

CAT Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension

Sample Paper – 1

Duration: 40 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 72

Instructions

- This paper contains **24 questions**: 3 Reading Comprehension passages (Q1–Q15) and 9 Verbal Ability questions (Q16–Q24), modelled on the VARC section of **CAT**.
- **RC questions (Q1–Q15)**: Each correct answer carries **+3 marks**; a wrong answer carries **–1 mark**; unattempted carries **0 marks**.
- **VA questions (Q16–Q24)**: Each correct answer carries **+3 marks**; **no negative marking**; unattempted carries **0 marks**.
- All questions are presented in single-correct MCQ format. Maximum Marks: **72**.
- No calculators are required. Read each RC passage carefully before attempting the questions.

Set A: Reading Comprehension — Corporate Social Responsibility and Business Ethics (Q1 – Q5)

Passage 1

The discourse around Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has evolved considerably over the past four decades. Early formulations, most notably Milton Friedman's 1970 argument in the *New York Times Magazine*, held that the sole obligation of a corporation was to maximise returns for its shareholders, provided it stayed within the law. Any expenditure beyond what was strictly necessary for profit generation was, in Friedman's view, an unjustifiable expropriation of shareholders' resources. This position, philosophically coherent and internally consistent, dominated managerial thinking well into the 1990s.

The stakeholder theory advanced by Edward Freeman in 1984 offered a direct challenge. Freeman argued that firms operate within a web of relationships — with employees, communities, suppliers, regulators, and customers — and that sustainable profitability depends on the health of those relationships rather than the narrow satisfaction of shareholders alone. Ignoring a firm's wider social footprint, on this view, is not merely ethically problematic but strategically myopic.

Contemporary CSR practice has moved yet further, with many multinationals embedding Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria into their core strategic planning. Critics, however,



argue that much ESG activity amounts to “greenwashing” — a performative signalling of social concern that bears little relationship to genuine operational change. The tension between authentic ethical commitment and reputational management remains unresolved.

What is clear is that the very framing of the debate has shifted: the question is no longer *whether* corporations have obligations beyond profit, but *how* those obligations should be defined, measured, and enforced.

Q1. According to the passage, Milton Friedman’s primary contention was that:

- (A) corporations should invest in communities to ensure long-term profitability.
- (B) corporations owe their sole economic obligation to their shareholders, within legal bounds.
- (C) ESG criteria are the most reliable means of measuring corporate social impact.
- (D) stakeholder theory provides the most coherent framework for corporate governance.

Q2. The word “myopic” as used in the passage most nearly means:

- (A) morally bankrupt.
- (B) legally non-compliant.
- (C) financially reckless.
- (D) short-sighted.

Q3. Which of the following best describes the relationship between Freeman’s stakeholder theory and Friedman’s shareholder primacy?

- (A) Freeman’s theory is a direct challenge to Friedman’s, arguing that broader relationships underpin sustainable profit.
- (B) Freeman’s theory accepts Friedman’s core premise but extends it to include regulatory bodies.
- (C) Both theories agree that legal compliance is the primary ethical constraint on firms.



- (D) Freeman's theory predates Friedman's and was largely discredited by the 1990s.

Q4. The term "greenwashing" in the passage refers to:

- (A) mandatory regulatory disclosures on environmental impact.
- (B) a scientifically rigorous method for assessing firms' carbon footprints.
- (C) superficial displays of social concern that do not correspond to real operational change.
- (D) investment strategies focused exclusively on renewable energy sectors.

Q5. Which of the following statements is most consistent with the author's conclusion in the final paragraph?

- (A) The debate over whether corporations have obligations beyond profit has been definitively settled in favour of stakeholder theory.
- (B) The central question in corporate ethics has shifted from whether obligations exist to how they should be defined and enforced.
- (C) Greenwashing has rendered CSR entirely ineffective as a mechanism for corporate accountability.
- (D) Friedman's framework remains the most practically useful guide for contemporary managers.

Set B: Reading Comprehension — Urban Heat Islands and Climate Change Adaptation in Cities (Q6 – Q10)

Passage 2

Urban heat islands (UHIs) are a well-documented phenomenon in which the built environment of a city registers significantly higher temperatures than surrounding rural areas. The mechanisms are straightforward: dense concentrations of heat-absorbing materials such as concrete, asphalt, and glass replace vegetation; reduced evapotranspiration diminishes natural cooling; anthropogenic heat from vehicles, air-conditioning units, and industrial processes is released into confined spaces; and tall buildings trap longwave radiation that would otherwise dissipate into the atmosphere. The combined effect can raise urban temperatures by 2 to 8 degrees Celsius relative to adjacent non-urban land.



The consequences extend well beyond thermal discomfort. Peak electricity demand surges as residents and businesses run cooling systems at full capacity, straining grid infrastructure. Urban stormwater systems, already stressed by impervious surfaces, are further disrupted when heat accelerates the hydrological cycle, generating intense convective rainfall episodes. Most critically, heat mortality among elderly and economically marginalised populations rises steeply during prolonged heat events, a fact underscored by the European heat wave of 2003, which killed an estimated 70,000 people.

Adaptation strategies range from the technical to the systemic. Cool roofs — surfaces coated with highly reflective materials — can reduce building surface temperatures by as much as 30 degrees Celsius. Urban greening through parks, street trees, and green roofs supports evapotranspiration and provides shade. Permeable pavements help recharge groundwater while reducing surface heat absorption. Yet critics note that without binding policy frameworks and equitable deployment, these measures tend to benefit wealthier neighbourhoods disproportionately, deepening existing social inequalities.

Q6. The primary reason urban areas experience higher temperatures than rural areas, as described in the passage, is:

- (A) the replacement of vegetation with heat-absorbing materials and reduced evapotranspiration, combined with anthropogenic heat release.
- (B) industrial pollution creating a greenhouse effect uniquely concentrated in city centres.
- (C) the proximity of urban areas to large bodies of water that disrupt normal temperature regulation.
- (D) the greater population density of cities, which alone accounts for the temperature differential.

Q7. According to the passage, the European heat wave of 2003 is cited primarily to:

- (A) illustrate the failure of cool roof technologies in preventing heat-related illness.
- (B) demonstrate that advanced economies are more vulnerable to UHIs than developing ones.
- (C) underscore the severe mortality risk that extreme urban heat poses, especially to vulnerable populations.



(D) argue that adaptation strategies have been largely ineffective in European cities.

Q8. Which of the following would best exemplify the “systemic” end of the adaptation strategy spectrum mentioned in the passage?

(A) Installing reflective coatings on the roofs of individual commercial buildings.

(B) Planting additional street trees along a single arterial road.

(C) Deploying permeable pavement in a newly developed residential suburb.

(D) Enacting municipal legislation that mandates green infrastructure standards across all new developments.

Q9. The author’s attitude towards urban greening and cool roof strategies can best be described as:

(A) unconditionally supportive, viewing them as sufficient responses to the UHI problem.

(B) cautiously approving but concerned about equitable access and the need for binding policy.

(C) sceptical, suggesting these measures are technically unproven at scale.

(D) dismissive, arguing they do little to address the root causes of urban heat.

Q10. The phrase “hydrological cycle” as used in the passage refers most directly to:

(A) the continuous movement of water through evaporation, condensation, and precipitation.

(B) the system of underground pipes that manage urban stormwater drainage.

(C) the seasonal variation in river flow that affects urban water supply.



- (D) the process by which permeable pavements recharge groundwater aquifers.

**Set C: Reading Comprehension —
The Role of Social Media in Shaping
Democratic Discourse (Q11 – Q15)**

Passage 3

Few developments in contemporary public life have attracted as much scholarly and journalistic attention as the rise of social media platforms and their putative effects on democratic discourse. The optimists' case, dominant in the early 2010s, held that platforms such as Twitter and Facebook had fundamentally democratised information by lowering the cost of political communication, enabling citizen journalism, and giving marginalised voices access to audiences previously unreachable through conventional media gatekeepers.

The mood has soured considerably since. Research published in the past decade has documented several disquieting tendencies. Algorithmic curation — the process by which platforms select and rank content to maximise user engagement — systematically privileges emotionally arousing and conflict-laden material, since outrage and anxiety generate more clicks, shares, and time-on-platform than measured analysis. The result, critics argue, is an information environment that rewards provocation over deliberation. Separately, the architecture of social networks facilitates the formation of “echo chambers” in which users are predominantly exposed to information that confirms their pre-existing beliefs, attenuating the cross-cutting exposure to disagreement that classical democratic theory deems essential to informed citizenship.

Yet a degree of caution is warranted before accepting the most sweeping indictments. Cross-national comparative research has found that the link between heavy social media use and political polarisation varies significantly across institutional contexts: countries with strong public broadcasters and high baseline levels of media literacy show weaker polarisation effects. Moreover, the causal arrow may be less unidirectional than supposed — existing polarisation may drive selective media consumption as much as social media drives polarisation.

Q11. What does the passage identify as the primary mechanism by which algorithmic curation harms democratic discourse?

- (A) It deliberately suppresses content from minority political parties to favour incumbents.
- (B) It provides citizens with too much information, making it impossible to form coherent opinions.
- (C) It prevents citizen journalists from reaching audiences without paying for promoted posts.



(D) It prioritises emotionally arousing and conflict-driven content over measured deliberation.

Q12. The term “echo chambers” as used in the passage most precisely refers to:

- (A) broadcast media studios specifically designed to amplify minority political opinions.
- (B) online communities formed by journalists to share investigative leads without public scrutiny.
- (C) social network environments where users are mainly exposed to views that reinforce their existing beliefs.
- (D) government-sponsored digital platforms that restrict access to opposition political content.

Q13. The author’s reference to “classical democratic theory” is used to suggest that:

- (A) exposure to disagreement and opposing views is considered fundamental to informed democratic citizenship.
- (B) traditional democratic models are outdated and cannot account for the dynamics of digital media.
- (C) social media has successfully extended the reach of classical deliberative forums to new populations.
- (D) echo chambers are a natural and acceptable feature of any pluralist democracy.

Q14. Which of the following findings, if true, would most strengthen the author’s note of caution in the third paragraph?

- (A) A study showing that users who spend more than four hours daily on social media hold more extreme political views than moderate users.
- (B) Research demonstrating that in Scandinavian nations with robust public media ecosystems, heavy social media use correlates with



lower partisan hostility.

- (C) A report indicating that social media platforms earn higher advertising revenues in politically polarised countries.
- (D) Evidence that algorithmic curation on Facebook predates the observed rise in political polarisation in the United States.

Q15. What is the most accurate description of the overall argumentative structure of the passage?

- (A) The author presents a single thesis and defends it using evidence from social science research throughout.
- (B) The author refutes the optimists' position entirely and endorses the pessimists' view that social media is harmful to democracy.
- (C) The author presents conflicting claims about social media but ultimately sides with the early optimists.
- (D) The author traces an arc from early optimism to widespread concern, then qualifies the pessimist position by introducing complicating evidence.

Verbal Ability (Q16 – Q24)

Para Jumbles (Q16 – Q19)

Directions (Q16–Q19): The sentences P, Q, R, S, and T, when properly arranged, form a coherent paragraph. Choose the sequence that represents the correct order.

Q16. Para Jumble: Shakespearean Dramatic Conventions

P. This doubled identity — the boy actor beneath the female role — created a peculiar irony when Shakespearean heroines such as Rosalind then disguised themselves as boys within the fiction of the play.

Q. Shakespeare worked within a theatrical culture shaped by profound formal and commercial constraints, none more distinctive than the all-male acting company.



R. The convention, far from being a mere practical workaround, generated rich dramatic possibilities that Shakespeare exploited with extraordinary sophistication.

S. Because women were excluded from the professional stage in Elizabethan England, female roles were performed by trained boy apprentices.

T. Audiences who attended the Globe Theatre were therefore watching a boy pretending to be a woman pretending to be a man, a layering of performance that foregrounded the very artifice of theatrical illusion.

Which of the following is the correct order?

(A) P, S, Q, T, R

(B) S, P, T, Q, R

(C) Q, S, P, T, R

(D) R, Q, S, T, P

Q17. Para Jumble: Evolution of the Novel as a Literary Form

P. As literacy rates rose and the cost of print fell, the novel emerged as the preeminent vehicle for bourgeois self-examination and social critique.

Q. Its early practitioners — Defoe, Richardson, and Fielding — were still negotiating between inherited narrative traditions and the demands of a new reading public hungry for recognisable social experience.

R. The novel is often described as the quintessentially modern literary form, a genre whose rise maps neatly onto the social transformations wrought by capitalism and urbanisation.

S. By the mid-nineteenth century, novelists such as Dickens, Eliot, and Tolstoy had consolidated a form capacious enough to absorb psychology, social history, and moral philosophy simultaneously.

T. What began as a contested and even disreputable form, often compared unfavourably to classical epic or tragedy, had become the literary medium through which modern societies narrated themselves to themselves.



Which of the following is the correct order?

- (A) R, P, Q, S, T
- (B) P, Q, R, S, T
- (C) T, S, R, Q, P
- (D) Q, R, S, P, T

Q18. Para Jumble: The Concept of Zero in Indian Mathematics

P. Without a positional placeholder, numerical systems require separate symbols for every order of magnitude, making computation unwieldy and arithmetic notation expansive.

Q. Indian mathematicians of the classical period made a contribution to the history of human thought that is difficult to overstate: the formalisation of zero as both a positional placeholder and an independent number.

R. The transmission of this system to Europe via Arab scholars transformed not only mathematics but commerce, engineering, and eventually the physical sciences.

S. The genius of the Indian solution was twofold — zero compressed notation and, more radically, entered arithmetic as a quantity in its own right, a number that could be added, subtracted, and reasoned about.

T. To appreciate the significance of this, one must first understand the limitations of non-positional numeral systems such as Roman numerals.

Which of the following is the correct order?

- (A) T, P, S, Q, R
- (B) Q, T, P, S, R
- (C) P, Q, T, R, S
- (D) S, Q, P, T, R

Q19. Para Jumble: Gandhi's Philosophy of Non-Violence



P. Satyagraha, as Gandhi conceived it, was neither passive resistance nor mere non-cooperation; it was an active moral engagement that required the practitioner to absorb suffering rather than inflict it.

Q. What distinguished Gandhi's approach from prior traditions of political dissent was his insistence that the means of struggle must be morally continuous with the ends sought.

R. Gandhi drew on multiple intellectual traditions — Jain *ahimsa*, Tolstoy's Christian anarchism, and Thoreau's civil disobedience — in constructing his distinctive philosophy of non-violent resistance.

S. A liberation achieved through violence would, on Gandhi's analysis, reproduce the very structures of domination it set out to dismantle.

T. This conviction gave Satyagraha its peculiar power: by visibly accepting punishment for unjust laws, practitioners exposed the moral illegitimacy of the colonial state to domestic and international audiences alike.

Which of the following is the correct order?

- (A) P, Q, S, R, T
- (B) Q, P, R, S, T
- (C) S, T, R, Q, P
- (D) R, Q, P, S, T

Para Summary (Q20 – Q22)

Directions (Q20–Q22): Read each paragraph and choose the option that best summarises it.

- Q20.** The participation of women in India's independence movement is a story that official historiography long suppressed or marginalised. Women served not only as organisers of mass protests, spinning groups, and boycott campaigns, but also as a visible, courageous front line during Civil Disobedience marches when male leaders were imprisoned. Figures such as Sarojini Naidu, Aruna Asaf Ali, and Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay operated at the intersection of feminist aspiration and nationalist purpose, insisting that swaraj could not mean freedom for men alone. Yet



the post-independence political settlement largely reinstated patriarchal norms, and these women's contributions were folded into a narrative of nationalist triumph in which their gender-specific demands were quietly forgotten.

Which of the following best summarises the above paragraph?

- (A) Women played a secondary and largely ceremonial role in India's independence struggle, with a few exceptional figures providing symbolic leadership.
- (B) The Indian independence movement was primarily driven by women who later demanded and received equal political representation in post-independence governance.
- (C) Women made substantial, active contributions to India's freedom struggle but were subsequently marginalised in official memory, with their feminist demands eclipsed by the broader nationalist narrative.
- (D) Sarojini Naidu, Aruna Asaf Ali, and Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay were so influential that their ideas permanently shaped the Indian Constitution's provisions on gender equality.

Q21. The Silk Road was not a single road but a network of overland and maritime trade routes that connected China, Central Asia, the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean world for roughly fifteen centuries. Goods exchanged along these routes included silk, spices, glassware, and precious metals, but the most consequential cargo was invisible: ideas, religions, artistic styles, and technologies moved alongside merchants. Buddhism spread from the Indian subcontinent into East and Southeast Asia via these corridors; Islam reached the Malay archipelago through Arab and Indian traders; papermaking techniques, gunpowder, and the magnetic compass all diffused westward from China. The Silk Road was, in the most meaningful sense, the original engine of globalisation.

Which of the following best summarises the above paragraph?

- (A) The Silk Road was a complex network of trade routes across Eurasia



that facilitated not only the exchange of physical goods but also the transmission of ideas, religions, and technologies across civilisations, making it an early driver of globalisation.

- (B) The primary significance of the Silk Road lay in the trade of silk and spices, which enriched the economies of China, India, and the Arab world.
- (C) The Silk Road enabled the spread of Islam and Buddhism across Asia and Africa, with religious diffusion being its most enduring legacy.
- (D) China's technological innovations, including gunpowder and the compass, would never have reached Europe without the specific maritime routes of the Silk Road.

Q22. Folk music occupies a paradoxical position in the cultural ecology of any society. On one hand, it represents the accumulated sonic memory of communities — the lullabies, work songs, festival music, and mourning rites through which ordinary people have historically processed and transmitted collective experience. On the other hand, the very term “folk” conceals a complex politics of authenticity: what is classified as folk is invariably constructed through the selective attention of ethnomusicologists, nationalist movements, and commercial recording industries, each of which imposes its own interpretive framework on living musical traditions. The music that reaches a concert hall labelled as “folk” has often already been substantially filtered, arranged, and idealised, stripped of the social context that gave it meaning.

Which of the following best summarises the above paragraph?

- (A) Folk music is an entirely commercial construct, with no genuine connection to the community traditions it claims to represent.
- (B) While folk music embodies the communal memory of ordinary people, what gets labelled and preserved as “folk” is often shaped by external interpreters, obscuring its original social meaning.
- (C) Ethnomusicologists have played a purely preservationist role in documenting folk traditions, ensuring their survival without distorting



their content.

- (D) The term “folk music” should be abandoned because it imposes a politically motivated hierarchy on musical forms that are equally valid in all their variants.

Odd Sentence Out (Q23 – Q24)

*Directions (Q23–Q24): Five sentences are given below. Four of them form a coherent paragraph when arranged in proper order. Identify the sentence that does **NOT** fit into the paragraph.*

Q23. Odd Sentence Out: The Scientific Method and Experimentation

- A. A hypothesis that cannot, even in principle, be subjected to empirical testing lies outside the domain of science, regardless of how logically consistent it may appear.
- B. The controlled experiment is the foundational instrument of the scientific method, designed to isolate the effect of a single variable by holding all others constant.
- C. Replication — the ability of independent researchers to reproduce the same experimental result under identical conditions — is the community’s primary safeguard against error and fraud.
- D. Thomas Edison’s iterative trial-and-error approach to invention, which relied on systematic testing of thousands of material combinations, is the origin of the modern pharmaceutical industry’s drug discovery model.
- E. Peer review, though imperfect, functions as a collective epistemic filter, subjecting claims to scrutiny by domain experts before they are admitted into the body of scientific knowledge.

Identify the sentence that does NOT fit:

- (A) Sentence A
- (B) Sentence B
- (C) Sentence C
- (D) Sentence D



Q24. Odd Sentence Out: Impressionism in 19th-Century French Painting

- A. The Impressionists rejected the smooth, idealised finish demanded by the academic tradition, using short, visible brushstrokes that captured fleeting effects of light rather than fixed, permanent forms.
- B. Claude Monet's series paintings — the Haystacks, the Rouen Cathedral, the Water Lilies — were systematic investigations of how the same subject transforms under different conditions of light and atmosphere.
- C. The political upheavals of 1848 and the subsequent establishment of the Second Empire under Napoleon III profoundly shaped French bourgeois consciousness and its desire for stable, idealised imagery in official art.
- D. When the jury of the official Salon repeatedly rejected their work, the Impressionists organised the Salon des Refusés in 1863 and their own independent exhibitions from 1874, bypassing the gatekeepers of official taste.
- E. Critics initially mocked the movement — the very word “Impressionism” was coined as a term of derision by a journalist reviewing the first independent exhibition — but within two decades the paintings were fetching record prices at auction.

Identify the sentence that does NOT fit:

- (A) Sentence A
- (B) Sentence B
- (C) Sentence C
- (D) Sentence D



Detailed Solutions**Sol. 1.****Solution**

Concept — Textual detail / Author's argument: The question asks for the core of Friedman's position as explicitly stated in Passage 1.

Step 1 — Locate the relevant sentence: The passage states: "the sole obligation of a corporation was to maximise returns for its shareholders, provided it stayed within the law." This directly maps to option (B).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): This represents the stakeholder theory view, not Friedman's.
- Option (C): ESG criteria are associated with contemporary practice, not Friedman's 1970 argument.
- Option (D): Stakeholder theory is Freeman's framework, not Friedman's.

Final Answer: Friedman's sole obligation is shareholder return within the law ⇒

B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 1](#)

Sol. 2.**Solution**

Concept — Vocabulary in context: The question tests the meaning of "myopic" as used by Freeman's critics of shareholder primacy.

Step 1 — Contextual analysis: Freeman argues that ignoring the firm's social footprint is "not merely ethically problematic but strategically myopic." The contrast with "ethically problematic" indicates "myopic" refers to a failure of foresight or vision rather than a moral failing per se. "Myopic" literally means near-sighted (short-sighted).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): "Morally bankrupt" is covered by "ethically problematic" — the word "myopic" adds a distinct meaning.
- Option (B): Legal non-compliance is not implied; Friedman himself insisted on staying within the law.
- Option (C): Financial recklessness does not capture the idea of limited fore-



sight.

Final Answer: Myopic means short-sighted (lacking long-term vision) $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 2](#)

Sol. 3.

Solution

Concept — Relationship between arguments: This question asks about the logical relationship between two named theories in the passage.

Step 1 — Identify the relationship: The passage explicitly says Freeman “offered a direct challenge” to Friedman, arguing that “sustainable profitability depends on the health of those relationships rather than the narrow satisfaction of shareholders alone.” Option (A) accurately captures this.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): Freeman does not “accept Friedman’s core premise” — he challenges it.
- Option (C): Both theories do not simply agree on legal compliance; their disagreement is deeper.
- Option (D): Freeman’s theory (1984) postdates Friedman’s (1970) and was not discredited.

Final Answer: Freeman directly challenged Friedman by arguing broader relationships underpin sustainable profit $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 3](#)

Sol. 4.

Solution

Concept — Definition of a term in context: The passage introduces “greenwashing” with an explanatory clause.

Step 1 — Locate the definition: The passage defines greenwashing as “a performative signalling of social concern that bears little relationship to genuine operational change.” Option (C) is a close paraphrase of this definition.

Why other options are wrong:



- Option (A): Mandatory regulatory disclosures are not mentioned in connection with greenwashing.
- Option (B): The passage explicitly contrasts greenwashing with genuine change; it is not rigorous.
- Option (D): Investment in renewables is a distinct concept not discussed in this passage.

Final Answer: Greenwashing is superficial social signalling without real operational change $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 4](#)

Sol. 5.

Solution

Concept — Author's conclusion / Main idea: The question focuses on the final paragraph's argument.

Step 1 — Identify the conclusion: The final sentence states: "the question is no longer *whether* corporations have obligations beyond profit, but *how* those obligations should be defined, measured, and enforced." Option (B) accurately restates this shift in framing.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The passage says the debate about *whether* obligations exist has been overtaken, not "definitively settled" in stakeholder theory's favour.
- Option (C): The passage does not claim greenwashing has rendered CSR entirely ineffective.
- Option (D): Friedman's framework being the most practically useful is not the author's conclusion.

Final Answer: The framing has shifted from whether to how obligations are defined and enforced $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 5](#)



Sol. 6.

Solution

Concept — Main cause identification (RC): The question asks for the primary reason behind UHIs as described in Passage 2.

Step 1 — Locate the causal chain: The passage gives four mechanisms: heat-absorbing materials replacing vegetation, reduced evapotranspiration, anthropogenic heat release, and tall buildings trapping longwave radiation. Option (A) captures the first two (most fundamental) mechanisms accurately.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): Industrial pollution creating a “greenhouse effect” is not stated; the mechanism is surface-level heat retention, not atmospheric gas concentration.
- Option (C): Proximity to water bodies is not mentioned and would typically have a cooling, not heating, effect.
- Option (D): Population density alone is never identified as the cause; it is the built environment’s characteristics that matter.

Final Answer: Heat-absorbing materials, reduced evapotranspiration, and anthropogenic heat release are the core causes ⇒ **A**

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 6](#)

Sol. 7.

Solution

Concept — Purpose of a specific reference: Why does the author mention the 2003 European heat wave?

Step 1 — Identify the context of the citation: The heat wave is cited immediately after the statement about heat mortality rising “steeply during prolonged heat events,” with the figure of 70,000 deaths. Its purpose is to provide a dramatic empirical illustration of the mortality danger — especially for elderly and economically marginalised groups. Option (C) captures this precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Cool roofs are not mentioned in relation to the 2003 heat wave.
- Option (B): The passage does not compare advanced versus developing economy vulnerability.



- Option (D): The passage does not suggest adaptation strategies failed in European cities.

Final Answer: The 2003 heat wave illustrates the severe mortality risk of urban heat for vulnerable populations ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 7](#)

Sol. 8.

Solution

Concept — Application / Inference: The question asks which option exemplifies a “systemic” (as opposed to technical) adaptation strategy.

Step 1 — Distinguish technical from systemic: Technical measures are specific, physical interventions (cool roofs, trees, permeable pavement). Systemic measures involve governance, policy, and structural frameworks. Option (D) — enacting municipal legislation mandating green infrastructure standards across all new developments — is clearly systemic: it is a policy tool applied at the city level, not a single physical installation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Options (A), (B), (C): All describe specific physical interventions, which are technical rather than systemic.

Final Answer: Municipal legislation mandating green standards is a systemic strategy ⇒

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 8](#)

Sol. 9.

Solution

Concept — Author’s tone / attitude: What is the author’s stance on urban greening and cool roofs?

Step 1 — Identify tone markers: The author presents these strategies positively (noting their benefits) but then introduces critics who warn that “without binding policy frameworks and equitable deployment, these measures tend to benefit wealthier neighbourhoods disproportionately.” This is cautious approval with a



concern about equity and policy, matching option (B).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The author is not unconditionally supportive; the equity concern qualifies approval.
- Option (C): The passage does not question technical proof of these measures.
- Option (D): The author clearly presents these strategies as beneficial — they are not dismissed.

Final Answer: Cautiously approving, with concern about equity and binding policy ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 9](#)

Sol. 10.

Solution

Concept — Vocabulary in context (scientific term): The passage uses “hydrological cycle” in the context of urban stormwater and intense rainfall.

Step 1 — Contextual reasoning: The passage says heat “accelerates the hydrological cycle, generating intense convective rainfall episodes.” The hydrological cycle refers to the natural water cycle — evaporation, condensation, and precipitation — which when accelerated produces more intense rainfall. Option (A) captures this accurately.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): Urban drainage pipe systems are not what the term refers to in scientific usage.
- Option (C): Seasonal river flow variation is a different concept from the water cycle.
- Option (D): Groundwater recharge by permeable pavements is a separate mechanism, not the hydrological cycle per se.

Final Answer: The hydrological cycle is the movement of water through evaporation, condensation, and precipitation ⇒ **A**

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 10](#)



Sol. 11.

Solution

Concept — Specific detail / Causal mechanism (RC): The question asks about the identified mechanism by which algorithmic curation harms discourse.

Step 1 — Locate the passage's explanation: Passage 3 states: "Algorithmic curation . . . systematically privileges emotionally arousing and conflict-laden material, since outrage and anxiety generate more clicks, shares, and time-on-platform than measured analysis. The result . . . is an information environment that rewards provocation over deliberation." Option (D) is a direct paraphrase.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The passage does not claim algorithms deliberately suppress minority parties.
- Option (B): Information overload is not the identified mechanism.
- Option (C): Citizen journalists paying for promoted posts is not mentioned.

Final Answer: Algorithms prioritise emotionally arousing, conflict-driven content over deliberation ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 11](#)

Sol. 12.

Solution

Concept — Definition of term in context: The passage uses "echo chambers" in the context of social network architecture.

Step 1 — Locate the definition: The passage defines echo chambers as environments "in which users are predominantly exposed to information that confirms their pre-existing beliefs, attenuating the cross-cutting exposure to disagreement." Option (C) is an accurate paraphrase.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Broadcast media studios for minority opinions is an entirely different concept.
- Option (B): Journalist communities for sharing leads are not what the passage discusses.
- Option (D): Government-sponsored platforms restricting opposition content describe censorship, not echo chambers.



Final Answer: Echo chambers are networks where users mainly encounter belief-confirming information $\Rightarrow$ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 12](#)

Sol. 13.

Solution

Concept — Purpose of a reference / Inference: Why does the author invoke “classical democratic theory”?

Step 1 — Identify the function of the reference: The passage states that echo chambers attenuate “the cross-cutting exposure to disagreement that *classical democratic theory* deems essential to informed citizenship.” The reference is used to establish the normative standard against which echo chambers are measured: deliberative democracy requires exposure to opposing views.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): The author does not argue classical models are outdated.
- Option (C): The reference does not suggest social media has successfully extended classical forums.
- Option (D): Echo chambers are presented as a problem, not an acceptable pluralist feature.

Final Answer: Classical democratic theory holds that exposure to disagreement is essential to informed citizenship $\Rightarrow$ **A**

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 13](#)

Sol. 14.

Solution

Concept — Strengthening an argument (RC inference): The author’s caution rests on two claims: (1) polarisation varies by institutional context, and (2) causality may be bidirectional. We need evidence that strengthens this note of caution.

Step 1 — Evaluate each option:

- Option (A): Strengthens the pessimist view that social media drives polarisation — weakens the caution.
- Option (B): Shows that a strong public media ecosystem moderates the so-



cial media–polarisation link, directly supporting the claim that institutional context matters. This **strengthens** the note of caution.

- Option (C): Revenue patterns do not directly bear on the causal question about polarisation.
- Option (D): This could suggest social media preceded polarisation, but it does not address institutional variation or bidirectional causality.

Final Answer: Evidence that Scandinavian public media ecosystems reduce polarisation effects strengthens the caution $\Rightarrow$ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 14](#)

Sol. 15.

Solution

Concept — Overall argumentative structure: The question asks for an accurate description of the passage’s structure across all three paragraphs.

Step 1 — Map the structure:

- Paragraph 1: Early optimism (democratisation of information).
- Paragraph 2: Widespread concern (algorithmic curation, echo chambers).
- Paragraph 3: Qualification of pessimism (institutional variation, causal complexity).

Option (D) precisely captures this arc: optimism $\rightarrow$ concern $\rightarrow$ qualified pessimism.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The passage does not defend a single thesis throughout; it traces an evolving debate.
- Option (B): The third paragraph explicitly qualifies the pessimist position.
- Option (C): The author does not ultimately side with the early optimists.

Final Answer: Optimism to concern, then qualification of the pessimist position $\Rightarrow$ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 15](#)



Sol. 16.

Solution**Concept — Para Jumble: Shakespearean Dramatic Conventions****Step 1 — Identify the logical chain:**

- Q introduces the context: all-male acting companies and theatrical constraints.
- S explains the consequence: women excluded, so boys played female roles.
- P adds the next layer: boy actor beneath the female role, creating irony when heroines disguise as boys.
- T draws out the audience's experience: watching three layers of performance identity.
- R provides the concluding evaluation: the convention generated rich dramatic possibilities.

Correct order: $Q \rightarrow S \rightarrow P \rightarrow T \rightarrow R$ **Final Answer:** Q, S, P, T, R $\Rightarrow$ CAnswer: (C) [Go Back to Q 16](#)

Sol. 17.

Solution**Concept — Para Jumble: Evolution of the Novel****Step 1 — Identify the logical chain:**

- R opens with the broad thesis: the novel as a quintessentially modern form tied to capitalism and urbanisation.
- P continues: as literacy rose and print costs fell, the novel became the dominant bourgeois form.
- Q zooms in: early practitioners (Defoe, Richardson, Fielding) negotiated between old and new.
- S advances to mid-century consolidation: Dickens, Eliot, Tolstoy expanded the form's capaciousness.
- T provides the culminating reflection: from disreputable genre to society's primary self-narrative medium.

Correct order: $R \rightarrow P \rightarrow Q \rightarrow S \rightarrow T$ **Final Answer:** R, P, Q, S, T $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 17](#)

Sol. 18.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble: Zero in Indian Mathematics

Step 1 — Identify the logical chain:

- Q opens with the grand claim: Indian mathematicians formalised zero as placeholder and independent number.
- T signals we need context to appreciate the claim: limitations of non-positional systems.
- P explains those limitations concretely: non-positional systems require separate symbols per magnitude.
- S describes the Indian solution's twofold genius: compressed notation and zero as an operable quantity.
- R closes with global consequence: transmission to Europe via Arab scholars transformed knowledge.

Correct order: $Q \rightarrow T \rightarrow P \rightarrow S \rightarrow R$

Final Answer: Q, T, P, S, R $\Rightarrow$ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 18](#)

Sol. 19.

Solution

Concept — Para Jumble: Gandhi's Philosophy of Non-Violence

Step 1 — Identify the logical chain:

- R introduces Gandhi's intellectual sources: Jain *ahimsa*, Tolstoy, Thoreau.
- Q identifies what distinguished Gandhi: means must be morally continuous with ends.
- P defines Satyagraha: active moral engagement, absorbing suffering rather than inflicting it.
- S explains the logical implication: violence-achieved liberation reproduces domination.
- T draws the practical power: by accepting punishment, practitioners exposed



colonial illegitimacy.

Correct order: $R \rightarrow Q \rightarrow P \rightarrow S \rightarrow T$

Final Answer: R, Q, P, S, T $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 19](#)

Sol. 20.

Solution

Concept — Para Summary: Women in the Indian Independence Movement

Step 1 — Identify the main idea: The paragraph makes two core points: (1) women made substantial, active contributions to the independence struggle, and (2) they were subsequently marginalised in official history, with their feminist demands eclipsed by nationalist triumphalism. Option (C) captures both parts of this argument precisely.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Describes women's role as "secondary and largely ceremonial" — the passage says the opposite.
- Option (B): Says women "received equal political representation" — the passage says they were reinstated under patriarchal norms.
- Option (D): Overstates the impact; the passage says their contributions were "quietly forgotten," not permanently embedded in the Constitution.

Final Answer: Women contributed substantially but were marginalised in official post-independence narrative $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 20](#)

Sol. 21.

Solution

Concept — Para Summary: The Silk Road

Step 1 — Identify the main idea: The paragraph emphasises two things: (1) the Silk Road was a network of routes, not a single road, and (2) its most consequential function was transmitting invisible cargo — ideas, religions, technologies — making it an early engine of globalisation. Option (A) integrates both aspects



accurately.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): Reduces the significance to silk and spices, ignoring the “invisible cargo” which the passage calls the most consequential.
- Option (C): Restricts the legacy to religious diffusion and Africa (not mentioned in the passage).
- Option (D): Focuses only on China’s technology reaching Europe via maritime routes — the passage mentions overland routes too, and the claim is too narrow.

Final Answer: The Silk Road was a multi-route network that transmitted goods and ideas, making it an early globalisation engine ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 21](#)

Sol. 22.

Solution

Concept — Para Summary: Folk Music and Cultural Politics

Step 1 — Identify the main idea: The paragraph argues a paradox: folk music embodies communal memory, yet the label “folk” is constructed through the selective filters of ethnomusicologists, nationalists, and commercial industries, stripping the music of its original social context. Option (B) accurately captures both the communal value and the distorting effect of external interpretation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Too extreme — the paragraph does not deny any genuine connection to community.
- Option (C): Reverses the passage’s point; ethnomusicologists are cited as part of the distorting filters, not purely preservationist.
- Option (D): The passage critiques the politics of the label but does not recommend abandoning the term.

Final Answer: Folk music embodies communal memory but is distorted by external interpreters, losing its social meaning ⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 22](#)



Sol. 23.

Solution**Concept — Odd Sentence Out: The Scientific Method**

Step 1 — Identify the coherent paragraph: Sentences A, B, C, and E all deal with formal elements of the scientific method: falsifiability (A), controlled experiments (B), replication (C), and peer review (E). They form a coherent discussion of the norms and tools of science.

Step 2 — Identify the odd sentence: Sentence D introduces Thomas Edison's trial-and-error approach and claims it is "the origin of the modern pharmaceutical industry's drug discovery model." This is a historical claim about a specific inventor and industry that breaks the abstract, principled discussion of scientific methodology. It also makes a sweeping causal claim not supported by the surrounding context.

Final Answer: Sentence D is the odd one out $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 23](#)

Sol. 24.

Solution**Concept — Odd Sentence Out: Impressionism in 19th-Century Painting**

Step 1 — Identify the coherent paragraph: Sentences A, B, D, and E all deal specifically with the Impressionist movement: their style and rejection of academic finish (A), Monet's systematic series paintings (B), their response to Salon rejection through independent exhibitions (D), and critics' initial mockery that later gave way to commercial success (E). Together they trace the Impressionist movement's artistic identity and reception.

Step 2 — Identify the odd sentence: Sentence C discusses the political upheavals of 1848 and Napoleon III's Second Empire shaping bourgeois consciousness and demand for *stable, idealised imagery* in *official art*. This describes the academic tradition that the Impressionists were reacting *against* — not the Impressionist movement itself. It breaks the cohesion of the paragraph by shifting focus to the political context of academic (not Impressionist) art.

Final Answer: Sentence C is the odd one out $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 24](#)



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	B	2	D	3	A	4	C	5	B
6	A	7	C	8	D	9	B	10	A
11	D	12	C	13	A	14	B	15	D

Quick Reference: Correct Answers

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

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