribute to a situation of 'criminalized peace' that obstructs sustainable peacebuilding efforts.

(A) Option 2

(B) Option 1

(C) Option 4

(D) Option 3

Correct Answer: (D) Option 3

Solution:

The paragraph discusses the intricate linkages between illicit arms, organized crime, and armed conflict. It explains how these elements reinforce one another and impact governance and peacebuilding processes. The missing sentence provides a critical point: armed

conflict not only challenges the State's authority over the use of force but also fosters conditions where organized crime can thrive.

Analysis of the paragraph structure:

1. **Sentence (1):** Introduces the core theme — the mutual reinforcement between illicit arms, organized crime, and armed conflict. It sets up the idea that these forces are interconnected and have a destabilizing effect on governance and peace.
2. **Sentence (2):** Discusses how organized crime can financially support and sustain armed conflicts, especially through the revenue it generates for non-State armed groups (NSAGs). This adds depth by showing the practical implications of crime within conflict zones.
3. **Best place for the missing sentence:** The sentence — "*Beyond undermining the monopoly of the State on the use of force, armed conflict also creates an environment that can enable organized crime to prosper.*" — logically fits between sentences (2) and (3). It acts as a bridge that explains why organized crime thrives during conflicts and leads into the next idea about the long-term effects even after conflict ends.
4. **Sentence (3):** Describes the post-conflict implications — particularly, how the leftover arms and entrenched criminal networks continue to disrupt sustainable peace, leading to a 'criminalized peace.'

Conclusion: Given the flow of ideas and thematic development, the most coherent and logical position for the sentence is:

Option 3: After sentence (2) and before sentence (3).

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) Although hard skills have traditionally ruled the roost, some companies are moving away from choosing prospective hires based on technical abilities alone.

(B) Companies are shaking off the old definition of an ideal candidate and ditching the idea of looking for the singularly perfect candidate altogether.

(C) Now, some job descriptions are frequently asking for candidates to demonstrate soft skills, such as leadership or teamwork.

(D) That's not to say that practical know-how is no longer required - some jobs still call for highly specific expertise

Correct Answer: (B) Companies are shaking off the old definition of an ideal candidate and ditching the idea of looking for the singularly perfect candidate altogether.

Solution:

To determine which sentence does not fit well in the paragraph, let's analyze the theme and flow of the sentences:

- **Sentence 1:** Introduces the idea that companies are shifting focus from **hard skills** to other considerations in hiring.
- **Sentence 3:** Supports this shift by explaining that **soft skills** like leadership and teamwork are now often included in job descriptions.
- **Sentence 4:** Provides a balanced view, stating that **technical expertise is still necessary** in some jobs, reinforcing the shift

without discounting hard skills entirely.

- **Sentence 5:** Offers a **reason** for this shift — the impact of the pandemic — thus anchoring the change in a real-world context.
- **Sentence 2:** Talks about abandoning the idea of an "ideal candidate," which is **not directly tied** to the contrast between hard and soft skills like the others.

Conclusion: Sentences 1, 3, 4, and 5 form a cohesive narrative centered around the **growing importance of soft skills** in hiring practices. Sentence 2, while related to recruitment, diverges from the central theme and disrupts the logical flow.

Answer: **Sentence 2** is the odd one out.



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) Boa Senior, who lived through the 2004 tsunami, the Japanese occupation and diseases brought by British settlers, was the last native of the island chain who was fluent in Bo.
- (B) The indigenous population has been steadily collapsing since the island chain was colonised by British settlers in 1858 and used for most of the following 100 years as a colonial penal colony.
- (C) Taking its name from a now-extinct tribe, Bo is one of the 10 Great Andamanese languages, which are thought to date back to pre-Neolithic human settlement of southeast Asia.
- (D) The last speaker of an ancient tribal language has died in the Andaman Islands, breaking a 65,000 -year link to one of the world's oldest cultures.

Correct Answer: (B) The indigenous population has been steadily collapsing since the island chain was colonised by British settlers in 1858 and used for most of the following 100 years as a colonial penal colony.

Solution:

Identifying the Odd Sentence

In this task, we aim to identify the sentence that does not fit contextually with the others to form a coherent paragraph.

Given Sentences:

1. Boa Senior, who lived through the 2004 tsunami, the Japanese occupation and diseases brought by British settlers, was the last native of the island chain who was fluent in Bo.
2. The indigenous population has been steadily collapsing since the island chain was colonised by British settlers in 1858 and used for

most of the following 100 years as a colonial penal colony.

3. Taking its name from a now-extinct tribe, Bo is one of the 10 Great Andamanese languages, which are thought to date back to pre-Neolithic human settlement of southeast Asia.
4. The last speaker of an ancient tribal language has died in the Andaman Islands, breaking a 65,000-year link to one of the world's oldest cultures.
5. Though the language has been closely studied by researchers of linguistic history, Boa Senior spent the last few years of her life unable to converse with anyone in her mother tongue.

Theme Analysis:

- Sentences **1, 3, 4,** and **5** revolve around the death of Boa Senior, the extinction of the Bo language, and its historical significance.
- Sentence **2** discusses the historical impact of colonization on the island's population, which deviates from the main theme focused on language and Boa Senior.

Conclusion:

Sentence 2 is the odd one out as it shifts the focus from linguistic and cultural extinction to colonial history.



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. *Centuries later formal learning is still mostly based on reading, even with the widespread use of other possible education-affecting technologies such as*

film, radio, and television.

2. One of the immediate and recognisable impacts of the printing press was on how people learned; in the scribal culture it primarily involved listening, so memorization was paramount.

3. The transformation of learners from listeners to readers was a complex social and cultural phenomenon, and it was not until the industrial era that the concept of universal literacy took root.

4. The printing press shifted the learning process, as listening and memorisation gradually gave way to reading and learning no longer required the presence of a mentor; it could be done privately

- (A) 1243
- (B) 2413.
- (C) 2431
- (D) 1432

Correct Answer: (C) 2431

Solution:

Correct Sentence Order: 2-4-3-1

Sentence 2 introduces the **initial impact** of the printing press on the existing scribal culture, highlighting the **shift from oral to written learning**.

Sentence 4 follows logically by explaining how this shift **empowered individual reading** and enabled **private learning**, deepening the impact of the printing press.

Sentence 3 provides **additional social and cultural context** to this transformation, describing the shift from oral listeners to literate readers, especially during the industrial era.

Sentence 1 concludes the paragraph by **connecting the historical shift** to the **present day**, showing that even with newer technologies like film and television, **reading remains central** to formal education.

Final Order: 2 → 4 → 3 → 1

Correct Option: (C)

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. *Veena Sahajwalla, a materials scientist at the University of New South Wales, believes there is a new way of solving this problem.*
2. *Her vision is for automated drones and robots to pick out components, put them into a small furnace and smelt them at specific temperatures to extract the metals one by one before they are sent off to manufacturers for reuse.*
3. *E-waste contains huge quantities of valuable metals, ceramics and plastics that could be salvaged and recycled, although currently not enough of it is.*
4. *She plans to build micro factories that can tease apart the tangle of materials in mobile phones, computers and other e-waste.*

- (A) 4132
(B) 1432
(C) 2431
(D) 3142

Correct Answer: (D) 3142

Solution:

Correct Sentence Order: 3-1-4-2

Sentence 3 presents the **problem** — that valuable materials in e-waste are not being effectively reused. This sets the **context** for the discussion.

Sentence 1 introduces **Veena Sahajwalla** and her **original solution** to the problem stated in Sentence 3. It must follow Sentence 3 to establish the connection properly.

Sentence 4 elaborates on **Sahajwalla's strategy** — the idea of building **microfactories** to recover valuable materials from e-waste. This directly builds on the claim made in Sentence 1.

Sentence 2 adds more detail by describing the use of **drones and robots** in this recovery process, extending the concept from Sentence 4.

Also, Sentences 1, 2, and 4 use pronouns like "**she**" and "**her**", which clearly refer to Sahajwalla introduced in Sentence 1. This further confirms the order must be 3 → 1 → 4 → 2.

Final Order: 3 → 1 → 4 → 2

Correct Option: (D)

11. The passage given below is followed by four alternate summaries. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage. Gradually, life for the island's birds is improving. Antarctic prions and white-headed petrels, which also nest in burrows, had managed to cling on in some sites while pests were on the island. Their numbers are now increasing. "It's fantastic and so exciting," Shaw says. As birds return to breed, they also poo. This adds nutrients to the soil, which in turn helps the plants to grow back stronger. Tall plants then help burrowing birds

hide from predatory skuas. "It's this wonderful feedback loop," Shaw says. Today, the "pretty paddock" that Houghton first experienced has been transformed. "The tussock is over your head, and you're dodging all these penguin tunnels," she says. The orchids and tiny herb that had been protected by fencing have started turning up all over the place.

- (A) There is an increasing number of predatory birds and plants on the island despite the presence of pests which is a positive development.
- (B) Flowering plants, herbs and birds are now being protected on this wonderful Antarctic island.
- (C) There is a huge positive transformation of the ecosystem of the island when brought under environmental protection.
- (D) In the absence of pests, life on the island is now protected, and there has been a revival of a variety of birds and plants.

Correct Answer: (D) In the absence of pests, life on the island is now protected, and there has been a revival of a variety of birds and plants.

Solution:

The passage describes the gradual enhancement of life on the island, particularly benefiting birds like *Antarctic prions* and *white-headed petrels*. It emphasizes the increasing population of these birds as pest control measures are implemented on the island. With pests under control, the birds can return, breed, and contribute positively to the ecosystem. Additionally, the passage notes how bird droppings enrich the soil with nutrients, promoting plant growth.

Overall, **Option D** effectively encapsulates the central theme of the passage: the rejuvenation and enhancement of island life due to pest eradication and its positive effects on birds and plants.

Option A erroneously suggests a rise in predatory bird numbers, contradicting the positive developments outlined in the passage.

Option B is inaccurate as the passage does not explicitly attribute the positive changes solely to this protection measure.

Option C is more general and does not specifically highlight the absence of pests as a critical factor in the positive transformation described in the passage.

So, the correct option is **(D)**: In the absence of pests, life on the island is now protected, and there has been a revival of a variety of birds and plants.



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

The weight of society's expectations is hardly a new phenomenon but it has become particularly draining over recent decades, perhaps because expectations themselves are so multifarious and contradictory. The perfectionism of the 1950s was rooted in the norms of mass culture and captured in famous advertising images of the ideal white American family that now seem self-satirising. In that era, perfectionism meant seamlessly conforming to values, behaviour and appearance: chiselled confidence for men, demure graciousness for women. The perfectionist was under pressure to look like everyone else, only more so. The perfectionists of today, by contrast, feel an obligation to stand out through their idiosyncratic style and wit if they are to gain a foothold in the attention economy.

(A) Though long-standing, the pressure to appear perfect and thereby attract attention, has evolved over time from one of conformism to one of non-conformism.

(B) The image of perfectionism is reflected in and perpetuated by the media; and people do their best to adhere to these ideals.

(C) The pressure to appear perfect has been the cause of tension and conflict because the idea itself has been in a state of flux and hard to define.

(D) The desire to attract attention is so deep-rooted in individual consciousness that people are willing to go to any lengths to achieve it.

Correct Answer: (A) Though long-standing, the pressure to appear perfect and thereby attract attention, has evolved over time from one of conformism to one of non-conformism.

Solution:

The sentence draws a comparison between the 1950s, when perfectionism meant following social conventions, and the present, when people feel under pressure to stand out and attract attention with their distinct sense of style and wit. The passage's main idea—that is, the transition from conformism to non-conformism—makes **Option A** the most appropriate statement.

It does a good job of capturing how perfectionism has changed over the years in reaction to many conflicting and varying cultural demands.

Option B emphasizes people following ideals and the involvement of the media, which is not the main point of the paragraph that shows how society standards have changed over time.

The paragraph highlights the historical movement in expectations rather than conflict, despite **Option C's** suggestion of tension and

conflict related to the evolving notion of perfection.

The statement made by **Option D**, which oversimplifies by suggesting that people will do anything to get attention, is not directly backed up by the section that emphasizes how perfectionism is evolving.

The **correct option is (A)**: Though long-standing, the pressure to appear perfect and thereby attract attention, has evolved over time from one of conformism to one of non-conformism..