

XAT Verbal & Logical Ability

Sample Paper – 5

Duration: 59 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 26

Instructions

- This paper contains **26** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the Verbal & Logical Ability section of **XAT** (Xavier Aptitude Test), conducted by XLRI.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**, with **0.25 marks deducted** for every incorrect answer. (In the actual XAT you may leave up to **8** questions across Part 1 unattempted without penalty; thereafter each blank costs **0.10** marks.)
- The paper has **three reading passages** (including a poem), each followed by four questions, and a set of **fourteen** standalone Verbal & Logical Reasoning questions.
- Answer every question **only** on the basis of the passage or the argument given; do not rely on outside information or opinion of your own.
- Attempt this practice paper in one timed sitting of about **59 minutes**. Use of mobile phones, dictionaries, and electronic gadgets is prohibited.

Passage I

Directions (Q1–Q4): Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers only on the passage.

For centuries the apprentice painter learned his craft by copying. He was set before the works of the masters and told to reproduce them line for line, until the older hand seemed to move through his own. Only when he could imitate perfectly was he thought ready to invent. To the modern mind, trained to prize novelty above all else, this sounds like a recipe for producing copyists rather than artists. Surely, we feel, originality must begin with a refusal to imitate.

Yet the history of art tells a stranger story. The painters we now call most original



were, almost without exception, the most patient students of those who came before them. In copying a master they were not surrendering their vision but acquiring the very means to express one. A vocabulary of gesture, proportion and light does not arrive by inspiration; it is learned, slowly, from others who have already solved problems the beginner has not yet even seen. Imitation, on this account, is not the enemy of originality but its apprenticeship.

What the copyist absorbs is not merely technique but judgment: a sense of what works and why, of which risks repay the taking. When at last he departs from his models, he does so knowingly, and his departures carry weight precisely because he understands what he is leaving behind. The artist who has never imitated has nothing to depart from; his freedom is the empty freedom of one who does not know the rules he breaks. True originality, then, is less a rejection of the past than a conversation with it, in which the old voices are answered rather than ignored.

- Q1.** Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Modern artists produce nothing more than copies of the earlier masters.
 - (B) Genuine originality requires a complete refusal to imitate the past.
 - (C) Technique matters far more than judgment in the training of an artist.
 - (D) Imitation of the masters is the apprenticeship through which true originality is formed.
- Q2.** It can be inferred that the author regards the artist who has never imitated as:
- (A) the purest and most admirable example of genuine originality.
 - (B) more technically skilled than one who has copied the masters.
 - (C) lacking anything meaningful from which to depart.
 - (D) certain, in time, to surpass those who learned by copying.
- Q3.** The author's attitude towards the practice of copying the masters is best described as:
- (A) approving, seeing it as a genuine schooling of the artist.



- (B) scornful, seeing it as mere mechanical repetition.
- (C) indifferent, seeing it as neither useful nor harmful.
- (D) anxious, seeing it as a threat to true creativity.

Q4. By describing true originality as “a conversation with the past,” the author suggests that the original artist:

- (A) merely repeats what the earlier masters have already said.
- (B) ignores the past entirely in order to find a wholly new voice.
- (C) speaks only to other artists rather than to the public at large.
- (D) responds to earlier work with understanding rather than disregarding it.

Passage II

Directions (Q5–Q8): Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers only on the poem.

What the Summit Gave

*I did not climb to conquer or to boast;
I climbed because the slope would not let go.
Each step undid the certainty I'd most
relied upon below, where paths were slow.*

*The peak withheld its promise near the top:
the higher air grew thin, the handholds few.
I learned to trust the foot before the drop,
and take the mountain one cold breath in two.*

*And when I reached the place I'd named my end,
it was not triumph waiting, but a view—
the valley I had left, the road, the bend,
made small and whole, and truer than I knew.*

Q5. Which of the following best captures the central theme of the poem?

- (A) Mountains ought to be climbed only by the most skilled and daring.
- (B) The worth of the climb lies less in conquest than in what the effort teaches and reveals.



- (C) Reaching the summit brings exactly the triumph the climber had always expected.
- (D) The natural world is wholly indifferent to the struggles of those who climb it.
- Q6.** The line “I climbed because the slope would not let go” most nearly suggests that the speaker’s climbing was:
- (A) driven by an inner compulsion rather than by a wish to conquer.
- (B) forced upon him by other people against his own will.
- (C) motivated chiefly by the hope of winning praise from others.
- (D) an accident that he had neither planned nor intended.
- Q7.** The tone of the poem is best described as:
- (A) boastful and self-congratulatory.
- (B) bitter and disillusioned.
- (C) contemplative and quietly humbled.
- (D) frightened and despairing.
- Q8.** The closing image, in which the summit offers “not triumph...but a view,” implies that:
- (A) the true reward of the climb was a clearer sight of where he had come from.
- (B) the climber ultimately failed to reach the summit he had aimed for.
- (C) the view from the top proved disappointing and unworthy of the effort.
- (D) the valley below was in fact more dangerous than the peak itself.

Passage III

Directions (Q9–Q12): Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Base your answers only on the passage.



There is an old suspicion of crowds. The mob, we are told, is fickle, cruel and stupid; it believes what no single member of it would believe alone, and does what none would dare to do by himself. Against the crowd we set the lone judge, the sober individual who weighs the evidence and is not swept along. On this view wisdom is always private, and numbers are the enemy of good sense.

But the matter is not so simple. Under the right conditions a crowd can be markedly wiser than any of the individuals who compose it. Ask a thousand people to guess the number of beans in a jar, and the average of their guesses will often be closer to the truth than nearly all of them are, and closer than most experts. The errors of one estimator cancel the errors of another, and what survives is a rough collective accuracy that no single mind could reach on its own. Here the crowd is not a mob but a kind of instrument.

The difference lies in whether the members judge independently. When each person estimates alone, the errors are scattered in every direction and cancel out. But when people watch one another, copy the confident, and fall in behind the first loud opinion, that independence collapses, and the very numbers that produced wisdom now produce folly. A crowd of imitators is merely one hesitant guess, multiplied. The lesson is not that groups are wise or foolish in themselves, but that a group is only as good as the independence of the judgments within it.

Q9. The central argument of the passage is that:

- (A) whether a crowd is wise or foolish depends on the independence of its members' judgments.
- (B) crowds are always more reliable than the individuals who compose them.
- (C) the lone individual is invariably a better judge than any group can be.
- (D) large numbers of people are, by their nature, the enemy of good sense.

Q10. With which of the following would the author most likely agree?

- (A) Experts are always more accurate than the average of a large group.
- (B) A crowd's accuracy is unaffected by whether its members influence one another.
- (C) A crowd of people who copy one another can be no wiser than a single guess.



(D) The old suspicion of crowds is entirely without any foundation.

Q11. The example of guessing the number of beans in a jar is used mainly to:

- (A) show that experts are usually unreliable when guessing quantities.
- (B) illustrate how independent errors can cancel out to yield a collective accuracy.
- (C) prove that an average is always superior to any individual estimate.
- (D) demonstrate that crowds enjoy such games more than individuals do.

Q12. It can be inferred that when people in a group “copy the confident and fall in behind the first loud opinion,” the result is that:

- (A) the group’s average becomes even more accurate than it was before.
- (B) the experts within the group come to dominate its collective judgment.
- (C) the group splits apart into several smaller, competing crowds.
- (D) the group’s judgments cease to be independent, and its collective accuracy is lost.

Verbal & Logical Reasoning

Directions (Q13–Q26): Answer each of the following questions on its own terms.

Q13. A hospital administrator argues: “After we installed hand-sanitizer stations in Ward A last year, infection rates there fell. Therefore, installing them in Wards B and C will also lower the infection rates in those wards.” The argument assumes that:

- (A) Ward A had the highest infection rate of the three wards.
- (B) infections are the most costly problem the hospital currently faces.
- (C) the same factors that lowered Ward A’s infections also operate in Wards B and C.
- (D) no new patients will be admitted to the hospital in the coming year.



- Q14.** A nutritionist claims that a new school breakfast programme improves children's concentration, noting that children at a school with the programme scored above the district average on attention tests. Which of the following, if true, would most **strengthen** the claim?
- (A) Before the programme began, the children at that school had scored only at the district average on the same tests.
 - (B) The programme has since been introduced in several neighbouring districts.
 - (C) The teachers at the school are widely regarded as unusually dedicated.
 - (D) The attention tests used that year were slightly shorter than in earlier years.
- Q15.** A city claims that its new streetlights have made a neighbourhood safer, because reported crime there fell after the lights were installed. Which of the following, if true, would most **weaken** the conclusion?
- (A) Residents said they felt safer walking at night after the lights were installed.
 - (B) The new lights were installed on every street in the neighbourhood at once.
 - (C) During the same period, the police doubled the number of officers patrolling the neighbourhood.
 - (D) The electricity for the new lights was supplied to the city at no cost.
- Q16.** Arrange the four sentences into a coherent paragraph. (1) But most of these languages have never once been written down. (2) Roughly every fortnight, somewhere in the world, the last fluent speaker of a language dies. (3) When such a speaker goes, an entire way of naming the world falls silent with her. (4) With no text to preserve them, they survive only in living memory. The correct order is:
- (A) 2-3-1-4



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

Q17. Complete the paragraph with the most suitable final sentence: “A translation is never a mere substitution of one word for another. Every language carries its own weather of association, its private echoes and silences, and to move a sentence across a border is to lose some of these and gain others. _____”

- (A) The translator, then, does not so much copy a text as compose it anew.
- (B) Dictionaries are therefore the single most important tool a translator owns.
- (C) Most great works of literature have by now been translated many times over.
- (D) Learning a second language is far harder than people commonly suppose.

Q18. All the manuscripts in the sealed archive are written on parchment. No manuscript written on parchment may be photocopied. Which of the following **must** be true?

- (A) Some manuscripts in the sealed archive may be photocopied.
- (B) Every manuscript that may not be photocopied is in the sealed archive.
- (C) All manuscripts written on parchment are kept in the sealed archive.
- (D) No manuscript in the sealed archive may be photocopied.

Q19. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the paragraph: “We praise the expert who speaks with unwavering confidence, and distrust the one who hedges. Yet in fields riddled with uncertainty, the honest answer is often a qualified one. The expert who admits the limits of what he knows is not less competent than the confident one; frequently he is more so.”



- (A) Experts should always speak with complete confidence in order to earn our trust.
- (B) Uncertainty has no legitimate place in any genuine field of expertise.
- (C) Confident experts are invariably more competent than cautious ones.
- (D) In uncertain fields, an expert's willingness to admit doubt can be a mark of greater competence.

Q20. A museum found that when it began charging a small entry fee, the average length of visitors' stays *increased*, even though *fewer* people came through its doors. Which of the following best explains this?

- (A) The fee deterred casual passers-by, leaving mainly those genuinely interested, who lingered longer.
- (B) The museum quietly reduced the number of exhibits on display.
- (C) Visitors who had paid the fee felt cheated and left sooner than before.
- (D) The fee was set so high that almost no one could afford to enter at all.

Q21. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word: "Though the evidence against the theory kept mounting, its founder remained _____, dismissing each new finding as a mere anomaly rather than reconsidering his position."

- (A) bewildered
- (B) obstinate
- (C) persuaded
- (D) apologetic

Q22. A commentator argues: "My opponent's plan to cut the transport budget must be rejected, for he is a man who has never once used public transport in his entire life." The reasoning is flawed because it:

- (A) relies on statistics that were in fact never actually gathered.



- (B) attacks the person who makes the argument rather than the argument itself.
- (C) assumes, without saying so, that cutting the budget would improve transport.
- (D) draws a sweeping general rule from a single unusual example.

Q23. Choose the pair that best expresses a relationship similar to that in **WHISPER : SHOUT**.

- (A) sing : dance
- (B) speak : listen
- (C) glimmer : blaze
- (D) write : read

Q24. Which sentence, inserted at the start, best fits the paragraph? “_____

A single tree, felled, tells us only its own age in rings; a whole forest, studied together, reveals the droughts, the fires and the good years that shaped a century. The pattern is invisible in the individual and plain in the mass.”

- (A) Foresters today rely far more on satellite imagery than on tree rings.
- (B) Some truths reveal themselves only when many cases are viewed together.
- (C) Every tree in a forest grows at exactly the same steady rate.
- (D) The study of trees has little to teach us about human history.

Q25. Which conclusion is best supported by the following? “Every candidate who passed the interview was offered the job. Meera was not offered the job.”

- (A) Meera declined the job that she was in fact offered.
- (B) Meera passed the interview but was overlooked by mistake.
- (C) No candidate at all passed the interview this year.
- (D) Meera did not pass the interview.



Q26. Which of the following sentences is grammatically **correct**?

- (A) Neither the players nor the coach were satisfied with the result.
- (B) The number of applicants has risen sharply this year.
- (C) Each of the reports were reviewed carefully before the meeting.
- (D) He is one of those managers who never listens to advice.



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

What is asked: the main idea of the whole passage.

Reasoning: The passage takes the modern suspicion that copying breeds copyists and turns it around. It argues that the most original painters were the most patient imitators, and that imitation is originality's "apprenticeship." Option D states exactly this.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage does not claim modern artists produce only copies; it defends copying as a stage of training.
- Option B: This is the view the passage argues *against*.
- Option C: The passage says the copyist absorbs judgment as well as technique, not that technique matters more.

Final Answer: Imitation is the apprenticeship of true originality ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

Solution

What is asked: an inference about the artist who has never imitated.

Reasoning: The passage says such an artist "has nothing to depart from" and holds only "the empty freedom of one who does not know the rules he breaks." So the author sees him as lacking anything meaningful to depart from. Option C captures this.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage treats this "freedom" as empty, not admirable.
- Option B: Nothing suggests he is more technically skilled; the reverse is implied.
- Option D: The passage gives no promise that he will surpass the imitators.

Final Answer: He lacks anything meaningful to depart from ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q2](#)



Q3.

Solution

What is asked: the author's attitude towards copying the masters.

Reasoning: The author calls copying an "apprenticeship" through which judgment and technique are learned. The stance is warm and endorsing, treating copying as a real education for the artist. So it is approving.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: "Scornful" is the opposite of the author's defence of copying.
- Option C: The author is far from indifferent; a whole case is built for copying.
- Option D: The author is reassuring, not anxious, about the practice.

Final Answer: Approving, as a genuine schooling of the artist ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q3](#)

Q4.

Solution

What is asked: the meaning of originality as "a conversation with the past."

Reasoning: The phrase is glossed by the passage itself: the old voices are "answered rather than ignored." A conversation implies responding with understanding, not repeating or dismissing. Option D states this.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: "Merely repeats" is the opposite of departing knowingly.
- Option B: The passage says the past is answered, not ignored.
- Option C: There is no claim that the artist addresses only fellow artists.

Final Answer: He responds to earlier work with understanding ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q4](#)



Q5.

Solution

What is asked: the central theme of the poem.

Reasoning: The speaker climbs not to conquer but out of compulsion, is taught by the thin air and few handholds, and finds at the top “not triumph...but a view.” The poem’s point is that the climb’s value lies in what the effort teaches and reveals, not in conquest. Option B captures this.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The poem is not a rule about who should climb.
- Option C: The summit gives a view, not the expected triumph.
- Option D: The mountain teaches the speaker, so it is not shown as indifferent.

Final Answer: The worth of the climb lies in what the effort teaches and reveals

⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

Solution

What is asked: the meaning of “I climbed because the slope would not let go.”

Reasoning: The line is paired with “I did not climb to conquer or to boast.” The climbing springs from an inner pull the speaker cannot resist, not from a wish to win or to be praised. Option A states this.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: No other person forces the climb; the pull is internal.
- Option C: The line explicitly rejects the motive of boasting or praise.
- Option D: The climb is deliberate, driven by compulsion, not an accident.

Final Answer: Driven by an inner compulsion, not a wish to conquer ⇒ **A**

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q6](#)



Q7.

Solution

What is asked: the tone of the poem.

Reasoning: The speaker reflects on what the climb undid and taught, and ends humbled before a view “truer than I knew.” The mood is thoughtful and modest rather than proud. So the tone is contemplative and quietly humbled.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The poem opens by refusing to boast; it is not self-congratulatory.
- Option B: There is no bitterness or disillusion in the voice.
- Option D: The speaker is calm and reflective, not frightened or despairing.

Final Answer: Contemplative and quietly humbled ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

Solution

What is asked: the meaning of the closing “not triumph. . . but a view.”

Reasoning: At the top the speaker sees the valley he had left, the road and the bend, “made small and whole, and truer than I knew.” The reward is a clearer, truer sight of where he came from, not the triumph he expected. Option A states this.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: He does reach “the place I’d named my end”; he did not fail.
- Option C: The view is valued (“truer than I knew”), not disappointing.
- Option D: The valley is seen as small and whole, not as more dangerous than the peak.

Final Answer: The reward was a clearer sight of where he had come from ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q8](#)



Q9.

Solution

What is asked: the central argument of the passage.

Reasoning: The passage rejects both the view that crowds are always foolish and the view that they are always wise. It concludes that “a group is only as good as the independence of the judgments within it.” Option A states this directly.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The passage shows crowds can turn foolish, so not “always” reliable.
- Option C: It shows crowds can beat individuals, so the lone judge is not invariably better.
- Option D: This is the old suspicion the passage complicates and qualifies.

Final Answer: Wisdom or folly depends on the independence of judgments ⇒ **A**

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

Solution

What is asked: the statement the author would most likely agree with.

Reasoning: The passage says a crowd of imitators is “merely one hesitant guess, multiplied.” So when people copy one another, the crowd can be no wiser than a single guess. Option C follows directly.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The passage says the average often beats most experts, so experts are not always more accurate.
- Option B: It argues accuracy depends heavily on whether members influence one another.
- Option D: The passage grants the suspicion some truth when independence collapses.

Final Answer: A crowd of imitators is no wiser than a single guess ⇒ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q10](#)



Q11.

Solution

What is asked: the purpose of the bean-jar example.

Reasoning: The example appears right after the claim that a crowd can be wiser than its members. It shows how scattered individual errors cancel out to leave a rough collective accuracy. So it illustrates that mechanism. Option B is correct.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The point is about the crowd's accuracy, not about experts being unreliable in general.
- Option C: The passage adds a condition (independence); it does not say averages are always superior.
- Option D: Enjoyment of the game is never mentioned or implied.

Final Answer: It illustrates how independent errors cancel into accuracy ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q11](#)

Q12.

Solution

What is asked: what follows when members copy the confident and follow the loudest opinion.

Reasoning: The passage says that in such cases “that independence collapses” and the numbers that produced wisdom now produce folly. So the judgments stop being independent and the collective accuracy is lost. Option D captures this.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Accuracy is lost, not improved.
- Option B: The passage speaks of copying the confident, not of experts taking over.
- Option C: Nothing suggests the group splits into competing crowds.

Final Answer: Judgments cease to be independent and accuracy is lost ⇒ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q12](#)



Q13.

Solution

What is asked: the assumption behind generalising from Ward A to Wards B and C.

Reasoning: The administrator saw sanitizer stations coincide with lower infections in one ward and concludes the same will hold elsewhere. That step works only if the other wards are relevantly similar, so the same cause applies. Option C states this needed assumption.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The relative infection rate of Ward A is not what the inference depends on.
- Option B: How costly infections are is irrelevant to whether the stations work.
- Option D: The argument does not need a promise about new admissions.

Final Answer: The other wards are relevantly similar $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q13](#)

Q14.

Solution

What is asked: the option that most strengthens the “breakfast improves concentration” claim.

Reasoning: The worry is that the school’s children were simply strong to begin with. Option A removes that worry: the same children had earlier scored only at the average, so the rise followed the programme. That supports the causal claim.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Others adopting the programme does not show it works.
- Option C: Dedicated teachers offer a rival cause, which weakens rather than strengthens.
- Option D: A shorter test could inflate scores independently, weakening the claim.

Final Answer: The same children had earlier been only average $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q14](#)



Q15.

Solution

What is asked: the option that most weakens the “streetlights made it safer” conclusion.

Reasoning: The city credits the lights for the fall in crime. Option C gives a rival cause operating at the same time: the police doubled patrols, which could cut crime on its own. That undercuts the claim that the lights did it.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Feeling safer is a perception, not evidence against the lights being the cause.
- Option B: A simultaneous rollout does not challenge the causal claim.
- Option D: Free electricity is irrelevant to whether crime fell because of the lights.

Final Answer: Doubled police patrols are a rival cause $\Rightarrow$ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q15](#)

Q16.

Solution

What is asked: the correct order of the four sentences.

Reasoning: Sentence 2 opens with the fact (every fortnight the last speaker of a language dies). Sentence 1 turns it with “But most... have never been written down.” Sentence 4 elaborates (with no text, they survive only in memory). Sentence 3 gives the consequence (a way of naming the world falls silent). Order: 2-1-4-3.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Placing 3 before 1 states the consequence before the reason.
- Option C: Starting with 1 leaves “But” with nothing to contrast.
- Option D: Starting with the consequence (3) is illogical.

Final Answer: 2-1-4-3 $\Rightarrow$ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q16](#)



Q17.

Solution

What is asked: the best final sentence for the translation paragraph.

Reasoning: The paragraph argues that translation loses and gains associations, so it is not simple substitution. The natural close generalises this into the idea that the translator re-creates rather than copies. Option A does exactly that.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Praising the dictionary contradicts the point that translation is more than word-swapping.
- Option C: How often works are translated is off the paragraph's point.
- Option D: The difficulty of learning a language is a different topic.

Final Answer: The translator composes the text anew rather than copying it ⇒

A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q17](#)

Q18.

Solution

What is asked: what must be true from the two statements.

Reasoning: Every archive manuscript is on parchment; no parchment manuscript may be photocopied. Chaining these, no manuscript in the archive may be photocopied. Option D is the valid conclusion.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: This directly contradicts the chain.
- Option B: The statements do not place every non-photocopiable manuscript in the archive.
- Option C: Parchment manuscripts need not all be kept in the archive.

Final Answer: No archive manuscript may be photocopied ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q18](#)



Q19.

Solution

What is asked: the best one-line summary of the paragraph.

Reasoning: The paragraph says that in uncertain fields the honest answer is qualified, and that admitting doubt can mark greater, not lesser, competence. Option D states precisely this.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: This is the mistaken preference the paragraph corrects.
- Option B: The paragraph says uncertainty is real in many fields, not that it has no place.
- Option C: It argues the cautious expert is often *more* competent, the opposite of C.

Final Answer: Admitting doubt can mark greater competence $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q19](#)

Q20.

Solution

What is asked: the explanation of longer stays despite fewer visitors after a fee was charged.

Reasoning: Fewer people but longer average stays suggests the fee filtered the crowd. Option A supplies it: the fee put off casual passers-by, leaving mainly the genuinely interested, who naturally stayed longer. That fits both the drop in numbers and the rise in stay length.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Fewer exhibits would tend to shorten stays, not lengthen them.
- Option C: Feeling cheated and leaving sooner contradicts longer stays.
- Option D: If almost no one could enter, there would be no stays to lengthen.

Final Answer: The fee left mainly the genuinely interested, who lingered $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q20](#)



Q21.

Solution

What is asked: the word that fits the blank.

Reasoning: The founder dismisses each new finding as an anomaly rather than rethinking his view. That is stubborn refusal to yield, which “obstinate” names exactly. Option B is correct.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Bewildered” suggests confusion, not the firm refusal described.
- Option C: “Persuaded” is the opposite; he refuses to be persuaded.
- Option D: “Apologetic” does not fit someone dismissing the evidence.

Final Answer: obstinate ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q21](#)

Q22.

Solution

What is asked: the flaw in the transport-budget argument.

Reasoning: The commentator rejects the plan by pointing to a fact about the opponent’s personal habits, not about the plan’s merits. Attacking the person instead of the argument is the *ad hominem* flaw. Option B names it.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: No survey or statistic is invoked, so “never gathered” does not apply.
- Option C: The argument makes no assumption about the plan improving transport.
- Option D: There is no hasty generalisation from an example; the error is personal attack.

Final Answer: It attacks the person rather than the argument ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q22](#)



Q23.

Solution

What is asked: the pair matching WHISPER : SHOUT.

Reasoning: A whisper and a shout are the same kind of thing (vocal sound) at a low and a high intensity. “Glimmer” and “blaze” are the same kind of thing (light) at a low and a high intensity. Option C matches the lesser-to-greater intensity relation.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Sing” and “dance” are two different activities, not one at two intensities.
- Option B: “Speak” and “listen” are opposed roles, not a matter of degree.
- Option D: “Write” and “read” are complementary acts, not the same act at two intensities.

Final Answer: glimmer : blaze $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q23](#)

Q24.

Solution

What is asked: the best opening sentence for the forest paragraph.

Reasoning: The paragraph contrasts the single tree (which shows only its own age) with the whole forest (which reveals a century’s pattern), noting the pattern is “invisible in the individual and plain in the mass.” A good opener states that general idea: some truths appear only across many cases. Option B does this and leads naturally into the tree-versus-forest example.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Satellite imagery is off-topic and never picked up again.
- Option C: Equal growth rates contradict the paragraph, which stresses varied years.
- Option D: Denying any lesson for human history clashes with the reflective point being made.

Final Answer: Some truths reveal themselves only across many cases $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q24](#)



Q25.

Solution

What is asked: the conclusion supported by the two statements.

Reasoning: “Everyone who passed the interview was offered the job” means: not offered implies did not pass (the contrapositive). Meera was not offered the job, so Meera did not pass the interview. Option D is the valid conclusion.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Her declining is not addressed by the statements.
- Option B: Had she passed, she would have been offered the job, so this cannot hold.
- Option C: Nothing rules out other candidates passing the interview.

Final Answer: Meera did not pass the interview $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q25](#)

Q26.

Solution

What is asked: the grammatically correct sentence.

Reasoning: In option B, “the number of applicants” takes a singular verb, so “has risen” agrees correctly. That sentence is sound.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: With “neither...nor,” the verb takes the nearer subject “coach” (singular), so it should be “was,” not “were.”
- Option C: “Each” is singular and needs “was reviewed,” not “were.”
- Option D: “One of those managers who” takes a plural verb “listen,” not “listens.”

Final Answer: The number of applicants has risen... $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q26](#)



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	D	2	C	3	A	4	D	5	B
6	A	7	C	8	A	9	A	10	C
11	B	12	D	13	C	14	A	15	C
16	B	17	A	18	D	19	D	20	A
21	B	22	B	23	C	24	B	25	D
26	B								

